



Murdoch
UNIVERSITY

2016 RESEARCH FINDINGS

in the School of

**VETERINARY & LIFE
SCIENCES**

BULLETIN

4.02

Marine, Estuarine &
Freshwater Science



Two Moons Whale Research Station, Pender Bay,
Dampier Peninsula
(Photo: Jennifer Strickland-Munro)

JENNIFER STRICKLAND-MUNRO, SUSAN MOORE, HALINA KOBRYN & DAVID PALMER

How do people value the Kimberley coast?

Much of the Kimberley coast and its waters are part of existing or proposed marine parks (Figure 1). In addition, the majority of this area is also subject to native title determined or claimed areas.

To-date, little attention has been paid in Australia or elsewhere to the social values associated with marine parks. However, understanding peoples' needs and values is essential for effective planning and management. Without knowing what people value, conservation efforts such as marine parks may fail. We need to know what people's social values are, and why they consider the Kimberley coast important.

Social values: the importance of places, landscapes, and the resources or services they provide as defined by individual and/or group perceptions and attitudes towards a given place or landscape.

Methods and results

We interviewed 232 people across the Kimberley to explore the range of values held for the coast. We asked people to show the places they valued on paper maps so that we could link information on social values with specific geographic locations. We interviewed people representing different groups: Aboriginal Traditional Owners; Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents; tourists and the tourism industry; commercial and recreational fishing, and aquaculture; federal, state and

local government; mining, oil, gas and tidal energy interests; marine transport and aviation; and environmental non-government organisations.

Seventeen different types of social value associated with the Kimberley coastline and marine environment were recognised. These included non-consumptive direct use values, direct use consumptive values,

indirect use values, and non-use values. Non-consumptive, direct use values dominated the interviews (Figure 2).

We generated 'hot spot' maps for each value type. These maps show areas where a number of people indicated the same values, i.e. the places most frequently identified and mapped in the interviews (Figure 3).

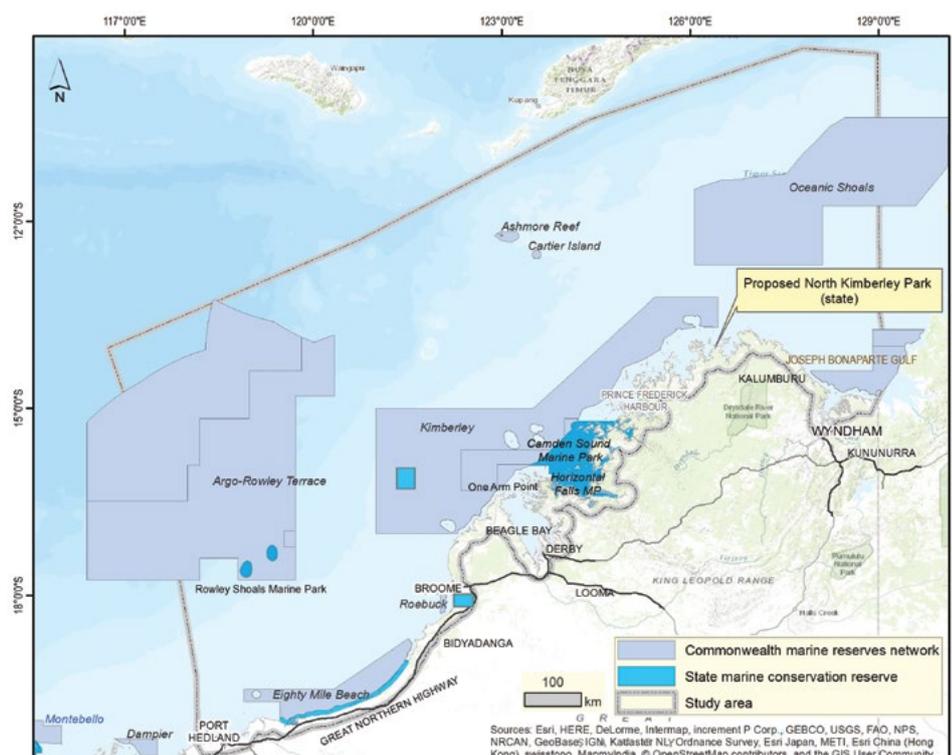
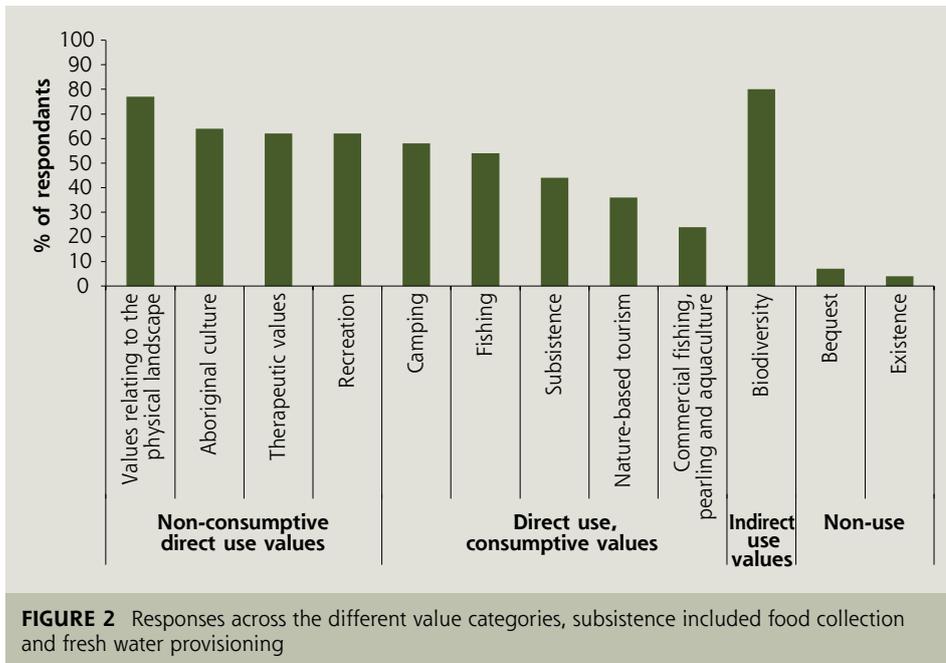


FIGURE 1 Kimberley marine parks (current & proposed)

Source: Geoscience Australia 2014, Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014)



Management implications

1 All of the Kimberley coast is valued. Thus, no part is 'value-free' and people must be consulted regarding its future, no matter if the location appears to

be used (i.e. 'direct use, consumptive values' and 'direct use, non-consumptive values') or not (i.e. 'indirect use values' and 'non-use values').

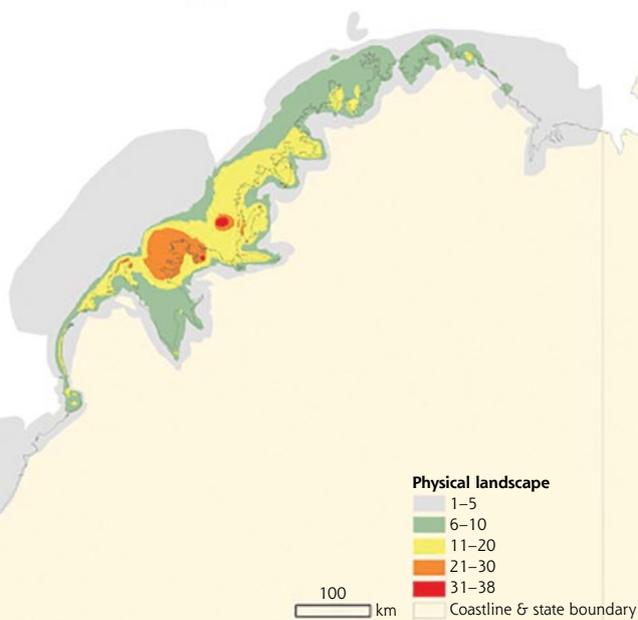


FIGURE 3 Hotspot map for values relating to the 'physical landscape'. Numbers are the frequency for 'physical landscape' values. The location of hot spots varied according to value type. However, Roebuck Bay, the western and northern coastal fringes and marine environments of Dampier Peninsula, the Buccaneer Archipelago, Horizontal Falls and Talbot Bay, and Montgomery Reef appeared as hot spots for a number of values. Sites northward of this also appeared as hot spots, although of less intensity than other areas

- Biodiversity is widely and intensely valued, both on- and offshore. This valuing provides an important base for societal support for marine parks and their nature conservation role.
- Physical landscape values dominated the interviews and were pivotal to peoples' experiences of the Kimberley. Recognition of the importance of this value must underpin all planning and decision making. Future tourism efforts must protect this coast's 'wildness' while also capitalising on it.
- Aboriginal peoples' values for the Kimberley coast and marine environments extend well beyond cultural values and as such Aboriginal people must be included in decision making associated with all the values of the Kimberley coast.
- Careful consideration of the social impacts of developments associated with access to the Dampier Peninsula and Buccaneer Archipelago is essential given the range of values held for these places and the number of people expressing these values. ■

More information

Contact Jennifer Strickland-Munro
E: j.strickland-munro@murdoch.edu.au

Acknowledgements

This research was generously supported by WAMSI (the West Australian Marine Science Institution) and Murdoch University. We are grateful to all the research participants who made this work possible.

References

This article is an excerpt from Strickland-Munro, J., Moore, S., Kobryn, H. & Palmer, D. (2015). Values and aspirations for coastal waters of the Kimberley: Social values and participatory mapping using interviews. Technical Report. Kimberley Marine Research Program Node of the Western Australian Marine Science Institution, WAMSI, Perth, Western Australia.



If you are interested in our research and would like to know more, then please contact us on vlresearch@murdoch.edu.au
Our research bulletins can be downloaded from www.murdoch.edu.au/School-of-Veterinary-and-Life-Sciences/Our-research/Our-Bulletins/
Undergraduate or postgraduate degrees, please see www.murdoch.edu.au/School-of-Veterinary-and-Life-Sciences/Our-courses/

