

# Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth Waterbird Diversity and Distribution

## North Lagoon

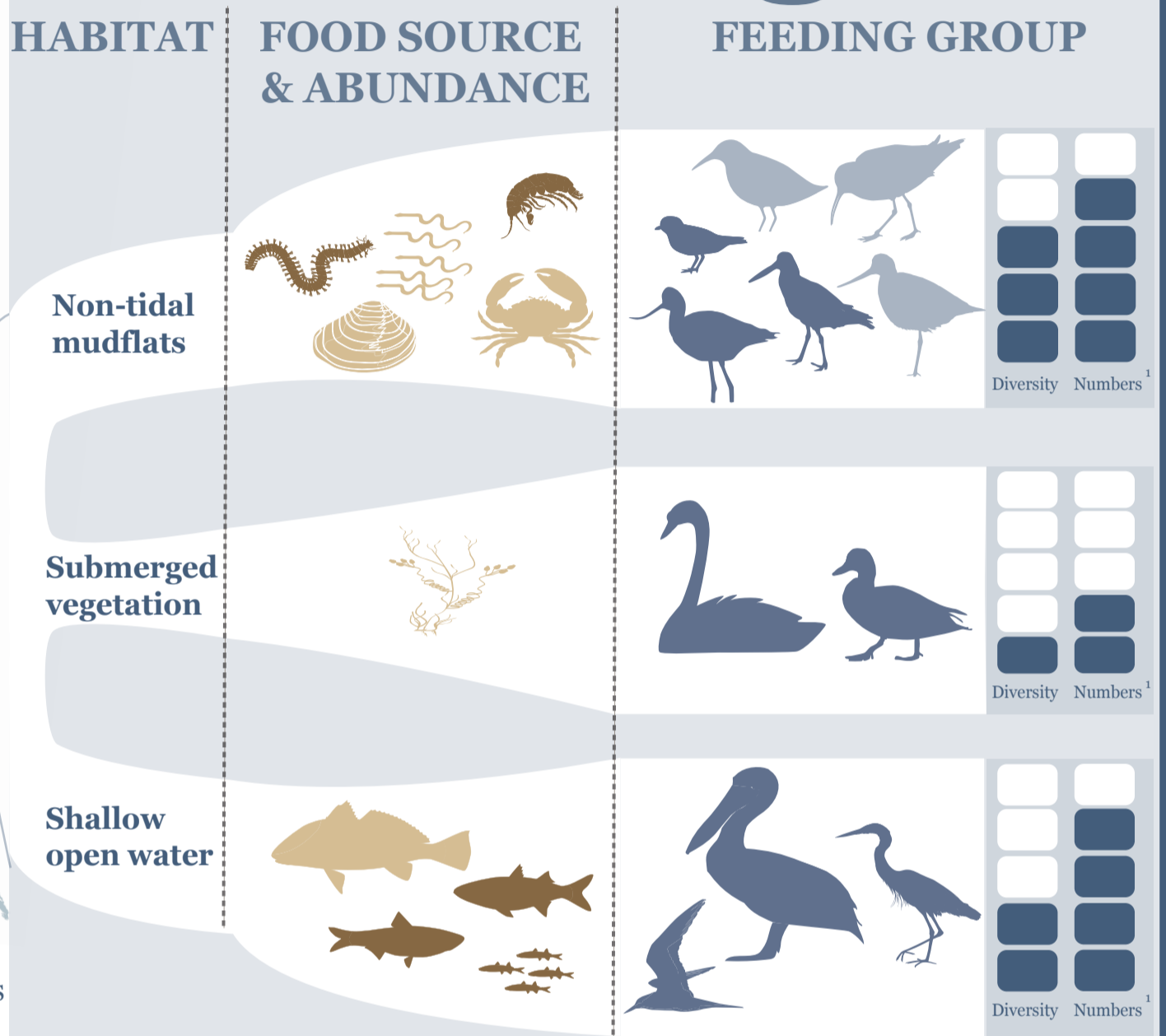


### North Lagoon

Both the level and salinity of water here varies greatly, and depends on seasonal sea level (higher in winter), flows from the Lower Lakes barrages and the extent of this lagoon's connection with the South Lagoon.

A diversity of habitats occur as a result of a strong salinity gradient, ranging from slightly less than sea water, to twice as salty as sea water.

The North Lagoon provides significant areas of permanent open water, and mudflat habitats. These important habitats are used by a large number of waterbirds, including migratory shorebirds in spring and summer.



### KEY

#### Food abundance



#### Distributional range



#### Nesting<sup>2</sup>



#### Major food sources

Fish	Plants	Invertebrates
Mulloway	Ruppia	Chironomids
Mullet	Polychaetes	Amphipods
Sandy sprat	Bivalves	Crabs
Smallmouth hardyhead		

#### Feeding group members

Waders	Fishers
Plovers	Pelicans; Cormorants; Grebes
Avocets; Stilts	Terns
Oystercatchers	Herons; Egrets
Sandpipers; Stints	<b>Grazers</b>
	Swans
	Ducks

<sup>1</sup> Diversity and numbers relative to the total Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth area

<sup>2</sup> Nesting is known to occur here (ie. North Lagoon), or elsewhere (ie. either elsewhere within or outside of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth area)