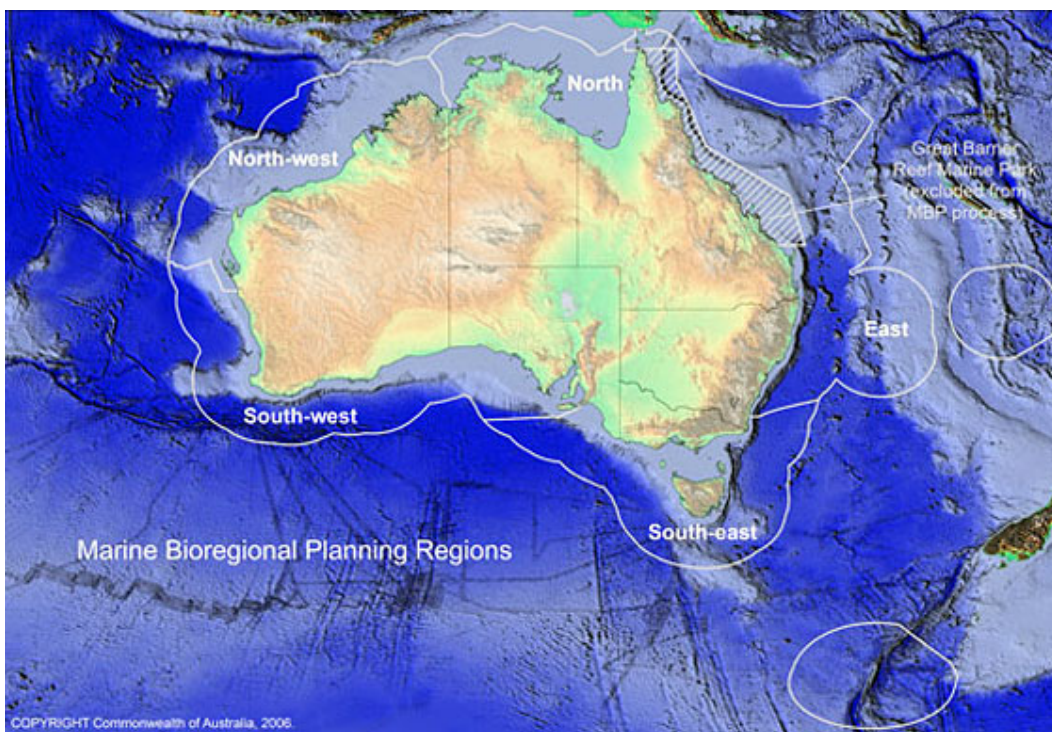


## 12. Commonwealth Marine Jurisdiction

A full assessment of the Commonwealth marine jurisdiction is beyond the scope of this report. Given the immensity of the Australia Exclusive Economic Zone and the potential that this large area presents for marine conservation, only a short introduction has been included here.

It is hoped that the Commonwealth Government's policy of a program of Regional Marine Plans under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) will lead to a significant increase in the level of protection given to marine biodiversity in Commonwealth managed marine waters. It is stated Commonwealth Government policy that these Regional Marine Plans will include a system of Marine Protected Areas, to be established within Australia's 14 million square kilometre ocean jurisdiction.

Regional Marine Planning began in October 2006 with a notice inviting public comment on the South-east Network of Commonwealth Marine Reserves (CMRs). The consultation phase involved 13 proposed new CMRs in Commonwealth waters in south-eastern Australia that were officially declared and implemented in 2007. However, these reserves have been roundly criticised by the marine conservation sector as manifestly inadequate.

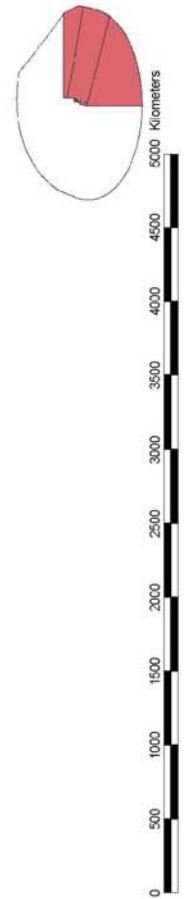
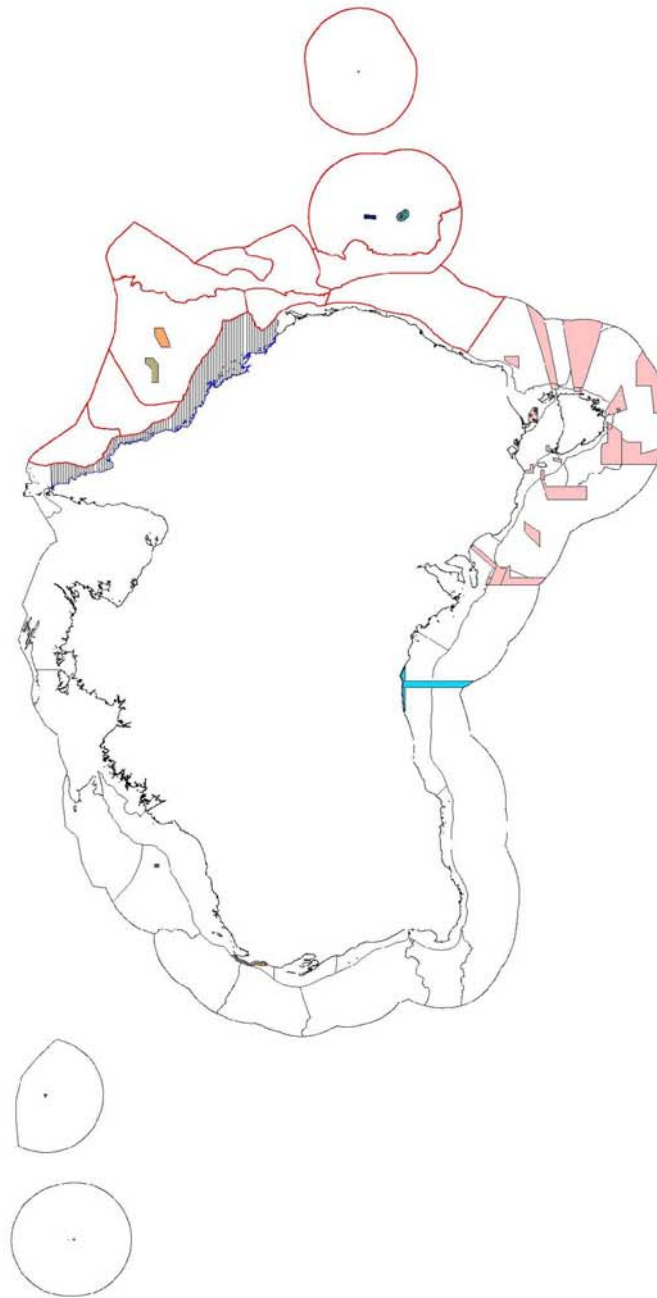
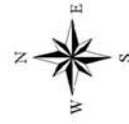


**Map 26:** Commonwealth Marine Planning Regions (DEH)

# Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas

## Legend

- East Marine Region
- Commonwealth MPAs**
- Anson Bay
- Carolee Island
- Conroy Islands
- Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs
- Great Australian Bight (Commonwealth Waters)
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands
- Linn Bay
- Lord Howe Island
- Macquarie Island
- Marmaduke Reef
- Hagarah (Commonwealth Waters)
- Solitary Islands (Commonwealth Waters)
- Tasmanian Seamounts
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Associated South East Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas
- MCRAs, Divisions (n)



Map 27: Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas



## 12.1 East Marine Region

There are six Commonwealth MPAs in the East Marine Region covering an area of a mere 0.1% of the Region.

**Table 140:** Commonwealth MPAs within the East Marine Region

| Name of Commonwealth reserve                                 | Date Declared | Area (ha)      |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve                       | 1982          | 88,500         |
| Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve | 1987          | 18,800         |
| Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve                           | 1982          | 84,300         |
| Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)           | 2000          | 30,000         |
| Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters)        | 1993          | 15,680         |
| Cod Grounds  | 2007          | 3              |
| <b>Total</b>   |               | <b>237,283</b> |

**Table 141:** Commonwealth MPAs off NSW

| Name            | Type           | MPA (ha)       | IUCN1a (ha)   | IUCN 1a (%) | IUCN 4 (%) | IUCN 4 (ha)    |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Solitary Island | Marine Reserve | 17,025         | 3             | 0.017       | 0          | 0              |
| Jervis Bay      | National Park  | 827            | 0             | 0           | 0          | 0              |
| Lord Howe Is.   | Marine Park    | 300510         | 96,208        | 32          | 68         | 203,855        |
| <b>Total</b>    |                | <b>318,362</b> | <b>96,211</b> | <b>32</b>   | <b>68</b>  | <b>203,855</b> |

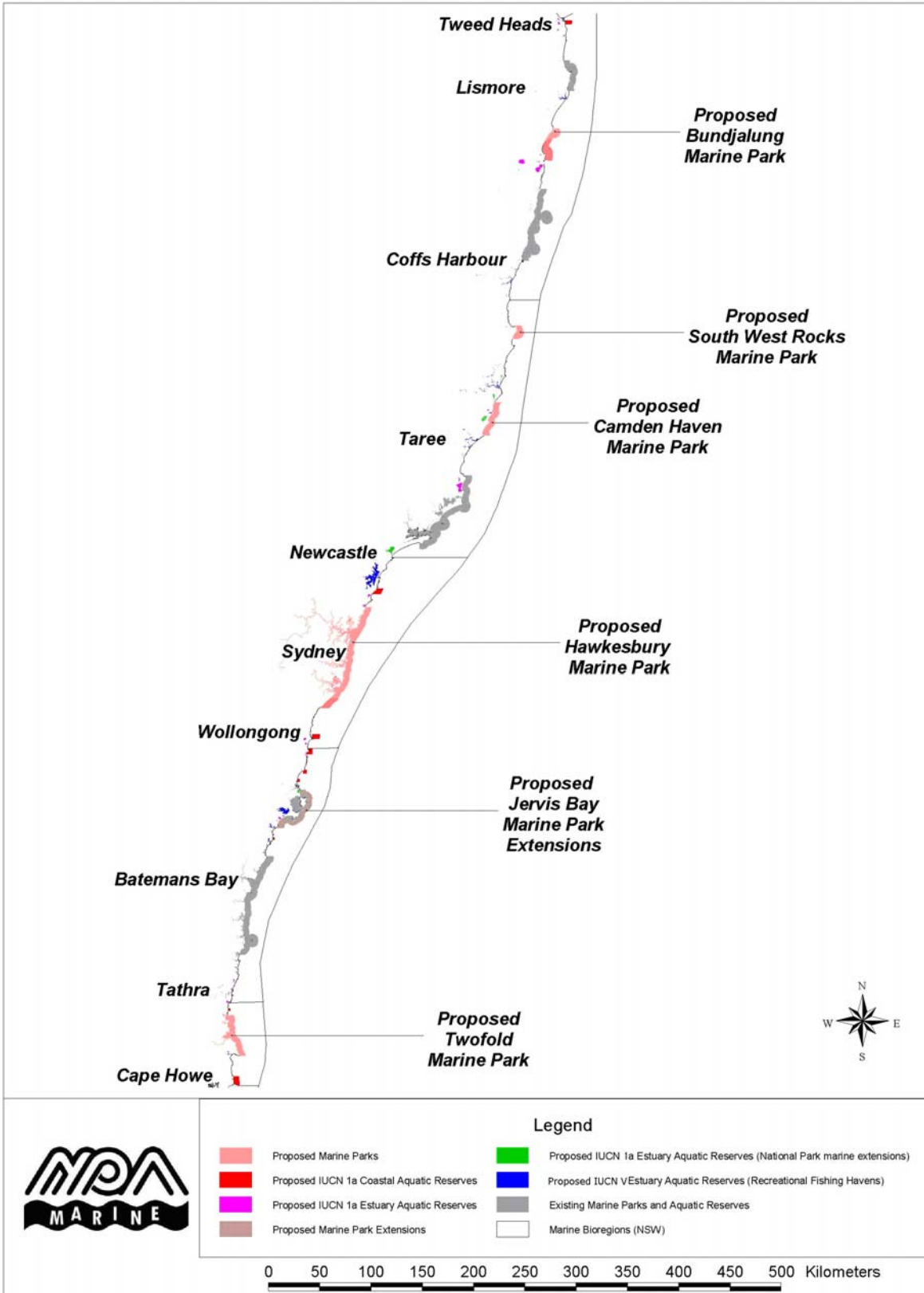
It is unclear when the East Marine Region off the NSW and Queensland coast will be assessed for a Regional Marine Plan. This Region covers more than 2.4 million square kilometers (including Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island), from the town of Bermagui in the south to the tip of Cape York in the north. The Region includes waters between 3 and 200 nautical miles from the coastline but does not include the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, which is managed separately by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

An area essential for the survival of the grey nurse shark has recently been established as a marine sanctuary in this region. The Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve was declared on 10 May 2007. New management arrangements came into force from 28 May 2007. The Reserve comprises an insufficient area of only 1000m radius from a point at 152° 54' 37" East 31° 40' 52" South. It covers an area of only 300ha and will be managed as an IUCN Category 1a (no take) Sanctuary Zone.

While the declaration of this and other marine protected areas in Commonwealth managed waters in the East Marine Region is an important step towards adequate marine conservation in the marine waters off NSW, the areas still required to be protected from fishing and mining are extensive.

While recognising the paucity of available data, bathometric images suggest many areas of interest that should be the focus of detailed data collection.





Map 29 : NSW proposed marine protected areas