

Snorkelling Photography



Logistics/Planning

Coogee Beach WA

km/h

Weather

Wind

Rainfall

Sun

Moon

UV

Tides

Swell

More

Coogee Beach Wind Forecast

Australia / WA / Perth

1-Day

3-Day

5-Day

Wind Speed

Swell Height

Thu 20 Aug

Fri 21 Aug

Sat 22 Aug

Sun 23 Aug

Mon 24 Aug

60km/h

40km/h

20km/h

6m

4m

2m

Graph Plots

Open in Graphs

☒

Wind Forecast Bureau of Meteorology

☒

Swell Height and Direction Forecast NOAA WaveWatch III

☒

Wind Real-Time Jandakot Airport 11.2km

Now

3:41 pm 20 Aug

18.5km/h sw

24.1km/h Gusts

Strength

Gentle

Trend

Decreasing

Recorded at Jandakot Airport

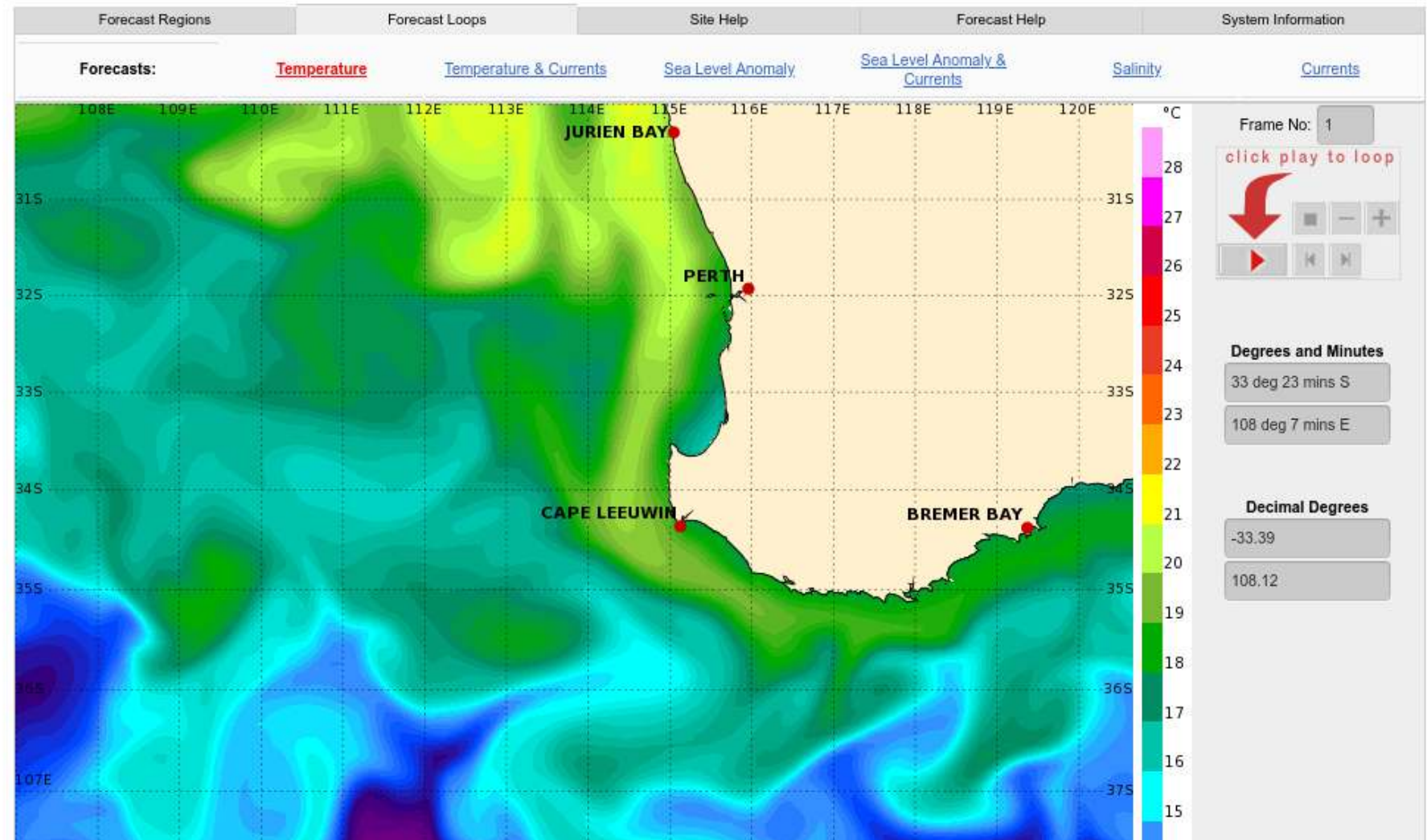
Updated 11 mins ago (11.2km away)

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https://wind.willyweather.com.au/wa/perth/coogee-

[Bureau Home](#) > [Marine & Ocean](#) > [Sea Temperature & Currents](#) > Southwest Western Australia

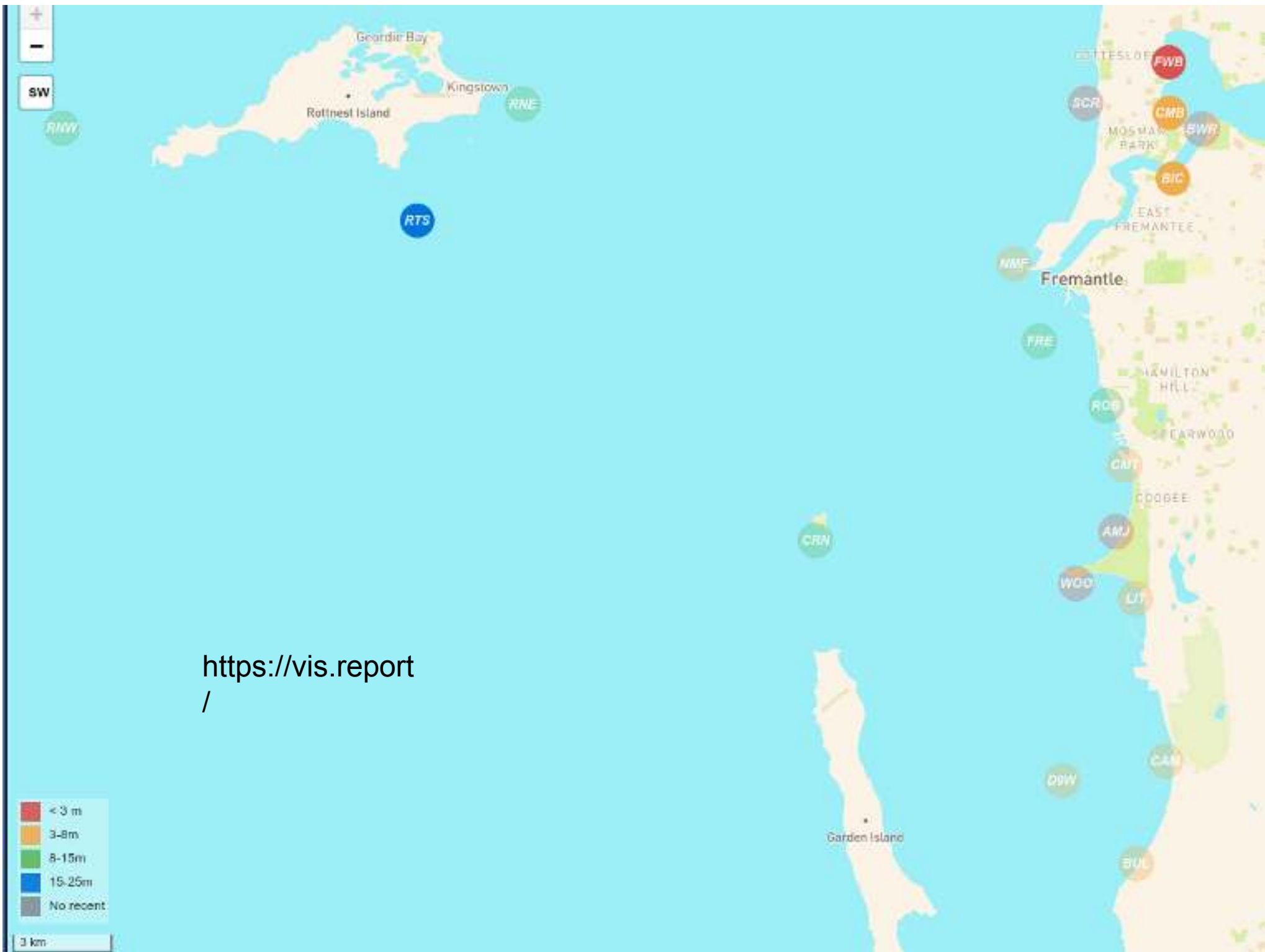
Southwest Western Australia



[http://www.bom.gov.au/oceanography/forecasts/idyoc300.shtml?](http://www.bom.gov.au/oceanography/forecasts/idyoc300.shtml?region=SWWA&forecast=SST)

[region=SWWA&forecast=SST](#)







SHARK ACTIVITY

LAST 7 DAYS



GARDEN ISLAND (NORTH END)

1 bronze whaler shark detected 1 time

Tagged bronze whaler shark detected at Garden Island (north end) receiver at 02:00hrs 15/08

Howies Scuba



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Dive



Dive Sites

Within this area you find the collection of dive sites, and information about Shore Dives suitable for the Novice Diver.

Creature feature

Here is a collection of some of the Perth marine life I have encountered during my dives, and my attempt to identify the marine life.





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<http://waups.org.au/>

ABOUT

The West Australian Underwater Photographic Society (WAUPS) is a non-profit organisation which was established and incorporated in January, 1984.

WAUPS is a member of the The West Australian Photographic Federation Inc ([WAPF](#))

Emergency email maker

Fill it in, press Send

Location	<div></div>		
Date of Dive	<div></div> (d/m/yyyy)	Time of arrival: <div>7:00</div>	Length of dive: <div>90</div>
Divers	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrew Marriott <small>(andrew@perthscuba.com.au andrew@perthscuba.com.au 08 9432 3000 Fax: 08 9432 3001)</small></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Rob Namestnik <small>(rob@perthscuba.com.au rob@perthscuba.com.au 08 9432 3000 Fax: 08 9432 3001)</small></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Peter Auer <small>(peter@perthscuba.com.au peter@perthscuba.com.au 08 9432 3000 Fax: 08 9432 3001)</small></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Chris Orrell <small>(chris@perthscuba.com.au chris@perthscuba.com.au 08 9432 3000 Fax: 08 9432 3001)</small></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Calvin Ossevoort <small>(calvin@perthscuba.com.au calvin@perthscuba.com.au 08 9432 3000 Fax: 08 9432 3001)</small></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Haley <small>(suzanne@perthscuba.com.au suzanne@perthscuba.com.au 08 9432 3000 Fax: 08 9432 3001)</small></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Ola Mastalarczuk <small>(ola@perthscuba.com.au ola@perthscuba.com.au 08 9432 3000 Fax: 08 9432 3001)</small></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Katherine Cigulev <small>(katherine@perthscuba.com.au katherine@perthscuba.com.au 08 9432 3000 Fax: 08 9432 3001)</small></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Other divers, Email: <div></div> Contacts: <div></div></div>		

Compose Email



Dolphin Scuba Diving

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- Perth's finest dive shop!
- Perth's finest dive shop.
- 5,433 people like this, including 1 of your friends.



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Photo/Video



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PINNED POST



Dolphin Scuba Diving added an event

5 August 2016



<https://www.dolphinscuba.com.au>

<https://www.maac.com.au/about-the-maac/surf->

UW Gear / Camera

2 Diving: Clothes



In warm waters a halfbody wetsuit or a fullbody rashie/steamer (protection against stingers) suffices. Maybe a 3mm wetsuit (3 kg). We experienced few stingers whilst diving. In South East Asia diving, there is typically a mixture of wetsuits onboard, and the waters are warm enough just for the rashie or half-body wetsuit. Hoods are optional. My dive buddy - Rob - tends to use a half-body wetsuit, I tend to use a full-body rashie plus hood. In colder waters, 5-7mm wetsuit to suit. Or a [Lavacore vest](#)?



[Long tail boats](#) make white t-shirts rusty green so try a dark rashie, a fleecy rashie or a millimetre thick wetsuit top. But get full-sleeves for protection against any [stingers](#). Same for long Bombay Bloomer bottoms. Invest in [Vinegar](#). I found that every extra hundred grams impacted on the luggage allowance, as it did to the total luggage volume.



If you are doing a lot of beach diving, you may like strong boots @ 0.82 kilos total + large volume. Or you may be doing boat diving and choose [freediving soft boots](#) @ 0.12 kilos total. I have used the soft boots on boat and shore dives. No problems. You may like to use a 3mm hood or just a rashie hood (maybe even just against sunburn).

To help with focussing and stability, I suggest a rubberised plastic glove: anchor yourself underwater on a rock! But most places may forbid gloves.

[Never hold, touch, kick or stand on coral or other fragile structures. It is too precious. And watch out for Moray Eels under rocks.](#) You may think they love you, but [that's Amore!](#)

[Everything you pack takes up volume and/or weight. Plan carefully!](#)

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3 Diving: Dive Gear (see also Diving Equipment).



Fins, mask, snorkel: You will need [anti-fog lotion](#). Just use a clean finger to rub it into the glass (no sun screen fingers). Maybe consider smaller Travel Fins? You could hire almost all the gear you need (including BCD, regulator, etc) at the typical Dive Centre. What is the cost vs. the cost of extra luggage/inconvenience of carrying it. But always take your own dive computer and ensure that the Regulator has the appropriate connection. See later [discussion on masks](#), and [section on Packing](#).

Regulator + Octopus: Make certain it is protected in your luggage - a diving trip depends on that. The mouthpieces shown are protected with [plastic bubble wrap](#) because they hang in my garage where there are creepy crawlies. Imagine inhaling a spider when you are 10 metres down... See later [Section on Packing](#) as well.

BCD: You could hire this at the resort because it is very bulky - made my luggage look like it was pregnant. There are also [Travel BCDs](#). See later [Section on Packing](#) as well.

Weight Belts or similar: It is unlikely that you will be taking weights due to aircraft weight restrictions, but if you have integrated weights, don't forget to take those holders.

Cylinders: It is unlikely that you will take cylinders BUT make certain you check what type of connectors - [yoke or DIN](#) - that are used in the destination dive resort.

Accessories: We were told that new divers festoon themselves with accessories to become a christmas tree of baubles. We realised we needed to minimise the accessories so they did not get in the way but that we also had all the needed ones! We had small but functional knives, lanyards for camera gear, and [carabiners](#) for UW accessories on BCD.

Pokey stick: It was not obvious before we started diving, but the "pokey stick" was invaluable: protection from bumping into the cliff wall and delicate coral, useful for investigating holes, necessary for anchoring yourself in the sandy sea floor even in a minimal current. This meant that you were stable and stationary whilst composing and taking photographs. It was also used quite a lot for tapping on our tanks for attracting other diver's attention. [Get one!](#)

Chest Pouch: A [very useful accessory](#) - the BCD chest strap went through the pouch's back straps. Lenses / SMCs for the housing were in there: the PTMC-01 and the PTWC-01 (but see later [UW rig](#)). Easy access and convenient. Room for more things. It had a front zippable pocket where the rescue sausage sat.

The chest strap buckle was positioned such that it was a quick release in case of emergencies.



Vinegar

Vinegar: Although not needed, we included vinegar in case of stingers. This can be a problem in [South east Asia](#) as it is in northern Australia in summer. "Box jellyfish - *Chironex fleckeri* a Box jellyfish with many tentacles arising from each corner of its clear bell and the smaller Irukandji, a box jellyfish with a single tentacle arising in each corner - are among the world's deadliest creatures." [Vinegar won't help here...](#)

Our dive guide on our last dive had a small tin filled with metal balls attached to his BCD. He would shake this tin to get our attention. This was excellent, but gave us a "have we been naughty" Pavlovian response after a while. We are thinking of using something similar - might be a useful alternative to tapping on our tanks.

Don't forget [sunscreen](#), a [reusable bottle of water](#), and see [later information on spare parts](#), etc. Do you have any specific gear that requires spares and would kill a dive tour if you did not have spare parts? What about a [Dry Bag](#) for on the boat. to keep your sandwiches dry!



A **diving light** can be very beneficial on murky dives or when at depths of 15+ metres. You can use a "cheapy" that is really only useful at very close distances (above left image) or spend many hundreds of dollars on a powerful 1000+ lumens one. Remember that you still have to hold it, or use a Goodman type handle (see [here](#) for an explanation or [here](#) for images). But remember: unless you are an octopus, holding a "pokey stick", a "camera" and a "light", as well as checking your dive computer becomes impossible. A **light attached to the camera housing tray seems to work well**, as does a Goodman handle on the "pokey stick" hand.

The **typical plastic mask holder is very useful** (last three images above). It can be used to protect your dive computer in transit and also on the boat (2nd image above, wrapped in bubble wrap). And there is enough space to also protect any lens attachments, torch or similar. Easily labelled and also easy accessibility to the contents. They are also great for your "spares" kit (3rd image above) for mask, snorkel, fins, as well as silicone grease, o-rings, spanners, etc. The last image above shows extra SD cards and batteries velcro'ed onto the top inner side of a case. These are things that you might/will need on the boat but want protected and splash-safe. (A Dry Bag??)



My dive buddy correctly suggested that we should choose a better dive computer rather than the one in the "package" deal from Dolphin Scuba. And by "better" he meant "with larger digits on the screen". This was a really great forward-thinking insight that we have never regretted. Your life depends on being able to see and get information from your dive computer. Old eyes need big digits. This model also lets us download the dive information onto a PC for reviewing. Great for learning as a beginner. See the next page with a typical Dive Graph.

One interesting thing happened on our dives in **Manado** - our dive computer alarms would go off underwater, alerting us to various things. We had set things like "Dive turn time", "Pressure remaining", and "Depth" for our shore dives in West Australia. A fellow diver in Manado said that the alarms were annoying because they interrupted the dive. I adjusted them that night for more realistic boat-diving conditions. But again there were complaints on subsequent dives when they again went off when those new conditions were met. I thought about it, and told the complaining divers, that as a new diver, these were important to me and that they served a **very important task**: reminding me - a newbie - when I was doing or about to do something bad. The divers reluctantly agreed. **Don't take risks for the convenience of more experienced divers.**

As we become more experienced, I am sure we will obtain and use other gear. Both of us have purchased more **underwater camera gear**.

The next page shows a typical dive graph from our dive computers. This helps us master our diving, and **then** we master our underwater photography. But before we can take really good photographs, we needed to be able to focus on small critters. That is, we needed proper masks, ones that could cater for our ageing eyesight.

4 Diving: Camera Gear

As you would expect for a watery PhotoJourney, cameras and diving gear feature prominently. One of our suitcases looked like a pregnant **pasty** when packed full of the necessities. Typically airlines give you about 23 or 24 kgs for your luggage allowance but I exceeded that - 30 kgs for all my gear. Rob came in lighter. **It is important to check these limits with the airline carrier for each leg of your PhotoJourney.** See later **Section on Packing** as well.

The four of us normally take several Olympus underwater cameras (TG-4, TG-5), 3 high-end Olympus mirrorless cameras (2 x E-M1, E-M1 MKII), and various smartphones. We also take "normal" camera accessories such as lenses, flashes, housings, strobes, card readers, chargers, etc. In a week of diving, one diver can easily take over 3000 images, and gigabytes of video. **Each night, photographs/video were backed up onto an internal disk, an external disk and onto one of 4 64 gig SD cards.**



Each of the TG cameras has a labelled kitbag - charger, SD cards, batteries, powerbank, underwater holder. The cameras are waterproof to 15 metres. **2 Olympus housings (PT-056/PT-058)** for the TG-4 and TG-5 are taken - waterproof to 40 metres. (The TG-4 housing is taken "just in case" there is a camera or housing problem for either diver). A **Nauticam E-M1 housing** is also taken, along with strobes, arms, etc for this rig. See later **Section on Packing** to see how these were packed.

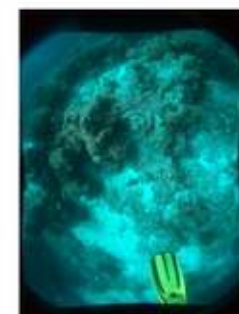


We take small pouches for the connectors and spares for the strobe, etc although, for me, many of these pouches were coalesced into one dive mask case because I ran out of volume in the suitcase. All these things take up space and weight...

We also take wet lenses for wide angle and Super Maro Converters for close-up photographs of small critters.



Rob purchased a used underwater ultra-wide angle conversion lens [Model UWL-04 28mm](#) (see below) for the TG5 housing. It worked a treat - in terms of being easy to attach, burp and re-attach underwater. The images were acceptable both below and above water. When taking photos of Whale Sharks, it provided an excellent perspective of tiny divers against the mammoth mammal. The only regret was the lack of detail in terms of Whale Sharks' surface pattern as mostly only silhouettes were captured. It was also found to set the scene when taking photos of other divers as the full context of the surroundings could be captured from a distance with near 180 degrees in focus.



The TG5 housing performed brilliantly. There was only one minor flood and that occurred due to operator error. Rob placed two moisture absorbing bags under the camera and closed the housing without fully checking the seal under the bags. A small portion from one bag protruded beyond the seal thus allowing water to trickle in at an ever so slow pace at depth. His images ended up with a horizontal water line which rose higher and higher during the dive. Luckily, we were diving at 15 m when the problem became an issue - OK for the TG5 as it is pressure rated to 15 m. Once on the boat it was easy to open up the housing, discover the cause of the leak and fix it prior to the next dive.

The housing was easy to rinse and clean, and Rob soon became familiar with most of the control levers, buttons and dials.

He also purchased a tray bar with two handles (see above) from [backscatter.com](#) which provided much stability when taking photos and especially videos. It also made handling the camera during swimming much easier and allowed him to wrap the lens cover around the bar whilst taking photos.



Top left hand image: Nauticam housing and a wide angle dome port. Note the **small lead weights that offset the buoyancy of the large dome port volume**. Middle row, left image: Nauticam macro port. The strobes and support arms are standard items for UW and need foam flotation so as to give the overall structure neutral/slightly positive buoyancy (top right hand image).

On the end of the macro port is a **dioptré flipper** (middle row, first two images). SMCs can be attached to this and they can quickly flip in front of the port to give greater magnification. In this case, two SMCs are screwed together on the flip part. **I investigated other cheaper flippers but they gave me the impression that they may break, taking an SMC or two with them to a watery grave.**

Middle row, last image: a **screw mount on an arm that can conveniently hold an SMC**. You lose buoyancy foam though.

The image to the left is a video light that is used to aid in focussing for still images. It sits in the housing's flash mount (but is not connected there). Since the major image illumination comes from the strobes, the intensity is not relevant.

Rotto

MAAC

North Mole

Robb's Jetty

Omeo Wreck

Ammo Jetty

Bulk Terminal

Kwinana Grain Terminal

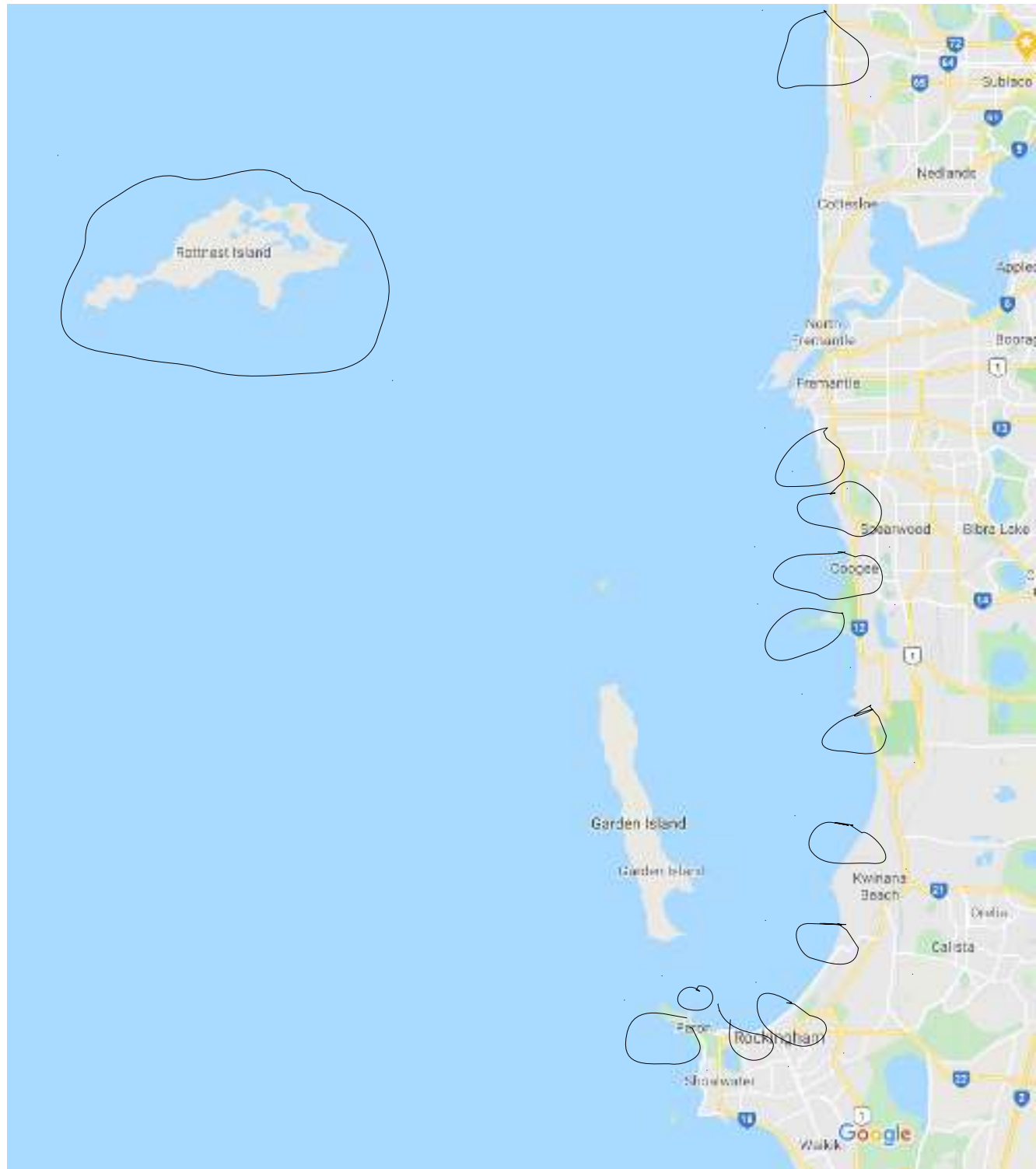
Rockingham Dive Trail

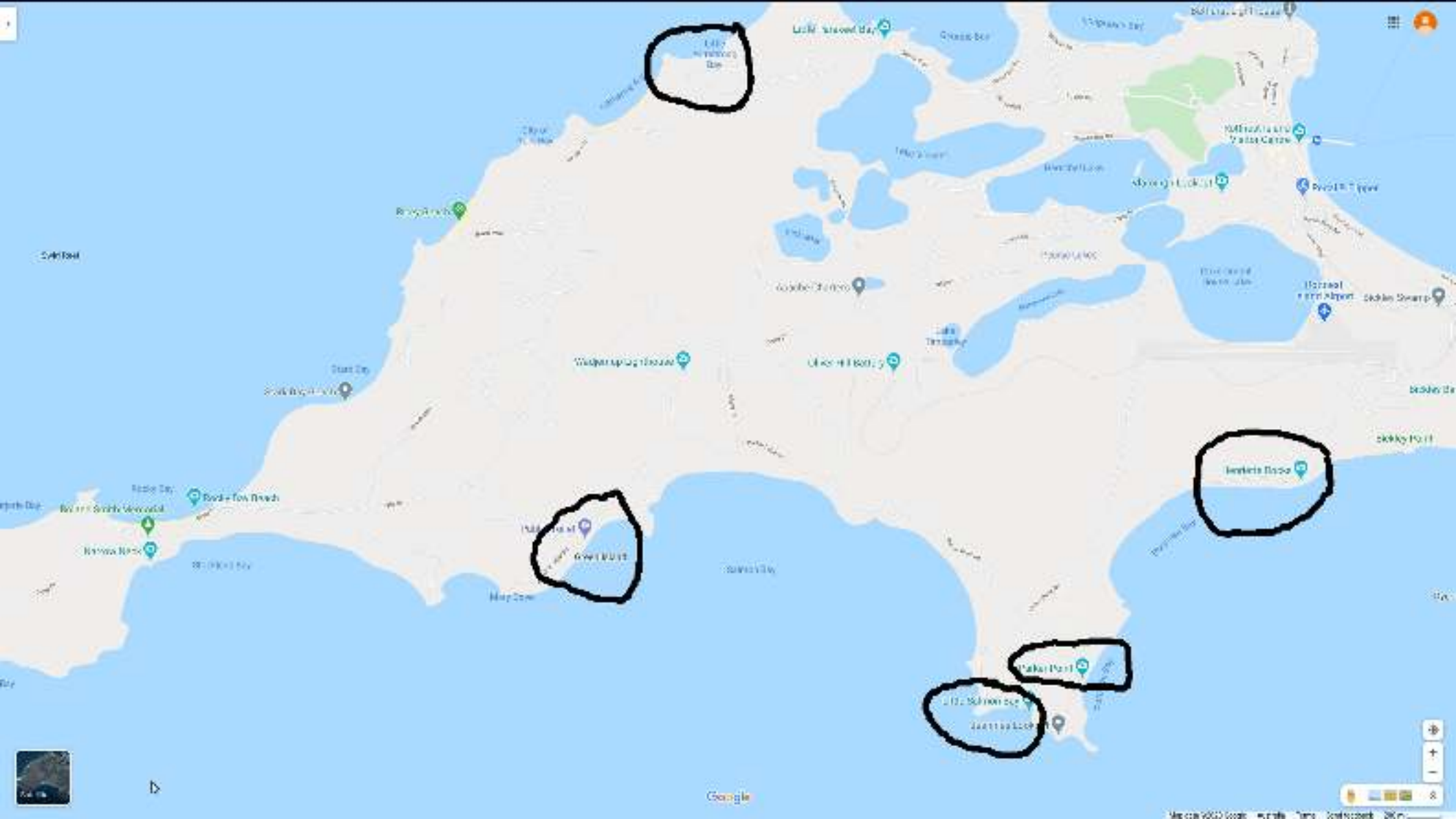
Palm Beach Jetty

Point Peron North

Point Peron South

Good for snorkelling





Rotto

Thank you to Mary Linder!!!



Little Parakeet Bay

Located at the Island's north point, Little Parakeet Bay is a great option for younger children with its shallow water and calm conditions. Get to know the flourishing

community of little blue-scaled fish, starfish and the occasional friendly ray.



Fish Hook Bay

On the west end of the Island, and better suited to more confident snorkelers, Fish Hook Bay showcases the diversity of fish populating the waters of Rottnest. The

bay gets its name from its iconic shape and is sheltered by surrounding limestone.



Parker Point Snorkel Trail

The Parker Point Promontory features several choice locations for snorkelers to explore, with an abundance of coral and tropical fish varieties. Follow the

snorkelling trail marked out by plaques attached to the seabed and discover more about the marine life native to the area. A truly immersive experience!



The Shipwreck at Henrietta



Mary Cove

Facing southwards near to the narrow neck of the Island, Mary Cove is well protected by the surrounding network of reefs just off the shoreline. The coral

species congregating around the reef are home to schools of tropical fish, making for excellent snorkelling conditions.



Little Armstrong Bay

A must-visit for snorkelling enthusiasts, Little Armstrong Bay is popular amongst those looking for a quiet, calm spot to submerge themselves in. It lies in a marine sanctuary zone and for good reason –

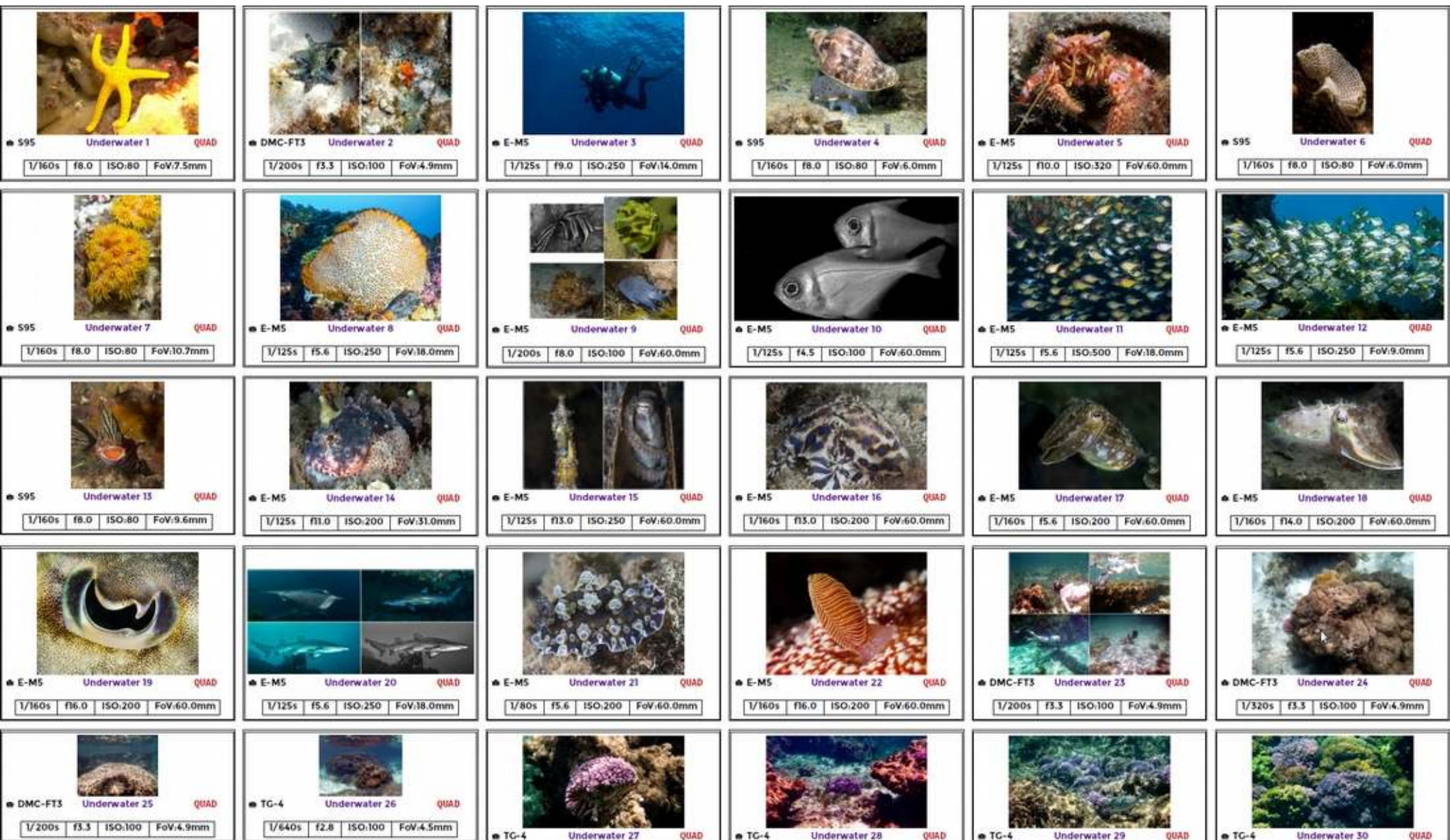
some of the marine life encountered here is not to be found anywhere else along the Island's coastline.



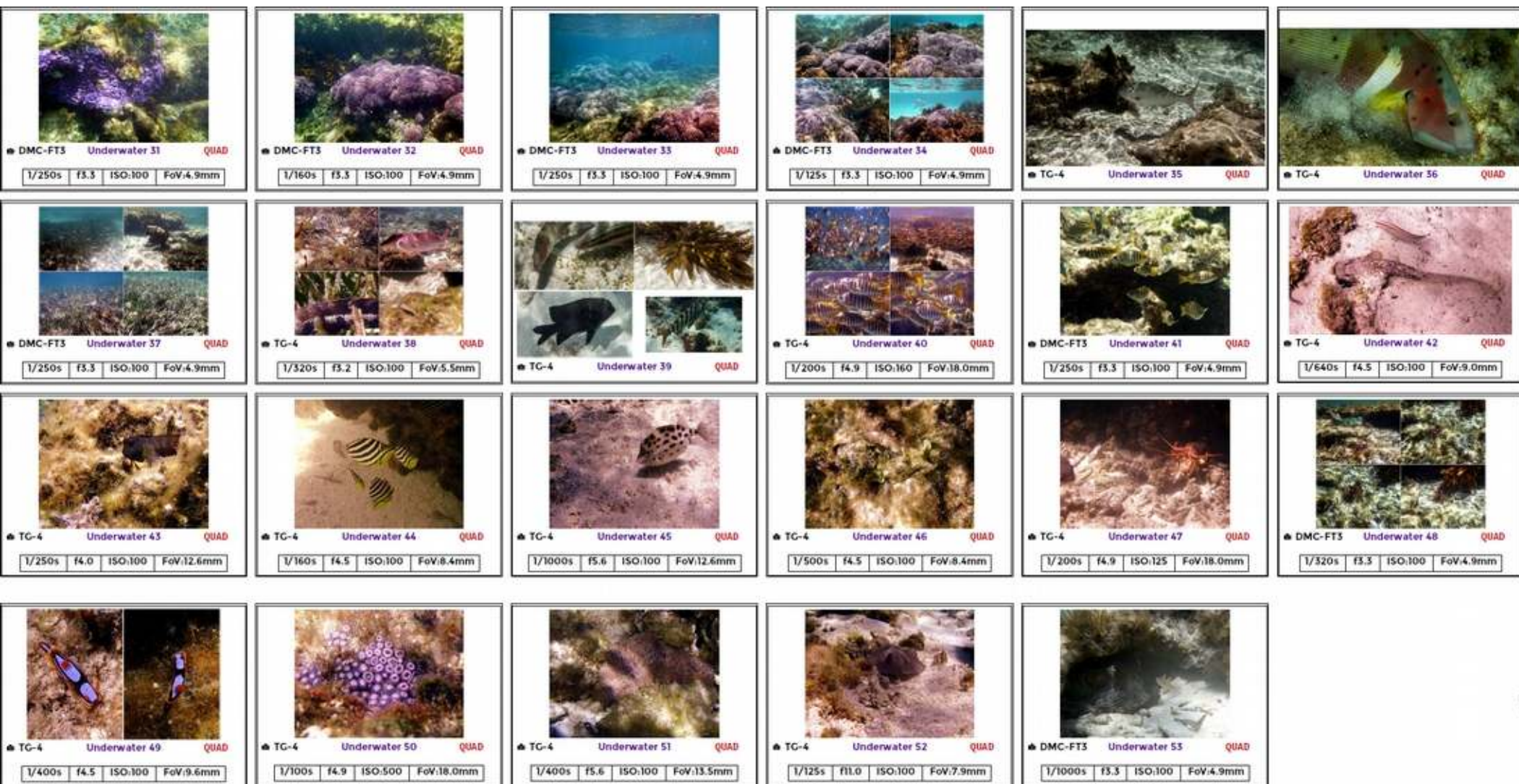
Jeannie's Pool and Little Salmon Bay

Easily accessible by bike, Jeannie's Pool sits just off Little Salmon Bay and both are well-suited to underwater exploration. A

reef extends around the length of the promontory and on days with lighter wind conditions, stronger snorkelers can embark on a rewarding expedition from Little Salmon Bay to Parker Point.

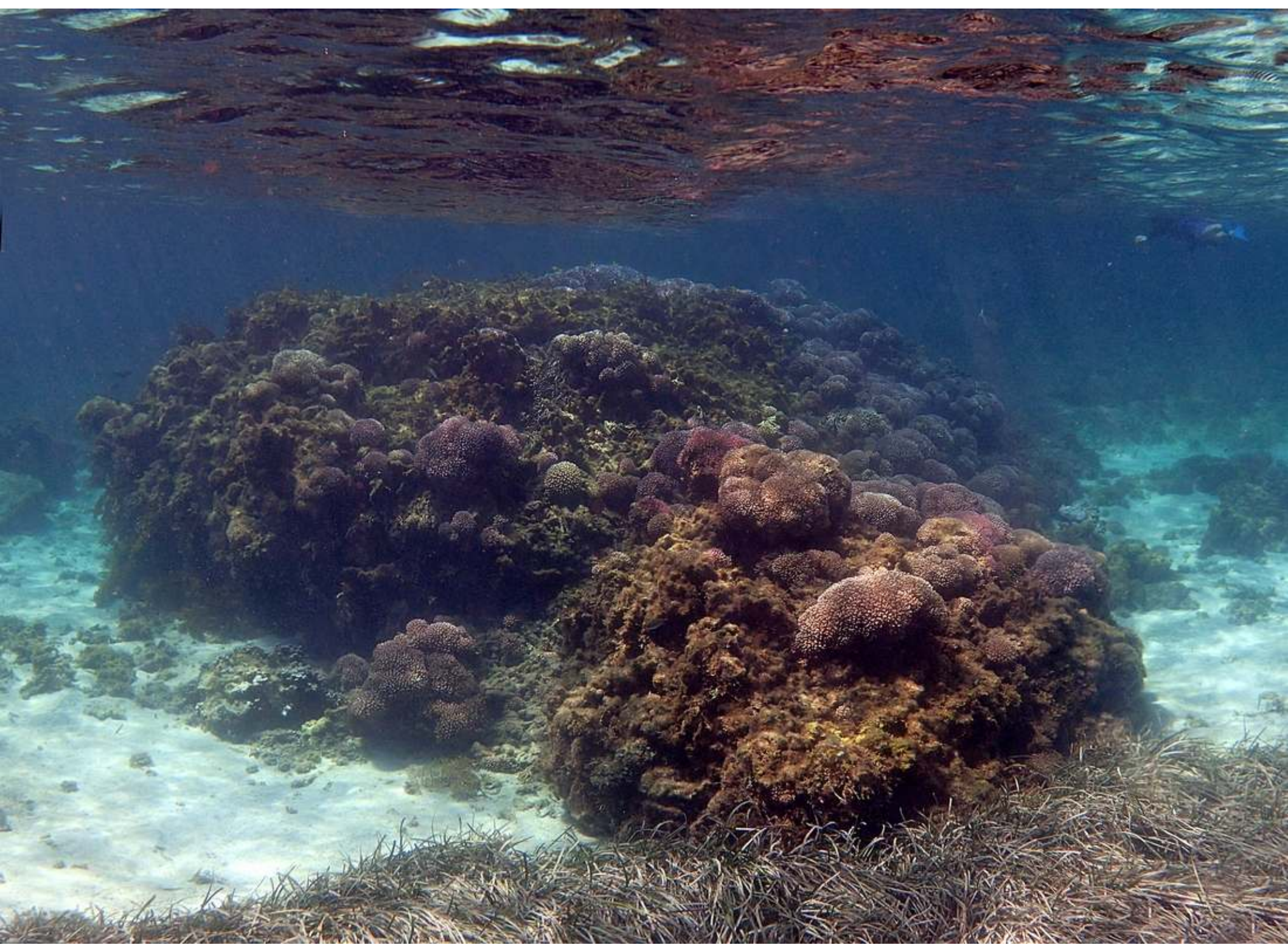


Rottneest island...



Rottnest island...









Point Peron

North and South









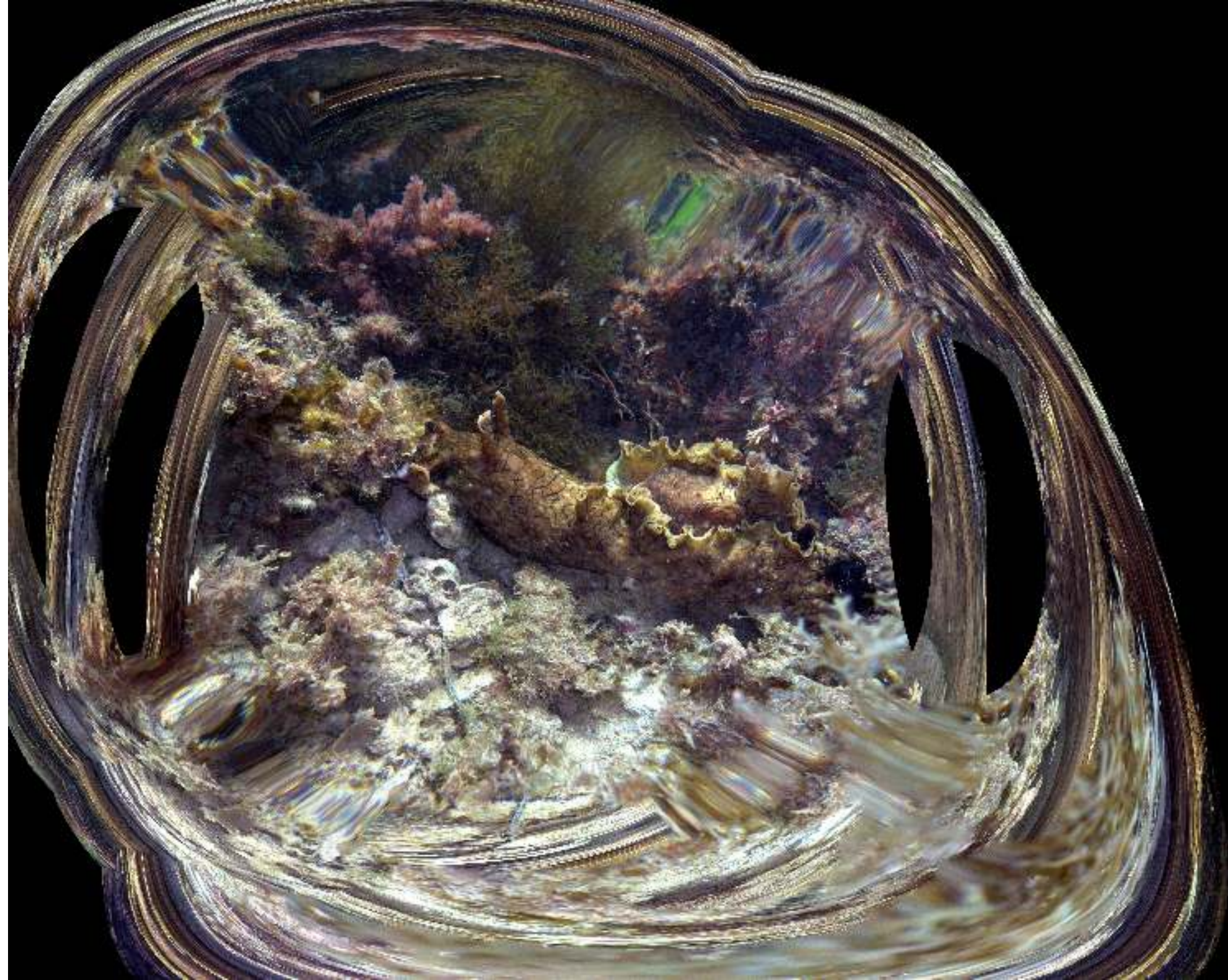




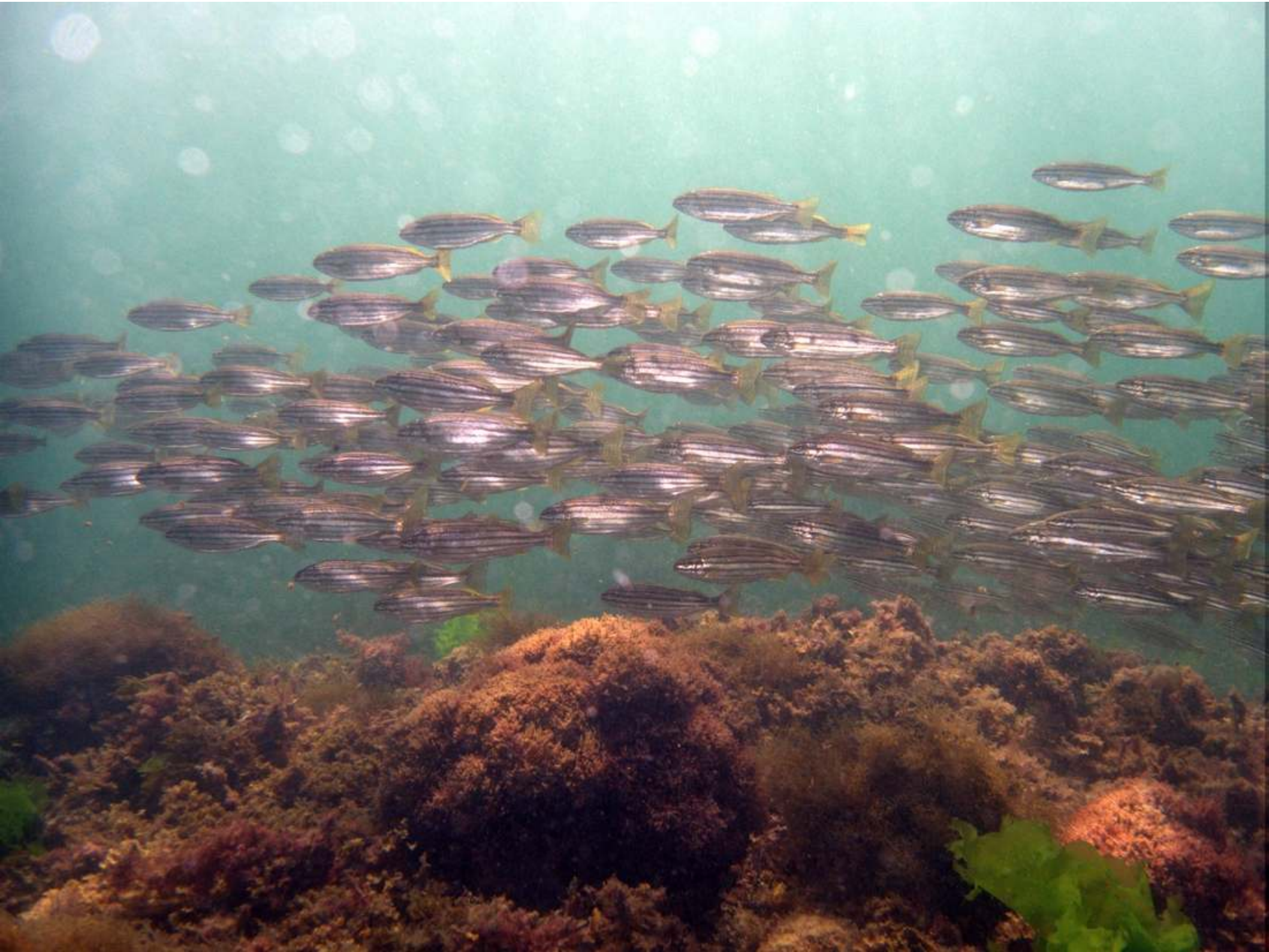














Omeo

Wreck

Omeo

Port Coogee Marina

Wrecked and Abandoned 1905

Formerly a 3 masted, screw steamer

Barque converted to a hulk



Diving Western Australia's Shipwrecks

▶ ⏮ 🔊 0:00 / 1:22



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9pQ_pbu-rq





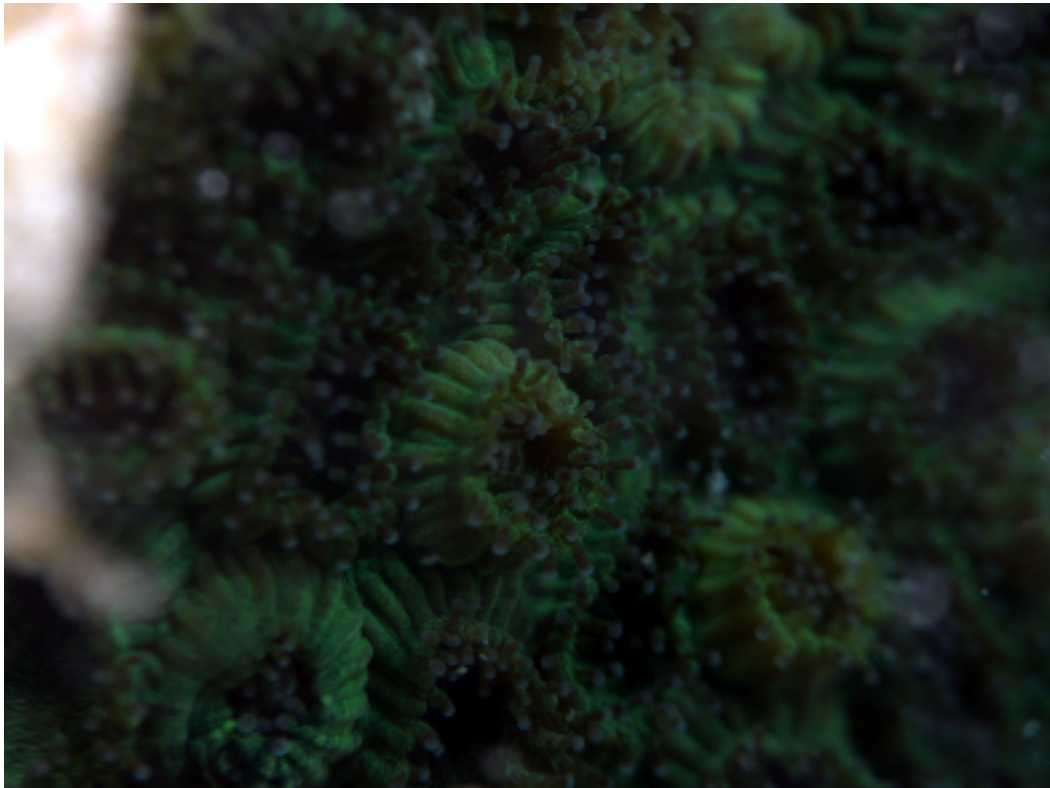












Ammo Jetty





Ammo Jetty Car park...















Rotto

MAAC

North Mole

Robb's Jetty

Omeo Wreck

Ammo Jetty

Bulk Terminal

Kwinana Grain Terminal

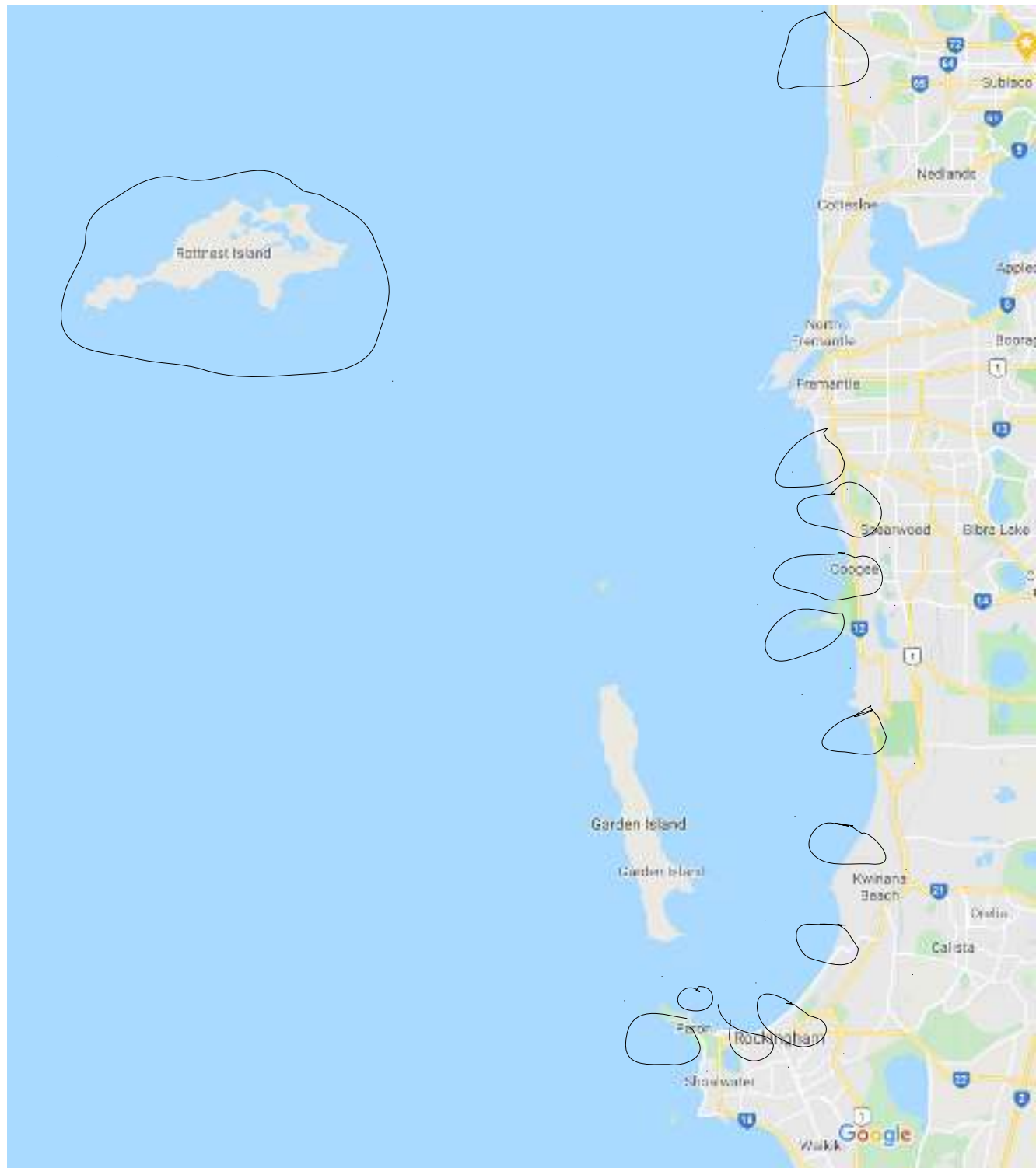
Rockingham Dive Trail

Palm Beach Jetty

Point Peron North

Point Peron South

Good for snorkelling







Fin...