



KIMBERLEY MARINE

RESEARCH STATION • CYGNET BAY

JUNE 2012

What's been happening at KMRS in June?

June 3 – 5: the Blue Cloud Spatial citizen science team visits KMRS: The team from the US based project Blue Cloud Spatial spent 2 days at KMRS as the most northerly stop on a recent expedition along the WA coastline to explore current citizen science initiatives. Whilst on-site, time was spent discussing the role and value of marine research in the region and included an exploration of the marine environments around KMRS. The Blue Cloud Spatial team works with local citizens, scientists, corporations and other stakeholders involved with marine, estuarine and river ecosystems in North and South America and Western Australia to acquire and provide its partners with high quality GIS maps, supporting collaborative conservation efforts based around the ethos of true citizen science. KMRS would like to extend our thanks to Tom, Andy & McCain for taking the time to travel north and visit KMRS, and to Simon for helping with logistics. We look forward to



contributing our citizen science footage and data to the map. For more info, please visit bluecloudspatial.com.

June 19: Kimberley Aquaculture Zone information session: a representative from the Department of Fisheries briefly visited KMRS to discuss the proposed Kimberley Aquaculture Zone for marine finfish planned to be set up in 2013 adjacent to the existing finfish site at Cone Bay. The tender for modelling services for the strategic environmental assessment is to be released in early July. [Click here](#) for more information on the zone from the DoF website or [click here](#) to read Minister Moore's associated media release.



A pod of Australian snubfin dolphins at Cygnet Bay (C Adam)

What's been happening in the water lately?

As experienced in May, strong south-easterly wind events have continued to prevail throughout the month with a period of gale-force SE winds around June 22-26. Despite this, it has been a month of notable marine encounters at the Bay.

Unfazed by the wind and choppy conditions, pods of at least 11 Australian snubfin dolphins (*Orcaella heinsohni*) have been spotted on numerous occasions leisurely cruising through the pearl farm lease off Skeleton Point. Likewise, a particularly curious juvenile tiger shark was photographed (left) as it navigated through the farm lease, stopping to have a closer look at boats and buoys along the way. A little more at the mercy of the elements, this tiny turtle hatchling (right) was found battling its way through the waves on Cygnet Bay's front beach. It is thought to be an olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) which, if correct, is significant in that the first and only olive ridley nest recorded in



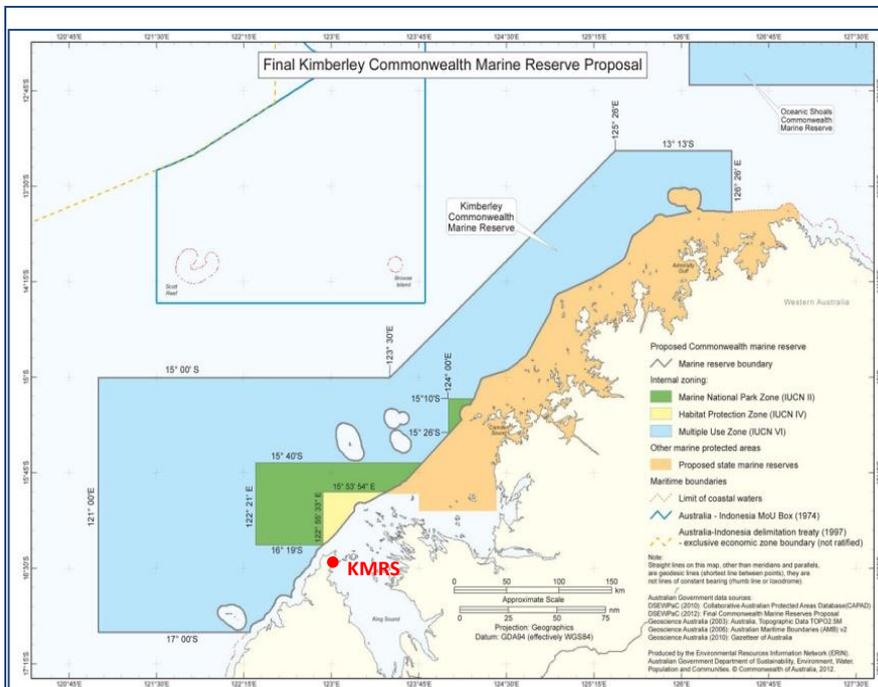
Tiger shark (C Adam)



Turtle hatchling (D Nilsson)

WA was found by the Bardi Jawi Rangers at Kooljaman, Cape Leveque in 2008. Please contact us to share your advice on what species it is!

The 2012 whale watching season is set to officially kick off in July and the first humpback whales have recently been spotted along the west coast of the Dampier Peninsula as they navigate the WA coastline on their migration route from Antarctic waters north to their Kimberley calving grounds.



Kimberley Marine Parks Update:

On June 14 the Commonwealth Government announced the final Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Proposal; an Australia-wide system of reserves set to be the world's largest representative network of marine protected areas. Included is the final proposal for the Kimberley Commonwealth Marine Reserve (see map), which contains an additional habitat protection zone as well as increased multi-use zone to the previous proposal. The final marine reserves are expected to be declared by the end of 2012 (<http://www.environment.gov.au>).

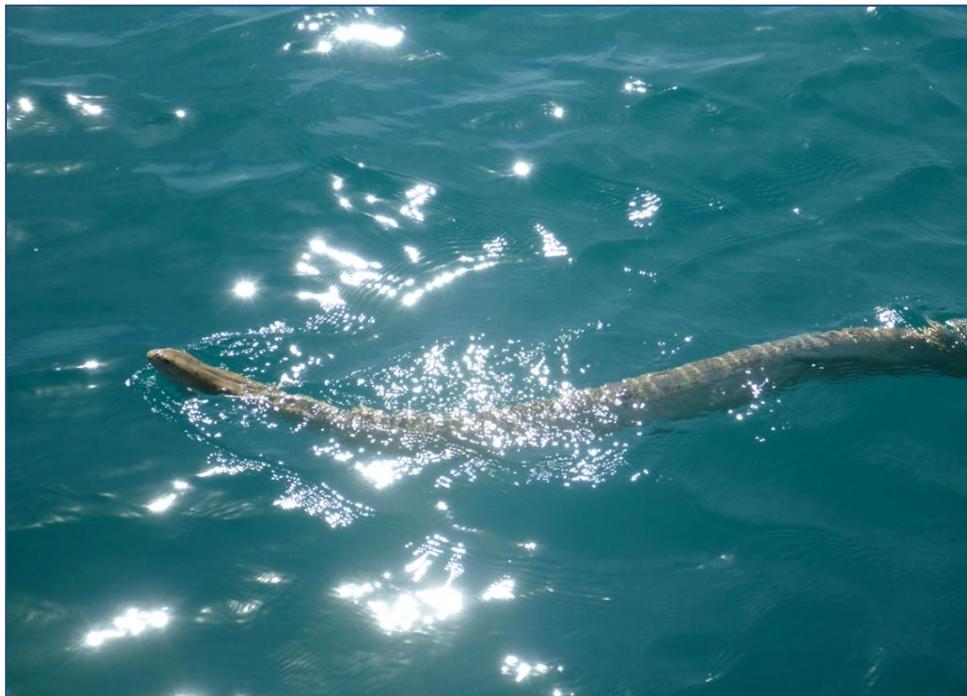


Photo of the month

Sea snake taking a peek at the dive boat, Cygnet Bay

Mick Severn
June 12, 2012

What's ahead at KMRS?

- Pearl harvest has just started at Cygnet Bay with operations now in full swing for the upcoming three month period. July is set to be a busy month with over 60 personnel based in camp.
- KMRS looks forward to hosting Mr Mike Travers from the WA Department of Fisheries for a scoping trip in July.
- Stay tuned for updates on when KMRS will feature on the radio program "A Question of Balance", hosted by 2SER, the Sydney-wide community radio station run by Macquarie Uni and UTS, Sydney.

For the latest news and happenings at KMRS and along the Kimberley coast, please follow our online news feed www.kmrs.com.au

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