

THE NORTH MARINE BIOREGIONAL PLAN

BIOREGIONAL PROFILE

APPENDIX A

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT



A DESCRIPTION OF THE ECOSYSTEMS, CONSERVATION VALUES AND USES
OF THE NORTH MARINE REGION



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

APPENDIX A INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT



At the international level, the use and management of marine domains and resources is subject to a range of international treaties, to which Australia is a party. These can be broadly divided into two categories: those relating specifically to the conservation of biodiversity and those concerned with regulating activities to protect the marine environment. The following sections outline the international agreements in place to conserve biodiversity and those regulating maritime activities to protect the marine environment.

International agreements regulating maritime activities to protect the marine environment

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1994

The Australian Government has rights and responsibilities for managing seas adjacent to its coastline under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in force since 1994. Under UNCLOS, coastal states are able to claim rights and responsibilities for seas out to 200 nautical miles and to the end of the continental shelf. In this area coastal states can exploit, develop, manage and conserve all resources (associated with the water column, seabed or subsoil) (figure A 1). Under UNCLOS, all parties have an obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment.

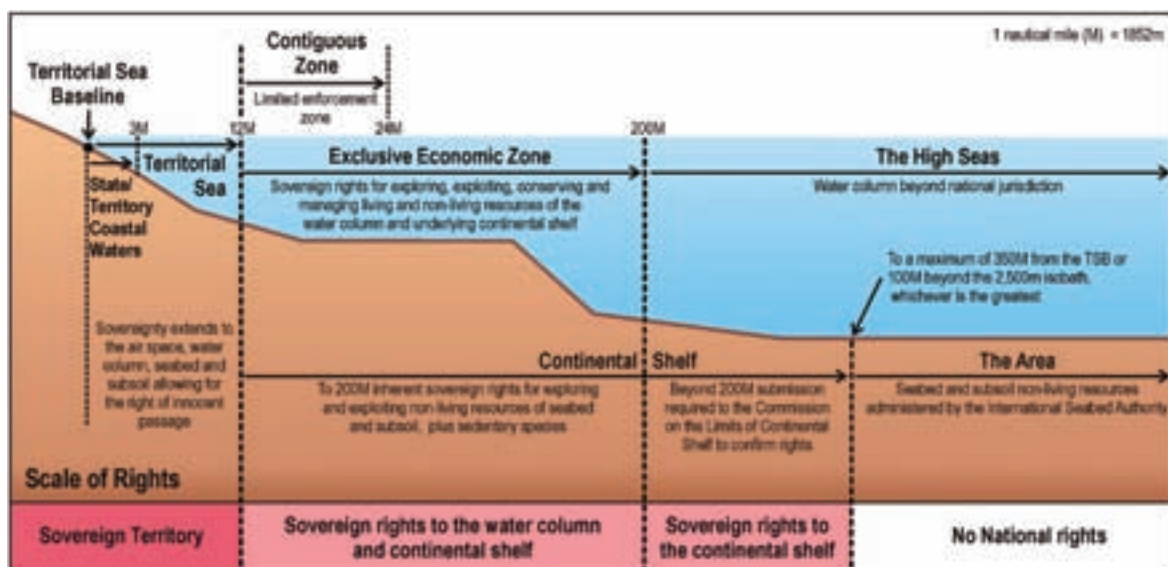
Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks 1995 (Fish Stocks Agreement)

This implementing agreement to UNCLOS provides additional and enhanced rules on the conservation and management of highly migratory and straddling fish stocks that occur on the high seas and within areas of national jurisdiction. The Fish Stocks Agreement promotes cooperation with other states parties, particularly through the establishment of regional fisheries management bodies. The Fish Stocks Agreement also includes application of the precautionary approach and requires consideration of impacts on the broader ecosystem.

Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships (Adopted 2001)

This convention prohibits the use of harmful organotin in anti-fouling paints used on ships and will establish a mechanism to prevent the potential future use of other harmful substances in anti-fouling systems. This

Figure A 1 Maritime zones for management arrangements under UNCLOS





Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 1973

This convention (often referred to as 'CITES') aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the convention has to be authorized through a licensing system. The species covered by CITES are listed in three appendices, according to the degree of protection they require. Each party to the convention must designate one or more management authorities in charge of administering that licensing system and one or more scientific authorities to advise them on the effects of trade on the status of the species.

Convention for the Regulation of Whaling 1946

The *International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling* was signed on 2 December 1946. The purpose of the convention is 'to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry'. Over the decades, most member countries have abandoned whaling but continued to view the International Whaling Commission (IWC) as the best forum to focus on the conservation of whales. For over 26 years, the Australian Government has pursued a permanent international ban on commercial whaling and worldwide protection for all cetaceans through the IWC.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) 1971

The Ramsar Convention's broad aims are to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands, and to conserve, through wise use and management, those that remain. This requires international cooperation, policy making, capacity building and technology transfer. The Ramsar Convention encourages the designation of sites containing representative, rare or unique wetlands, or wetlands that are important for conserving biological diversity. Once designated, these sites are added to the convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance and become known as Ramsar sites. In designating a wetland as a Ramsar site, countries agree

to manage the wetlands in a way that ensures their internationally important ecological values and character are maintained or improved over time. Wetlands can be included on the List of Wetlands of International Importance because of their ecological, botanical, zoological, limnological or hydrological importance.

Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements (JAMBA, CAMBA, ROKAMBA)

For nearly 30 years, Australia has played an important role in international cooperation to conserve migratory birds in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway which stretches from Alaska and the Russian Far East, through the countries of East and South-East Asia, to Australia and New Zealand. Principally, Australia has worked to negotiate and implement bilateral agreements – agreements which are made directly with the governments of other countries – to protect migratory birds.

To date Australia has signed bilateral agreements with Japan, China and Korea. These are:

- *The Agreement for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan 1974 (JAMBA);*
- *The Agreement for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment between the Government of Australia and the People's Republic of China 1986 (CAMBA);*
- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the Protection of Migratory Birds 2007 (ROKAMBA)* This agreement came into force in July 2007.

