



National Environmental
Research Program

MARINE BIODIVERSITY *hub*

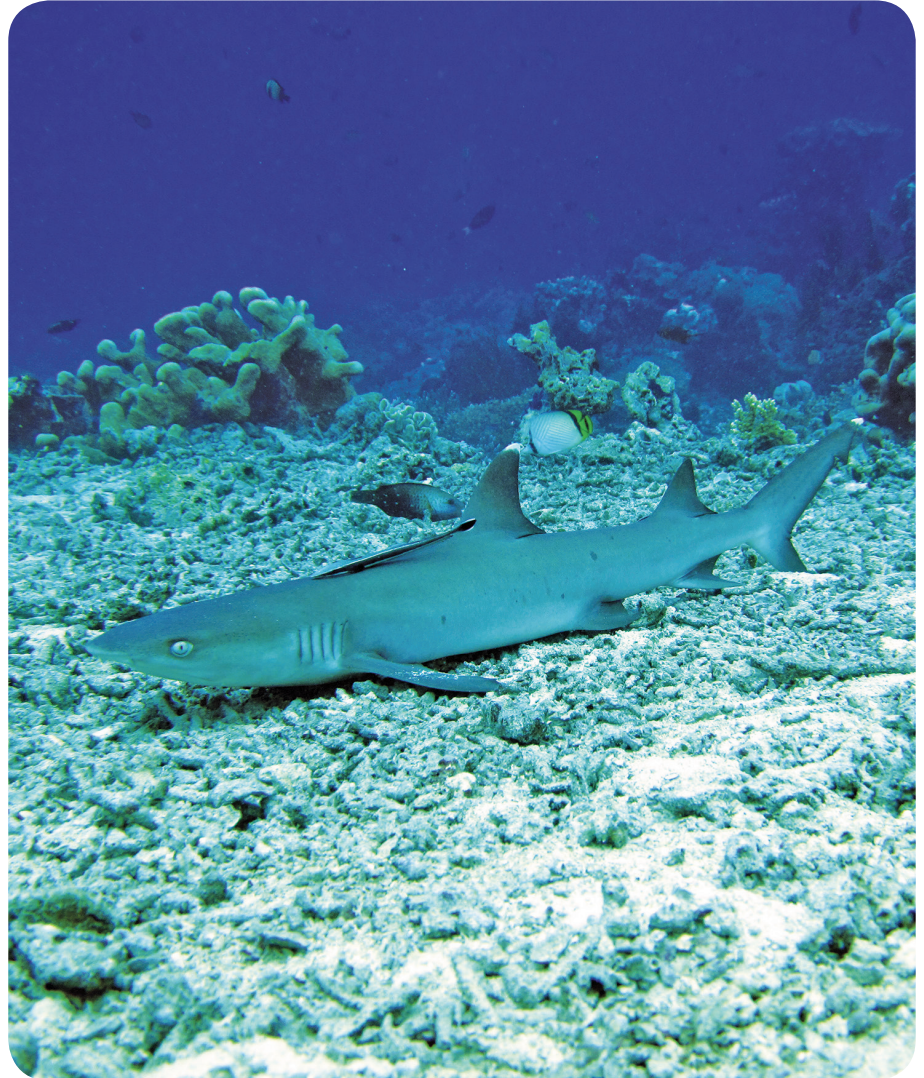
Managing ecosystems to manage species

Marine conservation and biodiversity management in Australia includes two frequently competing goals: protecting threatened and endangered species, and providing for the sustainable use of resources.

Protecting species one by one has been identified by government as inefficient and ultimately impractical, so alternative approaches are being considered. One of these is a 'landscape' (seascape!) approach to management. Marine reserves are one example of this approach.

The NERP Marine Biodiversity Hub is investigating two applications of this approach. The first focuses on communities of at-risk species, with a particular focus on sharks and rays. Areas of ecological importance are being identified for a range of these species. The second focus is on protecting benthic biodiversity, again focusing on identifying 'hot spots' for special management consideration.

The results will be delivered to both SEWPaC and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, as management responses both on and off reserve are likely to be required.



Whitetip Reef Shark, *Triaenodon obesus*. The Marine Biodiversity Hub is investigating management focussed on at-risk species and biodiversity 'hot-spots'. (Image: CSIRO)



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The NERP Marine Biodiversity Hub is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Research Program, administered by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC). Our goal is to support marine stakeholders in evidence-based decision making for marine biodiversity management. Stakeholders include DSEWPaC, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) and the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS). (February 2013)