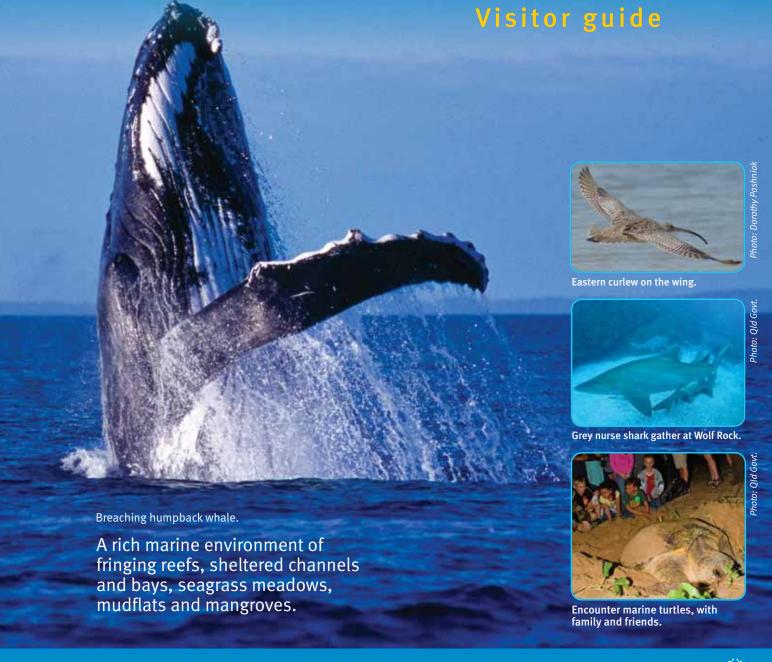
Great Sandy Marine Park



Welcome to

Great Sandy Marine Park

Access

The Great Sandy Marine Park extends from Baffle Creek in the north to Double Island Point in the south. It includes Hervey Bay, Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Inlet and the waters off the east coast of Fraser Island, seaward to three nautical miles.

The park is easily accessed from coastal towns and boat ramps from Rules Beach north of Bundaberg to Rainbow Beach on the Cooloola Coast, and from marinas in Bundaberg, Urangan, and Tin Can Bay.

Management

The Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing's (NPRSR) Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) manages the Great Sandy Marine Park.

The marine park offers a wide range of recreational, research and commercial opportunities. Its tidal lands and marine waters form a transition zone between tropical and temperate waters, where changing water temperatures drive unique and dynamic life cycles and influence marine habitats, communities and wildlife.

Zoning

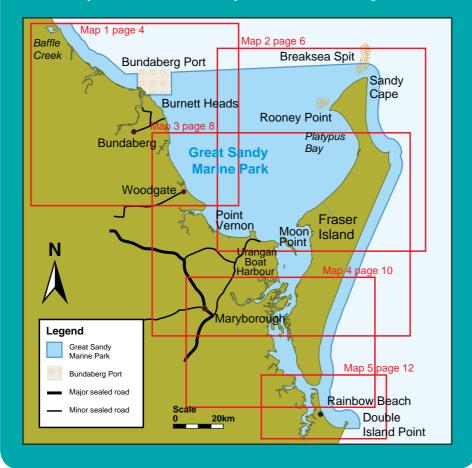
Conservation—along with the reasonable use of significant marine natural resources —is achieved through a zoning plan consisting of five zones, eight designated areas, and a system of regulations and permits.

The zones range from no-take marine national park zones—green zones—to general use zones. For more information see page 3.

What is a designated area?

Designated areas allow for the management of issues that occur seasonally, such as protection for migratory shorebirds, marine turtles and dugong. The purpose and management provisions of designated areas are in addition to the purpose and provisions of the zones in which the designated areas are located.

Great Sandy Marine Park—know your zones and designated areas.



Find a map

Map 1.	Woongarra Coast to Woodgate	Pages 4–5
Map 2.	Southern Gutter; Platypus Bay; Rooney Point to	
	Sandy Cape; Point Vernon to Moon Point	Pages 6-7
Map 3.	Hervey Bay: Burrum Heads to Urangan;	
	Northern channels of Great Sandy Strait	Pages 8-9
Map 4.	Great Sandy Strait: River Heads to Kauri Creek	Pages 10-11
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Get to know the five zones

1. Marine national park zones

Marine national park zones—green zones—provide the greatest level of protection for areas of high natural and ecological value. Marine national park zones are identified on the zoning map in green. They are 'look but don't take' zones where activities such as diving and photography are allowed, but fishing and collecting are prohibited. All fishing equipment must be stowed and secured prior to entering a green zone.

2. Buffer zones

Buffer zones have the same entry and use provisions as marine national park zones, but allow for trolling for pelagic species. They are identified on the zoning map in olive green. An area around the marine national park zone at Wolf Rock is currently the only buffer zone in the Great Sandy Marine Park.

3. Conservation park zones

Conservation park zones—yellow zones protect significant marine habitats. Commercial netting, trawling and harvest fishing are prohibited. Restrictions apply to most other activities.

Line fishing is limited to one line or rod and one hook or lure per person. When trolling, each person is limited to a maximum of three lines or rods with a combined total of six hooks. Where crabbing is permitted, only four catch devices may be used per person.

The Great Sandy designated area that overlays conservation park zone allows for additional commercial and recreational fishing which is different from those in the rest of the conservation park zone. For more information about the Great Sandy designated area see page 10.

4. Habitat protection zones

Habitat protection zones are coloured in dark blue. They are located over areas that contain sensitive habitats. Trawling is prohibited in the habitat protection zones, but most other activities are allowed.

5. General use zone

The light blue general use zone covers all remaining areas of the marine park. These zones provide both conservation and reasonable use. Commercial activities require a permit, but most other activities are allowed.

Great Sandy Marine Park—Zones

Provisions Table (What you can do and where)

Entry and use provisions	General use zone	Habitat protection zone	Conservation park zone	Buffer zone	Marine national park zone				
FISHERIES, FISHING AND COLLECTING ACTIVITIES									
Bait netting	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	No ^A	No ^A				
Aquaculture	Permit	Permit	Permit	No ^A	No ^A				
Crabbing	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ^{2,9}	No ^A	No ^A				
Bait gathering	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	No ^A	No ^A				
Line fishing	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{5,9}	No ^A	No ^A				
Limited collecting	Yes ^{3,9}	Yes ^{3,9}	Yes ^{3,9}	No ^A	No ^A				
Limited spearfishing (snorkel only)	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	No ^A	No ^A				
Traditional use of marine resources	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶	Yes ⁶				
Trolling	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{4,9}	Yes ^{4,7,9}	No ^A				
Commercial netting (other than bait netting)	Yes ⁹	Yes ⁹	No ^{8,9}	No ^A	No ^A				
Harvest fishing for aquarium fish, coral and beachworm	Permit ¹	Permit ¹	Permit	No ^A	No ^A				
Harvest fishing for sea cucumber, trochus, tropical rock lobster	Permit ¹	Permit ¹	No	No ^A	No ^A				
Trawling	Yes ⁹	No	No	No ^A	No ^A				
ОТІ	IER ACTIVI	TIES							
Boating, diving, photography	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Research (other than limited impact)	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit				
Shipping (other than in a designated shipping area)	Yes	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit				
Tourism program	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit				

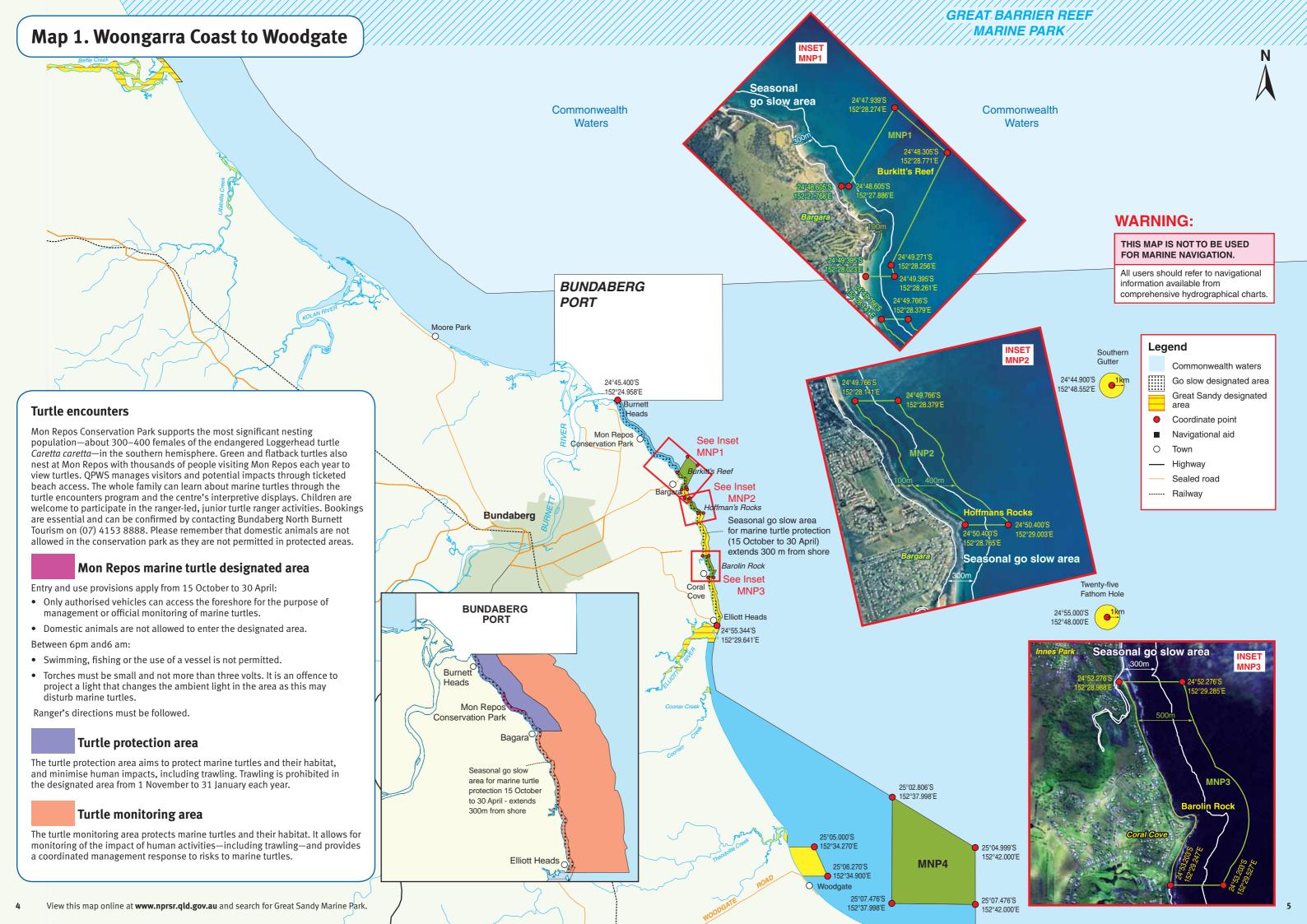
NOTES ON ENTRY AND USE PROVISIONS

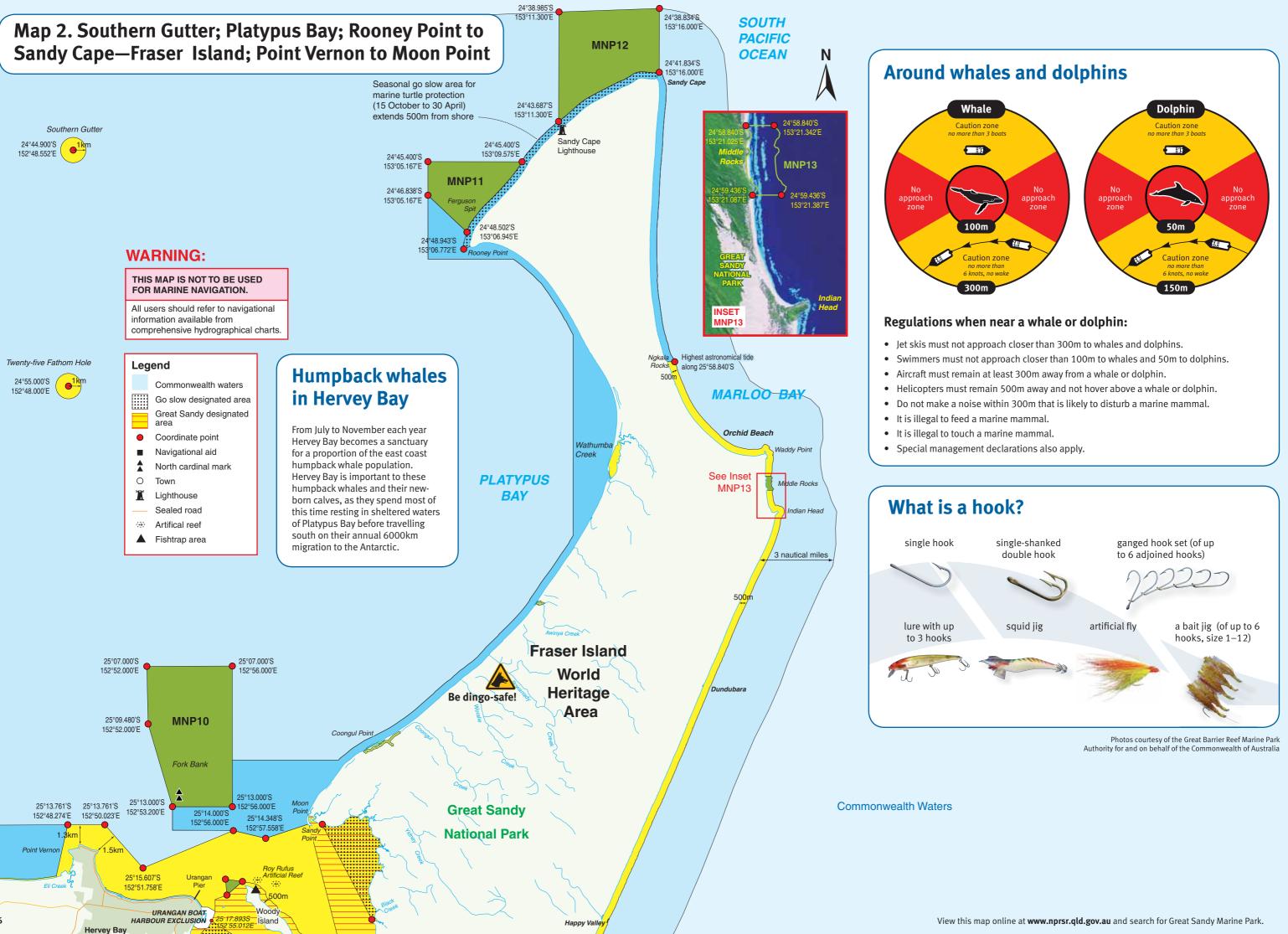
- A. All fishing equipment must be stowed and secured prior to entering a buffer zone or green zone.
- Other than an accredited harvest fishery.
- 2. Limited to 4 catch devices (e.g. crab pots or dillies) per person.
- 3. By hand or hand-held implement.
- 4. Maximum of 3 lines/rods per person with a combined total of 6 hooks.
- Limited to 1 line/rod per person and 1 hook/lure per line (except the Great Sandy Area which is as per note 4).
- 6. Activities that are not "as of right" in the zone, or that involve the take of protected species require either a permit or a Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement.
- Pelagic species only.
- 8. Commercial fishers holding Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry endorsements can continue commercial fishing activities within the Great Sandy Designated Area.
- All fishing activities must comply with restrictions or conditions placed upon them by the Fisheries Act and Regulation.

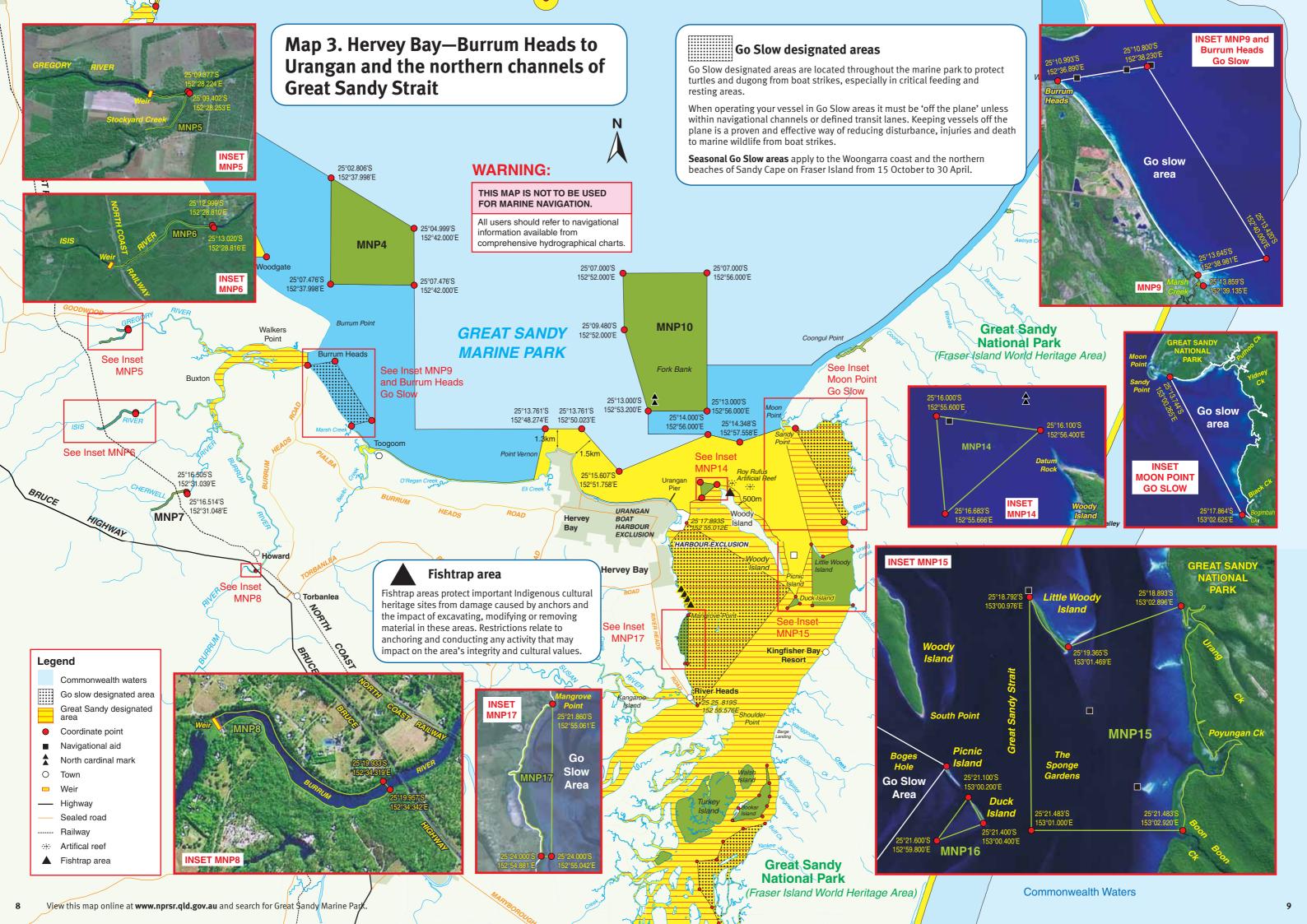
Note: Permits are required for most other activities not listed above. Designated Areas may provide additional restrictions at some locations. The zoning plan does not affect the operation of s.2.11 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

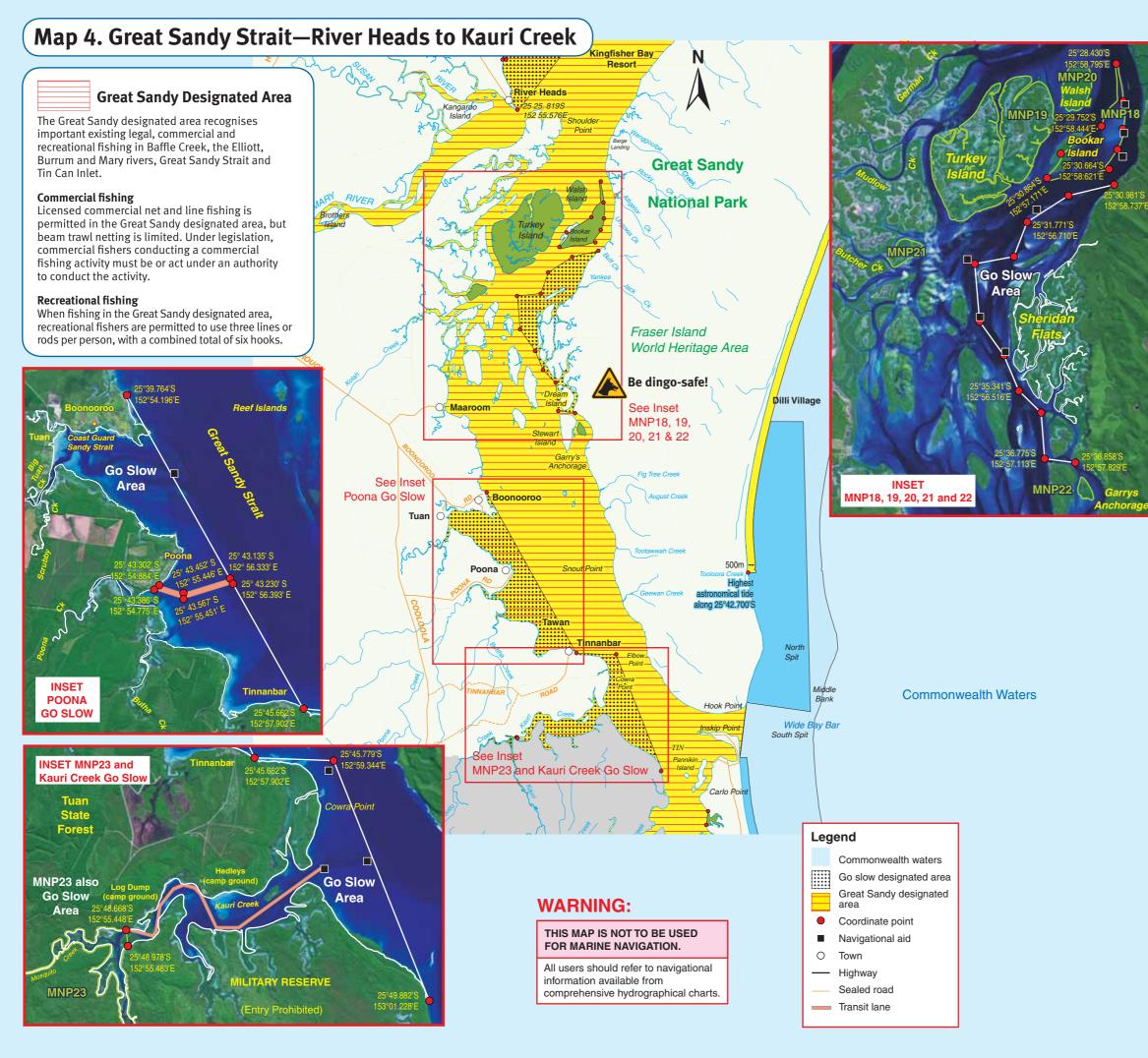
Other management provisions.

Vessels may travel on the plane in official marine park transit lanes.
 View the transit lanes at www.nprsr.qld.gov.au and search for Great Sandy Marine Park.









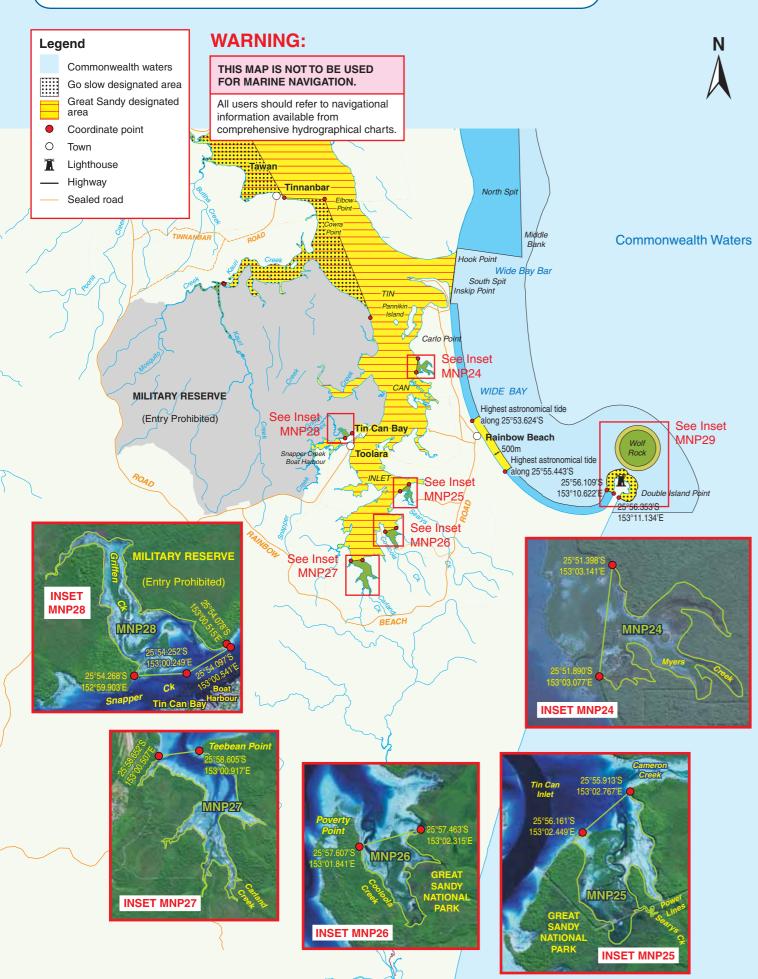
Shorebird roosting and feeding area

The shorebird roosting and feeding area exists to protect shorebirds, particularly migratory shorebirds from disturbance by people, vehicles, vessels, aircraft, domestic animals, habitat loss and degradation, and introduced pests and predation.

- Dogs are to be controlled and/or restrained in a way that prevents them from causing excessive disturbance to shorebirds in the area.
- Groups of feeding and roosting shorebirds and/or their habitat must not be excessively disturbed by people or the operation of vehicles, vessels or aircraft.



Map 5. Great Sandy Strait: Kauri Creek to Wolf Rock; Double Island Point including Tin Can Inlet



Protecting the grey nurse shark

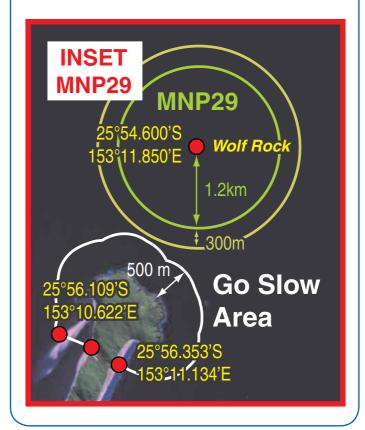
Wolf Rock marine national park zone

The grey nurse shark *Carcharias taurus* is one of Australia's most endangered marine species. Although relatively harmless to humans, because of the shark's fierce appearance, this inshore shark species was hunted to near extinction during the 1960s and 70s. The species' survival now requires specific management and protection from further potential impacts such as, fishing and disturbance from inappropriate diving activities. The grey nurse shark is listed as endangered in Queensland under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, and listed as critically endangered nationally under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Wolf Rock, near Double Island Point, is the northern most known aggregation site—gathering area—of endangered grey nurse sharks in Queensland. The green zone protects grey nurse sharks from a point over Wolf Rock out to 1.2km radius. A buffer zone assists this protection for a further 300 metres, by limiting fishing to trolling for pelagic species only.

Wolf Rock has special significance as both a mating site, and as the only known site along the east coast of Australia where pregnant females aggregate. Grey nurse sharks are not prolific breeders, as cannibalisation of siblings in the uterus results in a maximum of only two pups per litter. Their slow breeding rate means the recovery of this species from previous overfishing is slow

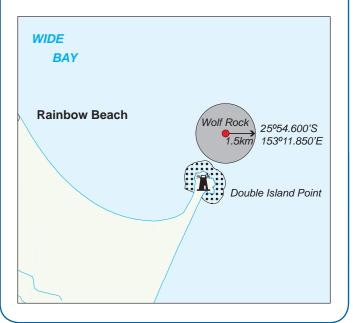
Enjoy diving at Wolf Rock, but it is restricted to daylight hours and in groups of no more than 10. Advanced and novice divers should consider diving under the guidance of the local authorised commercial dive operator. Apart from grey nurse sharks, divers will see unique volcanic pinnacles with steep walls and a series of gutters, schools of pelagic fish like trevally, as well as Queensland grouper (a no-take fish species) often seen suspended almost motionless in the water column. Manta rays, surgeon, angel and lion fish are seen close to coral encrusted rocks, while leopard sharks lie quietly on the bottom.



Grey nurse shark designated area

The grey nurse shark designated area further protects the grey nurse shark population, their habitat and minimises harm or distress—especially to the pregnant females that congregate here—caused by diving or other human activities. The designated area extends 1.5km around a point at Wolf Rock. Activities are highly regulated and restrictions apply to everyone, including divers entering and using the area.

- touch or feed a grey nurse shark
- dive between 6pm and 6am
- chase, harass or interrupt swimming patterns or interfere with a shark's natural behaviour
- attempt to block cave entrances or gutters, or entrap grey nurse sharks
- use mechanical or electro-acoustic apparatus including, but not limited to, scooters, horns and shark-repelling devices and
- dive in a group of more than 10 divers.



Stay



Safety is our concern, but your responsibility. Swimming in the ocean is not recommended due to strong currents, rips, sharks, marine stingers and other potential hazards. Medical assistance can by hours away.

Emergency

Police, Fire, Ambulance call Triple Zero (000) EMERGENCY



If you have difficulty connecting to Triple Zero (000), try 112

Safety at sea

- Log on with the local marine rescue authority.
- Ensure you have the vessel's required safety equipment.
- Check tide times and weather forecasts.
- Know the risks, your equipment, your responsibilities and your boat.
- Seek local advice about strong currents and tidal influences.

Essentials to bring

- vour vessel's required safety equipment
- · a first-aid kit
- adequate fuel
- drinking water
- insect repellent sun protection
- current zoning map.

Weather forecasts

- Boating weather service: Maritime Safety Queensland, phone 1300 360 426
- Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au



Warning!

Tsunami. cyclones and extremely high tides may occur in coastal areas.

Always tune to the local radio station for weather updates or tsunami warnings. For further information, phone 1300 tsunami (1300 878 626 4) or search www.bom.gov.au/tsunami

Extreme weather events

Tsunami, cyclones and extreme tides

A tsunami is a large destructive sea wave, or series of waves, caused by underground earthquakes, landslides or volcanic action. The wave can hit the entire beach as a swell of water many metres deep. It can quickly inundate areas up to hundreds of metres inland, spreading as far as one kilometre inland. As the wave retreats, sometimes gradually, it pulls everything in its path out to sea. A tsunami can form so quickly that first warnings may only give you minutes to move to higher ground.

On hearing a tsunami warning:

Act immediately! You may have only minutes to respond.

Your life may be in danger if you are in the water, near the beach or estuaries, on jetties or in harbours. Move further than one kilometre inland from the beach or to higher ground (at least 10m above sea level). If you are in a vessel in a harbour, an estuary or shallow coastal waters, if time permits secure your vessel and seek higher ground. Vessels already at sea should stay offshore in deep water.

During cyclones and floods

Do not stay in flooded, storm surge or tide-affected areas. Move to higher ground quickly. Beach driving conditions can deteriorate quickly during cyclones and water levels can rise quickly. Pack up and leave early.

Be croc wise

Estuarine crocodile sighting have been reported within Great Sandy Marine Park.

- Camp at least 50m from the water's edge.
- · Never clean fish or discard fish or food scraps near the water's edge, campsites or boat ramps.
- Take care when launching or retrieving your boat.

If visiting **Fraser Island**

Be dingo-safe

Dingoes are wild and unpredictable animals.

- · Never feed dingoes.
- Watch them from a distance; don't encourage or excite them.
- Always stay close (within 5m) to your children, even small teenagers.
- Walk in small groups.
- Lock up your food stores, iceboxes and food scraps.
- · Keep fish and bait in sealed containers off the ground.
- Make tents and camp sites boring for dingoes; keep your belongings secured.
- · Visitors camping with children on Fraser Island are advised to camp in fenced campgrounds.

If you feel threatened by a dingo:

- stand up at your full height
- · face the dingo
- fold your arms and keep eye contact
- · calmly back away
- if in pairs, stand back to back
- confidently call for help
- do not run or wave your arms.

If attacked defend yourself aggressively.

A guide to best practice in the marine park

Organise your gear

Be prepared

- Minimise packaging and reduce waste.
- Organise buckets and/or bins with lockable lids to stow rubbish and bait.
- Invest in quality fishing gear—cheap lines, nets and pots break easily. increasing their chance of being lost or abandoned.
- · Use biodegradable cleaners.
- Dispose of rubbish appropriately.



Keep your food stores and ice boxes secure from wildlife

Go slow for those below!

'Go slow for those below' is a legal requirement in Go Slow designated areas. High boat speeds can cause serious injury or kill marine wildlife. Go Slow areas aim to protect turtles and dugong from boat strikes in critical feeding and resting areas.

Boaties should go slow for those below even outside designated areas, and especially over seagrass beds, shallow coral reefs and in the channels as the tide falls.

sponge colonies that

resemble termite mounds.

Anchors pull up seagrass,

break coral and damage

the gastropod colonies.



Stow it ... don't throw it!

If you ship it in, ship it out! Marine wildlife will swallow fragments of plastic containers, bags, rope and fishing line, thinking they are food.

Go well around, let them rest

Each time shorebirds fly needlessly they lower energy reserves, reducing their ability to survive. Noise, speed, movement and pets easily disturb shorebirds. Always travel slowly and go around flocks. Always stay on designated roads and tracks. Remember that shorebirds and turtles nest above high water. Their nests are well camouflaged and not easily seen.



Fish for the future

Fishing activities are allowed in most of the marine park but some restrictions apply; refer to the zoning entry and use provisions table. Stay up-to-date with bag and size limits.

- Conserve fish stocks. Take only what you need and learn more about catch-and-release.
- Check your fishing gear regularly and reduce impacts on non-target species.

Underwater care—leave only bubbles, take only photos

Take care when diving and snorkelling.

- · Practise buoyancy control and test your gear over sand, away from coral.
- Never rest on or hold corals and avoid hovering over corals when taking photographs.
- Quietly observe marine wildlife and do not interrupt natural behaviour.

Tread softly—leave only footprints, take only photos

- Leave shells on the shore; they are homes for hermit crabs. Always return creatures and rocks to their original position when exploring.
- Coral cannot be taken from the marine park without permission.
- Never feed wildlife, keep wildlife wild.



14

You need to know ...

Permits and fees

The Great Sandy Marine Park is a protected area. The QPWS manages the marine park to ensure activities are safe and sustainable, for all to enjoy now and in the future.

Permits are required for:

- camping in national parks
- · tourism programs and other commercial activities
- · competitive events
- extraction or collection of natural resources
- aircraft and hovercraft operations
- structures and works
- scientific research activities.

Permits may also be required for other activities that may impact on the environment, wildlife, or other visitors. Always check first. Visit us online at **www.nprsr.qld.gov.au** and search for Permits.

Camping on Fraser Island or Woody Island

Fraser Island and Woody Island both offer great vessel-based camping experiences at appropriate locations. Camping permits apply.

Visit us online at **www.nprsr.qld.gov.au** and search for Fraser Island or Woody Island.

Conditions of camping include:

- · displaying a completed camping tag
- using a fuel stove—no campfires
- · domestic animals are prohibited
- taking your rubbish with you
- being dingo safe if camping on Fraser Island (see page 14).

Know your zones and designated areas

Entry and use provisions apply and are enforceable. Penalties apply for non-compliance.

Rangers patrol the area and are on the lookout for inappropriate activities such as:

- Travelling on the plane in 'Go Slow' areas (see page 9).
- Fishing or collecting in 'green zones' (see page 3).
- Not abiding by whale watching approach regulations (see page 7).

Report incidents

Marine Safety Queensland, phone (07) 4973 1208 (24hrs)

• marine pollution incidents including fuel, oil and sewage spills.

RSPCA Queensland, phone 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)

- injured wildlife
- stranded or dead marine turtles or mammals (including identification tag numbers).

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)

- illegal fishing activities, phone 1800 017 116
- marine wildlife entangled in shark nets, phone 1800 806 891.

Queensland Police

- life threatening situations, call Triple Zero (000)
- non-urgent assistance, phone Policelink 131 444
- report 'hooning' activities by drivers of either vehicles or vessels, phone 134 666.

Visitor information

For general visitor information contact the following tourism information centres:

Bundaberg North Burnett Tourism

- www.bundabergregion.info
- 271 Bourbong Street, Bundaberg Qld 4670
- ph (07) 4153 8888 or 1300 722 099

Hervey Bay Visitor Information Centre

- www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au
- Cnr Maryborough-Hervey Bay and Urraween Road
- Hervey Bay Qld 4655
- ph (07) 4125 9855 or 1800 811 728

Gympie Cooloola Tourism Centre

- www.cooloola.org.au
- Lake Alford, 24 Bruce Highway, Gympie Qld 4570
- ph (07) 5482 5444 or 1800 444 222

Further information

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Visit us online at **www.nprsr.qld.gov.au**

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