



Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park: News update for charter fishers and commercial tour operators – Issue 4

Zoning status

As explained in previous newsletters, the outer boundaries of the marine park were created in June 2012 and the management plan was approved in October 2013. Legislative changes are still needed to create management 'zones' in the marine park. Until this time, permitted activities within Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park remain unchanged.

The zoning scheme, which will influence how fishing and other activities are managed, is expected to come into effect during 2014.

Planning for other proposed Kimberley marine parks will continue in 2014 and we will continue to keep you informed on how you can provide input into this process.

Multiple use zones

The Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park will provide protection for a large, biologically diverse and spectacular part of the Kimberley, while providing for sustainable use and enjoyment. This will be achieved by managing the park as a 'multiple use' area, meaning certain areas known as 'zones' will be used in different ways. Charter fishing will be permitted to continue in 81 per cent of the marine park as per the recreational fishing rules.

Sanctuary zones: These zones will be look but don't take areas used to provide the highest level of protection for vulnerable species and to protect the habitats and wildlife communities of the Champagne Island and Montgomery Reef areas. Passive recreational activities, which do not compromise environmental values, may be permitted, but extractive activities, such as fishing, will not be allowed. You will be allowed to have fish on board, however, fishing gear will have to be securely stowed away when travelling through a sanctuary zone. Special rules will apply when approaching humpback whale cows and calves.

Special purpose zone (whale conservation): This zone will be managed to protect an important whale calving, nursing and resting area. Uses that are incompatible with these conservation values will not be permitted. Most recreational activities, including fishing, will be permitted. However, special rules will apply when approaching humpback whale cows and calves.

Special purpose zone (pearling): This zone will be established to recognise the longest-operating and largest cluster of pearling leases in WA. While pearl culture will be the priority use of this zone, most recreational activities, including fishing, will be permitted.

Special purpose zone (wilderness conservation): This zone will be managed to preserve, as closely as possible, the near natural condition of the environment in this remote area. No extractive uses will be permitted other than highly restricted recreational fishing. Special rules will apply to allow a personal possession limit of one fish, or two fillets of fish (baitfish excepted). You will not be allowed to store any other fish on board.

General use zones: In these zones, all activities (including sustainable recreational fishing) will be permitted, provided they do not compromise the ecological values of the marine park.

What is an ILUA?

No doubt you've heard this term thrown around in discussions regarding the marine park. But what is it and what does it mean?

An ILUA (Indigenous Land Use Agreement) is a voluntary agreement between a native title group and others about the use and management of land and waters that allows them to negotiate flexible, pragmatic agreements to suit their particular circumstances.

By making agreements, Indigenous Australians can gain benefits such as employment, compensation and recognition of their native title. Other parties to the agreement can obtain the use of land for development or other purposes.

In the case of Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park, the ILUA will address the management of the intertidal zone of the marine park, and potentially, the terrestrial areas that border it. The final agreement may outline the park's joint management arrangements and the exercise of native title rights on the park. Once discussions are complete and the ILUA is signed, both the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) and the Department of Fisheries can start the process to legally establish the zones to the high tide mark and manage the marine park with Traditional Owners.

Research update

In September 2013, the Department of Fisheries joined forces with The University of Western Australia on an extensive research field trip in the marine park. Eighteen researchers deployed almost 500 baited remote underwater video systems (BRUVs) and 300 fish traps to gather baseline data on the diversity, abundance and size distribution of fish, shark and ray populations.

Genetic tissue samples were also taken, as part of a study examining how populations of the same species connect with each other. The use of such non-destructive research methods means that few fish are harmed and those captured in traps can be measured and returned to the water alive.

The Department of Fisheries is also working to address gaps in knowledge about the park's key ecological features. Studies are focusing on the importance of estuaries and nearshore habitats on the life cycle of key fish, shark and ray species. In particular, they will identify important fish habitats including fish spawning grounds, nursery areas and habitats, and look at the role of tides and mangroves on species as they change from juveniles to adults.

Further studies will develop cost-effective monitoring methods to trace the potential recovery of the 'benthic' (seabed) environment and fish groupings, following the removal of trawling in two special purpose zones (whale conservation and wilderness conservation) and sanctuary zones.

Outcome of the charter industry review

Earlier this year, the Minister for Fisheries approved a number of proposals intended to simplify the complex licensing arrangements and better position the charter sector to meet future challenges. As a result, no expired licences will be re-issued and no new Fishing Tour Operators Licences and Restricted Fishing Tour Operators Licences will be considered. All existing licence conditions on Fishing Tour Operators Licences and Restricted Fishing Tour Operators Licences have already been removed as part of the staged implementation.

The remaining recommendations, including abolishing the 'land-based' licence category, will be put in place over the coming months and will be complete on 1 July 2014.

The state of our fisheries

Each year Western Australian researchers put the State's aquatic resources under scrutiny and report the results. The latest report reveals that sustainability measures are working to deliver positive results. Approximately 97 per cent of commercial fisheries are targeting stocks where no additional management is required to either maintain or achieve an acceptable breeding stock level. Fishing methods, which could potentially affect some habitats, are highly regulated, with more than 90 per cent of the State's coastline unaffected by these activities.

Charter catch reports for barramundi and threadfin, the two most iconic and commonly caught species in the North Coast Nearshore and Estuarine Fishery, were estimated at approximately 4.8 tonnes of barramundi

and 1.4 tonnes of threadfin. Combine these figures with the recreational catch by boat-based fishers, and the recreational catch contributes to about 25 per cent of the total catch of barramundi and 15 per cent of the threadfin catch in the northern part of the State. The catches of shore-based and freshwater fishers are not part of these estimates. Overall, catch is considered to be at acceptable levels and the fishery in good health with minimal impact on the local environment.

For full details, see the **Status reports of the fisheries and aquatic resources of Western Australia 2012/13**, at the Department of Fisheries website, www.fish.wa.gov.au

Good vessel maintenance – keep your bottom clean!

All vessels entering WA's waters, regardless of their size or frequency of visits, pose a risk to the State's aquatic biosecurity. Good vessel maintenance and effective antifouling not only prevent the introduction of new invasive marine pests (IMPs) and spread of those already here, it also provides benefits including increased vessel performance and speed, lower fuel consumption and reduced maintenance costs.

IMPs are marine plants or animals, which, if introduced to WA, could find their new homes so attractive they out-compete native species and cause a host of other problems. It has been estimated that of the 250 non-indigenous marine species identified in Australian waters, as many as three quarters have arrived as biofouling on vessels. All vessels carry marine species, whether in ballast water, biofouling or tangled in gear and equipment. And many have the potential to survive the voyage, establish viable populations and become significant invasive pests. Your vigilance will help stop pests from entering beautiful WA and establishing themselves here.

Prevent the spread of aquatic pests by following these five simple steps:

1. **Regularly** inspect and clean areas most prone to biofouling such as niche areas including internal sea water systems, docking strips, sea chests, pipe openings, propellers, shafts and rudders.
2. **Dry and maintain** your boat and equipment. Air drying will kill most small pest species in about 24 hours.
3. **Re-apply or apply** an authorised antifoul paint where appropriate and well within the life-span specified by the manufacturer, paying particular attention to coverage of pipe openings, niche and internal areas.
4. **Regularly check** and ensure marine growth prevention systems (MGPS) are operating efficiently and effectively. In the absence of an MGPS, ensure that other options for treating internal seawater systems are undertaken regularly and effectively.
5. **Report** any unusual sightings to **FishWatch** on **1800 815 507**, via email to biosecurity@fish.wa.gov.au or through **WA PestWatch** on the Department's website. You can also report sightings through the free **WA PestWatch app**.



A heavily biofouled vessel being cleaned in dry dock to reduce the risk of translocating invasive species.

REDMAP – Spot, Log, Map

Spotted anything unusual while on or in the water?

Redmap (Range Extension Database & Mapping project) invites the Australian community to spot, log and map marine species that are not usually seen in particular coastal areas. Some species may be new to you, some may be shifting or extending their range, and the presence of others may vary seasonally.

Over time, Redmap will use this 'citizen science' data to map which Australian marine species may be 'moving house' (extending their distribution range) in response to changes in the marine environment, such as ocean warming.

Ocean temperatures around most parts of the Australian coast have warmed at more than twice the global average, even faster in some regions. A temperature rise of a few degrees does not really sound like a lot, however for our marine ecosystems, small temperature changes are having a significant impact on the distribution of our marine species.

The Department of Fisheries supports this national initiative, which involves people from a range of community sectors collectively monitoring a variety of marine ecosystems and reporting sightings across a diverse range of species groups. Our research scientists are responsible for verifying the species identity of submitted photos.

Redmap allows you and your guests to collect your own marine data, share stories and upload photos of 'unusual' sightings. To be involved, just log on to www.redmap.org.au and tell them what species you have spotted that you think are unusual for any given area. If you've got a photo that's even better!

A promotional graphic for the Redmap project. The background is a collage of marine life photos: a man holding a large red fish, a yellow nudibranch, a diver with a turtle, and a blue fish. The text 'Spot anything unusual?' is written in a large, white, handwritten font. Below it, a red banner contains the text 'Share with REDMAP your photos of marine life that aren't usually found at your local fishing, swimming or diving spots.' Further down, smaller text says 'Help REDMAP track marine species that may be shifting into new areas in response to changes in your local seas, such as ocean warming.' and 'Check out all the fish, rays, sharks, octopus, turtles and more spotted by Australians around the country at:'. A red camera icon is next to the text 'Snap and log your sighting using our App on your smartphone.' Below this is a smartphone displaying the Redmap app interface. At the bottom, a red banner displays 'WWW.REDMAP.ORG.AU'. The footer contains various logos including IMAS, UTAH, ands, and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, along with download instructions for the app on the App Store and Google Play.

Contact us

This newsletter outlines some changes that will be happening in the Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park and other related information. If you have further questions regarding fishing in the marine park, please do not hesitate to email me, Kara Dew, your local Department of Fisheries Community Education Officer, at Kara.Dew@fish.wa.gov.au

Any of our staff at the Broome office will also be happy to assist – call (08) 9193 8600.

For further information regarding the Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park or wildlife in Western Australia, please contact Department of Parks and Wildlife Marine Park Coordinator Todd Quartermaine on (08) 9195 5524 or todd.quartermaine@dpaw.wa.gov.au, or visit the DPaW website at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au