



### 3. BLANCHE HARBOUR – DOUGLAS BANK AQUATIC RESERVE

#### Locality

Western side of upper Spencer Gulf, north of Whyalla.

#### Permitted Activities

Boating and the use of hand spears for the taking of finfish and shark are allowed in the Reserve.

#### Prohibited Activities

The collecting or removal of any marine organism, except the taking of finfish and shark by hand spear (as explained above) is prohibited.

#### Primary Purpose

The Blanche Harbour – Douglas Bank Aquatic Reserve was established to protect the mangrove-seagrass communities and the associated fish nursery areas for fisheries management.

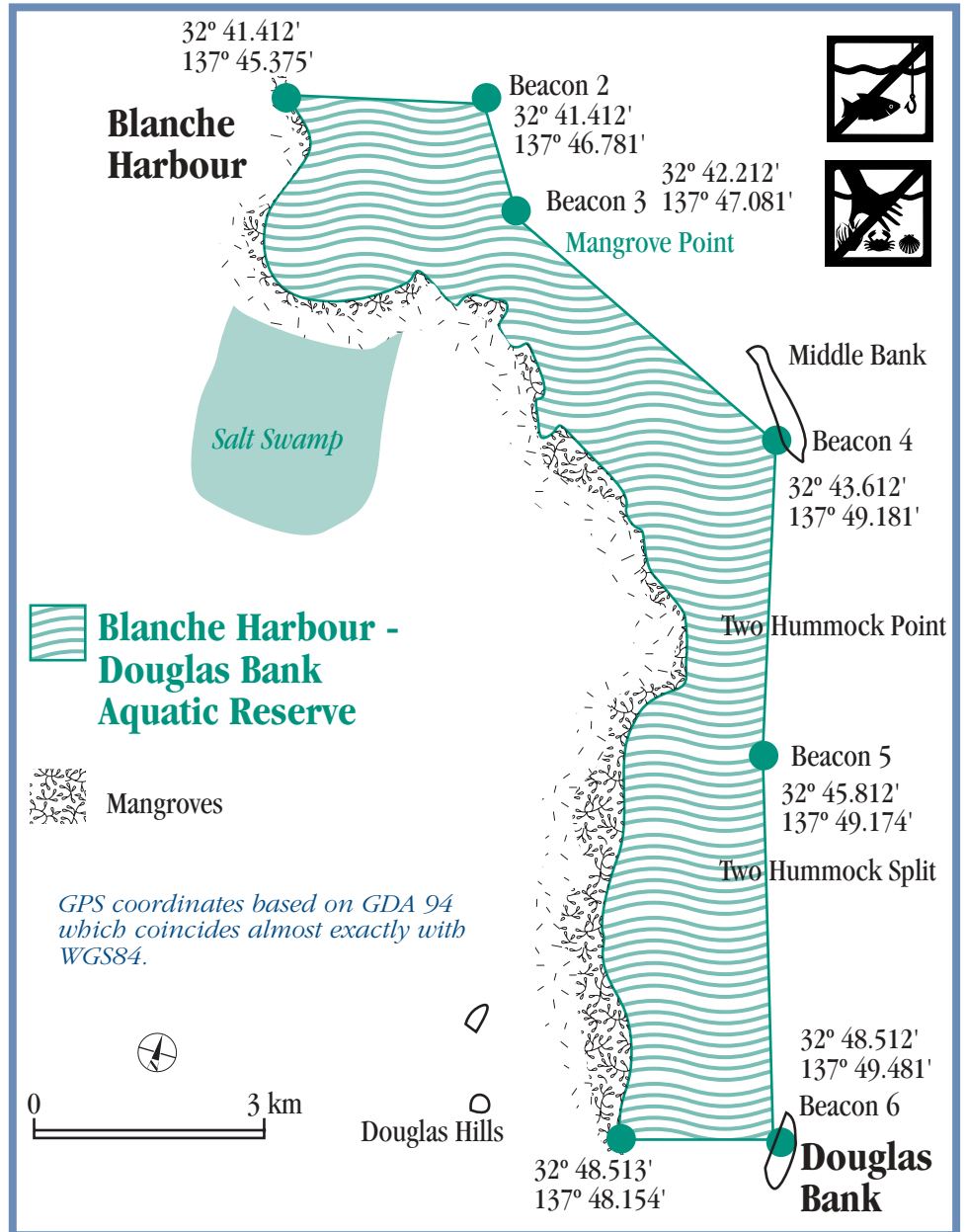
#### Major Habitat Types

Samphire flats, intertidal mangrove areas (*Avicennia marina*), intertidal sand and mudflats, subtidal seagrass meadows and coarse sand and shell channel areas are all habitat types that can be found in the Blanche Harbour-Douglas Bank Aquatic Reserve.

#### Outstanding physical, biological or other features

The Blanche Harbour – Douglas Bank Aquatic Reserve contains mangrove and seagrass areas that are important nursery areas for several commercial and recreational fish and crustacean species caught both locally in upper Spencer Gulf, and in the southern areas of Spencer Gulf.

This area is characterised by a large number of species that are found nowhere else in South Australia and / or those you would more likely find in tropical or sub-tropical areas of Australia.



#### Additional Information

Blanche Harbour – Douglas Bank is one of three aquatic reserves in upper Spencer Gulf established to protect important samphire, mangrove and seagrass communities and associated fish nursery breeding areas.

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 an area undisturbed by fishing. These areas form an essential part of the continued health of fish stocks in Spencer Gulf.