

GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT MARINE PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

PART A - MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this document

ACIUCN	Australian Committee for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
CNPPA	(IUCN) Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas
DEHAA	Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs
GABMP	Great Australian Bight Marine Park
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - now known as the World Conservation Union
PIRSA	Primary Industries and Resources South Australia
NACMPA	National Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas
nm	nautical mile
NPWSA	National Parks and Wildlife South Australia (National Parks and Wildlife SA)
SARDI	South Australian Research and Development Institute
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
WRI	World Resources Institute

Definition

Biological diversity (or biodiversity) is the variety of all life forms - the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form a part. It is not static, but constantly changing; it is increased by genetic change and evolutionary processes and reduced by processes such as habitat degradation, population decline and extinction. The concept emphasises the interrelatedness of the biological world. It covers the terrestrial, marine and other aquatic environments. (from: *A National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity*, 1996)

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- South Australian Research and Development Institute, in particular Dr Karen Edyvane and Greg Andrews who compiled the technical information included in Part B and carried out the initial work from which this plan derived
- input and advice was received from the Great Australian Bight Marine Park Management Plan Advisory Committee and from staff of Primary Industries & Resources South Australia (Fisheries)
- submissions from the fishing industry, conservationists and the general public contributed ideas and stimulated the discussion of issues
- advice on the Plan has also been kindly supplied by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Ms Jacquie Foyel, Land Use Planning Consultant (PIRSA), contributed invaluable expertise to the planning process.

WHAT THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN MEANS FOR YOU

A SUMMARY

1. THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The complete plan consists of two Parts:—

Part A includes the Management Prescriptions and the objectives and strategies which support them. It describes the activities which are permitted in the Marine Park and what management provisions will be in place to facilitate those activities. Part A will be the legally adopted section of the plan.

Part B includes detailed descriptions of the Park and contains information about the resources of the area. It is a valuable reference document for all those who have an interest in marine ecosystems, the natural history of the Great Australian Bight and the challenges associated with managing for multiple use.

2. EXTENT OF THE MARINE PARK

Anyone who visits the Park should be aware of its extent. Figure 1 shows where it is. The precise geographic details are given on p. 2.

It is also important to know the locations and meaning of the *Sanctuary Zone* and the *Conservation Zone*, which are identified in Figure 3.

The *Sanctuary Zone* provides the highest level of protection for marine species and ecosystems. In the *Sanctuary Zone* therefore, the following will apply;

- there will be no facilities or structures
- there will no mineral or petroleum exploration, mining or fishing except line fishing from beaches
- public access by boat will require written permission from the Director of National Parks and Wildlife
- from 1 May to 31 October inclusive pilots operating sightseeing aircraft will be asked to observe a 'Fly Neighbourly' code (Appendix 1).

The *Conservation Zone* also has high conservation value. In the *Conservation Zone* therefore, the following will apply;

- there will be no facilities or structures that impede the natural passage of whales
- from 1 May to 31 October inclusive there will be no mineral or petroleum exploration, mining or fishing except line fishing from beaches
- from 1 May to 31 October inclusive public access by boat will require written permission from the Director of National Parks and Wildlife SA.

3. PROTECTED PLANTS AND ANIMALS

All marine plants and animals including algae, mammals, scale fish, shell fish and all other invertebrates are protected within the Marine Park. The Southern Right Whale and the Australian Sea-lion are of particular conservation significance; their occupation of Great Australian Bight waters determined that a Marine Park should be established there.

Any collection of species for special purposes eg research, will require a permit issued by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife. Commercial and recreational fishing will continue to be permitted under licensing arrangements managed by PIRSA (Fisheries).

4. COMMERCIAL USERS

All commercial users, including tour operators, should be acquainted with provisions of the legislation listed in Appendix 2.

a. *Commercial fishing*

- Commercial fishing is to be carried out under licences issued by PIRSA.
- It is prohibited in the *Sanctuary Zone*.
- It is prohibited in the *Conservation Zone* between 1 May and 31 October inclusive.

Note: in relation to Figure 3 this means that:

- in all those areas cross-hatched (*Sanctuary Zone*) fishing is prohibited for 12 months of the year
 - in all those areas dotted (*Conservation Zone*, which includes the eastern arm of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park Whale Sanctuary) fishing is prohibited for 6 months, between 1 May and 31 October
- The Director of National Parks and Wildlife SA will, by notice in the Government Gazette, proclaim access rights to the Conservation Zone of the GABMP for all those who hold fishing permits issued by PIRSA (Fisheries). This proclamation will not be revoked without the agreement of the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs and the Minister of Primary Industries and Resources following consultation with the industry.
 - The fishing industry will have continued input to management issues through a Management Advisory Panel.
 - Information on the management provisions should be available for commercial fishermen from both PIRSA and DEHAA.
 - Agencies and other research interests should liaise with the industry on findings relating to fish stocks and marine mammals.

b. *Tourism and Recreation*

- All visitors need to be well-informed about the Marine Park; accurate and well-presented information should be provided by DEHAA, PIRSA and through the Yalata Aboriginal Community.
- Viewing of whales by sea requires written permission from DEHAA (see 2. above).
- Sea Lion colonies occupy prohibited areas in the Sanctuary Zone and cannot be visited by sea except under a permit issued by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife SA.
- Line-fishing from beaches and other land-based aquatic activities—diving, swimming, boating—are permitted and are subject to the management provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the Yalata Aboriginal Community.
- Aircraft operators are asked to observe the ‘Fly Neighbourly’ code (issued by the Civil Aviation Authority) when flying over the area between 1 May and 31 October (Appendix 1).

c. *Mineral and Petroleum Exploration and Extraction*

- Exploration and extraction are permitted in the *Conservation Zone* between 1 November and 30 April inclusive.
- No exploration or extraction is permitted in the Whale Sanctuary.
- Mineral and petroleum exploration activities in the Marine Park may be undertaken according to the zoning provisions subject to a Declaration of Environmental Factors as determined by PIRSA (Mines & Energy) in consultation with DEHAA.
- Similarly any proposals for extraction of minerals and petroleum will require an Environmental Impact Assessment prior to approval.

Note: If the need ever arises for pipeline access through the 1 nm *Sanctuary Zone* (no more than 800 metres wide and not within 1.5 km of a Sea Lion breeding area) it will be subject to an environmental impact assessment.

5. NATIVE TITLE CLAIMS

The following Native Title claims have been lodged:

1. Mirning WC95 lodged 16 June 1995 and accepted 9 January 1996.

Native title rights noted in the claim include the right to hunt and fish in their traditional seas and to use soil minerals, animal, plants and other materials from their traditional seas. Claim includes sea area within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park.

2. Maralinga Tjaruta SC96/01 lodged 28 February 1996 and accepted 31 May 1996.

Native title rights noted in the claim include the right to discharge all obligations and duties imposed on the holders by traditional laws and practices. Claim includes sea area within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park.

3. Yalata SC96/02 Claim covers the Yalata Aboriginal Land Lease down to mean High Water Mark and does not cover sea country; this claim would not affect the Marine Park which covers only the marine area.

Without knowing the final resolution of these claims, it is impossible to write the plan taking them into consideration. Nevertheless management arrangements will be developed that are consistent with the outcomes.

1 INTRODUCTION

(refer Part B Sec 1)

The Great Australian Bight extends over 1200 km, from Cape Pasley (near Esperance), in Western Australia to Cape Catastrophe, at the entrance of Spencer Gulf in South Australia (ACIUCN 1986). Along this highly variable coastline there are spectacular cliffs and rocky headlands, numerous offshore islands, surf-pounded beaches and large sheltered embayments (Short *et al.* 1986). This variability is a result of the continual changes in orientation and degree of protection of the coast from wave attack.

The generally low summer rainfall coupled with a limestone dominated coast has resulted in no rivers or streams arriving at the coast. As a result there are no true estuarine environments along the Great Australian Bight. For the most part, this coast faces the full force of the Southern Ocean and experiences some of the highest wave energies in Australia. The region contains not only some of the most remote, uninhabited, and spectacular coastal wilderness regions of Australia (Edyvane 1996) but also contains some of the highest levels of marine biodiversity and endemism in Australia, particularly among red algae, ascidians (sea squirts), bryozoans, molluscs and echinoderms (sea urchins) (Shepherd 1991, Poore 1995). The seasonal influence of the Leeuwin current (Rochford 1986) and the localised periodic cold, nutrient-rich upwellings in the eastern part of the region have contributed to the marine biodiversity and productivity of the region.

The Great Australian Bight region is an area which has considerable importance for conservation. It is a significant seasonal habitat for the Southern Right Whale (*Eubalaena australis*) - a species formally recognised as both 'endangered' (under the Commonwealth *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992*) and 'vulnerable to extinction' (by the World Conservation Union and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature). Estimates currently put the world population at around 3000 to 4000 individuals, with an Australian population of approximately 600-800 (Bannister 1993).

The Head of the Bight region is the most significant breeding and calving site for the Southern Right Whale in Australia, and one of the two most significant calving sites for this species in the world (Burnell & Bryden *in press*). Every year, between May and November, approximately 50-60 whales visit the Head of Bight region to calve, nurse their young and breed (Burnell & Bryden *in press*), affording some of the best research sites and whale-watching opportunities in the world. The Head of Bight region clearly has great significance to Australia and indeed the world as a whale breeding and calving site. It is a spectacular location with potential for cultural and nature-based tourism equal to any in Australia. It is one of the few places in the world where whales can be viewed at close range from the land without interference.

The region is also important as a seasonal habitat for many other species of marine mammal. At least 17 species of cetaceans have been recorded including Blue Whales, Sperm Whales, Minke Whales and Humpbacks (Kemper & Ling 1991). Two species of seals are also found in the region: the New Zealand Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*) and the rare Australian Sea Lion (*Neophoca cinerea*). Of particular significance is the recent discovery of breeding colonies of Australian Sea Lions along the Nullarbor Cliffs, within the boundaries of the Marine Park and the adjoining Nullarbor National Park. These colonies represent a genetic link between those to the east and west of the Bight region and comprise approximately 7% of the total population (Dennis & Shaughnessy 1996).

Several economically-important fisheries occur in State waters of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, including commercial fisheries such as Shark gillnetting, Southern Rock Lobster and recreational fisheries, such as Mulloway. Consequently there is a need to provide for sustainable recreational and commercial fishing activities within the region, while protecting its conservation values.

For all these reasons, the government of South Australia needs to ensure that the natural features of the Great Australian Bight are protected for present and future generations of Australians, while allowing some activities to occur on an ecologically sustainable basis. There is a particular need to manage the area to minimise potential conflicts between different uses. Marine Parks are nationally and internationally recognised as one of the most effective mechanisms for allowing multiple use. They are protected areas which permit and manage a range of human activities, such as commercial fishing, recreation, tourism, mining, and research. Zoning is a management tool which facilitates multiple use, while protecting the fundamental natural values and ecological processes of the ecosystem.

The establishment of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park will not only ensure the continued protection of the marine heritage of the region, but will also provide an integrated, cooperative management framework for economic, recreational and scientific activity within the region.

1.1 The Great Australian Bight Marine Park

The Marine Park covers an area of 1683 square kilometres (168 320 ha) of State waters out to the three nautical mile (3 nm) limit extending from the Western Australian border (129° 00'E) to just west of Cape Adieu (132° 00'E). It encompasses the following already proclaimed areas, see Figure 1:

GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT MARINE PARK WHALE SANCTUARY proclaimed under the *Fisheries Act 1982*; this is an area of 43 587.34 ha at the Head of the Bight.

It lies between 130° 45.5'E and 131° 30'E and extends out to sea from the Mean High Water Mark for 3 nm.

Date of proclamation: 22 June 1995.

GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT MARINE NATIONAL PARK proclaimed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. The National Park is in two sections which together cover an area of 124 732.5 ha and includes six prohibited areas for Sea Lions gazetted at proclamation.

The section west of the Whale Sanctuary lies between the West Australian Border (129° 00'E) and 130° 45.5'E and extends out to sea from Mean Low Water Mark for 3 nm.

The section east of the Whale Sanctuary lies between 131° 30'E and 132° 00'E and extends out to sea from Mean High Water Mark for 3 nm.

Date of proclamation: 26 September 1996.

This Management Plan applies only to the areas described above. The Commonwealth has proclaimed an additional component of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, beyond the 3 nautical mile limit which was gazetted under the Commonwealth *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975* on 22 April 1998. This component of the marine park covers 1 920 759 ha, comprising a 382 992 ha marine mammal protection zone adjoining the State park and a 1 593 936 ha band, 20 nautical miles wide, extending from the State park boundary to the edge of the Exclusive Economic Zone that is intended to help conserve the biota of the sea floor, and overlaps the marine mammal protection zone by 56 169 ha.

A separate management plan for the Commonwealth waters component is to be prepared in due course.

Complementary management arrangements will need to be developed for the State and Commonwealth components of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park.

The Great Australian Bight Marine Park adjoins important terrestrial conservation areas (see Figure 1)—Nullarbor National Park and Wahgunyah Conservation Reserve—as well as the Yalata Aboriginal Lands Lease. While the management of these areas is referred to in this document as being important for the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, details are not considered here.

Note that where the Great Australian Bight Marine Park abuts the Nullarbor National Park (which is proclaimed to Mean Low Water Mark) the Marine Park runs seaward from Mean Low Water Mark; where it abuts Yalata Aboriginal Lands and Wahgunyah Conservation Reserve (which are proclaimed to Mean High Water Mark), the Marine Park runs seaward from Mean High Water Mark.

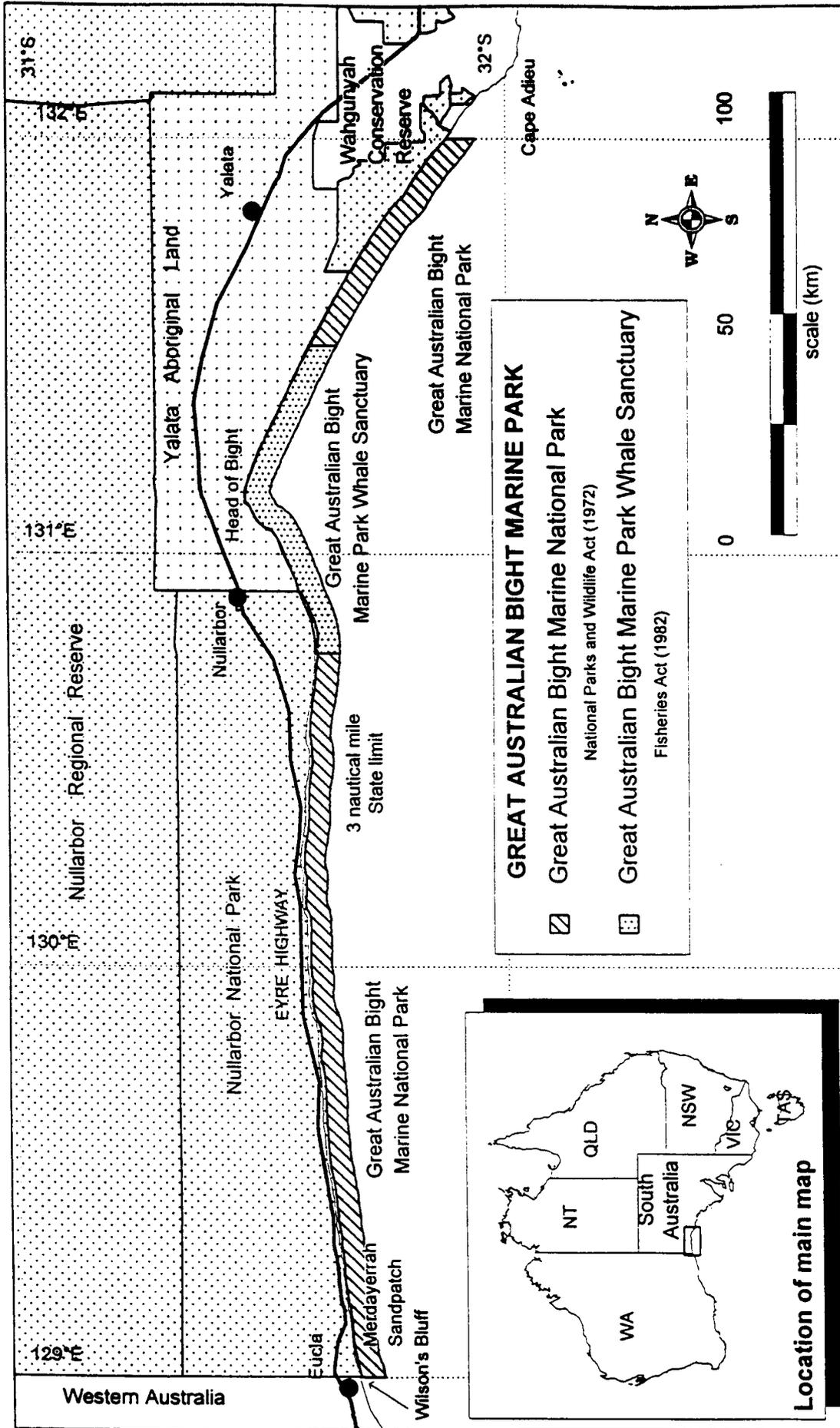


Figure 1: Boundaries of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park as currently defined by proclamation under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and Fisheries Act (for proposed management zones see Figure 3)

Map produced by the Reserve Planning Section,
Natural Resources Group, DENR
Map projection is AGD66 in decimal degrees

2 PLANNING FOR THE MARINE PARK

2.1 Background

September 1989 The South Australian Government announced its intention to protect the critical calving and breeding areas of the endangered Southern Right Whale (*Eubalaena australis*) by proposing South Australia's first multiple-use Marine Park—the Great Australian Bight Marine Park.

This arose out of a proposal by the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1989 for the future management of the Nullarbor region, including consideration of World Heritage nomination for the region.

The proposal included substantial land additions to the west of the existing Nullarbor National Park, an area of crown land to the north, and protection of the critical calving and breeding areas of the Southern Right Whales at the Head of the Great Australian Bight and the Merdayerrah Sandpatch. Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (Fisheries) (formerly, the South Australian Department of Fisheries) was approached regarding the possibility of gaining formal conservation status for breeding and calving areas in the Nullarbor region to complement the land-based conservation proposals. In December 1991 the *Fisheries Act 1982* was amended to include provisions for the constitution of multiple-use Marine Parks.

November 1991 A proposed World Heritage nomination focussed interest on the Nullarbor region and, while this did not proceed, the State Government endorsed its support for a Great Australian Bight Marine Park. In 1995, a technical report for a draft management plan for the proposed Great Australian Bight Marine Park was prepared by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), in consultation with community and industry groups, for consideration by PIRSA. The preparation of this report was funded by the Commonwealth's Ocean Rescue 2000 initiative.

May 1995 Following consideration of the technical report for the draft management plan, the Government of South Australia formally announced its decision to immediately protect the critical breeding and calving habitats of the South Right Whale at the Head of Bight, through proclamation of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park Whale Sanctuary (under the *Fisheries Act 1982*). This 43 587 ha area has a core which is a year-round sanctuary, with the status of the remainder (east and west sections) being determined through a management planning process.

May 1996 The Government of South Australia proposed to proclaim a multiple-use Marine Park in the Great Australian Bight, comprising both the existing Great Australian Bight Whale Sanctuary and the proposed Great Australian Bight Marine National Park.

September 1996 The Great Australian Bight Marine National Park (124 732 ha) including 6 prohibited areas for sea lion sanctuaries was proclaimed on the 26 September 1996 under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

2.2 Planning process

Planning is a continuing process and management plans should be subject to regular review (say, every 5-7 years).

Both the *Fisheries Act 1982* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* require that a plan of management be prepared for parks under their jurisdiction. In each case, public submissions on the matters that should be addressed in the plan are sought by public advertisement. These submissions are taken into consideration during the preparation of a draft plan.

When a draft plan has been prepared it is available for public examination for a period of at least 3 months in the case of a park under the *Fisheries Act* and at least 2 months for a park under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*. This Marine Park draft plan was made available for comment for 3 months. Thirty two submissions were received from the public during this period and were taken into consideration in the preparation of the Final Plan. Copies of all submissions (except those made in confidence) are available for inspection by interested members of the public. The draft plan and all submissions have been considered by the SA National Parks and Wildlife Council.

July 1993

Identification of resource and conservation values, stakeholders, and management issues

February 1994

Establishment of Great Australian Bight Marine Park Management Plan Advisory Committee

Community and industry input through advisory committee and public meetings

February 1995

Preparation of a technical report by SARDI for a draft Great Australian Bight Marine Park management plan

June 1995

Proclamation of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park Whale Sanctuary

*June 1996-
December 1996*

Formal economic assessment;
further industry and stakeholder consultation

September 1996

Proclamation of the Great Australian Bight Marine National Park

January 1997

Release of draft Great Australian Bight Marine Park management plan for 3 month public review period

*January 1997-
April 1997*

Comments received from public and industry;
plan revised following consideration of comments

1998

Release of Great Australian Bight Marine Park management plan

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Figure 2: Planning process for the Great Australian Bight Marine Park

Each Minister may adopt the final plan with or without alteration and an official notice of adoption is placed in the Government Gazette. Copies are made available for a fee to members of the public.

The management plan has been prepared for the State Government by DEHAA. Considerable advice was received from PIRSA (Fisheries). Funding was received from the Commonwealth Government's Ocean Rescue 2000 program which allowed DEHAA to contract to the South Australian Research and Development Institute for the preparation of a draft resource document and management plan. That work, by Dr Karen Edyvane and Mr Greg Andrews, included public input from workshops held in Ceduna in 1995 and is the basis for this plan.

Wide consultation among government agencies has ensured that this plan reflects policy across the spectrum of interests in government. Preliminary community and industry input was received through a 16-person Great Australian Bight Marine Park Management Plan Advisory Committee. Further consultation has occurred with major stakeholders since the Government announced the its intention to proclaim the Great Australian Bight Marine National Park. Those stakeholders include the Conservation Council of South Australia Inc., the South Australian Fishing Industry Council Inc., the Aboriginal Lands Trust, Primary Industries South Australia, Mines and Energy South Australia, Department of State Aboriginal Affairs and the Commonwealth (through the Australian Nature Conservation Agency now Biodiversity Group, Environment Australia). A briefing was given to the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement representing the Mirning, the Maralinga Tjarutja, the Wirangu, the Yalata Community and the Coleman Sisters. The Attorney General's Department has been kept informed of progress.

In developing the plan, consideration has been given to policy and legislative requirements, natural, cultural and heritage values, existing, intended and possible future uses and inter-agency and public consultation. It has been guided by the following considerations:

- provision of long-term security for the natural environment of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park
- assurance of a long term ecologically sustainable basis for commercial activities occurring within the park
- rationalisation of competing uses
- effective and participative involvement of the park within the regional community and economy
- the need for effective and efficient management systems which address the demand for park use.

This document provides directions for conservation, recreation and resource management and provides objectives and strategies by which these activities or uses will be managed. It has been prepared and adopted in pursuance of Section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and Section 48B of the *Fisheries Act 1982*.

The general management planning process for the Great Australian Bight Marine Park are summarised by the flow chart presented as Figure 2.

3 MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Management Goals

The Great Australian Bight Marine Park has been established to assist the conservation and management of the marine environment and commercial and recreational activities in this internationally significant region. The primary management goal is to provide for the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the biodiversity of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park through the integrated management of resources, habitats and ecosystems and through the sustainable use of those resources and the marine environment.

It is not only South Australia's first Marine Park, but it is the first Marine Park to be established along the southern coast of the Australian mainland—protecting and managing the marine habitats and ecosystems typical of the region. It will contribute to a national representative system of Marine Protected Areas, a nationally agreed goal as outlined in the *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992)*, and the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity (1996)*. It acknowledges the IUCN designations of the Australian Sea-lion as 'rare' and the Southern Right Whale as 'vulnerable to extinction'. It also contributes to the IUCN-CNPPA Marine Protected Areas Program which promotes the conservation of global biodiversity through the protection of representative marine habitats and ecosystems, while allowing sustainable uses.

The following management objectives take into account goals, principles and recommendations from the above strategies and *Guidelines for Establishing Marine Protected Areas* (Kelleher & Kenchington 1992). Many of them have recently been incorporated into the framework for a national representative system of Marine Protected Areas, as outlined in the *Ocean Rescue 2000 Marine Protected Areas Action Plan (1994)*. They also reflect objectives endorsed by NACMPA.

3.2 Management Objectives

All activities in the Great Australian Bight Marine Park should be managed according to the specific management objectives outlined below:

- To protect and manage by means of a Marine Park substantial representative examples of the natural marine habitats and ecosystems of the Great Australian Bight region, to ensure their long-term ecological viability and to maintain their biological diversity at all levels.
- To protect and assist the recovery of depleted, threatened, rare, endangered or endemic species within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, including the Southern Right Whale and the Australian Sea Lion, and in particular to preserve the marine habitats considered critical for the survival of such species.
- To accommodate within the multiple-use management framework of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, a broad spectrum of human activities which are compatible with the conservation objectives including the use or extraction of resources.
- To protect the natural and cultural values of the landscapes and seascapes of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park for present and future generations.
- To encourage research into, and monitoring of, the biological and ecological processes of the Great Australian Bight to develop a comprehensive biological database prior to a review of this plan.
- To review management objectives and strategies within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park in the light of new information.

4 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

4.1 Marine Biodiversity Conservation

(refer Part B secs 3.1, 3.2)

It is generally recognised that maintaining biodiversity will depend on the success of a variety of measures to protect and manage, in an ecologically sustainable way, habitats and species which exist outside formal conservation reserves. However, an essential feature of any strategy to maintain biodiversity is a system of protected areas, which should be designed and managed to represent and protect the diversity of ecological communities, species and gene pools (*Global Biodiversity Strategy*. WRI/IUCN/UNEP, 1992).

In June 1992 Australia joined 153 other nations in signing the *Convention on Biological Diversity*. This agreement commits Australia to work towards the long term maintenance of biodiversity. In December 1992, all States and Territories agreed to implement a *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development* one of the core objectives of which is 'to protect biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems' (*Biodiversity: the role of protected areas*. House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts, Jan. 1993). In November 1995, the Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture supported the approach to fisheries conservation, management and development contained in the voluntary FAO *International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.

Reservation of the species, habitats and ecosystems typical of the Great Australian Bight region will form an important component of a strategy to conserve Australia's marine biodiversity through the protection of areas typical or representative of the range of Australia's coastal and marine habitats and environments. The establishment of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park will form an important component of a national representative system of Marine Protected Areas, and fulfil both nationally and internationally accepted goals to conserve biodiversity.

Objectives — Marine Biodiversity

- To protect a representative example of the species, habitats, and ecosystems, typical of the Great Australian Bight region, from habitat degradation and resource exploitation as outlined under the zoning provisions.
- To manage natural resource-based industries to minimise or exclude impacts of resource exploitation in selected areas of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park as outlined under the zoning provisions.
- To permit natural ecological processes to continue with minimal human interference.
- To encourage biodiversity surveys and other research.

Strategies — Marine biodiversity

- Ensure that park users understand the significance of the biodiversity of the region.
- Facilitate and promote biodiversity surveys within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park to assess the patterns of biodiversity and identify indicator species to monitor habitat integrity and any impacts of activities.
- Allow sustainable resource utilization according to the zoning provisions.
- Encourage the fishing industry to monitor performance indicators as a measure of sustainability.

4.2 Southern Right Whale Conservation

(refer Part B Sec 3.3.1)

The need to provide a sanctuary area for Southern Right Whales so that their population numbers could increase, was recognised in the 1980s. When dealing with such small recovering populations, pro-active conservation measures are often necessary, including the protection and maintenance of the environment in which the species needs to exist.

The potential impediments to the recovery of whales relate to direct disturbance, particularly in near shore calving and breeding areas. The generally recognised threats and disturbance factors are:

- whale watching vessels and pleasure craft (acoustic disturbance, vessel crowding)

- low flying aircraft (acoustic disturbance)
- coastal industrial activity (seismic exploration, drilling, sandmining and shipping operations)
- defence operations
- collision with vessels (including fishing and recreational craft)
- entanglements in fishing gear
- pollution including sewage effluent, increasing amounts of plastic debris at sea, oil spills and dumping of industrial waste into waterways and the sea, leading to accumulation of toxic substances in body tissue
- impacts on critical migratory pathways, calving and mating areas include inshore habitat degradation from fisheries and petroleum and mineral exploration and exploitation

Objectives — Southern Right Whales

- To protect the breeding, nursery and calving habitats of the endangered Southern Right Whale and promote the recovery of the species.
- To minimise the threats and disturbance to whales in the breeding, nursery and calving areas.

Strategies — Southern Right Whales

- Manage or exclude activities within the calving, nursery and breeding areas of the Southern Right Whale defined as Sanctuary Zones under the zoning provisions or which have been identified as threats under the draft *National Cetacean Action Plan* (see Part B, Box 5).
- Manage or exclude activities within the migratory routes between calving, nursery and breeding areas.
- Monitor the extent of current and future population change, to determine the population's ability to recover from very low levels.
- Refine knowledge of population's basic biology, genetic structure, distribution, behaviour and movements and resource requirements, eg. critical habitat.
- Assist with global recovery of the species, through assisting with relevant educational and management initiatives outlined in the draft *National Cetacean Action Plan*.
- Encourage public interest through provision of whale watching opportunities.

4.3 Australian Sea Lion Conservation

(refer Part B Sec 3.3.3)

Two species of seals (pinnipeds) are found in the Great Australian Bight region and occur in the waters of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park. They are the New Zealand Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*), (which occasionally occur as vagrants when they forage from island breeding colonies to the east and west of the Park), and the Australian Sea Lion (*Neophoca cinerea*). The recent discovery of numerous small breeding colonies of Australian Sea Lions along the Nullarbor Cliffs, within the boundaries of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, is particularly significant. Seals and Sea Lions suffer the same threats and disturbances as Southern Right Whales.

The Australian Sea Lion is endemic to Australia and is one of Australia's rarest marine mammals and one of the rarest and most endangered pinnipeds in the world (Gales 1990). The species is recognised as 'rare' under South Australian legislation, a 'Special Protected Species' in Western Australia and 'rare' by the IUCN.

Objectives — Australian Sea Lions

- To protect the breeding and haul-out habitats of the Australian Sea Lion and promote the recovery of the species.
- To minimise the threats and disturbance factors for Sea Lions and Fur Seals.

Strategies — Australian Sea Lions

- Exclude activities within the breeding and haul-out areas of the Australian Sea Lion within the Sanctuary Zone or which have been identified as threats under the national *Seal Action Plan* (Shaughnessy 1994).

- Manage activities within the feeding areas associated with the breeding and haul-out areas.
- Monitor the extent of current and future population change, to determine the population's ability to recover from very low levels.
- Encourage research to refine knowledge of population's basic biology, genetic structure, distribution, behaviour and movements and resource requirements e.g. critical habitat.
- Assist with the recovery of Australian Sea Lions and New Zealand Fur Seals through assisting with relevant educational and management initiatives outlined in the draft *Seal Action Plan*.

4.4 Commercial Fisheries

(refer Part B Sec 4.1)

Commercial fisheries within the area include, Southern Rock Lobster fishing, Shark gillnetting and some limited Mulloway and Australian Salmon fishing. These activities will continue to be managed through PIRSA under the provisions of the *Fisheries Act 1982* and through a system of Fisheries Management Committees.

Objectives — Commercial Fisheries

- Where appropriate, to allow commercial fisheries within the Marine Park to continue.
- To minimise the impact of marine resource harvesting on the natural, cultural and heritage values, and ensure that resource harvesting is ecologically sustainable.
- To minimise the risk of conflict between commercial fishing and other Marine Park users and values.
- In association with the fishing industry, to raise awareness amongst fishers of the benefits of multiple-use Marine Parks.

Strategies — Commercial Fisheries

- Provide for fishing access as per the zoning provisions.
- Manage commercial fisheries under arrangements designated by PIRSA (Fisheries).
- Ensure adequate consultation and information links with the commercial fishing industry on all relevant matters regarding the planning and implementation of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park.
- Raise industry awareness of the principles, objectives, role and implications of multiple-use Marine Park planning.
- Encourage greater collaborative research and liaison with industry into possible effects of commercial fishing activities on the marine ecosystem, particularly Southern Right Whales and Australian Sea Lions.
- Encourage research into major fisheries resources within the Marine Park to determine the appropriate levels for sustainable harvesting and work cooperatively with the fishing industry to monitor performance indicators as a measure of sustainability.

4.5 Tourism and Recreation

(refer Part B Sec 5)

This area represents a unique opportunity for visitors to see large numbers of calving, nursing and breeding whales within a wilderness environment.

The general inaccessibility of the region dictates that most visitors will experience the Marine Park either from viewing sites on the coast or from the air. Management of the neighbouring lands (Yalata Aboriginal Lands, Nullarbor National Park and Wahgunyah Conservation Reserve) are therefore most relevant to the impression tourists will form of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park. The siting and design of facilities and structures and associated alteration to native vegetation should complement the natural landscape and wilderness seascape qualities of the area.

Land-based aquatic activities such as recreational boating, camping, diving, swimming and their impacts need, therefore, to be addressed in management plans for the neighbouring lands.

Little is known of sea-based access to the Marine Park except for the commercial fishing industry.

Objectives — Tourism and Recreation

- To maximise the quality of the visitor experience through protection of the scenic diversity and wilderness values of the coastal landscape and seascape, particularly in areas of highest scenic quality and viewer interest around the Head of Bight, Merdayerrah Sandpatch and existing designated viewing areas.
- To minimise the impact of recreation and visitors on natural values and marine wildlife.
- To promote cooperative management of the beach areas adjacent to the Yalata Lease Lands by the lessee in association with the Aboriginal Lands Trust.
- To provide for integrated management of the Marine Park with the adjoining Nullarbor National Park, Wahgunyah Conservation Reserve and the Yalata Aboriginal Lands.
- To promote a diversity of low impact, satisfying recreational experiences.

Strategies — Tourism and Recreation

- Liaise with adjacent landowners and authorities to achieve sympathetic siting and design of developments.
- Establish a formal cooperative coastal management arrangement between PIRSA (Fisheries), DEHAA (National Parks and Wildlife and Coast Protection) Aboriginal Lands Trust and the Yalata Aboriginal Community Council, in consultation with other relevant local Aboriginal interests, to manage the coastal waters of the Marine Park and adjacent coastal lands.
- Ensure that land-based facilities are in accordance with appropriate land management prescriptions and encourage the preparation of landscape project guidelines (in consultation with relevant Aboriginal interests as above) for all management activities that have the potential to be visually intrusive.
- Provide interpretative information to recreational users on the natural, cultural and heritage values of the Marine Park and adjacent coastal lands, and on responsible behaviour and use of those areas.
- Develop an ecotourism strategy for the Marine Park in consultation with tour operators.

4.6 Mineral and Petroleum Exploration and Extraction

There are no known hydrocarbon or mineral deposits within the area of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, but the prospectivity over the area is probably poor (for hydrocarbons) and additional data is required (including seismic and detailed source rock data) before a more conclusive assessment can be made. Currently there are no proposals to carry out any exploration within the Marine Park, but Primary Industries & Resources (Mines & Energy) advise that the geology of the region presents a variety of mineral exploration opportunities which may be tested as appropriate exploration technology becomes available.

If extraction of minerals or petroleum is undertaken, then subject to a satisfactory outcome from an environmental impact assessment, a pipeline corridor up to 800 metres wide may be established no closer than 1.5 kilometres to a known sea lion colony. Such a facility would comply with zoning provisions (see Section 5) below.

Objectives — Minerals and Petroleum Exploration and Extraction

- To minimise the impact of mineral and petroleum exploration and extraction on the natural, cultural and heritage values of the Marine Park.
- To ensure that mineral and petroleum exploration and extraction within the Marine Park is ecologically sustainable.
- To minimise any conflict between mineral and petroleum exploration and extraction and other Marine Park users.

Strategies — Minerals and Petroleum Exploration and Extraction

- Allow access as per the zoning provisions.
- DEHAA to formulate formal agreements with PIRSA (Mines & Energy) that any exploration proposals within the Conservation Zone should only be undertaken following an environmental impact assessment.

- Any proposals for extraction within the Conservation Zone will require an Environmental Impact Assessment prior to approval.
- Any installation of pipelines will require an Environmental Impact Assessment prior to approval.

4.7 Commercial Shipping

It appears from available information (principally the Marine Rescue and Coordinating Centre in Canberra) that no commercial shipping passes through the State waters of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park.

4.8 New Developments

This plan addresses only those uses which were in existence at December 1996. Any changes in existing use patterns which may impact on the resources of the Marine Park and new developments including artificial reefs, moorings or shoreline developments which impact on the beaches should be reviewed and be subject to a legally adopted Amendment to the Management Plan.

4.9 Aboriginal Heritage

(refer Part B Sec 6.1)

DEHAA is seeking advice from the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee on appropriate management strategies for identified Aboriginal sites in the inter-tidal areas. The need for management of Aboriginal heritage associated with the beach area adjacent to the Yalata lease lands will be addressed in a separate management document.

5 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Management Zones

The integrated management of activities within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park will be achieved through a system of zoning. Zoning allows for discrete management units (or zones) providing various levels of protection and reflecting the characteristics of natural resources and biodiversity. The levels of protection are achieved through prescribing or regulating activities or uses within zones. In addition to protecting the values of areas, zoning will attempt to minimise the risk of conflicts arising between the various user-groups. It is important to note that the zoning framework is influenced by the relative needs of the community as a whole and is achieved through a formal process of community and industry consultation and participation.

A simple framework for zoning has been developed for the Great Australian Bight Marine Park. As one of the major objectives of zoning is the protection of the critical habitat of the Southern Right Whale, these zones may need to change if the timing or location of the whale activity ever changes. Any proposed zoning changes or changes to regulations or provisions within the management zones, should undergo a period of formal community and industry consultation. While some activities are defined and regulated within each zone, it is important to note that the zoning provisions for uses or activities specify conditions of access.

There are two management zones in the Great Australian Bight Marine Park—a Sanctuary Zone and a Conservation Zone, see Figure 3.

Sanctuary Zone

This zone includes part (western arm and core section extending west from 131° 14.045'E to 130° 45.5'E) of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park Whale Sanctuary (proclaimed under the *Fisheries Act 1982*). Also, west of the Whale Sanctuary, this Management Plan provides for a narrow coastal strip of the Great Australian Bight Marine National Park as far as the Western Australian border (129° 00'E) and extending from Mean Low Water Mark for 1 nm out to sea to become a Sanctuary Zone. This 1nm strip (which includes 6 previously proclaimed prohibited areas for Australian Sea Lions) will be gazetted a prohibited area under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Conservation values are very high in this zone and priority will be given to managing the area to protect the very high natural and cultural values. Human impacts should be minimal. This zone encompasses the critical breeding and calving areas of the Southern Right Whale and the breeding colonies of Australian Sea Lions. These species have been protected by prohibiting activities that potentially threaten or disturb these species in the area. This includes public access, fishing, mining, mineral and petroleum exploration. Potential threats include net entanglements, vessel strikes, vessel crowding, lobsterpot entanglement, oil spills, and acoustic disturbance from boat engines, seismic blasting, low flying aircraft and direct harassment.

To protect a representative example of the marine habitats in this region, habitat disturbance and the removal of natural resources will be prohibited. The establishment of a Sanctuary Zone provides the highest level of habitat protection and protection for all marine fauna and flora, free from human disturbance. Adjacent marine and terrestrial areas should be managed in keeping with the general principles of this zone. Visible impacts and infrastructure along the terrestrial border should be kept to a minimum so as to maintain the high coastal wilderness values of the region.

Objectives — Sanctuary Zone

- To provide the highest level of habitat protection as a representative example of the habitats and ecosystems typical of the Great Australian Bight region.
- To provide the highest level of habitat protection to the breeding and calving areas of the endangered Southern Right Whale to ensure the species long term viability.
- To provide the highest level of habitat protection to the breeding areas of the rare Australian Sea Lions to ensure the species long term viability.
- To provide refuges and potential stock replenishment sites for commercially harvested species in the region, including Southern Rock Lobster and Shark.

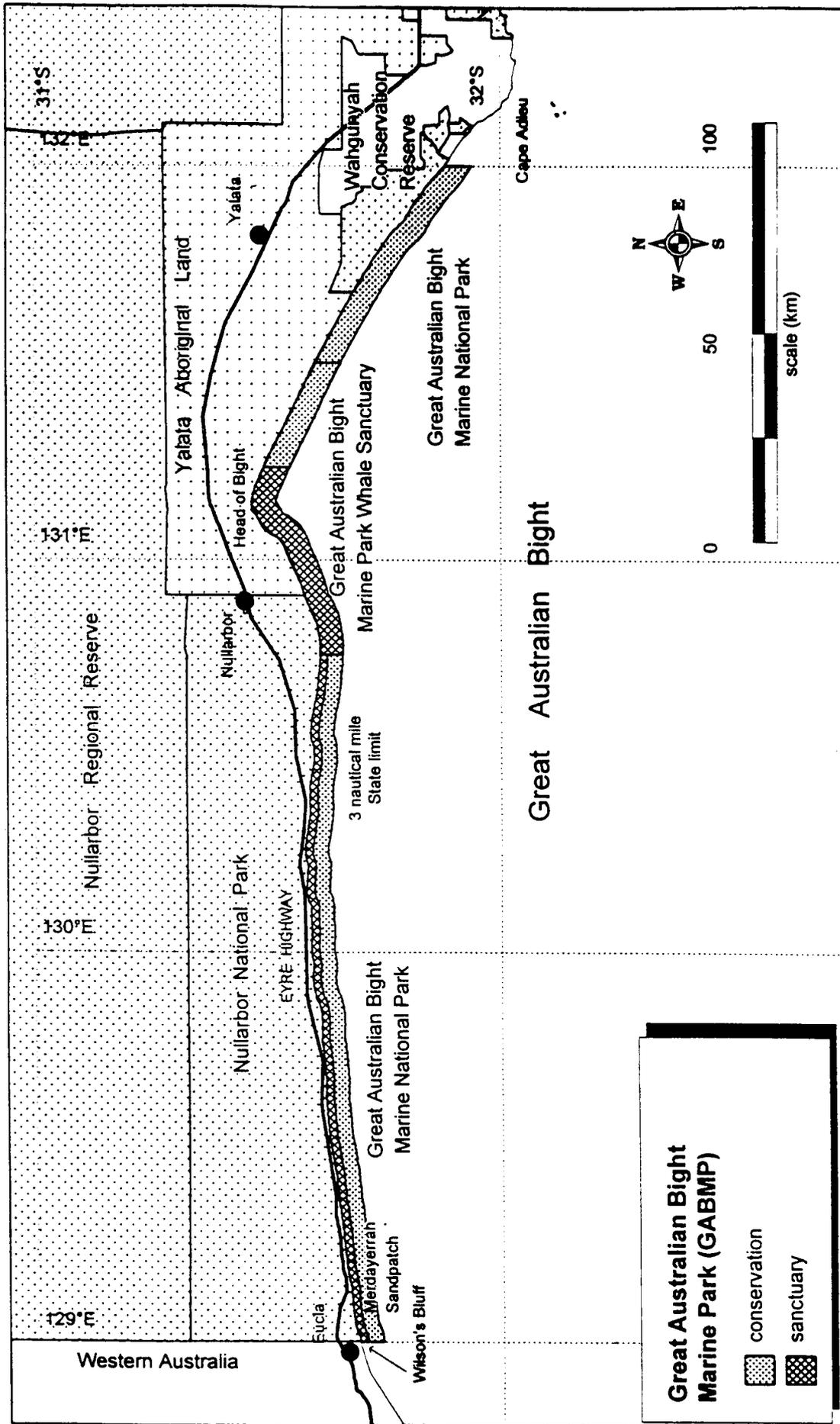


Figure 3: Great Australian Bight Marine Park proposed management zones

Map produced by the Reserve Planning Section,
 Natural Resources Group, DENR
 Map projection is AGD66 in decimal degrees

Proposed Provisions — Sanctuary Zone

- There will be no structures or facilities.
- There will be no fishing except line-fishing from beaches.
- There will be no exploration or mining activity in the Whale Sanctuary and the 1 nm strip of the western Sanctuary Zone.
- Should the need arise, and subject to a satisfactory outcome from an environmental impact assessment, an easement for a pipeline to shore across the 1 nm Sanctuary Zone will be permitted providing it is no greater than 800 metres in width and not within 1.5 nm of known Sea Lion breeding colonies or haul out sites.
- No public access by boat (without the written permission of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife; access for bona fide scientific research will be permitted through arrangement with DEHAA in consultation with PIRSA, and Yalata Community Council if land access is required).
- Operators of sightseeing flights will be asked to follow a ‘Fly Neighbourly’ code (Appendix 1) which has been negotiated with the Civil Aviation Authority; this asks pilots to—
 - enter the area from the eastern extremity and track west
 - cruise not below 1000 ft
 - not circle whales
 - leave the area by executing a turn to track inland 2 nm
 - re-enter the area by tracking 2 nm inland of the shoreline to the entry point (to avoid disturbance to land-based whale-watchers)

Conservation Zone

This zone includes the area encompassed by the Great Australian Bight Marine National Park, proclaimed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* and the eastern arm of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park Whale Sanctuary. There are three areas of Conservation Zone in the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, see Figure 3:

- (1) an area extending from the Western Australia border (129° 00'E)—the western boundary of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park—to 10 km west of the western boundary of the Yalata Land Lease (130° 45.5'E), and extending from 1nm to 3nm seaward, adjacent to the Sanctuary Zone;
- (2) the eastern arm within the Whale Sanctuary proclaimed under the Fisheries Act from 131° 14.045'E to 131° 30.0'E extending 3 nm seaward from Mean High Water Mark;
- (3) an area from 131° 30.0'E to 132° 00'E (the eastern boundary of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park), and extending seaward from the Mean High Water Mark to the 3 nm limit.

Conservation values are also high in this zone and priority will be given to managing the area to protect natural and cultural values, while allowing for the sustainable use of resources. This zone encompasses the area immediately adjacent to the critical breeding and calving areas of the endangered Southern Right Whale and also, the breeding colonies of the rare Australian Sea Lions. The establishment of a Conservation Zone will provide a buffer for the Sanctuary Zone and, importantly, provide for unimpeded passage and protection of migrating whales moving along the coast during the breeding season. Seasonal restrictions (May-November) have been placed on public access, fishing (other than rod and line beach fishing), and mining and exploration activities, in order to keep disturbances to migrating whales to a minimum. Adjacent marine and terrestrial areas should be managed in keeping with the general principles of this zone. Infrastructure and visual impacts should be kept low to maintain the strong coastal wilderness appeal of this area.

Objectives — Conservation Zone

- To protect Southern Right Whales and their calves moving between the breeding areas along the cliff coast west of the Head of Bight by providing a seasonal reserve between these areas.
- To protect species, habitats and ecosystems within the Sanctuary Zones against external impacts, by providing a buffer zone around the Sanctuary Zones.

- To provide for the continued sustainable use of the resources of the marine environment without threatening or compromising the conservation objectives of the Marine Park.

Proposed Provisions — Conservation Zone

- There will be no structures or facilities that threaten the natural movement of whales.
- There will be no fishing from 1 May to 31 October inclusive except beach-based fishing with rod and line.
- There will be no mineral or petroleum exploration or extraction activities in that part of the Conservation Zone which lies within the Whale Sanctuary.
- In other parts of the Conservation Zone, mineral or petroleum exploration, extraction and construction activities are to be confined to the period when whales are not present (usually between 1 November and 30 April).
- Should the need arise, and subject to a satisfactory outcome from an environmental impact assessment, an easement for a pipeline to shore is permitted providing it is no greater than 800 metres in width and not within 1.5 nm of a known Sea Lion breeding colony or haul out site.
- From 1 May to 31 October inclusive there is no access by boat without the written permission of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife, in consultation with PIRSA, the Aboriginal Lands Trust and Yalata Community Council. Access for bona fide scientific research will be permitted through arrangement with DEHAA in consultation with PIRSA (the Aboriginal Lands Trust and Yalata Community Council will be consulted if land access is required).
- The exclusion time for activities within this zone may need to be renegotiated on the basis of changing whale presence.

5.2 Surveillance and Legal Compliance

Education and understanding of the need for a Marine Park in the Great Australian Bight by all Park users is fundamental to ensuring long term compliance with relevant management principles. A law enforcement capacity is needed where this strategy fails. Enforcement has two functions—to act as a deterrent and to stop illegal activities.

A joint compliance strategy has been developed by PIRSA and DEHAA which is outlined here.

The aim is to maximise the use of departmental and community resources to develop a network which will monitor and address compliance issues in the park.

Objectives — Surveillance and Legal compliance

- Ensure compliance with proposed park legislation, regulations and policy.
- Ensure that staff are adequately trained and resourced to undertake effective enforcement of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park and adjacent coastal lands.
- Involve the Aboriginal communities in the region in the ongoing management of the Marine Park and adjacent coastal lands through the provision of opportunities for training in education and public relations; it is noted that on-site training is desirable.
- Promote an integrated, cooperative approach to ranger and land-management training in the region while recognising existing Aboriginal training programs and initiatives.

Strategies — Surveillance and Legal compliance

- Promotion of shore based observation and reporting
- Promotion of aerial observation
- Promotion of sea surveillance
- Cross authorisation for agency staff to operate under all appropriate legislation
- Cooperation between DEHAA and PIRSA where targetted enforcement operations may be required
- Development of training in education and public relations for Aboriginal communities.

5.3 Education and Interpretation for Visitors and the Community

Currently the Yalata Aboriginal Community and DEHAA undertake limited interpretation of the area for visitors. A more comprehensive public education strategy which examines a range of interpretive media needs to be developed through DEHAA, PIRSA and the Yalata Community.

Objectives — Education and interpretation

- To increase public and commercial operators' knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural features in the Great Australian Bight Marine Park and adjacent coastal lands.
- To increase public and commercial operators' knowledge, understanding and appreciation of cultural and heritage values of the region.
- To increase awareness of the potential impacts that recreation and commercial activities may have on the natural, cultural and heritage values and encourage appropriate behaviour.
- To increase awareness of the conservation needs of rare and endangered species and understanding of management strategies.
- To ensure commercial operators provide appropriate and accurate information to visitors.
- To increase the awareness of all user groups of other users needs and preferences to minimise conflicts between users.

Strategies — Education and interpretation

- Develop interpretive themes, as part of a public education strategy, focussing on management issues of the Great Australian Bight region especially the management and natural history of marine mammals.
- Provide staff training in interpretation.
- Prepare a range of material for visitor information in accordance with a public education strategy and encourage tour operators to become acquainted with and to use educational material.
- Evaluate interpretation/education programs to ensure targets are met.

5.4 Research and Resource Monitoring

(refer Part B Sec 7)

The environments of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park area provide an extensive range of research and monitoring opportunities, particularly for the national and global monitoring of rare and endangered marine mammals. A high priority should be placed on undertaking or encouraging research and monitoring and promoting the early incorporation of results into management programs.

Monitoring aims to detect change in the environment and user patterns. Important monitoring requirements in the area relate to changes in plant and animal populations, changes in environmental conditions and the environmental and social impacts of visitor use. Monitoring is often long-term in nature and needs to be carefully designed and systematically carried out.

Research and monitoring projects within the proposed Great Australian Bight Marine Park should require notification to DEHAA and PIRSA (Fisheries) with a formal acceptance of projects and provision for independent review.

A number of research projects are currently under way within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park area. These projects include: research into the biology, behaviour and status of the Southern Right Whale at the Head of Bight by the University of Sydney; regular monitoring of Southern Right Whales by SA and WA Museums using aerial surveys; underwater surveys of benthic communities by SARDI; and reef and seagrass mapping by researchers from SARDI and CSIRO Fisheries (WA). Other specific research needs to be identified, particularly for the management of Australian Sea Lions, and general mapping and descriptive work within the area which is, at this stage, minimal.

Objectives — Research and Resource Monitoring

- To ensure bona fide research and monitoring into the biology and world status of Southern Right Whales and Australian Sea Lions as recommended in the draft *Southern Right Whale Recovery Plan*, the *National Cetacean Action Plan* and the draft *Seal Action Plan*.
- To ensure bona fide research and monitoring into other commercial and non-commercial vertebrate and invertebrate species.

- To ensure that information from research is used to its fullest and most effective extent and that it is distributed to appropriate agencies and the public.
- To encourage research that is directly related to the management needs of the Marine Park.
- To monitor the effectiveness and implementation of the zoning and management plan of the proposed Great Australian Bight Marine Park.
- To ensure that research is of a bona fide scientific nature.
- To ensure that data from fishing industry performance indicators is taken into consideration in monitoring.

Strategies — Research and Resource Monitoring

- A formal process for approval of research and monitoring within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park will be developed.
- Prepare a comprehensive ongoing monitoring program including fishing industry monitoring of performance indicators for the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, to identify indicators of change and to identify necessary and available resources, and priorities for monitoring.
- Encourage and facilitate research and monitoring to assist the management and recovery of Southern Right Whales, Australian Sea Lions and New Zealand Fur Seals in the region.
- Encourage and facilitate research into major fisheries resources within the Marine Park and the use of performance indicators as a measure of sustainability.

5.5 Management and Advisory Capacity

A Great Australian Bight Marine Park Steering Group will be formed to ensure:

- Evaluation and review of the management plan.
- Continued advocacy for, and interest in progressing knowledge about the marine habitat and biodiversity of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, building upon Fisheries Management Plans, ecosystem research and further resource description and monitoring opportunities available through Commonwealth programs.
- Overview of research priorities and commissioning of research projects.
- Joint management arrangements with the Commonwealth.
- Disaster management.
- Promotion at the interstate and international level.
- Stakeholder and agency understanding and cooperation at the policy level.
- Policy development.

This Steering Group of DEHAA, PIRSA, SATC, the SA Museum and the Commonwealth should be supported by a new Management Advisory Panel of non-government organisations representing the major stakeholders.

In addition, the Far West Consultative Committee that already provides advice to DEHAA will be encouraged to expand its membership to include persons with a knowledge of marine ecology and knowledge of the commercial use of marine resources in the Great Australian Bight Marine Park.

5.6 Resources for Management

The establishment of a Marine Park which will be managed on behalf of a number of agencies and community interest groups, will require a substantial commitment of resources. Some of those resources will need to be deployed on adjacent terrestrial conservation areas which will receive impacts from tourists visiting or viewing the park.

Many of the actions identified in Section 6 below will be contingent upon the appointment of a marine biologist to liaise with the industry and researchers.

Objectives — Resources for management

- To provide resources adequate for the proper management of the environment, marine wildlife and human interests in the park.

Strategies — Resources for management

- Explore with the Commonwealth joint management arrangements (including funding) for the Marine Park.
- Identify funding sources and opportunities for
 - at least one and possibly two staff salaries plus on-costs
 - park operating costs
 - law enforcement and compliance monitoring.

6 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

6.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Although the Great Australian Bight Marine Park has been proclaimed under two pieces of legislation, the roles and responsibilities are relatively straightforward. Stakeholder groups will be involved in the development of relevant Management Actions.

The Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for the management of the Park within the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

Primary Industries and Resources South Australia is responsible for management of fishing within the South Australian Park waters.

Compliance with the Plan will be cooperatively managed by DEHAA and PIRSA and officers of both departments will have delegated powers under both the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* and the *Fisheries Act*.

Details of the public responsibilities at the Head of the Bight and the beach will be made available through Yalata Roadhouse, the Aboriginal Lands Trust in Adelaide and ATSIC and National Parks and Wildlife offices in Ceduna.

6.2 Management Actions

Action	Priority	Duration	Refer	Responsibility
Administration				
• Arrange cross authorisation for staff of PIRSA (Fisheries) and DEHAA to operate under both sets of legislation	Very high	3 months		DEHAA/PIRSA
• Arrange delegation under Fisheries Act for essential access to western Whale Sanctuary zone to be permitted by Director of National Parks & Wildlife SA	High	3 months		DEHAA/PIRSA
• Develop contingency plan for action to protect marine mammal populations and coastal bird colonies in the event of an oil spill	High	3 months		DEHAA/PIRSA
• Review Management Plan as required	Low	Ongoing		DEHAA/PIRSA

Marine Biodiversity

• Develop information on legislative and management provisions for users	High	12 months	DEHAA/PIRSA
• Facilitate biodiversity surveys to identify indicator species	Medium	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA
• Develop interpretive material on biodiversity of the region	Medium	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA

Southern Right Whales

• Manage activities which might affect calving, nursery and breeding areas	High	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA
• Minimise threats to whales by developing extension programs	Medium	12 months	DEHAA/PIRSA
• Facilitate studies of population biology	High	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA
• Monitor population changes	High	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA

Sea Lions

• Within the western Sanctuary Zone exclude and/or manage activities which may affect breeding, haul out and feeding areas	High	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA
• Identify and manage activities which may affect feeding areas	Medium	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA
• Facilitate studies of population biology	Medium	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA
• Monitor population changes	High	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA

Commercial Fisheries

• Commercial fishery management by PIRSA to proceed within the zoning provisions	High	Ongoing	PIRSA
• Gain support of industry for the objectives of the Marine Park	Medium	Ongoing	PIRSA
• Encourage collaborative research into fishery resources and marine mammals in the Great Australian Bight	Medium	Ongoing	PIRSA/DEHAA
• Consult regularly with fishing industry in relation to Marine Park management	Medium	Ongoing	PIRSA/DEHAA

Tourism and Recreation

• Establish cooperative inter-agency coastal management programs	High	Ongoing	DEHAA
• Establish beach management arrangements with Yalata Lease Lands and Aboriginal Lands Trust	Medium	12 months	DEHAA
• Viewing facilities for the marine park to be developed in accord with appropriate landscaping standards	Medium	Ongoing	DEHAA
• Develop accurate interpretation material for visitors which is relevant for different activities	High	Ongoing	DEHAA/PIRSA

Management Zones

- Ensure that Park users are aware of the zoning provisions and the necessity for compliance, by developing a leaflet on zoning High Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA

Surveillance and Legal Compliance

- Develop appropriate strategies through Fish Watch High 12 months DEHAA/PIRSA
- Develop training programs for Aboriginal communities High Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA
- Provide adequate resources to enable aerial surveillance and monitoring and special law enforcement operations as required High Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA

Education and Interpretation for Visitors and the Community

- Develop interpretive themes within a public education strategy Medium Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA
- Train staff, Aboriginal groups and/or volunteers in appropriate interpretation techniques Medium Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA

Research and Resource Monitoring

- Establish a formal process for approving research projects to ensure that work is bona fide research High 6 months DEHAA/PIRSA
- Conduct review of research outcomes High Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA
- Develop research and monitoring priorities High Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA

Mineral and Petroleum Exploration

- Ensure that mineral and petroleum activities are conducted according to the provisions of the Management Plan High Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA
- Monitor the development of, and as appropriate ensure the application of exploration techniques appropriate to the marine environment Medium Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA
- In consultation with DEHAA, negotiate with companies the establishment of appropriate terms and conditions for mineral and petroleum exploration Medium Ongoing DEHAA/PIRSA

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FILE : F95/355	DATE : 27 APR 95	

PERMANENT IMPLEMENTATION OF "FLY NEIGHBOURLY" ADVICE OVER HEAD OF BIGHT AREA - GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Following a meeting in Adelaide on 15 March 1995 between representatives from the CAA, Defence, Industry (SA RAPAC), and a representative of National Parks & Wildlife Service South Australia, agreement was reached to permanently introduce "Fly Neighbourly" as a voluntary code of practice in the Head of Bight area.

2. AIM

2.1 The aim of Fly Neighbourly is to promote the harmonious relationship between aviation activities and environmental and conservation interests.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 The Head of Bight Fly Neighbourly Advice (FNA), as outlined at Annex A, becomes effective from 9504261600 UTC

4. CANCELLATION

4.1 This AIP Supplement will remain current until the provisions of Annex A have been included in AIP ERSA.

5. DISTRIBUTION

All AIP holders last issue H20/95.

P007
P001

ANNEX A TO SUP H21/95

HEAD OF BIGHT FNA APPLICABLE 1ST MAY TO 31ST OCTOBER ANNUALLY

The South Australian Government is considering the establishment of a marine park to protect the critical breeding and calving areas of the southern right whale.

The Fly Neighbourly area extends from 130 55 00E to 131 17 00E and to 3NM off shore.

Pilots undertaking sight seeing flights in the Fly Neighbourly area are requested to comply with the following requirements:

1. Enter the area from the eastern extremity and track west.
2. Cruise not below 1000FT.
3. Do not circle whales.
4. Exit the area at any time by executing a turn to track inland of the shore line by 2NM.
5. Re-entry to the area is to track 2NM inland of the shore line to the entry point. (This requirement is to avoid disturbance to land-based whale watchers.)

For operations other than described above please contact:

Operations Manager, West
 National Parks & Wildlife Service South Australia
 (Department Environment & Natural Resources)
 Ph: 086 883 177
 Fax: 086 883 110
 Mail: P O Box 22
 Port Lincoln SA 5606

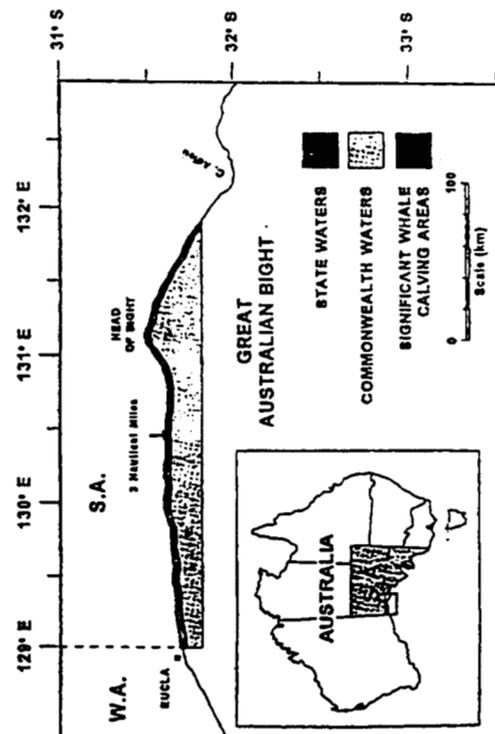
Annex:

A. Head of Bight FNA - Applicable 1 May to 31 October Annually

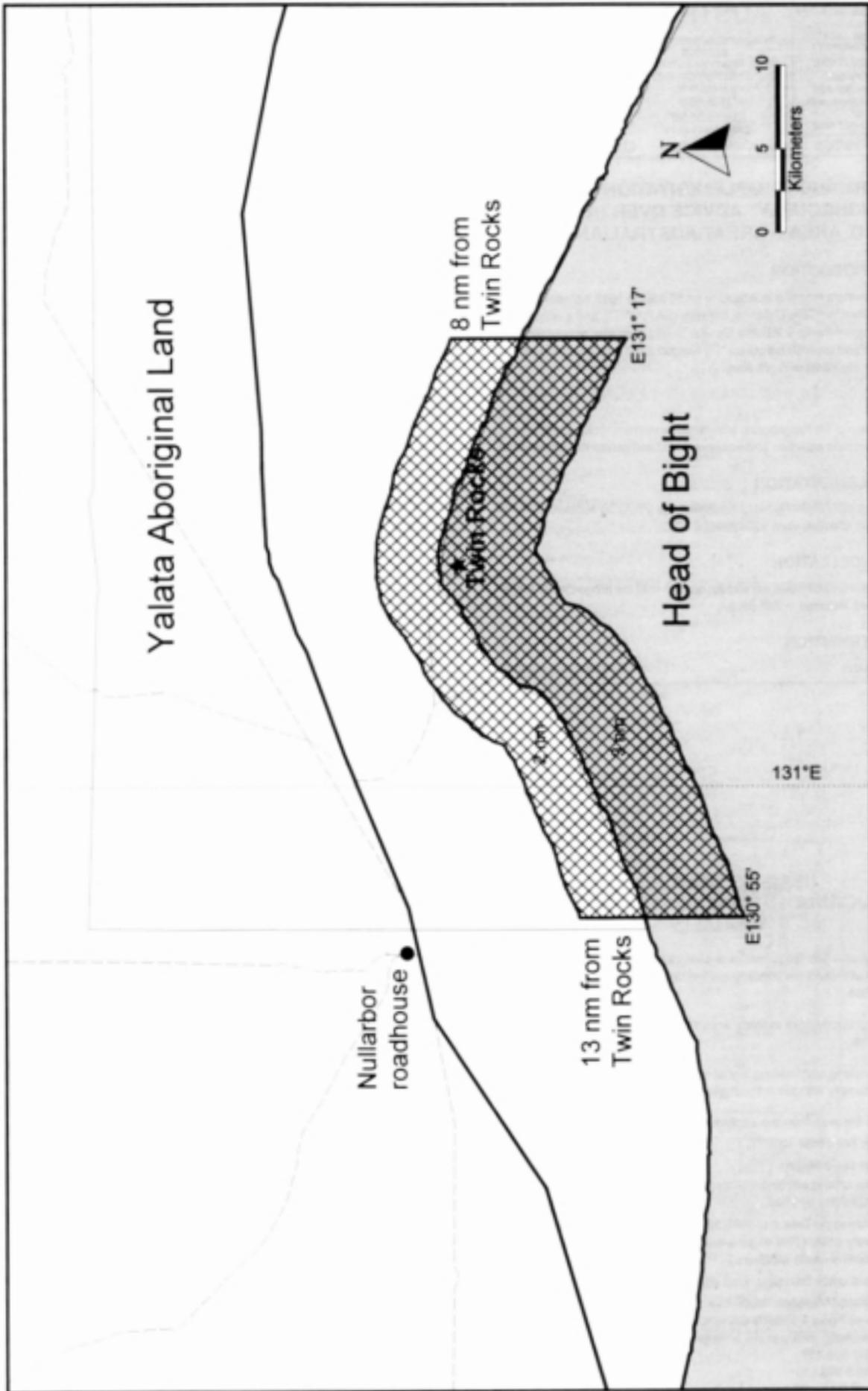
Appendix:

1. FNA Area

APPENDIX 1 TO
SUP H21/95



Appendix 1: HEAD OF BIGHT FLY NEIGHBOURLY ADVICE AREA



CAA "Fly neighbourly" advice area over Head of Bight



Map produced by the Reserve Planning Section,
Heritage & Biodiversity Group, DEHAA
Map projection is AGD66 in decimal degrees

State Legislation

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 This Act provides for the establishment and management of reserves for public benefit and enjoyment. It also provides for the conservation of wildlife in a natural environment. The Great Australian Bight Marine Park is established under the provisions of this legislation. All plants and animals in the park will be protected. Commercial harvesting of fish will continue under a special exemption.

The section of the Marine Park which is the Great Australian Bight Marine National Park is jointly proclaimed under Section 43 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, for rights of entry, prospecting, exploration and mining pursuant to the *Mining Act 1971* and the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982*. The *National Parks and Wildlife Act* therefore provides conditions under which mining and exploration activities may be conducted in part of the Marine Park.

Fisheries Act 1982 Provides for the conservation, enhancement and management of fisheries, regulation of fishing and the protection of certain fish and to provide for the protection of marine mammals and aquatic habitat. Commercial and recreational fishing within the Great Australian Bight Marine Park is managed within the provisions of this legislation.

Native Title (South Australia) Act 1994 Establishes an alternative to the Commonwealth native title scheme which provides for claims to be lodged and determined within the State jurisdiction. The State scheme, as with the Commonwealth, establishes arrangements for mediation as a means to resolve native title claims.

Commonwealth Legislation

Endangered Species Protection Act 1992 applies to Commonwealth areas and Commonwealth actions. The Schedules to the Act list species that are nationally endangered, vulnerable or presumed extinct, endangered ecological communities, key threatening processes, and Agreements between Australia and other countries.

Where a species, ecological community or key threatening process listed in the Schedules to the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* occurs both in commonwealth and State Areas the act requires the Commonwealth to seek the cooperation of the relevant State with a view to the joint preparation and implementation of a recovery plan for that species or ecological community or threat abatement plan for the threatening process.

This legislation also provides for the Commonwealth to assist a State in the preparation a recovery plan or a threat abatement where the species/ecological community or key threatening process respectively, does not occur in a Commonwealth area, and to give assistance in the implementation of a plan.

Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals Act) Act 1974 Where a Commonwealth decision is needed for the approval of a proposal endangered species consideration can trigger environment assessment under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals Act) Act 1974*. For the purposes of environmental assessment a matter is taken to be affecting the environment to a significant extent if it could threaten with extinction or significantly impede the recovery of, a listed native species or a listed ecological community.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975 This legislation will apply to Commonwealth waters, when the Commonwealth Government proclaims an addition to the Great Australian Bight Marine Park. The Act permits the establishment of National and other Parks and Reserves over either land or sea. It protects seals, sea lions and fur seals in Commonwealth waters.

Whale Protection Act 1980 provides for the preservation and protection of whales and other cetaceans including dolphins. It applies to waters other than those of a State or Territory and does not therefore apply to the South Australian section of the Marine Park. If seaward additions are made to the Marine Park by the Commonwealth Government, then this legislation would apply to those waters.

Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth) This Act provides for the recognition and protection of surviving native title and sets out mechanisms for fairly ascertaining native title rights and interests claims by Aboriginal communities. The Act also sets out procedures for dealing with legislative, administrative or physical acts that might affect native title and provides for compensation under certain circumstance where native title has been, or is, extinguished.