Coral Bay Maritime Facility

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 eastern adjacent to Coral Bay Maritime Facility (CBMF) 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 marketed 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 overhead for 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 Marine Park.

Public moorings are identified by coloured buoys (see table below) – please enquire at the Parks and Wildlife Information Centre in Coral Bay for further information. There is also advice and information provided on the mooring flags.

To book an overnight mooring please call Parks and Wildlife Eumuch on 09947 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 flag.

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.

Public mooring table

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Coral Bay Restricted Boating Area

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Boating Guide

Coral Bay

Marine Safety

The white mooring buoys are distinctive and display CT01 to CT04. Please contact the Facility Manager for further information.

Fees are payable for the use of the two seaside transfer moorings. Transport has installed a series of tender moorings on and around the CBMF. These are predominantly utilised by commercial operators and government agencies. Recreational vessels are not permitted to use the tender moorings without the explicit approval of the Facility Manager.

Entry onto island facility

Boaters are expected to rig their vessels while in the trailer/ car park to reduce time spent launching on the island. Boaters are required to stop before entering the island to allow departing vehicles and transferred vessels to leave as they have right of way. Boat trailers with a low draw-bar may damage the top of the boat ramp surface. A reece-hitch is available for loan to trailers (ie, use the winch), particularly at low tides to reduce the speed limit.

Wildlife Exmouth on 9947 8000.

To book an overnight mooring please call Parks and Wildlife public moorings (see table below) – please enquire at the Parks and Wildlife Information Centre in Coral Bay for further information. There is also advice and information provided on the mooring flags.

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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 Coast Marina Facility (CCMF), which is the sole basin (at Monkey Mia) where vessels can be berthed at Coral Bay.

Ningaloo Marine Park, zoning

When exploring the Ningaloo Marine Park please make yourself aware of the zones you are in:
- Sanctuary zones are keep boat (or land based tourism) activities to a minimum.
- Partial sanctuary zones allow land and boat-based tourism activities. It is recommended you stay at least 50m clear of the reef while in these areas.
- Park and Wildlife zones exist to protect these areas from any activities.
- 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:
- slow down when approaching coral areas.
- double check for coral before you pass (it looks like brown seaweed). The risk of damage to the coral is often greater when you are not expecting it.
- in calm,_small, quiet water, the risk of damage is not great. However, in wind and wave, damage will inevitably occur.
- in rough,_turbulent water, it is not safe to pass too close to the coral.

In all cases, keep clear of the coral by at least 50 metres. Keep clear of water ski areas and designated points to ensure boating sports are carried out well away from Bills Bay and the coral within the conservation area.

Reef navigation

Don’t head straight out if you are outside of the reef in the Exmouth Gulf. This area is shallow and dangerous. It is recommended you stay at least 50 miles from the reef edge.

A person in charge of a vessel less than 3.75 metres in length is not allowed to carry it when boating.

Before undertaking any boating activities you must:
- check the tide charts for information on tide conditions
- make sure the tide is suitable for your activities
- ensure your boat is trimmed to run bow up and be as ready to slow down as you are to accelerate.
- always be aware of people and conditions
- never get side on to the wave.

Warning — you are in a tropical cyclone region

The north-west Australian experience more severe cyclones than any other part of the Australian coastline and one of the most intense cyclone seasons in the world. The cyclone season extends from November through to April, but most cyclone impacts occur in the period from January to March.

Ningaloo is located in the Coral Bay Confluence Plan区内. The Coral Bay Confluence Plan is designed to facilitate safe and sustainable tourism and recreational boating in and around the Coral Bay area.

Recreational Skippers’ Ticket

In certain conditions these small, fast moving sailing vessels may be difficult to see and skippers need to maintain a proper lookout at all times and take appropriate action to avoid collisions.

Vessel not registered

Most boats or yachts must be registered with DoT and an annual registration fee is payable. Interstate vessels have only 30 days).

Paddle craft

Recreational canoes, kayaks, surf skis, self-tipping, self-inflatable or similar paddle craft that are propelled by a person using a paddles must comply with the Vessel Registration Act in the local jurisdiction.

Sea anchor

If you are registered in another state, you have three months after arriving in WA to register your vessel in accordance with the Vessel Registration Act.

Navigation lights

All vessels underway 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.