



Lalang-garram/ Camden Sound Marine Park Frequently Asked Questions



*A pristine environment.
A vast and spectacular landscape.
A once in a lifetime fishing experience.*

What is a marine park?

Marine parks are created to provide special care for special places. They protect important marine areas from development, pollution and the pressures of large numbers of people using the ocean for a range of purposes. They provide a place where reefs, seagrass meadows, kelp forests and other habitats can be preserved for future generations. The creation of the park is one of many tools being used to achieve this. We can ensure that our children’s children can still enjoy the fish and other marine animals that use these areas by looking after where they live.

Marine parks are monitored and researched over time so that scientists can develop a better understanding of the marine life within them. Marine parks usually attract a higher level of government funding to manage problems within the marine park and provide visitor services.

The State Government is progressively creating a representative system of multiple-use marine parks and reserves in Western Australia. The long-term aim is to provide protection for all types of marine habitats using a system that is ‘comprehensive, adequate, and representative’. Marine parks are created under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and are vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. In WA, marine parks are similar to national parks; however, they are ‘multiple use’, meaning certain areas known as ‘zones’ can be used in different ways.

Where is the Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park?

This marine park covers almost 700,000 hectares of the pristine and remote Kimberley region. It is about 150 kilometres north of Derby and 300 kilometres north of Broome, and extends from the low water mark to the limit of State waters.



Why is this marine park needed?

The Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park supports high conservation, cultural and social values.

Primarily recognised as a principal calving habitat of the humpback whale population that migrates annually along the State’s coast, Camden Sound is also known as one of the most biologically significant regions in the world. It includes the magnificent Montgomery Reef, St. George Basin and Prince Regent River. Extensive coral reef communities, rocky shoals, seagrass beds and mangrove forests are home to hundreds of fish, mammal, reptile, crustacean and mollusc species.

Management of the park will help to protect its important values, including the interests of customary and recreational fishers, for present and future generations. While pressures on the park are now moderate, they are likely to increase as the Kimberley’s reputation as a premier nature-based tourism destination grows.

Photo: © Annabelle Sandes | Kimberley Media 2010



Whales on the move in Camden Sound

The marine park recognises this remarkable place as a principal calving habitat of the humpback whale and provides special management arrangements to help protect and support the recovery of this species.

The park will also help to conserve other ecological values in the Kimberley's marine environment. It contains a range of habitats and associated marine life, including species with special conservation status such as marine turtles, snubfin and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, dugong, saltwater crocodiles and several species of sawfish.

Importantly, this marine park will be managed to conserve and protect Aboriginal cultural and heritage values, and provide for Aboriginal customary activities to continue.

Is the marine park up and running yet?

Yes – the outer boundaries have been created to the low water mark and a management plan is in place, meaning that the marine park as a whole now exists. The inclusion of the intertidal area is subject to negotiations with Traditional Owners. Once an Indigenous Land Use Agreement is in place, the intertidal area can be incorporated and the zoning scheme established.

Until the zoning scheme is formalised there will be no changes to fishing or other recreational activities in the marine park. Once this occurs you will be able to continue to enjoy the marine park provided you are aware of the zones and their permitted uses. Please act responsibly – the marine park is ours to enjoy and protect for future generations.



The Prince Regent River

What are the types of zones?

The zones for managing the various uses in this marine park are described below.

General use zones are managed to conserve natural values while allowing a wide range of activities where they do not impact on the values of the marine park (e.g. sustainable fishing).

Special purpose zones are managed for a particular use or issue. For example, the Camden Sound special purpose

zone (whale conservation) is managed for the protection of an important humpback whale nursing area and excludes trawling, pearling and aquaculture operations.

Sanctuary zones are set aside for conservation, so all plants and animals are protected. Sanctuary zones are the only areas where fishing is prohibited. These 'look but don't take' areas provide a place where marine plants and animals remain least affected by people and our activities. They also provide important reference sites for scientists to assess and compare aspects of the marine environment.

See the map (below, right) for zone locations.



Photo: © Annabelle Sandes | Kimberley Media

Underwater corals at Montgomery Reef (Montgomery Reef sanctuary zone)

What can I do in a sanctuary zone?

Extractive activities including fishing and collecting shells, sponges and corals will not be permitted in a sanctuary zone. However, you will still be able to enjoy boating, wildlife viewing and nature appreciation. Travelling through a sanctuary zone with fish on board will be allowed, provided the fish were caught outside the sanctuary zone. Fishing gear such as rods, handlines, drop nets or throw nets must be securely stowed (in the boat or in rod holders; no part of any fishing gear may be in the water) and cannot contain fish. Spear guns must be unloaded and stowed away.

What is the Jungulu zone for?

The Jungulu special purpose zone (wilderness conservation) is a new type of zone. It will promote enhanced biodiversity for representative examples of complex habitats and associated species and communities, while permitting a low level of recreational fishing.

To achieve the aims of this zone, recreational fishers will be allowed to have in their possession no more than one fish (excluding baitfish species). This means each person may only have one fish in their possession at any time while in this zone. This includes fish stored anywhere on board your vessel, whether fishing or not. Fishers will be able to retain their catch for immediate personal consumption while in the zone but must release any catch over and above this.

How will I know where the zones are?

The geographical coordinates for each zone will be available at the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Fisheries Broome offices. They will also

be provided on websites and in brochures, which will be distributed extensively in the area.

At the end of the day, it is the responsibility of the individual to find out what the rules are, and where they can and can't fish. Please make sure you 'know your zones' before you head out.

Where will I be able to fish in the marine park?

Recreational fishing, a popular activity in the area, will be permitted in more than 80 per cent of the marine park.

There will be no changes to fishing until the zoning scheme for the park is formalised. Once this occurs, unrestricted recreational fishing will be permitted in all general use zones, Camden Sound special purpose zone (whale conservation) and Kuri Bay special purpose zone (pearling).

Restricted recreational fishing will be permitted in the Jungulu special purpose zone (wilderness conservation), where there is a possession limit of one fish or two fillets of fish per person (excluding baitfish species). Fishing will not be allowed in sanctuary zones.



Recreational fishing rules will apply in the marine park. For more information on bag and boat limits and size restrictions, see the Department of Fisheries Statewide recreational fishing guide.

Do I need a licence to fish?

Yes, but only for certain types of fishing. Licences are required for some recreational fishing activities in Western Australia, including in the waters of this marine park.

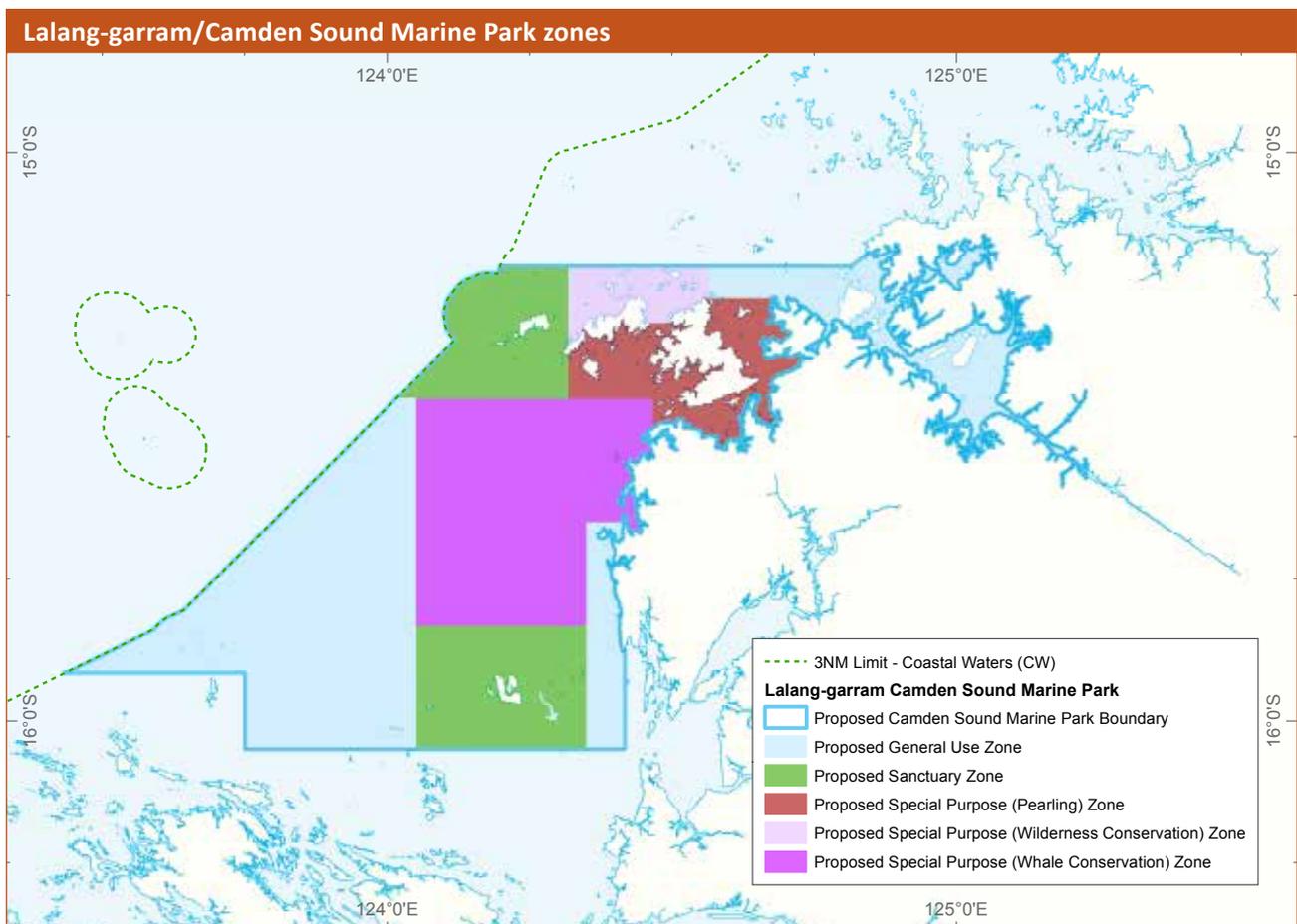
If you plan to fish from a boat powered by a motor, or to use a boat to travel to your fishing destination, you will need a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL).

If you want to take any species of rock lobster, including tropical rock lobster, you will require a rock lobster licence and to use a throw (cast) net, you will need a net fishing licence.

Will customary fishing be allowed?

Yes, but to fish under customary fishing rules, it must take place in an area of the park where the person has a connection recognised by Traditional Owners of that area. It is for customary law to decide which individuals have customary fishing rights in a particular area. Where these qualifications are not met, an Aboriginal person can still go fishing, but must fish under recreational fishing rules and not customary fishing rules.

Customary fishing means fishing by an Aboriginal person that: is in accordance with the Aboriginal customary law and tradition of the area being fished; and is for the purpose of satisfying personal, domestic, ceremonial, educational or non-commercial communal needs.



Will commercial fishing be permitted?

Commercial fishing has a long history within the boundaries of this marine park and will continue. It will be permitted in most of the marine park but not in the two sanctuary zones and the Jungulu special purpose zone (wilderness conservation). Trawling will not be allowed in the Camden Sound special purpose zone (whale conservation). Existing pearling leases will be recognised within the Kuri Bay special purpose zone (pearling).



Who is managing the marine park?

The Department of Parks and Wildlife and Traditional Owners. An agreement between the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation and the Department of Parks and Wildlife was signed in November 2013 to enable joint management over most of the park. This arrangement is expected to result in culturally appropriate management of the marine park and increased employment and training opportunities for Traditional Owners and communities, for example, through park ranger programs.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife will also work with the other Traditional Owners in the area, including the Wunambal Gaambera people, to manage the marine park. The Department of Fisheries will continue to manage fishing in the marine park.

What does 'lalang-garram' mean?

Lalang-garram is the word in Worrorra (the Dambimangari native title group language) that evokes 'the ocean' in its most general sense. The Dambimangari Traditional Owners chose this word to name the marine park for cultural reasons that respect the idea of 'salt water' without talking about just one place or one part of their traditional country.

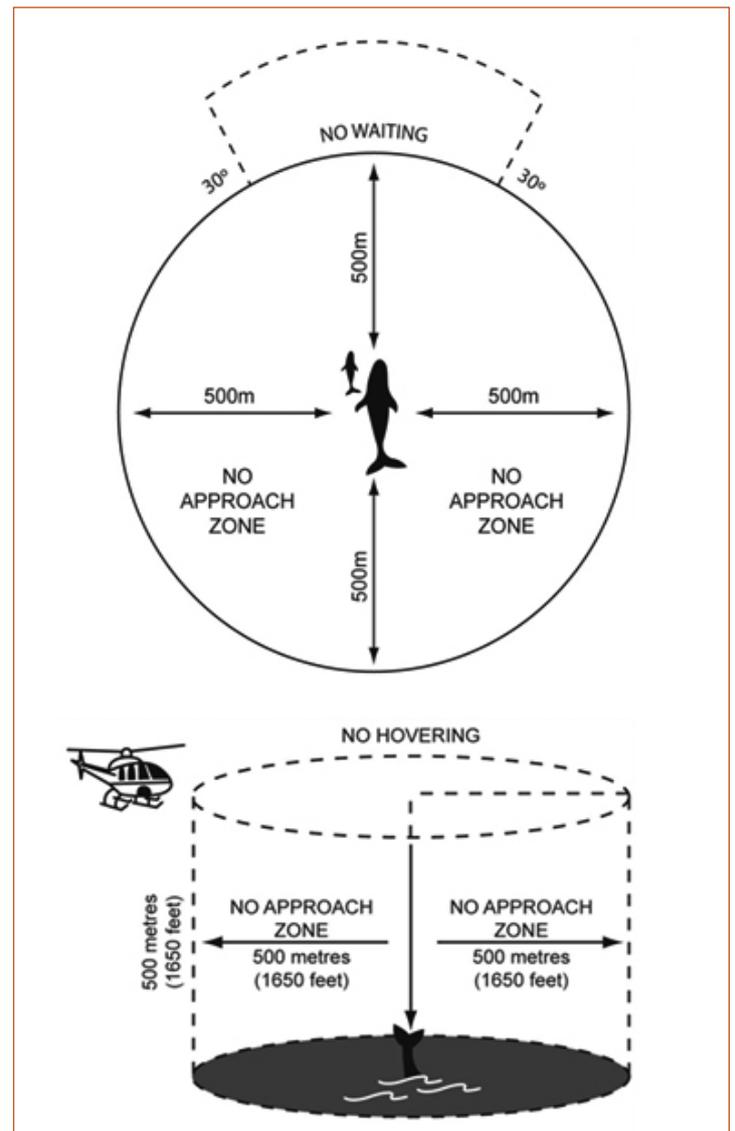
How close can I get to a humpback?

The vessel approach distance in Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park will be increased in the Camden

Sound special purpose zone (whale conservation) and two sanctuary zones to reduce disturbance to humpback whales and their newborn calves at their most vulnerable stage of life. In these zones, the minimum approach distance to mothers and calves will be 500 metres rather than the 100 metre minimum in place in other WA coastal waters.

If a humpback cow and calf do approach a vessel within this distance, the vessel must be operated in neutral gear during the encounter with due consideration given to navigation and vessel safety, and be moved away when it is safe to do so. Aircraft must also stay at least 500 metres above a humpback mother and calf.

Please contact the Department of Parks and Wildlife if you witness a vessel operator getting too close or disturbing wildlife.



Further information

For more information regarding fishing in the marine park contact:

Department of Fisheries
Port of Pearls House, 401 Port Drive
Broome WA 6725
(08) 9193 8600
www.fish.wa.gov.au

For more information regarding management of the marine park or wildlife in WA, contact:

Department of Parks and Wildlife
111 Herbert Street
Broome WA 6725
(08) 9195 5500
www.dpaw.wa.gov.au