

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Zoning the
Central Section



Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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Staff from the Townsville Office of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will willingly help you with any further information you may require about the proposed zoning plan for the Central Section or any other aspect of the Marine Park.

Please call us on (077)818811 during business hours, or write to:

The Chairman
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
PO Box 1379
Townsville
Queensland
4810

If you would like to call in the Authority Office is located at:

Melton Place
67-71 Denham Street
Townsville.

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ZONING THE CENTRAL SECTION OF THE
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

INTRODUCTION

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest and richest system of coral reefs in the world. Its unique status has been recognised by inscription on the World Heritage List. The need to ensure that the Barrier Reef can be used and enjoyed by future generations was recognised by the Commonwealth Parliament by the passage of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975.

The Act established the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority which, amongst other things, is a resource planning and management body with the 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. Since the passage of the 1975 Act the Australian and Queensland Governments have worked together to this end.

The main framework for planning and management used by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is the zoning plan. Zoning plans describe what activities may take place in each area of the Marine Park. Zoning plans separate different uses so they do not conflict. They also ensure that areas of the Reef are set aside free from human use (except for scientific research). Through zoning plans conservation of the Reef is provided for and all reasonable use allowed.

The Authority aims to minimise regulation of, and interference in, human activities and to achieve management of the Marine Park primarily through the community's understanding and acceptance of the provisions of zoning, regulations and management practices.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public is encouraged to participate in each of the major planning stages for each Section of the Marine Park.

Participation in planning the Central Section has already been invited through a 'Help Zone the Central Section' campaign. This campaign involved distribution of information, including a published information summary on the Section, and formal and informal talks and discussion with interested groups. Many organisations and members of the public provided the Authority with information and advice. On the basis of this, as well as published information, advice from government bodies and information collected by Authority staff, a zoning plan has been prepared for the Section. As this plan is not yet finalized and may be amended as a result of the review process now underway, it will be described in this booklet as the proposed zoning plan.

The Authority is now seeking public comment on this proposed zoning plan. The purpose of this booklet is to explain the decisions embodied in the proposed zoning plan and to help you make your comments on it in the most effective way. You will probably want to read the booklet in conjunction with the proposed Central Section zoning plan.

What Happens Next?

The stages in the development of a zoning plan are intended to ensure that all interested individuals and bodies can become involved. The Central Section Zoning Plan is now at an important point in this process. Public representations on the proposed zoning plan will be accepted until 29 November 1985.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is then required to submit a report to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment on the content of the representations received from the public and the changes to the zoning plan which are appropriate as a result of the representations.

This report, together with the zoning plan and appropriate draft regulations, is submitted to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council for consideration for endorsement. The Ministerial Council, which comprises two Ministers each from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, has the function of co-ordinating the policy of the Governments concerning the Great Barrier Reef.

If the Minister does not refer the zoning plan back to the Authority for further consideration, he lays it before both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament.

If within 15 sitting days there are no motions passed by either House disallowing the plan, the Minister, by public notice, specifies the date on which the Zoning Plan will come into effect. It is likely that for the Central Section this will be late 1986.

Once a zoning plan for any section of the Marine Park has been gazetted it remains operational until a new plan is prepared by the same process of public participation and consultation. The Authority is committed to review each zoning plan after it has been in operation for 5 years.

PLANNING FOR MULTIPLE AND INCREASING USE

The Marine Park is a multiple use park which allows all reasonable uses to be undertaken within its boundaries, provided such uses are consistent with the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef.

Taken individually, all present uses of the Great Barrier Reef may be reasonable at some levels. A level of use becomes unreasonable when it either exceeds the repair or replacement capacity of the Reef ecosystem or when it conflicts or interferes excessively with other uses.

Zoning plans are designed to ensure a balance between shorter term human needs and the need to conserve the Great Barrier Reef, and to separate conflicting uses. They allow multiple use of the Reef's resources but restrict or prohibit certain activities in specified areas.

Through the use of zones, levels of protection within the Marine Park vary from almost complete absence of restriction on activity in some areas, to areas where almost no human activities are permitted. The only activities which are prohibited throughout the Park are oil drilling and mining (other than for research purposes), the taking of Queensland Groper and potato cod larger than 1.2m in length, and spearfishing with underwater breathing apparatus or with a powerhead.

Naturally the representations the Authority receives from the public illustrate a diversity of opinion and are often mutually conflicting. The production of a zoning plan involves many complex decisions. The Authority has a number of guidelines and criteria which are applied, as far as practicable, in making zoning decisions. The purpose of these guidelines is to help make decisions more objective and uniform but it may be necessary to deviate from them in particular cases and to vary them in application to particular Sections of the Marine Park.

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF THE
CENTRAL SECTION ZONING PLAN

General, Legislative and Management Requirements

1. The zoning plan should be as simple as practicable.
2. The plan should minimise the regulation of, and interference in, human activities, consistent with meeting the goal of providing for protection, wise use, appreciation and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity.
3. The plan should maximise consistency with existing zoning plans in terms of zone types and provisions.
4. The pattern of zones within the Section should avoid sudden transitions from highly protected areas to areas of relatively little protection. The concept of buffering should be applied so that highly protected zones are generally adjacent to, or surrounded by, zones which provide for moderate protection.
5. Single zonings should surround areas with a discrete geographic description e.g. an island or reef.
6. Zoning boundaries should be consistent and where possible should be described by geographical features (based on line of sight to aid identification in the field).
7. Zoning plans should complement current regulations and management practices under Queensland and Commonwealth legislation.

[The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends generally over reefs and waters to **low water mark** on the mainland and around islands which form part of Queensland and are not owned by the Commonwealth.

In accordance with provisions of the Marine Parks Act 1982 (Queensland), moves are being made to declare Queensland Marine Parks in areas of Queensland associated with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - Central Section. This program will occur at the same time as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's zoning program for the Central Section.

This will provide the basis for detailed complementary management of areas of the Great Barrier Reef, whether under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth or Queensland.

Enquiries about Queensland Marine Parks should be directed to:

The Co-ordinator-General
Premier's Department
P.O. Box 185
NORTH QUAY. QLD. 4000

Telephone: (07) 224 4711
(07) 224 4720]

Conservation of Significant Habitat

1. Areas of world, regional or local significance to threatened species (for example, dugong, whales, turtles, crocodiles) should be given appropriate protective zoning.
2. Where significant breeding or nursery sites can be identified, particularly for species subjected to harvesting, these should be provided with Marine National Park (MNP) or Preservation zoning, or by appropriate Seasonal Closure or Replenishment Area designation; that is, given a high degree of protection on either a permanent or seasonal basis.
3. Representative samples of characteristic habitat types should be included in either MNP 'B' or Preservation Zones.
4. Protective zoning should be applied to incorporate a wide range of habitat types within one unit (e.g. reef/shoal complexes).
5. Reefs and other areas adjacent to coastal settlements and/or popular departure points are often the focus of fishing and related activities. As far as practicable a group of Replenishment Areas (areas closed for set periods to enable fish and other exploited resources to regenerate) should be declared within the same general area to ensure future fishing stocks.

National Parks, Reserves and Historic Shipwrecks

- . Zoning of reefs and waters adjacent to existing National Parks, fisheries reserves and Historic Shipwrecks should complement the objectives of those reserves.

Commercial and Recreational Activities

1. As a general rule areas recognised and/or used for reasonable extractive activities (uses that involve taking any animal, plant or object away from the Reef) should be given General Use zoning.
2. As a general rule areas of significance for non-extractive activities should be given Marine National Park zoning.
3. When a reef or reefs are zoned in a way which excludes a particular activity, provision should be made, in as many cases as possible, for access to alternative areas.

Traditional Hunting and Fishing

- . The plan should make provision for the continuation of traditional fishing by Aborigines and Islanders in all zones other than the Preservation Zone. Traditional hunting may be carried out in all zones other than the Preservation Zone, but will require a permit which will be granted only on conditions relating to recording catch and levels of stock of limited species.

Anchorage

- . Zoning of major anchorage sites should allow most of the activities associated with overnight or longer anchoring of vessels to continue. The zoning for anchorages should not result in the multiple zoning of a single island/reef unit simply because an anchorage is present. The plan should retain access for small boats to important all weather anchorages. However, access to all zones during emergency conditions is always allowed.

Shipping

- . The plan must not impede the access of international, interstate or intra-state shipping to recognised or proposed shipping routes or to existing ports on the coast of Queensland. Nor should it impede access to potential ports.

Defence Areas

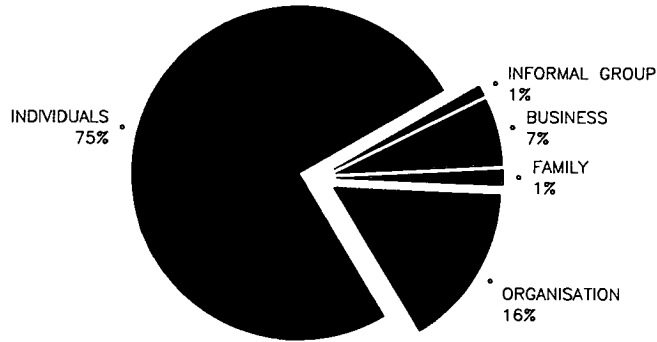
- . The plan must recognise the requirements of the Department of Defence, particularly with regard to gazetted defence areas.

Scientific Research

- . Provision should be made for the conduct of scientific research throughout the Section. However, reefs should only be zoned exclusively for scientific research where existing and probable future research programs indicate that they are likely to be used for that purpose on a frequent and regular basis. In general, proclamation of Reef Research Areas (small areas on or around a reef in which permitted research may be conducted undisturbed) should meet the needs of the scientific community.

REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE CENTRAL SECTION

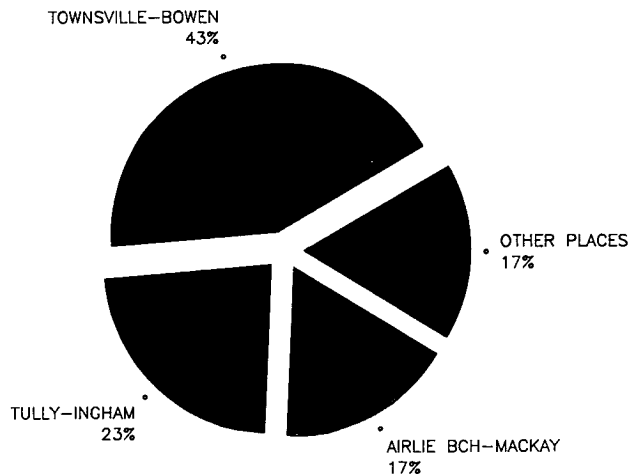
Representations are written comments made by individuals or groups during the public participation programs run by the Authority. Representations about the Central Section were requested during the period 1 November, 1984 to 1 March, 1985. A total of 434 representations were received. Since many of these were received from organisations, they represent the views of many more people.



Proportion of representations by contact type.

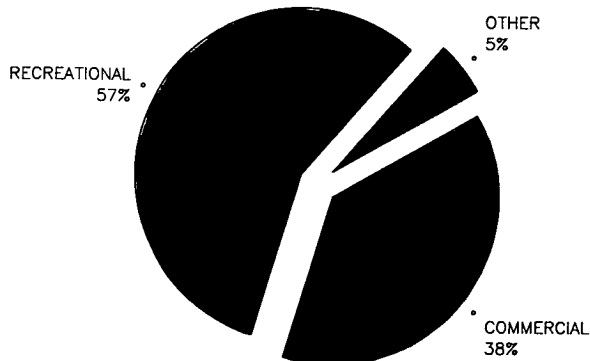
As would be expected, the majority of representations were received from people whose place of residence is adjacent to the Central Section. However, the widespread interest in the Marine Park can be gauged by the considerable number of representations which were received from other places in Queensland and from interstate.

In all, representations were received from 61 places of origin, which can be grouped into four regions: Townsville/Bowen, Tully/Ingham, Airlie Beach/Mackay, and other places in Queensland not adjacent to the Central Section or from interstate.



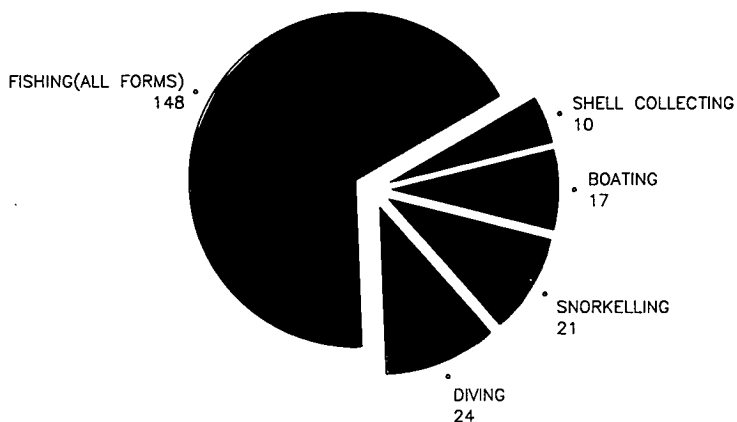
Where they came from: place of origin of representations.

Ninety five percent of coded representations stated commercial or recreational activities as their primary interest. The remainder comprised government, conservation, research and educational groups.



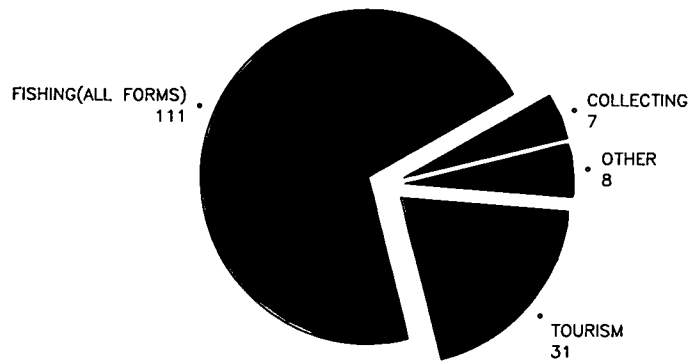
Activity indicated in representations

Those involved in recreational activities were the single largest group of respondents with 57% of the total. Line fishing is the most popular pursuit of this group with significant numbers citing boating, diving, or snorkelling as their primary activity.



Type of recreational activity.

Thirty eight percent of representations involved commercial activities, most of which involved fishing of some form. Trawling was by far the largest group, followed by trolling and handline/reef fishing. Other commercial categories that attracted significant numbers of representations were tourist charter operations and collecting.



Type of commercial activity.

Tables detailing numbers and percentages of representations by activity are given in Appendix 1.

Maps

One useful method of illustrating the information obtained from representations and other sources is by thematic maps. A number of these are included at the end of this booklet. Each map takes a particular activity, resource or function (a theme) and shows its geographical distribution within the Section. Some of these maps previously presented in the 'Help Zone the Central Section' campaign information summary booklet (December 1984) have been updated with information received in response to that campaign. Taken together the maps illustrate much of the resource and use information that has been utilized to develop the proposed zoning plan.

General Zoning Issues Raised in the Representations

As might be expected most people were interested primarily in their own use of the Section and wanted to be able to continue their activities unhindered in the future. Many requested restrictions on activities that conflicted with their own - those involved in non-extractive activities often asked for restrictions on extractive activities. Participants in conflicting extractive activities requested restriction on each other, e.g. professional reef handline fishermen asked for regulation of amateur fishermen and vice versa.

Protection of historical shipwrecks, both from looting and from damage caused by anchors, is strongly advocated in the representations from diving groups. The 'Yongala' and 'Gothenburg' gained specific mention.

Other specific issues are addressed, where appropriate, in the 'SPECIFIC ZONING CONSIDERATIONS' section of this booklet. An explanation of the proposed zones is provided as a background to these more detailed considerations.

THE PROPOSED CENTRAL SECTION ZONING PLAN

(The proposed zoning plan should be consulted for a full legal definition of each zone's objectives.)

Within the Central Section, zones and areas have been proposed to provide for a range of uses. They are:

General Use 'A' Zone

Over 74% of the Central Section has been zoned as General Use 'A' in the proposed plan. This zoning provides opportunities for reasonable use - including commercial trawling and shipping operations - consistent with the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef.

General Use 'B' Zone

An additional 22% of the Section, zoned as General Use 'B', provides areas for reasonable use free from trawling and commercial shipping.

Marine National Park 'A' Zone

The provisions of Marine National Park 'A' Zone are similar in concept to those of national parks on land. That is, the natural resources within the zone are protected from the effects of a number of activities including collecting.

Activities that are allowed include general recreational activities, trolling for pelagic fish species (e.g. mackerel), line fishing with one hand-held rod or line (used with one hook or lure), and approved research.

This zoning has been applied to protect significant areas from intensive extractive activities. For example netting, collecting and spearfishing conflict with many tourist activities and have been excluded adjacent to resort and camping islands. Similarly netting activities may conflict with the conservation of dugong and turtle and have been excluded from important habitat areas.

Marine National Park 'B' Zone

This may be thought of as a 'look but don't take' zone. All fishing is prohibited so that people may appreciate and enjoy an area in its relatively undisturbed state. The zone also provides suitable areas for the establishment of research and monitoring programs.

Where practicable, areas of Marine National Park 'B' zoning are associated with some areas of Preservation zoning.

Preservation Zone

The objective of the Preservation Zone is to preserve areas of the Great Barrier Reef in their natural state undisturbed by man except for the purposes of scientific research which cannot be carried out elsewhere.

In selecting Central Section Preservation Zone sites, apart from including diverse community types, consideration has been given to existing and future use and to the ease of identifying the site for surveillance, interpretive and management purposes.

Where appropriate, Preservation Zones have been located within non-extractive MNP'B' zoning to give a buffering effect. This serves the purpose of increasing the range of plant and animal communities included in a larger non-extractive area and reducing the influences of extractive activities on the preservation reefs.

The application of Marine National Park and Preservation zoning in the Central Section proposed zoning plan is discussed in more detail in the following sections of this booklet: 'SPECIFIC ZONING CONSIDERATIONS' and 'CRITERIA USED IN SELECTING INDIVIDUAL REEFS FOR MARINE NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVATION ZONING'.

Replenishment Areas

The objective of these Areas is to provide, for a specific period of time, an area which is closed to any activity which will remove living resources. This is to enable the recovery of fish and other resource stocks.

Replenishment Areas are located in groups of two reefs, only one of which is to be closed at any one time, except those between the Palm Islands and Bramble Reef which may both be closed at once if required. The periods of restriction will be widely advertised before implementation.

Reef Appreciation Areas

The objective of these Areas is to provide small areas on heavily used reefs in which the public may observe and appreciate relatively undisturbed marine life. Within such areas fishing and collecting will not be allowed.

Reef Research Areas

The objective of these Areas is to provide a small area on a reef in which approved research may be conducted undisturbed.

Reef Appreciation Areas and Reef Research Areas are not shown in the zoning plan. They will only be declared after a formal public participation process.

The table below summarises the sorts of activities allowed or permitted in these zones and areas.

CENTRAL SECTION ACTIVITIES GUIDE (see Zoning Plan for details) ACTIVITIES	AREAS OF PERIODIC RESTRICTED USE (only when in operation)					REPLENISHMENT AREA		
	GENERAL USE 'A' ZONE	GENERAL USE 'B' ZONE	MARINE NATIONAL PARK 'A' ZONE	MARINE NATIONAL PARK 'B' ZONE	PRESERVATION ZONE	REPLENISHMENT AREA	REEF APPRECIATION AREA (not indicated on map)	REEF RESEARCH AREA (not indicated on map)
BOATING, DIVING	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Permit
RECREATIONAL COLLECTING (shells, aquarium fish)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
COMMERCIAL COLLECTING (shells, coral, aquarium fish)	Permit	Permit	No	No	No	No	No	No
LINE FISHING	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
GILL NETTING	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
BAIT NETTING	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
TROLLING for pelagic species	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
SPEARFISHING (N.B. not with underwater breathing apparatus)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
POLE & LINE TUNA FISHING	Permit	Permit	No	No	No	No	No	No
TRAWLING	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
TRADITIONAL FISHING	Yes	Yes	Permit	Permit	No	No	No	No
TRADITIONAL HUNTING	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	No	No	No	No
CRUISE SHIPS	Yes	Permit	Permit	Permit	No	Yes	Permit	No
GENERAL SHIPPING* (+ 500 tonne)	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit

* General shipping will be allowed in zones other than General Use 'A' within designated shipping areas

The following Areas are not displayed on the Activities Guide.

Shipping Areas

Throughout the Section shipping channels have been zoned GU'A' with the exception of:

- Hinchinbrook channel (GU'B');
- Hydrographers Passage (GU'A' and GU'B'); and
- 'Whitsundays' cross shelf transect.

It is proposed that ship access to these zones be provided by declaring Shipping Areas. The objective of a Shipping Area is to make provision for the navigation and operation of ships.

Defence Areas

As in the Cairns Section Zoning Plan, the needs of the Department of Defence have been met through the declaration of Defence Areas. The objective of a Defence Area is to make provision for control of public entry and use, in the interest of public safety.

The location of zones within Defence Areas has taken account of the types of defence activities occurring within each area.

Aircraft Landing Areas

The objective of an Aircraft Landing Area is to make provision, in the interests of public safety and enjoyment of the reef environment, for areas where aircraft may land and take-off.

The locations of aircraft landing areas are not shown on the zoning maps.

Day to Day Management

The zoning plan has been developed with a view to the practicality of management with reasonable levels of staffing and equipment. It is planned that, subject to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service (QNPWS) will carry out day-to-day management for the Central Section Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

PERMITS

You will have seen that the term 'permits' appears in the Activities Guide above. In previous zoning plans prepared for the Capricornia, Far Northern and Cairns and Cormorant Pass Sections, permits have been required for specific activities. There are four main reasons for having a permit system:

- i) to encourage responsible behaviour by reef users;
- ii) to separate potentially conflicting activities;
- iii) to impose, where necessary, limits on certain activities and;
- iv) to collect data on activities.

In preparing the proposed zoning plan for the Central Section the Authority has reviewed the effectiveness of the permit system as applied to date. The review found that in the majority of cases the permit system has been an effective and valuable management tool. However, the review also found that management of recreational collecting activities in General Use Zones might be more effectively achieved through educational and interpretive programs, while other avenues have proven to be of greater value with regard to data acquisition. Manipulative research and commercial collecting, however, are subject to wide variation in methods and intensity and require the flexibility of management provided by the permit system.

For these reasons the Authority proposes to allow recreational collecting to be undertaken without a permit in General Use Zones in the Central Section.

The proposed amendments to the permit provisions fulfill the following guidelines expressed at the beginning of this booklet:

- that the plan should minimise the regulation of and interference in human activities consistent with meeting the goal of providing for protection, wise use, appreciation and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity;
- zoning plans should complement current regulations and management practices under Queensland and Commonwealth legislation.

Should this proposal be adopted it is envisaged that similar provisions would be applied to existing zoning plans when those zoning plans are reviewed in the future.

SPECIFIC ZONING CONSIDERATIONS

Several issues were identified during the public participation program as requiring very careful zoning decisions. Two issues stand out in particular. They are:

Historic Shipwrecks

There are three declared historic shipwrecks in the Central Section.

- the schooner 'Foam' which was wrecked on Myrmidon Reef;
- the steam ship 'Yongala' which sank just south east of Cape Bowling Green;
- the steam ship 'Gothenburg', wrecked on Old Reef.

These wrecks are significant for a number of reasons including their historic, archaeological, recreational and scientific values.

Marine National Park 'B' zoning complements the provisions of the Historic Shipwrecks Act and, when applied to declared historic shipwrecks, will give added protection to the wrecks and their associated marine life.

Sea Floor Refuge and Replenishment Areas

The nature of sea bed animal and plant communities, their relationship to reefs and fish populations and their ability to repair and regenerate are little understood. Representations from research and conservation organisations suggest that trawling disturbs and alters these complex communities. It is thus important that some areas be protected from the impact of trawling.

The proposed zoning plan makes provision for a cross-shelf transect, that is a strip of water from the shore to the outer reef, which is closed to trawling. This includes:

- Waters and sea floor adjacent to the mainland and the Whitsunday and Lindeman Island Groups;
- Lagoonal waters and sea floor communities between Hook Reef and the Whitsunday Island;
- Mid shelf and outer shelf reefs, waters and sea floor communities east of, and including, Hook Reef.

In addition to the 'Whitsunday's transect', potential Replenishment Areas have been identified between the Palm Group of Islands and Bramble Reef. One or both of these Replenishment Areas may be closed in the future to make provision for scientific research; the aim of these Replenishment Areas being to monitor the effectiveness of closure for the recovery of sea floor communities. This particular area was selected because of its proximity to existing research facilities and projects.

The areas closed to trawling should be sufficiently large and diverse to provide suitable cross shelf comparisons and, in conjunction with a similar Replenishment Area in the Cairns Section and the cross shelf transect in the Far Northern Section, will enable comparison between areas along the length of the Great Barrier Reef.

CRITERIA USED IN SELECTING INDIVIDUAL REEFS FOR MARINE NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVATION ZONING OR REPLENISHMENT AREAS

Reasons for applying Marine National Park and Preservation zoning to individual reefs are summarised in note form below:

- . Barnett Patches and Duncan Reef (MNP'B' to 500 metres from the reef edge):
 - the sand cays are important breeding sites for brown boobys and other sea birds;
 - habitat types including northern mid shelf reefs and shoals.

- . Britomart Reef (MNP'A' to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - provides a northern mid shelf reef free from recreational and commercial collecting and spear fishing;
 - extensively used for research. Provides a good basis for monitoring.

- . Trunk Reef and Pith Reef (Replenishment Areas)
 - reefs are accessible from Lucinda, Rollingsstone and Townsville. Activities include reef fishing, trolling and shell collecting.
 - provides northern mid shelf and outer shelf reefs for monitoring the effectiveness of replenishment closures.

- . Needle Reef (MNP'A' to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - outer shelf reef free from collecting and spear fishing.

- . Faraday Reef (MNP'B' to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - northern mid shelf reef, accessible from Townsville, free from recreational and commercial extractive activities;
 - extensively used for research. Provides a good basis for monitoring.

- . John Brewer Reef (MNP'A' to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - intensive tourist, recreational and commercial use;
 - readily accessible from Townsville;
 - recognised anchorage;
 - important reef for research;
 - may require reef appreciation area at a later date.

- . Myrmidon reef (MNP'B' to reef edge):
 - complements historic shipwreck (Foam);
 - extensively used for research;
 - this zoning allows for fishing and in particular game fishing to reef edge;
 - isolated outer shelf reef community.

- . Knife Reef (Preservation Zone to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - representative northern mid shelf reef community;
 - not intensively used at present;
 - easily identified for interpretive and surveillance purposes.

- . Bowl Reef, Yankee Reef, Fork Reef, Cup Reef, Saucer Reef, Spoon Reef (MNP'B' at least 500 metres from reef edge):
 - buffer to Preservation Zone for management purposes;
 - isolated and less used reefs;
 - diverse mid and outer shelf reef/shoals and inter-reefal communities;
 - easily identified for surveillance and management purposes.

- . Wheeler Reef (MNP'B' to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - important dive site accessible from Townsville;
 - isolation from other reefs and the sand cay are features attractive to both divers and scientists;
 - easily identified for surveillance and interpretive purposes;
 - extensively used for research. Provides a good basis for monitoring.

- . Davies Reef (MNP'A' to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - northern mid shelf reef free from recreation and commercial collecting and spear fishing;
 - extensively used for research. Provides a good basis for monitoring.

- . Bowden Reef and Shrimp Reef (Replenishment Areas)
 - easily accessible reefs and good anchorages. Activities include reef fishing, trolling and shell collecting;
 - monitoring of effectiveness of replenishment closures.

- . Old Reef (MNP'B' to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - historic ship wreck (Gothenburg);
 - southern mid shelf reef free from commercial and recreational extractive activities;
 - 'look but don't take' reef accessible from Ayr/Home Hill area.

- . Jacqueline Reef (Preservation Zone to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - representative outer shelf reef community;
 - little used and easily identified for surveillance and interpretation.

- . Leopard Reef, Kangaroo Reef, unnamed (U/N) Reefs 19.007, 19.051, 19.057, 19.064, 19-060, 19.053, 19.052, 19.055, 19.056, 19.059, 19.058, Reef (MNP'B' at least 500 metres from reef edge):
 - buffer to Preservation Zone for management purposes;
 - mixture of communities includes mid and outer shelf reefs and shoals;
 - readily identified for interpretation and surveillance;
 - less used reef area.

- . Bait Reef (MNP'B' to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - intensively used reef for diving accessible from Whitsunday resorts;
 - easily identified for management and surveillance.

- . Hardy Reef (MNP'B' to 500 metres or median line):
 - major tourist destination;
 - intensity of use necessitates 'look but don't take' zoning.

- . Hook Reef (MNP'A' to 500 metres or median line):
 - intensively used area but less so than Hardy and Bait reefs;
 - large reef, accessible fishing area for Whitsunday resorts and Airlie Beach/Proserpine District.

- . Line Reef and Black Reef East (Replenishment Areas):
 - accessible from Proserpine/Airlie Beach and Whitsunday Islands;
 - intensive recreational and commercial use;
 - monitoring of effectiveness of replenishment closures.

- . Stucco Reef (Preservation Zone to 500 metres from reef edge):
 - representative southern exposed mid-shelf reef community;
 - easily identified for management and interpretation.

- . Rafter Reef, Lath Reef, Plaster Reef, Joist Reef, U/N Reefs 19.144, 19.139, 19.140, 19.143, 19.149, 19.150, 19.148 (MNP'B' to at least 500 metres from reef edge):
 - buffer to Stucco Reef Preservation Zone for management purposes;

- diverse mid and outer shelf reef/shoal and inter-reefal communities;
- with Whitsundays and Hook Hardy complex forms part of a protectively zoned cross shelf transect representing a range of reef types and large inter-reefal areas.

. Unnamed reef 20-135 (Preservation Zone to 500 metres from reef edge):

- representative southern protected mid shelf reef community
- easily identified for management and interpretation.

. Bax Reef, Nixon Reef, Robertson Reefs and Hunt Reefs (MNP 'B' to at least 500 metres from reef edge):

- buffer to Preservation Zone for management purposes;
- readily identified for interpretation and surveillance;
- leaves adequate alternative sites for the existing limited diving and fishing activities and may enhance the qualities of the alternative sites for those activities.

. Waters adjacent to Dunk and Richards (Bedarra) Islands (MNP 'A' to 500 metres):

- tourist purposes;
- complements 'no spearfishing' regulations under Queensland Fisheries Act.

. Waters adjacent to Brook Islands, Channel Rock and Eva Island (MNP 'B' to 500m from reef):

- national park islands with representative fringing reef communities;
- bird nesting (Torres Strait pigeons, little black naped and bridled terns);

. Waters adjacent to Hinchinbrook Island and Channel Area:

- This area is of considerable interest because it is used by commercial fishermen and numerous recreational users, and because there is a need to maintain shipping access to Lucinda and a need to protect significant nursery and habitat areas. Missionary Bay and Zoe Bay have been zoned Marine National Park 'A' while the channel has been zoned General Use 'B' to meet the considerable demands of this area, and to protect the significant nursery and habitat areas.

. Waters adjacent to Palm Islands:

- Relatively complex zoning provisions have had to be proposed for this area because of the diversity of existing activities which include commercial fishing and collecting, research, resort use, traditional fishing and traditional hunting, as well as private recreational activity.

. Pandora Reef (MNP'B' to 500 metres from reef edge):

- representative 'inshore' reef community;
- 'look but don't take' reef accessible from Townsville;
- extensively used for research. Provides a good basis for monitoring.

. Acheron Island and Herald Island (Replenishment Areas):

- access from Townsville and Rollingsstone;
- intensive recreational use;
- monitoring of effectiveness of replenishment closures for fringing reef communities.

. Waters adjacent to Magnetic Island:

- Again a relatively complex zoning pattern has had to be adopted to accommodate the wide range of uses in this popular area which provides opportunities for resort and private recreation, commercial and other fishing, Government shark netting, and also has much educational and conservational value. A high proportion of the island is a national park.

. Middle Reef (MNP'B' to 500 metres from reef edge):

- an easily accessible 'look but don't take' reef adjacent to Townsville.

. Eastern side of Cleveland Point (MNP'A' to coastal 500 metres):

- adjacent to national park;
- flat back turtle nesting.

. Eastern side of Bowling Green Bay (MNP'A' to coastal 500 metre line):

- adjacent to national park;
- flat back turtle nesting.

. Yongala - Historic Ship Wreck (MNP'B' to 500 metres around wreck):

. Cape Upstart Area (MNP'A' to coastal 500 metre line):

- adjacent to national park;
- separates trawling and recreational activities;

Holbourne Island and Double Cone Island (MNP'B' to 500 metres from low water):

- bird nesting;
- Flat back turtle nesting national park islands.

Eshelby Island (Preservation Zone to 500 metres from reef edge).

- representative fringing reef community;
- important breeding area for several species of sea birds;
- isolated island, easily identified for management purposes.

Whitsunday and Lindeman Islands:

- This region has a heavy investment in tourism and considerable areas of terrestrial national park. Zoning has been proposed which should enhance existing uses of the area while ensuring adequate protection.

Zoning throughout the Whitsunday Islands provides a number of areas where activities such as collecting, spearfishing and commercial bait netting can continue. The aim of the zoning is to provide opportunity for all reasonable activities to continue in the area, and to ensure that sufficient and diverse sites are available. In particular Langford Island Reef and Black Island Reef are popular fishing and recreational collecting sites; Replenishment Areas have been provided for around these reefs to ensure that the intensity of extractive activity does not exceed the ability of the resources to recover.

Generally, MNP'A' zoning has been applied to intensively used recreational areas, including reefs and waters associated with developed tourist resorts, camping areas and popular over-night anchorages. Within some of these areas Reef Appreciation Areas may be declared at a later date.

MNP'B' zoning has been applied to the fringing reefs and waters adjacent to the north and west coast of Hook Island which includes the popular scuba diving and snorkelling sites of Butterfly Bay and Saba Bay and the Hook Island underwater observatory. Similarly, the well developed fringing reef adjacent to Haselwood Island provides relatively clear water scuba diving and snorkelling. Both Hook Island and Haselwood Island are Queensland National Parks and the MNP 'B' zoning provides for the extension of the terrestrial national park type of habitat protection into the marine environment; recognising the importance of those areas from the conservation, tourism and educational points of view.

Repulse Bay (MNP'A' in Repulse Inlet)

- important habitat includes sea grass and adjacent mangrove communities;
- nursery area and dugong feeding grounds;
- complements the adjacent mainland national park.

Other areas within the Section have also received careful consideration. However, the Authority would be interested in receiving further input from the public in order to produce a final zoning plan which is both practical and fair.

Further Information

Please send your comments and opinions to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, P.O. Box 1379, Townsville, 4810, or call in person to the Authority office at Melton Place, Melton Terrace, Townsville, telephone (077) 81-8811. Further information or assistance with preparing representations can be obtained.

The Representations : Some Details

Number of Representations by Type of Contact

	<u>NO. REPS</u>	<u>% OF SAMPLE SIZE</u>
INDIVIDUAL	312	75.36
ORGANISATION	65	15.70
BUSINESS	27	6.52
INFORMAL GROUP	4	.97
FAMILY	6	1.45
	—	—
TOTAL	414	100
	—	—

Place of Origin of Representations

	<u>NO.</u>	<u>PERCENT OF TOTAL</u>
1. TULLY/INGHAM	96	23%
2. TOWNSVILLE/BOWEN	176	43%
3. AIRLIE BEACH/MACKAY	70	17%
4. OTHER (QLD NOT ADJACENT TO SECTION AND INTERSTATE OR NOT STATED)	72	17%

Respondent Activity

	<u>NO. REPS</u>	<u>% OF SAMPLE</u>
<u>COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES</u>		
FISHING - TRAWLING	62	15.0
- TROLLING	24	5.8
- GILL NET/ESTUARINE	5	1.2
- HANDLINE	15	3.6
- GENERAL	4	1.0
- OTHER	1	0.2
COLLECTING	7	1.7
OTHER*	8	2.0
TOURIST - RESORT	3	0.7
- CHARTER	28	6.8
<u>RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES</u>		
FISHING - GENERAL	44	10.6
- HANDLINE	54	13.0
- LIGHT TACKLE	23	5.6
- TROLLING	3	0.7
- SPEAR	15	3.6
- ESTUARINE	7	1.7
- BAIT NET	2	0.5
BOATING	17	4.1
COLLECTING - CORAL	2	0.5
- SHELL	10	2.4
DIVING	24	5.8
SNORKELLING	21	5.1
OTHER**	13	3.1

	<u>NO. REPS</u>	<u>% OF SAMPLE</u>
GOVERNMENT (QUEENSLAND AND LOCAL)	4	1.0
CONSERVATION - GROUPS	2	0.5
- INDIVIDUALS	10	2.4
RESEARCH	4	1.0
EDUCATIONAL	2	0.5

NOTE

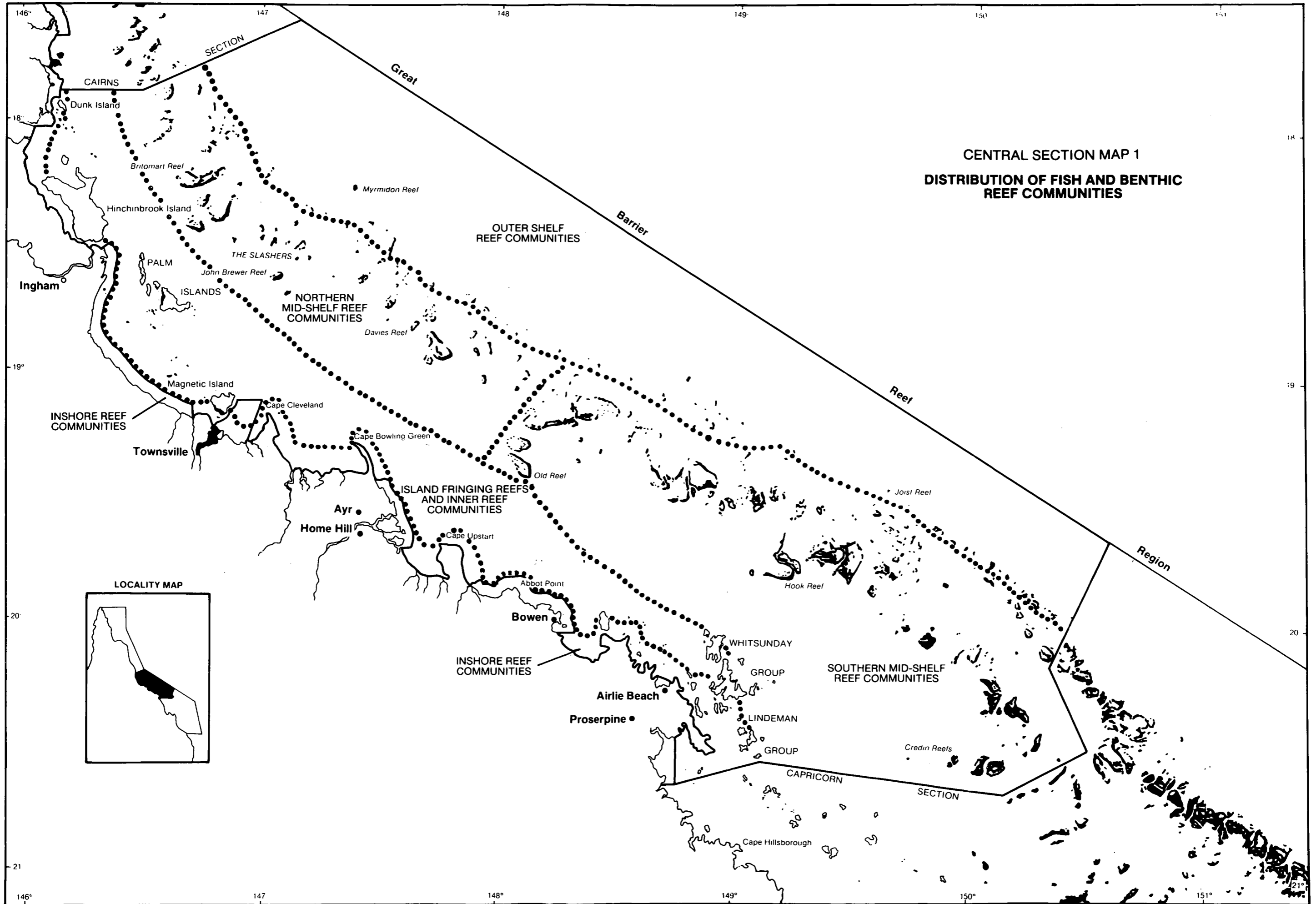
These tables are based on the 414 representations that have been coded and classified. Six large representations were not coded because of their size and detail while another 14 arrived too late to be included. The views expressed in these uncoded representations were, of course, taken into account in preparing the proposed zoning plan.

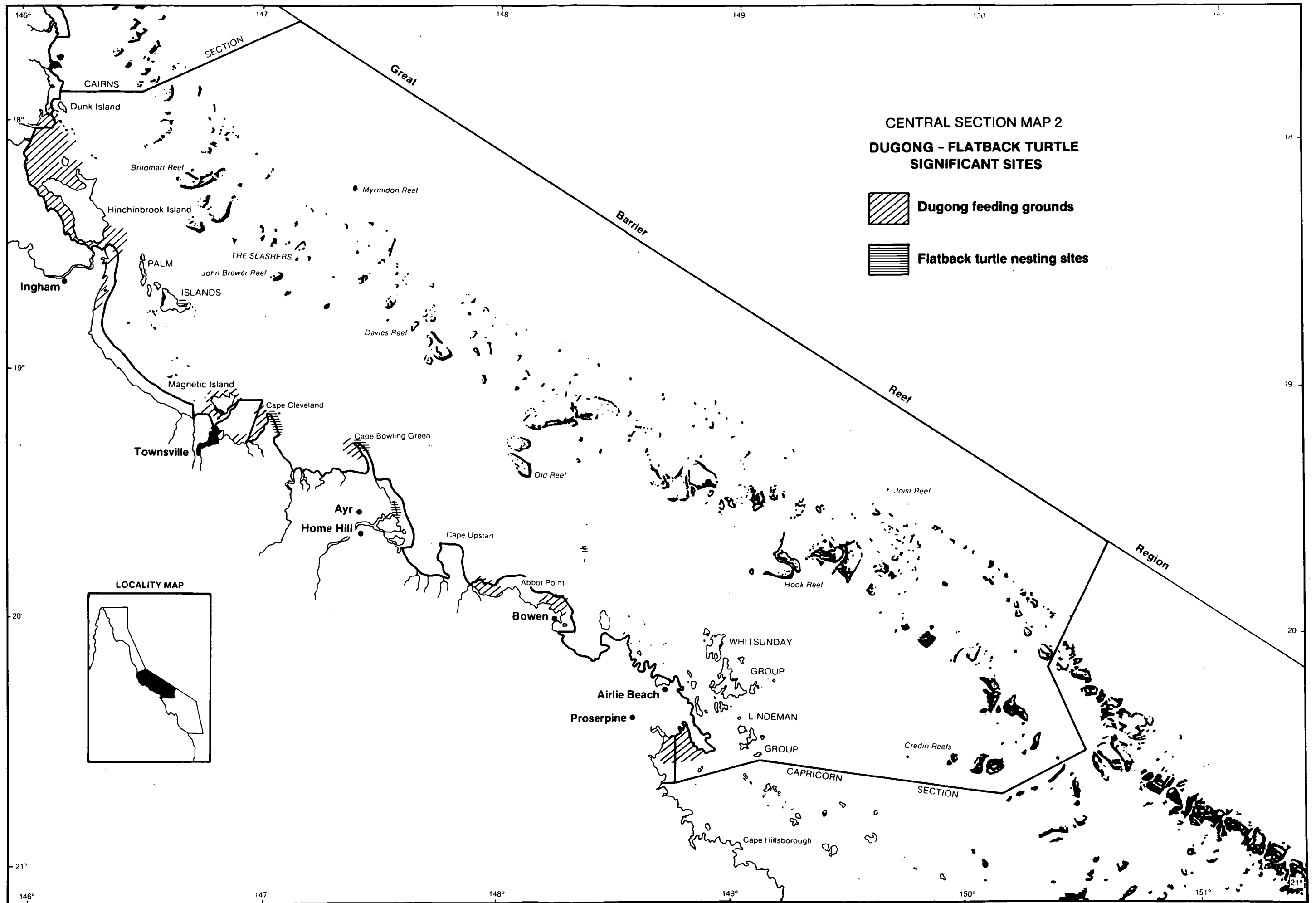
* includes SHIPPING, SMALL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS ETC.

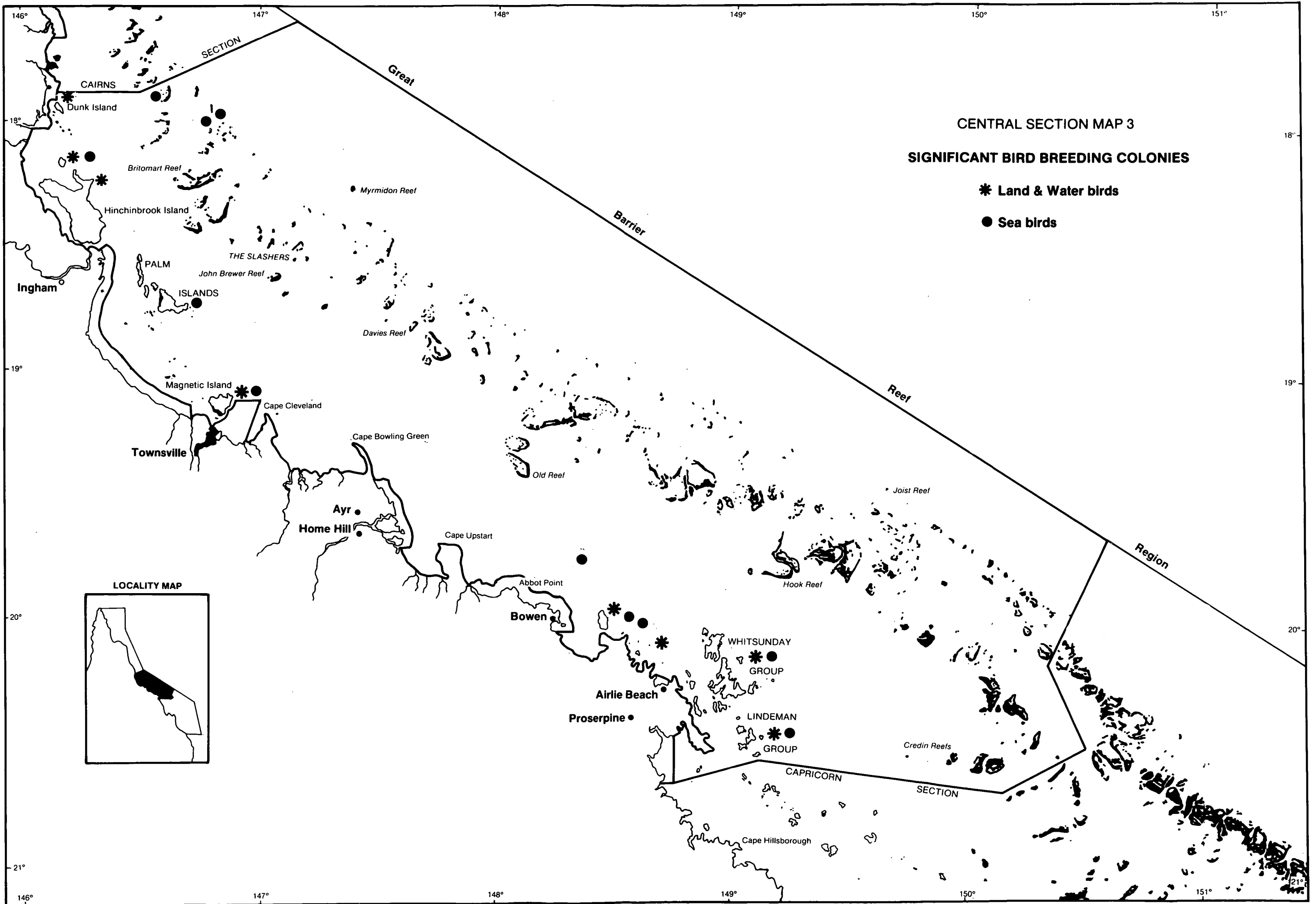
** includes SKIING, REEF WALKING, CAMPING ETC.

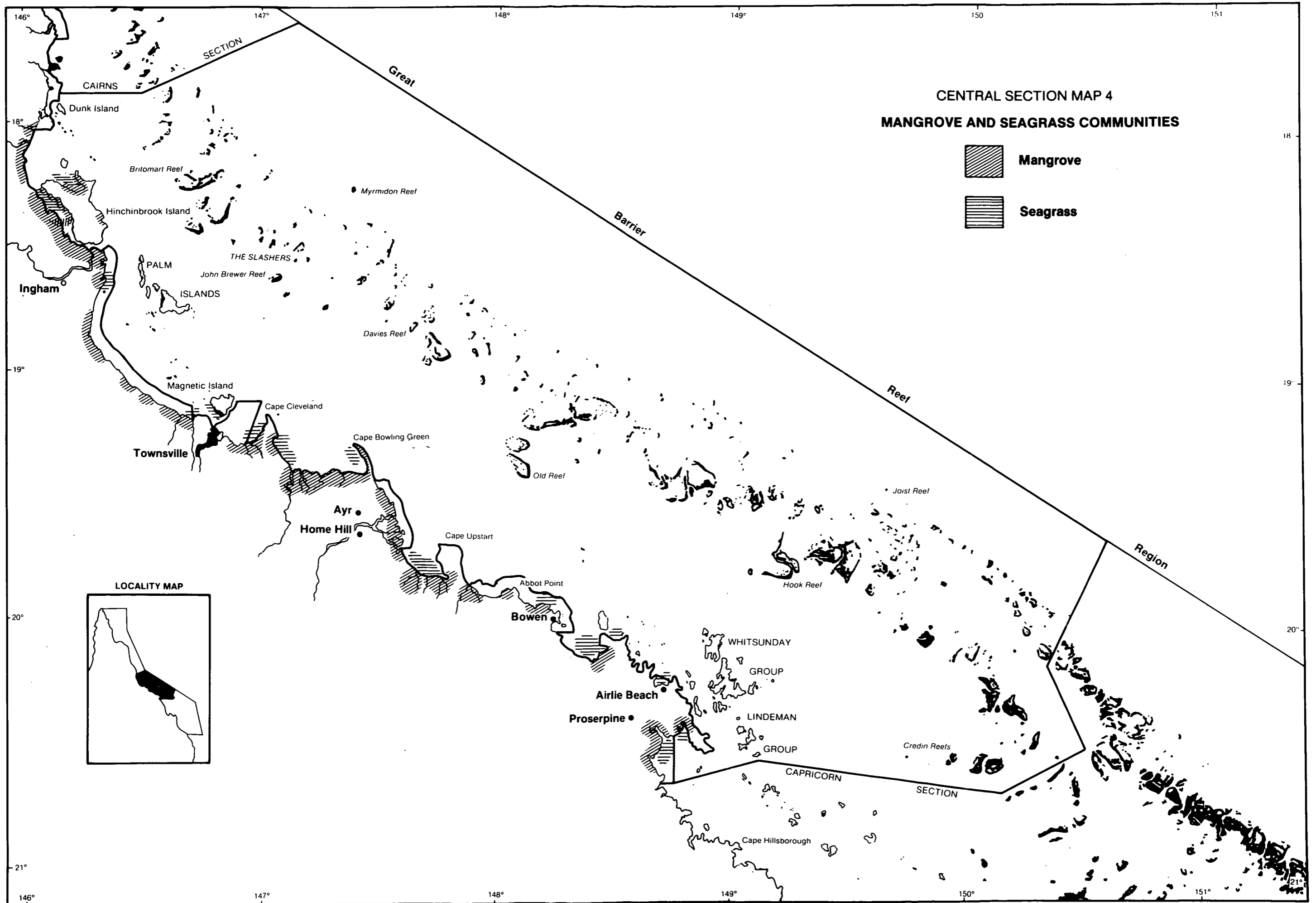
Resource and Activity Maps

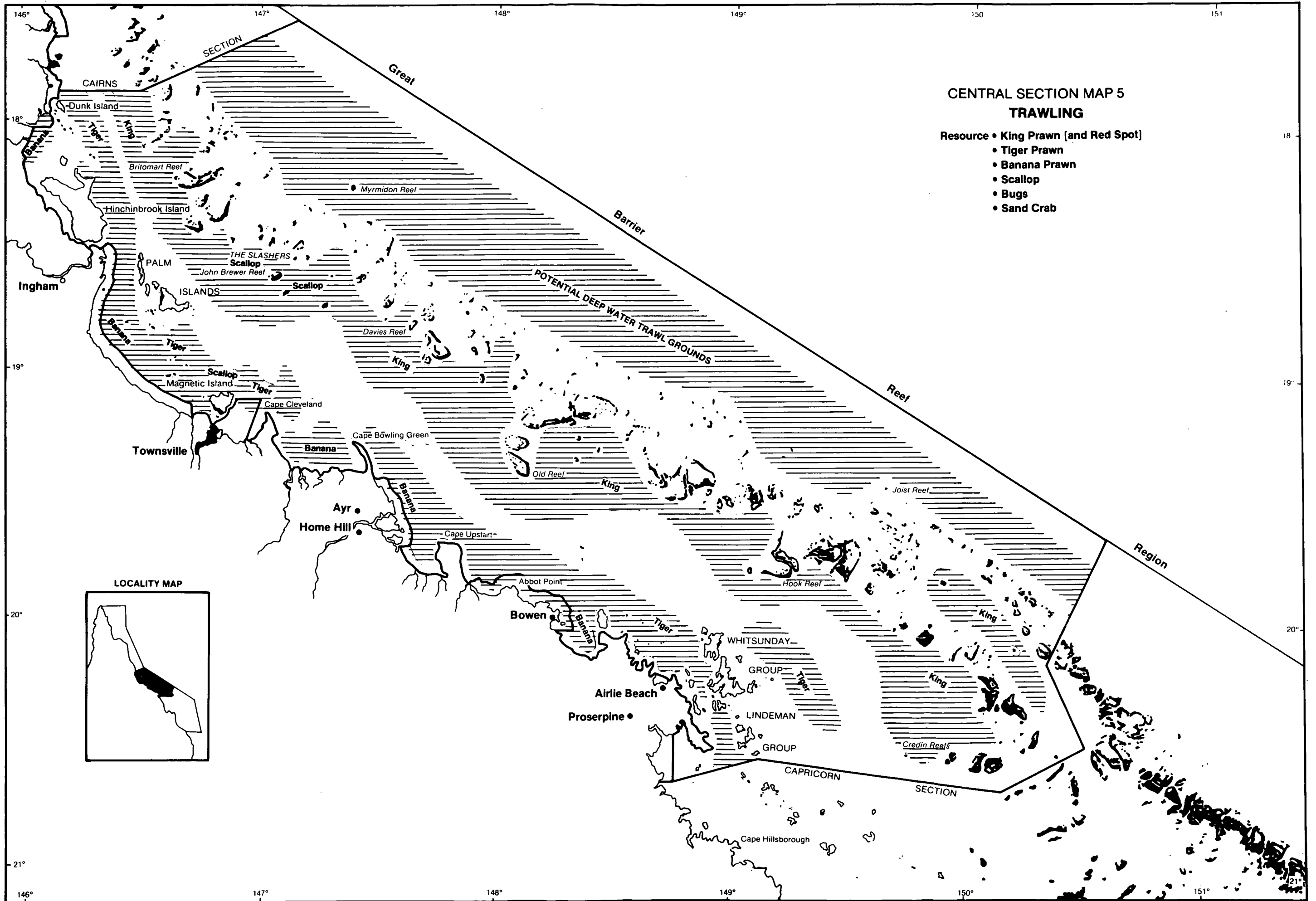
- MAP 1 - Distribution of Fish and Benthic Reef Communities
- 2 - Dugong & Flatback Turtle, Significant Sites
- 3 - Significant Bird Breeding Colonies
- 4 - Mangrove & Seagrass Communities
- 5 - Trawling
- 6 - Pelagic Fishery (Mackerel, Game)
- 7 - Demersal Fishery (Commercial, Recreational)
- 8 - Netting (Gill & Drift, Bait)
- 9 - Collecting (Coral, Shells, Aquarium Fish)
- 10 - Spearfishing
- 11 - Diving
- 12 - Research - Study Reefs (AIMS, JCU)
- 13 - Tourist Developments & Camping
- 14 - Charter Vessels & Aircraft
- 15 - Adjacent Land Use (National Park, Aboriginal Trust)
- 16 - Navigation, Shipping & Defence Areas

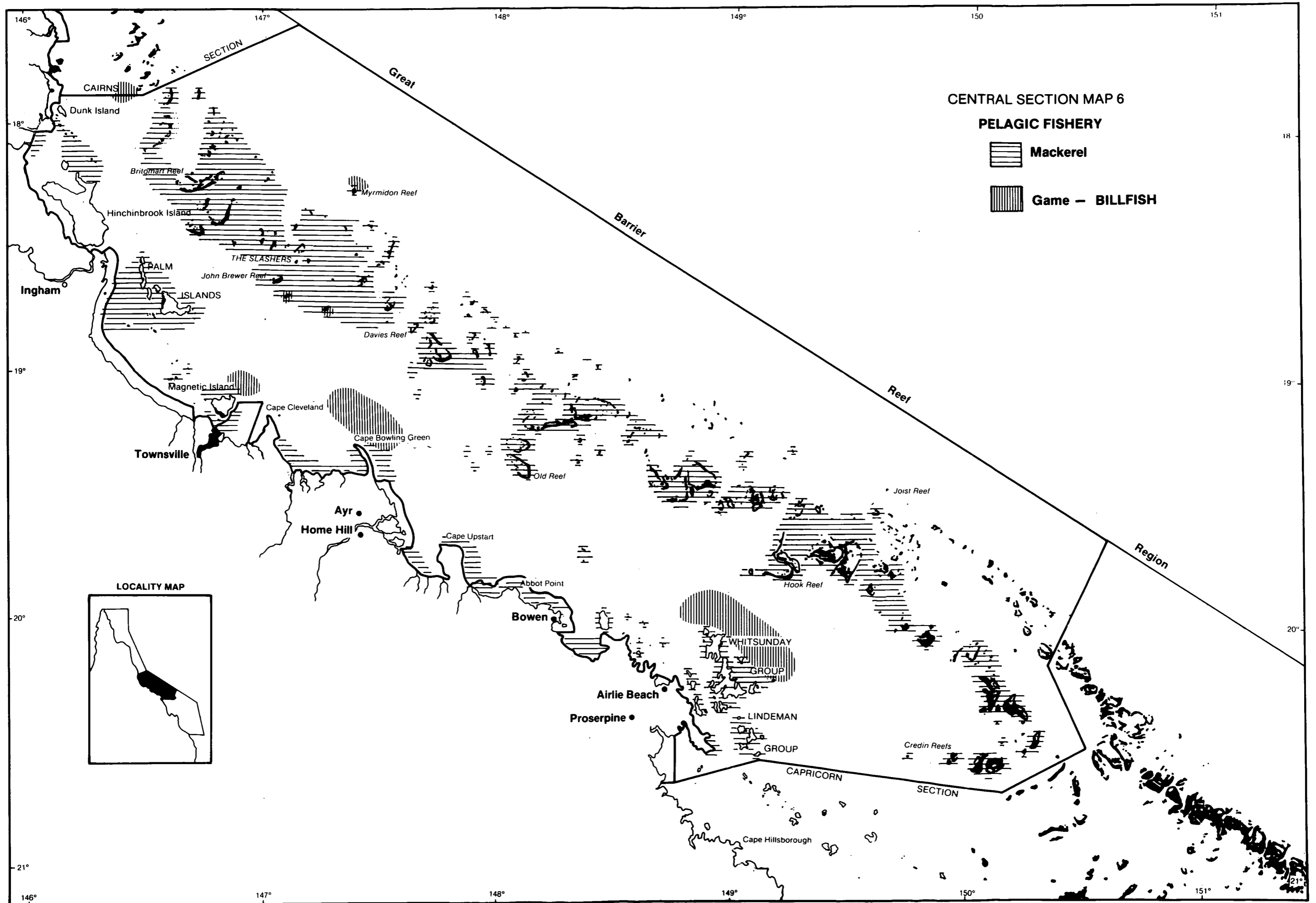













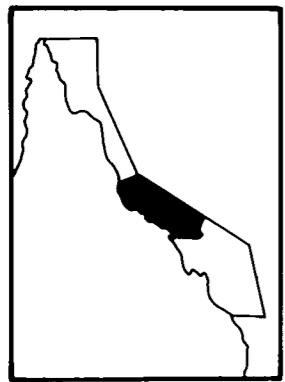
CENTRAL SECTION MAP 6

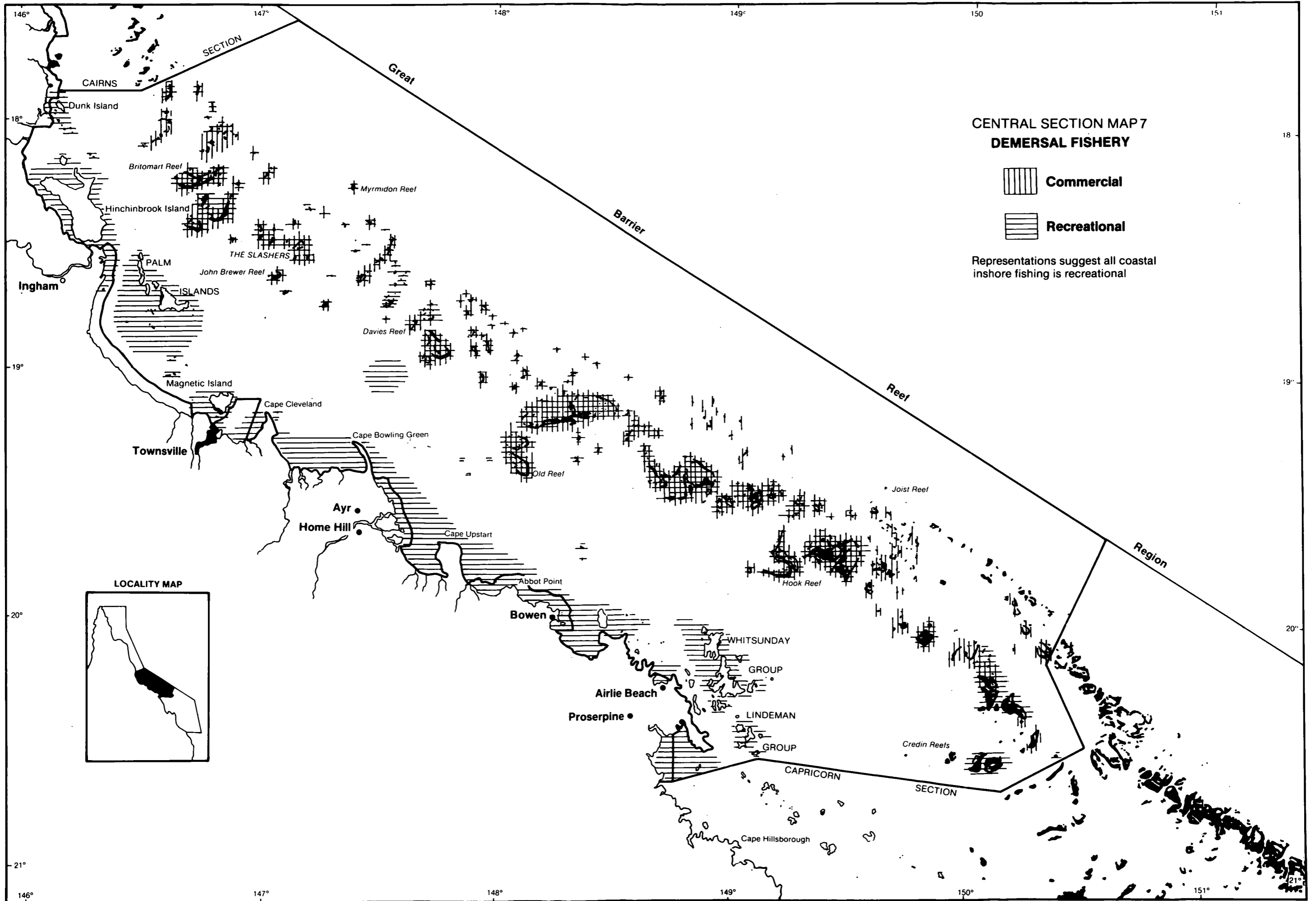
PELAGIC FISHERY

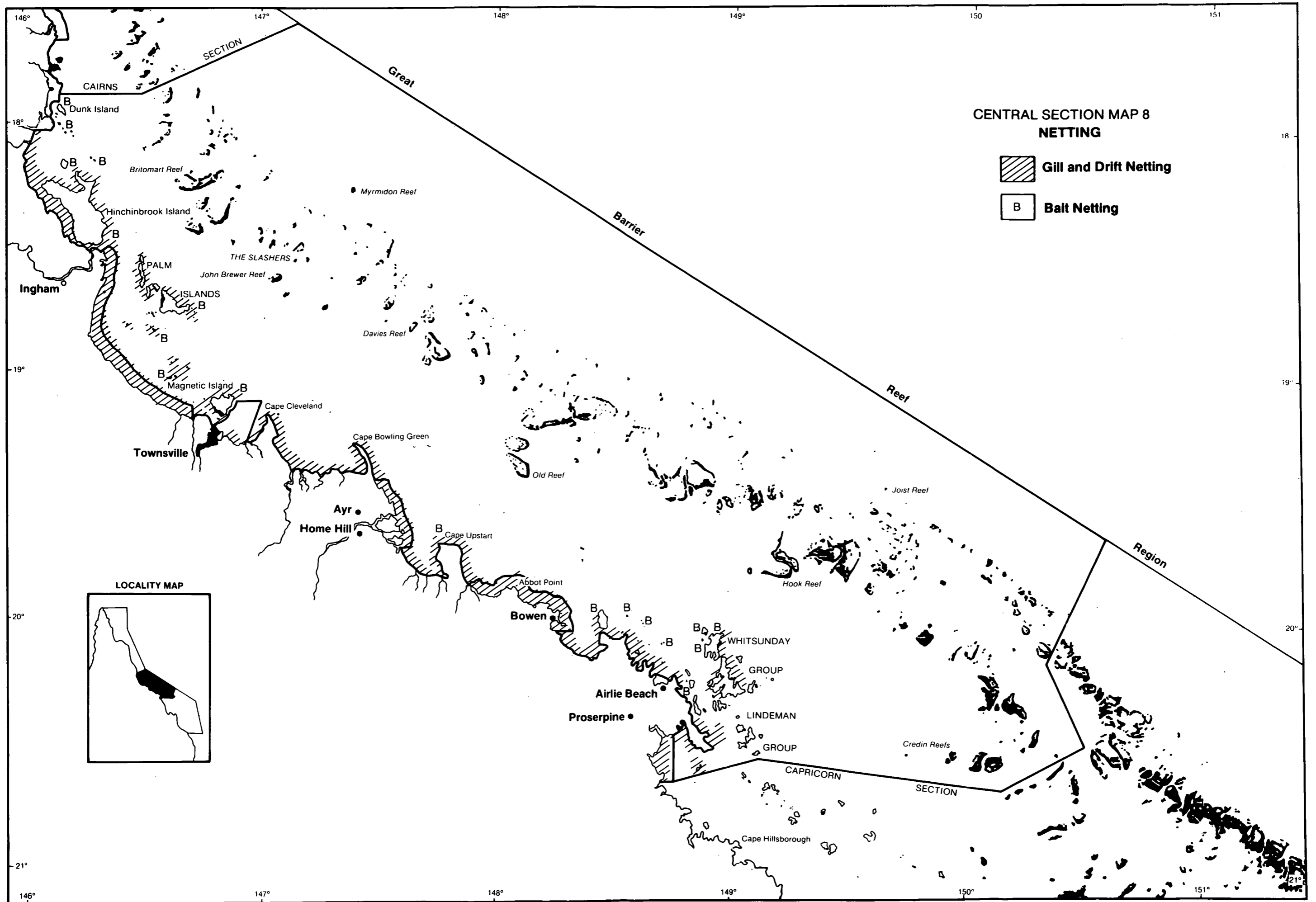
 Mackerel

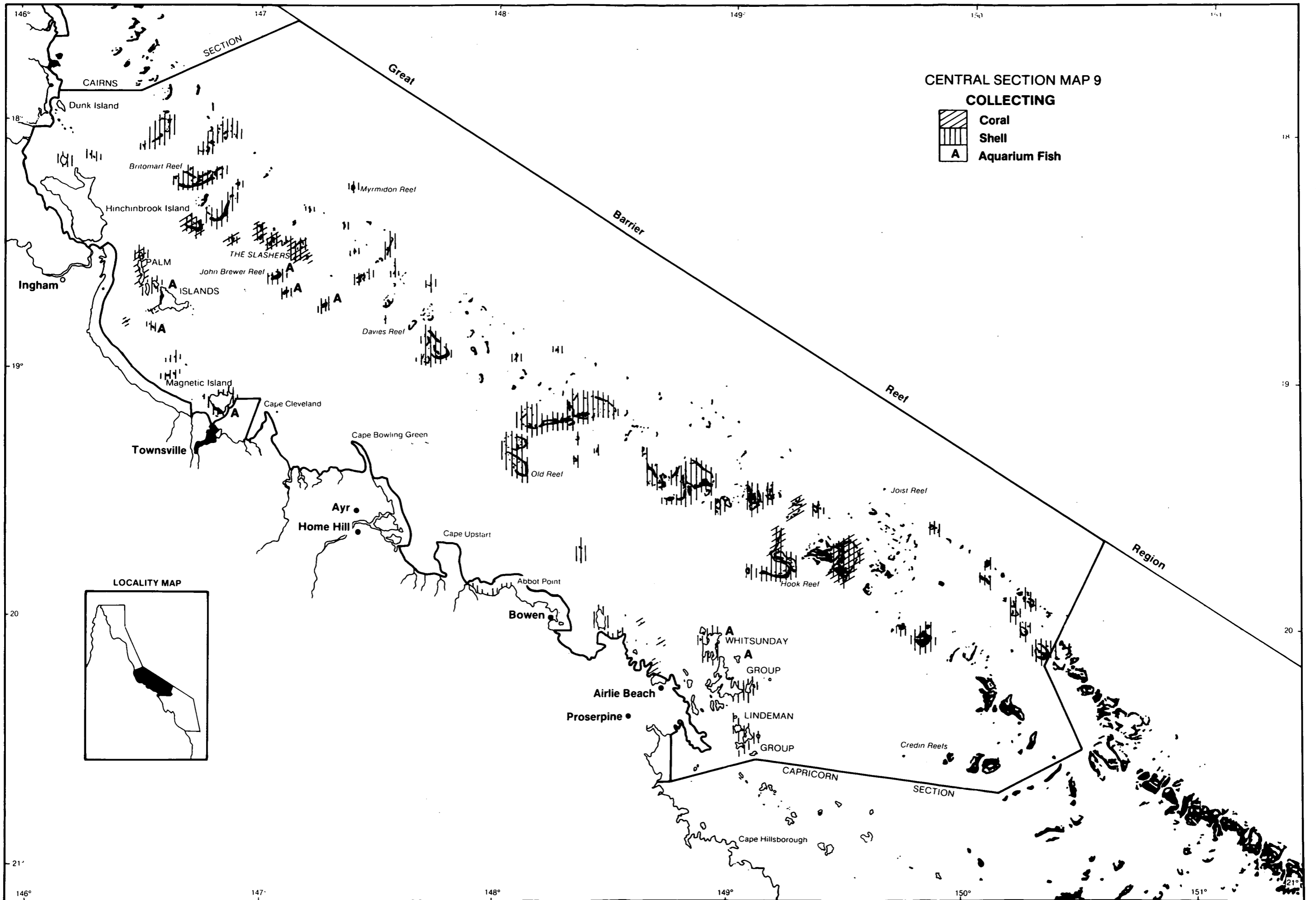
 Game - BILLFISH

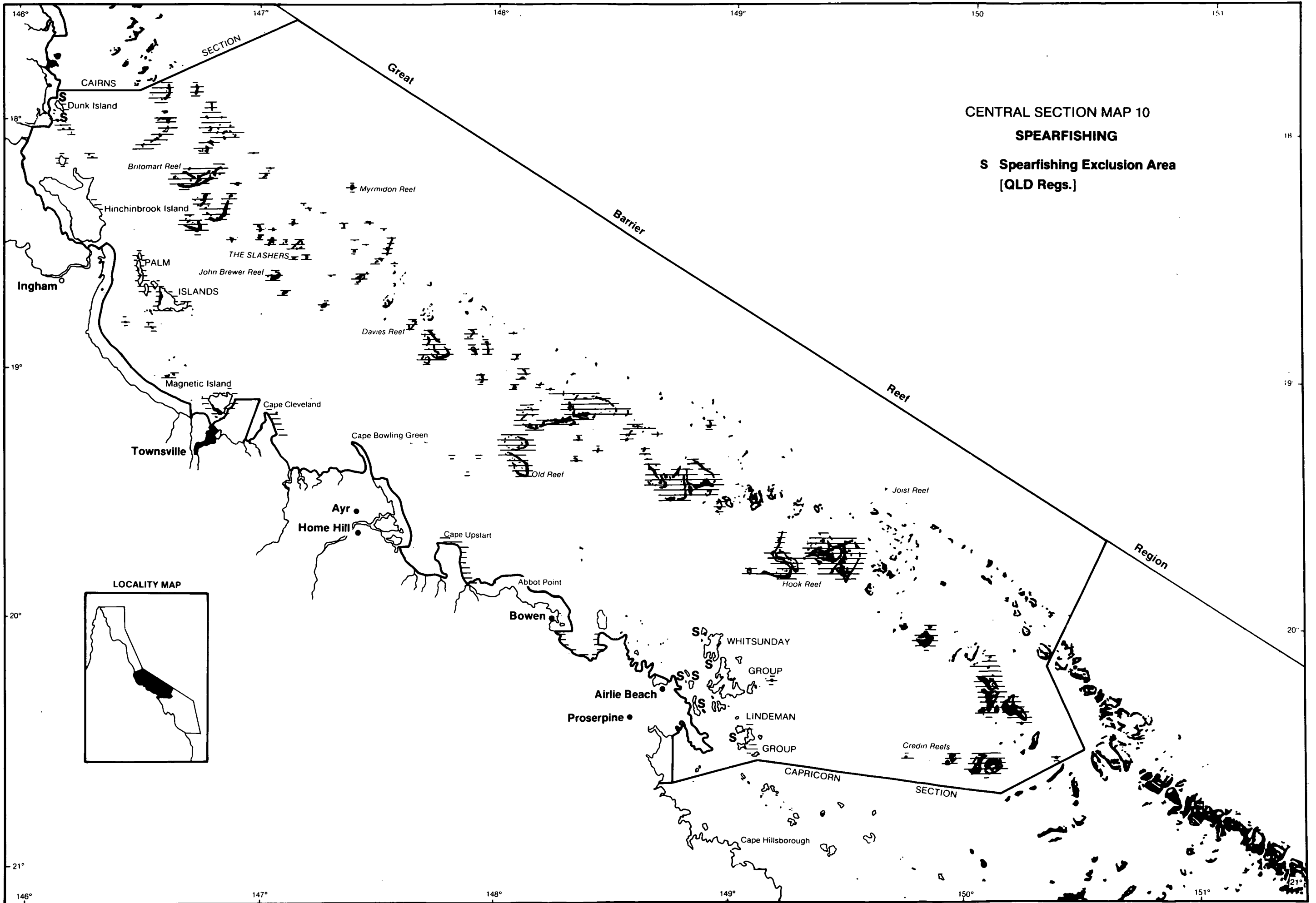
LOCALITY MAP

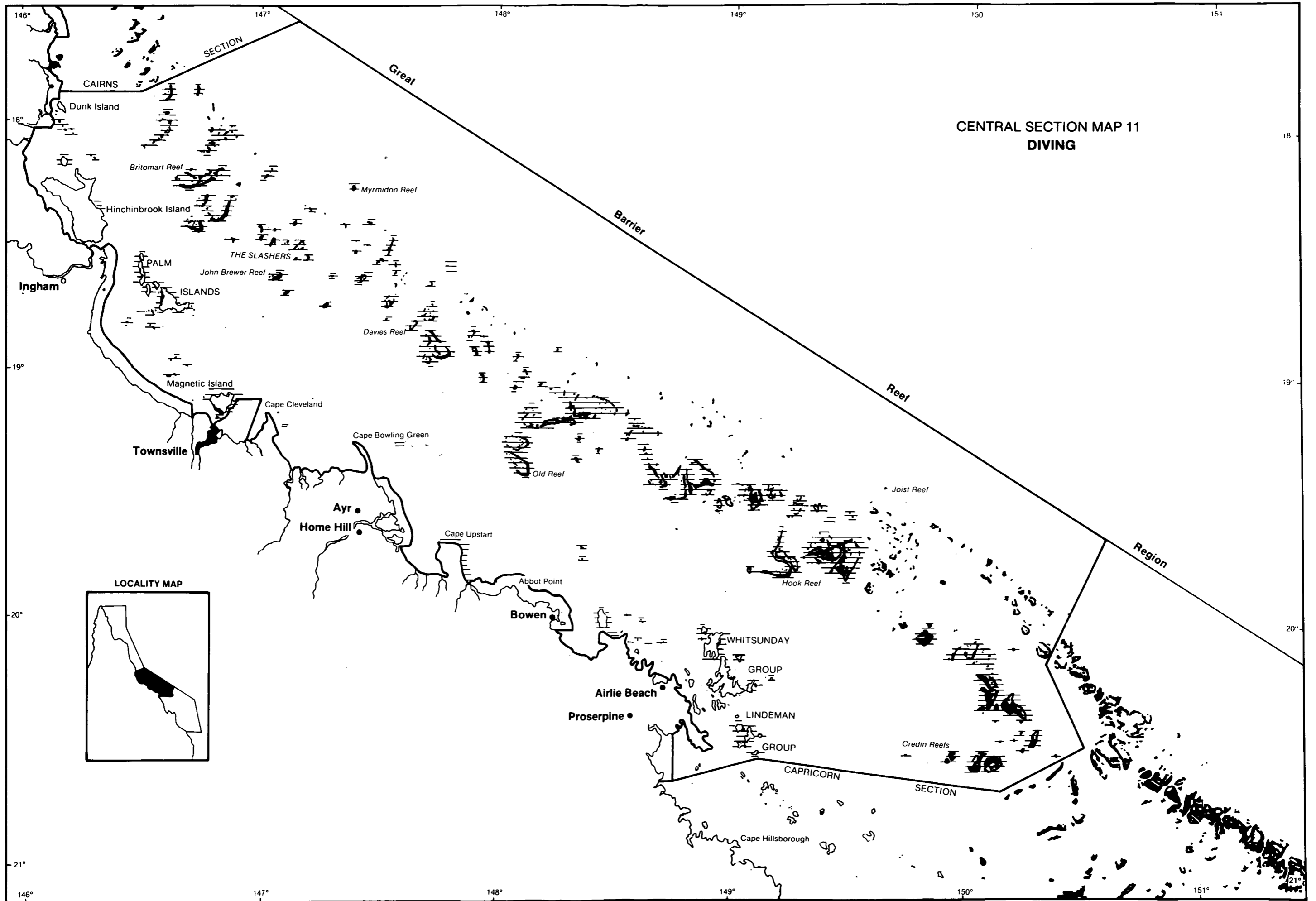


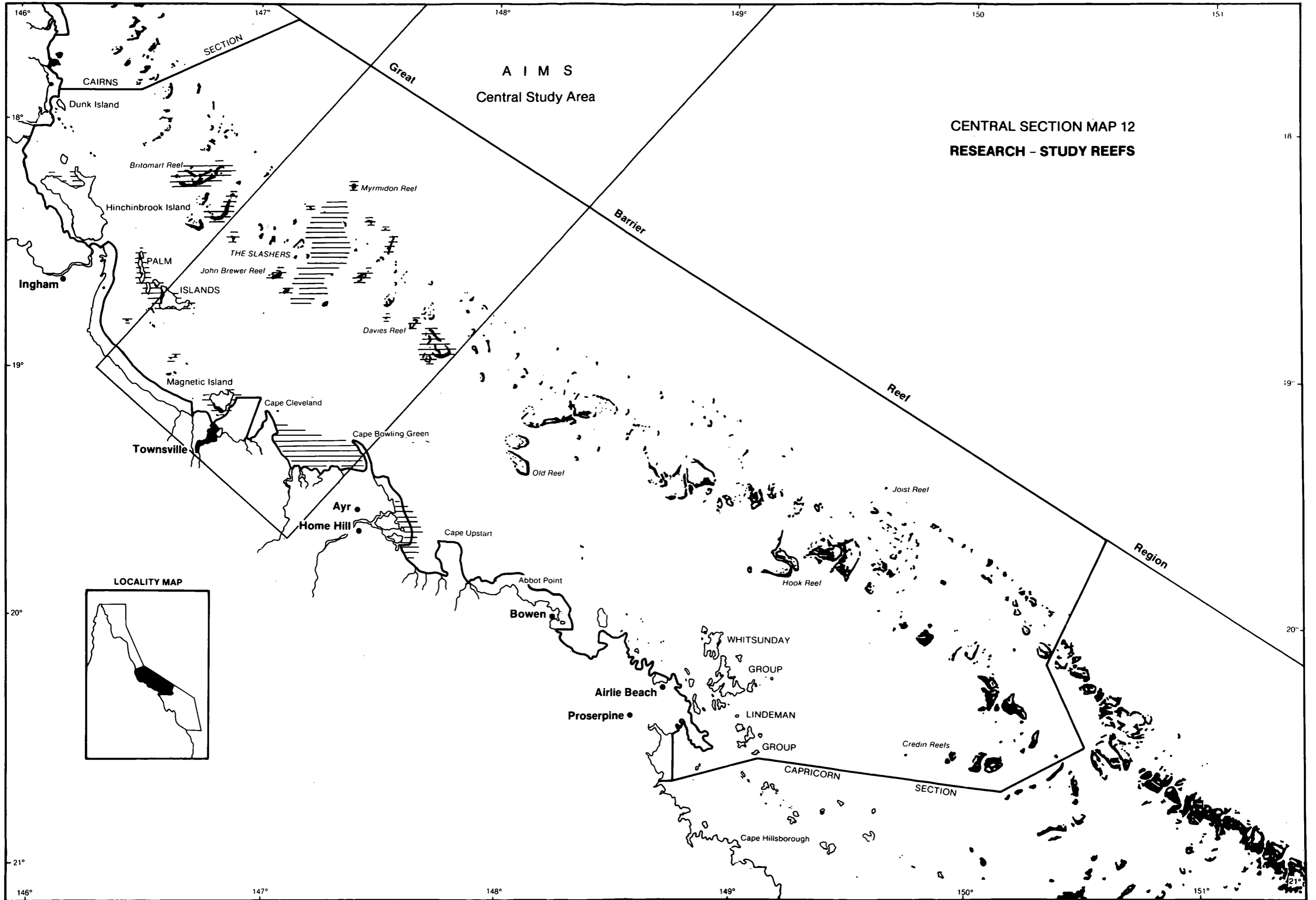






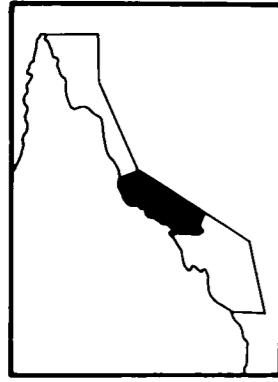


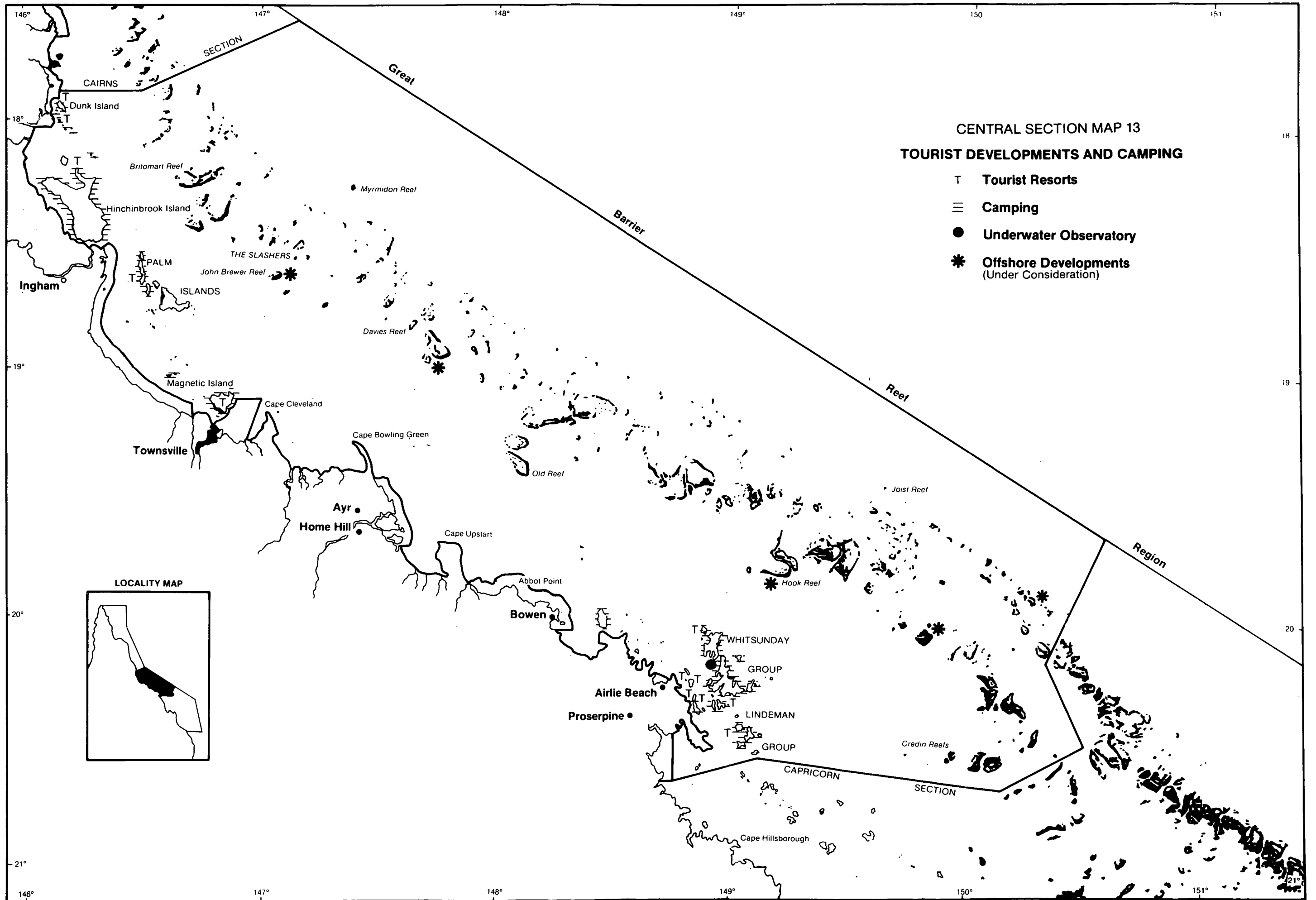


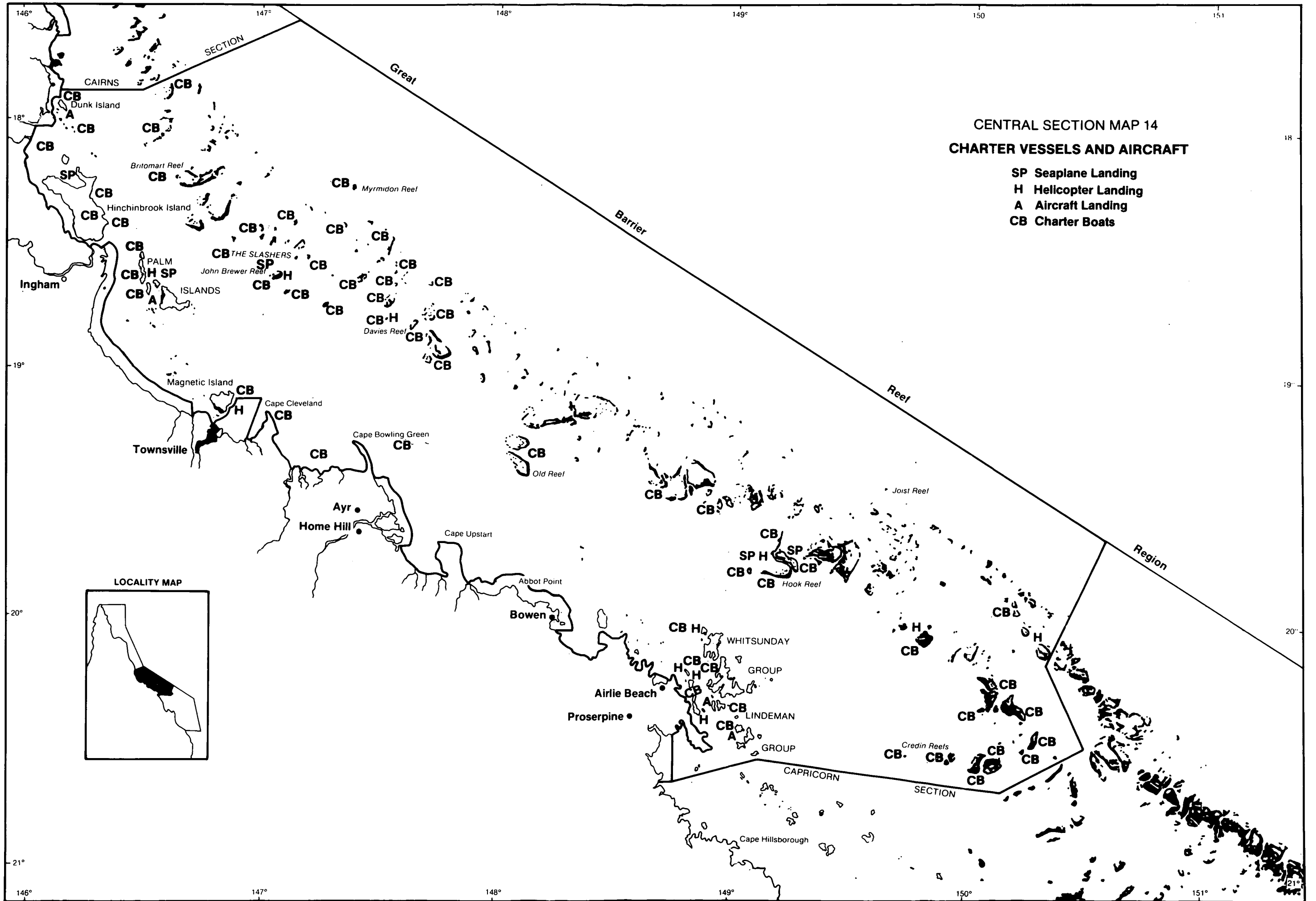


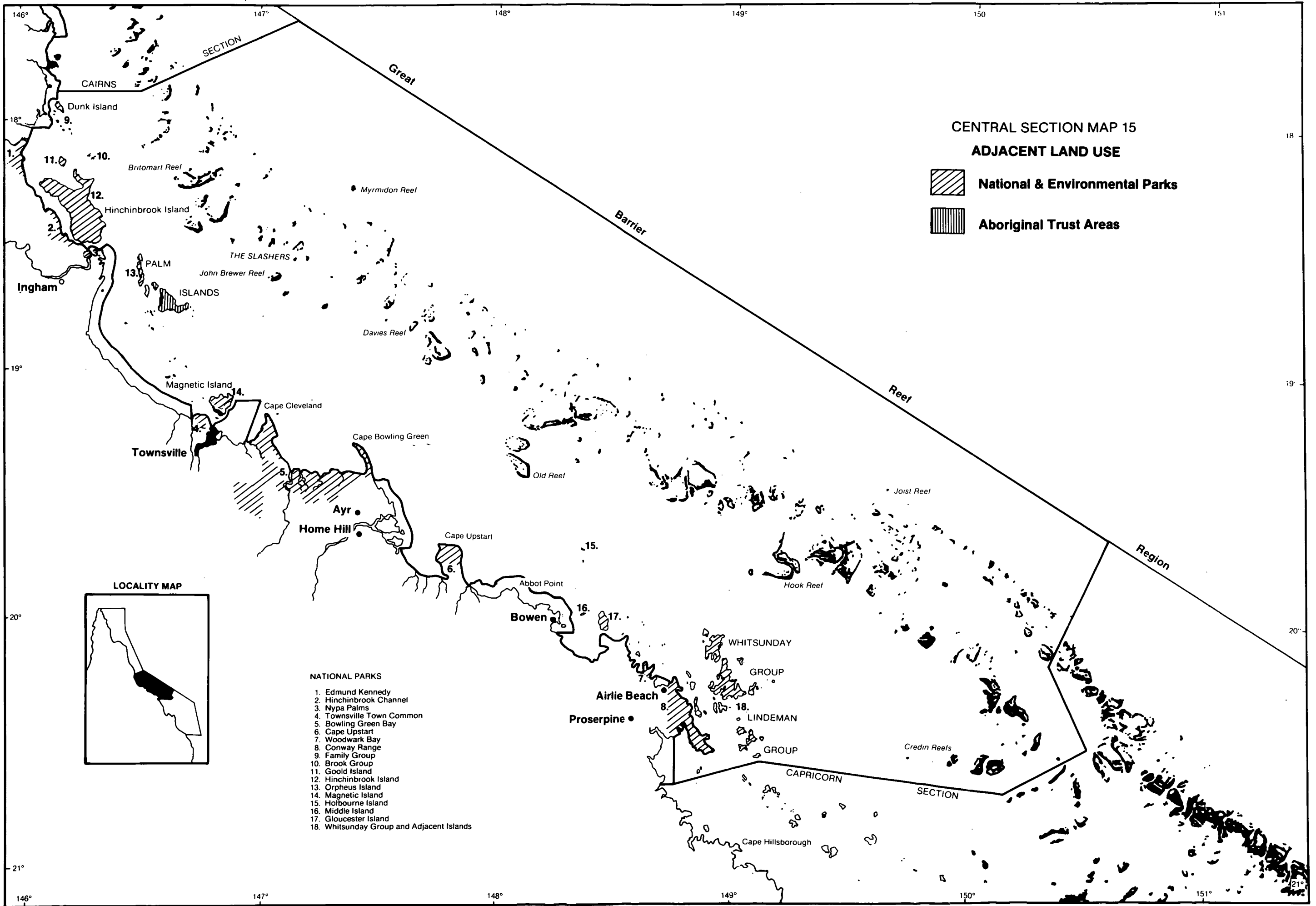
CENTRAL SECTION MAP 12
RESEARCH - STUDY REEFS

LOCALITY MAP









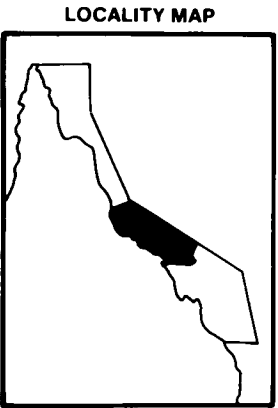
CENTRAL SECTION MAP 15

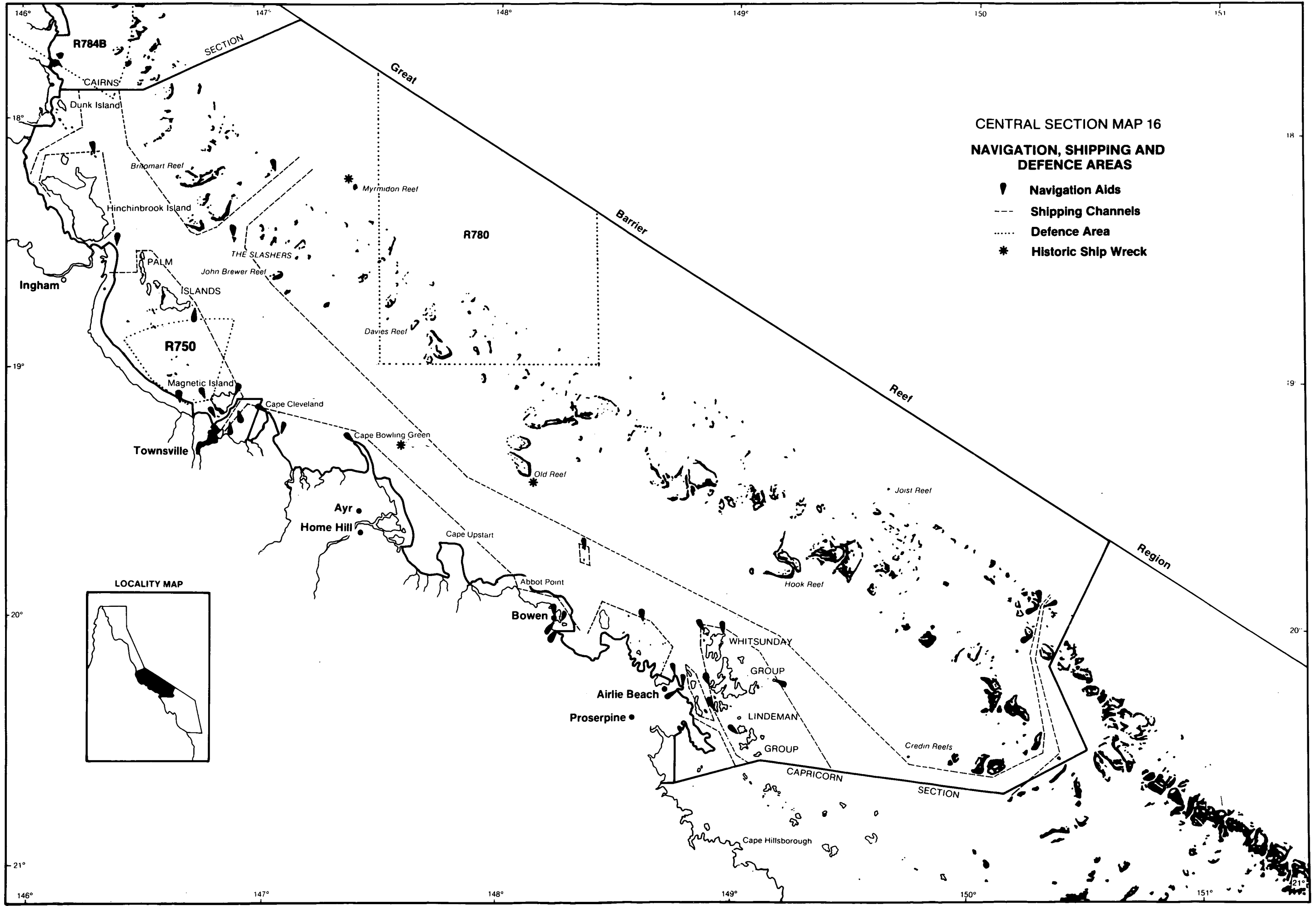
ADJACENT LAND USE

-  National & Environmental Parks
-  Aboriginal Trust Areas




NATIONAL PARKS

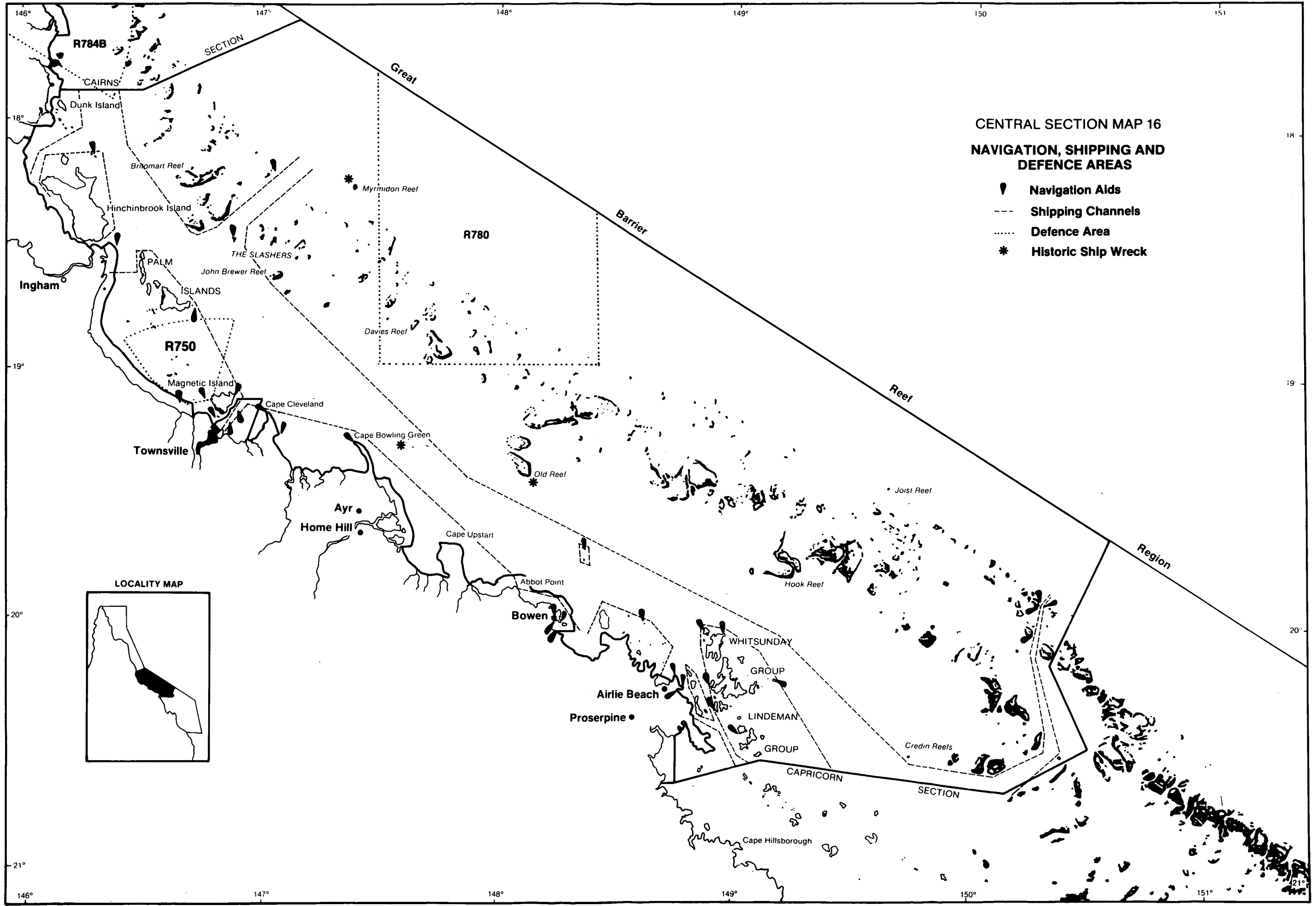
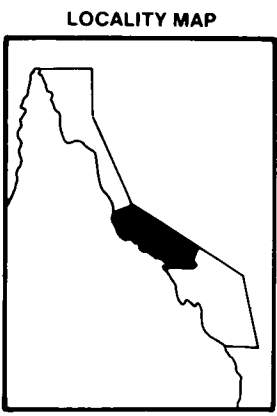
1. Edmund Kennedy
2. Hinchinbrook Channel
3. Nypa Palms
4. Townsville Town Common
5. Bowling Green Bay
6. Cape Upstart
7. Woodwark Bay
8. Conway Range
9. Family Group
10. Brook Group
11. Goold Island
12. Hinchinbrook Island
13. Orpheus Island
14. Magnetic Island
15. Holbourne Island
16. Middle Island
17. Gloucester Island
18. Whitsunday Group and Adjacent Islands



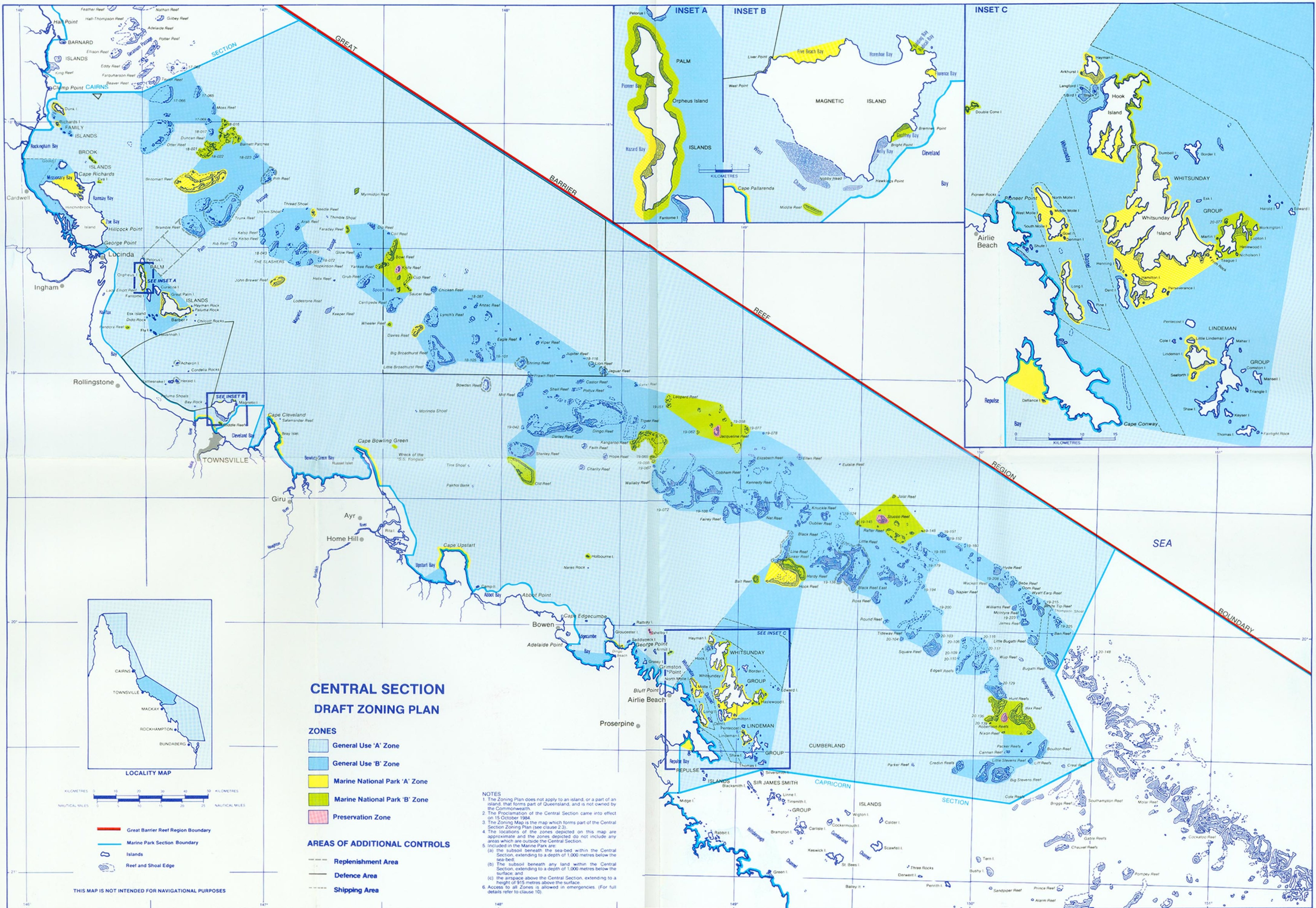


**CENTRAL SECTION MAP 16
NAVIGATION, SHIPPING AND
DEFENCE AREAS**

-  **Navigation Aids**
-  **Shipping Channels**
-  **Defence Area**
-  **Historic Ship Wreck**



**Central Section Map 16
NAVIGATION, SHIPPING AND
DEFENCE AREAS**



**CENTRAL SECTION
DRAFT ZONING PLAN**

- ZONES**
- General Use 'A' Zone
 - General Use 'B' Zone
 - Marine National Park 'A' Zone
 - Marine National Park 'B' Zone
 - Preservation Zone

- AREAS OF ADDITIONAL CONTROLS**
- Replenishment Area
 - Defence Area
 - Shipping Area

NOTES

1. The Zoning Plan does not apply to an island, or a part of an island, that forms part of Queensland, and is not owned by the Commonwealth.
2. The Proclamation of the Central Section came into effect on 15 October 1984.
3. The Zoning Map is the map which forms part of the Central Section Zoning Plan (see clause 2.3).
4. The locations of the zones depicted on this map are approximate and the zones depicted do not include any areas which are outside the Central Section.
5. Included in the Marine Park are:
 - (a) the subsoil beneath the sea-bed within the Central Section, extending to a depth of 1,000 metres below the sea-bed;
 - (b) the subsoil beneath any land within the Central Section, extending to a depth of 1,000 metres below the surface; and
 - (c) the airspace above the Central Section, extending to a height of 915 metres above the surface.
6. Access to all Zones is allowed in emergencies. (For full details refer to clause 10).