

Voyage SS03-2005

**The biogeophysical characterisation of Northern Australia’s marine ecosystems:
Assessing biophysical relations, ecosystem biodiversity and surrogacy.**

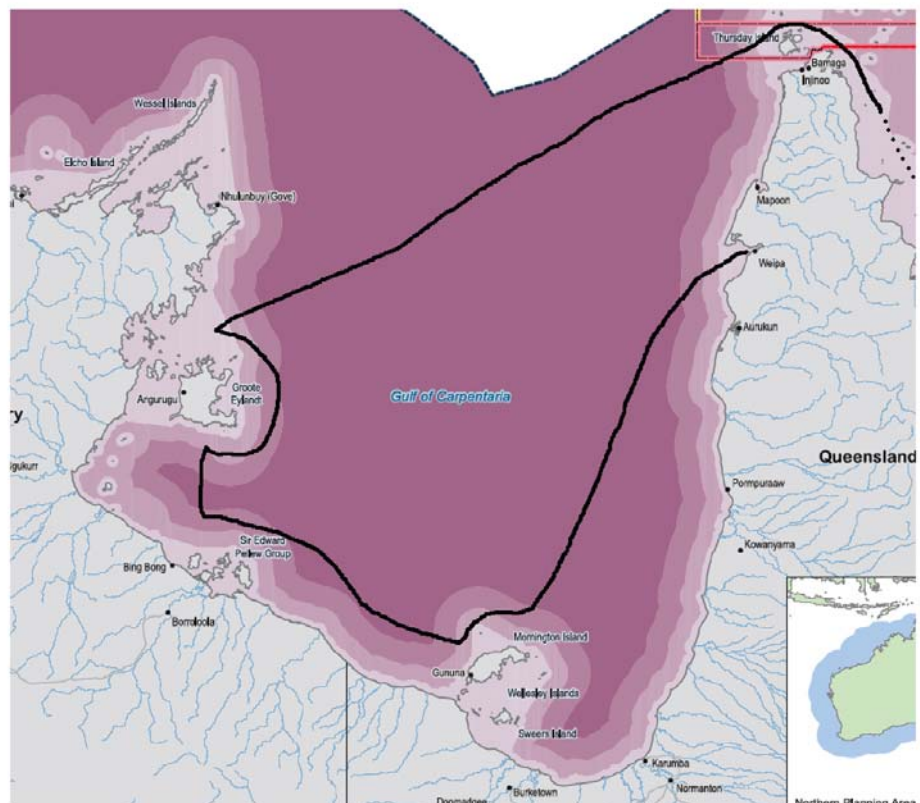
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Collaborative Charters 2004/2005			Environmentally Sustainable Australia					Frontier Technologies	Safeguarding Australia
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SS03/2005	Gulf of Carpentaria. Distribution of habitat types and their responses to different patterns of use.	CSIRO/NOO							

The potential of the voyage to contribute to Australia’s national benefit:

This highly organised survey determined baseline information on ecological communities in the eastern Gulf of Carpentaria. The combined physical, geological and biological data was used to create models of ecosystem structure and function that relate to physical, hydrodynamic and geochemical attributes of the sediment and water column. This was useful in guiding data collection strategies and making future surveys more cost-effective.

The information gained, both by mapping the sea floor and by determining water column and benthic communities and habitat structure is important for managing fisheries and trawling disturbance. It is also important for determining the ways in which we are disturbing this habitat through things such as land-use impacts, nutrient and sediment loading.



> SS03-2005 voyage track