

Coral Bay

Coral Bay Restricted Boating Area

Coral Bay is a popular access point for boaters to the Marine Park. A boating strategy has been developed in response to the increasing pressure on this area.

The waters adjacent to the Coral Bay Maritime Facility (CBMF) are a **5 Knot Restricted Area** (see map) – the following conditions apply:

- 5 knot speed limit;
- no anchoring (including no beach anchoring);
- no processing of fish and
- draft limit of 1.2 metres.

Authorised Vessels Only Area

Only vessels that have lawful authority from DEC can enter the **Authorised Vessels Only Area**. The southern boundary of the Authorised Vessels Only Area, (approx. 200 metres north of the CBMF), has been marked with in-water buoys.

Recreational fishing

The Department of Fisheries licenses and regulates recreational fishing in regard to bag and size limits at Coral Bay.

- Refer to the Ningaloo Marine Park Zoning section overleaf for the areas where fishing is permitted and prohibited within the Marine Park. Boaters with more specific information on fishing regulations are available from the DEC Information Centre and the Department of Fisheries.
- Fishing is not permitted on any jetty where it interferes with the movement and operations of vessels.
- Cleaning, scaling, gutting and filleting of fish is not permitted at the CBMF or within the 5 knot Restricted Area and the Authorised Vessels Only Area.
- Fish cleaning facilities are available in town adjacent to the public toilet facilities in Robinson Street.

DEC public moorings at Coral Bay

As there are no private recreational use moorings allowed within Ningaloo Marine Park, DEC has provided public overnight moorings for use in the Maud Sanctuary Zone at Coral Bay (subject to booking and availability).

For the location of public day use and overnight moorings please contact the DEC Information Centre (08) 9948 5131.

Public mooring classes

Colour coded float	Class of mooring	Maximum wind strength	Maximum vessel length
Brown	Tender	30 knots, day use	8 metres
Green	Class A	45 knots, overnight	12 metres
Blue	Class B	30 knots, day use	18 metres
Orange	Class C	45 knots	25 metres

Advice and information for public mooring users

- Public moorings are identified by coloured buoys (see table above) – please enquire at the DEC Information Centre (08) 9948 5131 for more information. There is advice and information provided on the buoy.
- You are responsible for the safety of your vessel while using the moorings.
- You need to book the overnight moorings before use. Please contact DEC Information Centre (08) 9948 5131.
- Please remember that the different coloured moorings are designed for different vessels and different conditions. Ensure the mooring you select is suitable for your vessel, and comply with the information displayed on the mooring float.

Safety Equipment

Equipment	Protected Waters (less than 200 metres from shore)	0-2 Nautical Miles (200-400 metres from shore)	2-5 Nautical Miles (400-1000 metres from shore)	Over 5 Nautical Miles (more than 1000 metres from shore)
Recreational Skipper's Ticket The skipper of a recreational vessel, powered by an outboard motor, shall possess a valid skipper's ticket at all times.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bilge Pump/Bailer All vessels must carry a bilge pump. Vessels under 7 metres may carry a bailer in lieu of a bilge pump.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fire extinguisher Vessels over an enclosed engine or carrying fuel must carry a fire extinguisher. Vessels under 7 metres may carry a fire extinguisher.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anchor and line An anchor and line must be carried.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lifeline A lifeline between the skipper, PFD type 1 or the Australian standard AS 1912 or AS 4758 - Level 100 (or higher) must be carried for every person onboard.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red and Orange Flares At least two red and two orange flares and two orange flares must be carried. One red flare must be carried for every person onboard.	✓	✓	✓	✓
EBRB A 600 litre EBRB system with 100kg of fuel and 100kg of oil must be carried for every person onboard.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parkade Flares A minimum of two parkade flares must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the nearest shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the nearest shore.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marine Radio A marine radio must be carried if operating more than 5 miles from the nearest shore or more than 1 mile from an island located more than 5 miles from the nearest shore. The radio can be 27 MHz, VHF or HF.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Contacts

Department of Transport (DoT)
Coral Bay Maritime Facility Manager: (08) 9949 2079
Ermouth Office: (08) 9949 2079
Garnarvon Office: (08) 9941 1830
Marine Safety Hotline: 1300 863 308
Report a Marine Oil Pollution Incident: (08) 9480 9924
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/

Cyclone Contingency Plan
Code of Conduct: www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/19128.asp

Department of Environment and Conservation
Ermouth Office: (08) 9947 8000
Coral Bay Information Centre: (08) 9948 5131
Website: www.naturebase.net

Department of Fisheries
Ermouth Office: (08) 9949 2755
Fishwatch: 1800 815 507
Website: www.wa.gov.au/westfish

Ermouth
Shire Office: (08) 9949 1399
Ermouth Police: (08) 9949 24444
Ermouth Hospital: (08) 9949 3666

Garnarvon
Shire Office: 9941 0000

Coral Bay
Shire Ranger: 0427 060 570
Fire and Emergency Services Authority: 0427 848 655
Boating forecasts: 1900 659 901

Boating Guide Coral Bay

Marine Safety

Department of Transport

YOU'RE THE SKIPPER YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE



The Coral Bay Maritime Facility is a popular access point for boaters to the Marine Park. A boating strategy has been developed in response to the increasing pressure on this area.

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Ningaloo Marine Park

Ningaloo Marine Park

Ningaloo is the largest fringing coral reef in Australia and a prime conservation area as well as one of our great nature-based tourism and recreation attractions. Visitor numbers are estimated to have more than doubled in the past 10 years to more than 200,000 a year.

Ningaloo Marine Park is vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and is managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) working closely with other agencies.

The DoT is responsible for education and compliance of recreational and commercial vessels and also manages the Coral Bay Maritime Facility (CBMF), which is the sole location (at Monck's Head) where vessels can be launched in Coral Bay. The Department of Fisheries manages commercial and recreational fishing in the area.

Ningaloo Marine Park zoning

When enjoying the Ningaloo Marine Park please make yourself aware of the 'zone' you are in.

- **Sanctuary zones** are look but don't take zones. No extractive activities are permitted in these zones which means no recreational or commercial fishing is allowed. Mining activities are also prohibited.
- **Special purpose zones** (benthic protection) are also look but don't take zones, however recreational 'troll' fishing is permitted.
- **Special purpose zones** (shore-based activities) are established alongside sanctuary zones to allow shore-based recreational fishing for finfish only (no other extractive activities are allowed).
- **Recreation zones** are managed for nature conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing.
- **General use zones** are managed for nature conservation while allowing for sustainable commercial and recreational activities.

Boating tips and reminders

Boating is a great way to see and enjoy Ningaloo Marine Park. Your cooperation while boating will ensure the long term protection of the marine environment.

Please remember:

- to slow down when approaching coral areas;
- to tilt the motor in shallow areas;
- to never cut across coral formations because the water depth changes with the tides (see map for surveyed passage to avoid areas of coral formations);
- to anchor on sand, never coral;
- to check that your anchor is not dragging;
- to approach marine creatures carefully and contact DEC in Exmouth or Coral Bay for details on interacting with marine animals such as whales, whale sharks, dugongs, turtles and dolphins;
- you can't take your boat into the Authorised Vessels Only Area (see map) without authorisation from DEC. The northern and southern boundaries of this area are marked by signposts on the shore and in-water buoys mark the southern water boundary;
- to slow to the speed restriction of 5 knots in the Coral Bay Restricted Area, and always be on the lookout for divers, snorkellers and swimmers;
- to ensure boating sports are carried out well away from Bills Bay and the main entrance/exit channel;
- the boat launching facility (CBMF) is the only place where vessels can be launched in Coral Bay. It is located just north of Monck Head (see map);
- that the discharge of any waste is not allowed in the Marine Park, with the exception of sewage discharge from a vessel in designated areas only – contact DEC for more information;
- that sanctuary markers, navigation aids or moorings in Bills Bay / Monck Head are not to be used as temporary moorings; and
- to avoid standing on or touching the coral while diving, swimming or snorkelling.

Reef navigation

Don't be caught. As swells or waves move in from the sea along Ningaloo Reef, they are suddenly confronted by a rapidly rising seabed, causing them to break. These waves create a potentially dangerous situation for any vessel crossing them.

An important consideration lies in the skipper's ability to understand and interpret the conditions sensibly and objectively.

Going out:

- Inch your way out to the action. Hold station as it takes time to get your bearings and pick up the rhythm of the waves. When you see that opening - don't hang around. Once committed though, tough it out. Never back out halfway through.
- If a big wave does rear up, get the boat's bow up fast and hit the wave at an angle of about 10 degrees off head on with plenty of throttle. Back off the throttle when through and work out your approach to the next wave.
- Look for the lowest point of the wave and be prepared. Remember the correct angle of approach.
- Be careful when applying power in frothy waves as cavitation and loss of power may occur. If so, back off throttle until cavitation stops and reapply power gradually.

Coming in:

- Know what stage the tide is at.
- Observe the reef for a while from a safe vantage point, to get your bearings.
- Study the waves and the way they are breaking.
- Ensure your boat is trimmed to run bow up and be as ready to slow down as you are to accelerate.
- All people on board should be seated low in the boat, wearing lifejackets and holding on.
- Always concentrate on keeping your boat on the back of the wave.
- Avoid surfing at all costs.
- Never get side on in the impact zone.

Warning — you are in a tropical cyclone region

The north west of Western Australia experiences more severe cyclones than any other part of the Australian coastline and is one of the most cyclone-prone coasts anywhere in the world. The cyclone season extends from November through to April, but most coastal impacts occur in the period from January to March.

Please refer to the Coral Bay Cyclone Contingency Plan that DoT activates during cyclones which is available along with a range of other DoT cyclone plans on the web site at www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine/19128.asp

Radio communication

27 MHz	Channels	2788 and 2790.
VHF	Channel	16 and
	Repeater Channels	20, 21 and 22.
HF	Channel 2182.	

Coral Bay Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue monitor the above 27 MHz or VHF channels daily from 8am to 6pm. Please ensure you LOG ON when you launch your boat which also gives you a radio check. CBVSSR is also monitored daily from the Ningaloo Homestead on VHF channel 16.

Exmouth Volunteer Sea Rescue Group monitor the above marine channels between 8am - 6pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

In case of any emergency, the above channels are monitored by nine base stations situated throughout the town of Exmouth.

Please be warned that the 27 MHz band is extremely difficult to pick up five kilometres from the CBMF and on the west coast of North West Cape due to Cape Range.

The installation of VHF repeater stations in this region provides excellent communications coverage.

Navigation lights

All vessels under way during the hours of sunset to sunrise must display navigation lights appropriate to the particular size and type of vessel. For further information please visit our website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine or contact Transport on (08) 9435 7500

Diving flag

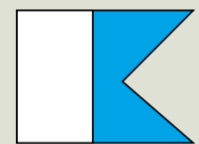
Boats with divers operating from it must display the appropriate signals by day or night to inform other vessels operating in the area. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750mm long and 600mm wide and must be visible for 360°.

Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must display the International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750mm long and 600mm wide.

The flag may be displayed from a buoy. If displayed from a buoy, the flag must not be less than 300mm in length and 200mm in width.

The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

All vessels must keep at least 50 metres clear of boats buoys or areas displaying diving signals. Where it is not possible to keep 50 metres clear, the approaching vessel should travel at the slowest possible speed and keep a good look out for people in the water



International Code Flag "A"

Maintain a good lookout and safe speed

Divers, snorkellers and swimmers may be encountered in the waters around Coral Bay, particularly within Maud Sanctuary Zone, and near beaches and dive site moorings. Please exercise caution, maintain a good lookout and operate at a safe speed when navigating in this area.

Water skiing

Water skiing is when a person(s) is being towed behind a vessel at a speed of 8 knots or more. It takes at least three people to go water skiing:

1. a driver of at least 17 years of age;
2. an observer of at least 14 years of age; and
3. a skier who is being towed by the vessel.

A vessel taking-off with skiers must give way to a vessel landing skiers.

Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST)

Operating a vessel less than 6hp

A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of 4.5 kilowatts (6hp) or less is not required to hold an RST. Children under the age of 10 may not drive a motor boat.

Operating a vessel greater than 6hp

A person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor greater than 4.5 kilowatts (6hp) is required to hold a RST.

Those over 14 and under 16 years of age are restricted to operating during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

Personal water craft

A personal water craft (PWC) – often called a jet ski – is a craft propelled by an inboard motor powering a water jet pump. The operator sits, stands or kneels and uses handlebars to steer.

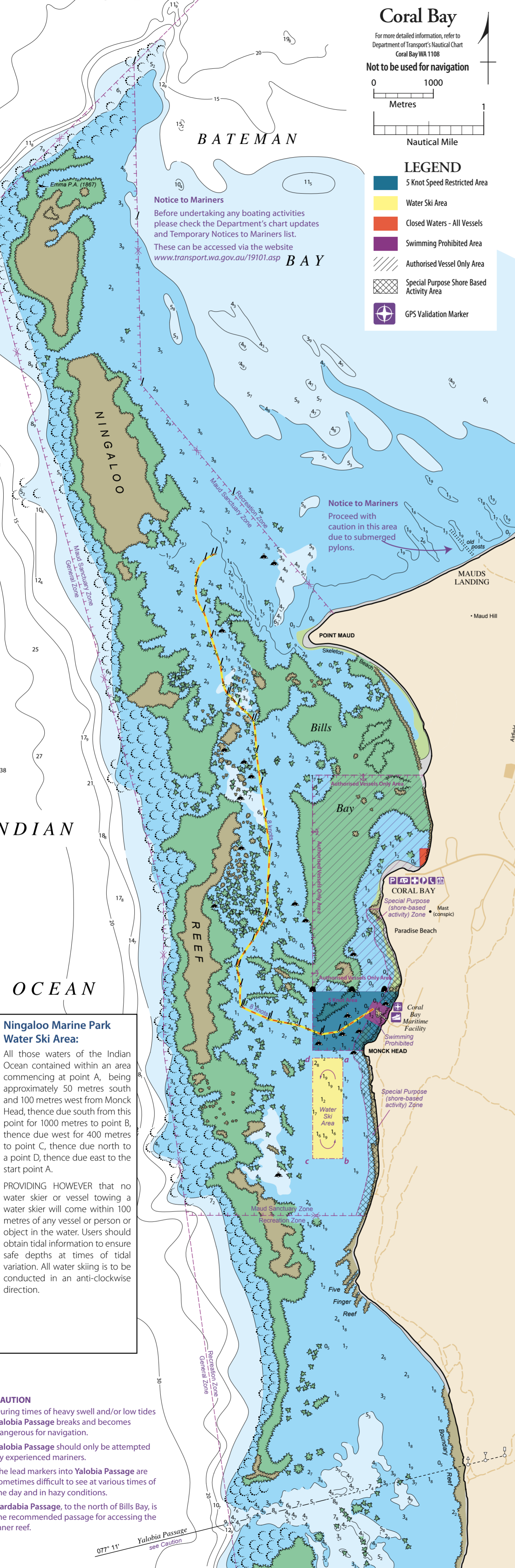
You must be at least 16 years of age and hold an RST to operate a PWC at a speed in excess of 8 knots.

Vessel registration

Registration numbers for powerboats must be 150mm high and displayed on both sides of the vessel mid-ships and clearly visible to other craft.

Yachts and tenders need 50mm high numbers, situated both sides immediately forward of the transom.

Registration stickers need to be positioned adjacent to registration numbers on the port side (left).



Ningaloo Marine Park Water Ski Area:

All those waters of the Indian Ocean contained within an area commencing at point A, being approximately 50 metres south and 100 metres west from Monck Head, thence due south from this point for 1000 metres to point B, thence due west for 400 metres to point C, thence due north to a point D, thence due east to the start point A.

PROVIDING HOWEVER that no water skier or vessel towing a water skier will come within 100 metres of any vessel or person or object in the water. Users should obtain tidal information to ensure safe depths at times of tidal variation. All water skiing is to be conducted in an anti-clockwise direction.

CAUTION
During times of heavy swell and/or low tides Yalobia Passage breaks and becomes dangerous for navigation.
Yalobia Passage should only be attempted by experienced mariners.
The lead markers into Yalobia Passage are sometimes difficult to see at various times of the day and in hazy conditions.
Cardabia Passage, to the north of Bills Bay, is the recommended passage for accessing the inner reef.