

Upper Gulf St Vincent 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.

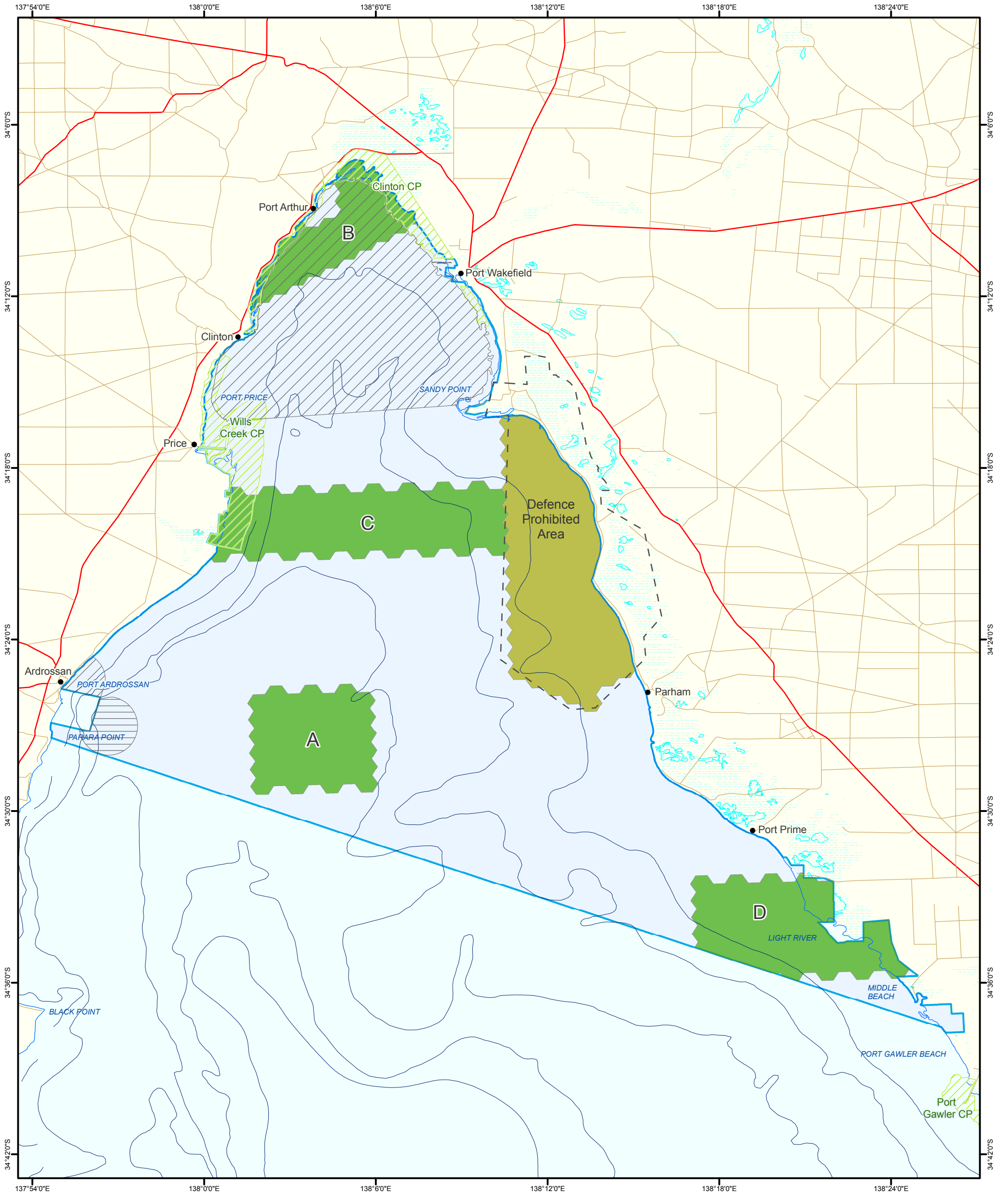
Your attention is drawn to the marine park policy commitments made by the Government in 2009, in particular the assurance given to the commercial fishing industry that the outcome of marine parks zoning will have no more than a 5% economic impact (as per the 2007 EconSearch report).

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, or phone the Coast and Marine Conservation Branch, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, on Freecall 1800 006 120.

Marine Park 14 - Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park

Preliminary Sanctuary Zone Scenario Starting Point - Version 1



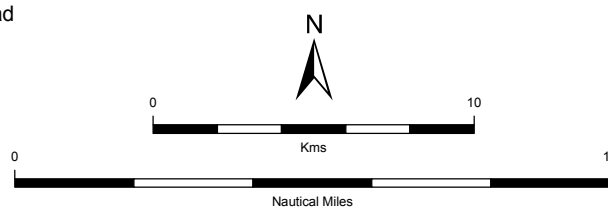
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|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| | Possible Sanctuary Zones | | Defence Prohibited Area |
| | Restricted Access Zone (Defence Prohibited Area) | | Bathymetry |
| | Marine Park | | Coastline (median high water) |
| | Lake - Intermittent | | Major Road |
| | Lake - Mainly Dry | | Minor Road |
| | Land Subject to Inundation (STI) | | |
| | Parks and Reserves | | |
| | Special Purpose Areas (Harbours) | | |
| | Special Purpose Areas (Prospective Anchorage Locations) | | |

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Data Source Marine Parks, Parks and Reserves,
Topographic Data, Bathymetry
Defence Prohibited Area - DENR
Harbours - DENR & Harbours and Navigation Act
Prospective Anchorage Locations - Flinders Ports

Compiled 8 November 2010
Projection Geographic
Datum Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994

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Basis for 'Starting Point' Preliminary Sanctuary Zone Scenario – Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park (Park 14)		
Location of possible Sanctuary Zone	Area	Rationale for possible Sanctuary Zone
Zone A: This zone covers an approximately 6 X 7 km section of deep water between Ardrossan and Parham.	42 km ²	<p>The possible Sanctuary Zone represents the following habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Zone includes the deepest waters of the park, with seagrass beds and unmapped habitats located in waters up to 30m deep. <p>Other important features and natural processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Zone contains a significant spawning area for snapper. <p>Social and economic considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Zone was designed to avoid high use prawn trawling areas and popular recreational fishing areas adjacent to Ardrossan. To ensure ease of identification, compliance and enforcement the Zone uses straight north, south, west and east lines.
Zone B: Located at the head of Gulf St Vincent adjacent to Clinton Conservation park.	30 km ²	<p>The possible Sanctuary Zone represents the following habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Zone represents sheltered mixed beaches, interspersed with mangroves and backed by saltmarsh. Areas of emergent land are included within this Zone. Dense seagrass beds in shallow waters (0-10m deep) are also represented in this Zone. <p>Other important features and natural processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The seagrass habitats provide an important nursery, breeding, feeding and possible spawning habitat for blue swimmer crabs, western king prawns, whiting, garfish, snapper and numerous other species. The mangroves an important area for post-larvae and juvenile yellow-fin whiting. The saltmarsh in this Zone is the most significant, undisturbed area of saltmarsh in the Gulf St Vincent region. This high saline region is unique due to the tidal extremes of the gulf waters and inverse estuarine flow. The Zone partially overlays Clinton Conservation Park, establishing a protected corridor between the land and sea. The saltmarsh, mangrove and intertidal habitats provide 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. The area is recognised as a coastal wetland of national importance. <p>Social and economic considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Zone was designed to provide for recreational crab and beach fishing at Port Arthur.
Zone C: A section approximately 5 km wide that runs across the gulf from the southern end of Wills Creek Conservation Park to connect with the Defence Prohibited Area.	151 km ²	<p>The possible Sanctuary Zone represents the following habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Zone includes mixed sand beaches, mangroves, saltmarsh and seagrass in waters up to 10m. Habitats within the Defence Prohibited Area are included within this Zone. South of Price Creek the coast is lined with mangroves which are fronted by extensive tidal flats. <p>Other important features and natural processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The saltmarsh, mangrove and intertidal habitats located adjacent to the Price salt fields and within the Defence Prohibited Area provide 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. The boundary of the Zone overlays the Wills Creek Conservation Park, establishing a protected corridor between the land and sea. The mangrove and seagrass habitats provide an important nursery, breeding and feeding habitat for blue swimmer crabs, western king prawns, whiting, garfish, snapper and numerous other species. <p>Social and economic considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Zone was designed to provide for important fishing areas adjacent to the town of Price and at Wills and Shag Creeks. A Kurna peoples' Aboriginal Native Title Claim exists over the coastline of the Defence Prohibited Area.

<p>Zone D: Extends approximately 8 km along the coast adjacent to the Light River Delta and extends 8 km out into the gulf.</p>	<p>52 km²</p>	<p>The possible Sanctuary Zone represents the following habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intertidal flats lined by mangroves and backed by extensive saltmarsh dominate much of this coastline. • Sheltered mixed sand beaches form the remainder of the coastline of this Zone. • Dense seagrass beds located in shallow waters are interspersed with areas of soft-bottom habitat. <p>Other important features and natural processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangroves and saltmarshes surrounding the Light River Delta are one of the most ecologically intact systems in the State. • Saltmarsh habitats support significant populations of the nationally and state listed vulnerable plant – the bead glasswort. • The saltmarsh, mangrove and intertidal habitats provide 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. • The mangrove and seagrass habitats provide an important nursery, breeding and feeding habitat for blue swimmer crabs, western king prawns, whiting, garfish, snapper and numerous other species. • High tidal range producing a large intertidal zone. <p>Social and economic considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Zone was designed to provide for popular recreational fishing grounds adjacent to Port Prime and Middle Beach. • This area is recognised as a wetland of national importance. • To ensure ease of identification, compliance and enforcement the Zone uses straight north, south, west and east lines.
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This table shows the environmental values represented in each possible Sanctuary Zone within the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park

Environmental Values	Units	Possible Sanctuary Zones				Total in all Zones	Total in Marine Park
		A	B	C	D		
Ecologically Important Sites							
Coastal Shorebird Sites	Count		981	18	53	1052	1626
Reef Fish Sites	Count				2	2	2
Sea Bird Breeding and Nesting Sites	Count						3
Underwater Habitats							
Seagrass (0 to -10m)	Km ²		21	113	36	170	624
Seagrass (-10 to -30m)	Km ²	33				33	166
Soft-bottom Habitat (0 to -10m)	Km ²		1	36	1	37	87
Soft-bottom Habitat (-10m to -30m)	Km ²			<1		<1	4
Unmapped (-10 to -30m)	Km ²	9				9	29
Shore Habitats							
Cliff (Sheltered)	Km						2
Coarse Sand Beach (Sheltered)	Km						4
Emergent Land	Count		12	1		13	23
Estuary	Km ²				6	6	39
Mangrove	Km ²		3	1	5	9	22
Mudflats and Sandflats (Sheltered)	Km						<1
Mixed Beach (Sheltered)	Km		1	22	2	25	56
Saltmarsh	Km ²		5	1	8	13	24

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