# Coastal and Marine Resource Condition Monitoring – Scoping Project

Final NRM Report – Project 073007

Part 1– Knowledge review and gap analysis: Resource condition monitoring in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia

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#### **Correct citation:**

Human, B. A. and McDonald, J. I. 2009. Knowledge review and gap analysis: Resource condition monitoring in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia. Coastal and Marine Resource Condition Monitoring - Scoping Project. Final NRM Report, Project 073007 - Part 1. Department of Fisheries, Government of Western Australia. 192pp.

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© Department of Fisheries, Western Australia. December 2009. ISSN: 1035 - 4549 ISBN: 1 921258 74 8

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#### Abbreviations

AIMS - Australian Institute of Marine Science BRD - bycatch reduction device CALM - Department of Conservation and Land Management, Government of Western Australia (currently DEC) CPUE - catch per unit effort CSIRO - Commonwealth Scientific and Industry Research Organisation DEC - Department of Environment and Conservation, Government of Western Australia DEWHA - Department for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts DoE - Department of Environment, Government of Western Australia (currently DEC) DoF - WA Department of Fisheries ECU - Edith Cowen University EPA - Environmental Protection Authority FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation FRDC - Fisheries Research and Development Corporation FRM Act - Fish Resources Management Act 1994 GDP - gross domestic product ha - hectares JCU - James Cook University KLC - Kimberley Land Council LNG - liquid natural gas MEST - BlueNet Metadata Entry & Search Tool (MEST) version 1.1 MPRA - Marine Parks and Reserves Authority MPRSWG - Marine Parks and Reserves Working Group NDT - northern development taskforce NRM - natural resource management NT - Northern Territory NWMRI - North West Marine Research Inventory NWSJEMS - North West Shelf Joint Environmental Management Study RCM - resource condition monitoring RNE - Register of the National Estate, Australian Heritage Commission t - tonnes UQ - University of Queensland UWA - University of Western Australia WA - Western Australia WAM - Western Australian Museum WAMSI - Western Australian Marine Science Institute

WC Act - wildlife conservation act 1950

#### **Executive summary**

This report details extensive literature searches for both research and monitoring programs that have been undertaken in the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley region of northern Western Australia. The Pilbara and Kimberley region is remote and difficult to access, resulting in very little monitoring effort of the marine and coastal environments in that region.

We currently know very little of the condition of marine and coastal natural resources in the Pilbara and Kimberley, and the purpose of the current literature review is to identify knowledge gaps for the region to prioritise areas for future research. Compounding our lack of knowledge on the state of the natural resource condition, is the burgeoning industrial developments that continue apace, including mineral, oil, and natural gas mining. Some of the largest industrial facilities in Australia are to be found in coastal and marine environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley.

The knowledge review examined the available literature for the region relating to marine and coastal research and monitoring. The project required that knowledge gaps be identified from the categories - general marine<sup>\*</sup>, marine water and sediment quality, marine primary production, marine vegetation communities<sup>\*</sup>, marine invertebrate communities, marine fish species, marine reptile species, and marine mammal species. A discussion of each of these categories, for both the Pilbara and Kimberley regions highlights where research has previously occurred, our state of knowledge, and issues that currently exist.

This literature review uncovered a paucity in monitoring literature for the Pilbara and Kimberley region compared to other marine and coastal regions in Australia. A significant finding in both the research and monitoring literature reviews was the lack of accessability to the majority of literature in this field. This results from the majority of the research, and most notably, monitoring studies, being carred out by private enterprises, such as industry and consultancies, and these reports not being publicly available. The private sector argues that their studies are publicly available through Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) reports, however, these reports merely summarise the studies with no further details.

From the monitoring literature that was accessible for this study, it was apparent that most monitoring studies were in fact initial surveys or taxonomic surveys. Less than one third of the accessible monitoring literature actually met the requirements of a monitoring study (repeated surveys of established survey sites using a uniform sampling methodology over time), and of these, most only rated fair out of a quality rating system that utilised the categories - excellent, very good, fair, poor, initial survey, taxonomic survey, or inaccessible. From the accessible monitoring literature, most of the monitoring effort has focussed on marine vegetation communities, notably mangroves, and to lesser extents, marine invertebrate communities, and marine fish species.

A total of 46 knowledge gaps were originally identified from the literature review, however, through the course of this project, one of these gaps was addressed. These knowledge gaps were either referred to in the literature, or were inferred by their absence from the literature. The knowledge gaps varied from being highly specific, such as those referring to a particular species, to more general knowledge gaps, such as those referring to large scale oceanographic features. Many of the knowledge gaps also impacted across multiple categories mentioned above, as well as across the Pilbara and Kimberley. The knowledge gaps were categorised into the following themes

<sup>\*</sup> Those categories highlighted with an asterisk are additional to those cited in the project proposal and were added to address the literature focus more thoroughly.

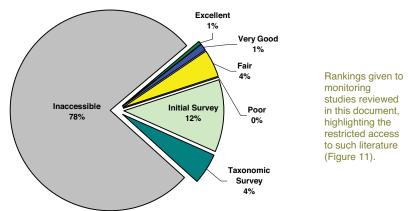
- Endangered/Threatened Habitats, Endangered/Threatened Species, Biodiversity, Ecological/ Oceanographic, and Fisheries/Aquaculture.The most number of identified knowledge gaps impacting on a particular region and category was that for marine fish species of the Kimberley.

These knowledge gaps were presented to stakeholders in the form of workshops conducted in Kununurra, Broome and Karratha. The aim of the workshops was to have the stakeholders prioritise the knowledge gaps for future research in the region. It was encouraging that all three stakeholder workshops voted for large-scale knowledge gaps, in two instances voting the same knowledge gap as highest priority, and that they mostly related to those classified as oceanographic and ecological knowledge gaps. The stakeholders were also concerned about fisheries and aquaculture related knowledge gaps.

Kimberley stakeholders identified the need for having a long-term biological time series for the inshore environment of the Kimberley as their highest research priority. Pilbara stakeholders are concerned that no long term management is in place to monitor resource condition in the marine environment. The stakeholder workshops also highlight the concerns of the stakeholders with regards to the knowledge gaps relating to large scale oceanographic features, including oceanic currents and primary production, and how these processes impact on the marine and coastal environments of the region. It is also apparent that there is concern over the rapid increase in recreational fishing in the region. There is concern not only for the impact that the fishers are having on local fish stocks, but also the damage caused by the fishers to coastal habitats when accessing fishing locations. Also apparent is the concern stakeholders have with regards to the potential impacts of climate change and/or environmental degradation to commercial fishing stocks.

# Key findings

- The relative amount of research and monitoring effort that has been invested in the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley region is low compared to elsewhere in Australia.
- Literature relating to research and monitoring of the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley are largely inaccessible because they have been conducted by private enterprises.



- There is a need for long-term resource condition monitoring of the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley.
- There was general agreement across stakeholder groups, including government agencies and the general public, that long term resource condition monitoring of the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley is a high priority.

- There is a paucity of baseline data for resource condition monitoring of the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley.
- Large knowledge gaps exist both in terms of research and monitoring in the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley.

## Project aims and background

A large coastal and marine resource condition monitoring (RCM) project was developed for the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. Unfortunately this larger project did not eventuate. However to continue with developing our understanding of RCM in this region a smaller scoping study was developed.

This scoping study has three primary aims:

- 1. Knowledge review and gap analysis undertake a desktop study of the current coastal and marine resource condition monitoring.
- 2. Undertake a short field program to inform the development of monitoring protocols in two intertidal environments.
- 3. Develop a Strategic Framework with recommendations and a suggested approach to inform and guide a future Coastal and Marine RCM Program for the Pilbara and Kimberley Regions.

This document addresses the first aim of the project, thoroughly reviewing research and monitoring literature for the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley region.

A final report is due to be submitted on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2009 that will incorporate the results of the pilot field program and resource condition indicator development, as well as provide the strategic framework for monitoring in the Pilbara and the Kimberley.

The strategic framework will inform and guide the development of a future surveillance level coastal and marine RCM program for the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia

#### This document

This document seeks to provide a review of our current state of knowledge pertaining to what is currently known about the marine and coastal resources of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. It then identifies gaps in the literature and incorporates discussion between relevant monitoring and regulatory agencies, stakeholders and presents future research recommendations in the form of a gap analysis.

#### Literature search limitations

Reference material was compiled from many sources. It is acknowledged upfront that there are limitations with any review in that it can only discuss accessible material. Many studies were unavailable, particularly those contracted by mining companies. As such this report compiles the key findings from the existing accessible literature concerning resource condition monitoring in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia.

## 1.0 Introduction

Habitat loss and its effects on biodiversity are a growing global concern. Loss of habitat is a major cause of the decline of coastal species. Changes in distribution, such as range extensions or reductions, are also of interest, especially during times of climate change, as they may be indicators of significant ecological changes underway. Some of the existing, imminent, and proposed threats to marine habitat integrity in these areas are in close proximity or adjacent to existing and proposed marine conservation reserves, created to conserve important ecological and social values. If pressures or threats are left unchecked, serious damage or irreversible loss is likely to occur. However, we currently know little about the characteristics of key habitats or how they might respond to any stressors. State-wide, there is a significant lack of monitoring at unimpacted reference sites and a great need for this type of monitoring to gauge natural variability, inform target setting, and differentiate between the effects of human and natural influences. The need for this critical baseline information is growing daily.

The West Australian coastal and marine environment is a vast area with 20,800km of coastline, including islands (Trewin, 2006) and spans both tropical and temperate climates. With the exception of Ningaloo Marine Park, we know almost nothing of the condition of the marine resources of the arid-tropical Pilbara and Kimberley regions, yet the high marine biodiversity and recreational values of these areas are recognised at a national and international level.

The Pilbara is of great strategic and economic importance for the State and Commonwealth. The area supports a wealth of offshore oil and gas resources, for example, the recently approved Gorgon project will target a gas reserve of 40 trillion cubic feet, and is expected to boost Australias' gross domestic product (GDP) by AU\$64.3 billion (http://www.gorgon.com. au). The Pilbara has the country's largest export ports, some of which are currently expanding or have proposals to expand. There are also a number of new large-scale LNG and industrial activities proposed throughout the region, most of which will rely on large marine infrastructure to facilitate export. The region also has great tourism potential. It is also an area that supports some of the country's most unique and highly biodiverse marine habitats (e.g. nearshore coral reefs develop due to the limited run-off from the land, and arid-zone tropical mangrove communities are also present) (CALM, 2005; DoE, 2006; NWSJEMS, 2007; DEWHA, 2008; and Wood & Mills, 2008).

The Kimberley is one of the most remote and uninhabited stretches of the Australian coastline. Apart from a few indigenous communities, the only coastal settlements are the small ports of Derby and Wyndham. Despite this remoteness, the remarkable natural beauty of the coastal environment means that commercial tourism operations are already well established, and major development applications by oil and gas industries are currently being planned. Assessment of the potential impact of all of these activities is hampered by the paucity of baseline environmental data for any of the marine communities in the Kimberley. What little is known of these habitats indicates that they tend to be locally very complex and diverse, and frequently not found elsewhere in Western Australia (NWSJEMS, 2007; DEC, 2008; DEWHA, 2008; Fry *et al.*, 2008; NDT, 2008a,b; and Wood & Mil

This document seeks to provide the critical first step for any future marine resource condition monitoring program by identifying our current state of knowledge for the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

#### 2.0 Knowledge review

The knowledge review is divided into two sections:

The first section reviews our state of knowledge for marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley in terms of research. It was possible to conduct a more thorough knowledge review of research for these regions due to the greater accessibility of research related literature, compared to monitoring related literature, much of which is withheld in the private sector.

The nature of this document is such that it probably will not be read from cover to cover, and that it will be used as a quick reference source for specific details or references for a particular region and/or category. With this in mind, there is duplication found in the following text because many of the issues for a particular category impact both on the Pilbara and the Kimberley. These duplications were included in the text to avoid the need to bounce through the manuscript in order to find the required information.

The second section includes a knowledge review of monitoring programs that have been conducted for the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley. It was not possible to conduct as thorough review as was possible with the research literature because the majority of the literature relating to monitoring is inaccessible.

The following review has been structured according to the categories below as outlined in the project proposal:

- General marine<sup>\*</sup> this category covers oceanographic, meteorological, and other disciplines not covered by the remaining categories that are relevant to the marine environment;
- Marine water and sediment quality the physical and chemical properties of the water column and sediment;
- Marine primary production oceanic primary production based on planktonic productivity;
- Marine vegetation communities<sup>\*</sup> this category addresses the broader ecological processes of more complex vegetation communities such as seagrass meadows and mangroves, processes that are distinguishable from primary production alone;
- Marine invertebrate communities this category is mostly concerned with more complex communities such as coral reefs and sponge gardens, but also incorporporates individual invertebrate species of commercial importance;
- Marine fish species covers fish species that are commercially important and/or have a recognised or potential conservation issue associated with them;
- Marine reptile species all species of turtles, sea snakes and crocodiles are protected and included within this category, this category also includes turtle nesting sites; and
- Marine mammal species all species of whales, dolphins, and the dugong, are protected and included within this category.

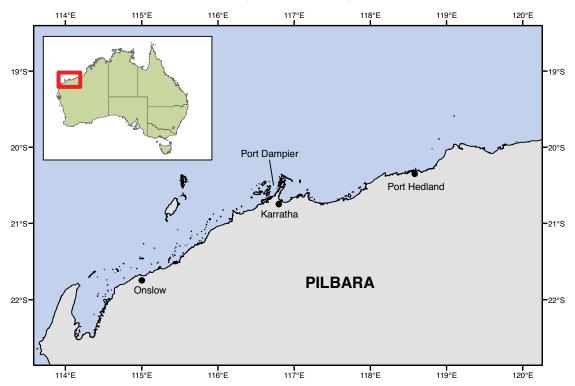
<sup>\*</sup> Those categories highlighted with an asterisk are additional to those cited in the project proposal and were added to address the literature focus more thoroughly.

#### 2.1 The target regions – what we currently know

#### 2.1.1 The Pilbara region

#### The Pilbara and environment

For the purposes of this review, the definition of the Pilbara region follows that of the Department of Industry and Resources (2005a), and Department of Fisheries (2004, 2005), with the southern border of the Pilbara coast located at 114°50'E (just west of Onslow and excludes the Gulf of Exmouth) and the northern border at 120°E (the southern end of Eighty Mile Beach) (Fig. 1). This is a political boundary and is comprised of the northern most section of the Gascoyne Coast bioregion and the southern half of the North Coast bioregion, as defined in Fletcher & Santoro (2007, 2008). It also coincides with the southern part of the federal governments Northwest Shelf Province (DEWHA, 2008).



**Figure 1.** The Pilbara coastal region as defined in the current review, from 114°50'E to 120°E. This map does not show the terrestrial political boundaries of the Pilbara region.

The Pilbara region is unique within Australia in that it is the only marine environment adjacent to an arid tropical terrestrial environment. The flora and fauna of the Pilbara contribute to an Indo-Pacific assemblage of organisms, however, the amount of genetic input from Indonesia on WA marine communities is poorly known due to a lack of understanding of major oceanographic features off the Pilbara (Wood & Mills, 2008). Even though the majority of flora and fauna is widely distributed, there are also many endemic species (DoE, 2006). A compilation of habitat maps, and the classification of biogeomorphic units, for the Pilbara marine and coastal environments was provided by Lyne *et al.* (2006).

In particular, the Dampier Archipelago contains the greatest documented biodiversity in Western Australia, across all groups of fauna and flora, the Glomar Shoals (Dampier Archipelago) have been identified as a key ecological feature, and many coastal sites, islands, and reefs, have

been identified as important areas for breeding, feeding, or resting by threatened or migratory species in the Pilbara (DEWHA, 2008). A proposal to create the Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Cape Preston Marine Management Area was lodged in 2005 (CALM).

#### Databases and previous research

The compilation of a metadatabase of research undertaken along the Western Australian coastline from Kalbarri (Gascoyne coast) to the NT border (the North West Marine Research Inventory – NWMRI) highlighted that the Pilbara coast was generally poorly researched (Skewes *et al.*, 2008). That report contains a series of detailed maps plotting marine research effort in the area. MarLIN is a metadatabase hosted by CSIRO, which contains metadata pertaining to habitat types, habitat uses by various species (eg. turtle nesting sites), various floral and faunal surveys, and infrastructure maps (Brodie *et al.*, 2006).

#### Threats

There are a number of immediate threats from a variety of sources that could impact the Pilbara adversely. For example, industrial expansion is planned for Cape Lambert, near Karratha, and Cape Preston, south of Dampier, which will require dredging (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007), and could lower the water and sediment quality, as well as increase the risk of exotic pest introduction, to those areas. In 2005/06, a large but unspecified number of illegal foreign fishing vessels entered WA waters, including those waters off the Pilbara and Kimberley. These vessels variously target shark fin, beche de mer, trochus shells, and are a major threat to the region. They also have a high potential of introducing and spreading exotic pest species (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007; and Wood & Mills, 2008).

Threats to the Pilbara are not restricted to industrial or commercial activities alone. Boat ownership in the Pilbara region is the highest per capita in Australia (CALM, 2005). Recreational fishing is the primary tourist activity. Currently there are over 650,000 tourists per year in the Pilbara and Kimberley, and the industry is expected to increase by 5-7% per annum through to 2012 (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). Fishing pressure was estimated to be 201,000 recreational fishing days per year in the Pilbara in 1999/2000, which is expected to increase to an estimated 14 million fishing days per year for the Pilbara and Kimberley by 2012 (DoF, 2004; Williamson *et al.*, 2006). A distribution of recreational fishing pressure was given in Fulton *et al.* (2006).

#### Current management plans

Fulton *et al.* (2006) presented a management plan for the Pilbara using a multi-parameter ecosystem based model with parameters such as water circulation, primary production, benthic habitats, iconic species (ie. turtles and sharks), fishes and fisheries, and pollution. A number of scenarios were generated based on possible management decisions, and were assessed based on environmental, ecological, fisheries, economic, and social indicators. Compared to temperate communities, there is far less known about tropical marine community health indicators, and current information is insufficient to set marine resource condition targets (Wood & Mills, 2008).

A multi-facet management study of the North West Shelf, corresponding approximately to what has been defined as the Pilbara region in this report, was conducted by the North West Joint Environmental Management Study (NWSJEMS) and resulted in eighteen technical reports (NWSJEMS, 2007; http://www.marine.csiro.au/nwsjems). These reports covered topics including reviews of the marine management, legislation, and previous research of the region; data, data access, and databases; oceanographic and ecological modelling; a review of

commercial fishery production; benthic habitats and ecosystem characterisation; pollution; and management strategies and models.

Coastal and marine sites of the Pilbara region have been recommended for listing as marine parks and conservation areas by the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group (MPRSWG, 1994). This comprehensive document propsed areas from around the entire Western Australian coast as marine parks and reserves. The Montebello Islands and Barrow Island are the only marine reserve areas in the Pilbara region, and have a ten year management plan in place, current until 2017 (DEC & MPRA, 2007a). For several years, the Dampier Archipelago and Cape Preston areas have been proposed as marine parks, although they are yet to be recognised as such. An indicative management plan has been developed for immediate implementation for these areas if they are accepted as marine parks (CALM, 2005).

# 2.2 The Kimberley region

#### 2.2.1 The Kimberley and environment

For the purposes of this review, the definition of the Kimberley coast follows that of the Department of Industry and Resources (2005b) and Nowara & Newman (2001), with the southern border of the Kimberley coast located at 120°E (the southern end of Eighty Mile Beach) and the northern border at 129°E (the Western Australia - Northern Territory Border) (Fig. 2). This is a political boundary and is approximately comprised of the northern half of the Northern Coast bioregion, as defined in Fletcher & Santoro (2007, 2008). It also coincides with the northern part of the Northwest Shelf Province, and the western part of the Northwest Shelf Transition defined by the federal government (DEWHA, 2008).

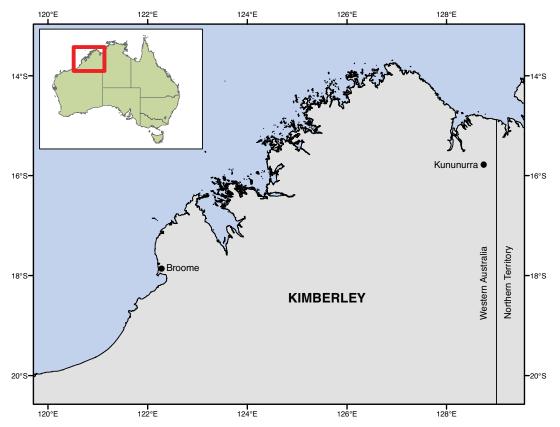
Compared to other large marine ecosystems, the Kimberley is thought to have retained its ecological integrity due to limited anthropogenic influences and is seeking national heritage listing. However, the species composition of the flora and fauna of the shallow coastal zone of the Kimberley is poorly surveyed, and the amount of genetic input from Indonesia on WA marine communities is poorly known due to a lack of understanding of major oceanographic features off the Kimberley. Long-term biological time series data are virtually non-existant, particularly for inshore environments (Wood & Mills, 2008).

Waters around Quandong Point (north of Broome), and a number of offshore reefs, shoals, and islands, have been identified as key ecological features, and many coastal sites, islands, and reefs, have been identified as important areas for breeding, feeding, or resting by threatened or migratory species in the Kimberley. Adele Island, which lies approximately 50km north of the Buccaneer Archipelago, is an important nesting site for a number of sea birds including brown boobies, lesser frigate birds, red-footed boobies, masked boobies, and lesser crested terns (DEWHA, 2008).

#### Databases and previous research

Comparatively little research has been conducted on the marine science of the Kimberley region. A recent WAMSI report (Wood & Mills, 2008) highlighted this fact by stating, "Urgent and immediate investment in research is needed to understand the ocean environment, its considerable and under-exploited biodiversity and to gain a regional knowledge context of ecosystem processes and how they interface with cyclones, climate change, catchment and coastal land-sea processes". Compared to temperate communities, there is far less known about tropical marine community health indicators, and current information is insufficient to set

marine resource condition targets. Wood & Mills (2008) concluded with three environmental priorities for the Kimberley region, these were 1) conservation of biodiversity, 2) maintenance of ecosystem integrity and, 3) protection of natural heritage.



**Figure 2.** The Kimberley ocastal region as defined in the current review, from 120°E to 129°E (WA/ NT border). This map does not show the terrestrial political boundaries of the Kimberley region.

The compilation of a metadatabase of research undertaken along the Western Australian coastline from Kalbarri to the NT border (the North West Marine Research Inventory – NWMRI) highlighted that the Kimberley coast was generally poorly researched and that the extreme north coast was almost completed devoid of data (Skewes *et al.*, 2008). That report contains a series of detailed maps plotting marine research effort in the area. MarLIN is a metadabase hosted by CSIRO, which contains metadata pertaining to habitat types, habitat uses by various species (eg. turtle nesting sites), various floral and faunal surveys, and infrastructure maps (Brodie *et al.*, 2006).

Recently, surveys to map habitat types in the Kimberley have occurred in response to the proposed development of a natural gas plant for the Browse Basin deposit at various sites (NDT, 2008a,b). DEC (2008) prepared a provisional benthic habitat map for the Anjo Peninsula, approx. 30km west of Cape Londonderry; and Fry *et al.* (2008) and Wilson (2008) indepentantly surveyed Gourdon Bay, Perpendicular Head, and Packer Island, with Fry *et al.* also surveying between Quondong Point and Coulomb Point, located between Broome and Cape Leveque. Environmental attributes of the proposed sites, of which there were eleven, are summarised in the most recent NDT report (2008b).

#### Threats

The Kimberley is currently being targeted for the development of a natural gas plant for the Browse Basin deposit (NDT, 2008a,b). This development has been identified as having the potential to impact on the existing biodiversity of the region, as well as the role the region plays in supporting the recovery of the humpback whale, which uses the coast and bays of the Kimberley for resting and nursery grounds, among others (DEWHA, 2008; and NDT 2008b). In addition, the infrastructure developed to support the gas hub will lead to increased accessibility to recreational fishers, leading to increased traffic, increased pressure on fish stocks, and a larger ecological footprint.

Aquaculture development is expected to grow rapidly in this region, with significant expansion and development of seacage fish aquaculture. This type of aquaculture can lead to eutrophication and potential escapes of cultured species, which could impact on local genetic stocks (Wood & Mills, 2008). Pearling is a largely benign threat, but is one of the few inshore activities of any scale, with pearling leases covering approx. 186 sq nautical miles (J. Froud, pers. comm.). The Kimberley suffers from the same illegal fishing problems, and recreational fishing pressure as the Pilbara region, mentioned previously.

#### Current management plans

Two principle documents outline the management needs for the Kimberley. Wood & Mills (2008), under the auspices of WAMSI, provided prioritised recommendations for research and resource management needs, to lay the foundations for a scientifically based management plan for the Kimberley. The key values of the Kimberley marine environment were detailed by DEC (2009), and this document also outlined the management issues concerned, highlighting the need to protect the biodiversity of the region, and monitoring of development proposals.

A more generalised document outlining management needs was provided by DEWHA (2008). All of these reports highlighted the lack, and need for, baseline data for long-term systematic monitoring, however, these documents are not as detailed as the management plans that have been submitted for the Pilbara, and a multi-facet management model is needed for the Kimberley region.

The MPRSWG proposed many marine and coastal areas in the Kimberley region as marine parks and reserves (MPRSWG, 1994). However, the only operational management plan and only marine park in the Kimberley marine and coastal region, is a ten year management plan for the Rowley Shoals Marine Park (DEC & MPRA, 2007b). The Rowley Shoals is a remote coral atoll complex located approximately 300km off of Broome, and the marine park encompasses an area of 21,912ha.

# 3.0 Research knowledge review

## 3.1 Marine water and sediment quality

#### 3.1.1 The Pilbara region

Coastal waters of the Pilbara are turbid due to a combination of high tidal ranges and terrestrial runoff from rainwater, peaking during summer months. Cyclones are a prevalent meteorological feature during summer that adds to the turbidity (DEWHA, 2008).

The Pilbara region has some of Australia's largest ports, by area and by volume of vessel traffic (McDonald, 2008). In 2006-07 Dampier received approx. 3400 vessels, which is double the number of vessels that Fremantle port received in the same period, with Port Hedland receiving a quarter of the vessels of Dampier (McDonald, 2008). In 2003 the DoE and CSIRO undertook baseline water quality surveys in and around the Dampier Archipelago and Port Hedland, determined that the dissolved concentrations of a range of heavy metals (e.g. cadmium, copper, and mercury) and organic chemicals (e.g. petroleum hydrocarbons) in coastal waters were generally of very high quality with little or no organic chemical detected in any of the samples and heavy metal levels approaching those in the open ocean (DEWHA, 2008).

The greatest threat identified by CALM (2005) to water quality is discharge of pollutants, including anti-fouling agents, aquaculture feed wastes, sewage, ballast and bilge water, storm water runoff, and accidental spillage of petrochemicals. CALM (2005) identified anti-fouling agent accumulation in areas of high shipping activity as the greatest threat to sediment quality. Wenziker *et al.* (2006) tested for heavy metals and hydrocarbons around Dampier and Port Hedland in 2003. They found the water quality to be very high, and even within major ports, contaminant levels were relatively low. Water and sediment quality within these ports indicate that toxicant concentrations are generally low and within accepted port limits. The exceptions were areas about wharves; ship-turning basins, coastal discharge areas, and some dredge spoil dumpsites (DoE, 2006; and Wenziker *et al.*, 2006).

In 2005 the DoE conducted a marine sediment quality survey (DoE, 2006) to characterise the natural levels of toxicants at five key locations along the NW shelf (Port Hedland, Dampier Archipelago, including the inner harbour of the Port of Dampier, Onslow, Ashburton River mouth, and Exmouth Gulf). Sediment quality was regarded as very good, with only slight elevations of some metals in inner Dampier port. The 2006 DoE publication "Pilbara Coastal Water Quality Survey" examined state waters from Exmouth Gulf to Cape Keraudren. The only identifiable anthropogenic influence was considered to be sediment mobilisation from ships. However the report adds that this would be extremely difficult to manage. As a result turbidity pulses of short duration would occur, however these are expected to disperse by wind and tidal currents.

A number of sites have been proposed for port development in the Pilbara. This includes Rosnard Island (between Dampier and Port Hedland), Dixon Island (between Karratha and Wickham), Cape Preston (south of Dampier), as well as a major expansion of the existing port at Port Hedland (see DEWHA (2008) for full listing of proposed and existing ports).

Dumping of waste has occurred in Pilbara waters, including vessels, ammunition, chemical, and other waste, however, this has ceased since 1981 with the introduction of an act regulating sea dumping. A full list of dumpsites is provided in DEWHA (2008).

#### 3.1.2 The Kimberley region

Coastal waters of the Kimberley are turbid due to a combination of high to extreme tidal ranges (up to 11.7m) and terrestrial runoff from rainwater, peaking during summer months. Cyclones are a prevalent meteorological feature during summer that adds to the turbidity (DEHWA, 2008; and Wood & Mills, 2008). Largescale oceanographic dynamics are poorly understood, as are the influences from these features on inshore waters of the Kimberley (Wood & Mills, 2008).

There are various high activity industries in the coastal Kimberley region, including petrochemical, natural gas, and mining industries, with some of these sites expanding, and other sites being proposed for exploitation by these industries (Wood & Mills, 2008).

Dumping of waste has occurred in Kimberley waters, including vessels, ammunition, chemical, and other waste, however, this has ceased since 1981 with the introduction of an act regulating sea dumping. A full list of dump sites is provided by the DEHWA (2008).

# 3.2 Marine primary production

#### 3.2.1 The Pilbara region

Although studies have been conducted on the phyto- and zooplankton of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions (primarily by CSIRO and AIMS (Heywood *et al.*, 2006)) and these studies are referenced on metadatabases such as MEST, the studies are mostly unpublished, general details and data of the studies are limited, and details and data cannot be accessed directly via metadatabases.

While microbial plankton communities remain poorly studied and plankton sampling is patchy at best, many of the phyto- and zooplankton species are taxonomically well studied, with some of the phytoplankton groups showing high degrees of diversity. The roles that plankton fills in trophic interactions and nutrient cycling are poorly understood, especially in the near shore environment, although available data suggests that carbon cycling is an important role undertaken by planktonic bacteria, and a major source of nutrients for inshore ecosystems comes from bacteria of mudflats. Seasonal primary productivity is virtually unknown and very little sampling or research has been conducted to investigate seasonality. Likewise, the dynamic interactions between plankton and physical oceanography are poorly known, particularly for small scale processes (Heyward *et al.*, 2006; and DEWHA, 2008).

Heyward *et al.* (2006) stated that the most immediate threat to the health of plankton communities in the region, is that of introduced pests from ballast water. However recent research has shown that biofouling of vessels is likely to have greater impact. For example, a recent analysis by McDonald (unpub.) in New Zealand of 244 non-indigenous species, identified that approximately 80% of those invasive species were fouling species, 11% were fouling/ballast species, and only 9% of species were confined to ballast. This pattern is likely to be similar in Western Australian waters.

## 3.2.2 The Kimberley region

Even less is known of the ecological roles, and interactions with physical oceanography, of the plankton for the Kimberley region, with the DEWHA (2008) acknowledging a "general lack of knowledge regarding the processes that drive biological productivity throughout the Northwest Marine Region".

Immediate threats to the plankton communities of the Kimberley are presumed to be the risk of introduced species from ballast water, as is the case with plankton communities of the Pilbara.

# 3.3 Marine vegetation communities

#### 3.3.1 Mangroves

Mangroves in the area form small but sometimes complex communities in embayments and on the sheltered shores of many offshore islands. It is rare for mangrove communities to occur in arid conditions, therefore the mangroves of the Pilbara and Kimberley are of great scientific importance. Mangrove communities are protected throughout Western Australia under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (WC Act) and any proposed development near mangroves are subject to an environmental impact assessment (CALM, 2005). Semeniuk (1993) characterised mangroves of the Pilbara and Kimberley as conspicuous and extensive in association with muddy substrates, forming wide forests in some parts of the mainland shore.

Fringing mangroves of the region are typically backed by extensive intertidal flats that are characterised by a rich and diverse fauna of burrowing invertebrates, and are major habitats for migratory birds that use the mud flats as feeding grounds. The functioning of the mangrove ecosystems are strongly linked to these intertidal flats. The whole mangrove system of the region is considered important in order to maintain nutrient cycles and productivity of the coastal zone. These coastal forests are important for many reasons. Aside from providing a unique habitat for a variety of different creatures, the mangroves also help protect the shoreline and act as carbon sinks (Final Guidance No. 1, Guidance Statement for Protection of Tropical Arid Zone Mangroves Along the Pilbara Coastline. April 2001).

There has been extensive loss of mangrove communities in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions due to industrial activities, however those mangrove communities that still exist are in near pristine condition. Physical disturbance from industrial development, trampling from recreational fishers, and four-wheel drive vehicles, have been identified as immediate threats to these mangrove communities. Pollution from various sources is a further potential threat. Management through monitoring and education has been proposed (CALM, 2005).

## 3.3.2 Seagrass meadows and algal beds

Algal and seagrass beds occur in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions, however, are not as extensive as off the west and south coasts of Western Australia, and are primarily found in shallow habitats such as intertidal zones, lagoons, mangrove swamps, and around islands. Seagrass and algal beds are an important element of the region's ecosystems and they support a diverse fauna including herbivorous fishes, turtles and dugongs (DoE, 2006).

Seagrasses are protected throughout Western Australia under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (WC Act) and managed through the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRM Act). Any proposed developments near seagrasses are subject to an environmental impact assessment (CALM, 2005).

## 3.3.3 The Pilbara region

The Pilbara coast is exposed compared to the Kimberley coast, therefore does not have as extensive mangrove habitats as that found in the Kimberley, and the mangrove systems tend to be less complex, with 8 species of mangrove occurring in the Pilbara. Although Pilbara

mangrove communities are less complex compared to those in the Kimberley, 80% of the sites in the Pilbara region meet RNE (Register of the National Estate, Australian Heritage Commission) criteria, with fifteen of these sites already listed and a further fourtysix sites nominated for listing, with some of these sites being recognised internationally as significant (Pedretti & Paling, 2000). CALM (2005) identified the biodiversity and ecology of many of the mangrove communities around the Dampier Archipelago to be of international significance.

Around the Dampier Archipelago, seaweeds are most commonly found in less than 10m on limestone platforms, and are dominated by brown algae, although both green and red algae are also present (CLAM, 2005). No immediate threats have been identified and these systems are believed to be in good condition, however potential future threats include physical disturbance, eutrophication, and pollution.

#### 3.3.4 The Kimberley region

The physical characters of the Kimberley coastline provide sheltered habitat, ideal for mangrove communities, resulting in highly complex mangrove systems, with eighteen species of mangrove living there. The number of mangrove communities in the Kimberley account for 72% (261 sites) of mangrove communities in Western Australia. Extensive tall mangrove communities are found in deep embayments and islands along the Kimberley coast, particularly at Carnot Bay, Beagle Bay, and Pender Bay (DEWHA, 2008). Nearly a third of the mangrove community sites in the Kimberley region meet RNE criteria, with twenty of these sites already listed and a further thirtythree sites nominated for listing, with some of these sites being recognised internationally as significant (Pedretti & Paling, 2000).

There are extensive seagrass meadows, algal mats, and around Montgomery Reef in particular, high biomass of coralline algae. All of these habitats contribute to the productive Kimberley coastal waters (DEWHA, 2008). Extensive seagrass meadows are associated with fringing coral reefs in the Kimberley, which are more extensive than that of Ningaloo. However, these reefs and associated seagrass meadows have only been partially mapped, and the ecological interactions within and between these communities are virtually unknown (Wood & Mills, 2008).

## **3.4** Marine invertebrate communities

Very little biological data or research exists for invertebrates and invertebrate communities for the Pilbara and Kimberley region beyond fisheries data and research. In the remainder of the research knowledge review, references are made to catch statistics and details of specific fisheries. These data come from Fletcher and Santoro (2007) unless otherwise stated.

#### 3.4.1 The Pilbara region

The Pilbara region has a high diversity and abundance of invertebrate species, which is comprised of a tropical assemblage common throughout the Indo-Pacific region, although this has been examined only with limited surveys, and a true biodiversity survey of the invertebrate fauna is lacking. Preliminary surveys indicate that the invertebrate biodiversity of the Dampier Archipelago is greater than that of Ningaloo Marine Park, and it is suspected that the echinoderm assemblage of the Dampier Archipelago may be the most diverse in Western Australia (CALM, 2005). The Pilbara has also been identified as supporting a high diversity of crustaceans (Fulton *et al.*, 2006).

Some areas of the Pilbara have diverse and extensive soft coral and sponge beds, which play a significant role on the structuring and distribution of fish species. Several types of coral reefs characterise the coral communities of the Pilbara, which comprise both turbidity-adapted communities of inshore environments and offshore clear-water coral communities. In the West Pilbara, offshore coral banks and platform reefs are predominant, whereas around the Dampier Archipelago, the Montebellos, the Muirons, and other offshore islands, extensive fringing reefs predominate (DoE, 2006). Corals are protected throughout Western Australia under the WC act, although commercial coral collection is managed through the FRM act (CALM, 2005). Immediate threats identified by CALM (2005) to corals include fishing, and physical degradation brought about through trampling and coral collecting, with other potential threats including eutrophication, exotic pest introduction, and elevation of water temperatures.

However, soft corals are restricted to areas of relatively low turbidity in shallow waters fringing islands and headlands (Fulton *et al.*, 2006). A sponge biodiversity hotspot has been identified between Dampier and Port Hedland (Hooper *et al.*, 2002). The biodiversity here could be a result of high settlement rates of sponge larvae from the water column, leading to minimal larval dispersal and genetic population segregation (DEWHA, 2008).

Both commercial and recreational fishers target a number of invertebrate groups, which include oysters (and pearling), squid, sea cucumbers, shells, crabs, and crayfish, and fishing pressure is considered to be the greatest current threat to invertebrates here.

The Exmouth Gulf Prawn Fishery targets 4 species of prawn using otter trawl, with a total catch in 2006 of 899 tonnes. The CPUE has remained relatively constant since 1989, and the CPUE recorded in 2006 was the lowest since 1969. Bycatch from this fishery is regarded as low, with the fishery implementing bycatch reduction devices (BRD) (Fletcher & Santoro, 2006). Historically, this fishery impacted on shallow sponge habitats, however, this fishery has moved into deeper water since the early 1980's and it is reported that very little impact occurs on sponge habitat currently.

The activity of the Onslow Prawn Fishery is restricted to a relatively small area centred around Onslow and targets western king prawns, brown tiger prawns, endeavour prawns (a multi-species category), and banana prawns, with a total catch in 2006 of 54t (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). Some of the prawn species are showing a decline, with the remaining species apparently stable. Significant bycatch species of the fishery include blue swimmer crabs, squid, cuttlefish, and mixed finfish.

The Nickol Bay Prawn Fishery operates between Karratha and north of Port Hedland, targets the same prawn species as the Onslow Prawn Fishery, however, is far more productive than that fishery, landing 394t of prawn in 2006 (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). While some prawn species are showing stable catch trends, other species are increasing. Primary bycatch species of this fishery are blue swimmer crabs, bugs, coral prawns, squid, and mixed finfish.

The Beche-de-mer Fishery extends from Exmouth Gulf to the Northern Territory. Six species are collected by diving and wading, however, sandfish account for 99% of the catch, which in 2006 was 156t (live weight) (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). CPUE had remained fairly constant through 1998 to 2005, however dropped by nearly 50% in 2006 compared to 2005. Despite the drop in CPUE, preliminary stock assessments suggest that the stock is adequate and the drop in CPUE is attributed to exploratory surveys. There are no bycatch species.

The Pearl Oyster Fishery is unique in that it is the only wild-stock fishery remaining in the

world, of significance. Pearls are collected by scuba divers from the silver-lipped pearl oyster. Activity from this fishery is patchily distributed along the coast, with centres of activity in Exmouth Gulf and around Port Hedland in the Pilbara, with fishing areas extisting in the Kimberley (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). Close to 540,000 oysters were collected for the fishery throughout the Pilbara and Kimberley, with numbers supplemented from oyster hatcheries. Stock assessment of the wild-caught oysters suggest that this is a sustainable fishery. Bycatch is very low due to the nature of the collection method, and bycatch is composed of encrusting organisms on the shell of the oyster, which are removed from the oyster during collection.

Activity in the North Coast Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery is centred from Onslow to Port Hedland, with most activity occurring within Nickol Bay, and employs traps (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). Landings for 2005/06 was 55t in this fishery (total 896t for entire WA), and preliminary stock assessment extrapolated from the Pilbara Experimental Crab Trap Fishery, combined with monitoring of the North Coast Fishery, suggests that the fishery is currently sustainable, although fishing effort increased in the Pilbara in 2005/06. A negligible amount of fish bycatch exists, and fishers are not permitted to retain fish catch. There is limited recreational effort for blue swimmer crab in this fishery zone, using drop nets, scoop nets, or diving methods, however, this still amounted to an estimated 20t of crab taken recreationally from Nickol Bay alone.

The Gascoyne Coast Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery extends into Exmouth Gulf, although this is restricted to exploratory fishing and commercial viability assessment, resulting in an insignificant catch compared to the Shark Bay component of the fishery (Fletcher & Santoro, 2006).

Pearl production from oysters, and red claw crayfish are cultivated through aquaculture in the area (Fletcher & Santoro, 2006; and CALM, 2005), and there is high potential for the development of prawn, mudcrab, microaglae, artemia, and ornamental aquaculture. Future threats include pollution and habitat loss, of which invertebrates are highly susceptible.

Blue manna crabs, mud crabs caught from mangroves, and crayfish caught from coral reefs, suffer the greatest recreational fishing pressure (Fletcher & Santoro, 2006). Effort around the Dampier Archipelago from recreational fishers amounts to 85,000 fisher days per year from data collected through interviews with the fishers. A recent proposal to establish marine sanctuary zones in the area was abandoned due to opposition from the recreational fishing community. The combination of commercial and recreational fishing activities exerts heavy fishing pressure on those species that are targeted (see CALM (2005) for further details). Species exploited in recreational fisheries prioritised for research were listed by DoF (2005).

#### 3.4.2 The Kimberley region

The Kimberley has extensive tidal sand and mud flats which are key habitats for complex invertebrate communities (DEWHA, 2008), however benthic invertebrate species in the shallow coastal zone remain to be identified and described (Wood & Mills, 2008). Fringing coral reefs in the Kimberley are more extensive than that of Ningaloo, and these fringing coral reefs, along with extensive seagrass meadows, have only been partially mapped. All of these habitats contribute to the productive Kimberley coastal waters (DEWHA, 2008). The ecological interaction of within and between these communities are virtually unknown (Wood & Mills, 2008).

As with the Pilbara region, there are extensive commercial and recreational fisheries for invertebrates. The activity of the Broome Prawn Fishery is restricted to a relatively small area

immediately to the north of Broome and targets king prawns and coral prawns (a multi-species category). In 2006 the total catch was 46t, and analyses suggest that this represents 65% of the stock (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). There is no recorded bycatch for this fishery.

A total catch of 335t in 2006 was recorded for the Kimberley Prawn Fishery, which fishes a large area from Koolan Island, north of Derby in the Buccaneer Archipelago, to Cape Londonderry, the northern most point of Western Australia. The fishery targets banana prawns, tiger prawns, endeavour prawns and western king prawns (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). Some of the prawn species are showing a decline, with the remaining species apparently stable. This fishery records a very low bycatch.

The Pearl Oyster Fishery is unique in that it is the only wild-stock fishery remaining in the world, of significance. Scuba divers collect pearls from the silver-lipped pearl oyster. Activity from this fishery is patchily distributed along the coast, with centres of activity along Eighty Mile Beach and Lacepede Island north of Broome in the Kimberley, and also operates in the Pilbara (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). Close to 540,000 oysters were collected for the fishery throughout the Pilbara and Kimberley, with numbers supplemented from oyster hatcheries. Stock assessment of the wild-caught oysters suggest that this is a sustainable fishery. Bycatch is very low due to the nature of the collection method, and bycatch is composed of encrusting organisms on the shell of the oyster, which are removed from the oyster during collection.

A small, but unspecified amount of activity from the North Coast Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery occurs in the Kimberley (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). Landings for 2005/06 was 55t in this fishery with data suggesting that the fishery is currently sustainable. A negligible amount of fish bycatch exists, and fishers are not permitted to retain fish catch. There is limited recreational effort for blue swimmer crab in this fishery zone.

The Beche-de-mer Fishery extends from Exmouth Gulf to the Northern Territory. Six species are collected by diving and wading, however, sandfish account for 99% of the catch, which in 2006 was 156t (live weight) (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). CPUE had remained fairly constant through 1998 to 2005, however dropped by nearly 50% in 2006 compared to 2005. Despite the drop in CPUE, preliminary stock assessments suggest that the stock is adequate and the drop in CPUE is attributed to exploratory surveys. There are no bycatch specA recent aquaculture for black tiger prawns has been established in the Kimberley, near Wyndham, to develop indigenous industry (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). This type of aquaculture leads to eutrophication, and potential escapes of cultured species could impact on local genetic stocks (Wood & Mills, 2008).

Very little information exists for recreational fishing - target species, areas fished, fishing pressure, and fishing effort. Species exploited in recreational fisheries prioritised for research were listed by DoF (2005).

## 3.5 Marine fish species

The Pilbara-Kimberley region has a high diversity of fishes, and is comprised of an Indo-West Pacific assemblage, with a number of biodiversity hotspots identified (Sainsbury *et al.*, 1985; Allen & Swainston, 1988; Allen *et al.*, 1997; Hutchins, 2003; Fulton *et al.*, 2006; and DEWHA, 2008). Recently, Newman *et al.* (2004) reported one hundred and seventy species of fishes from sixtysix families in their survey of the Pilbara and Kimberley. Benthic and pelagic fish assemblages are strongly differentiated by depth, which indicate strong habitat associations

between fish species (DEWHA, 2008), and therefore fishes of the region are highly succeptable to habitat disturbance and modification.

A number of threatened fish species are found in the region, notably river sharks, and sawfishes, for which there has been a relatively high level of research activity in recent years, although this has mostly taken place in the Kimberley region (Morgan *et al.*, 2003; Thorburn & Morgan, 2004, Thorburn *et al.*, 2003, 2004a,b; and Whitty *et al.*, 2008). Whale sharks are seasonal visitors, and have a migratory route through Pilbara and Kimberley coastal waters (DEWHA, 2008), however, research effort for whale sharks has been concentrated further south at Ningaloo Reef (DEWHA, 2008). Pipefishes and seahorses are also threatened species occurring within the area and are subject to bycatch from commercial trawling activities in the region (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). A number of fish species are totally protected under WA legislation, including the potato cod, hump headed maori wrasse, and whale shark (CALM, 2005).

#### 3.5.1 The Pilbara region

The Pilbara has a high diversity of Indo-West Pacific fishes (Sainsbury *et al.*, 1985; Allen & Swainston, 1988; Allen *et al.*, 1997; Hutchins, 2003; and Fulton *et al.*, 2006), and a hotspot of fish biodiversity has been identified between Port Hedland and North West Cape (DEWHA, 2008). A relatively high amount of research effort has occurred around the Dampier Archipelago, which has a tropical assemblage of fishes, with coral and mangrove associated fishes predominating. A total of seven hundred and thirtysix fish species have been identified (Hutchins, 2003), and the north side of Legendre Island is a biodiversity hotspot for the archipelago. The majority of fishes here are broadcast spawners, therefore recruitment of fishes to the archipelago is likely supplemented from elsewhere (CALM, 2005).

Due to the high levels of commercial exploitation of various fish species in the Pilbara, the resource condition of marine fishes is relatively well known compared to other organisms specified under other framework classifications. There are numerous commercial fisheries for fishes in the Pilbara. These fisheries include the Pilbara Demersal Finfish Fishery, the Mackerel Fishery, the WA North Coast Shark Fishery, and the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery (Fletcher and Santoro, 2007; and 2008).

Details of these fisheries, including recent catch rates, historic trends, and specifics of the fisheries are provided in Fletcher and Santoro (2007, 2008). Briefly, most of these fisheries are multi-species fisheries, generally targeting a variety of reef fishes and shark species, using a variety of fishing gear. Bycatch ranges between insignificant and 30% of the catch, which is reported to be mostly returned alive for the majority of the fisheries. The exception to this are pipefishes and seahorses, which are caught in trawls and generally dead when landed. This is recorded in skipper log books and reported to DEWHA. Trawl fisheries also have a bycatch of sawfishes, with between 50-75% of individuals returned alive in 2005. Different types of BRD are being tested to reduce future catches of sharks and rays. Fishing effort in the shark fisheries is being directed towards gill-netting which is expected to increase the bycatch of mackerel, but has unknown consequences on the bycatch of protected and endangered species (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007; Stephenson *et al.*, 2008; and Stephenson & Wells, 2008).

Collection of fishes for the aquarium trade is a minor commercial exploitation activity, with activity centred around the Dampier Archipelago. Other commercial uses of fishes in the Dampier Archipelago includes a scuba diving industry based around diver interactions with potato cod and manta rays, and a high potential exists for the development of fish aquaculture (CALM, 2005).

Recreational fishing effort for finfish between Onslow and Broome in 2002 was estimated at 190,000 fisher days, with approximately 320t of fish landed, and an additional 53t of fish were landed by charter operations (Newman *et al.*, 2004). Seventeen species of fishes are targeted by recreational fishers, which are not caught in commercial fisheries. In addition to this, fiftythree fish species are targeted by both commercial and recreational fishers in the Pilbara and the Kimberley (Newman *et al.*, 2004).

Around the Dampier Archipelago, recreational fishing activity is greatest near coral and subtidal rocky reefs, the artificial habitat provided by the gas pipeline, and also from the shore. Effort around the Archipelago from recreational fishers amounts to 85,000 fisher days per year from data collected through interviews with the fishers. This is an increase from 50,000 fisher days per year in 1999/2000 (Williamson *et al.*, 2006)

Species exploited in recreational fisheries prioritised for research were listed by DoF (2005). A recent proposal to establish marine sanctuary zones in the area was abandoned due to opposition from the recreational fishing community. The combination of commercial and recreational fishing activities exerts heavy fishing pressure to those species that are targeted (see CALM (2005) for further details).

#### 3.5.2 The Kimberley region

The Kimberley has a high diversity of Indo-West Pacific fishes (Sainsbury *et al.*, 1985; Allen & Swainston, 1988; and Allen *et al.*, 1997). The Kimberley also is one of the few places in the world where globally threatened fresh water sharks and rays, in particular river sharks of the genus *Glyphis* and sawfishes of the family Pristidae, appear to have refuge (Thorburn & Morgan, 2004, Thorburn *et al.*, 2003, 2004a,b; and Whitty *et al.*, 2008). However, many demersal fishes in the shallow coastal zone remain to be identified and described (Wood & Mills, 2008). Newman *et al.* (2004) reported 170 species of fishes from sixtysix families in their survey of the Kimberley and Pilbara. Extensive mangrove, seagrass meadows, algal mats, corals, and coralline algae, all provide key habitats for fishes in the Kimberley region (DEWHA, 2008).

Due to the high levels of commercial exploitation of various fish species in the Kimberley, the resource condition of marine fishes is realatively well known compared to organisms under other framework classifications. Commercial fisheries in the Kimberley region include the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery, the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery, the Mackerel Fishery , the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery, and the WA North Coast Shark Fishery (Fletcher and Santoro, 2007; and 2008).

Details of these fisheries, including recent catch rates, historic trends, and specifics of the fisheries are provided in Fletcher and Santoro (2007, 2008). Briefly, These fisheries are multi-species fisheries targeting barramundi, threadfin salmon, snapper, emperor, grouper, Spanish mackerel, and sharks. Bycatch in these fisheries are reported as low, but actual figures are unavailable. Significant bycatch species include various species of sharks and rays, including sawfishes (a species group protected since 2005), black jewfish, and tripletail. It is possible that river sharks of the genus *Glyphis* (which are listed as endangered or higher) are caught but misidentified for other whaler sharks. Fishing effort in the shark fisheries is being directed towards gill-netting which is expected to increase the bycatch of mackerel, but has unknown consequences on the bycatch of protected and endangered species

Recreational fishing in the Northern Demersal Scalefish Fishery zone has experienced a recent increase with more charter vessels operating in the zone, with an estimated landing in 2006 of 3t. Recreational fishing effort for finfish between Onslow and Broome in 2002 was estimated at 190,000 fisher days, with approximately 320t of fish landed. An additional 53t of fish were landed by charter operations (Newman *et al.*, 2004). Seventeen species of fishes not caught in commercial fisheries are targeted by recreational fishers. In addition to this, fiftythree fish species are targeted by both commercial and recreational fishers in the Kimberley and the Pilbara (Newman *et al.*, 2004). Species exploited in recreational fisheries prioritised for research were listed by DoF (2005). The recreational catch of sharks and rays has not been assessed and the impact from illegal foreign fishing is unknown.

Aquaculture development is expected to grow rapidly in the Kimberley. Aquaculture for barramundi is expanding in the Kimberley, in an effort to develope indigenous industry, primarily using sea cages and also using ponds (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). This type of aquaculture leads to eutrophication, and potential escapes of cultured species could impact on local genetic stocks (Wood & Mills, 2008).

# 3.6 Marine reptile species

#### 3.6.1 The Pilbara region

Loggerhead, green, hawksbill, olive Ridley, flatback, and leatherback sea turtles are known to occur in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions (Márquez, 1990), and the sandy beaches of the Pilbara region are used by green, hawksbill, and loggerhead turtles as nesting sites (threatened species listed as vulnerable, along with the flatback turtle) (CALM, 2005; and DEWHA, 2008).

Rosemary Island off Dampier is a key nesting site for the hawksbill turtle for the Indian Ocean region, and the Malus, Enderby, Eaglehawk, Legendre, and Delambre Islands all provide important turtle aggregating sites. Threats include habitat loss, litter, industrial pollution, and anthropogenic disturbance, particularly to nesting turtles, which includes traditional hunting and egg collection.

The Exmouth Gulf prawn Fishery catches turtles and sea snakes, although there is a very low incidence of mortality, and most animals are returned alive. Both the Onslow and Nickol Bay Prawn Fisheries also catch turtles and sea snakes, although at frequencies that have been deemed to have insignificant impact (Fletcher & Santoro, 2006). The Pilbara Demersal Finfish Fishery catches turtles and sea snakes in trawl gear, which are generally dead when landed. This is recorded in skipper log books and reported to DEWHA. Different types of BRD are being tested to reduce future catches, and semi-rigid grids have lowered the catch rate of turtles from approximately 2.6% to 0.1% (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007; and Stephenson *et al.*, 2008).

#### 3.6.2 The Kimberley region

Extensive mangrove, seagrass meadows, algal mats, corals, and coralline algae, all provide key habitats for turtles in the Kimberley (DEWHA, 2008).

The Joseph Bonaparte Gulf is home to a genetically distinct stock of flatback turtles, which are presumed to be resident there. The Kimberley region provides significant feeding grounds for green, loggerhead, flatback, and olive ridley turtles. There are many sites on the mainland (eg. Eighty Mile Beach is a significant breeding site for flatback turtles), and many of the islands

are utilised for nesting by the turtle species present, some of these representing major sites within the Indian ocean for some species. Many of these locations are also feeding grounds and mating sites (DEWHA, 2008). For example, Barrow Island is a breeding and nesting ground for hawksbill, faltback, green, and to a lesser extent, loggerhead turtles, and the recently approved Gorgon development is a potential threat to these processes.

The only reference to crocodile bycatch in any fishery in the Pilbara and Kimberley region occurs for the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery, which has a low impact on salt water crocodiles (a protected species), which are avoided, or released alive (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007).

# 3.7 Marine mammal species

#### 3.7.1 The Pilbara region

Marine mammals found in the Pilbara and Kimberley region are composed of whales, dolphins, and dugongs, all of which are protected (CALM, 2005; and DEWHA, 2008). twentyseven whale and dolphin species are recorded from the Pilbara and Kimberley region, and there is a single Sirenian species, the dugong (Jefferson *et al.*, 1993).

The Dampier Archipelago lies along the annual migration route of the humpback whale, which arrive in June and July, and have been known to birth, and suckle calves there, although this usually happens further north. They pass through the archipelago again in early spring as they return to the Antarctic, and Mermaid Sound is a significant resting area for females with calves (CALM, 2005). The Montebello Islands, and bays around the Dampier Archipelago, have resident populations of multiple dolphin species (DEWHA, 2008). Dugongs are known to exist in the Dampier Archipelago, however details on population structure and dynamics, and behaviour are limited, although major population declines have occurred here as elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific (CALM, 2005). All marine mammals in the Dampier Archipelago are threatened by anthropogenic disturbance (including boat collision) and pollution, as well as traditional hunting and commercial fishing bycatch. In addition to these threats, the dugong in particular, is vulnerable to habitat loss primarily through the loss of shallow water seagrasses (CALM, 2005).

The Pilbara Demersal Finfish Fishery catches dolphins in trawl gear, which are generally returned alive. Catch rates reported by skippers during 2005 and 2006 were approximately 2 per 1000 shots. Different types of BRD are being tested to reduce future catches, although acoustic pingers have proven ineffective, some success has been obtained with semi-rigid grids in reducing dolphin bycatch, however the survivability of dolphins exiting through escape hatches is unknown (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007; Stephenson *et al.*, 2008; and Stephenson & Wells, 2008).

#### 3.7.2 The Kimberley region

As for the Pilbara, all marine mammals are protected in the Kimberley region (DEWHA, 2008). Browse Island (150km northwest of the Heyward Islands) is a hotspot of cetacean biodiversity in WA, and extensive mangroves, seagrass meadows, and algal mats provide feeding grounds for dugongs (DEWHA, 2008).

Many species of dolphin, including the Australian snubfin dolphin, use the embayments and estuaries along the Kimberley coast for habitat, particularly Yampi Sound (Buccaneer

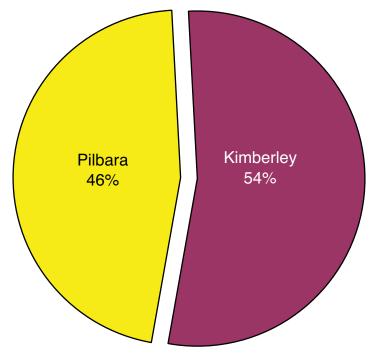
Archipelago), and between Kuri Bay and Cambridge Gulf (DEWHA, 2008). From July to November, the Camden Sound (near Kuri Bay) and the Kimberley coast between Cape Leveque and Cape Londonderry, are important calving areas for Western Australian populations of humpback whales (DEWHA, 2008; and NDT 2008b). Pender Bay is also utilised by humpback whales as a resting and aggregating area for mothers and calves (NDT, 2008b).

# **3.8** Analysis and implications of the research knowledge review

Analysis of pertinent literature was conducted using a systematic search of accessible literature from 1900 to 2009. The search concentrated on studies centred on the coastal and marine environment of the Pilbara and/or Kimberley regions.

Using a combination of library searches, including interrogating online scientific research tools, such as SCIRUS (http://www.scirus.com/) and ScienceDirect (http://www.sciencedirect. com/); interrogating online metadatabases such as the Western Australian Marine Science Institute BlueNet Metadata Entry and Search Tool (WAMSI iMEST) (http://mest.ivec.org/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home) and the WA Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Biodiversity Audit of WA (http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/science-and-research/biological-surveys/a-biodiversity-audit-of-wa.html); as well as traditional library searches, resulted in over 2000 references concerning material on the coastal and marine systems of the Pilbara and Kimberley.

For the Pilbara region 1013 references were initially collated, however after closer examination only 11% (115) were of direct relevance to the aims of this study. The same pattern was displayed for the Kimberley, with 1131 references, of which 11% (133) were of direct relevance (Fig 3). Much of the excluded literature on the target regions were centred on detailed attributes of the regions geology, with very little or no relevance to the aims of this report.



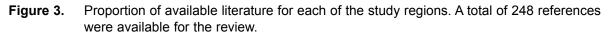
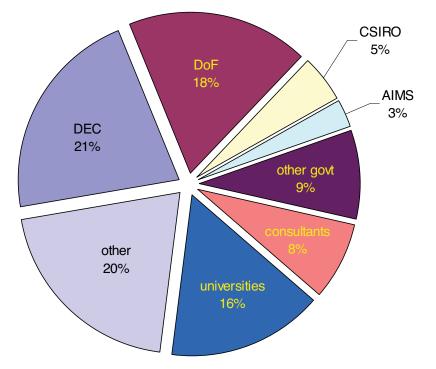


Figure 4 shows that the Departments of the Environment and Conservation and Fisheries have the greatest number of publications from the region, with a considerable number of publications also coming from universities. It must be emphasised that Figure 4 does not represent research effort by the various organisations, as the number of publications often do not equate to research effort. It should also be pointed out that some of the publications from AIMS (Australian Institute of Marine Science) and CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) are considerable documents encompassing a wide range of research fields, whereas those publications from DEC, DoF, and universities tend to be smaller and more specific in focus.



**Figure 4.** Research group bias, in terms of number of accessible research articles relevant to the marine and coastal environments, of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions (n = 248). It is important to note that this graph does not represent research effort by the various research groups, rather research published and accessible.

# 3.9 Gap analysis

Gap analysis is an assessment tool enabling a comparison of actual performance with potential performance, ie. where we are now and where we would like to be in terms of our understanding. It provides a foundation for measuring investment of time, money and human resources required to achieve a particular outcome. At its core are two questions: Where are we (current benchmark)? Where do we want to be (goal)? The difference between the two is the GAP.

#### 3.10 Identified major knowledge gaps

Points identified as the major gaps in our knowledge of the target regions based upon the literature review above are given in Appendix 1. Knowledge gaps were placed into themes that became apparent as the list of knowledge gaps were compiled. The themes are:

- Endangered/Threatened Habitats habitats that are endangered, threatened, susceptible to threats, or are in decline in other parts of the world, such as coral reefs, sea grass beds, and sponge gardens;
- Endangered/Threatened Species species that are endangered, threatened, susceptible to threats, or are in decline in other parts of the world, including both vertebrate and invertebrate fauna;
- Biodiversity includes issues related to areas of high biodiversity (biodiversity hotspots), areas of declining biodiversity, areas where the biodiversity is not fully documented, sources of biodiversity, or threats to existing biodiversity;
- Ecological/Oceanographic largescale ecological and oceanographic issues, such as oceanic currents, trophic dynamics, natural resource condition, and climate change; and
- Fisheries/Aquaculture issues relating to the commercial and recreational exploitation of various invertebrate and vertebrate species, including the impacts of these activities on habitats and non-target and/or bycatch species.

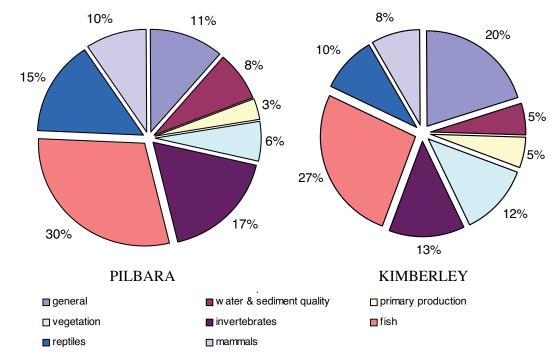
# 3.11 Overview of the knowledge gaps

The review was structured into the following categories: general marine, marine water and sediment quality, marine primary production, marine vegetation communities, marine invertebrate communities, marine fish species, marine reptile species, and marine mammal species.

The percentage of literature relevant to the various categories is shown in Figure 5 for the Pilbara and the Kimberley regions respectively. For both the Pilbara and Kimberley, fish accounted for the majority of the literature, between 27-30%. All other categories had equivalent percentages in both regions. Primary production was noticeably a minor component of the literature for both the Pilbara and the Kimberley.

A total of fortysix knowledge gaps were originally identified from the literature search (Appendix 1) and were presented at the stakeholder workshops (see below). However, during the course of the project, one of these gaps, "there have been no stock assessments of target species other than barramundi in the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007)" has since been addressed in Fletcher & Santoro (2008).

The knowledge gaps were either specifically mentioned in a particular reference(s), or were inferred from their absence in the literature. There was considerable bias found in the available literature as to the research that had been conducted in the Pilbara and Kimberley region, both in terms of the research group, and the focus of the research. Further bias was introduced into the knowledge gaps because of the easier access the author had to fisheries related literature, and the senior authors ichthyological background.

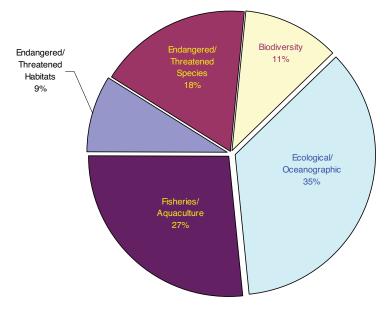


**Figure 5.** Graphical representation of known research to date sorted by category for Pilbara (115 accessible relevant studies) and Kimberley (133 accessible relevant studies) regions.

The knowledge gaps were categorised into various themes that best characterised the nature of the knowledge gap (Fig. 6). More than a third of the knowledge gaps identified were of a broad scale ecological or oceanographic nature, with fisheries and aquaculture knowledge gaps accounting for nearly a third. It is important to note that the number of knowledge gaps in each category do not represent the research effort needed in each of those categories because some of the knowledge gaps are very specific, whereas other knowledge gaps address large scale, broad focus research. Also, it was possible to identify more specific knowledge gaps, such as gaps #5 and #6, for example that refer to specific issues regarding specific species, when a greater amount of literature was available for a particular field of research. This is in contrast to the majority of the knowledge gaps that identify broadscale oceanographic or ecological issues.

Many of the knowledge gaps identified from the literature search spanned several of the categories and spanned both the Pilbara and Kimberley regions (Table 1). Table 1 also shows that only one of the knowledge gaps (#33) was limited to a single region and category, and that six of the knowledge gaps spanned all of the categories for both regions. Figure 7 illustrates the number of gaps spanning each of the categories for both of the regions.

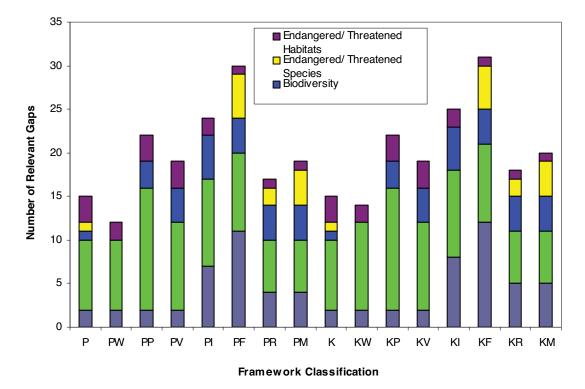
Most of the knowledge gaps identified here are applicable to both the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, and the broader marine environment, therefore the question arises "to what extent have these knowledge gaps been addressed elsewhere?". Many of the knowledge gaps identified here have been addressed in the tropical zone of eastern Australia, and provide a useful starting point for bridging the current knowledge gaps. However, assuming that processes are equivalent between the target regions of the current study and other regions is a hazardous practise, as the ecology of species can vary regionally and profoundly, particularly in regards to their reproduction and trophic ecology. For example, females of the commercially exploited gummy shark (*Mustelus antarcticus*) in southern Australia have differing partuition cycles (either one or two years) depending on their geographic location (Walker, 2007), which profoundly effects their population dynamics.



**Figure 6.** Categorisation of the 45 knowledge gaps identified from the accessible literature relevant to the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

During the preparation of this review, it has come to light that some of the knowledge gaps identified here are the focus of some current research projects. For example, the habitat use of threatened freshwater sharks and rays, and other freshwater fishes, is being examined by Murdoch University, the Department of Fisheries is conducting stock assessments for some of the non-target fish species caught in the commercial fisheries of the region, WAMSI is investigating the effects of climate change on fisheries, and a FRDC observer program investigating BRD effectiveness is nearing completion. Therefore, it is acknowledged that some of the knowledge gaps identified here are the focus of current research, although they are not yet published.

This highlights again, the problems of accessing data, or even knowing about research programs that are underway, and the need for better communication between research groups involved in natural resource condition monitoring. There is a critical need to have a centralised natural resource condition metadatabase that at least outlines the research that has been conducted, or is underway, and the necessity for those involved in such research to contribute actively to such a metadatabase. It should be made a requirement by funding bodies that a minimum of a research outline be submitted to a centralised metadatabase for natural resource condition research and monitoring.



- **Figure 7.** The span of the knowledge gaps across all of the categories for both of the regions. Many of the knowledge gaps spanned multiple categories for both regions. The legend identifies the theme of the gap impacting on the category. See Table 1 for abbreviations.
- Table 1. Impact of each gap on the Pilbara and Kimberley regions and which category they impact upon (see text for details). Abbreviations: P Pilbara general; PW -Pilbara marine water and sediment quality; PP Pilbara primary production; PV Pilbara marine vegetation; PI Pilbara marine invertebrate communities; PF Pilbara marine fish species; PR Pilbara marine reptile species; PM Pilbara marine mammal species; K Kimberley general; KW Kimberley marine water and sediment quality; KP Kimberley primary production; KV Kimberley marine vegetation; KI Kimberley marine invertebrate communities; KF Kimberley marine fish species; KR Kimberley marine reptile species; KR Kimberley marine fish species; KR Kimberley marine

Gap	Р	PW	PP	PV	PI	PF	PR	PM	Κ	KW	KP	KV	KI	KF	KR	KM
1				*								*				
2	*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*			
3	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
4	*	*	*						*	*	*					
5								*								*
6								*								*
7						*								*		
8						*								*		
9	*								*							
10						*								*		
11						*	*	*						*	*	*
12						*	*	*						*	*	*
13			*		*						*		*			
14				*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*

Gap	Ρ	PW	PP	PV	PI	PF	PR	PM	κ	KW	KP	KV	KI	KF	KR	KM
15	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
16				*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*	*	*
17			*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*
18			*								*					
19			*	*	*	*					*	*	*	*		
20			*	*	*	*					*	*	*	*		
21			*								*					
22			*								*					
23	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
24	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
25	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
26	*		*						*	*	*					
27	*	*	*						*	*	*					
28		*		*	*	*				*		*	*	*		
29			*	*	*						*	*	*			
30	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
31	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
32	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
33										*						
34					*	*							*	*		
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45				İ		*	*	*						*	*	*

## 3.12 Gap analysis workshops

#### **3.12.1** Stakeholder consultation

The aim of the workshops, was to identify and prioritise future research in the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley. This was done by presenting stakeholders with the fortysix knowledge gaps (Appendix 1) that were produced from a search of the available literature of marine and coastal research undertaken in the Pilbara and Kimberley region outlined earlier in this report. Knowledge gaps were reworded to identify the key message of the knowledge gap for stakeholders (Table 2), given that a significant number of the stakeholders did not have a scientific or technical background. Where possible, a rhetorical question was included in the reworded gap with the aim of provoking the stakeholder to

consider the implications of their voting for a particular knowledge gap. The stakeholders were then asked to prioritise the knowledge gaps to identify where they considered future research should be conducted.

Stakeholder consultation took place in the form of workshops in the Pilbara and Kimberley region. Dr Amanda Davies, Ms Janine Hatch, and Ms Julie Cammel, from the Institute for Regional Development, School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, University of Western Australia (UWA), were finalising a Rangelands NRM project, Human Uses of the Rangelands Coast, which examined human use of the coastal zones in the Pilbara and Kimberley, and shared the same stakeholders as the current project, therefore these meetings were cohosted between the Department of Fisheries and UWA. Each workshop consisted of one full day, with the UWA presentation in the morning and the DoF presentation in the afternoon. Participants of each workshop are listed in Appendices 2-4.

The stakeholder consultation process took place as a series of three stakeholder workshops during May 2009, in Kununura, Broome, and Karratha, Western Australia. Prior to the workshops, an information package (Appendix 5) was sent to the stakeholders explaining the purpose of the workshops, the workshop agenda, and a list of the knowledge gaps.

The workshop consisted of briefly referring the stakeholders to the information package and allowing the stakeholders to review the knowledge gaps. A presentation was then given (Appendix 6) to the stakeholders on the background and aims of the larger project. The literature review process that produced the knowledge gaps was explained and the presentation continued through each knowledge gap. During the presentation of the knowledge gaps, each knowledge gap was clarified where necessary. Questions and comments were addressed for each knowledge gap before proceeding to the next knowledge gap.

**Table 2.**Rewording of the knowledge gaps to identify the key message of the knowledge gap for<br/>stakeholders, the majority of whom did not have a technical or scientific background.<br/>The first column indicates the theme the knowledge gap was classified into, the second<br/>column is the knowledge gap number, and the third column is the reworded knowledge<br/>gap. The original wording of the knowledge gaps, and the corresponding knowledge gap<br/>number, are found in the "Identified major knowledge gaps" section above. \* Gap #36<br/>was addressed after the workshops had been conducted.

		Wording for Stakeholder Workshops
Habitats	1	There are currently no threats identified for seagrasses. Do we need to review and monitor the status of current threats to seagrasses?
	2	Invertebrates are sensitive to pollution and habitat loss or modification. Should more research be conducted to assess using invertebrates as indicators for such impacts?
Endangered/ Threatened	3	Historical overfishing and bad fishing practices have impacted benthic assemblages (eg. coral communities, sponge gardens, seagrass meadows), however the recovery of these habitats are unknown. Should more research be conducted to assess the impacts of historical overfishing and bad fishing practices?
	4	The influence of large scale oceanographic features (eg. effects of large ocean currents) on inshore habitats of the Pilbara and Kimberley are unknown. Should research concentrate on resolving these influences?

#### Table 2.Continued.

Endangered/ Threatened Species	5	5 Knowledge of basic biological information is lacking for dugongs. Is understanding the biology of dugongs important?					
	6	The survivability of dolphins that have passed through a bycatch reduction device (BRD) escape hatch is unknown. Is survivability of dolphins a priority?					
	7	Threatened river sharks (genus Glyphis) are misidentified for whaler sharks in the various fisheries. How often are they actually caught by fisheries?					
	8	Threatened fresh water sharks, sawfishes, and rays use different habitats as they grow. At what ages do the freshwater sharks and rays use the various habitats?					
	9	Seabird catches are not reported for commercial fisheries and have just begun for recreational charter boat fishing. Is it important to know how many seabirds are being caught in the fisheries?					
	10	Pipefishes and seahorses are caught in some commercial fisheries, however the effects of this are unknown. Should this be an area of research priority?					
	11	The survivability of bycatch released alive is presumed. Do we need to know what the actual survivability is?					
	12	Fishing effort will be directed away from demersal long-lining to pelagic gill-netting in the WA North Coast Shark Fishery and the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery. Will this increase the bycatch of threatened species such as river sharks, sawfishes, turtles, and mammals in this fishery?					
Biodiversity	13	The biodiversity of the invertebrate fauna in the Pilbara and Kimberley region is poorly known. Do we need a comprehensive biodiversity survey of the invertebrate fauna?					
	14	Do biodiversity hotspots in the Pilbara and Kimberley need to be reassessed and verified, or identified?					
	15	The amount of genetic input from Indonesia into WA waters unknown. Do we need to assess the amount of genetic input from Indonesia?					
	16	Species composition in the shallow coastal zone is poorly surveyed. Do we need a better understanding of the species composition?					
	17	There is no baseline data against which to measure or detect introduced species. Do you consider introduced marine pests an area of priority research?					

Table 2.Continued.

	18	Virtually nothing is known of the ecological significance and interactions of the phytoplankton and zooplankton of the area. How does plankton influence marine ecology in the region?						
-	19	What are the ecological links between plankton and benthos communities (corals, sponges, seagrasses, etc)?						
	20	What roles do plankton play in food webs and the recycling of nutrients along the coastline?						
	21	1 How does the plankton vary seasonally?						
	22	How is the plankton affected by small scale oceanography (eg. tidal currents, waves, etc)?						
	23	A standard set of environmental quality indicators, criteria, and standard monitoring procedures are not currently available. Should these be developed to monitor the environment?						
	24	What will be the effects of sea level rise?						
hic	25	What will be the effects of climate change, with particular reference to sea temperature rise?						
lograp	26	Water movements are not well understood and have implications for pollution and invasive pest dispersal. Do we need to understand these currents better?						
Ecological/Oceanographic	27	Large scale oceanographic features (currents, etc) are only partially characterised. Do you think understanding these currents better will provide critical knowledge for understanding our environment?						
cologic	28	Initial steps in the food web are poorly known. Is it important to understand these first steps?						
ш	29	The ecology within and between fringing reef and seagrass bed communities are virtually unknown. Would understanding these interactions increase our understanding of the environment?						
	30	Long-term monitoring has not occurred for most of the marine environment for the Pilbara and Kimberley. Is long-term monitoring the key to healthy environments?						
	31	Health indicators of tropical marine communities are poorly known. Should these be developed?						
-	32	Responses to stress by tropical marine communities are poorly known. Is understanding stress critical in understanding environmental health?						
-	33	There has been little testing of marine water and sediment quality. Is knowing marine water and sediment quality necessary for monitoring the environment?						
	34	There is a lack of information on non-target fishes caught in fisheries. Should non-target catch be monitored?						

## Table 2.Continued.

35	Our knowledge of the environmental impact of aquaculture activities is limited. Does aquaculture significantly impact the whole environment?					
36*	There have been no stock assessments of target species other than barramundi in the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery. Should stock assessments be performed on those other fishes?					
37	Recreational charter fishing is increasing. Should there be more research on the impacts of such fishing?					
38	The occurrence and impact of ghost fishing from discarded fishing gear is unknown. Is ghost fishing a significant environmental impact?					
a 39	Recreational fishing pressure on Spanish mackerel is high and has not been surveyed since 1999/2000. Should this fishery be surveyed again?					
noenby 40	The recreational catch of sharks and rays has not been assessed. Should the recreational catch of sharks and rays be assessed?					
40 40 41 41	Only the primary target species (sandbar/ thick skin shark) has been adequately stock assessed in the WA North Coast and the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fisheries. Should other shark species caught in this fishery be assessed?					
<u> </u>	The impact of climate change on fisheries is unknown. Should this be a research priority?					
43	The impacts of illegal foreign fishing vessels are unknown. Should more research be dor on this problem?					
44	4 Recreational fishing pressure is increasing but has not been surveyed since 1999/2000. Should there be another survey of recreational fishing?					
45	It is estimated that recreational fishing pressure will be 14 million fishing days per year by 2012 and the impact of this on various habitats is unknown. Are the activities of recreational fishers a threat to the environment?					
46	The effectiveness of bycatch reduction devices are mostly unknown. Should we have a better understanding of the effectiveness of these devices?					

## **3.12.2** Comments and questions from stakeholders

The following section summarises the comments and questions raised by stakeholders relevant to the research literature review. These comments are listed by workshop because each workshop proved to have concerns and issues that were specific to the local area, compared to the overall Pilbara and Kimberley region. The number of comments provided here does not reflect the level of participation or number of attendees for each workshop, it more reflects the unifying issues particular to that workshop

## Kununurra

- 1. A significant geographical and ecological difference between the Kimberley and Pilbara regions is that the Pilbara lacks the large river systems that are present in the Kimberley. The river systems in the Kimberley interact profoundly with the marine and coastal systems there.
- 2. The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) are currently involved in a turtle and dugong monitoring program at One Arm Point.
- 3. There is a concern that cetacean migration and biological studies undertaken by industry is not publicly available.
- 4. There is a concern regarding the influences of mining via ports regarding the loading and off-loading of ore, and the impacts of long-term contaminants from ore dust.
- 5. What are the impacts of increasing numbers of marine parks?

#### Broome

- 1. The Beagle Bay Rangers are well trained and very interested in getting involved in long term monitoring programs.
- 2. There is an ongoing seagrass monitoring program in Roebuck Bay.
- 3. There is a perception that effects on habitats such as mangoves, coral communities and seagrass beds can be understood by examining studies from elsewhere in Australia, and overseas.
- 4. Oysters are bioaccumulaters, therefore there is a concern that if pollution levels increase, the oysters will no longer be viable for human consumption.
- 5. There is a perception that oil and gas companies are addressing the influence of large scale oceanographic features on inshore habitats of the Pilbara and Kimberley (Gap #4).
- 6. There are concerns over the sustainability of shark fisheries in Western Australia.
- 7. There are concerns that biodiversity is generally unknown in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.
- 8. There is a concern that the Northern Demersal Scale Fish Fishery is increasing the number of fish species in its target catch.
- 9. There is a concern that mangrove habitats will be significantly affected by increasing sea level.
- 10. There are concerns over the impact and sustainability of the recreational fishing sector in the Kimberley.
- 11. The prawn fishery is reliant on rainfall, therefore there are concerns about the impacts that climate change may have on the fishery (Gap #42).

#### Karratha

1. There is a perception that effects on habitats such as mangroves, coral communities and seagrass beds can be understood by examining studies from elsewhere in Australia, and overseas.

- 2. Invertebrates are good indicators of water quality (Gap #2).
- 3. There are concerns regarding the dumping ground in Mermaid Sound regarding the nature of the pollution types that the area is at risk from.
- 4. There is a concern that fishermen, both commercial and recreational, are being unnecessarily blamed for stock failures.
- 5. A well developed hydrodynamic model for Mermaid Sound exists, but is held by the private sector and is inaccessible.
- 6. There is a concern that large numbers of non-target fishes are used for bait by recreational fishers.
- 7. There is a concern that existing aquaculture has shifted the species composition of the local area and has affected trophic dynamics. It is essential that baselines be established prior to new aquaculture beginning (Gap #35).
- 8. There is a perception that there are lots of lost trawl nets in the Pilbara and that ghost fishing is a significant issue (Gap #38).
- 9. Habitat mapping is considered to be a priority activity for the area in response to rapid industrial expansion.

# 3.12.3 Voting process

Stakeholders were asked to prioritise knowledge gaps through two processes. The first process was through a survey that was undertaken during the presentation of the knowledge gaps. The survey form listed each knowledge gap number (Table 3) and the stakeholder was asked if they considered that particular knowledge gap to be important by placing a Y (yes) or N (no) in the appropriate column. If they considered the knowledge gap to be important, then they were asked to score the importance of the knowledge gap between 1 and 5; with 1 being of minor importance to 5 being of great importance. This process is referred to as 'the survey' throughout the remainder of this report.

The second process was a straight forward voting procedure carried out at the end of the presentation, and is referred to in the remainder of this report as 'the principle vote'. Stakeholders were provided with three stickers each. A form was provided with a list of gap numbers with a large free space beside each gap, and the stakeholders were asked to place their stickers in the blank space next to the gap number to vote for that gap for research priority. Stakeholders were only allowed to place one sticker per knowledge gap, therefore stakeholders had to vote for three different gaps, thereby removing potential bias from multiple voting for a single gap. Furthermore, this process was supervised to ensure that voting was conducted as specified. Stakeholders who did not comply with this requirement (in two instances, both in Broome), had their votes noted but disregarded.

# 3.12.4 Principle vote

Analysis of `the principle vote comprised a simple tallying of the votes for each of the different stakeholder workshops, and ranking of the votes. Votes from the principle vote were tallied immediately after the voting procedure and voting results, including announcement of the top three research priorities voted for by that particular workshop, were provided to the stakeholders before they left the workshop. Each workshop is treated separately here because each workshop produced results that are more relevant to the immediate area surrounding the

towns and regions in which the workshops were conducted, as opposed to the entire Pilbara/ Kimberley region. Figure 8 shows part of the principle voting sheet from the Kununurra workshop as an example of the process.

**Table 3.**Excerpt from the Broome survey form that was completed by the stakeholders during<br/>the course of the presentation and discussion of the knowledge gaps. The forms were<br/>identical for each of the workshops albeit for date and location.



### How to use this sheet.

During the presentation, note the importance of each knowledge gap as they are presented (this will help you in making your final vote)

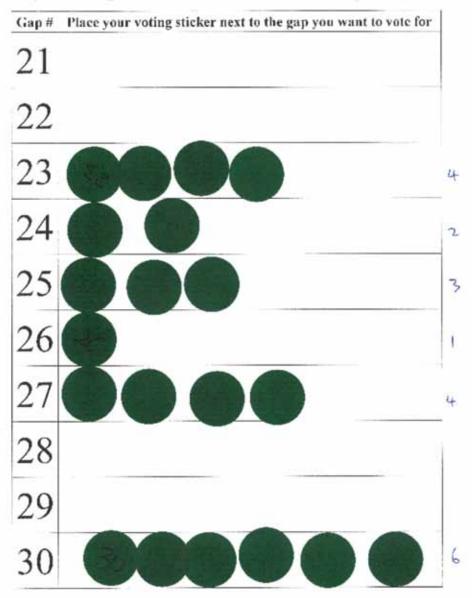
A) In the first column (#) is the gap number.

B) The second column (Important?) is whether or not you think that particular gap is important, answer with a Y (yes) or N (no).

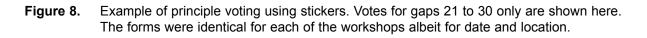
#	Important?	Importance
1		
2		
3		
:	÷	÷
22		
23		

#	Important?	Importance
24		
25		
26		
÷	÷	÷
45		
46		

C) The third column (Importance) is how important you think a gap on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 is of minor importance, whereas 5 is of great importance. Only use this column if you put a Y in the second column.



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The results of the voting from the principle vote are provided in Figure 9 and summarised here.

#### In Kununurra:

- 15 voters cast 45 valid votes;
- the knowledge gap given the highest research priority through the principle vote with 6 votes (13%) was Gap #30 (Ecological/Oceanographic) Long-term monitoring has not occurred for most of the marine environment for the Pilbara and Kimberley. Is long-term monitoring the key to healthy environments? and
- Gaps #23 (A standard set of environmental quality indicators, criteria, and standard monitoring procedures are not currently available. Should these be developed to monitor

the environment?) and #24 (What will be the effects of sea level rise?), both Ecological/ Oceanographic both received 4 votes (9%) and were equally the second highest research priority.

## In Broome:

- 22 voters cast 64 valid votes
- the voting of two stakeholders had to be disregarded;
- Gap #30 was voted the highest research priority with eleven votes (17%);
- the second research priority was given to Gap #18 (Ecological/ Oceanographic) Virtually nothing is known of the ecological significance and interactions of the phytoplankton and zooplankton of the area. How does plankton influence marine ecology in the region? with eight votes (13%); and
- the third highest priority for research was Gap #44 (Fisheries/ Aquaculture) Recreational fishing pressure is increasing but has not been surveyed since 1999/2000. Should there be another survey of recreational fishing? with 7 votes (11%).

## In Karratha:

- 11 voters cast 33 valid votes;
- the knowledge gap given the highest research priority through the principle vote with nine votes (27%) was Gap #23 (Ecological/Oceanographic);
- the second research priority was given to Gap #44 (Fisheries/Aquaculture) with 7 votes (21%); and
- the third highest priority for research was Gap #30 (Ecological/Oceanographic) with six votes (18%).

It was encouraging that all three stakeholder groups voted for large-scale knowledge gaps. Evidently, the stakeholders were also concerned about fisheries and aquaculture related knowledge gaps. It was also interesting that both the Kununura and Broome workshops voted Gap #30 as their highest priority for research, whereas Karratha voted for Gap #24 as their highest priority for research. This most likely reflects the different issues faced by the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, respectively.

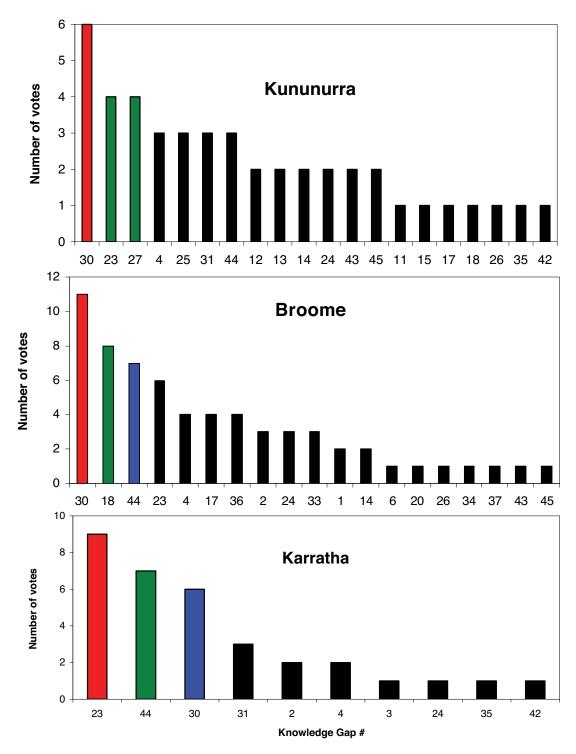


Figure 9. Results of the principle vote from the various stakeholder workshops.

## 3.12.5 Survey

Votes for the survey were calculated by tallying the scores of the stakeholders for a particular gap, and then averaging the sum of the scores by the number of stakeholders, to give an average score for each gap. The average score was taken to be the vote for that gap. Generally, the gap that was voted as having the highest priority corresponded to that gap that was voted highest priority in the principle vote for each of the workshops, however, there was a lack of correlation between the survey and the principle vote in lesser ranking gaps (Table 4).

The survey from the Kununurra workshop ranked Gaps #30 and #23 (both Ecological/ Oceanographic) as having the greatest priority (Table 4), which were ranked  $1^{st}$  and  $2^{nd}$ , respectively, in the principle rank. However, a number of gaps ranked equally for  $2^{nd}$  highest priority in the survey that did not feature prominently in the principle vote. For example, Gap #1 (Endangered/Threatened Habitats) did not receive any votes in the principle vote, however, was ranked equal  $2^{nd}$  in the survey.

Gap #30 (Ecological/Oceanographic) received the highest ranking priority in the survey from Broome (Table 4), which matched with the principle vote for that workshop. However, Gap #2 (Endangered/Threatened Habitats), which only received a ranking of  $6^{th}$  in the principle vote, received a ranking of  $2^{nd}$  in the survey for Broome. Gap #18 (Ecological/Oceanographic), which received a ranking of  $2^{nd}$  highest priority in the principle vote, only received a ranking of  $6^{th}$  in the survey.

In Karratha, Gap #23 (Ecological/Oceanographic) received the highest priority in the survey (Table 4), as it did in the principle vote, and there was a greater correspondence between the three highest priority gaps between the survey and the principle vote for Karratha compared to the other stakeholder workshops. A notable exception is Gap #45 (Fisheries/Aquaculture) which received an equal 3<sup>rd</sup> highest priority in the survey, but did not receive any votes in the principle vote.

 Table 4.
 Results of the survey from the various stakeholder workshops.

Kununurra				Broome			
Gap #	rank	vote		Gap #	rank	vote	
30	1	3.5		30	1	4.1	
23	1	3.5		2	2	3.1	
1	2	3.2		17	3	2.8	
12	2	3.2		25	3	2.8	
14	2	3.2		23	4	2.7	
43	2	3.2		20	5	2.6	
44	2	3.2		24	5	2.6	
27	3	3.0		18	6	2.5	
32	3	3.0		28	7	2.4	
8	4	2.9		1	8	2.3	
13	4	2.9		3	8	2.3	
18	4	2.9		5	8	2.3	
26	4	2.9		26	8	2.3	
31	4	2.9		37	8	2.3	
17	5	2.8		43	8	2.3	
24	5	2.8		36	9	2.2	
25	5	2.8		33	10	2.1	
29	5	2.8		45	11	2.0	
37	5	2.8		6	12	1.9	
45	5	2.8		16	12	1.9	
2	6	2.7		22	12	1.9	
33	6	2.7		31	12	1.9	

Kununurra					Broome	
Gap #	rank	vote		Gap #	rank	vote
42	6	2.7		44	12	1.9
11	7	2.6		27	13	1.8
28	7	2.6		21	14	1.7
35	7	2.6		13	15	1.6
3	8	2.5		14	15	1.6
4	8	2.5		4	16	1.5
36	8	2.5		32	17	1.4
38	8	2.5		15	18	1.3
41	8	2.5		19	18	1.3
46	8	2.5		29	18	1.3
5	9	2.4		41	18	1.3
39	9	2.4		42	19	1.2
20	10	2.3		8	20	1.1
7	11	2.2		12	20	1.1
16	11	2.2		39	21	1.0
21	11	2.2		7	22	0.9
22	11	2.2		35	22	0.9
34	11	2.2		40	22	0.9
40	11	2.2		10	23	0.8
19	12	2.1		34	23	0.8
6	13	1.9		38	23	0.8
9	14	1.8		46	24	0.6
15	15	1.7		11	25	0.5
10	16	1.5		9	26	0.4

## 3.12.6 Stakeholder priority areas for research

Table 4.

Continued.

Conclusions drawn from the stakeholder consultation were not straight forward due to the inconsistency of the voting results between the two voting processes. Generally, knowledge gaps that consisted of broad environmental, spatial and temporal scales were voted as being the highest research priority by the stakeholders in both the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

From the principle vote, Kimberley stakeholders converged on the need for having a long-term biological time series for the inshore environment of the Kimberley as their highest research priority. The principle vote from Karratha also highlights the concern from stakeholders that no long term management is in place to monitor resource condition in the marine environment.

The results of the principle vote also highlight the concerns of the stakeholders with regards to the knowledge gaps relating to large scale oceanographic features, including oceanic currents and primary production, and how these processes impact on the marine and coastal environments of the region. It is also apparent that there is concern over the rapid increase in recreational fishing in the region. There is concern not only for the impact that the fishers are having on local fish stocks, but also the damage caused by the fishers to coastal habitats when accessing fishing locations. Also apparent is the concern stakeholders have with regards to the potential impacts of climate change and/or environmental degradation to commercial fishing stocks.

## 4.0 Monitoring knowledge review

For the purposes of this monitoring knowledge review, a monitoring program is defined here as a structured sampling regime with repeated surveys, at consistent intervals appropriate to the nature of the study, of established survey sites using a uniform sampling methodology over a long term time period. Due to the general inaccessibility of resource condition monitoring literature for the region, it was not possible to conduct the knowledge review in the same detail as was possible for the research review. A more generalised approach was used to conduct the monitoring review. This approach utilised a knowledge review matrix (Appendix 7) addressing who conducted the monitoring, the quality of the monitoring, when the monitoring occurred, where the monitoring occurred, and what was monitored.

## 4.1 Who

Within the knowledge review matrix, the monitoring proponent was generalised into the following categories according to the main agency conducting the work - AIMS, CSIRO, Regulatory Agencies (including DEC and DoF, etc...), Private (industries and consultanties, etc...), Universities (inclusive of all universities and university research groups), WAM, and WAMSI. The specific monitoring document was cited in the reference section.

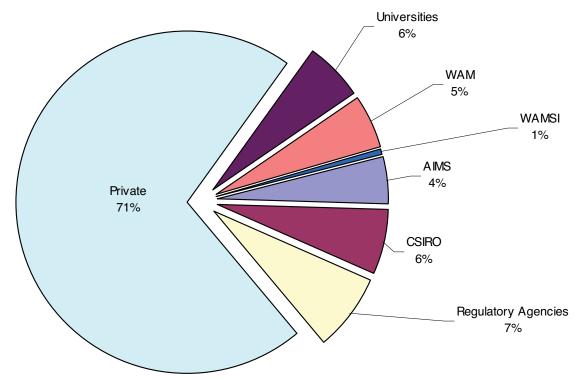


Figure 10. The percentage breakdown of the monitoring literature that was examined in this knowledge review. A total of 179 resource condition monitoring documents were examined.

Of the 179 monitoring documents that were included in the monitoring knowledge review, the majority were produced by the private sector (Fig. 10). Regulatory agencies, CSIRO, universities, WAM, and AIMS contributed approximately equal amounts to the literature available on resource condition monitoring in the Pilbara and Kimberley marine and coastal environments. It is important to remember that Fig. 10 does not equate to the monitoring effort invested from each monitoring proponent, and that the figure is based on the number

of documents from each proponent only. As examples, both DoF and CSIRO have produced documents that are extensive, covering a number of monitoring programs governed by those agencies (State of the Fisheries, and the North West Shelf Joint Environmental Management Study series, respectively).

# 4.2 Quality

Table 5 shows the quality ratings and the criteria used to assign a quality rating to references examined in the knowledge review of monitoring literature. The criteria were formulated in reference to the definition of a monitoring program used here (see above).

The majority of literature were rated as *inaccessible* Fig. 11. Web-based and library searches of literature titles failed to find those documents. For that literature that was accessible, most fell into the rating of *initial survey*. *Taxonomic surveys* were the next most frequently used rating. Less than one third of the accessible monitoring literature actually met the requirements of a monitoring study (see above), and of these, most only rated *fair*. In nearly all instances the monitoring program detailed in a particular document met the aims of the program, sampling protocols and data were robust, and appropriate analyses were used, however, most monitoring studies suffered from either short-term and/or irregular survey periodicity, hence few monitoring studies achieved the ratings of *very good* or *excellent*. Only one monitoring program that was accessible rated *excellent*, and no monitoring studies that were accessible were rated *poor*.

When the quality ratings were compared between the monitoring proponents (Fig. 12), it was found that the resource condition monitoring literature produced by AIMS (eight literature records) were rated in this review as *inaccessible* (62%), or were rated as *initial surveys* (38%).

The monitoring literature from CSIRO (eleven literature records) were generally accessible (27% *inaccessible*), with 55% of their literature rated as *initial survey*, and the remainder (18%) rated as *fair*.

Monitoring literature produced by regulatory agencies (thirteen literature records) were generally accessible (23% *inaccessible*), with 39% of the literature rated as *initial survey*, 23% rated as *fair*, and 15% rated as *very good*.

The vast majority of Private resource condition monitoring literature (one hundered and twentyeight literature records) is *inaccessible* (95%) and is a source of great concern because private proponents account for over two thirds of the monitoring literature from the Pilbara and Kimberley (Fig. 10). Three percent of the Private literature was rated as *initial survey*, and 2% rated *fair*.

University literature (nine literature records) were mostly *inaccessible* (56%), with surveys classed as *taxonomic*, *initial*, *fair*, or *excellent* accounting for 11% each. The only monitoring program that received an *excellent* rating in this review came from a University proponent. That study investigated movements of humpback whales in Western Australia with a broad data set spanning 40 years and with regular active surveying for nearly a decade.

As may be expected, the majority of literature examined from WAM (nine literature records) were rated as taxonomic surveys (89%), with the remaining 11% rated as *initial surveys*.

WAMSI was represented by only a single literature record in this review and was rated as a *initial survey*.

**Table 5.**The quality ratings and criteria used to assign ratings to the monitoring literature<br/>examined in the knowledge review.

Excellent	All-encompasing (within the aims of the program) AND long-term and regularly surveyed at appropriate temporal and spatial scales AND robust and high quality data collection and analyses
Very Good	Encompasses most of the aims of the program AND/OR long-term but irregularly surveyed at appropriate temporal and spatial scales AND/OR high quality data collection and analyses
Fair	Encompasses some of the aims of the program AND/OR short-term AND/OR long-term but irregularly surveyed at appropriate temporal and spatial scales AND/OR data collection and analyses of acceptable standards
Poor	Does not encompass the aims of the program AND/OR short-term or not surveyed at appropriate temporal and spatial scales AND/OR data collection and analyses of unacceptable quality
Initial Survey	Limited spatial and temporal data to establish baseline resource condition
Taxonomic Survey	Taxonomic survey not accounting for natural resource condition
Inaccessible	Access was limited to the title of the document in this review

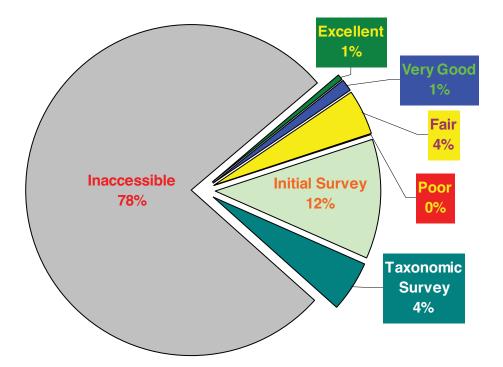


Figure 11. Percentage of monitoring literature examined in this review falling into the various quality ratings defined in Table 5.

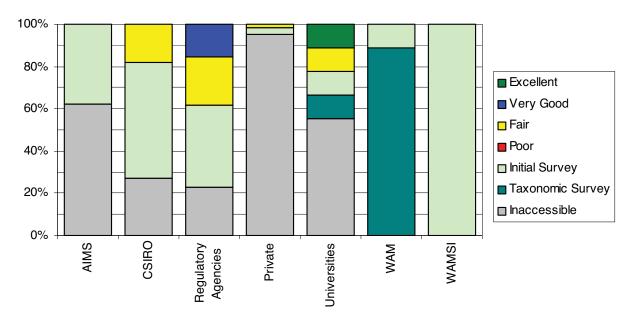
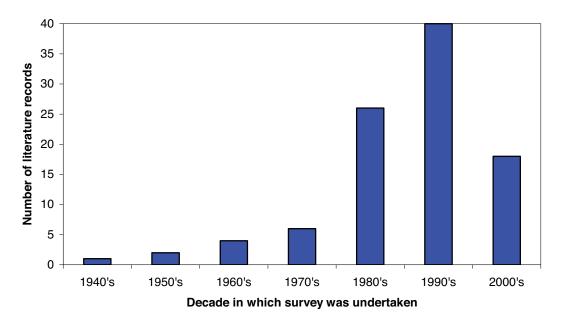


Figure 12. Comparison of the proportion of different quality ratings between different resource condition monitoring proponents in the Pilbara and Kimberley.

# 4.3 When

Of the literature that was reviewed here, it was not possible to determine when (or if) surveys had been conducted in 112 of the literature records. Where it was possible to identify the periods in which surveys had been undertaken, it became apparent that monitoring activity of any type in the Pilbara and Kimberley region is only recent, with minimal effort (in terms of numbers of monitoring literature) until the 1980's. The majority of effort was conducted in the 1990's (Fig. 13), with the second most activity witnessed in the 1980's, while surprisingly (and somewhat alarmingly) there has been a decline in the 2000's.

There are a limited number of multi-decadal monitoring programs that have occurred in the Pilbara and Kimberley region that are accessible. Of the literature that was accessible in this review, three literature records spanned at least one decade, three literature records spanned at least two decades, and one literature record (State of the Fisheries) spanned over six decades.



**Figure 13.** Decadal periods in which the accessible literature records conducted surveys in the Pilbara and Kimberley region. Some of the literature records span multiple decades therefore are counted multiple times.

# 4.4 Where

The majority of monitoring literature pertains only to the Pilbara region (Fig. 14). This bias is due to the Private sector surveying the North West Shelf and Browse Basin due to natural gas and petroleum deposits occurring there. Very little monitoring literature currently exists for the Kimberley region, and few reports spanned both the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. In some instances when the literature was inaccessible, it was not possible to identify where monitoring had taken place, if any.

# 4.5 What

Each accessible literature record was reviewed to assess what the target of the monitoring had been. These targets fell into the categories - general marine, marine water and sediment quality,

marine primary production, marine vegetation communities, marine invertebrate communities, marine fish species, marine reptile species, and marine mammal species, as defined previously.

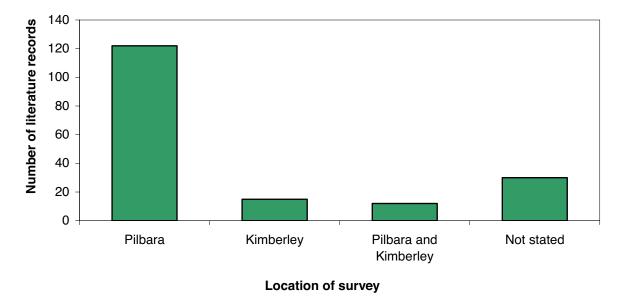


Figure 14. The region in which the monitoring literature has focused.

Figure 15 shows that marine vegetation was the most commonly monitored category, mostly relating to mangrove monitoring, closely followed by marine invertebrate communities, and then marine fishes. A number of literature records included general marine and water and sediment quality measures. Very few literature records that were accessible focused on primary production, marine reptiles or marine mammals.

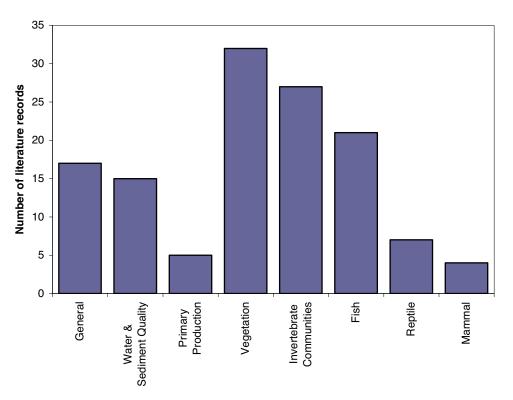


Figure 15. The number of literature records monitoring various marine categories.

# 5.0 Conclusions

This document provides a review on the current state of our knowledge pertaining to the Pilbara and Kimberely regions of Western Australia. During this review fortyfive clear knowledge gaps were identified. These gaps were then prioritised through discussions and feedback from stakeholder workshops, with a key finding that baseline information of natural resource condition is lacking for the Pilbara and Kimberley region. Another key finding of this report is that a long-term resource condition monitoring program of the marine and coastal environment of the Pilbara and Kimberley, a sentiment reiterated by stakeholders.

It is evident that the majority of the resource condition monitoring of the Pilbara and Kimberley region is conducted by private industries and consultancies with the result that the majority of this work is inaccessible. This presents a significant impediment to progressing our knowledge of the natural resource condition of the region and highlights the need for data sharing, and a mechanism to implement data sharing.

A second strategic framework document to be produced from this project will use the gaps identified in this report, and provide a strategic framework upon which future resource condition monitoring for the Pilbara and Kimberley regions should be based.

## 6.0 Recommendations

We recommend the following:

- Establishment of a multi-agency natural resource condition monitoring program for the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley region, as endorsed through stakeholder consultation.
- A dedicated program for the collection of baseline environmental data, as well as floral and faunal checklists of the nearshore environs of the target area is urgently needed.
- Development of a central data repository system at the national level for storing and accessing natural resource condition data and datasets, or at a minimum, a central metadatabase for natural resource condition research/ monitoring program outlines and summaries.
- Development and implementation of government legislation at the state and national level to enforce data sharing between all parties involved in natural resource condition monitoring and data collection. This would apply to government agencies, universities and other research centres, consultancies, and all other private or commercial enterprises involved in such activities.
- Funding bodies of natural resource condition research and/or monitoring should enforce a condition of funding that the research program outline and/or summary be submitted to a central metadatabase at the commencement of the program.
- A large scale assessment/ reassessment of the marine biodiversity of the target region utilising a diverse team of floral and faunal taxonomists.
- An assessment/ reassessment of recreational fishing in the target region.

# 7.0 Acknowledgements

My appreciation goes to the DoF librarians, Paul Orange and Vicki Gouteff, for keeping their friendly demeanour during my many requests for very obscure literature.

Thanks are due to Catherine Allday & Mike Dunne from the DoF Karratha office, and Peter Godfrey and Rachel Green from the DoF Broome office, for compiling lists of potential stakeholders and venues for the stakeholder meetings.

The stakeholder meetings were held in collaboration with Amanda Davies and her research team from University of Western Australia and Rangelands NRM. Special thanks to Janine Hatch and Julie Cammel for organising the meetings.

Thankyou to those stakeholders that attended and contributed to the workshops in Kununurra, Broome and Karratha in May, 2009.

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- Acute sedimentation causes size-specific mortality and asexual budding in the mushroom coral, *Fungia* fungites UWA manager
- Aerial survey of beaches between Onslow to Port Hedland for marine turtle nesting 2004 DEC
- Aerial survey of the distribution and abundance of dugongs and associated macrovertebrate fauna Pilbara coastal and offshore region, Western Australia DEC

Age-Structured Stock Assessment Modelling of Major Finfish Species - DoF

An inland occurrence of mangroves – DEC

- Analysis of stable isotope ratios to investigate stock structure of red emperor and rankin cod in northern Western Australia – DEC
- Anna Plains benthic invertebrate and bird mapping 1999 (ANNABIM-99) DEC
- Assets of the marine and coastal environment of the Dampier Archipelago, Western Australia: A Register Jim Stoddard

Background quality of marine sediments of the Pilbara coast - DEC

Background quality of the coastal marine waters of the North West Shelf, Western Australia. - WA Dept of Environment and Conservation

Background quality of the coastal marine waters off the west Kimberley coast. - DEC

Benthic habitats of Cockatoo Island - Jim Stoddard

Benthic habitats of Irvine Island - Jim Stoddard

Benthic habitats of Koolan Island - Jim Stoddard

Benthic marine biophysical attributes of selected sites in the West Kimberley - DEC

Biodiversity 'hotspots', patterns of richness and endemism, and taxonomic affinities of tropical Australian sponges (Porifera) – John Hooper Qld Museum

- Browsing of mangroves by green turtles in Western Australia K. Pendoley, Pendoley Environmental
- Comparative distribution of macromolloscs and macrocrustaceans in a north-western Australian mangrove system Clay Bryce WAM
- Cyanobacterial mats: a possible nitrogen source to arid coastal mangroves DEC

Daily and Seasonal Cycles of Sand Temperatures on Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches in Western Australia – Gerald Kuchling, UWA

- Developing a broadscale habitat map of the Montebello/Barrow islands and the Dampier Archipelago/ Cape Preston regions – KB DEC
- Effects of the bloom-forming alga Trichodesmium erythraeum on the pearl oyster Pinctada maxima CSIRO
- Evolutionary genetics of barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) in the Australian region Marshall, Carina Rynn Ecremen. , Jan 2005 THESIS
- Fish species compositions over reefs and soft substrates in north-western Australia Mike Travers Murdoch

Historical datasets of dugong observations in the Kimberley region of Western Australia - Dave Holley, ECU

- Ichthys Gas Field Development Coral and other benthic primary producer (BPP) assemblages. Greg Oliver, INPEX Browse Ltd
- Ichthys Gas Field Development Marine Turtle Studies. Greg Oliver, INPEX Browse Ltd.
- Identification and evaluation of sites for the development of large-scale, land-based marine aquaculture in Western Australia DoF
- Macroalgal habitats of Cockatoo Island reef flat Jim Stoddard
- Mangrove Studies in the Pilbara and Kimberley Regions AIMS

Marine protected areas and dugong conservation along Australia's Indian ocean coast - A.R. Preen - JCU

Marine turtle conservation and Gorgon gas development, Barrow Island, Western Australia - DEC

Marine turtle conservation and management in northern Australia - DEWHA

Marine wildlife distribution in the proposed Montebello/Barrow Island and Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston marine conservation reserves – DEC

Monitoring Marine Turtle Nesting in the Dampier Archipelago Region - DEC

Monitoring of Western Australia's Pearl Oyster Fishery - DoF

- Mother-of-pearl shell (*Pinctada maxima*): Stock evaluation for management and future harvesting in Western Australia DoF
- Movements, recapture patterns and factors affecting the return rate of Carcharhinid and other sharks tagged off northern Australia CSIRO

- North Turtle Island, Pilbara Region, Western Australia: seabird islands, No. 240 WA Dept of Environment and Conservation
- Pilbara Sea Turtle program monitoring and tagging. WA Dept of Environment and Conservation
- Population Ecology of *Crocodylus porosus* (Schneider 1801) in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. W.R. Kay UQ
- Population genetics of southeast Asian and Western Pacific turtles, Chelonia mydas DEC
- Progress report on establishing turtle nesting activity in North Western Australia DEC
- Protected Marine Species of the Gorgon Gas Development EIS/ERMP-Technical appendix C6 Jeremy Fitzpatrick, RPS Environment
- Recreational fishing trends Rowley Shoals Marine Park DEC
- Regional Recreational Creel Surveys DoF
- Restricted marine Biological Survey of the Garden Bottom of Beagle Bay, Kimberley, Western Australia. Clay Bryce WAM
- Review of research and data relevant to the marine and terrestrial environment of Dampier Jim Stoddard
- Sea Turtles and the Environmental Management of Industrial Activities in North West Western Australia Pendoley@newton.dialix.com.au / Kellie Lee Pendoley , Jan 2005 THESIS
- Seagrass Watch: Roebuck Bay Community Seagrass Monitoring Project) Danielle Bain, Seagrass Watch
- Selection of mangrove stands for conservation in the Pilbara region of Western Australia Dept of Environment and Conservation
- Shell collecting activities, Kimberley Pilbara regions Dept of Environment and Conservation
- Size, sex and geographic variation in the diet of the tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, from Western Australian waters DoF (Dan G)
- Sources of carbon supporting benthic fauna of Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach UWA
- Spatial variation of the intertidal sediments and macrozoo-benthic assemblages along Eighty Mile Beach, North-western Australia DEC
- Status and distribution of dugongs in Western Australia DEC
- Tagging Study of Flatback Turtles at Mundabullangana Station. DEC
- Tagging Study of Green Turtles at Barrow Island Marine Park/Barrow Island Marine Management Area. DEC
- Tagging Study of Hawksbill Turtles at Rosemary Island in the Dampier Archipelago DEC
- The biology of four tuskfish species (Choerodon: Labridae) in Western Australia d.fairclough@ murdoch.edu.au / David Fairclough, Jan 2005 THESIS
- The distribution and abundance of dugongs and other megavertebrates in Western Australian coastal waters. DEC
- The Kimberley Coast Irrawaddy/Australian snubfin dolphin Deborah Thiele, Deakin University
- The status of the salt-water crocodile in the Glenelg, Prince Regent and Ord River Systems, Kimberley, Western Australia. DEC
- Turtle Track Monitoring by the West Pilbara Community Turtle Program (WPCTP) Marissa Speirs WA Dept of Environment and Conservation
- Video survey of the off-shore marine benthic habitats of the West Kimberley Ray Masini DEC

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# 9.0 Appendices

# Appendix 1. Knowledge gaps identified from the accessible research literature

The following points were identified as the major gaps in our knowledge of the target regions based upon the literature review. In this section, the knowledge gaps are not identified in any order of priority, however, they were placed into themes that became apparent as the list of knowledge gaps were compiled

Abbreviations at the end of each gap identifies how the gap relates to the framework classifications: P - Pilbara general; PW -Pilbara marine water and sediment quality; PP - Pilbara primary production; PV - Pilbara marine vegetation; PI - Pilbara marine invertebrate communities; PF - Pilbara marine fish species; PR - Pilbara marine reptile species; PM - Pilbara marine mammal species; K - Kimberley general; KW - Kimberley marine water and sediment quality; KP - Kimberley primary production; KV - Kimberley marine vegetation; KI - Kimberley marine invertebrate communities; KF - Kimberley marine fish species; KR - Kimberley marine fish s

# **Endangered/Threatened Habitats**

- 1. CALM (2005) highlighted the need to review and monitor the status of current threats to seagrasses in the Dampier Archipelago (currently no threats), however the need for a review and monitoring of threats to seagrasses applies throughout the Pilbara and Kimberley. [PV, KV]
- 2. Due to their apparent sensitivity to pollution and habitat loss/ modification, the use of invertebrate fauna as indicators of such impacts needs to be assessed. [P, PW, PP, PV, PI, K, KW, KP, KV, KI]
- 3. The impact of historical overfishing and bad fishing practices on benthic assemblages are unknown, and the recovery these habitats (specifically sponge gardens) are also unknown. [P, PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, K, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 4. Influence of large scale oceanographic features on inshore habitats of the Pilbara and Kimberley are mostly unknown (Wood & Mills, 2008). [P, PW, PP, K, KW, KP]

# **Endangered/Threatened Species**

- 5. Knowledge of basic biological information is lacking for dugongs around the Dampier Archipelago, including population size, distribution, migratory habits, etc... (CALM, 2005), however, the same is true for the Pilbara and Kimberley region in general. [PM, KM]
- 6. The survivability of dolphins that have passed through a BRD escape hatch is unknown (Stephenson *et al.*, 2008). [PM, KM]
- 7. The misidentification frequency of threatened river sharks (genus *Glyphis*) for whaler sharks in the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery is unknown (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007) and applies to all areas where river sharks occur. [PF, KF]
- 8. A full understanding of habitat use by threatened fresh water sharks and rays, which apparently changes ontogenetically, is lacking. [PF, KF]
- 9. There is no mention of seabird catches in any of the fishery reports in Fletcher & Santoro (2007). Recording of seabird interactions has just begun for recreational charter boat

fishing, however, no monitoring procedures are in place for the commercial fishery to the best of our knowledge. [P, K]

- 10. The impact of the Pilbara Demersal Finfish Fishery bycatch on pipefishes and seahorses is recorded but not assessed (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). [PF,KF]
- 11. The survivability of bycatch released alive is presumed. There appears to be little to no available data on actual survivability. [PF, PR, PM, KF, KR, KM]
- 12. Will directing the effort from demersal long-lining to pelagic gill-netting in the WA North Coast Shark Fishery and the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007) increase bycatch of threatened species such as river sharks, sawfishes, turtles, and mammals? [PF, PR, PM, KF, KR, KM]

# Biodiversity

- 13. CALM (2005) highlighted the need for a thorough biodiversity survey of the invertebrate fauna of the Dampier Archipelago, however, the same is true for the Pilbara and Kimberley region in general. [PP, PI, KP, KI]
- 14. Biodiversity hotspots in the Pilbara, and in the Kimberley, for various flora and fauna groups, need to be reassessed and verified, or identified. [PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 15. The amount of genetic input from Indonesia into WA waters is unknown (Wood & Mills, 2008). [P, PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, K, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 16. Species composition of the flora and fauna in the shallow coastal zone of the Kimberley is poorly surveyed (Wood & Mills, 2008), and the same is apparently true of the Pilbara. [PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 17. There are no published baseline data against which to measure or detect introduced species (Heyward et al., 2006). [PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]

# **Ecological/Oceanographic**

- 18. There has been virtually no research conducted on the primary production for the Pilbara and Kimberley. Virtually nothing is known of the ecological significance and interactions of the phytoplankton and zooplankton of the area. [PP, KP]
- 19. The trophic links between plankton and benthos communities are poorly understood in both the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. [PP, PV, PI, PF, KP, KV, KI, KF]
- 20. The role of plankton in trophic dynamics and nutrient cycling, particularly in the near shore environment is poorly understood. [PP, PV, PI, PF, KP, KV, KI, KF]
- 21. Seasonal primary productivity is very poorly understood (Heyward et al., 2006). [PP, KP]
- 22. The dynamic interactions between plankton and physical oceanography are poorly known, particularly for small scale processes (Heyward et al., 2006). [PP, KP]
- 23. The establishment of a standard set of environmental quality indicators, criteria, and standard monitoring procedures appropriate to the tropical marine ecosystem to assess resource condition, provide early warning of change, and to trigger management responses where necessary is needed (DoE, 2006). [P, PW, PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, K, KW, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 24. What will be the effects of sea level rise? [P, PW, PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, K, KW, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]

- 25. What will be the effects of climate change, with particular reference to sea temperature rise? [P, PW, PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, K, KW, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 26. Water movements in the commonwealth North-West Shelf Transition Bioregion (the Holloway Current) are not well understood and has implications for pollution and invasive pest dispersal (DEWHA, 2008) [P, PW, PP, K, KW, KP]
- 27. Large scale oceanographic features are only partially characterised for the Pilbara and Kimberley (Wood & Mills, 2008). [P, PW, PP, K, KW, KP]
- 28. Community composition of the trophic tiers immediately following the primary producers, are poorly known in the Kimberley (DEWHA, 2008) and in the Pilbara. [PW, PV, PI, PF, KW, KV, KI, KF]
- 29. The ecological processes within and between fringing reef and seagrass bed communities are virtually unknown (Wood & Mills, 2008). [PP, PV, PI, KP, KV, KI]
- 30. Long-term biological time series data are virtually non-existent for the Pilbara and the Kimberley, particularly for inshore environments. [P, PW, PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, K, KW, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 31. Health indicators of tropical marine communities are poorly known. [P, PW, PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, K, KW, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 32. Responses to stress by tropical marine communities are poorly known. [P, PW, PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, K, KW, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 33. There is a paucity of marine water and sediment quality testing and monitoring for the Kimberley region. [KW]

# Fisheries/Aquaculture

- 34. More information is needed for non-target fishes of the Dampier Archipelago (CALM, 2005), and for the Pilbara and Kimberley fisheries in general. [PI, PF, KI, KF]
- 35. There have been no environmental impact assessments conducted to assess the impact of establishing various aquaculture activities around the Dampier Archipelago, and there have only been limited studies elsewhere in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. [PW, PP, PV, PI, PF, PR, PM, KW, KP, KV, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 36. The impact of increased charter vessel operation for recreational fishing has yet to be fully investigated (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). [KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 37. The occurrence and impact of ghost fishing from discarded fishing gear, both commercial and recreational, in the Pilbara and the Kimberley is limited. [PI, PF, PR, PM, KI, KF, KR, KM]
- 38. Recreational fishing for Spanish mackerel is apparently high in the Pilbara and increasing in the Kimberley, the last survey for this fishery/region was conducted in 1999/2000, is this fishery sustainable in its current form? (Williamson et al., 2006; and Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). [PF, KF]
- 39. The recreational catch of sharks and rays has not been assessed in the Pilbara or Kimberley regions. [PF, KF]
- 40. Only the primary target species (Carcharhinus plumbeus, sandbar shark) has been stock assessed in detail, with all other shark and ray species needing more detailed stock assessments (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). [PF, KF]
- 41. The impact of climate change on fisheries is unknown. [P, PI, PF, K, KI, KF]

- 42. The impacts of illegal foreign fishing vessels on shark, beche de mer, trochus shell, and other stocks, are unknown (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). [PI, PF, PR?, PM?, KI, KF, KR?, KM?]
- 43. The last detailed surveys of recreational fishing in the Pilbara were conducted in 1999/2000 (Williamson et al., 2006) and only phone surveys of recreational fishing in the Kimberley have been conducted (Henry & Lyle, 2003). DoF (2005) recommended catch surveys to be undertaken every three years. [PI, PF, KI, KF]
- 44. It is estimated that recreational fishing pressure will be 14 million fishing days per year by 2012 (DoF, 2004), the impact of this on various habitats is unknown. [P, PW, PP, PV, PI, PF, K, KW, KP, KV, KI, KF]
- 45. No studies on the effectiveness of BRD's in any Kimberley trawl fisheries (Stephenson et al., 2008), and only limited studies in Pilbara trawl fisheries (Stephenson & Chidlow, 2003; and Stephenson et al., 2008). [PF, PR, PM, KF, KR, KM]

NB. A total of 46 knowledge gaps were presented during the stakeholder workshops. Gap #36 - There have been no stock assessments of target species other than barramundi in the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery (Fletcher & Santoro, 2007). [KF], as it was presented at the workshops has since been addressed in Fletcher & Santoro (2008).

Name	Position	Organization
		Organisation
Ms Katya Tripp	Environmental Projects Officer	Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Brolga	Tourist Committee Member	Wyndham Tourist Committee
Mr Luke Parker		Department of Indigenous Affairs
Ms Cathy McLaughlin		East Kimberley Regional Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee
Mr Dick Pasfield		East Kimberley Regional Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee / Ord Land and Water
Mr Dave Woods		East Kimberley Regional Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee
Mr Brian Warren	General Manager	Rangelands NRM WA
Ms Trish Terry	Indigenous Engagement Facilitator	Rangelands NRM WA
Ms Fiona Tingle	Project Officer	Rangelands NRM WA
Ms Sonia Leonard	Indigenous Community Water Facilitator	MG Corporation
Mr Michael Burk		Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gejerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Alan Pardoe-Bell		East Kimberley Volunteer Marine Rescue
Kelvin		East Kimberley Volunteer Marine Rescue
Ms Kristy - Lee Cooke	Product Development Manager	Tourism WA; Australia's North West Region
Dr Steve Blake	CEO	Western Australian Marine Science Institute

# Appendix 2. List of participants and photographs of the Kununurra workshop held at the Kununurra Country Club Plaza Resort on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2009



Figure 16. Photographs of the Kununurra workshop held at the Kununurra Country Club Plaza Resort on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

# Appendix 3. List of participants and photographs of the Broome workshop held at the Mercure Inn, Broome on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2009

Name	Position	Organisation
Ms Fiona Galloway	Marine and Coastal Reserves Officer	Department of Environment and Conservation
Mr Alan Byrne	District Manager	Department of Environment and Conservation
Mr Peter Godfrey	Regional Manager	Department of Fisheries (WA)
Ms Justine Homes	Community Education Officer	Department of Fisheries (WA)
Ms Rachel Green		Department of Fisheries (WA) / Roebuck Bay Working Group
Ms Pam Baskind	Senior Planner	Department for Planning and Infrastructure
Mr Chris Mitchell	Executive Officer	Kimberley Area Consultative Committee / Shire of Broome Councillor
Mr Micklo Corpus	Park Supervisor	Minyirr Park / Kimberley Land Council
Mr John Kennedy	Secretary	Broome Sailing Club / Broome Volunteer Sea Rescue
Ms Naida Darcy	President	Broome Historical Society - Broome Museum
Mr Steve McLaughlin	President	Broome Fishing Club
Mr Cole Lewis		Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park
Mr Martin Pritchard	Director	Environs Kimberley
Ms Sharon Griffiths		Sharon Griffiths and Associates
Mr Neil Gower	CEO	Kujurta Buru & Mamabulanjin Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Max Goodwin	Training Coordinator	Kullarri Regional CDEP Inc
Will		Beagle Bay Rangers
David		Beagle Bay Rangers
Corrina		Beagle Bay Rangers
Ms Kandy Curran	Project officer	Roebuck Bay Working Group
Mr Doug Van Bavel	Managing Ranger	Shire of Broome
Mr Kenn Donohoe	CEO	Shire of Broome
Mr Darryl Butcher	Director of Development Services	Shire of Broome
Ms Sara Hennessy	Chair	West Kimberley Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee
Dr Steve Blake	CEO	Western Australian Marine Science Institute
Mr Bob Masters		Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery
Mr Mik Burton	Pearl Producers Assocation	C/- Western Australian Fishing Industry Council Inc
Mr Patrick Moase	Clipper Pearls	Pearl Producers Association
Mr Dwayne Tang Wei		Broome Indigenous Coordination Centre

Name	Position	Organisation
Ms Marguerite Tarzia	PhD Student	Deakin University
Mr Dennis Lennaker		Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery
Mr Adam Masters		Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery
Mr Todd Morris		Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Managed Fishery



Figure 17. Photographs of the Broome workshop held at the Mercure Inn, Broome on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.



Figure 17. Continued.

# Appendix 4. List of participants and photographs of the Karratha workshop held at the Tambrey Centre, Karratha on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2009

Name	Position	Organisation
Ms Cath Samson	Regional Marine Program Coordinator	Department of Environment and Conservation
Mr Mike Dunne		Department of Fisheries (WA)
Mr John Verbeek	Principal Project Officer	Pilbara Development Commission
Ms Linda Anderson	Project Manager	Rangelands NRM WA C/- Department of Agriculture and Food
Ms Alison McGilvary	Biodiversity Facilitator	Rangelands NRM WA C/- Department of Environment and Conservation
Mr Bevan Grey	Indigenous Facilitator	Rangelands NRM WA
Mr Dennis Bryan-Smith		Dampier Archipelago Preservation Association
Mr Len Vernagan		Dampier Archipelago Preservation Association
Mr Wayne Young	Environmental Manager	Dampier Port Authority
Dr Damon Newling	Superintendent Environment - Coastal Operations	Rio Tinto
Dr Jason Rossendell	Ecosystems Monitoring Advisor	Rio Tinto
Mr Cameron McEvoy	Environmental Advisor	Dampier Salt Limited
Mr Jim Kaucz	Planner	Department for Planning and Infrastructure
Dr Steve Blake	CEO	Western Australian Marine Science Institute



Figure 18. Photographs of the Karratha workshop held at the Tambrey Centre, Karratha on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

Appendix 5. Information package supplied to stakeholders prior to the stakeholder meetings in Kununurra, Broome and Karratha during May, 2009

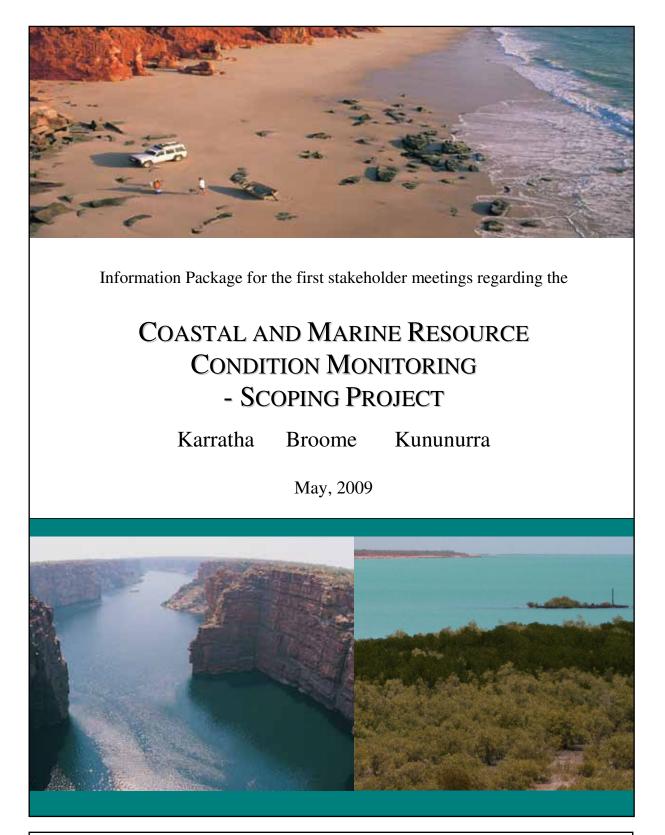


Photo credits: top, Tourism WA; all other images copyright Department of Fisheries.

# Background

The Pilbara and Kimberley regions offer a suite of unique natural characteristics. As such, these regions are recognised as valuable natural assets and valuable natural resources sustaining and providing numerous habitats and ecosystems, which themselves contain a diverse range of fauna and flora. Many of these organisms from the Pilbara and Kimberley are endemic to Australia or the region.

The Pilbara and Kimberley regions are also hubs for various industries. Perhaps best known for the mining and petrochemical industries, the area also supports productive fishing industries, which include both commercial and recreational fishing. An emerging and rapidly developing industry of the region is tourism, particularly ecotourism, which showcases the natural assets of the region to the many visitors that pass through the Pilbara and Kimberley each year.

The unique natural characteristics of the region and the ever developing industries located in the Pilbara and Kimberley region, especially along the coastal fringe, creates the need for "a long term monitoring strategy to ensure the future integrity of the marine environment of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions".

The *Coastal and Marine Resource Condition Monitoring - Scoping Project* is a one year project, which commenced in October 2008, and was developed in order to increase our understanding and develop a standardised long term monitoring protocol, for the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

## **Objectives**

The project has three objectives:

- 1. Undertake a desktop study of the current coastal and marine resource condition monitoring programs being undertaken in the Pilbara and Kimberley Regions.
- 2. Develop standard monitoring protocols and test in two inter-tidal habitats.
- 3. Provide a coastal and marine Resource Condition Monitoring report on Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

# What has been achieved

To date, the project has satisfied the first objective by undertaking a major literature search of the research that has been conducted in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions, which identified over 2000 research papers. The majority of the available research literature for the region is dedicated to geology and petrochemistry, with only ~10% of the literature relating to the marine and coastal environments. It is worth mentioning that there is a significant amount of research literature that is not accessible because the research has been undertaken by consultancies and/or private companies, and is not publicly available.

The WA Department of Fisheries (DoF) has been working in close collaboration with the WA Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in developing a suite of standardised monitoring protocols for various marine environments. This project will field trial those protocols with a small scale assessment in two habitats, mangroves and intertial sand flats, to assess the effectiveness of the protocols. The field trial is scheduled for mid-May.

Work has begun on the final objective, to provide a resource condition monitoring report on the Pilbara and Kimberley regions and provide a strategic framework for long term resource condition monitoring of the coastal and marine environments. Again, DoF is working in close association with DEC to ensure that the framework is practical and standardised.

## The purpose of the stakeholder meeting

The aim of examining the available literature, for objective 1, was to identify knowledge gaps, i.e. areas that require further research, in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. A total of 46 knowledge gaps have been identified and range from very specific questions to broad scale environmental issues. These knowledge gaps will be the focus of the upcoming stakeholder meetings. The aim will be to gather feedback from stakeholders as to the accuracy of the gaps identified and if there are further gaps that need addressing in terms of environmental health and monitoring requirements.

The knowledge gaps have been grouped into five main categories to identify the main issue highlighted by that knowledge gap. The categories are *Endangered/ Threatened Habitats*, *Endangered/ Threatened Species*, *Biodiversity*, *Ecological/ Oceanographic*, and *Fisheries/ Aquaculture*.

Another aim of the workshop will be to prioritise these knowledge gaps, which will be achieved through a voting process. Each participant will be given the opportunity to vote for the three knowledge gaps that they think are the most important questions that need answering in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the marine and coastal environments.

Things to be considered when assessing which gap to vote for:

- 1) All of the gaps are questions specific to the marine and coastal environments relating only to the Pilbara and the Kimberley.
- 2) Critically assess which gaps you think are most essential to understanding and monitoring the marine environment.
- 3) Consider the following, "If I vote for this gap, what will be the potential environmental implications?".

# The procedure for the stakeholder meeting

Provided below is the list of knowledge gaps that have been identified from the literature search. It is essential that you have read each gap, and preferably given some thought as to which knowledge gaps you might vote for and the implications for choosing that knowledge gap, prior to the workshop. The workshop will run through each knowledge gap and you will have the opportunity to ask any queries or seek clarifications regarding each gap as we proceed through them.

Once the presentation is over, you will be asked if there are any other knowledge gaps relevant to the marine and coastal environments for the Pilbara and Kimberley environments. Issues of fisheries quotas and fishery policy will not be addressed here.

After any other knowledge gaps have been added to the list, you will be asked to vote for three knowledge gaps that you consider having the greatest implications for long term marine and coastal sustainability for the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

#	CATEGORY	KNOWLEDGE GAP
1	Endangered/ Threatened Habitats	There are currently no threats identified for seagrasses. Do we need to review and monitor the status of current threats to seagrasses?
2	Endangered/ Threatened Habitats	Invertebrates are sensitive to pollution and habitat loss or modification. Should more research be conducted to assess using invertebrates as indicators for such impacts?
3	Endangered/ Threatened Habitats	Historical overfishing and bad fishing practices have impacted benthic assemblages (eg. coral communities, sponge gardens, seagrass meadows), however the recovery of these habitats are unknown. Should more research be conducted to assess the impacts of historical overfishing and bad fishing practices?
4	Endangered/ Threatened Habitats	The influence of large scale oceanographic features (eg. effects of large ocean currents) on inshore habitats of the Pilbara and Kimberley are unknown. Should research concentrate on resolving these influences?
5	Endangered/ Threatened Species	Knowledge of basic biological information is lacking for dugongs. Is understanding the biology of dugongs important?
6	Endangered/ Threatened Species	The survivability of dolphins that have passed through a bycatch reduction device (BRD) escape hatch is unknown. Is survivability of dolphins a priority?
7	Endangered/ Threatened Species	Threatened river sharks (genus <i>Glyphis</i> ) are misidentified for whaler sharks in the various fisheries. How often are they actually caught by fisheries?
8	Endangered/ Threatened Species	Threatened fresh water sharks, sawfishes, and rays use different habitats as they grow. At what ages do the freshwater sharks and rays use the various habitats?
9	Endangered/ Threatened Species	Seabird catches are not reported for commercial fisheries and have just begun for recreational charter boat fishing. Is it important to know how many seabirds are being caught in the fisheries?
10	Endangered/ Threatened Species	Pipefishes and seahorses are caught in some commercial fisheries, however the effects of this are unknown. Should this be an area of research priority?
11	Endangered/ Threatened Species	The survivability of bycatch released alive is presumed. Do we need to know what the actual survivability is?
12	Endangered/ Threatened Species	Fishing effort will be directed away from demersal long-lining to pelagic gill-netting in the WA North Coast Shark Fishery and the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery. Will this increase the bycatch of threatened species such as river sharks, sawfishes, turtles, and mammals in this fishery?
13	Biodiversity	The biodiversity of the invertebrate fauna in the Pilbara and Kimberley region is poorly known. Do we need a comprehensive biodiversity survey of the invertebrate fauna?
14	Biodiversity	Do biodiversity hotspots in the Pilbara and Kimberley need to be reassessed and verified, or identified?

#	CATEGORY	KNOWLEDGE GAP
15	Biodiversity	The amount of genetic input from Indonesia into WA waters unknown. Do we need to assess the amount of genetic input from Indonesia?
16	Biodiversity	Species composition in the shallow coastal zone is poorly surveyed. Do we need a better understanding of the species composition?
17	Biodiversity	There is no baseline data against which to measure or detect introduced species. Do you consider introduced marine pests an area of priority research?
18	Ecological/ Oceanographic	Virtually nothing is known of the ecological significance and interactions of the phytoplankton and zooplankton of the area. How does plankton influence marine ecology in the region?
19	Ecological/ Oceanographic	What are the ecological links between plankton and benthos communities (corals, sponges, seagrasses, etc)?
20	Ecological/ Oceanographic	What roles do plankton play in food webs and the recycling of nutrients along the coastline?
21	Ecological/ Oceanographic	How does the plankton vary seasonally?
22	Ecological/ Oceanographic	How is the plankton affected by small scale oceanography (eg. tidal currents, waves, etc)?
23	Ecological/ Oceanographic	A standard set of environmental quality indicators, criteria, and standard monitoring procedures are not currently available. Should these be developed to monitor the environment?
24	Ecological/ Oceanographic	What will be the effects of sea level rise?
25	Ecological/ Oceanographic	What will be the effects of climate change, with particular reference to sea temperature rise?
26	Ecological/ Oceanographic	Water movements are not well understood and have implications for pollution and invasive pest dispersal. Do we need to understand these currents better?
27	Ecological/ Oceanographic	Large scale oceanographic features (currents, etc) are only partially characterised. Do you think understanding these currents better will provide critical knowledge for understanding our environment?
28	Ecological/ Oceanographic	Initial steps in the food web are poorly known. Is it important to understand these first steps?
29	Ecological/ Oceanographic	The ecology within and between fringing reef and seagrass bed communities are virtually unknown. Would understanding these interactions increase our understanding of the environment?
30	Ecological/ Oceanographic	Long-term monitoring has not occurred for most of the marine environment for the Pilbara and Kimberley. Is long-term monitoring the key to healthy environments?

# 31	<b>CATEGORY</b> Ecological/	KNOWLEDGE GAP           Health indicators of tropical marine communities are poorly known. Should
51	Oceanographic	these be developed?
32	Ecological/ Oceanographic	Responses to stress by tropical marine communities are poorly known. Is understanding stress critical in understanding environmental health?
33	Ecological/ Oceanographic	There has been little testing of marine water and sediment quality. Is knowing marine water and sediment quality necessary for monitoring the environment?
34	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	There is a lack of information on non-target fishes caught in fisheries. Should non-target catch be monitored?
35	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	Our knowledge of the environmental impact of aquaculture activities is limited. Does aquaculture significantly impact the whole environment?
36	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	There have been no stock assessments of target species other than barramundi in the Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Fishery. Should stock assessments be performed on those other fishes?
37	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	Recreational charter fishing is increasing. Should there be more research on the impacts of such fishing?
38	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	The occurrence and impact of ghost fishing from discarded fishing gear is unknown. Is ghost fishing a significant environmental impact?
39	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	Recreational fishing pressure on Spanish mackerel is high and has not been surveyed since 1999/2000. Should this fishery be surveyed again?
40	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	The recreational catch of sharks and rays has not been assessed. Should the recreational catch of sharks and rays be assessed?
41	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	Only the primary target species (sandbar/ thick skin shark) has been adequately stock assessed in the WA North Coast and the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fisheries. Should other shark species caught in this fishery be assessed?
42	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	The impact of climate change on fisheries is unknown. Should this be a research priority?
43	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	The impacts of illegal foreign fishing vessels are unknown. Should more research be done on this problem?
44	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	Recreational fishing pressure is increasing but has not been surveyed since 1999/2000. Should there be another survey of recreational fishing?
45	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	It is estimated that recreational fishing pressure will be 14 million fishing days per year by 2012 and the impact of this on various habitats is unknown. Are the activities of recreational fishers a threat to the environment?
46	Fisheries/ Aquaculture	The effectiveness of bycatch reduction devices are mostly unknown. Should we have a better understanding of the effectiveness of these devices?

## Appendix 6. Literature review and knowledge gap slides presented at the stakeholder meetings, 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2009





### Background The Pilbara and Kimberley Marine Regianz Support numerous industries Petrochemical. Mining Fubries Connected Recruitional Wanterson and

#### Need

A long term monitoring strategy to ensure the future integrity of the marine environmen of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions

#### What is Resource Condition Monitoring?

- A resource is a particular movironmental
- A resource is a particular environmental attribute (eg, ecosystem, habitat, community, species) The condition is the state or health of that resource (eg., increasing, constant, decreasing)
- The number of whales calving in Canden Sound is increasing.

#### What is Resource Condition Monitoring?

- The condition is the state or health of that
- resource (eg. increasing/ constant/ decreasing) The number of communication calving in Camden Sound is increasing.

## What is Resource Condition Monitoring?

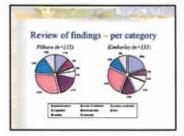
- The condition is the state or health of that resource (eg. increming/ constant/ decreasing)
- The number of calving in Camden Sound is increasing

- Objectives
- 1. Undertake a dasktop study of the surrout cossist and marine resource condition monitoring programs being undertakes in the Piltura and Kinheley Ecgions.
- 2. Develop standard mentioning percends and ton in 2 inter-tidel habitata
- T. Previde a control and sourise WCM report on Piltura and KiniNetley regions

# Objectives I. Undertake a dealary study of the surrent coastal and movies econories condition monitoring programs being undertaken in the Pilhara and Kimboricy Regime.

K ..... 9

# Objective 1. Knowledge review - the searching. Over 2000 referencem Over 2000 referencem Unry sourcher enfore scientific resurch tools (e.g., SCBUS & ScienceRhwit), meta-databases (eg. WANSI Russier MEST & DEC Rological Inventory) Pilbara 1013 referencem - 11% (115) relevant Komberley 1131 referencem - 11% (135) relevant



# The Gaps

## Categorisation of Gaps

- Endangered/ Threatened Habitata
- · Endangered/Threatened Species · Biodiversity
- · Ecological/ Oceanographic
- · Fisheries/ Aquaculture

#### Procedure for the rest of the seminar

- Each gap will be presented and explained sequentially (in no order of preference)
   Any questions or commerts specific to the gap will be addressed at the end of each explanation
- Are there any gaps that have not been addressed here?
- Voting on priority of knowledge gaps

## Why prioritise the gaps?

- We can't do everything!
  We have limited budgets
- We have limited personnel
   Their are time constraints to deliver products to
  funding hodies
- Therefore we want to focus on areas of research that will provide the generat contribution to resource condition monitoring

## Things to consider for each gap

- All gaps are questions specific to the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley
- Which gaps do you think are most essential to understanding and monitoring the marine environment
- If I vote for this gap, what will be the potential environmental implications?

- Things to consider for each gap What criteria should be used in assess which gaps are "essential"
   Does the gap address a bread environmental
- near? Are the species associated with the gap likely to influence the environment on a large scale? Is the gap specific to a certain site? If so, is that the important for the sortiunding actas?

- Will ignoring a gap have a kneck-on effect to other environments' habitats' species?

41	Important?	Importan
1	Y	3
2	Y	5
3	Y.	1
4	Ň	
5	Y	2
6	Y	4
1		

#### Endangered/ Threatened Habitats Gap #1

There are currently no threats identified for seagrasses. Do we need to review and monitor the status of current threats to seagrasses?

# Endangered/ Threatened Habitats Gap #2

Invertebrates are sensitive to pollution and habitat loss or modification. Should more research be conducted to assess using invertebrates as indicators for such impacts?

# Endangered/ Threatened Habitats Gap #3

Entorical overfishing and bad fishing practices have impacted benthic assemblages (eg. coral communities, sponge ganlens, seaguna assadows), however the recovery of these habitats are autoavor. Should more remarch be conducted to assess the impacts of historical overfishing and hold failing practices(?

#### Endangered/ Threatened Habitats Gop #4

The influence of large scale occursographic features (eg. effects of large ocean currents) on imhore habitats of the Pilbara and Kamburley are unknown. Should research concentrate on reaching these influences?

### Things to consider for each gap

- All gaps are questions specific to the marine and coastal revivenments of the Pilbara and Kimberley
   Which gaps do you think are most essential to understanding and monitoring the marine environment
   If I vote for this gap, what will be the potential environmental implications?

#### Endangered/ Threatened Species Gap #5

Knowledge of basic biological information is lacking for dugongs. Is understanding the biology of dugongs important?

# Endangered/ Threatened Species

Gap #6

The survivability of doiphins that have passed through a bycatch reduction device (BRD) escape latch is unknown. Is survivability of dolphins a priority?

Endangered/ Threatened Species Gap #7.

Threatened river sharks (genus Gluphir) are misidemified for whaler sharks in the various fuberies. How often are they actually caught by fisheries?

# Endangered/ Threatened Species

Gap ##

Threatened fresh water sharks, sawfishes, and rays use different habitats as they grow. At what ages do the freshwater sharks and rays use the various babitats?

# Endangered/ Threatened Species

Gap #9

Seabird catches are not reported for commercial fisheries and have just begun for accentional chatter beat fishing. Is it important to know how many seabirds are being caught in the fisheries?

# Endangered/ Threatened Species

Pipefishes and seaboraes are caught in some commercial fisheries, however the effects of this are unknown. Should this be an area of research priority?

#### Endangered/ Threatened Species Gap #1/

The survivability of bycatch released alive is presamed. Do we need to know what the schual survivability is?

#### A CONTRACTOR OF A CONTRACTOR

#### Endangered/ Threatened Species Gap #12

Finling effort will be directed away from demensal long-lining to pelagic gill-retring in the WA. North Coast Stark Fishery and the Joint Authority Northers Shark Fashery. Will this uncertain the hystatch of threatened spoces such as river sharks, sawfishes, turtlier, and manimals in this fashery?

## Things to consider for each gap

- All gaps are questions specific to the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley
- Which gaps do you think are most essential to understanding and monitoring the marine environment
- If I vote for this gap, what will be the potential environmental implications?

## Biodiversity Gap #13

The biodiversity of the invertebrate fauna in the Filbara and Kimberley region is poorly known. Do we need a comprehensive biodiversity survey of the invertebrate fauna?

#### Biodiversity Gapt#14

Do biodiversity hotspots in the Pilbara and Kimberley need to be reassessed and verified, or identified?

#### and the second

#### Biodiversity

Gap #15 The amount of genetic input from Indonesia into WA waters unknown. Do we need to assess the amount of genetic input from Indonesia?

#### and the second

## Biodiversity

Gap #16 Species composition in the shallow coastal zone is peorly surveyed. Do we need a better understanding of the species composition?

#### Biodiversity

Gep #17 There is no baseline data against which to measure or detect introduced species. Do you consider introduced marine pests an rea of priority research?

# Things to consider for each gap

- All gaps are questions specific to the marine and coestal environments of the Pilbara and Kimberley
  Which gaps do you think are most essential to understanding and monitoring the marine environment
  If I yote for this gap, what will be the potential environmental implications?

# Ecological/ Oceanographic

Gep #18 Virtually nothing is known of the acclegatal significance and interactions of the phytoplankton and zooplarkton of the area. How does plonkton influence marine ecology in the region?

# Ecological/ Oceanographic

## Gap #19

What are the ecological links between plankton and benthes communities (corals, sponges, seagrasses, etc., 19

#### Ecological/ Oceanographic Gep #20

What roles do plankton play is food webs and the recycling of subsists along the coastline?

# 30

#### Ecological/ Oceanographic Gap #21

How does the plankton vary seasonally?

Ecological/ Oceanographic

Gap #22 How is the plankton affected by small scale oceanography (eg. tidal currents, waves, etc...)?

## Ecological/ Oceanographic Gap #23

A standard set of environmental quality indicators, criteria, and standard monitoring procedures are not currently available. Should these be developed to monitor the environment?

Ecological/ Oceanographic

Gap #24 What will be the effects of sea level rise?

# Ecological/ Oceanographic

Gup #23 What will be the effects of climate change, with particular reference to sea temperature

rise?

#### Ecological/ Oceanographic Gap #26

Water movements are not well understood and have implications for pollution and invasive pest dispersal. Do we need to understand these currents better!

#### Ecological/ Oceanographic Gap #27

Large scale oceanographic features (currents, etc...) are only partially characterised. Do you think understanding these currents better will provide critical knowledge for understanding our environment?

# Ecological/ Oceanographic Gap #28 Initial steps in the food web are poorly known. Is it important to understand these first steps?

### Ecological/ Oceanographic Gap #29

The ecology within and between fringing seef and acagrass bed communities are virtually unknown. Woodd understanding these interactions increase our understanding of the environment?

# Ecological/ Oceanographic

# Gap #30 Long-term receiving has not occurred for most of the marine environment for the Pilbana and Kimberley. Is long-term monitoring the key to healthy environments?

Ecological/ Oceanographic

Gap #31 Health indicators of tropical matine communities are pooely known. Should these be developed?

# Ecological/ Oceanographic

## Gap #32

Responses to stress by tropical masine communities are pointly known. Is understanding stress critical in understanding environmental health?

## Ecological/ Oceanographic

Gap #33 There has been little testing of marine water and sediment quality. Is knowing marine water and sediment quality necessary for monitoring the environment?

#### Things to consider for each gap

- All gaps are questions specific to the marine and coastal environments of the Pilbara and Kimbedrey
  Which gaps do you think are most essential to understanding and monitoring the marine environment
  If I vute for this gap, what will be the notestial environment implications?
- potential environ ntal implications?

# Fisheries/ Aquaculture

## Gap #34

There is a lack of information on non-target fishes caught in fisheries. Should non-target catch be monitored?

#### Fisheries/ Aquaculture Gap #35

Our knowledge of the environmental impact of aquaculture activities is limited. Does aquaculture significantly impact the whole environment?

#### Fisheries/ Aquaculture Gep #36

There have been no stock assessments of target species other than barramundi in the Kimberley Gilbert and Barramundi Fishery. Should stock assessments be performed on those other fishes?

# Fisheries/ Aquaculture Gup #37 Recreational charter fishing is increasing. Should there be more research on the impacts of such fishing?

### Fisheries/ Aquaculture Gap #38

The occurrence and impact of ghost fishing from discarded fishing gear is unknown. Is ghost fishing a significant environmental impact?

# Fisheries/ Aquaculture

## Gap #39

Recreational fishing pressure on Spaniah mackerel is high and has not been surveyed since 1999/2000. Should this fishery be surveyed again?

#### Fisheries/ Aquaculture Gap \$40

The recreational catch of sharks and rays has not been assessed. Should the recreational catch of sharks and rays be assessed?

#### Fisheries/ Aquaculture

#### Gop #41

Only the primary target species standbast tlack skin shark) has been adoptately stock astensied in the WA North Coast and the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fubbers. Should other thank species cought in this fishery be astensed?

## Fisheries/ Aquaculture

Gap #42

The impact of climate change on fisheries is unknown. Should this be a research priority?

Fisheries/ Aquaculture Gap #43 The impacts of illegal foreign fishing vessels are unknown. Should more research be done on this problem?

# Fisheries/ Aquaculture

#### Gap #44

Recreational fishing pressure is increasing but has not been surveyed since 1999/2000, Should there be another survey of recreational fishing?

# Fisheries/ Aquaculture

## Gap #45

It is estimated that recornional flabing pressure will be 14 million fishing days per year by 2012 and the impact of this net various habitant is unknown. Are the activities of recruitional fishers a threat to the environment?

#### Fisheries/ Aquaculture Gap #46

The effectiveness of bycatch reduction devices are mostly unknown. Should we have a better understanding of the effectiveness of these devices?

## Have we missed anything?

Do the knowledge gaps presented here cover all of the areas that need further scientific research, or are there other areas that need addressing specific to the marine environment? here of them are not form price of soch address form

- Voting for research priorities
- · You have been given 3 stickers each
- At the front of the room is a form with the gap numbers on it
- Place a sticker in the blank space next to the gap number to vote for that gap to have research priority
- Do not let others influence your varie!!

# Appendix 7. Monitoring knowledge review matrix. Refer to Table 6 for definitions of the criteria used to assign quality ratings. Abbreviations: P - Pilbara; K - Kimberley; W&S - water and sediment quality; PP - primary production; V - marine vegetation; I marine invertebrate communities; F - marine fish species; R - marine reptile species; and M - marine mammal species

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE		WHAT							
				Ρ	к	G	W &S	PP	v	I	F	R	М
AIMS	Alongi, D., Clough, B., Tirendi, F., Dixon, P., Dalhaus, O. and Goldrick, A., 1997. Mangrove Studies Western Australian Research Activities 1994- 1996. In: Australian Institute of Marine Science Report. 16-18 pp.	Initial survey	1994 - 1996	X					X				
AIMS	Burns, K., Furnas, M., King, B. and Heggie, D., 1996. Fates of materials in the discharge water from offshore petroleum production of the North-West Shelf. In: <i>Western Australian Research</i> <i>Activities 1994-1996.</i> AIMS Report, Australian Institute of Marine Science, Townsville, 44-45 pp.	Initial survey	1994 - 1995	X			X						
AIMS	Furnas, M. and Steinberg. C., 1997. Environmental and oceanographic monitoring at oceanic coral reefs on the North-West Shelf. Western Australian Research Activities 1994- 1996. Australian Institute of Marine Science Report.	Inaccessible	1994 - 1996		Х	Х							
AIMS	Heyward, A., Halford, A., Smith, L. and Williams, D. M., 1997. Coral reefs of north west Australia: baseline monitoring of an oceanic reef ecosystem. In: H.A. Lessios and I.G. Macintyre (eds.) <i>Proceedings of the 8th</i> <i>International Coral Reef Symposium</i> Vol. 1. Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama., <i>Panama, June,</i> <i>1996.</i> 289-284 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X	×					×			
AIMS	Heyward, A., Smith, L., Halford, A. and Field, S., 1997. Monitoring and Benthic Dynamics in Western Australian Coral Reefs. In: <i>Western Australian</i> <i>Research Activities 1994-1996.</i> Australian Institute of Marine Science Report, 9-11 pp.	Initial survey	1995 - 1996	X	X					X			

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT			
				Ρ	к	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М
AIMS	Johnson, D. B. and Stoddart, J. A., 1988. <i>Report on Surveys of the</i> <i>Distribution, Abundance and Impact</i> <i>of</i> Acanthaster planci <i>on Reefs Within</i> <i>the Dampier Archipelago (Western</i> <i>Australia).</i> Australian Institute of Marine Science Report, 15pp.	Inaccessible	?	Х						X			
AIMS	Robertson, A., 1993. <i>Study of the Impact of Pilbara Coastal Development on Arid Zone Mangroves Stage 1.</i> AIMS, 41 pp.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
AIMS	Stoddard, J. and Johnson, D. B., 1988. Report on Surveys of the Distribution, Abundance and Impact of Acanthaster planci on Reefs within the Dampier Archipelago, Western Australia. Australian Institute of Marine Science.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
CSIRO	Althaus, F, K Woolley, X He, P Stephenson and R Little. 2006. The Spatial Distribution of Commercial Fishery Production on Australia's North West Shelf. North West Shelf Joint Environmental Management Study. NWSJEMS Technical Report No. 10, 122pp.	Fair	1973 - 2000	Х							Х		
CSIRO	CSIRO Division Marine Research, 1991. North West Shelf Development Project Benthic Samples from Cossack Field. Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd; WENV 0168.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
CSIRO	CSIRO Division of Fisheries and Oceanography (1968). Oceanographical observations in the Indian Ocean in 1964. H.M.A.S. Diamantina cruise Dm5/64. Oceanographical Cruise Report. Division of Fisheries and Oceanography. CSIRO Australia, no. 40.	Initial survey	1959 - 1964	Х	X	Х	Х	X					
CSIRO	CSIRO, 1992. North West Shelf Development Project <i>Benthic Samples</i> <i>From North Rankin A Field</i> . Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
CSIRO	Fandry, C, A Revill, K Wenziker, K McAlpine, S Apte, R Masini and K Hillman. 2006. Contaminants on Australia's North West Shelf: Sources, Impacts, Pathways and Effects. North West Shelf Joint Environmental Management Study. NWSJEMS Technical Report No. 13, 46pp.	Initial survey	2000	X			X	X					

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT	WHAT								
				Р	к	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	Μ						
CSIRO	Hallegraeff, G. M., and Jeffrey, S. W., 1984. Tropical phytoplankton species and pigments of continental shelf waters of north and north west Australia. <i>Marine Ecology Progress</i> <i>Series</i> , 20: 59-74.	Initial survey	1980 - 1983	X	X			X											
CSIRO	Lyne, V, M Fuller, PR Last, A Butler, M Martin and R Scott. 2006. Ecosystem Characterisation of Australia's North West Shelf. North West Shelf Joint Environmental Management Study. NWSJEMS Technical Report No. 12, 73pp.	Initial survey	?	X		X													
CSIRO	Wenziker, K, K McAlpine, S Apte and R Masini. 2006. Background Quality for Coastal Marine Waters of the North West Shelf, Western Australia. North West Shelf Joint Environmental Management Study. NWSJEMS Technical Report No.18, 50pp.	Initial survey	2003	X			X												
CSIRO	Whitelaw, A. W., In review. Condition changes and length weight relationships for 21 species of fish from the families; Lutjanidae, Nemipteridae, Carangidae, Lethrinidae, Synodontidae, Balistidae, Haemulidae and Mullidae, from the North West Shelf of Australia. CSIRO Divisional Report.	Inaccessible	?																
CSIRO	Young, P. C., and Sainsbury, K. J., 1985. CSIRO's North West Shelf program indicates changes in fish populations. <i>Australian Fisheries</i> , 44(3): 16-20.	Fair	1966 - 1982	X							x								
CSIRO	Young, P. C., Leis, J. M., and Hausfeld, H. F., 1986. Seasonal and spatial distribution of fish larvae in waters over the North West Continental Shelf of Western Australia. <i>Marine Ecology</i> <i>Progress Series</i> , 31(3): 209-22.	Initial survey	1982 - 1983	X							X								
Regulatory Agency	Chittleborough, R. G., 1983. <i>The</i> <i>Dampier Archipelago Marine Study:</i> <i>A Progress Report</i> . Bulletin 141, Department of Conservation & Environment, Western Australia, 12 pp.	Fair	1980 - 1981	X		X	X	x	x										
Regulatory Agency	Deegan, P. M., 1992. <i>Montebello and Lowendal Islands, Summary Report of Marine Resources.</i> Report for Western Australia Department of Conservation and Land Management, Perth, 16 pp.	Initial survey	1992	X		X			x	x	x	x	х						

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT			
				Ρ	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	м
Regulatory Agency	Department of Environment and Conservation. 2008. Preliminary Reconnaissance Survey of Benthic Habitats in the Anjo Peninsula Area, Kimberley Bioregion, Western Australia. Report to the Northern Development Taskforce Prepared by the Marine Ecosystems Branch. Department of Environment and Conservation, Government of Western Australia. iv+22pp.	Initial survey	2008		×	×							
Regulatory Agency	Department of Minerals and Energy, 1997. Environmental Compliance Audit of Wandoo B Production Facility. Mobil Exploration & Producing Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Regulatory Agency	Environmental Protection Authority. 2007. State of the Environment Report: Western Australia 2007. Department of Environment and Conservation. Perth, Western Australia. xv + 312pp.	Very Good	2007	Х	Х	X	X		Х	X	X		
Regulatory Agency	Fletcher, WJ and K Santoro (Eds.). 2008. State of the Fisheries Report 2007/08. Department of Fisheries, Western Australia, Perth. 308pp. (And other State of the Fisheries Reports)	Very Good	(1944 - ) 2007 - 2008	Х	Х					X	Х		
Regulatory Agency	Forde, M. J., 1985. <i>Technical Report</i> on Suspended matter in Mermaid Sound, Dampier Archipelago Marine Study. Department of Conservation and Environment, 102 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X			X						
Regulatory Agency	Gordon, D. M., 1987. Disturbance to Mangroves in the Tropical- arid Western Australia: Hypersalinity and Restricted Tidal Exchange as Factors Leading to Mortality. In. Technical Series 12, Environmental Protection Authority.	Inaccessible	?	Х	Х				Х				
Regulatory Agency	Newman, SJ, GC Young and IC Potter. 2004. Characterisation of the Inshore Fish Assemblages of the Pilbara and Kimberley Coasts. FRDC Project No. 2000/132. Department of Fisheries. 204pp.	Fair	1990 - 2002	Х	x						x		
Regulatory Agency	Northern Development Taskforce. 2008. Site Evaluation Report, Part A. Department of Industry and Resources, Government of Western Australia. 10pp.	Initial survey	2008		Х	Х							

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE						WHAT				
				Р	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М	
Regulatory Agency	Northern Development Taskforce. 2008. Site Evaluation Report, Part B. Department of Industry and Resources, Government of Western Australia. 63pp.	Initial survey	2007 - 2008		X	X								
Regulatory Agency	Nowara, GB and SJ Newman. 2001. A history of foreign fishing activities and fishery-independent surveys of the demersal finfish resources in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Fisheries Research Report 125:84pp.	Fair	1980 -1990		X						x			
Regulatory Agency	Simpson, C. J. and Grey, K. A., 1989. Survey of Crown-of-Thorns Starfish and Coral Communities in the Dampier Archipelago, Western Australia. Environmental Protection Authority, Technical Series No.25, 23 pp.	Initial survey	1985	X						X				
Private	AGC Woodward-Clyde Pty Ltd, 1991. Assessment of the Marine Biological Monitoring Programme for the Harriet Oilfield. Report to Apache Energy; Reference no. H30; Document no. EAA-60-RH-006, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X										
Private	AGC Woodward-Clyde Pty Ltd, 1994. Maitland Heavy Industry Estate Karratha: Public Environmental Review. LandCorp and Department of Resources Development.	Inaccessible	?	X										
Private	Ampolex, 1996. Australia Region Health Safety and Environment Annual Report.	Inaccessible	?											
Private	Apache Energy Ltd, 1996. <i>Agincourt-1</i> <i>Exploration Well Environmental</i> <i>Appraisal.</i> Report to Apache Energy Ltd, Reference no. H129; Document no. EAA-00-RI-050, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?		X									
Private	Apache Energy Ltd, 1997. <i>Impact of Artificial Lighting on Sea Turtles.</i> Reference no.183; Document no.EA-00-RI-085/B H183, 25 pp	Inaccessible	?									X		
Private	Astron Engineering, 1991. Development of South Pepper, North Herald and Chervil Fields. Airlie Island Terminal. In: <i>First Triennial</i> <i>Environment Review, 1987-1990.</i> Unpublished Report prepared for Western Mining Corporation Ltd.	Inaccessible	1987 - 1990	Х										

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT									
				Ρ	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	Μ						
Private	Astron Environmental Pty Ltd, 1994. Saladin Oilfield Second Triennial Report Vegetation Monitoring 1988 - 1994. Report for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 56pp.	Inaccessible	1988 - 1994	X					Х										
Private	Astron Environmental Pty Ltd, 1995. Integrated Shearwater Monitoring Program Annual Report. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H115; Document no. EAA-60-RI-055.	Inaccessible	?	X		Х													
Private	BHP Petroleum, Apache Energy Ltd, Murdoch University and EPA, 1993. <i>Coral Spawning Study.</i> Report for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?							X									
Private	Bidwell, J. R. and Tsvetnenko, Y., 1995. The Effect of Three Water Treatment Chemicals on the Growth of the Algae, Isochrysis sp., and Survival of the Tiger Prawn, Penaeus monodon. Report to West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 18 pp.	Inaccessible	?						Х	X									
Private	Bidwell, J. R., Tsvetnenko, Y. and Gorrie, J., 1995. <i>Toxicity of the Water-</i> <i>Soluble Fraction of Wanaea-Cossack</i> <i>Crude Oil to Three Marine Species</i> . Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd, WENV 275.	Inaccessible	?	X															
Private	Bidwell, J. R., Tsvetnenko, Y., Gorrie, J. and Chegwidden, A., 1994. Acute Toxicity of the Water-Soluble Fraction of Harriet Crude Oil to Three Marine Species. Report to Hadson Energy Ltd; Reference no. H11; Document no EA-00-RI-046, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?																
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham and UWA Histopathology, 1993. <i>Thevenard</i> <i>Island Outfall Monitoring.</i> Report for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X															
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1988. Port Walcott Oil Spill Environmental Investigation. Report for Robe River Iron Associates.	Inaccessible	?	Х															
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1991. <i>Photographs of Monitored Corals -</i> <i>Leatherback-1 Drilling Program</i> . Report to Apache Energy Ltd, Reference no. H151; Document no. EAA-61-LD-001, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?							X									

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT					
				Ρ	к	G	W &S	PP	۷	I	F	R	Μ		
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1992. Petroleum Exploration in Permit Areas EP 342 and TP/9 Results of a Pre- Drilling Site Survey for the Proposed Loggerhead - 1 Location. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H50; Document no. EAA-61-RD-006, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?												
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1992. <i>Re-Inspection of the Leatherback - 1</i> <i>Drill Sites</i> . Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H47; Document no. EAA-61-RD-005, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?												
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1993. Petroleum Exploration in Permit Areas EP 342 and TP/9: Results of Environmental Monitoring of the Loggerhead-1 Drilling Program. Report to Apache Energy Ltd, Reference no. H53; Document no. EAA-61-RD-007, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?												
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1994. <i>Roller</i> <i>Oilfield Development: Environmental</i> <i>Monitoring; Results of Initial Monitoring</i> <i>Survey during November, 1993 and</i> <i>April 1994.</i> Report prepared for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	1993 - 1994												
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1995. <i>Survey of the Intertidal Habitats of</i> <i>Thevenard Island.</i> Report to Western Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 66 pp.	Inaccessible	?	Х											
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1995. <i>TP/3 Marine Environment Monitoring</i> <i>Program: Triennial Report</i> . 90 pp.	Inaccessible	?												
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1996. <i>Barrow Island Intertidal Survey.</i> Report to West Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd, 102 pp.	Inaccessible	?	Х											
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1996. Environmental Baseline Survey of Wandoo B Location. Report for Mobil Exploration & Producing Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	Х											

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WH	IAT			
				Р	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1996. Existing Environment at the Leatherback-2 Well Site. Report to Apache Energy Ltd, Reference no. H148; Document no. EAA-61-RI-009/B, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1996. Inspection Surveys of the Mydas-1 and Hawksbill-1 Well Sites. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H135; Document no. EAA-61- RU-004, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1997. Eclectus Environmental Baseline Review. Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd; WENV 334.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1997. Survey of the Intertidal Shore of the Eastern Side of Barrow Island. Report for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 175 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1997. Survey of the Intertidal Shore of the Western Side of Barrow Island. Report for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 175 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1998. Environmental Survey of Two Proposed Exploration Well Sites in EP369 and EP364. Report for Tap Oil NL, 65 pp.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Bowman Bishaw Gorham, 1998. Saladin 15 Drilling Program: Monitoring Surveys. Report for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 11 pp.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Carr, W., 1988. Environmental Impact Assessments of three offshore oilfields, Western Australia. In: <i>The North West Shelf, Australia:</i> <i>Proceedings of Petroleum</i> <i>Exploration Society, Australia</i> <i>Symposium.</i> Purcell, P. G. & Purcell, R. R., eds, Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia Ltd, Perth, pp. 625-32.	Inaccessible	?										

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY WHEN		WHERE		WHAT									
				Р	К	G	W &S	PP	V	Ι	F	R	М		
Private	Carter, D., Maxwell, J. G. and Bowtell, C., 1983. <i>North West Shelf</i> <i>Crustacean Survey Report</i> . Report to the Australian Fisheries Service by K.F.V. Fisheries Pty Ltd.	Initial survey	1983	×	X					X					
Private	Chegwidden, A., Fisher, S. J., Alexander, R., and Kagi, R. I., 1993. The fate of hydrocarbons associated with drilling from the North Rankin 'A' gas and condensate platform, Western Australia. <i>APEA Journal</i> : 386-94.	Inaccessible	?	X											
Private	Coffey & Partners, 1996. Stage 1 Environmental Audit Airlie Island WA: Western Mining Corporation. Report E9002/1-AC for Western Mining Corporation Ltd, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	x											
Private	Corteen, L., 1998. Varanus Island Turtle Monitoring Program 1997/98 Report. EA-60- RI-082 H205, Apache Energy Ltd, 63 pp.	Inaccessible	1997 - 1998	X								X			
Private	Dames & Moore, 1990. <i>Consultative</i> <i>Environmental Review Harriet Gas</i> <i>Project.</i> Report to Apache Energy Ltd, Reference no. H25; Document no. EAA-60-RI-012, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X											
Private	Dampier Salt, 1973. <i>Removal of Marine Species from Dampier Salt Ponds</i> . 6 pp.	Inaccessible	?	x											
Private	Dampier Salt, 2003. <i>2002 Annual</i> <i>Environmental Report</i> . Dampier Salt Ltd, 48pp + appendices.	Fair	2002	X		Х	X		х		х				
Private	Dinara Pty Ltd, Butler, W. H. and Butler, MA., 1987. <i>Harriet Field</i> <i>Development Varanus Island - Annual</i> <i>Environmental Report.</i> Report to Apache Energy Ltd, Reference no. H13; Document no. EAA-60-RI-008.	Inaccessible	?	X											
Private	Ecos Consulting Pty Ltd, 1996. <i>Marine</i> <i>Monitoring of Dredging Operations</i> <i>in Mermaid Sound, WA</i> . Report to Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd, WENV 293.	Inaccessible	?	X											

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT			
				Ρ	K	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М
Private	Fisher, S., 1996. In: Chemical Analysis of Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Heavy Metals in Sediments Collected in October 1996 from the Sea Floor Adjacent to the Lynx 1A Well. Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	1996	x			X						
Private	Furnas, M. and Steinberg C., 1995. Environmental and Oceanographic Measurements at Scott Reef, Western Australia. Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd, 32 pp.	Inaccessible	?		X								
Private	Furnas, M. and Steinberg C., 1996. Environmental and Oceanographic Measurements at Scott Reef, Mermaid Reef and Broome, Western Australia: September 1994 to October 1995. Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd, 185 pp.	Inaccessible	1994 - 1995		X								
Private	Geotech, 1995. A Summary of the Chemical Analysis of Sediments Collected from Withnell Bay between September 1987 and July 1995 Following a Discharge of Oil Contaminated Water from the Woodside Onshore Treatment Plant, Burrup Peninsula, North -Western Australia. Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd; WENV 286.	Inaccessible	1987 - 1995	X			X						
Private	Geotech, 1997. <i>Analysis of sea-floor sediments collected in April 1997 (Eclectus).</i> Report for Bowman Bishaw Gorham.	Inaccessible	1997		X		X						
Private	Geotech, 1998. Chemical Analysis of Rock Oyster and Sediments Collected in February 1998 from the Intertidal Zone Near to the Terminal Tank Area, Barrow Island. West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 28 pp.	Inaccessible	1998	X			X						
Private	Gordon, D. M., Bougher, A. R., LeProvost, M. I., and Bradley, J. S., 1995. Use of models for detecting and monitoring change in a mangrove ecosystem in northwestern Australia. <i>Environmental International</i> , 21(5): 605-18.	Fair	1992 - 1995	X					x				

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WH	IAT			
				Ρ	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М
Private	Hadson Energy Ltd, 1990. <i>Harriet</i> <i>Field Development Fifth Annual</i> <i>Environmental Report - June 1990.</i> Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H27; Document no. EAA-60-RI-017, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Hadson Energy Ltd, 1990. <i>Harriet</i> <i>Field Development Varanus Island -</i> <i>Annual Environmental Report</i> . Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H21; Document no. EAA-60-RI-015, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Hadson Energy Ltd, 1991. Harriet Field Development Varanus Island - Second Triennial Environmental Report. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H35; Document no. EAA-60-RI-016, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	Hadson Energy Ltd, 1991. <i>Tanami #</i> <i>1 Environmental Report.</i> Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H44; Document no. EAA-60-RD-002, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	Hadson Energy Ltd, 1992. Harriet Oilfield Marine Biological Monitoring Programme - Second Triennial Review from June 1989 to June 1991. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H48; Document no. EAA-60-RH-007, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	1989 - 1991	X									
Private	Hadson Energy Ltd, 1994. Seventh Environmental Report - October 1991 to December 1993. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H88; Document no. EAA-60-RI-037, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	1991 - 1993	X									
Private	Hanley, R., 1993. Wanaea Baseline Study: Report on the Benthic Invertebrate Survey of Wanaea Oil Field. Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd; Marine Ecology Technical Report 94/1.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Hick, P. and Caccetta, M., 1997. Spectral Measurements of Illumination Sources at Varanus Island: A study of the Possible Effects of the East Spar Facility Lights on Turtles. In. Report for Apache Energy Limited, Apache Energy Limited, 14 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X								x	

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				Ρ	к	G	W &S	PP	V	Ι	F	R	М
Private	Holdway, D., Tindall, C. and Heggie, D., 1995. Produced Formation Water Discharge to Seawater from Harriet 'A' Production Platform, NW Shelf, 1995. unpublished report.	Inaccessible	?	X			X						
Private	Kinhill Pty Ltd, 1998. <i>Marine Biological</i> <i>Monitoring and Reporting Program</i> <i>Thevenard Island (WAPET)</i> . Report for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	LeProvost Dames & Moore, 1991. Chemical and Ecological Monitoring of Mermaid Sound Triennial Report 1988 - 1991. For Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	1988 - 1991	X									
Private	LeProvost Dames & Moore, 1994. Chemical and Ecological Monitoring of Mermaid Sound 1991 -1993 Triennial Review. For Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	1991 - 1993	X									
Private	LeProvost Dames & Moore, 1994. Harriet Oil & Gas Development, Eastern Bay Seafloor Survey, Varanus Island. Report to Hadson Energy Ltd; LDM Ref: 19989-010- 367 (R516), 8 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	LeProvost Dames & Moore, 1994. Harriet Oil and Gas Fields Development Marine Management and Monitoring Programme. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; reference no. H110; document no. EAA-60-RI-050/B.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	LeProvost Dames & Moore, 1994. <i>Wanaea Prospect, Calcarenite Ridges</i> <i>1 &amp; 4 Seafloor Video Analysis.</i> Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd, LeProvost Dames & Moore.	Inaccessible	?	X						X			
Private	LeProvost Dames & Moore, 1995. 1994 LPG Jetty and Ship-Turning Basin Dredging Programme Marine Monitoring Program. Unpublished Report No. R551 for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd, LeProvost Dames & Moore, 53 pp.	Inaccessible	1994										
Private	LeProvost Dames & Moore, 1996. <i>Agincourt Marine Habitat Survey</i> <i>August 1996.</i> Report to Apache Energy Ltd; reference no. H143; document no. EAA-60-RH-017/B.	Inaccessible	?	X									

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE			·		WF	IAT			
				Р	к	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М
Private	LeProvost Dames & Moore, 1996. Chemical and Ecological Monitoring of Mermaid Sound Annual Report 1996. Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	1996	×									
Private	LeProvost Dames & Moore, 1997. Letter Report: Mangrove monitoring at North East Creek. Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?						X				
Private	LeProvost Environmental Consultants, 1990. Hadson Energy Ltd. Harriet Field Development. Fifth Annual Environmental Report June 1990. Report to Hadson Energy Ltd, LEC Ref J147, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	×									
Private	LeProvost Environmental Consultants, 1990. Harriet Oilfield Marine Biological Monitoring Programme - Coral and Rocky Shore Fauna Monitoring to June 1990. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; reference no. H28; document no. EAA- 60-RH-005.	Inaccessible	?	X						X			
Private	LeProvost Environmental Consultants, 1990. Saladin Oilfield Development Marine Biological Monitoring Programme Second Annual Report. Report for West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 66 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	LeProvost Environmental Consultants, 1992. Harriet Oilfield Marine Biological Monitoring Programme - second Triennial Review June 1989 - June 1991. Report to Hadson Energy; Report R361, Apache Energy Ltd, Perth.	Inaccessible	1989 - 1991	X									
Private	LeProvost Environmental Consultants, 1993. Harriet - Marine Management and Monitoring Programme - 7th Annual Report June 9-August 92. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; reference no. H78; document no. EAA- 60-RH-015.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1980. <i>Fauna and Flora Survey of</i> <i>Western Lease No. 5976<sup>H</sup>.</i> Dampier Salt (Operations), Dampier, WA.	Initial survey	1980	X					X	X	X		
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1980. Marine Biological Monitoring Programme Burrup Peninsula, Western Australia: Phase One. Report for Woodside Petroleum Development Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	Х									

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT			
				Ρ	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	м
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1986. <i>Harriet Oilfield Marine Biological</i> <i>Monitoring Programme</i> . Report to Apache Energy Ltd; reference no. H9; Document no. EAA-60-RH-001.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1987. Harriet - Marine Biological Monitoring Programme - Coral & Rocky Shore Fauna Monitoring to June 1987. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; ref: no. H64; document no. EAA-60-RH013.	Inaccessible	?	X						X			
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1987. Harriet Oilfield development. Mangrove monitoring surveys, Progress Report June 1987. Report to Bond Corporation Pty Ltd; LSC Report No R178.	essibl	?	X					Х				
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1987. Port Hedland Port Development 1984-86 Environmental Monitoring Programme Final Report. Report for Mt Newman Mining Co. Pty Ltd; volume 1 text - 187/81.	Inaccessible	1984 - 1986	X									
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1989. Harriet Field Development. Fourth Annual Environmental Report June 1989. Report for Bond Energy Resources Ltd Petroleum Division; H18 document no. EAA-60-RI-011.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1989. South Pepper - North Herald Oilfield Marine Monitoring Program. Baseline Survey and First Annual Report. Report for Western Mining Corporation Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1989. The Mangroves of the Lowendal Islands and Monte Bello Island - Harriet Oilfield Development Results of a Survey Late November 1989. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; ref. no. H1; document no. EAA-60-RV-001.	Inaccessible	?	Х					Х				
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1990. Harriet - Results of Hydrocarbon Sampling, Baseline Sediment & Supplemental Oyster Surveys - June 1989. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; ref. no. H65; document no. EAA-60- RH-014.	Inaccessible	?	Х			Х			X			

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT			
				Ρ	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1990. Harriet Oilfield Marine Biological Monitoring Programme - Coral and Rocky Shore Fauna Monitoring to June 1989. Report to Apache Energy Ltd; ref. no. H20; document no. EAA-60- RH-004.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, 1996. Harriet Oilfield - Marine Biological Monitoring Programme Environmental Description, Establishment of Baseline and Collection of First Data Set.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	LeProvost, Semeniuk & Chalmer, Marine Biological Monitoring Programme Burrup Peninsula, Western Australia: Phase Two. Report for Woodside Petroleum Development Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Meagher and Le Provost. 1979. Marine Environment of Dampier Archipelago. Woodside Petroleum Development Pty. Ltd. 202pp.	Initial survey	1978 - 1979	X		Х		X	X	X	X		
Private	Mobil Exploration & Producing Australia Pty Ltd, 1997. <i>Border-1 Environmental</i> <i>Closeout Report.</i>	Inaccessit	?										
Private	Mobil Exploration & Producing Australia Pty Ltd, 1997. <i>Cherring-1</i> <i>Environmental Closeout Report,</i> <i>WA202P (R1).</i>	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	Mobil Exploration & Producing Australia Pty Ltd, 1997. <i>Effects of Wandoo</i> <i>Crude and Wonnich Condensate on</i> <i>Gametes and Larvae of the Coral</i> <i>Acropora millepora.</i>	Inaccessibl	?	X						X			
Private	Mobil Exploration & Producing Australia Pty Ltd, 1998. <i>Environmental</i> <i>Monitoring of Sediment Characteristics</i> <i>at Wandoo.</i>	Inaccessible	?	X			X						
Private	Murdoch, R., 1994. <i>Review of the</i> <i>Seventh Annual Environmental Report</i> <i>by WMC of the Production Licence</i> <i>Area TL/2.</i> Report for Western Mining Corporation; CAR-TL/2- 24, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?										

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WH	IAT			
				Ρ	К	G	W &S	PP	V	Ι	F	R	М
Private	NIW, 1994. Review of the Second Triennial Report on Environmental Management by Western Mining Corporation of the Production Licence TL/2. CAR-GEN-305,0, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Novus West Australia Pty Ltd, 1990. <i>Production Licence TL/2 Marine</i> <i>Monitoring Programme Triennial</i> <i>Report.</i> CAR-GEN-58,0, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Novus West Australia Pty Ltd, 1992. Fifth Environmental Report Airlie Project Monte Bello and Lowendal Islands. In: <i>Summary Report of</i> <i>Marine Resources and Bibliography.</i> CAR-TL/2-61,0; Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	NSR Environmental Consultants, 1995. <i>Wandoo Full Field Development</i> <i>Public Environmental Review.</i> Report for Mobil Exploration & Producing Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Oliver, G. A., and Fisher, S. J., 1999. The persistence and effect of non- water based drilling fluids on Australia's North West Shelf, progress findings from three seabed surveys. <i>APPEA</i> <i>Journal</i> .	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Oliver, G., 1995. <i>Environmental report</i> on the impact of disposal of ballast water by ships loading LPG and <i>condensate</i> . Report for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd; WENV 258.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Phatak, A. and Palmer, M., 1998. Effect of Drilling at North Rankin A on Benthic Fauna and Sediment Chemistry. Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd.		?	X									
Private	Racal, 1994. Reconnaissance Survey for The Extensions to the Port of Dampier Mermaid Strait Regional Survey Area Port Approach Routes Dixon Survey Area & Proposed Jetty Location Cape Lambert. A2242.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Sinclair and Knight, 1992. <i>5th Annual Marine Monitoring Report for TL/2.</i> Report for Western Mining Corporation; CAR-TL/2-224, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									

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Private	Sinclair and Knight, 1993. Annual Report of Environmental Management of Oilfield Operations on Thevenard Island January 1993. CAR-GEN-143,0, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Sinclair and Knight, 1994. Airlie Project Production Licence TL/2 Triennial Environmental Report 1991-1993. CAR-TL/2-113,2800, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	1991 - 1993	X									
Private	Sinclair and Knight, 1994. Seventh Annual Environmental Report for Production Licence TL/2. CAR- TL/2-121, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Sinclair and Knight, 1994. <i>Wedge- Tailed Shearwater and Oyster</i> <i>Monitoring.</i> Report for Western Mining Corporation; CAR-TL/2-223, CARGEN-260,0, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Sinclair Knight Merz, 1995. <i>Eighth</i> <i>annual Environmental Report for</i> <i>Production Licence TL/2</i> . CAR- TL/2-162, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Sinclair Knight Merz, 1996. <i>East Spar</i> <i>Gas Field Long Term Environmental</i> <i>Monitoring: Pre Production Survey.</i> Report for Apache Energy Limited.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Sinclair Knight Merz, 1997. Airlie Island Marine Survey: Tenth Annual Report for Production Licence TL/2. CAR- TL/2-233, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Sinclair Knight Merz, 1997. <i>East</i> <i>Spar Biological Monitoring: Post</i> <i>Commissioning Survey.</i> Report for Apache Energy; 054 EA-00-RI-078/B, 48 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	V & C Semeniuk Research Group, 1988. <i>The Mangroves of the Lowendal</i> <i>Islands and Montebello Islands</i> . Harriet Oilfield development triennial report, October 1988, 65 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X					Х				
Private	V & C Semeniuk Research Group, 1989. The Mangroves of the Lowendal Islands and Monte Bello Islands: Results of Surveys December 1988 and June 1989. Annual Report, June 1989, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	1988 - 1989	×					Х				

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WH	IAT			
				Ρ	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М
Private	V & C Semeniuk Research Group, 1989. The Mangroves of the Lowendal Islands and Monte Bello Islands: Results of Surveys Late November 1989. December 1989. Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	1989	x					x				
Private	V & C Semeniuk Research Group, 1992. The Mangroves of the Lowendal Islands and Monte Bello Islands - Annual Report: Results of Survey December 1991 & June 1992 Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H76; Document no. EAA-60-RV-012, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	1991 - 1992	X					X				
Private	V & C Semeniuk Research Group, 1993. The Mangroves of the Lowendal Islands and Monte Bello Islands - Annual Report: Results of Surveys, December 1992 & June 1993. Report to Apache Energy Ltd: Reference no. H79: Document no. EAA-60-RV-013, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X					X				
Private	V & C Semeniuk Research Group, 1995. <i>The Mangroves of the Lowendal</i> <i>Islands and Monte Bello Islands June</i> <i>1995.</i> Report to Apache Energy Ltd; Reference no. H116; Document no. EAA-60-RI-056, Apache Energy Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	Х					х				
Private	West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 1990. <i>Barrow Island Oil Field</i> <i>Environmental Review 1963-1988.</i> Report by West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	1963 - 1988	X									
Private	West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 1991. <i>Barrow Island Oil Field Environmental Review Update 1989 -</i> <i>1991.</i> 70 pp.	Inaccessible	1989 - 1991	Х									
Private	West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 1996. Barrow Island Oilfield: Environmental Review 1992-1996. 75 pp.	Inaccessible	1992 - 1996	Х									
Private	West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 1997. <i>Barrow Island Annual</i> <i>Environmental Review Report 1997.</i>	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, 1997. <i>Thevenard Island Third Triennial Environmental Report 1995-</i> <i>1997.</i> 220 pp.	Inaccessible	1995 - 1997	Х									

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT			
				Ρ	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М
Private	Western Mining Corporation, 1990. <i>TP/7 and TL/2 Five Year Offshore</i> <i>Drilling Program Consultative</i> <i>Environmental Review.</i> CAR-TL/2-12, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Initial survey	?	X					Х	X	X	Х	x
Private	Western Mining Corporation, 1992. Airlie Project: Fifth Environmental Report.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	Western Mining Corporation, 1994. Airlie Project Second Triennial 1993 Report.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	Western Mining Corporation, 1995. Eighth Annual Environmental Report for Production Licence TL/2.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	Western Mining Corporation, 1996. <i>Airlie Island Annual Marine Survey.</i> CAR-TL/2- 184, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	Х									
Private	Western Mining Corporation, 1996. East Spar Long Term Monitoring. Western Mining Corporation, 1996. Environmental Audit Airlie Island- Stage 1. CARTL/ 2-173, Novus West Australia Pty Ltd.	Inaccessible	?	X									
Private	Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd, 1996. Annual Report on Environmental Investigations and Monitoring September 1996. WENV 317.	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd, 1997. <i>Biannual Report on</i> <i>Environmental Monitoring January to</i> <i>June 1997.</i>	Inaccessible	?										
Private	Woodside Petroleum Development Pty Ltd, 1989. <i>The Effects of Dredge Spoil</i> <i>on the Sedimentology and Biology</i> <i>of No Name Bay 1988 -1989.</i> WENV 0132.	Inaccessible	1988 - 1989										

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WF	IAT			
				Ρ	К	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	Μ
Universities	Carr, B. L. N. and Paling, E., 1996. <i>Pilbara Mangrove Study, Volume</i> <i>2A Introduction, Site Lists and Site</i> <i>Information, Mangrove Site Database.</i> NEDP Report no. 18, Institute for Environmental Science Murdoch University & Conservation Council of WA, Murdoch University.	Inaccessible	?	X					X				
Universities	Carr, B., Livesey, N. and Paling, E., 1996. <i>Pilbara Mangrove Study, Volume</i> <i>1.</i> NEDP Report No. 18, Institute for Environmental Science Murdoch University & Conservation Council of WA, Murdoch University, 102 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X					x				
Universities	Carr, B., Livesey, N. and Paling, E., 1996. <i>Pilbara Mangrove Study,</i> <i>Volume 2B Introduction, Site Criteria</i> <i>Lists, Selected Site Information and</i> <i>Maps.</i> NEDP Report no. 18, Institute for Environmental Science Murdoch University & Conservation Council of WA, Murdoch University.	Inaccessible	?	X					X				
Universities	Chappell, J., 1982. Some Effects of Cyclonic Waves and Tidal Currents on the Coast and Continental Shelf near Dampier, Western Australia. Australian National University, Canberra.	Inaccessible	?	Х		Х							
Universities	Jenner, KCS, MNM Jenner and KA McCabe. 2001. Geographical and temporal movements of Humpback Whales in Western Australian waters. APPEA Journal:749-765.	Excellent	1990 - 1998	X	X								x
Universities	Morgan, DL, H Gill, M Allen and M Maddern. 2003. Distribution and Biology of Fish in Inland Waters of the Pilbara (Indian Ocean) Drainage Division. Report to the Natural Heritage Trust. March 2003. Project Number 003026. Murdoch University. Perth. 70pp.	Taxonomic Survey	2000 - 2002	×							x		
Universities	Paling, E. I., 1996. Mangrove Processes in the Port Hedland Harbour and Surrounds: Tidal Creek Erosion and Mangrove Health from September 1993 to March 1995. Marine and Freshwater Research Laboratory, Environmental Science, Murdoch University. Report No. MAFRA 96/8. Unpublished report to Halpern Glick Maunsell Pty Ltd. BHP Iron Ore, 39 pp.	Inaccessible	1993 - 1995	X					x				

WHO	REFERENCE	QUALITY	WHEN	WHERE					WH	IAT			
				Р	к	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	Μ
Universities	Paling, EI, G Humphreys and I McCardle. 2003. The effect of a harbour development on mangroves in northwestern Australia. Wetlands Ecology and Management 54:281-290.	Fair	1993 - 1996	X					x				
Universities	Pedretti, YM and El Paling. 2000. WA Mangrove Assessment Project 1999- 2000. Murdoch University. Perth. 83pp.	Initial survey	1999 - 2000	X	X				X				
Universities	Reitsema, T., 1997. <i>Imposex in Morula granulata as Bioindicator of Turbidity Contamination in Dampier Archipelago.</i> Draft Report, 23 pp.	Inaccessible	?	X						X			
WAM	Berry, PF (Ed.) 1986. Faunal Surveys of The Rowley Shoals, Scott Reef and Seringapatam Reef North-western Australia. Records of the Western Australian Museum, Supplement No. 25, Perth. 106pp.	Taxonomic Survey	1981 - 1984		Х	Х			X	X	Х	X	
WAM	Berry, PF (Ed.) 1993. <i>Marine Faunal</i> <i>Surveys of Ashmore Reef and Cartier</i> <i>Island North-western Australia.</i> Records of the Western Australian Museum, Supplement No. 44, Perth. 91pp.	Taxonomic Survey	1986 - 1987		X					X	X		
WAM	Berry, PF and FE Wells (Eds.). 2000. Survey of the marine fauna of the Montebello Islands, Western Australia and Christmas Island, Indian Ocean. Records of the Western Australian Museum. Supplement 59. Western Australian Museum, Perth. 127pp.	Taxonomic Survey	1993	X		X			x	x	x	x	x
WAM	Hutchins, JB. 2003. Checklist of marine fishes of the Dampier Archipelago, Western Australia. In Wells, FE, DI Walker and DS Jones (Eds.). The Marine Flora and Fauna of the Dampier Archipelago, Western Australia. Western Australian Museum, Perth. 453-478.	Taxonomic Survey	1972 - 2000	X							X		

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				Ρ	к	G	W &S	PP	V	I	F	R	М
WAM	Jones, DS (Ed.) 2004. Marine Biodviersity of the Dampier Archipelago Western Australia 1998-2002. Report on the Results of the Western Australian Museum/Woodside Energy Ltd. Partnership. Records of the Western Australian Museum Supplement No. 66, Perth. 401pp.	Taxonomic Survey	1998 - 2002	Х					Х	X	Х		
WAM	Walker, DI (Ed.) 1997. Marine Biological Survey of the Central Kimberley Coast, Western Australia. University of Western Australia, Perth. 95pp.	Taxonomic Survey	1996		X				Х	X	Х		
WAM	Walker, DI, FE Wells and JR Hanley. 1996. Survey of the Marine Biota of the Eastern Kimberley, Western Australia. Marine Biological Survey of the Eastern Kimberley, Western Australia. University of Western Australia, Western Australian Museum, and Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Perth. 84pp.	Taxonomic Survey	1995		X				X	X	X		
WAM	Wells, FE and GR Allen. 2005. Marine biodiversity on offshore coral reefs in north-western Australia. The Beagle, Records of the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory Supplement 1:43-50.	Taxonomic Survey	1982 - 2000	Х	X					X	Х		
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