



Talbot Bay WA13.01.02

Regional Setting

The dominant regional processes are the wet-dry tropical climate (trade winds, monsoons); El Niño Southern Oscillation (driving high sea-level variability); Madden-Julian Oscillation (driving weather patterns including monsoons and tropical cyclones); mega to meso (limited) semi-diurnal tides; waves dominantly seas; episodic high river sediment discharges; mixed carbonate-terrigenous sediments; tidal sediment transport, and limited longshore transport.

This coastline is susceptible to regional hazards, including tropical cyclones, storm surges and river flooding.

This rocky coast compartment extends from Nares Point to Marnebulorgne Community (north point).

Justification of sensitivity

The sensitivity rating is a 2 as the shoreline is stable but likely to start accreting. Low susceptibility is attributed to the rocky coast. There is a high level of natural resilience elsewhere, such as on the tidal flats of sheltered waters in Talbot Bay.

Other comments

This compartment contains two dominant landform assemblages:

[1] Highly resistant and structurally controlled headlands; islands or drowned river valleys; all may show minor embayments with tidal flat or small flat development (33%). [2] A broad complex system of tidal channels and flats; may back onto low cliffs and sand ridges (52%).



Geomorphological features include fringing coral reefs, Buccaneer Archipelago and the ria coast.

This compartment has a NE aspect.

Confidence in sources

Moderate confidence: Limited or no information specifically describing landforms or coastal landform change is available for the historical period. However, multiple photographic runs and other regional investigations of landforms have been published.

Interpretation of landform assemblages from satellite imagery, available literature and aerial photography.

Additional information (links and references)

Australian Beach Safety & Management Program (ABSAMP) database of over 12,000 beaches can be accessed at http://www.ozcoasts.gov.au/coastal/beach_intro.jsp (also see Surf Life Saving site)

Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). (2006) Oil Spills Response Atlas. Australian Government Canberra. Available at <https://www.amsa.gov.au/environment/maritime-environmental-emergencies/national-plan/general-information/OSRA/index.asp>

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Short AD. (2006) Beaches of the Northern Australian Coast: The Kimberley, Northern Territory and Cape York: A guide to their nature, characteristics, surf and safety. Australian Beach Safety and Management Program. University of Sydney Coastal Studies Unit and Surf Life Saving Australia. Sydney University Press. Sydney, New South Wales.

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