

# Boating Guide Coral Bay Marine Safety



REGISTRABLE VESSELS Including sailing vessels that are or can be propelled by mechanical power.	
PROTECTED WATERS Includes rivers, lakes, estuaries, harbours and waters within 400 metres from the shore in unprotected waters but excludes Cambridge Gulf and Lake Argyle.	UNPROTECTED WATERS Beyond 400 metres from the shore.
✓	✓
✓ Minimum Level 100 <b>MUST BE CARRIED</b>	✓ Minimum Level 100 <b>MUST BE WORN</b>
✓ Minimum Level 100 <b>MUST BE CARRIED</b>	✓ Minimum Level 100 <b>MUST BE CARRIED</b>
✓ Minimum Level 100 <b>MUST BE CARRIED</b>	✓ Minimum Level 100 <b>MUST BE WORN</b>
✓ Minimum Level 50S <b>MUST BE WORN</b>	✓ Minimum Level 50S <b>MUST BE WORN</b>
RECOMMENDED	✓
RECOMMENDED	✓
RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED beyond 4 nautical miles
RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED within 4 nautical miles
RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED



YOU'RE THE SKIPPER  
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE

August 2023

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Contact details  
Department of Transport  
Email: Ed.Boat@transport.wa.gov.au  
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine  
Exmouth Office: 9216 8219  
Carnarvon Office: 9941 6800  
Coral Bay Maritime Facility Manager: 0427 848 655  
Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

### Police

Emergency: 000  
Water Police: 9442 8600  
Exmouth Police: 9947 8700

### Department of Fire and Emergency Services

#### Marine Rescue Western Australia

Emergency contact: VHF 16  
Marine Rescue Exmouth  
Marine Rescue Carnarvon  
Marine Rescue Coral Bay

### Boating Weather Forecasts

Boating weather: 1300 815 916  
Website: www.bom.gov.au

### Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Website: www.dbca.wa.gov.au

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facebook.com/MarineSafetyWA

For further information go to  
www.transport.wa.gov.au/boatingguides  
or scan the QR Code

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16-08-02-SER-0423-WEB-S1



**RECOMMENDED**

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## Coral Bay Maritime Facility

### Code of conduct

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/imarine/coral-bay-facility.asp](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine/coral-bay-facility.asp)

The underlying 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 loading/unloading for a maximum period of 20 minutes.
- Camping or living in vehicles is prohibited at the facility, both on the island and the trailer/car park.

Educational and informative signage has been provided to assist people to understand the correct behavioural requirements at the facility.

The months from November to April (inclusive) 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/imarine/coral-bay-facility.asp](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine/coral-bay-facility.asp)

### Moorings

Transport has installed two transfer moorings at the CBFM. 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 CBFM are generally provided for commercial operators although some private or recreational vessel use is permitted.

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 westerly transfer moorings.

Transport has installed a series of tender moorings on and around the CBFM. 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.

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 trailored 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 reeve-hitch is available for loan from the Facility Manager to reduce the risk of this type of damage.

Boaters are asked to avoid "driving" their vessels onto the trailer (ie, use the winch), particularly at low tides to reduce the chance of subsidence at the base of the concrete ramp blocks.

Once a vessel is removed from the water drivers are to immediately proceed to the de-rigging area provided at the top car park.

People should not be in a vessel being towed by a vehicle along the causeway or roads, as the practice is illegal and very dangerous.

### Speed limit

A 5 knot speed limit applies to all waters around the CBFM.

A 5 kph speed limit applies on the causeway and in the trailer/car park.

### Fuelling recreational vessels

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

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

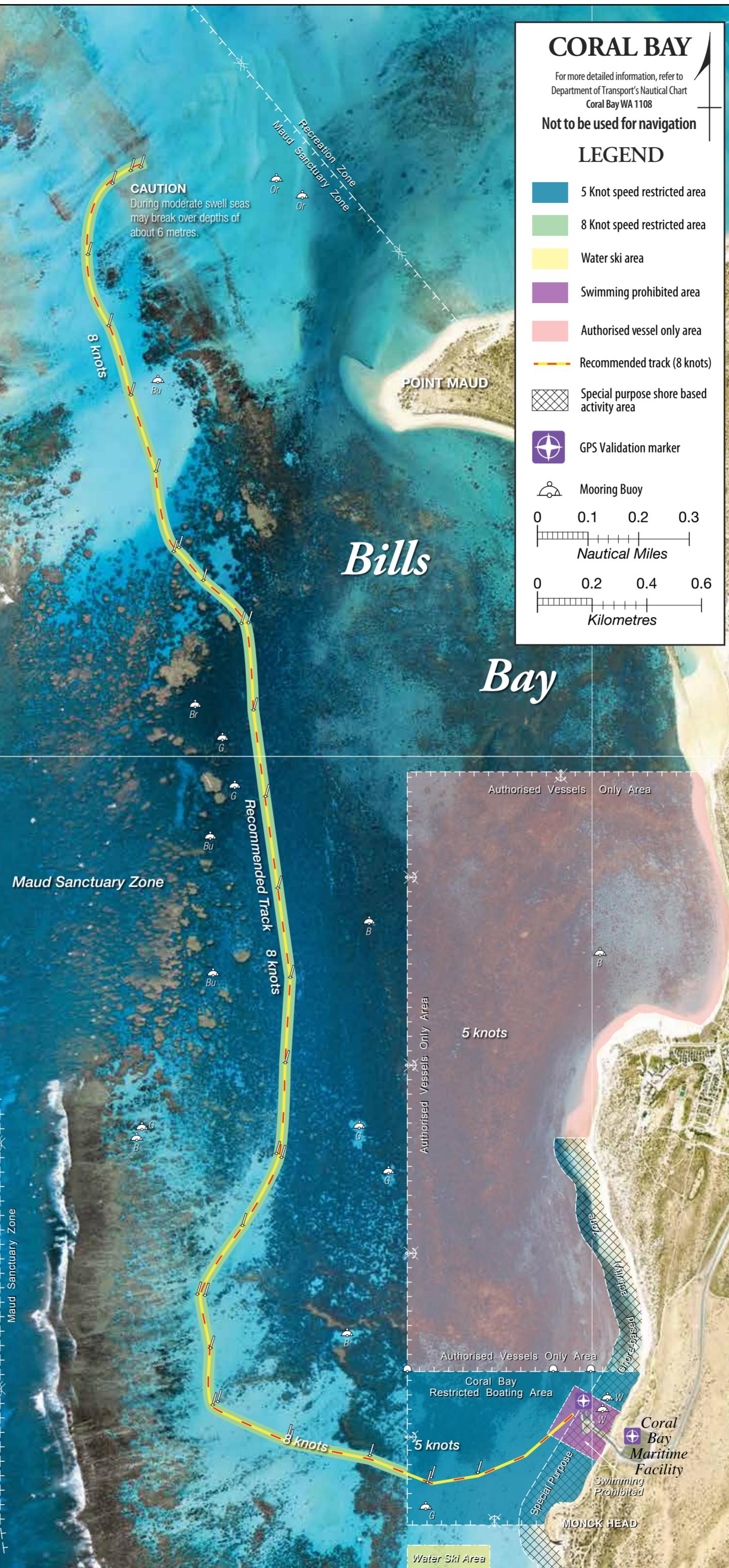
Fuelling of vessels is not permitted during peak periods - liaise with Facility Manager if required.

### 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.



## Coral Bay

### Coral Bay Restricted Boating Area

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 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.

### 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 CBFM), is marked 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 overleaf 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 CBFM 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. There is also advice and information provided on the mooring float.

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.

### Public mooring table

Colour coded float	Maximum vessel length	Maximum wind strength
Black	Kayaks only	30 knots
Brown	8 metres	30 knots
Green	12 metres	30 knots
Blue	18 metres	45 knots, overnight
Orange	25 metres	45 knots

# Recreational Boating in the Ningaloo Marine Park

## Recreational Skipper's Ticket



The person in charge of a recreational vessel with a speed of **6 horsepower or less** is not required to hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST).

A skipper in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor greater than **6 horsepower** is required to hold an RST and carry A person under 10 years may not drive a motor boat.

RST holders over 14 but under 16 years of age are restricted to operating during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

## Interstate skipper's tickets

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 Western Australia, you have three months to have the qualification recognised. For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

## Diving

Any boat with divers (not snorkellers) operating from it must always display signal flags by day or night to alert other boat users. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750 millimetres long and 600 millimetres wide. Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must also display the International Code Flag "A".

The flag can be displayed from a buoy and 200 millimetres in width. The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

## Vessels to keep clear

When approaching a place or another vessel displaying the International Code Flag "A" or the appropriate signal during the hours of darkness, you must—

- (a) keep your vessel at least 50 metres clear of that place or vessel; or
- (b) where it is not possible to keep 50 metres clear of that place or vessel—

## Diver Below

**Keep Clear 50 Metres**

Divers can be displayed from a buoy and 200 millimetres in width. The flag must not be less than 300 millimetres in length and 200 millimetres in width. The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

## Diver's signal flags

The flag can be displayed from a buoy and 200 millimetres in width. The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

## Personal water craft (PWC)

Every skipper of a PWC must hold an RST. A skipper who is older than 14 but under 16 years of age with an RST can only operate a PWC during daylight hours at a maximum speed of 8 knots. Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket (minimum 50S) at all times.

- proceed at the slowest speed at which the vessel can be safely navigated; and
- maintain a proper lookout for people in the water;
- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn);
- flares or electronic visual distress signal device.

## Water skiing

Water skiing involves being towed over water at a speed of 8 knots or more by a motor boat.

## 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.
2. An observer of at least 14 years of age.
3. A person being towed.

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. Skiing is only permitted between the hours of sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise indicated. For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

## Kiteboarding and windsurfing

In certain conditions these small, fast moving sailing craft may be difficult to see and skippers need to maintain a proper lookout at all times and take appropriate action to avoid collisions. All windsurfers and kiteboarders have a duty of care to ensure their activities are conducted with regard to the prevailing conditions and circumstances and take appropriate action to avoid collisions. When travelling beyond 200 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:

- lifejackets (minimum 50S) (must be worn);
- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn);
- flares.

For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

## Paddle craft

Recreational canoes, kayaks, surf skis, wave skis, inflatables or similar paddle craft that are propelled by a person using a paddle must comply with WA marine laws.

## Most boats or yachts

When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:

- lifejackets (minimum 50S) must be worn;
- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn);
- flares.

For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

## Vessel registration

You must advise DoT on the sale (within seven days) or the acquisition (within 15 days of any power driven vessel). Most boats or yachts must be registered with DoT and an annual registration fee is payable.

## Transfer of ownership

If your boat as a motor, or is fitted for one, it must be registered and its subject to an annual registration fee. Yachts, canoes, surf skis and other craft not fitted for a motor, are not required to be registered.

**Interstate vessels**

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

For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

## 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 (at Monck Head) where vessels can be launched in Coral Bay.

### Ningaloo Marine Park zoning

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

- Sanctuary zones are look but don't take zones. 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 look but don't take zones, however recreational 'trof' 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 and recreation, including recreational fishing.
- General use zones are managed for nature conservation while allowing for sustainable commercial and recreational activities.
- Recreation zones are managed for the long term protection of the marine environment. Please remember:

#### 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 never cut across coral formations because the water depth changes with the tides (see map for surveyed passage to avoid areas of coral formations);
- to check that your anchor is not dragging;
- to approach marine creatures carefully and contact Parks and Wildlife in Exmouth or Coral Bay for details on interacting with marine animals such as whales, whale sharks, dugongs, turtles and dolphins;
- without authorisation from Parks and Wildlife. The northern and southern boundaries of this area are marked by signposts on the shore and in-water buoys mark the southern water boundary;
- to slow to the speed restriction of 5 knots in the Coral Bay Restricted Area, and always be on the lookout for divers, snorkellers and swimmers;
- to ensure boating sports are carried out well away from Bills Bay and the main entrance/exit channel;
- the boat 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. As swells 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 lies in the skipper's ability to understand and interpret the conditions sensibly 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 out – don't hang around. Once committed though, tough 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 off the throttle when through and work out your approach to the next wave.
- Look 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 bow up and be as ready to slow down as you are 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 wave.
- Avoid surfing at all costs.
- Never get side on to the wave.

#### Warning – you are in a tropical cyclone region

The north west of Western Australia experiences more 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 [www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/coral-bay-facility.aspx](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/coral-bay-facility.aspx)

#### Radio communication

VHF Channel 16 and HF Channel 20, 21 and 22 Repeater Channels Channel 2182.

Marine Rescue Coral Bay is monitored daily from 9am to 5pm, from early April through to mid-October and over the Christmas and New Year period. Log on with VHF channel 16 or 80. Please call Coral Bay Discovers 99425874.

- 6pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays. In case of any emergency, the above channels are monitored by nine base stations situated throughout the town of Exmouth.

#### Navigation lights

All vessels underway during the hours of sunset to sunrise must display appropriate navigation lights for the size and type of craft. For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56.

**CORAL BAY**

For more detailed information, refer to DoT's Bureau of Marine Survey & Hydrography (BSH) website at [www.bsh.doi.wa.gov.au](http://www.bsh.doi.wa.gov.au)

**NOTES**

Not to be used for navigation

Legend

5 Knot speed restricted area

8 Knot speed restricted area

Water ski area

Swimming prohibited area

Authorized vessel only

Recommended track (8 knots)

Recommended shore-based activity area

GPS Validation marker

Moving Buoy

CAUTION

During moderate swell seas may break over depths of about 6 metres.

Passage

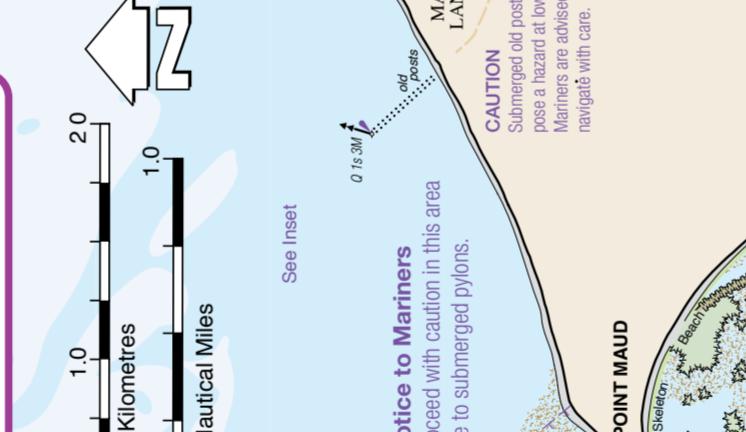
**Notice to Mariners**

Before undertaking any boating activities please check the Department's chart updates and Temporary Notices to Mariners list. These can be accessed via the website [www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/notices-to-mariners.aspx](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/notices-to-mariners.aspx)

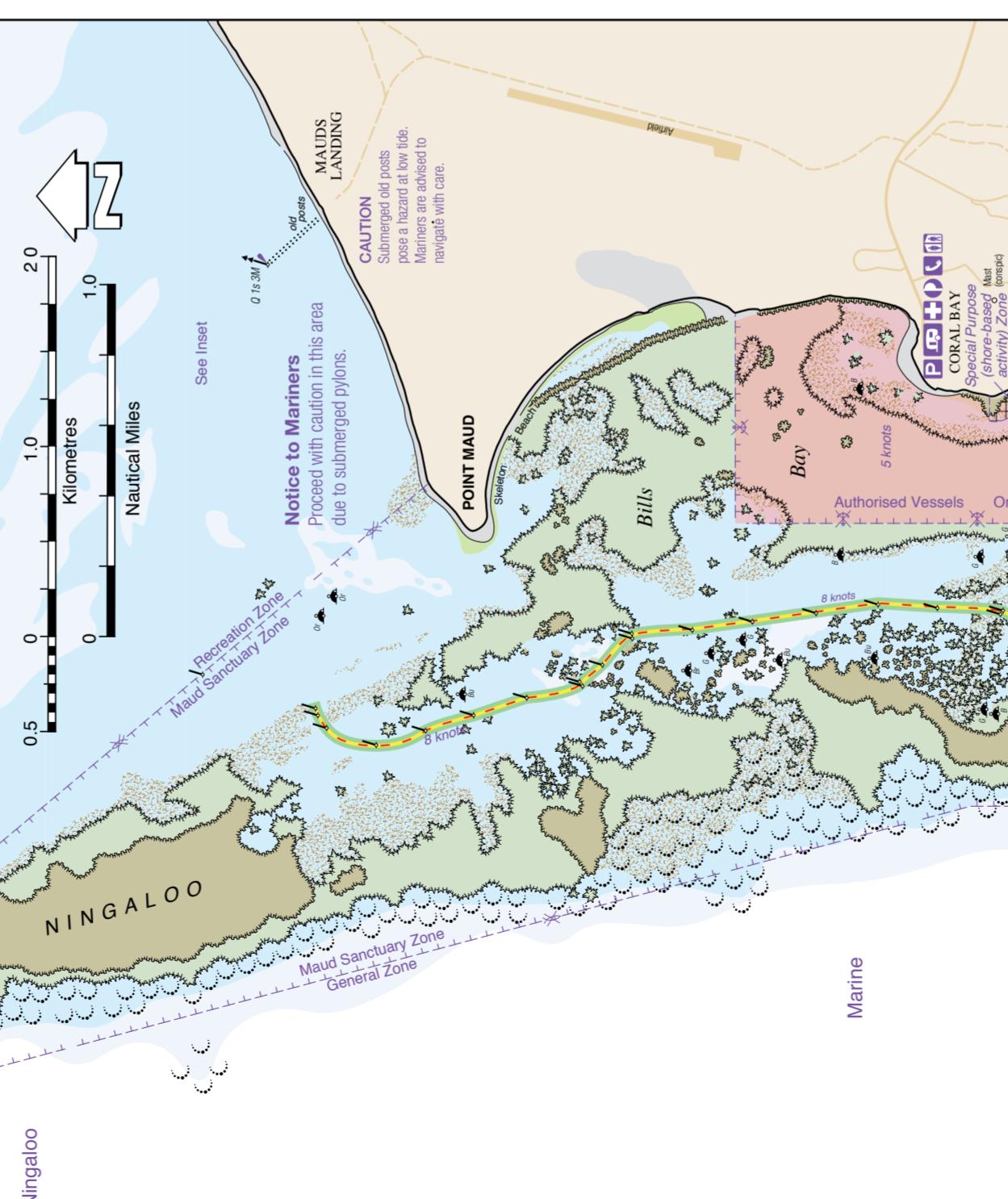
## BATEMAN

# Remember to LOG ON! LOG OFF! every trip

with the local Marine Rescue group



See Insert



## OCEAN

