



8. BARKER INLET – ST KILDA AQUATIC RESERVE

Locality

Eastern side of Gulf St Vincent, near Port Adelaide.

Permitted Activities

Boating, the removal of fish by rod and line or handline and the collecting of blood worms for bait by use of a hand net is permitted.

Prohibited Activities

Collecting or removing any other marine organisms, except by rod and line or handline or collecting bloodworms by hand net is not permitted.

Primary Purpose

Barker Inlet – St Kilda Aquatic Reserve was established for the conservation of mangrove-seagrass communities and for the protection of nursery areas for several important commercial and recreational species, including the western king prawn (*Penaeus latissulcatus*), King George whiting (*Sillaginodes punctata*), yellow fin whiting (*Sillago schomburgkii*) and blue swimmer crabs (*Portunus pelagicus*), for fisheries management.

Major Habitat Types

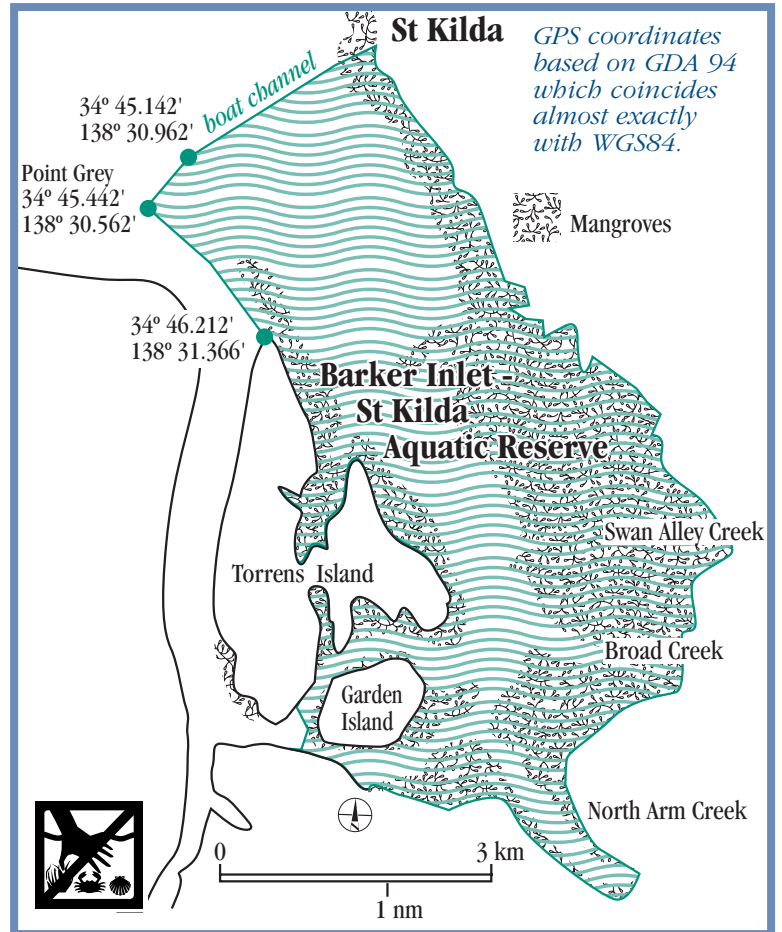
St Kilda – Chapman Creek Aquatic Reserve contains samphire flats which are covered by extremely high spring tides, intertidal mangroves (*Avicennia marina*), intertidal sand and mud flats, and subtidal seagrass meadows.

Outstanding physical, biological or other features

The samphire-mangrove-mudflat ecosystem contained within St Kilda – Chapman Creek Aquatic Reserve is an important, highly productive part of the near shore marine food web in the northern area of Gulf St Vincent. The ecosystem also provides shelter and breeding areas for many animal groups, stabilises coastal sediments and protects the coast from storm surge damage.

Known endangered or rare species

Mangroves are an important part of the marine ecosystem and are fully protected in South Australia.



Additional Information

Barker Inlet – St Kilda is one of two aquatic reserves in this area, designed to protect the important fish nursery and breeding area of upper Gulf St Vincent.

This area incorporates a typical section of mangrove habitat. Commencing on the landward side are low-lying samphire flats. Mangrove trees skirt the intertidal zone providing a primary source of leaf litter into the marine food web. On the seaward side are the sand and mud flats and extensive seagrass meadows. These plants are primary producers, converting sunlight into plant material – a useable energy source.

These aquatic reserves allow fish such as King George whiting, yellow fin whiting, blue swimmer crabs and western king prawns to mature and breed within a relatively undisturbed area.

These areas are an essential part of the continued health of fish stocks in Gulf St Vincent.