



12. AMERICAN RIVER AQUATIC RESERVE

Locality

North eastern side of Kangaroo Island.

Permitted Activities

Boating, diving and swimming are all permitted.

Prohibited Activities

Fishing and collecting any marine organisms is prohibited

Primary Purpose

The American River Aquatic Reserve was established for the conservation of seagrass and mudflats as a sanctuary for juvenile fish and a refuge for adult fish.

Major Habitat Types

American River Aquatic Reserve is made up of sand and mud flats, seagrass meadows, and a tidal inlet with coarse sand and shell fragments.

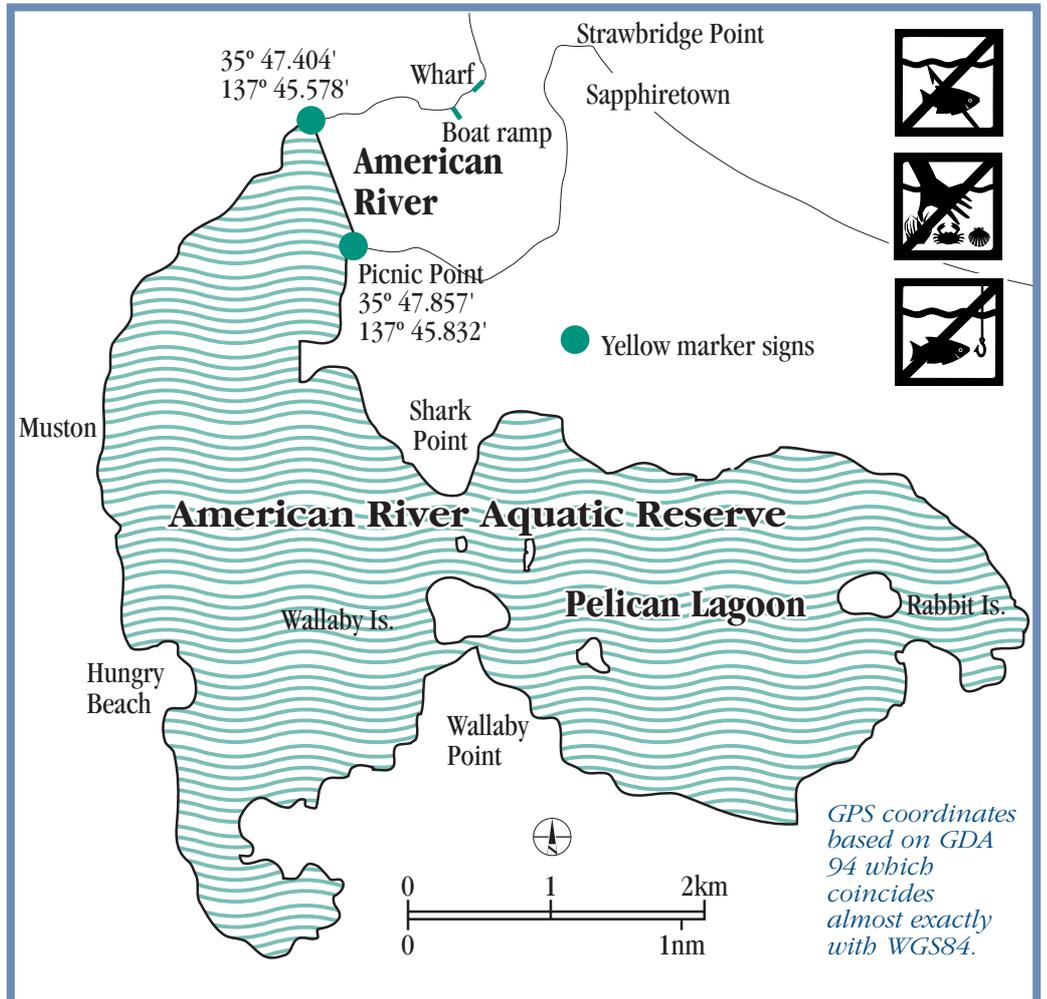
Outstanding physical, biological or other features

An extensive tidal inlet extends from the north coast of Kangaroo Island to within 800m of the south coast. From a narrow neck about 400m wide at the entrance near the American River landing, the inlet widens into several extensive lagoons, measuring some 4km in an east-west direction and almost 4km south from Picnic Point.

The sand and mud flats are colonised by seagrasses and provide extensive feeding areas for aquatic birds, while the subtidal areas are feeding grounds for numerous marine animal groups.

Additional Information

American River has been set aside as an aquatic reserve to conserve a semi-closed, seagrass and mudflat habitat, which provides a sanctuary for juvenile fish and a refuge for adult fish.



This is an extremely productive habitat. The shallow sheltered waters have several types of seagrass, including eelgrass (*Heterozostera*), garweed (*Zostera*) and paddle weed (*Halophila*). Within this dense vegetation, a variety of sponges, sea stars, anemones and several species of seahorses and pipefish are found.

The sand and mud flats also provide an extensive feeding area for aquatic birds. Both migratory and resident birds inhabit the lagoon. Some of the more common residents include the pied and sooty oyster catchers, pelicans and red-capped dotterels. Migratory birds include curlews, greenshanks, sandpipers and red-necked stilts.