

Glossary

adequate	With reference to the CAR system, adequate means parks and other conservation reserves that have practical boundaries, are of a sufficient size to ensure that physical and biological values can be protected and the impact of adjacent activities minimised, and that more than one example of each environment is protected.
aquaculture	The commercial growing of animals and plants in water.
arthropod	Member of the phylum <i>Arthropoda</i> , consisting of animals with hard jointed exoskeleton.
ascidian	Sessile chordate animal of the class <i>Ascidiacea</i> , may be solitary or colonial and there is usually a free-swimming larva.
ballast water	Water carried in a ship's tank for stability; normally discharged to the sea when the ship is loaded and can be contaminated with pollutants or exotic organisms.
benthos, benthic	The flora and fauna of the seabed.
biomass	As measured by ecologists, the dried weight of all organic matter in the ecosystem.
biodiversity, biological diversity	The variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
bioregion, biogeographic region, biophysical region	An area defined by a combination of biological, social and geographic criteria, rather than by geopolitical considerations (Commonwealth of Australia 1966).
biota	Collectively, the plants, micro-organisms and animals of a region.
bommie	An outcrop sharply rising from the seabed.
broken reef	Patches of usually low profile reef interspersed with sand. Broken reef can be worn bed-rock or calcified sediments and/or hard coral growths. Non bed-rock reef may be vulnerable to impact by some fishing methods.
bryozoan	Sessile colonial animal of the invertebrate phylum Bryozoa, sometimes known as 'moss animal' which form tuft-like or moss-like aggregate masses.
by-catch	Species that are also caught when fishing for a particular species (or size). It may be retained or discarded.
CAMBA	China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement. An intergovernmental agreement for the protection of Migratory Birds (1986).
CAR	Comprehensive, adequate and representative in relation to a system of protected areas.
catchment	The area of land that drains to a watercourse.
cephalopod	Mollusc with a distinct tentacled head including octopus, squid, cuttle-fish.
chordata	Phylum of animals with a hollow dorsal nerve cord.
community	An assemblage of plant and animal species living together in a defined area or habitat.
comprehensive	With reference to the CAR system, comprehensive means a system which protects examples of the full range of habitats and biological communities within each of Victoria's marine biophysical regions.



conservation	The management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations, while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations; the maintenance of conditions or features in a sound or unimpaired state.
cultural heritage	Knowledge, places and things, including those made or changed by humans, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual significance or other special value for future generations as well as the present community.
diatom	Microscopic unicellular alga with silicified cell-walls, found as plankton and forming fossil deposits.
ecologically sustainable development (ESD)	Using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased (National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development 1992).
ecology	The study of living organisms and their relationships to one another and the environment.
ecosystem	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (Convention on Biological Diversity 1992).
endemic	Native to a particular area and found nowhere else in the world.
estuary	The tidal mouth of a river where salinity is usually less than that of the sea.
exotic organisms	Animal or plant species that are not native to an area.
filter-feeding	A feeding strategy sieving plankton from the water. It is used by many molluscs and a few species of finfish.
gorgonian or sea-fan	An animal belonging to the invertebrate phylum Cnidaria with sea-whips and soft corals.
extensive marine aquaculture	In sites with support structures floating in, or on, the water or submerged and resting on the seabed, usually shellfish.
fecundity	Of high fertility.
habitat	The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs (UNEP 1994).
heavy reef	Continuous unbroken reef, usually of protruding bed-rock, often deeply dissected.
high energy coastline	Areas of coast subject to the effects of storms and large waves.
hydroid	Animal of the invertebrate phylum Cnidaria, possessing stinging cells, often occurring as sessile colonies of polyps. Cnidaria also include corals and sea anemones.
intensive marine aquaculture	In deeper sites with support structures floating in, or on, the water or submerged and resting on the seabed, usually finfish.
Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia (IMCRA)	An ecosystem-based classification for marine and coastal environments. It provides ecologically based regionalisations at the meso-scale (100-1000km) and at a provincial scale (greater than 1000km). IMCRA is the bioregional framework for the planning and management of the NRSMPA.
indigenous species	Species that occur naturally in a region.
intertidal	Area between low and high tide which is subject to daily changes in physical and biological conditions from tide movement.



invertebrates	Animals without an internal skeletal structure. Range from protozoans to sea squirts.
JAMBA	Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement. An intergovernmental agreement for the protection of Migratory Birds (1974).
kelp	Large brown seaweed.
land-based marine aquaculture	Where activities take place to the shoreward side of the high tide line, usually with the crop in artificial containers and with seawater pumped from nearby sea or estuarine areas.
low profile reef	Relatively flat reef which does not rise at a steep gradient. Low profile reef may be subject to sediment inundation.
macrophytes	Visible, relatively large, aquatic plants, especially marine plants, large enough to be visible to the naked eye.
marine aquaculture, mariculture	A form of aquaculture where the crop is grown in marine or estuarine waters.
molluscs	Group of soft bodied animals which usually have a hard shell (includes snails, bivalves, limpets, tooth shells as well as cephalopods).
NRSMPA	The National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas is a national system of marine protected areas which aims to contain comprehensive, adequate and representative samples of Australia's marine ecosystems.
OCS	Offshore Constitutional Settlement – an agreement between the States and the Commonwealth in relation to the territorial sea.
pelagic	Living in the water column as distinct from near the seabed or bottom.
phylum	High level taxonomic division, containing plants or animals of the same general form, ideally reflecting common ancestry.
phytoplankton	Planktonic plant organisms collectively.
planktonic	Mostly very small animals and plants of the sea which float or drift almost passively.
precautionary principle	Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.
protected area/marine protected area (MPA)	An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means (IUCN 1994).
Ramsar site	A site listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the 'Ramsar Convention'). The convention on Wetlands was signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.
ranching	A form of aquaculture where juveniles are released into the wild, allowed to grow and harvested at a later date.
representative	With reference to the CAR system, representative means that parks and other conservation reserves reflect the diversity of the flora and fauna within each of the protected habitats and biological communities.
seagrass	Flowering plants adapted for life submerged in marine or estuarine environments.
seaweed	Any algae (red, brown or green) growing in or by the sea.
seine	A fishing net which hangs vertically in the water, the ends being brought together to enclose the fish.



seining shot	One cast of a seine net.
sessile	Attached to the substrate, immobile.
shellfish	Animals living within biologically produced shells and exo-skeleton: molluscs and arthropods.
species	Populations of animals or plants that are able to interbreed and produce fertile offspring.
sponge	Aquatic animal of phylum Porifera with pores in the body-wall and a tough elastic skeleton.
subtidal	Below the low-water mark.

ACRONYMS

AAV	Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
ANZECC	Australian New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
CaLP	Catchment and Land (Protection) Management Board
CAMBA	China Australia Migratory Birds Agreement, 1986
CBA	Cost benefit analysis
CMA	Catchment management authority
DNRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
ECC	Environment Conservation Council
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IUCN	World Conservation Union (formerly known as International Union for the Conservation of Nature)
IMCRA	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia
JAMBA	Japan Australia Migratory Birds Agreement, 1974
LCC	Land Conservation Council
MPA	Marine protected area
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
NRSMPA	National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas
OCS	Offshore Constitutional Settlement
SECV	State Electricity Commission of Victoria
SEPP	State Environment Protection Policy
TAC	Total allowable catch
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VCA	Victorian Channels Authority
VCC	Victorian Coastal Council
VCS	Victorian Coastal Strategy

