



Marine Parks Fact Sheet – Where to go for more information

Australia has the largest marine reserve network in the world protecting over 3.1 million square kilometers of our marine environment.¹ These reserves are vital to the preservation of our marine life, however there is a fine balance between protection and exclusion for fishers both commercial and recreational. So it is important for you to know where these reserves are and what you are allowed to do within them. Below are some links to key parts of the marine parks site to help aid you and your research on the reserves.

What do the zones mean?

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/draft-plans/>

To find out which zones you are affected by head to the link above, select the area you are in and click on the 'proposed zoning and rules' link. Essentially:

1. Green zones outline national Parks and no fishing is allowed – also known as the lockout zones.
2. Yellow zones are open for fishing and diving as long as the seafloor is not disturbed.
3. Blue zones are open for many more activities and commercial fishing, supporting the commercial fishing and coastal communities.

How do Marine Reserves work, what are they 'protecting'?

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/what-to-know/protecting-marine-habitats/>

Also known as marine parks or protected areas, marine reserves are areas of Australian waters which are protected from certain fishing and boating activities to help conserve our marine life and environment. This allows for sustainability of our marine life and habitats.

How are they managed?

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/>

“Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), once a marine reserve has been proclaimed, the Director of National Parks must develop a management plan for the reserve.

Management plans provide for the protection and conservation of the marine reserves. Management plans have a maximum life of 10 years and must set out how the reserves are to be managed. The plans provide certainty about the activities that will be allowed in the reserves and must be consistent with the relevant Australian IUCN Reserve Management Principles which define how the marine reserves should be managed.”²

¹ <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/marine/marine-reserves/overview>

² <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/marine/marine-reserves/overview/management>

See what changes are in your area:

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/>

There are 5 designated areas of marine reserves affected by these recent changes, they are:

1. Coral Sea Reserve
2. North Network
3. North-West Network
4. South-West Network
5. East Temperate Network

To find out what changes have happened in your area, or to find out what area you fall into, click on the link above for a national map and links to specific information on each area.

Please note: These reserves are a part of the exclusive economic zone and are located 3 nautical miles out to sea; marine reserves, and issues closer to shore are managed by the state governments.

Where to have your say?

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/get-involved/have-your-say/>

To place a submission during the consultation period head to the link above. You can include your opinions on the new reserves, alternative options, and how you think the reserves should be managed.

Where do I go for more information and resources?

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/background/>

If you would like more information on the reserves, and how they were planned, or any scientific/ expert reports on the reserves the link above includes many documents and further links to information regarding all aspects of the reserves.