

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This memorandum is one of a series of four GBRMPA Technical Memoranda dealing with the terminology, recognition and classification of coral reef cover and zonation features for use with the analysis of remotely sensed data of the Great Barrier Reef.

Objective of the Memorandum

The memorandum outlines how to use the reef cover and zonation classification system designed for use with remotely sensed coral reef data efficiently and easily and easily. It instructs users in the systematic recording of information obtained from field sample and remotely sensed data in the coral reef analysis process. The feature terminology and reef coral and zonation classification system were described in GBRMPA Technical Memoranda 7 and 8 respectively.

A data recording handbook designed for efficient use in the field laboratory is described and worked examples are given.

Summary

The classification system is an attempt to develop a standard for the classification of reef cover and zonation in the Great Barrier Reef region to facilitate comparison and evaluation of interpretations of remotely sensed data. The system is user oriented and based on a logical division approach to classification but is not strictly hierarchical so that classification decisions are not hierarchically dependant. This could limit its usefulness beyond the mapping phase.

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