



# UPDATE FOR VISITORS TO NINGALOO MARINE PARK (COMMONWEALTH WATERS)

May 2009

## CONTACTS

To apply for approval or to obtain additional information:  
Contact the Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)  
reserve manager  
Phone: 02 6274 1111  
Email: [mpa@environment.gov.au](mailto:mpa@environment.gov.au)

For further information about the state waters of the Park  
(including the recreational fishing rules that apply):  
Contact the WA Department of Fisheries  
Phone: 08 9949 2755

Or

Contact the WA Department of Environment  
and Conservation  
Phone: 08 08 9947 8000

Ningaloo Marine Park is managed cooperatively between:  
the WA Department of Environment and Conservation,  
the WA Department of Fisheries and the Commonwealth  
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

**Ningaloo Marine Park includes a Commonwealth component and state component. The Commonwealth component of the park starts 3nm from shore (see map overleaf). Activities are managed differently in the state and Commonwealth components of the park in accordance with the relevant legislation.**

**The following information relates specifically to the Commonwealth component of the marine park.**

## MANAGEMENT PLAN EXPIRY

The Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) management plan, which prescribes how activities are managed, will expire on 2 July 2009. The development of a new management plan is being scheduled to coincide with the implementation of marine bioregional planning, an Australian Government process that involves the identification of new Commonwealth reserves around Australia, including the north-west marine region in which Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) is located. For more information on marine bioregional planning: [www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp](http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp)

The next management plan for Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) will be prepared inline with the declaration of the new representative network of Commonwealth reserves in the north-west region so as to minimise impositions on stakeholders, maximise efficiencies and ensure consistency in management of the new network.

Stakeholders will be consulted during the marine bioregional planning process, and in the development of the new management plan.

## INFORMATION FOR VISITORS AND RESERVE USERS

Until a new management plan is finalised, Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) will be managed under interim arrangements. These arrangements arise from the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and its Regulations (EPBC Regulations) and are consistent with the reserve's "National Park" category.

### Recreational fishing

Recreational fishing will continue to be allowed in Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters). Following expiry of the management plan on 2 July 2009, recreational fishing rules will be consistent with recreational fishing rules in the state waters of the park. Previous restrictions under the management plan, including restrictions on gear, bait and cleaning of fish, will no longer apply. Recreational fishing will be managed under a general approval issued by the Director of National Parks. Individual recreational fishers will not be required to apply for approval.

The approval will require that recreational fishers comply with:

- The legal lengths, catch limits, permitted gear and other requirements that apply to marine recreational fishing under the *Western Australian Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and relevant regulations, policies, plans, notices and orders made under that Act, and
- Any determinations made by the Director of National Parks under Regulation 12.35 of the EPBC Regulations.

To ensure recreational fishing rules in both the state and Commonwealth Waters of Ningaloo Marine Park remain consistent, the recreational fishing approval in the Commonwealth Waters will be reviewed periodically. When updated, the approval will be advertised in local newspapers and through local distributors and will be made available on the department's website:

[www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/ningaloo/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/ningaloo/index.html)

Where possible, stakeholders will be informed directly.

### Information for commercial tourism operators

Following expiry of the management plan on 2 July 2009, commercial tourism operators will be required to hold a current approval from the Director of National Parks in order to visit Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters). All currently permitted commercial tourism operators have been provided with an application form for approval.

Please note that approvals cannot be issued until after the management plan expires. However, assessment of applications will be undertaken, and applicants will be notified of the outcome, as soon as possible. Applications should be returned by Wednesday 17 June 2009 to assist with timely assessment and notification.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information will be produced in a comprehensive visitor information document. This document will be available prior to the expiry of the management plan from the WA Department of Environment and Conservation and WA Department of Fisheries in Exmouth and on the web: [www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/ningaloo/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/ningaloo/index.html) Contact the Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) reserve manager to obtain a copy. (Contact details overleaf).

