



## Fact sheet – Proposed Pilbara 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Northwest.MarinePlan@environment.gov.au) or phone **1800 069 352**.

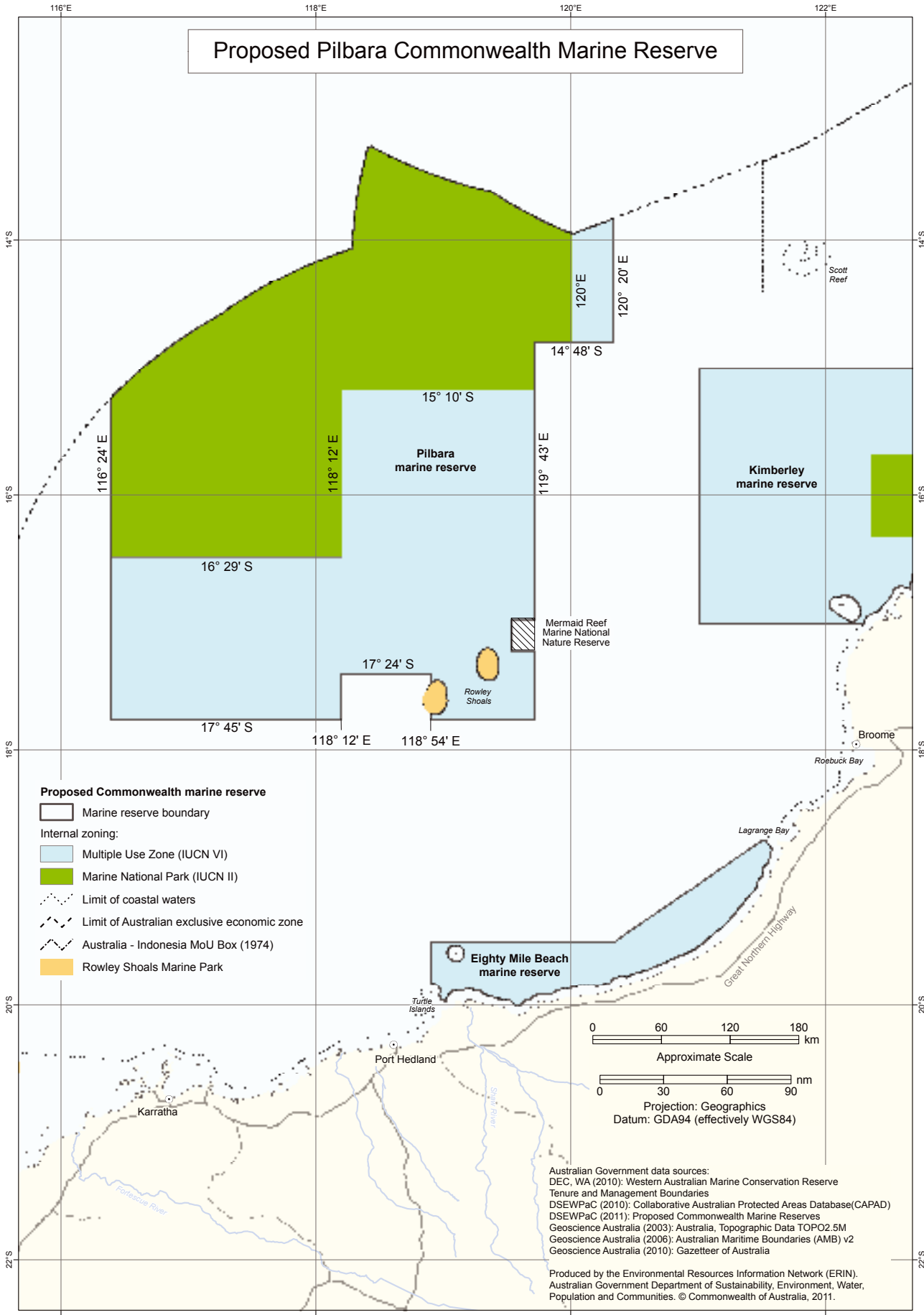
The proposed Pilbara Commonwealth marine reserve is one of ten reserves that make up the Commonwealth marine reserve network proposal for the North-west Marine Region. A description of the proposed reserve is provided in the following table.

<b>Area</b>	145 833 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Depth range</b>	220–6000 m (approx.)
<b>Major conservation values<sup>a</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important foraging areas for:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>migratory seabirds</b></li> <li>– <b>loggerhead turtles</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Important areas for <b>sharks</b>, which are found in abundance around the Rowley Shoals relative to areas in the region</li> <li>• Two <b>key ecological features</b> are included within the proposed reserve:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– canyons linking the Argo Abyssal Plain and the Scott Plateau (enhanced productivity, feeding aggregations and unique sea-floor features)</li> <li>– Mermaid Reef and the Commonwealth waters surrounding Rowley Shoals (enhanced productivity, feeding and breeding aggregations, and high biodiversity)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Examples of the ecosystems and communities of the <b>Northwest Transition</b> and <b>Timor Province</b> provincial bioregions</li> <li>• The proposed reserve also provides for connectivity between the existing Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve, the Rowley Shoals and the deeper waters of the region</li> </ul>
<b>Existing uses</b>	Fisheries operating in the area include the Commonwealth-managed North West Slope Trawl Fishery and the Western Australian-managed North Coast Shark Fishery. Recreational and charter fishing are also important, particularly around the state waters of the Rowley Shoals. Other activities include petroleum exploration and shipping.
<b>Types of zoning proposed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine National Park Zone (IUCN Category II): 73 228 km<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Multiple Use Zone (IUCN Category VI): 72 605 km<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Adjacent protected areas</b>	Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve and the Western Australian Rowley Shoals marine park are encompassed within the southern part of the proposed reserve.

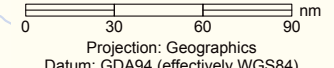
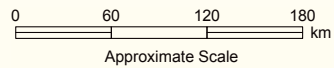
<sup>a</sup> A full list of the conservation values included in the reserve is in the detailed analysis of the North-west Commonwealth marine reserve network, available at [www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/north-west/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/north-west/index.html)

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.

# Proposed Pilbara Commonwealth Marine Reserve



- Proposed Commonwealth marine reserve**
- Marine reserve boundary
- Internal zoning:**
- Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)
  - Marine National Park (IUCN II)
  - Limit of coastal waters
  - Limit of Australian exclusive economic zone
  - Australia - Indonesia MoU Box (1974)
  - Rowley Shoals Marine Park



Projection: Geographics  
Datum: GDA94 (effectively WGS84)

Australian Government data sources:  
 DEC, WA (2010): Western Australian Marine Conservation Reserve  
 Tenure and Management Boundaries  
 DSEWPac (2010): Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database (CAPAD)  
 DSEWPac (2011): Proposed Commonwealth Marine Reserves  
 Geoscience Australia (2003): Australia, Topographic Data TOPO2.5M  
 Geoscience Australia (2006): Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB) v2  
 Geoscience Australia (2010): Gazetteer of Australia

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