

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**

**ZONING THE  
FAR NORTHERN SECTION**



**GREAT BARRIER REEF  
MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**

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# ZONING THE FAR NORTHERN SECTION



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APRIL 1984

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ZONING THE FAR NORTHERN SECTION  
OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

INTRODUCTION

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest system of corals and associated life forms anywhere in the world. As a beautiful, natural environment on a uniquely grand scale it is an irreplaceable part of the world's heritage, already inscribed in the World Heritage list.

In recent times, tourism and its associated industries, combined with a large and diverse fishing industry, have increased the economic significance of the Great Barrier Reef to Queensland and Australia. The future of these industries depends significantly on the conservation of the whole Great Barrier Reef as a viable living system.

The unopposed passing by the Commonwealth Parliament in 1975 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act was the consequence of recognition by all political parties that one of our great natural heritages should be conserved for future generations. The Act established the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority which, amongst other things, is a resource planning and management body with the object of providing for conservation and reasonable use of the resource of the Great Barrier Reef.

In the Great Barrier Reef Region planning is based on the analysis and synthesis of information on the character, resources and use of the Region as a whole, and of Sections of the Marine Park in particular. Information is obtained from technical literature, specialist reports prepared by consultants, staff and other public instrumentalities, and from representations made by the public.

Zoning plans are the main practical end product of the planning process in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and provide a framework for managing a Section by separating incompatible activities into different areas. The Authority is also required to set aside some areas to be undisturbed by man, except for the purpose of scientific research. The overall objective is to promote both conservation and reasonable use of the Marine Park's resources.

## Public Participation

As provided in the Act, the public is encouraged to participate in each of the major planning stages and has already been involved in the first stage of planning the Far Northern Section. From September to November 1983, the public was invited to provide information on the uses and characteristics of the Section, to express any related concerns and interests and to make recommendations for zoning and management through a public participation program identified as 'Help Zone the Reef'.

With the aid of the information so gained, as well as discussions with Queensland and Commonwealth Government departments, and recommendations offered at public meetings, a Zoning Plan has been prepared for the Section. As this plan is not yet finalized and may be amended as a result of the review process now underway, it will be described in this booklet as the proposed Zoning Plan. The public, particularly users of the Far Northern Section, are now invited to review and comment on the proposed Zoning Plan.

This is a very important step in the progress towards the setting up of an operational Marine Park Section.

## What Happens Next?

In the light of public representations on the proposed Zoning Plan received before 29th July 1984, the Zoning Plan may be revised.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is then required to submit a report to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment on the content of the representations received from the public and the changes to the zoning plan which are appropriate as a result of the representations.

This report, together with the Zoning Plan and appropriate draft regulations, is submitted to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council for consideration for endorsement. The Ministerial Council, which comprises two Ministers each from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, has the function of co-ordinating the policy of the Governments concerning the Great Barrier Reef.

If the Minister does not refer the Zoning Plan back to the Authority for further consideration, he lays it before both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament.

If within 15 sitting days there are no motions passed by either House disallowing the plan, the Minister, by public notice, specifies the date on which the Zoning Plan will come into effect. It is likely that for the Far Northern Section this will be in early to mid 1985.

This final phase of the public participation program, your opportunity to comment on the Plan for the Far Northern Section, is thus very important.

Once a Zoning Plan for any section of the Marine Park has been gazetted it remains operational until a new plan is prepared by the same process of public participation and consultation which takes about 18 months. The Authority is committed to review Plans after 5 years.

### This Booklet

This booklet has been written to help you comment in the most effective way - that is with a detailed understanding of how the proposed Zoning Plan was developed. The intention is to allow you to see how the Authority uses the information gained from the public and other sources in the planning of the Marine Park. It also illustrates the diversity of opinion held by the public and the complexity of the decisions that have to be made.

In order to clarify your understanding as to why particular zonings are considered suitable under different conditions, the main policy criteria and guidelines that are used by the Authority are also outlined.

To get the most out of this booklet it should be read in conjunction with the Far Northern Section Zoning Plan.

Basic to any discussions of plans for the Far Northern Section is the Reef itself; its resources and their distribution within the Section. The major resource uses are presented in map form in Appendix One at the end of the booklet.

### Resource Maps

The term 'resources' is used broadly in relation to the maps and includes features such as navigation aids, anchorages and shipping channels, adjacent mainland land uses and the location of seagrass and mangrove areas.

The information displayed on the Resource Use Maps is from the representations and data collected by GBRMPA staff.

The following comments will help to explain the resource maps.

### Trawling

General trawling areas are those which are broadly defined as areas used by commercial fishermen. Specific trawling sites are those areas which were identified as being important in the representations.

### Mud Crabs and Foreshore Netting

Foreshore netting is a fishing activity carried out using gill nets. Gill netting is also carried out in estuaries, but such areas are too small to be mapped here and tend to fall outside the boundaries of the Marine Park.

### Dugong, Turtle and Seabird Areas

Australia has an international commitment to protect the habitat of threatened species of world significance. Many of these species live and/or breed in the Far Northern Section. This map indicates the main reefs, islands and waters involved. For example, the Hawksbill Turtle breeding sites tend to be in the northern part of the Section on inshore reefs.

### Adjacent Land Use

Two land uses are mapped, Aboriginal/Islander communities and National Parks. The other main land use in terms of area is cattle production with some mineral extraction. Generally Marine Park Section zoning complements terrestrial land uses wherever possible.

### Mangroves and Seagrass

Both of these are very important plant communities. Mangroves are believed to be some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. They are nursery areas for larval and juvenile stages of many species of fish and prawns. Seagrass areas are primarily of importance to the Dugong.

## THE FAR NORTHERN SECTION REPRESENTATIONS

### Help Zone the Reef

Representation is the term used to describe a written submission made by individuals or groups during the public participation programs run by the Authority.

Such a program for the Far Northern Section, publicly identified as 'Help Zone the Reef', ran from September 1983 to December 1983. During this time staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority met with interested organizations and analysed representations received from the public. The purpose of the program was to seek information from users and concerned people about the characteristics and uses of the Far Northern Section. Opinions about potential zonings were also solicited.

### Public Meetings

A variety of groups was addressed during the public participation program:

- 3 commercial fishermen's groups.
- 4 boating or fishing clubs.
- 2 conservation organizations.
- 1 university (research) group.
- 2 Aboriginal/Islander Councils.
- 2 open meetings were held, at Coen and Thursday Island.

### Public Representations

To assist both the user in making a representation and the Authority in analysing the information received, a brochure with accompanying map entitled 'Help Zone the Reef' was developed. It asked a number of specific questions and provided spaces in which answers and additional information could be written.

This brochure was widely circulated to users of the section and interested people. A high percentage of respondents (66%) used the brochures in making their opinions known to the Authority.

Information on the public participation program was widely advertised and it is likely that most of the actual and potential users of the Section and other interested people were aware of the opportunity to comment.

A total of 116 representations were received from a broad cross-section of users, including individuals and organizations involved in commercial and recreational fishing, aspects of conservation and in research.



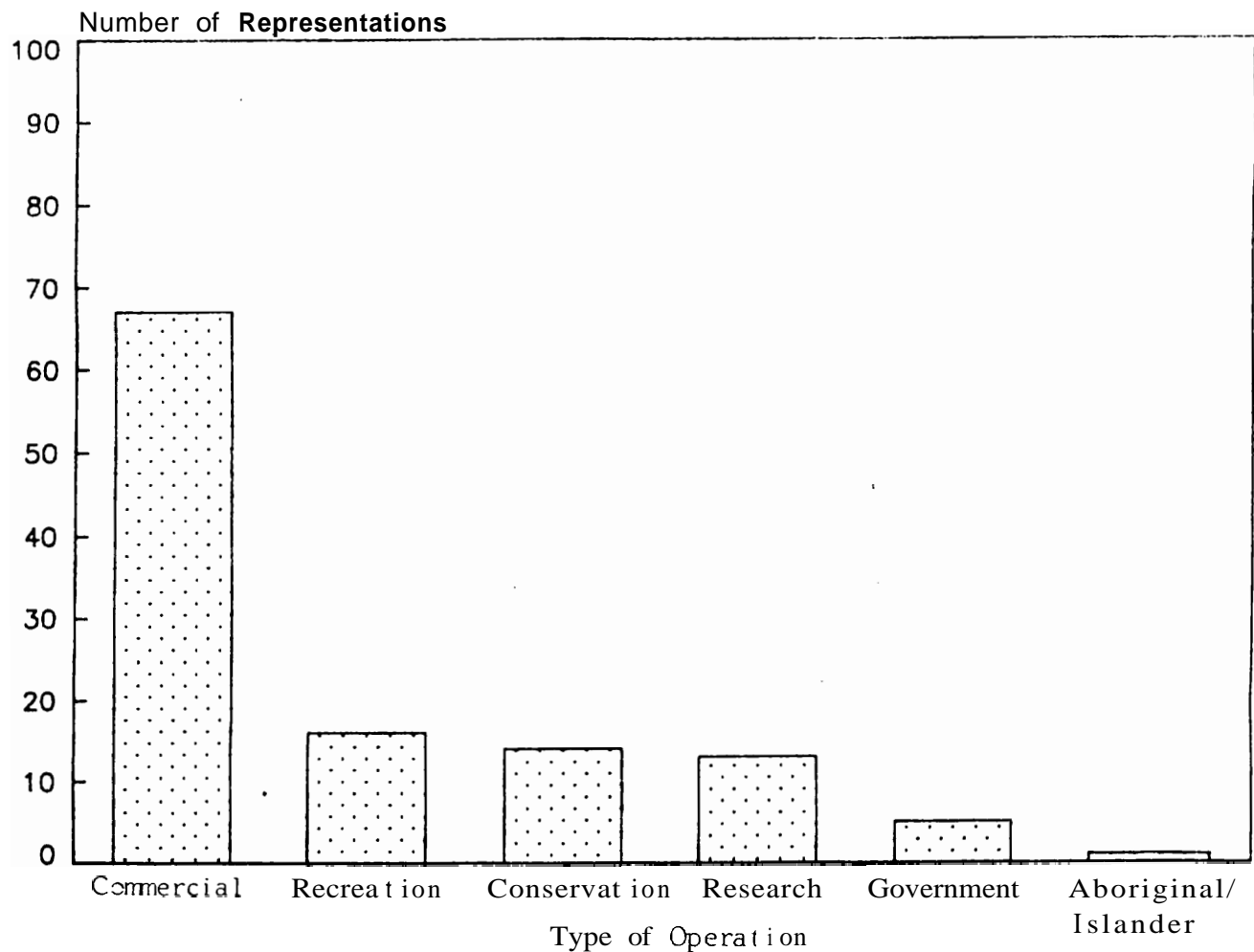
Half the representations received came from individuals (58), whilst almost a third (36) came from organizations such as the Australian Coral Reef Society, and the Queensland Amateur Fishing Council. Seven (7) commercial enterprises made representations. The rest came from families (9) or from informal groups (6), for example a group of commercial fishermen who fish together and submitted a joint representation.

Main Functions and Activities Reported in the Representations

Each representation was analysed and classified under a number of headings based on the type of operation with which it was mainly concerned. For instance representations from both individuals and organizations involved in any form of commercial enterprise, from prawn trawling to charter boat operation, were placed in the 'commercial' category.

This produced the following graph:

GRAPH 1 Representations by Major Operation.



It is clear that the majority of representations are in the commercial operation category. When this group is examined more closely, as in the following table, it becomes obvious that fishing stands out as the predominant commercial activity. 79 percent of representations in the commercial group dealt with some form of fishing. Fishing also figures prominently as a recreational pursuit in the Far Northern Section.

TABLE 1 Activities Breakdown Expanded from Graph 1

Broad operation	Details of activity	Number of Representations
Commercial	Fishing	53
	Charter	6
	Tourism	2
	Collecting	3
	Shipping	2
	Other	1
	Total Commercial	<u>67</u>
Recreational	Fishing	4
	Collecting	1
	General	11
	Total Recreational	<u>16</u>
Conservation	Councils and centres	11
	General	3
	Total Conservation	<u>14</u>
Research	Institute and field stations	7
	University	4
	Museums	2
	Total Research	<u>13</u>
Government	Commonwealth	3
	Queensland	1
	Local/Aboriginal	1
	Total Government	<u>5</u>
Aboriginal and Islander	Traditional hunting and fishing	1
TOTAL		<u>116</u>

Departure Points for Access to the Far Northern Section

Generally, intensity of use in a marine area is related to its proximity to a major departure point, often a large town or settlement. This has to be provided for in the Zoning Plan by balancing the closure of some heavily used reefs and areas (to allow for replenishment and thus future use) with the continuing use of some similarly used areas, particularly a number accessible to the population centres concerned. However, in the Far Northern Section, it appears that a **majority of the users come into the areas, usually by sea from outside the Section.** Thus the departure point/intensity of use relationship described above becomes more of a regional planning consideration than a local one. That is, instead of the intensity of use spreading outward from, for example, Port Stewart, in concentric rings of progressively decreasing intensity of use, it is probable that the most heavily used reefs are generally those in the southern part of the Section which are closer to more southerly departure points.

45 (39%) of the respondents did not mention a departure point and of those that did, some explained that they set off on trips within the Section from more than one place.

The following table lists the most frequently mentioned departure points for access to locations within the Far Northern Section.

TABLE 2 Departure Points for Travel in the Far Northern Section

Departure points	Total number of times the departure point was named	Percentage of all references to points of departure (rounded)
Cairns	32	35
Cooktown	9	10
Port Douglas	9	10
Innisfail	9	10
Townsville	8	9
Thursday Island	7	8
Port Stewart	4	4
Portland Roads	3	3
Other places adjacent to the Far Northern Section	6	7
Other places adjacent to the Cairns Section	4	4
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>92</u>	<u>101</u>

69 percent of all references to named departure points were to places adjacent to the Cairns Section rather than to ports, settlements or launching points adjoining, or in, the Far Northern Section. This is indicative of the low population of the Cape York region of Queensland and its relatively undeveloped industrial and commercial infrastructure.

### Modes of Travel

35 (30.7%) of representations did not mention any method of travel at all. Most respondents (65, 57%) used commercial operation, either charter or regularly scheduled services, when travelling within the Section. 14 respondents (12.3%) said that they used private vessels or aircraft.

### Destinations and Areas of Operation

The 20 most commonly mentioned Reefs and waters are listed below, in rank order from the most often mentioned place to the least.

TABLE 3 Rank Order of The 20 Most Frequently Mentioned Reefs and Waters in the Far Northern Section Representations.

#### Name

Flinders Island and Reefs (Flinders Group)  
Stanley Island and Reefs (Flinders Group)  
Princess Charlotte Bay  
Raine Island and Reef  
Howick Island and Reef  
Corbett Reef  
Gallon Reef  
Blackwood Reef (Flinders Group)  
Lloyd Bay  
Night Island and Reef  
Maclear Island and Reef (Flinders Group)  
Denham Island and Reef (Flinders Group)  
Sentry Rock  
Shelburne Bay  
Bushy Island and Reef  
Reef 11-192 (Home Island Group)  
Cape Grenville  
Nob Island and Reef  
Restoration Island and Reef  
Bathurst Bay.

### Summary

Some of the representations were very detailed and supported by much documentation. Aspects of these, for example prime prawn trawling grounds and important crayfish areas, are illustrated by the Resources Maps in this booklet.

The major activity identified in the Far Northern Section was commercial prawn trawling, with its importance being stated in terms of providing consistent, yet still underexploited, yields of high value. Other commercial activities of significance, were gill-netting, cray fishing, mackerel trolling and reef fishing.

Not all reef fishing and trolling is commercial. Both are also major recreational activities. Diving too is a significant recreational pursuit in the Section with the relatively pristine nature of the reefs being an important attraction.

From the representations it would appear that recreational access to the Section is by charter boat, though local Cape York residents fish by private boat as recreation.

Traditional fishing and hunting within the Far Northern Section is particularly important to the Lockhart River community and less used by residents of Bamaga and the Torres Strait Islands.

A number of interrelated conservation and research issues were apparent from the representations:

- . The Section is one of the remaining strongholds of the dugong, an endangered herbivorous marine mammal.
- . Some of the most important turtle and seabird nesting sites in the West Pacific are located in the Far Northern Section of the Great Barrier Reef Region.
- . In comparison to other Sections so far zoned this area is less disturbed by human impact and so the potential exists for complete outer barrier to inshore representative cross-sections (cross-shelf transects), to be protected as samples of near pristine interrelated reef sub-systems.

#### Some Major Recommendations Made in the Representations

The following list of the major recommendations from representations as well as public meetings and discussions with interested parties, gives an indication of the type of conflicts that need to be resolved in planning for the future use and conservation of the Far Northern Section. Explanatory comments pointing out conflicts that might not be readily apparent from the list alone are added in brackets.

- . The Section, rich in wildlife of many forms, is one of the few areas of the Great Barrier Reef Region that is still relatively little affected by human activity and at least some large representative areas of it should remain so for all time.

- Trawling disturbs and alters complex sea bed ecological communities. The nature of these communities, their relationship to reefs and fish populations and their ability to repair and regenerate are little understood. It is thus important that large areas be protected from the impact of trawling.
- Prawn trawling is a major commercial activity in north Australia and the Far Northern Section grounds already exploited are a very important, reliable source of quality prawns. There are other potential prawning grounds in the Section and trawlers should **be** free to use them when required.
- Cray fishing is a profitable industry carried out primarily on the inshore reefs from Torres Strait to Night Island. It is particularly important to the economy of the Torres Strait Islands and should be allowed to expand as demand for the product rises. The method of fishing or capture involves the use of surface supplied diving equipment, or hookah, and spearguns. Use of these in combination are not at present allowed in the Regulations of the Great Barrier Reef Region.
- Gill netting carried out mainly in shallow inshore waters is a profitable commercial activity and should be as little restricted as possible.
- Shallow bay areas of the Far Northern Section are some of the primary grazing and breeding areas in Australia for the Dugong, an endangered marine mammal. The animal is sometimes accidentally caught in gill nets and drowned. Inshore shallow waters are also important nursery areas for prawns. These areas should therefore be left undisturbed.
- Hunting and fishing is an integral part of the way of life of many Cape York and Islander traditional communities. This traditional right to the riches of the sea should be as unrestricted as possible. Amongst the animals caught are the Dugong and Green Turtle, both endangered species. Traditional hunting is only one of many pressures on them.

It is obvious that many of these recommendations, taken at their extreme, would require a high percentage of the Far Northern Section to be devoted to one activity alone. Whilst all are legitimate activities, it is clear that some acceptable balance has to be reached. The aim of the Zoning Plan and accompanying regulations is to achieve some balance of interests in the fairest way possible.

### The Far Northern Section Zoning Plan: Guidelines

The Plan follows many of the principles established in the Zoning Plans for the Capricornia and Cairns Sections. As with those Plans some general guidelines formed the basis for development:

- The Plan should be as simple as practicable for users to understand and for day-to-day management to be effective and economical.
- The Plan should keep the number of zones to a minimum.
- Zonings should, as far as possible, apply to large areas.

### Zoning Criteria

The more specific criteria used in the development of the Far Northern Section proposed Zoning Plan are listed below. The most complex points are placed last and are accompanied by a brief explanation. This is followed by a more complete definition of the various zones mentioned.

- When a reef or reefs are zoned in a way which excludes a particular activity, provision should be made, in as many cases as possible, for access to alternative areas.
- The Plan must not impede the access of international, interstate or intra-state shipping to shipping routes or to existing ports on the coast of Queensland. Nor should it impede access to potential ports.
- The Plan should provide for the movement of shipping along current and historic routes.
- It is proposed that a General Use 'C' Zone be created which allows for the safe navigation and operation of vessels of any size. The resulting principal effect of that zone is thus to protect areas from trawling.
- Major anchorage sites should, as far as possible, be in General Use Zones so as to allow most of the activities associated with overnight or longer anchoring of vessels to continue.
- As far as possible the Plan should retain access for small boats to important all weather anchorages. However, all boats do have access to all zones during emergency conditions.

- . As far as possible existing trawling areas should fall within the General Use 'A' Zone, an area of minimal restrictions.
- . Shallow inshore waters less than 10 metres in depth have been shown to be important as prawn and fish nursery areas, pearl grounds and as Dugong habitat. For these reasons such inshore areas should be protected as far as possible from the impact of trawling.
- . Reefs and other areas adjacent to coastal settlements and/or popular departure points are often the focus of fishing and related activities. As far as possible a group of Replenishment Areas (areas closed for set periods to enable fish and other exploited resources to regenerate. A full definition is given below.) should be declared within the same general area to ensure future fishing stocks.
- . Waters adjacent to existing National Parks and known sacred sites should be protected by appropriate Marine National Park zoning.
- . Reefs zoned for preservation should include representatives of major reef types and habitats particularly characteristic of the Section.
- . As far as possible representative samples of characteristic reef types should be included in either Marine National Park 'B' or Preservation Zones, that is in the most highly protected categories.
- . As the Dugong is a threatened species at least one area of primary Dugong habitat should be in a Preservation Zone, an area of maximum protection, and most other areas of primary habitat and some areas of secondary habitat should be in the Marine National Park 'B' Zone.
- . Green Turtle rookeries of world significance occur in the Far Northern Section. These should be protected by the declaration of Seasonal Closure Areas which protect them from human disturbance during the nesting and hatching seasons.
- . The major bird and turtle rookery sites of world or regional significance should, as far as possible, be placed in Marine National Park 'B' or Preservation Zones to ensure their protection.
- . Provision should be made for the conduct of scientific and management research throughout the Section.



- . Reefs should only be zoned exclusively for scientific research where existing and probable future research programs indicate that they are likely to be used for that purpose on a frequent and regular basis.

Scientific Research zoning has only been applied in the southernmost part of the Far Northern Section where it represents a continuation of a similarly zoned area in the Cairns Section. Otherwise the Scientific Research Zone has not been used. A significant proportion of scientists accept that, whilst they may need areas of reefs within which public access is restricted, it is extremely rare for whole reefs to need such strict limitations on all forms of public access. Reef Research Areas, which can be proclaimed on a reef in any zone other than a Preservation Zone, appear to meet the needs of the scientific community.

- . It is recognized that systematic research into the ecology of the Great Barrier Reef may be assisted by identification and protection of transects across the Reef from inshore to the continental shelf drop-off, as proposed by the scientific community. Where feasible the Plan should accept the cross-shelf transect proposal and give full recognition to one of the transects by having, as far as possible, a non-extractive transect from coastal low water to beyond the outer barrier reefs.
- . In the case of most seabird and Hawksbill Turtle rookeries, breeding is not limited to specific seasons so Seasonal Closure areas are not appropriate.
- . Green Turtles have a distinctly seasonal breeding cycle which means that Seasonal Closure Areas are appropriate for protection of this species. However, there is no adequate information of a similar nature to identify specific areas for closures to protect crayfish migrations or fish spawning aggregations within the Section.

The pattern of these zones within a section as far as possible avoids any sudden transition from highly protected areas to areas of relatively little protection which can cause a number of problems. Instead the concept of "buffer zones" - areas which permit some forms of extractive activity, but which still afford some measure of protection - is applied. In this way highly protected zones are generally adjacent to, or surrounded by, zones which provide for moderate protection. Adjacent to or surrounding these are zones with very few restrictions indeed.

The Plan makes provision for the continuation of traditional fishing by Aborigines and Islanders in all zones other than the Preservation Zone. Traditional hunting may be carried out in all zones other than the Preservation Zone but will require a permit which will be granted only on conditions relating to recording catch and levels of stock of limited species.

A major feature of the plan is the proposed cross-shelf Marine National Park B transect at the latitude of Shelburne Bay. This transect is broken only by strips of General Use 'C' Zone which are needed to make provision for the movement of vessels in recognized shipping lanes. An alternative solution may be to avoid breaking the Marine National Park B Zone with such strips and to make specific provision for identified shipping lanes within the Marine National Park B Zone. This would emphasise the conservational priority placed upon the area. The Authority would be particularly interested to receive comments on this alternative.

### Zones

The zones are described in detail in the Zoning Plan, but a guide to the activities which may occur in the zones follows.

Table 5 Far Northern Section Activities Guide  
[see Zoning Plan for details]

	GUA	GUC	MNPB	SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH	PRESERVATION
BOATING, DIVING	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
COLLECTING (e.g. shells coral, aquarium fish)	Permit	Permit	No	No	No
LINE FISHING	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
BAIT NETTING	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
TROLLING for pelagic species	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
SPEARFISHING (N.B. not with underwater breathing apparatus)*	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
POLE & LINE TUNA FISHING	Permit	Permit	No	No	No
TRAWLING	Yes	No	No	No	No
CRUISE SHIPS	Yes	Yes	Permit	No	No
GENERAL SHIPPING	Yes	Yes	No <sup>d</sup>	No	No
TRADITIONAL FISHING	Yes	Yes	Permit	Permit	No
TRADITIONAL HUNTING	Permit	Permit	Permit	Permit	No

\* Spearfishing with use of hookah for crayfishing will require a permit  
<sup>d</sup> Except in designated shipping lanes provided in this zone, as in Appendix Three.

Provisions for access in emergencies are defined in the Zoning Plan.

#### Areas of Periodic Restricted Use

**Seasonal Closure Areas:** The objective of this Area is to prevent, when necessary, access to areas important to the breeding of some animals of the Reef Region. Entry is prohibited except in the case of an emergency.

**Replenishment Areas:** The objective of these Areas is to provide for a specific period of time, an area which is closed to any activity which will remove living resources of the Marine Park, to enable the recovery of fish and other resource stocks.

**Reef Appreciation Areas:** The objective of these Areas is to provide small areas on heavily used reefs, in which the public may observe and appreciate relatively undisturbed marine life. Within such areas, fishing and collecting will not be allowed. Reef Appreciation Areas shall not incorporate more than 20 percent of the area of any one reef.

**Reef Research Areas:** The objective of these Areas is to provide a small area on a reef in which undisturbed approved research may be conducted. Reef Research Areas shall not incorporate more than 20 percent of the area of any one reef.

The Seasonal Closure Areas and Replenishment Areas will apply to whole reefs identified in the zoning plan.

The periods of restriction will be widely advertised before implementation.

Reef Appreciation Areas and Reef Research Areas are not shown in the Zoning Plan. Need for these have not yet been identified. If and when such a need is established, these areas will only be declared after formal public participation processes.

THE FAR NORTHERN SECTION ZONING PLAN:  
SOME DETAILED EXPLANATIONS

The following comments should be read in conjunction with the Zoning Plan maps. Note that the zone boundaries around Reefs individually zoned are 500 metres from the reef edge.

1. General Use 'C' Zone: Reasons for zoning particular reefs and areas as General Use 'C' (GUC).

There are strips of GUC zone along the coast and the outer boundary generally follows the 5 kilometre line from the coastal low water mark. The waters inshore of this line are, for the most part, less than 10 metres in depth north of Cape Weymouth and generally less than 5 metres in depth south of Cape Weymouth. In general, these GUC zones are located at:

- . Princess Charlotte Bay to Evanson Point
- . Claremont Point to Campbell Point
- . Friendly Point to Cape Weymouth, including Lloyd Bay
- . Mosquito Point to north of Olive River
- . Home Islands area
- . Hunter Point to Cape York excepting Sharp Point to Sadd Point.

North of Cape Weymouth the water is deeper inshore but nonetheless has been identified (outside the Shelburne Bay - Raine Island cross shelf transect) as having important pearl grounds or Dugong habitat needing some protection from the effects of trawling. This has resulted in the boundaries shown.

Some identified trawling grounds have been closed in the proposed zoning plan. Analysis of the representations indicates that the most intensively used trawling areas are located from Cape Weymouth south and inshore of the mid-shelf reefs. It is estimated that, at most, 10% of this intensively used area is closed to trawling in the proposed Zoning Plan. The Authority understands that the area affected by inter-reef trawling is limited at present. In light of this the Authority has a commitment to protect these areas, at least until more is known about the impact trawling has on them.

Lloyd Bay and Newcastle Bay are proposed for protection as dugong habitats. Some of the mid-shelf planar reefs (e.g. Hedge Reef) are also proposed for protection of dugong habitats.

GUC is also used as a buffer zone around more highly restrictive zones, such as the MNPB cross-shelf transect from Shelburne Bay to Raine Island.

2. Marine National Park 'B' Zone: Reasons for zoning particular reefs and areas as Marine National Park 'B' (MNPB).

There are strips of this zone along the coast and the outer boundary generally follows the 5 kilometre line. The waters inshore of this line are, in the main, less than 10 metres in depth north of Cape Weymouth and often less than 5 metres in depth south of Cape Weymouth.

- Bathurst Bay to Ninian Bay
- Friendly Point to north of Campbell Point
- adjacent to the Pascoe River.

As noted previously in the list of criteria many such shallow waters have been identified as important prawn nursery, dugong and fish habitat areas and as such should be protected from trawling impacts wherever possible. The Friendly Point MNPB Zone is also supportive of the cross-shelf transect proposal.

Other areas in the Marine National Park 'B' Zone are listed below in summary form.

<u>Locations</u>	<u>Reason for zoning of the area and/or surrounding waters</u>
Milman, Aplin and Sinclair Cays	Hawksbill Turtle rookeries,
Barrow Point to Browns Point Pascoe River mouth (in Weymouth Bay)	Dugong habitat.
Shelburne Bay	Dugong habitat, part of cross shelf transect.
Tijou Reef	Ribbon reef with high diversity of coral species.
Sandbank 8 to Sandbank 7	Green Turtle nesting, part of cross-shelf transects,
Ogilivie Reef	Part of cross-shelf transects.
Jewell Reef	High diversity of coral species, diving in outer face in most weather conditions,
Crescent Reef Combe Reef Snake Reef Cockburn Reef	Part of cross-shelf transect.

Sir Charles Hardy Island Reef	Part of cross-shelf transect.
Osborne Reef	Particularly large corals.
The Flinders Group fringing reefs	The islands are National Parks, with Aboriginal relics.
King Island Reef	A representative sample of a low wooded island with reef.
Clack Island and reef	The island has Aboriginal relics and the reef is a representative sample of an inshore patch reef.
Corbett/Grub Reef	Dugong habitat and a typical mid-shelf planar reef.
Great Detached Reef	Representative example of a detached reef - prolific coral growth on all sides.
Triangle Reef	Representative example of a deltaic reef structure.

Shelburne Bay is proposed as a large protected area. This closure is of benefit to the trawling industry, as well as to conservation groups, because the bay has been identified as an important prawn nursery area.

The Authority understands that the Far Northern Section reefs provide about 15% of the total Torres Strait and east coast cray fishery and recognizes that it has closed off some reefs (e.g. Cockburn Reef) that are used in this fishery. However these represent less than 5% of the reefs identified as important to the fishery.

#### Seasonal Closure Areas

Locations	Reason for zoning of the area and/or surrounding waters
Raine Island Pandora Cay Sandbank 8	Green Turtle rookeries.

Replenishment Areas

Locations	Reason for zoning of the area and/or surrounding waters
3 reefs off Cape Weymouth, Portland Roads and Restoration Island area 3 reefs off Lloyd Bay, Lockhart River settlement and Iron Range. 3 reefs off Port Stewart.	Areas close to settlements, and/or foreshadowed tourist development and thus potential fishing pressure. Provides for future use of fish and other resources.

Preservation Zones

The reefs zoned for preservation are all representative samples of mid, outer ribbon and detached reefs. The area inshore from the Howicks is a prime dugong habitat.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on any aspect of the proposed zoning plan, or the points made in this publication, please contact the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority at Melton Place, 67-71 Denham Street, Townsville. A copy of detailed maps illustrating zone boundaries is available from the address below. Please refer to GBR Index Series 1:250,000 Map Sheet 1 (BRA Q66) and Sheet 2 (BRA Q67).

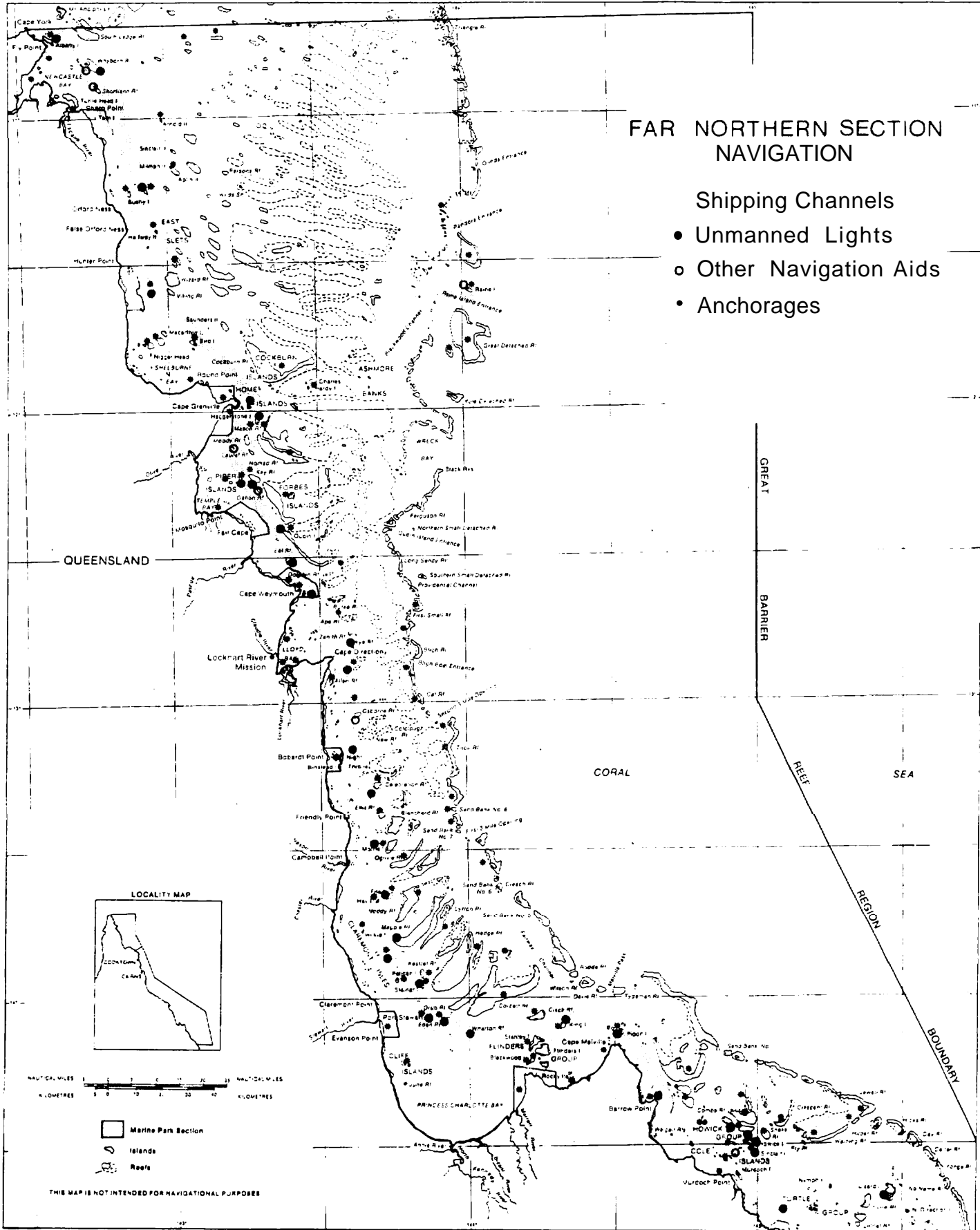
The postal address is

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority,  
P.O. Box 1379,  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Telephone (077) 712191 during business hours.

APPENDIX ONE  
RESOURCE MAPS





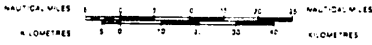
# FAR NORTHERN SECTION NAVIGATION

- Shipping Channels
- Unmanned Lights
- Other Navigation Aids
- Anchorages

QUEENSLAND

GREAT BARRIER REEF

CORAL SEA



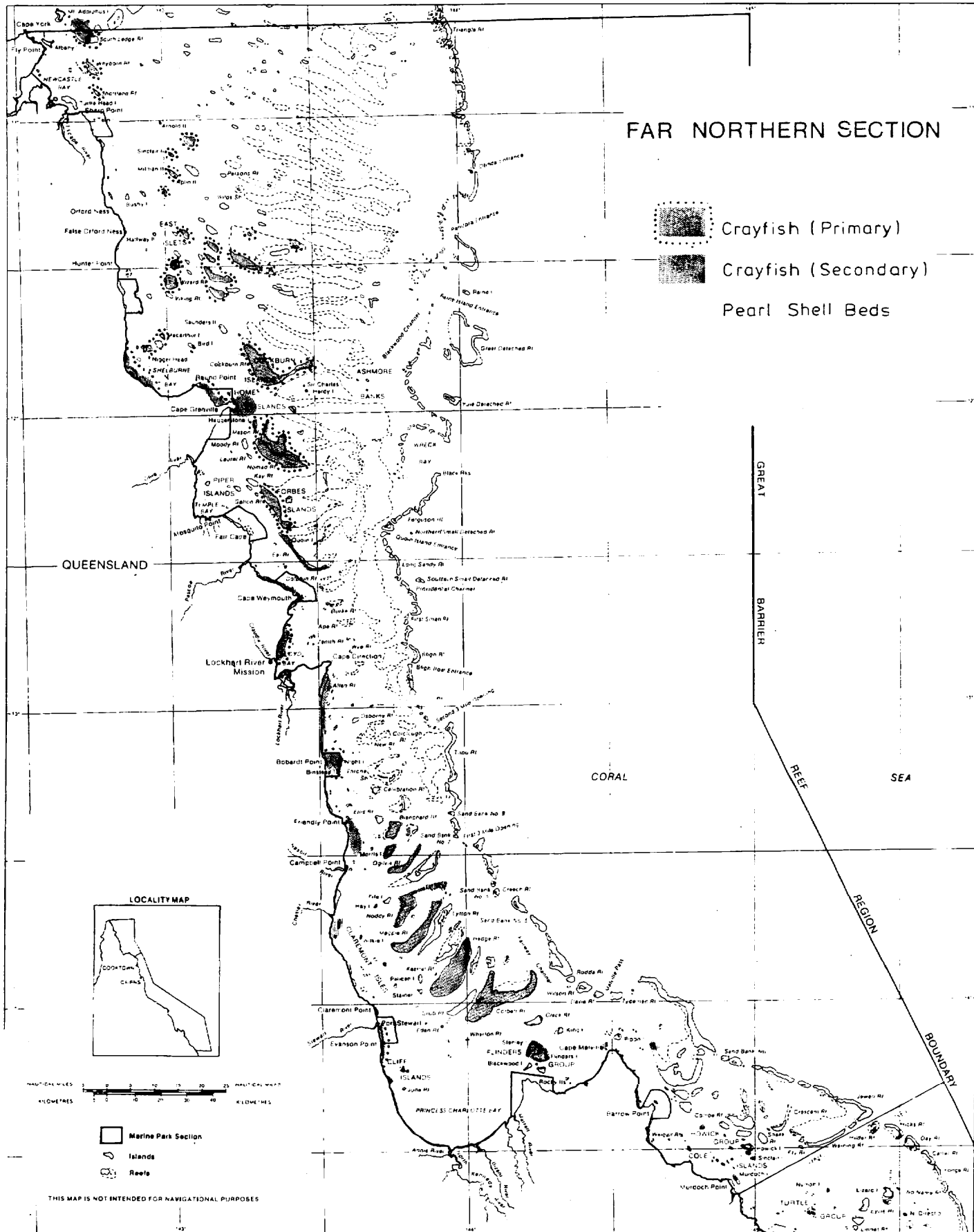
- Marine Park Section
- Islands
- Reefs

THIS MAP IS NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY





BPA 062



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

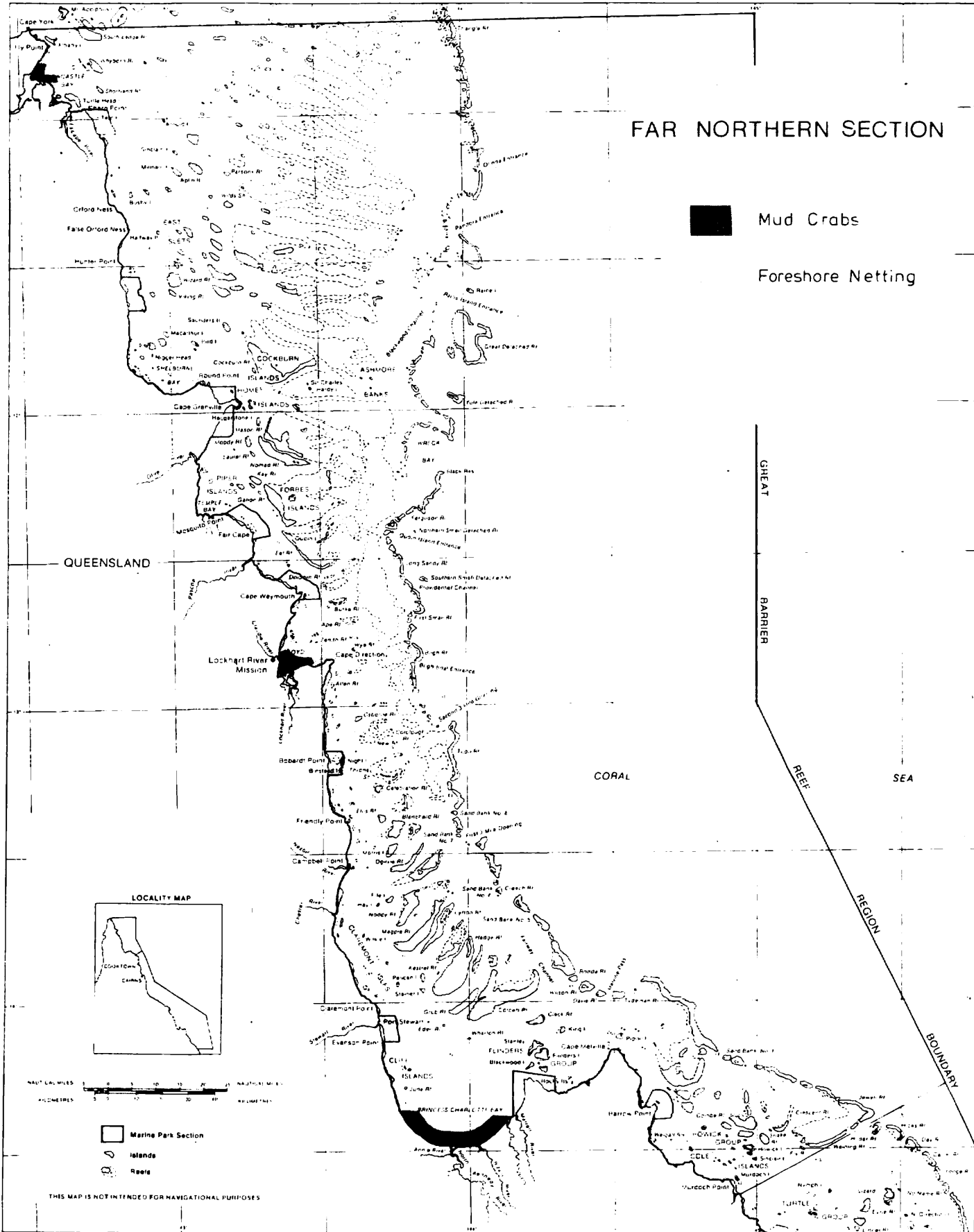
AUGUST

# FAR NORTHERN SECTION



Mud Crabs

Foreshore Netting

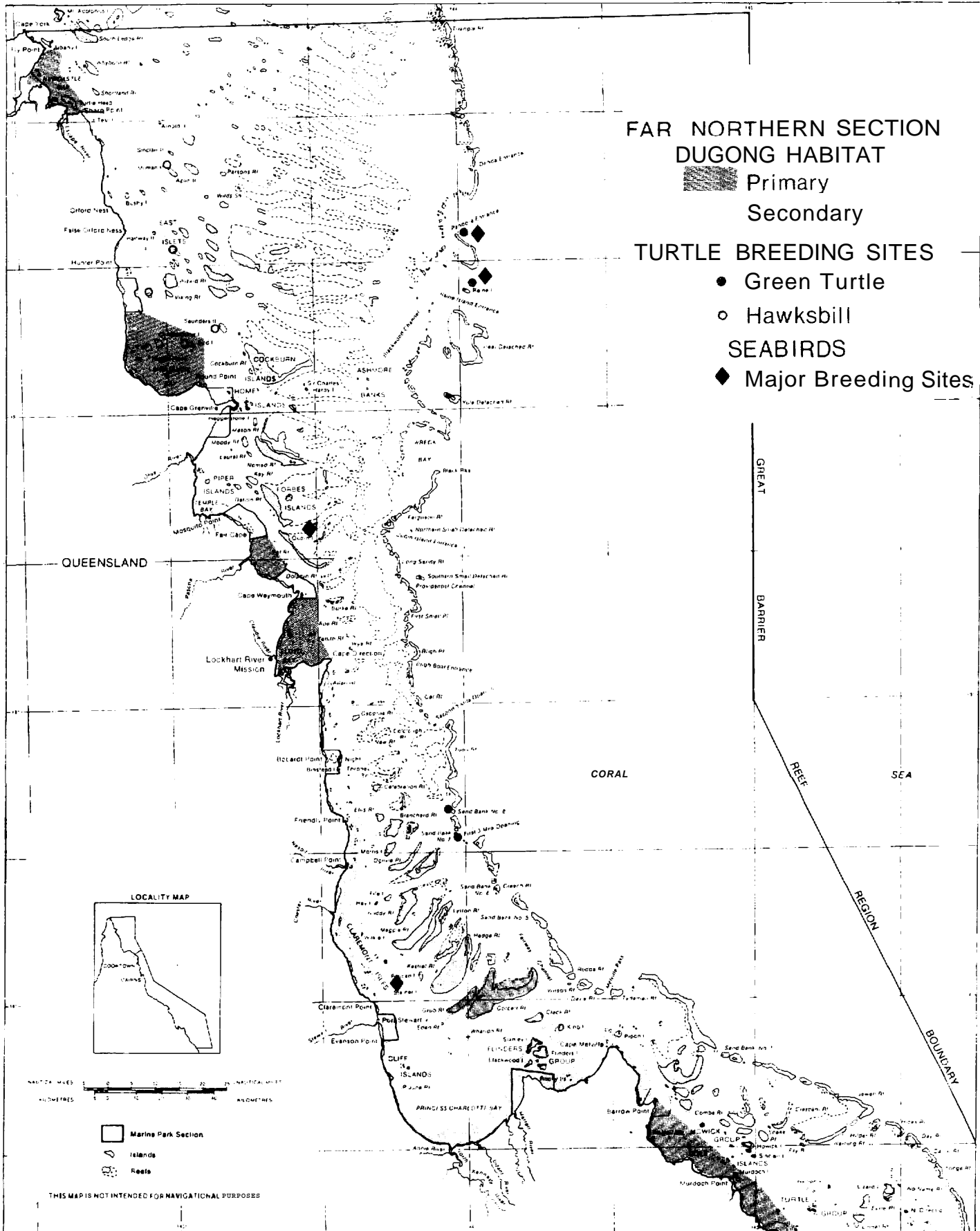


BRA 052

AUGUST





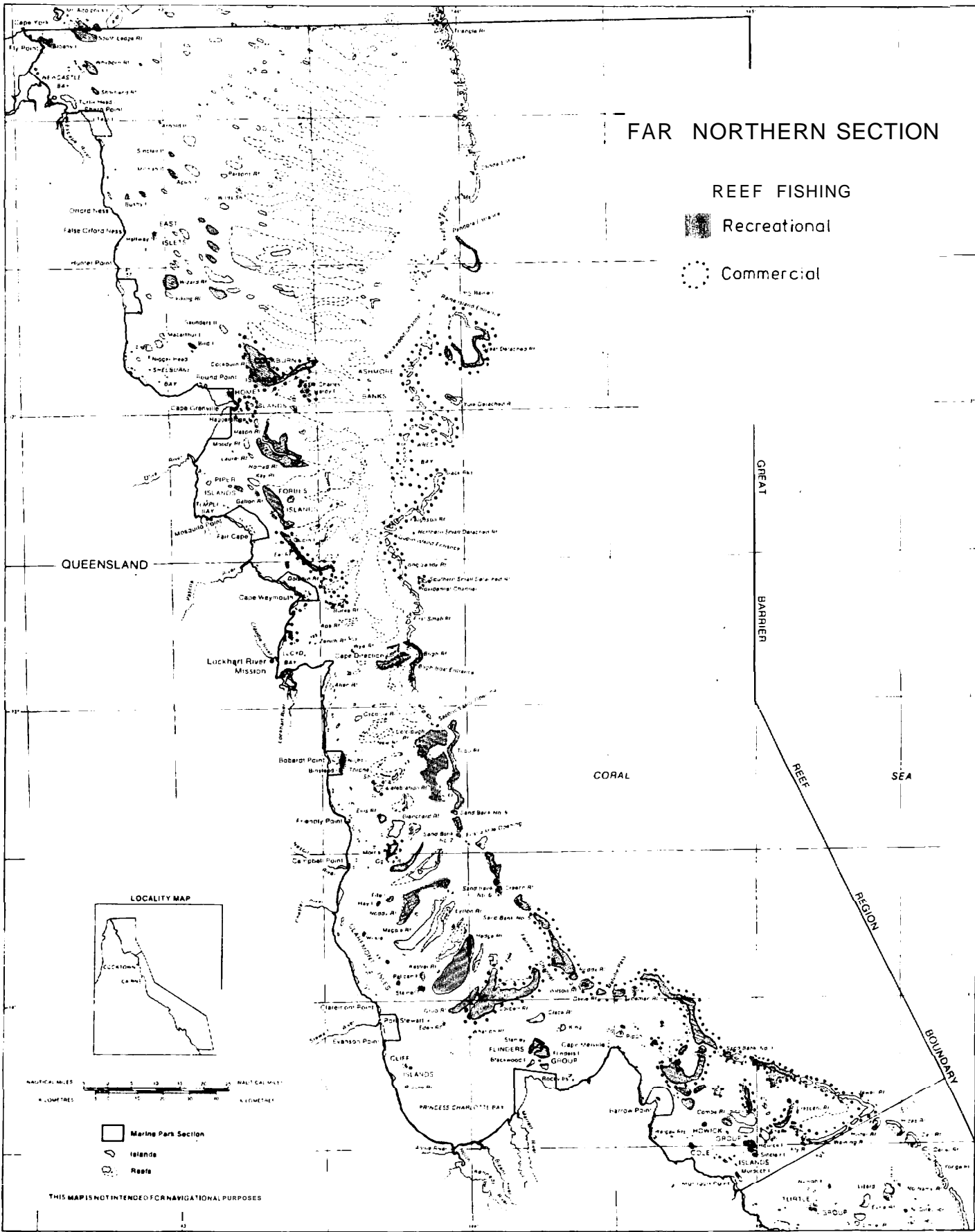
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY



# FAR NORTHERN SECTION

## REEF FISHING

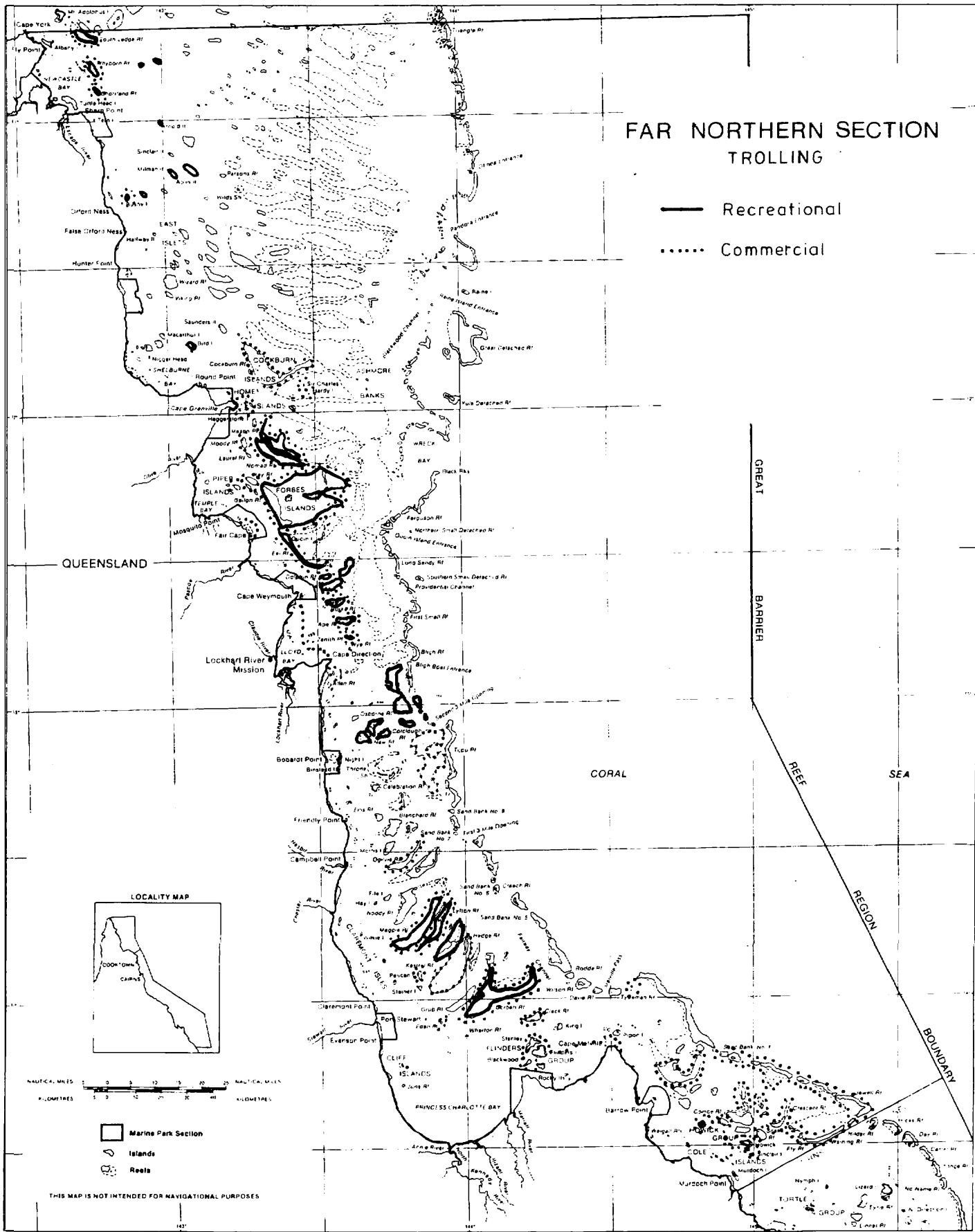
-  Recreational
-  Commercial



BPA 062





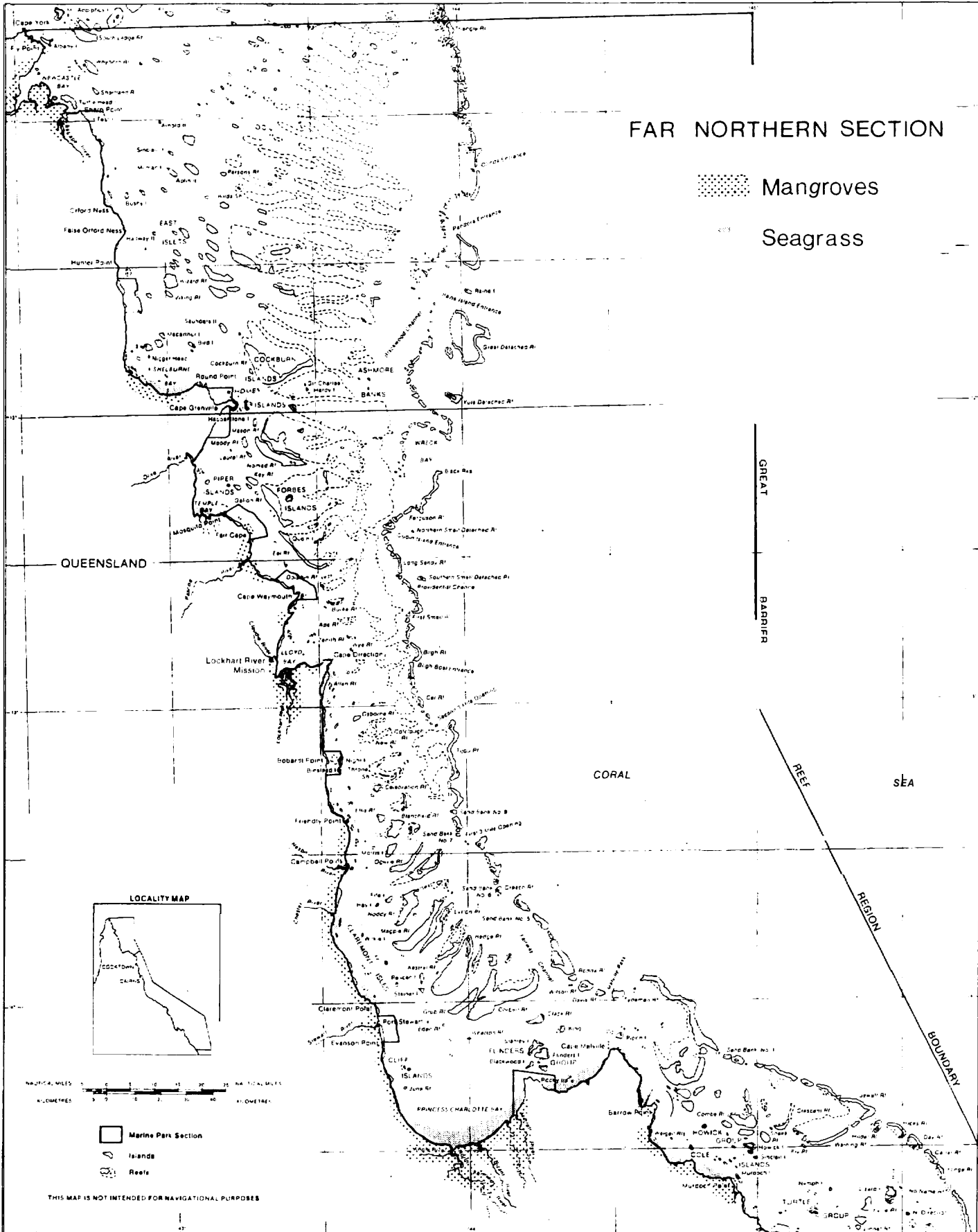
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

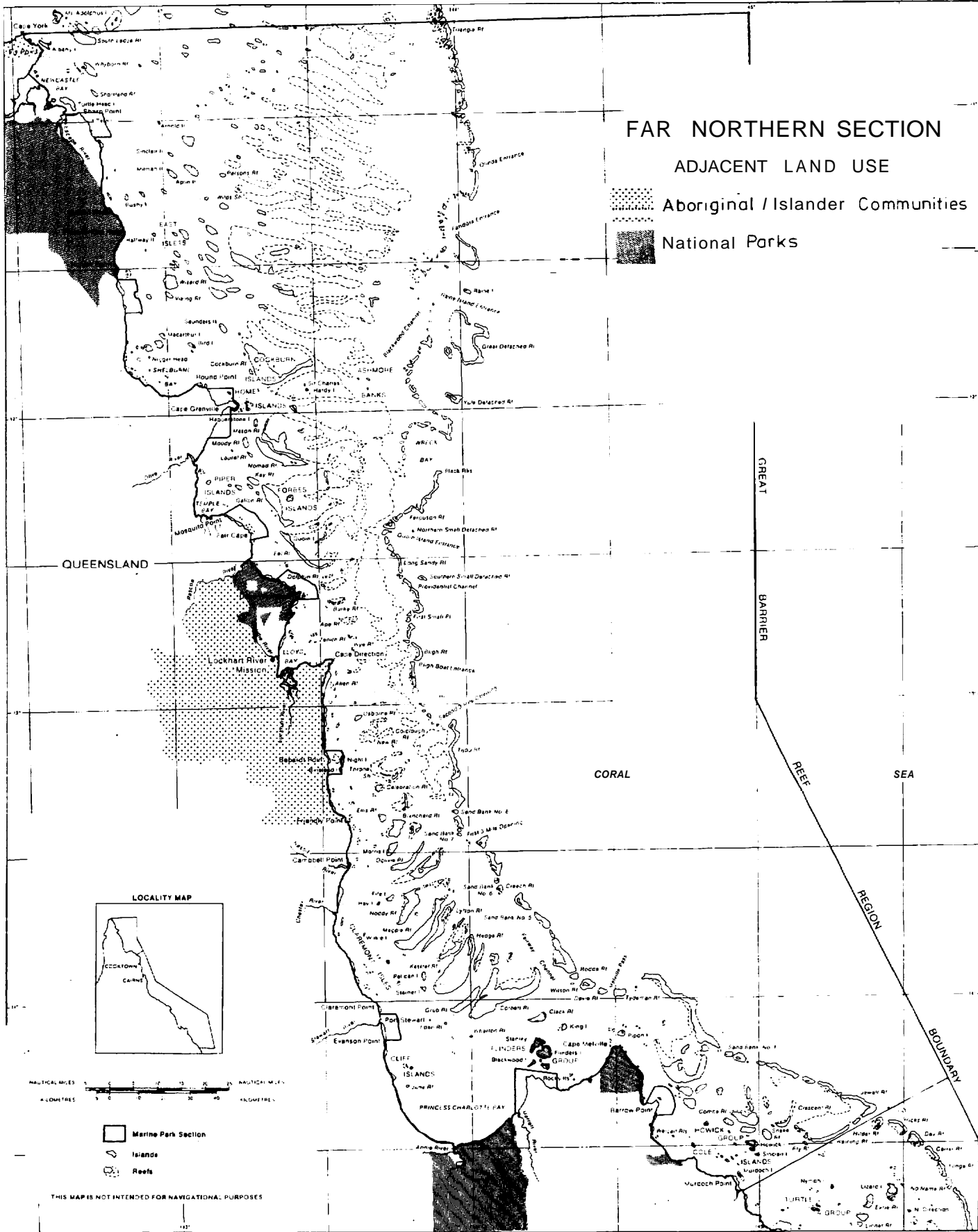
# FAR NORTHERN SECTION

 Mangroves  
 Seagrass



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GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

APPENDIX TWO

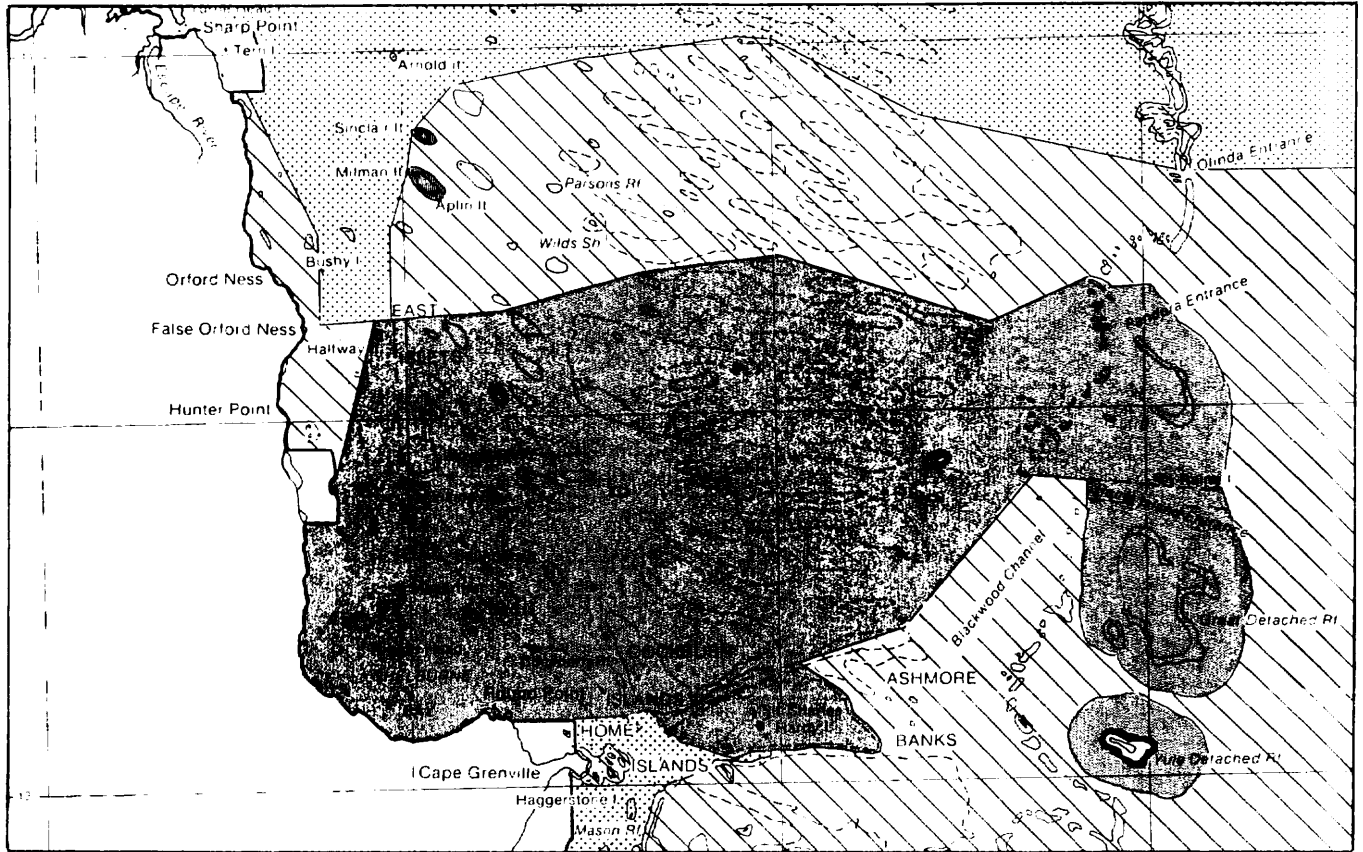
The following table is a rough estimate of the relative proportion of the Far Northern Section which is in various zones as proposed in the Zoning Plan.

TABLE 6 Area and Relative Sizes of Designated Zones in the Far Northern Section

Zone	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	% of Total Section
General Use 'A' Zone	37,531	45.2
General Use 'C' Zone	39,052	47.0
Marine National Park 'B' Zone	6,110	7.4
Scientific Research Zone	37	0.1
Preservation Zone	270	0.3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	83,000	100.0

APPENDIX THREE

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION FOR SHIPPING IN  
MARINE NATIONAL PARK B TRANSECT



**ZONES**



General Use 'A' Zone



General Use 'C' Zone



Marine National Park 'B' Zone



Preservation Zone



Designated Shipping Lane

10

10

10