

South Coast Bioregion

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The University of WA has undertaken an extensive survey of the fish habitats of the Recherche Archipelago. The Department serves on the coordinating committee guiding this work.

In November 2001 the HMAS *Perth* was scuttled in King George Sound as an artificial reef and dive wreck. To ensure effective management of the site, the City of Albany has requested that a protection area be declared around the wreck. The Department of Fisheries has supported this move and a prohibition of fishing order is being prepared under Section 43 of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

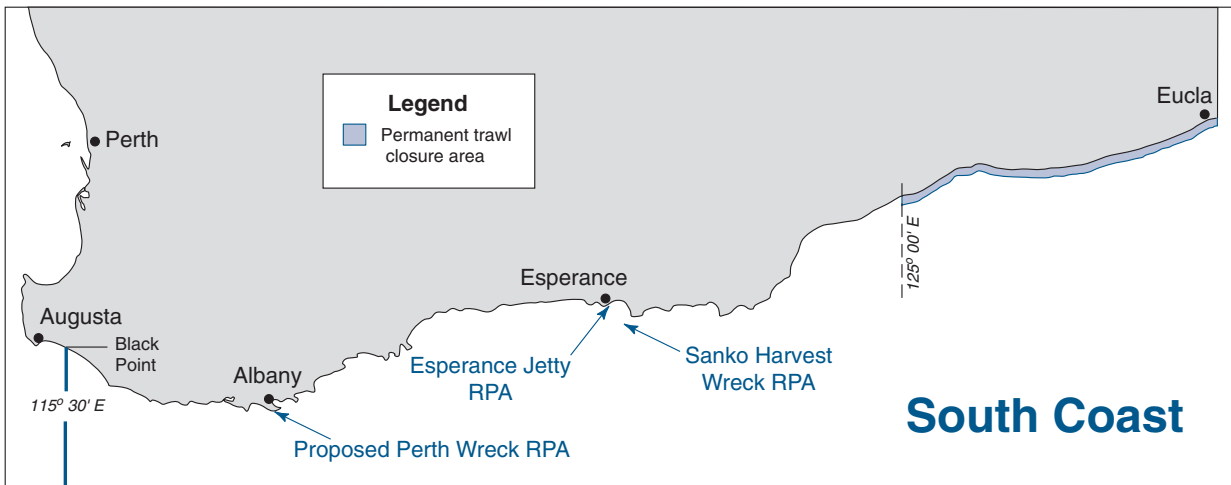
One new Fishcare WA project was funded in the south coast bioregion. This was:

- Dragonsearch Project – encouraging the recording of seadragon sightings online (Australian Marine Conservation Society WA).

FISH HABITAT PROTECTION OVERVIEW

Along the south coast, fishing activities which can impact on marine habitats are limited to a small amount of scallop trawling off Esperance. There is a coastal trawling closure of State waters along the western Great Australian Bight sector, enacted under Commonwealth fisheries legislation, to ensure deep-sea trawlers do not venture into sensitive coastal areas (South Coast Habitat Protection Figure 1).

In addition, there are RPAs which cover the *Sanko Harvest* wreck site and the end of the old Esperance Jetty.



SOUTH COAST HABITAT PROTECTION FIGURE 1

Map showing areas permanently closed to trawl fishing and areas of protected fish habitat in the south coast bioregion.