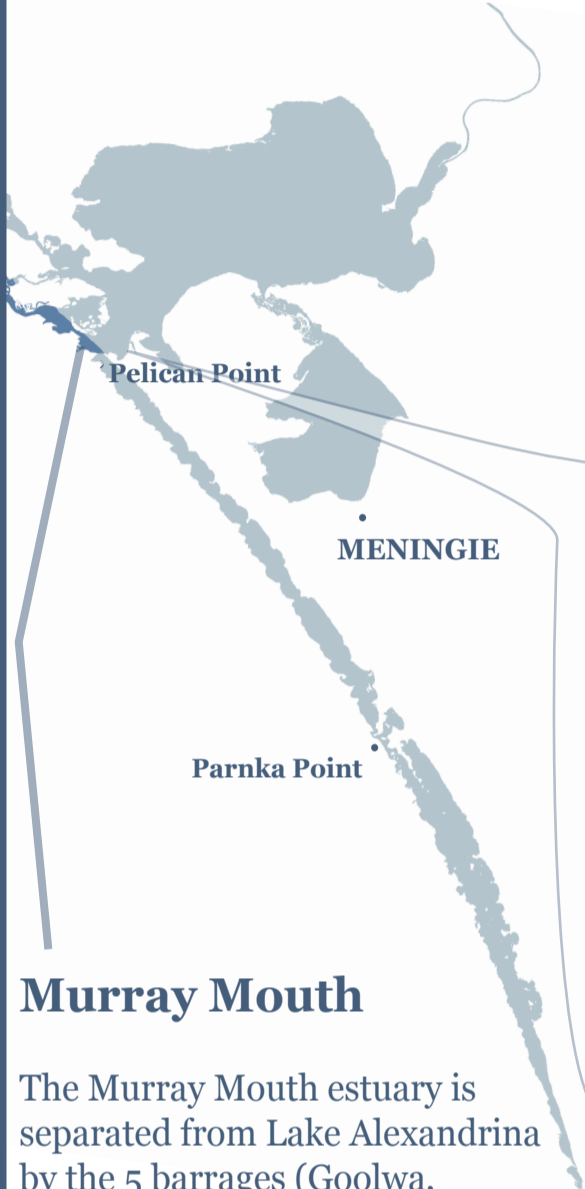


Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth Waterbird Diversity and Distribution

Murray Mouth

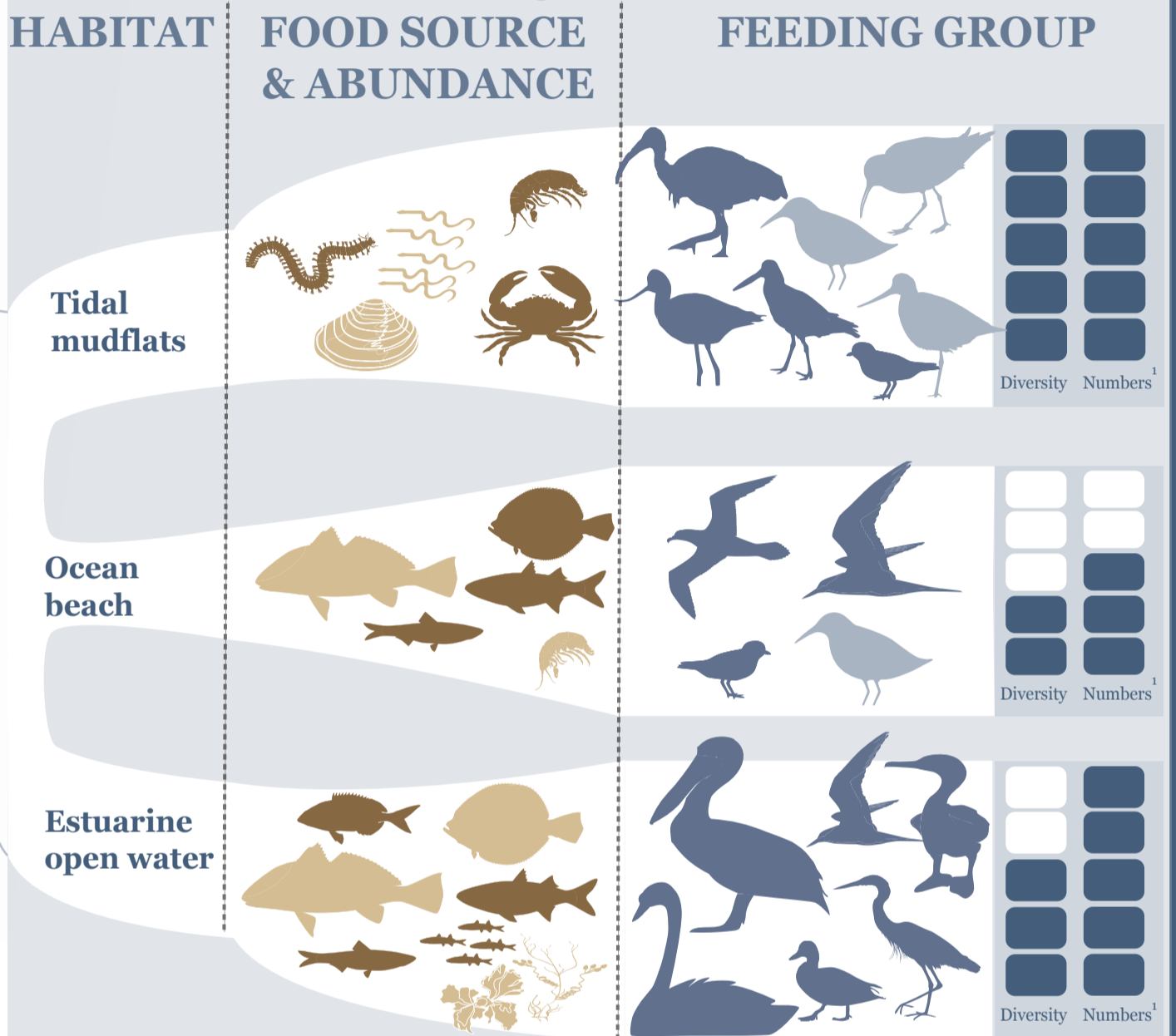


Murray Mouth

The Murray Mouth estuary is separated from Lake Alexandrina by the 5 barrages (Goolwa, Boundary Creek, Mundoo, Ewe Island and Tauwitchere).

Salinity levels fluctuate widely. Flows through the barrages freshen the estuary and connect it to Lake Alexandrina. When flow ceases, the estuary is predominantly marine, whilst the estuary can be freshwater when the barrages are fully open. Water levels and mouth open-ness are influenced by marine storms, tides, and barrage flows.

A high productivity and availability of both feeding habitat and food sources boost the diversity and numbers of waterbirds found here.



KEY

Food abundance

Lots Little

Distributional range

World Australia Local

Nesting²

Here Elsewhere

Major food sources

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fish | Plants / Algae |
| Marine fish | Sea lettuce |
| Mulloway | Ruppia |
| Bream | Invertebrates |
| Mullet | Chironomids |
| Sandy sprat | Polychaetes |
| Smallmouth hardyhead | Amphipods |
| | Bivalves |
| | Crabs |

Feeding group members

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Waders | Godwits | Fishers | Grazers |
| Plovers | Curlews | Pelicans | Swans |
| Avocets; Stilts | Ibis | Terns | Ducks |
| Oystercatchers | Sandpipers; Stints; Sanderling | Herons; Egrets | Cormorants; Grebes |

¹ Diversity and numbers relative to the total Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth area
² Nesting is known to occur here (ie. Murray Mouth), or elsewhere (ie. either elsewhere within or outside of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth area)