



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities

Have your SAY on the South-west MARine Region

The draft South-west Marine Bioregional Plan and a proposed network of Commonwealth marine reserves for the South-west Marine Region have been released for public consultation. For more information visit the Department's website:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/south-west/index.html>

People with an interest in the draft South-west Marine Bioregional Plan and the proposed South-west marine reserve network are encouraged to provide written feedback. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities' website contains information about how to lodge a submission and closing dates for receiving submissions.

The submissions forms are available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/south-west/index.html>, and

- can be completed and submitted online; or
- saved and emailed to **Submission.Southwest@environment.gov.au** or
- printed and posted free of charge to:

If you have any questions about how to make a submission or on any other aspects of the marine bioregional planning process please email **Southwest.MarinePlan@environment.gov.au** or phone 1800 069 352.

MBP Submissions – South-west
Reply Paid 787
Canberra, ACT 2601

When will new marine reserves in the South-west Marine Region take effect?

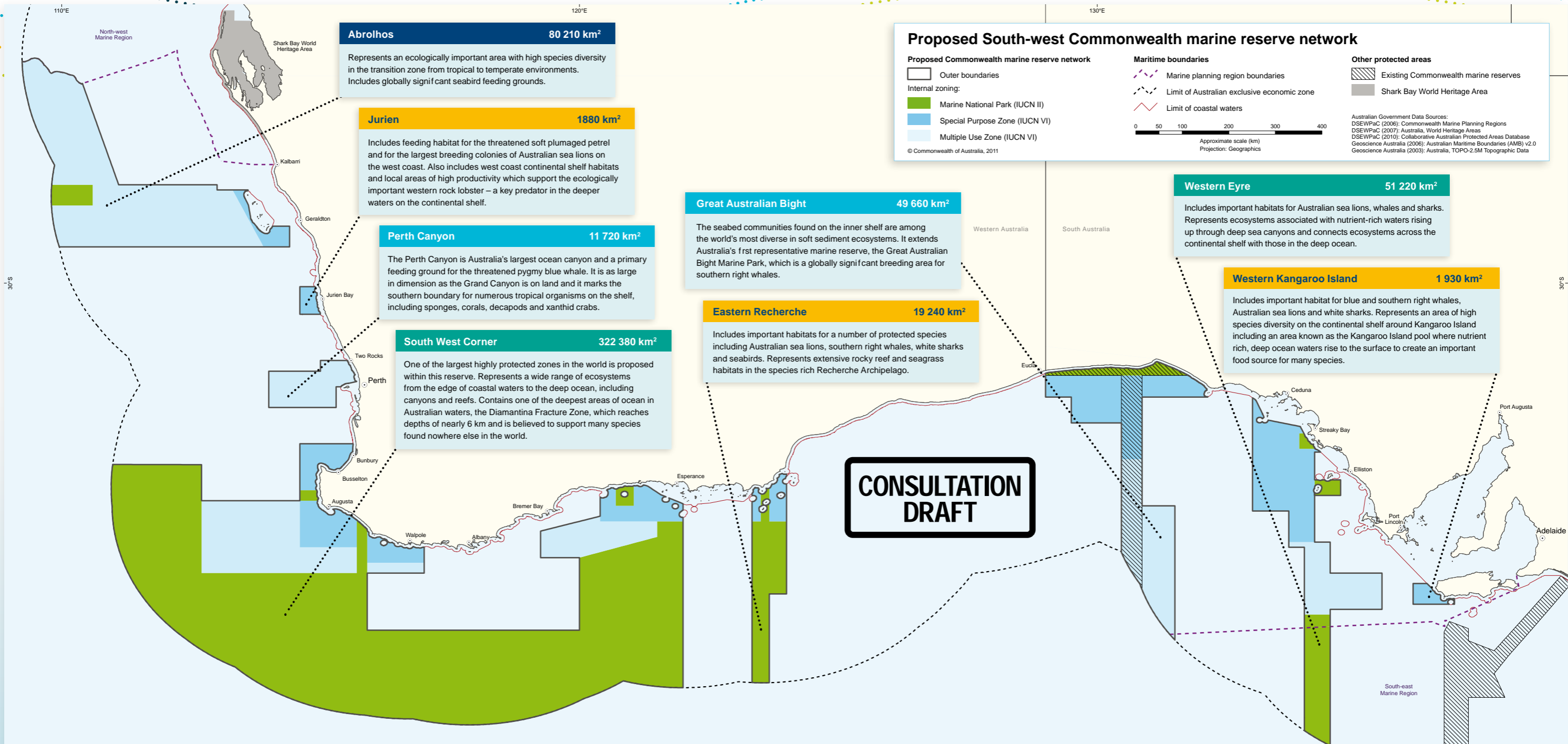
The proposed South-west reserve network will be completed after public consultation has concluded and submissions have been considered.



Developing Marine Reserves and marine bioregional planning in Australia's South-west

DRAFT FOR COMMENT /
PUBLIC CONSULTATION





Abrolhos 80 210 km²

Represents an ecologically important area with high species diversity in the transition zone from tropical to temperate environments. Includes globally significant seabird feeding grounds.

Jurien 1880 km²

Includes feeding habitat for the threatened soft plumaged petrel and for the largest breeding colonies of Australian sea lions on the west coast. Also includes west coast continental shelf habitats and local areas of high productivity which support the ecologically important western rock lobster – a key predator in the deeper waters on the continental shelf.

Perth Canyon 11 720 km²

The Perth Canyon is Australia's largest ocean canyon and a primary feeding ground for the threatened pygmy blue whale. It is as large in dimension as the Grand Canyon is on land and it marks the southern boundary for numerous tropical organisms on the shelf, including sponges, corals, decapods and xanthid crabs.

South West Corner 322 380 km²

One of the largest highly protected zones in the world is proposed within this reserve. Represents a wide range of ecosystems from the edge of coastal waters to the deep ocean, including canyons and reefs. Contains one of the deepest areas of ocean in Australian waters, the Diamantina Fracture Zone, which reaches depths of nearly 6 km and is believed to support many species found nowhere else in the world.

Great Australian Bight 49 660 km²

The seabed communities found on the inner shelf are among the world's most diverse in soft sediment ecosystems. It extends Australia's first representative marine reserve, the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, which is a globally significant breeding area for southern right whales.

Eastern Recherche 19 240 km²

Includes important habitats for a number of protected species including Australian sea lions, southern right whales, white sharks and seabirds. Represents extensive rocky reef and seagrass habitats in the species rich Recherche Archipelago.

Western Eyre 51 220 km²

Includes important habitats for Australian sea lions, whales and sharks. Represents ecosystems associated with nutrient-rich waters rising up through deep sea canyons and connects ecosystems across the continental shelf with those in the deep ocean.

Western Kangaroo Island 1 930 km²

Includes important habitat for blue and southern right whales, Australian sea lions and white sharks. Represents an area of high species diversity on the continental shelf around Kangaroo Island including an area known as the Kangaroo Island pool where nutrient rich, deep ocean waters rise to the surface to create an important food source for many species.

CONSULTATION DRAFT

Proposed South-west Commonwealth marine reserve network

Proposed Commonwealth marine reserve network

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

Maritime boundaries

- Marine planning region boundaries
- Limit of Australian exclusive economic zone
- Limit of coastal waters

Other protected areas

- Existing Commonwealth marine reserves
- Shark Bay World Heritage Area

Australian Government Data Sources:
 DSEWPac (2006): Commonwealth Marine Planning Regions
 DSEWPac (2007): Australia, World Heritage Areas
 DSEWPac (2010): Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database
 Geoscience Australia (2006): Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB) v2.0
 Geoscience Australia (2003): Australia, TOPO-2.5M Topographic Data

Approximate scale (km)
 Projection: Geographics

the proposed South-west Reserve network

The South-west Marine Region is an area of rich biodiversity and home to many species found nowhere else in the world. The Leeuwin Current has a strong influence on the region, bringing warm water from the tropics, down the west coast and then eastwards into the Great Australian Bight.

The South-west Marine Region is recognised as an area of global significance for breeding and feeding grounds for a number of protected marine species, including Australian sea lions, southern right whales, blue whales, white sharks and seabirds.

The Perth Canyon and the canyons south of Kangaroo Island are the only two known blue whale feeding areas in the region.

Populations of Australian sea lions breed and feed throughout the year in colonies stretching from the Houtman Abrolhos Islands in Western Australia to the Pages Islands in South Australia.

The Recherche Archipelago is one of the South-west's key biodiversity hotspots with over 1000 species including 30 percent of Australia's unique fish species and over 400 species of coral.

The South-west Marine Region is considered internationally important for seabirds. 18 of the 48 species that occur in the region have significant proportions of their breeding or foraging areas here (or on adjacent islands). Up to 1.4 million seabirds breed off South Australia and in Western Australia more than one million pairs of seabirds breed annually on the Houtman Abrolhos Islands alone.

New Commonwealth marine reserves are being identified through the bioregional planning process to help ensure that examples of all of Australia's different marine ecosystems, habitats and the life they support are protected for future generations. Following public consultation, reserves in the South-west will become part of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas – a joint undertaking of the Commonwealth, state and Northern Territory governments.

The reserves have been designed with the aim of capturing the diversity of marine ecosystems and habitats around Australia.

The outer boundaries and zones of the proposed reserves have been designed to minimise impacts on people and industries who are currently using marine resources.

The proposal includes a network of 8 marine reserves located in Commonwealth waters:

- Abrolhos
- Jurien
- Perth Canyon
- South-west Corner
- Eastern Recherche
- Great Australian Bight
- Western Eyre
- Western Kangaroo Island

Area of the South-west marine region	1 292 015 km ²
Area of the draft marine reserve network proposed in the South-west	538 226 km ²

