

REPORT ON THE *GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK ZONING PLAN* 2003



Australian Government
**Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**



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Further Information

For further information on the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* or the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, please refer to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority website www.gbrmpa.gov.au or contact one of the following offices:

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

2-68 Flinders Street

TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

PO Box 1379

TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Phone: 07 4750 0700

Facsimile: 07 4772 6093

Freecall: 1800 990 177

John Gorton Building

King Edward Terrace

PARKES ACT 2600

PO Box 791

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6274 1922

Facsimile: 02 6274 1509

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - Regional Offices

Cairns

51 The Esplanade

CAIRNS QLD 4870

PO Box 6091

CAIRNS QLD 4870

Phone: 07 4051 7132

Facsimile: 07 4051 9744

Mackay

43 River Street

MACKAY QLD 4740

PO Box 94

MACKAY QLD 4740

Phone: 07 4951 3454

Facsimile: 07 4951 3487

Rockhampton

130 Victoria Parade

ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4700

PO Box 6091

ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4702

Phone: 07 4921 4055

Facsimile: 07 4921 4034

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Foreword

This document provides an overview of the preparation and information that assisted the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to make the decisions that resulted in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*. It includes a summary of the issues raised during both formal Community Participation phases (7 May - 7 August 2002 and 2 June - 4 August 2003) on the proposal to rezone the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. All submissions received during these periods were considered in accordance with Section 32 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Following the consideration of all submissions received and preparation of the revised Plan in light of those submissions, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* was made by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and submitted to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, who accepted and tabled the document in both Houses of the Federal Parliament on 3 December 2003. The Zoning Plan passed through both Houses of Federal Parliament and came into effect on Thursday 1 July 2004.

I am particularly proud of the efforts of all of the staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority who were involved in the development of the Zoning Plan which will play a major role in ensuring that the Great Barrier Reef remains GREAT for future generations.

I would also like to thank all those individuals who contributed significantly to the development of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*, including users of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, traditional owners, interested members of the public, researchers and departmental officers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Virginia Chadwick', written in a cursive style.

Hon Virginia Chadwick AO
Chairman

November 2005

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1. Summary

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* ('the Act') provides for the establishment, control, care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park ('the Marine Park'). The Act confers responsibility for the management of the Marine Park upon the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority ('the GBRMPA').

In managing the Marine Park and the relevant responsibilities for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, the GBRMPA contributes to implementing Commonwealth Government policies such as:

- Australia's Oceans Policy (1998) which advocated implementation of a representative areas network;
- Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council's "Strategic plan of action for establishing the national representative system of marine protected areas" (1999);
- the National Strategy for Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity (1996);
- the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (1992); and the
- the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992).

Australia also has international commitments to developing a representative area network under, for example, the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992). Other States and Territories in Australia are also contributing to this nation-wide initiative.

The GBRMPA is mindful of government obligations arising from such international Conventions as the:

- World Heritage Convention 1972;
- Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979; and
- Convention on Biological Diversity 1992.

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* ('the Zoning Plan') has been developed as the primary planning instrument for the conservation and management of the Marine Park, in accordance with Section 32 of the Act, for:

- the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR);
- the regulation of the wise use of the Marine Park so as to protect the GBR while allowing the reasonable use of the GBR Region;
- the regulation of activities that exploit the resources of the GBR Region so as to minimise the effect of those activities on the GBR;
- the reservation of some areas of the GBR for its appreciation and enjoyment by the public; and
- the preservation of some areas of the GBR in its natural state undisturbed by man except for the purposes of scientific research.

The Zoning Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Act. The process has included two statutory (formal) phases of Community Participation as well as other informal consultation. Both formal phases of Community Participation were widely advertised, inviting the public to make submissions. Subsections 32(3 & 9) of the Act requires the GBRMPA to '... give due consideration to any representations so made'.

The first formal Community Participation phase (CP1) of the Representative Areas Program ('the RAP') was conducted from 7 May – 7 August 2002, and was designed to canvas the views of the public on the proposal to prepare a new Zoning Plan. The GBRMPA released the Draft Zoning Plan ('the DZP') for public comment from 2 June – 4 August 2003 (CP2). Over 31 500 submissions were received during the two formal phases of public consultation. The consultation undertaken by the GBRMPA for the RAP was one of the largest examples of public involvement in any environmental planning process in Australia's history.

The final Zoning Plan was developed after consideration of all submissions, additional information gathered during CP1 and CP2, the best available natural resource, social, economic and cultural information, and management issues. It builds on the framework established by previous Zoning Plans for the Far Northern, Cairns, Central, Mackay/Capricorn and Gumoo Wojobuddee Sections and provides a single consistent Zoning Plan for the entire Marine Park. The Zoning Plan also provides zoning for 28 new coastal Sections, which were included in the Marine Park between 2000 and 2001.

Many of the provisions of previous Zoning Plans have been updated in the Zoning Plan. The Zoning Plan also provides for the description of zone boundaries through a process of coordinate-based mapping. In addition to the conservation benefits, these changes provide a simpler and more consistent basis for the management of activities throughout the Marine Park.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority considered and made the Zoning Plan on 26 November 2003. The Zoning Plan was then delivered to the Honourable Dr David Kemp, the then Minister for the Environment and Heritage, who accepted and tabled the Zoning Plan in both Houses of the Federal Parliament on 3 December 2003. The Zoning Plan passed through both Houses of the Federal Parliament and came into effect on 1 July 2004.

2. Introduction

This document describes the basis for the decisions which resulted in a new zoning plan for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Background information on the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* (the Zoning Plan) for the Marine Park is provided, together with descriptions of the new zones. An overview of the issues raised in submissions during CP1 and CP2 is included. This document also contains GBRMPA's responses to comments on the rezoning of the Marine Park and explains how specific matters have been addressed in the Zoning Plan. **This document should be read in conjunction with the Zoning Plan, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*, and the indicative Zoning Maps.**

2.1. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park comprises the world's largest system of coral reefs, together with inter-reefal lagoons, seagrasses, mangroves and open waters up to 100-300 kilometres offshore, that extend beyond the edge of the continental shelf. Stretching 2 300km along Australia's north-eastern coastline, from the tip of Cape York Peninsula, south to Baffle Creek north of Bundaberg, the Marine Park covers 344 400km².

Due to its significant natural and cultural values, the GBR is important nationally and internationally. As a result the GBR is both a Marine Park and World Heritage Area. The Marine Park was created as a multiple use park by the Act, which provides for the establishment, control, care and development of the GBR. The GBR was also inscribed on the World Heritage List in October 1981, meeting all four natural World Heritage criteria. It is one of the largest World Heritage Areas on the planet and is a unique area of outstanding universal value.

The Marine Park supports a high degree of biological diversity due to the variety of ecosystems present and the immense scale of the area. Contrary to its name, the GBR is not one long continuous coral reef, but a complex of about 2 900 individual reefs, 900 islands and cays, and other associated and interconnected marine habitats. The GBR supports approximately 1 500 species of fish, 350 species of hard corals, over one-third of the world's soft coral and sea-pen species, thousands of mollusc species, six of the world's seven species of marine turtles, and more than 30 species of marine mammals.

The Marine Park represents an important area for the conservation of many rare or threatened species. It provides important habitat and breeding areas for marine turtles, dugong, seabirds, humpback whales and other species of whales and dolphins.

This extraordinary biodiversity and the interconnectedness of species and habitats makes the GBR and the surrounding areas one of the richest and most complex natural systems on earth. While coral reef, mangrove and seagrass habitats occur elsewhere on the planet, no other World Heritage Area contains such biodiversity. As the world's largest coral reef ecosystem, it is also a critical global resource.

The reefs and surrounding areas are also significant for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. The GBR has provided the basis for sustenance and been of cultural significance for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for tens of thousands of years.

Since settlement of the area in the 19th Century, use of the north Queensland coastal waters has grown and intensified to include commercial fishing, tourism, shipping, scientific research and recreational pursuits such as boating, fishing and diving. During this period there has also been significant urban and rural development of the mainland adjacent to the Marine Park.

In 2003, the Productivity Commission showed the GBR today supports a significant part of Australia's economy. Tourism in the GBR catchment earns over \$4 billion Gross Value Product (GVP). Commercial fishing contributes around \$119 million GVP per annum, and expenditure by the large recreational fishing and boating sector in the GBR catchment is around \$240 million per annum. (Productivity Commission 2003)

The Australian and State governments have a cooperative and integrated approach to management of the Marine Park built on an agreement signed by the then Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, and Queensland Premier, Joh Bjelke-Petersen in 1979. The GBRMPA is the Australian government agency responsible for overall planning and management. Field-based, day-to-day management (DDM) of the Marine Park is jointly funded by both the State and Commonwealth Governments and conducted primarily by Queensland agencies within programs and guidelines approved by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority which, includes a State and a Federal government representative. DDM activities include enforcement, surveillance, monitoring and education, as well as the management of adjacent Queensland Marine Parks and Island National Parks.

Other Queensland and Commonwealth agencies involved in DDM, include the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, Queensland Water Police, Australian Federal Police, Australian Customs Service (Coastwatch and the National Marine Unit), Australian Quarantine Inspection Service and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. The level of joint management that has now developed between the two levels of government for the GBR, including complementary legislation for some adjoining State waters, has produced an effective management regime that assists all GBR users.

The new Zoning Plan implements a commitment of the Australian government: 'During the next Parliament, a Coalition government will ... progress the Representative Areas Process, ensuring that all habitat types in the Great Barrier Reef are adequately protected;.....' (*'A Better Environment'*, Coalition Platform, October 2001)

The National Oceans Policy and the Government's election commitment identified the need for a more representative approach to protecting the GBR. Consequently,

through the Representative Areas Program (RAP) the GBRMPA developed a single Zoning Plan for the entire Marine Park to protect 'representative' examples of the GBR's marine biodiversity.

The RAP was also supported by the Queensland government:

'The State government will support the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Representative Areas Program to increase protection of biodiversity by increasing the number of habitats included in the no-take zones. It will develop and implement a strategy to protect marine biodiversity and threatened species generally including extending protection under the Nature Conservation Act. (*'Valuing the environment'*; State Budget 2001-02).

2.2. Statement of management intent

The Zoning Plan is the primary management instrument for the conservation and management of the Marine Park.

Subsection 32(7) of the Act provides that, in preparing a zoning plan, the GBRMPA must give regard to a number of objects including the conservation of the GBR, the regulation of the use of the Marine Park so as to protect the GBR, the reservation of some areas for appreciation and enjoyment by the public, and the preservation of some areas in the natural state.

The Zoning Plan also takes into account the GBR World Heritage values and the principles of ecologically sustainable development. In conjunction with other management mechanisms, the Zoning Plan aims to protect and conserve the biodiversity of the GBR ecosystem within a network of no-take areas, while providing opportunities for the ecologically sustainable use of, and access to, the Marine Park by current and future generations.

In addition to protecting 'representative' examples of the entire range of habitats, the Zoning Plan also provides for the protection of areas of high conservation value by assigning protective zoning to important habitats, breeding and spawning areas as well as special or unique sites.

The Zoning Plan expressly provides for the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Marine Park, including management of traditional use of marine resources, such as traditional hunting in accordance with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custom and tradition. The Zoning Plan is not intended to extinguish native title or affect the operation of section 211 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

The contribution of scientific research to the management and understanding of the Marine Park is also acknowledged in the Zoning Plan, which provides for the management of research in the Marine Park. This includes Scientific Research Zones to facilitate research around scientific research facilities.

2.3. Rezoning the Marine Park

2.3.1. Planning and management of the Marine Park

The Marine Park is a multiple use park, where all reasonable uses are allowed. However, some locations within the Marine Park need to be set aside free from extractive activities (similar to National Parks on land), while potentially conflicting activities need to be separated in other areas. To ensure all such areas are appropriately managed, the Marine Park has been divided into zones.

Zoning provides a foundation for managing use while protecting the Marine Park as a whole. Accordingly, the Zoning Plan applies to all users of the Marine Park. All other management tools complement the Zoning Plan.

The Zoning Plan divides the Marine Park into eight zones (refer Section 4.1 (Zones)) and sets out the purposes for which each zone may be used or entered. The Zoning Plan also provides for the management of remote natural areas of the Marine Park, as well as additional purposes for which zones may be used or entered, and for Designated Areas (refer Section 4.6.8. (Designated Areas)), including Shipping Areas (allowing navigation of ships without written permission) and Special Management Areas that provide for restrictions on the use of, or access to, particular areas of the Marine Park.

Zoning Plans are developed and reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Sections 32 and 33 of the Act, including consultation with user and interest groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, the scientific community, and the public at large.

2.3.2. Reviewing previous Zoning Plans and zoning the new coastal Sections of the Marine Park

Since the declaration of the Marine Park in 1975, various Sections have been declared and zoned.

Up to 1999, there were five Sections of the Marine Park, with the Far Northern, Cairns, Central and the Mackay/Capricorn Sections being declared and zoned between 1983 and 1987. Nine years later in 1998, the Gumoo Woorabuddee Section was incorporated into the Marine Park.

In January 1999, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage announced that certain coastal areas previously excluded from the Marine Park would be incorporated. These areas were not included when the Marine Park was first declared due to their potential for industrial or port developments. However, these industrial and port developments did not eventuate and the addition of the 28 new coastal areas to the Marine Park occurred in a staged process between August 2000 and July 2001. Some small areas of State waters around major ports and some urban centres continue to be excluded from the Marine Park. For a map depicting the 28 coastal Sections refer to Appendix 10.1 (New coastal areas map).

Under the Act, it is a statutory requirement that a Zoning Plan be prepared for new areas as soon as practicable after their proclamation as Sections of the Marine Park. The zoning of these 28 coastal Sections was carried out in parallel with the implementation of the Representative Areas Program (RAP). The zoning of these areas followed the same process described below in Figure 1 and allow for multiple use of these areas.

The new Zoning Plan replaces the following Zoning Plans previously in place within the Marine Park:

- Central Section (in operation since October 1987);
- Mackay/Capricorn Section (in operation since August 1988);
- Cairns Section (in operation since April 1982);
- Far Northern Section (in operation since April 1986); and
- Gumoo Woojabuddee Section (in operation since December 2002)

Given that the above Zoning Plans were progressively developed over a period of 15 years, some of the terms, management provisions and zone names differed between various Sections. The latest rezoning process led to the development of a single Zoning Plan for the Marine Park and removed previous inconsistencies.

The most fundamental aspect of the rezoning process was the implementation of the RAP. The RAP was undertaken because previous zoning did not adequately protect the range of biodiversity now known to exist across the Marine Park. The RAP aimed to protect 'representative' examples of the entire range of habitats, plants and animals in the Marine Park while minimising impacts on existing uses. By ensuring the future of the GBR ecosystem, the GBRMPA sought to maintain lifestyles, ensure economic prosperity, whilst continuing to allow equitable access to the natural resources of the Marine Park in perpetuity. The Zoning Plan provides a balanced outcome between environmental, social and economic interests for the entire Marine Park.

Section 3 (Guiding principles for the Representative Areas Program) provides additional information on the RAP.

2.3.3. The process for rezoning the Marine Park

The principle objectives of a Zoning Plan and the process for development of a Zoning Plan is set out in Sections 32 and 33 of the Act and summarised in Figure 1.

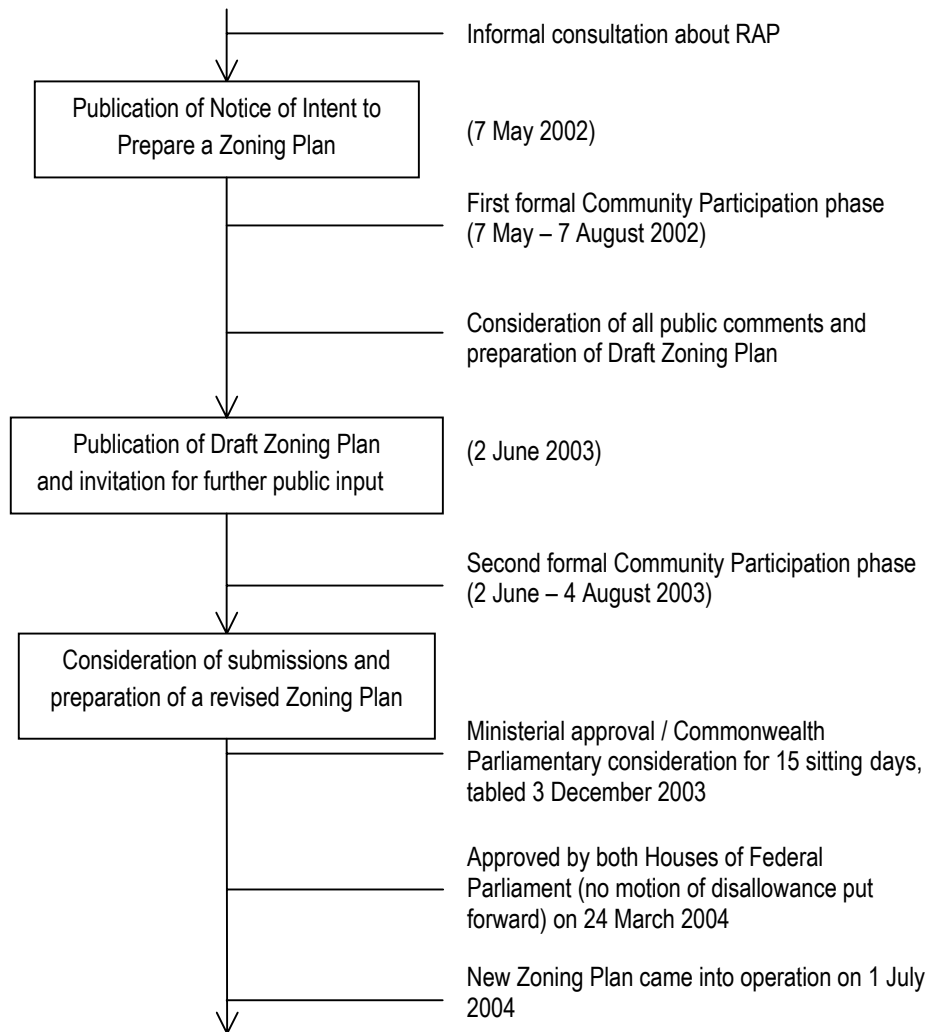


Figure 1. Zoning process

Over 31 500 submissions were received during the two formal phases of Community Participation. For further information, refer to Section 5 (Overview of submissions and other sources of information).

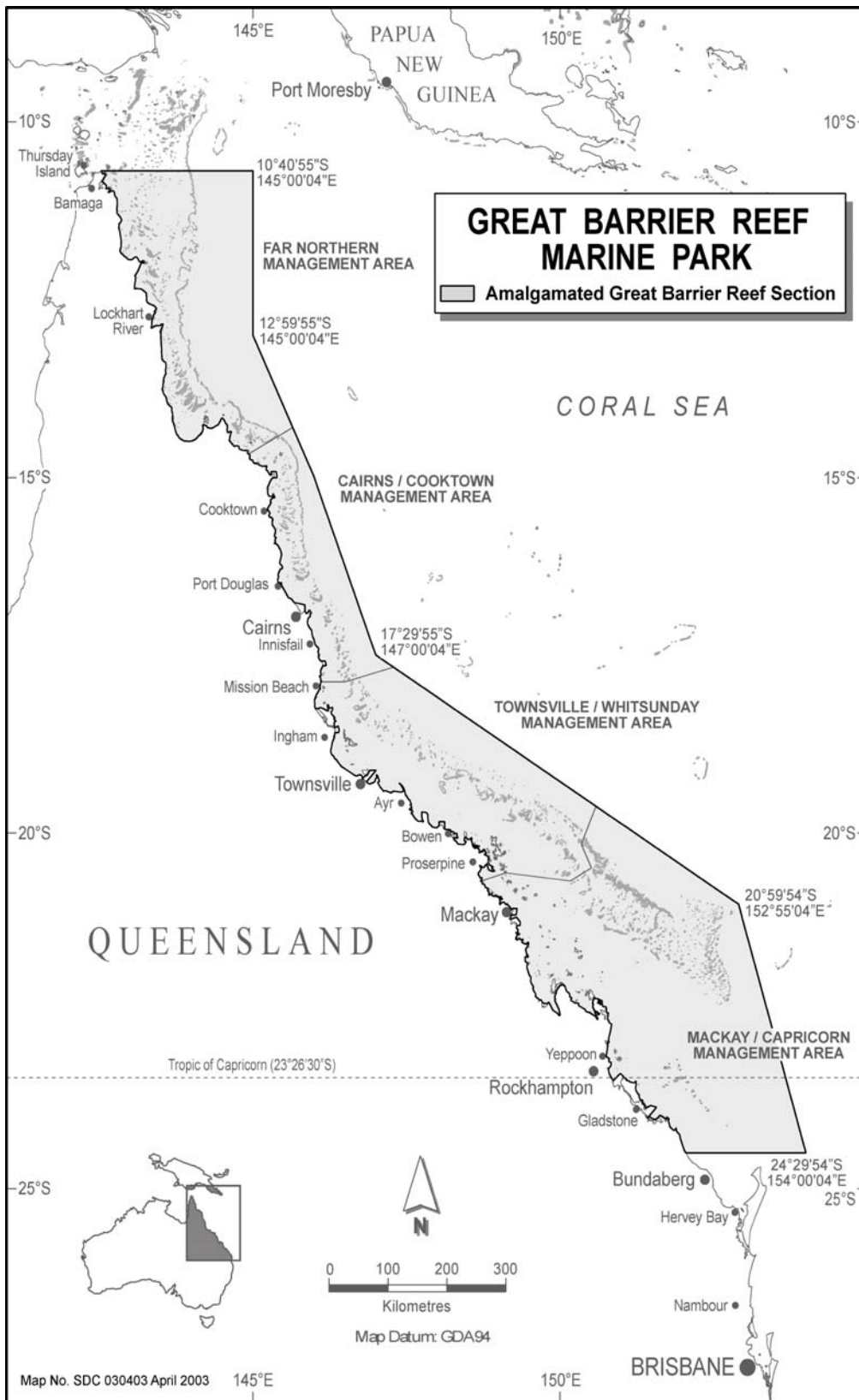
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority made the Zoning Plan on 26 November 2003. The Zoning Plan was then delivered to the Honourable Dr David Kemp, the then Minister for the Environment and Heritage, who accepted and tabled the Zoning Plan in both Houses of Federal Parliament on 3 December 2003. No motion of disallowance was put forward in either house of Federal Parliament. The Zoning Plan came into effect on 1 July 2004.

2.3.4. The amalgamated Great Barrier Reef Section

As a consequence of the introduction of the Zoning Plan, the existing 33 Sections of the Marine Park (the 5 main Sections and the 28 new coastal Sections) were amalgamated to form the Amalgamated Great Barrier Reef (AGBR) Section. Following the amalgamation, the Marine Park was divided into four management areas (from north to south) for administrative purposes:

- Far Northern Management Area;
- Cairns/Cooktown Management Area;
- Townsville/Whitsundays Management Area; and
- Mackay/Capricorn Management Area.

Although these management areas have no legislative effect, their areas provide a basis for the regional management of the Marine Park. Map 1 shows the location and extent of the AGBR Section and the four Management Areas.



Map 1. Amalgamated Great Barrier Reef Section & Management Area boundaries

3. Guiding principles for the Representative Areas Program

The objective of the Representative Areas Program (RAP) was to increase the protection of biodiversity within the Marine Park to help:

- maintain biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats, species, populations and genes;
- allow species to evolve and function undisturbed;
- provide an ecological safety margin against human-induced disasters;
- provide a solid ecological base from which threatened species or habitats can recover or repair themselves; and
- maintain ecological processes and systems.

The aim was to achieve these objectives while maximising complementarity with peoples' uses and values.

Development of GBRMPA's representative areas network was guided by the broad social, economic, cultural and biological principles developed by ANZECC (1998) in their report "Guidelines for establishing the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas".

To assist the RAP, two independent steering committees were formed to provide more detailed, operational expert advice to the GBRMPA about:

- the biological and physical aspects of the GBR; and
- the social, economic, cultural and management feasibility aspects of human use of the Marine Park.

A summary of the Biophysical Operational Principles and the Social, Economic, Cultural and Management Feasibility Operational Principles developed by the committees, is given below in Sections 3.2 (Biophysical Operational Principles) and 3.3 (Social, Economic, Cultural and Management Feasibility Operational Principles). These principles were applied as far as practicable, to the selection of new no-take areas and helped to protect biodiversity while maximising positive and minimising negative impacts on local communities and stakeholders.

3.1. Bioregions

Natural science expert committees assisted the process of classifying the biological and physical diversity of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area into 70 'bioregions' (30 reef bioregions and 40 non-reef bioregions). Bioregions have habitats, communities (e.g. areas of seagrass) and physical features (e.g. sediment type, depth) that are more similar within the bioregion than those occurring in other bioregions. The bioregions were developed using the best available information and input and advice provided, including from fishers, scientists and other experts, on the boundaries and habitat types found within the Marine Park. This information, in addition to more than 40 layers of data (compiled from many years of research), assisted in determining the various bioregions. The bioregionalisation was a critical component of the RAP.

Lists describing each bioregion are at Appendix 10.2 (Description of reef bioregions) and Appendix 10.3 (Description of non-reef bioregions) and a map of all bioregions is available on the web at www.gbrmpa.gov.au.

3.2. Biophysical Operational Principles

The independent Scientific Steering Committee (SSC), comprising scientists with expertise in the GBR Region, provided advice to the GBRMPA on scientific issues relevant to the selection of representative areas of biodiversity.

The Biophysical Operational Principles (BOPs) were recommended by the SSC, with input from other experts, to guide the establishment of a new network of no-take areas that would achieve the objectives of the RAP. The BOPs were developed using best available knowledge of the GBR ecosystem and general principles of reserve design, and were applied, as far as practicable, during the RAP and rezoning process.

The Biophysical Operation Principles for the RAP were:

1. Have no-take areas each having a minimum size of at least 20 kilometres along the smallest dimension (except for coastal bioregions);
2. Have larger (versus smaller) no-take areas;
3. Have sufficient no-take areas to insure against negative impacts on some parts of a bioregion;
4. Where a reef is incorporated into a no-take area, the whole reef should be included;
5. Represent at least 3 reefs and 20% of reef area and 20% of reef perimeter in each reef bioregion in no-take areas;
6. Represent at least 20% of each non-reef bioregion in no-take areas;
7. Represent cross-shelf and latitudinal diversity in the network of no-take areas;
8. Represent a minimum amount of each community type and physical environment type in the overall network, taking into account principle 7;
9. Maximise the use of environmental information to determine the configuration of no-take areas to form viable networks;
10. Include biophysically special/unique places; and
11. Include consideration of sea and adjacent land uses in determining no-take areas.

Refer to the Information Sheet '*Biophysical Operating Principles*' available at www.gbrmpa.gov.au, for more information.

The BOPs were used as a package to underpin the choice of the number, size and location of no-take areas. They refer to recommended minimum levels of protection. The SSC considered that to achieve the objectives of the RAP, the GBRMPA should protect at least these amounts in each bioregion and each habitat. None of these recommendations were for 'ideal' or 'desired' amounts.

Section 8. (Achievement of the Biophysical Operational Principles) outlines the extent to which the BOPs were achieved in the Zoning Plan.

3.3. Social, Economic, Cultural and Management Feasibility Operational Principles

A summary of the Social, Economic, Cultural and Management Feasibility Operational Principles developed by the independent steering committee is given below. These principles, as far as practicable, guided the rezoning process.

1. Maximise complementarity of no-take areas with human values, activities and opportunities;
2. Ensure that final selection of no-take areas recognises social costs and benefits;
3. Maximise placement of no-take areas in locations which complement and include present and future management and tenure arrangements; and
4. Maximise public understanding and acceptance of no-take areas, and facilitate enforcement of no-take areas.

Refer to the Information Sheet '*Social, economic, cultural and management feasibility operational principles*' available at www.gbrmpa.gov.au, for more information.

3.4. Submissions

One of the main sources of information used in the placement of zones and in development of the Zoning Plan more generally, was the information provided through the first and second formal Community Participation phases. A significant proportion of the submissions received during the public consultation phases included detailed site-specific information and important social and cultural attributes. Refer to Section 5 (Overview of submissions) and Section 6 (Issues) for more details.

3.5. Known uses

Known uses of the Marine Park were important in guiding the placement of zones and the development of the Zoning Plan. Data on tourism and recreational use and that provided by agreement from the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS), now the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F), including commercial fisheries data, were essential in placing the zones to minimise the impact on known Marine Park uses.

Fishing data from a variety of sources helped identify areas of greater and lesser importance to fishermen. Fishing effort is not uniformly undertaken across the marine environment, unlike farm paddocks, where usually all the available land area is cultivated evenly. Instead, fishermen concentrate their fishing effort in specific areas where target species aggregate or are abundant and are able to be fished cost effectively. This aspect of trying to avoid popular, easily-accessible and productive fishing areas was an important consideration in the placement of no-take areas.

4. The Zoning Plan

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* has been developed in accordance with the requirements of Section 32 of the Act and provides a single Zoning Plan for the entire Marine Park. It replaces the Far Northern, Cairns, Central, Mackay/Capricorn and Gumoo Wojobuddee Zoning Plans. The Zoning Plan also provides zoning for the twenty-eight new coastal Sections that were incorporated into the Marine Park in 2000 and 2001 (refer Section 2.3.4 (Zoning the new sections of the Marine Park)).

In developing this Zoning Plan, the GBRMPA has also reviewed the terms and provisions used in previous Zoning Plans for the Marine Park. This has produced a Zoning Plan that is standardised reef-wide; contains consistent terminology and clearer definitions; is easier to understand and comply with; and has simplified zone boundaries by introducing a co-ordinate based system for describing zone boundaries.

4.1. Zones

The Zoning Plan divides the Marine Park into a number of zones, each providing for increasing levels of protection and various types of resource use. Prior to the development of this Zoning Plan, the previous zoning plans had different names, objectives, and use or entry provisions for each Zone. The names of the Zones in the new Zoning Plan are:

- General Use Zone (GUZ);
- Habitat Protection Zone (HPZ);
- Conservation Park Zone (CPZ);
- Buffer Zone (BZ);
- Scientific Research Zone (SRZ);
- Marine National Park Zone (MNPZ);
- Preservation Zone (PZ); and
- Commonwealth Islands Zone (CIZ).

The Zoning Plan also sets out the purposes for which each Zone may be used or entered without the permission of the GBRMPA ('as of right'), and the purposes for which each Zone may be used or entered only with the written permission of the Authority. The GUZ provides for the widest range of activities, while the PZ is the most restrictive. The CIZ provides for the use of, or entry to, areas of the Marine Park above mean low water on Commonwealth-owned islands or parts thereof. The Marine Park does not include island areas that form part of the State of Queensland.

4.2. Zone objectives

The objectives of each of the eight Zones are given in Table 1 and Section 4.2 (Zone objectives) and the individual activities that are allowed to take place are summarised in Table 2 and Section 4.3 (Activities allowed in zones).

Table 1. Zone Objectives

| Zone Name | General Use Zone | Habitat Protection Zone | Conservation Park Zone | Buffer Zone | Scientific Research Zone | Marine National Park Zone | Preservation Zone | Commonwealth Islands Zone |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Zone colour | Light Blue | Dark Blue | Yellow | Olive Green | Orange | Green | Pink | Cream |
| Zone Objectives | <p>The objective of the Zoning Plan for the General Use Zone is to provide for the conservation of areas of the Marine Park, while providing opportunities for reasonable use.</p> | <p>The objectives of the Zoning Plan for the Habitat Protection Zone are:</p> <p>(a) to provide for the conservation of areas of the Marine Park through the protection and management of sensitive habitats, generally free from potentially damaging activities; and</p> <p>(b) subject to (a), to provide opportunities for reasonable use.</p> | <p>The objectives of the Zoning Plan for the Conservation Park Zone are:</p> <p>(a) to provide for the conservation of areas of the Marine Park; and</p> <p>(b) subject to (a), to provide opportunities for reasonable use and enjoyment, including limited extractive use.</p> | <p>The objectives of the Zoning Plan for the Buffer Zone are:</p> <p>(a) to provide for the protection of the natural integrity and values of areas of the Marine Park, generally free from extractive activities; and</p> <p>(b) subject to (a), to provide opportunities for:</p> <p>(i) certain activities, including the presentation of the values of the Marine Park, to be undertaken in relatively undisturbed areas; and</p> <p>(ii) trolling for pelagic species.</p> | <p>The objectives of the Zoning Plan for the Scientific Research Zone are:</p> <p>(a) to provide for the protection of the natural integrity and values of areas of the Marine Park, generally free from extractive activities; and</p> <p>(b) subject to (a), to provide opportunities for scientific research to be undertaken in relatively undisturbed areas.</p> | <p>The objectives of the Zoning Plan for the Marine National Park Zone are:</p> <p>(a) to provide for the protection of the natural integrity and values of areas of the Marine Park, generally free from extractive activities; and</p> <p>(b) subject to (a), to provide opportunities for certain activities, including the presentation of the values of the Marine Park, to be undertaken in relatively undisturbed areas.</p> | <p>The objective of the Zoning Plan for the Preservation Zone is to provide for the preservation of the natural integrity and values of areas of the Marine Park, generally undisturbed by human activities.</p> | <p>The objectives of the Zoning Plan for the Commonwealth Islands Zone are:</p> <p>(a) to provide for the conservation of areas of the Marine Park above the low water mark; and</p> <p>(b) to provide for use of the zone by the Commonwealth; and</p> <p>(c) subject to (a), to provide for facilities and uses consistent with the values of the area.</p> |
| <p>NOTES: 1. <i>Specific activities that are prohibited or may be undertaken in a Zone with or without a permit are specified in the Use and Entry Provisions for each Zone.</i></p> | | | | | | | | |

4.3. Activities allowed in zones

A summary of the purposes for which each Zone (other than the Commonwealth Island Zone) may be used or entered without permission, or with the written permission of the Authority, is provided in Table 2. The Zoning Plan provides full details of use and entry provisions:

| ACTIVITIES GUIDE (see relevant Zoning Plans and Regulations for details) | Zones | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | General Use Zone | Habitat Protection Zone | Conservation Park Zone | Buffer Zone | Scientific 2 Research Zone | Marine National Park Zone | Preservation Zone |
| Aquaculture | Permit | Permit | Permit ¹ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Bait netting | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Boating, diving, photography | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ² | ✓ | ✗ |
| Crabbing (trapping) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ³ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Harvest fishing for aquarium fish, coral and beachworm | Permit | Permit | Permit ¹ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Harvest fishing for sea cucumber, trochus, tropical rock lobster | Permit | Permit | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Limited collecting | ✓ ⁴ | ✓ ⁴ | ✓ ⁴ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Limited spearfishing (snorkel only) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ¹ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Line fishing | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁶ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Netting (other than bait netting) | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Research (other than limited impact research) | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit |
| Shipping (other than in a designated shipping area) | ✓ | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | ✗ |
| Tourism program | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | ✗ |
| Traditional use of marine resources | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | ✗ |
| Trawling | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Trolling | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ^{5,8} | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

PLEASE NOTE: This guide provides an introduction to Zoning in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Relevant Queensland Marine Park Zoning Plans or the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency should be consulted for confirmation of use or entry requirements.

- Restrictions apply to aquaculture, spearfishing and harvest fishing for aquarium fish, beachworm and coral in the Conservation Park Zone.
- Except for One Tree Island Reef (SR-23-2010) and Australian Institute of Marine Science (SR-19-2008) which are closed to public access and shown as orange, all other Scientific Research Zones are shown as green with an orange outline.
- Limited to 4 catch devices (eg. crab pots, dillies and inverted dillies) per person.
- By hand or hand-held implement and generally no more than 5 of a species.
- Maximum of 3 lines/rods per person with a combined total of 6 hooks per person.
- Limited to 1 line/rod per person and 1 hook per line. Only 1 dory detached from a commercial fishing vessel.
- Apart from traditional use of marine resources involving an activity otherwise 'as of right', a permit or an accredited Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement is required.
- Pelagic species only. Seasonal Closures apply to some Buffer Zones.

Detailed information is contained in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan and Regulations.

- Permits are required for most other activities not listed above.
- Commonwealth owned Islands in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are zoned "Commonwealth Islands Zone" - shown as cream.
- All Commonwealth Islands may not be shown.
- Special Management Areas may provide additional restrictions at some locations.
- The Zoning Plan does not affect the operation of s.211 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

ACCESS TO ALL ZONES IS PERMITTED IN AN EMERGENCY.

Table 2. Summary of activities allowed in zones

4.4. Definitions

The various terms used in zoning and management were defined in previous Zoning Plans and associated Regulations. Several of these definitions differed between the various Zoning Plans, or have become outdated with time. As part of the zoning process, the GBRMPA reviewed all definitions to make them consistent on a reef-wide basis. This improves the clarity of the new Zoning Plan for Marine Park users, stakeholders and managers. Definitions of terms used in the Zoning Plan are provided in the Dictionary to the Zoning Plan and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983* ('the Regulations'). Some of the key definitions are also provided for by Section 3 and Section 3A of the Act.

4.5. Zone boundaries

The metes and bounds used for boundary descriptions in previous zoning plans had sometimes been confusing for users. The boundaries were primarily based on a specified distance from features such as the 'reef edge', which is difficult to locate, making it problematic to interpret 'on the water'. This created problems for both the public and compliance officers. In response, as part of the new Zoning Plan, the GBRMPA introduced a coordinate-based system for describing zone boundaries. This makes zone boundaries simpler to determine and use on the water.

The coordinate-based approach uses points of latitude and longitude (referenced to the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994, also known as GDA 94) to define boundaries. This allows the boundaries to be identified using modern navigational aids such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and plotters. As far as possible, inshore zoning boundaries are also aligned with recognisable coastal features. Zone boundaries were orientated north, south, east and west as much as possible for ease of navigation.

Schedule 1 to the Zoning Plan contains the boundaries for the zones and some of the other areas described in the Zoning Plan. Each zone has a unique identifier, (e.g. MNP-11-031). The 'MNP' refers to the zone type (Marine National Park Zone) and the first two numbers in the unique zone identifier refers to the line of latitude that can be used to find the location of the zone on zoning maps (e.g. MNP-11-031 can be found at latitude 11° in the Far Northern Management Area). The latter number (031, in the above example) is a unique number that applies only to this zone. This identifier, along with a descriptive name, is used in the Schedule to allow specified zones to be identified easily on zoning maps.

The GBRMPA has also produced a variety of publications including maps, CDs and specific guides to assist the public to understand the Zoning Plan. While every effort has been made to ensure their accuracy, Schedule 1 to the Zoning Plan is the only legally definitive description of the zone boundaries.

4.6. Providing for activities within, and protection of, the Marine Park

The provisions of the Zoning Plan, as they apply to various activities that take place in the Marine Park, are described below. Terms in *italics* have legal definitions either in the Zoning Plan or the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*.

4.6.1. Biodiversity conservation

The Zoning Plan has been developed to maintain and enhance the natural and cultural values of the Marine Park. In particular, the Zoning Plan presented an opportunity to:

- recognise and maintain the outstanding values of the Marine Park, in particular its biodiversity, World Heritage values and ecological integrity; and
- recognise the cultural, tourism and recreational values of the Marine Park.

Particular consideration has been given in the Zoning Plan to the protection of representative examples of the habitats and biological communities (bioregions) in the Marine Park, including non-reef (e.g. seagrass meadows) and reef habitats. Measures have also been developed to protect threatened species such as dugongs and marine turtle populations through increased protection of habitats thereby reducing threatening activities, and by restrictions on the use and entry of important areas.

Protected species

Part 5 (Additional purposes for use and entry) of the Zoning Plan provides for the placement of restrictions on the take of *protected species* in the Marine Park and the Regulations includes a list of *protected species*. The intentional taking of *protected species* is only allowed with the written permission of the GBRMPA (refer to Section 5.3 of the Zoning Plan). These limits on protected species apply to both commercial and recreational users of the Marine Park however, this Part, as with all other Parts of the Zoning Plan is not intended to effect native title rights. The GBRMPA has extended this list of protected species to include:

- all sizes of Queensland grouper, potato cod, hump-headed Maori wrasse and barramundi cod, consistent with zero in possession limits in Queensland fisheries legislation;
- all other fish species of the genus *Epinephelus* (cod and grouper) greater than 100cm in length (measured in accordance with Queensland fisheries legislation), largely consistent with maximum size limits in Queensland fisheries legislation;
- rare or threatened species including dugongs, turtles, whales, dolphins, birds and several species of invertebrates; and
- certain species listed under the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, and all listed threatened listed migratory and listed marine species

under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Refer to the Regulations and the Policy on managing activities that include the direct take of a protected species from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (available on the GBRMPA website) for more information on protected species and their management.

Dugong protection

Dugong Protection Areas (DPAs) were introduced in areas of significant dugong habitat in 1998 in response to declines observed in the urban coast dugong population. DPAs are designated under the Queensland *Fisheries Regulations 1995* and restrict or prohibit net fishing activities in significant dugong habitats. Previously there were no complementary provisions under Marine Park legislation. To provide complementary approaches for dugong conservation, the GBRMPA has reflected the DPA provisions through the designation of a series of Species Conservation (Dugong Protection) Special Management Areas (SMAs).

These Special Management Areas reflect the provisions and locations of existing DPAs designated under the Queensland *Fisheries Regulations 1995*, to the extent to which those DPAs are in the Marine Park. For more information on the location and special management provisions for these SMAs, refer to the Regulations, Section 4.2 of the Zoning Plan and Section 4.6.8. (Designated Areas) of this document.

As part of the rezoning process, the adequacy of zoning applied in each of the DPAs and other important dugong habitats in the Marine Park was reviewed with the aim of providing appropriate protection against threats to dugong and their habitats.

Princess Charlotte Bay

A large area of Princess Charlotte Bay (PCB) in the Far Northern Management Area is zoned MNPZ, with the remainder of the Bay (including Bathurst Head) zoned HPZ with a SMA. The SMA was established to reduce the threat of nets to dugong while restricting commercial netting activities. The Princess Charlotte Bay SMA requires the holder of a Queensland commercial net fishing licence that satisfies fishing effort and catch criteria specified in the Regulations, to obtain a permit from the GBRMPA in order to undertake netting in the Princess Charlotte Bay SMA. Only those fishermen with such a permit are able to undertake netting in the Princess Charlotte Bay SMA and the netting must be undertaken in accordance with permit conditions. For more information on the zoning of Princess Charlotte Bay, refer to the Regulations, Section 4.2.4 of the Zoning Plan and Section 7.9 (Far Northern Management Area) of this document.

4.6.2. Recreational fishing activities

The GBRMPA has updated and standardised the use and entry provisions, and definitions for recreational fishing activities. The types of recreational fishing allowed in each zone are summarised in the activities matrix (Table 2 in Section 4.3. (Activities allowed in zones)) with more detail about provisions provided below. It is important to note that Queensland fisheries legislation (e.g. Fishery Management Plans, possession limits, regulations restricting gear use, and seasonal closures) apply to all fishing activities conducted in the Marine Park (refer to the Regulations).

Line fishing and trolling

Line fishing is provided for in the GUZ, HPZ and CPZ, and *trolling* is allowed in the GUZ, HPZ, CPZ and BZ. *Line fishing* may be conducted with not more than **three** hand-held rods or handlines with a combined number of not more than **six hooks** per person in GUZ and HPZ, and not more than **one** hand-held rod or handline with **one hook** per person (*limited line fishing*) in the CPZ (refer to the Regulations for the definition of *hook*).

Trolling means fishing by means of a line or lines trailed behind a vessel that is *under way* and using not more than **three** lines with a combined total of not more than **six hooks** per person (refer to the Regulations for the definition of *under way*). *Trolling* in the BZ may only be undertaken for *pelagic species* and seasonal closures apply to some BZs. A list of *pelagic species* is contained in the Regulations.

Spearfishing

Recreational spearfishing (*limited spearfishing*) means fishing with a spear or spear gun not using a powerhead; firearm; light; or underwater breathing apparatus other than a snorkel. *Limited spearfishing* is allowed in the GUZ, HPZ and CPZ. However, due to concerns raised in submissions, Public Appreciation Special Management Areas (SMAs) restrict spearfishing in some parts of the CPZ.

Concerns raised largely were regarding pre-existing areas where spearfishing was previously not allowed or in areas where there are spearfishing restrictions under Queensland Fisheries legislation. These Public Appreciation Special Management Areas are depicted on zoning maps by a pink dashed line. Refer to the Regulations, Section 4.2 of the Zoning Plan and Section 4.6.8. (Designated Areas) of this document for more information.

Limited collecting

Limited collecting, which includes the recreational collecting of shells, fish and bait by hand or hand-held implement is allowed in the GUZ, HPZ and CPZ. A possession limit of five of each species generally applies, however different limits may apply for some species (e.g. oysters). If not referred to by the Regulations, the limits are as stated in the Queensland Fisheries Regulations. Refer to the Regulations and Queensland *Fisheries Regulations* 1995, for more information.

Crabbing (trapping) and bait netting

The new Zoning Plan maintains the previous definitions, and use and entry provisions, for recreational crabbing (trapping) (*limited trapping*) and *bait netting* and provides for these activities to occur in the GUZ, HPZ and CPZ (refer to the Regulations for the definition of *bait netting* and *limited trapping*).

4.6.3. Commercial fishing activities

The GBRMPA has updated and standardised the use and entry provisions, and definitions for commercial fishing activities. The types of commercial fishing allowed in each zone are summarised in the activities matrix (Table 2 in Section 4.3. (Activities allowed in zones)) and more detail about provisions is provided below. It is important to note that Queensland fisheries legislation (e.g. Fishery Management Plans, possession limits, regulations restricting gear use, and seasonal closures) apply to all fishing activities conducted in the Marine Park.

Trawling

The new Zoning Plan generally maintains previous management arrangements for the trawl fishery but mirrors all permanent trawl closures under the Queensland *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* by zoning such areas at least HPZ (refer to the Regulations for the definition of *stowed and secured*).

Line fishing and trolling

As described above (Section 4.6.2. (Recreational fishing activities)), *line fishing* is provided for in the GUZ, HPZ and CPZ, and *trolling* is allowed in the GUZ, HPZ, CPZ and BZ. *Line fishing* may be conducted with not more than **three** hand-held rods or handlines with a combined total of not more than **six** hooks per person in GUZ and HPZ, and not more than **one** hand-held rod or handline with **one** hook per person (*limited line fishing*) in the CPZ (refer to the Regulations for definition of *hook*).

Trolling means fishing by means of a line or lines trailed behind a vessel that is *under way* and using not more than **three** lines with a combined number of not more than **six** hooks per person (refer to the Regulations for the definition of *under way*). *Trolling* in the BZ may only be undertaken for *pelagic species* and seasonal closures apply to some BZs. A list of *pelagic species* is contained in the Regulations.

In addition, the Regulations allow no more than **one** *tender commercial fishing vessel* (dory) to be detached from a *primary commercial fishing vessel* in the CPZ and BZ, and **no** dory may be detached at any time in the MNPZ (refer to the Regulations). Some exceptions exist for specific activities, e.g. if conveying a person to land from the *primary commercial fishing vessel*, if the *primary commercial fishing vessel* is no more than 1 nautical mile from both land and dory, or if within 500m of a fishing industry service vessel at Night Island

MNPZ (MNPZ-13-1015). Refer to the Regulations for details about exceptions and 'no dories detached' provisions adjacent to the Ribbon Reefs.

Commercial crabbing (trapping), netting and bait netting

The Zoning Plan reflects previous definitions for the use and entry provisions for commercial *trapping*, commercial *netting* and *bait netting* in the GUZ and HPZ. The Zoning Plan maintains access for commercial *bait netting* in the CPZ, however *bait netting* in the BZ was determined to be inconsistent with the revised objective for that Zone.

Commercial harvest fisheries

Commercial harvest fisheries include the sea cucumber (*bêche-de-mer*), trochus, tropical rock lobster, beachworm, marine aquarium fish, and coral. These fisheries must be undertaken in accordance with Queensland fisheries legislation. The Zoning Plan consolidates previous zoning provisions for these fisheries by providing that, as a *harvest fishery*, they may be undertaken, without a permission in the relevant zones, if management arrangements for that fishery are accredited by the GBRMPA (refer to the Regulations). A permission for harvest fishing in the relevant zones applies to each fishery until fishery management arrangements are accredited by the GBRMPA. No harvest fisheries have been accredited by the GBRMPA at the date of publishing.

The Zoning Plan allows for all of the commercial harvest fisheries to occur in the GUZ and HPZ, and for the beachworm, marine aquarium fish and coral fisheries to occur in the GUZ, HPZ and CPZ. Public Appreciation SMAs restrict harvest fishing for aquarium fish, beachworm and coral in some parts of the CPZ. These Public Appreciation SMAs are depicted on zoning maps by a pink dashed line. Refer to the Regulations, Section 4.2 of the Zoning Plan and Section 4.6.8. (Designated Areas) of this document for more information.

Fishing gear stowed or secured requirements

Gear that is normally used for fishing must be *stowed or secured* in a zone in which the use of that equipment is not permitted. Fishing gear is *stowed or secured* if it is rendered inoperative and is in accordance with the requirements prescribed in the Regulations. These requirements are that:

- **trawl fishing apparatus** is stowed or secured if all nets are out of the water or the fore and aft ends of the nets are drawn up to the booms; all otter boards are drawn up to the trawl blocks on the booms or are inboard the vessel; all lazy lines are through the blocks; and the cod ends are open; and
- **all other fishing apparatus** is stowed or secured if rendered inoperative, including that all components of the fishing apparatus is in board the boat and otherwise completely out of the water.

As discussed above, the Regulations restrict the number of *tender commercial fishing vessels* that can be detached from the *primary commercial fishing vessel* in the CPZ, BZ and MNPZ.

Aquaculture

The GBRMPA recognises that there is an increasing interest in the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry both within and adjacent to the Marine Park. In assessing potential impacts associated with the operation of aquaculture facilities located within the Marine Park, the GBRMPA seeks to maintain the integrity of the Marine Park aquatic ecosystem and ensure that ecological risk is minimised.

Under the Zoning Plan, permission is required for two types of aquaculture operations within the Marine Park:

- extensive aquaculture, which does not include the addition of feed (e.g. pearl and edible oysters, mussels, scallops); and
- intensive aquaculture, which includes the addition of feed (e.g. finfish cage culture).

Please note that these definitions only apply to aquaculture operations located within the Marine Park and do not apply to land-based aquaculture operations.

The Zoning Plan provides that extensive aquaculture is allowed with the written permission of the GBRMPA in GUZ, HPZ and CPZ. Intensive aquaculture is only allowed with the written permission of the GBRMPA, in the GUZ.

Public Appreciation SMAs restrict extensive aquaculture operations located in some parts of the CPZ. These Public Appreciation Special Management Areas are depicted on zoning maps with a pink dashed line. Refer to the Regulations or Section 4.6.8. (Designated Areas) of this document for more details.

The provisions previously in the Regulations regarding the take of leader prawn broodstock in the Mission Beach Trawl Closure Area have been incorporated into the Zoning Plan. The previous trawl closure area has been replaced with HPZ, CPZ and MNPZ, however the take of leader prawns can only occur, with the written permission from the GBRMPA, in the Mission Beach Leader Prawn Broodstock Capture Area (those areas zoned HPZ), refer to the Regulations.

4.6.4. Tourism Activities

Section 32 of the Act provides the objectives that the Authority must have regard to in preparing a zoning plan. One objective refers to the reservation of some areas for appreciation and enjoyment by the public. In addition, part of the objective for the Marine National Park Zone in the Zoning Plan states to provide opportunities for certain activities, including the presentation of the values of the Marine Park, to be undertaken in relatively undisturbed areas.

Under the Zoning Plan, conduct of a tourist program in the Marine Park requires permission. This permission is jointly considered by the GBRMPA and

the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service which is part of the Environmental Protection Agency. Further management controls on tourism use are also applied through Plans of Management (in Cairns, Hinchinbrook and the Whitsundays) and other site management arrangements. For further information regarding these arrangements, please refer the GBRMPA website.

The Zoning Plan benefits tourism operators through providing standard use and entry provisions and definitions across the Marine Park.

4.6.5. Scientific research

Section 32 of the Act provides the objectives that the GBRMPA must have regard to when preparing a zoning plan. One objective is the preservation of some areas in their natural state undisturbed by man except for the purposes of scientific research. The Zoning Plan provides generally for the management of research in the Marine Park. The SRZ facilitates research around scientific research facilities and other areas of high research activity. In addition, the Zoning Plan streamlines and standardises the research permit process to the benefit of researchers using Marine Park, and will reduce number of research activities, particularly minor or low-impact projects, that require permits. A policy outlining these arrangements can be downloaded from the GBRMPA website.

Zoning for recognised areas of high research activity

The SRZ has historically recognised research undertaken around scientific research facilities and other areas of high research activity. However, access was limited to scientists only, and other activities such as education and filming could not be undertaken in this Zone.

Under the new Zoning Plan, Special Management Areas at One Tree Island Research Station and at the Australian Institute of Marine Science continue to restrict public access unless for an activity associated with the research station (refer to the Regulations). This provides places in the Marine Park where research can be carried out without the possibility of disturbance by other users, and maintains the previous situation where access to these locations was restricted. These sites are shown as orange on zoning maps.

However, in all other areas of the SRZ, the Zoning Plan allows use and entry for activities similar to those allowed in the MNPZ for all users. These areas are shown as green with an orange outline on zoning maps.

Zoning provisions and permissions

The Zoning Plan provides for a new system of managing research in the Marine Park. Research activities that represent minimal risk to the Marine Park, and are consistent with the objectives for a zone, do not require a permit in that zone, provided that the researcher is from an accredited education or research institution. Research permits are required in situations where the activity may

impact on the Marine Park, or where the activity involves extractive research in a zone that generally prohibits other forms of extractive use.

Limited impact extractive research is allowed 'as-of-right' in GUZ, HPZ, CPZ and SRZ for *bona fide* researchers from an accredited education or research institution that agrees to adopt appropriate environmental practices and standards (including instruction and training of personnel) and has an ongoing commitment to improve those practices and standards. Collection limits and the use of minor research aids are detailed in the Regulations. In addition, non-extractive limited impact research is allowed 'as of right' in GUZ, HPZ, CPZ, BZ, SRZ, and MNPZ under the same conditions.

Additionally, in SRZ 'as-of-right' research must also be conducted in accordance with a GBRMPA-approved Environmental Management Plan for the site.

Extractive research activities in highly protected zones (BZ, MNPZ) require GBRMPA permission and the research must be:

- relevant to, and a priority for, the management of the Marine Park; or
- unable to be reasonably carried out elsewhere.

Both conditions are required to be satisfied for a permission to be granted for research in a PZ.

Policy changes in conjunction with the Zoning Plan include:

- permits may be granted to cover the range of activities undertaken by research institutions (institutional permits), or research programs led by a senior researcher (umbrella permits); and
- permits may be granted for up to six years (pilot studies, the use of new research techniques, or research that may present a risk to the Marine Park may be limited to a shorter period).

Research activities involving access to biological resources will be managed in a manner consistent with Australia's international obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The GBRMPA will continue to manage the environmental impacts of access to these resources, whilst the obligation for benefit sharing agreements will be managed by the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH), on behalf of the Australian Government and by the Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation for the Queensland Government.

4.6.6. Traditional use of marine resources

The GBRMPA recognises the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners. The Zoning Plan introduces a new system for providing for traditional use of marine resources in the Marine Park, including traditional hunting and traditional fishing. Under these arrangements, the traditional use of marine resources will be managed in accordance with *Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements* (TUMRAs)

developed by Traditional Owners and accredited by the GBRMPA. The Zoning Plan also maintains the permit system established under previous zoning plans.

The provisions of the Zoning Plan provide that:

- Traditional Owners maintain access to all zones for non-extractive purposes;
- traditional fishing and collecting can be conducted 'as-of-right' (without a permit) in all Zones which allow for fishing and collecting by all users of the Marine Park;
- traditional use in other Zones will be managed via accredited *Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements* or permits; and
- the operation of Section 211 of the *Native Title Act 1993* is not intended to be affected by the Zoning Plan.

The aim of TUMRAs is to encourage a cooperative approach to the management of the Marine Park that benefits Traditional Owners and the GBRMPA, achieves sustainable levels of harvesting that will benefit species conservation generally, and is consistent and transparent.

Criteria for the development and accreditation of *Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements* are contained in the Regulations. The contents of such agreements will be established in consultation with Traditional Owner representative bodies and Traditional Owners.

4.6.7. Shipping

Ships may transit the Marine Park through the GUZ or through other zones via the designated *Shipping Area* (refer to Section 4 of the Zoning Plan). The *Shipping Area* designated in the Zoning Plan minimises the potential impact on the shipping industry whilst having regard for Australia's international obligations. The placement of the designated *Shipping Area* reflects vessel usage patterns in the inner and outer shipping routes, existing recommended tracks, and new routes to allow for growth in shipping.

The Regulations gives the definition of a *ship*. Ships requiring access to areas outside of the designated *Shipping Area*, other than in GUZs or in an emergency, require a permit. Permission may be considered to access areas of the Marine Park for special 'one off' activities (e.g. barges, dredging for special projects) subject to the activity being consistent with the objectives of the Zone.

In addition to the designated *Shipping Area*, the Zoning Plan provides a number of improvements to the management of shipping in the Marine Park, including:

- providing an updated definition of *ship* based on the Torres Strait and Great Barrier Reef (Inner Route) Ship Reporting System (REEFREP);
- allowing the GBRMPA to designate SMAs in an emergency to promote improved management of, and rapid response to, maritime incidents (see Section 4.6.8. (Designated Areas)); and

- any zone to be used or entered without permission in an emergency, including:
 - to investigate and respond to an emergency alert, save human life or avoid the risk of injury to a person;
 - to locate or secure the safety of an aircraft, vessel or structure that is, or may be, endangered by stress of weather or by navigational or operational hazards;
 - under Commonwealth law, to deal with the threat of pollution or to remove or salvage a vessel or aircraft; and
 - to provide for the construction and maintenance of navigation aids by the Commonwealth and Queensland.

Exemptions to the definition of a ship include Defence force vessels and private recreational vessels (not in charter) such as super-yachts (vessels 50 metres or greater in overall length used for private recreational activities). All *charter vessels or aircraft* operating under charter in the Marine Park, including super-yachts and cruise ships, require a GBRMPA permit.

The Regulations include a category of *managed vessels or aircraft*, which due to their speed, noise, or other potential environmental impacts, require a permit for operation in the Marine Park. This category includes hovercraft, wing-in-ground effect vessels, and hydrofoils.

4.6.8. Low impact activities (other than extractive activities)

The Zoning Plan also provides for other low impact activities not involving the taking of plants or animals to be undertaken ‘as-of-right’ in the Marine Park. This includes many non-extractive activities such as recreational diving and *photography, filming or sound recording* (refer to the Regulations for more information). Motorised water sports can also be undertaken in the majority of the Marine Park. Refer to the Regulations and Plan of Management documents for further details on the use of the Marine Park for motorised water sports.

4.6.9. Remote Natural Area and No Structures Sub-zone

Part 3 (Remote Natural Area) of the Zoning Plan retains the Remote Natural Area Overlay (RNA), which was applied in the previous Far Northern Section Zoning Plan. The objective of the RNA is to ensure that some areas of the Marine Park remain in a state that is largely unaltered by works or facilities, and to provide opportunities for quiet appreciation and enjoyment of those areas.

Within the RNA, motorised water sports are prohibited. In addition to controls that may exist in the underlying zone, the provisions of the Regulations for the RNA also limit the carrying out of certain works including the dumping of spoil, reclamation, beach protection works or harbour works, and the construction of structures other than vessel moorings and navigational aids. The provisions of the RNA have been revised to allow the GBRMPA to

consider granting permission for anchoring or mooring a cruise ship and site-dedicated tourism programs in the RNA subject to the normal permit assessment process.

A No Structure Sub-zone (NSS) applied under the previous Cairns Section Zoning Plan and had similar objectives to the RNA. The NSS was complemented, and in parts, superseded by the implementation of the Cairns Area Plan of Management. While the new Zoning Plan does not maintain the NSS provisions, if similar provisions are required in the future, they would be able to be continued at particular locations through the Cairns Area Plan of Management or by regulation.

4.6.10. Designated Areas

Part 4 (Designated Areas) of the Zoning Plan provides for three kinds of Designated Areas within zoned areas. Additional specific controls will be brought into effect on a case-by-case basis for Designated Areas through the Regulations. The three types of Designated Areas are:

- Shipping Areas;
- Special Management Areas; and
- Fisheries Experimental Areas.

These areas replace the Designated Areas that have been used by the GBRMPA under previous Zoning Plans to manage issues or activities associated with specific areas within the Marine Park. Previous types of Designated Areas often had complex provisions associated with them and, with the implementation of other more flexible management tools such as permits, site plans and Plans of Management, these had become less effective in delivering management outcomes.

Shipping Areas

Ships (such as vessels greater than 50m in overall length, specialised product carriers, and vessels towing or pushing another vessel where the total length of the tow exceeds 150 metres) may only transit zones other than the GUZ via the designated *Shipping Area* or with a GBRMPA permit. The location of these areas is described in Part 10 (Shipping Areas) of Schedule 1 to the Zoning Plan. Additional *Shipping Areas* may subsequently be designated by the Regulations.

See Section 4.6.7. (Shipping) of this document for more information about the management of shipping in the Marine Park.

Special Management Areas (SMAs)

SMAs restrict use or access within specific areas of the Marine Park, providing a responsive and flexible approach to implementing appropriate management strategies at a site-specific level. Special management provisions may apply to SMAs on a temporary, seasonal or permanent basis and are prescribed in the Regulations. A SMA may be designated for a number of reasons including:

- conservation of a species or natural resource, e.g. turtles, dugong, bird nesting sites or fish spawning aggregation sites;
- protection of cultural or heritage values;
- public safety;
- appreciation by the public;
- restricting access to, or use of, the Marine Park, adjoining areas to which access is restricted or prohibited under a law of Queensland or the Commonwealth; and
- in response to emergency situations requiring immediate management action (e.g. a ship grounding, oil spill or marine pest outbreak).

Designation of an SMA is done through the Regulations and requires the GBRMPA to undertake consultation with the community. After designation, public notices will be placed in the *Commonwealth Government Gazette*, newspapers and on the GBRMPA website to provide information on:

- the location of each SMA; and
- any restrictions that have been put in place.

However, in an emergency situation, which requires immediate management action, an SMA may be declared by public notice, without formal consultation, but may only be in place for a continuous period of up to 120 days, which can be extended by an additional 60 days if the GBRMPA believes it necessary (refer to the Regulations for more information).

Several types of SMAs are designated through the Regulations. An additional SMA is contained within the Zoning Plan for Princess Charlotte Bay and this area is discussed at Section 4.6.1 (Biodiversity conservation) and Section 7.9. (Far Northern Management Area).

Restricted Access

These areas may not be used or entered without the permission of the GBRMPA, and are designated via the Regulations at the following locations to reflect their status under previous Zoning Plans:

- MacLennan Cay Reef (reef id 11-070)
- Moulter Cay Reef (reef id 11-130)
- Raine Island Reef (reef id 11-243)
- Australian Institute of Marine Science (SR-19-2008)
- One Tree Island Reef (SR-23-2010).

Exceptions for access to the MacLennan Cay Reef, Moulter Cay Reef and Raine Island Reef Restricted Access SMAs include non-tourist commercial charter for research; filming, photography or sound recording; and management activities.

Public Appreciation

These areas restrict spearfishing, commercial aquarium fish, coral collecting, beachworm harvesting and aquaculture from being undertaken. Public

Appreciation SMAs are designated in areas of the CPZ, as they require detailed site-specific management (refer to the Regulations for more information).

- Yonge Reef (14-138) – lee side (CP-14-4017)
- Lizard Island Reef (14-116b): Mermaid Bay to Pigeon Point (CP-14-4018)
- North Opal Reef (16-025) (CP-16-4029)
- Flynn Reef (16-065) (CP-16-4035)
- Thetford Reef (16-068) (CP-16-4036)
- Fitzroy Island Reef (CP-16-4039) - allows extensive aquaculture
- Dunk Island Reef (CP-17-4045)
- Bedarra Island Reef (CP-17-4045)
- Orpheus Island Reef south-west (18-049b) (CP-18-4053)
- Davies Reef (18-096) (CP-18-4056)
- Cape Upstart (CP-19-4064) – western side of Cape Upstart
- All of the following areas of the CPZs within the Whitsundays:
 - Hayman and Hook Islands (CP-20-4075)
 - Saba Bay, Hook Island (CP-20-4076)
 - Double Cone Reef (CP-20-4077)
 - Molle Islands (CP-20-4080)
 - Whitsunday and Hamilton Islands (CP-20-4081)
 - Shute Island (CP-20-4083)
 - Long Island (CP-20-4084 and CP-20-4085)
 - Lindeman, Pentecost, Cole Island, except that part of the zone adjacent to Shaw Island (CP-20-4086)
- Brampton Island - West (CP-20-4091)
- Brampton Island - East (CP-20-4091)
- North Keppel Island - Considine Bay (CP-23-4101)
- Great Keppel Island - western side (CP-23-4102)
- Heron Reef (CP-23-4104)
- Wistari Reef (CP-23-4106)

Ribbon Reef Seasonal Closure

The Ribbon Reefs and adjacent areas are geomorphically unique as the continental shelf drops sharply away from the reef edge. Nutrient upwellings continually replenish these important reef systems and support diverse species, including large pelagic fish such as marlin. SMAs are designated at these areas to provide additional protection to the Ribbon Reefs and adjacent habitats.

These Special Management Areas prohibit all fishing and detached dories in these areas from 1 January to 31 August each year (refer to the Regulations).

Locations for Seasonal Closure (Offshore Ribbon Reefs) SMAs are:

- Area adjacent to Day Reef (14-089) SRZ
- Area adjacent to Ribbon Reef No. 10 (14-146) MNPZ
- Area adjacent to Ribbon No. 7 Reef (15-026), Ribbon No. 6 Reef (15-032) and unnamed reef (15-034) MNPZ
- Ribbon Reef No. 5 Patches (15-042) BZ (B-15-3007)
- Ribbon Reefs No. 2 and 3 inter-reefal areas BZ (B-15-3008)

No Dorries Detached (Offshore Ribbon Reefs)

For the reasons discussed above, no dorries are allowed to be detached at any time in the following SMA locations (refer to the Regulations):

- Area to the east of Yonge Reef (14-138) and No Name Reef (14-139)
- Area around the No. 10 Patches (No. 3) (14-153a) and No. 10 Patches (No. 4) (14-153b).

Species Conservation (Dugong Protection)

As discussed in Section 4.6.1 (Biodiversity conservation), these SMAs reflect the requirements of DPAs under Queensland legislation to the extent to which those areas are located within the Marine Park and are designated for species conservation. For more information about these areas, refer to the Regulations.

Princess Charlotte Bay

This SMA has been designated to reduce the threat of nets to dugong within Princess Charlotte Bay in the Far Northern Management Area of the Marine Park (refer to the Regulations). The SMA requires commercial net fishers to hold a GBRMPA permit to operate within Princess Charlotte Bay (refer to Section 4.6.1 Biodiversity conservation).

Fisheries Experimental Areas

These designated areas allow for the Effects of Line Fishing (ELF) experiment being conducted by the Cooperative Reef Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, to continue until 30 November 2005. The ELF experiment is a ten-year study into the effects of line fishing on coral reef fish stocks and involves opening reefs zoned MNPZ and BZ, and closing reefs zoned HPZ to bottom line fishing over several years. The ELF experiment is to be finalised in late 2005 and a series of Fisheries Experimental Areas have been designated to allow this important experiment to run to completion. Fisheries Experimental Areas are located at:

- unnamed Reef (14-133) - Mid-shelf reef east of Cape Flattery
 - *Reef closed to fishing (other than trolling for pelagic species) until 5 March 2005 (inclusive)*
- Fork Reef (18-083) - Mid-shelf reef northeast of Townsville
 - *Reef opened to line fishing, limited spearfishing and trolling from 6 March 2005 to 30 November 2005 (inclusive)*
- Boulton Reef (20-146) - Mid-shelf reef adjacent to Hydrographers Passage
 - *Reef closed to fishing (other than trolling for pelagic species) until 5 March 2005 (inclusive)*
- unnamed Reef (21-139) - Mid-shelf reef south of the T-Line in the Swains Reef Complex
 - *Reef opened to line fishing, limited spearfishing and trolling from 6 March 2005 to 30 November 2005 (inclusive).*

4.6.11. Additional purposes for uses and entry

Part 5 (Additional purposes for use and entry) of the Zoning Plan details the circumstances in which use and entry to all zones and areas are either 'without GBRMPA permission or notification' or 'without GBRMPA permission after notification'. This part of the Zoning Plan overrides other provisions of the Zoning Plan.

Activities for which a zone may be used or entered without the permission or notification of the GBRMPA include:

- In an emergency to:
 - investigate and respond to an emergency alert;
 - save human life or avoid the risk of injury to a person;
 - locate or secure the safety of an aircraft, vessel or structure that is, or may be, endangered by stress of weather or by navigational or operational hazards;
 - carry out repairs to navigation aids;
 - deal with the threat of pollution or to remove or salvage a vessel or aircraft under Commonwealth law;
- to perform functions and exercise powers under the Act or Regulations;
- the carrying out of reconnaissance, surveillance, or law enforcement by the Commonwealth or Queensland;
- by Traditional Owners, for activities conducted for the purposes of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander custom or tradition, that do not involve the taking of plants or animals.

The following purposes for use and entry to a zone are allowed after notification to the GBRMPA and subject to any directions given by the GBRMPA include to:

- construct, operate or service navigational aids (other than in an emergency);
- undertake defence activities;
- undertake government geodetic, bathymetric or similar surveys;
- undertake urgent maintenance or works on essential public services (including power, water, sewerage and communication systems);
- comply with an order under the Regulations or a deed of agreement;
- remove or salvage a vessel or aircraft that is wrecked, stranded, sunk or abandoned (other than in an emergency);
- respond to an emergency involving a serious threat to the environment (other than an emergency).

5. Overview of submissions and other sources of information

This section provides a summary of the two formal phases of Community Participation, the methods used to analyse the submissions and a summary of the key issues raised. It should be recognised that any summary of the content of such a large number of submissions (over 31 500 submissions), cannot fully convey the depth of information presented in many individual submissions. The full information from submissions were considered and able to inform recommendations developed by staff of the GBRMPA.

5.1. Comparison between previous and current zoning processes

The number of submissions received during the two Community Participation phases for the RAP rezoning process is the most received in the history of the Marine Park. The graph in Figure 2 illustrates the total number of submissions received for various zoning processes since 1977, compared to the total number of submissions received during the formal phases of community participation for the RAP rezoning.

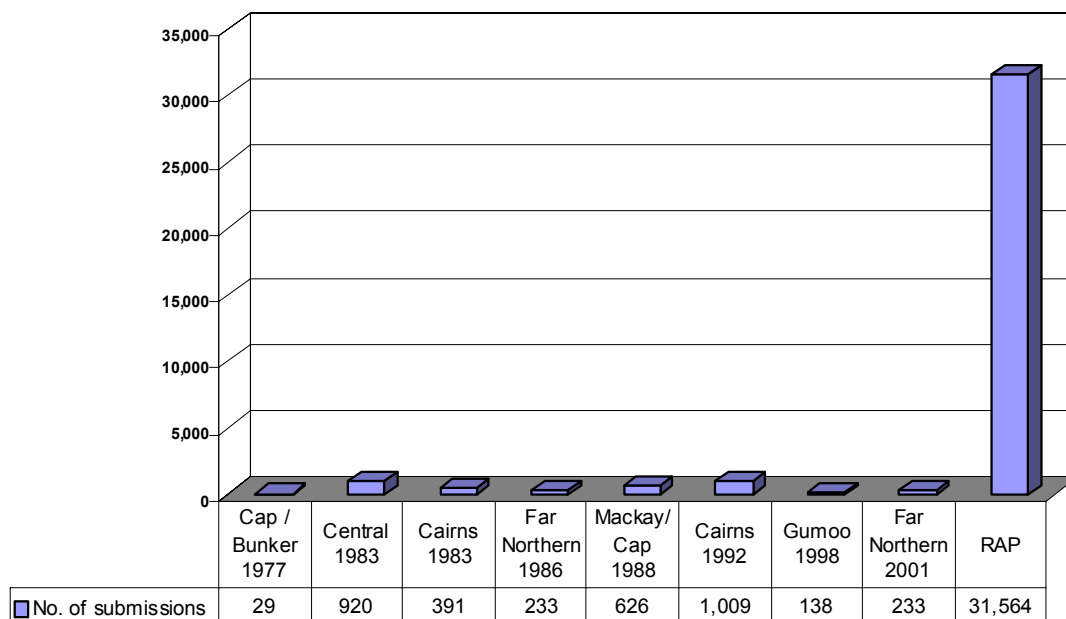


Figure 2. Submissions received for various GBRMPA zoning processes.

Note: Figures represent total number of submissions received during both statutory phases of consultation for all rezoning processes.

5.2. Community Participation process

5.2.1. Community Participation 1 (CP1)

The first formal phase of Community Participation (CP1) for the rezoning process occurred between 7 May and 7 August 2002 (a period three times the length required under the Act). The process was designed to gather

information to assist with the preparation of the Draft Zoning Plan (DZP). The GBRMPA implemented a communication strategy to promote awareness, understanding, and to share with the community the issues regarding impacts on the Marine Park, to explain the rezoning process, and to encourage broad community involvement. The public communication program included the following, approximately:

- 200 formal meetings;
- face-to-face engagement with 6 000 people;
- 1 500 community service announcements on regional television;
- 33 000 submission brochures distributed;
- 38 000 hits on the RAP web site;
- 4 000 phone calls to the free-call number;
- 100 newspaper articles;
- 60 radio spots and 10 television spots; and
- 70 newspaper advertisements.

As a result, 10 190 submissions were received by the GBRMPA during CP1.

5.2.2. Community Participation 2 (CP2)

The second formal phase of Community Participation (CP2) was held between 2 June and 4 August 2003. During this period, the GBRMPA again undertook an extensive program of public contact, involving:

- the development of a range of materials to communicate the DZP to users;
- all information was available on the GBRMPA website and provided on a compact disc (CD) (2 100 CD's distributed);
- distribution of over 10 000 packages of information, more than 50 000 submission forms, 29 000 explanatory brochures, and over 76 100 Draft Zoning maps;
- GBRMPA staff attended over 360 meetings and information sessions along the GBR coast in some 90 centres with local communities, conservation groups, commercial and recreational fishing organisations, Traditional Owners, tourism operators, local councils, and State and Federal politicians;
- meetings were held with peak organizations such as Sunfish, the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, WWF Australia and branches of the Queensland Seafood Industry Association in the GBR catchment area;
- over 35 000 'hits' on the GBRMPA website (63% from Australia, the remainder from 99 countries); and
- local media provided approximately 600 radio and TV news spots. There were 88 newspaper advertisements placed by the GBRMPA providing public information on the RAP.

As a result, over 21 000 submissions were received by the GBRMPA during CP2.

For both phases of community participation, submission response forms were developed to assist people to make a submission. Submissions could be sent via mail, email or made via a form on the website. Submissions could also be made orally upon request.

Most of the submissions that were received used the GBRMPA submission form in both phases of Community Participation. During CP1, blank maps with questionnaires were distributed to encourage input. During CP2, the form allowed people to specify the particular zone/s in the DZP they wanted modified or removed, and their reasons why. Opportunity was also provided for people to nominate those zones in the DZP they supported. In both phases, comment was also invited on any other issues, including on zoning provisions or the rezoning process.

5.3. Methods of analysis

As the submissions are not those from a representative sample population drawn from either geographical communities or communities of interest in the Marine Park, the information in each submission was analysed rather than simply recording the number of times a comment was submitted.

The analysis of the submissions was managed through a multi-stage process. During the first stage, the contact details from each submission were recorded in a database, a unique identification number was assigned, and an acknowledgment card was sent to the person or organisation that made the submission. All submissions were formally filed to ensure future accessibility.

In CP2, all submissions were also individually scanned and these electronic files (in Portable Document Format (PDF)) were saved into a custom-built submissions database.

The final stage was the most comprehensive. A team of trained GBRMPA staff, read and analysed all the submissions following a coding framework consisting of a range of themes and attributes. The coding framework was developed from content analysis of a stratified random sample of approximately 2 000 submissions based on place of origin and sector. The coding framework was tested by staff of the GBRMPA analysing submissions prior to being finalised. Consistency of analysis across the analytical team was ensured by the team leader regularly checking a sample of the analysed submissions.

A large number of submissions presented spatial information, including approximately 6 000 detailed maps. This spatial information was considered, coded and analysed spatially and linked with the other information contained in the submissions. Where the map contained detailed information that could not be coded adequately, this was flagged in the database and then considered further by the GBRMPA Spatial Data Centre where they were then either digitised and/or scanned.

An oracle database with a Microsoft Access interface was used to manage the analysis of the submissions. This database linked the scanned image of the submission (in PDF) with the contact details and analytical information for each submission. The creation of the analytical database enabled many types of queries to be made of the information contained in the submissions.

The summary of the submissions content presented here is not an exhaustive analysis of the information contained in the submissions. While important, the information presented in the submissions do not represent a random sample of the community and therefore were not and could not be used to make inferences about the views of the broader community. The submissions also do not represent a vote on an issue. Rather the RAP planning process placed importance on the content of each submission in its own right. The process for analysing the submissions presented in this report was designed to categorise and sort the content of each submission to assist staff with accessing all the submissions information and assist staff in developing recommendations about the rezoning.

5.4. Origin of submissions

Submissions during the CP1 and CP2 were received from a range of individuals and organisations. Table 3 provides a breakdown of the submissions received during CP2 based on the submitter’s self-nominated interest or affiliation. The majority of submissions in CP2 came from individuals, as they did for CP1.

Table 3. Number of submissions from CP2 based on interest or affiliation

| Interest/affiliation | Number of submissions |
|---|------------------------------|
| Business Interests | 68 |
| Commercial Fishing Organisations | 35 |
| Commonwealth Government Agencies | 6 |
| Community Groups | 27 |
| Conservation Non-Government Organisations | 36 |
| Family | 23 |
| Indigenous Organisations | 24 |
| Individual | 20 068 |
| Local Government Agencies | 8 |
| Member of Parliament | 5 |
| Other | 50 |
| Queensland Government Agencies | 3 |
| Recreational Fishing Organisations | 83 |
| Tourism Industry | 95 |
| Unallocated | 843 |

Figure 3 shows the origin of submissions received during the CP2. Of the 21 374 submissions received, over seventy-five percent came from Queensland,

with a large proportion of these coming from the GBR Coastal Communities¹. Similar proportions applied to the submissions of the CP1.

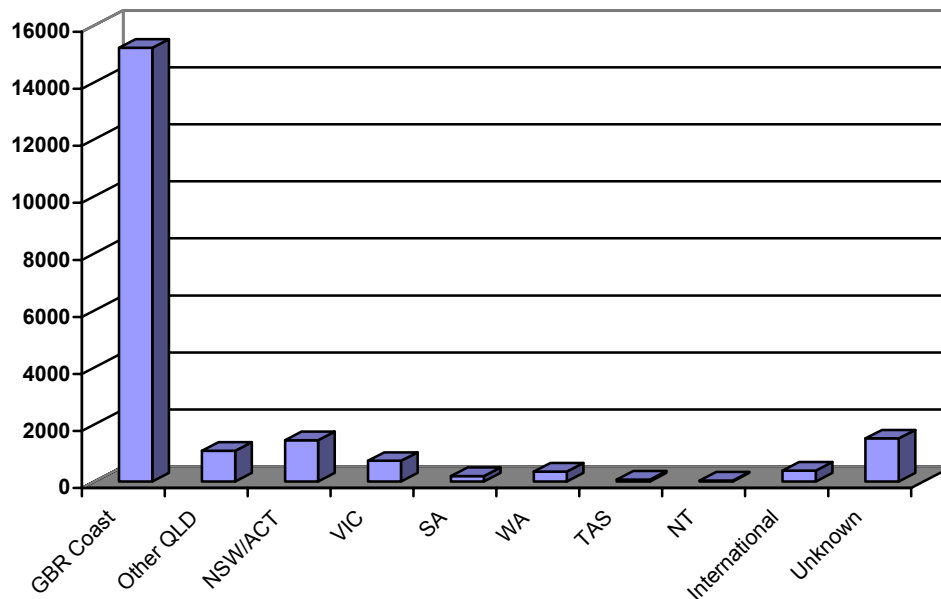


Figure 3. Number of CP2 submissions received by geographical region

5.5. Other sources of information

Submissions were an important source of detailed local information but were not the sole source of social, cultural and economic information used in the rezoning process. The GBRMPA gathered a wide range of additional information and data to develop the Zoning Plan. These included:

- Summarised spatial fishing effort on catch and value of fisheries:
 - commercial trawling
 - commercial line fishing
 - commercial net fishing
 - commercial crab fishing
 - commercial harvest fishing
 - charter boat and gamefishing
- recreational fishing (Suntag data);
- recreational logbooks and diaries;
- interview data on use and values;
- questionnaire data on use and special and unique areas;
- previous Marine Park zoning;
- permits;
- areas closed under Queensland legislation e.g. fisheries closures;
- Queensland zoning (degree of protection) of adjacent State land and waters;
- boat ramps;

¹ GBR Coastal Communities are defined as the twenty-six Local Government Areas (LGAs) adjacent to the GBR. They range from Bundaberg in the south, to Cook Shire that takes in Cape York. Twenty percent (720 000 people) of Queensland's population are residents in these LGAs.

- moorings and anchorages;
- Native Title claims;
- historic shipwrecks;
- recreational/tourism use;
- tourism and visitation settings and sensitive locations from the Cairns Area, Whitsundays and Hinchinbrook Plans of Management;
- shell collecting areas;
- Coastwatch aerial surveillance data; and
- Australian Littoral Society database (Reef & Island).

6. Issues

6.1. Conservation

6.1.1. Summary of submissions

In CP1, 37% of all submissions were received from people who identified with the conservation sector. In CP2, submissions from this sector made up 24% of all submissions. In both Community Participation phases, this sector accounted for one of the majority of submissions from communities adjacent to the Marine Park. Many submissions, especially those from organisations, local councils or community groups, stated that they represented a significant number of members or community supporters.

In summary, the major issues affecting conservation interests that were raised in the two rounds of Community Participation and submissions included:

- support for the increase of no-take areas, including specific calls for an increase in the number of PZs, and suggestions for at least one PZ per bioregion;
- support for MNPZs to cover an area greater than twenty-five percent of the Marine Park, and that MNPZs should be large and interconnected;
- information about the need to protect a range of species (e.g. dugongs, turtles, seabirds and fish), and a strong call to protect biodiversity and World Heritage values;
- the need to protect cultural heritage values and sites;
- support for Indigenous co-management and recognition of Native Title;
- concern about enforcement issues, including boundary recognition issues and calls for an increase in enforcement capacity and funding;
- concerns about the level of impact from commercial fishing activities; and
- other issues, including the need for GBRMPA to address connectivity of land-based impacts and a range of other threats (e.g. marine pollution and shipping impacts).

6.1.2. Response and outcomes

The GBRMPA recognised the importance of the issues raised by the conservation sector and addressed these issues in a number of ways, including:

- more than 30 major changes from the DZP to the final Zoning Plan to enhance protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Marine Park;
- maintenance of minimum levels of protection as recommended by an independent Scientific Steering Committee in the form of the BOPs (refer Section 3.2);
- recognising the importance of connectivity by ensuring examples of habitats across and along the continental shelf were protected in no-take zones;

- in addition to protecting ‘representative’ examples of the entire range of habitats in the GBR, the Zoning Plan provides for the protection of other areas of high conservation value by assigning protective zoning to other important habitats;
- providing for the protection of special and unique areas;
- increasing the cover of MNPZs and PZs to approximately 33% of the Marine Park and thus providing suitable protection to all habitat types within the Marine Park;
- increasing the number of PZs, to provide protection for special and unique areas, as well as providing greater representation of some bioregions which previously had no PZs;
- providing a Zoning Plan that is standardised reef-wide, contains clearer definitions, and is easy to understand and therefore comply with;
- implementation of a series of SMAs at locations that required site specific protection, e.g.
 - the SMA at Raine Island affords additional protection for important seabird and turtle nesting sites;
 - the fifteen SMAs over important dugong habitat in the southern GBR; and
 - provision for additional SMAs to be implemented to better manage site specific issues, particularly important habitats used by *protected species*, if required in the future;
- greater protection for particular species, especially those of conservation concern, in particular dugong and turtle foraging habitat and turtle and seabird nesting habitat;
- preparation and implementation of a *protected species* policy to improve the management of the take of *protected species* within the Marine Park to provide guidance to permit delegates and applicants and simplify the permit assessment process;
- providing for the protection of cultural heritage values through SMAs; and
- implementation of coordinate-based zone boundaries to enhance compliance.

The GBRMPA also recognises the importance of providing detailed, free of charge and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan.

6.2. Recreational fishing

6.2.1. Summary of submissions

In CP1, 36% of all submissions were received from people who identified themselves as being part of the recreational fishing sector. In the CP2, submissions from this sector rose to 45% and, in both Community Participation phases, this sector represented the majority of submissions from communities adjacent to the Marine Park. This reflects the importance of recreational fishing to communities adjacent to the Marine Park.

In summary, the major issues recreational fishermen raised in community consultation and submissions included:

- requests to maintain access for recreational fishing in particular locations zoned MNPZ in the DZP; especially those in coastal waters (accessible by small boats) and those abutting beaches. However, concerns were also raised regarding a number of offshore MNPZs in the DZP and their impact on line fishing;
- a range of proposed alternatives to MNPZs. These included more CPZs, and smaller possession limits and other fisheries management measures;
- alternatives proposed for particular MNPZs, including complete removal or a change of zoning type, moving them to other locations, and modifying boundaries to avoid important fishing locations;
- requests for a reduction in commercial fishing effort, particularly in inshore and coastal waters;
- support for the conservation of the Marine Park, and the protection of fish and their spawning and nursery areas, dugong, coral, and wider biodiversity;
- concern regarding the impacts of the DZP on coastal communities with respect to recreational fishing. This principally focused on potential negative socio-economic impacts, and impacts on lifestyle and family values and recreational fishing-based tourism;
- concern regarding terrestrial runoff and urban discharge; and
- concern about MNPZ boundary recognition with respect to voluntary compliance and the capacity for the enforcement of the new Zoning Plan.

6.2.2. Response and outcomes

The GBRMPA addressed the issues raised by recreational fishers in submissions in a number of ways, including:

- more than 60 major changes from the DZP to the final Zoning Plan to further minimise the potential impacts on recreational fishing;
- modifications to zone boundaries, zone type in particular locations, reduction in size of some MNPZs, and the separation of some large MNPZs into several smaller MNPZs to maintain access to important recreational fishing areas; e.g.
 - the inclusion of a CPZ within a MNPZ to surround a ship wreck off the Daintree coast to allow for line fishing; the MNPZ at Hillock Point on Hinchinbrook Island was changed to CPZ; the large MNPZ offshore from the Townsville/ Hinchinbrook region was reduced substantially in size to now consist of three smaller MNPZs that have less impact on line fishing (including trolling for pelagic species); and the MNPZ adjacent to Deepwater National Park was modified to include a 200m wide CPZ coastal strip to provide for fishing from the beach;
- provision for trolling with three lines per person in GUZ, HPZ, CPZ and BZ;

- providing a Zoning Plan that is standardised reef-wide, containing clearer and consistent definitions, making it easier to understand and comply with;
- greater consistency with Queensland fisheries legislation to reduce uncertainty;
- greater protection for fish species, especially those of conservation concern;
- equitable access to the CPZ for all limited extractive activities;
- implementation of coordinate-based zone boundaries;
- provision of electronic versions of zone boundaries; and
- improved enforcement of fishing provisions (refer Section 6.10).

Spearfishing, one kind of recreational fishing, is recognised by the GBRMPA as being selective and as having social, cultural and economic importance for a part of the community. These are some of the reasons it is allowed in over 62% of the Marine Park.

Under the previous Zoning Plans, spearfishing was not allowed in the CPZ, which previously comprised 0.6% of the Marine Park. Under the new Zoning Plan, spearfishing is allowed in the majority of the CPZs (which in total comprises 1.5% of the Marine Park) with the exception of Public Appreciation SMAs. These Public Appreciation SMAs comprise less than 12% of all CPZs. These areas have been located where there is potential conflict with users (e.g. such as tourism and research) and where spearfishing is already prohibited under Queensland fisheries legislation (this accounts for more than half of the areas with a Public Appreciation SMA).

In moving from the DZP to the new Zoning Plan, the GBRMPA also removed proposed reef-wide restrictions regarding spearfishing, including exclusion zones around jetties, pontoons, moorings and resorts. For more information on Public Appreciation SMAs, refer to Section 4.6.8 (Designated Areas).

The GBRMPA also recognised the importance of providing detailed, free of charge, and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan to all recreational fishers and other stakeholders.

6.3. Commercial fishing

6.3.1. Summary of submissions

In CP1, submissions from those identifying themselves as being or identifying with commercial fisheries accounted for 3% of all submissions received. In CP2, submissions from those identifying themselves as being or identifying with commercial fisheries accounted for 20% of submissions. The majority of these originated from coastal communities adjacent to the Marine Park.

In summary, the major issues raised by the commercial fishing sector included:

- the need to maintain access for commercial fishing activities;

- alternatives to MNPZs in general and in relation to particular MNPZs, including fisheries management mechanisms, complete removal or a change of zoning type, moving them to other locations, and modifying boundaries to avoid important fishing grounds;
- alterations to provisions for the stowage and securing of fishing gear to ensure access for transiting and to anchoring in MNPZs;
- recommendations that the rezoning should align with the Queensland's *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* and consideration of other negotiated fisheries management agreements;
- information about areas fished and comments relating to all types of fisheries in the Marine Park (including trawl, line, net, crab and harvest fisheries);
- concern that the introduction of MNPZs would have negative economic impact and a negative impact on the income, jobs, family and lifestyle of individuals;
- concerns regarding the impacts of tourism on the Marine Park, relating to a perceived inequality in allowing the tourism sector access to MNPZs;
- support for the conservation of fish stocks and biodiversity in the Marine Park, with requests for more PZs so that access provisions would be equal for all sectors;
- concern that increased MNPZs would result in more pressure on the system due to displaced and more concentrated effort from both commercial and recreational fishing; and
- concerns regarding zone boundary recognition and the need for greater enforcement capacity.

6.3.2. Response and Outcomes

The GBRMPA addressed the issues raised by commercial fishers in submissions in a number of ways, including:

- more than 60 major changes from the DZP to the final Zoning Plan, using commercial fisheries' information, including changes to zone boundaries using vessel monitoring system data to minimise impacts on the trawl fishery;
- modifications to zone boundaries, zone types in particular locations, reduction in size of some CPZs and MNPZs, and the separation of some large MNPZs into several smaller MNPZs to maintain access to important commercial fishing areas; e.g.
 - removal of a MNPZ adjacent to Wheeler Reef for trawl; removal of MNPZ from some of the reefs in the Anzac Reef Group for line fishing; removal of important trawl areas from MNPZ south of Herald Reef Prong; removal of Darley Reef from MNPZ for line and harvest fishing; and re-shaping of MNPZs and CPZs in the Capricorn Bunker Group to reduce impact on the commercial line, spanner crab and trawl fisheries.

- providing a Zoning Plan that is standardised reef-wide, contains clearer definitions, and is easy to understand and comply with;
- provision for trolling with three lines per person in GUZ, HPZ, CPZ and BZ;
- clarification of requirements to stow and secure fishing gear;
- greater consistency with Queensland fisheries legislation to reduce uncertainty;
- allowing the conduct of harvest fishing for aquarium fish, coral collecting and beachworms, and extensive aquaculture in the CPZ;
- specific provisions for commercial harvest fisheries to enable their conduct in relevant zones, without a permit, if undertaken in accordance with accredited management arrangements;
- greater protection for fish species, especially those of conservation concern;
- maintenance of access to the CPZ for commercial bait netting;
- implementation of coordinate-based zone boundaries;
- provision of electronic versions of zone boundaries; and
- improved enforcement of fishing provisions (refer Section 6.10).

The GBRMPA also recognised the importance of providing detailed, free of charge and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan to commercial fishermen and other stakeholders.

6.4. Indigenous

6.4.1. Summary of submissions

During CP2, 1% of all submissions were received from people who identified themselves as being part of, or identifying with, the Indigenous community including a number of Native Title Representative Bodies and other Indigenous representative organisations. Submissions from local councils or community groups also asserted they represented significant numbers of persons including members of the Indigenous community.

In summary, the major issues raised by submissions presenting Indigenous viewpoints included:

- support for the Zoning Plan not intending to affect the operation of section 211 of the *Native Title Act 1993*;
- support for traditional hunting and fishing in addition to opportunities for recreational fishing;
- support for co-management;
- calls for the protection of cultural heritage values, World Heritage values, and particular species and habitats within the Marine Park;
- calls for a reduction or banning of some forms of commercial fishing;
- concern that the introduction of increased MNPZs would have a negative impact on peoples' lifestyles;
- concern about the possible negative economic impacts due to loss of opportunities for tourism based upon fishing; and

- concern about impacts from shipping, land-based impacts, motorised water sports, and coral bleaching.

6.4.2. Response and outcomes

The GBRMPA is committed to the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the management of the Marine Park. Such involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Marine Park does not preclude the involvement of the wider community. Where possible, the GBRMPA has accommodated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's interests through zoning. The GBRMPA recognises the special interest that traditionally-affiliated people have in the marine environment. The GBRMPA supports the principle of regional agreements, and encourages commercial industries and Indigenous people to work towards such agreements. The GBRMPA is engaging with Traditional Owners about the management of traditional use of marine resources in the Marine Park. The Zoning Plan expressly provides for the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Marine Park, including the management of traditional use of marine resources. The Zoning Plan is not intended to extinguish native title or affect the operation of section 211 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

The GBRMPA addressed the issues raised by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in submissions a number of ways, including:

- provision for Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRAs) in the Zoning Plan;
- removal of some MNPZs proposed in the Draft Zoning Plan;
- providing for SMAs to be established for cultural and/or heritage reasons;
- providing better mechanisms and processes for engaging Traditional Owners; and
- further enabling and encouraging Traditional Owners to have their say and develop management arrangements.

The GBRMPA also recognised the importance of providing detailed, free of charge and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan to Traditional Owners and all traditionally-affiliated Indigenous people.

6.5. Research

6.5.1. Summary of submissions

Submissions from the research sector represented less than 1% in both CP1 and CP2. Most originated from scientists with research interests in the Marine Park, research organisations and organisations representing scientists.

In summary, the major issues affecting research interests raised in the two rounds of community consultation and submissions included:

- statements supporting an increase in MNPZs and the general intent of the RAP;
- site specific information to support claims for the inclusion of areas in MNPZs and SRZs;
- the need to maintain opportunities for extractive research in SRZs, around research stations, and other areas of the Marine Park;
- issues for the management of research and recommendations for zoning to include provision for various types of research;
- concerns over enforcement issues, including boundary recognition and calls for an increase in enforcement capabilities;
- the need to address land-based impacts commercial fishing, shipping and tourism impacts; and
- the need for greater enforcement capability.

6.5.2. Response and Outcomes

The GBRMPA supports research in the Marine Park and recognises the important role that research has played, and continues to play, in providing a scientific basis for management, and contributing to our understanding of the Marine Park.

The GBRMPA addressed the issues raised by researchers in submissions a number of ways including:

- longer-term permits;
- Codes of Conduct/Best Environmental Practices;
- changes to provisions to allow limited impact research (non-extractive) 'as of right' in all zones except the PZ, and allow limited impact research (extractive) 'as of right' in all zones, except the BZ, MNPZ and PZ;
- increasing the number of SRZs within the Marine Park, with SRZs adjacent to all island research stations;
- modification of zone boundaries of SRZs to better reflect the needs of the research community;
- maintaining restricted access provisions to the SRZs at the Australian Institute of Marine Science and One Tree Island research facilities;
- providing a Zoning Plan that is standardised reef-wide, contains clearer and consistent definitions, and is easier to understand and comply with;
- formulating a policy to manage scientific research within the Marine Park to provide guidance to researchers and permit delegates, and to simplify the permit assessment process;
- implementation of coordinate-based zone boundaries;
- provision of electronic versions of zone boundaries; and
- improved enforcement of fishing provisions (refer Section 6.10).

The GBRMPA also recognised the importance providing detailed, free of charge and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan to researchers, Universities, and research stations.

6.6. Shipping and ports

6.6.1. Summary of submissions

Submissions from those who identified themselves as being part of, or identifying with, the shipping or ports sector represented less than 1% of submissions received in both the CP1 and CP2. Many submissions, especially those from industry, organisations, local councils or community groups asserted that they represented a significant number of people. The main issues raised in these submissions were the need to continue to provide for shipping activities and shipping lanes in the Marine Park, including access to harbours, ports and access to highly protected zones in an emergency. However, some submissions (from outside the shipping sector) called for ships and large vessels to be removed from travelling within the Marine Park to prevent accidents and oil spills.

6.6.2. Response and outcomes

The GBRMPA recognised the importance of shipping within the Marine Park and has addressed the issues raised by this sector in a number of ways including:

- a designated *Shipping Area* to provide certainty of access for shipping in the Marine Park, and allowing ships to transit the Marine Park 'as of right' in either the GUZ. The placement of the designated *Shipping Area* reflects vessel usage patterns in the inner and outer shipping routes, existing recommended tracks and proposed new routes to allow for growth in shipping;
- providing an updated definition of *ship*;
- allowing the GBRMPA to designate a SMA in response to an emergency, including a shipping emergency;
- providing for the entry or use of any zone (including a zone or part of a zone in the Remote Natural Area or the designated *Shipping Area*) without written permission, to investigate and respond to an emergency alert; save human life or avoid the risk of injury to a person; to locate or secure the safety of an aircraft, vessel or structure that is, or may be, endangered by stress of weather or by navigational or operational hazards; and, under Commonwealth law, to deal with the threat of pollution and to remove or salvage a vessel or aircraft;
- providing for the construction and maintenance of navigation aids by the Commonwealth and Queensland; and
- implementation of coordinate-based zone boundaries.

The GBRMPA also recognised the importance of providing detailed, free of charge and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan to the shipping industry and other stakeholders.

6.7. Residents of the area

6.7.1. Summary of submissions

In CP1, 4% percent of submissions received originated from people who identified themselves as being part of, or identifying as a resident of, a GBR coastal community. In CP2, this sector accounted for 1.5% of all submissions. However, this percentage reflects the fact that many residents of these communities primarily identified themselves as being part of other sectors (e.g. recreational and commercial fishers, conservation etc.). Many submissions, especially those from industry, organisations, local councils or community groups, asserted that they represented a significant number of people.

In summary, the major issues raised by submissions from those who primarily identified themselves as residents of coastal communities adjacent to the Marine Park included:

- the need to maintain access for recreational and/or commercial fishing;
- the need to maintain access to beaches, and both inshore and offshore waters adjacent to urban areas. A large number of submissions requested maintaining access for recreational fishing to inshore areas accessible by small boats;
- greater protection of the Marine Park by reducing or banning some types of commercial fishing;
- a range of alternatives to MNPZs such as more CPZs and making greater use of fisheries regulations (including possession limits and size restrictions);
- concerns at the possible socio-economic impacts of increased MNPZs;
- the need to address land-based impacts, commercial shipping and tourism impacts;
- the need for greater enforcement capability; and
- the need for identifiable or coordinate-based zone boundaries.

6.7.2. Response and outcomes

The GBRMPA recognised the importance of the Marine Park to coastal communities, and addressed the issues raised by residents of the GBR coastal community in a number of ways including:

- implementation of coordinate-based zone boundaries and recognising that many recreational boats lack GPS, also aligning many boundaries of inshore zones with identifiable landmarks or other features;
- modifications to zone boundaries, zone type in particular locations, reduction in size of some MNPZs, and the separation of some large MNPZs to accommodate local users, e.g.
 - the MNPZ at the mouth of Maria Creek has been moved to allow a HPZ strip to provide for beach fishing; the boundaries of the Barnard Islands MNPZ have been modified to minimise the potential impact on the local commercial and recreational fisheries;

and the Kurrimine Beach CPZ has been modified to include a 400m wide HPZ coastal strip to allow commercial netting to continue;

- providing a Zoning Plan that is standardised reef-wide, containing clearer and consistent definitions, and that is easy to understand and comply with;
- implementation of a series of SMAs at locations that require localised, site-specific management;
- greater consistency with Queensland fisheries legislation to reduce uncertainty;
- provision of electronic versions of zone boundaries; and
- improved enforcement of fishing provisions (refer Section 6.10).

The GBRMPA also recognised the importance of providing detailed, free of charge and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan to the community.

6.8. Tourism

6.8.1. Summary of submissions

Submissions from people who identified themselves as being part of, or identifying with, the tourism industry accounted for just over 1% of those received in the CP1. In the CP2, 1% of all representations originated from this group. Analysis of these submissions revealed a distinction between most that supported an increase in MNPZs for non-extractive tourism, and those that advocated no increase in MNPZs due to the need to maintain opportunity for tourism-based fishing. Many submissions, especially those from industry, organisations, local councils or community groups, asserted that they represented a significant number of members or community supporters.

Submissions mainly commented on the two major tourism areas within the Marine Park, the Whitsundays and Cairns regions, with the two main issues being either access to areas for charter/gamefishing tourism, or protection of areas for dive tourism.

In summary, the major issues affecting tourism interests that were raised in the two rounds of community consultation and submissions included:

- support for MNPZs to be interconnected;
- support for the increase of no-take areas, including specific calls for MNPZs to cover greater than 25% of the Marine Park;
- information about the need to protect a range of habitats and species (e.g. dugong, turtles, coral, seabirds) and a strong call to protect biodiversity, World Heritage values, and sites of commercial tourism such as the Ribbon Reefs;
- concern about enforcement issues, including boundary recognition;
- calls for an increase in enforcement capacity and funding;

- concern over potential economic impact on smaller communities if opportunities for fishing-based activities were denied due to increased MNPZs;
- calls that commercial fishing should be reduced and in some areas removed completely; and
- the need for the GBRMPA to address land-based impacts, anchor damage and mooring allocation.

6.8.2. Response and outcomes

The GBRMPA recognised the importance of tourism with the Marine Park, and addressed the issues raised by both tourism sectors in a number of ways including:

- more than 30 changes from the DZP to the final Zoning Plan to recognise and better complement tourism use, protect key dive sites, and minimise the potential impacts on tourism;
- providing a Zoning Plan that is standardised reef-wide, contains clearer definitions, and is easy to understand and comply with;
- changes in provisions to assist charter and gamefishing in the CPZ and BZ;
- modifications to zone boundaries, zone types in particular locations, zone objectives for the MNPZ, reduction in size of some MNPZs, and the separation of some large MNPZs into several smaller MNPZs; e.g.
 - changes to address concerns of dive tourist operators, including protection of important dive sites on Ribbon Reef No 10 (which includes the Cod Hole), Agincourt, Hastings, Norman, Mantis, North and South Small Detached, and Moore Reefs, and Whitehaven Beach in the Whitsundays. Changes to address concerns of charter/gamefishing operators including the BZ adjacent to the Ribbon Reefs, and excluding important reefs and sites from MNPZ such as Morning, Evening and Mackay Reefs and billfish grounds north of Hayman Island;
- provision for trolling for pelagic species with three lines per person in GUZ, HPZ, CPZ and BZ;
- greater consistency with Queensland fisheries legislation to reduce uncertainty;
- implementation of a series of SMAs at locations that require site-specific management;
- implementation of coordinate-based zone boundaries;
- provision of electronic versions of zone boundaries; and
- improved enforcement of fishing provisions (refer Section 6.10).

The GBRMPA also recognised the importance of providing detailed, free of charge and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan to the tourism industry and other stakeholders.

6.9. Recreational pursuits (non-extractive)

6.9.1. Summary of submissions

This sector principally represents those users or visitors to the Marine Park undertaking non-extractive recreational activities. These included swimming and snorkelling, SCUBA diving, recreational boating and sailing and motorised water sports. These submissions accounted for approximately 5% of the submissions received in CP1 and less than 2% in CP2. The majority were from people living in coastal communities adjacent to the Marine Park. Many submissions, especially those from industry, organisations, local councils and community groups asserted that they represented a significant number of members or community supporters.

In summary, the major issues raised by submissions from the non-extractive recreational use sector included:

- calls to reduce recreational fishing, although a number of submissions also presented concern over possible lifestyle impacts if opportunities for recreational fishing were reduced;
- support for MNPZs to increase the benefits for tourism;
- support for the increase of no-take areas, including specific calls for an increase in the number of PZs, for MNPZs to cover greater than 25% of the Marine Park;
- support for MNPZs being interconnected, and suggestions for MNPZs to abut urban areas;
- information about the need to protect a range of habitats and species (e.g. dugong, turtles, coral, dolphin) and a strong call to protect biodiversity and World Heritage values;
- concern about the level of commercial fishing and damage done to the Marine Park ecosystem by certain types of commercial fishing;
- the need for GBRMPA to address connectivity with land-based impacts and a range of other threats (e.g. marine pollution, coral bleaching, anchor damage and shipping impacts);
- concern over possible socio-economic and lifestyle impacts if opportunities for recreational and/or commercial fishing access were reduced; and
- the need to increase funding and capabilities for enforcement of the Zoning Plan.

6.9.2. Response and outcomes

The GBRMPA recognised the importance of maintaining the lifestyle and recreational pursuits for those living adjacent to, or visiting, the Marine Park and recommendations on zoning were influenced by these considerations. Many of the issues raised in these submissions have also been raised through other sectors. The GBRMPA also recognised the importance of providing detailed, free of charge and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan to those living adjacent to, or visiting the Marine Park.

6.10. Compliance, surveillance and enforcement

6.10.1. Summary of submissions

A considerable number of submissions received in both phases of community and stakeholder consultation raised compliance, surveillance and enforcement issues relating to the rezoning of the Marine Park. These included:

- MNPZs will not be effective if there is inadequate enforcement capacity;
- zone boundaries in coastal and inshore waters should be able to be identified by landmarks where possible, and be coordinate-based in both inshore and offshore waters; and
- the need to improve enforcement capacity, increase fines and penalties, and increase funds for enforcement.

6.10.2. Responses and outcomes

The GBRMPA acknowledges that the rezoning will not achieve successful outcomes for the Marine Park and its users without effective and efficient compliance and enforcement.

As such, the rezoning is supported by a comprehensive education and enforcement strategy that has been designed to facilitate compliance through:

- a Zoning Plan that is standardised reef-wide, with consistent use and entry provisions and clearer definitions that are easy to understand, comply with, and enforce;
- implementing coordinate-based zone boundaries so that the new zones can be easily identified with GPS, plotted on a chart or loaded into electronic products;
- recognising that many recreational boats may not have GPS, aligning many boundaries of inshore zones with identifiable landmarks or other features;
- establishing boundaries of MNPZs so they reduce the past compliance and enforcement problems of having reefs or areas with fishing restrictions adjacent to, or close to, reefs open to fishing;
- the 1:250 000 detail maps showing the GPS coordinates for the MNPZ and PZ;
- providing detailed, free of charge and easy to understand information products on the Zoning Plan; and
- improved enforcement of fishing provisions (refer Section 6.10).

The Australian government has greatly strengthened the Great Barrier Reef enforcement and public awareness program through the allocation of additional funding for the next three years. This will enable:

- increased patrol frequency and range;
- greater use of intelligence gathering and analysis to facilitate strategic and tactical planning of operations;

- greater frequency of detection and successful prosecution of offenders; and
- increased cooperation between all enforcement agencies resulting in improved surveillance and compliance.

Technology is also playing an increasingly important role in enforcement in the Marine Park. The GBRMPA is now able to track the movements of over 500 commercial fishing vessels fitted with vessel monitoring system (VMS) satellite transponders. High-resolution photography, night vision equipment, GPS and forensic chemical analysis are also increasingly being used in surveillance and to provide evidence in prosecutions. Satellite imagery and acoustic techniques are also currently being investigated for their potential in aiding surveillance and enforcement in the Marine Park.

6.11. Other issues

6.11.1. Summary of submissions

Many submissions from all sectors called for the GBRMPA to address land-based impacts on the Marine Park. Other issues raised included marine pollution, rare and threatened species, ecological impacts of commercial fishing, coral bleaching, shipping and anchor damage. A number of submissions that originated from people who do not identify themselves as being Indigenous Australians, also discussed the need to consider native title and Indigenous aspirations for co-management of the Marine Park.

6.11.2. Responses and outcomes

The GBRMPA has several important strategies and programs in place to manage other issues within the Marine Park. Some of the more frequent 'other' issues raised, and the ways they are being addressed include:

Water quality and coastal development

The GBRMPA and the Australian government Department of Environment and Heritage are currently working closely with Queensland and local governments on catchment issues that affect the GBR. These include downstream effects of agriculture and grazing, and the impacts of urban discharge, heavy metals and pesticides on the marine environment.

Tourism and Recreation

A range of tourism management tools have been implemented cooperatively with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, part of the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, including permits, boat ramp signs and zoning maps, Plans of Management for high-use areas, Codes of Practice, and site-specific site management arrangements. Best-practice operations for the tourism industry are also encouraged through education and training programs.

Managing Protecting Species

Specific policies and initiatives for management of protected species and invertebrates, including dugong, whales, dolphins, turtles, seabirds and some fish species, have been implemented or are currently being developed in conjunction with other agencies, including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service as part of the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, and the Australian government Department of Environment and Heritage. Some of these initiatives include:

- implementation of the Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia (Environment Australia 2003);
- development of a Threat Abatement Plan to address negative impacts of marine debris, to which the GBRMPA provides advice; and
- the monitoring of stranded marine mammals and turtles (managed in collaboration with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency – particularly the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service).

Helping ensure ecological sustainability of fisheries

The GBRMPA works closely with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and the Australian government Department of the Environment and Heritage to help ensure the sustainability of fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Input to Queensland's fisheries management plans, such as the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* and *Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Management Plan 2003*, has helped improve the ecological sustainability of fishing activities.

7. Zone placement, examples and basis for zoning

As described in Section 5, the GBRMPA considered all submissions received during both phases of Community Participation, commercial and recreational datasets, together with the known uses and values of the Marine Park. Considerable effort was made to maximise the positive and minimise the potential negative impacts on known and future uses of the Marine Park.

Guidelines were used, together with the information gathered, to assist the placement of the zones. One general guideline was to build upon, or at least maintain, the existing levels of protection. Specific guidelines considered in the placement for each of the zones are discussed below.

A series of symbols is used for ease of reference throughout this section to indicate particular characteristics of a Zone or area. Table 4 lists the symbols and their associated attributes.

Table 4. Symbols and their associated attributes

| Characteristics | Symbol |
|--|--------|
| Turtle (nesting, breeding, feeding) ¹ | T |
| Dugong (feeding) ² | D |
| Benthic habitat (Seagrass, reefs and inter-reef areas) | B |
| Coastal habitat (Mangroves, wetlands, etc.) | CH |
| Adjacent to mainland or island National Park | NP |
| Surrounding land use (agriculture, urban, tourism etc) | SLU |
| Special and unique (rare or unusual sites within the GBRWHA) | SU |
| Recreational use (including fishing) | R |
| Heritage values (shipwrecks, lighthouses etc). | H |
| Shipping and ports | Sh |
| Public access (anchorage, jetties, boat ramps, marinas etc) | P |
| Adjacent town | A |
| Species of concern (<i>protected species</i> other than dugongs and turtles, for example whale sharks and Barramundi cod) | S |
| Tourism sites and transit/access points | TS |

1 Identified by the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency officer, Dr Col Limpus

2 Identified by dugong and seagrass scientists

7.1. Preservation Zone

7.1.1. Zone placement guidelines

Guidelines used to place PZs were:

- biologically significant populations of *protected species*. This criterion helps conserve and support significant populations of *protected species*, usually by conserving significant breeding habitat; and/or
- representative examples of specific habitat types. This criterion complements the RAP approach to conserving biodiversity in the Marine Park, and meets one of the requirements of the Act to preserve some areas of the GBR in its natural state undisturbed by man except for the purposes of scientific research.

Table 5. Total area of Preservation Zone in the Marine Park

| Management Area of the Marine Park | Reef-wide Zoning Plan area (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Far Northern Management Area | 0.3% |
| Cairns/Cooktown Management Area | 0.46% |
| Townsville/Whitsunday Management Area | 0.13% |
| Mackay/Capricorn Management Area | 0.13% |

7.2. Marine National Park Zone

7.2.1. Zone placement guidelines

The Zone placement guidelines for MNPZs are described in detail in Section 3 (Guiding principles for the Representative Areas Program). The extent to which the BOPs have been achieved overall are described in Section 8 (Achievement of the Biophysical Operational Principles).

Table 6. Total area of Marine National Park Zone in the Marine Park

| Management Area of the Marine Park | Reef-wide Zoning Plan area (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Far Northern Management Area | 46% |
| Cairns/Cooktown Management Area | 25% |
| Townsville/Whitsunday Management Area | 27% |
| Mackay/Capricorn Management Area | 31% |

7.3. Buffer Zone

7.3.1. Zone placement guidelines

Guidelines used to place BZs were:

- where possible, areas important for trolling for pelagic species were to be zoned BZ where surrounding reefs or waters are MNPZ or PZ; and
- to provide for future conservation in areas where there are presently few activities.

Table 7. Total area of Buffer Zone in the Marine Park

| Management Area of the Marine Park | Reef-wide Zoning Plan area (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Far Northern Management Area | <1% |
| Cairns/Cooktown Management Area | 7% |
| Townsville/Whitsunday Management Area | 4% |
| Mackay/Capricorn Management Area | 3% |

7.4. Scientific Research Zone

7.4.1. Zone placement guidelines

Guidelines used to place SRZs were:

- maintenance of areas previously zoned as SRZs; and
- the waters adjacent to the six major research institutions in the Marine Park - resulting in four new SRZs.

As far as possible, zone placement guidelines were followed (e.g. reefs adjacent to research institutions). The exceptions are the designation of four additional reefs in the Cairns/Cooktown Management Area to facilitate the types of cross-shelf research generally undertaken from Lizard Island Research Station.

Table 8. Total area of Scientific Research Zone in the Marine Park

| Management Area of the Marine Park | Reef-wide Zoning Plan area (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Far Northern Management Area | 0% |
| Cairns/Cooktown Management Area | 0.19% |
| Townsville/Whitsunday Management Area | 0.02% |
| Mackay/Capricorn Management Area | 0.05% |

7.5. Conservation Park Zone

7.5.1. Zone placement guidelines

CPZs were placed in areas with significant social and/or biological values, based on a combination of the different values described below:

- to complement the waters adjacent to nationally/internationally important wetlands, National Parks or areas listed on the Register of the National Estate;
- areas previously zoned CPZ not identified as a potential SRZ, BZ or MNPZ;
- special and unique areas where inclusion in MNPZ was not possible or necessary;
- dugong habitats where inclusion in MNPZ was not considered possible;
- turtle nesting and foraging sites where inclusion in MNPZ was not considered possible;
- areas which submissions indicated were important areas to be considered as CPZ;
- places of public access and areas of high recreational use (including fishing); and
- waters adjacent to Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) lands and identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Table 9. Total area of Conservation Park Zone in the Marine Park

| Management Area of the Marine Park | Reef-wide Zoning Plan area (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Far Northern Management Area | 1% |
| Cairns/Cooktown Management Area | 2% |
| Townsville/Whitsunday Management Area | 3% |
| Mackay/Capricorn Management Area | 1% |

7.6. Habitat Protection Zone

7.6.1. Zone placement guidelines

Guidelines used to place HPZs were:

- existing HPZs not identified as a potential CPZ, SRZ, BZ or MNPZ;
- a buffer around all islands and reefs in order to achieve the HPZ objective of '*ecologically sustainable use, including fishing*'. Trawling should generally not occur any closer than 500m from all reefs and islands and thus this guideline avoids associated impacts of trawling in these areas;
- four reefs within the Marine Park which are part of the Effects of Line Fishing Experiment and are required to be zoned HPZ for the purposes of the existing research project (refer Section 4.6.8 (Designated Areas) for further information);
- areas closed to trawl either through the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* or the Mission Beach Trawl Closure under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 198*;
- historic shipwrecks, aircraft wrecks and war graves;
- special and unique areas where inclusion in MNPZ or CPZ was not possible;
- dugong habitats where inclusion in MNPZ or CPZ was not possible;
- turtle habitats where inclusion in MNPZ or CPZ was not possible; and
- where a zone placement guideline for CPZ could not be met, the area was zoned HPZ instead.

Table 10. Total area of Habitat Protection Zone in the Marine Park

| Management Area of the Marine Park | Reef-wide Zoning Plan area (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Far Northern Management Area | 36% |
| Cairns/Cooktown Management Area | 44% |
| Townsville/Whitsunday Management Area | 23% |
| Mackay/Capricorn Management Area | 23% |

7.7. General Use Zone

7.7.1. Zone placement guidelines

Guidelines used to place GUZs were:

- where zone placement guidelines for all other zones were not met; and
- areas important for trawling or shipping which were not within 500m of a reef or island.

Table 11. Total area of General Use Zone in the Marine Park

| Management Area of the Marine Park | Reef-wide Zoning Plan area (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Far Northern Management Area | 17% |
| Cairns/Cooktown Management Area | 22% |
| Townsville/Whitsunday Management Area | 43% |
| Mackay/Capricorn Management Area | 42% |

7.8. Commonwealth Island Zone

7.8.1. Zone placement guidelines for the Zoning Plan

The CIZ has been applied to all Commonwealth Islands or parts thereof within the Marine Park. However, as detailed mapping of all Commonwealth Islands has not been undertaken, all CIZs may not be depicted on zoning maps.

7.8.2. Placement of Commonwealth Islands Zone

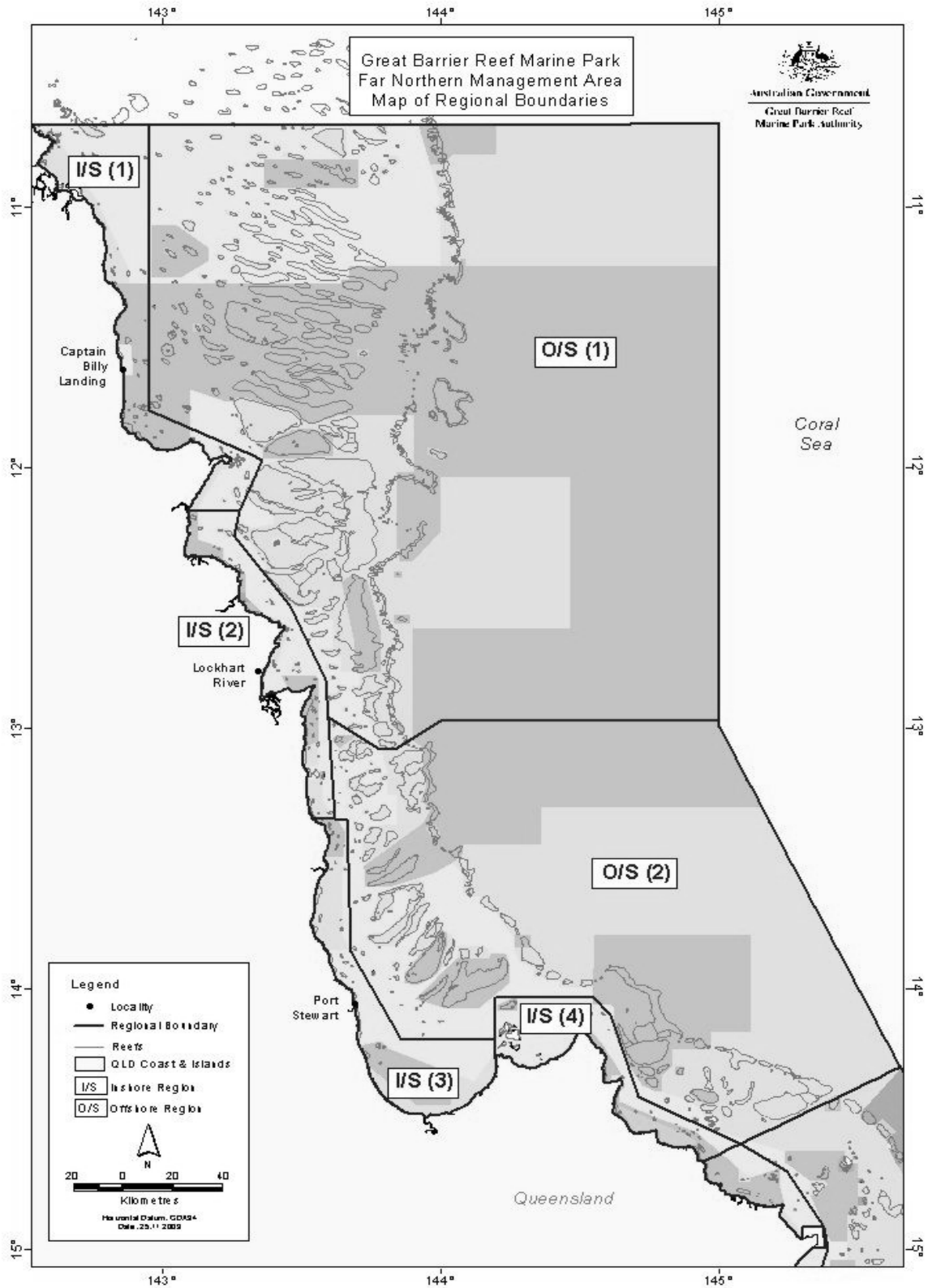
Commonwealth-owned islands and rocks within the Marine Park are zoned CIZ above the mean low water mark. The following islands, or parts of these islands, are zoned CIZ in the Zoning Plan.

Table 12. Commonwealth Islands (or parts thereof) in the Marine Park

| | |
|--|---|
| Far Northern Management Area | Albany Rock, East Hannibal Island, Clerke Island, Hannah Island, Pison Island, Coquet Island, Cairncross Islet, Restoration Rock, South Barrow Islet |
| Cairns/Cooktown Management Area | Low Isles, Palfray Island, Rocky Islet, Little Fitzroy Island, Russell Island, Kent Island |
| Townsville/Whitsundays Management Area | Dent Island, Southbrook Island, Bay Rock, Eshelby Island |
| Mackay/Capricorn Management Area | Entrance Island, Quoin Island, Double Rock, Single Rock, Black Rock, Round Island, Observation Rock, Ranken Island, Manifold Island, Lady Elliott Island, Flat Top Island, Townsend Island, Coppersmith Island, Penrith Island, Bailey Islet, Pine Islet, High Peak Island, North Reef Island |

7.9. Far Northern Management Area

This section reports on the zoning for the Far Northern Management Area and has been divided into inshore (I/S) and offshore (O/S) sections to assist in locating particular zones of interest. Map 2 shows the location of these sections.



Map 2. Guide to the zoning for the Far Northern Management Area

7.9.1. Inshore 1 – Cape York to Olive River

Far North Cross Shelf Transect

MNP-11-1004

T D B S U

See Offshore 2 – Olinda Entrance to First Three Mile Opening Far North Cross Shelf Transect MNP-11-1004

Captain Billy Landing

CP-11-4001

B C H N P R H P A

The Captain Billy Landing area is an integral part of the large Shelburne Bay region, which is a key coastal conservation area. The zone protects seagrass beds and coastal fringing reef systems and is closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*. The CPZ is adjacent to the long-established MNPZ that now forms the basis of MNP-11-1004 (Far North Cross Shelf Transect). Captain Billy Landing is one of a limited number of areas along the east coast of Cape York Peninsula that are accessible by vehicle and is a popular vessel launching area. The zone has been placed to allow access from Captain Billy Landing for limited fishing and crabbing.

Margaret Bay

CP-11-4002

D B C H R H P

The Margaret Bay area is an integral part of the large Shelburne Bay region, which is a key coastal conservation area. The CPZ protects dugong habitat and extensive inshore seagrass beds, two historic WW2 air wrecks and complements the adjacent nationally significant Shelburne Bay Aggregation wetland. The zone includes the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*. Margaret Bay is an important anchorage and transshipment point for the trawl and tropical rock lobster fisheries.

7.9.2. Offshore 1 – Torres Strait to Olinda Entrance

Triangle Reef area

MNP-10-1001

B

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NP, NE, X3, and RA1) and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ. The zone is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect reef bioregion RA1 while minimising the potential impact on the line fishery.

Torres Strait influenced reefs (mid-shelf)

MNP-10-1002

B

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NC, ND, RB1 and RC1) and is limited in placement to due to the need to adequately protect reef bioregion RC1. The

zone does not extend further to the west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery, and north and south to minimise the potential impact on the line and sea cucumber fisheries.

Milman-Aplin Reef (11-035)

P-11-2

T S NP

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RD and NB1) and includes the largest hawksbill turtle rookery in the GBRWHA at Milman Islet. The hawksbill turtle is listed as critically endangered internationally and protection of this site is an essential component of protecting the species in the GBR. Eighty-one bird species have also been recorded and Milman Islet is one of only a few islands in the GBRWHA with a snake population (amethyst python).

Douglas Reef (11-038), Sinclair Reef (11-026) and Crocodile Reef 11-034

MNP-11-1003

T B R H P NP

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RD and NB1) and surrounds the largest hawksbill turtle rookery in the GBRWHA (Milman Islet) and adjacent turtle inter-nesting sites. The hawksbill turtle is listed as critically endangered internationally and protection of these sites is an essential component of protecting the species in the GBR. The zone also provides protection to 3 historic shipwrecks and the PZ surrounding Milman-Aplin Islets. The zone excludes important anchorages, and adjacent reefs to minimise the potential impact on the tropical rock lobster fishery.

7.9.3. Inshore 2 – Olive River to Friendly Point

Temple Bay

MNP-12-1006

B CH S

The zone includes 3 bioregions, (NA1, NB1 and RE1), and protects important seagrass and mangrove habitats. Temple Bay is listed as a nationally significant wetland. The MNPZ north of Temple Bay extends into the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*. The zone does not extend further to the east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Bolt Head

CP-12-4003

R P

Given the limited number of access points to the east coast of Cape York, the CPZ has been placed within the surrounding MNPZ to provide for limited fishing and crabbing from Bolt Head.

Second Stony Point to Fair Cape

CP-12-4005

B R P

The zone affords protection for the extensive fringing reefs, seagrass, mangroves and shoals that occur in this area. The zone links protective zones from the Olive River to Weymouth Bay and recognises movement of dugong throughout this area. The zone extends into the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* to include Andrew Reef, Kangaroo Shoal and waters shallower than the 10m-depth contour as these shallower depths are important for seagrass productivity. The CPZ provides for limited fishing and crabbing.

Glennie Inlet

CP-12-4006

B CH R P

Given access points to the east coast of Cape York Peninsula are limited, the zone has been placed in the vicinity of Glennie Inlet within Temple Bay to provide for limited fishing and crabbing.

Fair Cape

MNP-12-1009

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RE1 and NA1), links protective zones along the coast from the Olive River to Weymouth Bay and recognises movement of dugong throughout this area. The boundary of the zone reflects the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*.

Pascoe River

B-12-3001

B CH NP R P A

The zone links protective zones along the coast from the Olive River to Weymouth Bay and recognises movement of dugong throughout this area. The boundary of the zone reflects the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*. The zone provides nearby communities with access for trolling for pelagic species at the mouth of the Pascoe River and around the adjacent Pigeon Island.

Weymouth Bay

MNP-12-1010

D B CH NP P

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RE1 and NA1), protects extensive fringing reef systems and complements the adjacent Iron Range National Park, which protects Australia's largest lowland tropical rainforest remnant. The zone links protective zones north along the coast to the Olive River and recognises movement of dugong throughout this area. The boundary of the zone reflects the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* and does not extend further to the east to maintain access from the settlement, anchorage and port facilities at Portland Roads.

Lloyd Bay

CP-12-4007

B CH SLU R P A

Lloyd Bay is recognised as having high conservation values, including a nationally important wetland and seagrass habitat. Recreational line fishing occurs in the zone, although preferred alternative access points are the Chili Beach and Portland Roads areas to the north. The zone is adjacent to the Aboriginal community at Lockhart River and allows for limited fishing. The Aboriginal community derives a high proportion of their subsistence economy from the Lockhart River and Lloyd Bay area, and community members the most consistent users of this area.

Orchid Point / Old Site

MNP-12-1012

D B P A

The zone includes 3 bioregions, (NA1, NB1 and RE1), and protects important dugong habitat, fringing reef and seagrass beds. Old Site is an area of cultural importance to the Lockhart River community and is the site of a current outstation development. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and includes the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*.

Night Island (13-031)

MNP-13-1015

D B H Sh P S TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB1 and RE1) and protects seagrass and important dugong habitat from French Point to Bobardt Point. The adjacent Night Island is of cultural significance and supports the largest breeding population of Pied Imperial Pigeons in Australia. The zone does not extend further to the east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries. Night Island is a significant anchorage for fishing and cruising yachts. The need to provide for the detachment of commercial fishing tender boats from primary commercial fishing vessels when accessing a fishing industry service vessel has been addressed through the Regulations.

Bobardt Point

CP-13-4008

D B CH R P A

The Bobardt Point - Night Island coastal area is part of the McIlwraith-Lockhart area of conservation significance and the zone affords protection for extensive fringing reef systems and inshore seagrass habitat. The zone is an important anchorage for the fishing and tourism industries and allows for limited line fishing.

7.9.4. Offshore 2 – Olinda Entrance to First Three Mile Opening

Far North Cross Shelf Transect

MNP-11-1004

T D B CH NP SU R H Sh S

The zone includes 18 bioregions, (NA1, NB1, NC, ND, NE, NF, NH, NI, NP, NQ, X1, X3, RA1, RA2, RB1, RC2, RD and RE1) and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ. It affords protection for seven significant turtle nesting sites (Boydong Island and Bird Island – significant hawksbill nesting sites and MacLennan Cay, Moulter Cay, Raine Island and Sandbank No 7 and 8 – important green turtle nesting sites) and provides a buffer of protection for the PZ. The zone includes important dugong habitat (Shelbourne Bay), seagrass beds, significant bird breeding sites (Sandbank No 7 and 8 – important lesser crested tern nesting site) and the special and unique area of Moulter Reef to Jukes/Raine Reefs and south to Five Reefs. A Restricted Access SMA overlays Raine Island reef, MacLennan Cay and Moulter Cay, recognising the importance of the area for seabird and turtle nesting.

The Wreck Bay, Wishbone Reef, Mantis Reef area was identified in submissions as a unique deepwater embayment associated with whale sharks, other oceanic sharks and numerous whale and dolphin species, including sperm, killer and Bryde's whales. The zone contains numerous historic shipwrecks including the *Pandora*. The zone extends east to include the northern arm of the Bligh Trench and an ecologically significant plateau feature. Marine organisms tend to be most prolific around features such as the plateau off Wreck Bay as the flow of oceanic currents around these topographic features increases the speed of slow moving deep-water currents, thereby concentrating nutrients and plankton in eddy patches and making food available for organisms living in an otherwise nutrient-poor environment. The areas surrounding this plateau are identified as hotspots for predator diversity and is renowned for large plankton feeding marine animals.

The zone avoids Cockburn Reef and Ashmore Banks to minimise the potential impact on the tropical rock lobster fishery, and excludes an area in the south-western corner to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery. The southern arm of the zone excludes inshore reefs and shoals to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and extends east into the deep offshore waters. The zone includes important tourism sites on some outer reefs.

Unnamed reef 11-091

P-11-3

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, contains 3 bioregions (NE, X3 and RA2) and is a representative sample of broken outer and ribbon reef habitat type in the vicinity of Raine Island.

Parkinson Reef (11-058)

P-11-4

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, contains 2 bioregions (NB1 and RD) and is a representative sample of inner lagoonal reef habitat type.

Pearson Reef (11-211)

P-11-5

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, contains 3 bioregions (ND, NE and RB1) and is a representative sample of mid-shelf habitat type.

Yule Detached Reef (11-240)

P-11-6

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, contains 2 bioregions (NP and RA2) and is a representative sample of outer detached reef habitat type.

Sir Charles Hardy Islands Reef (11-184c)

MNP-11-1005

B

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NC, RC2 and RD), is a pre-existing MNPZ and complements the Sir Charles Hardy Islands National Park providing some connectivity between protected habitats. The zone boundaries minimise the potential impact on the line and tropical rock lobster fisheries.

Forbes Islands Reef (12-016b)

CP-12-4004

B R TS P

The area complements the adjacent National Park, has significant traditional cultural values and is also important for recreational and tourism pursuits. The Forbes Islands area is an important anchorage and allows for limited fishing.

Northern Small Detached Reef (12-067)

MNP-12-1007

B TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RA2 and NQ), is an isolated deep-water reef and includes important tourism sites.

Unnamed reef 12-100

MNP-12-1008

B

The zone includes 3 bioregions (RB1, ND and NI) and is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect non-reef bioregion NI, while minimising the potential impact on the line fishery including for spanish mackerel out of Portland Roads.

Southern Small Detached Reef (12-099)

MNP-12-1011

B TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RA2 and NQ), includes an isolated deep-water reef and important dive-based tourism sites.

Cat Reef (12-143) and surrounds

MNP-12-1013, B-12-3002

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RA2 and NQ) and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ that includes a BZ from the reef edge to a distance of approximately 500 metres to allow trolling for pelagic species and to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Osborne Reef (13-006)

MNP-12-1014

B

The zone is a pre-existing MNPZ, includes 2 bioregions (RC2 and NC) and is limited in placement by the requirement to achieve representation of the NC bioregion.

Unnamed reef 13-061

P-13-7

B S T

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (NQ and RA2) and is a representative sample of a ribbon reef habitat. It affords protection to the adjacent significant bird and turtle nesting sites at Sandbanks Nos 7 and 8.

7.9.5. Inshore 3 – Friendly Point to Bathurst Head

Cape Sidmouth

MNP-13-1016

B CH

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NA1, NB1 and RE1), and affords protection to shallow water seagrass and complements the nationally significant Silver Plains-Nesbitt River Aggregation wetland. The zone boundary does not extend further than the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Port Stewart coastal area

CP-13-4009

D B CH R H P A TS

The area is part of the nationally significant wetlands of Princess Charlotte Bay (PCB) and the Silver Plains-Nesbitt River Aggregation wetland and contains the historic *Stewart* shipwreck. The zone affords protection to extensive inshore seagrass habitat, and is part of a series of zones that form a protective corridor along the Port Stewart- Starke Coast (from Roberts Point to Lookout Point). In

particular the PCB and Bathurst Bay region is one of the most important dugong areas in the GBR. The zone boundary does not extend further than the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery. The zone is a major access point on Cape York Peninsula and provides for limited line fishing and crabbing.

Princess Charlotte Bay (offshore)

MNP-14-1023

D B C H S U R S

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NA1, NB1, NK and RE1) and a proportion of the special and unique area Princess Charlotte Bay (PCB). PCB is one of most important dugong areas in the GBR and also hosts significant numbers of inshore dolphin species (Irrawaddy and Indo-pacific humpback dolphins). The inshore waters support high-density seagrass meadows and high seagrass species diversity. The zone complements the adjacent mangroves and nationally significant wetlands of PCB. The zone is part of a series of zones that form a protective corridor along the Port Stewart- Starke Coast (from Roberts Point to Lookout Point). The zone is located offshore to minimise the potential impact on the inshore net fishery and does not extend further than the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Running Creek

CP-14-4014

B C H R P

The zone is an access point for Cape York Peninsula, and provides for limited line fishing and access to the coastal foreshores of Princess Charlotte Bay from Running Creek Station.

7.9.6. Offshore 3 – First Three Mile Opening to Jewell Reef

Unnamed reef 13-125

MNP-13-1017

B P

The zone includes 4 bioregions (RA2, NJ, NI and NQ), an important anchorage and provides protection to a remote tourism site that is recognised for its diversity and abundance of species.

North & South Warden Reefs complex

MNP-13-1018

B R H

The zone includes 10 bioregions (NB1, NJ, NL1, NM, NQ, X1, RA2, RD, RF1 and RG1) and builds on the pre-existing MNPZ areas of North and South Warden Reef by including Munro, Switzer and Unison Reefs. The zone does not extend further west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery

and follows the previous MNPZ boundary to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Hedge Reef (13-108)

MNP-13-1174

T D B SU

The zone includes 2 bioregions, (NH and RC2) and protects significant dugong habitat, and is part of the special and unique area Hedge, Grub and Corbett Reefs. Hedge, Grub and Corbett Reefs are geomorphologically unique as they consist of a large sediment-covered surface with negligible living coral fauna and significant seagrass coverage. This reef type is significant because it represents offshore reefal habitats known to be of importance to green and hawksbill turtles and dugongs, in contrast to the typical inshore seagrass meadow habitats. The zone does not extend further west or south to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Corbett Reef (14-016) & Grub Reefs (14-003)

MNP-13-1019

T D B SU H

The zone includes 3 bioregions, (NH, NJ and RC2) and protects significant dugong habitat, a shipwreck and the special and unique area Hedge, Grub and Corbett Reefs. Hedge, Grub and Corbett Reefs are geomorphologically unique as they consist of a large sediment-covered surface with negligible living coral fauna and significant seagrass coverage. This reef type is significant because it represents offshore reefal habitats known to be of importance to green and hawksbill turtles and dugongs, in contrast to the typical inshore seagrass meadow habitats. The zone does not extend further west or south to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Clack Reef (14-017)

MNP-14-1020

T SU R

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB1 and RC2) and the Clack Reef and Island special and unique area. The zone protects significant hawksbill and green turtle foraging areas. The boundary of the zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

King Island Reef (14-018) and surrounds

MNP-14-1021, B-14-3004

B NP P

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RC2 and NB1) and is largely unchanged from the previous zoning. The zone includes an anchorage and the BZ has been maintained to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery, particularly for spanish mackerel.

Stapleton Island Reef (14-054)

MNP-14-1024

B P

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RG1 and NM) and complements the adjacent Stapleton Island National Park, fringing reef and is an important anchorage.

Combe Reef (14-063)

MNP-14-1026

B

The zone is a pre-existing MNPZ and includes 2 bioregions (RG1 and NM). The zone does not extend to the north to minimise the potential impact on the sea cucumber fishery.

Howick Group

CP-14-4016

T D B SU Sh P TS

The zone complements the adjacent Howick Group National Park, and is adjacent to the inner route of the shipping channel. The CPZ affords protection to dugongs and a significant hawksbill turtle foraging area. The zone has been placed to allow limited line fishing and is of significance as an anchorage.

7.9.7. Inshore 4 – Bathurst Head to Jeannie River

Bathurst Bay and Flinders Island Group

CP-14-4010

D B CH NP SU R P S TS

Bathurst Bay and the adjacent PCB area support some of the highest densities of dugong in Queensland with high-density seagrass meadows and significant seagrass species diversity. The area is also important for rare inshore dolphin species (Irrawaddy, Indo-pacific humpback dolphins). The zone complements the nationally significant Bathurst Bay-Cape Melville wetlands and adjacent Cape Melville National Park. The zone has been extended west to afford protection to extensive inshore seagrass habitat, and is part of a series of zones that form a protective corridor along the Port Stewart- Starke Coast (from Roberts Point to Lookout Point). Bathurst Bay, including Bathurst Head is one of a limited number of access points to east coast of Cape York Peninsula and includes sheltered anchorages. The zone has been placed to allow for limited line fishing and crabbing, while the zone does not extend to the north-east, seaward of the Flinders Island, to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Cape Melville – Ninian Bay

MNP-14-1022

D B CH NP SU R

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NA1, NB1, and RE2) and is adjacent to Cape Melville National Park. The zone builds on and joins a pre-existing MNPZ to incorporate important dugong habitat (Lookout Point to Barrow Point),

shallow water seagrass and the special and unique area Starcke River Region from Ninian Bay to Lookout Point. The zone affords protection to extensive inshore seagrass habitat, and is part of a series of zones that form a protective corridor for dugong movement along the Port Stewart- Starke Coast (Roberts Point to Lookout Point). The Cape Melville to Lookout Point coastal area is one of the most important areas for dugong in the GBR. The zone boundary does not extend further than the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Ninian Bay

CP-14-4015

B NP SU R P

The zone is adjacent to Cape Melville National Park and is part of a series of zones that form a protective corridor along the Port Stewart- Starke Coast (Roberts Point to Lookout Point). The zone includes an anchorage and affords protection to seagrass beds whilst maintaining access for limited fishing and crabbing. Regular access is undertaken by the Traditional Owners of the area.

Barrow Point to Lookout Point

MNP-14-1025

D B CH NP SU R P S

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NA1, NM, RE2 and RF1), is adjacent to Cape Melville National Park and the Newlands and Hopevale Land Trusts. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ, includes the Turtle Group (14-120) and incorporates important dugong habitat (Barrow Point to Lookout Point), shallow water seagrass and the special and unique area Starcke River Region from Ninian Bay to Lookout Point. The zone affords protection to extensive inshore seagrass habitat, and is part of a series of zones that form a protective corridor for dugong movement along the Port Stewart- Starke Coast (Roberts Point to Lookout Point). The Cape Melville to Lookout Point coastal area is one of the most important areas for dugong in the GBR.

The northern zone boundary extends slightly beyond the trawl closure under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* to offer a buffer of protection to the significant ecological values of the area. The zone excludes Petherbridge Islets (14-122) which is an important anchorage and to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Wakooka Creek to Dead Dog Creek

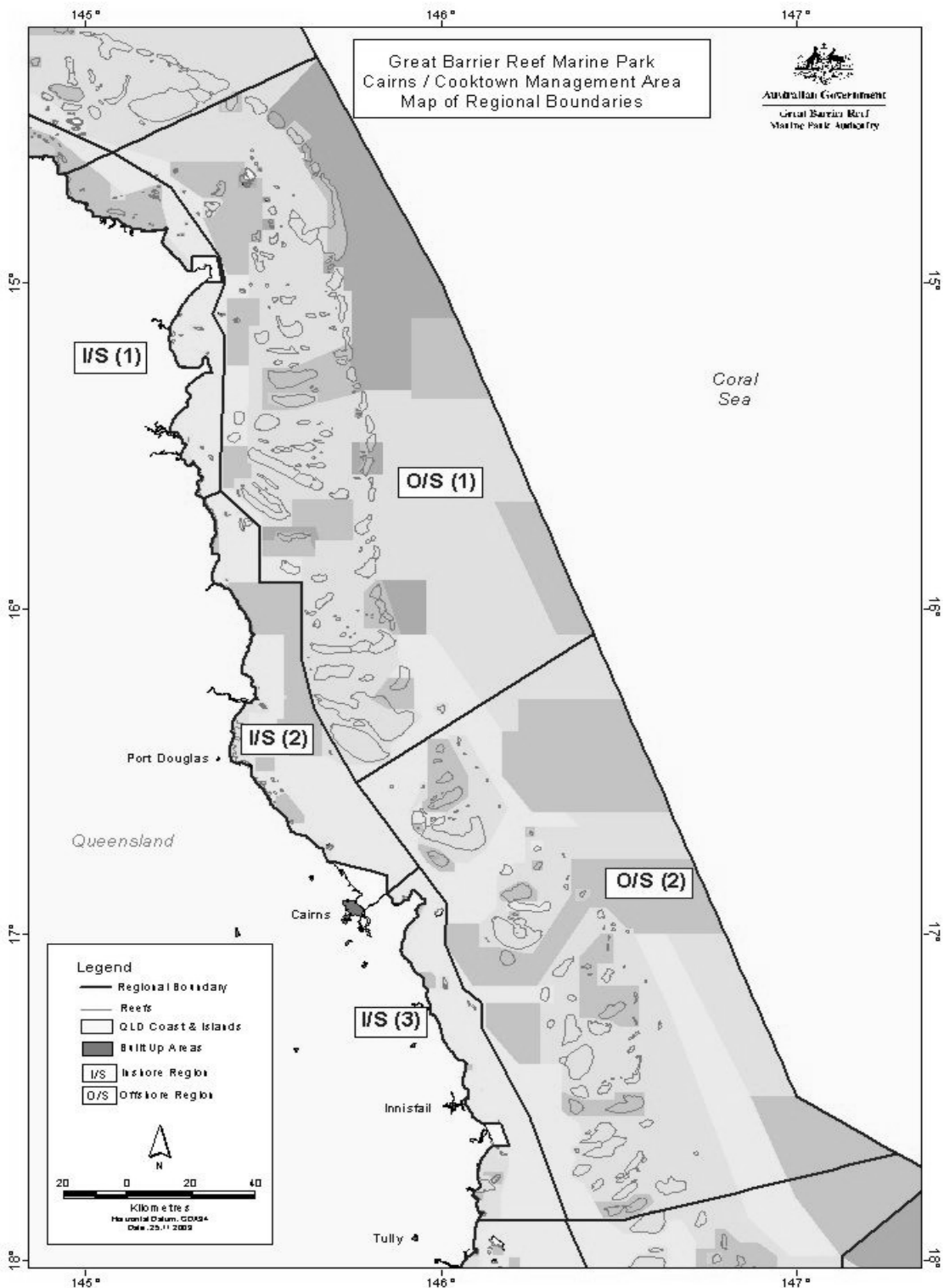
P-14-9

D B SU

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (NA1 and RF1) and affords a high level of protection to the extensive seagrass habitat and the area supports the highest density of dugong in the Marine Park. The Weigall Reefs have been removed from the zone to provide access to this area for the local Aboriginal community.

7.10. Cairns/Cooktown Management Area

This section reports on the zoning for the Cairns/Cooktown Management Area and has been divided into inshore (I/S) and offshore (O/S) sections to assist in locating particular zones of interest. Map 3 shows the location of these sections.



Map 3. Guide to the zoning for the Cairns/Cooktown Management Area

7.10.1. Inshore 1 – Jeannie River to Forsberg Point

Starcke River mouth

CP-14-4019

CH R P

As access points are restricted along Cape York Peninsula, the zone reflects an important area for coastal access. Limited fishing is provided for at the mouth of the Starcke River, out to approximately 100m from the coastline at mean low water, adjacent to the Cook Shire Landing Reserve.

Lookout Point coastal area

CP-14-4114

CH R P

As access points are restricted along Cape York Peninsula, the zone reflects an important area for coastal access. Limited fishing is provided for along the esplanade at Lookout Point, out to approximately 100m from the coastline at mean low water.

Decapolis Reef (14-131)

MNP-14-1032

B P

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RF1 and NB3), was previously zoned MNPZ and is a significant inshore anchorage. The zone also provides protection for Decapolis Reef which is adjacent to a representative example of an inshore, low wooded island.

Bedford Bay

CP-15-4020

CH P A

The zone reflects the conservation values of the area for dugong and acknowledges the use of the area by the Aboriginal community at Elim/Hopevale. Cape Bedford is an important anchorage for the commercial fishing industry and the zone boundary does not extend further than the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*.

Endeavour River mouth

CP-15-4021

CH R H P A TS

The zone adjoins the township of Cooktown and includes a port of regional importance for fishing and tourism in which dredging and regular maintenance activities are undertaken. The coastal dune area of Endeavour River mouth is a landscape feature of natural heritage significance with significant cultural heritage values associated with Captain Cook's landing in 1770. There area seven historic shipwrecks including the *Exchange, Wong, Hing, Pauan, Isabella, Kestrel, Sea Breeze* and the *Ruby*. The zone allows for limited

fishing while the boundary reflects the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*.

7.10.2. Offshore 1 – Hilder Reef to Trinity Opening

Hilder Reef (14-085)

P-14-8

B Sh

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (RA2 and NL1), and protects a representative example of a Ribbon Reef habitat.

Hilder Reef (14-085) surrounds

MNP-14-1027

B

The zone includes bioregion NL1 and acts to further protect the PZ. Commercial shipping is a major user of the adjacent area, which is a designated Shipping Area.

Offshore deep-water from Day Reef to bottom of Ribbon Reef No. 6

B-14-3005

B R S

The zone recognises the area's importance to gamefishing while maintaining the high conservation values of the region. The zone contributes to a fragmented cross-shelf series of protective reefal and non-reefal zoning from the Starke River area to the outer reef. The zone has been identified as a hotspot for predator diversity, because the continental shelf drops away more sharply from the reef edge adjacent to the northern Ribbon Reefs than at any other point in the Marine Park. Nutrient upwellings continually replenish these important reef systems thereby supporting diverse species assemblages (including large pelagic species such as marlin, tuna and sharks). Large areas of open ocean are required to ensure that these habitats are sustained through time. Seasonal Closure SMAs have been designated to provide additional protection to the Ribbon Reefs and adjacent habitats whilst still allowing trolling for pelagic species, such as marlin, to occur from 1 September to 31 December each year. The SMA prohibits all fishing in these areas from 1 January to 31 August each year.

Day Reef (14-089)

SR-14-2001

B S

The zone contributes to a cross-shelf series of protective reefal and non-reefal zoning. The SRZ provides for the continuation of valuable long term monitoring projects and further research to be undertaken from Lizard Island Research Station. The zone does not extend further east to minimise the potential impact on gamefishing. Seasonal Closure SMAs have been designated for the adjoining BZ to provide additional protection to the Ribbon Reefs and

adjacent habitats. The SMA prohibits all fishing in these areas from 1 January to 31 August each year.

Carter Reef (14-137)

P-14-10

B S

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NR, NQ RA2 and NL1) and builds on an existing PZ identified by scientists as an effective and reliable source reef producing enough larvae to maintain its home population as well as supplementing the populations of nearby coral reefs. The PZ also provides for the continuation of valuable long-term research and monitoring projects.

Yonge Reef (14-138)

SR-14-2002

B S

The zone contributes to a cross-shelf series of protective reefal and non-reefal zoning. The SRZ provides for the continuation of valuable long term monitoring projects and further research to be undertaken by Lizard Island Research Station. The zone does not extend further east to minimise the potential impact on gamefishing. Seasonal Closure SMAs have been designated for the adjoining BZ to provide additional protection to the Ribbon Reefs and adjacent habitats. The SMA prohibits all fishing in these areas from 1 January to 31 August each year.

Yonge Reef (14-138) – lee side

CP-14-4017

B R P S

The zone recognises the significance of this reef as an important anchorage. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

Nymph Reef (14-115), Eyrie Reef (14-118), Rocky Islets Reef (14-132a) & surrounds

MNP-14-1029

B Sh S

The zone includes 5 bioregions (NM, NL2, NB3, RF1 and RG1), the Lizard Island Reef special and unique area and is adjacent to the Lizard Island National Park. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ around Lizard Island and adjacent reefs and complements the activities of the tourism industry within the area. The zone contributes to a fragmented cross-shelf series of protective reefal and non-reefal zoning from the Starke River area to the outer reef. The zone boundary does not extend further north or west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, marine aquarium fish and sea cucumber fisheries.

Lizard Island Reef (14-116a, b & c) including Palfrey, South & Seabird Islands

SR-14-2004

CP-14-4018

B CH NP SU R H P TS S

The zone includes the Lizard Island Reef special and unique area, is adjacent to the Lizard Island National Park, and contributes to a fragmented cross-shelf series of protective reefal and non-reefal zoning from the Starke River area to the outer reef. Lizard Island Reef contains sponges not found elsewhere and a diverse seagrass and invertebrate community including a significant population of the iconic *protected species* giant clam (*Tridacna gigas*) in Watson's Bay. The smaller islands are important seabird nesting sites and the lagoonal system formed within a complex of continental islands is very unusual in the Marine Park. A large portion of the island shoreline and fringing reefs have been zoned SRZ to reflect important current and future scientific research activities while complementing the high tourism use of the area and maintaining a high level of protection to reef habitats. The remaining area of island is zoned CPZ to allow for limited fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the CPZ. The zones build on the pre-existing zoning to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and avoids extending further east and north to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, marine aquarium fish and sea cucumber fisheries.

No Name Reef (14-139)

MNP-14-1028

B SU R S TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL1 and RA2), reflects the high conservation values of the site, particularly the iconic *protected species* potato cod, and contributes to a fragmented cross-shelf series of protective reefal and non-reefal zoning from the Starke River area to the outer reef. The zone is located adjacent to the Cod Hole Sensitive Location under the Cairns Area Plan of Management, contains important habitat for dwarf minke whales and supports several popular dive sites in the lagoon and in Dynamite Pass. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and does not extend to the east to minimise the potential impact on gamefishing and the line fishery. Seasonal Closure SMAs have been designated for the adjoining BZ to provide additional protection to the Ribbon Reefs and adjacent habitats. The SMA prohibits all fishing in these areas from 1 January to 31 August each year.

MacGillivray Reef (14-114)

SR-14-2003

B R TS

The zone encompasses an important reef for research projects and provides for the continuation of valuable long term monitoring projects and further research to be undertaken from Lizard Island Research Station.

Ribbon Reef No. 10 (14-146)**MNP-14-1030**

B S U P S T S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL1 and RA2), includes the largest ribbon reef in the GBR, builds on a pre-existing MNPZ to reflect the conservation values of the site, and, as an effective and reliable source reef, contributes to a cross-shelf series of protective reefal and non-reefal zoning extending from the Starke River area to the outer reef. The zone encompasses the Cod Hole Sensitive Location under the Cairns Area Plan of Management, contains important habitat for dwarf minke whales and complements tourism use of the area. The zone does not extend to the east to minimise the potential impact on gamefishing. Seasonal Closure SMAs have been designated for the adjoining BZ to provide additional protection to the Ribbon Reefs and adjacent habitats. The SMA prohibits all fishing in these areas from 1 January to 31 August each year.

North Direction Island Reef (14-143)**SR-14-2005**

B R T S

The zone encompasses an important reef for research projects and provides for the continuation of valuable long term monitoring projects and further research to be undertaken from Lizard Island Research Station.

South Direction Island Reef (14-147a & b)**MNP-14-1031**

B S

The zone includes bioregion RG1 and complements the conservation values of the area, which include adjacent seabird nesting sites.

South Direction Island (14-147) surrounds**B-14-3006**

B R P

The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and complements the tourism use of the area. The zone has been configured to minimise the potential impact on the marine aquarium fish, sea cucumber and trochus fisheries. The zone does not extend further east to minimise the potential impact on line fishing.

Three Islands Reef (15-005) and offshore Cape Bedford**MNP-15-1033**

B N P R P T S

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NB3, NL2 and RF1), is adjacent to Three Islands National Park and builds on a pre-existing CPZ and MNPZ removing split zoning on Three Islands Reef. The zone has been configured to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Offshore Ribbon Reef No. 6 – adjacent to the Marine Park boundary**MNP-14-1034**

B R

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NR and X5) and recognises the ecological importance of deep-water habitats. The zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and gamefishing.

Lark Reef (15-033), Ribbon Reef No. 7 (15-026) & surrounds

MNP-15-1035

B TS

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NL2, X5, RA2 and RG1), and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ. The zone complements the tourism activity in the area and has been configured to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Camel Head Reef (15-029)

P-15-11

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (X5 and RG1), maintains the previous zoning, and has been identified by scientists as an important reef for long-term monitoring.

Ribbon Reef No. 6 (15-032)

P-15-12

B TS

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (X5 and RA2). Is an area identified by scientists as an important reef for long-term monitoring and an effective and reliable source reef producing larvae to maintain it's home population as well as supplementing the populations of nearby coral reefs. The zone does not extend further east to minimise the potential impact on gamefishing. Seasonal closure SMAs have been designated for the adjoining BZ to provide additional protection to the Ribbon Reefs and adjacent habitats. The SMA prohibits all fishing in these areas from 1 January to 31 August each year.

Williamson Reef (15-039)

P-15-13

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (NL2 and RA2), maintains the previous zoning, has been identified by scientists as an important reef for long-term monitoring and an effective and reliable source reef producing larvae to maintain it's home population as well as supplementing the populations of nearby coral reefs.

Ribbon Reef No. 5 patches (15-040, 15-041 & 15-042) & inter-reefal areas

MNP-15-1037

MNP-15-1038

B-15-3007

B R P TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (X5 and RA2) and complements important tourism use of the area. The inclusion of a BZ recognises the importance of this area for pelagic fish and gamefishing activities.

Boulder Reef (15-012) & Egret Reef (15-013)

CP-15-4022

B R P

Egret Reef is identified as an effective and reliable source reef producing larvae to maintain its home population as well as supplementing the populations of nearby coral reefs. The reefs were also identified as being important anchorages to small recreational boat owners, and for commercial line fishing out of Cooktown. The zone reflects the conservation values of the area while allowing limited line fishing.

Ribbon Reef No. 2 & 3 (15-050, 15-072, 15-073 & 15-075) & inter-reefal areas

MNP-15-1039

MNP-15-1041

B-15-3008

B R P TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (X5 and RA2) and affords protection to important tourism use of the area. The inclusion of a BZ recognises the importance of this area for pelagic fish and gamefishing activities. The zone does not extend further east to minimise the potential impact on gamefishing. Seasonal closure SMAs have been designated for the adjoining BZ to provide additional protection to the Ribbon Reefs and adjacent habitats. The SMA prohibits all fishing in these areas from 1 January to 31 August each year.

Offshore Archer Point

MNP-15-1040

B R TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB3 and NL2) and does not include the reefs and inter-reef areas to the south and east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line, and marine aquarium fish fisheries. The zone is limited in placement to continue to allow for a range of activities in these heavily used bioregions.

Endeavour (15-089) and Irene Reefs (15-084) and the Inter-reefal area

MNP-15-1042

B-15-3009

B R TS

The zone includes bioregion NL2 and avoids the surrounding reefs and inter-reef areas to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line, and marine aquarium fish fisheries. The inclusion of a BZ between MNP-15-1042 and Endeavour Reef MNPZ recognises the importance of this area for pelagic fish and gamefishing activities.

Offshore Agincourt Reefs – adjacent to Marine Park boundary

MNP-15-1043

B R

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NR and X5), recognises the ecological importance of deep-water habitats and does not extend further to the west to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Endeavour Reef (15-089)

MNP-15-1044

B NP R TS

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NL2, NB3, X5 and RG1), shallow water seagrass, builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and is adjacent to Cedar Bay National Park. The zone is limited in placement to continue to allow for a range of activities in the heavily used NL2 bioregion and has been configured to minimise the impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Pickersgill Reef (15-093)

CP-15-4026

R P A

This reef is a popular anchorage, an important line fishing location and reflects the submissions from the Bloomfield community. The zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and provide protection for the heavily used reefal area.

Agincourt Reefs (15-096, 15-099a, b, c & d, 16-013a, b & c)

MNP-15-1046

B R P TS

The zone includes 3 bioregions (X5, NL2 and RA2) and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ. The zone includes several important tourism sites and known primary fish spawning aggregation sites. The zone does not extend further west to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Offshore Agincourt Reefs

B-15-3010

B R

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NR and X5) and complements the area's importance to gamefishing, while recognising the importance of deep-water habitat conservation values.

Opal Reef (16-025) and Tongue Reef (16-026)

MNP-16-1048

CP-16-4029

B R P TS

The zones include 4 bioregions (NL2, X5, RG1 and RA2) and builds on pre-existing CPZ and MNPZs. The zones include several important tourism sites largely accessed from Port Douglas. Opal Reef has been identified as an effective and reliable source reef producing larvae to maintain its home population as well as supplementing the populations of nearby coral reefs. The

MNPZ is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used RA2 bioregion. The CPZ complements the conservation values of the area while allowing for limited fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the CPZ.

7.10.3. Inshore 2 – Forsberg Point to False Cape

Forsberg Point to Obree Point

CP-15-4024

B C H R P

The zone is a pre-existing CPZ and protects an important seagrass habitat and significant coastal reef while allowing for limited fishing and crabbing.

Hope Islands

CP-15-4025

B C H R P S

The zone is a pre-existing CPZ and provides protection for an adjacent significant site for Pied Imperial Pigeons and large raptors. The zone also includes an important anchorage at West Hope Island and protects the cultural values, while allowing limited fishing and crabbing.

Cedar Bay (Obree Point to Rattlesnake Point)

MNP-15-1045

B N P S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE2), is adjacent to Cedar Bay National Park, builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and protects important seagrass habitat. The zone complements the conservation values of the adjoining National Park (old-growth rainforest and habitat of the threatened cassowary) and does not extend further offshore to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Weary Bay

CP-15-4027

B R A T S

The zone affords protection to seagrass habitat while allowing for limited fishing, crabbing and collecting in the coastal area. The zone represents the strong support expressed by the local community and has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Daintree coastal area, Low Isles Reef (16-028) and lagoonal areas

MNP-15-1047

B C H N P S U R

The zone includes 5 bioregions (NA3, NB3, NL2, RE2 and RF1), shallow water seagrass habitats, builds on a pre-existing MNPZ that extended along the coast of the Daintree National Park and complements the adjacent Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The adjacent Low Isles has significant conservation, research and heritage values and is a Commonwealth Island surrounded by a

pre-existing MNPZ. The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used NA3 and NB3 bioregions. The zone avoids the reefs to the south and east to minimise the potential impact on the line and marine aquarium fish fisheries.

Cape Tribulation to Baileys Point

CP-16-4028

B NP R TS

The zone includes shallow water seagrass habitats, builds on a pre-existing CPZ that runs adjacent to the coast of the Daintree National Park and complements the adjacent Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The zone affords protection to the conservation values of this coastal strip while providing for limited fishing, crabbing and other recreational activities.

Snapper Island Wreck

CP-16-4030

R H

The zone reflects strong support expressed by the local community and affords protection to a ship wreck east of Snapper Island, while allowing for limited line fishing.

Snapper Island Reef (16-006)

CP-16-4031

D B R P

The zone affords protection to important dugong habitat and is adjacent to the Daintree National Park, wetlands and mangrove communities while allowing limited fishing effort. The zone does not extend further east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery and was placed north-east of the Daintree River mouth to minimise the potential impact on the net fishery. The area is also an important anchorage.

Offshore Island Point

MNP-16-1051

D B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and NB3) and protects important dugong foraging habitat. The zone reflects the submissions requesting an area free from extractive use and was limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used NA3 bioregion.

Port Douglas to Yule Point coastal area

CP-16-4032

D B P A TS

The zone protects conservation values of this coastal strip, including seagrass habitat, of significance as dugong foraging sites, while providing for limited line fishing, crabbing and other recreational activities. The zone represents the strong support expressed by the local community of Port Douglas and includes a port of regional importance for fishing and tourism in which dredging and regular maintenance activities are undertaken.

Unity Reef (16-045) & adjacent coastline

MNP-16-1052

D B

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NA3, NB3, and RE3) and is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used RE3 and NA3 bioregions. It protects important dugong foraging habitat and is adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The MNPZ addresses community concerns regarding the provision of an area free from fishing and submissions indicated that this area was less important for line fishing than other areas adjacent to the coast.

Hartleys Creek

CP-16-4034

D R P

The zone is an important coastal access point for the Wangetti Beach/White Patch community. The area is also an important dugong habitat. The zone has been placed to maintain access to a small area of foreshore within a larger green zone that covers Unity Reef and the adjacent coastline (MNP-16-1052).

7.10.4. Offshore 2 – Trinity Opening to Offshore Mission Beach

Norman Reef (16-030), Saxon Reef (16-032), Hastings Reef (16-057) & Michaelmas Reef (16-060)

MNP-16-1050

B S U R H S T S

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NL2, X5, RA3 and RG2), the Michaelmas Reef special and unique area which is a significant seabird site, builds on a pre-existing MNPZ at Norman, Hastings and Michaelmas Reefs, removes split zoning on Hastings Reef and complements the high levels of tourism use of the area. The zone also includes an historic shipwreck. The zone is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used reef bioregion RG2.

Oyster Reef (16-043a) & Vlasoff Reef (16-044b)

CP-16-4033

B R T S

Oyster and Vlasoff Reefs are regularly used for recreational visitation and line fishing by the local Cairns community. The zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact while allowing for limited extractive use including line fishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting. The zone also complements existing tourism use of the area.

Upolu Reef (16-046)

MNP-16-1053

B R T S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL2 and RG2) and complements the high levels of tourism use of the area. The boundary of the zone is approximately

500m from the reef edge and has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the line, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting fisheries.

Green Island Reef (16-049)

MNP-16-1055

B R P TS

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NB3, NL2 and RG2), builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and complements the high levels of tourism use of the area. The zone does not extend further to the south-east to minimise the impact on the line fishery found to be important through submissions.

Green Island Research Station (16-049)

SR-16-2006

B R SLU TS

The zone has been placed adjacent to the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries research station, includes long-term research and monitoring sites, provides for the continuation of valuable long term monitoring projects and further research to be undertaken in close proximity to the research station while minimising the potential impact to tourism activities.

Offshore Grafton Passage

MNP-16-1049

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NR and X2) and extends to the edge of the Marine Park. The zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the shipping industry. The zone does not extend further to the west to include areas to the east of Spur, Nicholas and Fin Reefs to minimise the potential impact on gamefishing.

Euston Reef (16-063)

MNP-16-1054

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RA3 and X5) and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ. The reef has been identified as an effective and reliable source reef producing larvae to maintain home populations as well as supplementing populations of nearby coral reefs. The zone provides further protection to the PZ around the northern section of Euston Reef.

Euston Reef north (16-063)

P-16-14

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RA3 and X5) and builds on a pre-existing PZ. It has been identified as an effective and reliable source reef producing larvae to maintain home populations as well as supplementing populations of nearby coral reefs.

Flynn Reef (16-065)**CP-16-4035**

B R TS

The zone provides protection to important tourism sites while allowing for limited line fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

Milln Reef (16-067)**MNP-16-1057**

B TS

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NL3, RA3 and X5), builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and complements the tourism use of the area.

Thetford Reef (16-068)**CP-16-4036**

B R TS

The zone provides protection to important tourism sites and a known primary fish spawning aggregation site while allowing for limited line fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

Moore Reef (16-071)**MNP-16-1058**

B R S TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL3 and RG2), builds on a pre-existing MNPZ, and removes previous split zoning. The zone includes important tourism sites and a known primary fish spawning aggregation site. The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used RG2 bioregion, and avoids extending further east to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery as identified through submissions.

Elford Reef (16-073)**CP-16-4038**

B R S TS

The zone includes important tourism sites and a known primary fish spawning aggregation site while allowing for limited fishing and marine aquarium fish collecting.

Briggs Reef (16-074)**MNP-16-1060**

B TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL3 and RG2) and provides protection to important tourism sites that are recognised for their diversity and abundance of species.

Scott Reef (17-004) / Flora Pass: including lagoonal & offshore areas

MNP-16-1056

B R S TS

The zone includes 7 bioregions (NB3, NL3, NR, NS, X2, X5, RG2) and includes important tourism sites and a known primary fish spawning aggregation site at Scott Reef as well as lagoonal, deep-water, and off-shelf regions. The zone has been placed to avoid adjacent reef and inter-reefal areas to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line and marine aquarium fish fisheries. In particular, the zone avoids Channel Reef (16-075) and Outer Shoals (16-076, 16-077, 16-078, 16-079), which are important for the marine aquarium fish fishery.

North West Reef (16-072)

P-16-15

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (X5, RA3) and provides a representative sample of an outer shelf reef habitat type.

Hedley Reef (17-014), Stevens Reef (17-005) & surrounds

MNP-16-1061

B TS

The zone includes 5 bioregions (NL3, X5, NTW, RG2, RA3), and has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and marine aquarium fish fishery operating on adjacent reefs. The zone also provides protection for tourism sites at Hedley Reef.

Flora Reef (17-010)

CP-17-4040

R

The zone has been placed to afford protection to the reef while allowing limited fishing, including marine aquarium fish collecting.

Lagoonal area offshore Russell Island

MNP-17-1064

B T

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB3 and NL3), lagoonal waters east of Russell Island, and is adjacent to a flatback turtle nesting site. The zone avoids adjacent areas to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line and marine aquarium fish fisheries.

Feather Reef (17-034) & Nathan Reef (17-035)

MNP-17-1067

B R

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NB3, NL3, RA3 and RG2) and affords protection for mid-shelf reefs, including Nathan Reef, which is within two reef bioregions. The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used RG2 reef bioregion. The zone does not extend to the north or south to minimise the potential impact on the line and marine aquarium fish fisheries.

MNP-17-1068**Offshore Hinchinbrook**

B

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NS, NTW, X6) and extends to the eastern boundary of the Marine Park. The zone includes large offshore areas to protect deep ocean communities and pelagic ecosystems. The zone has been configured to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries and gamefishing.

MNP-17-1071**Beaver Reef (17-051) & Taylor Reef (17-064)**

B R S TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL3 and RG2), builds upon a pre-existing MNPZ and BZ at Beaver Reef. Beaver Reef Cay is an important seabird nesting site. The zone complements the tourism use of this area, and minimises the potential impact on the line and marine aquarium fish fisheries.

7.10.5. Inshore 3 – False Cape to Mission Beach**Mission Bay (Yarrabah)****CP-16-4037**

SLU R A

The zone complements the current use of the area by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Community. Mission Bay is closed to recreational and commercial fishing under the *Queensland Fisheries Regulations 1995*.

King Beach**MNP-16-1059**

B CH R A

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE3) and is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used reef bioregion RE3. The zone was identified in submissions as an area requiring greater protection.

Fitzroy & Little Fitzroy Islands**CP-16-4039**

B R P A TS

The zone affords protection to fringing coral reefs and is an important tourism area. The zone allows for limited fishing and an existing pearl aquaculture facility at Fitzroy Island to continue operating while reflecting the area's cultural significance to Traditional Owners. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting in the zone.

Palmer Point (High Island & Tobias Spit)**MNP-17-1062**

B R

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and NB3). The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used NA3 non-reef

bioregion. The zone has been configured to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery, including leader prawn broodstock collection.

Frankland Islands

CP-17-4042

B R T S P

The zone is a pre-existing CPZ and includes seagrass, turtle and dugong foraging sites. Russell Island is a Commonwealth Island with significant conservation, research and heritage values. The zone is an important anchorage area and allows for limited fishing and collecting.

Mabel & Normanby Islands

MNP-17-1063

B H T S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RF1 and NB3), builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and provides complementary management around these Queensland National Park islands, with significant conservation, research and heritage values.

Adjacent to Russell River

CP-17-4042

B N P R A

The zone is adjacent to the Russell River National Park and nationally significant wetlands. The zone complements the natural values by providing some connectivity between the wetlands and near-shore habitats. The zone has been configured to minimise the potential impact on the net and trawl fisheries, including leader prawn broodstock collection, and allows for limited fishing and collecting.

Bramston Beach (Rocky Point)

CP-17-4043

B R P A T S

The zone reflects an informal agreement, raised in submissions, between the Bramston Beach community and commercial fishing interests to restrict netting in the area.

Ella Bay

MNP-17-1066

B N P R

The zone includes bioregion NA3 and is adjacent to Ella Bay National Park and associated wetlands. The zone protects significant conservation values and provides some connectivity between the wetlands and near-shore habitats.

North Barnard Islands

CP-17-4044

B N P R S T S

The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ to include Kent Island. The zone is adjacent to the Barnard Island Group National Park, which contains important seabird nesting sites and is surrounded by fringing reefs. The zone has been

placed to minimise the potential impact on the leader prawn broodstock collection, while recognising the importance of the islands fringing reefs for line fishing and trolling.

South Barnard Islands

MNP-17-1069

B NP R H S TS

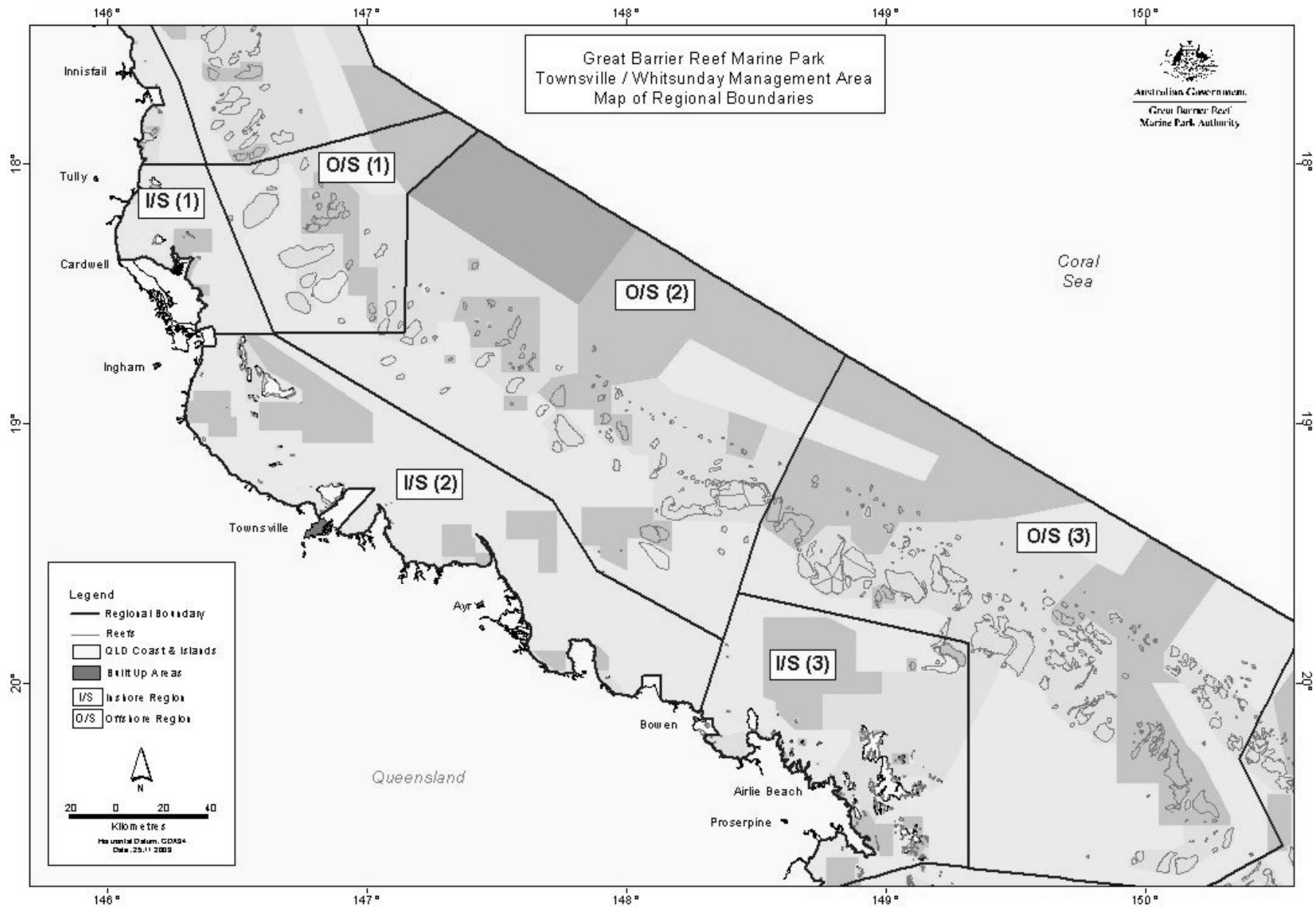
The zone includes 3 bioregions (NA3, NB3 and RE3), shallow water seagrass habitats and complements the adjacent Barnard Island Group National Park, which has important Indigenous cultural heritage values. The adjacent National Park is an important annual seabird nesting site for six species of terns. The zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the leader prawn broodstock collection and line fishery.

South Kurrimine Beach

MNP-17-1070

B CH NP R

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE3) and protects coastal fringing reef. The zone complements the adjacent nationally significant Kurrimine Area Wetland and Maria Creek National Park by providing some connectivity between protected land habitats and fringing coral reef habitats. The configuration of the zone minimises the potential impact on the net fishery.



Map 4. Guide to the zoning for the Townsville/Whitsunday Management Area

7.11. Townsville/Whitsundays Management Area

This section reports on the zoning for the Townsville/Whitsunday Management Area and has been divided into inshore (I/S) and offshore (O/S) sections to assist in locating particular zones of interest. Map 4 shows the location of these sections.

7.11.1. Inshore 1 – Mission Beach to Lucinda

Mission Beach

CP-17-4045

T B NP R H P TS

The zone protects fringing reefs, extensive seagrass beds that provides foraging habitat for green turtles, two historic shipwrecks and complements the adjacent Family Islands National Park. The zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact on leader prawn broodstock collection and the net fishery, while recognising the importance of the area to the line fishery. The zone contains two Public Appreciation SMAs restricting spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting and aquaculture within 500m of Bedarra and Dunk Islands.

Tam O'Shanter Point

MNP-17-1074

T B NP R

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE3) and complements the adjacent Hull River National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats. The area also contains green turtle foraging habitat. In response to submissions, the zone boundaries have been placed to minimise the potential impact on leader prawn brood stock collection and the line fishery.

Dunk (Coonanglebah) Island

MNP-17-1073

T B NP R P TS

The zone contains 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE3), protects fringing coral reefs and seagrass beds and complements the adjacent Family Islands National Park. The area also contains important green turtle foraging habitat. The zone is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used reef bioregion RE3, however has been configured to incorporate the recommendations from submissions to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Family Islands

MNP-17-1075

T B NP R TS

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NB3, NB5 and RE3), protects fringing coral reefs and complements the adjacent Family Islands National Park. The area also contains important green turtle foraging habitat. The zone is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used reef bioregion RE3, and does not extend further west to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Missionary Bay & Goold Island

CP-18-4046

T D B CH NP SU R S

The zone complements the existing Hinchinbrook Island DPA 'A' Zone and the adjacent World Heritage listed Hinchinbrook Island National Park. The zone provides additional protection for Missionary Bay, which is a very important site along the urban coast for dugong. It also provides additional protection in recognition of its importance to the inshore Irrawaddy, Indo-pacific humpback and bottlenose dolphins and green turtle foraging habitat. The zone also contains extensive seagrass beds. Adjacent to the zone are two nationally significant wetlands Edmund Kennedy and Missionary Bay, and Goold Island National Park, a culturally significant site. The zone has been placed to minimise potential impacts on the line fishery.

Brook Islands / Shepherd Bay

MNP-18-1077

T D B NP SU R S TS

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NA3, NB3, NB5 and RF1), large areas of shallow water seagrass beds that are important foraging areas for dugongs and green turtles and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ at Brook Islands. The zone is one of two established to protect the special and unique Hinchinbrook Area. The zone complements the Hinchinbrook Island and Brook Islands National Park and DPA 'A' Zone. The Brook Islands are important seabird and migratory bird nesting sites, including for the Pied Imperial Pigeon. The zone is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used bioregion NB3 and NB5, however does not extend further north or south to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery. It also excludes Missionary Bay and Eva Island to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Eva Island Reef (18-013)

CP-18-4047

T D B NP SU R S TS

The zone complements the adjacent World Heritage listed Hinchinbrook Island National Park, and affords protection for the fringing coral reefs. The area also contains important green turtle foraging habitat. The zone complements the significant bird breeding and roosting sites on the island, and is located within the Hinchinbrook Island DPA 'A' Zone. The zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Ramsay Bay & Agnes Island

MNP-18-1079

T D B CH NP SU R

The zone include 3 bioregions (NA3, NB3 and RE3), is adjacent to the World Heritage listed Hinchinbrook Island National Park, the Missionary Bay wetlands and is within the Hinchinbrook Island DPA 'A' Zone. The zone protects an area adjacent to sandy beaches in the north and the rocky headlands in the south. The area also contains important green turtle foraging habitat. While submissions

indicated support for Ramsay Bay to be included as a MNPZ, the zone does not extend further to the east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Hillock Point

CP-18-4051

T D B C H N P S U R

The zone is adjacent to the World Heritage listed Hinchinbrook Island National Park, the nationally significant Hinchinbrook Channel wetlands and is located within the Hinchinbrook Island DPA 'A' Zone. The area also contains important green turtle foraging habitat. The zone provides additional protection to the area while allowing for limited fishing, as raised through submissions. The zone does not extend further east or south to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

7.11.2. Offshore 1 – Mission Beach to Lucinda

Bandjin Reefs

MNP-17-1072

B R S T S

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NL3, X5, RG2 and RA3) and provides protection for mid and outer shelf reefs. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and was part of a larger MNPZ proposed in the DZP but has been reduced in size to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and gamefishing. It also includes Kelso and Little Kelso Reef, which form part of the heavily used RG2 reef bioregion and provides some additional protection for a primary spanish mackerel fish spawning aggregation site.

Unnamed reef 17-069

P-17-16

B

This new PZ includes 3 bioregions (RA3, RG2 and NL3) and is a representative example of a mid cross-shelf reef.

Trunk Reef (18-027)

CP-18-4048

B R

The zone affords protection for the mid-shelf reef and provides some additional protection for a primary spanish mackerel fish spawning aggregation site. The zone allows for limited fishing as indicated through submissions as an important line fishing area.

7.11.3. Inshore 2 – Townsville to Bowen

Orpheus (Goolboddi) Island Reef east (18-049d)

MNP-18-1083

B N P S U H

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB3 and RHC), and forms part of the Palm Islands special and unique area. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ to simplify the

boundary to assist in compliance. The zone complements the adjacent Orpheus Island National Park, its Indigenous cultural heritage values, and protects the fringing reefs on the eastern shore of the island.

Orpheus (Goolboddi) Island north (18-049a & 18-049e)

SR-18-2007

B CH NP SU H P

The zone has been placed adjacent to James Cook University's Orpheus Island research station, includes long-term research and monitoring sites and provides for further research to be undertaken in close proximity to the research station. The zone also affords protection to diverse fringing coral reefs and the adjacent mangroves on the eastern and western sides of the island.

Orpheus (Goolboddi) Island Reef south-west (18-049b)

CP-18-4053

B CH NP SU H P

The zone builds on the western margin of a pre-existing CPZ to simplify the boundary to assist in compliance. The zone includes fringing reef and shallow seagrass habitat. The zone complements the conservation and heritage values of the adjacent Orpheus Island National Park and allow for limited fishing. The zone recognises the importance of line fishing from the adjacent Orpheus Island Resort and Yank's Jetty campground, as well as by fishers travelling to this area from adjacent coastal communities. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

Curacoa (Noogoo) Island Reef (18-052)

MNP-18-1085

B SU H S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB3 and RHC), and is included in the Palm Islands special and unique area. The zone has been established to protect the fringing reef of Curacoa Island and is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the reef bioregion RHC.

South-east of Great Palm Island

MNP-18-1082

B SU H

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NA3, NB3 and NB5), and includes areas of both Halifax Bay and the Palm Islands special and unique areas, which are of high conservation value owing to their ecological importance and cultural significance. The zone includes shoal areas, important transitory habitat for fishes moving from coastal and inshore nursery grounds to offshore reef and inter-reef habitats. The zone has been placed to exclude Albino, Chilcott, Hayman and Paluma Rocks to the south-east of Great Palm Island as maintenance of access to these rocks for mainly recreational line fishing was raised in submissions. The potential impact on the recreational line fishery has also been minimised by excluding shoal areas to the south and east of the zone. The zone has also been placed to exclude areas to the east, north-east and west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Great Palm Island

CP-18-4054

B S U R H

The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ around Palm Island and extends south and south-east. The zone includes seagrass beds, and has significant cultural and heritage values to the Palm Island Aboriginal community including the traditional use of marine resources. The zone includes Albino, Chilcott, Hayman and Paluma Rocks to the south-east of Palm Island, as submissions identified these rocks as important line fishing areas from Townsville and surrounding communities.

Halifax Bay / Pandora Reef (18-051)

MNP-18-1086

T B C H N P R S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE3), shallow water seagrass beds that provide important foraging habitat for green turtles, and complements the adjacent nationally-significant Herbert River Floodplain, Bambaroo Aggregation Wetlands and the Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park. The zone provides some connectivity between Pandora Reef and inshore habitats, estuaries and wetlands. The zone has been placed to avoid the small reefs and inshore shoals adjacent to and north and south of Crystal Creek to minimise the potential impact on the line and net fisheries. The northern inshore boundary of the zone was revised to reflect submissions highlighting the importance of area adjacent to Palm Creek for recreational line fishing. The zone is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used non-reef bioregion NA3, however does not extend further east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery and on users of the small islands to the south-west of the Palm Islands Group.

Palm Creek / Titch Creek inshore

CP-18-4055

T B C H N P R

The zone, in the north of MNP-18-1086, contains important green turtle foraging habitat and has been placed to allow limited line fishing and trolling in the coastal waters adjacent to and north of Titch Creek which reflect submissions highlighting the importance of area. The zone complements the conservation values of the adjacent Herbert River Floodplain Wetlands, while minimising the potential impact on users of the area.

MNP-19-1089 Magnetic Island - Five Beach Bay

MNP-19-1090 Magnetic Island - Balding Bay & Radical Bay

MNP-19-1091 Magnetic Island - Gowrie Bay

MNP-19-1092 Magnetic Island - Florence Bay

MNP-19-1093 Magnetic Island - Alma Bay

MNP-19-1094 Magnetic Island - Geoffrey Bay

T D B N P S T S

These zones include 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE3) and affords protection to several bays adjacent to Magnetic Island National Park and within the Cleveland Bay – Magnetic Island DPA 'A' Zone important for dugongs and is an important green turtle foraging habitat. The zone in Five Beach Bay (MNP-19-1089) builds on a pre-

existing MNPZ simplifying the boundary to assist in compliance and protecting the fringing coral reef within the Bay. White Rock, which was identified as an important line fishing location through submissions, has not been included in the zone. MNP-19-1090 builds on a pre-existing MNPZ at Balding Bay to include Radical Bay, which was previously a CPZ. Gowrie Bay (MNP-19-1091), Florence Bay (MNP-19-1092) and Alma Bay (MNP-19-1093) have been zoned MNPZ to afford greater protection to the well-developed fringing reefs. MNP-19-1094 reflects the previous MNPZ at Geoffrey Bay. The zone recognises these bays for their non-extractive tourism and recreational values. The boundaries of these zones have been configured to minimise the potential impact on the recreational line fishery by allowing these activities to continue on most of the headlands adjacent to the bays, raised as important through submissions.

Magnetic Island - Arthur Bay

CP-19-4057

T B NP TS

The zone recognises the conservation values of Arthur Bay whilst also recognising its importance to local residents and visitors as a location for limited line fishing and spearfishing. The zone complements the adjacent Magnetic Island National Park, the Cleveland Bay – Magnetic Island DPA ‘A’ Zone, protects the fringing reefs and important green turtle foraging habitat.

Pallarenda / Cleveland Bay

CP-19-4058

T D B CH R P A S

The zone builds substantially on a pre-existing CPZ at Pallarenda and extends the zone to Magnetic Island, protecting seagrass beds and significant dugong and green turtle foraging habitat. The zone includes fringing reefs on the western shore of Magnetic Island, as well as Middle Reef and Virago Shoal. The zone complements the adjacent Townsville Town Common Conservation Park, the Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park, the Magnetic Island National Park, and the Cleveland Bay – Magnetic Island DPA ‘A’ Zone. The zone does not extend further east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery. The area is particularly important for recreational use from Townsville and its surrounds.

Cleveland Bay / Cape Cleveland

CP-19-4059

T D B CH NP H P A S

The zone expands on a pre-existing CPZ on the eastern shore of Cape Cleveland to include the entire eastern shore south to the SRZ adjacent to the Australian Institute of Marine Science (SR-19-2008), and much of the western shore and eastern Cleveland Bay. The zone includes parts of both the Cleveland Bay and Bowling Green Bay DPA ‘A’ and ‘B’ Zones respectively, and includes some of the most substantial seagrass beds in the region, which are important habitats for dugong, green turtles, juvenile fish and crustaceans. In addition, it is adjacent to Bowling Green Bay National Park and the nationally significant Burdekin-Townsville Coastal Aggregation Wetlands. The zone includes many areas important for the line fishery, including the Cleveland Bay seagrass beds, Cape Cleveland and Salamander Reef.

The zone gives protection to this area whilst allowing for limited fishing. The zone is does not extend further west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Australian Institute of Marine Science

SR-19-2008

T D B NP SU S

The zone builds slightly on a pre-existing SRZ adjacent to the Australian Institute of Marine Science at Cape Ferguson in western Bowling Green Bay to simplify the boundary to assist in compliance. The zone includes Bald Islet, seagrass beds important to turtles and dugong, and is within the Bowling Green Bay DPA 'B' Zone. A Restricted Access SMA overlays the zone, maintaining restricted access provisions in place under the previous Zoning Plan.

Chunda Bay

CP-19-4060

T D B CH NP SU R S

This small zone in western Bowling Green Bay is a pre-existing CPZ, which complements the adjacent SRZ at AIMS, Bowling Green Bay National Park, the RAMSAR-listed Bowling Green Bay Wetland and DPA 'B' Zone. The zone allows for limited fishing, while protecting important dugong and green turtle foraging habitat.

Bowling Green Bay west

CP-19-4063

T D B SU P S

The zone encompasses the near-shore areas between the Cungulla and Jerona townships and is adjacent to the mouths of the Haughton River, and Barramundi, Bomber and Barratta Creeks. The zone complements the netting restrictions in the Haughton River and Barramundi Creek, the nationally significant Burdekin-Townsville Coastal Aggregation Wetlands, Bowling Green Bay National Park and DPA 'B' Zone. The zone includes important dugong and green turtle foraging habitat and nursery grounds for many fish and crustacean species. The zone allows for limited fishing whilst affording greater protection to the diverse and internationally-significant conservation values of Bowling Green Bay.

Bowling Green Bay

MNP-19-1097

T D B CH NP SU S P

The zone contains bioregion NA3 and includes a significant part of the Bowling Green Bay special and unique area. The zone is adjacent to Bowling Green Bay National Park, and one of only two RAMSAR-listed internationally significant wetlands in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and includes the Bowling Green Bay DPA 'B' Zone. The zone includes important dugong and green turtle foraging habitat, populations of the inshore Indo-pacific humpback and Irrawaddy dolphins, fish nursery areas, and a known primary grunter spawning aggregation site. Bowling Green Bay is one of the few coastal areas in the Marine Park that is recognised internationally for its very high conservation value. The zone does not extend further to the north, south or west to minimise the potential impact on the

trawl, net and crab fisheries. The zone does not include an important anchorage on the western side of Cape Bowling Green.

Cape Bowling Green

CP-19-4061

T D B C H N P S U R P S

The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ on the eastern shore of Cape Bowling Green and extends to include the northern part of the western shore of the Cape. The zone includes important dugong and green turtle foraging habitat and nursery grounds for many fish and crustacean species. The zone complements the Bowling Green Bay DPA 'B' Zone and maintains access for limited fishing, which was identified as important to residents of the Burdekin and Townsville districts through submissions.

Yongala Shipwreck

MNP-19-1096

B S U H T S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB1 and RF2) and expands on a pre-existing MNPZ surrounding the historic *Yongala* shipwreck, an important tourism destination. The wreck supports corals and highly abundant fish life and has been identified as a special and unique area. The zone does not include 12-Mile shoals south of the wreck, which were identified as an important line fishing area to residents of the Burdekin region through submissions. The zone does not extend to the east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery and to minimise the potential impact on gamefishing to the north.

Upstart Bay

MNP-19-1107

T D B C H N P S

The zone includes bioregion NA3, and affords protection to extensive seagrass beds, which are important as dugong and green turtle foraging habitat. The zone complements the adjacent nationally significant Burdekin Delta Aggregation and Southern Upstart Bay Wetlands and the Upstart Bay DPA 'A' Zone. The zone does not extend to the coast to minimise the potential impact on a number of fisheries occurring in near-shore waters. Dredging and regular maintenance activities are also undertaken in the area.

Cape Upstart

CP-19-4064

T D B C H N P R P S

The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ adjacent to the Cape Upstart to include waters from Nobbies Inlet north around the Cape to Kingfish Bay. The zone affords protection to extensive seagrass beds, which are important as dugong and green turtle foraging habitat, and complements the adjacent Cape Upstart National Park, Southern Upstart Bay Wetlands, and the Upstart Bay DPA 'A' Zone. The zone allows for limited fishing identified as important to the residents of the Burdekin, Cape Upstart and Molongle Creek communities. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts

spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in part of the zone.

Cape Upstart

MNP-19-1105

T D B C H N P S

The zone includes bioregion NA3 and complements Cape Upstart National Park and the nationally significant Southern Upstart Bay Wetlands. The zone affords protection to extensive seagrass beds, which are important as dugong and green turtle foraging habitat, and as a fish and crustacean nursery. The zone does not extend further east or south to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, net and line fisheries. The zone also includes several areas of cultural heritage significance to the Traditional Owners of the Cape Upstart area.

Coconut Bay

CP-19-4068

T N P R

Coconut Bay, within MNP-19-1105 on the eastern side of Cape Upstart, affords protection to green turtle foraging habitat, while allowing for limited fishing. Submissions identified this area as important to the residents of the Cape Upstart and Elliot River communities.

7.11.4. Offshore 2 – Townsville to Bowen

Offshore Townsville - adjacent to the Marine Park boundary

B-17-3011

B R

The zone been established in lieu of a proposed MNPZ in the DZP, as this area was identified in submissions as an important area for gamefishing, particularly heavy tackle marlin fishing. The zone protects deep ocean and open ocean pelagic habitats while allowing for the continued use of the area for trolling for pelagic species.

Myrmidon Reef (18-034)

MNP-18-1078

B S U H

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RA3 and NTW). Myrmidon Reef is geomorphologically unique as it is one of a few places on the GBR where the continental shelf drops sharply away from the reef edge. Nutrient upwellings continually replenish the reef systems and support diverse fish and coral species including a unique stand of deepwater coral and habitat for large pelagic species such as marlin and manta rays. The zone provides additional protection for the historic shipwreck the *Foam*, is a long-term research monitoring site, and a premier offshore dive site. The zone around Myrmidon Reef was significantly reduced in size from that proposed in the DZP, in recognition of the important gamefishing grounds adjacent to the reef as raised in submissions.

Needle Reef (18-037)

CP-18-4050

B R S

The zone is a pre-existing CPZ and is an area important for both line fishing and gamefishing. As the reef is relatively isolated, Needle Reef attracts migratory pelagic fish such as tuna and billfish, and is also known for the occurrence of migratory whales and whale sharks in its near-reef waters. The zone recognises the conservation values of Needle Reef while allowing limited fishing.

Cotton Shoal (18-045)

P-18-17

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RA3 and NL3) and is a pre-existing PZ, whose establishment was based upon the relatively isolated location of this shoal, and the objective of retaining representative examples of the mid-shelf and outer-shelf shoal in a generally undisturbed state.

Arc Reef (18-070)

P-18-18

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RA3 and NL3) and is a pre-existing PZ whose establishment was based upon relatively isolated location of this shoal, and the objective of retaining representative examples of the mid-shelf and outer-shelf shoal in a generally undisturbed state.

Townsville mid-shelf: Faraday Reef (18-041) to Saucer Reef (18-084)

MNP-18-1081

B R

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NL3, X5, RA3 and RG2) and was proposed as part of a much larger MNPZ in the DZP. As a result of submissions indicating the importance of the reef and inter-reef waters to fishing, the zone does not connect to the MNPZ at the Bandjin Reefs. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ that included Faraday, Dip Glow, Yankee and Bowl Reefs to also include Knife, Fork, Spoon, Hall, Cup and Saucer Reefs. These reefs have been included in the zone due to limited alternatives in this heavily used RG2 bioregion. The zone does not include Grub and Centipede Reefs to minimise the potential impact on the line, sea cucumber and trochus fisheries and on gamefishing and does not extend further west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

John Brewer Reef (18-075)

CP-18-4052

B R H T S P

This zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ to simplify the boundary to assist in compliance. The zone is important to Townsville-based tourism and includes an anchorage and the historic *John Brewer* ship wreck. The zone provides additional protection for this mid-shelf reef and complements its heritage values. Submissions indicated the importance of maintaining access for limited fishing.

Helix Reef (18-076)**MNP-18-1084**

B TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RG2 and NL3), and is well known for a diverse fish and coral communities and is a popular destination for dive-based tourism from Townsville. The zone has been established as a result of submissions that highlighted the good condition and natural beauty of this reef, and the need to preserve its conservation values.

Wheeler Reef (18-095)**MNP-18-1087**

B TS

The zone includes 3 bioregions (RG2, NL3 and NB5) and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ. The zone is adjacent to the Davies Reef CPZ, and provides some connectivity and protection between these reefs and Lynches Reef and Anzacs Group MNPZ. Wheeler Reef is a popular destination for dive-based tourism from Townsville. The maintenance of the zone recognises its conservation values while facilitating its continued use for diving and other non-extractive activities.

Davies Reef (18-096)**CP-18-4056**

B R

This is a pre-existing CPZ and submissions indicated that Davies Reef is important for line fishing and long-term research and monitoring projects. The zone includes areas to the north-west and south-east to protect shoals and other benthic habitats while maintaining access for limited fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

Townsville – Bowen outer-shelf: including Lynchs Reef (18-091), Saville-Kent Reef (18-099), Judith Wright Reef (18-101), Anzac Reefs, Kangaroo Reef (19-063), Tiger Reef (19-054) & Leopard Reefs (19-050 & 19-051), & areas adjacent to Marine Park boundary.

MNP-18-1076

Also see Section 7.11.6 – Offshore Bowen to Whitsundays for more information.

B R TS

This large zone includes 11 bioregions (NL3, X5, NTW, NU, X6, X7, NL4, RG2, RA3, RA4 and RHW). The zone recognises and protects the variety of reefs and their associated non-reef ecosystems represented. The zone includes large offshore areas to protect deep ocean communities and open ocean pelagic ecosystems in this region. The zone has been modified substantially from that proposed in the DZP as a result of information on fishing grounds raised in submissions. The area to the south-west of Davies Reef is not included in the zone to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries, and Davies Reef has been zoned CPZ to allow for limited fishing. To adequately protect the heavily used RG2 reef bioregion, Saville-Kent and Judith Wright Reefs have been included in the MNPZ. In addition, the two most eastern reefs of the Anzac Reefs (Anzac Reefs No 4 and No 5) are not included in the zone to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and gamefishing.

Lion Reef (18-119) & Jaguar Reef (18-120)

MNP-18-1088

B R TS

The zone includes 6 bioregions (RA3, NL3, NL4, X5, X7 and NTW) and was recommended as MNPZ through submissions. The zone includes Jaguar and Lion Reefs to protect their relatively undisturbed diverse fish and coral communities, and a number of small, unnamed outer-shelf reefs and shoals that have only recently been identified by commercial line fishermen and through satellite imagery. The zone does not extend further to south-west to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Stanley Reef (19-045) & Wilson Shoal (19-022)

MNP-19-1095

B

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NB5, NL3, RF2 and RG2), and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ at Stanley Reef to include shoals and other benthic habitats to the north and west. The zone has been placed to exclude Tink Shoal and Pakhoi Bank to minimise the potential impact on line fishing from the Burdekin region. However, Wilson Shoal is included in the zone as an example of these isolated inshore shoals. The zone does not include Old Reef and areas to its west and south to minimise the potential impact on the line and trawl fisheries.

Old Reef (19-048)

CP-19-4062

B R

The zone includes known primary fish spawning aggregation sites and provides additional protection for the mid-shelf reef and shoal areas to the west and south. As submissions indicated, Old Reef and the surrounding shoals are important for line fishing. The zone does not include areas to the south and east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

7.11.5. Inshore 3 – Bowen to Whitsundays

Holbourne Island

CP-19-4065

B NP R S TS

The zone is adjacent to Holbourne Island National Park and affords protection to fringing coral reefs and bird nesting habitats. The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ and is an important recreational and commercial line fishing area. The zone provides protection for these values and maintains access for limited fishing.

Lagoon area north-east of Bowen

MNP-19-1102

B S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB6 and NB7), and large areas of bottom shoal habitat, with migrating humpback whales and juvenile marlin frequenting the area.

Submissions identified large areas of shoal to the north of Hayman Island as particularly important to gamefishers, whilst other areas, such as adjacent to Holbourne Island and Fairey and Seagull Reefs were important for the trawl and line fisheries. These areas are not included in the zone to minimise the potential impact on these fisheries.

Gloucester Island

CP-19-4074

B NP R

The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ and complements Gloucester Island National Park, the Edgecumbe Bay – Bowen DPA 'B' Zone and affords protection for fringing coral reefs and seagrass beds on the western and southern aspects of the island. The zone allows for limited fishing, identified in submissions as an important area for the Bowen and Whitsunday communities.

Eshelby Island Reef (20-012 & 20-031)

P-20-21

B S

The zone is a pre-existing PZ and includes 2 bioregions (NB6 and RE4). The zone protects substantial fringing coral reefs, and is adjacent to significant breeding and roosting sites for a number of seabirds, including bridled and crested terns. The zone is one of a few inshore PZs and thereby provides a valuable baseline for comparison with other inshore reefs. Additional restrictions apply to the area under the Whitsundays Plan of Management (WPOM).

Armit and Little Armit Island

MNP-20-1113

B NP SU R S

The zone contains 3 bioregions (NA3, NB6 and RE4) and complements the Gloucester Island National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats and fringing coral reefs. The zone also complements the significant seabird breeding and roosting sites on the Islands. Additional seasonal restrictions on access apply to the area under the WPOM.

Double Cone Island

CP-20-4077

NP SU R S TS

The zone is a pre-existing CPZ and complements the adjacent Gloucester Island National Park, and affords protection for the fringing coral reefs. The zone also complements the significant bird breeding and roosting sites on the island, including a Pied Imperial Pigeon colony. Additional seasonal restrictions on access apply to the area under the WPOM. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

Clark's Cove / Low Island

MNP-20-1114

B CH NP SU R TS

The zone contains 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE4) and complements the two adjacent National Parks, Gloucester Island and Dryander, by providing some connectivity between protected habitats, and protecting fringing reefs and seagrass beds. The zone was limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used RE4 reef bioregion. The zone does not include the inner-bay areas and was relocated from Double Bay in response to submissions.

Pioneer Bay

CP-20-4082

B CH NP SLU SU R P A TS

The zone complements the adjacent Dryander National Park and affords protection for the seagrass beds within the Bay, while allowing for limited fishing as indicated through submissions.

Molle Islands Group

CP-20-4080

B NP SU R TS

The zone complements the adjacent Molle Islands National Park and affords protection for the fringing coral reefs. The zone also complements the intensively used area for tourism providing for limited fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

South Molle & Denman Islands

MNP-20-1119

B NP SU R TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE4), protects the fringing coral reefs and complements the adjacent Molle Islands National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats. The zone was limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used RE4 reef bioregion and does not include Planton Island, Woody Bay and Pine Bay in response to submissions indicating the importance of these areas for small boat access for line fishing.

Shute, Tancred & Repair Islands

CP-20-4083

B NP SU R

The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ and complements the Molle Islands National Park, affords protection for the fringing reefs and seagrass beds while allowing access for limited fishing as indicated through submissions. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

East and west coasts of Long Island

CP-20-4084, CP-20-4085

B NP SU R TS

The zone complements the Molle Islands National Park, and affords protection for fringing coral reefs and seagrass beds. The zone also protects the intensively used area for tourism while allowing for limited fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in both zones.

East Rock / Pelican Island

MNP-20-1121

B NP SU R S

The zone contains 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE4), protects the fringing coral reef and complements the Molle Islands National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats. It also complements the significant bird nesting site on East Rock. Additional seasonal and other restrictions on access apply to the area under the WPOM.

Pine Island / Cape Conway

MNP-20-1123

B NP SU R H

The zone contains 3 bioregions (NA3, RE4 and NB6) and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ located around Cow and Calf Islands. The zone complements the adjacent Conway National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats and protects fringing coral reefs, significant seagrass beds, south of Cow Island and within Genesta Bay. An historic shipwreck is also located within the zone. The zone originally proposed was much larger, however in response to submissions regarding access to important fishing areas around Ripple and Platypus Rocks, the extent of the zone was reduced.

Ripple Rocks (20-206)

CP-20-4088

B NP SU R

The zone complements the adjacent Conway National Park, and affords protection to fringing coral reefs. Ripple Rock was proposed within a MNPZ however this was changed to CPZ to allow for limited fishing as indicated through submissions.

Repulse Bay

MNP-20-1127

T D B CH

The zone contains bioregion NA3. Repulse Bay is a significant foraging area for dugong and green turtle and the zone provides protection of movement corridors between foraging habitats. The zone is offshore to the nationally significant Proserpine-Goorganga Plain Wetland. The boundaries of the zone have been adjusted in response to submissions from the trawl and line fishing sectors.

Bait Reef (19-137)

MNP-19-1110

B R TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB7 and RHW) and builds on a pre-existing no anchoring, fishing or collecting area under the WPOM to incorporate the entire reef

and its near-reef habitat. Bait Reef is identified as a special and unique area based on its biological features. These include a wide variety of reef habitats in good condition, ranging from shallow (<3m) coral gardens and extensive bommie fields, to reef walls that drop to 20m with large plate corals, caves, black coral and sea fans. The western side of the reef is lined with rows of bommies that uncover only at low water spring tides, which is relatively unusual. Inclusion of this reef within a MNPZ provides protection to these important habitats and complements the high tourism use from the Whitsundays Region.

Hook Reef (19-136a)

CP-19-4067

B R TS

The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ to simplify the boundaries to assist in compliance. It affords protection for the mid-shelf reef, complements the high tourism use from the Whitsundays Region while allowing for limited fishing.

Hardy Reef (19-135)

MNP-19-1104

B R TS

The zone contains 2 bioregions (NB7 and RHW) and complements the high tourism use from the Whitsundays Region. The boundary of the zone was adjusted to include the inter-reef 'river' channel between Hook and Hardy Reefs in MNPZ to assist in compliance.

Hayman Island Reef (20-014), Langford-Bird Reef (20-019) & Black Island Reef (20-017)

MNP-20-1111

B NP SU R TS

The zone contains 2 bioregions (NB6 and RHC) and complements the adjacent Whitsunday Islands National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats. It also protects fringing coral reefs, including Blue Pearl Bay, which was raised in submissions as a key tourism area for the Whitsundays Region. The zone does not include areas to the north-west of Hayman Island to minimise the potential impact on the charter fishery and gamefishing.

Hayman Island & Stonehaven, Hook Island

CP-20-4075

B NP SU R P S TS

The zone is a pre-existing CPZ, complements the Whitsunday Islands National Park, and affords protection for the fringing coral reef. It also complements a significant bird site on Bird Island. Additional seasonal and other restrictions on access apply to the area under the WPOM. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

Butterfly Bay to Pinnacle Bay, Hook Island

MNP-20-1112

B NP SU R TS

The zone contains 2 bioregions (NB6 and RHC) and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ. The zone complements the high tourism use of the area and the Whitsunday Islands National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats and protecting well-developed fringing coral reef. The northern boundary of the zone has been extended to assist in compliance and includes Pinnacle Bay.

Saba Bay, Hook Island

CP-20-4076

B NP SU R TS

The zone complements the Whitsunday Islands National Park and affords protection for the fringing coral reef. The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ to further protect the seagrass habitat found along Hook Island while allowing for limited fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

Border / Dumbell Islands

MNP-20-1115

B NP SU R

The zone contains 2 bioregions (NB6 and RHC) and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ. The zone complements the Whitsunday Islands National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats. It protects well-developed fringing coral reefs and a known fish spawning aggregation site. Border Island is also an important tourism area for the Whitsundays Region.

Deloraine Island

CP-20-4079

B NP SU R

The zone complements the adjacent Whitsunday Islands National Park, tourism activities, and affords protection for fringing coral reefs. Deloraine Island was proposed as MNPZ in the DZP, however due to information raised in submissions regarding its importance for line fishing and marine aquarium fish collecting the zone has been maintained as CPZ.

Esk Island Reef (20-070)

MNP-20-1116

B NP SU R

The zone contains 2 bioregions (NB6 and RHC). It complements the Whitsunday Islands National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats. The zone is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used RHC reef bioregion.

Whitsunday to Hamilton Islands

CP-20-4081

B NP SU R H P TS

The zone is a pre-existing CPZ, complements the adjacent Whitsunday Islands National Park and affords protection for fringing coral reefs. There are numerous seagrass beds within the zone, particularly in Cid Harbour. The zone also affords protection for the historic shipwreck the *Baratta*, located in Cid Harbour. The zone is

adjacent to a number of heavily visited tourism areas, and is important for line fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

Whitehaven Beach (Whitsunday Island)

MNP-20-1118

B NP SU R TS

The zone contains bioregion NB6 and complements the Whitsunday Islands National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats. It protects significant shallow water seagrass beds and turtle foraging habitat. Whitehaven Beach is an internationally renowned tourism destination in the Whitsundays region and is a popular anchorage.

Haslewood / Lupton Islands

MNP-20-1117

B NP SU R TS

The zone contains two bioregions (NB6 and RHC) and is a pre-existing MNPZ. It complements the Whitsunday Islands National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats and protects the unusually large and well-developed reef flat between Haslewood and Lupton Islands.

Mansell Island and Shaw Island – east coast

MNP-20-1125

B NP SU R

The zone contains 2 bioregions (NB6 and RHC) and complements the Lindeman Islands National Park by providing some connectivity between protected habitats. It also protects fringing coral reefs, and seagrass beds adjacent to Lindeman Island. The zone was limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used RHC reef bioregion. The zone originally proposed was much larger, however in response to submissions the zone was split into two (the other being Cape Conway MNP-20-1113). The zone does not include Thomas Island in response to concerns raised in submissions indicating its importance for line fishing in this area.

Lindeman / Shaw Islands

CP-20-4086

B NP SU R P TS

The zone builds on a pre-existing CPZ that has been extended to include Pentecost and Shaw Islands, complements the adjacent Lindeman Islands National Park and affords protection for fringing coral reefs. Seagrass beds around Shaw and Lindeman Islands provide foraging and fisheries habitat. The zone incorporates Platypus Rocks, which were proposed as MNPZ but included in the CPZ in response to submissions indicating the importance of the area for line fishing. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture around Pentecost, Cole, Little Lindeman, Lindeman and Seaforth Islands. The reef around Shaw Island is not included within the SMA in response to submissions.

7.11.6. Offshore 3 – Bowen to Whitsundays

Townsville – Bowen outer-shelf: including Lynchs Reef (18-091), Saville-Kent Reef (18-099), Judith Wright Reef (18-101), Anzac Reefs, Kangaroo Reef (19-063), Tiger Reef (19-054) & Leopard Reef (19-050 & 19-051), and areas adjacent Marine Park boundary

MNP-18-1076

See Section 7.11.4 – Offshore 2 - Townsville to Bowen for more information.

T B TS

This large zone contains 11 bioregions (NL3, X5, NTW, NU, X6, X7, NL4, RG2, RA3, RA4 and RHW). The zone joins two pre-existing MNPZs, adding two additional reefs, Tiger and Unnamed Reef 19-078, and affording protection to the inter-reef habitat and non-reef habitat between these reefs. The MNPZ includes large offshore areas to protect deep ocean communities and open ocean pelagic ecosystems in this region. The area contains important green turtle foraging habitat, particularly in the southern extent of the zone.

Jacqueline Reef (19-061)

P-19-19

B

The zone includes two bioregions (NL4 and NTW) and is a pre-existing PZ, whose establishment was based upon the relatively isolated location of the reef, and the objective of retaining representative examples of the mid-shelf and outer-shelf reefs in a generally undisturbed state.

Fairey Reef (19-019a, b & c) & Seagull Reef (19-107)

MNP-19-1101

B TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL4 and RHW) and provides protection for these mid-shelf reefs with diverse fish and coral communities. The zone was proposed to be joined to the larger MNPZ northeast of Bowen (MNP-19-1102) in the DZP, however the zone was reduced to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Rafter Reef (19-146) to Bax Reef (20-138) mid-shelf transect

MNP-19-1098

T B R H TS

The zone includes 6 bioregions (NB7, NL4, X7, NTW, RHW and RA4), joins two pre-existing MNPZs and gives a greater buffer of protection to the two PZs, Tile and Robertson Reefs. The zone provides some connectivity from the GBR lagoon to outer-shelf reef waters of the Coral Sea. The zone protects important green and loggerhead turtle foraging areas and five historic shipwrecks. Square Reef and areas to the south have not been included in the zone to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line and trochus fisheries.

Tile Reef (19-151 & 19-152)

P-19-20

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (X7 and RA4) and is a pre-existing PZ, whose establishment was based upon the relatively isolated location of the reef, and the objective of retaining representative examples of outer-shelf reefs in a generally undisturbed state.

Robertson Reef No. 1 (20-135)

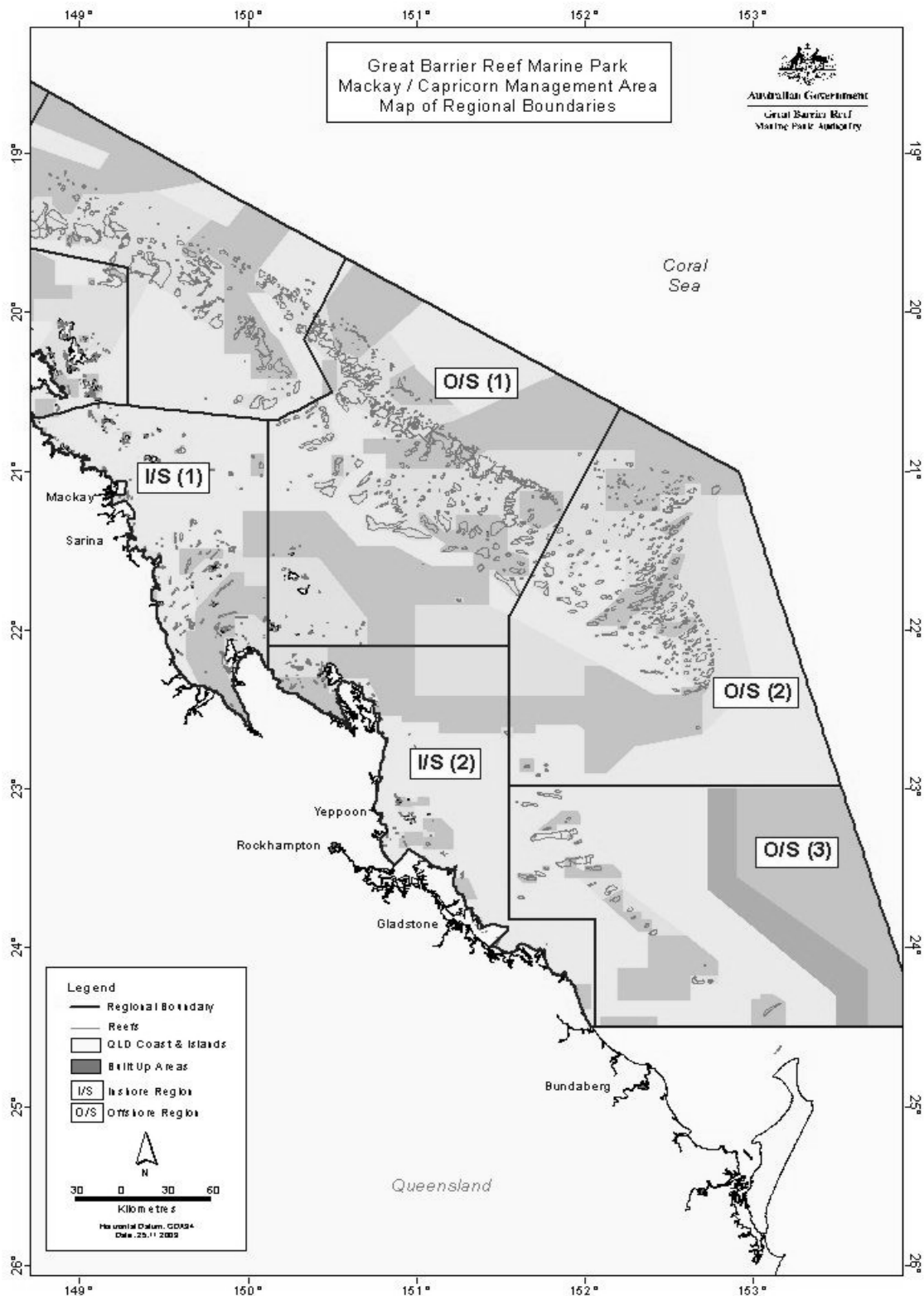
P-20-22

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL4 and RHW) and is a pre-existing PZ, whose establishment was based upon the relatively isolated location of the reef, and the objective of retaining representative examples of outer-shelf reefs in a generally undisturbed state.

7.12. Mackay/Capricorn Management Area

This section reports on the zoning for the Mackay/Capricorn Management Area has been divided into inshore (I/S) and offshore (O/S) sections to assist in locating particular zones of interest. Map 5 shows the location of these sections.



Map 5. Guide to the zoning for the Mackay/Capricorn Management Area

7.12.1. Inshore 1 – Seaforth to Stange Bay

New Beach & 10-Mile Beach coastal area

MNP-20-1129

B C H R S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE4) and includes part of the Stewart Peninsula – Newry Islands Ball Bay DPA ‘A’ Zone where netting is significantly restricted. The zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery around the Newry Islands while still providing protection for the heavily used NA3 and RE4 bioregions.

Brothers Islands / Stewart Peninsula

MNP-20-1131

D B C H R H S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE4) and includes part of the Stewart Peninsula – Newry Islands Ball Bay DPA ‘A’ Zone where netting is significantly restricted. It is adjacent to the Newry Islands National Park and within the significant wetland of the St Helens Bay Area. The zone also affords protection to culturally significant sites in the area and has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery around the Newry Islands while still providing protection for the heavily used NA3 and RE4 bioregions.

Seaforth area

CP-20-4092

T D B C H N P R P S

The zone affords protection to significant dugong and turtle foraging habitat, flatback turtle nesting sites and the St Helens Bay Wetland, which extends into the CPZ and is recognised as nationally important for shorebirds and supports populations of the endangered Little Tern. The zone has strong community support and is an important line fishing area. The zone complements the surrounding Newry Island National Park and existing Stewart Peninsula – Newry Islands Ball Bay DPA ‘A’ Zone (where netting is significantly restricted) while continuing to allow for limited line fishing and crabbing. The zone does not extend further east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Mausoleum, Acacia (Chings) & Rocky Islands

MNP-20-1134

D B C H N P R S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE4) and is part of the Stewart Peninsula – Newry Islands Ball Bay DPA ‘A’ Zone where netting is significantly restricted. It contains seagrass and dugong habitat, is adjacent to Newry Islands National Park and is within the significant wetland of the St Helens Bay Area. The zone also affords protection to culturally significant sites in the area and does not include Rabbit, Newry or Outer Newry Islands to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Cape Hillsborough

MNP-20-1136

D B CH NP R TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE4) and is part of the Ball Bay – Sand Bay DPA 'B' Zone where netting is restricted. It contains dugong habitat and is adjacent to Cape Hillsborough National Park. The zone complements these values, the tourism use of this area, and does not extend further seawards to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line and net fisheries.

Shoal Point - Eimeo area

CP-20-4094

B CH R H P

The zone affords protection to seagrass beds, the nationally significant Sand Bay Wetland that supports a number of bird species, and the historic shipwreck *Torokina*. It is adjacent to Newry Islands National Park. The zone has strong community support and is an important line fishing area. The zone has been placed to complement these values and allow for limited line fishing, aquarium fish collecting and crabbing.

Green Island Reef (20-285)

MNP-20-1139

B CH R

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE4) and is within the significant wetlands of Sand Bay. The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the RE4 reef bioregion (a very small reef bioregion ~47 sq km). The zone does not extend further north, south or east to minimise the potential impact on the line and marine aquarium fish fisheries.

Farrier Island & Goldsmith Island

CP-20-4089

B NP R TS

The zone complements the adjacent James Islands National Park and affords protection for fringing coral reef and seagrass beds while allowing for limited line fishing.

Goldsmith Island

MNP-20-1128

B NP R TS P

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB6 and RE5), is adjacent to Smith Islands National Park, provides some connectivity between protected habitats and protects fringing coral reefs and seagrass beds. The zone does not include the eastern side of the Island, which is a popular line fishing and camping location. The zone also includes an anchorage used for protection from northerly winds.

Linne Island Reef (20-253) & Tinsmith Island Reef (20-254)

CP-20-4090

B NP R TS

The zone complements the adjacent James Islands National Park and affords protection for fringing coral reefs. The zone complements the tourism and recreational use of the area and allows for limited line fishing.

Brampton & Carlisle Islands, north-east

MNP-20-1130

B NP R P TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB6 and RE5), is adjacent to the Brampton Islands National Park and provides protection for fringing coral reefs. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and complements the tourism use of the area. The zone does not include the area surrounding the jetty to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Brampton Island

MNP-20-1132

B NP R P TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB6 and RE5), is adjacent to the Brampton Islands National Park and provides protection for well-developed fringing reefs in Dinghy Bay. The zone complements the tourism use of the area and was recommended for protection through submissions.

Brampton & Carlisle Islands

CP-20-4091

B NP R P TS

The zone complements Brampton Islands National Park and affords protection for fringing coral reefs. The zone complements the tourism use of the area and allows for limited line fishing on the eastern side of the Islands and on nearby shoals. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in parts of the zone.

Keswick & St Bees Islands

CP-20-4093

B NP R TS

The zone complements the adjacent South Cumberland Islands National Park, the historic shipwreck the *Cremer* and affords protection to fringing coral reefs. The zone complements the tourism use of the area. The zone does not extend further seaward to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Keswick Island

MNP-20-1138

B NP R TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB6 and RE5), is adjacent to the South Cumberland Islands National Park and provides protection for well-developed fringing reefs in Singapore Bay. The zone complements the tourism use of the area and has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Scawfell Island

MNP-20-1133

B NP R TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NB6 and RE5), builds on a pre-existing MNPZ to simplify the boundary to assist in compliance and complements the adjacent South Cumberland Islands National Park. The zone protects well-developed fringing coral reef and complements the tourism use of the area.

Tern Reef (20-309), Bushy-Redbill Reef (20-130) & Sandpiper Reef (21-053)

MNP-20-1135

B NP R S TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NK and NB7), is adjacent to the South Cumberland Islands National Park, complements the tourism use of the area and joins pre-existing MNPZs, affording additional protection to nesting seabirds. The zone does not extend further seaward to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery and does not include other nearby reefs and shoals to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Penrith Island Reef (21-025)

CP-20-4095

B NP R TS

The zone is a pre-existing CPZ and is adjacent to the South Cumberland Islands National Park. The zone complements the tourism use of the area and allows for limited line fishing.

Yaralla (21-322), Tupper (21-320), Ferdinand (21-317) & Waratah (21-319) Shoals

MNP-21-1144

B NP

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA4 and RE4) and complements the adjacent Cumberland Islands National Park. The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used RE4 reef and NA4 non-reef bioregions. The zone was recommended through submissions and was placed to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery on surrounding shoals.

Yarrowonga Point to West Hill National Park

MNP-21-1147

B CH R

The zone includes bioregion NA3 and provides some connectivity to the adjacent Four Mile Beach Wetlands. The zone does not extend further north, south or east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line, net and crab fisheries.

Clairview & Flock Pigeon Island coastal area

CP-22-4096

D B NP R P A

The zone complements the Broad Sound Islands National Park, contains part of the Clairview Bluff – Carmill Creek DPA 'B' Zone and affords protection to high priority

dugong habitat and seagrass beds in the area. The zone has strong community support and allows for limited line fishing and crabbing.

Broad Sound area including the Bedwell Group, Wild Duck & Bamborough Islands

MNP-21-1146

T B C H N P R S

The zone includes 6 bioregions (NA3, NA4, NB6, RE5, RE6 and RE7) and an important flatback turtle inter-nesting habitat surrounding Wild Duck Island. The zone builds significantly on a pre-existing MNPZ at the Bedwell Group, is adjacent to wetlands and Broad Sound Islands National Park. The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used NA3 non-reef bioregions. The zone has been placed towards the centre of Broad Sound to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line, net and crab fisheries.

7.12.2. Offshore 1 – Hardline to Marine Park boundary

Offshore Mackay – adjacent to the eastern boundary of Marine Park

MNP-19-1103

T B S

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NTW, X7, RA4 and RHL) and important green turtle foraging habitat. The zone does not include reefs 20-170, 20-171, 20-173 and 20-175 and surrounding inter-reef areas to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Hydrographers Passage, east of Boulton Reef (20-146)

MNP-20-1120

T B S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL4 and X7) and important green and loggerhead turtle foraging habitat. The zone does not extend further north, south or west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Eastern Swains

MNP-20-1122

T B S

The zone includes 4 bioregions (RHL, RA4, X7 and NTW) and affords protection for green turtle foraging habitat. The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect heavily used RHL bioregion. The zone does not include surrounding reefs and shoals to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Pompey Reefs (20-351a, b & c)

MNP-20-1137

T B R S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NL4 and RK) and includes important green turtle foraging habitat. The zone has been shifted from Goble Reef as proposed in the DZP, in response to submissions from the charter fishing sector. The zone does not

include surrounding reefs to minimise the potential impact on the line and trochus fisheries.

Central Swains: Hardline to Marine Park boundary

MNP-20-1124

T B R S

The zone includes 11 bioregions (NL4, NL5, NTE, NTW, NU, X7, X8, RHL RHW, RSWM and RSWN), loggerhead and green turtle foraging habitat, builds on a pre-existing MNPZ (surrounding Olympic Reef (PZ), Elusive Reef and Distant Cay) and extends to the eastern boundary of the Marine Park to include examples of deep-water habitat. The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used RHL bioregion whilst minimising the potential impact on the line and trochus fisheries.

Olympic Reef (20-377) and surrounds

P-20-23

T B S

The zone is pre-existing, includes 2 bioregions (RHL and X7) and is a representative example of outer shelf 'hardline' reefs and includes important green turtle foraging habitat.

Central Swains: adjacent to T-Line, including Riptide Cay Reef (21-172)

MNP-21-1140

T B R

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NL5, X7, RHE, RHL and RSWM), green turtle foraging habitat and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ. The zone is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect the heavily used RHL bioregion. The zone does not include the Swains 'T-Line' to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Offshore Cape Clinton: including eastern Townshend Island, Heralds Reef Prong (21-432) and Heralds Prong No. 3 (21-434) and Archer Shoal (21-161) and lagoonal areas

MNP-21-1141

T B R S

The zone includes 18 bioregions (NA3, NA4, NB6, NB7, NB8, NL4, NL5, NN, NO, NU, RCB1, RE5, RE6, RE8, RHE, RHL, RHW, RSWO and RK), green turtle foraging habitat, a significant bird breeding habitat (Bell Cay) and unique 'red fern' (gorgonian) and juvenile 'reds' (e.g. red emperor and nannygai) habitat. The zone combines two MNPZs proposed under the DZP and provides some connectivity between the coastline and the southern and outer Swains (Howard Patch, unnamed reef 22-147, South Hixon Reef and Archer Shoal) while complementing the Island Head Creek and Shoalwater Bay Wetlands. The zone also includes part of the Port Clinton (reef point to Cape Clinton) DPA 'A' Zone and part of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area for the Department of Defence. The zone does not include part of the 'red fern' habitat (east of 151° line); an area encompassing Delcomyn Island and the Clara Group to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and an area to the south of Heralds Reef Prong to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

The zone does not also include unnamed reef 21-087, Heralds Prong No 2, Paul and Storm Reefs to minimise the potential impact on the line and trochus fisheries and Half Moon, Hook, Sinkar and Sweetlip Reefs minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and important anchorage areas.

Bell Cay Reef (21-435)

P-21-32

T B S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RK and NB7) and was previously zoned MNPZ. The zoning prevents disturbance to nesting seabirds and enhances the protection of these birds. The Cay forms part of important green turtle and seabird breeding and nesting areas found in the Swains Reef area, including significant shearwater foraging sites, the only breeding site for the least frigatebird and one of only two masked booby breeding sites in the Marine Park. Bell Cay is also a known breeding site for the bridled tern, brown booby, common noddy, crested tern, least frigatebird, lesser-crested tern, masked booby, silver gull and sooty tern. The cay is also the only cay in the Swains area that supports regular dense nesting of green turtles.

7.12.3. Inshore 2 – Shoalwater Bay to southern boundary of Marine Park (Baffle Creek area)

Shoalwater Bay

MNP-22-1151

T D B S U S

The zone includes 4 bioregions (NA3, NA4, RE6 and RE7), the most important green turtle and dugong habitat in the southern part of the Marine Park, is a special and unique area and is adjacent to one of only two RAMSAR internationally significant wetlands in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The area is also part of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area for the Department of Defence. The zone is also part of the Shoalwater Bay (Dugong) Plan of Management and includes most of the Shoalwater Bay DPA 'A' Zone, which prohibits net fishing and builds on a pre-existing MNPZ in Canoe Passage. It also affords protection to the largest Pelican rookery in the GBRWHA (Akens Island).

Cape Clinton: including Triangular Island (22-077), southern side of Townshend Island & Island Head (22-078)

CP-22-4097

T B NP S U R S

The zone is adjacent to the nationally important Island Head Creek Wetland, which supports rare and threatened species, including dugongs, birds and four turtle species. The area also encompasses the RAMSAR-listed Shoalwater Bay Wetlands and the Shoalwater Bay and Port Clinton (reef point - Cape Clinton) DPA 'A' Zones. The area is also part of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area for the Department of Defence. The CPZ affords protection to these values while allowing for limited fishing and crabbing.

Offshore Cape Clinton: including eastern Townshend Island, Heralds Reef Prong (21-432) and Heralds Prong No. 3 (21-434) and Archer Shoal (21-161) and lagoonal areas

MNP-21-1141

See Section 7.12.2 – Hardline to Marine Park boundary for more information.

Freshwater Beach coastal area

CP-22-4098

R H P

The area around Freshwater Beach and Cape Clinton is culturally significant to the Dharumbal Aboriginal people, and is an important anchorage and focus for recreational use. The area is also part of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area for the Department of Defence. The zone affords protection for these values whilst allowing limited line fishing and other recreational activities. The zone does not extend further north, south or east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and net fisheries.

Yeppoon / Corio Bay coastal area

CP-22-4099

B NP SU R S

The zone complements the adjacent Byfield National Park an important black jew fish and barramundi aggregation site and internationally significant RAMSAR Corio Bay Wetlands. The zone does not extend further to the east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery. The zone has strong community support and is a popular location for recreational line fishing.

North Keppel Island - Considine Bay

CP-23-4101

B NP SU R TS

The zone complements the Keppel Bay Islands National Park and the tourism and recreational use of the area. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing, marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the zone.

North Keppel Island – south-western side

MNP-23-1156

B NP R TS

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NA3, NB8 and RE8), builds on a pre-existing MNPZ, is adjacent to Keppel Bay Islands National Park, complements the adjacent Queensland Education Centre and tourism and recreational use of the area. The zone does not extend further north or south to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery and does not extend further west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

North Keppel Island – eastern side

MNP-23-1155

B NP R TS

The zone includes 3 bioregions (RE8, NA3 and NB8) and is limited in placement by the need to adequately protect these heavily used bioregions. The zone is adjacent to

Keppel Bay Islands National Park and complements the tourism and recreational use of the area. The zone does not include Pumpkin Island, Barren Island, The Child or Man and Wife Rocks to minimise the potential impact the line fishery.

Outer Rock area

CP-23-4100

B NP SU R

The zone affords protection to the Outer Rocks special and unique area and is adjacent to the Keppel Bay Islands National Park. The zone includes Outer Rocks and nearby shoals allowing for limited line fishing, including spearfishing and marine aquarium fish collecting.

Middle Island

MNP-23-1158 Reef (23-010)

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RE8 and NA3), was a pre-existing MNPZ and affords protection to well-developed fringing reef and seagrass beds.

Great Keppel Island – western side

CP-23-4102

B R

The zone is a pre-existing CPZ and affords protection to well-developed fringing reef and seagrass beds while allowing for limited line fishing and marine aquarium fish collecting.

Great Keppel Island – west of Monkey Point

MNP-23-1161

B TS

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RE8 and NA3) and complements the tourism and recreational use of the area and affords protection to well-developed fringing reef and seagrass beds. The zone does not extend further west to minimise the impact on the trawl fishery.

Halfway Island to Great Keppel Island

MNP-23-1159

B R

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RE8 and NA3) and affords protection to well-developed fringing reef, and does not extend to include the entire bay to minimise the potential impact on the marine aquarium fish and line fisheries.

Humpy Island Reef (23-016)

CP-23-4103

B R

The zone complements the Keppel Bay Islands National Park while allowing for limited line fishing.

Egg Rock, Split Rock, Arch Rock & Jabiru Shoal

MNP-23-1160

T B S U R S

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NA3, NB8 and RE8) and important flatback turtle internesting habitat in waters surrounding Peak Island. The zone does not include Divided and Hummocky Islands and Lisa Jane Shoal and the surrounding inter-reef area to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line, net and marine aquarium fish and sea cucumber fisheries. The zone has been extended to the north-east to include the existing Egg Rock MNPZ and does not extend further north or east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Peak Island Reef (23-026)

P-23-36

T B S

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE8) is a prime example of an inshore fringing reef and contains the largest flatback turtle rookery in the Marine Park.

Curtis Island northern coastline: Yellow Patches - Cape Capricorn

CP-23-4107

B N P S U H S

The zone complements the adjacent Curtis Island National Park and the highly significant Northeast Curtis Island Wetland. The wetland provides significant roosting and nesting habitat for a number of bird species. The area is of cultural significance and there is a special and unique area located around Cape Keppel. The zone does not extend further to the north to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery. The zone has strong community support and is a popular location for recreational line fishing.

Curtis Island eastern coastline: Rundle Island Reef (23-056) & Bass Shoals (23-057)

CP-23-4108

T B N P S U R A S

The zone complements the Curtis Island National Park and affords protection to the seagrass, and some flatback turtle internesting habitat along Curtis Island. The zone does not extend further north to Cape Capricorn to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery. The area is important for marine aquarium fish and beach worm collecting and for recreational line fishing from Rockhampton and adjacent communities.

Curtis Island

MNP-23-1167

T B N P S U R A S

The zone includes bioregions NA3 and RE8, seagrass, and some flatback turtle internesting habitat along Curtis Island. The zone complements the Curtis Island National Park. The zone does not extend further north or south to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line, marine aquarium fish and beach worm fisheries.

Curtis Island: eastern coastal strip

CP-23-4109

T B C H R

The zone complements Curtis Island National Park and affords protection to the seagrass and some flatback turtle internesting habitat around Curtis Island. The small CPZ has been included to recognise the areas importance for marine aquarium fish and beach worm fisheries and for recreational line fishing from the Rockhampton, Gladstone and adjacent communities.

Richards Point

CP-23-4110

CP-23-4111

B C H N P R S T S

These zones split a pre-existing CPZ, separated by a MNPZ and complements the adjacent Eurimbula National Park popular for camping and recreational use and affords protection for fringing coral reefs and the nationally important Colosseum Inlet – Rodds Bay Wetland. This wetland is the preferred feeding grounds of migratory waders, in particular the eastern curlew, grey-tailed tattler, terek sandpiper and the bar-tailed godwit. Maintenance of access to areas for beach fishing was raised in submissions an important activity for local communities. The zone does not extend to the north or east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery, while allowing for limited fishing, including beach fishing.

Richards Point

MNP-23-1170

B C H N P R S T S

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RE8 and NA3), complements the adjacent Eurimbula National Park popular for camping and recreational use and affords protection for fringing coral reefs and the nationally important Colosseum Inlet – Rodds Bay Wetland. This wetland is the preferred feeding grounds of migratory waders, in particular the eastern curlew, grey-tailed tattler, terek sandpiper and the bar-tailed godwit. The zone is limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used RE8 reef bioregion and does not extend north or east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Bustard Bay

CP-24-4112

B C H N P R H S T S

The zone extends from Round Hill Head to Bustard Head and affords protection to the nationally important Bustard Bay Wetland, the Eurimbula National Park, Joseph Banks Conservation Park and culturally important sites. The zone has strong community support and does not extend further east to include the entire Bay to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Adjacent to Deepwater National Park

CP-24-4113

B CH NP R S SU

The zone affords protection to the special and unique area Round Head to Wreck Rock for loggerhead turtle nesting and one of the few leatherback nesting locations known in Queensland and is adjacent to Deep Water National Park. The zone has been included to recognise the areas importance for recreational use, including beach fishing for the local communities.

Adjacent to Deepwater National Park

MNP-24-1171

B CH NP S SU

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NA3 and RE8), the special and unique area Round Head to Wreck Rock for loggerhead turtle nesting and one of the few leatherback nesting locations known in Queensland and is adjacent to Deep Water National Park. The zone does not extend further south to minimise the potential impact on the net fishery.

7.12.4. Offshore 2 – Southern Swains Area

Central Swains: Hardline to Marine Park Boundary

MNP-20-1124

See Section 7.12.2 – Hardline to Marine Park boundary for more information.

Unnamed reef 21-219

P-21-24

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (RSWM and NL5) and is a representative habitat type of an outer shelf reef.

Unnamed reef 21-222

P-21-25

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (RSWM and NL5) and is a representative habitat type of an outer shelf reef.

Central Swain Reefs: north-east, unnamed reefs 21-256, 21-294 to 21-300

MNP-21-1142

T B NP R S

The zone includes 3 bioregions (RSWM, RWSO and NL5) and important green turtle foraging areas. The zone complements the Swains Reef National Park and does not extend to include surrounding reefs to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Southern Swains: including Recreation (21-501), Detour (21-514), Small (21-517) & Turtle (21-519) Reefs

MNP-21-1145

T B NP R S

The zone includes 5 bioregions (NL5, NU, RHE, RSWO, and RSWM), significant seabird breeding sites, green and loggerhead turtle foraging inter-nesting sites. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ and complements the Swains Reef National Park. The zone does not include surrounding reefs to minimise the potential impact on the line, sea cucumber and trochus fisheries.

Unnamed reef 21-507

P-21-28

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (RSWM and NL5) and is a representative habitat type of a lagoonal reef.

Unnamed reef 21-529

P-21-33

B

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (RHE and NL5) and is a representative habitat type of a crescentic reef.

Southern Swains: including Wade (21-588), Jenkins (21-584) and Littles (21-589) Reefs

MNP-21-1149

T B NP R S

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NL5, RSWM and RSWO), green turtle foraging and green and loggerhead turtle inter-nesting habitat. The zone complements the Swains Reef National Park and does not include surrounding reefs to minimise the potential impact on the line, marine aquarium fish and trochus fisheries.

Offshore Cape Clinton: including eastern Townshend Island, Heralds Reef Prong (21-432) and Heralds Prong No. 3 (21-434) and Archer Shoal (21-161) and lagoonal areas

MNP-21-1141

See Section 7.12.2 – Hardline to Marine Park boundary for more information.

Barcoo Bank (22-157)

MNP-22-1153

B

The zone includes 2 bioregions (NN and RCB1). The zone does not extend further to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery and does not include Moresby, Edgell or Goodwin Shoals to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

7.12.5. Swains Reef Cays

- P-21-27 Thomas Cay Reef (21-497) and Bacchi Cay Reef (21-495)**
- P-21-29 Frigate Cay Reef (21-511)**
- P-21-30 Price Cay Reef (21-518)**
- P-21-31 Bylund Cay Reef (21-519)**
- P-21-34 Gannet Cay Reef (21-556)**

T B S S U

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RWSM and NL5) and are zoned PZ to prevent disturbance to nesting seabirds and green and loggerhead turtles. The Cays form part of important turtle (25% of known loggerhead turtle nesting for Queensland) and seabird breeding, nesting and inter-nesting habitats in the Swain Reefs area. Of note, the area is the only over-wintering area of the entire asian breeding population of roseate tern. The Cays are known breeding sites for the black-naped tern, brown booby, masked booby, crested tern, lesser-crested tern, little tern, common noddy, and silver gull. The Cays are also foraging sites for the black noddy and shearwater species.

7.12.6. Offshore 3 – Capricorn Bunker Group and to the eastern and southern boundaries of Marine Park

North Reef (23-045a & b), Tryon Island Reef & Brew Shoal (23-047)

MNP-23-1157

T B S U S

The zone includes 5 bioregions (RCB1, X4, NN, NO and NU), and affords protection to part of the special and unique area (Capricorn Bunker Group) and complements the Capricornia Cays National Park, significant seabird nesting, green and loggerhead turtle inter-nesting and hawksbill, green and loggerhead turtle foraging sites. The zone does not extend further to the north, east or west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery.

Northern Capricorn Bunker Group: including North West Island Reef (23-049), Broomfield Reef (23-048), Wilson Reef (23-050) & Sykes Reef (23-054), Wistari Reef (23-053) – west, Mast Head Island Reef (23-069) and the Cabbage Patch area

CP-23-4104

CP-23-4106

T B S U R S NP

The zone includes 5 bioregions (RCB1, RCB2, NB8, NU and X4), affords protection to part of the special and unique area (Capricorn Bunker Group) and complements the Capricornia Cays National Park, significant seabird nesting and marine turtle foraging and inter-nesting sites. Mast Head and North West Islands and the areas known as the 'cabbage patch' are important line fishing areas. The zone has been placed to complement the use of the area and does not extend further to the north, south or west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line, marine aquarium fish and spanner crab fisheries. A Public Appreciation SMA restricts spearfishing,

marine aquarium fish and coral collecting, and aquaculture in the waters surrounding Wistari Reef and part of Heron Island Reef.

Wilson Island & Reef (23-050)

MNP-23-1162

T B SU R S NP

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RCB1 and X4) and affords protection to part of the special and unique area the Capricorn Bunker Group and complements the Capricornia Cays National Park, significant seabird nesting and marine turtle foraging and inter-nesting sites. The zone complements the tourism use of the area and does not extend further to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

North West Island Reef (23-049) – southern side

MNP-23-1163

T B R SU S P NP

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RCB1 and X4). The island is an important anchorage, camping and line fishing site. Shifting a pre-existing MNPZ strip from the north side of the Island to cover the entire southern side of the Island allows for limited extractive use and allows for easier interpretation and compliance of the zoning on the ground.

Wreck Island Reef (23-051)

P-23-35

T B SU S NP

The zone is a pre-existing PZ, includes 2 bioregions (RCB1 and X4). The island is a National Park Scientific and is also one of the largest loggerhead turtle rookeries in the Marine Park.

Heron Island Reef (23-052), Wistari Reef (23-053) and inter-reefal areas adjacent to One Tree Island

MNP-23-1164

T B SU R S TS NP

The zone includes 4 bioregions (RCB1, NB8, NU and X4), affords protection to part of the special and unique area the Capricorn Bunker Group and complements the Capricornia Cays National Park, significant seabird nesting and turtle foraging and inter-nesting sites. The deep channels between Wistari and Heron Reefs contain species that are characteristic of the Far North around Lizard Island; these species are not known to occur anywhere else in southern region, possibly signifying unique recruitment and current patterns in this region. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ, complements the tourism use of the area and does not extend further to the east to minimise the potential impact on the trawl fishery and does not include Sykes or Lamont Reefs to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery.

Heron Island Reef (23-052) – eastern side

SR-23-2009

T B SU R S TS NP

The zone affords protection to significant seabird nesting and marine turtle foraging and inter-nesting sites and allows for the continued use of the area for tourism and

scientific research (Heron Island Research Station). The zone has been placed to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery whilst complementing the Capricornia Cays National Park.

One Tree Island Reef (23-055)

SR-23-2010

T B R S U S NP

The zone affords protection to significant seabird nesting and marine turtle foraging and inter-nesting sites and allows for the continued use of the area for scientific research (One Tree Island Research Station) and complements the Capricornia Cays National Park Scientific status of the island. The zone does not extend further to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery. A Restricted Access SMA overlays the zone, maintaining restricted access provisions in place under the previous Zoning Plan.

Erskine Island Reef (23-068)

MNP-23-1165

T B S U R S NP

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RCB1 and X4), affords protection to part of the special and unique area the Capricorn Bunker Group and complements the Capricornia Cays National Park, significant seabird nesting and marine turtle foraging and inter-nesting sites. The zone was limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the small and heavily used RCB2 bioregion, however does not include nearby reefs to minimise the potential impact on the line and marine aquarium fish fisheries.

Polmaise Reef (23-071) and Irving Reef (23-070)

MNP-23-1166

T B S U R S NP

The zone includes 2 bioregions (RCB2 and X4), affords protection to part of the special and unique area the Capricorn Bunker Group and complements the Capricornia Cays National Park, significant seabird nesting and marine turtle foraging and inter-nesting sites. The zone was limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the small and heavily used RCB2 bioregion, however does not extend further to the north, south or west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and line fisheries.

Llewellyn Reef (23-078), Hoskyn Island Reef (23-080), Fairfax Island Reef (23-081) & northern side of Lady Musgrave Island Reef (23-082)

MNP-23-1168

T B S U R S NP

The zone includes 3 bioregions (NB8, X4, and RCB1), affords protection to part of the special and unique area the Capricorn Bunker Group and complements the Capricornia Cays National Park and National Park Scientific status of the islands, significant seabird nesting and marine turtle foraging and inter-nesting sites. The zone builds on a pre-existing MNPZ at Llewellyn Reef and was limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used RCB1 bioregion. The zone does not include Fitzroy and Boulton Reefs and shoal grounds to the north of Fairfax

Island Reef to minimise the potential impact on the line fishery. The eastern and western boundaries of the zone do not extend further to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and spanner crab fisheries.

Lady Elliot Island Reef (24-082) and surrounds

MNP-23-1169

T B S U R S N P

The zone includes 5 bioregions (NB8, X4, X8 and RCB1) affords protection to part of the special and unique area the Capricorn Bunker Group and significant seabird nesting and marine turtle foraging and inter-nesting sites. The zone was limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used RCB1 and NB8 bioregions, however does not include shoal areas, including the Banana Gutter and the West Warregoes, identified in submissions as important for line fishing from local communities, to minimise the potential impact on line fishing. The zone does not extend further west or north to minimise the potential impact on the trawl and spanner crab fisheries.

Capricorn Channel

B-22-3012

B R

The zone adjoins MNP-22-1154, includes examples of deep-water habitats and allows for trolling for pelagic species in recognition of the areas importance for gamefishing.

Offshore Capricorn: boundary of Marine Park

MNP-22-1154

B

The zone includes bioregion X8 and extends to the south-eastern boundary of the Marine Park to include examples of deep-water habitats. The zone does not extend further north than the area closed to trawling under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*.

Unnamed Shoal 24-010 and surrounding areas - adjacent to the southern boundary of Marine Park

MNP-24-1172

B

The zone includes 3 bioregions (RCB1, NB8 and X8). The zone was limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used NB8 bioregion and does not extend further to the north, east or west to minimise the potential impact on the trawl, line and spanner crab fisheries.

Inshore Baffle Creek - adjacent to the southern boundary of Marine Park

MNP-24-1173

B

The zone includes bioregion NB8. The zone was limited in placement due to the need to adequately protect the heavily used NB8 bioregion and does not extend further north to minimise the potential impact on the spanner crab fishery.

8. Achievement of the Operational Principles

As described in Section 3, the Biophysical Operational Principles (BOPs) and Social, Economic, Cultural and Management Feasibility Operational Principles were developed by independent, external, expert Steering Committees to guide the RAP in the identification and selection of no-take areas. No-take areas include the MNPZ (of which there are 161) and the PZ (of which there are 34). Many of the PZs are embedded within MNPZ so that together, these comprise 165 distinct no-take areas. The operational principles were designed to achieve the objectives of the RAP and reflect the Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) general principles to guide a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (ANZECC 1998).

As discussed in Section 3 (Guiding principles for the Representative Areas Program), these principles recommend minimum levels of protection and do not reflect ideal goals for the management and protection of the Marine Park. As recommendations, they offered guidance to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. It was recognised that in some cases, 100% achievement of all of the principles simultaneously would not be possible as some are conflicting. The implementation of these principles in the final Zoning Plan reflects a balance of all recommendations and objectives. The degree to which the principles were achieved is discussed below.

8.1. Achievement of the biophysical operational principles

Principles 1 and 2: The minimum dimension principle states that, with the exception of the inshore areas, MNPZ areas should be a minimum of 20km across their smallest dimension. Of the 165 distinct MNPZ/PZs, approximately a quarter are entirely within five kilometres of the coast or a large island. Fifty-four of the remaining 123 no-take areas are more than 20km across *at some point* (compared to only one of 135 MNPZs under the previous zoning). In addition, against the principle of having larger no-take areas, the mean size of MNPZs/PZs under the Zoning Plan, is 700km², a five-fold increase from the previous Zoning Plans (140 km²).

Principle 3: The Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) made specific recommendations on the number of replicate no-take areas of each bioregion that should be included within the overall network. Under the previous zoning, sufficient replication was achieved in only 34 of 70 bioregions. The new Zoning Plan includes sufficient replication for 69 of the 70 bioregions.

Principle 4: Reefs are relatively discrete biological units, with high internal connectivity. Therefore, protection of a reef is enhanced if the entire reef is protected, rather than only a part of a reef (termed split-zoning). As far as possible, entire reefs were included into MNPZ/PZs, including surrounding shoals. The Zoning Plan includes about 820 reefs in MNPZ/PZs, of which approximately 5% are split-zoned. This represents a gain on past zoning, in which approximately 10% of reefs were split-zoned.

Principles 5 and 6: The Zoning Plan includes at least 20% of the area of all bioregions in MNPZs/PZs. Some bioregions have more than this absolute minimum level of protection recommended by the SSC. The total percentage of MNPZ and PZ represented is 33.5% (33.3% MNPZ and 0.2% PZ). Of the 30 reef bioregions, 26 satisfy the minimum requirements for representation of 20% of the reef perimeter – the minimum amount of reef perimeter protected per bioregion is 15%.

Principle 7: Cross-shelf and latitudinal diversity is strongly represented in the bioregion boundaries developed by the reef and non-reef expert panels together with the SSC. As a result, the spatial distribution of MNPZ/PZs within bioregions throughout the Marine Park spans the full range of latitudes and cross-shelf environments within the Marine Park.

Principle 8: The Zoning Plan was developed with a number of biophysical datasets indicative of the distribution of communities and physical environments. These included data on shallow and deep-water seagrass sites, *Halimeda* beds, algae, epibenthos, dugong habitat, turtle habitat, and several datasets indicating physical environments, such as inter-reef channels, cays, and maps of regional water quality. In the Zoning Plan, a high degree of this diversity of known habitats and communities is protected to the recommended minimum levels.

Principle 9: The SSC advised that the network of areas should accommodate “environmental information”; that is, what is known about migration patterns, currents and connectivity between habitats. Although data is always becoming available, specific knowledge on ecological connectivity is limited. Where possible, MNPZs/PZs spanned from inshore to offshore environments. This principle was also implemented in part by offering higher levels of protection to seven of the primary ‘source’ reefs identified by James Cook University researchers working on hydrodynamic models of larval dispersal. Another consideration was inclusion of, or at least parts of, some important and well-documented primary fish spawning aggregation sites within MNPZs.

Principle 10: Twenty-seven of the fifty-three high priority special and unique sites identified in the Marine Park were included in MNPZs/PZs. For many others, the level of protection increased either through a greater amount of MNPZ (although not the minimum level required) or a higher level of protective zoning compared to what had previously been in place.

Principle 11: The Zoning Plan was developed with a preference for locating MNPZs/PZs adjacent to existing terrestrial conservation reserves (National Parks, National Estates, wetlands and mangroves) and away from built-up coastal areas. Approximately seven percent (22,700km²) of the Marine Park lies within five kilometers of a State conservation reserve (IUCN categories I to IV). Under previous zoning, eight percent of this was within highly protected areas. The Zoning Plan increases this threefold, to 25%.

8.2. Achievement of the social, economic, cultural and management feasibility operational principles

Principle 1: To maximise complementarity of no-take areas with human values, activities and opportunities several actions were taken. The consultative processes described in Section 5.2 (Community Participation process) was as participatory and open as possible, with over 1000 meetings and 30 000 submissions – all of which informed decisions about location of zones in the new Zoning Plan. Traditional Owner input was a key and distinct part of these consultative processes. Traditional Owners were able to provide input on areas they considered needed high levels of protection and provide information on ways to minimise conflict with their aspirations. Local community input comprised the vast majority of the submissions to the rezoning process, and included advice about special and unique areas that warranted high levels of protection. Community input helped decide which areas were considered special and unique. All available recreational and commercial fishing data, submissions and other information were used to minimise conflicts with these extractive users. As discussed in Section 7 (Zone placement, examples and basis for zoning), many changes were made to the draft Zoning Plan to accommodate the needs of these users. Similarly, potential conflicts with non-extractive users were considered in recommending levels and locations of zones, for example, no-take zones were, as far as possible, not located in shipping lanes.

Principle 2: The final selection of no-take areas recognised the social costs and benefits by ensuring every community, as far as possible, retained reasonable levels of access to the Marine Park for extractive uses – including near-shore and off-shore. Each community along the GBR coast is unique in terms of its workforce, size, community resilience, use of the Marine Park, and other socio-economic attributes. This knowledge was gathered from publicly available documents and submissions and contributed to the location of zones. The permits section of the GBRMPA were part of the team that contributed to developing the Zoning Plan and were able to inform decision-making as to planned and approved future activities in the Marine Park. Monitoring of the effectiveness of the Zoning Plan was considered in planning and has been helped through designing a network of no-take areas that include replicate no-take areas within bioregions.

Principle 3: Complementing present and proposed future management and tenure arrangements was achieved by considering existing and draft management arrangements (including those by GBRMPA, Queensland or local government). These included as much information as was available at the time on the Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park, the Queensland's *Marine Parks Act 2004*, coastal management plans developed under the Queensland *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*, existing National Parks (mainland and islands), Queensland Fishery Management Plans, and catchments prioritised under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. For example, the Dugong Protection Area provisions in the *Queensland Fisheries Regulation 1995* were complemented in the final Zoning Plan, as were the trawl closures included in the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999*. Publicly available data on court determined Native Title Claims was also factored into the final Zoning Plan.

Principle 4: The RAP aimed to maximise understanding and acceptance of, and compliance with, new no-take areas through simplifying zone shapes and making boundaries easy to identify. The Zoning Plan has relatively more square-shaped zones with boundaries aligned north, south, east and west as far as possible. All the boundaries are also, now, defined in coordinates that users can mark on maps or enter into their GPSs. In addition, local coastal landmarks were used to help position zones in near-shore areas. The increase in the number of new zones was also minimised for simplicity's sake. Fewer but larger zones are easier to navigate and comply with than a much larger number of smaller zones that comprise the same total area.

More information about how these principles were addressed are in the Regulatory Impact Statement, the PDP Australia Report, the BRS report and the Bureau of Tourism Research Report available at the GBRMPA website.

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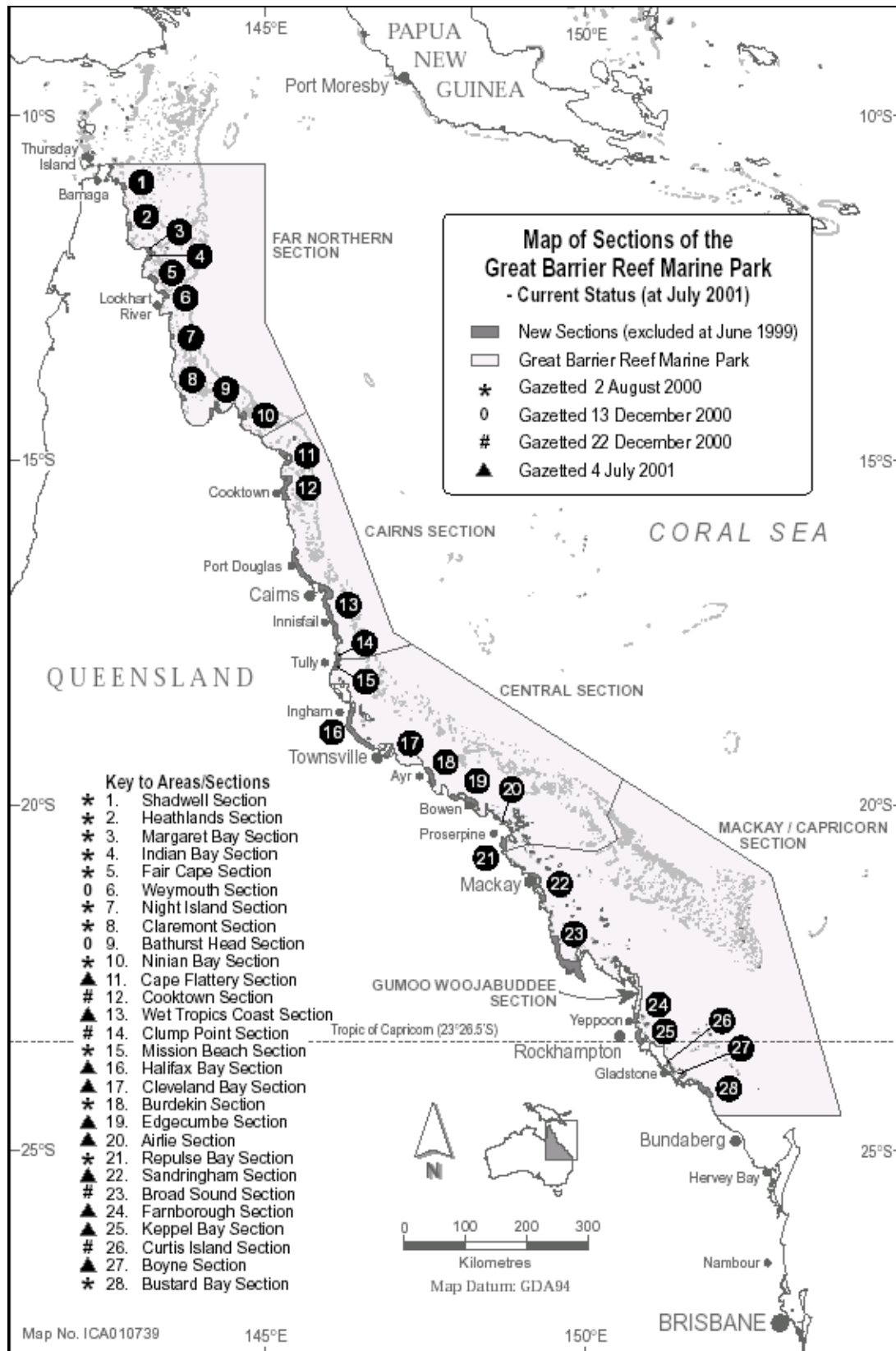
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10. Appendices

10.1 New coastal areas map



10.2 Description of reef bioregions

The table provides bioregion identification, bioregion names and description. The term '*biologically distinct*' refers to differences in absolute and relative abundance of species of hard and/or soft corals and/or fish and/or macroalgae.

| |
|---|
| <p>RA1 Deltaic Reefs Distinct geomorphology, coral and fish. Torres Strait influences (strong currents). Less exposed to Coral Sea than RA2 due to widening of continental shelf.</p> |
| <p>RA2 Outer Barrier Reefs Distinct geomorphology, coral and fish. Coral Sea influence. Mosaic of steep, exposed high-energy fronts and current-swept channels. Leeward reef benthos has a mix of clear-water and coastal species.</p> |
| <p>RA3 Outer Shelf Reefs Distinct geomorphology, with more submerged reefs than elsewhere. Transition zone. Open matrix of reefs allows greater Coral Sea influence, little coastal influence.</p> |
| <p>RA4 Strong Tidal Outer Shelf Reefs Continental shelf protrudes widely but slopes gently. Small outer reefs set back from the edge. Strong tidal movement, high-energy area, biologically distinct.</p> |
| <p>RB1 Far Northern Outer Mid Shelf Reefs Distinct biologically from true outer-shelf or mid-shelf reefs. Species-rich benthos. Mostly smaller reefs, dominated by shoals.</p> |
| <p>RC1 Torres Strait Influenced Mid Shelf Reefs Reefs small, and have Torres Strait influence. Biologically distinct from RC2.</p> |
| <p>RC2 Far Northern Protected Mid Shelf Reefs RC2 & RD have highest species diversity of octocorals on the GBR. Larger shoals and reefs than RC1. Rich hard-coral communities. Extensive reef flats and shoal terraces, separated by diverse channel system (some calm and sheltered, others with strong flow). Many turtle sightings.</p> |
| <p>RD Far Northern Open Lagoon Reefs RC2 & RD have highest species diversity of octocorals on the GBR. Small islands and low vegetated isles with fringing reefs as well as near-shore platform reefs. Distinct and species rich coral communities. Species rich algal communities. Less fish diversity than RC2. Many turtle sightings.</p> |
| <p>RE1 Coastal Far Northern Reefs Relatively rich in both hard and octocoral species. Sediment resuspension during south-east trade winds. Biologically distinct patches of reef.</p> |
| <p>RE2 Coastal Northern Reefs Higher species richness, and more <i>Sargassum</i> than in RE3. Low soft coral cover, but higher richness than RE3. Silty in sheltered areas. Sediment resuspension during south-east trade winds. Biologically distinct patches of reef.</p> |
| <p>RE3 Coastal Central Reefs Biologically distinct, patchy reefs; more exposed to prevailing winds than RE2. Very low soft-coral diversity and cover, but rich in gorgonians on deeper reef slopes. Influenced by episodic Burdekin River plumes and other annual river plumes. Very muddy in sheltered areas and on deeper slopes. Sediment resuspension during south-east trade winds.</p> |
| <p>RE4 Coastal Southern Reefs Moderate tidal ranges, moderate to high turbidity. Broad Sound mouth and Proserpine River influence on water quality. Varying exposure levels within the region, fairly high habitat diversity. Biologically distinct.</p> |
| <p>RE5 High Tidal Fringing Reefs Very high turbidity, thus habitat for light-avoiding benthos at the base of the reefs. Strong coastal influence and unusually strong currents for inshore area, strong tidal movements and high tidal range. Well-developed fringing reefs, with poor hard and soft coral communities, but rich gorgonian and algal communities.</p> |
| <p>RE6 Incipient Reefs Area has lots of algae and only incipient reefs. Very high turbidity and tidal movements. Strong southern influences on coral and algal species.</p> |
| <p>RE7 Tidal Mud Flat Reefs Greatest tidal range and tidal movements on the GBR. Higher turbidity than RE5 and RE6. Very few</p> |

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| reefs or corals, but distinct algal communities. |
| <p>RE8 Coastal Southern Fringing Reefs Dominated by episodic Fitzroy River flood plumes. Southern influence in algal species. Fringing reefs around high continental islands with high cover of hard and soft coral and algae, but low coral diversity.</p> |
| <p>RF1 Northern Open Lagoon Reefs Small islands and low vegetated isles with fringing reefs. Muddy influence from wet tropical rivers. Distinct in terms of reef size and assemblages (soft coral, fish and algae).</p> |
| <p>RF2 Central Open Lagoon Reefs Region dominated by episodic Burdekin flood plumes. Sea floor deeper and lagoon significantly wider, with more tidal movement than RF1. Few reefs and islands.</p> |
| <p>RG1 Sheltered Mid Shelf Reefs Sheltered by outer barrier reefs. Reefs may form lagoons. Distinct hard and soft corals, fish and algae. Octocoral assemblages diverse, mostly clear water species and some coastal species.</p> |
| <p>RG2 Exposed Mid Shelf Reefs Fairly exposed to Coral Sea, with clear water and strong wave action on outer area. Reefs may form lagoons. Episodic Burdekin flood plumes may reach inner reefs adjacent to RF2, resulting in greater cross-shelf variation than in many other bioregions.</p> |
| <p>RHE Strong Tidal Mid Shelf Reefs (East) High energy/high tidal movement. Turbid water. East Australian Current splits so there is an eddie in the open area where there are small well-spaced reefs. Many smaller fish - possibly high-recruitment area. High water column productivity. Biologically distinct (fish). Leeward parts of reefs dominated by filter-feeders. Fuzzy boundary with RSWM.</p> |
| <p>RHW Strong Tidal Mid Shelf Reefs (West) High energy/high tidal movement. Turbid water. High water column productivity. Biologically distinct (fish). Leeward parts of reefs dominated by filter-feeders.</p> |
| <p>RHC High Continental Islands Reefs <i>Palm Islands:</i> Geomorphologically unique, with high diversity (habitat and benthos) due to exposure to clear water by the Palm Passage on the eastern sides, very sheltered and muddy coastal habitats on the protected sides, and current-swept channels between the islands. <i>Whitsunday Islands:</i> Geomorphologically unique. Both cross-shelf and north/south gradient in benthic communities. Species-poor, muddy reefs close to the Proserpine River. Unique and very fragile hard and soft coral communities in the inlets.</p> |
| <p>RHL Hard Line Reefs Geomorphologically distinct. Extensive outer barrier, set well back from edge of continental slope. Fish communities less diverse, but similar to Swain Reefs and Whitsundays. Strong influence from Broad Sound, high tidal energy. Current-swept channels with steep walls, sheltered leeward-reef communities with low diversity but high abundances of selected species.</p> |
| <p>RK Strong Tidal Inner Mid Shelf Reefs High turbidity and very high water column productivity. Distinct from RHW and RHE. Rich bivalve, sponge and ascidian (sea squirt) dominated communities on leeward-reef slopes. Distinct fish communities (including baitfish) with lower diversity. Strongly influenced by Broad Sound tidal node.</p> |
| <p>RCB1 Capricorn Bunker Outer Reefs RCB1 & RCB2 oceanographically isolated, may be biologically distinct from the rest of GBR. Set back from edge of continental shelf but very exposed due to local currents. Distinct differences in coral trout populations compared with the Swain Reefs and elsewhere on the GBR. High soft-coral diversity.</p> |
| <p>RCB2 Capricorn Bunker Mid Shelf Reefs RCB1 & RCB2 oceanographically isolated, may be biologically distinct from rest of GBR. More turbid, more sheltered and more algae than RCB1, characteristic of mid-shelf area. Good turtle-feeding habitat.</p> |
| <p>RSWM Swains Mid Reefs Very sheltered. Biologically distinct communities from Swains Outer Reefs (RSWO). Many cays. Fuzzy boundary with RHE.</p> |
| <p>RSWN Coral Sea Swains-Northern Reefs Near edge of continental slope. Northerly aspect. Biologically distinct with strong influence of Coral</p> |

Sea fauna and some similarities to northern outer-shelf reefs, but lower diversity of hard and soft coral species.

RSWO Swains Outer Reefs

Set back from shelf edge. Easterly aspect. Lower influence of Coral Sea fauna than RSWN. Biologically distinct from Mid Swains (RSWM), more similar to Capricorn Bunker Outer Reefs (RCB1). Communities on flanks and leeward sides dominated by xeniids, a large and very characteristic group of soft corals, unique in their ecology and biology.

10.3 Descriptions of non-reef bioregions

The table provides bioregion identification, bioregion names and description. The term '*biologically distinct*' refers to differences in absolute and relative abundance of seagrass and/or sponges and/or general epibenthos and/or pelagic fishes.

NA1 Coastal Strip

Sand rather than mud, low carbonate and low nutrient. Dry tropic influence from land. Very dense seagrass in places – some areas important for dugong and turtle feeding. Boundaries of bioregion along the coast match changes in shoreline type.

NA3 High Nutrients Coastal Strip

Terrigenous mud and high levels of nutrients from the adjoining land. Seagrass in sheltered sites only. Good turtle and dugong feeding habitat. Wet tropic influence for much of the coast.

NA4 Inshore Terrigenous Sands

Strong Broad Sound tidal influence. Very mobile sands, little algae or seagrass.

NB1 Inshore Muddy Lagoon

High carbonate sand, prawn habitat. Rich soft-sediment sponge fauna, 24% not yet recorded elsewhere.

NB3 Inner Shelf Seagrass

Fine sediment area with distinct invertebrate and fish communities. Seasonal seagrass in patches. Distinct gorgonian fauna, associated with low wooded islands. Boundary for sponges and gorgonians extends south to Cape Grafton only.

NB5 Inner Mid Shelf Lagoon

Coarse sediment from land influences (medium-high land input). Sparse seagrass.

NB6 Inner Shelf Lagoon Continental Islands

Strong currents with some gravel and hydroids around Pine Peak Island. Some gorgonians and low reef sites, water very turbid. Seagrass meadows in some bays.

NB7 Mid Shelf Lagoon

Muds dominate, minimal algae or seagrass. Leeward parts of Hook and Bait Reefs are geomorphologically different. Very steep, extensive benthos, gravel, low sponge diversity but only 21% of species are similar to those in southern lagoonal reefs. Mobile sand dunes influenced by strong East Australian Current.

NB8 Capricorn Bunker Lagoon

Halimeda and seagrass up to 50% cover. Mixing of southern inshore and tropical inshore sponge species, 28% not yet found elsewhere.

NC Mid Shelf Inter Reef - Seagrass

Fine sediments, high carbonate content between a large number of reefs. Contains deep water shoals.

ND Mid Shelf Inter Reef

Shelly sands, almost no fine sediments. Very little seagrass. Abundant crinoids (feather stars).

NE Outer Shelf Lagoon

Halimeda Banks. *Caulerpa* goes only as far as the inner edge of the shelf edge. Eastern boundary follows the inner boundary of the Ribbon Reefs.

NF *Halimeda* Banks – some coral

Halimeda and *Caulerpa* banks with deep rubble reef or sparse coral patches. NE/NF boundary follows Pollard Channel.

NH Mid Shelf Sandy Inter Reef

Fine sediment low density seagrass beds, known turtle foraging sites.

NI *Halimeda* Banks

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| Dense <i>Halimeda</i> , almost no coral, some seagrass. | |
| NJ Princess Charlotte Bay Outer Shelf Sandy change to carbonate sediments. Red-spot king prawn grounds. | |
| NK Princess Charlotte Bay Muddy bay, surrounded by silica sand deposits with low nutrient levels. Some seagrass. | |
| NL1 Outer Shelf Algae and Seagrass Areas of medium density seagrass and medium density algae, diverse solitary corals. High diversity of sponge species at Lizard Island and North and South Direction Groups, 28% not yet recorded elsewhere on the GBR. | |
| NL2 Outer Shelf Seagrass Some shelly sands (very coarse) with smaller areas of seagrass and algal gardens (low density). | |
| NL3 Outer Shelf Inter Reef - Central Shelly sands with very sparse algae and seagrasses. | |
| NL4 Outer Shelf Inter Reef - Southern High currents. Coarse sediments. Available data indicates low biomass and high diversity of biota. | |
| NL5 Swains Inter Reef Rich sponge fauna, 26% not yet recorded elsewhere on GBR, and only 31% of species occurring in both Swain and Capricorn Bunker regions. Complex and rocky in places, with lower tidal current than in NL4. Fuzzy boundary with NL4. Some <i>Halimeda</i> and some seagrass in patches in middle Swains. | |
| NM Mid Shelf Seagrass Dense seagrass beds. Very muddy area with distinct invertebrate and fish communities. High diversity of sponges near Turtle Islands group with 36% not yet recorded elsewhere in GBR region. | |
| NN Capricorn Bunker Banks Pre-reef <i>Halimeda</i> deposits around Capricorn Bunker reefs. Diverse sponge fauna (187 species), mostly different from southern fauna (NB8), slightly more similar to northern island-group faunas (NL5). | |
| NO Capricorn Trough Deep oceanic influence. Mix of pelagic (e.g. foraminifera) and <i>Halimeda</i> deposits. Very fuzzy boundary between NO and NB7. | |
| NP Eastern Plateau Based on depth, region broadens towards Eastern Plateau; some fine pelagic sediments. | |
| NQ Steep Slope Very steep slope dropping off to depths of 2500+m. Slopes prone to slippages. | |
| NR Queensland Trough More moderate slope than NQ; mostly fine pelagic sediments. | |
| NS Intermediate Broad Slope Widening of slope with lower gradient; mostly fine pelagic sediments. | |
| NTW Western Pelagic Platform Gentle, broad slope; number of sediment drifts (mobile sand banks formed under East Australian Current); fine pelagic sediments punctuated by many coral shoals. Oceanic sharks and large bluespot trout present. | |
| NTE Eastern Pelagic Platform Gentle, broad slope. Mostly fine pelagic sediments with several long (30 n.mile) E-W shoals of extensive plate corals to 5-10 m depth. A number of mobile sand banks have formed under East Australian Current. | |
| NU Terraces Characterised by hard substrate seafloor terraces at depths of 90-300 m terraces punctuated by shoals to depths of around 10 m. | |
| X1 Far Northern Offshelf X2 Offshelf Queensland Trough X3 Outer Far Northern Inter Reef X4 Capricorn Bunker Inter Reef | X5 Outer Central Inter Reef X6 Central Offshelf X7 Central Inter Reef X8 Southern Embayment |
| These deepwater, offshore areas extend mainly from the edge of the continental shelf to the eastern border of the GBRWHA. They were described largely from physical information. For the purposes of the Representative Areas Program, and until further information is gained, they are treated as separate bioregions. | |

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The Representative Areas Program was the most comprehensive planning exercise ever undertaken by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and at various stages has involved a wide range of officers from all parts of the agency. The following list of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority officers was compiled at the time of the Zoning Plan being tabled in both Houses of Federal Parliament (3 December 2003) and are acknowledged for their particular efforts towards the completion of the Representative Areas Program. Many staff shown below have since moved to other parts of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority or have left the agency to pursue other challenges. We extend an apology to anyone inadvertently left off this list.

The entire Executive, comprising:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Virginia Chadwick, Chairman | |
| John Tanzer, Executive Director | |
| Andrew Skeat, Executive Director | |
| John Baldwin | Sonia Batley |
| Kate Finch | Lois Wilkinson |

The Representative Areas Program Task Force, but in particular:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| James Aumend | James Corbett (now left the GBRMPA) |
| James Hall (now left the GBRMPA) | Jenni Hinspeter (now left the GBRMPA) |
| Belinda Jago | Kirsti Sampson (now left the GBRMPA) |
| Deb Slater (now left the GBRMPA) | Kate Stapleton (now left the GBRMPA) |
| Suzanne Slegers (now left the GBRMPA) | Leanne Thompson |

The Spatial Data Centre, comprising:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Adam Lewis, previously Manager, Spatial Data Centre (now left the GBRMPA) | |
| Dave Lowe Manager, Spatial Data Centre | |
| Rhonda Banks | Paul Davies (now left the GBRMPA) |
| Kerry King (now left the GBRMPA) | Leath Muller |
| Jeff Shearin | Paul Tudman |
| Peter Wood | |

The entire Fisheries Issues Group, but in particular:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Phil Cadwallader, Director, Fisheries Issues | |
| Margie Atkinson | Mick Bishop |
| Darren Cameron | Martin Russell |
| Randall Owens | |

The entire Communication & Education Group, but in particular:

| | |
|--|--|
| Bruce Kingston, previously Director, Communication and Education (now left the GBRMPA) | |
| Helen Brachmanski | Kate Coward (now left the GBRMPA) |
| Selena Dunn | Karin Flynn (now left the GBRMPA) |
| Eliza Glasson | Chip Henris-Andersen (now left the GBRMPA) |
| Sharon Kirkby | Graeme Lavis (now left the GBRMPA) |
| Lindy Schmidt | Julie Stanley |
| Joel Whittleton (now left the GBRMPA) | |

The Human Dimensions Unit within the Research and Monitoring Coordination Group, comprising:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| James Innes | Julie Cleverley (now left the GBRMPA) |
| Kerrie Gorman | |

The entire Legal Services Unit, but in particular:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Fiona Macdonald | |
| Emma Flanigan (now left the GBRMPA) | |

The entire Conservation, Biodiversity & World Heritage Group, but in particular:
Kirstin Dobbs, Manager, Species Conservation Andrea Brooker (now left the GBRMPA)
Laura O'Connor

The Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit, comprising:
Chicka Turner, Manager, Indigenous Policy and Liaison
Jason Davis (now left the GBRMPA) Leon Jackson
Tony Kyle (now left the GBRMPA) Holly Savage
John Tapim

The entire Program Delivery group, but in particular:
Peter McGinnity, Director, Program Delivery Group
Sandra Anderson Deb Bass
Michael Christensen Jessica Hoey
Michelle Kennedy Stefanie Myers (now left the GBRMPA)
Sally Peut Martin Robinson
Margaret Stokes Nick Wynn (now left the GBRMPA)

The entire Science, Technology and Information group, but in particular:
Dave Wachenfeld, Director Science, Technology and Information Group
Andrew Chin Michael Chinn
Suzie Davies Ken Dwyer
Glen Harris Jessica Hoey
Johanna Johnson Julie Jones
John Mackay Mark Mangles
Paul Marshall Lawrence McCook
Cathy McKeller Traci Orr
Jules Sanders Jenny Zadkovich

The entire Tourism and Recreation group, but in particular:
Chris Thomas, previously Director, Tourism and Recreation (now left the GBRMPA)
Vicki Bonanno Chris Briggs
Carol Honchin Leanne Sayers

The entire Water Quality & Coastal Development group, but in particular:
Hugh Yorkston, Director, Water Quality & Coastal Development Group
Leigh Gray Trinity Lowe
Chris Manning Paula Tomkins

The Parliamentary and Ministerial Liaison Unit, comprising:
Michael O'Keefe, Manager, Parliamentary and Ministerial Liaison
Maria Hawke Helen McGregor (now left the GBRMPA)

The entire Corporate Services Group, but in particular:
John Barrett, Director, Corporate Services
Amanda Baker (now left the GBRMPA) Barney Bebendorf
Mary Berkelmans Jody Blacker (now left the GBRMPA)
Sten Larsen Ann Mathews
Dirk Schmidt Nicky Turia (now left the GBRMPA)
Moirra Turner (now left the GBRMPA) Madeleine Ward

The Day-to-Day Management Group, including:
Gregor Manson, previously Executive Director (now left the GBRMPA)
James Aston
Kathleen Swalling

Other Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority officers who were also heavily involved in the Representative Areas Program at various times over the years, but had left the agency prior to December 2003, include:

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Bryony Barnett | Tom Baxter | Dan Breen |
| Barry Duncan | Jan Forbes | Gary Frost |
| Alison Green | Ed Green | Alicia Hill |
| Richard Kenchington | Bridget Kerrigan | David Lloyd |
| Rowena Morris | Sheriden Morris | Jamie Oliver |
| Jurgen Otto | Renae Tobin | Pamela Redfern |
| Matt Ryan | Mark Simmons | Nycole Smith |
| Leanne Sommer | Tony Stokes | |

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Jon Day
Director, Conservation, Biodiversity & World Heritage



Leanne Fernandes
Manager, Representative Areas Program

