

Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park

2026 Visitor Information



*Amboorin amboonoo angal lala jard booroo.
People, together let's look after Country good.*

"All people are welcome to Bardi and Jawi Country. We ask that you help us look after Country by respecting the environment and our culture.

We have used, relied on, enjoyed and protected Country over thousands of years and continue to do so today. Bardi and Jawi Sea Country has always been and continues to be, an essential part of Bardi and Jawi spiritual, social and physical existence.

The Law created religiously significant features in the sea that the madjamadjin (Law bosses) are required to protect. Traditional stories explain the creation of the saltwater and certain sea creatures. Supernatural sea creatures such as the loolooloo (shark) have always existed to protect Bardi and Jawi people in their sea-faring life.

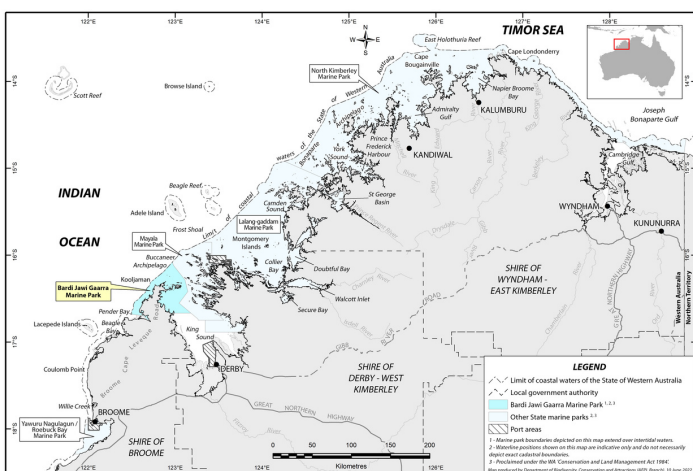
By looking after Country the right way, we continue to look after Bardi and Jawi, language and culture."

Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park includes the northern part of the Dampier Peninsula and the western islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago. It falls within the boundaries of the Bardi and Jawi Native Title Determination, covering Bardi and Jawi Sea Country up to the mean spring high tide mark. It is bordered by Mayala Marine Park.

Bardi and Jawi are the people and gaarra means the saltwater.

Visitors encounter a shifting mosaic of seascapes; fringing marnany (reefs) shaped by 11m tides to intertidal flats rich with wildlife uniquely adapted to the Kimberley coast. Mangrove-lined creeks and noomool (seagrass) meadows nurture aarli (fish) while goorlil (turtles) regularly forage and nest throughout the area. During the cooler months, miinimbi (humpback whales) and odorrr (dugongs) move, rest and nurse in this ever-changing environment.

Recreational use is high, supported by some of the most accessible entry points along the Kimberley coast including Ollongon (Pender Bay) and Banararr (Cygnet Bay).



Map 1: Location of Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park

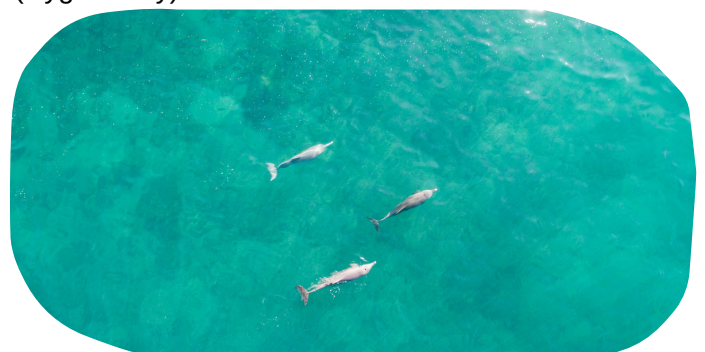


Photo: Tourism Western Australia

Why Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park matters.

Marine parks are multiple-use areas that support sustainable activities like fishing, recreation and tourism. They are globally recognised as the best tool for the conservation of a broad range of marine life and are backed by rigorous, evidence-based science. Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park is a globally significant and ecologically diverse part of Western Australia - one of the most impressive coastal locations in Australia deserves to be protected.

A carefully designed network of zones within the marine park provides opportunities for recreational and commercial users to experience its unique habitats and wildlife, so future generations can experience the same kinds of environments that we do today. These protections also ensure Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park continues to be respected and protected as a place of deep cultural, heritage and social significance.

Visitor Safety



Linygurra (estuarine crocodiles) are present throughout the marine park.

Crocs are common.

Crocs move around.

Crocs are deadly.

It is an offence to interfere, lure or feed crocodiles. Both the estuarine (saltwater) crocodile and the freshwater crocodile (Johnstone's crocodile) are Specially Protected under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

To avoid crocodiles approaching vessels, where possible, store fish waste onboard and if disposing, do so while underway.

If you observe a crocodile demonstrating dangerous behaviour, or people interfering with crocodiles, please report details to Parks and Wildlife Service Broome on (08) 9195 5500.

Navigational hazards

Most waters in the marine park are unsurveyed. The Kimberley's large tides generate powerful currents, whirlpools, hidden rocks and reefs and murky water.

It is advised to have a passage plan organised before departure, taking into consideration tide heights and times. Carry reliable charts, GPS and plan routes around tide height and times.

Swimming, snorkelling and diving

It is recommended that visitors avoid swimming, snorkelling or diving in the marine park due to the presence of linygurra (estuarine crocodiles), jooroo (sharks), stingers and strong tidal currents.

Remoteness

The marine park is extremely remote and visitors should plan carefully before travelling.

Phone signal is limited and **emergency response may be delayed.**

Ensure you have sufficient communication, fuel, water and food for your trip plus extra supplies in case of an emergency.

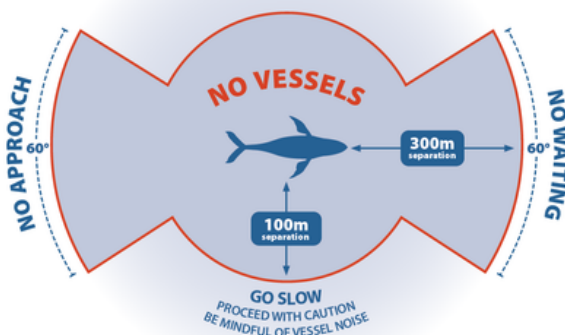
Wildlife viewing

All native animals are protected in Western Australia. Please be responsible and respectful and do not interfere with or disturb wildlife.

In all areas of the marine park, vessels must not approach within 100m of whales and all aircraft must maintain a minimum approach distance of 300m horizontally and vertically.

Please contact Parks and Wildlife Service if you witness vessels getting too close or disturbing wildlife.

Whale watching



Walk gently on Bardi and Jawi Country

Bardi and Jawi people have a deep connection to Country.

“Bardi and Jawi people's identity and existence is intimately connected to the sea. It is both a place of belonging and a way of believing.”

Bardi and Jawi Traditional Owners are gaarra (saltwater) people. Originally, Bardi and Jawi speaking people lived on different areas of Country. Jawi were islander people while Bardi lived on the mainland. They share the same kinship system, social organisation and the same Law.

For Bardi and Jawi people, their country is more than a simple geographic location, it includes all living things, incorporating people, plants, animals, seasons, stories and spirits. It is both a place of belonging and a way of believing.

Bardi and Jawi people have used, relied on, enjoyed and protected Country over thousands of years and continue to do so today. Bardi and Jawi sea Country has always been and continues to be, an essential part of Bardi and Jawi spiritual, social and physical existence.



Photo: Tourism Western Australia

Working together in joint management

Bardi and Jawi Traditional Owners and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Parks and Wildlife Service jointly manage Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park to protect cultural heritage and natural values while allowing culturally appropriate opportunities for recreation and tourism.

Together, decisions are made, advice is provided and a wide range of activities are undertaken to understand and manage Country.

Bardi and Jawi Visitor Code of Conduct

Under traditional law, Traditional Owners are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of visitors and bear the consequences of accidents and disturbance of cultural sites.

Share the story the right way; images and cultural knowledge are shared with care and permission. Please don't post or commercialise images of sacred places or customary activities without consent.

Ask first. Respect always.

Respecting Country

Bardi and Jawi people and DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service work together to care for Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park. You can respect culture and Country by:

- Acknowledging Bardi and Jawi people as the Traditional Owners.
- Seeking permission from Bardi Jawi Niimidiman Aboriginal Corporation before landing on islands or visiting the mainland.
- Leaving all cultural objects where they are - don't touch, move or collect artefacts, shells, rocks or skeletal material.
- Keeping clear of burial places and stone arrangements.
- Respecting Traditional Owners undertaking customary activities such as fishing, hunting or cultural practices by giving them space and avoiding the area they are using.
- Disposing of fish waste responsibly (preferably while underway).
- Following the anchoring guidance in the Visitor Plan.
- Knowing your zones and fishing for the future.
- Avoiding walking on exposed coral reefs.
- Not disturbing sensitive habitats such as reefs, mangroves, seagrass and nesting areas.
- Correctly disposing of sewage and grey water.
- Treading lightly and Leave No Trace – take everything you bring with you.



Recreational fishing

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) manages fishing and enforces fishing restrictions within the marine park under the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*. Statewide recreational fishing rules also apply.

For the most up-to-date rules and regulations, visit www.dpiird.wa.gov.au or download the latest recreational fishing guides (QR code). The free Recfishwest app also provides access to fishing rules even when out of phone range and has an easy fish identification feature.



For up-to-date rules and regulations, visit dpiird.wa.gov.au



Illegal activity, such as commercial or recreational fishing in sanctuary zones, can be reported to DPIRD's FishWatch hotline: 1800 815 507 (QR code)."

What is customary fishing?

Customary fishing is permitted in Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park.

Customary fishing is defined as fishing by an Aboriginal person for personal, domestic, ceremonial, educational or non-commercial communal needs. Customary fishing respects customary law and tradition which includes fishing only where an Aboriginal person has a connection to or permission from Traditional Owners of that area.

Know your zones

It is your responsibility to '**know your zones**' and understand where you can and cannot fish. Different zones have different rules. Always check the rules before heading out.

Navigating zone boundaries

The marine park encompasses the Bardi Jawi Native Title Determination Area, extending from the **mean high tide mark** to the **limit of state waters to the west**.

Zone boundaries are described by latitude and longitude coordinates. Use a Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and/or plotter to identify your location. Ensure your device is set to either GDA94 or WGS84.

You can find zone coordinates:

- on the maps in this brochure
- online at either the Parks and Wildlife or DPIRD websites; or
- by contacting the Parks and Wildlife office directly.



Photo: DPIRD

General Use Zones

A wide range of recreational and commercial uses are permitted, including fishing.

Special Purpose Zones (Cultural Protection)

Recreational fishing is only permitted with a licenced tourism operator. Otherwise, visitors can enjoy low impact activities like boating, photography and wildlife viewing.

They protect areas of the greatest cultural significance. While cultural and heritage values apply across the marine park, customary activities are more likely to be carried out in these zones.

Sanctuary Zones

Areas where all forms of fishing and collecting are prohibited. Visitors can enjoy low impacts activities like boating, photography and wildlife viewing.

They protect areas of critical habitat to maintain the healthy functioning of the complex ecosystems that make up the park.

Special Purpose Zones (Biocultural Conservation)

Low impact recreational and commercial activities are permitted. They protect ecologically and culturally important marine ecosystems such as marnany (reefs) and mangroves and protect the value of sea Country to the culture and heritage of Bardi and Jawi people.

Permitted Uses

Activity	Sanctuary zones [a]	Special purpose zone (cultural protection) [a]	Special purpose zone (biocultural conservation)	General use zones
Customary				
Customary activities (e.g. hunting, fishing) [b]	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreational				
Boating (motorised and non-motorised)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature appreciation and wildlife viewing / interaction	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreational fishing [c - if from a boat]	✗	✗ [h]	✓ [i]	✓
Other use				
Vessel transit	✓	✓	✓	✓
Navigation aids	✓	✓	✓	✓
Research and monitoring [c]	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anchoring (soft bottom only)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mooring	Assess	Assess	✓	Assess
Seaplane, helicopter launching and landing [j]	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess
Vessel sewage discharge and de-ballasting	✗	✗	✗	✓ [k]
Access	✓	✓	✓	✓

Permitted activities provisions:

[a] access may be restricted to protect cultural or ecological values.

[b] customary take is confined to Traditional Owners, subject to the rights and interests provided by the Native Title Act and/or ILUAs.

[c] licence or permit required.

[h] only permitted as part of a licenced tourism operation.

[i] additional regulations on recreational fishing are likely to occur.

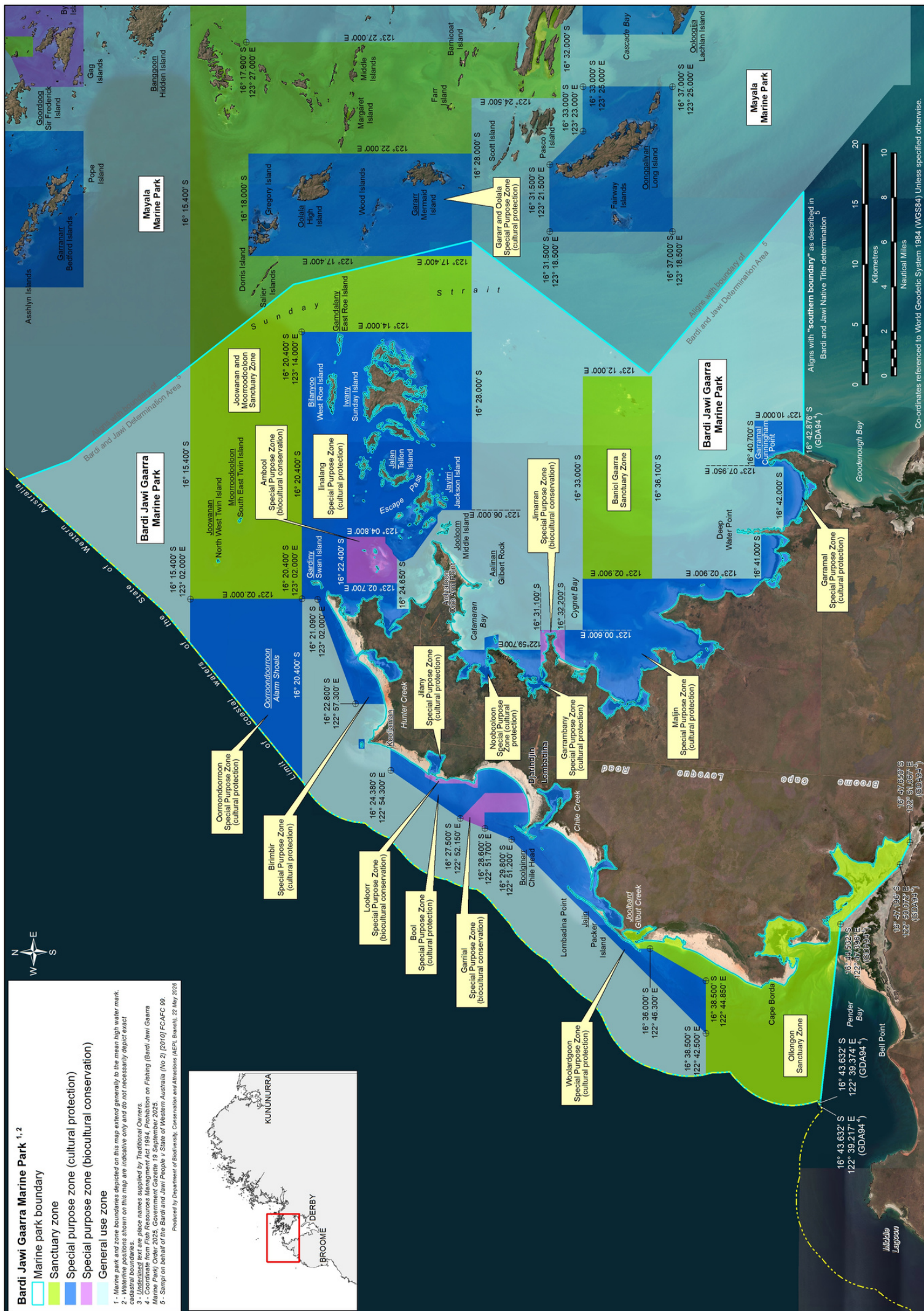
[j] lawful authority must be obtained.

[k] only in gazetted sewage discharge areas.

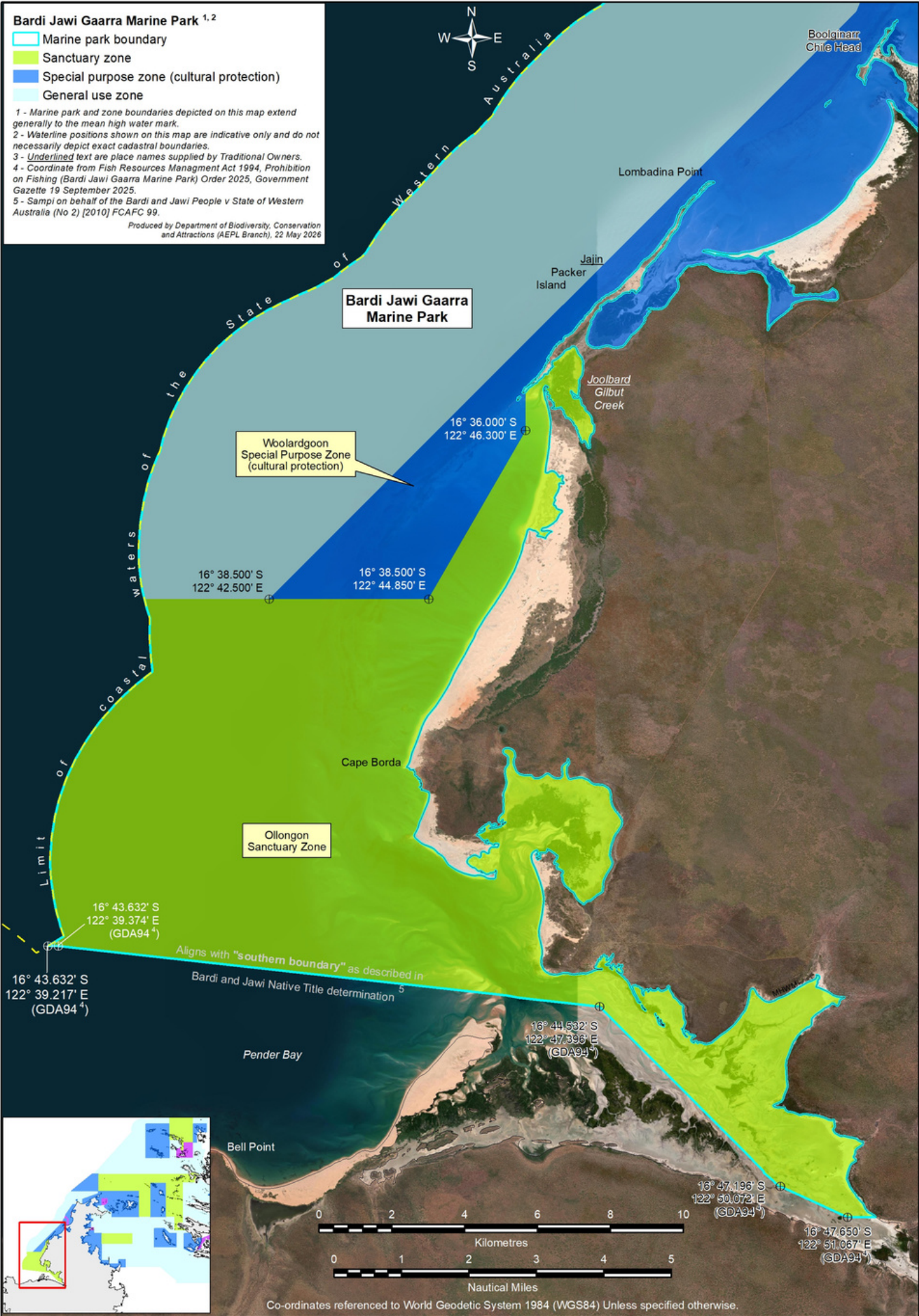


Management plans set out our approach to managing marine parks. You can read Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park's here

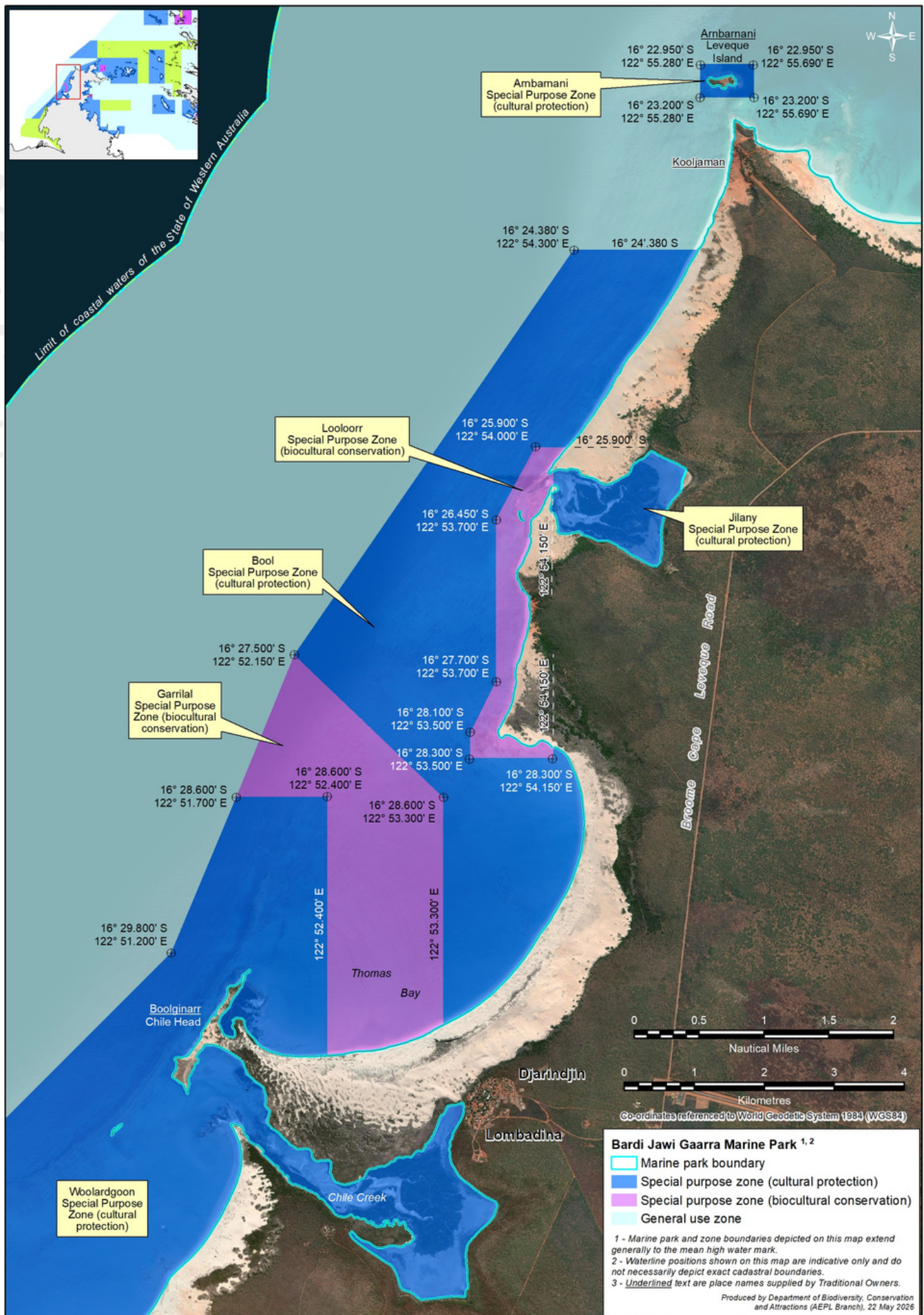
Map 2: Zoning for Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park



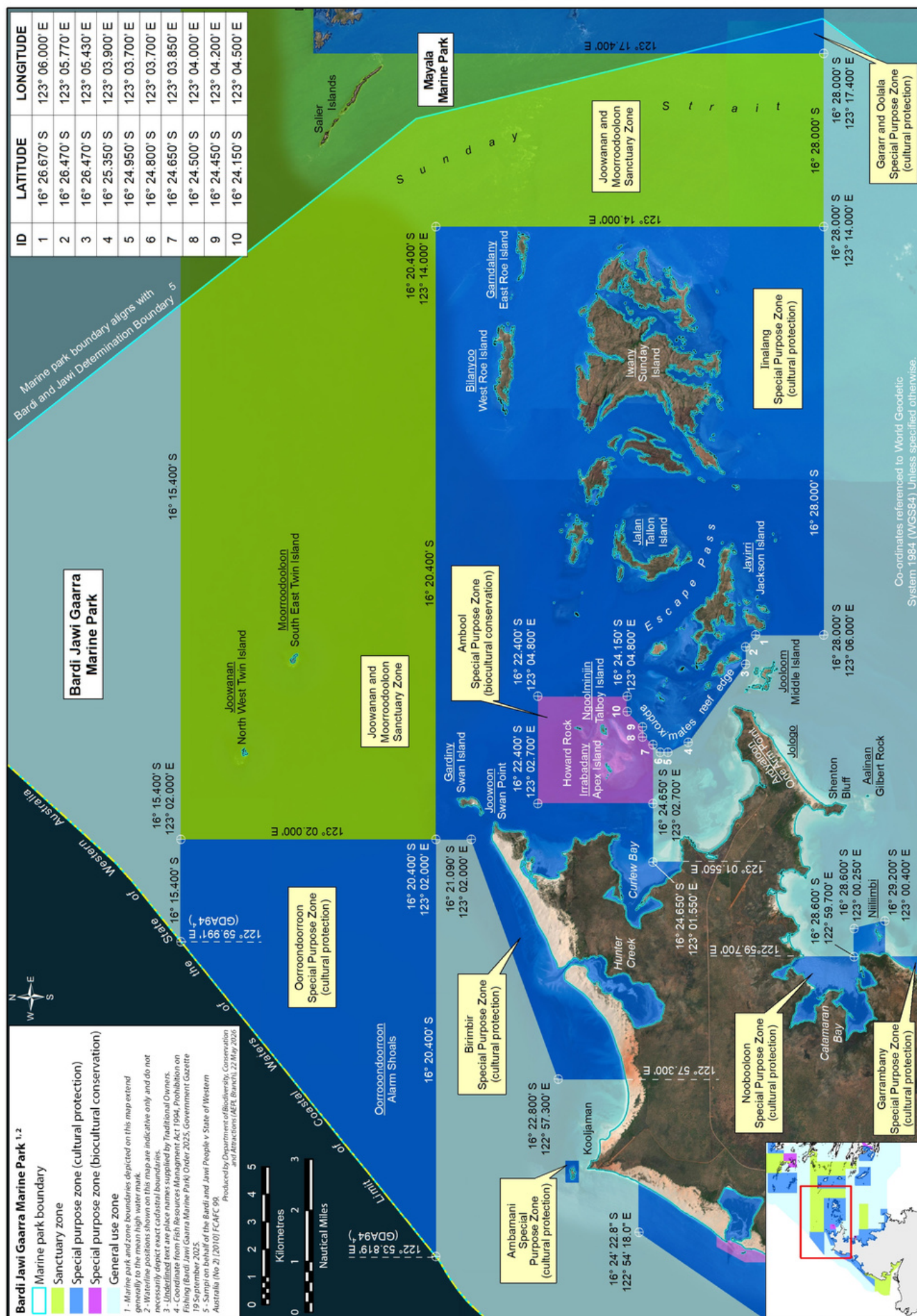
Map 3: Zoning for Goorrbalgoon (Pender Bay) area



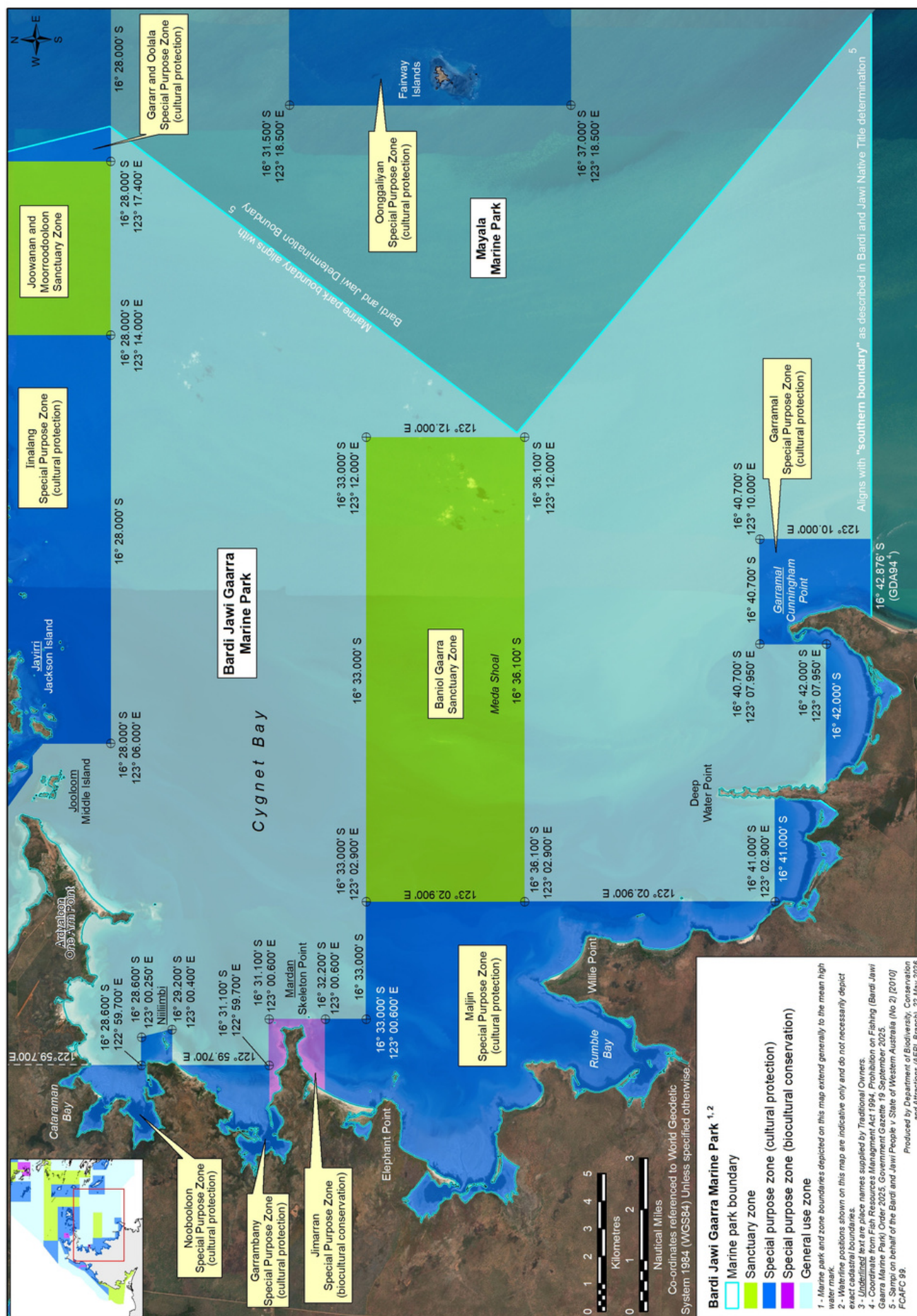
Map 4: Zoning for Thomas Bay area



Map 5: Zoning for Iwany (Sunday Island) area



Map 6: Zoning for Cygnet Bay area



Permits, passes and permissions

Community Permits

Bardi Jawi Niimidiman Aboriginal Corporation holds Exclusive Possession Native Title above the high water mark. If travelling through Beagle Bay, Djarindjin or Ardyaloon to access the marine park, entry permits are required.

Due to cultural reasons, some sites may be closed. Please respect cultural protocols and access restrictions.

Ardyaloon Visitor Pass

An Ardyaloon community visitor pass is required and includes a guided Ardyaloon Hatchery tour and access to Jologo Beach, Middle Beach and Round Rock.

DBCA approvals and licences

Required for:

- commercial filming and photography;
- holding an event in the park;
- scientific research and/or monitoring; and
- operating a tourism or recreation business for profit (including seaplane charter flights servicing recreational vessels).

Recreational fishing licences

Required for:

- fishing from a boat powered by a motor, or using a boat to travel to your fishing destination;
- using a throw (cast) net;
- fishing for rock lobster.

Obtain all permits and download evidence offline before departure.



emergencyplus.com.au

Download the free Emergency+ app before your visit. Use the app in an emergency to call for assistance. If there is no mobile phone coverage you WILL NOT be able to call 000 but the app will provide you with your GPS location.

Visiting Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park



Cultural



Boating and fishing



Whale watching



This is Croc Country.
Be CrocWise.



Reef walking is not
permitted in the Marine Park



Minimal telephone and/or
internet reception

Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park is located in the west Kimberley region of Western Australia surrounding the northern part of the Dampier Peninsula and the western islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago.

The dry season (April – October) is the most pleasant time to visit as temperatures are milder, rainfall is lower and there is a low risk of tropical cyclones and storms. The marine park can be accessed by recreational users and vessels or commercial tours and charters.

Further information

DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service West Kimberley District

(08) 9195 5500

broome@dbca.wa.gov.au

111 Herbert Street, Broome WA 6725

dbca.wa.gov.au

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) – Broome Office

(08) 9193 8600

dpiird.wa.gov.au

Bardi and Jawi Niimidiman Aboriginal Corporation

ao@bardijawi.org.au

Ardyaloon Council (One Arm Point)

(08) 9192 4930

Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation

(08) 9192 4940

Lombadina Aboriginal Corporation

(08) 9192 4936

