

# Eastern Spencer Gulf Marine Park

## Preliminary sanctuary zone scenario

### Starting point for Marine Park Local Advisory Group discussion

South Australians enjoy the benefits of a healthy marine environment. However, the marine environment is under increasing pressure from a range of sources, including climate change, run-off and competition for resources, which could affect how we use and enjoy it in the future.

Marine parks are currently being set up around Australia as part of a national and international response to these increasing pressures.

In 2009, the South Australian Government declared a network of 19 marine parks to help protect and conserve areas of natural value within our State's waters for generations to come.

Your assistance is now needed to help develop the zoning and management plans for these marine parks.

At this meeting, you will begin the process of developing a proposed zoning scenario for your local marine park(s). You will be provided a range of information about zoning, including a preliminary sanctuary zone scenario developed by DENR, and other government agencies to provide a starting point for discussions by your MPLAG about how marine parks might be zoned for conservation, commerce and community use.

The preliminary sanctuary zone scenario is only a starting point and does not represent a Government proposal or preference. There may be better ways to design a marine park zoning scheme to achieve the desired outcomes. Your MPLAG's advice on its preferred zoning scenario(s) is sought.

The preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios have been developed using the environmental, social and economic information currently available to Government, including the information provided through SAMPIT (the South Australian Marine Parks Information Tool).

The next step is for the scenarios to be worked on over the next six months by the MPLAGs and key stakeholders, such as the seafood industry, tourism operators, local government and conservation interests, who all have important information to bring to the table.

It is expected that this work will result in changes to what is initially provided. Indeed, this is the purpose of MPLAGs and key stakeholder engagement - to better inform and assist the Government in this process - so we can help ensure that the needs of local communities and industries are met.

The State Government has not adopted an arbitrary percentage target for the size of sanctuary zones. Instead, it remains open to the advice of the community as to how to best design the marine parks network to protect and conserve marine biodiversity and marine habitats in a manner that accords with the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*.

To assist MPLAGs, key stakeholders and other community members to develop their preferred zoning scenario(s), you will be provided with some indicative zoning guidelines.

These guidelines have been developed with due regard to advice from the Marine Parks Scientific Working Group and Marine Parks Council of South Australia, which provide independent advice on marine park matters.

One of these zoning guidelines is that sanctuary zones should cover about 20-25% of each marine park - this would translate to about 10% of our State's waters.

However, this is a guideline only and may not be achievable in some marine parks, particularly where there are significant policy commitments in place to provide for various current and future activities.

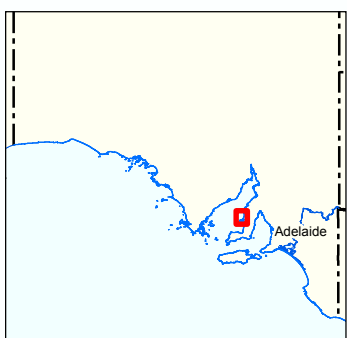
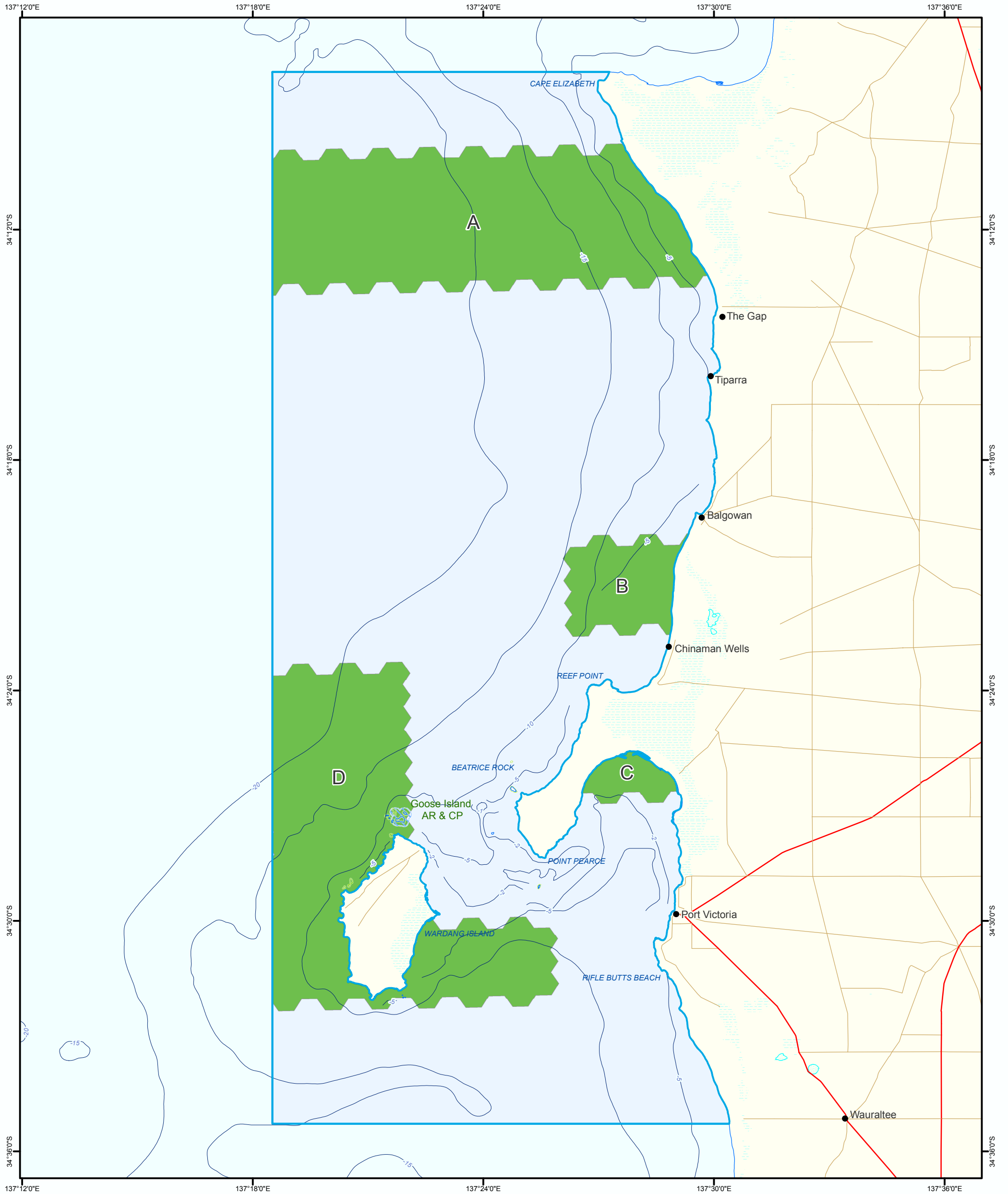
Your attention is drawn to the marine park policy commitments made by the Government in 2009, in particular the assurance given to the commercial fishing industry that the outcome of marine parks zoning will have no more than a 5% economic impact (as per the 2007 EconSearch report).











In developing your preferred zoning scenarios it will be important that you apply the full zoning checklists and policy commitments, to help ensure your suggestions meet the marine park design requirements. Doing this will help you develop a proposal for your park(s) that is good for conservation and good for commercial and community interests.

**For more information**, please contact your MPLAG Executive Officer via email at [DENRmarine@sa.gov.au](mailto:DENRmarine@sa.gov.au), or phone the Coast and Marine Conservation Branch, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, on Freecall 1800 006 120.

# Marine Park 11 - Eastern Spencer Gulf Marine Park

## Preliminary Sanctuary Zone Scenario Starting Point - Version 1



- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Possible Sanctuary Zones         |  Bathymetry                    |
|  Marine Park                      |  Coastline (median high water) |
|  Lake - Intermittent              |  Major Road                    |
|  Land Subject to Inundation (STI) |  Minor Road                    |
|  Parks and Reserves               |   |
|  Aquatic Reserves                 |   |

**Produced by** Coast and Marine Conservation  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
GPO BOX 1047 Adelaide SA 5001  
[www.marineparks.sa.gov.au](http://www.marineparks.sa.gov.au)

**Data Source** Marine Parks, Parks and Reserves,  
Topographic Data, Bathymetry - DENR  
Aquatic Reserves - PIRSA  
8 November 2010

**Compiled Projection Datum** Geographic  
Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994

© Copyright Department of Environment and Natural Resources 2010.  
All Rights Reserved. All works and information displayed are subject to Copyright. For the reproduction or publication beyond that permitted by the Copyright Act 1968 (Cwth) written permission must be sought from the Department.  
Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information displayed, the Department, its agents, officers and employees make no representations, either express or implied, that the information displayed is accurate or fit for any purpose and expressly disclaims all liability for loss or damage arising from reliance upon the information displayed.



**Basis for 'Starting Point' Preliminary Sanctuary Zone Scenario – Eastern Spencer Gulf Marine Park (Park 11)**

Location of possible Sanctuary Zone	Area	Rationale for possible Sanctuary Zone
<p><b>Zone A:</b> This zone runs west from the coast just south of Cape Elizabeth across the entire width of the Park</p>	<p>Approximately 103 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>The possible Sanctuary Zone represents the following habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Zone includes sheltered to moderately exposed coarse sand beaches leading out into a mixture of rocky reef, seagrass beds or soft-bottom habitats in shallower waters. Deeper water habitats in the 10-30m range, which are yet to be mapped, are also included.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other important features and natural processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limestone reefs located along this section of west facing coastline provide valuable habitat for resident reef fish species such as the western blue devil which is a species of conservation concern.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social and economic considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The possible Sanctuary Zone was designed to avoid the popular camping and fishing areas along the coast north of Balgowan.</li> <li>An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) exists over this area which will be considered in final management plans.</li> <li>To ensure ease of identification, compliance and enforcement the Zone uses straight north, south, west and east lines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zone B:</b> Situated on the coast between Chinaman Wells and Balgowan</p>	<p>Approximately 18 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>The possible Sanctuary Zone represents the following habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This area includes sheltered west facing coarse sand beach coast, with rocky reefs and seagrass beds located in waters up to 10m deep.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social and economic considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The possible Sanctuary Zone was designed to provide for important coastal shack communities and fishing areas in front of Chinaman Wells and Balgowan.</li> <li>An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) exists over this area which will be considered in the final management plans.</li> <li>To ensure ease of identification, compliance and enforcement the Zone uses straight north, south, west and east lines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zone C:</b> A small zone in the northern end of the bay that lies between Point Pearce and Port Victoria</p>	<p>Approximately 6 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>The possible Sanctuary Zone represents the following habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal saltmarsh boarded by tidal flats with shallow seagrass beds (up to 10 metres deep) and areas of soft-bottom habitats (less than 1 km<sup>2</sup>). Includes the only area of saltmarsh (0.4 km<sup>2</sup>) within a possible Sanctuary Zone in this marine park.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other important features and natural processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The seagrass habitats provide an important spawning area for razorfish and nursery area for species such as King George whiting, western Australian salmon and southern sea garfish.</li> <li>The saltmarsh provides important feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds whose habitats are required to be protected under international treaties.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social and economic considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The possible Sanctuary Zone was designed to provide for important fishing areas around Port Victoria and to the west of Point Pearce.</li> <li>This Zone was designed to provide for the coastal shacks around Point Pearce.</li> <li>The area lies adjacent to the Point Pearce community.</li> <li>An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) exists over this area which will be considered in the final management plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zone D:</b> Covers the waters from the western boundary of the park in an easterly direction toward Port Victoria wrapping around the southern end of Wardang Island. It also covers the waters running north west off the northern corner of Wardang Island and includes Goose Island Aquatic Reserve and Conservation Park.</p>	<p>Approximately 94 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>The possible Sanctuary Zone represents the following habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The shoreline consists of bedrock platform along Hungry Bay and Flatmans Beach, to patches of soft-bottom habitats, rocky reef environments dominated by large brown algae in the shallow areas and red algae in waters up to 30 metres.</li> <li>The Zone includes the only area of reef found at 10 - 30m deep located in this Marine Park.</li> <li>This Zone contains moderately exposed coarse sandy beaches, connected to intertidal reefs, with dense seagrass beds located offshore, mostly in waters up to 10m. This Zone contains the only area of seagrass found in 10 - 30m of water located within this Marine Park.</li> <li>The northern shoreline of Wardang Island includes sheltered to moderately exposed shoreline rock platform extending to dense reefs or seagrass beds mixed with patches of soft-bottom habitats.</li> <li>The area between Wardang Island and Goose Island is connected by low profile platform reef dominated by large brown algae.</li> </ul>

		<p><b>Other important features and natural processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reefs within the possible Sanctuary Zone provide habitat for an abundance of resident reef fish.</li> <li>• The Zone includes part of Wardang Island which provides important nesting and feeding grounds for resident shorebirds as well as feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds, whose habitats are required to be protected under international treaties.</li> <li>• The Zone contains several protected shipwrecks including the <i>Notre Dame D'Avor</i>, <i>Investigator</i> and the <i>Monarch</i>.</li> <li>• Included in the Zone is Goose Island Aquatic Reserve and Conservation Park, which includes White Rock and provides an important haul-out site for a small population of Australian sea lions which are listed as vulnerable.</li> <li>• The Goose Island group provides important habitat for small populations of migratory shorebirds whose habitats are required to be protected under international treaties.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social and economic considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This possible Sanctuary Zone was designed to avoid the popular, sheltered fishing grounds on the north east side of Wardang Island.</li> <li>• The Zone and final boundaries will be positioned to avoid important fishing areas south of Wardang Island.</li> <li>• The Zone was located to avoid popular recreational fishing areas in the coastal waters around the township of Port Victoria, the jetty and boat ramp.</li> <li>• An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) exists over this area which will be considered in final management plans.</li> </ul>
--	--	---

This table shows the environmental values represented in each possible Sanctuary Zone within the Eastern Spencer Gulf Marine Park

Environmental Values	Units	Possible Sanctuary Zones				Total in all Zones	Total in Marine Park
		A	B	C	D		
<b>Ecologically Important Species</b>							
Australian Sealions (haulout sites)	Count				2	2	2
Coastal Shorebird Sites	Count			77	9	86	161
Reef Fish Sites	Count	2			1	3	4
Sea Bird Sites	Count				6	6	9
<b>Underwater Habitats</b>							
Macroalgae (0 to -10m)	Km <sup>2</sup>			<1	<1	<1	2
Rocky Reef (0 to -10m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	24	4		7	35	120
Rocky Reef (-10 to -30m)	Km <sup>2</sup>				<1	<1	<1
Seagrass (0 to -10m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	4	8	5	26	42	133
Seagrass (-10 to -30m)	Km <sup>2</sup>				<1	<1	<1
Soft Bottom Habitat (0 to -10m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	1	1	1	1	4	10
Unmapped (0 to -10m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	10	6		45	61	236
Unmapped (-10 to -30m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	64			14	78	281
<b>Shore Habitats</b>							
Boulder Beach (Moderate)	Km				1	1	1
Bedrock Platform (Exposed)	Km						2
Bedrock Platform (Moderate)	Km				10	10	10
Bedrock Platform (Sheltered)	Km				2	2	5
Coarse Sand Beach (Moderate)	Km	3			2	5	9
Coarse Sand Beach (Sheltered)	Km	5	5		5	14	57
Emergent Land	Count			1	2	3	4
Mixed Beach (Sheltered)	Km				1	1	1
Offshore Islands	Count				6	6	9
Saltmarsh	Km <sup>2</sup>			<1	<1	<1	1

\* note that numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number.