

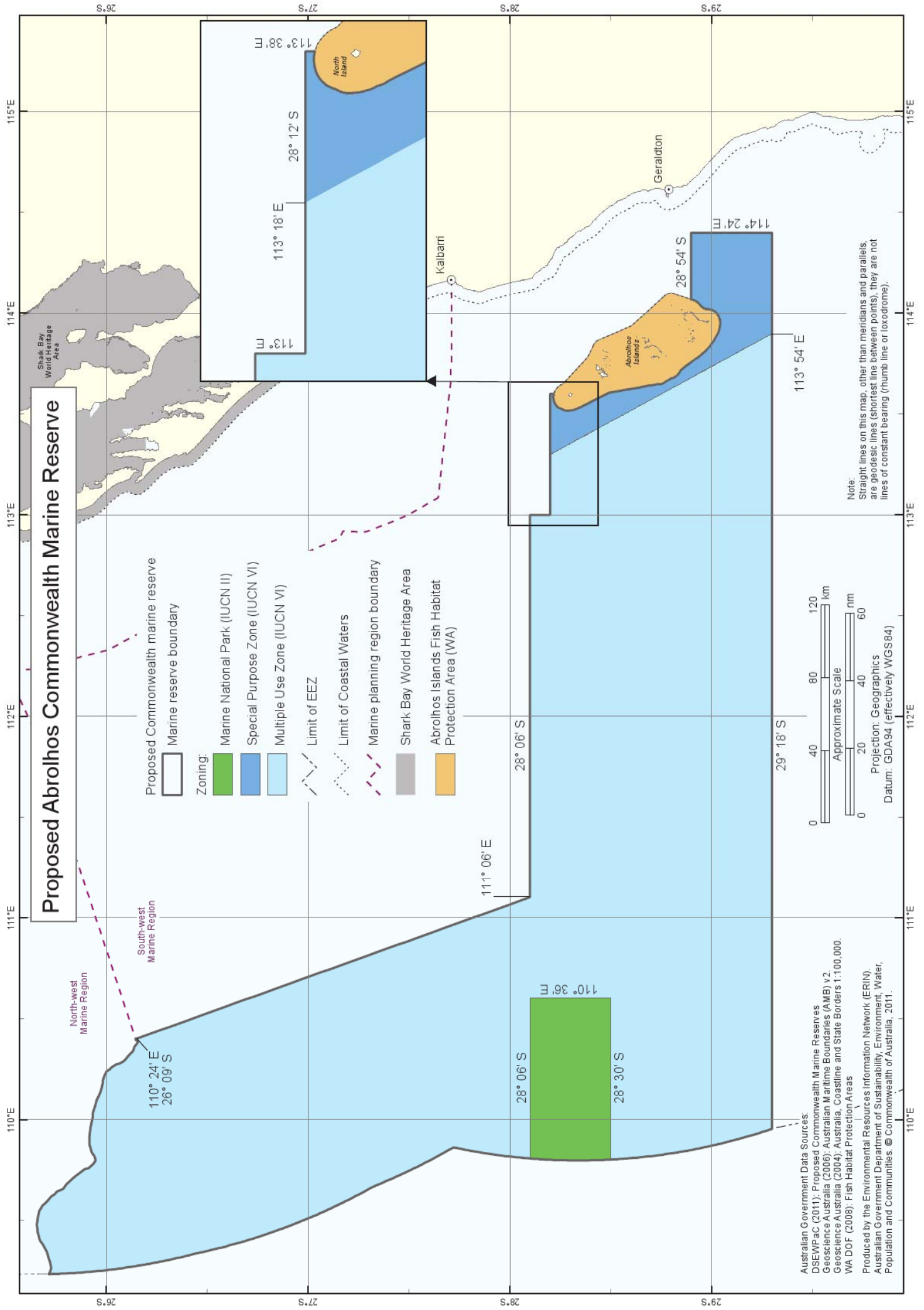


Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Proposed Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve – Factsheet

Name	Abrolhos Commonwealth marine reserve
Area	80 210 km ²
Depth range	20–5900 m (approx.)
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of the northernmost ecosystems of the Central Western Province and South-west Shelf Transition • Examples of the deeper ecosystems of the Abrolhos Islands bioregion • Six key ecological features are included within the proposed reserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth marine environment surrounding the Houtman Abrolhos Islands (high biodiversity, breeding and resting aggregations) • ancient coastline (high productivity) • demersal slope and associated fish communities of the Central Western Province (communities with high species diversity) • meso-scale eddies (high productivity, feeding aggregations) • west-coast canyons (high productivity, feeding aggregations) • western rock lobster habitat (species with an important ecological role) • Important foraging areas for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the threatened Australian lesser noddy • several species of migratory seabirds • the northernmost breeding colony of the threatened Australian sea lion • Important migration habitat for the threatened humpback whale
Existing uses	<p>Recreational fishing is a key activity around the Abrolhos Islands, mostly within the islands’ state waters. Charter fishing is a growing activity in the area. Fisheries operating in the area are the Western Rock Lobster Fishery, Abrolhos Island Trawl Fishery, Commonwealth Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery, the West Coast Gillnet and Longline Fishery, the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery and the West Coast Deep Sea Crab Fishery. Other activities in this area include tourism, shipping and petroleum exploration.</p>
Types of zoning proposed	<p>Marine National Park (IUCN Category II)—3480 km² Multiple Use Zone (IUCN Category VI)—73 500 km² Special Purpose Zone (IUCN Category VI)3230 km²</p>
Adjacent protected areas	<p>Abrolhos Fish Habitat Protection Area (managed by the Department of Fisheries, WA)</p>



Proposed Arolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve

North-west Marine Region

South-west Marine Region

110° 24' E
28° 09' S

110° 36' E
28° 06' S

111° 06' E

111° 18' E

112° 00' E

113° 00' E

113° 18' E

114° 00' E

114° 24' E

115° 00' E

26° 00' S

27° 00' S

28° 00' S

29° 00' S

North Island

Arolhos Islands

Kalbarri

Geraldton

113° 38' E

113° 54' E

114° 24' E

115° 00' E

28° 12' S

28° 54' S

29° 18' S

Shark Bay World Heritage Area

Note:

Straight lines on this map, other than meridians and parallels, are geodesic lines (shortest line between points), they are not lines of constant bearing (rhumb line or loxodrome).

Australian Government Data Sources:

DSEWPac (2011); Proposed Commonwealth Marine Reserves

Geoscience Australia (2006); Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB) v2

Geoscience Australia (2004); Australia, Coastline and State Borders 1:100,000

WA DoF (2008); Fish Habitat Protection Areas

Produced by the Environmental Resources Information Network (ERIN)

Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. © Commonwealth of Australia, 2011.

Projection: Geographics

Datum: GDA94 (effectively WGS84)

Approximate Scale

0 40 80 120 km

0 20 40 60 nm

Limit of EEZ

Limit of Coastal Waters

Marine planning region boundary

Shark Bay World Heritage Area

Arolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area (WA)

Proposed Commonwealth marine reserve

Marine reserve boundary

Zoning:

Marine National Park (IUCN II)

Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)

Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)

110° 24' E
28° 09' S

110° 36' E
28° 06' S

111° 06' E

111° 18' E

112° 00' E

113° 00' E

113° 18' E

114° 00' E

114° 24' E

115° 00' E

26° 00' S

27° 00' S

28° 00' S

29° 00' S

North Island

Arolhos Islands

Kalbarri

Geraldton

113° 38' E

113° 54' E

114° 24' E

115° 00' E

28° 12' S

28° 54' S

29° 18' S

Shark Bay World Heritage Area

Note:

Straight lines on this map, other than meridians and parallels, are geodesic lines (shortest line between points), they are not lines of constant bearing (rhumb line or loxodrome).

Australian Government Data Sources:

DSEWPac (2011); Proposed Commonwealth Marine Reserves

Geoscience Australia (2006); Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB) v2

Geoscience Australia (2004); Australia, Coastline and State Borders 1:100,000

WA DoF (2008); Fish Habitat Protection Areas

Produced by the Environmental Resources Information Network (ERIN)

Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. © Commonwealth of Australia, 2011.

Projection: Geographics

Datum: GDA94 (effectively WGS84)

Approximate Scale

0 40 80 120 km

0 20 40 60 nm

Limit of EEZ

Limit of Coastal Waters

Marine planning region boundary

Shark Bay World Heritage Area

Arolhos Islands Fish Habitat Protection Area (WA)

Proposed Commonwealth marine reserve

Marine reserve boundary

Zoning:

Marine National Park (IUCN II)

Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)

Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)

Overview of proposed zoning scheme for the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN Category II)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN Category VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN Category VI)
Recreational fishing ^a	✘	✓	✓
Recreational scuba diving and snorkelling ^b	✓	✓	✓
Research and monitoring ^b	✓	✓	✓
Tourism, including dive/snorkel tours, nature watching ^b	✓	✓	✓
Mining, including petroleum exploration and development ^c	✘	✓	✓
Shipping ^d	✓	✓	✓
Charter fishing ^e	✘	✓	✓
Offshore aquaculture ^e	✘	✓	✓
Commercial fishing (except as indicated below) ^e	✘	✓	✓
— 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) will apply in Commonwealth marine reserves unless otherwise specified in statutory management plans		
b	Approval will be required for these activities (e.g. registration, general approval or individual permit) in Marine National Park Zones (IUCN Category II)		
c	As currently applies, individual project assessment and approval is required by the Director of National parks and under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> as Commonwealth marine areas are protected as a matter of national environmental significance.		
d	Ballast water exchange is managed under national arrangements. Restrictions may apply in sensitive areas.		
e	Approval will be required for these activities (e.g. registration, general approval or individual permit) in multiple use and special purpose zones		