

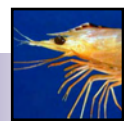
CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTION OF AUSTRALIAN MARINE REGIONS

The Australian Marine Regions identified in Figure 1 have been based on large marine ecosystems within Australia's marine jurisdiction and do not specifically relate to jurisdictional or necessarily to regional marine planning boundaries.



Figure 1: Northern Planning Area in the context of Australian Marine Regions



Northern Marine Region

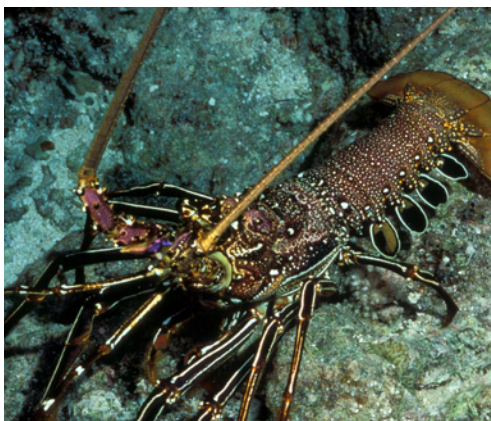
The Northern Region covers 1.08 million square kilometres, extending from Cape Talbot in Western Australia to Cape York in Queensland. It encompasses the waters of the Gulf of Carpentaria, Torres Strait, Arafura Sea, Joseph Bonaparte Gulf and the Sahul Shelf.

North-west Marine Region

The North-west Region covers about 980 000 square kilometres of water off northern Western Australia, and includes Ashmore Reef and Exmouth Gulf. The Region extends from Admiralty Gulf in the north-east, to around the town of Exmouth in the south (at latitude 21° 48'S).

Western-central Marine Region

The Western-central Region covers about 620 000 square kilometres of water off central Western Australia, and includes Shark Bay. The Region extends from around the town of Exmouth in the north (at latitude 21° 48'S) to Perth in the south (at latitude 31° 58'S).



South-west Marine Region

The South-west Region covers about 1.1 million square kilometres of water off southern Western Australia and South Australia, and includes the Great Australian Bight and Kangaroo Island. The Region extends from Perth in the west (at latitude 31°58'S) to Victor Harbor, South Australia in the east (at 138° 5'E and 35° 37'S).

South-east Marine Region

The South-east Region covers more than 1.2 million square kilometres of water off eastern South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, and southern New South Wales, and includes Bass Strait and Macquarie Island. The Region extends from Victor Harbor, South Australia in the west to Bermagui, NSW (south of latitude 36° 30'S) in the east.

Eastern-central Marine Region

The Eastern-central Region covers about 720 000 square kilometres of water off central and northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, and includes the waters off Sydney, Brisbane and Fraser Island. The Region extends from Bermagui, NSW (at latitude 36° 30'S) in the south to Lady Elliot Island, Queensland (at latitude 24° 17'S) in the north.

North-east Marine Region

The North-east Region covers more than 1.3 million square kilometres of water off central and northern Queensland, and includes the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands. The Region extends from Lady Elliot Island (at latitude 24° 17'S) in the south, to around Cape York (at latitude 10° 41'S) in the north.

Sunda Marine Region

The Sunda Region covers two separate areas totalling more than 1.1 million square kilometres of water off Cocos Island and Christmas Island. These islands are located about 1200 and 2200 kilometres respectively from Exmouth in north-west Western Australia.

