PERTH METRO OVERVIEW

Brett Molony

Department of Fisheries

Government of Western Australia
Department of Fisheries

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Perth's metropolitan waters Regional Overview

Major issues; Ways forward

Dr Brett Molony, Research Division, Department of Fisheries

Dr Karen Hillman, Oceanica Consulting

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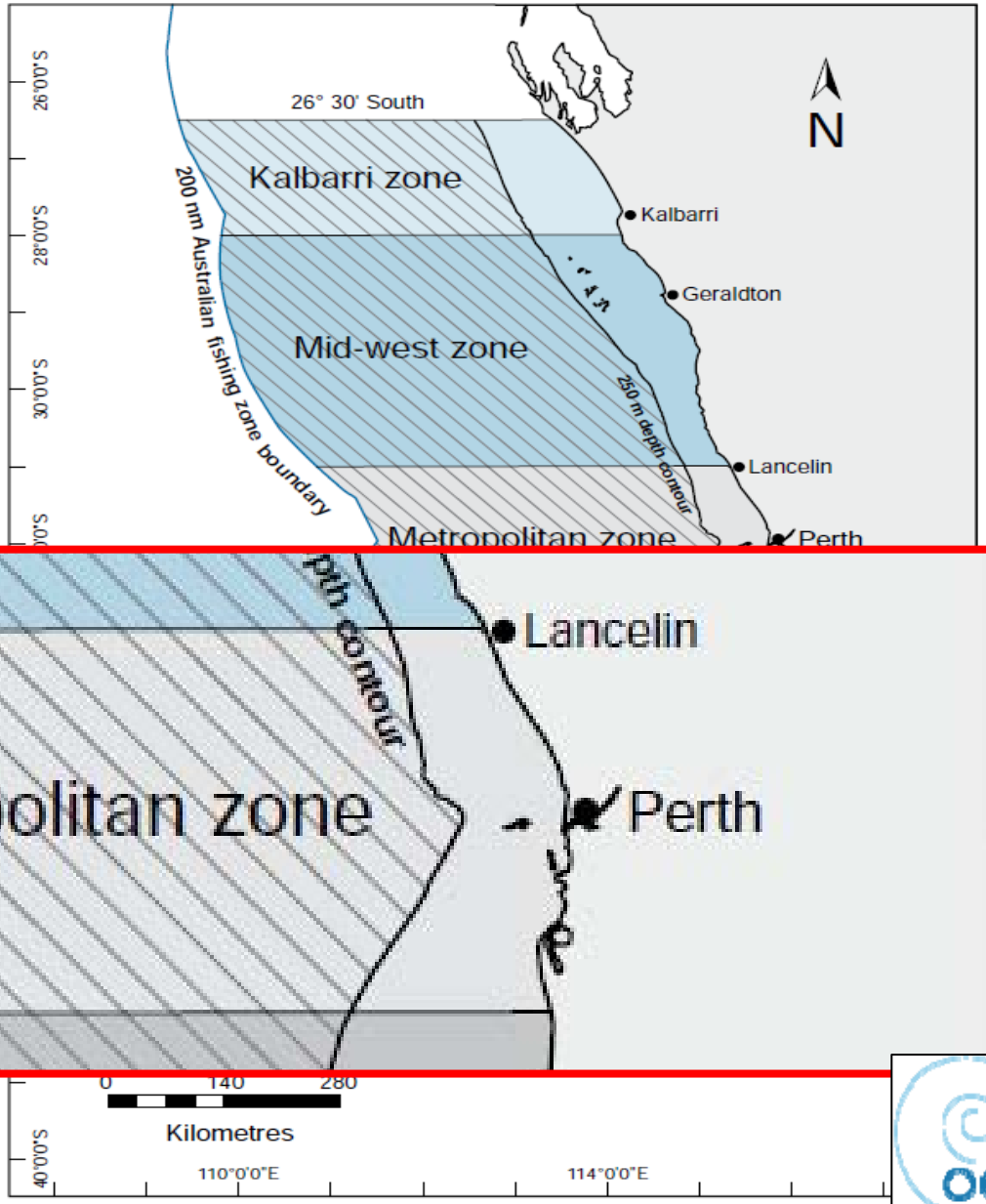
Major areas

- Swan River
- Cockburn Sound
- Peel-Harvey
- Other marine areas



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This talk

1. Brief re-cap on changes in state of the environment since 2008 Show-&-Tell
   - The state of the environment
   - Pressures (past, present & future)
   - Current management responses
2. Major challenges in management & science (Risks)
   - Focus on finfish fisheries

Condition of the environment

1. The physical environment
   - The shoreline
   - The seabed
2. Ecosystem health
   - Water quality
   - Sediment quality
   - Biodiversity
   - Introduced species
3. Seafood safe for eating (pathogens, contaminants)
4. Environment suitable for recreation & aesthetics
5. Fish stocks
   - And habitats

Major Issues in 2009/10 and beyond

Regionally
- Population forecast
- Amenities
- Access

Global
- CC

Cockburn Sound
- Proposed port expansion
- Other proposals (e.g. marinas)
- System 'health'/ Cumulative effe

Nationally
- Marine Bioregional Planning
- Commonwealth access
- Alternative maritime uses

Swan River
- Water quality
- Dolphin deaths
- Dredging and risks
- System 'health'

Other marine areas
- Fishery access
- Rock lobster
- Demersal scalefish
- Fishing effort shifts
- Commonwealth initiatives

Peel-Harvey
- Water quality
- Population growth
- System 'health'

Challenges for managing the Perth Metro region

- Most of the WA coast
  - Sparsely populated
  - Environmental management focuses on commercial activities
- In contrast, Perth metro region
  - Has ~1.6 million people – Forecast Additional 230K within 5 years
  - Essential to manage 'people pressure' (marine recreational activities) as well as commercial activities
  - Essential to have good public information/communication, due to greater level of awareness and scrutiny
  - Needs open communication and debate : impacts; trade-offs, limits
    - Risk based

Environmental Management

Management of commercial pressures – has goal posts, rules & the means to enforce them

- National - EPBC Act, Dredging guidelines
- State - EP Act, Environmental Values for Perth Coastal Waters, CALM Act (covers some recreation), Fisheries Act (covers some recreation), many others
- Local, State, Commonwealth: complimentary or conflicting?
- Management of people pressure?
- Few goalposts and rules
- No limits
- Competing for resources/Access

Gaps

Information gaps

- Inshore & offshore processes (key patterns & influences, linkages)
- Cost-Benefits/Impacts of alternative uses; development, conservation, recreation
- Climate change - predictions dramatically change

Management gaps

- Coordinated Strategic planning / vision for sustainable development

Communication gaps

- Inter-Agency communication (DEC, Fisheries, Dept for Planning & Infrastructure, Dept Tourism,etc) – State and Commonwealth
- Public communication – Wants v needs; local v regional/ national; Risks

Current fisheries research - status of knowledge

Monitoring systems in place for the collection of biological, catch and effort data for each sector; constantly reviewed and refined

Regular assessment for sustainable exploitation of key indicators in all fisheries in Metro waters

Impacts on the ecosystem identified and prioritised through EBFM risks assessment processes ; Projects in place, or being developed to deal with many of these important issues

New “gaps” and risks associated with consequences of recent major changes to management arrangements for demersal scalefish – direct and wider impacts

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Metro Fisheries – Sustainable Fishery Resources: Stocks & Habitats

Really 2 Pressures

Increasing population (increasing demands on services)

- Direct and indirect impacts

Competition for finite resources

- Within extractive fishery sectors
- Among alternative maritime uses/users

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West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery – Kalbarri to Augusta

Scientific advice

130 + species of demersal scalefish - Can't monitor all; (don't need to)

➪ Indicator species : Dhufish, Pink Snapper, baldchin groper

Their status is indicative of the status of the resource

Status indicates exploitation rate too high; reduce by at least 50%

Management actions

Shift commercial fishery from open access to managed (limited access)

Reduce total catch by 50%

Commercial catch reduced 50% from 2005/6 levels

Target to reduce catch in recreational sector by 50%

Allocate among sectors

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Challenges in fishery management

- Managing recrea
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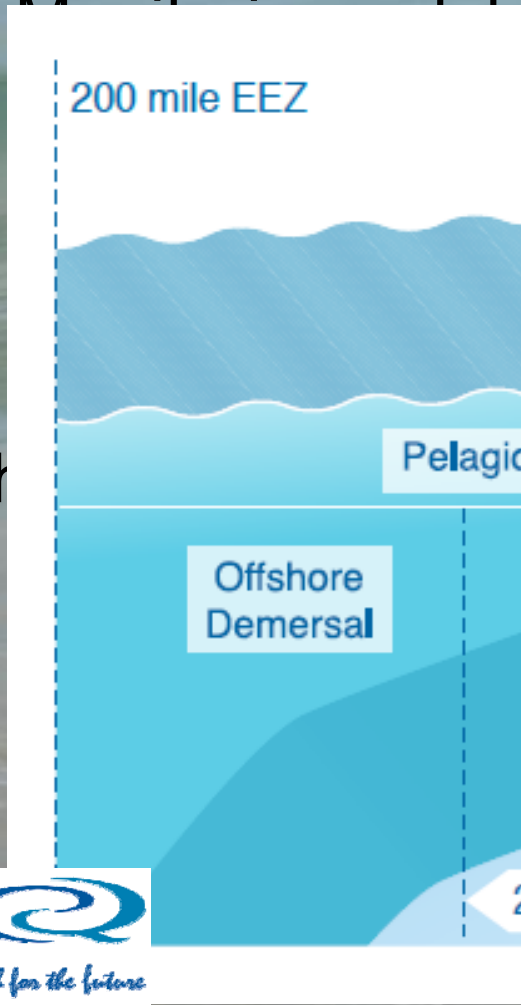

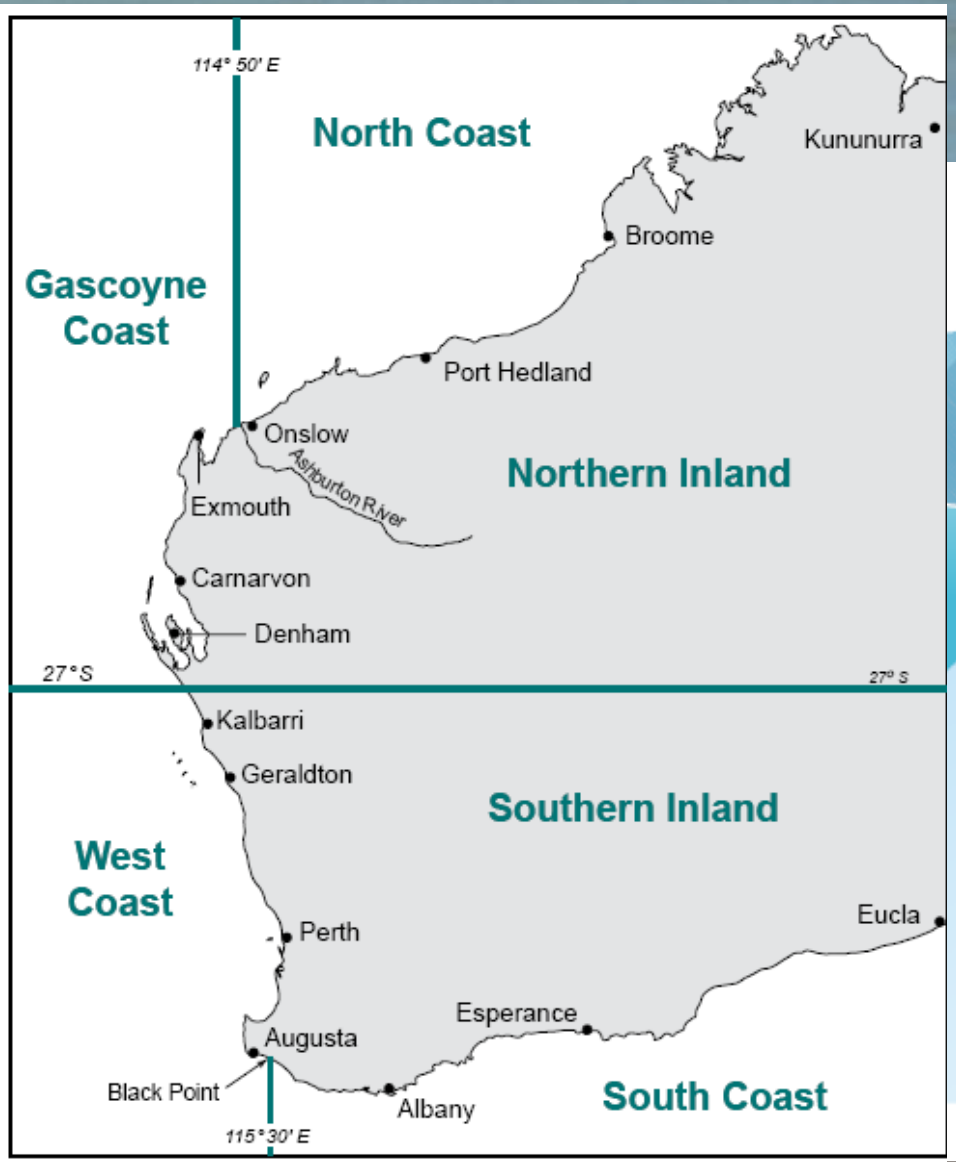

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To summarise…

- Effects are hard to predict & manage
- Principally due population increase: direct, indirect
- Not limited to fisheries
- Access and allocation
- Alternative uses – costs and benefits; trade-offs, Risk
- Science can provide basis for information to managers - impacts and mitigation; risk assessments
- Need to be realistic and timely
  - Impacts
  - Tradeoffs

Scientific Advice and Management Decisions