



# Bulletin



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## REGULATIONS AND INTERIM MANAGEMENT IN UNZONED SECTIONS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park covers an area of approximately 345,000 square kilometres (98.5%) of the Great Barrier Reef Region.

This area has been divided into six sections for the purposes of zoning and management. To date, the Capricornia, Cairns and Cormorant Pass Sections have been zoned. Of the remaining three sections, the Far Northern Section Zoning Plan is expected to come into operation in early 1986, the Central Section in early 1987, and the Capricorn Section in mid 1988.

Day-to-day management of the Marine Park is undertaken on behalf of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### Regulation Provisions in Unzoned Sections

The majority of management controls in a section of the Marine Park do not come into effect until the zoning plan for that section comes into operation. However, in order to provide for the protection of the Reef's resources in the absence of a zoning plan, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations provide for the management of some activities in unzoned sections. This is in keeping with the Authority's goal of providing for the protection, wise use, appreciation and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity through the development and care of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

### Activities Prohibited throughout the Marine Park are;

- the taking of potato cod and giant Queensland groper exceeding 1200 mm in length,
- spearfishing with an underwater breathing apparatus other than a snorkel; or spearfishing with a powerhead, except where the powerhead is used for protection against shark attack, and
- littering.
- mining — exploration for or recovery of minerals.

### Activities Requiring a Permit throughout the Marine Park

Under the Regulations, a permit is required for discharge or deposit of waste other than:

- human waste where a vessel or aircraft does not contain an appropriate storage tank;
- offal from fish caught within the Marine Park; and
- biodegradable waste, where the vessel or aircraft is more than 500 metres seawards from the edge of a reef.

Permits may also be required from the Water Quality Council of Queensland.

**Note; Discharge of wastes (other than those exempted) without a permit is prohibited.**

### Prescribed Activities Requiring a Permit in Unzoned Sections of the Marine Park

In unzoned sections a person shall not carry on a prescribed activity without the permission in writing (a permit) from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

A 'prescribed activity' means:

- (a) the building, assembling, or fixing in position of structures;
- (b) the operating in the one vicinity for more than 14 consecutive days or for more than 30 days in any period of 60 days, of vessels with provision for more than 8 sleeping berths;
- (c) the carrying out of reclamation works, beach protection works, road building works or other works;
- (d) the construction of landing areas;
- (e) the construction of facilities for the farming of marine resources;

- (f) the conduct of operations in or upon, or the maintenance of, a vessel to which paragraph (b) refers or any structure, landing area or farming facility; or
- (g) the demolition or removal of any structure, landing area or farming facility.

The definition of 'prescribed activities' includes floating hotels, pontoons, underwater observatories, jetties, mariculture facilities, landing areas, permanently moored vessels and any works.

**Maximum penalties for infringements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations range from \$200 to \$5000.**

### **Interim Management of Unzoned Sections**

A program of 'interim management' has been initiated by the Authority and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service for the unzoned sections of the Marine Park.

The program provides for:

- enforcement of the Regulations;
- collection of baseline data for the development of zoning and management;
- provision of information to Marine Park users about the Regulations, the Marine Park concept, and the educational and extension services which are available.

Additional information concerning the interim management program, the Regulations, or the educational and extension services available in unzoned sections, is available from the following:



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