



Australian Government



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
OF MARINE SCIENCE

North West Shoals to Shore Research Program

Seabed habitats and biodiversity

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AIMS: Australia's tropical marine research agency.



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Santos



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Department of
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PASPALEY
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PEARLS IN THE WORLD



PEARL PRODUCERS
ASSOCIATION
Australian South Sea Pearls

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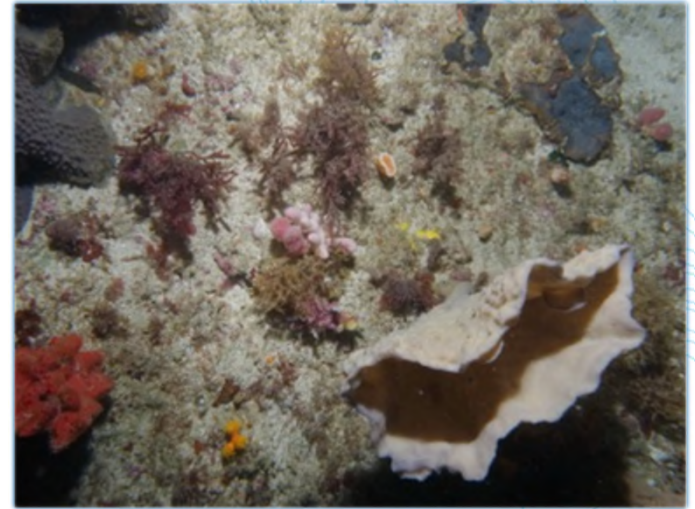


Australian Institute of Marine Science

Seabed Habitats and Biodiversity

CONTEXT

- Knowledge of distribution and status of marine communities underpins informed management
- Many areas on the NW Shelf that are poorly understood
- Need for baseline data to assess effects of natural and anthropogenic events



GOAL: Provide empirical data on benthic and demersal diversity and ecological processes to underpin resource management.

Project 1. Characterising the Ancient Coastline **Key Ecological Feature (KEF)**

OBJECTIVE:

Build a knowledge base of habitats and biodiversity of the ancient coastline at 125m depth contour Key Ecological Feature (KEF)



Project 2. Pearl Oyster Habitat and connectivity **offshore from Eighty Mile Beach**

OBJECTIVE:

Map the distribution of pearl oyster habitat offshore from Eighty Mile Beach and examine the role of deep populations as brood stock for shallow water fished populations.

