

STUDY SITES

Two major sites were used. Both were on the north side of Heron Reef. One was in the Heron-Wistari Reefs Marine Park area in which all fishing has been prohibited since 1974, the 'unfished' area; the other was to the east of the Marine Park area, where line fishing only is permitted and where several pieces of tangled line provided evidence of some fishing (Figure 2). The 'unfished' area was staked out along the reef crest in 50 m intervals over 200 metres and the 'fished' area over 150 m. Weighted ropes were laid perpendicular to the reef crest from each stake to a depth of about 17 m so that divers were aware of the end of each 50 metre section.

The selection of the 'fished' area was made as a result of being unable to locate, in the short time available, an area of comparable habitat to the 'unfished' area, but which was known to be heavily fished. In the absence of this information and after several spot dives at various locations on the north side of Heron Reef, the designated site was chosen.

Figure 2

