

# Bulletin

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**SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
CENTRAL SECTION - GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**

July 1994

## **MANTA RAY BAY - HOOK ISLAND**



The designation of Special Management Areas provides for small areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to be specially managed for the purpose of conservation of natural resources, undisturbed scientific research, appreciation by the public or public safety, as appropriate. Use of or entry into Special Management Areas may be controlled in accordance with special management provisions which may be designated by the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority from time to time.

On 2 July 1994, a Special Management Area (SMA) was designated over an area encompassing Manta Ray Bay at Hook Island in the Whitsunday Islands. The photograph overleaf describes the boundaries of the Special Management Area in general terms. A full description of the SMA boundaries can be found in Schedule 1 of the Notice of Designation printed in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette (Business) issued on 28 June 1994. The decision to designate Manta Ray Bay as a SMA was made following an extensive public consultation program which included consultation during the preparation of the draft Whitsunday National and Marine Parks Management Plan.

Manta Ray Bay is a popular diving and boating location and is currently zoned as Marine National Park B. To avoid strong currents near the headland and to gain better access to the fringing reef, vessels have tended to anchor in shallow water close to the shore, resulting in considerable coral damage. In response to the problem of declining reef quality in the Bay, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has designated Manta Ray Bay a SMA. The SMA provisions will be in addition to those existing under the present Marine National Park B zoning.

Moorings will be progressively established in the Bay. The public moorings will be available for all persons entering the bay on a 'first in' basis. Users of the public moorings should familiarise themselves with the limits placed upon the moorings in respect of length of vessel and tonnage. Information on the use of public moorings is also available from the Department of Environment & Heritage. It is an offence to misuse or damage a public mooring. Damaged or missing public moorings should be reported to the Queensland Department of Environment & Heritage.

Persons holding Marine Parks permissions which allow access to Manta Ray Bay must also comply with the SMA provisions in addition to any conditions imposed by the Marine Parks permission.

### **PROVISIONS FOR THE USE OF OR ENTRY TO MANTA RAY BAY**

In addition to the provisions described in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Central Section Zoning Plan, the following provisions also apply to the use of and entry to the Special Management Area at Manta Ray Bay:

1. A person must not anchor a vessel in the Special Management Area.
2. A person must not moor a vessel to a public mooring in the Special Management Area for more than 2 hours in any 8 hour period.
3. Fishing and collecting are not allowed.

These provisions will remain in force until 31 December 2004 unless otherwise extended.

Offences are subject to penalties of up to \$10,000 for individuals or \$50,000 for corporations. Vessels, gear and catch may also be forfeited.

Further information may be obtained from:

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**  
PO Box 1379  
Townsville Qld 4810  
Telephone (077) 818811

**Queensland Department of  
Environment & Heritage**  
PO Box 332 Airlie Beach Qld 4802  
Telephone (079) 467022



# MANTA RAY BAY - Special Management Area

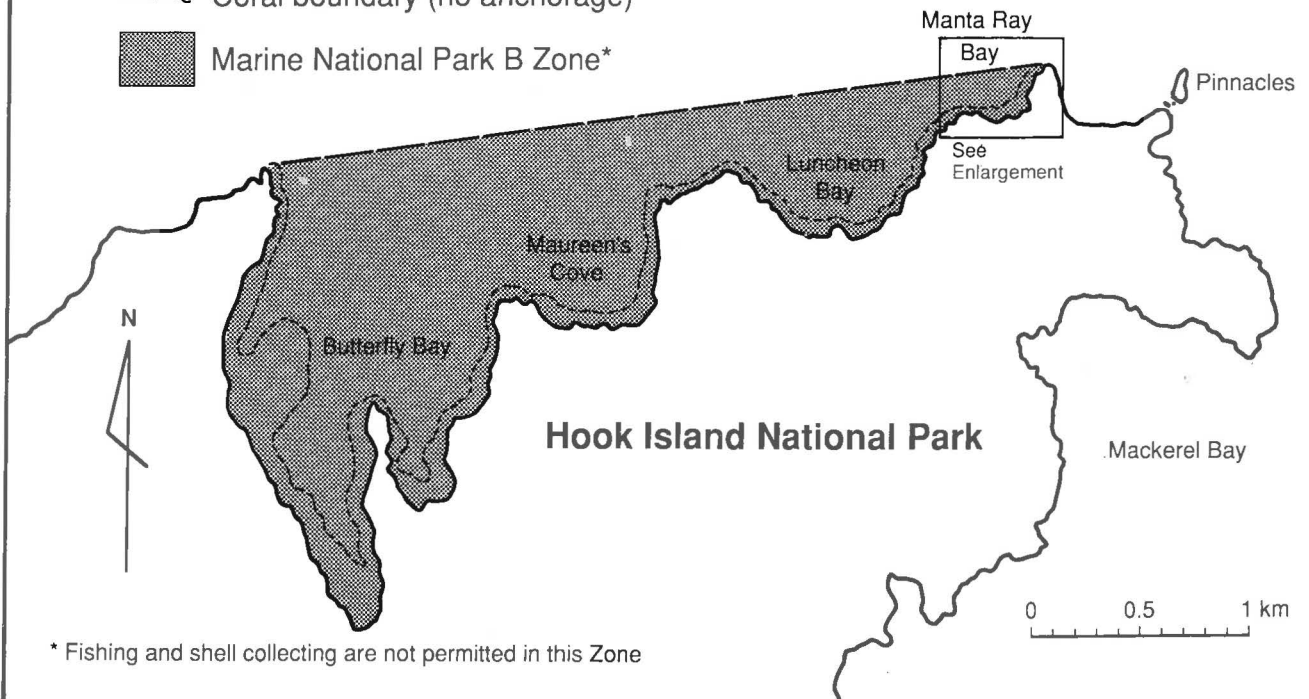
Aerial photography depicts general boundary of SMA



## Northern Hook Island Marine National Park B Zone

--- Coral boundary (no anchorage)

■ Marine National Park B Zone\*



\* Fishing and shell collecting are not permitted in this Zone