Enjoying the marine park

Nature-based tourism charters from Walpole are available so people can get up close to the wildlife and experience the Nornalup Inlet and the Frankland and Deep rivers. The untouched nature, wildlife and scenic quality of these inlets provide a wealth of opportunities for canoeing, boating, recreational fishing and other water-based activities. A major attraction of the marine park is its remoteness that can be experienced, particularly in parts of the estuary where no take zones have not been designated.

The entire Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park is zoned for recreation, and recreational fishing is therefore permitted in all areas. While the marine park has high conservation values, its highly dynamic and variable estuarine nature and its simple basin structure means that a range of fish species can be found here. The marine park serves as an important nursery area for many fish species including juvenile pink snapper. Sharks and rays which are less common in other waters are recorded here. Sharks and rays which are less common in other waters are recorded here. The marine park supports excellent recreational fishing opportunities for a number of fish species. Check first with the Department of Fisheries to find out about bag limits, minimum sizes and any licences that may be needed.

The marine parks... more than just fish

Marine parks… more than just fish

Photos – Damon Annison, David Bettini, Ian Herford/DEC

The marine parks... more than just fish

The marine parks... more than just fish

Walpole and Nornalup Inlets

Walpole and Nornalup Inlets

Marine parks...

WA's submerged wonders

Information guide

More information

Department of Environment and Conservation
South Coast Highway
Walpole WA 6398
Ph (08) 9840 0400
Fax (08) 9840 1267
www.dec.wa.gov.au

Department of Fisheries regional office:
Suite 7, Frederick House
70-74 Frederick St
Albany WA 6330
Ph (08) 9845 7400
Fax (08) 9845 7457
www.fish.wa.gov.au

Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre
South Coast Highway
Walpole WA 6398
PO Box 196
Ph (08) 9840 1111
Fax (08) 9840 1355
email: wnta@wn.com.au

Bureau of Meteorology
www.bom.gov.au/weather/wa/forecasts
WA Marine Service call 1900 926 150

Walpole Sea Search and Rescue
(VMR 619)
Ph (08) 9840 1527
Mobile 0427 770 232
Radio frequency:
VHF  Distress, work and call Ch 21

Current as March 2012
Protecting WA’s marine areas

Western Australia’s marine areas are globally significant. Western Australia’s coastal waters are considered to be among the least disturbed in the world.

The Western Australian coast boasts a big area of biogeographic overlap, between the tropical north (north of North West Cape) and the temperate south (east of Cape Leeuwin), where tropical and temperate species co-exist. The Indian Ocean is also the only ocean in the world that has an eastern boundary current (the Leeuwin Current) that transports warm waters from the equator to the southern coast of a continent.

Our coastal waters are valued by Western Australians. The wide range of environmental, cultural, commercial and recreational values they offer generate employment and revenue and provide people with a source of pleasure and recreation.

The Government of Western Australia is committed to conserving our marine environment and the sustainable use of our natural resources. A major component of the state government’s marine conservation and management strategy is the establishment of a state-wide system of marine parks and reserves. Approximately 1,538,294 hectares of state waters are currently included in marine parks and reserves. This equates to about 12 per cent of state waters, of which 2.4 per cent is in sanctuary (‘no take’) areas.

The conservation and sustainable use of Western Australia’s marine environment is everyone’s responsibility. By working together to reduce human impacts on the marine environment we can pass it on to future generations in a similar condition to what it is in today.

Caring for the marine environment

- Fish for the future. Observe size, bag and possession limits. See Recreational Fishing Guide: South Coast Region for details. Available from the Department of Fisheries.
- Quickly 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.
- Dispose of litter thoughtfully, especially plastics and fishing line.
- Anchor in sand or mud to protect seagrass habitats.
- Stay within the speed limits when boating in Walpole Inlet and in the Deep, Walpole and Frankland rivers.
- Please go slow near shorelines to prevent shoreline erosion, disturbance to waterbirds and disturbance to other marine park users.
- Stay on tracks when accessing the marine park to protect fragile estuarine vegetation.
- Net fishing and spearfishing (including hand spears) is prohibited in the marine park.