

Eighty Mile Beach – Fishing in the Marine Park

June 2018

Eighty Mile Beach was designated a marine park due to its high conservation value and cultural significance in the Kimberley Region. The Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park is co-managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and the Ngarla, Nyangumarta and Karajarri traditional owners.

The Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park was gazetted in October 2017, meaning that the zones in place have been legislated and are active. The fishing prohibitions that resulted from this zoning currently have a **12 month transition period** in place.

The fishing prohibitions (exclusion areas) will take full effect from 6th October 2018.

What does this mean for your next fishing trip to Eighty Mile Beach? The most important step is to familiarise yourself with the marine park zones. Within the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, there are three Sanctuary Zones, and three Special Purpose Zones that may affect your fishing activity.

The three sanctuary zones (**Anna Plains Sanctuary Zone** toward the northern end of the marine park, **Kurtamparanya Sanctuary Zone** at Cape Keraudren and **Pananykarra Sanctuary Zone** adjacent to Pardoo Station) are all closed to recreational fishing and shell collecting. These zones have been created to protect representative areas of habitat, breeding ground for flatback turtles, feeding ground for shorebirds, and areas with high cultural significance, whilst trying to avoid the primary areas for fishing and pearling activities.



Photo - Eighty Mile Beach is sand, shells and a turquoise ocean as far as the eye can see. © Markus Gann

The three special purpose zones that affect recreational fishing, provide for conservation whilst permitting some sustainable activities. The **Malamalajungunya Special Purpose Zone** is located at Mulla Mulla Down Creek, and is closed to all shore-based fishing, shell collecting and boat launching. This is primarily for the protection of mangrove and saltmarsh habitats, which could be damaged through these shore-based activities. Boat fishing is considered a compatible recreational use, and is still allowed in this zone.

The **Pananykarra Special Purpose Zone** lies adjacent to the Pananykarra Sanctuary Zone. It extends along the beach from about 2km east of Pardoo Creek to Bake Bean Creek. Within this zone, boat-based fishing



is not allowed. However, shore-based fishing and shell collecting is permitted, as this is considered a compatible recreational use.

Finally, the **Banningarra Creek Special Purpose Zone** is located along a small section of Banningarra Creek within the Pananykarra Sanctuary Zone. Boat-based fishing is not allowed in this zone, whilst shore-based fishing and shell collecting is permitted. This zone has been created to protect representative samples of mangroves and other habitat.

All zone boundaries are defined by latitude and longitude coordinates, which you are able to plot into your GPS manually. Maps and coordinates can be found on pages 19-21 of the [Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park Management Plan](#), or within the [80 Mile Beach Visitor Guide](#).

To assist you getting to 'Know Your Zones', you can download 'Explore Marine Parks WA' from the App Store or Google Play. It has easy to access information on all WA marine parks, including an interactive map component. Further information can be found at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (www.fish.wa.gov.au) and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (www.dbca.wa.gov.au) websites.

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