

Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas have been developed to provide a responsive and flexible approach to implementing appropriate management strategies at various sites in the Marine Park. A Special Management Area may be designated for a number of reasons including:

- conservation of a particular species or natural resource eg turtle, dugong, bird nesting sites or fish spawning aggregation sites
- public safety
- to ensure opportunities for appreciation by the public
- response to an emergency (eg a ship grounding, oil spill or marine pest outbreak).

There are five main types of Special Management Areas declared in the *Great Barrier Reef Zoning Plan 2003*.

Restricted Access – these areas may not be used or entered without written permission. Restricted Access Special Management Areas are designated at the following locations:

- MacLennan Cay Reef (11-070)
- Moulter Cay Reef (11-130)
- Raine Island Reef (11-243)
- Australian Institute of Marine Science (SR-19-2008)
- One Tree Island Reef (SR-23-2010).

Public Appreciation – these Special Management Areas restrict spearfishing, commercial aquarium fish, coral, and beachworm harvesting

and aquaculture from being undertaken. Public Appreciation Special Management Areas are designated at the following Yellow Zones, as they require detailed site-specific management.

- Yonge Reef (14-138) – lee side (CP-14-4017)
- Lizard Island Reef (14-116b): Mermaid Bay to Pigeon Point (CP-14-4018)
- North Opal Reef (16-025) (CP-16-4029)
- Flynn Reef (16-065) (CP-16-4035)
- Thetford Reef (16-068) (CP-16-4036)
- Fitzroy Island Reef (CP-16-4039) - allows extensive aquaculture
- Dunk Island Reef (CP-17-4045)
- Bedarra Island Reef (CP-17-4045)
- Orpheus Island Reef south-west (18-049b) (CP-18-4053)
- Davies Reef (18-096) (CP-18-4056)
- Cape Upstart (CP-19-4064)
- All of the following areas of the Conservation Park (yellow) Zone within the Whitsundays:
 - Hayman and Hook Islands (CP-20-4075)
 - Saba Bay, Hook Island (CP-20-4076)
 - Double Cone Reef (CP-20-4077)
 - Molle Islands (CP-20-4080)
 - Whitsunday and Hamilton Islands (CP-20-4081)
 - Shute Island (CP-20-4083)
 - Long Island (CP-20-4084 and CP-20-4085)
 - Lindeman, Pentecost, Cole Island, except that part of the zone adjacent to Shaw Island (CP-20-4086).
- Brampton Island - West (CP-20-4091)
- Brampton Island - East (CP-20-4091)



- North Keppel Island - Considine Bay (CP-23-4101)
- Great Keppel Island - western side (CP-23-4102)
- Heron Reef (CP-23-4104)
- Wistari Reef (CP-23-4106).

Seasonal Closure (Offshore Ribbon Reefs) – The Ribbon Reefs and adjacent areas are unique, as they are located at a particular part of the continental shelf, which drops sharply away from the reef edge. These important areas of reef support diverse species including large pelagic fish such as marlin. Special Management Areas are designated in these areas to provide additional protection to the Ribbon Reefs and adjacent habitats. These Special Management Areas prohibit all fishing and detached dories in these areas from 1 January to 31 August each year. Locations for Seasonal Closure (Offshore Ribbon Reefs) Special Management Areas are:

- Area adjacent to Day Reef (14-089) Scientific Research (orange) Zone
- Area adjacent to Ribbon Reef No. 10 (14-146) Marine National Park (green) Zone
- Area adjacent to Ribbon No. 7 Reef (15-026), Ribbon No. 6 Reef (15-032) and unnamed reef (15-034) Marine National Park (green) Zone
- Ribbon Reef No. 5 Patches (15-042) Buffer (olive green) Zone (B-15-3007)
- Ribbon Reefs No. 2 and 3 inter-reefal areas Buffer (olive green) Zone (B-15-3008).

No Dories Detached (Offshore Ribbon Reefs) – For the reasons discussed above, no dories will be allowed to be detached at any time in

the following Special Management Area locations:

- Area to the east of Yonge Reef (14-138) and no name Reef (14-139)
- Area around the No. 10 Patches (No. 3) (14-153a) and No. 10 Patches (No. 4) (14-153b).

Species Conservation (Dugong Protection) – these Special Management Areas reflect the requirements of Dugong Protection Areas under Queensland legislation to the extent to which those areas are located within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and are designated for species conservation. For more information about these areas, see the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*.

Fisheries Experimental Areas – these designated areas are part of Effects of Line Fishing experiment being conducted by the Cooperative Reef Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The Effects of Line Fishing experiment is to be finalised in 2005 and a series of Fisheries Experimental Areas have been designated to allow this important experiment to run to completion. Fisheries Experimental Areas are located at:

- unnamed Reef (14-133) - Mid-shelf reef east of Cape Flattery
 - Reef closed to fishing (other than trolling for pelagic species) until 5 March 2005 (inclusive)
- Fork Reef (18-083) - Mid-shelf reef northeast of Townsville
 - Reef opened to line fishing, limited spearfishing and trolling from 6 March 2005 to 30 November 2005 (inclusive)
- Boulton Reef (20-146) - Mid-shelf reef adjacent to Hydrographers Passage
 - Reef closed to fishing (other than trolling for pelagic species) until



5 March 2005 (inclusive)

- unnamed Reef (21-139) - Mid-shelf reef south of the T-Line in the Swains Reef Complex
 - Reef opened to line fishing, limited spearfishing and trolling from 6 March 2005 to 30 November 2005 (inclusive).

Princess Charlotte Bay – this Special Management Area has been designated to protect dugong within Princess Charlotte Bay in the Far Northern Management Area of the Marine Park. The Special Management Area requires commercial net fishers to apply for a permit to operate within Princess Charlotte Bay.

