



Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park: News update for charter fishers and commercial tour operators – Issue 3

Management plan approved

The Minister for Environment has approved and released the *Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park Management Plan 2013-2023*, which can be downloaded from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) website at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

The focus is on management goals and delivering programs to protect key resources. The park will be jointly managed by the Dambimangari native title group and DPaW, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries.

The managers can now start implementing the strategies described in the plan. This will include gazetting the park zoning scheme under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) and complementary orders under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (FRMA). Until these notices and orders are in place, the proposed zoning scheme does not have any legal effect, and there are no formal restrictions on fishing as a result of the scheme. We will keep you informed.

Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park

You may have noticed an addition to the name of the marine park: Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park. In order to reflect the significance of the marine park to the Dambimangari Traditional Owners, a senior Dambimangari woman has suggested that the park be named *Lalang-garram*, which evokes the salt water as a spiritual place as well as a place of natural abundance.

Lalang-garram is the word in Worrora (the Dambimangari native title group language) that evokes ‘the ocean’ in its most general sense.

The name change was formally approved by the State Government in September 2013 and the park will now formally be known as Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park.

Joint management

An agreement has been made by the State and Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation. It requires the State to jointly manage the park areas within the Dambimangari native title determination area with Dambimangari people. It is a cooperative, legal arrangement to manage the park based on recognition, mutual respect and goals. The park’s sub-tidal portion is now jointly managed and this arrangement will be extended over the intertidal portion once an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with Dambimangari has been agreed and registered.

Discussions with Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation have begun with a view to establishing a similar joint management agreement over the portion of the marine park that extends into the Wunambal Gaambera people’s Uunguu native title determination area and the proposed North Kimberley Marine Park.

Where possible, park management will be integrated with programs initiated by Traditional Owners, such as the Dambimangari Healthy Country Plan 2012–2022, the Wunambal Gaambera Healthy Country Plan 2010–2020,

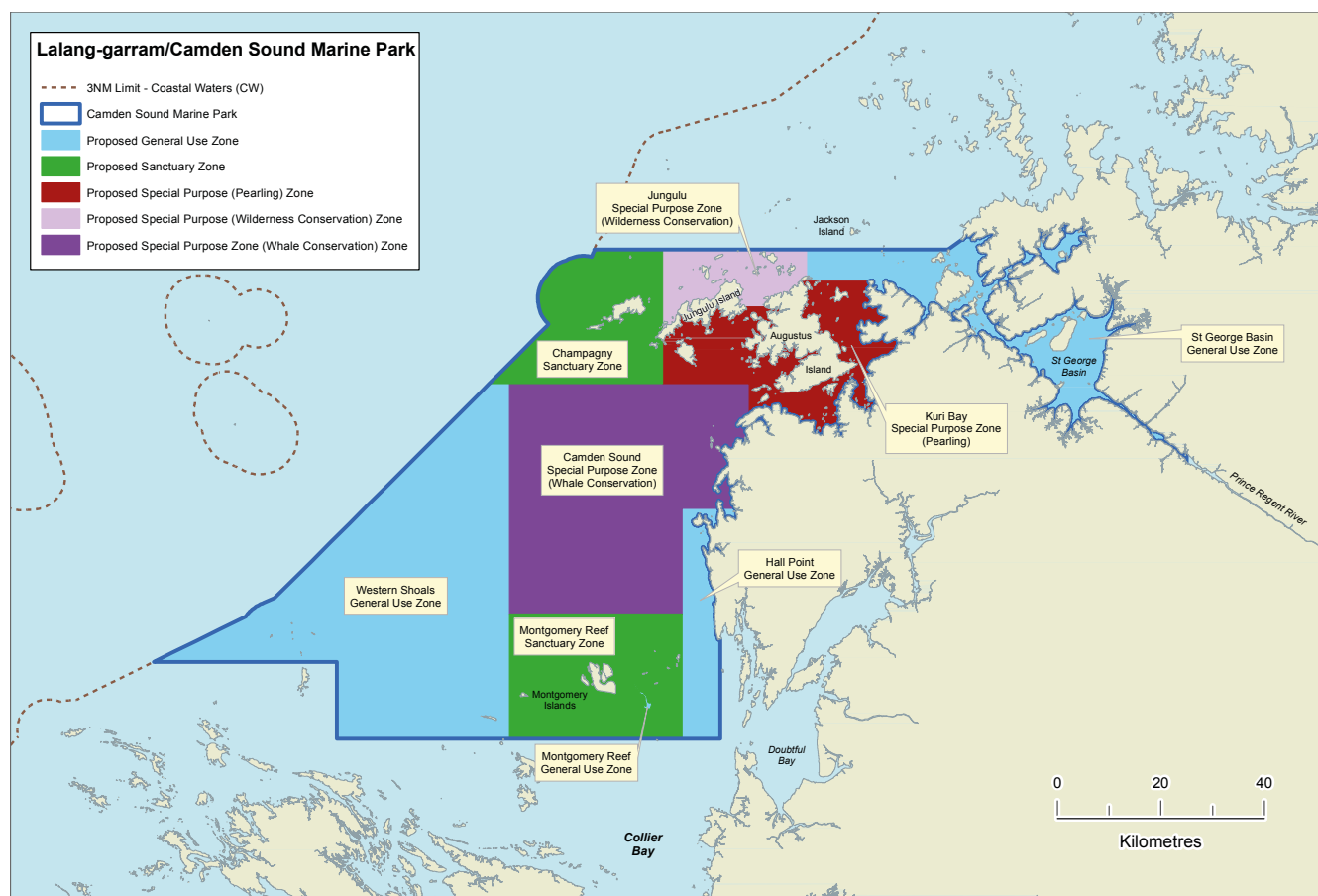
the North Kimberley Saltwater Country Plan, Indigenous Protected Areas, guidelines for culturally appropriate behaviour and Indigenous ranger programs.

Permitted activities

Below is a table of permitted activities as detailed in the management plan. This is not an exhaustive list, rather a summary of activities most likely to affect you as a tourist vessel operator. The prohibitions won't apply until the zones have been gazetted under the CALM Act and the FRMA.

PERMITTED USE	General Use Zone	Special Purpose Zone (pearling)	Special Purpose Zone (whale conservation)	Special Purpose Zone (wilderness conservation)	Sanctuary Zone
RECREATIONAL USE					
Boating (motorised and non-motorised) *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swimming, snorkelling and diving *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shore and boat fishing (line, net and crab) *	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✗
Charter boat fishing *	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✗
Spearfishing *	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✗
Coral, live rock and sand collection *	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
OTHER USES					
Navigation aids *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vessel transit *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Research and monitoring *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anchoring (soft-bottom only) *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mooring *	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Wildlife watching/ interaction *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sea plane landing *	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Vessel sewage discharge *	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Wildlife feeding *	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

* Permitted use provisions apply; see the **management plan** for more detail.



Whale interactions

You have probably sighted many humpback whales this season, witnessing spectacular behaviour such as breaching and tail slapping.

The humpback is listed as a vulnerable species. For this reason, a Special Purpose Zone, covering about 24 per cent of the park, has been established to help protect humpbacks in an important calving area of Camden Sound.

The vessel approach distance in Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park has been increased in the Special Purpose Zone (whale conservation) and two sanctuary zones to reduce disturbance to whales and their newborn calves at this vulnerable life stage.

The minimum approach distance is 500 metres rather than the 100 metre minimum in place in other WA waters. If a mother and its 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. Aircraft must also stay at least 500 metres above a humpback mother and calf.



Humpback whale

Research and monitoring in the marine park

The State Government has committed funding of \$12 million over five years to the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) for research in the Kimberley with a focus on marine parks. This research will help fill knowledge gaps to assist in adaptive management.

DPaW is primarily responsible for facilitating research and monitoring in the State's marine parks and reserves to provide the information necessary for management. DPaW will work with relevant joint management bodies to ensure that cultural values and traditional ecological knowledge are used when developing research plans.

The Department of Fisheries carries out research into the status of fish stocks over large areas and into ecosystems and habitats to provide information for broader ecosystem-based fisheries management.

In collaboration with universities, other government scientific agencies and Traditional Owners, the Department is developing cost-effective research and monitoring strategies for the park.

Pilot studies have explored techniques for use in the challenging turbid and high-flow waters of the Kimberley coast. Underwater video sampling was found to be effective in the park during the neap tide period when the water was clearer. This means Baited Remote Underwater Videos Systems (BRUVS) can be used, which is ideal, because the diversity, abundance and size distribution of fish schools can be determined without disturbing fish.

Surveys will be carried out using a fleet of BRUVS in the park's various management zones, including sanctuary zones, and in different habitats to develop long-term monitoring of the marine species in these waters.

Code of conduct for recreational fishing

Western Australia's peak recreational fishing body, Recfishwest, with Broome and Mary Island fishing clubs and the Department of Fisheries, has released a *Code of Conduct for Recreational Fishing in the Kimberley*.

With tens of thousands of people fishing in the Kimberley each year, the voluntary code is designed to give them a world-class fishing experience while minimising their environmental footprint on this special place and keeping fish stocks sustainable.

One key focus is improving fishing practices. Central to this is releasing fish in the healthiest condition possible – whether fishers are catching and releasing fish through choice or to keep within bag and size limits.

Fishing tour operators can do their bit by familiarising themselves with the code and encouraging their guests to consider the impacts of their fishing practices. For a copy of the *Code of Conduct for Recreational Fishing in the Kimberley*, please contact the Department of Fisheries Broome Office, email kara.dew@fish.wa.gov.au or visit the Department of Fisheries website at www.fish.wa.gov.au

Marine pests

We are working with industry and the community to manage and conserve Western Australia's fish and their habitats. A vital part of this work is keeping our waters free of introduced pest species and diseases that can threaten aquatic ecosystems and the tourism, aquaculture and fishing industries.

WA is free from many introduced species and diseases common in other parts of Australia and overseas, but this will only continue if we remain vigilant in our efforts to exclude these invaders. This means being able to identify aquatic pests and diseases – and you can help to do this.

If you see an unusual fish, seaweed, mussel, worm, crab or other invertebrate that you think might be a pest species, please report it to the Department of Fisheries through any of the following methods:

- WA PestWatch on our website, at www.fish.wa.gov.au
- WA PestWatch app for smartphones and tablets. This can be downloaded free of charge from the iTunes App Store and Google Play Store – just search for WA PestWatch.
- Or make a note of when and where you saw it, including GPS readings and photographs if possible, and report it to us at FishWatch on 1800 815 507 or email biosecurity@fish.wa.gov.au



Traditional owners' species names

	Dambimangari	Wunambal (Unguu)
Whales	Ngununbany	Wuliji
Humpback whale	Munumbanany/wuliji	
Dolphins	Jigidany	Yingarl
Snubfin dolphin	Jigidan	Munumba
Dugong	Warlinya	Balguja
Sea turtles	Juluwarra	Mangguru/many
Flatback turtle	Galagarri/kalakalari	Mardumal
Loggerhead turtle	Mungidi/mowingrim	Lawarra
Hawksbill turtle	Nowurrallya	Maral
Green turtle	Warli	Juluwarra
Turtle eggs	Ambirra	Amiya
Mangrove	Jirndim	Darrngarla
Kapok mangrove	Lajinama	Wurndala
Oysters	Marlinja	Marlinju
Barramundi	Irleera	Munungjyunga
Saltwater crocodile	Goyoya	Balngga

Adopted from Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation (2012) and Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation (2010)

NB: The spelling for some Traditional Owner words may have multiple versions which are not reflected in the table.

Some marine animals, such as turtles, may have different names based on their life stage (juveniles versus adults).

Contact us

This newsletter outlines some changes that will be happening in the Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park and other related information. If you have further questions regarding fishing in the marine park, please do not hesitate to email me, Kara Dew, your local Department of Fisheries Community Education Officer, at Kara.Dew@fish.wa.gov.au

Any of our staff at the Broome office will also be happy to assist – call (08) 9193 8600.

For further information regarding the Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park or wildlife in Western Australia, please call the Department of Parks and Wildlife on (08) 9195 5500 or visit the DPaW website at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au