

The following fisheries management arrangements include the area between Cape Leveque and the Northern Territory border. The information provided on boat numbers, activity and Gross Value of Production also relates to the area Cape Leveque (123° East latitude) to the Northern Territory border. The areas of operation of most of the active fisheries is set out in the *State of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Report* (see attached maps and text). The areas of operation of the two fisheries not detailed in the *State of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Report* are:

Mud Crab Fishery - Operates from Cape Leveque to the Northern Territory border.

Trochus Fishery - Operates at One Arm Point and surrounding area.

The following table addresses questions 1, 1(a), 2, 3, 3(a), and 3(b).

ACTIVE FISHERIES	1(a) METHOD	3) NO. OF LICENCES	3(a) ACTIVE	3(b) INACTIVE	2) GROSS VALUE OF PRODUCTION
Kimberley Gillnet and Barramundi Managed Fishery	Gillnet	5	5	0	\$337,385
Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery	Trawl	126	25-35/year	91-101	\$1,630,480
Mackerel Managed Fishery Area 1	Troll line	16	16 *	0	\$654,280
Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Area 1	Line	4	2	2	
Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Area 2	Trap and line	11	11 **	0	\$2,884,095
Trochus Fishery	Hand collection	1	1	0	***
Beche De Mer Fishery	Diving and hand collection	6	2	4	\$133,389
Mud Crab Fishery	Trap	3	3	0	***
<b>NO FUNCTIONAL ACTIVITY</b>					
Abalone Managed Fishery	Diving	0	N/A		N/A
Broome Prawn Managed Fishery	Trawl	5	N/A		N/A
Marine Aquarium Managed Fishery	Diving	12	N/A		N/A
North Coast Shark Fishery	Longline and gillnet	9	N/A		N/A
Pearl Oyster Fishery	Diving	11	N/A		N/A
South West Coast Salmon Managed Fishery	Net	6	N/A		N/A
Specimen Shell Managed Fishery	Diving	32	N/A		N/A
West Coast Deep Sea Crustacean Fishery	Pot	7	N/A		N/A

#### NOTES

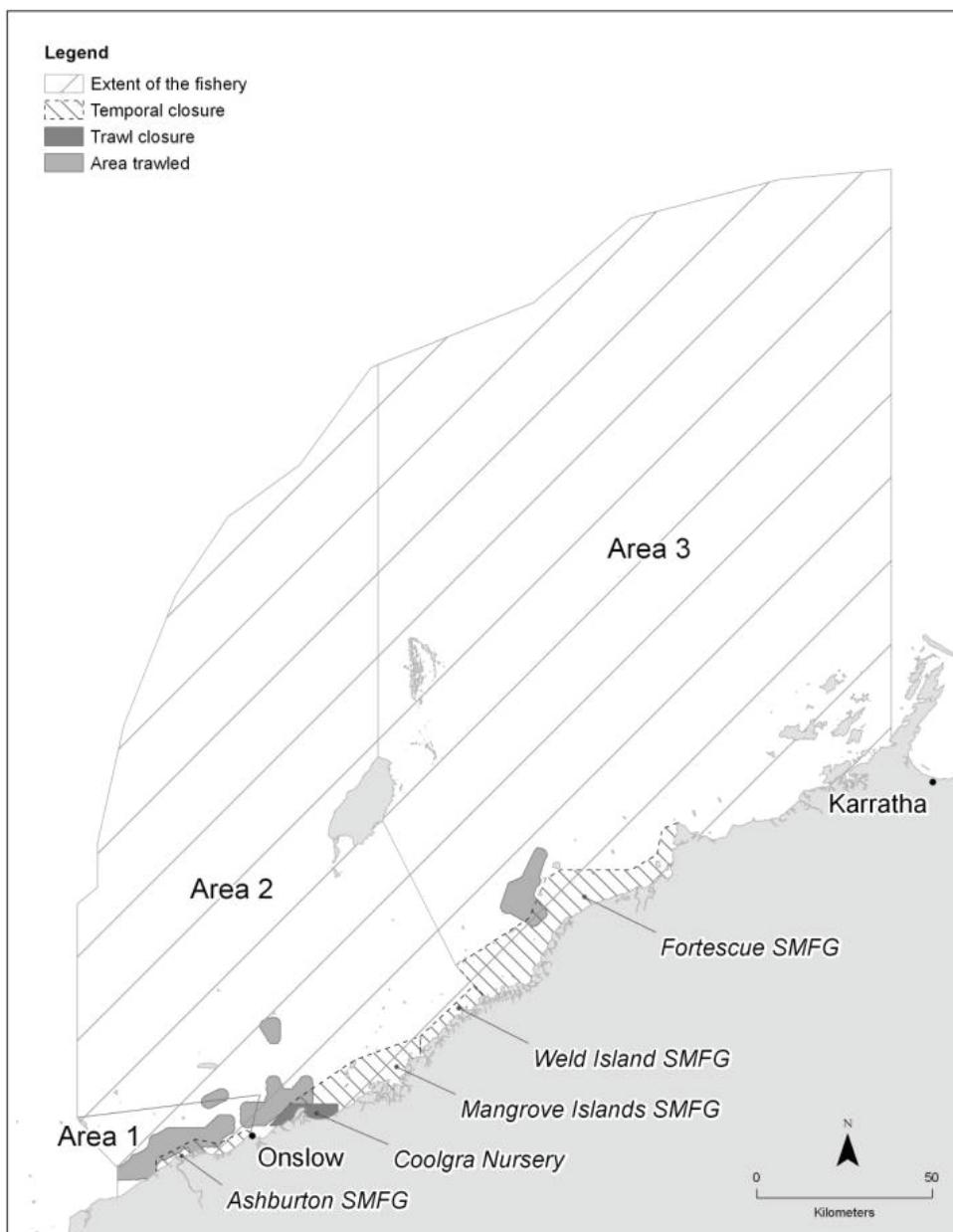
\* N/A indicates that the respective fishery does not normally operate in waters between Cape Leveque and the Northern Territory border.

\*\* Mackerel Managed Fishery Area 1 -- 16 licences have been consolidated onto 3-4 boats actively fishing.

Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery Area 2 -- 11 licences have been consolidated onto 7 boats actively fishing.

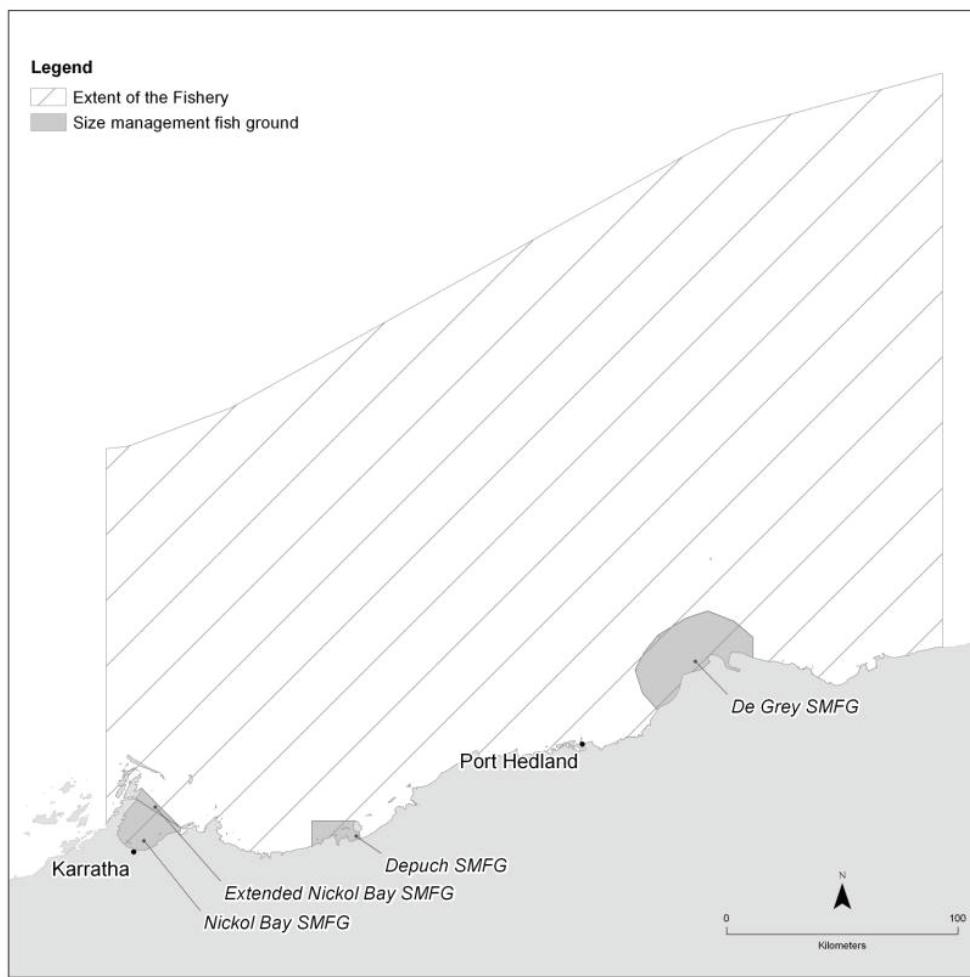
\*\*\* GVP not included due to confidentiality requirements

#### 1(b) Maps attached



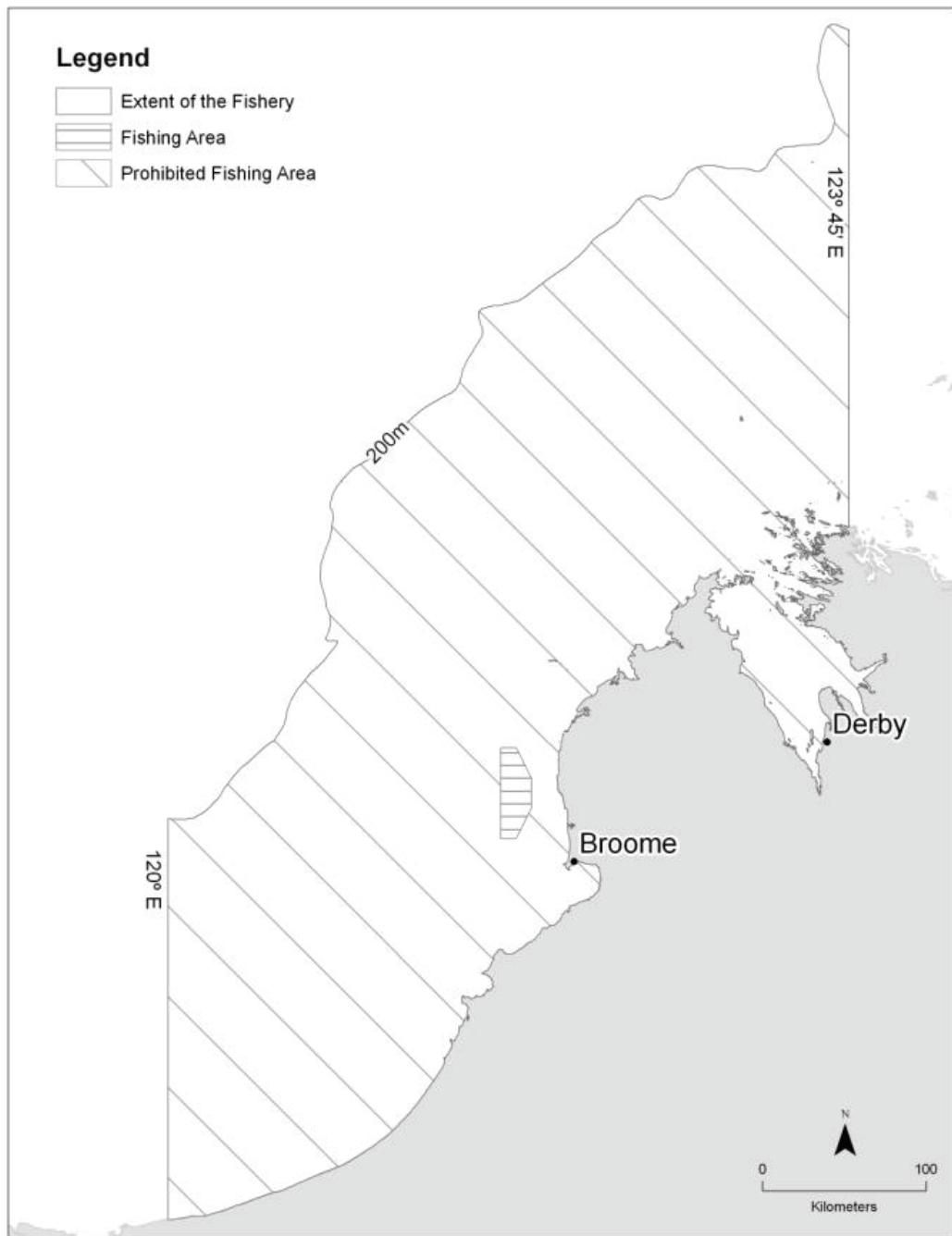
#### NORTHEN PRAWN FIGURE 1

Boundaries of the Onslow Prawn Managed Fishery indicating trawl closures and size management fish grounds and area trawled in 2010.



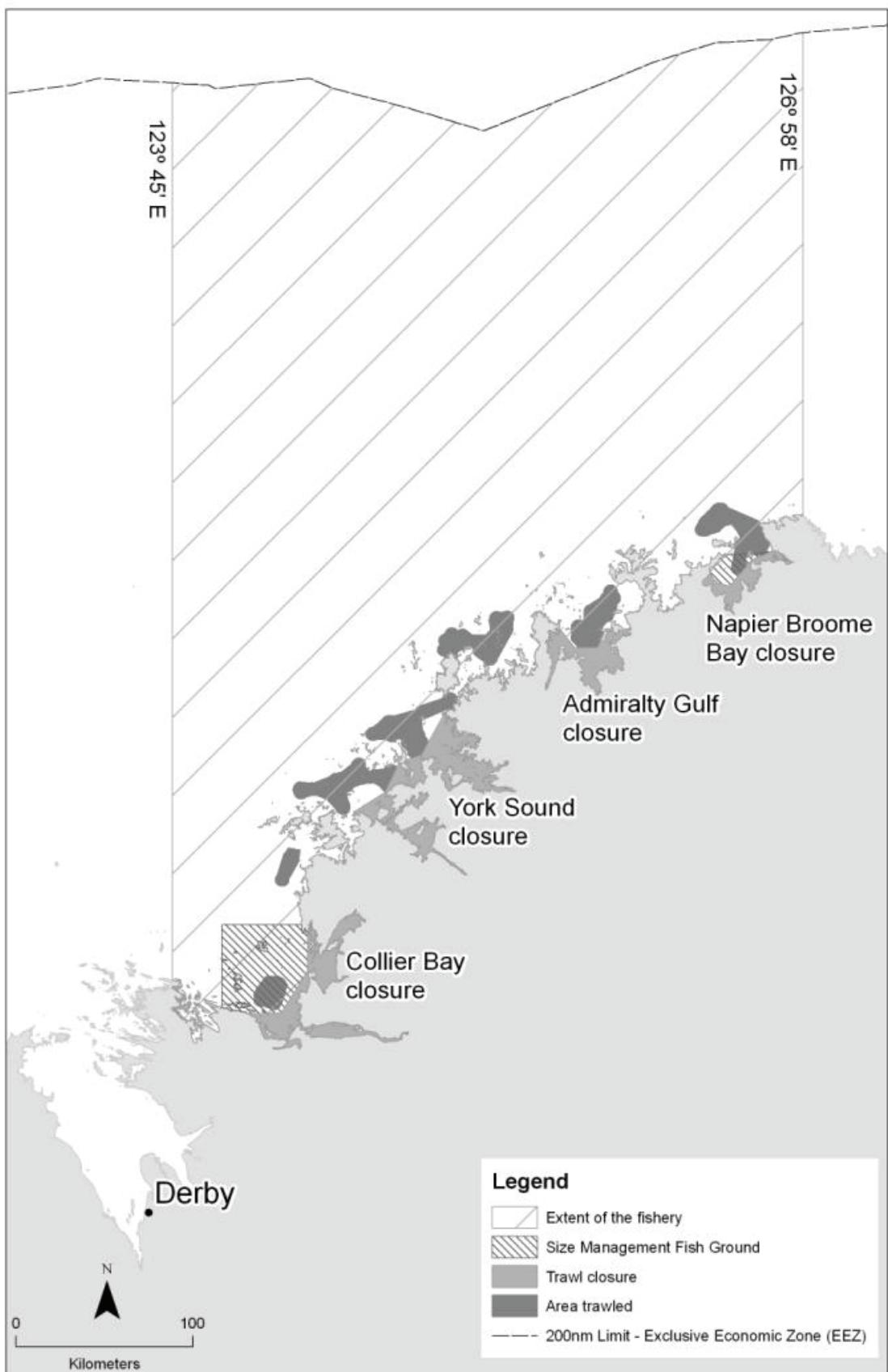
#### NORTHERN PRAWN FIGURE 2

Boundaries of the Nickol Bay Prawn Managed Fishery indicating nursery areas and size management fish grounds and areas trawled in 2010.



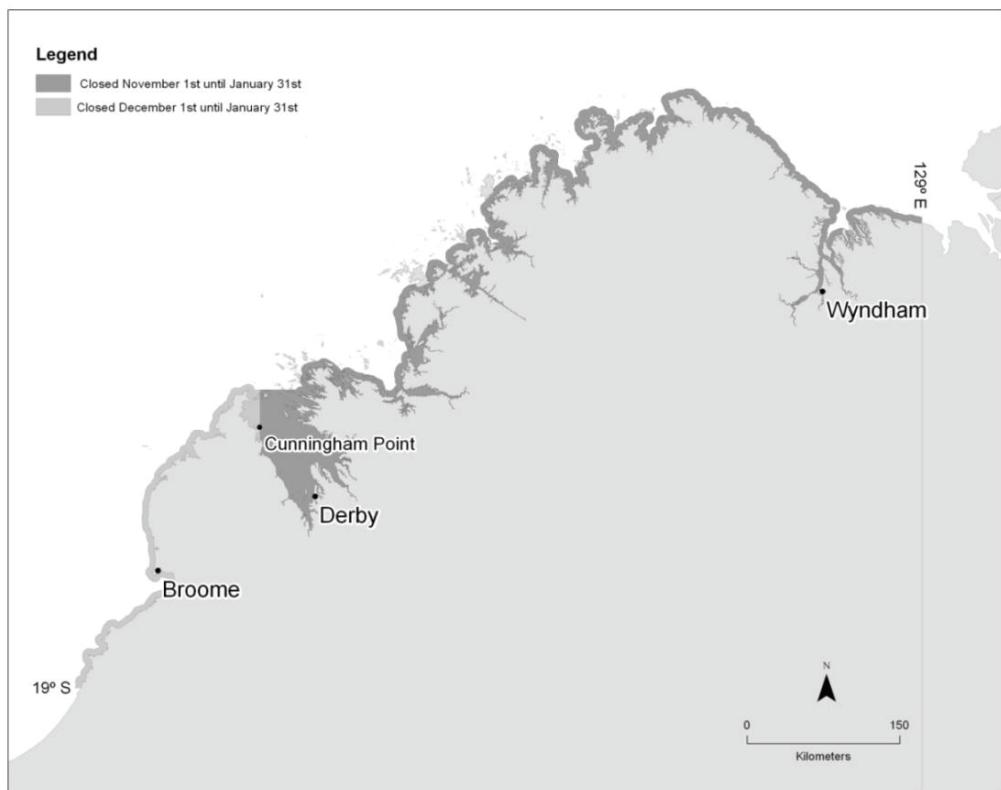
**NORTHERN PRAWN FIGURE 3**

Boundaries of the Broome Prawn Managed Fishery. Negligible area was trawled in 2010



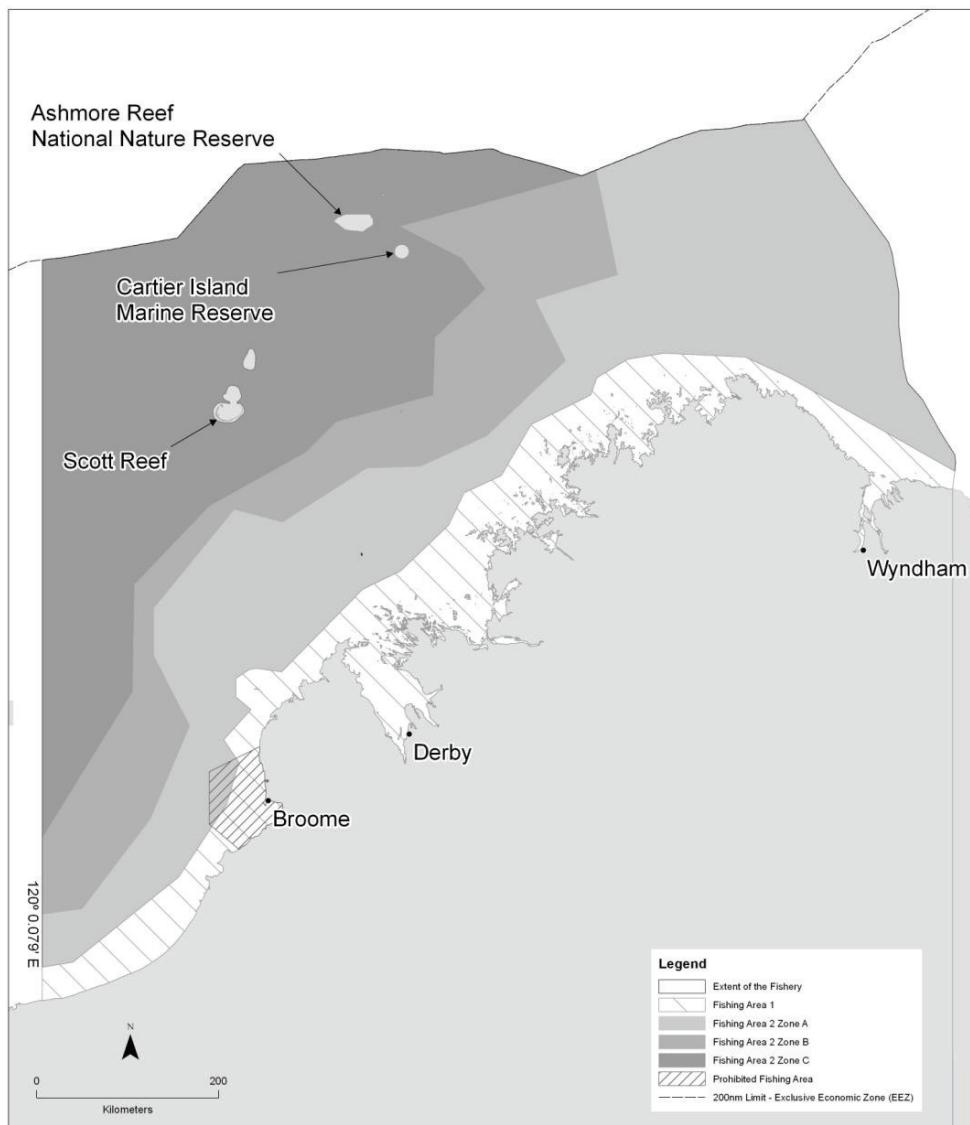
#### NORTHERN PRAWN FIGURE 4

Areas fished in the Kimberley Prawn Managed Fishery in 2010, Size Management Fish Grounds and the inshore trawl closures.



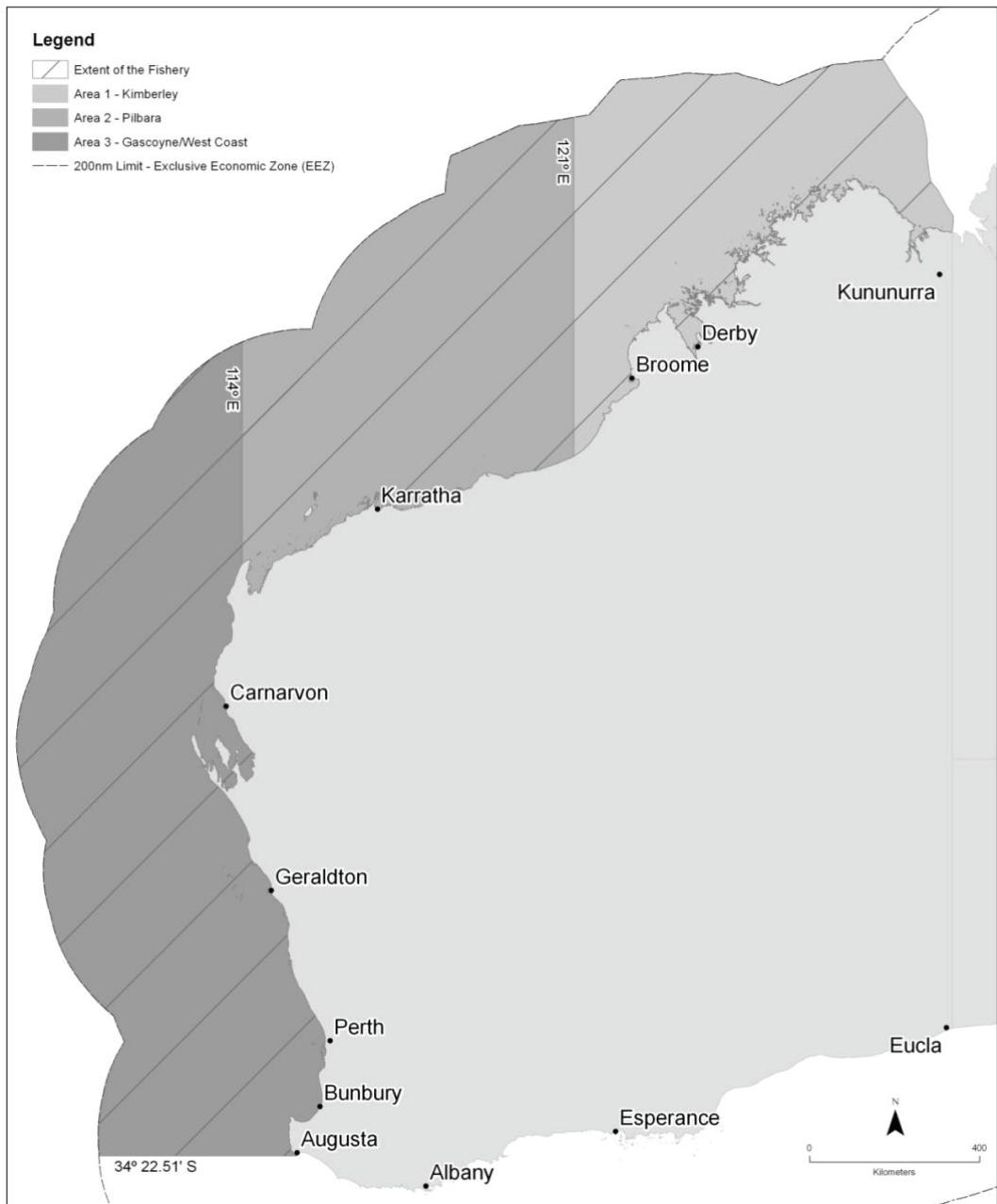
#### KIMBERLEY GILLNET FIGURE 1

Location and extent of the KGBF within the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Note: this map is indicative only

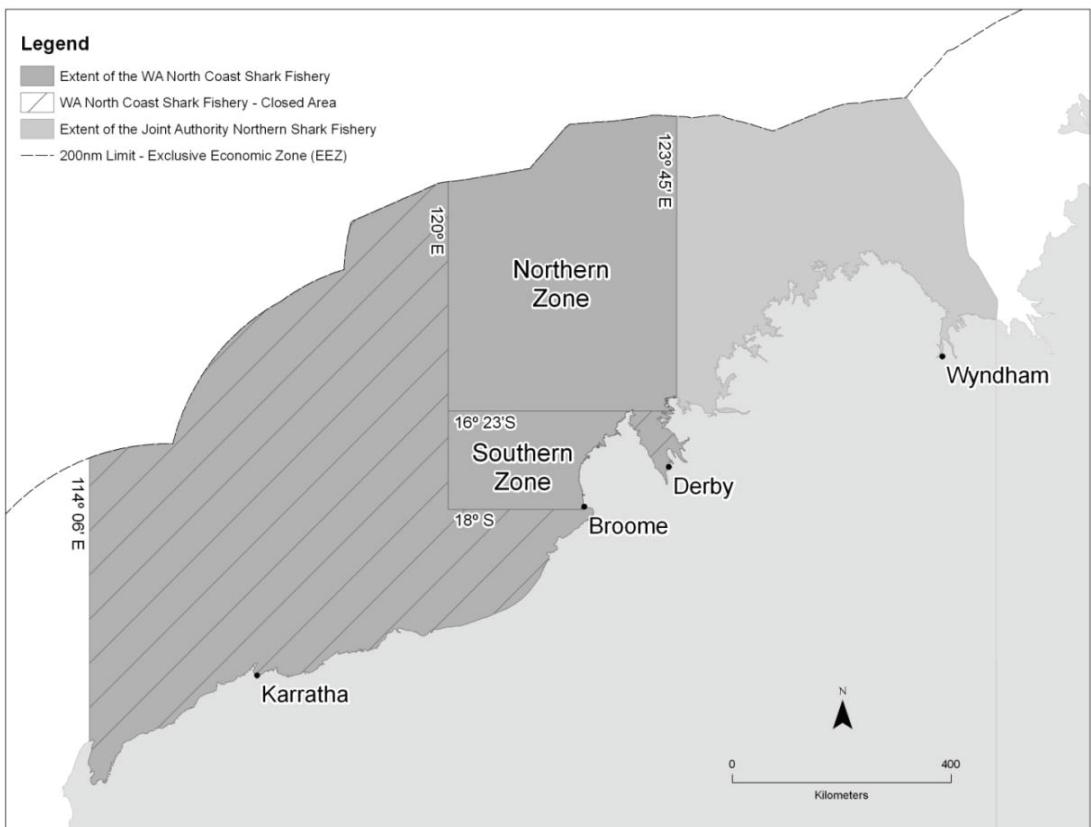


#### NORTH COAST FIGURE 2

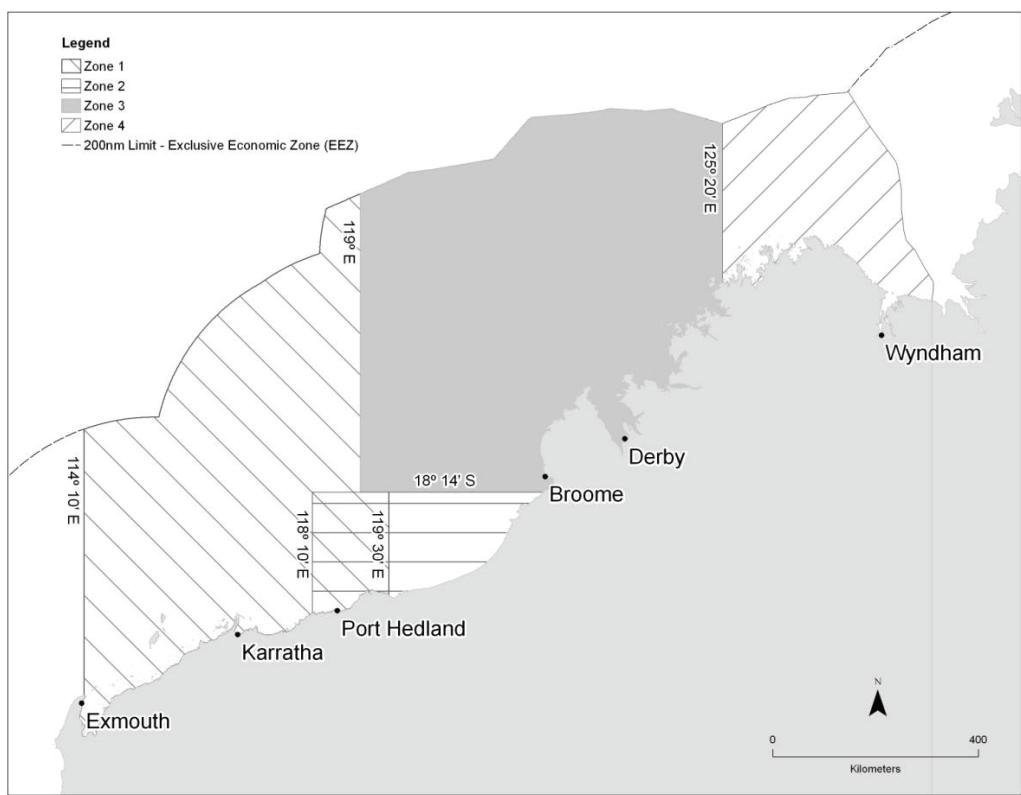
Location of the Northern Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Access areas and boundaries within the fishery are shown.



**MACKEREL MANAGED FISHERY FIGURE 1**  
Map of the extent of the Mackerel Managed Fishery.



**NORTHERN SHARK FIGURE 1**  
Management boundaries of the WA northern shark fisheries



**PEARL FIGURE 1**

Distribution of pearl oyster stocks and fishing zones in Western Australia.

## NORTH COAST BIOREGION

### Beche-de-mer Fishery Status Report

Main Features		Current Landings	
Status		Total Catch	121 t
Stock level	Acceptable	<i>Actinopyga echinates</i> – Redfish	86 t
Fishing level	Acceptable	<i>Holothuria scabra</i> – Sandfish	35 t

#### Fishery Description

Beche-de-mer, also known as 'sea cucumbers' or trepang, are in the Phylum Echinodermata, Class Holothuroidea. They are soft-bodied, elongated animals that usually live on the seafloor or buried in sand or mud bottoms.

The Western Australian beche-de-mer fishery is based in the northern half of the State, from Exmouth Gulf to the Northern Territory border. It is a hand-harvest fishery, with animals caught principally by diving, and a smaller amount by wading. There are six commercial target species in Western Australia; prior to 2007 it was essentially a single species fishery, with 99% of the catch being sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*). Since then, an additional species (deepwater redfish - *Actinopyga echinates*) has been targeted and the fishery is now a two species fishery.

#### Governing legislation/fishing authority

Fisheries Notice no. 366 – Prohibition for commercial fishers unless otherwise endorsed for shellfish, coral, starfish, urchins and beche-de-mer

Instrument of Exemption (Section 7(3)(c) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*)

Commonwealth Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Wildlife Trade Operation)

#### Consultation process

Department-industry meetings and an annual Broome Consultative Forum.

#### Boundaries

The beche-de-mer fishery is permitted to operate throughout Western Australian waters with the exception of a number of specific closures around the Dampier Archipelago, Cape Keraudren, Cape Preston and Cape Lambert, the Rowley Shoals and the Abrolhos Islands.

#### Management arrangements

The developing fishery for beche-de-mer is managed through input controls including limited entry, maximum number of divers, species-dependent minimum size limits, and gear

restrictions. Access to the fishery is limited to the 6 Fishing Boat Licence holders listed in the Instrument of Exemption enabling the take of beche-de-mer.

Beche-de-mer may only be harvested by hand or diving by licensed commercial fishers operating under the authority of a Fishing Boat Licence that is listed on the Instrument of Exemption.

The maximum number of divers (per endorsed fishing boat licence) allowed to dive for beche-de-mer at any one time is four, with a maximum number of six crew allowed on the vessel.

There are six target species of beche-de-mer harvested in Western Australia. At present, the minimum target lengths for these commercial beche-de-mer species are based on the Northern Territory's minimum sizes, which have been set based on size at sexual maturity.

A comprehensive ESD assessment of this fishery has been undertaken to identify any potential sustainability risks requiring direct management. The only issue identified through this process related to the breeding stock levels of beche-de-mer. Boxed text in this status report provides the annual assessment of performance for this issue.

#### Research summary

Current research is focused on reporting of annual catch and effort statistics. A daily catch and effort logbook has been tested and designed for the fishery and was implemented in 2007. The logbook obtains species-specific, fine-scale catch and effort data and appropriate environmental information, such as depth fished.

#### Retained Species

##### Commercial landings (season 2009):

121 tonnes (live weight)

##### Landings

In 2010 the total beche-de-mer catch was 121 t live weight (Beche-de-mer Table 1), a decrease of 6% over last years catch of 129 t, mainly due to less catch from the newly developing redfish fishery, although catch increased in the traditional sandfish fishery.