



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,  
Water, Population and Communities

# DEVELOPING MARINE RESERVES AND MARINE BIOREGIONAL PLANNING IN AUSTRALIA'S NORTH-WEST

DRAFT FOR COMMENT / PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## Have your say on the North-west Marine Region

The draft North-west Marine Bioregional Plan and Commonwealth marine reserve network proposal for the North-west Marine Region have been released for public consultation.

For more information 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)

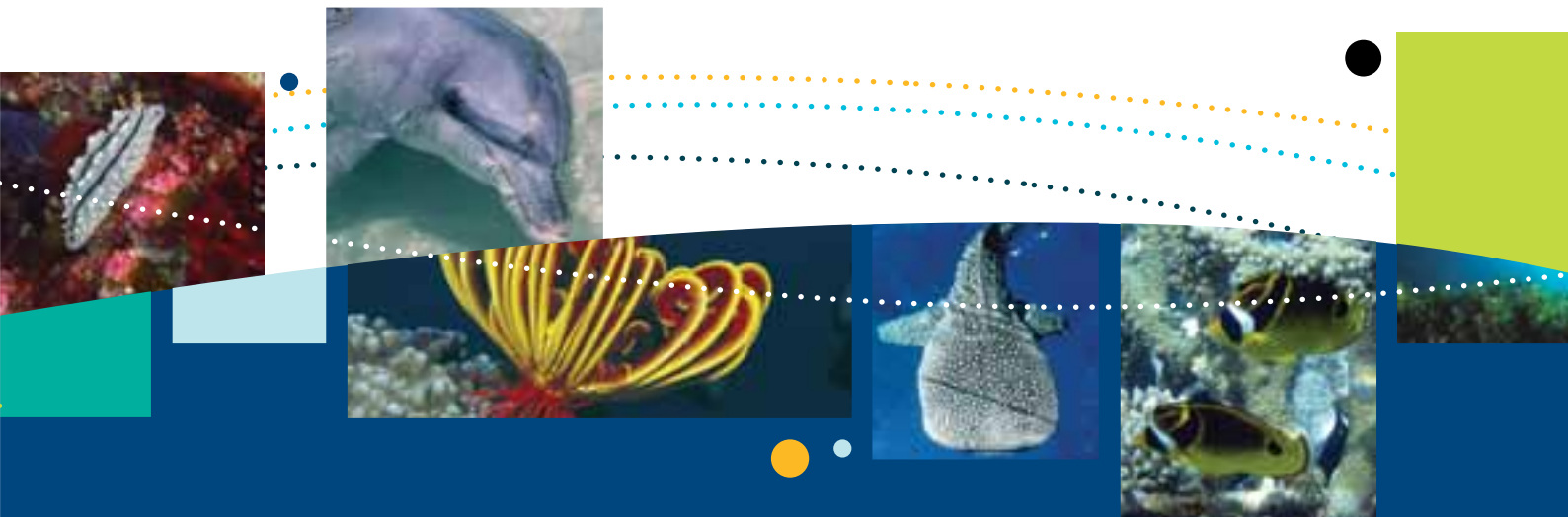
People with an interest in the draft Marine Bioregional Plan and the Commonwealth marine reserve network proposal for the North-west Marine Region are encouraged to provide written feedback. The Department's website contains information about how to provide feedback by lodging a submission and closing dates of the public consultation process.

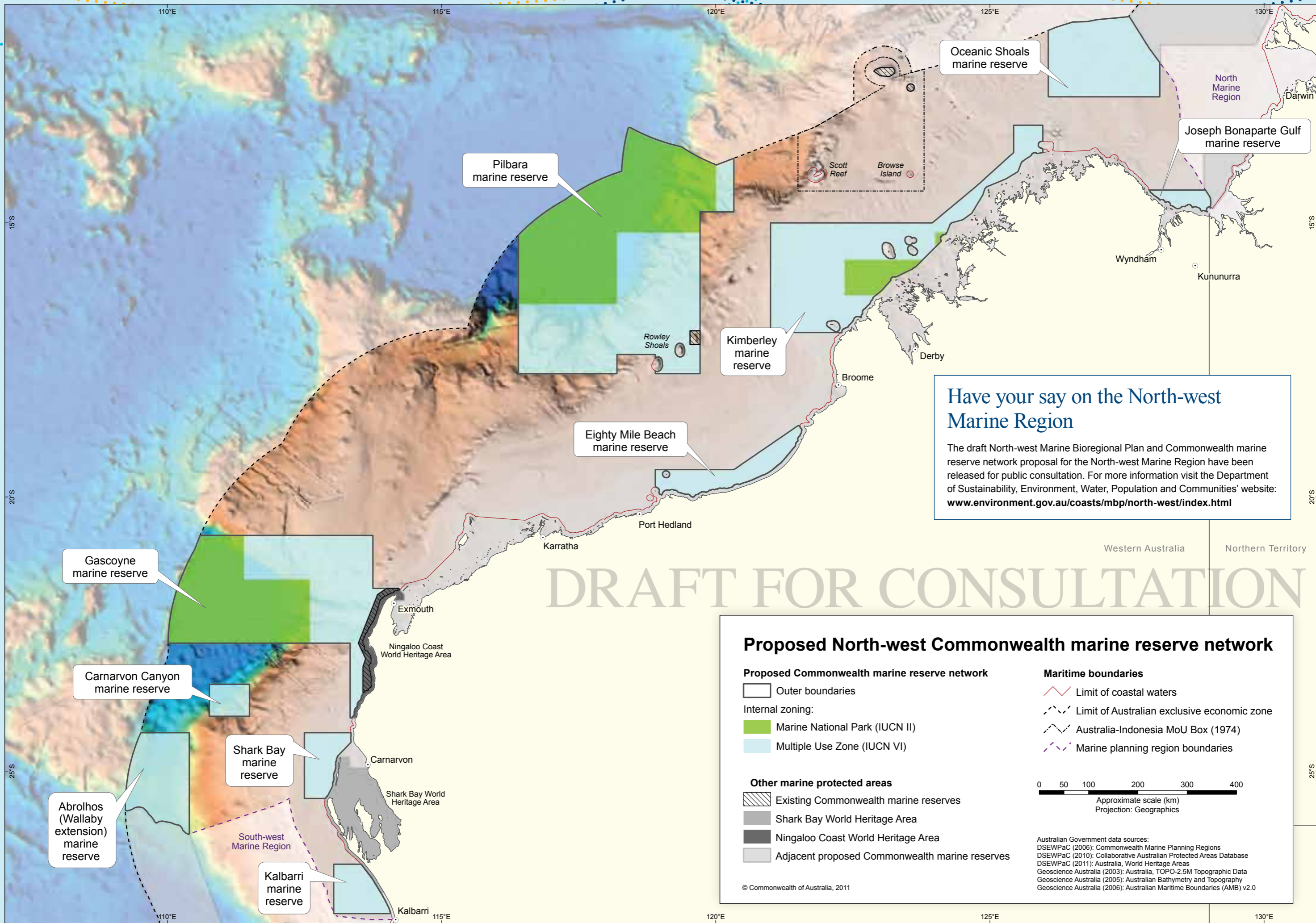
If you have any questions about how to make a submission or on any other aspects of the marine bioregional planning process please email [Northwest.MarinePlan@environment.gov.au](mailto:Northwest.MarinePlan@environment.gov.au) or phone 1800 069 352.

A submission form is 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; or
- 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 Marine Region  
Reply Paid 787  
Canberra ACT 2601





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**DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION**

**Proposed North-west Commonwealth marine reserve network**

**Proposed Commonwealth marine reserve network**

- Outer boundaries
- Internal zoning:
  - Marine National Park (IUCN II)
  - Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)

**Other marine protected areas**

- Existing Commonwealth marine reserves
- Shark Bay World Heritage Area
- Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area
- Adjacent proposed Commonwealth marine reserves

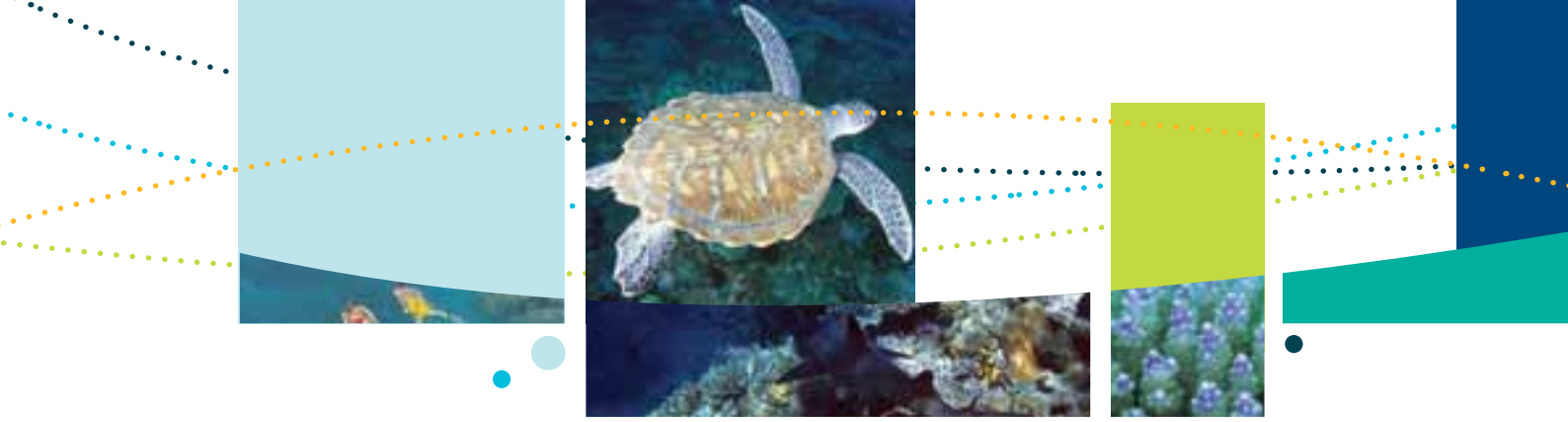
**Maritime boundaries**

- Limit of coastal waters
- Limit of Australian exclusive economic zone
- Australia-Indonesia MoU Box (1974)
- Marine planning region boundaries

0 50 100 200 300 400  
Approximate scale (km)  
Projection: Geographics

Australian Government data sources:  
 DSEWPac (2006): Commonwealth Marine Planning Regions  
 DSEWPac (2010): Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database  
 DSEWPac (2011): Australia, World Heritage Areas  
 Geoscience Australia (2003): Australia, TOPO-2.5M Topographic Data  
 Geoscience Australia (2005): Australian Bathymetry and Topography  
 Geoscience Australia (2006): Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB) v2.0

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## Overview of the proposed zoning scheme for the Commonwealth marine reserve network proposal for the North-west Marine Region

Activity	Multiple use zone (IUCN category VI)	Marine national park zone (IUCN category II)
Recreational fishing <sup>a</sup>	✓	✗
Recreational scuba diving and snorkelling	✓	✓
Research and monitoring <sup>b</sup>	✓	✓
Tourism, including dive/snorkel tours and nature watching <sup>b</sup>	✓	✓
Mining, including petroleum exploration and development <sup>c</sup>	✓	✗
Non-commercial indigenous harvesting and hunting (consistent with the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> )	✓	✓
Shipping <sup>d</sup>	✓	✓
Charter fishing <sup>e</sup>	✓	✗
Offshore aquaculture <sup>e</sup>	✓	✗
Commercial fishing (except as indicated below)	✓	✗
— demersal trawl	✗	✗
— demersal gillnet	✗	✗
— demersal longline	✗	✗

a Recreational fishing is managed by the states. All state rules and regulations (e.g. size and bag limits) apply in Commonwealth marine reserves unless otherwise specified in statutory management plans.

b Authorisation will be required for these activities (e.g. permit or approval in marine national park zones (IUCN Category II)).

c Proposed mining operations currently require approval from the Director of National Parks unless they are carried out under usage rights that existed immediately before the declaration of a reserve. Mining operations are also subject to the assessment and approval provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* where a proposed operation is likely to have a significant impact on the environment or on listed threatened or migratory species.

d Ballast water exchange is managed under national arrangements. Restrictions may apply in sensitive areas.

e Authorisation will be required for these activities (e.g. approval or permit) in multiple use zones (IUCN category VI).