

# North Coast Bioregion

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

During 2001/02, the Department of Fisheries has worked with CALM as part of the planning process for the Dampier Archipelago and Montebello Islands marine reserve proposals. The Department has also liaised with Environment Australia, which released the final plan for the Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island reserves.

Work has also commenced on the preparation of the Fisheries Environmental Management Review for the northern bioregion. This will include the Pilbara and Kimberley marine areas out to 200 m.

Bycatch reduction devices or grids have been trialled in all of the prawn trawl fisheries in the bioregion. It is anticipated that full implementation of BRDs will occur in the coming fishing season. The bycatch action plan process for these fisheries will be undertaken in conjunction with the ESD reporting process. This is due to be completed by December 2005 for all fisheries exporting product.

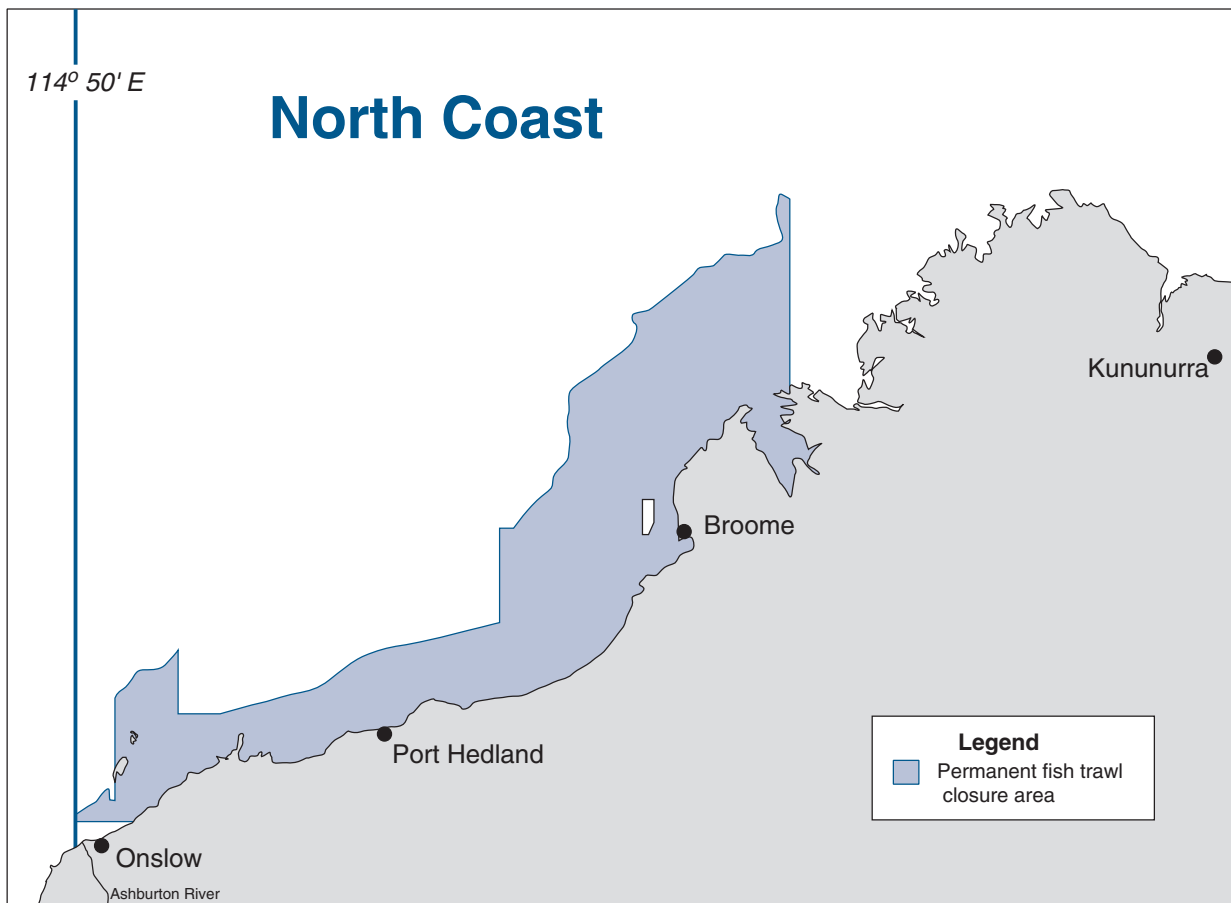
One Fishcare WA project and one new Fisheries Action Program project were funded in the north coast bioregion. These were:

- Brochures and signage to protect the marine area surrounding wrecks *Kunmunya* and *Samson II* (Port Walcott Dive Club, Point Samson).
- Bycatch survey in the Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery (Department of Fisheries).

## FISH HABITAT PROTECTION OVERVIEW

The north coast bioregion has extensive closures to fish trawling in all coastal waters west of longitude 120° E to protect inshore fish nurseries. Similarly, the coastal area off Eighty Mile Beach and north to King Sound, apart from a suitable prawn trawling habitat area, has been permanently closed to trawling to protect important pearl oyster habitats from exploratory trawling (North Coast Habitat Protection Figure 1).

The region also has a range of RPAs and marine parks and reserves at sensitive coastal and offshore locations. The Department of Fisheries continues to provide input to the planning process for the proposed marine reserves at the Dampier Archipelago and the Montebello Islands.



**NORTH COAST HABITAT PROTECTION FIGURE 1**

Map showing areas permanently closed to trawling for finfish in the north coast bioregion.



**NORTH COAST HABITAT PROTECTION FIGURE 2**

Map showing current and proposed areas of protected fish habitat in the north coast bioregion.