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 months from November to April (inclusive) are the sensitive months for the Maud Sanctuary Zone. The Coral Bay Restricted Boating Area (RBA) is a 5 Knot Restricted Area (see map) and the following conditions apply:

- no anchoring (including beach anchoring);
- no processing of fish;
- draft limit of 1.2 metres; and
- once vessels are clear of the Coral Bay restricted boating area they can proceed at 8 knots for the length of the channel.

Authorised Vessels Only Area

Only vessels that have lawful authority from Parks and Wildlife can enter the Authorised Vessels Only Area. The southern boundary of the Authorised Vessels Only Area, (approx. 200 metres north of the CBMF), is marked with a 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 section for the areas where fishing is permitted and prohibited within the Marine Park. Brochures with more specific information on fishing regulations are available from the Parks and Wildlife 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.

Parks and Wildlife public moorings at Coral Bay

As there are no private recreational use moorings allowed at Coral Bay, Parks and Wildlife have provided a number of public day and overnight moorings for use in the Maud Sanctuary Zone.

Public moorings are identified by coloured buoys (see table below) – please enquire at the Parks and Wildlife Information Centre in Coral Bay for more information.

To book an overnight mooring please call Parks and Wildlife Exmouth on 9947 8000. 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.

You are responsible for the safety of your vessel while using the moorings.

All day use moorings are rated to a maximum wind strength of 30 knots, overnight moorings are rated to 45 knots.
Coral Bay Maritime Facility

The Coral Bay Maritime Advisory Committee in conjunction with the commercial operators, recreational users and the Coral Bay community has developed a Code of Conduct for the facility. A copy of the Code is available from the Facility Manager or can be downloaded from www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/coral-bay-facility.asp.

The Underwater Zone Principle of the Code ensures that the Coral Bay Maritime Facility (CBMF) community extends courtesy and consideration to all users of the facility.

To assist, the following rules have been agreed:

- Fishing from the jetty must not obstruct movement of vessels.
- Only commercial vessel operators are permitted to park on the island or causeway. This is restricted to fishing/reefing for a maximum period of 20 minutes.
- Camping or living in vehicles is prohibited at the facility, both on the island and the causeway.
- Educational and informative signage has been provided to assist people to understand the correct behavioural requirements of the facility.
- The months from November to April (summer) are the cyclonic season in the North West of WA. A Coral Bay Maritime Facility Cyclone Contingency Plan is available from the Facility Manager or from www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/coral-bay-facility.asp.
- Moorings

Transport has installed four transfer moorings at the CBMF. Two moorings located immediately to the north of the commercial jetty are not available for use by recreational vessels. These are reserved for commercial operators. Two others located to the west of the CBMF are generally provided for commercial operators although some private or recreational vessel use is permitted.

Speed limit

A 5 knot speed limit applies to all waters around the CBMF. A 5 knot speed limit applies on the causeway and in the trailer car park.

Fueling recreational vessels

Fueling of vessels with inflammable fuels such as ULP is not permitted at either the trailer car park or on the island facility.

Fueling of recreational vessels with diesel is permitted under strict conditions. Boaters are required to seek approval from the Facility Manager to ensure the fueling is carried out in a legally.

Fueling of vessels is not permitted during peak periods – liaise with Facility Manager if required.

Rubbish removal

Littering from boats is not permitted. All rubbish and waste is to be brought back to the facility and taken to the landfill site.

Fish cleaning

Fish cleaning is only permitted at the facility adjacent to the public toilets in Robinson Street in town.

Authorised Vessels Only Area

Only vessels that have lawful authority from Parks and Wildlife can enter the Authorised Vessels Only Area. The southern boundary of the Authorised Vessels Only Area, (approx 200 metres north of the CBMF), is marked with six water buoys.

Recreational fishing

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

- Refer to the Ningaloo Marine Park Zoning section for the areas where fishing is permitted and prohibited within the Marine Park. Brochures with more specific information on fishing regulations are available from the Parks and Wildlife 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.

Coral Bay Restricted Boating Area

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

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

- no anchoring (including beach anchoring);
- no processing of fish;
- draft limit of 1.2 metres; and
- once vessels are clear of the Coral Bay restricted boating area they can proceed at 8 knots for the length of the channel.

Public mooring table

- All day use moorings are rated to a maximum wind strength of 30 knots, overnight moorings are rated to 45 knots.

- Public mooring table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category/Boating area</th>
<th>Coral Bay</th>
<th>Maximum Speed</th>
<th>Maximum Draft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corridor</td>
<td>8 knots</td>
<td>1.2 metres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>12 knots</td>
<td>1.6 metres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>16 knots</td>
<td>2.0 metres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>20 knots</td>
<td>2.5 metres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

The Department of Transport (DoT) is responsible for education and compliance of recreational and commercial vessels and manages the Coral Bay Maritime Facility (CBMF), which is the sole location on Monck Head where vessels can be launched in Coral Bay.

Ningaloo Marine Park zonning

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

- **Sanctuary zones** are zones that don't take lones. 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 zones that don't take lones, however recreational 'dive' 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 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 passages to avoid areas of coral formations);
- to anchor on sand, never coral;
- to check that your anchor is not dragging;
- to approach marine structures carefully and contact Parks and Wildlife in Exmouth or Coral Bay for details on interacting with marine animals such as rays, whale sharks, dugongs, turtles and dolphins;
- you can't take your boat into the Authorized Vessels Only Area (A.V.O.A.) without authorization from Parks and Wildlife. The northern and southern boundaries of this area are marked by yellow buoys on the shore and in-water buoys mark the southern water boundary;
- to slow down to the restriction of 5 knots in the Coral Bay Restricted Area, and always be on the lookout for divers, snorkellers and swimmers;
- to keep boating sports are carried out well away from Bills Bay and the main entrenched channel; the boot launching facility (CBMF) is the only place where vessels can be launched in Coral Bay;
- 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 Parks and Wildlife 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 out by whales 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 in the skipper's ability to understand and interpret the conditions varies 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, tuck 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 the throttle off when through and work up your approach to the next wave.
- Lock 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 up on the bow and be as ready to slow down as you can 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 waves.
- Avoid surfing at all costs.
- Slow down as you approach the waves.

Warning — you are in a tropical cyclone region

The north west of 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: transport.wa.gov.au/imarine/coral-bay-factfile.asp

Radio communication

- **27 MHz** Channels 27/180 and 27/130
- **VHF** Channels 16 and Repeaters Channels 6/7, 12/13, 20, 21 and 22
- **HF** Channel 2152.

Coral Bay Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue is monitored on the above channels between 7am - 8pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

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

Please be warned that the 27 MHz band is extremely difficult to pick up due to the size of the area and distance from the coast, particularly from 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 size and type of vessel. For further information please visit our website or contact Transport on 13 13 56.

Diving flag

Any boat with divers operating from it must always display a yellow flag to denote the presence of divers. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag “Y”. The flag must be at least 7.5m x 10m and 60cm x 90cm.

Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must also display the International Code Flag “Y”. The flag must be at least 7.5m x 10m and 60cm x 90cm.

Divers not operating from a vessel or jetty may display the flag from a buoy. If displayed from a buoy, the flag must not be less than 3.0m x 2.0m.

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

Water skiing

Water skiing involves being towed over water at a speed of 6 knots or more by a motor boat supported on the surface by a ski or skis, an aquaplane or other apparatus, or your feet.

It takes at least three people to go water skiing

1. A driver of at least 17 years of age with a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST) or;
2. An observer of at least 14 years of age
3. The person being towed by the vessel.

Vessels taking off with skiers always give way to vessels landing a skier.

Beach take off and landings are only permitted in the designated take off and landing areas.

Skiers are permitted between the hours of sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise indicated.

Personal water craft

To operate a personal water craft (PWC) at a speed greater than 6 knots you must be at least 10 years of age and hold an RST. Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket at all times and at times carry safety equipment:

- within 400 metres of the shore – IJaleset Level 150, 100 or 50/50;
- between 400 metres and 2m from shore – IJaleset Level 150 or 100 only and an in-dale minimum distance flare kit;
- between 2 and 5m – IJaleset Level 100 or 150 only and an in-dale minimum distance flare kit and emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB);
- Free skiing and water jumping is prohibited whenever any speed restricted area;
- within 30 metres of another PWC;
- within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water; PWC may operate when towing a water skier. When towing a water skier all vessels are required to carry an observer of at least 14 years of age. Observers must also wear a lifejacket. PWC not engaged in water skiing must at all times remain well clear of the take off and landing area and any vessels engaged in water skiing.

Boat registration

Personal water craft registration

Each skipper operating a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 8hp, must hold a WA Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST) or interstate or overseas equivalent.

If you hold a valid/current interstate ticket, recognised by DoT and you enter, as a visitor or with the intention of permanently residing in the State, you have three months to have the qualification recognised.

If your boat is registered in another State, you have three months after bringing it into WA to register it in this State (recreational boats brought in from NT have only 30 days).