



Fact sheet – Proposed Shark Bay 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**.

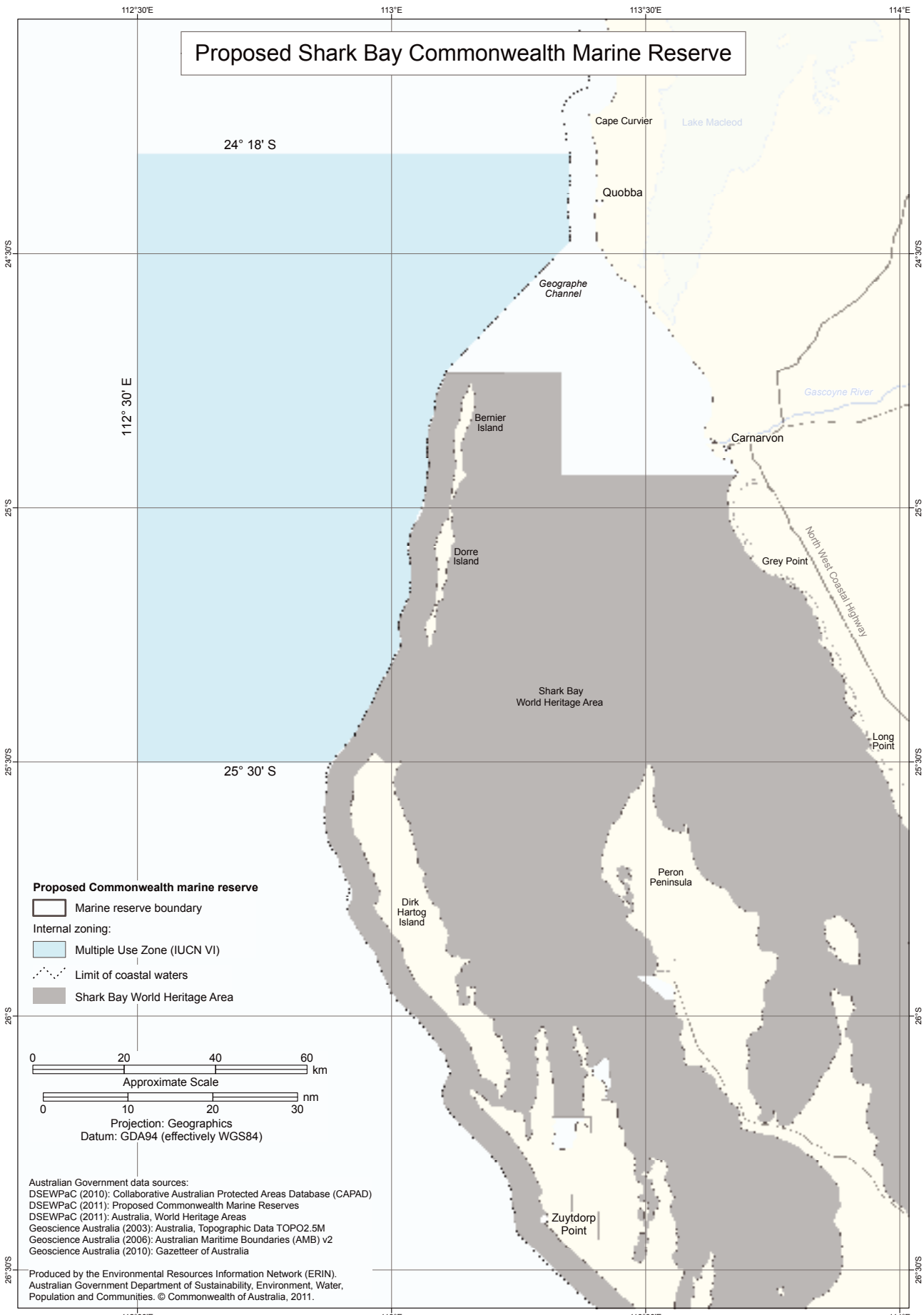
The proposed Shark Bay Commonwealth marine reserve is one of ten reserves that make up the Commonwealth marine reserve network proposal for the North-west Marine Region. A description of the proposed reserve is provided in the following table.

Area	8263 km ²
Depth range	15–220 m (approx.)
Major conservation values^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important breeding and foraging areas for several species of migratory seabirds • Important resting area for migrating humpback whales • Important foraging area for dugongs • Adjacent to an important nesting area for loggerhead turtles—the largest in Australia • Representation of two provincial bioregions: the Central Western Shelf Province and the Central Western Transition in the continental slope and shelf area, and the northern end of the Zutydorp meso-scale bioregion • The proposed reserve also provides for connectivity between the inshore waters of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area and the deeper waters of the area
Existing uses	Fisheries operating in the area include the state-managed Western Rock Lobster, West Coast Deep Sea Crab, Shark Bay Snapper (Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish) fisheries, and the Commonwealth-managed Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery. Recreational and charter fishing are important activities. Other activities include petroleum exploration, tourism and shipping. The Gnulli Native Title claim and the Malgana Shark Bay People’s Native Title claim extend into Commonwealth waters in this reserve.
Types of zoning proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Use Zone (IUCN Category VI): 8263 km²
Adjacent protected areas	The Shark Bay World Heritage Area is to the east of the proposed reserve.





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

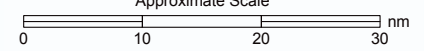
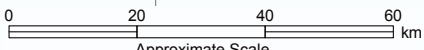
The marine reserve network will not affect waters within the 3-nautical-mile (5.5-kilometre) limit of coastal waters of Western Australia. It applies to Commonwealth waters only.

Proposed Shark Bay Commonwealth Marine Reserve



Proposed Commonwealth marine reserve

-  Marine reserve boundary
- Internal zoning:
 -  Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)
 -  Limit of coastal waters
 -  Shark Bay World Heritage Area



Projection: Geographics
Datum: GDA94 (effectively WGS84)

Australian Government data sources:
 DSEWPaC (2010): Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database (CAPAD)
 DSEWPaC (2011): Proposed Commonwealth Marine Reserves
 DSEWPaC (2011): Australia, World Heritage Areas
 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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 Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water,
 Population and Communities. © Commonwealth of Australia, 2011.