



7. ST KILDA – CHAPMAN CREEK AQUATIC RESERVE

Locality

Eastern side of Gulf St Vincent near the outer northern metropolitan Adelaide suburbs.

Permitted Activities

Boating and swimming are allowed, as is the taking of blue swimmer crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) by hand, crab rake or hoop net only.

Prohibited Activities

Bait digging, fishing and collecting or removing any marine organism (other than blue swimmer crabs) is not permitted.

Primary Purpose

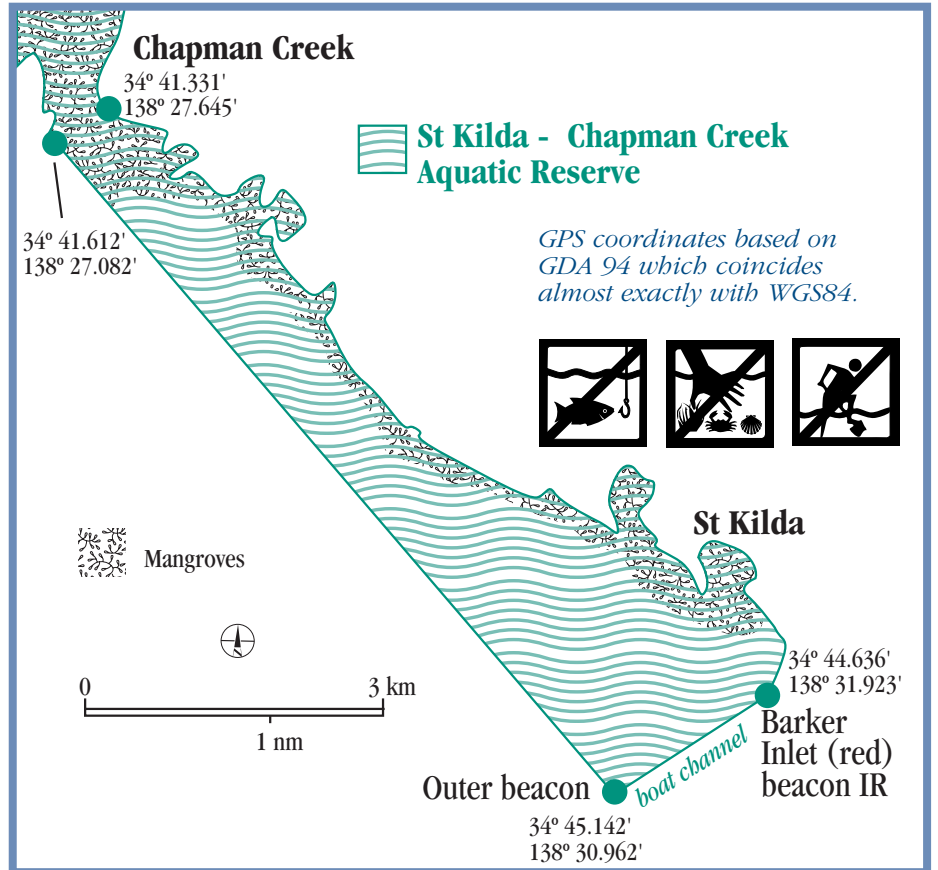
The St Kilda – Chapman Creek Aquatic Reserve was established for the conservation of mangrove-seagrass communities and the protection of nursery areas for major commercial and recreational fish species. St Kilda – Chapman Creek Aquatic Reserve provides a buffer area between commercial fishing activity and the Barker Inlet Aquatic Reserve.

Major Habitat Types

St Kilda – Chapman Creek Aquatic Reserve contains samphire flats which are covered by extremely high spring tides, intertidal mangroves (*Avicennia marina*) and intertidal sand and mudflats. Some of the mudflats are colonised by garweed (*Zostera muelleri*).

Outstanding physical, biological or other features

St Kilda – Chapman Creek Aquatic Reserve contains a samphire-mangrove-mudflat ecosystem which is an important, highly productive part of the nearshore marine foodweb in the northern areas 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.



Additional Information

St Kilda – Chapman Creek 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.