



Fact sheet – Proposed Kimberley Commonwealth marine reserve

A draft Marine Bioregional Plan and Commonwealth marine reserve network proposal for the North-west Marine Region have been released for public consultation. People with an interest in the Marine Bioregional Planning Program are encouraged to provide feedback through a submission. For more information about how to lodge a submission and closing dates for receiving submissions visit the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities website: www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/north-west/index.html

Submission forms are available at www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/north-west/index.html and:

- can be completed and submitted online;
- saved and emailed to Submissions.Northwest@environment.gov.au
- or printed and posted free of charge to:

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
 MBP Submissions – North-west
 Reply Paid 787
 Canberra ACT 2601

If you have any questions about how to provide feedback or on any other aspects of the Marine Bioregional Planning Program please email Northwest.MarinePlan@environment.gov.au or phone **1800 069 352**.

The proposed Kimberley Commonwealth marine reserve is one of ten reserves that make up the Commonwealth marine reserve network proposal for the North-west Marine Region. A description of the proposed reserve is provided in the following table.

Area	62 791 km ²
Depth range	15–800 m (approx.)
Major conservation values^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – dugongs – dolphins (Australian snubfin, Indo-Pacific humpback, and Indo-Pacific bottlenose) – migratory seabirds – marine turtles (green, olive ridley and flatback) • Important migration pathways for humpback whales • Adjacent to important foraging and pupping areas for sawfish • Adjacent to important nesting sites for green turtles • Two key ecological features are included within the proposed reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ancient coastline (unique sea-floor feature and enhanced productivity) – continental slope demersal fish communities (high species diversity and endemism) • Examples of the ecosystems and communities of the Northwest Shelf Province, Northwest Shelf Transition and Timor Province provincial bioregions, as well as the Kimberley, Canning, Northwest Shelf and Oceanic Shoals meso-scale bioregions
Existing uses	Recreational and charter fishing along with tourism are important activities, particularly in state waters and around the many islands found along the Kimberley coastline. The area supports or is adjacent to a number of fisheries, including: the Western Australian-managed Kimberley Prawn, the Northern Shark (North Coast Shark and Joint Authority Northern Shark) and the Northern Demersal Scalefish fisheries; and the Commonwealth-managed North West Slope Trawl Fishery. Petroleum exploration is also a key use in the area. The Bardi Jawi, Dambimangari, and the Unguu Native Title determinations extend into Commonwealth waters in the area. The Mayala and Nyul-Nyul Native Title claims also extend into Commonwealth waters in the area.
Types of zoning proposed	Marine National Park (IUCN Category II): 7905 km ² (7555 km ² and 350 km ²) Multiple Use Zone (IUCN Category VI): 54 886 km ²
Adjacent protected areas	The Western Australian proposed Camden Sound Marine Park and proposed North Kimberley Marine Park adjoin the proposed reserve to the east.

a A full list of the conservation values included in the reserve is in the detailed analysis of the North-west Commonwealth marine reserve network, available at www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/north-west/index.html

The marine reserve network will not affect waters within the 3-nautical-mile (5.5-kilometre) limit of coastal waters of Western Australia. It applies to Commonwealth waters only.

