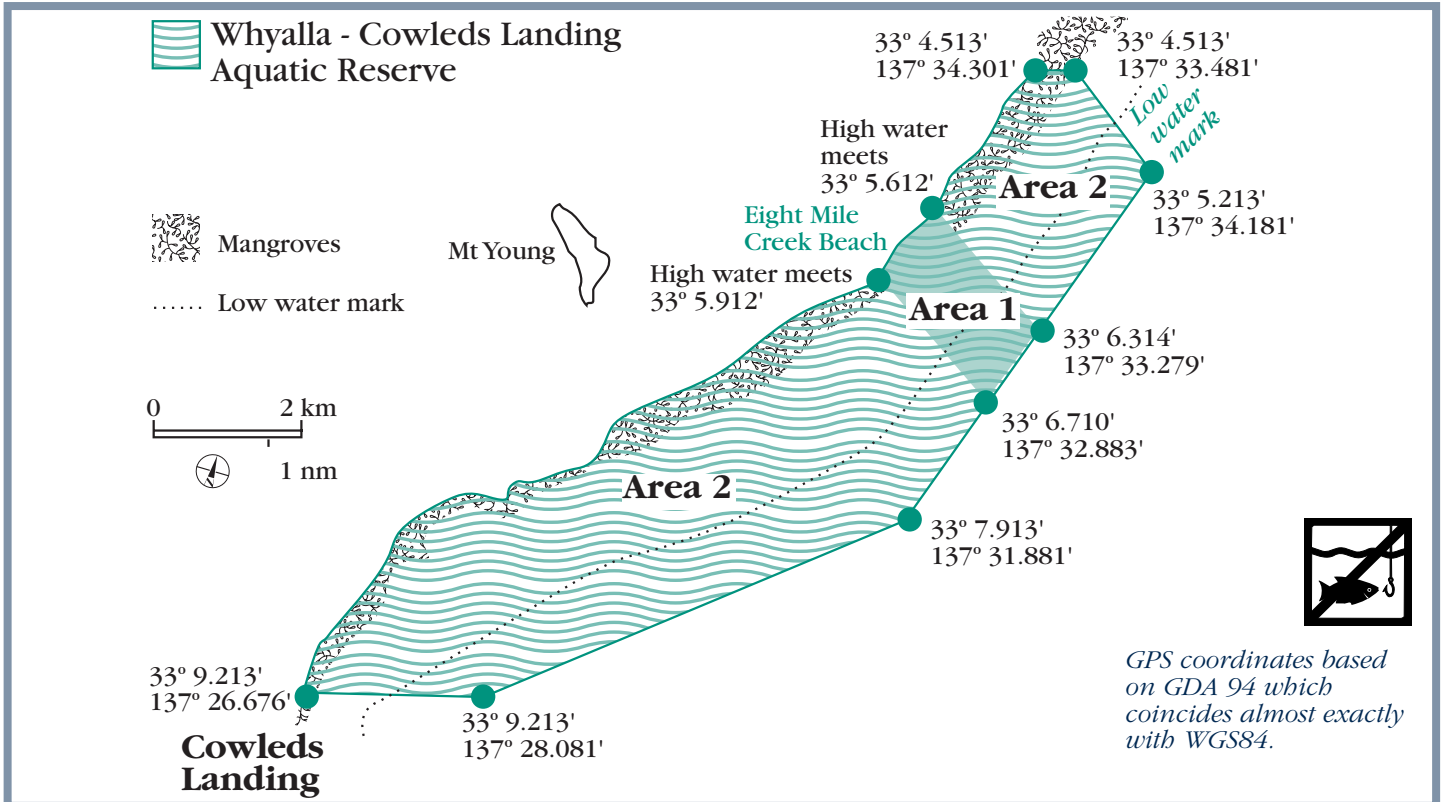




2. WHYALLA – COWLEDS LANDING AQUATIC RESERVE



Locality

Western side of upper Spencer Gulf, just south of Whyalla.

Permitted Activities

Boating, diving and swimming are all activities which are allowed in all of Whyalla-Cowleds Landing Aquatic Reserve.

The taking of blue swimmer crabs by hand, crabrake or hoop net is allowed, but only within Area 1 of the reserve, adjacent to Eight Mile Creek Beach (see map for details).

Prohibited Activities

Fishing and collecting or removing any marine organisms including the blue swimmer crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) is prohibited throughout Area 2 of the reserve.

Primary Purpose

The primary purpose of the Whyalla-Cowleds Landing Aquatic Reserve is to protect the mangrove-seagrass communities and associated fish nursery areas.

Major Habitat Types

Whyalla-Cowleds Landing Aquatic Reserve contains samphire flats which are flushed by extremely high spring tides, intertidal mangroves (*Avicennia marina*), intertidal sand and mud flats and subtidal seagrass meadows.

Outstanding physical, biological or other features

Whyalla Cowleds Landing Aquatic Reserve contains mangroves and seagrasses which are important nursery areas for several recreational and commercial fish and crustacean species in upper Spencer Gulf.

Additional Information

Whyalla – Cowleds Landing 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.