



THE AUTHORITY:

- recommends areas of the Great Barrier Reef Region for declaration as marine park

- prepares zoning and management plans for these areas

- arranges and undertakes research and investigation relevant to the marine park

ZONING PLAN DELAY

The zoning plan for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - Capricornia Section is not likely to come into effect before April next year. The dissolution of Federal Parliament for the election occurred before the plan had been before it for the statutory 20 sitting days.

Under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, the plan has now to be presented to the new Parliament for 20 sitting days. Parliament is sitting only for a brief period before Christmas and is not expected to resume again until February.

As a result of the new administrative arrangements of the Federal Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority now reports to the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment, the Hon. R.J. Ellicott QC.

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FISH SURVEY RESULTS

A survey of recreational fishing activities in Great Barrier Reef waters between Port Douglas and Tully has shown that fishermen are averaging at least five to six fish each from a day's outing.

The most frequently caught fish are coral trout, with sweetlip, red emperor and nannygai accounting for a large part of the rest of the catch.

However, almost half the number of people fishing from Cairns catch only one fish on a day's outing or none at all. The top ten per cent of fishermen account for 38 per cent of the catch.

The survey was conducted at boat ramps by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in association with the Queensland Fisheries Service and with the voluntary co-operation of fishing clubs and fishermen.

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REEF STUDIES FOR STUDENTS

The Great Barrier Reef will become a focus for studies by engineering students next year.

A \$1000 first prize is being offered by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to the student or students producing the best design for permanent boat mooring facilities on the Great Barrier Reef. The purpose of the competition is to stimulate marine engineering studies and to provide permanent mooring designs that improve access to the Reef, make Reef boating safer in adverse weather and prevent damage to coral reefs from anchors and anchor chains.

Several engineering faculties have advised the Authority that they are prepared to use the competition as a basis for class-room studies in the New Year. As a result, the closing date for entries in the competition has been extended to 24 April 1981.

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CYCLONE CHANGES ISLANDS

Cyclone 'Simon' which hit the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef in February this year, brought significant changes to the size and shape of a number of coral cays.

Studies undertaken since the cyclone by Dr Peter Flood, Lecturer in Geology at the University of New England, have shown that some cays benefitted from extra sand and sediment build-ups as a result of the cyclone.

Wilson and Tryon Islands are two cays that are now significantly bigger, with the shorelines at some points increased by more than 70 metres. Other cays lost some shoreline sand but gained it back at other points.

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