

Upper Spencer Gulf MARINE PARKS

Incorporating the Upper Spencer Gulf and Franklin Harbor Marine Parks



**ENJOY LIFE IN OUR
MARINE PARKS.**



Government
of South Australia



Why we need Marine Parks

Southern Australia is lucky to have some of the most spectacular coastline in the world and an even greater variety of marine life than the Great Barrier Reef.

Our marine areas boast iconic species such as the Southern Right whale, bottlenose dolphin, leafy sea dragon, Great White Shark, Australian pelican, little penguin, Australian sea lion and giant cuttlefish.

Some of our marine life is found nowhere else on earth.

South Australia's marine environment is under pressure from population growth, development and pollution. To help protect both our native species and the beautiful marine environment they call home, South Australia has created a system of marine parks as an investment in the state's future.





Enjoying marine parks

Over the years, more than 21 per cent of South Australia’s land has been set aside for conservation in parks and reserves.

Our marine parks are much the same. They help protect and conserve our marine environment while allowing us to enjoy the beauty of the scenery and a variety of recreational activities many South Australians love such as fishing, boating, swimming, diving, surfing and paddling.

The majority of South Australian waters is still available for fishing.

South Australia already has a vibrant tourism industry and it is anticipated our marine parks will also offer the state economic benefits in the form of increased tourism and new regional business opportunities.

Let’s respect and enjoy our marine parks so our marine environment and animals have a healthy future. Your marine life will be protected and so will theirs.



the UPPER SPENCER GULF

region

How marine parks protect our marine life

Many South Australian marine parks include feeding and breeding sites for some of our best-loved marine animals as well as fish and shellfish nursery areas.

Some of these areas, such as seagrass meadows, reefs and mangroves, are incredibly fragile and will benefit from the extra protection provided by sanctuary zones.

These areas only take up about six per cent of our waters and will not allow mining, trawling or fishing, giving marine animals a safe place to retreat and go about the business of breeding, caring for young and growing to adulthood.

Protecting nurseries and other critical habitats can only result in stronger, healthier fish populations in the long term, and what is good for fish is also good for the marine food chain and for both recreational and commercial fishing.

What does this mean for fishing?

Marine parks have been carefully designed to avoid popular recreational fishing areas; and access to jetties, boat ramps and popular beaches has not been affected.

The Government has also allowed two years for the restrictions on fishing to come into effect to enable people to prepare for the changes.

Marine parks - together with fisheries management - are an important investment for our future.

Healthy fish means healthy fishing!



Tourism

With rugged coastline, sheltered bays and significant wetlands, the Upper Spencer Gulf parks have something to appeal to almost everyone. The region is a firm favourite with recreational fishers from South Australia and interstate, with thousands of people visiting to catch King George whiting, garfish, crabs and snapper. Sunset cruises in the upper reaches of the Gulf are also popular.

Nurturing local marine life

The parks in this region protect some of the most important fish nurseries in South Australia, including significant mangrove forests, seagrass meadows and areas where whiting, squid and snapper gather to spawn. Dolphins also congregate here to feed and breed.

Enjoying the region

Upper Spencer Gulf's sheltered waters make the area popular with sailors and other small boat operators. Fishing from both shore and boat will continue to be a popular pastime, as will diving for abalone and lobsters. School holiday camping trips are an institution for many families, with swimming, snorkelling and cooking the day's catch over a beach fire all on the must-do list.

How will I know where to fish?

Zoning maps are available online at www.marineparks.sa.gov.au or by phoning 1800 006 120. Maps are also available for smart phones by downloading the MyParx app.



GIANT AUSTRALIAN CUTTLEFISH

The giant Australian cuttlefish is an iconic species in upper Spencer Gulf. Point Lowly has traditionally seen an annual aggregation of the cuttlefish, which make a spectacular display by changing colour as they swim.



BLUE SWIMMER CRAB

The blue swimmer crab, a seasonal favourite with many South Australian fishers, has vital breeding grounds.



WEEDY SEA DRAGONS

With their long bodies and leafy appendages, weedy sea dragons come from the same family as sea horses and pipe fish. They are usually found in seagrass meadows and on reefs.



All recreation
Enjoy all recreation including fishing.



Sanctuary zones
Enjoy diving, boating, surfing and non motorised watersports.



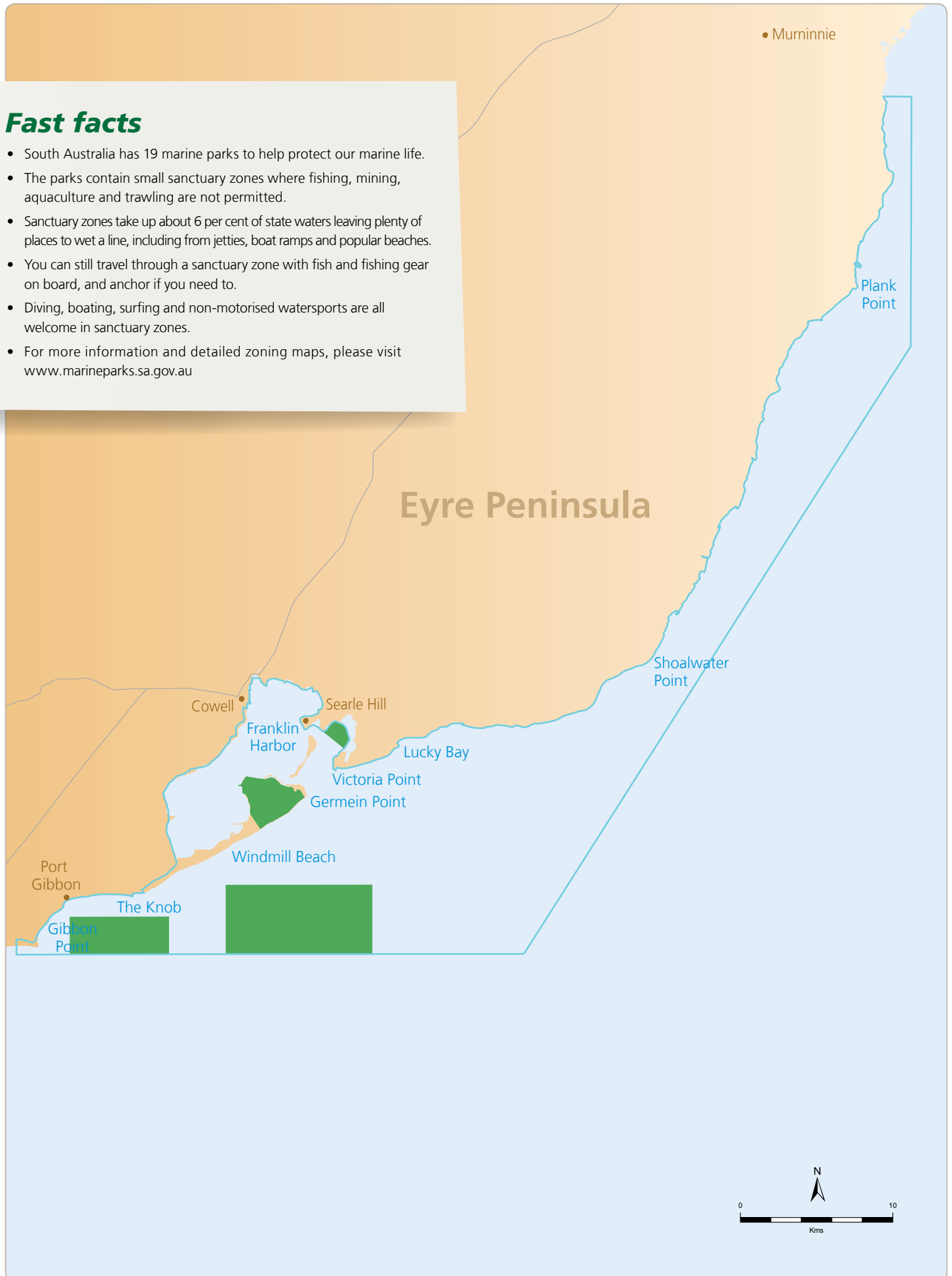
Restricted area
No public access (existing).



Shore based recreational line fishing permitted in these parts of Sanctuary Zones and Restricted Areas.

Fast facts

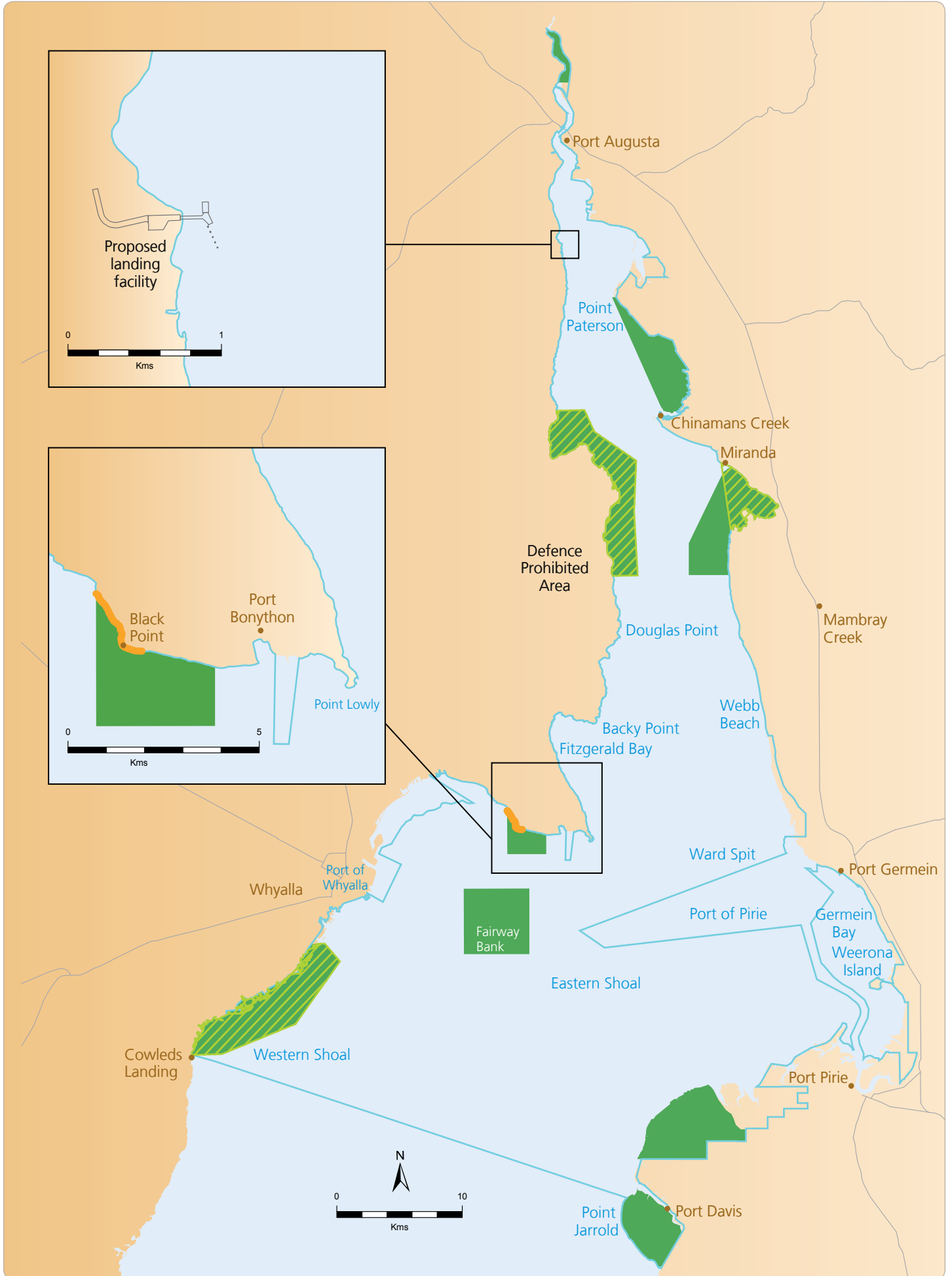
- South Australia has 19 marine parks to help protect our marine life.
- The parks contain small sanctuary zones where fishing, mining, aquaculture and trawling are not permitted.
- Sanctuary zones take up about 6 per cent of state waters leaving plenty of places to wet a line, including from jetties, boat ramps and popular beaches.
- You can still travel through a sanctuary zone with fish and fishing gear on board, and anchor if you need to.
- Diving, boating, surfing and non-motorised watersports are all welcome in sanctuary zones.
- For more information and detailed zoning maps, please visit www.marineparks.sa.gov.au



MARINE PARK 10

Upper Spencer Gulf

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Existing Aquatic Reserves
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ENJOY LIFE IN OUR MARINE PARKS.



Fishing with your family is just one of the many great things to enjoy in our 19 new marine parks. From swimming and diving to boating and fishing — you can enjoy all your favourite activities in marine parks. It's only in the sanctuary areas of marine parks — which take up about 6% of state waters — that fishing soon won't be permitted, to help protect fragile habitat and breeding sites for some of our best-loved marine life. There's more variety of marine life in Southern Australian waters than the Great Barrier Reef. Let's respect our marine parks so we can enjoy our marine life in the future.

For more information visit marineparks.sa.gov.au



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