



visitors guide

LORD HOWE ISLAND MARINE PARK



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Heritage

Anchoring

Moorings are provided in some locations to reduce the need for anchoring.

Anchoring of larger vessels can destroy extensive areas of coral which take many years to recover, and even small vessels can destroy delicate corals and de-stabilise seagrass beds by dragging anchors in some areas.

With some exceptions, all vessels are prohibited from anchoring in sanctuary zones, while vessels over 5 metres long are prohibited from anchoring in the Lagoon, and vessels over 25 metres long may only anchor within one of six designated sites.



Fish feeding

Attracting fish with small volumes of appropriate food material can be an exciting experience, but the cumulative effects of inappropriate fish feeding can disrupt normal fish populations and impact on ecological processes.

Please feed fish only near the shed at Neds Beach using less than 300 grams of food per person. Tour operators may use greater volumes of food at Erscotts Hole, North Bay and Neds Beach under special permit arrangements.

Welcome to this visitors guide to the recreational opportunities available within the Lord Howe Island Marine Park.

The marine environment of Lord Howe Island supports many thousands of species, many of which have not been named and many waiting to be discovered. The main purpose of the Lord Howe Island Marine Park is to protect the biological diversity of this unique aquatic environment.

The marine park includes all of the seabed and waters extending from the mean high water mark to twelve nautical miles seaward from Lord Howe Island, Balls Pyramid, and South-east Rock.

The park covers NSW waters from the shore to 3 nautical miles seaward, and Commonwealth waters from 3 to 12 nautical miles seaward. Sanctuary zones (coloured pink on this map) in both NSW and Commonwealth waters are designated to protect marine life.

All forms of fishing are prohibited in sanctuary zones. Representative areas of each major type of habitat are protected in sanctuary zones (about 30% of the park), while sustainable fishing is allowed in the remainder.

Both Lord Howe Island and the adjacent Lord Howe Island Marine Park are NSW territory and **all standard NSW fishing regulations and bag limits apply** here unless specifically amended by the zoning plan that applies to the marine park.

The ideal way to get the most out of your fishing experience on Lord Howe Island is to participate in one of the regular fishing tours offered by local tour operators. Please inquire at the island's visitor centre for details of the tours available.



Snorkelling

Snorkelling offers an easy way to discover some of the marine life of the park. Neds Beach, Sylphs Hole and the lagoon foreshore are popular locations, offering a diversity of marine life accessible from shore. Several tour companies offer guided snorkel tours to coral gardens at the outer lagoon reef.



SCUBA Diving

Hundreds of different dive sites are available in the park from shallow coral areas in the sheltered lagoon, to deeper reefs, caves and channels offshore from the lagoon, around the Admiralty Islands, and near Balls Pyramid.

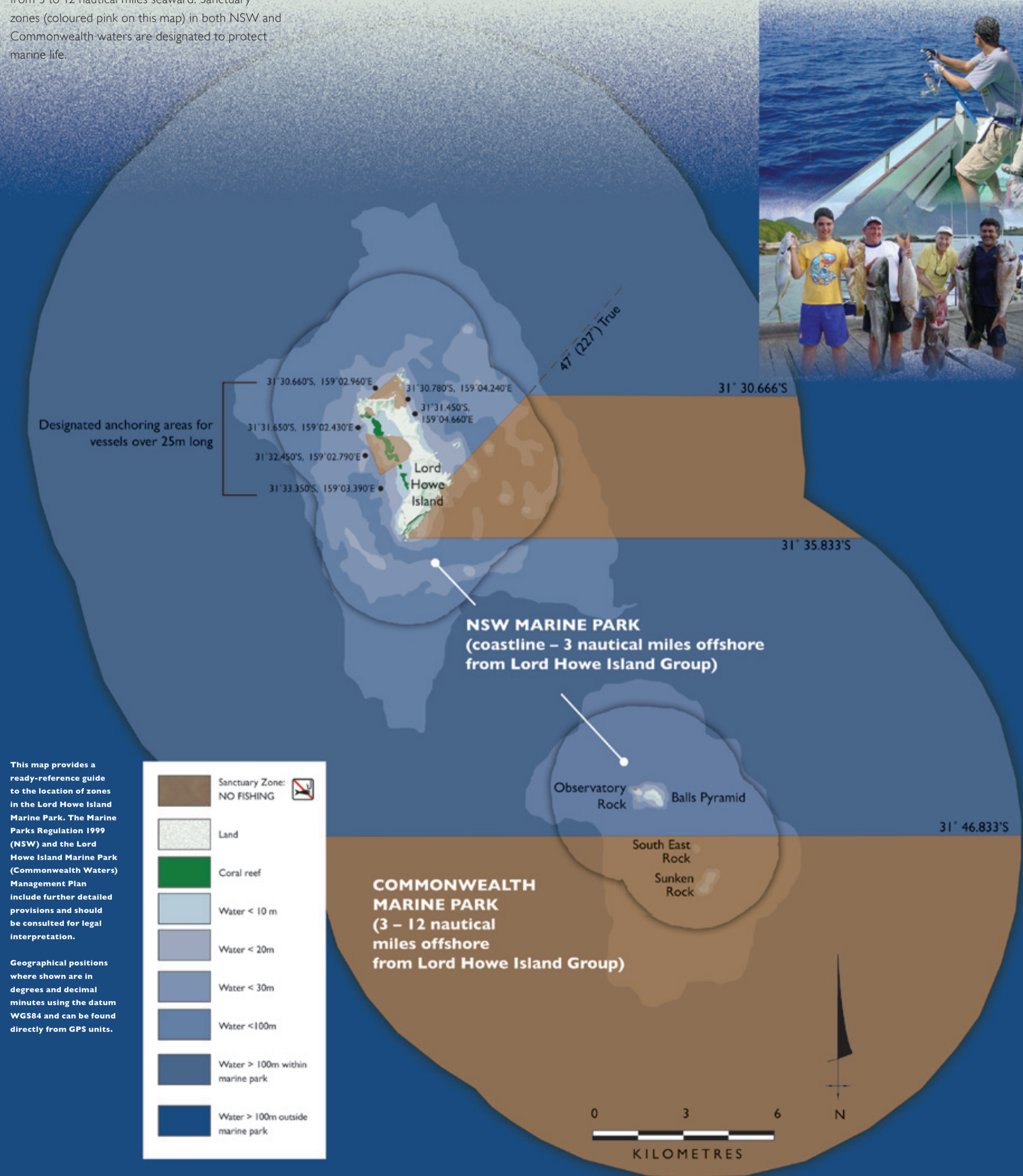


NSW's MARINE PARKS ...
conserving marine biological diversity and marine habitats ...
maintaining ecological processes ...
providing for sustainable use, appreciation, understanding and enjoyment



our environment *it's a living thing*

Photography, text and production: Geoff Kelly
Design: Nature Tourism Services



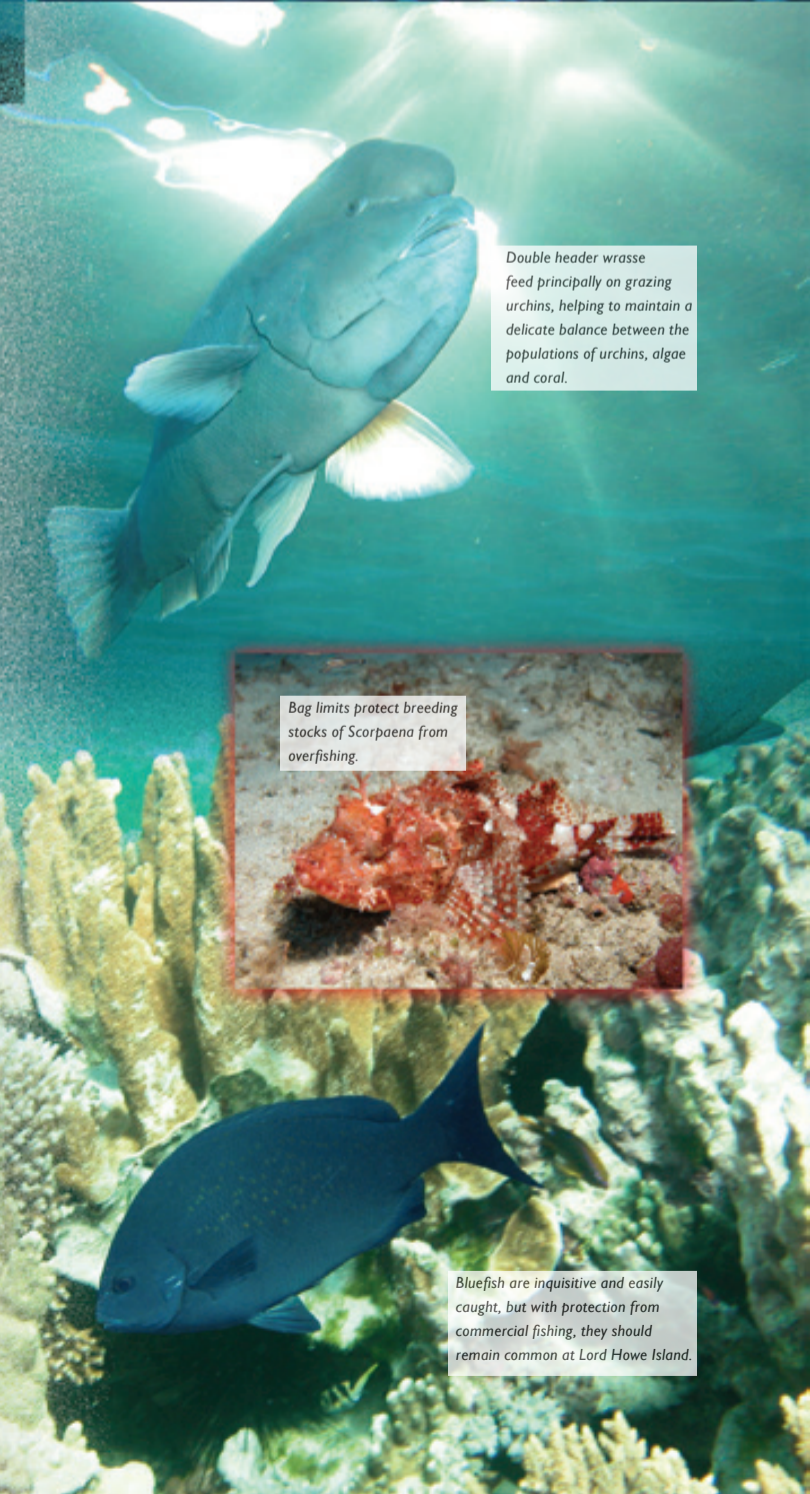
Fishing

Recreational fishing (but not spearfishing) is allowed in the habitat protection zones (coloured blue on this map). Accessible shore fishing areas are marked by a symbol on the map overleaf.

Recreational fishing in both NSW and Commonwealth waters of the park is subject to the NSW Fisheries Management Regulations, including size and bag limits. Offal from cleaning of fish that have been caught outside the lagoon must not be discarded within the lagoon.

The table below shows bag limits for fish that may be taken from areas outside of sanctuary zones for recreational purposes. For all other species, prescriptions of the Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002 apply.

Common name	Species	Maximum number allowed to be taken per person per day
Double-Header	<i>Coris bulbifrons</i>	1
Bluefish	<i>Girella cyanea</i>	5
Spangled Emperor	<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>	2
Scorpionfish, red rock cod, bucket head.	<i>Scarpaena cookii</i> <i>Scarpaena cardinalis</i>	2 in total comprised of one species or a combination of both



Double header wrasse feed principally on grazing urchins, helping to maintain a delicate balance between the populations of urchins, algae and coral.



Bag limits protect breeding stocks of Scarpaena from overfishing.

Bluefish are inquisitive and easily caught, but with protection from commercial fishing, they should remain common at Lord Howe Island.