

Marmion Marine Park



Visitor guide



Department of Parks and Wildlife
Department of Fisheries



PARKS
FOR
PEOPLE



Above Little Island Sanctuary Zone.

Marmion Marine Park – WA's first marine park

Marmion Marine Park lies offshore from Perth's northern suburbs, between Trigg Island and Burns Beach. Marmion was the State's first marine park and was declared on 13 March 1987. The park has great natural beauty and is one of Perth's most important areas for aquatic recreation. Swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving, boating, fishing, surfing, kayaking, kite surfing, windsurfing and stand-up paddle boarding are all enjoyed in the marine park.

The small islands of Marmion Marine Park provide important habitat for the endemic Australian sea lion and an array of seabirds, while the clear shallow lagoons and reefs are inhabited by a remarkable diversity of marine life. At least 136 species of fish inhabit the park, including temperate and subtropical species. Ten species of sea grass can be found in the shallow waters of the marine park as well as 21 species of seabirds and numerous marine mammals being regular visitors.

The area is culturally significant to local Aboriginal people who have a long history of connection to the land and sea. The Whadjuk Noongar people are the traditional custodians of Marmion Marine Park. Prior to the end of the last Ice Age, the Western Australian coastline was about 10km west of where Rottnest (or Wadjemup) Island is now located. Noongar people lived on the lands that are now submerged in Marmion Marine Park.



Above Swimming cuttlefish.

Know your zones

Marmion Marine Park is zoned to help ensure the biodiversity values of the marine park are conserved and protected, while providing opportunities for recreational use and enjoyment. There are three sanctuary zones, as well as Waterman Recreation Area and a large general use zone in the park. The location and coordinates of each zone are shown on the map, along with the activities permitted in each zone.

Sanctuary zones are 'look but don't take' areas and provide the highest level of protection for marine habitat and wildlife. These zones are managed for nature conservation and allow non-extractive activities such as boating, swimming, scuba diving, snorkelling and nature appreciation. Fishing is not permitted in sanctuary zones.

Waterman Recreation Area surrounds the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre and has been closed to fishing for more than 30 years. All reef life is protected in this area at all times. You may not take any species of reef animal including abalone, shellfish, crabs, rock lobster and octopus. However, line fishing from the shore is permitted.

The **general use zone** is the largest zone and allows for a wide range of commercial and recreational activities such as boating, swimming, diving, snorkelling, sea kayaking, kite and wind surfing, fishing and aquaculture.



Zone markers

Sanctuary zones are marked by yellow buoys that extend over 1m above sea level. The markers can be used as a guide to line up the zone boundary.

They are not designed to be used as moorings and it is an offence to do so.

Fish for the future

Fishing is popular in Marmion Marine Park and permitted in appropriate marine park zones. Please refer to the map and accompanying permitted uses table in this brochure to see where you can fish.

Fishing is not permitted in sanctuary zones and not all types of fishing gear can be used in all zones.

Line fishing is permitted in the general use zone and from shore in the Waterman Recreation Area.

Rock lobster fishing is permitted in the general use zone but you may not take rock lobsters from sanctuary zones or Waterman Recreation Area.

Spearfishing using compressed air is not permitted anywhere in the park. Spearfishing (free diving) can be undertaken only in areas at least 1800m from the shore, as long as you are outside sanctuary zones. Please refer to map.

Abalone can only be taken in the general use zone, but only during the metropolitan abalone fishing season, and you must hold a current recreational fishing license endorsed for abalone.

Sea urchins and all molluscs (shellfish), including turban shells, whelks, periwinkles and baler shells are protected and cannot be taken from the park. The only exceptions are mussels, abalone (during the season), squid, cuttlefish and octopus.

Collection of aquarium fish, marine flora and specimen shells is not permitted in the marine park.

The Department of Fisheries enforces gear, bag, size and possession limits to ensure there will always be fish for the future in Marmion Marine Park. Fishers must ensure they are familiar with rules and hold the required fishing and boating licences.

Parks and Wildlife work collaboratively with the Department of Fisheries and Department of Transport on enforcement, education and other programs.

Weather

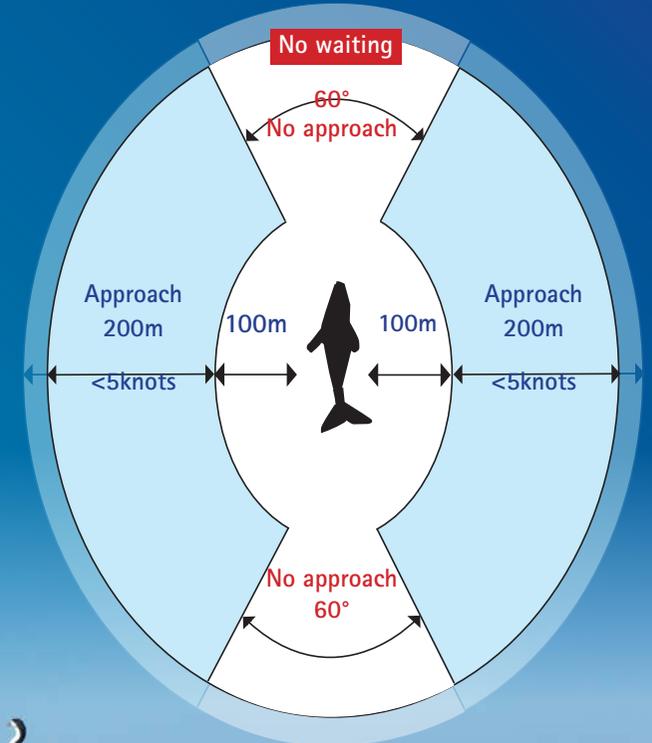
Weather conditions can change suddenly. Consider your safety and find out what the forecast is before you head offshore. There is good diving and snorkelling throughout the year, depending on daily weather, but remember that many sites should only be accessed in good conditions, low swell and light offshore winds.



You can download an EveryTrail app for Marmion Marine Park to your mobile device at everytrail.com/guide/marmion-marine-park and use it to explore the park.

Watching whales

Whales are intelligent, sensitive mammals. Please refer to the diagram below to ensure a safe and enjoyable whale watching experience while protecting these gentle giants. Find more whale watching tips by searching for 'whales and dolphins' at dpaw.wa.gov.au



Right Kayaking in the marine park.



Above Humpback whale tail slapping.

Enjoying the marine park

The lagoons and reefs of Marmion Marine Park are a diver's paradise, forming intricate overhangs, ledges, caves and swimthroughs lined with colourful gorgonians, corals, ascidians, sponges, anemones, sea stars and nudibranchs. The marine park is inhabited by a wonderful array of fish species such as western blue devils, old wives, banded sweep, crested morwong, horseshoe leatherjackets, bullseyes and wrasse. There is good diving throughout the year, dependent on daily weather and local environmental conditions. Inshore submerged reefs such as Boyinaboat Reef, Cow Rocks, Wanneroo Reef, Wreck Rock, Whitfords Rock, The Lumps and Burns Rock entice divers. When the visibility inshore is poor you can head to the offshore reefs of Little Island and Three Mile, where the visibility is usually better, or to the southernmost section of Marmion Reef to dive on the historic Centaur, which was wrecked in 1874 while en route to Fremantle.

If you are looking for a safe place close to shore to introduce your children to snorkelling, look no further than Mettams Pool. This sheltered lagoon less than 2m deep is a good family spot where you can see a range of marine plants and animals close to shore. There is also access for people with limited mobility.

The reef in front of Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club (MAAC) is another excellent snorkel and dive site. The intertidal and inshore areas between Burns Beach and Iluka Beach also offer some good snorkelling and shore diving sites.

A diverse selection of surf breaks cater for all levels of surfing ability including Trigg, Sorrento, Mullaloo and Burns Beach.

Marine mammals are frequently seen throughout the marine park. Humpback whales can be seen during the winter and spring months as they migrate to and from their summer feeding grounds in Antarctica. Southern right whales can also be seen around this time as they migrate north, often accompanied by their calves. Bottlenose dolphins can regularly be seen from the beach and is a privilege to see them in their natural environment.

The Australian sea lion is one of the rarest sea lions in the world, and is endemic to southern Australia. They can be seen basking on the shores of Little Island and Burns Rock or feeding in the surrounding waters. Most of the sea lions near Perth are males and travel to the islands off Jurien Bay to breed every 17 and a half months.

Seabirds such as albatross, skuas, gannets, shearwaters, petrels and ospreys can be seen near Little Island, Burns Rocks, Trigg Island and Hillarys Boat Harbour. The beaches are also frequented by birds, including terns, pied cormorants and darters, which hold their wings out to dry after diving for food.

Hillarys Boat Harbour offers various charter operations including diving, fishing and whale watching.



Above right Osprey eating its catch. Photo –Murray Martin
Below Parks and Wildlife patrol boat.



Caring for the marine park

- Anchor in sand to protect fragile reef, algae and seagrass communities, as these are important nursery habitats and can take years to recover if damaged.
- Quickly and carefully return undersize and unwanted fish to the water. Use wet hands or a wet cloth when handling fish and avoid placing on hot, dry surfaces.
- Always take litter home with you – remember that plastics and fishing line can harm and potentially kill marine wildlife.
- Stay at least 100m from whales. Approach whales parallel to their direction of travel or move more than 300m ahead and allow them to come to you.
- Scuba diving and snorkelling have claimed lives and divers should never become complacent about safe diving practices. Swimming into caverns and under ledges can be hazardous. Take care to avoid boat traffic including jet skis and be sure to tow a dive flag.
- The island nature reserves within Marmion Marine Park provide important habitat for several species of seabirds and haul-out areas for Australian sea lions. Visitors should stay clear of islands and rocks to avoid disturbing wildlife. Dogs are not permitted.
- Sea lions are wild and unpredictable. Swimming with sea lions can be dangerous as they have been known to bite and there is a potential risk of aerial disease transfer such as Tuberculosis. A minimum distance of 10m must be maintained at all times. If a sea lion approaches you in the water, swim away or leave the water to ensure both your safety and the welfare of the sea lion.
- Keep off reefs where possible – reef walking can damage intertidal reef communities.
- It is illegal to feed or entice dolphins, sea lions or other wildlife with food – penalties apply. Feeding changes their behaviour from hunters to beggars and increases their vulnerability to boat strikes, disease and entanglements in fishing gear. Help keep our marine wildlife healthy, safe and wild.
- Go slow for those below. Keep an eye out for Australian sea lions and bottlenose dolphins, which spend much of their time in the top 2m of water but are often difficult to see.
- If you find a stranded, sick or injured dolphin, sea lion, little penguin, whale, turtle or seabird please call Parks and Wildlife's 24-hour Wildcare Helpline on (08) 9474 9055.



Above Australian sea lion.



Above Orange cup coral.

More information

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Swan Coastal Marine Office
39 Northside Drive
Hillarys WA 6025
For general enquiries and marine emergencies
(08) 9303 7700
www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

Department of Fisheries

Hillarys District Office
WA Fisheries and Marine
Research Laboratories
39 Northside Drive
Hillarys WA 6025
Ph (08) 9203 0111
Fax (08) 9203 0110
Report illegal fishing to
Fishwatch 1800 815 507
www.fish.wa.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology

www.bom.gov.au/weather/wa/forecasts

Weather call 1900 926 150

Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue (VJ6LQ)

Ph (08) 9401 3757
(in emergencies)

Radio frequencies

27 MHz
Ch 90 - Working and calling frequency
Ch 88 - Emergency calling
Ch 86 - Alternate emergency calling

VHF

Ch 73 - Working and calling frequency
Ch 16 - Emergency calling
HF4125 KHz - Working and emergency calling



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Photos by Parks and Wildlife and Murray Martin.

Cover photo Juvenile weedy sea dragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*).
Photo – Shannon Conway

ACTIVITIES	GENERAL USE ZONE	WATERMAN RECREATION AREA	SANCTUARY ZONE
Line fishing from boat	✓	✗	✗
Line fishing from beach	✓	✓	✗
Rock lobster fishing	✓	✗	✗
Abalone fishing	✓ (during abalone season)	✗	✗
Netting	✗	✗	✗
Crabbing	✓	✗	✗
Spearfishing	✗	✗	✗
Aquarium fish, marine fauna and specimen shell collecting	✗	✗	✗
Boating	✓	✓	✓
Surface water sports	✓	✓	✓
Swimming, diving and snorkelling	✓	✓	✓

1. Spearfishing is prohibited within 1800m of the shore in Marmion Marine Park. Spearfishing on scuba is prohibited throughout the marine park.
 2. Several areas throughout the marine park have vessel speed restrictions placed on them. There are also areas dedicated to skiing under the Western Australian Marine Act 1982. Please contact the Department of Transport for more details.
 3. Observe "Closed waters - All vessels" area at Boyinaboat Reef. Please see the Department of Transport for more details.

31°43.377'S
115°39.372'E

INDIAN OCEAN

Marmion Marine Park



NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION
Waterlines shown on this map do not necessarily depict a cadastral boundary.
Produced by Department of Parks and Wildlife, Geographic Information Services Branch Oct 2015.

Sea lions - take care

Australian sea lions are rare and protected. They can be found on and around Little Island and Burns Rocks for most of the year and they fish and swim in nearby waters. Sea lions are attractive and interesting creatures but can deliver a nasty bite if aggravated. For your safety and the protection of this species, you are required to keep at least 10m from sea lions at all times. If a sea lion approaches you in the water, move away or remove yourself from the water until the sea lion has swum away.

Whales - keep your distance

During various times of the year, the waters of Marmion Marine Park host a variety of marine mammal species. Humpback whales can be seen during the winter months as they migrate to and from their summer feeding grounds in Antarctica and breeding areas in the north of Western Australia. Please stay at least 100m away from whales and do not approach within an arc of 60 degrees of the whales direction of travel or direction it has just travelled. See diagram overleaf.

Help protect our wildlife - no feeding

Do not feed dolphins, sea lions, sea birds or any other wildlife - this helps protect their health and wellbeing. Although you may feel you are doing them no harm, feeding changes their behaviour from hunters to beggars and increases their vulnerability to disease, boat strikes and entanglement in fishing line. Please report sick or injured wildlife by phoning the Wildcare helpline on (08) 9474 9055.

Legend



- Boat ramp
 - Diving
 - Fishing
 - GPS validation
 - Lookout
 - Picnic area
 - Snorkelling
 - Spearfishing prohibited
 - Swimming
 - Surfing
 - Wreck
 - Marine park boundary
 - 1800m limit
- Closed waters - all vessels
 - General use zone
 - Sanctuary zone
 - Recreation area
 - Underwater rock
 - Rock awash
 - Exposed reef
- Scan this QR code for more information about Marmion Marine Park
<http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/marmion>
-
- Department of Parks and Wildlife

Sanctuary Zone Boundary			
The Lumps			
1	31°47.173'S	115°42.775'E	2
2	31°47.172'S	115°42.947'E	3
3	31°47.682'S	115°43.102'E	4
4	31°47.718'S	115°42.922'E	1
Little Island			
1	31°48.703'S	115°42.410'E	2
2	31°48.705'S	115°42.630'E	3
3	31°48.798'S	115°42.620'E	4
4	31°48.832'S	115°42.467'E	1
Boyinaboat Reef			
1	31°49.585'S	115°43.804'E	2
2	31°49.473'S	115°43.882'E	3
3	31°49.583'S	115°44.085'E	4
4	31°49.653'S	115°44.039'E	1
Waterman Recreation Area			
1	31°50.834'S	115°44.899'E	2
2	31°51.443'S	115°44.916'E	1

No spearfishing on compressed air

No spearfishing 1800 meters

Burns Beach

Burns Rocks

Iluka Beach

Joondalup

Ocean Reef Boat Harbour

Ocean Reef Rd

Mullaloo Beach

Mullaloo Dr

The Lumps Sanctuary Zone

Whitford Rock

Whitford Beach

Wreck Rock

Pinnaroo Point

Little Island Sanctuary Zone

Wanneroo Reef

Cow Rocks

Hillarys Boat Harbour

Hepburn Av

Boyinaboat Reef Sanctuary Zone

Sorrento Beach

Horseshoe Reef

Waterman Recreation Area

Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club

Beach Rd

No spearfishing on compressed air

No spearfishing 1800 meters

Centaur Reef

Mettams Pool

Karrinyup Rd

Trigg Island

Trigg Beach

31°52.560'S
115°41.772'E