

4. YATALA HARBOUR AQUATIC RESERVE

Locality

Eastern side of upper Spencer Gulf, north of Pt Pirie.

Permitted Activities

Boating, diving and swimming are all permitted in Yatala Harbour Aquatic Reserve.

Prohibited Activities

Any fishing or the collection or removal of any marine organism is not allowed.

Primary Purpose

Yatala Harbour Aquatic Reserve was established for the protection of its mangrove-seagrass communities and associated fish nursery areas.

Major Habitat Types

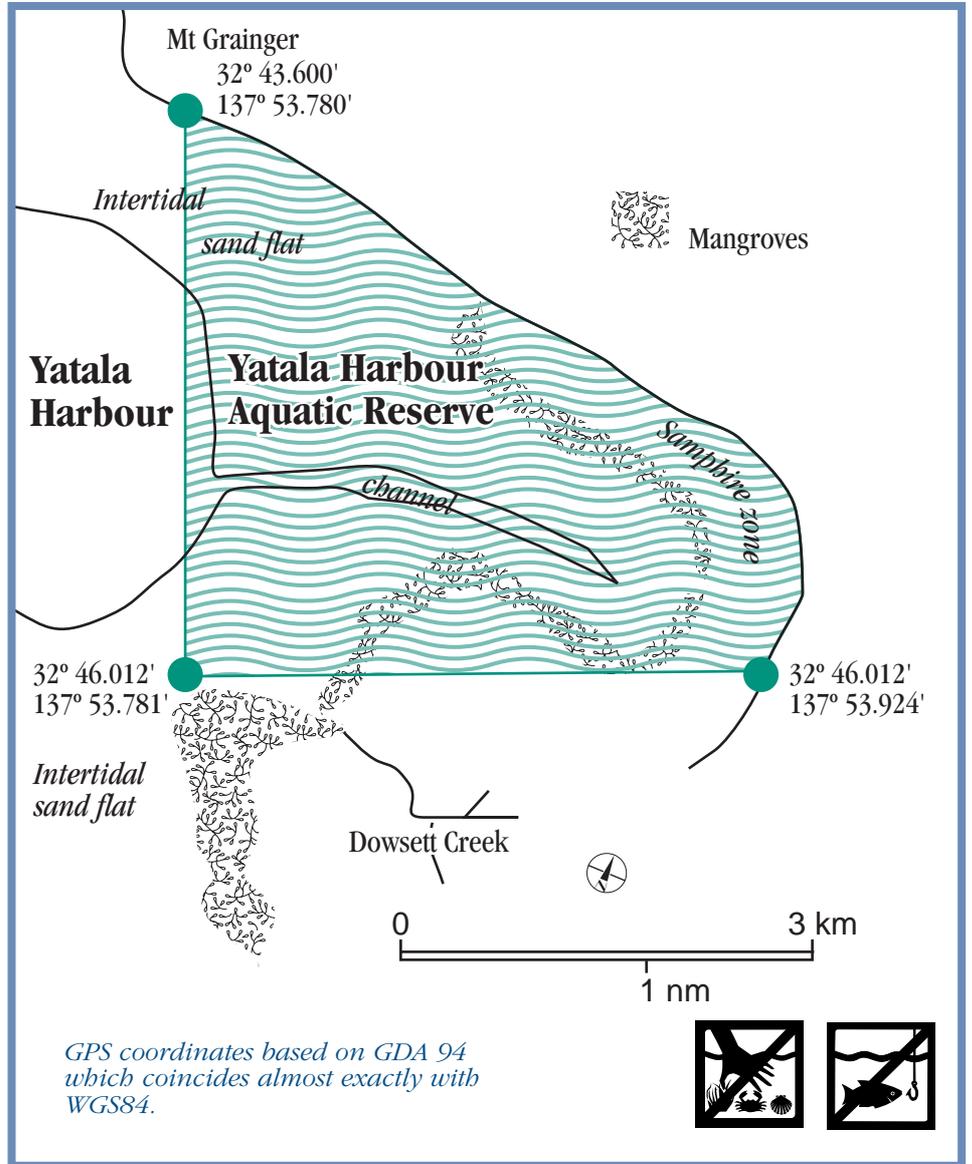
Samphire flats which are flushed by extremely high spring tides, intertidal mangroves (*Avicennia marina*), intertidal sand and mudflats, subtidal seagrass meadows, coarse sand and shell channel areas can all be found in the Yatala Harbour Aquatic Reserve.

Outstanding physical, biological or other features

The mangrove and seagrass areas of upper Spencer Gulf are important nursery areas for several commercial and recreational fish and crustacean species which are caught both locally and in the southern areas of Spencer Gulf. The mangroves are also an essential component of a highly productive marine-estuarine food web. They stabilise coastal sediments and act as 'buffer zones' between the sea and coastal land

Additional Information

Yatala Harbour 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.