



Victoria River (Joseph Bonaparte Gulf) WA13.05.02

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 coastal lowlands compartment extends from Turtle Point to Pearce Point.

Justification of sensitivity

The sensitivity rating is a 4 as the shoreline is stable but likely to start eroding. The tidal flats are dynamic coastal lowlands and are likely to undergo some erosion or reorganisation of the patterns of tidal creeks in response to variation in sea level or river discharge.

Other comments

The deltaic and estuarine morphology of the Victoria and Fitzmaurice Rivers flowing into the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, as well as those of smaller streams flowing into Keyling and New Moon Inlets, are the main landforms of the compartment.

Geomorphological features include the chenier spit on the east bank at the mouth of Keep River. This compartment has a NW 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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