

Baseline and predicted changes for the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park

DEWNR Technical report 2016/20



Photo by Jamie Hicks

Baseline and predicted changes for the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park

Simon Bryars, James Brook, Craig Meakin, Chloe McSkimming, Yvette Eglinton,
Robyn Morcom, Alison Wright and Brad Page

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Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone National (08) 8463 6946
 International +61 8 8463 6946

Fax National (08) 8463 6999
 International +61 8 8463 6999

Website www.environment.sa.gov.au

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Foreword

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) is responsible for the management of the State's natural resources, ranging from policy leadership to on-ground delivery in consultation with government, industry and communities.

High-quality science and effective monitoring provide the foundation for the successful management of our environment and natural resources. This is achieved through undertaking appropriate research, investigations, assessments, monitoring and evaluation.

DEWNR's strong partnerships with educational and research institutions, industries, government agencies, Natural Resources Management Boards and the community ensure that there is continual capacity building across the sector, and that the best skills and expertise are used to inform decision making.

Sandy Pitcher
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Contents

Foreword	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Summary	1
1 Background	3
1.1 Marine parks in South Australia	3
1.2 Marine parks monitoring, evaluation and reporting program	5
1.3 Structure and aims of this report	6
2 Marine park description	9
3 Conceptual model	11
4 Ecological values	13
4.1 Reef	14
4.2 Seagrass	17
4.3 Sand	18
4.4 Mangrove	19
4.5 Saltmarsh	20
4.6 Sharks	20
4.7 Marine mammals	20
4.8 Seabirds	21
4.9 Shorebirds	21
5 Socio-economic values	22
5.1 Local businesses and communities	22
5.1.1 Human population	22
5.1.2 Production and employment	23
5.1.3 Building and property	25
5.1.4 Socio-economic advantage and disadvantage	27
5.1.5 Public appreciation, education and understanding	28
5.2 Coastal recreation	29
5.3 Tourism	32
5.4 Cultural heritage	34
5.4.1 Aboriginal heritage	34
5.4.2 European heritage	35
5.5 Transport and infrastructure	35
5.6 Aquaculture	36
5.7 Recreational fishing	37
5.8 Commercial fishing	39
5.8.1 Rock Lobster Fishery	39
5.8.2 Abalone Fishery	39
5.8.3 Prawn Fishery	39
5.8.4 Blue Crab Fishery	40

5.8.5	Sardine Fishery	41
5.8.6	Marine Scalefish Fishery	41
5.8.7	Charter Boat Fishery	43
5.8.8	Other South Australian managed fisheries	44
5.8.9	Commonwealth Shark Fishery	44
5.8.10	Fish prices	44
6	Physical drivers	47
6.1	Sea surface temperature	47
6.2	Air temperature	49
6.3	Salinity extremes	50
6.4	Upwellings	50
6.5	Oceanic currents	50
6.6	Waves	50
6.7	Tides and tidal currents	50
7	Socio-economic drivers	52
7.1	Interest rates	52
7.2	Commodity prices	53
7.3	Fuel prices	54
7.4	Labour force	55
7.5	Exchange rates	56
7.6	Visitation rates	57
7.7	Market demand	58
7.8	Major developments	58
7.9	Government regulation	58
8	Pressures	59
8.1	Coastal pollution	59
8.2	Resource extraction	60
8.2.1	Fishing	60
8.2.2	Aquaculture	63
8.3	Habitat modification	64
8.4	Disturbance of animals	64
8.5	Pest species	65
8.5.1	Invasive marine pests	65
8.5.2	Disease outbreaks	66
8.5.3	Introduced land pests	66
8.6	Climate change	67
9	Marine park management plan	69
9.1	The management plan	69
9.2	Pressures influenced by the USGMP management plan	70
9.2.1	Coastal pollution	70
9.2.2	Resource extraction	70
9.2.3	Habitat modification	71
9.2.4	Disturbance of animals	72
9.2.5	Invasive pest species	72

9.2.6	Climate change	73
9.3	Socio-economic values influenced by the USGMP management plan	73
10	Predictions and indicators of change	74
10.1	Potential ecological changes	74
10.1.1	Reef ecosystems	74
10.1.2	Seagrass ecosystems	75
10.1.3	Sand ecosystems	75
10.1.4	Mangrove ecosystems	76
10.1.5	Saltmarsh ecosystems	76
10.1.6	Sharks	76
10.1.7	Marine mammals	76
10.1.8	Seabirds	76
10.1.9	Shorebirds	76
10.2	Potential socio-economic changes	76
10.2.1	Local businesses and communities	76
10.2.2	Coastal recreation	77
10.2.3	Tourism	77
10.2.4	Cultural heritage	77
10.2.5	Transport and infrastructure	77
10.2.6	Aquaculture	77
10.2.7	Fishing	78
10.3	Assumptions and interpretation of change	80
10.3.1	Assumptions	80
10.3.2	Indicators of physical drivers	81
10.3.3	Indicators of socio-economic drivers	81
10.3.4	Indicators of pressures	81
10.3.5	Indicators of marine park management plan activities	81
11	Conclusion	82
12	References	110
13	Appendices	129
A.	Evaluation questions	129
B.	Summary of habitats in each zone type	132
C.	Spatial reporting units relevant to the South Australian Marine Parks Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Program	133
D.	Management priorities and strategies of the USGMP management plan	155
14	Glossary	158

List of figures

Figure 1.	South Australia's network of 19 marine parks showing marine park outer boundaries, 8 marine bioregions and highlighting the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park.	5
Figure 2.	Adaptive management cycle for the marine parks MER program.	6
Figure 3.	Framework for the baseline report that indicates how Sections 4 to 9 of this report are linked and used to inform Section 10 on predictions and indicators of change. All components of the framework will be used to inform the MER program. The direction and colour of the arrows indicates the influence of one component on another component or link. For example, the marine park management plan will directly influence socio-economic values, but it will also indirectly influence ecological values by mitigating some (but not all) of the pressures on those values.	7
Figure 4.	Map of the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park showing important features of the marine park and adjacent land areas. Further information on marine and land uses is shown in Appendix C.	10
Figure 5.	Conceptual model for the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park.	12
Figure 6.	Benthic habitats of the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park based on fine and broad scale mapping. Source: DEWNR (2015c, d, e), Miller et al. (2009), Edyvane (1999a, b).	15
Figure 7.	Map showing reef sites that have been surveyed for fishes, invertebrates and macroalgae inside and outside the Cuttlefish Coast Sanctuary Zone of the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park	16
Figure 8.	Percentage canopy cover of subtidal reefs surveyed during winter 2009. Canopy cover estimates derived from unpublished DEWNR and the University of Tasmania data following the method described by Brook and Bryars (2014). Reefs with a canopy cover greater than 60 per cent (dashed line) are considered to be in 'good' condition, for reefs previously known to support canopy-forming macroalgae (Turner et al. 2007, Collings et al. 2008).	17
Figure 9.	Population trends in Local Government Areas relevant to the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park compared with South Australia. Source: ABS (2015a).	23
Figure 10.	Unemployment rate (quarterly) in Local Government Areas relevant to the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park compared with South Australia. Dotted blue line shows data for the Ceduna Statistical Local Area (see Appendix C) which is similar to the Local Government Area, but is no longer used for reporting. Source: Department of Employment (2015).	25
Figure 11.	Median sale price for residential properties in Local Government Areas relevant to the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park. For each property, these data only include the most recent sale which is a transfer of the full value and whole of land. There is potential volatility in the median price due to random fluctuations in the quality of properties sold in particular years. Source: DEWNR (2015h).	27
Figure 12.	Results of statewide phone surveys regarding support for marine parks to protect marine plants and animals and support in local area. No data were available for 2013 (blue line) or 2014 (both lines). Source: Square Holes (2015).	28
Figure 13.	Percentage of statewide phone survey respondents who participate in general recreational, fishing, boating and snorkelling activities in the marine environment at least monthly. No data were available for 2014. Source: Square Holes (2015).	30
Figure 14.	South Australian boat registrations for general boats, and sailing vessels and jet skis. General boat registrations include cabin cruisers, half cabins, cuddy cabins, centre consoles, inflatables, open boats and runabouts. Catamarans are grouped with sailing vessels. Source: DPTI (2015a).	31
Figure 15.	Number of South Australian boat licences. Source: DPTI (2015b).	32
Figure 16.	Number of overnight visitors and tourism expenditure for the Eyre Peninsula and Flinders and Outback tourism regions. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2015).	33

Figure 17.	Number of tourism businesses in the Eyre Peninsula and Flinders and Outback tourism regions. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2015). No data were available for 2013/14.	34
Figure 18.	Annual cargo exports and vessel calls at Port Pirie between 2003 and 2014. Source: Flinders Ports (2014).	36
Figure 19.	Direct output (business turnover) from aquaculture in the Eyre Peninsula region (Western Australian border to Elliston). Source: Econsearch (2015a).	37
Figure 20.	Percentage of statewide phone survey respondents who participate in recreational fishing. No data were available for 2014. Source: Square Holes (2015).	38
Figure 21.	Catch and value of catch for the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery. Value of catch has been adjusted to real terms (2013/14 dollars) using the consumer price index for Adelaide. Source: EconSearch (2015b).	40
Figure 22.	Catch and value of catch for the Spencer Gulf fishing zone of the Blue Crab Fishery. Value of catch has been adjusted to real terms (2013/14 dollars) using the consumer price index for Adelaide. Source: EconSearch (2015c).	41
Figure 23.	Catch and value of catch for the Spencer Gulf/Coffin Bay region of the Marine Scalefish Fishery. Value of catch has been adjusted to real terms (2013/14 dollars) using the consumer price index for Adelaide. Source: EconSearch (2014d) and earlier reports.	42
Figure 24.	Total statewide revenue for the Charter Boat Fishery. Revenue has been adjusted to real terms (2013/14 dollars) using the consumer price index for Adelaide. Revenue was calculated from the total number of clients and an average price per person. Source: EconSearch (2014e).	43
Figure 25.	Fish and other seafood price index for Adelaide, compared with Consumer Price Index. Source: ABS (2015f).	45
Figure 26.	Changes in King George whiting prices at 3 Adelaide stores, with a different colour for each, between June 2014 and June 2015. Price is indexed to a value of 100 on 19 June 2014. Source: DEWNR unpublished data.	46
Figure 27.	Air and water temperature at the Thevenard station of the Australian Baseline Sea Level Monitoring Project. Source: Bureau of Meteorology (2015b).	49
Figure 28.	The Australian Target Cash Rate. Source: Reserve Bank of Australia (2016a).	53
Figure 29.	Monthly Commodity Price Index. Source: Reserve Bank of Australia (2016b).	54
Figure 30.	Statewide average retail price (including GST) for diesel and unleaded petrol. Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum (2015).	55
Figure 31.	Wage Price Index (June quarter) compared with Consumer Price Index. Source: ABS (2015f, h).	56
Figure 32.	Australian dollar to US dollar exchange rate ratio and Trade-weighted Index. Source: Reserve Bank of Australia (2015).	57
Figure 33.	Cumulative count of invasive marine pest species recorded in the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park over time. Note that pest surveys have not been standardised between years or locations within the park and records are typically recorded opportunistically. Source: Wiltshire et al. (2010).	66

List of tables

Table 1.	Benthic habitat mapping in SZs of the USGMP. Mapping type includes: fine scale (DEWNR 2015c, d, Miller et al. 2009); broad scale (DEWNR 2015e, Edyvane 1999a, b) and video drops (DEWNR unpublished report).	13
Table 2.	Summary of marine park components and indicators for the marine parks MER program, the prediction to 2022, and the related Evaluation Questions (EQs, refer Appendix A).	83

Summary

The Government of South Australia has developed a network of 19 marine parks as the South Australian component of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas. In accordance with the objects of the [Marine Parks Act 2007](#), the 19 marine parks across South Australia provide for biodiversity conservation and public appreciation and allow ecologically sustainable development and use of marine resources. Different zones dictate the activities that can occur in each marine park. The zones have differing levels of restrictions, ranging from General Managed Use Zone (GMUZ) – lowest level of restriction, through to Habitat Protection Zone (HPZ), Sanctuary Zone (SZ) and Restricted Access Zone (RAZ) – highest level of restriction. Different types of Special Purpose Area (SPA), which allow selected activities (such as shore-based recreational line fishing, transshipment, or harbour activities), are also designated in some of the parks. Each park has a management plan that was finalised in 2012. The marine park network was fully implemented on 1 October 2014 when fishing restrictions inside SZs came into effect as prescribed by the *Marine Parks (Zoning) Regulations 2012*.

The Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park (USGMP) covers 1,602 square kilometres within the North Spencer Gulf Bioregion. The USGMP extends from the southern end of the Whyalla-Cowleds Landing Aquatic Reserve on the western side of Spencer Gulf to Jarrold Point on the eastern shore, and northwards to the uppermost reaches of Spencer Gulf beyond Port Augusta. The USGMP includes 9 SZs (about 13 per cent of the total park area), 3 HPZs (about 32 per cent) and 2 GMUZs (about 55 per cent). The USGMP accommodates various marine industries including shipping, commercial fishing, aquaculture and fishing-based tourism. There are 4 SPAs for harbour activity which are situated adjacent to Port Pirie, Port Bonython, Whyalla and Port Augusta including the Head of Gulf Sanctuary Zone. An SPA for submarine cables and pipelines is situated near Douglas Point and extends across the Gulf. SPAs for significant economic development are situated: between Douglas Bank and Yatala Harbour Aquatic Reserves; adjacent to Whyalla, including the Fairway Bank, Cuttlefish Coast and Cowleds Landing SZs; and adjacent to Port Pirie, including the Port Davis and Fisherman Creek SZs. The ports of Whyalla and Port Pirie lie outside the park boundary. Shoreline fishing is allowed adjacent to Black Point in the Cuttlefish Coast SZ.

The marine park management plans, including the USGMP management plan, indicate that a monitoring, evaluation and reporting program (hereafter MER program) must be used to implement the effectiveness of each management plan in achieving the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*. A review of each plan must be completed within 10 years of the plan's adoption. The MER program is guided by an adaptive management framework, which aims to improve the management of marine parks. One of the main objectives of the marine parks MER program is to assess the effectiveness of the marine parks network, by providing critical ecological, economic, social and management information to inform the review of the management plans. A MER program is required to target specific components of the marine parks network, based upon a variety of considerations including predicted changes, community expectations, the logistics and budget of the MER program, strategies in the marine park management plans, and the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*.

This baseline report for the USGMP is one of a series of baseline reports completed for each of South Australia's 19 marine parks along with an overarching statewide consolidation. These baseline reports inform the marine parks MER program by providing predictions and indicators of change based upon the relationships between 6 components: ecological values, social and economic (socio-economic) values, physical drivers, socio-economic drivers, human-mediated pressures and marine park management plans. The information from this baseline report will be aggregated with equivalent information from the other 18 marine parks to inform the MER program. A comprehensive MER program requires baseline and monitoring information on the ecological and socio-economic values and the drivers and pressures that are not influenced by the marine park management plans. The marine parks MER program will monitor some of the values, drivers and pressures. For example, ecological indicators may be used to measure the condition of a reef ecosystem to determine if condition of the reef changes due to the marine park. Socio-economic indicators may measure the catch of particular fisheries or the values of residential properties in the area near the marine park to determine whether they have been impacted. Indicators of environmental and socio-economic drivers, e.g. changes in the strength of the Leeuwin Current, foreign exchange rates and climate change, will provide context for assessing changes in values.

The report summarises the available baseline information and indicators for the values, drivers and pressures that are identified in the conceptual model. The report provides an inventory of the available information and examples of the current state of knowledge and historical trends, with an emphasis on the nature and scale (temporal and spatial) of information and indicators that may be used in the MER program.

1 Background

1.1 Marine parks in South Australia

The Government of South Australia has developed the South Australian Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (SARSMPA) as part of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (ANZECC 1998).

The primary goal of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas is to establish and manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine protected areas to contribute to the long-term ecological viability of marine and estuarine systems, to maintain ecological processes and systems, and to protect Australia's biological diversity at all levels.

Overarching policies for the SARSMPA include *South Australia's Strategic Plan 2011*, (Government of South Australia 2011) the *Living Coast Strategy for South Australia* (DEH 2004a) and the *Blueprint for the South Australian Representative System of Marine Protected Areas* (DEH 2004b). In conjunction with the community and stakeholders, the government has designed and implemented a network of 19 marine parks encompassing the major ecosystems and habitats across 8 marine bioregions in South Australian waters (<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks>, Figure 1).

In accordance with the objects of the [Marine Parks Act 2007](#), the 19 marine parks provide for biodiversity conservation and public appreciation, and allow ecologically sustainable development and use of marine resources. The objects of the Act are:

- (a) to protect and conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats by declaring and providing for the management of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks
- (b) to assist in:
 - (i) the maintenance of ecological processes in the marine environment
 - (ii) the adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the marine environment
 - (iii) protecting and conserving features of natural or cultural heritage significance
 - (iv) allowing ecologically sustainable development and use of marine environments
 - (v) providing opportunities for public appreciation, education, understanding and enjoyment of marine environments.

Different zones dictate the activities that can occur in each marine park. The zones have differing levels of restrictions, ranging from General Managed Use Zone (GMUZ) – lowest level of restriction, through to Habitat Protection Zone (HPZ), Sanctuary Zone (SZ) and Restricted Access Zone (RAZ) – highest level of restriction. Different types of Special Purpose Area (SPA), which allow selected activities (such as shore-based recreational line fishing, transshipment, or harbour activities), are also designated in some of the parks.

The marine park network was fully implemented on 1 October 2014 when fishing restrictions inside SZs came into effect as prescribed by the *Marine Parks (Zoning) Regulations 2012*. Milestones leading up to this point included:

- In 2000, the Government of South Australia released a *Guide to Marine Protected Areas*, which would underpin the concepts and design of the representative network.
- In 2004, the technical report *Towards a System of Ecologically Representative Marine Protected Areas in South Australian Marine Bioregions* (Baker 2004) was released, recommending areas for conservation as part of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system.

- In 2004, the *Blueprint for the South Australian Representative System of Marine Protected Areas* which outlined the Government of South Australia's commitment to the concepts and design principles of marine protected area network development was released following an extensive public consultation and engagement process.
- In 2005, the pilot *Encounter Marine Park Draft Zoning Plan* was released for public consultation to develop and test key concepts for a statewide marine parks network.
- In 2008, the *Marine Parks Act 2007* came into operation, providing for the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks.
- In 2009, the outer boundaries of 19 marine parks were proclaimed following statewide public consultation.
- Between 2009 and 2011, fourteen Marine Park Local Advisory Groups worked with Government and the broader community to provide local advice for the development of draft management plans with zoning for each of the 19 marine parks in the network.
- In August 2012, 19 draft management plans and zoning were released for public comment along with economic, social and environmental impact statements, based upon the draft zoning (Bailey et al. 2012a, b).
- In November 2012, following further statewide public consultation, the 19 marine parks management plans and zoning of the marine parks was finalised with 42 GMUZs, 59 HPZs, 83 SZs, 27 RAZs and 52 SPAs designated across the parks. The zoning (except for fishing restrictions inside SZs) took effect when the *Marine Parks (Zoning) Regulations 2012* commenced in March 2013.
- In 2014, the SA Marine Parks Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch / Effort Reduction Program was completed. Because the SZs displaced some commercial fishing, the voluntary catch and effort reduction program was implemented to ensure that any redistribution of commercial fishing did not threaten the sustainability of other areas (PIRSA 2013a).



Figure 1. South Australia's network of 19 marine parks showing marine park outer boundaries, 8 marine bioregions and highlighting the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park.

1.2 Marine parks monitoring, evaluation and reporting program

The marine park management plans indicate that a monitoring, evaluation and reporting program (hereafter MER program) must be implemented to measure the effectiveness of each management plan in achieving the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*. A review of each plan must be completed within 10 years of the plan's adoption. The MER program is guided by an adaptive management framework (Figure 2), which aims to continually improve the management of marine parks. One of the main objectives of the marine parks MER program is to assess the effectiveness of the marine parks network, by providing critical ecological, economic, social and management information to inform the future review of the management plans.

A MER program is required to target specific components of the marine parks network, based upon a variety of considerations including predicted changes, community expectations, the logistics and budget of the MER program, strategies in the marine park management plans, and the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*. An important component of the MER program is the MER plan, which outlines the 'what, where, when and why' of the MER program. The marine parks MER program is guided by 6 evaluation questions, which have been developed from the management plans and *Marine Parks Act 2007* (see Appendix A for detailed list):

1. To what extent has the legislated comprehensive, adequate, representative system protected and conserved marine biological diversity and marine habitats?
2. To what extent have marine park strategies contributed to the maintenance of ecological processes?

3. To what extent have marine park strategies contributed to enabling marine environments to adapt to impacts of climate change?
4. To what extent have the marine park strategies contributed to the ecologically sustainable development and use of the marine environment?
5. To what extent have the marine park strategies contributed to providing opportunities for public appreciation, education, understanding and enjoyment of marine environments?
6. To what extent have the marine park strategies contributed to the protection and conservation of features of natural and cultural heritage significance?

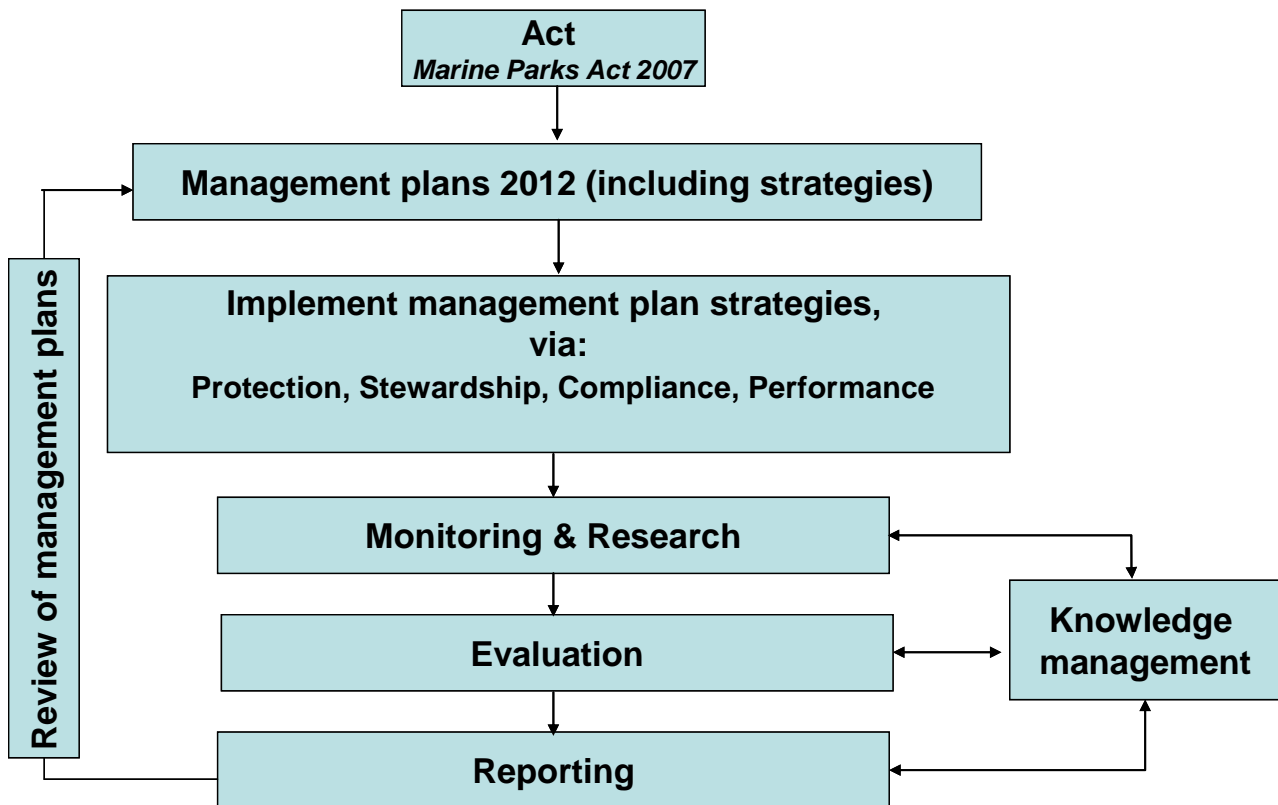


Figure 2. Adaptive management cycle for the marine parks MER program.

1.3 Structure and aims of this report

This baseline report for the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park (USGMP) is one of a series of baseline reports completed for each of South Australia's 19 marine parks and an overarching statewide baseline report that consolidates information at the network scale. These baseline reports aim to inform the marine parks MER program by providing predictions and indicators of change based upon the relationships between 6 components: ecological values, social and economic (socio-economic) values, physical environmental drivers, socio-economic drivers, human-mediated pressures and marine park management plans (Figure 3).

The ecological and socio-economic values of the marine parks are central to the MER program (Figure 3). These values are linked because many of the socio-economic values are reliant on ecological values, and some of the socio-economic values can in turn place pressure on ecological values. The marine park management plans are designed to relieve some pressures, and to positively influence ecological and some socio-economic values. The management plans may also have neutral or negative impacts on socio-economic values. In addition to the relationship between values, pressures and the management plans, there are external physical and socio-

economic drivers, which influence the ecological and socio-economic values and which are not related to the management plans (Figure 3). Conceptual models are used in this report to show these components and the types of relationships that exist between them. The reports summarise the available baseline information and indicators for the values, drivers and pressures that are identified in the conceptual models.

The information from each baseline report will be aggregated with equivalent information from the other 18 marine parks to inform the MER program. A comprehensive MER program requires baseline and monitoring information on the ecological and socio-economic values, and the drivers and pressures that are not influenced by the marine park management plans. To assess the effectiveness of the management plans, the marine parks MER program will monitor a selection of the values, drivers and pressures relevant to the specific marine park whilst also being aware of the need to assess the network at a bioregional and jurisdictional scale. For example, ecological indicators may be used to measure the condition of a reef ecosystem to determine if condition of the reef changes due to the marine park management plan that has been put in place. Socio-economic indicators may measure the catch of particular fisheries or the values of residential properties in the area near the marine park to determine whether they have changed. The 'baseline date' varies between indicators depending on whether they are related to the commencement of the *Marine Parks (Zoning) Regulations 2012* in March 2013 or the commencement of fishing restrictions inside SZs under the *Marine Parks (Zoning) Regulations 2012* on 1 October 2014.

Another aim of the baseline reports is to identify knowledge gaps that can be addressed by new initiatives of the MER program. For example, there may be SZs for which seafloor (or benthic) habitat maps have not been created, or there may be a lack of biological information for some parks. The MER program will report new information and review the validity of the conceptual models. New information will also be critical for the MER program to enable it to evaluate the marine park system against its design principles, including the comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of the network of marine parks.

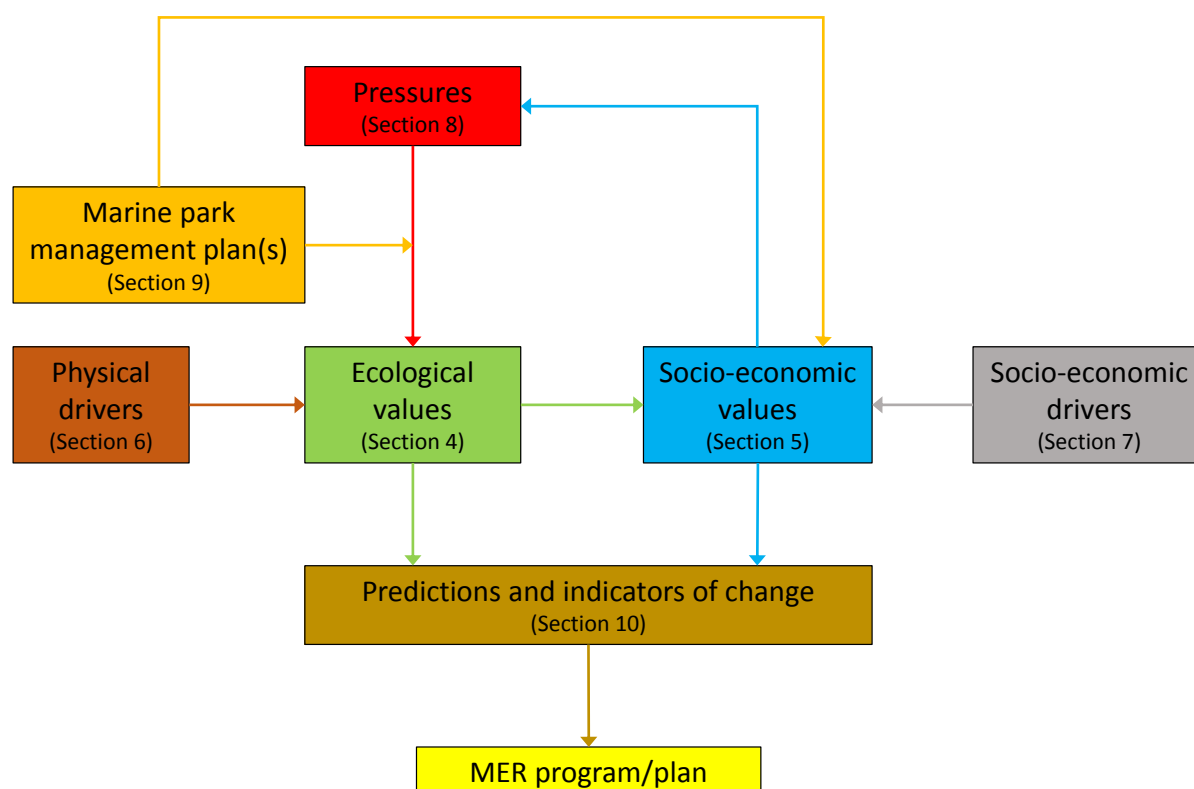


Figure 3. Framework for the baseline report that indicates how Sections 4 to 9 of this report are linked and used to inform Section 10 on predictions and indicators of change. All components of the framework will be used to inform the MER program. The direction and colour of the arrows indicates the influence of one component on another component or link. For example, the marine park management plan will directly influence socio-economic values, but it will also indirectly influence ecological values by mitigating some (but not all) of the pressures on those values.

The primary readership for the baseline reports is staff from DEWNR and other government agencies, as well as Natural Resources Management Boards, marine park stakeholders (including industries), and monitoring, research and funding partners.

Each baseline report has the following structure, which aligns with the framework shown in Figure 3:

1. **Section 2 – Marine park description:** Summary and accompanying map, which detail the location, dimensions, and zoning of the marine park. To reduce repetition, the statewide baseline report references the individual marine park reports.
2. **Section 3 – Conceptual model:** Diagram of the most important ecological and socio-economic values, physical and socio-economic drivers, pressures, and summaries of predicted changes due to marine park management.
3. **Section 4 – Ecological values:** Description and baseline information for the values depicted on the conceptual model.
4. **Section 5 – Socio-economic values:** Description and baseline information for the values depicted on the conceptual model.
5. **Section 6 – Physical drivers:** Description and baseline information for the physical factors that drive change in ecological values.
6. **Section 7 – Socio-economic drivers:** Description and baseline information for the socio-economic factors that drive change in socio-economic values.
7. **Section 8 – Pressures:** Description and baseline information for the most important human-mediated pressures on ecological values.
8. **Section 9 – Marine park management plan:** Outlines the zoning and strategies of the management plan and how the management plan mitigates pressures on the ecological values and also affects some socio-economic values.
9. **Section 10 – Predictions and indicators of change:** Predictions of change for the ecological and socio-economic values, and potential indicators that can be used to assess changes in values, but also in drivers, pressures and management. The indicators for monitoring will be detailed in the MER plan.

2 Marine park description

The Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park (USGMP) covers 1,602 square kilometres within the North Spencer Gulf Bioregion (Figure 1). The USGMP extends from the southern end of the Whyalla-Cowleds Landing Aquatic Reserve on the western side of Spencer Gulf to Jarrold Point on the eastern shore, and northwards to the uppermost reaches of Spencer Gulf beyond Port Augusta. The USGMP includes 9 SZs (about 13 per cent of the total park area), 3 HPZs (about 32 per cent) and 2 GMUZs (about 55 per cent; Figure 4). The USGMP accommodates various marine industries including shipping, commercial fishing, aquaculture and fishing-based tourism. There are 4 SPAs for harbour activity which are situated adjacent to Port Pirie, Port Bonython, Whyalla and Port Augusta including the Head of Gulf Sanctuary Zone. An SPA for submarine cables and pipelines is situated near Douglas Point and extends across the Gulf. SPAs for significant economic development are situated: between Douglas Bank and Yatala Harbour Aquatic Reserves; adjacent to Whyalla, including the Fairway Bank, Cuttlefish Coast and Cowleds Landing SZs; and adjacent to Port Pirie, including the Port Davis and Fisherman Creek SZs. The ports of Whyalla and Port Pirie lie outside the park boundary. Shoreline fishing is allowed adjacent to Black Point in the Cuttlefish Coast SZ (Figure 4).

The USGMP is adjacent to sparsely populated areas interspersed with industrial towns (Figure 4). The largest population centres are Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla. The USGMP is adjacent to Winninowie Conservation Park and includes Blanche Harbour-Douglas Bank, Yatala Harbour and Whyalla-Cowleds Landing Aquatic Reserves. The region experiences hot, dry summers and cool winters (Bureau of Meteorology 2015a). The annual freshwater runoff is 760 gigalitres (National Water Commission 2007).

For further descriptive information on the USGMP see DEWNR ([2015a](#)).

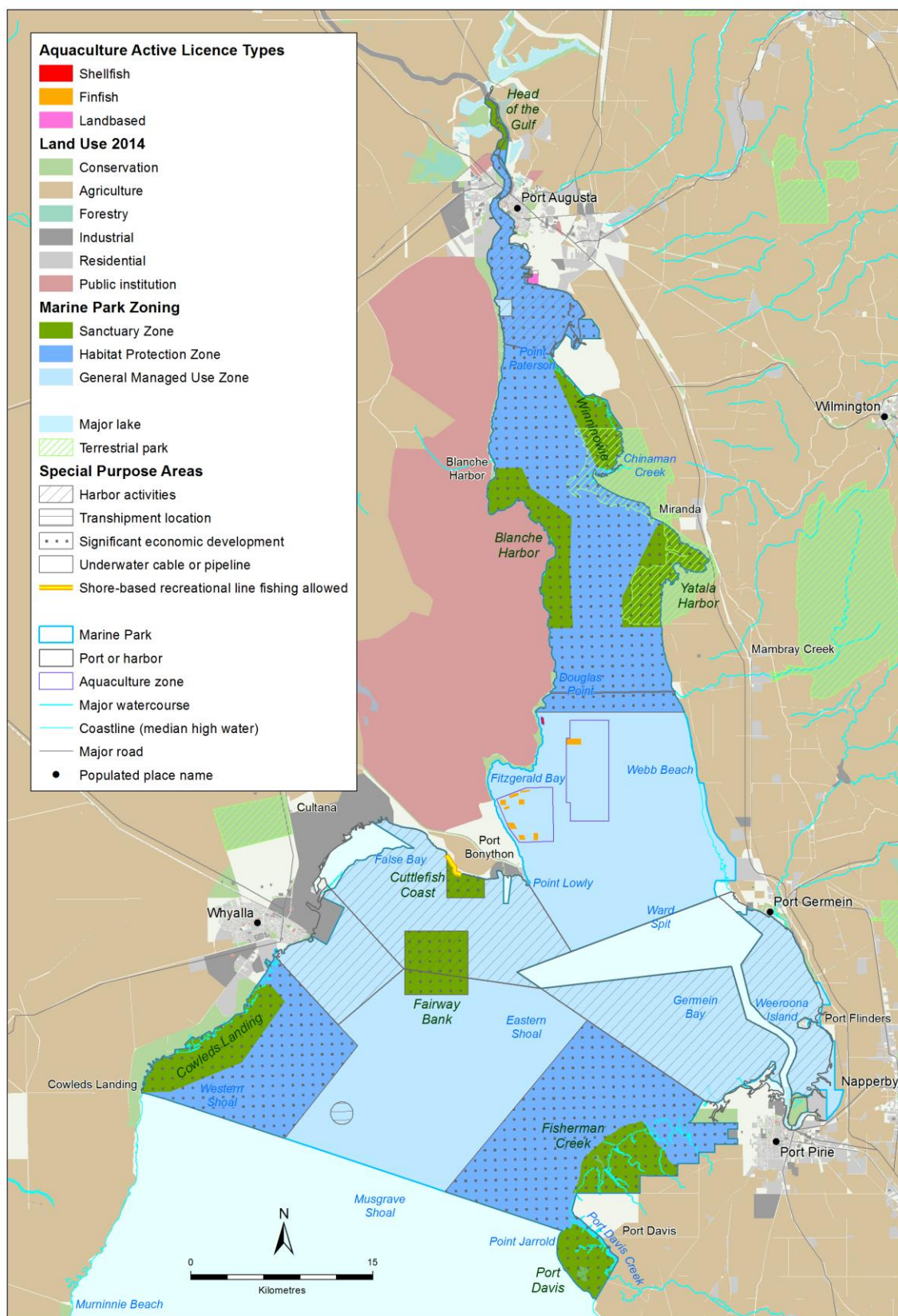


Figure 4. Map of the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park showing important features of the marine park and adjacent land areas. Further information on marine and land uses is shown in Appendix C.

3 Conceptual model

The conceptual model of the USGMP (Figure 5) summarises the ecological and socio-economic values, physical and socio-economic drivers, human-mediated pressures on the ecological values, the influence of the marine park on these pressures, and predictions of change (ecological and socio-economic) due to the marine park. Features depicted on the conceptual model are presented and discussed in this baseline report.

Many of the socio-economic values are closely linked to the ecological values. For example, healthy seagrass ecosystems sustain the King George whiting stock (Jones et al. 2008a), which is used by commercial and recreational fishers. A stable or increasing population of Giant cuttlefish is needed to sustain tourist visitation to Point Lowly. The physical drivers that exist in this area can influence the ecological and socio-economic values. Socio-economic drivers can also influence socio-economic values. The links between the various components of the conceptual model are depicted in the baseline report framework (Figure 3). The components of the conceptual model are discussed in more detail in Sections 4 to 10.

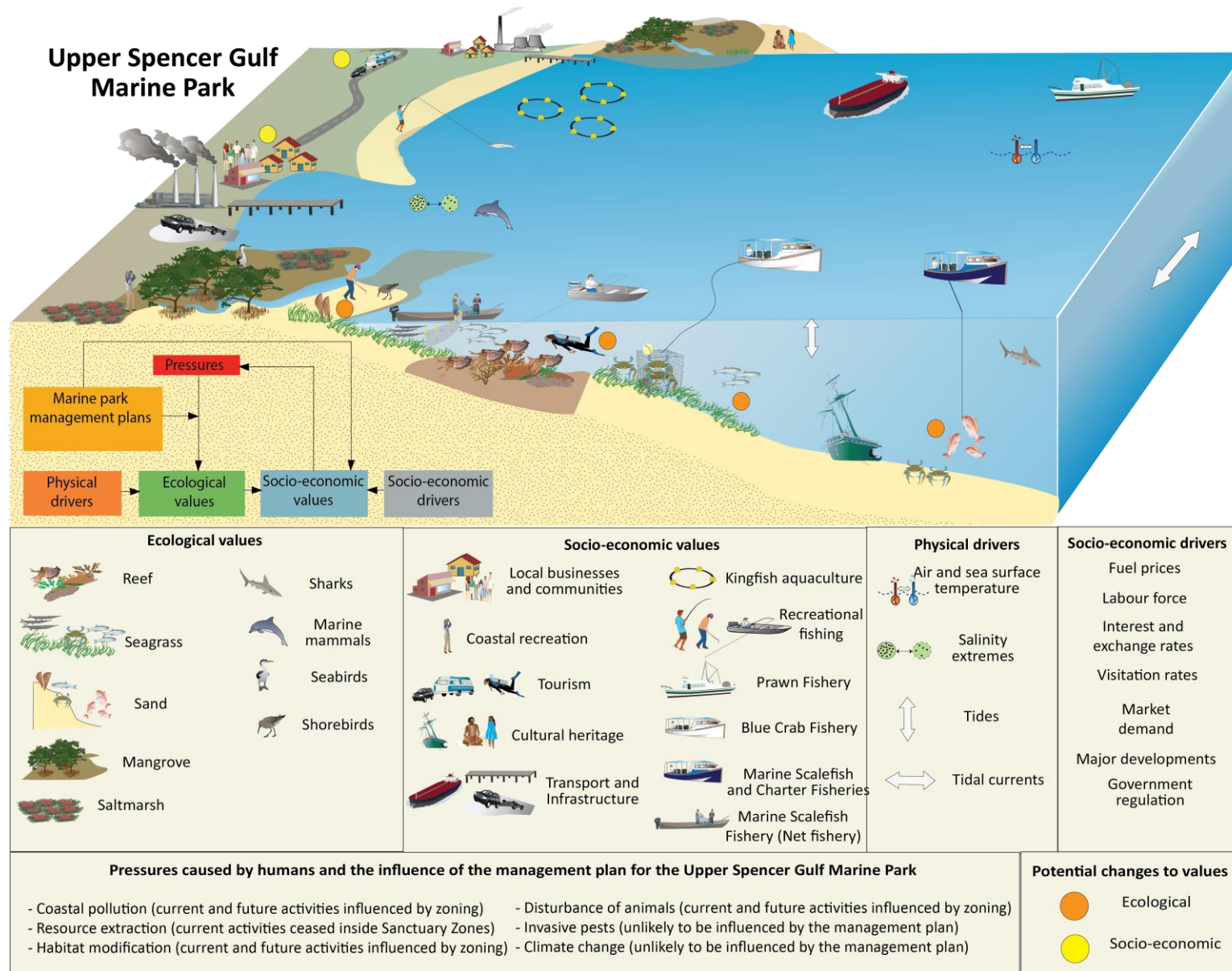


Figure 5. Conceptual model for the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park.

4 Ecological values

Monitoring the ecological values will be a core component of the marine parks MER program. For the purposes of the baseline reports, ecological values are summarised according to 5 habitat types and 4 species groups (Figure 5). The habitat types in the conceptual model (reef, seagrass, sand, mangrove and saltmarsh, Figure 6) are based on the benthic features that were used in the design process of the marine parks network. The pelagic ecosystem was not considered as a separate habitat. The species groups (sharks, marine mammals, seabirds and shorebirds) are iconic and relatively mobile species. The ecological values of the 5 habitat types and 4 species groups are well documented (Edgar 2001, Turner et al. 2006, Connolly and Lee 2007, Bailey et al. 2012a), including in the USGMP (DENR 2010, Bailey et al. 2012b). Additional information on the ecological values of the USGMP is provided by a series of atlas maps ([DEWNR 2015b](#)).

The following sections summarise the available baseline information on the 9 ecological values. This report provides an inventory of the available information and examples of the current state of knowledge and historical trends prior to 2015. The emphasis of this section is on the nature and scale (temporal and spatial) of information and indicators that may be used in the MER program. Of particular interest is information that has been collected inside and outside SZs because they are expected to result in changes to the ecological and socio-economic values (Bailey et al. 2012a). In some cases there are time series of data available, while in other cases there are data collected from a single point in time but which could potentially be resampled in the future.

In developing a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks, habitats were used as key surrogates for broader biodiversity. Consideration was given to benthic habitat type and extent as well as shoreline habitat type and length (DEH 2009). About 85 per cent of the benthic habitats of the USGMP have been mapped at a fine scale (1:10,000), by digitising aerial photographs, field surveys (for mangrove and saltmarsh), acoustic mapping and towed camera surveys (DEWNR 2015c, d, Miller et al. 2009, Figure 6). A further 15 per cent has been mapped at a broad scale (1:100,000) using satellite imagery (DEWNR 2015e, Edyvane 1999a, b, Figure 6). Less than 1 per cent of the USGMP is not mapped. A summary of the mapping for the 9 SZs in the USGMP is provided in Table 1. The entire shoreline of the USGMP has been mapped (Appendix B) by digitising aerial photos (DEWNR 2015f). Each of the mapping techniques delivers a different type of estimate of 'spatial extent' and this will influence the ability to detect any potential change from the baseline condition.

Table 1. Benthic habitat mapping in SZs of the USGMP. Mapping type includes: fine scale (DEWNR 2015c, d, Miller et al. 2009); broad scale (DEWNR 2015e, Edyvane 1999a, b) and video drops (DEWNR unpublished report).

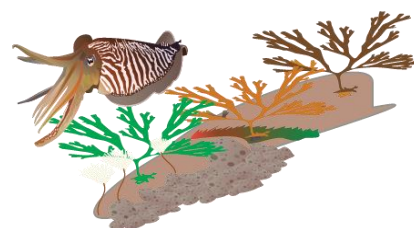
SZ	Mapping type
Head of the Gulf	Fine scale
Winninowie	Fine scale
Blanche Harbor	Fine scale
Yatala Harbor	Fine scale
Cuttlefish Coast	Fine scale
Fairway Bank	Broad scale
Cowleds Landing	Fine scale

SZ	Mapping type
Fisherman Creek	Fine scale
Port Davis	Fine scale

4.1 Reef

Reef occurs near Point Lowly at the north end of False Bay, and to the north of Fitzgerald Bay, (DENR 2010, Figure 6). The reef provides critical habitat for a large spawning aggregation of Giant cuttlefish (Hall 2012).

Baseline information on reef relevant to the USGMP includes:



Spatial extent of reef habitat

- Intertidal reefs extend along about 9 kilometres of the mainland coastline of the USGMP (see Appendix B).
- About 1.4 square kilometres of subtidal reef have been mapped in the USGMP (Figure 6).
- Historically, extensive oyster reefs existed within the USGMP (Alleway and Connell 2015)

Size, abundance and diversity of reef communities

- Fish, invertebrate and macroalgal diversity and abundance were surveyed by divers at 6 sites at depths between 3 and 5 metres during winter 2009 (DEWNR and the University of Tasmania unpublished data, Figure 7). About 30 fish, 40 invertebrate and 40 macroalgal species were recorded during the surveys.
- Macroalgae and benthic invertebrate diversity and abundance were surveyed by divers and underwater video near Point Lowly at depths of about 6 metres during autumn and spring 2006 (BHP Billiton 2009).
- Percentage cover of macroalgae and diversity and abundance of fish and invertebrates was surveyed using divers and towed video camera at Stony Point (Theil and Tanner 2009).
- Giant Australian cuttlefish abundance and biomass were surveyed by divers and underwater video at 13 subtidal reef locations (4 inside the Cuttlefish Coast SZ) at depths up to 6 metres from 1998 to 2001 (Hall and Fowler 2003), during 2005 (Steer and Hall 2005) and from 2008 to 2011 (Hall 2008, 2010, 2012). Eleven of these locations were surveyed from May to July between 2012 and 2015, with about 131,000 individuals recorded in 2015 (Steer et al. 2013, Steer 2015, Steer et al. 2016a).
- Assessments are conducted on a regular basis for a number of commercially-fished species that use reef habitat, including the Blue Crab, Marine Scalefish and Charter Boat Fisheries (Beckmann and Hooper 2015, Noell et al. 2014a, Fowler et al. 2013a, 2014a, Steer et al. 2007, Tsoilos 2013). These assessments include fisheries-dependent spatial and temporal information on catch, effort, catch rate and size structure (see Sections 5.8 and 8.2.1). Fishery-independent data include blue swimmer crab catch rates (Beckmann and Hooper 2015).

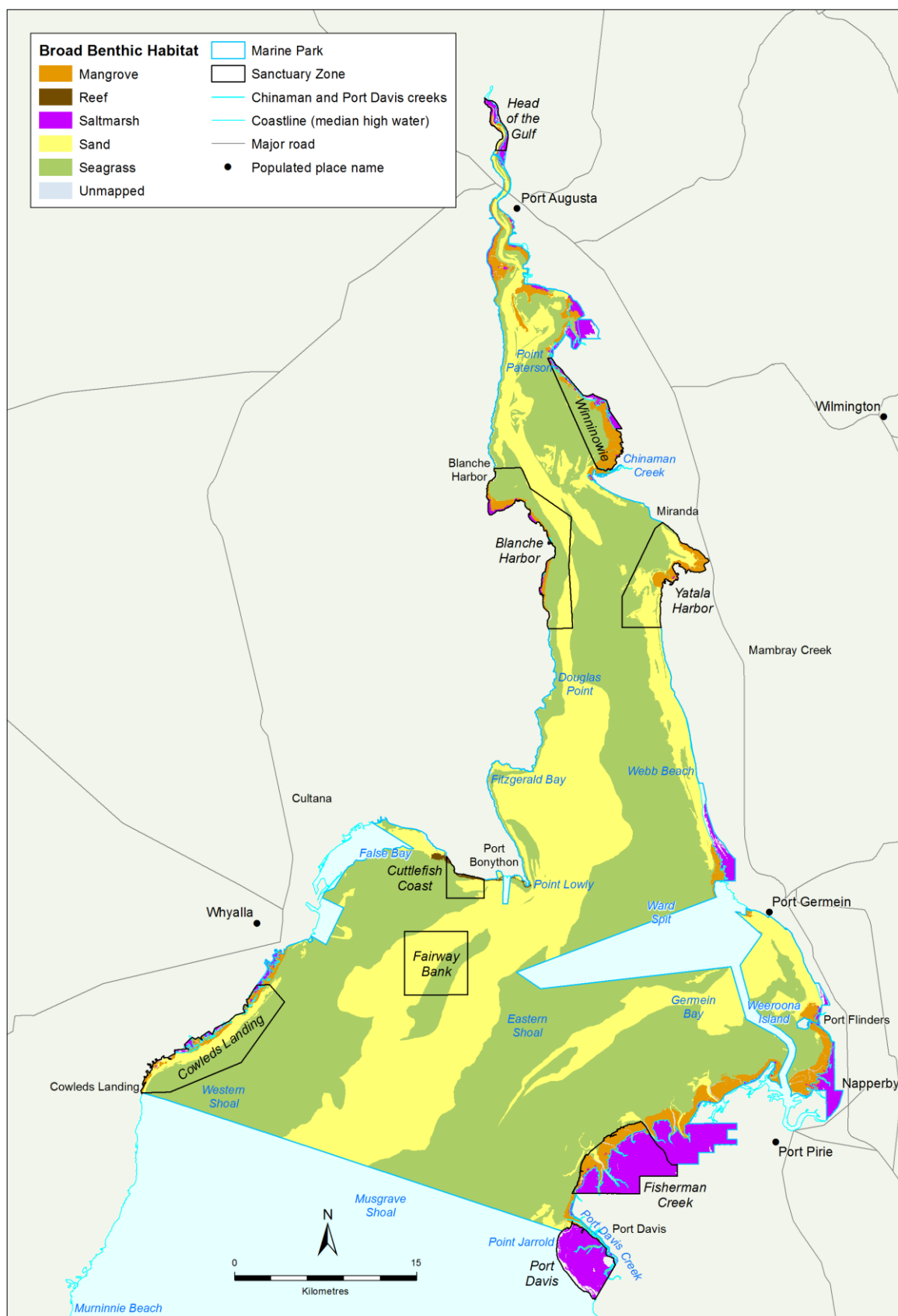


Figure 6. Benthic habitats of the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park based on fine and broad scale mapping. Source: DEWNR (2015c, d, e), Miller et al. (2009), Edyvane (1999a, b).

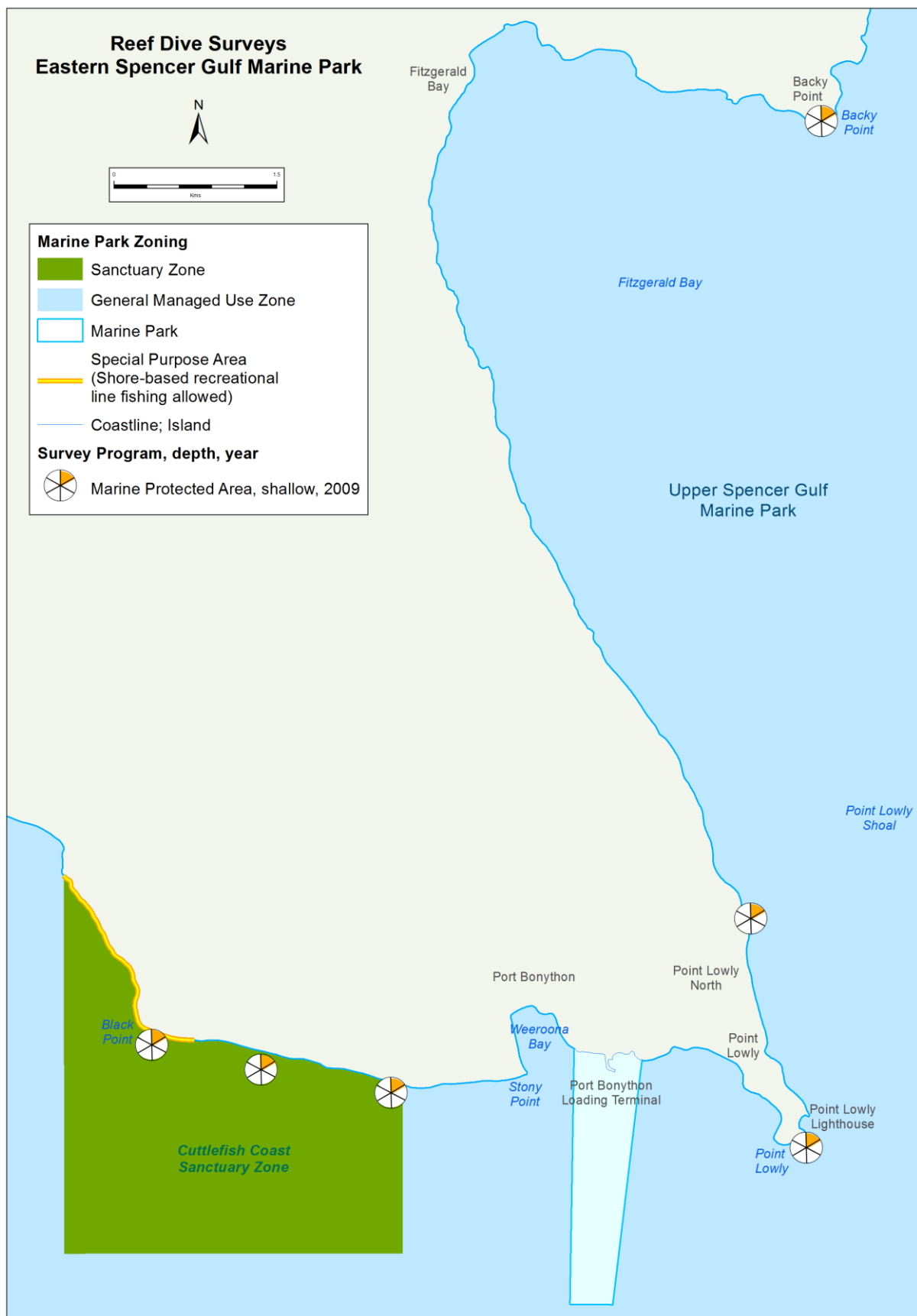


Figure 7. Map showing reef sites that have been surveyed for fishes, invertebrates and macroalgae inside and outside the Cuttlefish Coast Sanctuary Zone of the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park

Reef condition

- The cover of canopy-forming macroalgae is an important indicator of subtidal reef condition in South Australia (Cheshire et al. 1998, Cheshire and Westphalen 2000, Turner et al. 2007, Collings et al. 2008, Gaylard et al. 2013, Brook and Bryars 2014). The macroalgal data recorded during 2009 (DEWNR and the University of Tasmania unpublished data, Figure 7) were used to infer condition of subtidal reefs in the USGMP from canopy cover calculated using the methods of Brook and Bryars (2014). The average canopy cover of reefs inside and outside the Cuttlefish Coast SZ was 27 per cent \pm 3 per cent (standard deviation) and 43 per cent \pm 29 per cent (Figure 8). This is below the threshold for classification as 'good', i.e. 60 per cent, but does not necessarily imply poor condition because the reefs may, for environmental reasons, never have supported large canopy-forming macroalgae (Turner et al. 2007).

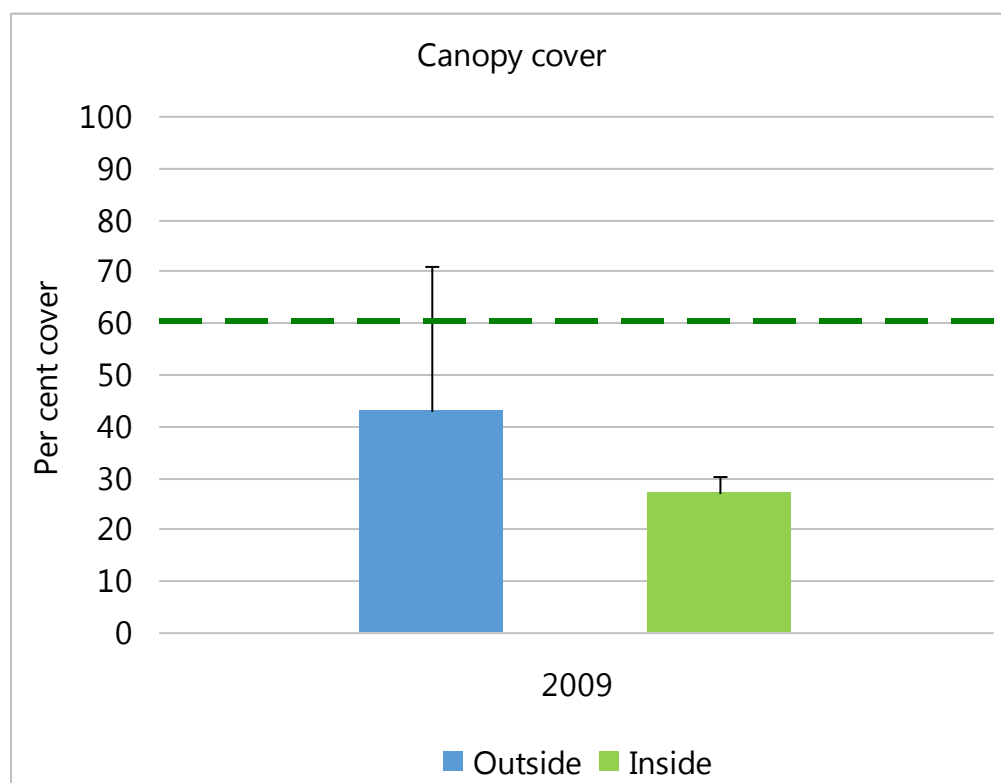


Figure 8. Percentage canopy cover of subtidal reefs surveyed during winter 2009. Canopy cover estimates derived from unpublished DEWNR and the University of Tasmania data following the method described by Brook and Bryars (2014). Reefs with a canopy cover greater than 60 per cent (dashed line) are considered to be in 'good' condition, for reefs previously known to support canopy-forming macroalgae (Turner et al. 2007, Collings et al. 2008).

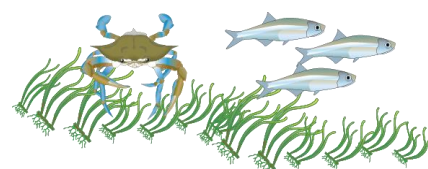
4.2 Seagrass

The largest areas of seagrass in the USGMP occur near Yatala Harbour Aquatic Reserve, from Point Davis to Port Pirie and from Cowleds Landing to Point Lowly (Figure 6, DENR 2010).

Baseline information on seagrass relevant to the USGMP includes:

Spatial extent of seagrass habitat

- A total of 907 square kilometres of seagrass has been mapped in the USGMP (Figure 6).



- Seagrass loss due to natural causes (extreme heat and low tides) has been mapped between Jarrold Point and Port Pirie using aerial photographs taken during December 1987 and February 1994 (Seddon et al. 2000).
- Seagrass loss (about 20 square kilometres) has occurred in False Bay from 1939 to present (Irving 2014).
- Seagrass loss (0.14 square kilometres) occurred near Port Augusta in 1967 (Irving 2014).

Size, abundance and diversity of seagrass communities

- Seagrass density and benthic invertebrate diversity and abundance were surveyed by divers near Point Lowly and south of Port Augusta at depths between 3 and 6 metres during autumn and spring 2006 (BHP Billiton 2009).
- Seagrass distribution and density were surveyed using underwater video at 37 sites (3 inside the Cuttlefish Coast SZ) during autumn and spring 2012 (EPA unpublished data).
- Fish diversity and abundance were surveyed using baited remote underwater video systems (Cappo et al. 2003) at 2 sites over seagrass during June 2009 (DEWNR, unpublished data).
- Pearl oyster distribution and abundance were surveyed using underwater video in the Upper Spencer Gulf during March and June 2011 (Rutherford and Miller 2011).
- Assessments are conducted on a regular basis for a number of commercially-fished species that use seagrass habitat including the Blue Crab, Marine Scalefish and Charter Boat Fisheries (Beckmann and Hooper 2015, Noell et al. 2014a, Fowler et al. 2014a, Steer et al. 2007, 2016b, Tsohos 2013). These assessments include fishery-dependent spatial and temporal information on catch, effort, catch rate and size structure (see Sections 5.8 and 8.2.1). Fishery-independent data include blue swimmer crab catch rates (Noell et al. 2014a).

Seagrass condition

- Seagrass condition was inferred from seagrass density and epiphyte loads surveyed during 2014 (Gaylard et al. 2013, EPA unpublished data, see above). Seagrass within the USGMP was found to be in fair and good condition to the north and south of Point Lowly, respectively. In both areas there were sites with dense and largely intact seagrass and others that with generally degraded seagrass. Almost all sites were under stress from epiphyte growth (Gaylard et al. 2013, Environment Protection Authority 2016).

4.3 Sand

Sand habitat is prevalent across the USGMP, with areas of beach, intertidal flats and subtidal sand plains (Figure 6, DENR 2010).

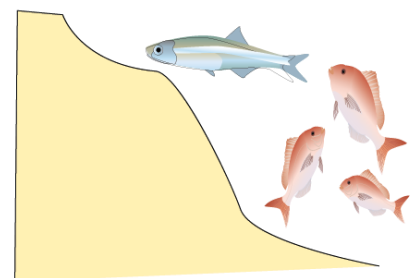
Baseline information on sand relevant to the USGMP includes:

Spatial extent of sand habitat

- Sandy beaches extend along about 157 kilometres of the mainland coastline of the USGMP (Appendix B).
- About 543 square kilometres of sand have been mapped in the USGMP (Figure 6).

Size, abundance and diversity of sand communities

- Fish diversity and abundance were surveyed using baited remote underwater video systems (Cappo et al. 2003) at 4 sites over sand (one inside the Cuttlefish Coast SZ) during June 2009 (DEWNR, unpublished data).



- Sediment type and benthic invertebrate diversity and abundance were surveyed by divers near Point Lowly at depths between 6 and 29 metres during spring and autumn 2006 (BHP Billiton 2009).
- Pearl oyster distribution and abundance were surveyed using underwater video in the Upper Spencer Gulf during March and June 2011 (Rutherford and Miller 2011).
- Invertebrate communities were surveyed using towed video camera on sand near Stony Point (Theil and Tanner 2009).
- Sponge distribution, diversity and abundance were surveyed using bycatch from prawn trawling at 11 sites (1 inside the Fairway Bank SZ) at depths between 12 and 55 metres during February 2007 (Sorokin and Currie 2009), with some sites re-surveyed in 2013 (Burnell et al. 2015).
- Assessments are conducted on a regular basis for a number of commercially-fished species that use sand habitat including the Blue Crab, Spencer Gulf Prawn, Marine Scalefish and Charter Boat Fisheries (Beckmann and Hooper 2015, Noell et al. 2014a, b, Noell and Hooper 2015, Fowler et al. 2013a, 2014a, Earl and Ward 2014, Tsolos 2013). These assessments include fishery-dependent spatial and temporal information on catch, effort, catch rate and size structure (see Sections 5.8 and 8.2.1). Fishery-independent data include blue swimmer crab and prawn catch rates (Noell et al. 2014a, b).

Sand habitat condition

- There is no information available on the condition of sand habitat in the USGMP.

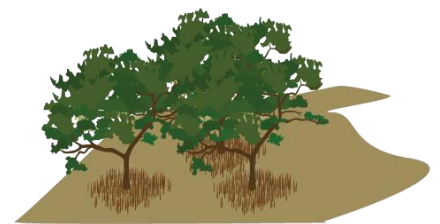
4.4 Mangrove

Mangroves in the USGMP occur in Yatala Harbour Aquatic Reserve, between Cowleds Landing and Point Lowly and from Camp Point to the top of the Gulf (Figure 6).

Baseline information on mangroves relevant to the USGMP includes:

Spatial extent of mangrove habitat

- About 62 square kilometres of mangrove have been mapped in the USGMP, extending along about 411 kilometres of mainland shoreline. This mapping captures the extent of all known mangroves in the USGMP.
- Mangrove loss was quantified in Upper Spencer Gulf following the 'Era' oil spill at Port Bonython in 1992. Approximately 0.32 square kilometres of mangrove were killed or degraded in areas polluted by oil (Hoff and Michel 2014, Scientific Working Group 2011).



Size, abundance and diversity of mangrove communities

- Sediment types and benthic invertebrate diversity and abundance were surveyed in mangroves in Whyalla, Blanche Harbour, Port Augusta, Chinaman Creek and Yatala Harbour during summer 1974/75, with 10 invertebrate species recorded (Butler et al. 1977a, b).

Mangrove condition

- Field surveys across the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management region during 2012 assessed the mangroves as being in good condition, with a score of 71 out of 100 (where 100 represents pristine, undisturbed condition, Wiebkin 2013).

4.5 Saltmarsh

The largest areas of saltmarsh in the USGMP occur near Winninowie Conservation Park, Port Davis and from Cowleds Landing to Point Lowly (Figure 6, DENR 2010).

Baseline information on saltmarsh relevant to the USGMP includes:

Spatial extent of saltmarsh habitat

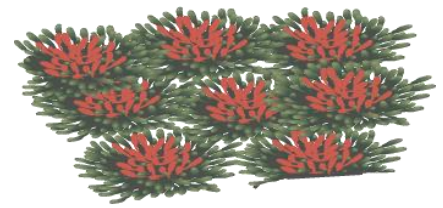
- About 79 square kilometres of saltmarsh have been mapped in the USGMP, extending along about 12 kilometres of mainland shoreline. Current mapping captures the extent of all known saltmarsh in the USGMP.

Size, abundance and diversity of saltmarsh communities

- There is no information available on the size, abundance and diversity of species associated with saltmarsh communities in the USGMP.

Saltmarsh habitat condition

- There is currently no information available on the condition of saltmarsh in the USGMP.

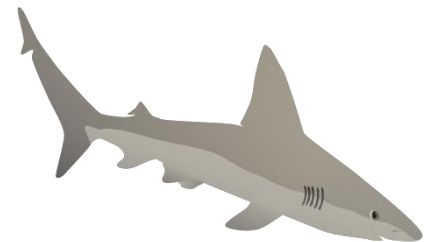


4.6 Sharks

The USGMP is used by a number of shark species, including dusky whaler, hammerhead, bronze whaler, white shark and thresher shark (DENR 2010).

Baseline information on sharks relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Assessments are conducted on a regular basis for a number of species in the Marine Scalefish Fishery (Jones 2008, Fowler et al. 2012, 2013b, 2014b). These assessments include information on trends in catch, effort and catch rate (see Sections 5.8 and 8.2.1).

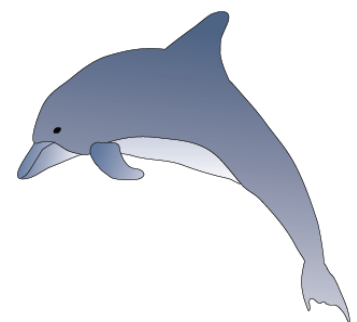


4.7 Marine mammals

The USGMP is used by a number of marine mammal species, including Australian sea lion, humpback whale, Bryde's whale, strap-toothed whale, pygmy sperm whale, southern right whale, common dolphin and bottlenose dolphin (DENR 2010). Some of these species are resident while others are more transient, visiting to rest, breed and/or feed.

Baseline information relevant to marine mammals relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The distribution, density, habitat use and population structure of bottlenose and common dolphins between Ceduna and Port Pirie (in Spencer Gulf) is being assessed by Flinders University (DEWNR unpublished data).
- The distribution, density and habitat use of bottlenose dolphins at Port Lowly was surveyed during summer and autumn 2010 (Gibbs 2010).



4.8 Seabirds

The USGMP is used by a number of seabird species, including white-bellied sea eagle and pied cormorants (DENR 2010). Some of these species are resident while others are more transient, visiting the USGMP to rest, breed and/or feed.

Baseline information on seabirds relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The distribution and abundance of osprey and white-bellied sea-eagle breeding pairs were surveyed over 3 breeding seasons between May 2008 and October 2010 (Dennis et al. 2011a).
- The distribution and abundance of breeding sites for 16 species of seabird has been surveyed during numerous surveys since 1971 (Copley 1996, DEWNR 2015g). Pied cormorants breed at 4 sites within the USGMP, including estimated populations of about 900 pairs at Fisherman Creek mangrove near Port Pirie (Copley 1996).

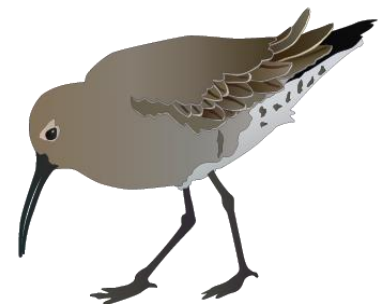


4.9 Shorebirds

The USGMP is used by a number of shorebird species for breeding and feeding, including pied oystercatchers, red necked stint, grey plover, sharp-tailed sandpiper and banded stilt (DENR 2010, Watkins 1993). Some of these species are resident and others migrate to the USGMP from interstate or overseas. Spencer Gulf is the most important region in the state for shorebirds with 12 sites of national importance, 10 of which are internationally important (Watkins 1993). The mudflats and mangroves near Port Pirie, Ward Spit and Port Davis are all considered important shorebird areas within this park (Wilson 2000).

Baseline information on shorebirds relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Diversity and abundance of shorebirds were recorded from surveys conducted between 1997 and 2000, with 16 species recorded in the USGMP. These data are a subset of an ongoing statewide dataset that is maintained by the Shorebirds 2020 Project (BirdLife Australia 2015).



5 Socio-economic values

Monitoring socio-economic values will be a core component of the marine parks MER program. For the purpose of the baseline reports, socio-economic values are summarised according to 8 broad categories: local businesses and communities, coastal recreation, tourism, cultural heritage, transport and infrastructure, aquaculture, recreational fishing, and commercial fishing (Figure 5). These categories are based on work undertaken for the marine park planning and assessment processes (DENR 2010, Bailey et al. 2012a, b). The socio-economic values of the 8 categories are well documented (DENR 2010, Bailey et al. 2012a, b), including a series of maps for the USGMP ([DEWNR 2015b](#)). Information on socio-economic values is available at a range of spatial scales, with information documented in the following sections starting from a statewide scale to the smallest available local scale. In many cases information is available only at a spatial scale that is larger than or doesn't align well with the marine park, but is nonetheless documented as it may be relevant to the marine park.

The following sections summarise the available information under the 8 categories of socio-economic values. This report provides an inventory of the available information together with examples of the current state of knowledge and historical trends prior to 2015. The emphasis of this section is on the nature and scale (temporal and spatial) of information and indicators that may be used in the MER program (Section 10). In some cases there are time series of data available, while in other cases there are data collected from a single point in time but which could potentially be resampled in the future. Kosturjak et al. (2015) used a Government of South Australian framework for assessment of the impacts of marine parks on socio-economic values and this framework will be adopted in the MER program.

5.1 Local businesses and communities

Most local businesses and communities are based within the vicinity of Ceduna, and most information in this section is reported for the Kimba-Cleve-Franklin Harbor, Whyalla, Flinders Ranges, Port Augusta, Peterborough-Mount Remarkable and Port Pirie Statistical Areas Level 2 or the Whyalla, Port Augusta, Mount Remarkable and Port Pirie City and Districts (hereafter 'Port Pirie') Local Government Areas, or the Upper Spencer Gulf region (Bailey et al. (2012b, see Appendix C).



5.1.1 Human population

Population size is a basic demographic characteristic of the region and was an area of focus for regional economic impact assessment of the marine park network (Bailey et al. 2012a).

Baseline information on human population relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics provides annual estimates of the resident population. This information is presented for several spatial scales including Statistical Areas Level 2 and Local Government Areas (see Appendix C) as a time-series covering the previous decade (ABS 2015a). Between 2004 and 2014, the population in South Australia rose by about 10 per cent, and the estimated resident population and population growth for Local Government Areas relevant to the USGMP were (ABS 2015a, Figure 9):
 - Whyalla: growth of about 3.5 per cent (807 persons) to 22,754 persons
 - Port Augusta: growth of about 3 per cent (498 persons) to 14,557 persons
 - Mount Remarkable: decreased by about 2.5 per cent (73 persons) to 2,827 persons
 - Port Pirie: growth of about 0.7 per cent (131 persons) to 17,646 persons.

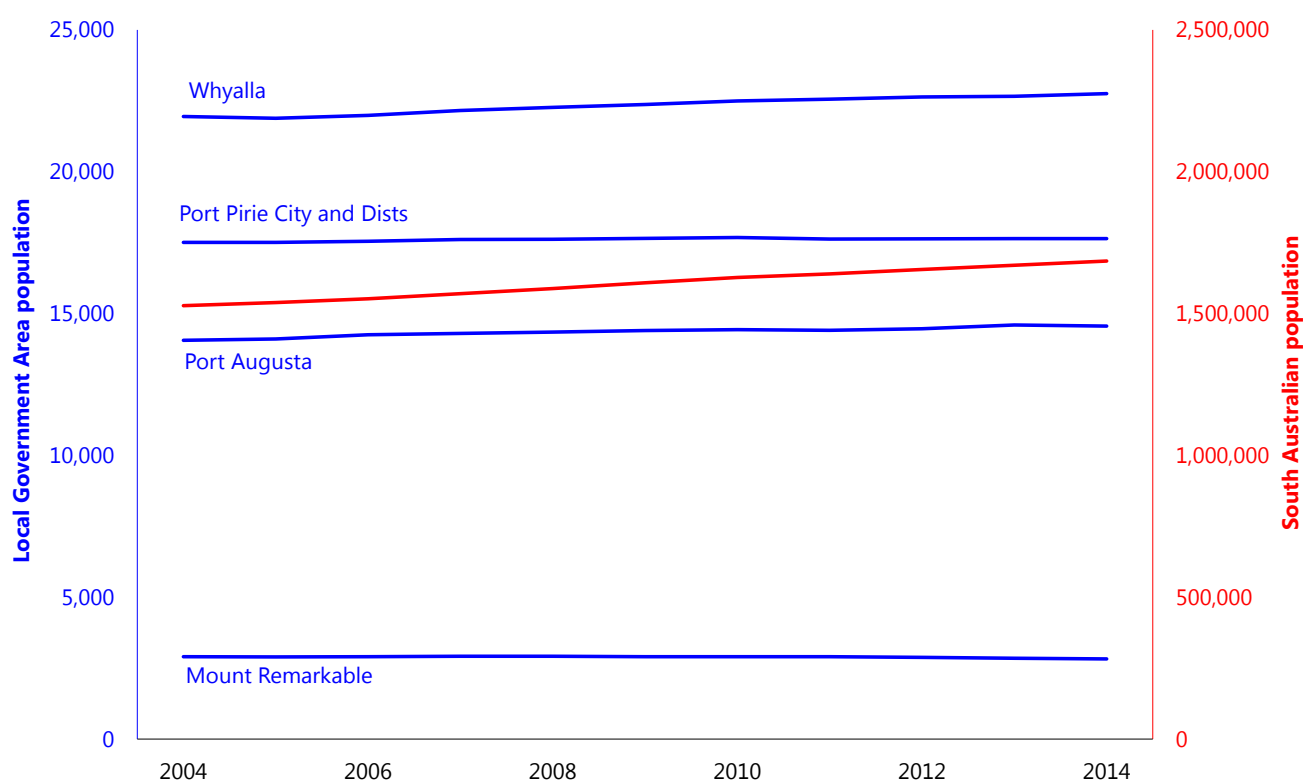


Figure 9. Population trends in Local Government Areas relevant to the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park compared with South Australia. Source: ABS (2015a).

5.1.2 Production and employment

A number of businesses, industries and jobs are reliant on the ecological values of the USGMP, or use the USGMP. These include tourism (Section 5.3), shipping (Section 5.5), aquaculture (Section 5.6) and commercial fishing (Section 5.8).

Baseline information on production and employment relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Gross regional product has been calculated for Local Government Areas by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research Pty Ltd for 2010/11 and 2013/14 (National Economics and .id 2015). Gross regional product in 2013/14 for Local Government Areas relevant to the USGMP (see Appendix C) were (National Economics and .id 2015):
 - Whyalla: \$850 million, representing about 0.94 per cent of gross state product in the same year (about \$90 billion).
 - Port Augusta: \$747 million, representing 0.83 per cent of gross state product in the same year.
 - Mount Remarkable: \$116 million, representing 0.12 per cent of gross state product in the same year.
 - Port Pirie: \$730 million, representing 0.81 per cent of gross state product in the same year.
- Gross regional product for the Upper Spencer Gulf region (see Appendix C) was \$2.5 billion in 2009/10, calculated once only by EconSearch for a specific report (Bailey et al. 2012b). The fishing, agriculture and forestry sector was not among the highest contributors to: gross regional product, jobs or exports in the Upper

Spencer Gulf region in 2009/10 (Bailey et al. 2012b). It should be noted that methodological differences may account for some of the discrepancy between the estimates by National Institute of Economic and Industry Research and EconSearch, and that estimates at this scale should be interpreted with caution.

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics provides annual counts of Australian businesses sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register (ABS 2015b). Information is available for Statistical Areas Level 2 between 2009 and 2014 (ABS 2015b). The total number of businesses operating in June 2014 in Statistical Areas Level 2 relevant to the USGMP (see Appendix C) were (ABS 2015b):
 - Kimba-Cleve-Franklin Harbour: 734, of which 434 were in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector
 - Whyalla: 781, of which 30 were in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector
 - Flinders Ranges: 215, of which 80 were in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector
 - Port Augusta: 612, of which 58 were in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector
 - Peterborough-Mount Remarkable: 677, of which 436 were in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector
 - Port Pirie: 931, of which 202 were in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector
- The number of local jobs for Local Government Areas has been estimated by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research Pty Ltd between 2010/11 and 2013/14 (National Economics and .id 2015). These data are based on modelling from a number of sources, including tax data, and are more up-to-date than census data (National Economics and .id 2015). In 2013/14, jobs in the Local Government Areas relevant to the USGMP (see Appendix C) were (National Economics and .id 2015):
 - Whyalla: 7,651
 - Port Augusta: 6,417
 - Mount Remarkable: 887
 - Port Pirie: 6,970
- In 2006, 92 per cent of jobs in the Upper Spencer Gulf region (see Appendix C) were held by local residents (Bailey et al. 2012b).
- The unemployment rate is available from the Australian Government Department of Employment for Local Government Areas and Statistical Areas Level 2 since 2011, and for 2003 to 2013 for Statistical Local Areas (which generally follow local government boundaries). These data are available on a quarterly basis, smoothed using a four quarter average (with unsmoothed data also available), but a focus on long-term annual comparisons is recommended (Department of Employment 2015). In September 2014, the unemployment rate in South Australia was 6.7 per cent (Department of Employment 2015, Figure 10). The unemployment rates for Local Government Areas relevant to the USGMP (see Appendix C) were (Department of Employment 2015, Figure 10):
 - Whyalla: 10.1 per cent
 - Port Augusta: 10.6, per cent
 - Mount Remarkable: 7.7 per cent
 - Port Pirie: 12.5 per cent

The number of unemployed people and the available labour force are also available (Department of Employment 2015, Kosturjak et al. 2015).

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics provides labour market information derived from its Census of Population and Housing (ABS 2015c). Although the census is only conducted every five years and generally underestimates employment levels, it provides high quality data at a fine spatial scale and fine level of industry classification. Available data include unemployment rate, labour force participation rate, and employment to population ratio, and personal, family and household income (ABS 2015c).
- The Australian Tax Office provides average annual salary or wage income and the number of earners by postcode (ATO 2015). The same information is available at a Local Government Area level and Statistical Area Level 2 from the *Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas*, which also includes income earned in respect of own business (ABS 2016).
- Data on employment and remuneration in respect of payroll taxes may be available from Return to Work SA or the SA Department of Treasury and Finance (ABS 2015d).

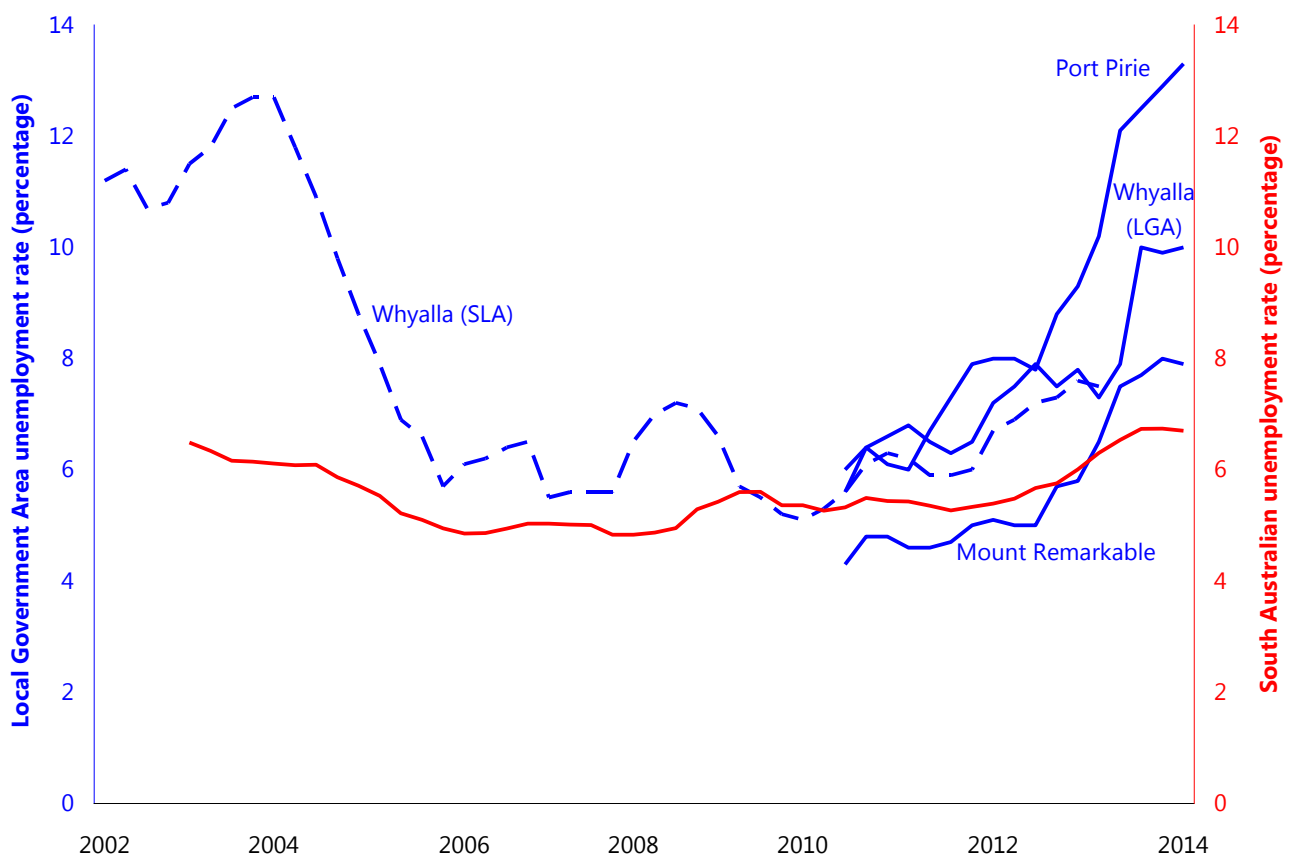


Figure 10. Unemployment rate (quarterly) in Local Government Areas relevant to the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park compared with South Australia. Dotted blue line shows data for the Ceduna Statistical Local Area (see Appendix C) which is similar to the Local Government Area, but is no longer used for reporting. Source: Department of Employment (2015).

5.1.3 Building and property

Information on buildings and properties is an economic indicator for regional communities and was an area of focus for previous regional economic impact assessment of the marine park network (Bailey et al. 2012a, b).

Baseline information on building activity and residential property prices relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Building approvals data are considered to be one of the higher quality sources of information about regional economic activity (Kosturjak et al. 2015). The Australian Bureau of Statistics provides monthly updates and annual summaries of the number and value of residential building approvals (ABS 2015e). This information is available for Statistical Areas Level 2 since 2011/12, for Local Government Areas since 2012/13 and for Statistical Local Areas (similar to Local Government Areas) between 2002/03 and 2011/12. Bailey et al. (2012b) compiled this information for the Upper Spencer Gulf region (see Appendix C) and reported that:
 - the number of building approvals increased by 50 per cent between 2001/02 and 2010/11, compared with a 3 per cent increase in South Australia.
 - the average value per approval increased from \$135,000 to \$230,000 (71 per cent) between 2001/02 and 2010/11, compared with \$128,000 to \$236,000 (85 per cent) in South Australia
- Bailey et al. (2012b) reported house price information sourced from RP Data Pty Ltd. The median house price in the Upper Spencer Gulf region (see Appendix C) increased from about \$68,000 to \$225,000 (231 per cent) between 2000/01 and 2010/11, compared with \$126,000 to \$370,000 (194 per cent) in South Australia (Bailey et al. 2012b). Other commercial organisations providing property sales data for a fee include CoreLogic and Australian Property Monitors.
- The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure maintains a database of properties which includes the most recent sales price and valuations by the Valuer-General (DEWNR 2015h). Comparative property price data are also available for a group of major South Australian towns (Kosturjak et al. 2015). Trends in the median house price for Local Government Areas relevant to the USGMP between 1990 and 2014 were (Figure 11):
 - Whyalla: increased from about \$56,000 to \$190,000
 - Port Augusta: peaked at about \$210,000 in 2008 and was \$160,000 in 2014
 - Mount Remarkable: peaked at about \$180,000 in 2012 and was about \$150,000 in 2014
 - Port Pirie: peaked at about \$178,000 in 2011 and was about \$168,000 in 2014.

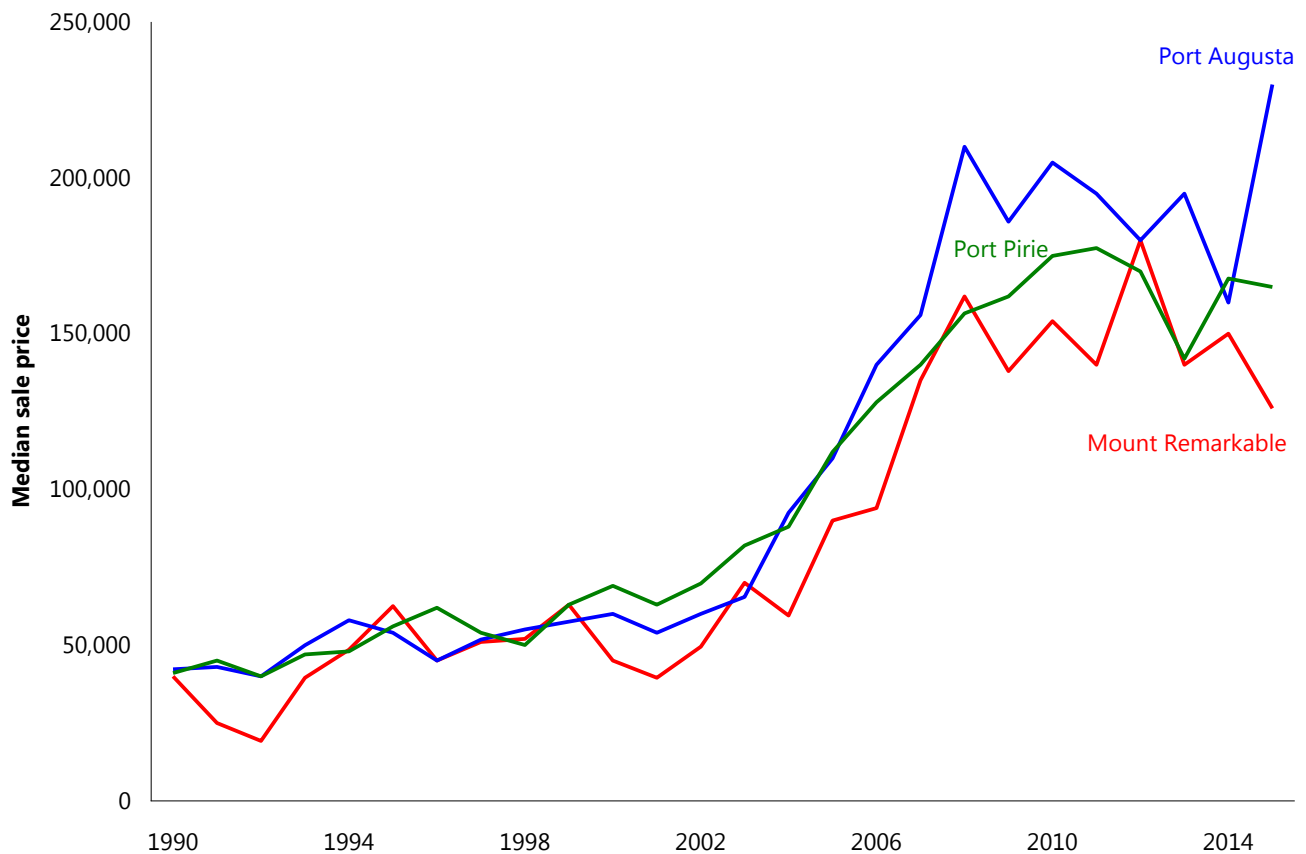


Figure 11. Median sale price for residential properties in Local Government Areas relevant to the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park. For each property, these data only include the most recent sale which is a transfer of the full value and whole of land. There is potential volatility in the median price due to random fluctuations in the quality of properties sold in particular years. Source: DEWNR (2015h).

5.1.4 Socio-economic advantage and disadvantage

'Socio-economic advantage and disadvantage' can be defined in terms of the access that people have to resources (material and social) and their ability to participate in society (ABS 2011a). This integrated indicator has not been used in previous impact assessments of marine parks in SA, but it could be used to track the socio-economic condition of regional communities.

Baseline information on socio-economic advantage and disadvantage includes:

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics ranks Level 1 and 2 Statistical Areas and Local Government Areas according to an index of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage based on income, education, employment, occupation, housing and other information from the five-yearly census (ABS 2011a). In 2006 and 2011, the Ceduna Local Government Area was in the lowest 30 per cent (i.e. relatively disadvantaged) in South Australia and Australia for the index of social disadvantage and advantage (ABS 2011a). In 2011, the Port Pirie Local Government Area was in the lowest 10 per cent (i.e. relatively disadvantaged), the Whyalla and Port Augusta Local Government Areas were in the lowest 20 per cent and the Mount Remarkable Local Government Area was in the highest 50 per cent (i.e. relatively advantaged) in South Australia for the index of relative social disadvantage and advantage (ABS 2011). While household income is taken into account in calculating this index, it may also be worth reporting personal, family and household income separately.

5.1.5 Public appreciation, education and understanding

Information on public appreciation, education and understanding of the marine environment and marine parks provides useful social indicators for regional (and city-based) communities and was used in social impact analyses of the marine park network (Bailey et al. 2012a, b, Square Holes 2015).

Baseline information on public appreciation, education and understanding of the marine environment and marine parks relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Regular (about annual) phone surveys of the general public have been commissioned by DEWNR to gauge community support and perceptions on a range of factors related to the marine environment and marine parks in South Australia (e.g. Square Holes 2015). Community attitudes towards marine parks in South Australia indicated between 79 and 95 per cent support for marine parks (Figure 12). Support for marine parks in the local area of the people who were surveyed has typically been lower (between 58 and 79 per cent, Figure 12). In 2015, for respondents from the Northern/Yorke Peninsula region (Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie, Port Broughton, Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta), support for marine parks in general versus those in their local area was 75 and 69 per cent, respectively (Square Holes 2015).

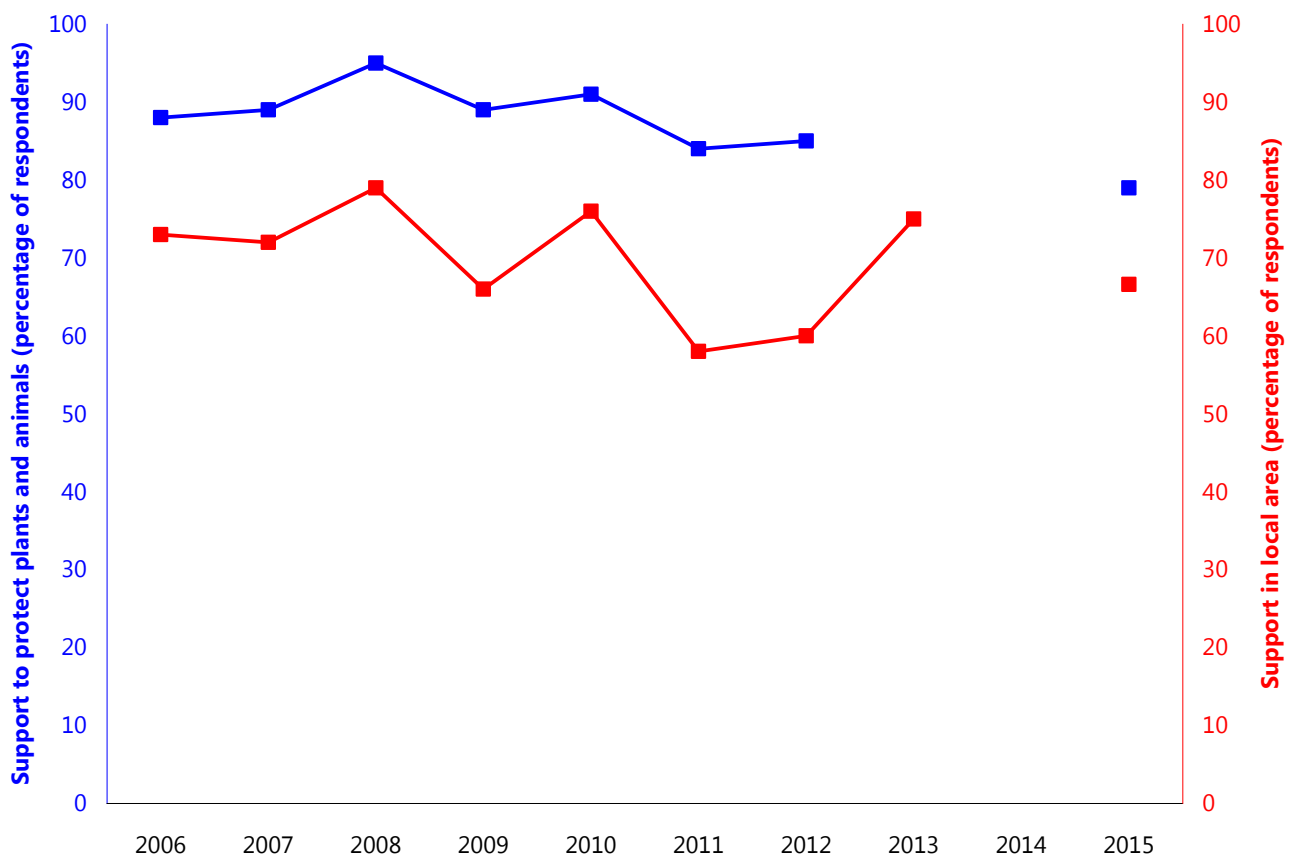


Figure 12. Results of statewide phone surveys regarding support for marine parks to protect marine plants and animals and support in local area. No data were available for 2013 (blue line) or 2014 (both lines). Source: Square Holes (2015).

5.2 Coastal recreation

The USGMP is used for a range of coastal recreation activities including fishing (Section 5.7), boating, snorkelling, scuba diving, swimming, surfing, camping and sightseeing (DENR 2010).

Baseline information on coastal recreation relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Regular (about annual) phone surveys of the general public since 2006 have been commissioned by DEWNR to gauge community use of the marine environment and marine parks in South Australia (e.g. Square Holes 2015). Between 52 and 65 per cent of the statewide respondents made general recreational use of the marine environment at least monthly, between 15 and 34 per cent participated in fishing (see also Section 5.7), and between 12 and 31 per cent participated in boating (Figure 13). These uses declined after 2007 but have since been stable (Figure 13). In 2015, for respondents from the Northern/Yorke Peninsula region (Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie, Port Broughton, Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta), the general use, fishing and boating participation rates were 69, 26 and 22 per cent, respectively (Square Holes 2015).
- During 2013 and 2014, 31 per cent of domestic visitors to the Eyre Peninsula tourism region (from Whyalla to the Western Australian border, see Appendix C) visited the beach, 22 per cent went fishing, and 15 per cent visited national or state parks. On Yorke Peninsula, 52 per cent of domestic visitors visited the beach, 38 per cent went fishing and 9 per cent visited national or state parks (South Australian Tourism Commission unpublished data, see Section 5.3).
- The Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure publishes annual statewide statistics on boat registrations and licences (DPTI 2015a, b). General boat and jet ski registrations increased by about 6 and 45 per cent, respectively, between 2007 and 2014 (DPTI 2015a, Figure 14). Boat licences varied between 5,000 and 7,000 during the same period (DPTI 2015b, Figure 15). Note that data are available from 1975 but only data from 1992 are presented in Figure 15. In 2015, the option for six-monthly registration renewals was introduced, which may result in a short-term perturbation in the time-series.
- A survey has been conducted of the scenic quality of the South Australian coastline (Lothian 2005). The coastlines in the USGMP were rated as having low to moderate (between 4 and 6 out of 10) scenic quality (Lothian 2005).



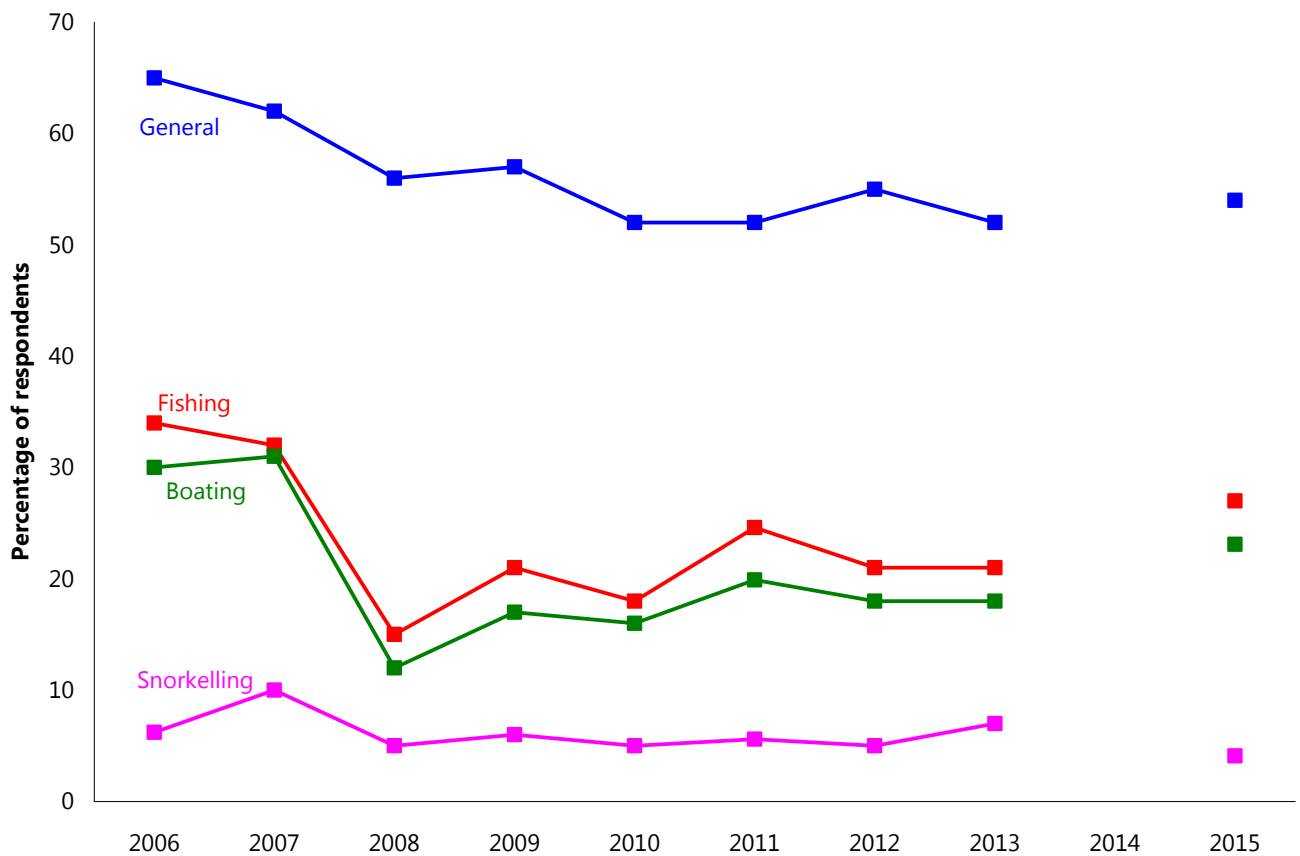


Figure 13. Percentage of statewide phone survey respondents who participate in general recreational, fishing, boating and snorkelling activities in the marine environment at least monthly. No data were available for 2014. Source: Square Holes (2015).

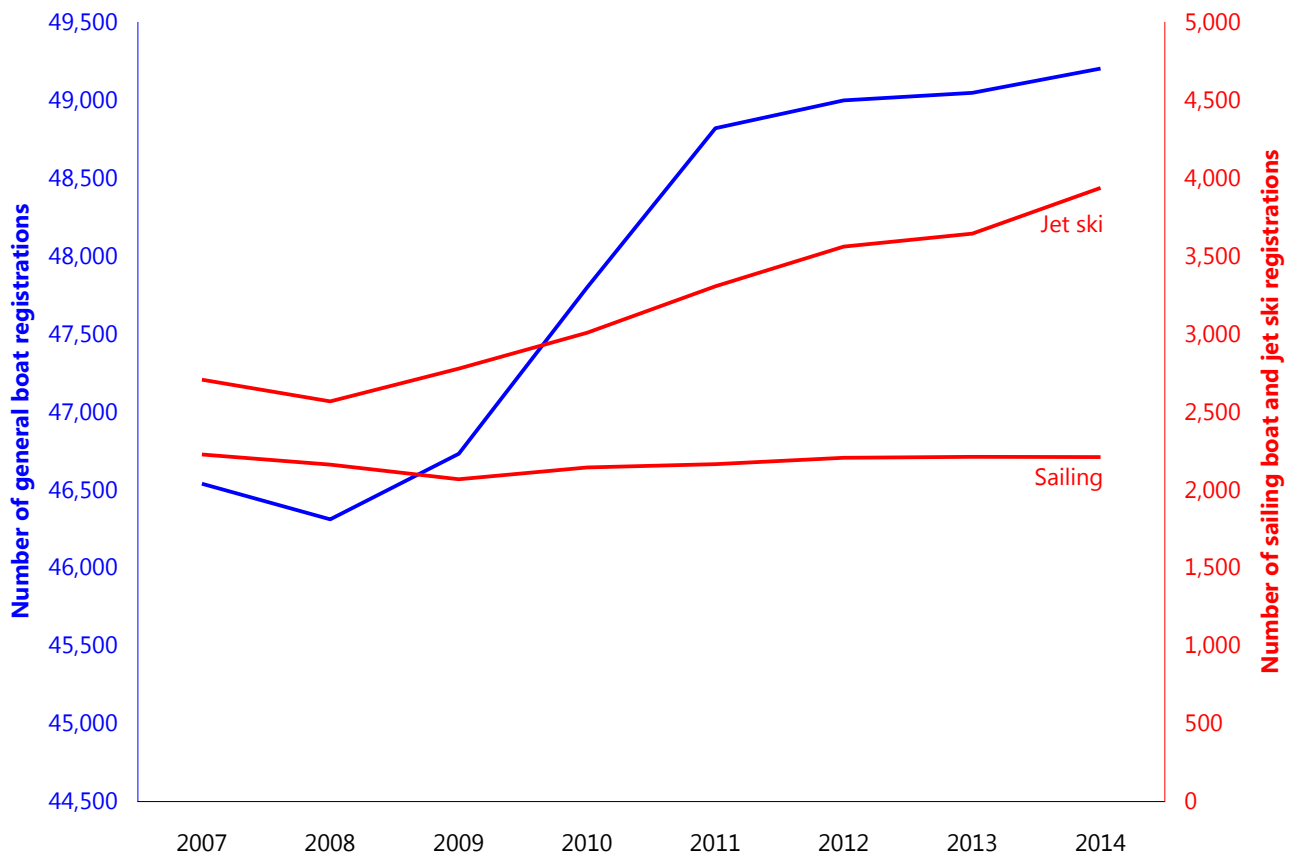


Figure 14. South Australian boat registrations for general boats, and sailing vessels and jet skis. General boat registrations include cabin cruisers, half cabins, cuddy cabins, centre consoles, inflatables, open boats and runabouts. Catamarans are grouped with sailing vessels. Source: DPTI (2015a).

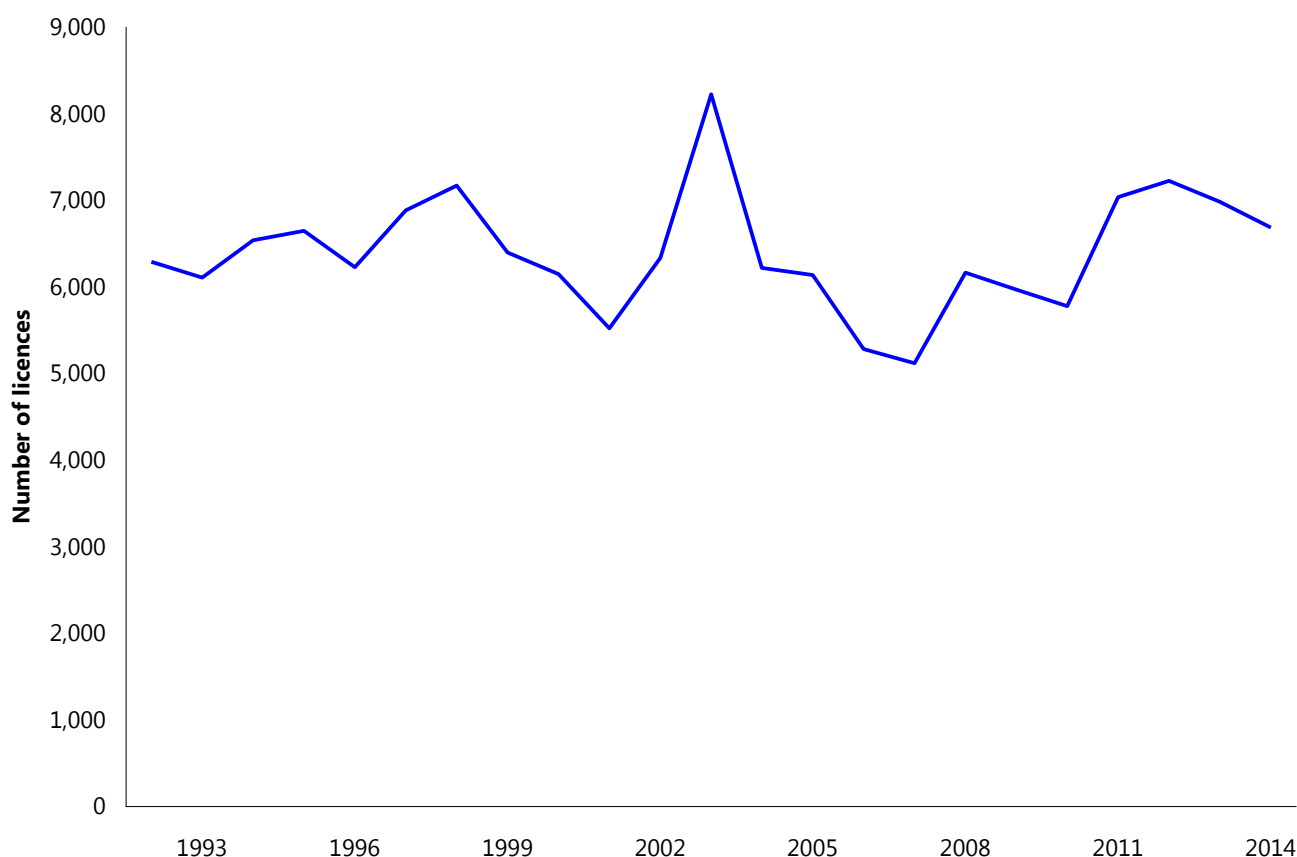


Figure 15. Number of South Australian boat licences. Source: DPTI (2015b).

5.3 Tourism

Tourism is an important economic contributor to the region. Coastal and marine recreational opportunities include diving with the Giant cuttlefish, general recreation (Section 5.2), recreational and charter fishing (Sections 5.7 and 5.8.7), marine mammal watching and scenic cruises (DENR 2010; South Australian Tourism Commission 2015a, b).



Baseline information on tourism relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Bailey et al. (2012b) provided information on expenditure by tourists for the Upper Spencer Gulf region (see Appendix C). Expenditure by tourists in 2009/10 in the Upper Spencer Gulf region of about \$133 million contributed about 7 per cent of its total value of exports, about 2 per cent of its gross regional product and about 4 per cent of its jobs.
- Tourism Research Australia provides time series of international and domestic tourism numbers and expenditure, and the number of tourism businesses, for South Australia's tourism regions (Tourism Research Australia 2015, see Figure 16 and Figure 17). Expenditure by tourists in the Eyre tourism region (see Appendix C) in 2013/14 was \$300 million and was \$159 million (excluding international visitors) in the Yorke Peninsula region (see Appendix C). Data are available for previous years, but are not comparable with 2013/14 due to a change in methods (Tourism Research Australia 2015).

- The South Australian Tourism Commission prepares regional tourism profiles using information from international and national visitor surveys conducted by Tourism Research Australia. During 2013 and 2014, 31 per cent of domestic visitors to Eyre Peninsula (from Whyalla to the Western Australian border, see Appendix C) visited the beach, 22 per cent went fishing, and 15 per cent visited national or state parks (South Australian Tourism Commission unpublished data). On Yorke Peninsula, 52 per cent of domestic visitors visited the beach, 38 per cent went fishing and 9 per cent visited national or state parks (South Australian Tourism Commission unpublished data).
- A report by BDA Marketing Planning for Tourism Australia (Australia Consumer Demand Research) based on a survey of international visitors found that beaches were the top Australian attraction, appealing to 53 per cent of visitors, and viewing aquatic wildlife was the top experience, appealing to 50 per cent of visitors (Tourism Australia, undated a).
- DEWNR maintains a database of coastal and marine tourism operators in South Australia (DEWNR unpublished data). In 2014, up to four coastal or marine tourism operators used the USGMP, offering a range of activities including fishing charters, marine mammal watching, and/or general cruises and sight-seeing.

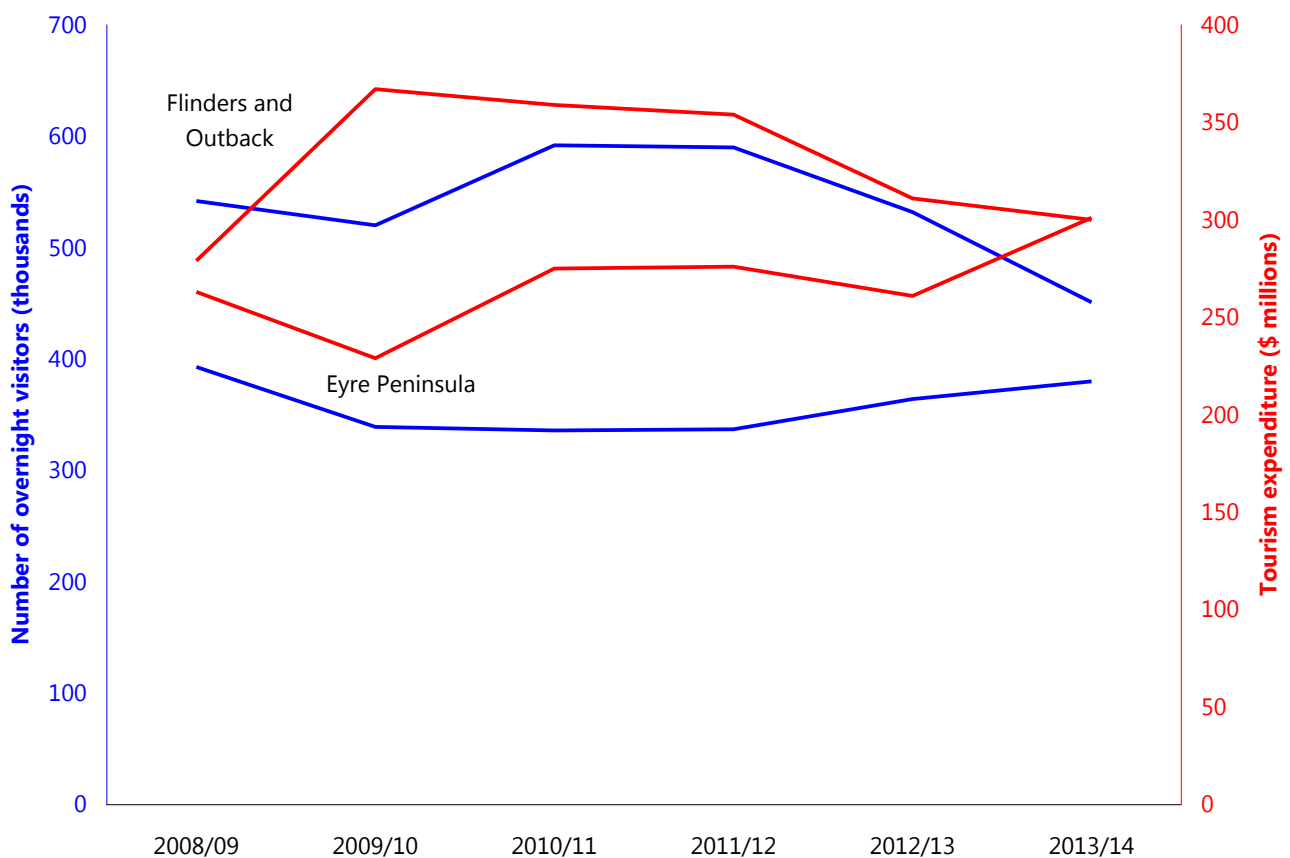


Figure 16. Number of overnight visitors and tourism expenditure for the Eyre Peninsula and Flinders and Outback tourism regions. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2015).

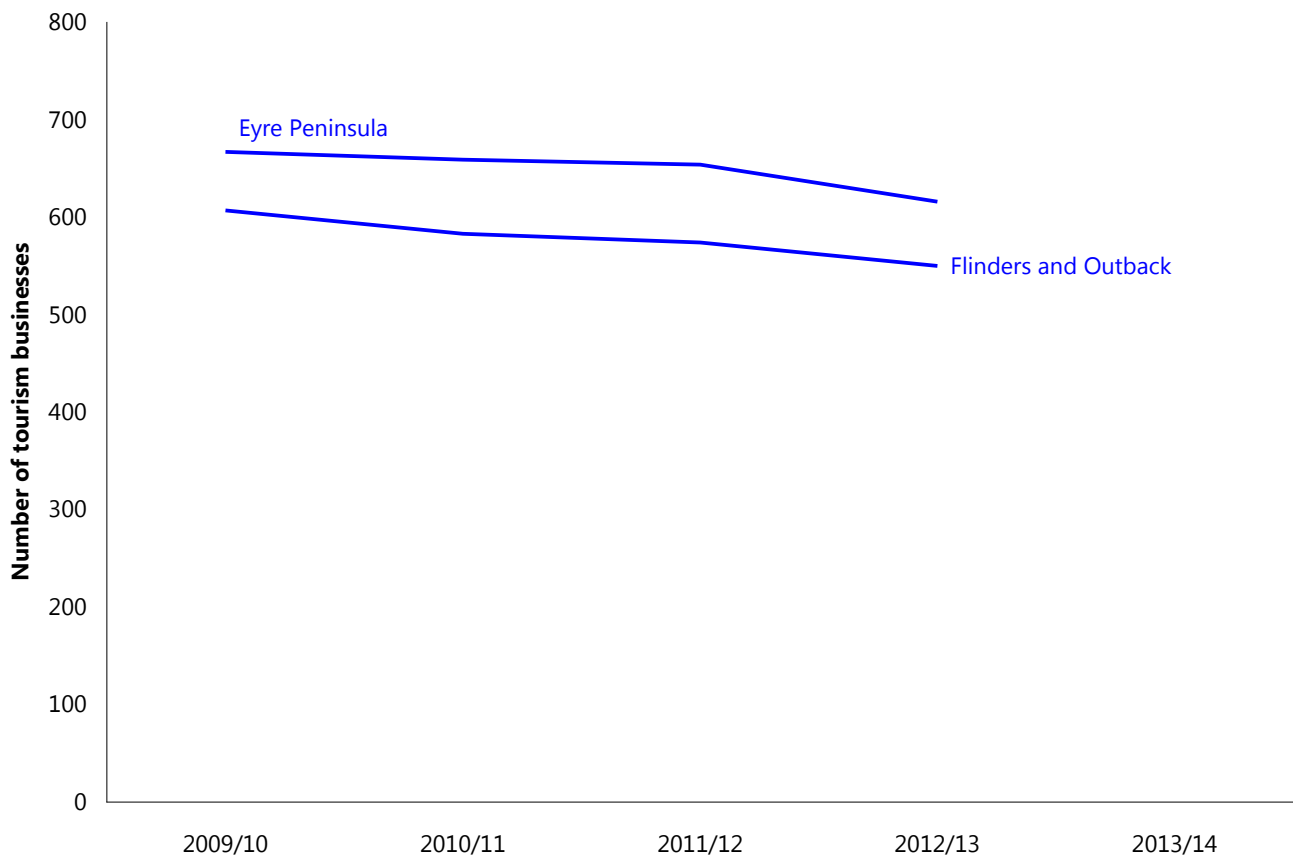


Figure 17. Number of tourism businesses in the Eyre Peninsula and Flinders and Outback tourism regions. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2015). No data were available for 2013/14.

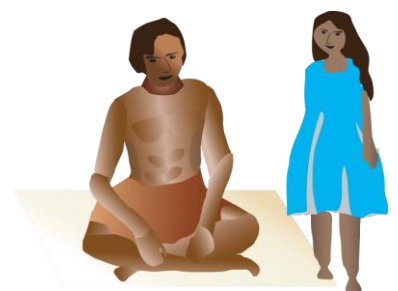
5.4 Cultural heritage

5.4.1 Aboriginal heritage

The Nukunu, Kujani, Kokatha and Barngarla Aboriginal people have traditional associations (which may include Aboriginal traditional fishing) with the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park. The Nukunu and Barngarla people have lodged native title claims that include parts of the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park (DENR 2010, National Native Title Tribunal 2014a, b)

Baseline information on Aboriginal heritage relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The Central Archive, including the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects, is maintained by the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division of the South Australian Department of State Development. Information on the site register is confidential and is only released with the permission of the traditional owners.
- DENR (2010) noted that Aboriginal campsites have been located within Winninowie Conservation Park and a further ten campsites have been recorded nearby. Constructed fish traps have been recorded along the shores of Fitzgerald Bay.



5.4.2 European heritage

The explorer Matthew Flinders ventured to the head of Spencer Gulf in 1802 in search of a marine passage to the centre of the continent (DENR 2010).

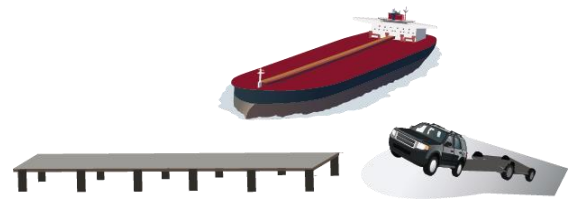
Baseline information on European heritage relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The South Australian Heritage Register contains descriptions of local, national and world heritage places in South Australia which are protected under legislation. The Register and associated spatial data can be accessed via the Heritage Places Database (DPTI 2015c). Entries for the USGMP include the Port Augusta Wharf, the Point Germein Jetty and Point Lowly Lighthouse, the Hummock Hill Gun Emplacement that was constructed at Whyalla during World War Two (DEWNR 2015i).
- DEWNR maintains the South Australian Shipwrecks Database, which includes all known shipwrecks located in South Australian waters. It incorporates the Register of Historic Shipwrecks and the Register of Historic Relics as required under the (Commonwealth) *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* and the (South Australian) *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981*, and includes shipwrecks that have not been declared under either of these Acts. There are 9 shipwrecks in the USGMP (DEWNR 2015j).



5.5 Transport and infrastructure

Transport and infrastructure provide important socio-economic activity and value in this region (DENR 2010). The ports at Whyalla, Port Bonython and Port Pirie are important for the export of iron ore, liquid petroleum products and zinc concentrates, respectively. These ports are not in the USGMP, but ships pass through it to access the ports.



Baseline information on transport and infrastructure relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Flinders Ports provide an annual summary report which includes bulk cargo import and export, and the number of vessel calls (visits). Between 0.5 and 1.2 million tonnes of cargo were exported from Port Pirie each year between 2003 and 2014 (no imports) with between 58 and 81 vessel calls each year (Figure 18, Flinders Ports 2014).
- Spencer Gulf Port Link (2013) published a summary of vessel calls for Port Pirie, Port Bonython, Whyalla and the Whyalla transshipment points for 2005/06 to 2011/12.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics international merchandise trade data include the volume and value of international exports and imports of goods for individual South Australian ports, including by commodity or industry. These data would require a customised request and may be limited by confidentiality restrictions.
- As of October 2014, coastal infrastructure in the USGMP included 2 breakwaters, 5 jetties, 2 moorings, 3 wharves, 3 harbours, 1 port, 1 marina, and 7 boat ramps (DEWNR 2016a, b, c, d, DEWNR unpublished data).

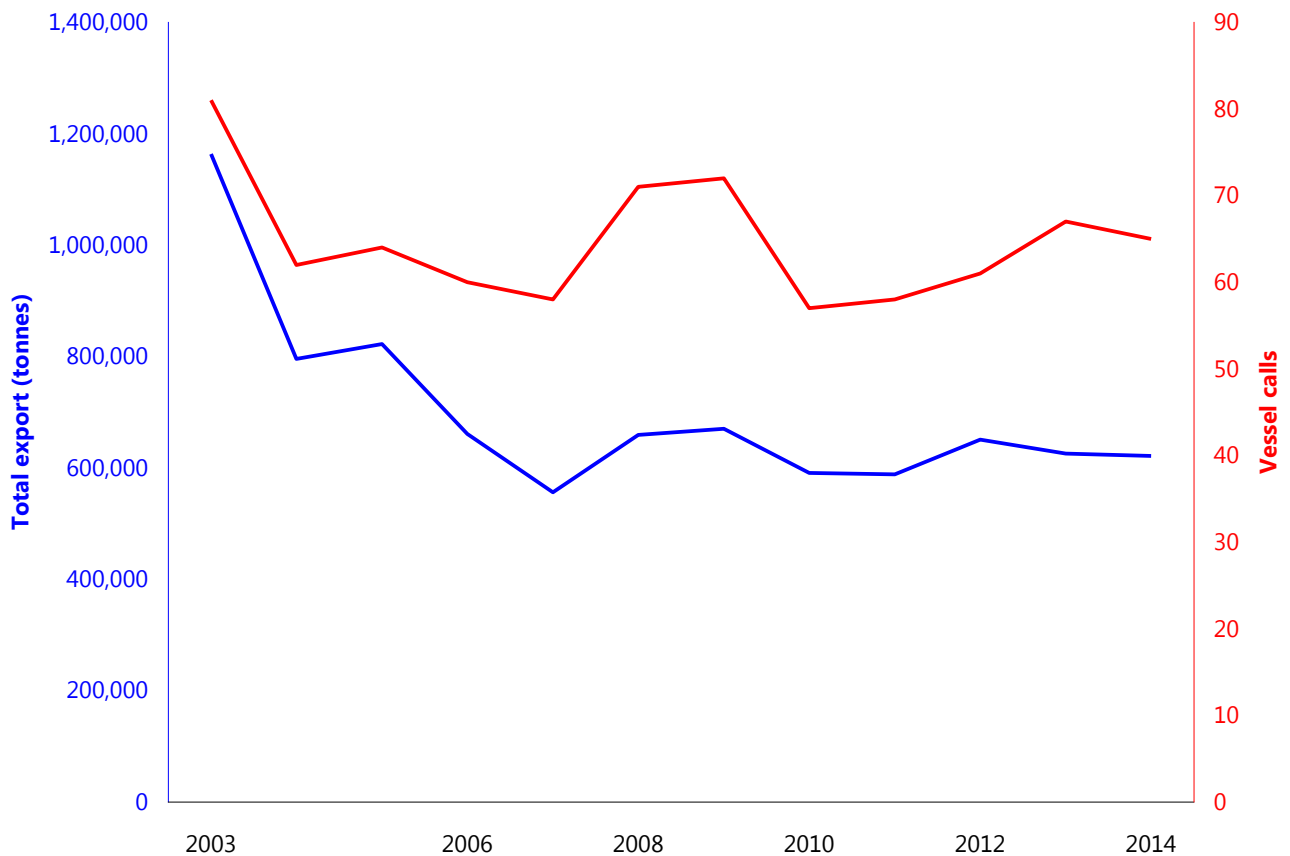


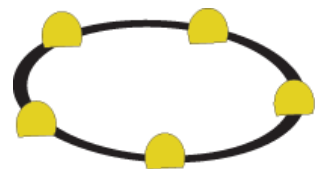
Figure 18. Annual cargo exports and vessel calls at Port Pirie between 2003 and 2014. Source: Flinders Ports (2014).

5.6 Aquaculture

The Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park supports an aquaculture industry based mainly on yellow-tail kingfish (PIRSA, 2008, DENR 2010, Econsearch, 2014).

Baseline information on aquaculture relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) Aquaculture provide a register of aquaculture leases and licences that can be queried from an online mapping system or exported as a GIS layer (DEWNR 2015k). Within the USGMP there are 12 finfish leases, and 3 other licences (including intertidal molluscs and land based).
- Econsearch Pty Ltd estimated the regional and state economic impact of aquaculture activity in South Australia in most years between 1997 and 2013. Estimates since 2003 consider the farm gate value of production, the net value of local processing, the net value of local retail and food service trade, and the value of local transport services at all stages of the marketing chain (EconSearch 2015a). The economic benefits associated with aquaculture of finfish (except tuna), mussels and abalone in the Eyre Peninsula region (Lower Eyre Peninsula to Port Augusta) in 2013/14 include (EconSearch 2015a):
 - Direct output (business turnover) of \$20.1 million (see Figure 19), with associated downstream activities of \$3.1 million and flow-on output in other sectors of the regional economy of \$14.7 million.
 - Contribution to gross regional product (total direct and indirect economic contribution) of \$17.0 million.



- Direct employment of 107 full-time equivalent persons plus 56 from flow-on business activity.
- Personal income of \$5.2 million from aquaculture and downstream activities and an additional \$3.7 million of household income in other local businesses.

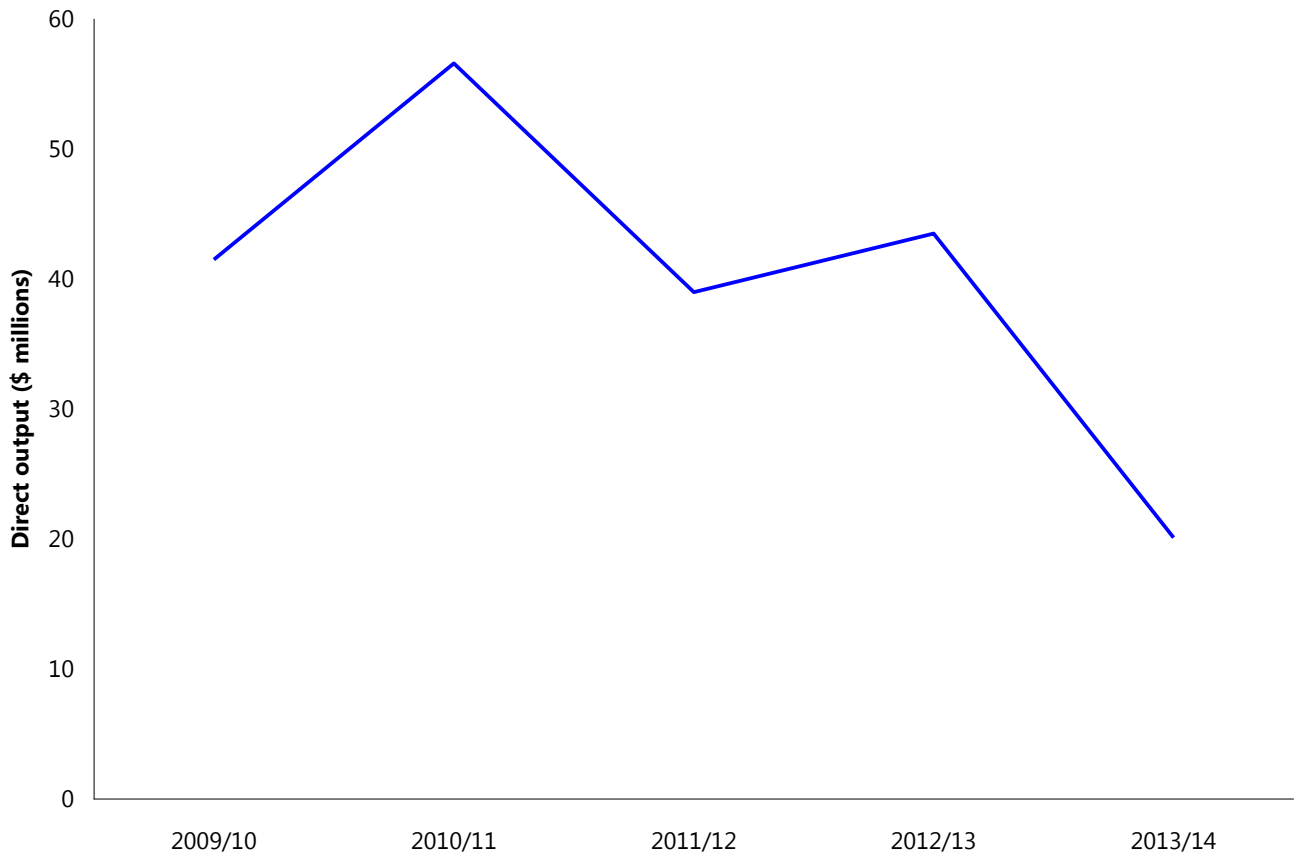
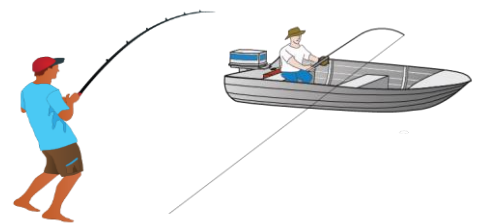


Figure 19. Direct output (business turnover) from aquaculture in the Eyre Peninsula region (Western Australian border to Elliston). Source: Econsearch (2015a).

5.7 Recreational fishing

Recreational fishing has an important socio-economic value across South Australia, including in the USGMP. Recreational fishing surveys indicate that 16 and 18 percent of South Australians (aged 5 and older) went fishing in 2007 and 2013, respectively (Jones 2009, Giri and Hall 2015). Collectively, they fished for about 1 million days. Recreational fishing is conducted in all habitat types except saltmarsh. Species targeted by recreational fishers in the USGMP include King George whiting, garfish, snapper, Australian herring, Australian salmon, southern calamary and blue swimmer crab. For these species, the statewide recreational catch is between 23 and 58 per cent of the total catch (i.e. recreational and commercial, Giri and Hall 2015).



Baseline information on recreational fishing relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Three statewide recreational fishing surveys have been undertaken in South Australia – in 2000/01 (The National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey, Henry and Lyle 2003, Jones and Doonan 2005), in

2007/08 (Jones 2009), and in 2013/14 (Giri and Hall 2015). The estimated number of days fished in the Spencer Gulf area (see Appendix C) by South Australian resident recreational fishers was about 465,000 in 2000/01, 283,000 in 2007/08 and 352,000 in 2013/14.

- Between 2000/01 and 2007/08, the estimated number of days fished by South Australian resident recreational fishers in recreational fishing regions overlapping the USGMP (see Appendix C) decreased by 44 per cent from about 83,700 days in 2000/01 to 46,700 days in 2007/08 (Jones 2009).
- Between 2000/01 and 2007/08, the estimated number of South Australian resident recreational fishers in recreational fishing regions overlapping the USGMP decreased by about 30 per cent from about 20,600 in 2000/01 to 14,500 in 2007/08 (Jones 2009).
- An economic report was produced in conjunction with the National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey, which estimated that total expenditure attributable to recreational fishing in South Australia in 2000/01 was \$148 million (Campbell and Murphy 2005).
- Regular (about annual) phone surveys of the general public since 2006 have been commissioned by DEWNR to gauge community use of the marine environment and marine parks in South Australia (e.g. Square Holes 2015). Between 46 and 69 per cent of the respondents fished recreationally at least once each year, and between 15 and 34 per cent fished monthly (Figure 20). Recreational fishing activity declined slightly after 2007 but has since been relatively stable (Figure 20). In 2015, 26 and 43 per cent of respondents from the Northern/Yorke Peninsula region (Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie, Port Broughton, Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta) fished at least once each month or each year, respectively.

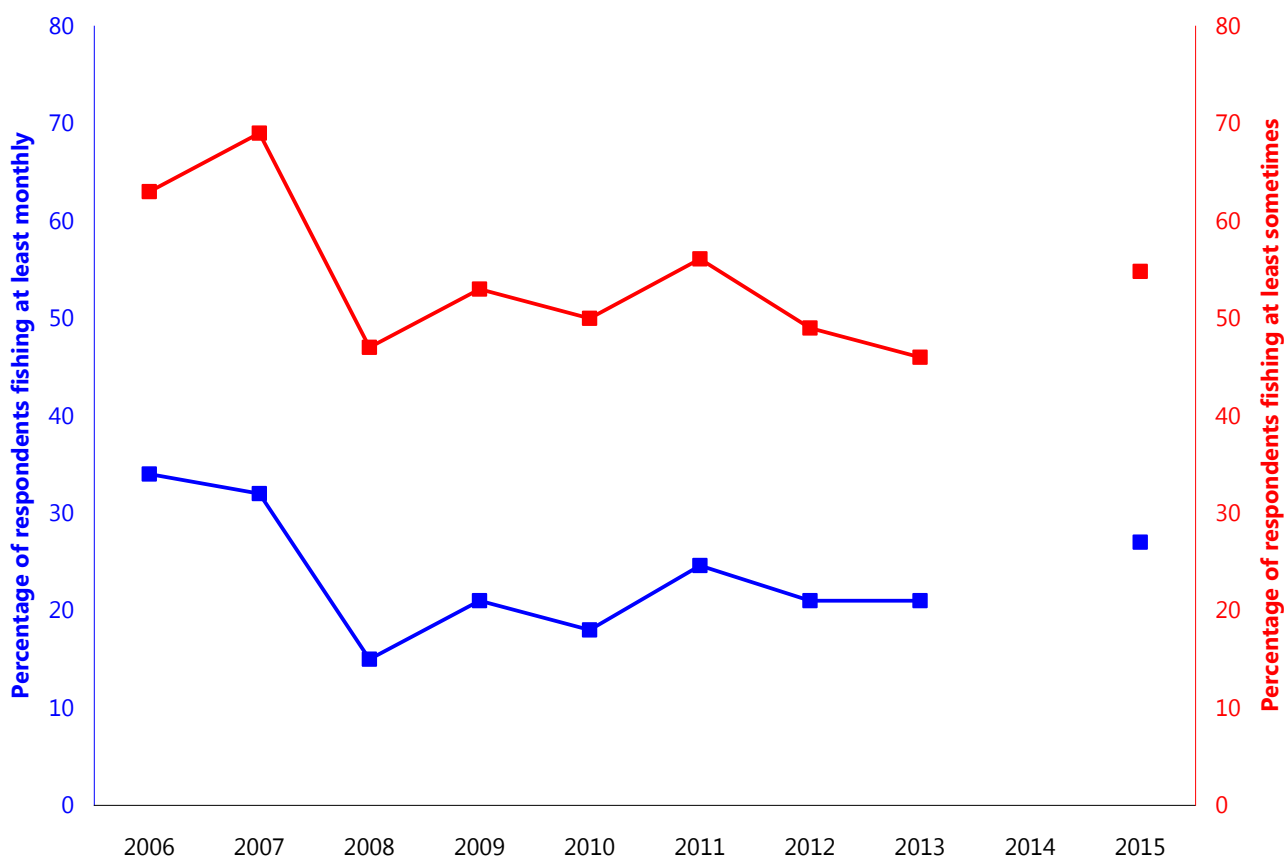


Figure 20. Percentage of statewide phone survey respondents who participate in recreational fishing. No data were available for 2014. Source: Square Holes (2015).

5.8 Commercial fishing

There are a number of commercial fisheries operating in the USGMP. Historical data are available on the volume and value of production from South Australian commercial fisheries between 1984/85 and 2010/11 (Knight and Tsolos 2012) and between 1990/91 and 2013/14 (EconSearch 2015b, c, d, e, f). A range of economic information is available, including gross value of production, costs, profit, return on investment, economic impact and exports (EconSearch 2015b, c, d, e, f). This section presents selected information to demonstrate the value and extent of commercial fisheries that operate in or near the marine park, while Section 8.2.1 (fishing as a pressure) provides detail on the catch that has historically been extracted from within or near the marine park, and the current status of each of the fisheries.

5.8.1 Rock Lobster Fishery

The Rock Lobster Fishery does not operate in the USGMP

5.8.2 Abalone Fishery

The Abalone Fishery does not operate in the USGMP

5.8.3 Prawn Fishery

The USGMP overlaps the North region (see Appendix C) of the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery, which targets western king prawn using an otter trawl. Fishing is conducted on subtidal sand habitat. There are currently 39 licences (Noell and Hooper 2015).



Baseline information on the prawn fishery relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The annual value of the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery was between \$25 and \$64 million between 1984/85 and 2013/14 (EconSearch 2015b, Figure 21).
- The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) collates monthly fishery logbook data for individual fishing blocks (see Appendix C) and provides summaries of catch, effort and catch rates each year in fishery assessment reports (Noell et al. 2014b, Noell and Hooper 2015). The North region accounted for about 29 per cent of the annual total catch in 2013/14 (Noell and Hooper 2015).

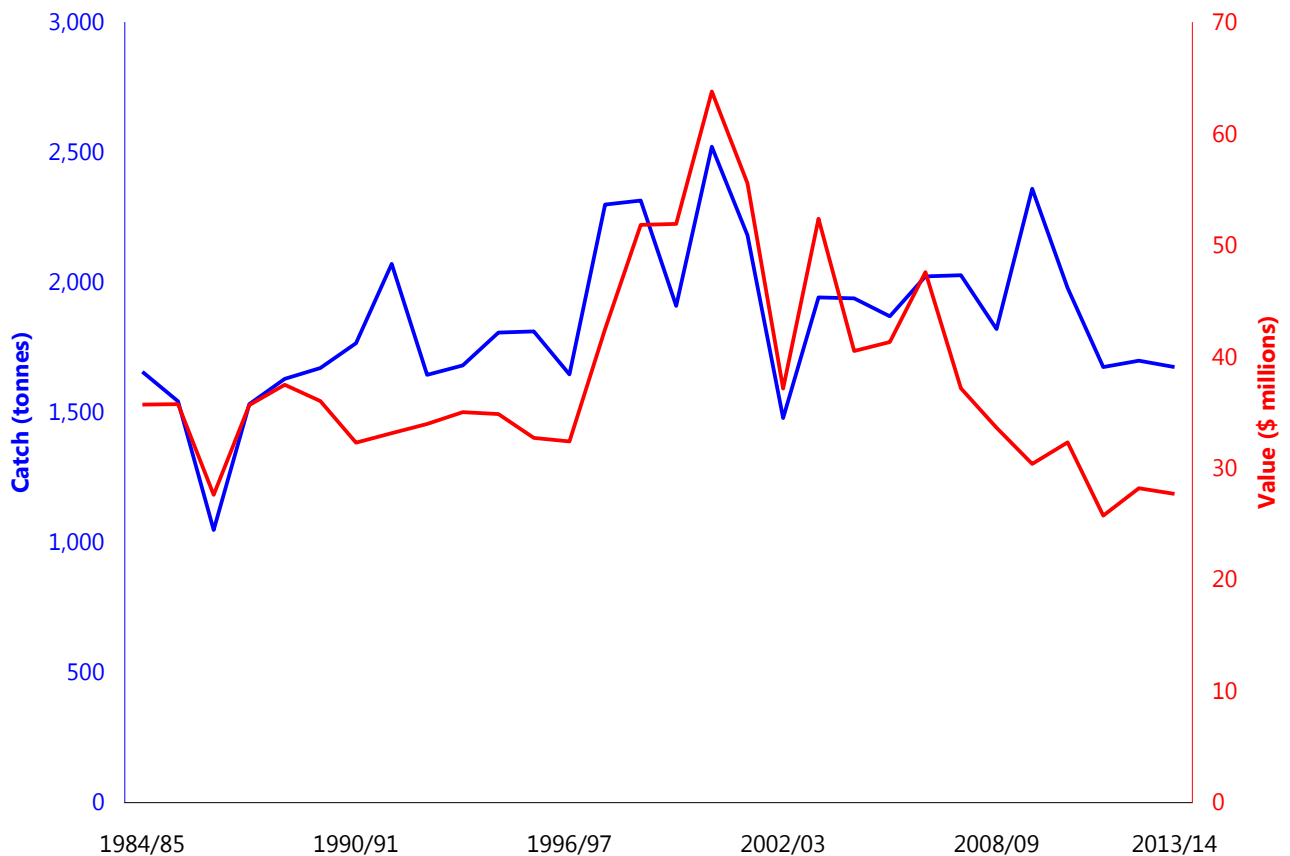
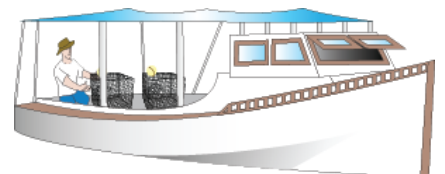


Figure 21. Catch and value of catch for the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery. Value of catch has been adjusted to real terms (2013/14 dollars) using the consumer price index for Adelaide. Source: EconSearch (2015b).

5.8.4 Blue Crab Fishery

The USGMP lies within the Spencer Gulf fishing zone of the South Australian Blue Crab Fishery. This fishery uses specifically designed pots to target blue swimmer crabs *Portunus armatus*, although other crab species may also be landed (Beckmann and Hooper 2015). Fishing is conducted on subtidal reef, seagrass and sand habitats. There are 5 Blue Crab Fishery licences for the Spencer Gulf sector which take about half of the statewide catch, and there are 3 Marine Scalefish Fishery licences with blue crab quota entitlements, which take only about 1 per cent of the statewide catch (Beckmann and Hooper 2015). Most of the commercial catch is sold at the Sydney and Melbourne fish markets.



Baseline information on the Blue Crab Fishery relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The annual statewide value of the Blue Crab Fishery was between \$3.2 and \$6.4 million between 1996/97 and 2012/13 (Knight and Tsolos 2012, EconSearch 2014c).
- The annual value of the Spencer Gulf zone of the Blue Crab Fishery was between \$1.0 and \$2.5 million between 1999/00 and 2013/14 (Knight and Tsolos 2012, EconSearch 2015c, Figure 22).
- The total annual catch of the Spencer Gulf zone of the Blue Crab Fishery was about 160 tonnes in 1999/00 and about 190 tonnes in 2013/14 (EconSearch 2014c, Figure 22).
- SARDI collates monthly fishery logbook data for individual fishing blocks (see Appendix C) and provides summaries of catch, effort and catch rates in fishery assessment reports (Noell et al. 2014a). The catch from fishing blocks 1 to 12 and 16 was more than 95 tonnes in 2012/13 (Noell et al. 2014a).

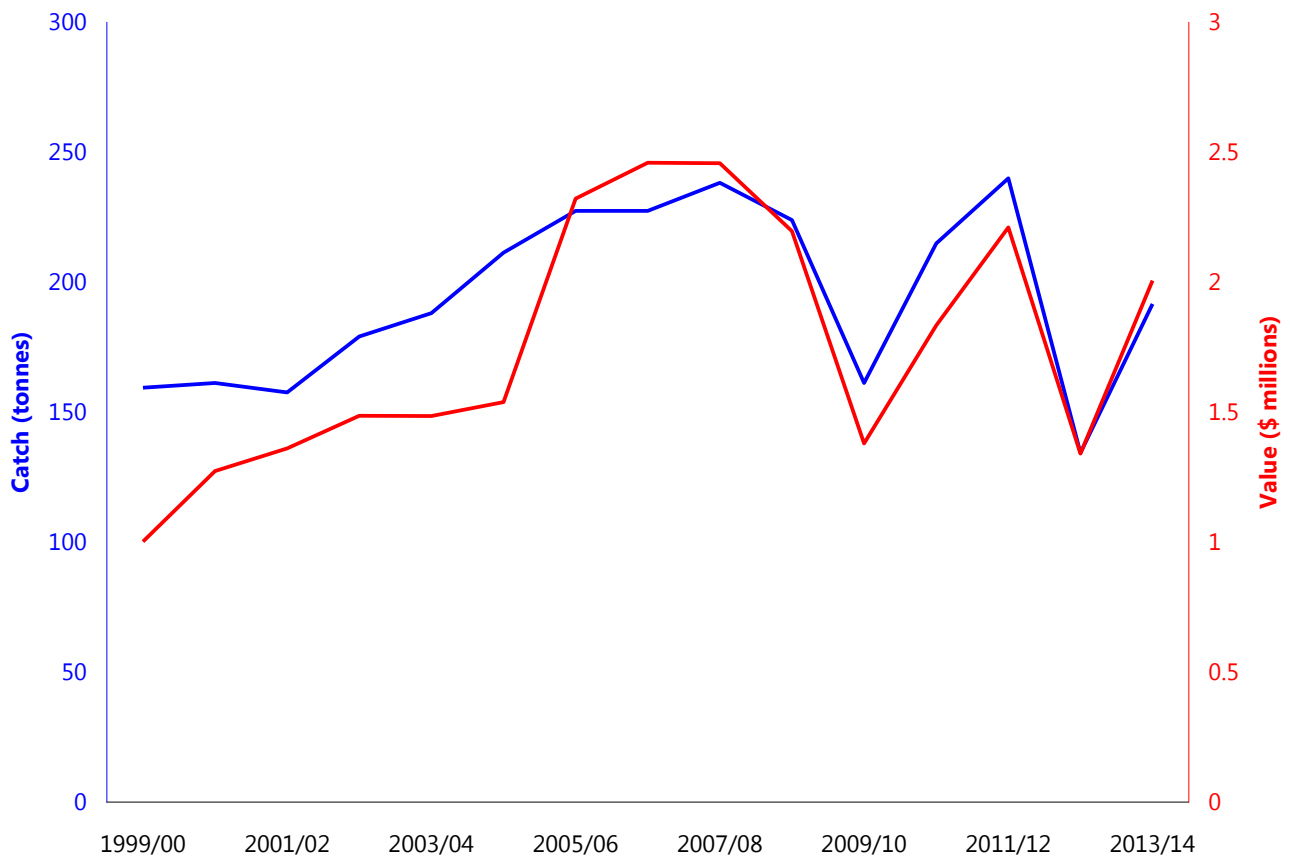


Figure 22. Catch and value of catch for the Spencer Gulf fishing zone of the Blue Crab Fishery. Value of catch has been adjusted to real terms (2013/14 dollars) using the consumer price index for Adelaide. Source: EconSearch (2015c).

5.8.5 Sardine Fishery

The Sardine Fishery does not operate in the USGMP.

5.8.6 Marine Scalefish Fishery

The Marine Scalefish Fishery is a statewide, multi-gear fishery that targets more than 50 species, of which the 4 most important are King George whiting, snapper, southern calamary and southern sea garfish (PIRSA 2013b). Fishing is conducted mainly on subtidal reef, seagrass and sand habitats. There are 309 Marine Scalefish and 12 Restricted Marine Scalefish Fishery licences (PIRSA 2015a). Most fishing effort is concentrated in Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent (Fowler et al. 2014b). Razorfish and mud cockles are also targeted by some Marine Scalefish licence holders.



Baseline information on the Marine Scalefish Fishery relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The annual statewide value of the Marine Scalefish Fishery was between \$21 and \$40 million between 1987/88 and 2013/14 (Knight and Tsohos 2012, EconSearch 2014d).
- The value of the Spencer Gulf/Coffin Bay region of the Marine Scalefish Fishery (see Appendix C) between 2003/04 and 2013/14 was between \$8.5 and \$15.3 million and was \$8.9 million in 2013/14 (EconSearch 2015e, Figure 23).

- SARDI collates monthly fishery logbook data for individual marine fishing areas (see Appendix C) and provides summaries of catch, effort and catch rates for the most important species every few years in fishery assessment reports (Steer et al. 2007, 2016b, Fowler et al. 2012, 2013a, b, 2014a, b). Catches of southern sea garfish in marine fishing area 21 were between 81 and 100 tonnes in 2011/12 and 2012/13 and between 61 and 80 tonnes in 2013/14 (Fowler et al. 2012, 2013b, 2014b).
- The total annual Marine Scalefish Fishery catch of the Spencer Gulf/Coffin Bay region was 1,000 tonnes in 2003/04 and about 350 tonnes in 2013/14 (EconSearch 2015e, Figure 23).

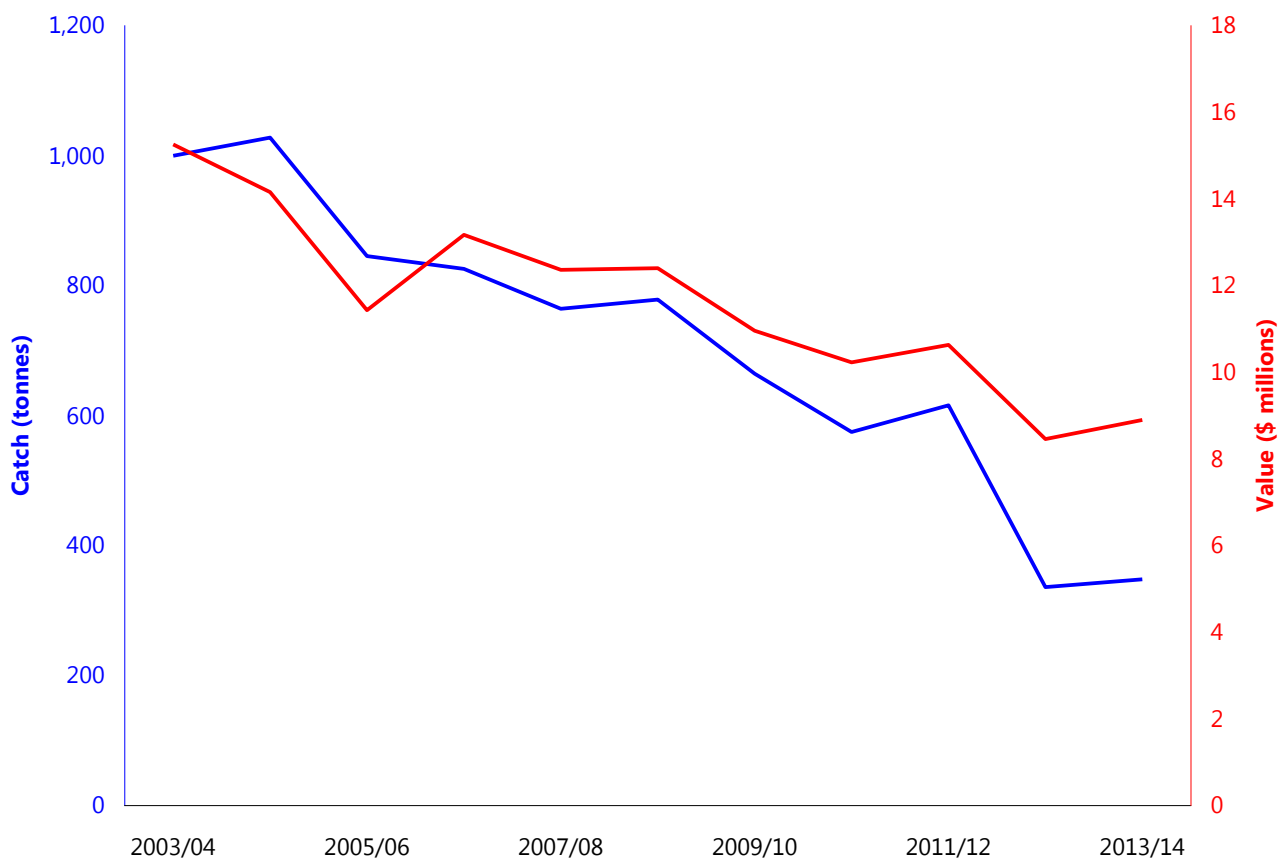
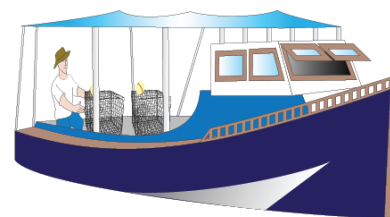


Figure 23. Catch and value of catch for the Spencer Gulf/Coffin Bay region of the Marine Scalefish Fishery. Value of catch has been adjusted to real terms (2013/14 dollars) using the consumer price index for Adelaide. Source: EconSearch (2014d) and earlier reports.

5.8.7 Charter Boat Fishery

The Charter Boat Fishery (Tsolos 2013) is a statewide multi-gear fishery that typically targets King George whiting, snapper, bight redfish and southern sea garfish. Fishing is conducted mainly on subtidal reef, seagrass and sand habitats. There are 109 licences (77 are active) and 148 registered vessels (80 are active) across the state. Between July 2009 and June 2012, 10 operators used Whyalla as their port of departure, and 1 operator used Port Pirie (Tsolos 2013).



Baseline information on the Charter Boat Fishery relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The total statewide revenue of the Charter Boat Fishery was between \$4.3 and \$5.7 million between 2006/07 and 2013/14, and was about \$4.3 million in 2013/14 (EconSearch 2015e, Figure 24).
- SARDI collated trip logbook data for individual marine fishing areas (see Appendix C) and provided summaries of retained catches in a fishery assessment report (Tsolos 2013). The catch in the Spencer Gulf/Coffin Bay region (see Appendix C) accounted for between 33 and 41 per cent of the statewide catch between 2009/10 and 2011/12 (Tsolos 2013). During this period, there was an increase in the overall number of fish harvested from about 49,000 to 63,300, a reduction in the proportion of snapper in the harvest from 35 to 22 per cent, and an increase in the proportion of King George whiting from 41 to 49 per cent (Tsolos 2013).

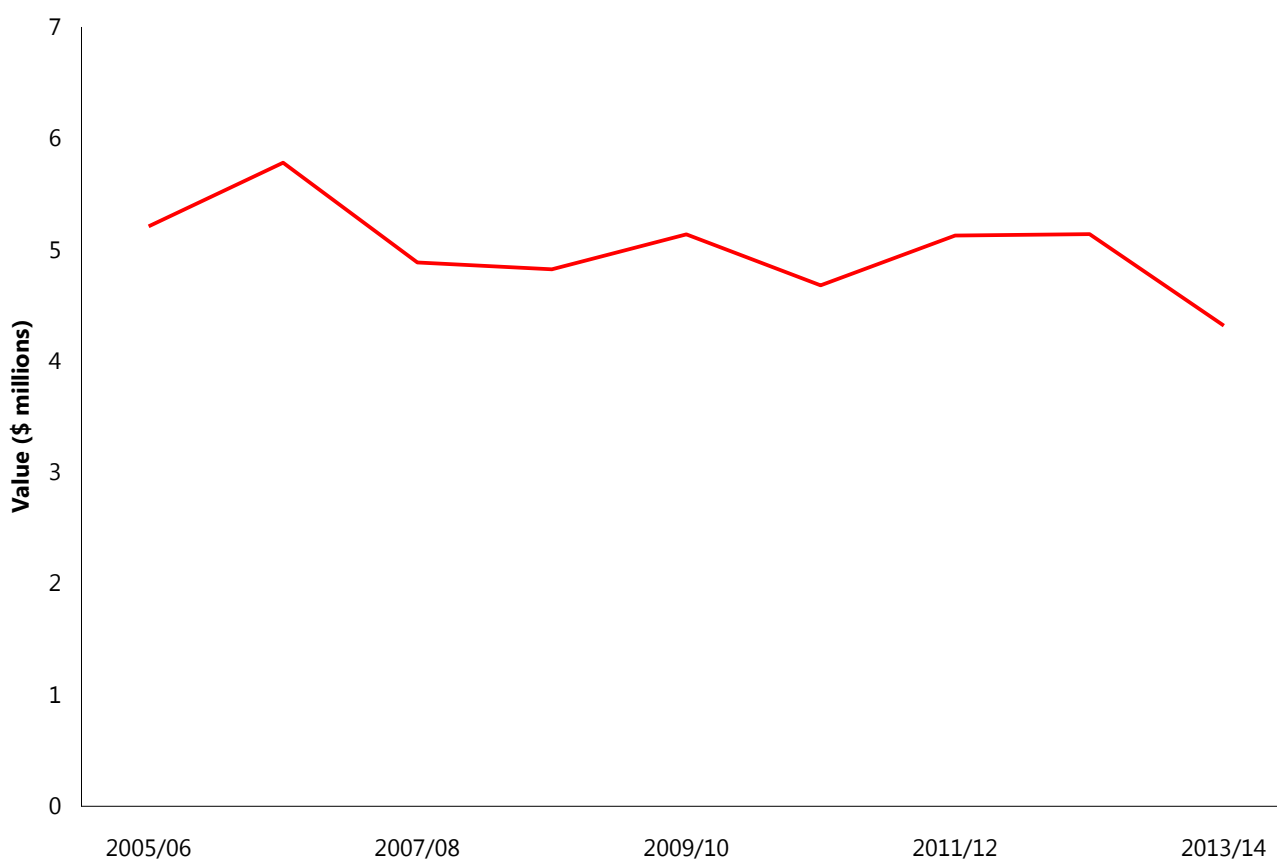


Figure 24. Total statewide revenue for the Charter Boat Fishery. Revenue has been adjusted to real terms (2013/14 dollars) using the consumer price index for Adelaide. Revenue was calculated from the total number of clients and an average price per person. Source: EconSearch (2014e).

5.8.8 Other South Australian managed fisheries

There are no other South Australian managed fisheries known to be operating in the USGMP.

5.8.9 Commonwealth Shark Fishery

The Commonwealth Shark Fishery does not operate in the USGMP.

5.8.10 Fish prices

The value of catch presented in the above sections reflects the beach price for each commercial fishery. Market prices for fish are also important because they highlight the economic benefit to businesses involved in the supply chain, and the availability of seafood to the South Australian community and for export to Sydney and Melbourne.

Baseline information on South Australian fish prices includes:

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics produces a quarterly update of the Consumer Price Index (ABS 2015f). One component of this index is the 'Fish and other seafood' index. The price of seafood in Adelaide has fluctuated seasonally but risen on an annual basis over the past 40 years. Prices rose by about 33 per cent between 2004 and 2014 (ABS 2015f, Figure 25). . The index includes prices of products imported from both interstate and overseas, therefore changes in the index may reflect a broad range of factors, not just impacts relating to local production activity.
- DEWNR has recorded the retail prices for the 4 main Marine Scalefish Fishery species and 2 additional species (silver whiting and snook) at 3 Adelaide retail outlets from June 2014 to the present (DEWNR unpublished data). The price data are expressed as an index of change relative to the price in June 2014. For example, the index varied between 77 and 133 across the 3 stores over the year for King George whiting (Figure 26).
- EconSearch (2015e, and previous reports) published data on average annual beach prices (incorporating interstate markets, where relevant) for 19 species, and average monthly beach prices for 8 species (based on prices paid by a single fish processor).

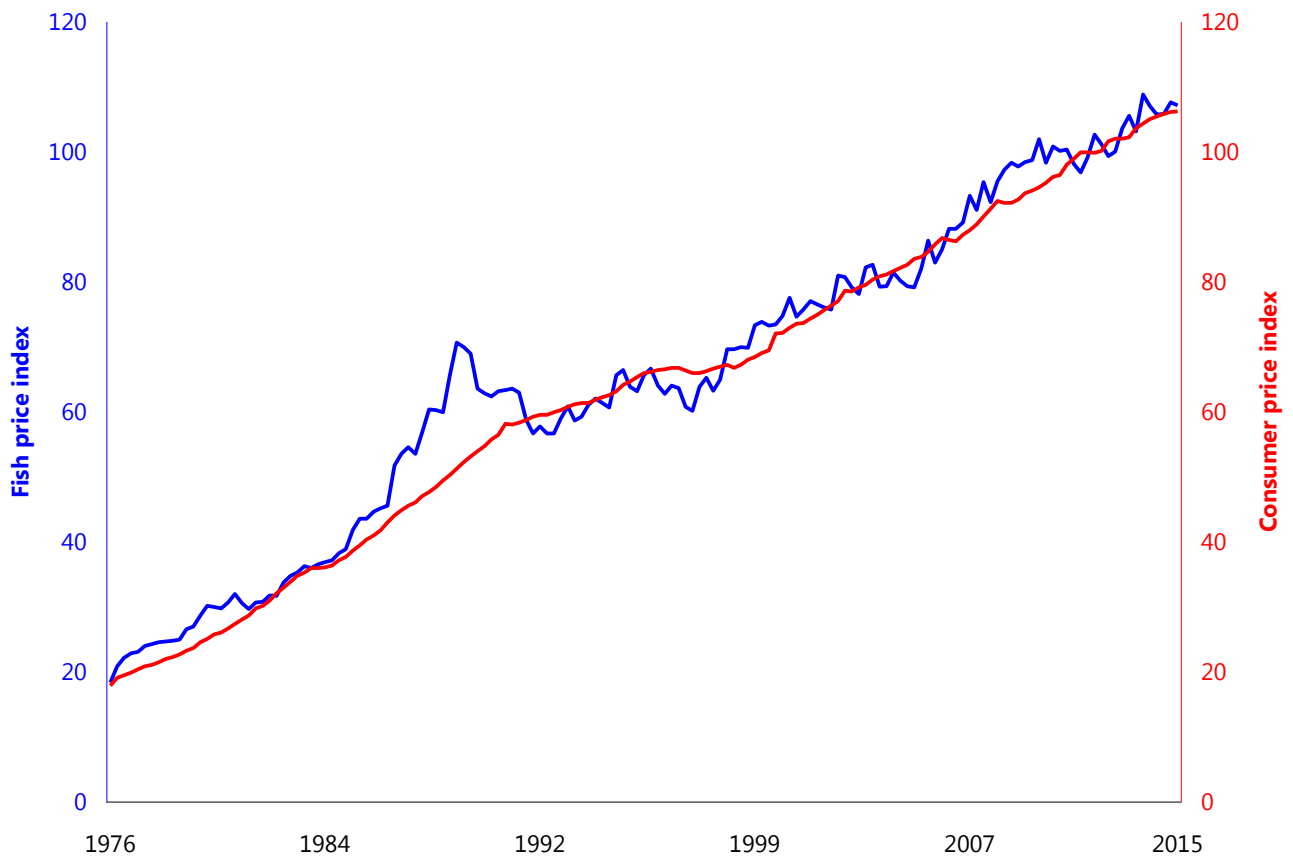


Figure 25. Fish and other seafood price index for Adelaide, compared with Consumer Price Index. Source: ABS (2015f).

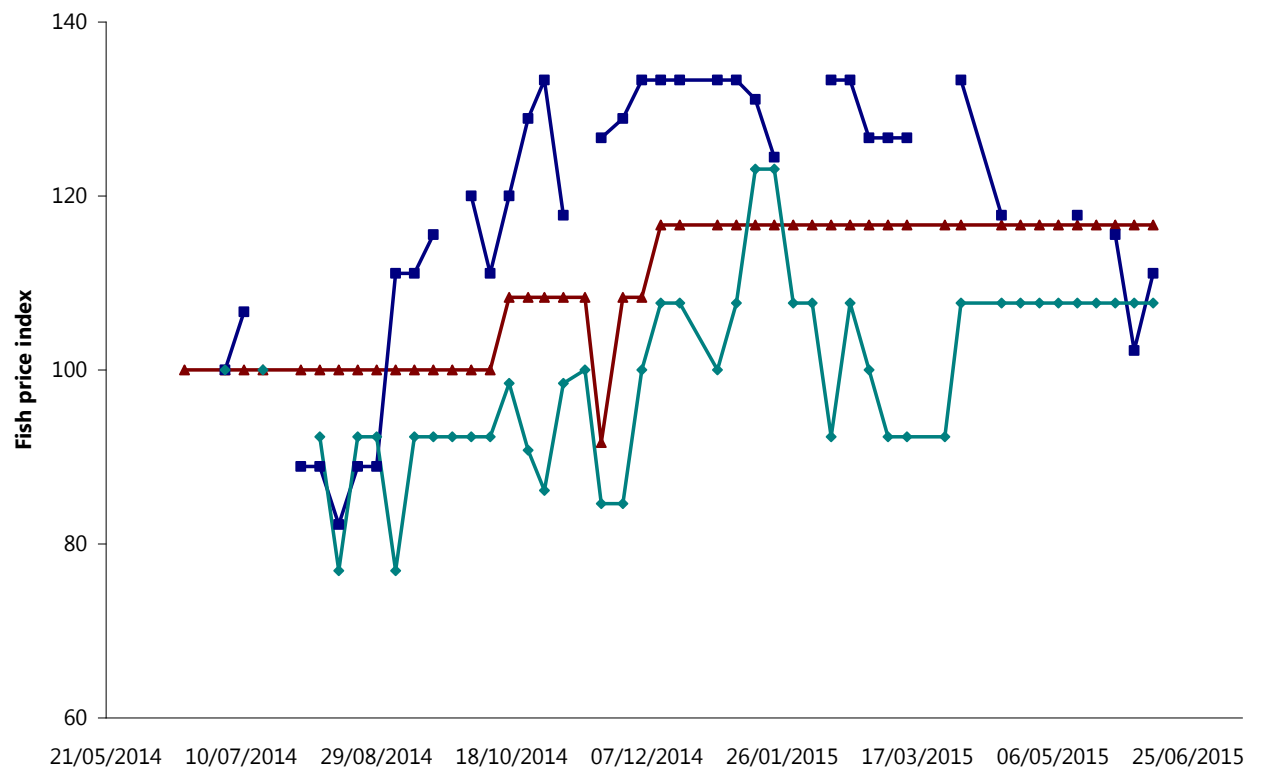


Figure 26. Changes in King George whiting prices at 3 Adelaide stores, with a different colour for each, between June 2014 and June 2015. Price is indexed to a value of 100 on 19 June 2014. Source: DEWNR unpublished data.

6 Physical drivers

To interpret monitoring data on ecological and socio-economic values in the marine parks MER program, it is necessary to include information on physical drivers. Physical drivers of change to ecological values include temporal variations in sea and air temperatures, salinity, upwellings, oceanic currents, waves and tides. These physical drivers can also influence socio-economic values of the USGMP, such as fisheries productivity (see below). Physical drivers may also be related to climate change, and other human-mediated pressure (Section 8.6). Other physical factors that shape ecosystems, but which do not drive temporal change, such as depth, bathymetry, topography and geology, are not considered here as the intent of each baseline report is to describe the key components of marine parks that should always be considered when monitoring for, and interpreting, change. More detailed consideration of other drivers is not precluded *a priori* from consideration and the MER framework provides for expansion beyond the minimum set of values and drivers listed here.

Data on physical oceanographic drivers are available through the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS), which is a collaboration of 8 institutions, including SARDI, led by the University of Tasmania (IMOS 2015). The IMOS marine monitoring infrastructure is designed to provide oceanographic information that is relevant at both ocean-basin and regional scales. In South Australia, most of the IMOS infrastructure is centred in the area to the south of Spencer Gulf and west of Kangaroo Island, an area with high primary and fisheries productivity.

6.1 Sea surface temperature

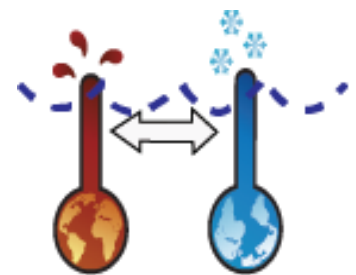
Sea surface temperatures within the USGMP range from 11–29 °C in (IMCRA Technical Group 1998).

Information on sea surface temperature will be required to interpret changes in ecological and socio-economic indicators. For example, inter-annual variations in the amplitude and timing of temperature changes within the USGMP may influence the following species:

- Australian herring growth rate increases with warmer temperature (Smith et al. 2013).
- Southern calamary growth, survival and hence recruitment increase with warmer temperatures (Steer et al. 2007).
- Giant Australian cuttlefish recruitment was higher during years with elevated water temperature during the previous year's incubation period (Steer et al. 2016a).
- King George whiting grow most rapidly in late summer and autumn, when temperatures are highest (Fowler et al. 2014a).
- Snapper growth rates vary with water temperature (Fowler et al. 2013a), with slower growth apparent when water temperature in summer is low (Fowler and Jennings 2003).
- Blue swimmer crab hatching, larval survival and hence recruitment increases with warmer temperatures (Bryars 1997).
- Western king prawn have longer larval periods and hence decreased survival with cooler temperatures (Carrick 2008, Beckmann et al. 2014).

Baseline information on sea surface temperature relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Seasonal temperature data was recorded at locations throughout the USGMP on 12 occasions between July 1982 and January 1985 (Nunes-Vaz 2010, 2012).



- Water temperature was recorded using moored instruments at Plank Shoal, Western Shoal and Ward Spit between 2005 and 2012, and at Black Point and Point Lowly since 2012 (Saunders 2009, Steer et al. 2016a).
- Water temperature was recorded using moored instruments at several locations near Point Lowly during summer of 2007/08 and in autumn 2009 (BMT WBM 2011).
- Geoscience Australia provides sea surface temperature data derived from the (United States Government) National Aeronautics and Space Administration's satellite-based Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer images and image processing software. The data cover the entire Australian EEZ and surrounding waters (including the Southern Ocean). The data comprise monthly summaries from between 2002 and 2012, at a spatial resolution of 0.01 degrees (Huang 2013).
- As part of the IMOS, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology produces high-resolution sea surface temperature data from Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer sensors on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellites and drifting buoy sea surface temperature observations (IMOS 2015).
- The Australian Baseline Sea Level Monitoring Project monitors sea level and meteorological data, including water temperature, at an array of stations, including Thevenard (Bureau of Meteorology 2015b, Figure 27).
- Temperature data recorded by surface drifters are available from the international Drifting Buoy Data Assembly Center (NOAA 2015a).
- The International Comprehensive Ocean Atmosphere Data Set consists of digital dataset DSI-1173, archived at the (United States Government) National Climatic Data Center. It is the world's largest collection of marine surface in situ observations, with a total of about 185 million records for years between 1784 and 2015 (NOAA 2015b).
- The Extended Reconstructed Sea Surface Temperature dataset is derived from the International Comprehensive Ocean–Atmosphere Data Set (NOAA 2015c, Huang et al. 2015). It is produced on a 2 degree by 2 degree grid and is available as monthly averages extending back to 1854 (NOAA 2015c).
- The COBE SST2 dataset is a global monthly sea surface temperature dataset derived from the International Comprehensive Ocean–Atmosphere Data Set (NOAA 2015d, Hirahara et al. 2014). It is produced on a 1 degree by 1 degree grid and is available as monthly averages extending back to 1854. It can be queried to obtain time series for a particular point and date range (NOAA 2015d).
- The Bureau of Meteorology (2015c) provides sea surface temperature anomaly data (departure from the average of 15.3 degrees between 1961 and 1990) for southern Australia. This dataset is based on an earlier version of the NOAA Extended Reconstructed Sea Surface Temperature (Smith and Reynolds 2004)

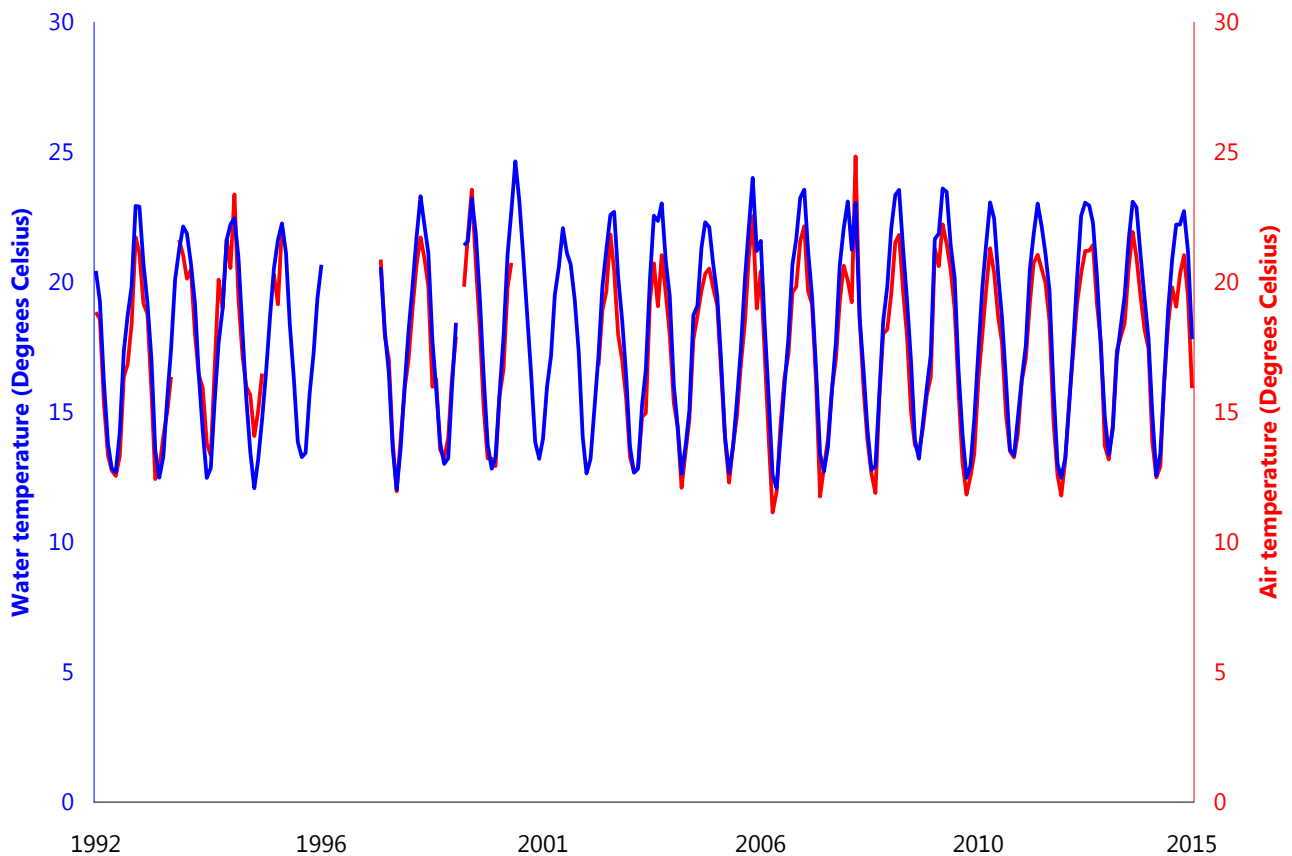
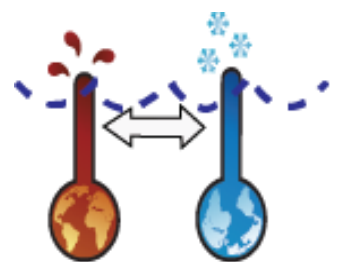


Figure 27. Air and water temperature at the Thevenard station of the Australian Baseline Sea Level Monitoring Project. Source: Bureau of Meteorology (2015b).

6.2 Air temperature

Information on air temperature may be required to interpret changes in ecological indicators because extreme temperatures can result in loss of biota, for example:

- High temperatures (in conjunction with low tides) caused seagrass loss in parts of Spencer Gulf (Seddon et al. 2000)
- Intertidal reef organisms are likely to be highly sensitive to increases in sea and air temperatures and increases in extreme temperature events (Bellgrove et al. 2013)
- Extreme heat can cause deaths in seabird chicks (Chambers et al. 2009).



Baseline information on air temperature relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The Bureau of Meteorology provides time series of South Australian temperatures from 1910 to the present, as anomalies from the 1961–90 average. Separate time series are available for maximum and minimum temperatures (Bureau of Meteorology 2015d).
- The Australian Baseline Sea Level Monitoring Project monitors sea level and meteorological data at an array of stations, including Thevenard (Bureau of Meteorology 2015b). Parameters measured include air temperature (Figure 27).

6.3 Salinity extremes

The USGMP lies at the head of an inverse estuary in which salinity increases with distance from the mouth of Spencer Gulf. Salinities vary seasonally and with distance from the top of the Gulf, ranging from 39 near Whyalla in spring to 48 near Port Augusta in autumn (Nunes and Lennon 1986).



Information on salinity will be required to interpret changes in ecological and socio-economic indicators. For example, inter-annual variations in salinity could influence the growth, reproduction and survival of a number of species (BHP Billiton 2009).

Baseline information on salinity relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Salinity was recorded using moored instruments at several locations near Point Lowly during summer 2007/08 and autumn 2009 (BMT WBM 2011).
- Seasonal salinity data was recorded at locations throughout the USGMP on 12 occasions between July 1982 and January 1985, and in August 2008 and March 2009 (Nunes-Vaz 2010, 2012).
- Nunes-Vaz (2010, 2012) found that the mean salinity of northern Spencer Gulf (north of Point Lowly) depended on the cumulative evaporation from the previous 6 months and reconstructed historical salinities from evaporation measurements.
- The Hybrid Coordinate Ocean Model (HYCOM) is an operational global ocean model which assimilates data from satellites and the Argo global array of 3,000 free-drifting profiling floats that measures the temperature and salinity of the upper 2,000 m of the ocean (HYCOM Consortium 2015).

6.4 Upwellings

Upwellings do not influence the USGMP.

6.5 Oceanic currents

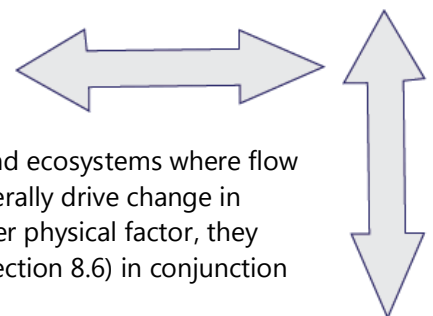
Oceanic currents do not influence the USGMP.

6.6 Waves

Variation in wave energy does not drive change in the USGMP.

6.7 Tides and tidal currents

The Northern Spencer Gulf Bioregion is classified as having a micro to mesotidal tidal range (between 1.8 and 3.6 metres or less, IMCRA Technical Group 1998). Inundation by regular tidal movement is critical to the maintenance of saltmarsh, mangrove and intertidal seagrass/sand ecosystems. Longshore tidal currents can also shape the biota of reef and sand ecosystems where flow is accentuated by topography. Tidal patterns are predictable and do not generally drive change in ecological values, but if extreme tidal events occur in conjunction with another physical factor, they can cause a major perturbation to an ecosystem. In addition, sea level rise (Section 8.6) in conjunction with tidal movements may cause major changes to intertidal ecosystems.



Information on tides will be required to interpret changes in ecological and socio-economic indicators. For example, low tides combined with extremely hot air temperatures and strong northerly winds were linked to large-scale seagrass diebacks in Spencer Gulf (Seddon et al. 2000), and it is possible that extreme weather and tidal conditions caused a mass mortality of mud cockles in Streaky Bay in 2013 (Dent et al. 2014).

Baseline information on tides relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Water levels were recorded using moored instruments at several locations near Point Lowly during summer 2007/08 and autumn 2009 (BMT WBM 2011).
- The Australian Baseline Sea Level Monitoring Project records sea level each hour at an array of stations, including Thevenard (Bureau of Meteorology 2015b).

7 Socio-economic drivers

To interpret monitoring data on socio-economic values in the marine parks MER program, it will be necessary to include information on socio-economic drivers that can drive changes independent of the marine park management plan. A number of socio-economic drivers for the commercial fishing industry have been identified through risk and economic assessments (PIRSA 2009, 2010, 2011a, b, 2014a, Econsearch 2015b, c, d, e, f). Drivers include fuel prices, market forces (e.g. exchange rates, demand and product value), market access (e.g. trade agreements, marketing strategies and trade routes), interest rates on loans, and labour force (e.g. availability, cost). Many of these drivers were assessed as a high risk to the viability of commercial fisheries and must therefore be accounted for when assessing potential impacts of marine parks on commercial fisheries. The implementation of new fisheries management arrangements (outside of marine park management arrangements) can also impact commercial and recreational fisheries, with subsequent flow-on effects to other socio-economic values such as local businesses and tourism.

For local businesses and communities, external socio-economic drivers have been identified through risk assessments and socio-economic evaluation (Gardner et al. 2006). Drivers include, economic growth (demand for local produce, agricultural/mineral), exchange rate (value of Australian dollar impacting the cost of international travel, imported and exported goods), population dynamics (local migration of youth to or from rural areas), labour market constraints (availability of skilled or unskilled labour), resource constraints (public and private investment in business and infrastructure), interest rates, and government policies (infrastructure development, environmental policy restricting development) (Gardner et al. 2006). The expenditure associated with tourism can contribute to national and regional economies, and plays an important role in many local businesses and communities.

In Australia, tourism made a direct contribution to the economy of \$43 billion total gross domestic product in 2013 (ABS 2015g). Tourism accounted for 4.7 per cent of total employment in 2012/13. Tourist spending contributes to a variety of sectors and is therefore subject to a number of socio-economic drivers such as interest rates on loans (e.g. for accommodation), fuel prices (e.g. to access remote locations and for long distance transport), and market forces (e.g. exchange rates, demand, product value, food prices).

This section presents baseline information on socio-economic drivers that may be relevant to the marine parks MER program. Some of these drivers have indicators that can be quantitatively tracked, but other drivers are qualitative. Information on socio-economic values is available at a range of spatial scales, with information documented in the following sections starting from a statewide scale to the smallest available local scale. In many cases information is available only at a spatial scale that is larger than or doesn't align well with the marine park, but is nonetheless documented as it may be relevant to the marine park.

7.1 Interest rates

Interest payments are relevant to marine-based local businesses that have loans on capital expenditures. For example, commercial fishing businesses may borrow money to finance the purchase of fishing licences, quota, vessels, gear and equipment (EconSearch 2015f).

Baseline information on interest rates includes:

- The Reserve Bank of Australia (2016a) provides a monthly cash rate target (Figure 28). Between 2008 and 2015, interest rates changed 25 times with 7 increases and 18 decreases, with an overall decrease from 7 per cent to 2 per cent. The Reserve Bank also provides data on the lending rate for small business (EconSearch 2015f).

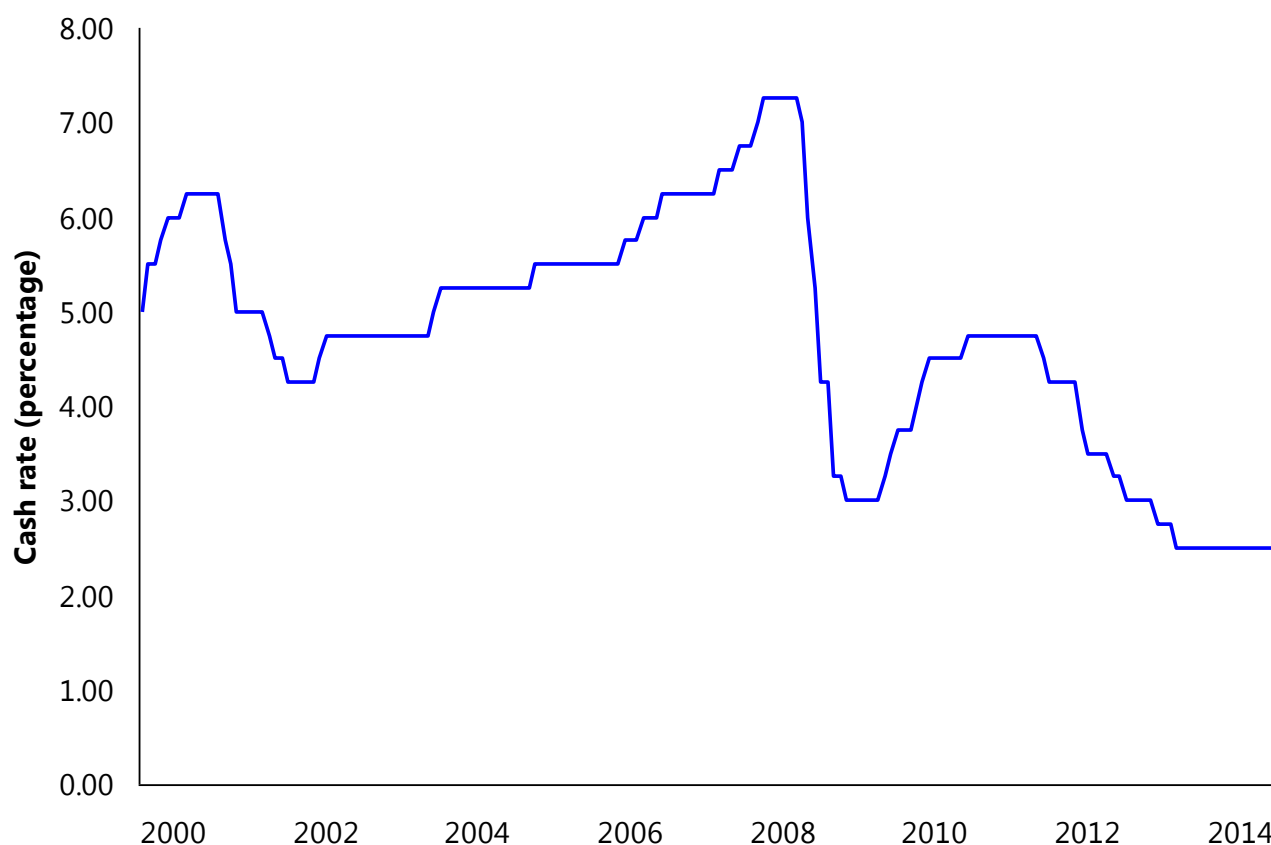


Figure 28. The Australian Target Cash Rate. Source: Reserve Bank of Australia (2016a).

7.2 Commodity prices

Commodity prices are likely to have a significant impact on regional areas given the importance of agricultural and mining production to regional communities.

Baseline information on commodity prices includes:

- The Reserve Bank of Australia (2016b) provides an overall commodity price index as well as indices for rural and non-rural commodities. The commodity price index increased from about 45 in 1998 to a peak of 140 in 2008 and was 85 at the end of 2014 (Figure 29).



Figure 29. Monthly Commodity Price Index. Source: Reserve Bank of Australia (2016b).

7.3 Fuel prices

Fuel is a significant cost for a number of marine-based local businesses, including commercial fisheries, and its price influences their profitability (EconSearch 2015f).

Baseline information on fuel prices includes:

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics produces a quarterly update of the Consumer Price Index (ABS 2015f). One component of this index is the transport index, which provides a good proxy for the cost of fuel. The average cost of transport (largely determined by fuel) increased by 43 per cent between 1998/99 and 2013/14 (EconSearch 2015f).
- Calendar and financial year average retail data for petrol and diesel are available from the Australian Institute of Petroleum (2015). Between 2004 and 2014, unleaded fuel prices increased from about 80 cents to \$1.40 (Figure 30), and diesel prices varied between \$1.20 and \$1.60.
- The Australian Automobile Association (2016) publishes a time series of average monthly prices since 1998 for select regional centres including Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Victor Harbor and Mount Gambier.

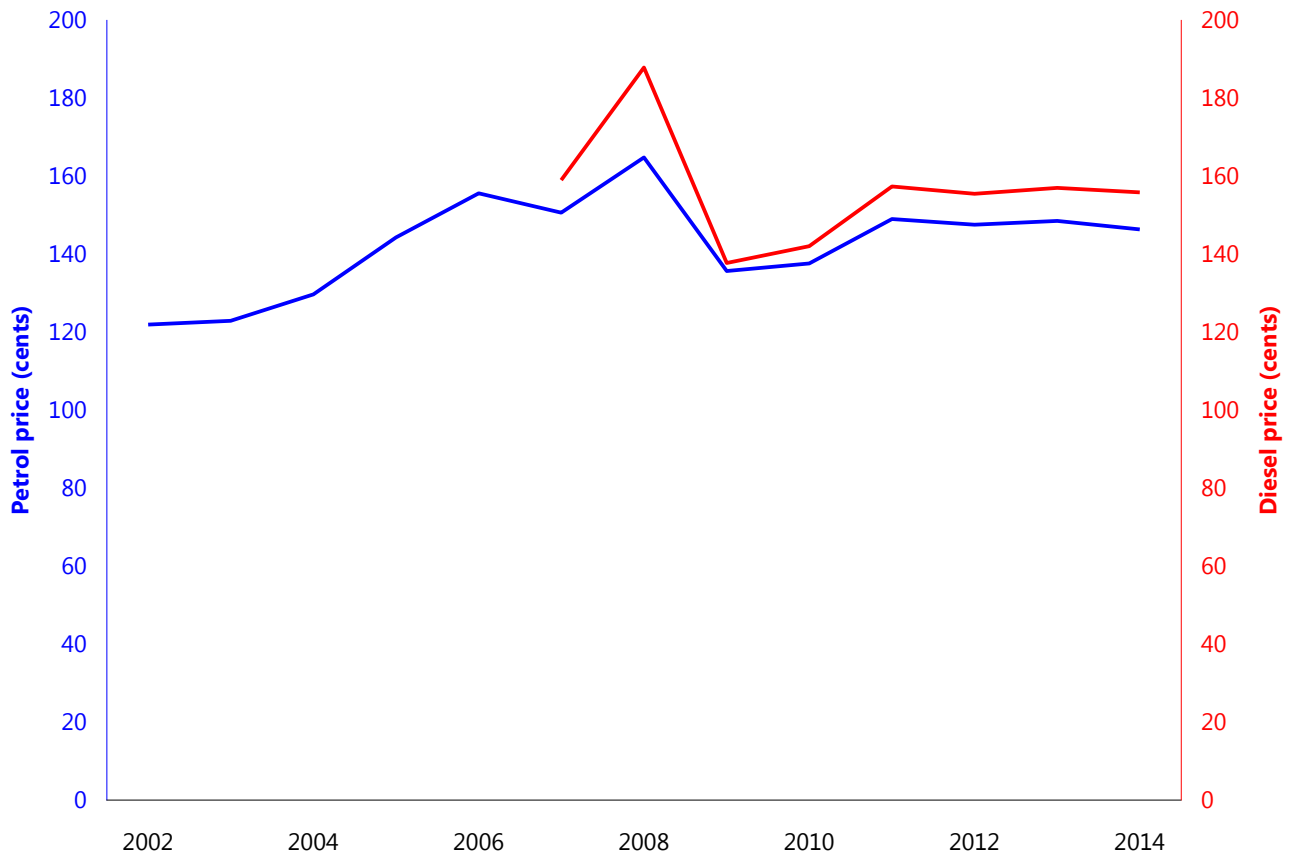


Figure 30. Statewide average retail price (including GST) for diesel and unleaded petrol. Source: Australian Institute of Petroleum (2015).

7.4 Labour force

Wages are a significant cost for most marine-based businesses, including commercial fisheries (EconSearch 2015f). In order to attract employees to the industry, the wages need to be competitive with industries such as mining.

Baseline information on wages includes:

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics produces a quarterly update of the wage price index (ABS 2015h, Figure 31). The wage price index increased from about 70 in 1998/99 to about 120 in 2013/14 (EconSearch 2015f).
- Employment and unemployment data (see Section 5.1.2)

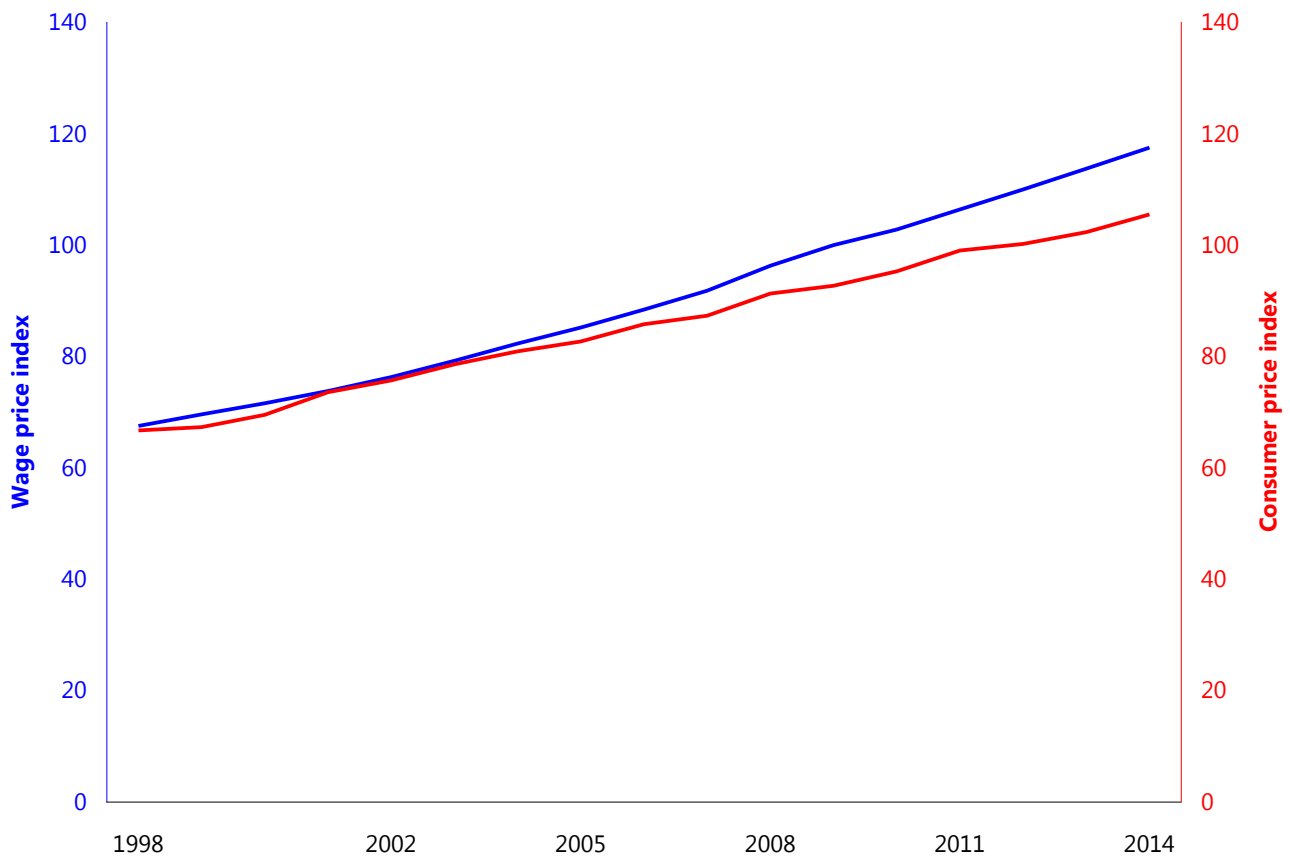


Figure 31. Wage Price Index (June quarter) compared with Consumer Price Index. Source: ABS (2015f, h).

7.5 Exchange rates

The price received for exported catch, the price for competing with imported products and the cost of purchasing imported inputs are influenced by the value of the Australian dollar relative to the currency of trading partners (EconSearch 2015f). An appreciation of the Australian dollar impacts export orientated fisheries, such as the Abalone, Rock Lobster and Prawn Fisheries by affecting price received, and in the latter case, by reducing the price of competing imported aquaculture products. Conversely, appreciation of the Australian dollar may reduce costs associated with imported goods used for fishing activity, e.g. boat engines and equipment (EconSearch 2015f).

Exchange rates impact expenditure and visitation by international and domestic tourism, but the influence on visitation is moderate compared with other factors (e.g. overall economic growth of the country of origin). Exchange rates impact the number of Australians who travel overseas (Tourism Australia, undated b).

Baseline information on exchange rates includes:

- The Reserve Bank of Australia (2015) provides monthly updates of exchange rates with 13 currencies. Between 2003 and 2015, the Australian dollar to US dollar exchange rate ratio varied between 0.6 and 1.1, and was about 0.8 in April 2015 (Reserve Bank of Australia 2015, Figure 32). The Reserve Bank also calculate a Trade-weighted Index which measures the average value of the Australian dollar against the currencies of Australia's trading partners (Figure 32, Reserve Bank of Australia 2015).

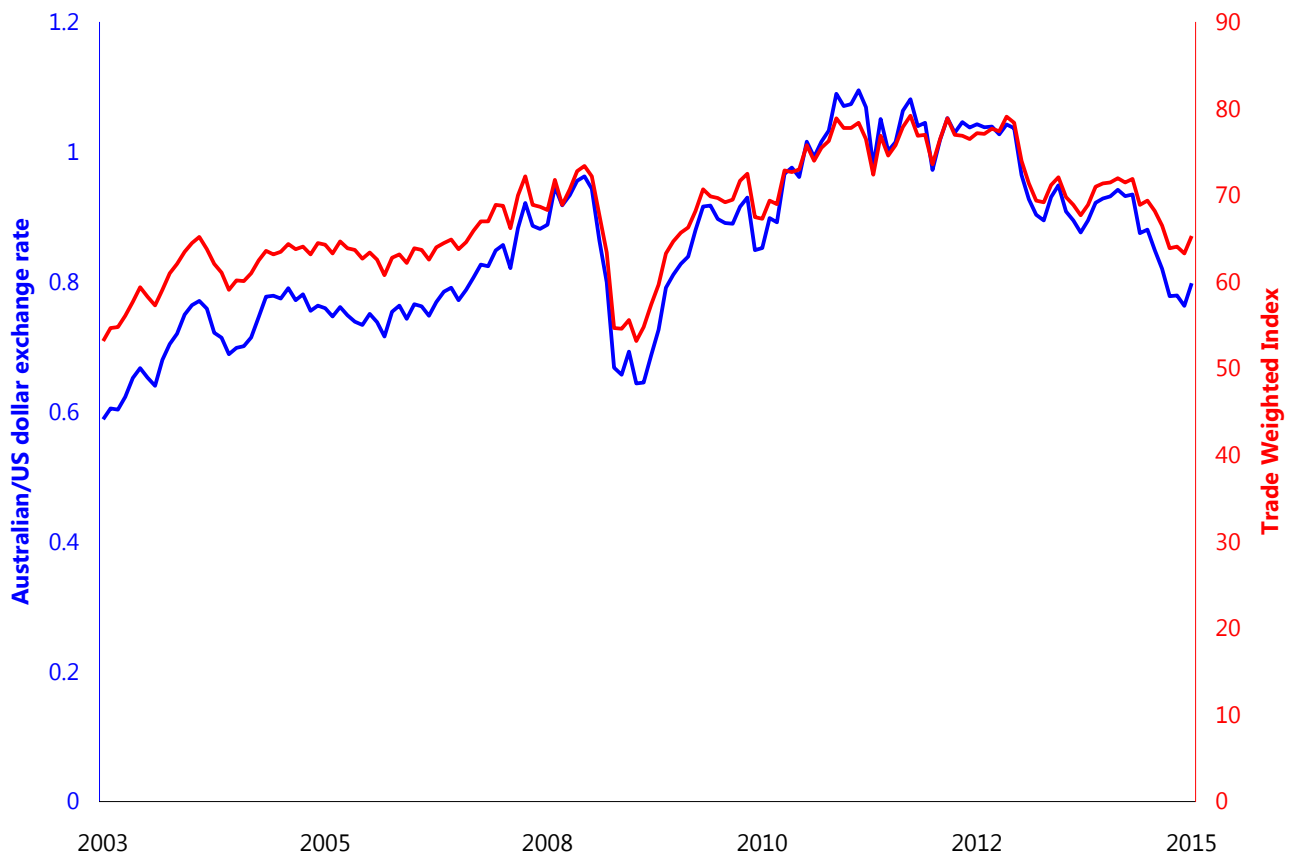


Figure 32. Australian dollar to US dollar exchange rate ratio and Trade-weighted Index. Source: Reserve Bank of Australia (2015).

7.6 Visitation rates

Visitation rates can influence some local businesses. For example, visiting commercial abalone fishers spend money on local accommodation, fuel and food, and local caravan parks are largely reliant on tourists visiting the region.

Baseline information on visitation rates relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Tourism Research Australia provides regional profiles of international and domestic tourism (Tourism Research Australia 2015). Total number of visitors to the Eyre tourism region (between Whyalla and the Western Australian border, see Appendix C) in 2013/14 was 703,000. The total number of visitors to the Yorke Peninsula tourism region (see Appendix C) in 2013/14 was 981,000, excluding international visitors. Data are available for previous years, but are not compatible with 2013/14 due to a change in methods (Tourism Research Australia 2015).
- PIRSA collates catch disposal records that document daily port of landings for the Abalone and Rock Lobster Fisheries. These data could be used to track visitation by abalone and rock lobster fishers to the USGMP.

7.7 Market demand

Market demand can influence businesses such as tourism, aquaculture and commercial fishing. These drivers are qualitative and difficult to monitor, but examples of market demand that are of relevance to the USGMP include:

- Prices for local seafood such as King George whiting and garfish are influenced by seasonal availability (see Section 5.8.10).

7.8 Major developments

Major industry developments in regional areas can impact socio-economic values of regional coastal townships (e.g. Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula 2014). New mining operations can inflate property and rental prices and closures of large businesses can increase unemployment or decrease the population by emigration from a town. For example, the closure of a power plant at Port Augusta, the closure of the Raptis fish processing facility at Ceduna and the establishment of a helicopter base at Ceduna may impact those regional centres. Major developments can provide contextual information for assessing regional impacts of marine parks on socio-economic values.

7.9 Government regulation

Changes to government regulations (other than those related to marine parks) can impact on marine-related industries such as commercial fishing, aquaculture and tourism. Examples of relatively recent changes in government regulation relevant to the USGMP include:

- The introduction in 2012 of possession limits for recreational fishers (PIRSA 2011c), which were designed to prevent visiting recreational fishers from stock-piling large amounts of fish. This change may affect the visitation rates of recreational fishers.

8 Pressures

To enable predictions of change due to the marine park management plan (Section 9), an understanding of pressures on the ecological values of the USGMP is required. In addition, to interpret monitoring data on ecological and socio-economic values in the marine parks MER program, it will be necessary to include information on pressures. This section summarises human-mediated pressures on the ecological values of the marine park under the following categories: coastal pollution, resource extraction, habitat modification, disturbance of animals, pest species and climate change.

The categories are based on the pressure rather than on the activity, and as such some activities may relate to more than one category. In addition, these pressures may apply to one or more of the ecological values identified in Section 4. Resource extraction relates to living resources and includes fishing methods that are non-destructive to habitats, and aquaculture that involves filter-feeding organisms. Coastal pollution includes activities that result in discharge or accidental spillage of wastes into the marine environment such as shipping, offshore mining, stormwater drains, wastewater outfalls and finfish aquaculture. Habitat modification includes activities that damage benthic habitats, such as prawn trawling and coastal developments. Disturbance of animals includes activities such as shipping and motorised water sports. Pest species include a range of marine and land species. Climate change includes predicted changes to the physical drivers of the system (Section 6).

This section presents baseline information on pressures that may be relevant to the marine parks MER program. Some of these pressures have indicators that can be quantitatively tracked, but other pressures are qualitative.

8.1 Coastal pollution

Across many parts of South Australia, seagrass and reef ecosystems are threatened by declining water quality due to increases in nutrients, pollutants, sediment loads and turbidity associated with freshwater inputs from stormwater, treated sewage, seepage and agricultural runoff or industrial discharges or aquaculture (Walker and McComb 1992, Gorgula and Connell 2004, Tanner 2005, Ralph et al. 2006, Fox et al. 2007, Turner et al. 2007, Collings et al. 2008, Connell et al. 2008, Bryars and Rowling 2009, Gorman et al. 2009). Shipping and offshore mining represent a potential threat to coastal habitats due to ship discharge and accidental petrochemical spills such as the *Era* incident off Port Bonython in Upper Spencer Gulf in 1992 (AMSA 2005).

Coastal pollution entering the USGMP is relatively high because of the level of urban and industrial development along the coastline and the number of industrial discharges (Bailey et al. 2012, Caton et al. 2011b, Gaylard 2014).

Baseline information on coastal pollution relevant to the USGMP includes:

- The *Australian Water Resources 2005 Report* provides estimates of freshwater runoff for drainage divisions in Australia. Freshwater runoff in the vicinity of the USGMP was 760 gigalitres (National Water Commission 2007).
- Human population size could be used as a proxy for stormwater (see Section 5.1.1 for indicator of human population).
- PIRSA Aquaculture collates information on aquaculture zoning, and the number and type of active lease types. There are 10 active finfish aquaculture leases and one land-based aquaculture lease with discharge to the sea in the USGMP.
- Nutrient discharges from the Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie wastewater treatment plants and Whyalla steelworks are available from the National Pollutant Inventory (Department of the Environment 2016). Metal discharges from the smelter at Port Pirie, steel manufacturing at Whyalla and power stations at Port Augusta are also available from the National Pollutant Inventory.

- Several studies have been conducted on heavy metal levels in sediments and indicator organisms (razorfish, seagrass, and infauna) in the USGMP, particularly in the vicinity of Port Pirie (Ward and Young 1981, Ward 1987, Ward and Hutchings 1996, Corbin and Wade 2004, COOE 2008).
- Shellfish contamination has been surveyed since 1994 by the South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program at mollusc aquaculture sites (Biosecurity SA undated), including Fitzgerald Bay.
- The Environment Protection Authority surveyed water quality at 37 sites (3 inside the Cuttlefish Coast SZ) during autumn and spring 2012 (Gaylard et al. 2013, EPA unpublished data).
- Water quality data have been collected for a number of projects associated with the giant Australian cuttlefish (Dupavillon and Gillanders 2009, Steer et al. 2013, 2016a).
- Several published studies indicate that water quality parameters such as turbidity (sediment loads) and chlorophyll concentrations of nearshore waters can be monitored using remotely sensed data from Landsat and/or the NASA MODIS-Aqua sensor (Ritchie et al. 2003).

8.2 Resource extraction

8.2.1 Fishing

Four commercial fisheries operate within the marine park, as well as recreational fishing (Section 5). The Rock Lobster, Abalone, Sardine and Commonwealth Shark Fisheries do not operate within the USGMP. Commercial and recreational fisheries in South Australia are managed under a framework of Ecologically Sustainable Development. A range of management controls (e.g. quota, size limits) are used to manage fisheries. PIRSA has adopted the nationally endorsed classification scheme to assess fish stocks as stocks as one of the following (Flood et al. 2014):

- *sustainable*: future levels of recruitment are adequate to maintain the stock
- *overfished*: recruitment levels are significantly reduced
- *transitional-recovering*: the stock is overfished, but management measures are in place to promote stock recovery, and recovery is occurring
- *transitional-depleting*: the stock is not yet overfished, but fishing pressure is too high and moving the stock in the direction of becoming overfished
- *environmentally limited*: recruitment levels are significantly reduced due to substantial environmental changes and management has responded appropriately to the environmental change in productivity
- *undefined*: insufficient information exists to determine stock status.

Even under an Ecologically Sustainable Development framework, fishing can have a number of negative impacts on ecological values (Marine Biodiversity Decline Working Group 2008). Illegal fishing also occurs in some areas of the state (Stobart et al. 2014). Baseline information on fishing pressure such as catch and catch rates is available for each of the commercial fisheries based on data from fishers' logbooks (Section 5.8). A brief summary of the most recent published fisheries information is presented below, however, in some cases the 2014 information had not been published at the time of writing. The emphasis of Section 8.2.1 is to provide some indication of the level of pressure due to fisheries extraction; it is not intended to provide commentary on the sustainability of the fisheries.

Commercial Prawn Fishery

The Prawn Fishery applies pressure on sand biodiversity and ecosystems through the removal of western king prawn and various bycatch species. Baseline information at a range of scales is available on prawn catch:

- Annual catches for the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery historically ranged between 1,000 and 2,500 tonnes (Figure 21). The lowest catch in ten years was recorded in 2011/12 at 1,675 tonnes and was similar in 2012/13 and 2013/14 (Noell and Hooper 2015). The catch rate in 2013/14 was the lowest in 10 years (Noell and Hooper 2015).
- The USGMP overlaps the North region (see Appendix C), for which annual catches increased from 40 tonnes in 2009/10 to 491 tonnes in 2013/14 (Noell et al. 2014b, Noell and Hooper 2015).

The Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery is currently classified as *sustainable* (Noell and Hooper 2015).

Commercial Blue Crab Fishery

The Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery applies direct pressure on sand biodiversity and ecosystems through the removal of blue swimmer crabs. Baseline information at a range of scales is available on blue swimmer crab catch:

- Statewide annual catches of blue swimmer crabs ranged between 464 and 629 tonnes between 1996/97 (when a quota management system was introduced) and 2013/14 (Beckmann and Hooper 2015).
- Annual catches within the Spencer Gulf sector of the Blue Crab Fishery since 2003/04 have consistently been close to the total allowable commercial catch for this sector (381.7 tonnes, Noell et al 2014a). In 2013/14, catch was about 380 tonnes (Beckmann and Hooper 2015).
- Annual catches in 2012/13 within crab fishing blocks that overlap the USGMP (see Appendix C) were less than 5 tonnes in block 4, between 5 and 10 tonnes in block 1, between 10 and 20 tonnes in block 11 and more than 20 tonnes in blocks 2, 3, 7 and 12 (Noell et al. 2014a).

The Spencer Gulf zone of the Blue Crab Fishery is classified as *sustainable* (Beckmann and Hooper 2015).

Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery

The Marine Scalefish Fishery applies pressure on reef, seagrass and sand biodiversity and ecosystems through the removal of various species. Baseline information at a range of scales is available on catches of the 4 most important species across SA (King George whiting, snapper, garfish and calamary) and some locally important species, including sharks:

- Statewide annual catches of King George whiting have declined since 1984 to the lowest recorded annual catch of 293 tonnes in 2013 (Fowler et al. 2014a). Catches are predominantly by handline.
- Annual catches of the Spencer Gulf King George whiting stock (see Appendix C) were variable between 1984 to 1997, declined by about 57 per cent between 1997 and 2004, and declined by a further 45 per cent between 2007 to 2013 to the lowest ever recorded catch of about 69 tonnes (Fowler et al. 2014a).
- Annual catches of King George whiting within marine fishing areas overlapping with the USGMP (see Appendix C) in 2013/14 were between 1 and 5 tonnes in area 21 and were confidential in area 11 (Fowler et al. 2014b).
- Statewide annual catches of snapper have shown cyclical variation since the mid-1980s. Between 2003 and 2011, annual catches generally increased with a peak of 1032 tonnes in 2010, but have since declined to 642 tonnes in 2012. Historically, handline catch was the dominant component of catch, but since 2008, longline has become the dominant gear type (Fowler et al. 2013a).

- Annual longline catches of the Northern Spencer Gulf snapper stock (see Appendix C) declined from 84 tonnes in 1997 to 16 tonnes in 2012. Handline catches peaked at 319 tonnes in 1999 then declined to its lowest level of 47 tonnes in 2012 (Fowler et al. 2014b).
- Annual snapper catches within the marine fishing areas that overlap the USGMP (see Appendix C) in 2013/14 were between 1 and 10 tonnes in area 21 and confidential in area 11 (Fowler et al. 2014b).
- Statewide annual catches of garfish were stable between 1983/84 and 2001/02 and peaked in 2000/01 at over 500 tonnes. Catches have decreased since 2001/02 to their lowest level in 2012/13 of around 250 tonnes (Fowler et al. 2014b).
- Annual catches of the Northern Spencer Gulf garfish stock are the most productive in the state, contributing more than 50 per cent of the statewide catch. The annual catch peaked in 1990 at about 257 tonnes, was lowest in 2003 at about 98 tonnes and was 45 tonnes in 2014 (Steer et al. 2016b).
- Annual catches of garfish within marine fishing areas overlapping with the USGMP (see Appendix C) in 2013/14 were between 61 and 80 tonnes in area 21 and confidential in area 11 (Fowler et al. 2014b).
- Statewide annual catches of southern calamary were about 200 tonnes between 1984 and 1990. An increasing trend in catch was recorded between 1991 and 2001 when the catch peaked at 460 tonnes. In 2006, catches declined below 300 tonnes for the first time since 1990. In 2013, catch was around 400 tonnes (Steer et al. 2007, Lyle et al. 2014).
- Annual catches in the Northern Spencer Gulf region of the calamary fishery peaked in 2003 at about 40 tonnes. The annual catch in 2006 was about 36 tonnes (Steer et al. 2007).
- Annual catches of southern calamary within marine fishing areas that overlap the USGMP (see Appendix C) in 2013/14 were between 6 and 25 tonnes in area 21 and confidential in area 11 (Fowler et al. 2014b).
- Statewide annual catches of bronze and dusky whalers averaged about 80 tonnes since around 1990. Peak catch occurred in 2009/10 at about 150 tonnes, and the 2013/14 catch was about 60 tonnes. Statewide annual catches of gummy shark exceeded 600 tonnes between 1983 and 1997. Since then, catches have decreased and since 2008/09 have averaged about 150 tonnes (Fowler et al. 2014b).
- Annual catches of sharks within marine fishing areas overlapping the USGMP (see Appendix C) in 2013/14 were confidential for gummy sharks, bronze and dusky whalers, and rays and skates in areas 11 and 21 (Fowler et al. 2014b).

The Spencer Gulf King George whiting stock is classified as *transitional - depleting* (Fowler et al. 2014a). The Northern Spencer Gulf snapper stock has been classified as *transitional depleting* (Fowler et al. 2013a). The statewide calamary fishery is classified as *sustainable* (Lyle et al. 2014). The Northern Spencer Gulf garfish stock is classified as *transitional - recovering* (Steer et al. 2016b).

Charter Boat Fishery

The Charter Boat Fishery applies pressure on reef, seagrass and sand biodiversity and ecosystems through the removal of various species including sharks. Baseline information at a range of scales is available on the harvest of selected species:

- The annual statewide retained catch of the Charter Boat Fishery increased from about 110,000 fish or invertebrates in 2006/07 to about 148,000 in 2009/10 and then increased to about 154,000 in 2011/12. King George whiting, snapper and bight redfish were most frequently targeted but at least 70 different marine species were taken, including finfish, rays and skates, sharks, crustaceans, and molluscs (Tsolos 2013).
- The annual retained catch in the Spencer Gulf/Coffin Bay region (see Appendix C) increased from 48,871 to 63,362 fish or invertebrates between 2009/10 and 2011/12 and increased from 33 to 41 per cent of the

statewide charter boat harvest. During that time King George whiting remained the most frequently caught fish, followed by snapper and garfish (Tsolos 2013).

Recreational fishing

The Recreational Fishery applies pressure on reef, seagrass and sand biodiversity and ecosystems through the removal of various species including sharks. Baseline information is available on catches of selected species (Section 5).

The most recent information on recreational fishing harvest was collected during the 2013/14 South Australian Recreational Fishing Survey (Giri and Hall 2015). Recreational fishers accounted for about 20 per cent of the statewide harvest for garfish, between 30 and 40 per cent for southern calamary, snapper and blue crabs, about 50 per cent for mulloway, Australian salmon and Australian herring, and about 60 per cent for King George whiting (Giri and Hall 2015).

Regional information is available for some fisheries:

- The recreational catches of King George whiting, snapper, garfish and calamary in the Northern Spencer Gulf in 2006/07 was about 31, 41, 6 and 16 tonnes, respectively (Jones 2009).
- The recreational blue swimmer crab harvest in the Spencer Gulf region was about 136 tonnes, equating to about 48 per cent of the statewide recreational harvest (Beckmann and Hooper 2015, Jones 2009). The statewide recreational blue crab harvest increased from 284 tonnes in 2006/07 to 376 tonnes in 2013/14 (Jones 2009, Giri and Hall 2015).

Illegal fishing

Illegal fishing is a recognised issue for fisheries management in South Australia (PIRSA 2009, 2011a, 2011b). Illegal fishing impacts the economics of the Marine Scalefish fishery, particularly in regional communities (PIRSA 2011a).

Stockpiling of fish became an increasing problem during the summer months on the west coast of South Australia (PIRSA 2011c), prompting the introduction of possession limits in 2012.

Indigenous fishing

Aboriginal traditional fishing does occur in some parts of South Australia. While catch is unquantified, due to the relatively small size and number of coastal communities, the amount of catch is likely to be insignificant in comparison to commercial and recreational fishing.

8.2.2 Aquaculture

Aquaculture of intertidal molluscs occurs in Fitzgerald Bay (Section 5.6) over sand and seagrass. Aquaculture is managed under an Ecologically Sustainable Development framework through the *Aquaculture Act 2001*. Bivalve aquaculture can decrease nutrient levels in surrounding waters, reducing food availability for native filter-feeders. Limits on bivalve aquaculture expansion are set in different regions based on its carrying capacity (Wear et al. 2004, PIRSA 2007, 2014b).

Baseline information on aquaculture relevant to the USGMP includes:

- PIRSA Aquaculture collates information on aquaculture zoning, and the number and type of active lease types (DEWNR 2015k). Currently there is one intertidal mollusc lease within the USGMP (DEWNR 2015k).
- Production values may provide an indication of resource extraction levels. EconSearch (2015a, and earlier reports) provide data on the production of aquaculture by sector and region.

8.3 Habitat modification

Since European settlement, habitat modification has occurred in various locations across South Australia due to pollution (see Section 8.1), prawn trawling, dredging and dredge spoil dumping, off-road vehicle use, invasive pest species, vessel moorings, land reclamation, and placement of coastal structures such as breakwaters, oyster racks, jetties and marinas (Bryars 2003, Shepherd et al. 2008, Bryars 2013a, Shepherd et al. 2014).

Most of the habitats in the USGMP have not been modified since European settlement (Bailey et al. 2012b), but some activities have modified habitats..

Baseline information on habitat modification relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Coastal structures, including wharves, breakwaters and jetties, have replaced natural habitat and disrupted coastal processes (Bryars 2003, DEWNR 2016a).
- Prawn trawling impacts benthic habitats in the area of operation (Tanner 2005) but the impacts are not quantified in the USGMP. Data on historical prawn trawl effort are available (Section 8.2.1).
- Off-road vehicle use, stock grazing and illegal rubbish dumping in saltmarsh communities (Bryars 2003, Caton et al. 2011a, b).
- Vehicles can impact beaches through erosion, sand compaction, disturbance of wrack deposits and damage to macrofauna (Brown and McLachlan 2002, Ramsdale 2010) but the impacts are not quantified in the USGMP.
- Native oyster beds formerly present in the USGMP were extirpated by a commercial fishery before the mid-1900s (Alleway and Connell 2015).
- Disturbance by boat moorings and dredging impacts seagrass in South Australia (Gaylard et al. 2013, Irving 2014), but these pressures have not been quantified in the USGMP.
- Fishing equipment and anchors may damage shipwrecks (DEWNR unpublished data) but these pressures have not been quantified in the USGMP.

8.4 Disturbance of animals

Disturbance of animals can put pressure on ecological values. Disturbance can be caused by shipping, tourists, recreational and commercial fishing, motorboats, jet skis, walkers, dogs, off-road vehicles, berleying and sounds used to attract fish, feeding, discarding of fisheries bycatch, seismic testing, mining, drilling, dredging, construction, and aquaculture operations (Kemper and Ling 1991, McCauley et al. 2000, Mattson et al. 2005, Svane 2005, Baker-Gabb and Weston 2006, Jones 2008, Bruce and Bradford 2011, Dennis et al. 2011b, Newsome and Rodger 2013, IWC 2015).

Baseline information on disturbance relevant to the USGMP includes:

- Human population size (see Section 5.1.1) could be used as an indicator of level of disturbance.
- Information on coastal recreation (see Section 5.2) and tourism activity (see Section 5.3) could be used as an indicator of disturbance.
- Information on shipping activity (see Section 5.5) could be used as a measure of potential disturbance.
- Information on the extent of exploration leases and seismic exploration activity could be used as an indicator of potential disturbance
- Information on aquaculture (see Section 5.6) could be used as an indicator of potential disturbance.

- Information on recreational and commercial fishing activity (see Sections 5.7 and 5.8) could be used as an indicator of potential disturbance.
- SARDI collates logbook information on interactions between commercial fisheries and threatened, endangered and protected species (McLeay et al. 2015).

8.5 Pest species

Marine and land pest species may put pressure on ecological values in the USGMP. Pest species are defined as invasive marine pests, disease outbreaks, and introduced terrestrial species.

8.5.1 Invasive marine pests

Biofouling is considered the principal method of marine pest introductions (Hewitt and Campbell 2010). Possible vectors include ship or boat hulls or fishing equipment. Ballast water is also recognised as a mechanism for pest introductions (Hewitt and Campbell 2010).

Wear et al. (2004) considered that there was a moderate risk of introduction of pest species or disease through aquaculture, with the most likely vector being the translocation of oyster spat from Tasmania, where pests including the Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* and the northern Pacific seastar *Asterias amurensis* have established. Populations of Pacific Oyster have established in some areas in the USGMP (Wiltshire et al. 2010).

Baseline information on invasive marine pests relevant to the USGMP includes:

- A number of invasive marine pests have been recorded inside the USGMP, including mollusc, ascidian, worm, algae, fish, crustacean, cnidarian, algae and bryozoan species (Wiltshire et al. 2010, Figure 33). The impacts of these pests on ecological values are not known.

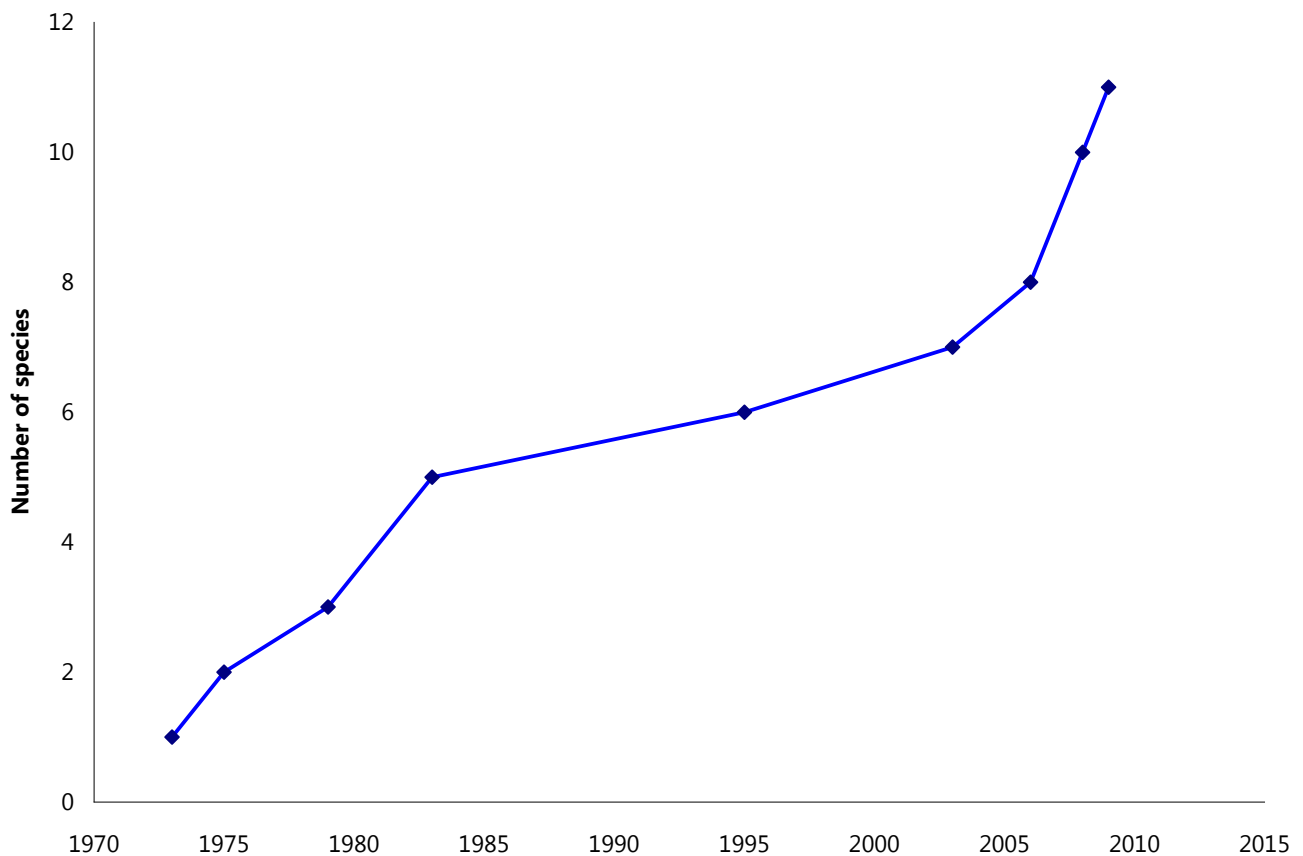


Figure 33. Cumulative count of invasive marine pest species recorded in the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park over time. Note that pest surveys have not been standardised between years or locations within the park and records are typically recorded opportunistically. Source: Wiltshire et al. (2010).

8.5.2 Disease outbreaks

A number of disease outbreaks have occurred in South Australian or interstate waters with negative impacts on ecological and socio-economic values.

A herpesvirus was deemed responsible for both the 1995 and 1998 mass mortalities of sardines in South Australia, and was believed to have been caused by an exotic pathogen (Gaughen et al. 2000). Potential vectors for the pathogen include ballast water, seabirds and imported baitfish used as feed in aquaculture (Whittington et al. 1997). It is now believed that this herpesvirus is endemic to Australian waters (Whittington et al. 2008).

Translocation of oyster spat and abalone in the region has the potential to spread diseases and parasites that can impact shellfish (Theil et al. 2004, PIRSA 2009).

8.5.3 Introduced land pests

Introduced animals recorded in the USGMP include foxes, cats and rodents (Caughley et al. 1998, West 2008). Introduced land pests cause vegetation degradation, compete for habitat and food sources, and prey on native species including shorebirds and lizards (West 2008, Caton et al. 2011a, b).

Foxes are opportunistic predators and present a significant threat to native animals (Saunders and McLeod 2007). Fox predation on eggs and chicks reduces the breeding success and recruitment of shorebirds. A study in NSW reported that foxes have been responsible for 100 per cent mortality in shorebird eggs and chicks and that the breeding success of terns improves in areas where fox control is implemented (West 2008).

Feral cats and rodents have become established in almost every significant habitat type throughout Australia, including coastal dune systems and offshore islands (Caughley et al. 1998, West 2008). Feral cats and rodents prey on chicks, adults and eggs, and reduce populations of seabirds and shorebirds (Hughes et al. 2008, Jones et al. 2008b).

Salt tolerant weeds can invade saltmarsh and dune environments and compete with native vegetation. A number of coastal weed species have been observed in the USGMP between Point Lowly and Port Augusta including, horehound, wild turnip, Ward's weed, pimpernel, two-horned, sharp rush, gazania and sea rocket (Caton et al. 2006, 2011a, b).

8.6 Climate change

Climate change may place pressure on ecological values of the USGMP by changing the physical drivers. Under a range of carbon emission scenarios, climate change predictions for south-western Australia include:

- Increases in sea surface temperature at Thevenard of 0.3–0.9 °C by 2030 and 0.5–3.4 °C by 2090 (Hope et al. 2015). Sea surface temperature rose by about 0.6 °C over the past century (Suppiah et al. 2006). Increased water temperature is likely to have a positive effect on western king prawn and blue swimmer crab growth, and there has been a southerly extension of the range of blue swimmer crabs (Dixon et al. 2011a, b). Warmer temperatures associated with El Niño–Southern Oscillation events may increase in frequency due to climate change (Cai et al. 2014), resulting in the enhanced upwellings of cold, nutrient rich water (Middleton and Bye 2007). The increase in nutrients is expected to benefit pelagic species such as Australian sardines and anchovies, which benefits higher order predators. Conversely, cold water from upwellings may have negative impacts on species that are more successful in warmer water temperatures (see Section 6.1).
- Changes (increases or decreases) in sea surface salinity at Thevenard of -0.23–0.11 by 2030 and -0.46–0.43 by 2090 as a result of changes in rainfall (Hope et al. 2015, CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology 2015). Changes in salinity affect species by altering the energy expenditure required for osmoregulation (maintaining internal salt balance) as well as the development of larvae. The impacts of salinity change are species- and age-specific (BHP Billiton 2009).
- Increases in annual average sea surface temperature in the USGMP of 0.8–0.9 °C by 2030 and 2.7–2.9 °C by 2070, and increases in salinity of 0.20–0.24 by 2030 and 0.81–0.93 by 2070 (Botelho et al. 2014). These changes were considered likely to result in the decline of a number of molluscs (Botelho et al. 2014).
- Sea level rise at Thevenard of 0.07–0.17 metres by 2030 and 0.22–0.82 metres by 2090 (Hope et al. 2015). This poses a threat to intertidal mangrove and saltmarsh habitats across South Australia because existing land use (e.g. farming, roads) or lack of suitable low-lying topography prevents inland migration (Scientific Working Group 2011, Fotheringham and Coleman 2008). Sea level rise may also exacerbate the loss of habitat used by migratory shorebirds in South East Asia (Nicol et al. 2015).
- Decreases in ocean pH (increased acidity) at Thevenard of 0.06–0.07 by 2030 and 0.06–0.32 by 2090 (Hope et al. 2015), which may affect the process by which marine animals, e.g. phytoplankton and molluscs, make shells and plates (Secretariat CBD 2009, Brierley and Kingsford 2009, The Royal Society 2005, Hobday et al. 2006, Kleypas et al. 2006).
- The Leeuwin Current is expected to weaken (Feng et al. 2009), which may affect recruitment of some species that rely on currents to transport larvae to favourable habitats, or species for which recruitment success is correlated with stronger current (section 6.5).
- Upwellings of cold, nutrient rich water may increase, which may impact prawn recruitment in the West Coast Prawn Fishery (Dixon et al. 2011b, Beckmann et al. 2014).
- Increased frequency of extreme weather events, including an increase in the average number of days per year that exceed 40 °C increasing from about 4 days up to 7 days by 2030 and 22 days by 2090 (Hope et al. 2015).

An example of the potential impact of extreme weather events is the large-scale seagrass diebacks in Spencer Gulf during low tides combined with extremely hot air temperatures and strong northerly winds (Seddon et al. 2000).

Baseline information on physical drivers which may be influenced by climate change is presented in Section 6.

9 Marine park management plan

This section outlines the strategies of the marine park management plans and how the USGMP management plan influences pressures (Section 8) on the ecological values (Section 4) and also affects socio-economic values (Section 5). To interpret monitoring data on ecological and socio-economic values in the marine parks, the MER program will include information on the effectiveness of delivering the strategies of the management plans. For example, if illegal fishing occurs in SZs because compliance is poor, then predicted ecological changes (Section 10) may not occur, or if educational activities are not undertaken then predicted changes to community perceptions may not eventuate.

9.1 The management plan

The management plans (e.g. DEWNR 2012a) set out a zoning scheme and management strategies (see Appendix D). The zoning scheme uses 4 zone types, for which any prohibitions or restrictions on activities and uses are defined in zoning tables (DEWNR 2012b). In addition, the management plans define the boundaries and set out the activities that will be permitted in Special Purpose Areas.

In most cases, the SZs and HPZs were located to minimise impacts on existing developments and activities, including recreational and commercial fishing and other recreational activities. RAZs were mostly located over areas with existing restrictions under other legislation and therefore had negligible impact. Within the SZs and HPZs, the activities that are restricted by the management plans are fishing, motorised water sports, discharge of wastewater from vessels, feeding or berleying animals and access by domestic animals.

Additional measures to mitigate some threats may be prescribed in the management plans for the marine parks. For example, measures for responding to an oil spill, establishing mooring buoys or reducing coastal erosion may be implemented, and perhaps be preferentially assigned to areas of high conservation significance (e.g. SZs).

In addition to current uses, the zoning can influence harmful future uses, e.g. land-based discharges, dredging, aquaculture, and mining that do not currently occur inside the marine park, but may occur in the future. Many such activities are managed in other areas according to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, but they have been deemed incompatible within RAZs, SZs and HPZs from a biodiversity and conservation perspective.

The zoning could reduce the cumulative impact of existing and future pressures, and/or improve resilience to pressures that are not addressed by zoning. For example, Ling et al. (2009) showed that commercial fishing of large predatory lobsters reduced the resilience of Tasmanian kelp beds against the climate-driven threat of the sea urchin and thus increased the risk of a fundamental phase shift to widespread sea urchin barrens.

In summary, zoning can influence the marine environment within the managed area by:

- removing or limiting existing pressures
- preventing or limiting future pressures
- building resilience to some pressures by limiting the influence of others
- highlighting areas of conservation value to inform impact assessment and focus management.

9.2 Pressures influenced by the USGMP management plan

9.2.1 Coastal pollution

The only current activity generating coastal pollution that would be influenced by the management plan is the discharge of black water (associated with human waste and/or toilets) from motor vessels. Black water can be discharged outside of marinas and harbours or beyond a buffer of 3 nautical miles from aquaculture or a person in the water (DEWNR 2012b, Environment Protection Authority 2003). The Fairway Bank SZ meets these criteria and provides additional area from which black water cannot be discharged.

Habitats within the USGMP will also be protected by (DEWNR 2012b):

- the prevention of future discharges of industrial waste or sewage within SZs
- the requirement for all reasonable and practicable measures within HPZs to ensure no harm to habitats or the functioning of ecosystems
- all discharges managed under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* will be required to have regard to the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*.

The management plan does not directly address issues associated with septic tank overflows, agricultural run-off or pollution associated with shipping. Nonetheless, the management plans (and associated Act) are designed to influence land-based activities through NRM planning.

9.2.2 Resource extraction

Fishing

Prior to the restrictions associated with the management plan, fishing was allowed throughout the USGMP with the exception of the following spatial and temporal restrictions, which are managed under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (PIRSA 2015b) or (for Commonwealth fisheries) the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*:

- Cowleds Landing and Blanche Harbor Aquatic Reserves
- netting closures northwards from Blanche Harbor and in Germein Bay (DEWNR 2015I)
- intertidal reef areas to a depth of 2 metres
- prawn trawling in all waters less than 10 metres deep
- seasonal closure for snapper (1 November to 15 December, Fowler and McGarvey 2014)

The management plan stopped commercial and recreational fishing within SZs and prevented trawling in HPZs. Commercial collection of beach wrack is deemed to constitute 'fishing (other than trawling)' and is therefore prevented inside SZs but not inside HPZs. While Aboriginal traditional fishing is still allowed within SZs, it is likely to be insignificant compared to commercial and recreational fishing (see Section 8.2.1). By preventing commercial and recreational fishing, a range of benefits for species and ecosystems may occur, including but not limited to: elimination of direct fishing mortality and post-release mortality; more natural age, size structure and sex ratio of populations, age and size at maturity and fish behaviour; and reduced incidence of disease (Bailey et al. 2012a).

The cessation of fishing within SZs could spatially redistribute catch/effort and increase pressure in the remaining fishing areas. For some commercial fisheries, this has been mitigated by removal of catch (quota)/effort from the relevant fishery through the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program (PIRSA 2013a, Kosturjak et al. 2015). Estimates of displaced catch from SZs were provided by Ward et al. (2012) and EconSearch (2014) to inform the program. The targeted reductions in catch/effort were based on proportional reductions of the current catch/effort rather than reductions based on absolute values. For example, the total allowable commercial catch for the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery was reduced by 23 tonnes from 345 tonnes in

2013/14 to 322 tonnes in 2014/15 in accordance with the percentage of catch removed through the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program for this fishery. As for all other fisheries included in this Program, the reduction exceeded the estimated annual historic catch/effort within SZs (Kosturjak et al. 2015). For the Prawn, Blue Crab, Sardine and Recreational Fisheries, PIRSA indicated that catch and effort which was previously associated with the closed zones could be redistributed without impacting on the sustainability of those fisheries (PIRSA 2011d).

Estimates of annual displaced catch/effort provide an indication of the level of historical fishing pressure that previously occurred inside SZs across the state and in the USGMP:

- About 863, 701, 225 and 672 days of handline, haulnet, longline and other annual fishing effort, respectively, from SZs statewide (Ward et al. 2012), equating to a combined total of about 75 tonnes of King George whiting, snapper, southern sea garfish and southern calamary (EconSearch 2014). This included about 9, 19, 8 and 11 days of handline, haulnet, longline and other fishing effort, respectively, from the USGMP (Ward et al. 2012).
- About 1,136 person-days of Charter Boat annual effort was estimated to have been displaced from SZs statewide, including about 136 person-days from the USGMP (Ward et al. 2012).
- The historical catch of the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery within SZs and HPZs in the USGMP was not quantified for reasons of confidentiality (Ward et al. 2012).
- The historical catch of the Blue Crab Fishery within SZs in the USGMP was not quantified for reasons of confidentiality (Ward et al. 2012).

Aquaculture

Existing aquaculture operations that extract resources (e.g. subtidal mollusc farming) will not be affected by the management plan for the USGMP, but if future expansion were proposed then it could be influenced.

9.2.3 Habitat modification

The only current habitat modifying activity that would be influenced by the management plan is the collection of wood (e.g. for fires) within mangrove forests; although it is unlikely that this is a widespread activity.

It can be expected that compliance operations within the marine park would result in reduced illegal rubbish dumping.

The majority of shipwrecks are not within exclusion zones under the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* or *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981* (DEWNR 2015j). Prevention of fishing and possible reduced boating activity within SZs may reduce the potential for damage of shipwrecks.

Habitats within the USGMP will also be protected by (DEWNR 2012b):

- the prevention of future development of marinas, breakwalls, pontoons, jetties, pipelines and other marine infrastructure within SZs
- management of coastal developments and infrastructure in HPZs under the *Development Act 1993* to ensure no harm to habitats or the functioning of ecosystems
- consideration of all coastal developments under the *Development Act 1993* to ensure the achievement of the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*

Impacts associated with aquaculture inside HPZs will be managed under the *Aquaculture Act 2001* to ensure that all reasonable and practicable measures are taken to ensure “no harm to habitats or the functioning of ecosystems” (DEWNR 2012b).

The management plan does not address the issues associated with off-road driving, including on beaches.

Protection of habitats from future threats inside SZs and HPZs will have varying benefits for a range of species depending on their level of residency within these zones. For migratory species such as southern right whales and shorebirds, the marine park management plan will increase protection of critical habitats including breeding and feeding areas along their migratory routes.

The management plans will not influence habitat modification that occurs outside of the marine parks network. For example, loss of intertidal habitats in South East Asia is believed to be a threat to some migratory shorebirds that visit the USGMP (Kirby et al. 2008, Murray et al. 2014, 2015).

9.2.4 Disturbance of animals

Many of the activities that can result in disturbance to animals are regulated through existing legislation. Nonetheless, the marine park management plans will have further influence over some activities inside HPZs, SZs and RAZs (see DEWNR 2012b).

Interactions between marine mammals and vessels and tourism operations are regulated through the [*National Parks and Wildlife \(Protected Animals – Marine Mammals\) Regulations 2010*](#). Restriction of fishing activities inside SZs and RAZs may reduce disturbance by visiting fishers on marine mammals (and seabirds and shorebirds). Tourism operators are not allowed inside RAZs.

Motorised water sports, such as jet skiing and water skiing, are limited to speeds of 4 knots in some areas under the *Harbours and Navigation Regulations 2009*. Under the marine park management plans, motorised water sports are prohibited inside SZs and RAZs, providing additional areas where animals are not disturbed by these activities.

Berleying using blood, bone, meat, offal or skin of an animal is regulated under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to areas at least 2 nautical miles from shore, islands or emergent reefs. Under the marine park management plans, berleying (as well feeding/baiting of aquatic and terrestrial animals) is prohibited inside SZs and RAZs and will therefore provide additional areas where animals are not disturbed by these activities. Berleying may be permitted inside SZs under other legislation, e.g. *Fisheries Management Act 2007* at Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie Taylor) Marine Park.

Domestic animals in coastal environments (particularly on beaches) are managed through council by-laws or excluded (within conservation parks) by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Under the marine park management plans, domestic animals are prohibited from RAZs and when inside SZs, dogs must be in a vehicle or on a lead, unless local council by-laws override this, in which case they must be under the control of the person with them. The disturbance of nesting seabirds and shorebirds by walkers and off-road vehicles is reduced inside RAZ.

Coastal developments and infrastructure, harbours, navigation and transport, or resource extraction and production that cause disturbance to animals (e.g. dredging, drilling and active surveying) are restricted or limited inside HPZs, SZs and/or RAZs.

9.2.5 Invasive pest species

Protection of the ecosystems within SZs from other impacts, e.g. fishing, may make them more resilient to pest introductions (Bailey et al. 2012a), but the management plan is not likely to reduce the number of marine pest species that are introduced to the USGMP.

Monitoring programs within the USGMP may improve the detection of invasive species. For example, marine park reef surveys in Tasmania detect and monitor the southward migration of the hollow-spined urchin *Centrostephanus rodgersii*, which is facilitated by climate change and increasing water temperatures (Ling et al. 2009, see next section).

9.2.6 Climate change

Protection of the ecosystems within SZs from other impacts, e.g. fishing, may make them more resilient to pest introductions associated with climate change and range extensions (Bailey et al. 2012a), but the management plan is not likely to reduce pressures associated with climate change. The marine parks were designed to provide scope for saltmarsh and mangrove habitats to migrate inland under a scenario of sea level rise (DEH 2009).

9.3 Socio-economic values influenced by the USGMP management plan

The marine park management plan is designed to influence some pressures on ecological values and result in direct ecological and indirect socio-economic positive outcomes, but it may also result in direct changes (positive and negative) to some socio-economic values (Figure 3). Various activities are restricted by the management plans and there is potential for negative impacts on important socio-economic values such as recreational fishing. Conversely, there is an expectation that there will be positive impacts on some socio-economic values, such as tourism, education and appreciation for the marine environment (SACES 2014).

10 Predictions and indicators of change

This section provides predictions and indicators of change to the ecological and socio-economic values due to the USGMP management plan. Predictions and indicators of change have been informed by previous impact assessments (Bailey et al. 2012a, b, EconSearch 2014, Kosturjak et al. 2015), expert workshops (DEWNR unpublished data) and published reports (Bryars 2013b). The indicators and predictions are summarised in the conceptual model (Figure 5). Predictions and indicators of change are summarised in Table 2. The 'baseline date' varies between indicators depending on whether they are related to the commencement of the *Marine Parks (Zoning) Regulations 2012* in March 2013 or the commencement of fishing restrictions inside SZs under the *Marine Parks (Zoning) Regulations 2012* on 1 October 2014.

10.1 Potential ecological changes

Bailey et al. (2012b) predicted the response of a number of fished species to protection within the proposed SZs. The predictions included changes in abundance and/or size, and spillover of adults or export of larvae. Bailey et al. (2012a, b) discussed potential changes based upon the benthic habitat types of reef (intertidal and subtidal), seagrass (intertidal and subtidal), sand (intertidal and subtidal), mangrove and saltmarsh. The predicted responses need to be considered in conjunction with predator-prey interactions, which occur at an ecosystem scale. There may also be unpredictable changes in which non-fished species are affected by changes to fished species (e.g. seabirds that feed on a commercially-fished species) and in situations where changes to fished species in one ecosystem then manifest in changes to a linked ecosystem (e.g. a commercially-fished species that spends different parts of its life cycle in different habitats/ecosystems). In addition to possible responses to protection from fishing, many fished (and unfished) species may benefit from the protection of the habitats that they use (Bailey et al. 2012a, b). The theory of ecological change is detailed by Bailey et al. (2012a, see Section 3.1 and Appendices 1–7 of that report).

The following sections are focused on how the ecological values (see Section 4) may respond to the cessation of activities that occurred prior to the implementation of the management plan. Further differentiation between habitats and ecosystems inside and outside of particular zones may also occur when future activities are limited to the areas outside zones. It is not possible to predict such changes without knowing the nature and extent of future developments, but examples include coastal developments outside SZs, and increased fishing pressure outside SZs. Due to increased levels of protection, habitats inside SZs and HPZs are predicted to maintain their spatial extent while those outside may be maintained or degraded.

10.1.1 Reef ecosystems

Intertidal reef

Intertidal reef animals were fully protected in South Australia before the implementation of the marine park management plans (Bailey et al. 2012b). Nonetheless, there could potentially be some change inside zones if illegal fishing is reduced due to increased compliance, signage and education or if visitation rates are increased as part of the overall marine parks program. However, evidence from South Australia (Benkendorff and Thomas 2007, Baring et al. 2010) suggests that only RAZs are effective in protecting intertidal communities from illegal fishing (and there are no new RAZs in the network) and that SZs may lead to increased trampling and disturbance by humans. If changes occur in adjacent subtidal reef communities (see next section), there could be flow-on effects for intertidal communities, but the changes that are attributable to the management plan are unlikely to be detectable. Potential indicators for monitoring intertidal reef ecosystems include size/abundance/diversity of fish, invertebrate and reef communities, and reef extent.

Subtidal reef

A number of fished species use subtidal reef ecosystems in South Australia (Bryars 2003). Some of these species are expected to change in size and/or abundance following protection from fishing and this may in turn drive ecosystem changes (Bailey et al. 2012b). Snapper, when considered in isolation, are predicted to increase in size and abundance over the next 20 years inside the Cuttlefish Coast SZ of the USGMP (Bailey et al. 2012a). Cuttlefish are predicted to maintain size and/or abundance in the Cuttlefish Coast SZ (Bailey et al. 2012a). Experience from Tasmania and New Zealand suggests that some species may increase in size and/or abundance within SZs, but others may decrease in abundance (Shears and Babcock 2003, Barrett et al. 2007, 2009, Edgar et al. 2007, 2009, Babcock et al. 2010) and other unforeseen ecosystem shifts may occur (Freeman and MacDiarmid 2009, Edgar et al. 2007, Buxton et al. 2006, Langlois and Ballantine 2005). Potential indicators for monitoring subtidal reef ecosystems include size/abundance/diversity of fish, invertebrate and reef communities, and reef extent.

10.1.2 Seagrass ecosystems

Intertidal seagrass

A number of fished species reside on intertidal seagrass flats or use them at high tide (Bryars 2003). Razorfish, when considered in isolation, are predicted to increase in size and abundance over the next 20 years inside the Winninowie and Yatala Harbor SZs of the USGMP (Bailey et al. 2012a). Little is known about the possible response of other intertidal seagrass species and ecosystem changes following protection. Potential indicators for monitoring intertidal seagrass ecosystems include size/abundance/diversity of fish, invertebrate and seagrass communities, and seagrass extent.

Subtidal seagrass

A number of fished species use subtidal seagrass in South Australia (Bryars 2003). Due to uncertainties around fished species' responses in these ecosystems, predictions of change are limited compared to subtidal reef species (Bailey et al. 2012b). Blue swimmer crab, King George whiting, and southern garfish are predicted to temporarily increase in abundance inside the Cuttlefish Coast SZ (Bailey et al. 2012a). Blue swimmer crab is also predicted to temporarily increase in abundance inside the Cowleds Landing SZ. Potential indicators for monitoring subtidal seagrass ecosystems include size/abundance/diversity of fish and invertebrate communities, and seagrass extent.

10.1.3 Sand ecosystems

Intertidal sand

A number of fished species reside on intertidal sand flats or use them at high tide (Bryars 2003). Razorfish, when considered in isolation, are predicted to increase in size and abundance over the next 20 years inside the Winninowie and Yatala Harbor SZs of the USGMP (Bailey et al. 2012a). Little is known about the possible response of other intertidal sand species and ecosystem changes following protection. Potential indicators for monitoring intertidal sand ecosystems include size/abundance/diversity of fish and invertebrate communities, and sand extent.

Subtidal sand

A number of fished species use subtidal sand plains in South Australia (Bryars 2003). Snapper, when considered in isolation, are predicted to increase in size and abundance over the next 20 years inside the Cuttlefish Coast and Fairway Bank SZs of the USGMP (Bailey et al. 2012a). Little is known about the possible response of other subtidal sand species and ecosystem changes following protection. Potential indicators for monitoring subtidal sand ecosystems include size/abundance/diversity of fish and invertebrate communities, and sand extent.

10.1.4 Mangrove ecosystems

It is unlikely that ecosystem changes will occur in mangrove ecosystems as a result of the management plan and the cessation of existing activities (Bailey et al. 2012b, unpublished information from expert workshops in 2013). Potential indicators for monitoring include size/abundance/diversity of fish and invertebrate communities, and mangrove extent.

10.1.5 Saltmarsh ecosystems

It is unlikely that ecosystem changes will occur in saltmarsh ecosystems as a result of the management plans and the cessation of existing activities (Bailey et al. 2012b, unpublished information from expert workshops in 2013). Potential indicators for monitoring include size/abundance/diversity of fish and invertebrate communities, and saltmarsh diversity and extent.

10.1.6 Sharks

It is unlikely that measurable changes will occur to populations of sharks as a result of the management plans and the cessation of existing activities (Bailey et al. 2012b). Potential indicators for monitoring include size/abundance of some shark species.

10.1.7 Marine mammals

It is unlikely that measurable changes will occur to populations of marine mammals as a result of the management plans and the cessation of existing activities given that these species have already been afforded protection via other regulatory processes (Bailey et al. 2012b). Potential indicators for monitoring include species population counts.

10.1.8 Seabirds

It is unlikely that measurable changes will occur to populations of seabirds as a result of the management plans and the cessation of existing activities (Bailey et al. 2012b). Potential indicators for monitoring include species population counts.

10.1.9 Shorebirds

It is unlikely that measurable changes will occur to populations of shorebirds as a result of the management plan and the cessation of existing activities (Bailey et al. 2012b). Potential indicators for monitoring include shorebird population counts.

10.2 Potential socio-economic changes

The following sections are focused on predicted changes to the socio-economic values identified in Section 5 that may be linked to the management plan. Potential changes could be either negative (e.g. loss of fishing grounds for some fishers) or positive (e.g. increased appreciation of the marine environment). When predicting potential socio-economic changes due to the management plans, the analysis must also consider mediating factors such as the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program and the zoning planning process which aimed to minimise negative impacts on commercial and recreational fisheries.

10.2.1 Local businesses and communities

Bailey et al. (2012b) concluded that residential property values were not likely to be negatively affected by marine parks, but the MER program will monitor property values and housing approvals to test this prediction (see

Section 5.1.3). There is evidence that local housing can benefit from protected area acquisition in the terrestrial environment in south-eastern Australia (Heagney et al. 2015) and it is possible that this may occur for the marine environment.

Coastal developments can occur within HPZs and GMUZs (Section 9.2.3), which collectively account for about 85 per cent of the park (DEWNR 2012a).

Bailey et al. (2012b) predicted some job losses in the fishing industry, but that these losses would not have a major impact on regional communities.

It is not expected that indicators such as unemployment rate or population will detect impacts on local communities, but the MER program will test these predictions (see Section 5.1).

There is an expectation that public appreciation, education and understanding of the marine environment and marine parks will improve over time (Bailey et al. 2012a, b, see Section 5.1).

10.2.2 Coastal recreation

The marine park zoning accommodates most forms of coastal recreation. Motorised water sports are not allowed in SZs, but the location and size of the SZs in the USGMP should result in negligible impacts on these activities. Recreational fishing continues to be accommodated within the USGMP (see Section 10.2.7).

Some recreational activities such as scuba diving may be enhanced inside SZs (due to larger and more abundant fish). The Cuttlefish Coast SZ may experience enhanced diving opportunities. Indicators of recreational use include participation rates and the numbers of boat registrations/licences.

10.2.3 Tourism

Potential changes to fishery-based tourism are likely to be minimal (see Section 10.2.7). During 2013 and 2014, 15 and 9 per cent of domestic visitors to Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula (see Appendix C), respectively, visited terrestrial parks (South Australian Tourism Commission unpublished data). Possible benefits of the USGMP for tourism include (Bailey et al. 2012a, b):

- more natural ecosystems, including greater size and abundance of some fish within SZs
- less boating traffic due to the absence of fishing boats within SZs
- greater investment certainty for tourism operators due to protection to ecosystems.

10.2.4 Cultural heritage

There is an expectation that the management plan will contribute to the protection and conservation of features of natural and cultural heritage significance across the park network. Potential indicators include the level of protection for registered heritage sites and the level of engagement, partnerships and educational activities with Aboriginal communities.

10.2.5 Transport and infrastructure

Bailey et al. (2012a) predicted no loss of economic activity generated by ports as a result of the marine parks. The MER program will monitor shipping traffic as a vector for invasive pest incursions and a source of disturbance to animals. Potential indicators include ports and shipping activity.

10.2.6 Aquaculture

The marine park zoning accommodated aquaculture to ensure that there would be no negative impact on the industry, and to allow for expansion of the aquaculture industry. Bailey et al. (2012b) stated that no known current

or potential impacts are expected from the marine parks on current or future aquaculture enterprises in marine parks. The MER program may monitor indicators of aquaculture activity.

10.2.7 Fishing

Previous assessments of socio-economic changes (Bailey et al. 2012a, b, EconSearch 2014) focused on the direct and indirect effects of fishing being prohibited inside SZs and the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program. Previous assessments of fishing-related impacts were limited by several factors:

- They did not consider spatial differences in fishing patterns for species within the marine scalefish sector.
- The assessments did not consider from where the fishing fleet originated, where the catch was landed, or where the fishers resided.
- The assessments used average fishing catch and effort over multi-year timescales (up to 20 years for abalone) but did not consider more recent and more relevant patterns of catch and effort.
- The Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program has now been completed.

When the above factors are considered, changes to commercial and recreational fisheries in the USGMP are likely to be minimal (see following sections), but the MER program will monitor indicators such as commercial catch and recreational participation to test these predictions (see Sections 5.7 and 5.8).

Rock Lobster Fishery

The Rock Lobster Fishery does not operate in the USGMP.

Abalone Fishery

The Abalone Fishery does not operate in the USGMP.

Prawn Fishery

Change in the fishery due to the USGMP is predicted to be minimal because:

- The marine park zoning accommodated prawn fishing to ensure that there would be minimal impact on the industry.
- Estimated displaced catch was confidential (EconSearch 2014), but no displaced catch or effort was deemed necessary for removal through the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program.

Blue Crab Fishery

Change in the fishery due to the USGMP is predicted to be minimal because:

- The marine park zoning accommodated blue crab fishing to ensure that there would be minimal impact on the industry.
- Estimated displaced catch was confidential (EconSearch 2014), but no displaced catch or effort was deemed necessary for removal through the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program.

Sardine Fishery

The Sardine Fishery does not operate in the USGMP.

Marine Scalefish Fishery

Change in the fishery due to the USGMP is predicted to be minimal because:

- More than the estimated displaced catch has been removed from the fishery through the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program, such that the remaining fishers now have greater relative access to the available biomass. This assumes that historical catch rates in this fishery were the same inside versus outside SZs. It is possible that this assumption is false for some regions (see Kosturjak et al. 2015) because insufficient effort was removed in some localised areas. No data have been published to confirm or reject these assumptions
- Marine scalefish fishers are highly mobile and should be able to adapt to the spatial restrictions.
- Several of the SZs were already Aquatic Reserves (e.g. Whyalla-Cowleds Landing Aquatic Reserve that encompasses Cowleds Landing SZ) or had other fishing restrictions on them (e.g. an existing cuttlefish closure in False Bay that encompasses the Cuttlefish Coast SZ).
- The estimated displaced effort was 0.08 per cent of the total average annual effort in the fishery (EconSearch 2014).

Charter Boat Fishery

Change in the fishery due to the USGMP is predicted to be minimal because:

- More than the estimated displaced catch has been removed from the fishery through the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program, such that the remaining fishers now have greater relative access to the available biomass. This assumes that historical catch rates in this fishery were the same inside versus outside SZs—no data have been published to confirm or reject this assumption.
- Charter fishers are generally highly mobile and should be able to adapt to the spatial restrictions.
- Some traditional fishing grounds were lost due to the Fairway Bank SZ, but there are numerous locations that remain available for fishing both in and out of the USGMP.
- There are few operators within the USGMP and therefore minimal competition for fishing grounds.
- The estimated displaced effort was 0.62 per cent of the total average annual effort in the fishery (EconSearch 2014), but this is likely to be an overestimate as most of the SZs are in shallow areas not used by the charter fishery.

Recreational shore fishing

Change for recreational shore fishing due to the USGMP is predicted to be minimal because:

- Recreational fishing was mostly accommodated, and there are numerous locations still available for shore-based fishing within the USGMP.
- Areas that are readily accessible by shore or that were popular fishing locations have not been lost to recreational fishers.
- Shore-based line fishing is now prohibited in part of the Cuttlefish Coast SZ, but the most popular area in the zone remains open to fishing.
- Shore-based line fishing is prohibited in the Cowleds Landing, Blanche Harbor, Head of the Gulf, Winninowie, Yatala Harbor, Fisherman Creek and Port Davis SZs, but these areas are intertidal and are difficult to fish from the shore due to the presence of saltmarshes and mangroves.

Recreational boat fishing

Change for recreational boat fishing due to the USGMP is predicted to be minimal because:

- Recreational fishing was mostly accommodated and there are numerous locations still available for boat fishing within the USGMP.
- Fishers are mobile and will be able to adapt to spatial restrictions.

Commonwealth Shark Fishery

The Commonwealth Shark Fishery does not operate in the USGMP.

10.3 Assumptions and interpretation of change

Predictions of change to ecological and socio-economic values (Sections 10.1 and 0) were based on the interaction between the four components of pressures, the marine park management plan, physical drivers and socio-economic drivers; these predictions had a number of assumptions (Section 10.3.1). In order to interpret monitoring data related to the predictions on ecological and socio-economic values, it will also be necessary to have information on pressures, the marine park management plan, physical drivers and socio-economic drivers (Sections 10.3.2–10.3.5).

10.3.1 Assumptions

The predictions are based on the assumption that the strategies in the marine parks management plans will achieve the objects of the marine parks legislation, in particular the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and habitats as part of the establishment of a zoning scheme to deliver a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine protected areas. It is assumed that activities undertaken to address the strategies of the management plan will result in measurable changes to ecological and socio-economic values. It is also important to consider that despite the fact that the same restrictions apply to the same zone-type across the network, the expected outcomes vary depending on the zone and previous uses of each zone.

Ecological change in response to protection from fishing inside SZs is influenced by a number of factors including success of enforcement (compliance), time since protection, and size and location of the SZ (Edgar et al. 2014). Predictions presented in Section 10 have a number of underlying assumptions related to these factors, including:

- there will be adequate compliance inside SZs
- responses will not be seen for several to many years (depending on individual species life history traits)
- SZs are of an adequate size and placed in appropriate locations.

It is assumed that neither external physical drivers (Section 10.3.2) nor government regulations (Section 10.3.3) will change. It is also assumed that pressures outside of the control of the management plan (Section 10.3.4) will either maintain current trends or increase under a scenario of increasing human population, climate change, coastal development, and resource use (Environment Protection Authority 2013).

Predictions of socio-economic change depend on:

- accuracy of predicted ecological changes
- effectiveness of the management plan
- effectiveness of the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program

- current status or trends in external physical and socio-economic drivers not changing (Sections 10.3.2 and 10.3.3).

In order to assess the socio-economic performance of a region adjacent to a marine park it will be important to not only monitor how the region performs in an absolute sense, but also relative to other regions.

10.3.2 Indicators of physical drivers

A number of physical forces drive the ecology of the marine park and these forces are not influenced by the marine park management plan. Changes to these drivers could have a bigger impact on ecological and socio-economic values than the marine park management plan. For example, long-term change in the East Australian Current has warmed coastal waters off eastern Tasmania and resulted in ecosystem shifts from kelp forests to urchin barrens (Ling et al. 2009). To interpret monitoring data on ecological and socio-economic values in the MER program, it will be necessary to include some information on physical drivers. Potential indicators include air temperature, sea surface temperature, index of upwelling, sea level, wind direction and wind speed.

10.3.3 Indicators of socio-economic drivers

There are a number of socio-economic drivers that are required to interpret changes in the socio-economic values of the marine park. These drivers are not influenced by the marine park management plan. Changes in these drivers could have a bigger impact than the marine park management plan. For example, the cost of fuel for fishing vessels and changes to spatial management arrangements in fisheries influence the distribution of fishing effort. It will be necessary for the MER program to monitor information on socio-economic drivers. Potential indicators include interest rates, exchange rates, fuel prices, wage price index, sea food prices, and various qualitative measures for major developments and government regulation.

10.3.4 Indicators of pressures

There are a number of pressures on the ecological values of the marine park. Despite the broad spectrum of pressures that are potentially influenced by zoning and the management plan, other than fishing which is the most widespread use which has been restricted, relatively few existing pressures have been affected by the marine park. The MER program will monitor indicators that are related to the management plan (Section 10.3.5) and a range of existing (and potential future) pressures including, but not restricted to, fishing.

Changes in pressures will influence the predicted changes and could have a greater impact than the marine park management plan. For example, if illegal fishing occurs inside an SZ, it may nullify an ecological response to the management plan. Pressures on marine resources that are outside SZs may increase and this may increase the contrast between SZs and other areas. For example, coastal development, shipping activity or fishing activity may increase outside an SZ. Some of the socio-economic values which are predicted to change due to the management plans may in turn present an increased pressure on the ecological values that they rely upon. For example, increased recreation and tourism activities may cause an increase in disturbance to animals such as marine mammals and seabirds. Multiple pressures may also occur in some areas and understanding the cumulative impact of these on ecological values may present a challenge. To interpret monitoring data on ecological and socio-economic values in the MER program, it will be necessary to monitor information on pressures. A range of potential indicators for pressures is available (Table 2).

10.3.5 Indicators of marine park management plan activities

There are a range of management activities that will be undertaken to deliver the strategies of the management plans. In order to interpret changes in ecological and socio-economic values, the MER program will need to monitor a range of indicators related to management activities including numbers and types of marine parks permitting/approvals, level of compliance, and numbers and types of educational activities.

11 Conclusion

The present report provides a comprehensive inventory of available information that is relevant to monitoring of the State-wide network of 19 marine parks. The report provides information and descriptions for the 6 inter-related components that are considered necessary for a robust MER program on South Australia's marine parks network; ecological values, socio-economic values, physical drivers, socio-economic drivers, pressures on ecological values, and the marine park management plan. A conceptual model has been prepared that synthesises the important aspects of each of these components for the marine park. The report also outlines predictions of change to ecological and socio-economic values that may occur due to the marine park management plan, and also presents a range of potential indicators that could be used in a MER program.

This report was not designed to provide a definitive list of indicators (or to present all associated information) that must be used in the MER program but rather to provide a selection of potential indicators, document sources of information, and provide some examples. In some cases, it is evident that baseline ecological information is lacking and the report highlights these knowledge gaps. In many cases, it is evident that socio-economic information is unavailable at a spatial scale that matches the marine park boundaries, and this will present a challenge when interpreting changes in indicators that may be related to the marine park management plan. In some cases there are time-series of data available, while in other cases there are data collected from a single point in time but which could potentially be resampled in the future. Nonetheless, the report does provide an invaluable 'snapshot' of available information that is relevant to the marine park prior to its full implementation in October 2014, and this information forms the baseline against which future changes can be measured. The conceptual model also provides a useful visual mechanism for documenting the important features and complexity of the marine park. Whilst the MER program may be constrained in scope, to ensure it remains relevant it will integrate with the conceptual model.

This report and others in the 'baseline series' for the 19 marine parks have been used to inform the development of South Australia's marine parks MER plan and to guide ongoing monitoring activities of the DEWNR MER program.

Table 2. Summary of marine park components and indicators for the marine parks MER program, the prediction to 2022, and the related Evaluation Questions (EQs, refer Appendix A).

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
<i>ECOLOGICAL VALUES</i>								
Intertidal reef	Size/abundance /diversity of reef communities	Sanctuary Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	<p>Intertidal reef organisms are protected from removal in SA under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>. Illegal fishing is known to occur in some areas.</p> <p>Reefs inside SZs could receive a higher level of protection from illegal fishing if there is increased education, signage and compliance. In contrast, increased human usage inside intertidal SZs could negatively impact communities.</p> <p>It is predicted that the current status will be maintained inside SZs.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
	Size/abundance /diversity of reef communities	Habitat Protection Zone, General Managed Use Zone	No	No	Maintain or degrade current status	<p>Intertidal reef organisms are protected from removal in SA under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>.</p> <p>Illegal fishing may continue in some areas.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Spatial extent	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	Increased level of protection for habitats should maintain current status. Spatial extent should be maintained inside these zones but could potentially decline outside zones.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	General Managed Use Zone	Yes	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Some increased level of protection from future coastal developments. Spatial extent may be maintained or could potentially decline.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
Subtidal reef	Size/abundance /diversity of reef communities	Sanctuary Zone	Yes	Yes	Maintain or enhance current status	Some fished species are predicted to maintain or enhance current status in response to protection from fishing.	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
	Size/abundance /diversity of reef communities	Habitat Protection Zone, General Managed Use Zone	No	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Fished species have no increased protection.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	Increased level of protection for habitats should maintain current status.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Spatial extent	General Managed Use Zone	Yes	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Some increased level of protection from future coastal developments. Spatial extent may be maintained or could potentially decline.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
Intertidal seagrass	Size/abundance /diversity of seagrass communities	Sanctuary Zone	Yes	Yes	Maintain or enhance current status	Some fished species are predicted to maintain or enhance current status in response to protection from fishing.	2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15	1, 2, 3
	Size/abundance /diversity of seagrass communities	Habitat Protection Zone, General Managed Use Zone	No	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Fished species have no increased protection.	2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	Increased level of protection for habitats should maintain current status.	2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	General Managed Use Zone	Yes	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Some increased level of protection from future coastal developments. Spatial extent may be maintained or could potentially decline.	2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Subtidal seagrass	Size/abundance /diversity of seagrass communities	Sanctuary Zone	Yes	Yes	Maintain current status	Some fished species are predicted to maintain or enhance current status in response to protection from fishing.	2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15	1, 2, 3
	Size/abundance /diversity of seagrass communities	Habitat Protection Zone, General Managed Use Zone	No	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Fished species have no increased protection.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	Increased level of protection for habitats should maintain current status.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	General Managed Use Zone	Yes	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Some increased level of protection from future coastal developments. Spatial extent may be maintained or could potentially decline.	2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18	1, 2, 3
Intertidal sand	Size/abundance /diversity of sand communities	Sanctuary Zone	Yes	Yes	Maintain or enhance current status	Some fished species are predicted to maintain or enhance current status in response to protection from fishing.	2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Size/abundance /diversity of sand communities	Habitat Protection Zone, General Managed Use Zone	No	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Fished species have no increased protection.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	Increased level of protection for habitats should maintain current status.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	General Managed Use Zone	Yes	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Some increased level of protection from future coastal developments. Spatial extent may be maintained or could potentially decline.	2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
Subtidal sand	Size/abundance /diversity of sand communities	Sanctuary Zone	Yes	Yes	Maintain or enhance current status	Some fished species are predicted to maintain or enhance current status in response to protection from fishing.	2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Size/abundance /diversity of sand communities	Habitat Protection Zone	Yes	No	Maintain or degrade current status	<p>Benthic trawling not allowed in HPZ.</p> <p>There are no HPZs where trawling previously known to have occurred.</p> <p>Trawled communities should be maintained inside HPZs but could potentially change outside HPZs (and SZs).</p> <p>Non-trawled communities can still be exploited by other forms of fishing.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
	Size/abundance /diversity of sand communities	General Managed Use Zone	No	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Prawn trawling and other forms of fishing still allowed in GMUZs.	2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	Increased level of protection for habitats should maintain current status.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	General Managed Use Zone	Yes	No	Maintain or degrade current status	<p>Some increased level of protection from future coastal developments.</p> <p>Spatial extent may be maintained or could potentially decline.</p>	2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Mangrove	Size/abundance /diversity of mangrove communities	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone, General Managed Use Zone	No	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Zoning is unlikely to directly affect mangrove communities as fishing activity is minimal or non-existent within mangrove forests where SZs occur.	2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 14	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	Increased level of protection for habitats should maintain current status.	2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 14	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	General Managed Use Zone	Yes	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Some increased level of protection from future coastal developments. Spatial extent may be maintained or could potentially decline.	2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 14	1, 2, 3
Saltmarsh	Size/abundance /diversity of saltmarsh communities	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone, General Managed Use Zone	No	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Zoning is unlikely to directly affect saltmarsh communities as fishing does not occur within saltmarshes.	2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Spatial extent	Sanctuary Zone, Habitat Protection Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	Increased level of protection for habitats should maintain current status.	2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15	1, 2, 3
	Spatial extent	General Managed Use Zone	Yes	No	Maintain or degrade current status	Some increased level of protection from future coastal developments. Spatial extent may be maintained or could potentially decline.	2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15	1, 2, 3
Sharks	Size/abundance of some species	Sanctuary Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current status	Sharks are protected from fishing while residing inside SZs but transient and migratory nature of most species will likely negate a population change. Detectable population change due to management plans not predicted	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Residence times of white shark	North Neptune Islands Sanctuary Zone	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>White shark is fully protected.</p> <p>Illegal and incidental capture does occur.</p> <p>Population protected from incidental capture only while inside North Neptune Islands SZ and other SZs.</p> <p>Detectable population change due to management plans not predicted.</p>	7	1, 2, 3
Marine mammals	Population counts of Australian sea lion	Breeding locations	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Habitats at breeding locations should have increased protection inside SZs.</p> <p>Changes in fish/invertebrate populations inside SZs adjacent to breeding locations could potentially have a positive influence.</p> <p>Detectable population change due to management plans not predicted.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15, 17	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Population counts of long-nosed fur seal	Breeding locations	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Habitats at breeding locations should have increased protection inside SZs.</p> <p>Changes in fish/invertebrate populations inside SZs adjacent to breeding locations could potentially have a positive influence.</p> <p>Detectable population change due to management plans not predicted.</p>	3, 4, 5, 7, 12, 16, 17, 18	1, 2, 3
	Population counts of Australian fur seal	Breeding locations	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Habitats at breeding locations should have increased protection inside SZs.</p> <p>Changes in fish/invertebrate populations inside SZs adjacent to breeding locations could potentially have a positive influence.</p> <p>Detectable population change due to management plans not predicted.</p>	16	1, 2, 3
	Population counts of southern right whale	Calving locations	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Habitats at calving locations should have increased protection inside SZs and HPZs.</p> <p>Detectable population change due to management plans not predicted.</p>	1, 2, 15	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Seabirds	Population counts of various species	Specific locations	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Habitats at nesting locations should have increased protection inside SZs and HPZs.</p> <p>Changes in fish populations inside SZs at these locations could potentially have a positive influence on chicks during rearing.</p> <p>Detectable population change due to management plans not predicted.</p>	All parks	1, 2, 3
	Population counts of white-bellied sea-eagle and osprey	Nesting locations	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Habitats at nesting locations should have increased protection inside SZs and HPZs.</p> <p>Changes in fish/invertebrate populations inside SZs at these locations could potentially have a positive influence on chicks during rearing.</p> <p>Detectable population change due to management plans not predicted.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17	1, 2, 3

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Shorebirds	Population counts of various species	Specific locations	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Habitats at breeding and feeding locations should have increased protection inside SZs and HPZs.</p> <p>Changes in fish/invertebrate populations inside SZs at these locations could potentially have a positive influence.</p> <p>Protection of beach wrack inside SZs could potentially have a positive influence on populations.</p> <p>Detectable population change due to management plans not predicted.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19	1, 2, 3
<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES</i>								
Local businesses and communities	Human population	Local Government Area	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Due to the scale of data available for assessment and other external factors, any changes in this indicator are unlikely to be attributable to the management plans.</p> <p>No change to the current trend is predicted due to the management plans.</p>	All parks	4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Gross regional product	Local Government Area	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Due to the scale of data available for assessment and other external factors, any changes in this indicator are unlikely to be attributable to the management plans.</p> <p>No change to the current trend is predicted due to the management plans.</p>	All parks	4
	Business counts	Statistical Area Level 2	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Due to the scale of data available for assessment and other external factors, any changes in this indicator are unlikely to be attributable to the management plans.</p> <p>No change to the current trend is predicted due to the management plans.</p>	All parks	4
	Number of local jobs	Local Government Area	No	No	Maintain current trend	A small number of local job losses may have occurred due to the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program but are not predicted to occur due to the management plans.	All parks	4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Unemployment rate	Local Government Area	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Due to the scale of data available for assessment and other external factors, any changes in this indicator are unlikely to be attributable to the management plans.</p> <p>No change to the current trend is predicted due to the management plans.</p>	All parks	4
	Number of Newstart allowance recipients	Local Government Area	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Due to the scale of data available for assessment and other external factors, any changes in this indicator are unlikely to be attributable to the management plans.</p> <p>No change to the current trend is predicted due to the management plans.</p>	All parks	4
	Annual individual salary or wage income	Postcode	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Due to the scale of data available for assessment and other external factors, any changes in this indicator are unlikely to be attributable to the management plans.</p> <p>No change to the current trend is predicted due to the management plans.</p>	All parks	4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Number and value of residential building approvals	Local Government Area	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Due to other external factors, any changes in this indicator are unlikely to be attributable to the management plans.</p> <p>No change to the current trend is predicted due to the management plans.</p>	All parks	4
	House sale prices	Local Government Area	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Due to other external factors, any changes in this indicator are unlikely to be attributable to the management plans.</p> <p>No change to the current trend is predicted due to the management plans.</p>	All parks	4
	Index of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage	Local Government Area	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Due to the scale of data available for assessment and other external factors, any changes in this indicator are unlikely to be attributable to the management plans.</p> <p>No change to the current trend is predicted due to the management plans.</p>	All parks	4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Level of community support for and perceptions on marine parks	Postcode, Local Government Area, Statewide	Yes	Yes	Maintain or improve current trend	Education activities as part of the management plans are aimed at this indicator. It is predicted that the current trend will improve.	All parks	5
Coastal recreation	Participation rates	Post code, Local Government Area, Statewide	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	Education activities as part of the management plans are aimed at this indicator. It is unlikely that the current trend will improve or that any change from the current trend can be attributable to these activities.	All parks	5
	Boat registrations/licences	Statewide	No	No	Maintain current trend	Recreational boating is accommodated by the management plans with some minor spatial displacement for fishing and water sports due to SZs. It is unlikely that there will be any change from the current trend due to these restrictions.	All parks	5

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Tourism	Tourist operator numbers	Marine Park	Yes	Yes	Maintain or improve current trend	Ecotourism opportunities as part of the management plans are aimed at this indicator. It is predicted that the current trend will improve.	All parks	4,5
	Tourist expenditure	Tourism regions	Yes	Yes	Maintain current trend	Ecotourism opportunities as part of the management plans are aimed at this indicator. It is predicted that the current trend will improve.	All parks	4,5
Aboriginal heritage	Level of protection for registered heritage sites	Marine Park	Yes	Yes	Maintain or improve current status	Strategies of the management plan are aimed at improving the current status of this indicator. It is predicted that the current status will improve.	All parks	6
	Level of engagement, partnerships, educational activities	Marine Park	Yes	Yes	Improve current status	Strategies of the management plan are aimed at improving the current status of this indicator. It is predicted that the current status will improve.	All parks	6

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
European heritage	Level of protection for registered heritage sites	Marine Park	Yes	Yes	Maintain or improve current status	Strategies of the management plan are aimed at improving the current status of this indicator. It is predicted that the current status will improve.	All parks	6
Transport and infrastructure	Number vessel calls	Individual ports	No	No	Maintain current trend	Shipping is accommodated by the management plans.	2, 10, 13, 14	4
	Cargo exports/imports	Individual ports	No	No	Maintain current trend	Shipping is accommodated by the management plans.	2, 10, 13, 14	4
	Numbers coastal infrastructure	Marine Park	No	No	Maintain current trend	Coastal infrastructure is accommodated by the management plans.	All parks	4
Aquaculture	Number active licences	Aquaculture zone	No	No	Maintain current trend	Current and future aquaculture is accommodated by the management plans.	2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15	4
	Direct output	Aquaculture zone	No	No	Maintain current trend	Current and future aquaculture is accommodated by the management plans.	2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15	4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Recreational fishing	Participation rate	Recreational Fishing Survey Region, Post code, Statewide	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Recreational fishing is accommodated by the management plans with some minor spatial displacement possible.</p> <p>A number of government initiatives associated with marine parks implementation have been instigated to enhance recreational fishing, including reef restoration and reservoir fishing.</p> <p>Spatial behaviour may change at scale of SZ vs non-SZ but not at scale available for assessment.</p>	All parks	5
Rock Lobster Fishery	Catch, catch value, catch rate, and fishing behaviour	Marine Fishing Area, Rock Lobster Fishery Zones	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Spatial behaviour may change at scale of SZ vs non-SZ but not at scale available for assessment.</p> <p>Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program has removed any displaced effort such that catches and catch rates should be maintained.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Abalone Fishery	Catch, catch value and fishing behaviour	Spatial Assessment Unit, Abalone Fishery Zones	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	Spatial behaviour may change at scale of SZ vs non-SZ but not at scale available for assessment. Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program has removed any displaced effort such that catches should be maintained.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	4
Prawn Fishery	Catch, catch value, catch rate, and fishing behaviour	Fishery Assessment Regions, Prawn Fishery Zones	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	Trawling banned in SZs and HPZs but prawn trawling accommodated in zoning arrangements and no pre-trawled areas included in zoning. Catches should be maintained.	2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15	4
Blue Crab Fishery	Catch, catch value, catch rate, and fishing behaviour	Marine Fishing Area, Blue Crab Fishery Zones	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	Spatial behaviour may change at scale of SZ vs non-SZ but not at scale available for assessment. Estimated displaced historical catches from sanctuary zones were low and catches should be maintained.	9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15	4
Sardine Fishery	Catch, catch value, catch rate, and fishing behaviour	Statewide	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	Estimated displaced historical catches from sanctuary zones were low, and sardines are highly mobile, so catches should be maintained.	4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 16	4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Marine Scalefish Fishery	Catch, catch value, catch rate, and fishing behaviour	Marine Fishing Area, Statewide	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program has removed any displaced effort such that catches should be maintained in areas outside of SZs. Spatial fishing behaviour may change at scale of SZ vs non-SZ but not at scale available for assessment.	All parks	4
Charter Boat Fishery	Catch, catch rate, and fishing behaviour	Marine Fishing Area, Statewide	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	Spatial behaviour may change at scale of SZ vs non-SZ but not at scale available for assessment. Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program has removed any displaced effort such that catches should be maintained.	All parks	4
C'wealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector)	Catch, catch value, catch rate, and fishing behaviour	Statewide	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	Minimal or no displacement of existing fishing grounds.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17	4
<i>PHYSICAL DRIVERS</i>								

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Air temperature	Air temperature	Specific locations	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
Sea surface temperature	Sea surface temperature	Specific locations	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
Upwellings	Index of upwelling	Specific locations	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 16, 19	1, 2, 3, 4
Currents	Index of Leeuwin current	Specific locations	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1, 2, 3, 4
Tides	Sea level	Specific locations	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
Waves	Wind direction, wind speed, Waverider™ buoy	Specific locations	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
<i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC DRIVERS</i>								
Interest rates	Interest rates	National	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	4
Exchange rates	Exchange rates	Global	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Fuel prices	Price of diesel and unleaded petrol	State	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	4
Labour force	Wage price index	National	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	4
Market demand	Price of seafood	State	No	Not applicable	Maintain current trend	Loss of product from Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program is minimal and product will likely be replaced from other sources.	All parks	4
	Various qualitative measures	State, National, Global	No	Not applicable	Maintain current status	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	4
Major developments	Various qualitative measures	Marine park, State	No	Not applicable	Maintain current status	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	4
Government regulation	Various qualitative measures	Marine park, State, National	No	Not applicable	Maintain current status or trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	4
<i>PRESSURES</i>								

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Coastal pollution	Runoff volume	Marine park	Yes	Yes	Improve or maintain current trend	Current and future polluting activities inside marine parks should be influenced by the management plans.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
	Number of point sources of pollution	Marine park	Yes	Yes	Improve or maintain current status	Current and future polluting activities inside marine parks should be influenced by the management plans.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
	Water quality	Marine park	Yes	Yes	Improve or maintain current trend	Current and future polluting activities inside marine parks should be influenced by the management plans.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
Fishing	Various indicators of compliance and incidence of illegal fishing	Sanctuary Zone	Yes	Yes	Decline of illegal fishing inside SZs	<p>Management plans mandate the removal of all forms of fishing pressure from SZs (and prawn trawling from HPZs).</p> <p>Some illegal fishing is expected to occur.</p> <p>Compliance activities are part of management plans and are expected to be effective.</p>	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	See various fisheries in <i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES</i>	Various units that exclude Sanctuary Zones – See various fisheries in <i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES</i>	No	No	Maintain current trends outside of SZs	Fisheries are managed by PIRSA Fisheries (but taking into account areas that are restricted under the marine park management plans). Trends of fishing pressure outside of SZs could influence comparisons of ecological values between sites inside and outside of SZs.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
Habitat modification	Number and nature of new coastal developments	Marine park	Yes	Yes	Increased consideration given to marine park zoning	Future coastal developments inside marine parks should be influenced by the management plans.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
	Prawn trawl effort	Marine Fishing Area	Yes	No	Maintain current trend	Trawling banned in SZs and HPZs but prawn trawling accommodated in zoning arrangements and no pre-trawled areas included in zoning.	2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15	1, 2, 3, 4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
Disturbance of animals	Various indicators of compliance and incidence of illegal fishing, recreation and tourism activities	Habitat Protection Zone, Sanctuary Zone, Restricted Access Zone	Yes	Yes	Decline of illegal activities	<p>Management plans restrict some activities in HPZs, SZs and RAZs that will reduce disturbance of animals.</p> <p>Some illegal activities are expected to occur.</p> <p>Compliance activities are part of management plans and are expected to be effective.</p>	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
	Recreational fishing, coastal recreation and tourism activities	Marine park	Yes	Yes	Maintain or increase current trend	<p>Strategies of the management plan are aimed at increasing recreational fishing (outside of SZs and RAZs), recreation, and sustainable tourism activities – see <i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES</i></p> <p>These socio-economic values may present an increased pressure to ecological values through disturbance of animals.</p>	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
	Shipping activity - see <i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES</i>	Marine park	No	No	Maintain current trend	<p>Shipping is accommodated by the management plans.</p> <p>There will be no change to disturbance from this pressure.</p>	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19	1, 2, 3, 4

Component	Potential indicator	Spatial unit available for assessment	Directly influenced by management plans	Measurable change predicted due to management plans	Prediction to 2022	Comments	Marine parks relevant to prediction	EQs
	Aquaculture activity - see <i>SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUES</i>	Aquaculture zone	No	No	Maintain current trend	Current and future aquaculture is accommodated by the management plans. There will be no change to disturbance from this pressure.	2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15	4
Invasive pest species	Number of new invasive marine pests and disease outbreaks	Sanctuary Zone, Marine park	No	No	Maintain current trend	Shipping is accommodated by the management plans. There will be no change to this vector for invasive pest incursions. It is possible that communities inside SZs will become more resilient to invasive pest incursions.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4
Climate change	See <i>PHYSICAL DRIVERS</i>	Marine park	No	No	Maintain current trend	Indicator is external to influence of management plans.	All parks	1, 2, 3, 4

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13 Appendices

A. Evaluation questions

The purpose of setting evaluation questions is to provide direction to monitoring and evaluation activities. The evaluation questions will be the basis of the evaluation of the marine park management plans. This evaluation will inform the statutory review in 2022. Each evaluation question addresses specific outcomes and strategies in the context of effectiveness, impact, appropriateness and efficiency of the management plans.

Evaluation question 1

To what extent has the legislated comprehensive, adequate, representative (CAR) system protected and conserved marine biological diversity and marine habitats?

Outcome 1

Increased understanding of which components or elements of the existing legislated CAR marine park system are successfully contributing to the protection and conservation of marine environments.

Strategies include:

- Develop and implement a monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program that measures the effectiveness of each marine park management plan and its contribution to South Australia's marine parks network (2011 baseline); that sets out targets and indicators linked to strategies and outcomes for monitoring, which include ecological, socio-economic, environmental and management elements; and that assesses the effectiveness of compliance activities.
- Ensure outcomes of the MER Program and research outcomes are made publicly available and inform decision making and periodic review of management plans.
- Conduct priority research and foster research partnerships to assess the integrity of knowledge frameworks that underpin the predicted outcomes.

Evaluation questions 2 and 3

To what extent have marine parks strategies contributed to the maintenance of ecological processes?

To what extent have marine parks strategies contributed to enabling marine environments to adapt to impacts of climate change?

Outcome 2

Threats to the marine biodiversity and marine habitats are reduced.

Outcome 3

Protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and habitats are increased.

Outcome 4

Ecosystem status, functions and resilience are enhanced or maintained.

Strategies include:

- Manage activities and uses in marine parks in accordance with zoning and special purpose area provisions.

- Actively influence activities and uses within and adjacent to marine parks to help mitigate threats to marine biodiversity and marine habitats.
- Consider additional protections and/or temporary restrictions where necessary in circumstances of urgency—
 - (a) to protect a listed species¹ of plant or animal, or threatened ecological community
 - (b) to protect a feature of natural or cultural heritage significance
 - (c) to protect public safety.
- Develop and implement a compliance strategy that:
 - is cost-efficient
 - is focussed on SZs and other conservation priorities
 - complements existing compliance efforts
 - maximises voluntary compliance
 - includes measures to address serious or repeat non-compliance.

Evaluation question 4

To what extent have the marine parks strategies contributed to the ecologically sustainable development and use of the marine environment?

Outcome 5

Ecological sustainable development and management of shipping, mining, aquaculture and fishing industries are appropriately accommodated within marine parks.

Outcome 6

Increased opportunities for research and sustainable nature-based tourism within marine parks.

Strategies include:

- Manage activities and uses in marine parks in accordance with zoning and special purpose area provisions
- Introduce a permitting system to provide for the following activities (where not otherwise authorised):
 - scientific research in a sanctuary or restricted access zone
 - tourism operations in an SZ
 - competitions and organised events in an SZ
 - commercial film-making (including sound recording and photography) in an SZ
 - Installation of vessel moorings in an SZ

¹ "listed species" and "threatened ecological community" refers to species or ecological communities of conservation concern listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth), the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* or the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.

- Create and promote opportunities for sustainable nature-based tourism in marine parks.

Evaluation question 5

To what extent have the marine parks strategies contributed to providing opportunities for public appreciation, education, understanding and enjoyment of marine environments?

Outcome 7

Increased stewardship of marine parks and marine environments.

Outcome 8

Marine Parks valued by more people.

Strategies include:

- Provide for public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of marine parks.
- Provide education to support the implementation of marine parks.
- Seek to involve local communities and stakeholders in the day-to-day management and monitoring of marine parks.
- Foster partnerships to support the implementation of the MER Program incorporating opportunities for community and stakeholder involvement.

Evaluation question 6

To what extent have the marine park strategies contributed to the protection and conservation of features of natural and cultural heritage significance?

Outcome 9

Traditional Aboriginal knowledge is preserved and shared when appropriate.

Outcome 10:

Impacts on the significant features of natural and cultural heritage are reduced

Strategies include:

- Consider additional protections and/or temporary restrictions where necessary in circumstances of urgency— to protect a feature of natural or cultural heritage significance;
- Work cooperatively with Aboriginal communities to conserve country, plants, animals and culture.
- Encourage Aboriginal people, local communities and stakeholders to preserve traditional and historic knowledge and, where appropriate, share this knowledge with others.

B. Summary of habitats in each zone type

Summary of habitats in the marine park. Total area of benthic habitats excludes 11.2 square kilometres of land, including islands. There are no RAZs in the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park. Bracketed numbers for shoreline habitats show length of coastline where shoreline fishing is allowed within Sanctuary Zones. Shoreline habitats are not available for islands.

Habitats	Zones	General Managed Use	Habitat Protection	Sanctuary	Restricted Access	Total Park
Benthic habitats (square kilometres)						
Reef		1.0		0.5		1.4
Seagrass		451.9	377.4	77.8		907.0
Sand		393.8	96.1	52.8		542.7
Mangrove		18.2	18.3	25.6		62.2
Saltmarsh		10.4	24.0	44.1		78.5
Not mapped		1.0	1.5	1.0		3.5
Shoreline habitats (kilometres of coastline)						
Reef		4.8		4.3 (2.2)		9.1
Seagrass		68.9	52.8	35.5		157.2
Sand						
Mangroves		108.2	131.9	171.0		411.1
Saltmarsh		0.4	8.8	2.6		11.9

C. Spatial reporting units relevant to the South Australian Marine Parks Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Program

C1. Recreational fishing

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with survey areas/regions for the Recreational Fishery

C2. Rock lobster fishing

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas for the Northern Zone and Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fisheries

C3. Abalone fishing (Western Zone)

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for part of the Western Zone Abalone Fishery off the far-west coast of South Australia

C4. Abalone fishing (Western Zone)

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for part of the Western Zone Abalone Fishery off south-west Eyre Peninsula

C5. Abalone fishing (Western Zone)

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for part of the Western Zone Abalone Fishery off south-east Eyre Peninsula

C6. Abalone fishing (Central Zone)

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery

C7. Abalone fishing (Southern Zone)

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery

C8. Prawn fishing

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with fishing blocks for the West Coast, Spencer Gulf, and Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fisheries

C9. Blue crab fishing

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with fishing blocks for the Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent zones of the Blue Crab Fishery

C10. Sardine fishing

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery assessment regions for the Sardine Fishery

C11. Marine Scalefish fishing

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas for the Marine Scalefish Fishery

C12. Marine Scalefish fishing (King George whiting)

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery stock assessment regions for King George whiting in the Marine Scalefish Fishery

C13. Marine Scalefish fishing (snapper)

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery stock assessment regions for snapper in the Marine Scalefish Fishery

C14. Marine Scalefish fishing (garfish)

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery stock assessment regions for garfish in the Marine Scalefish Fishery

C15. Marine Scalefish fishing (calamary)

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery stock assessment regions for calamary in the Marine Scalefish Fishery

C16. Charter boat fishing

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery assessment regions for the Charter Boat Fishery

C17. Local Government Areas

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with selected local government areas of South Australia that lie adjacent or near to the coast. Note that the numerous local government areas in the Adelaide region are not shown.

C18. Statistical Areas Level 2

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with selected Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s), as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as part of its Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ABS 2011b), that lie adjacent or near to the coast.

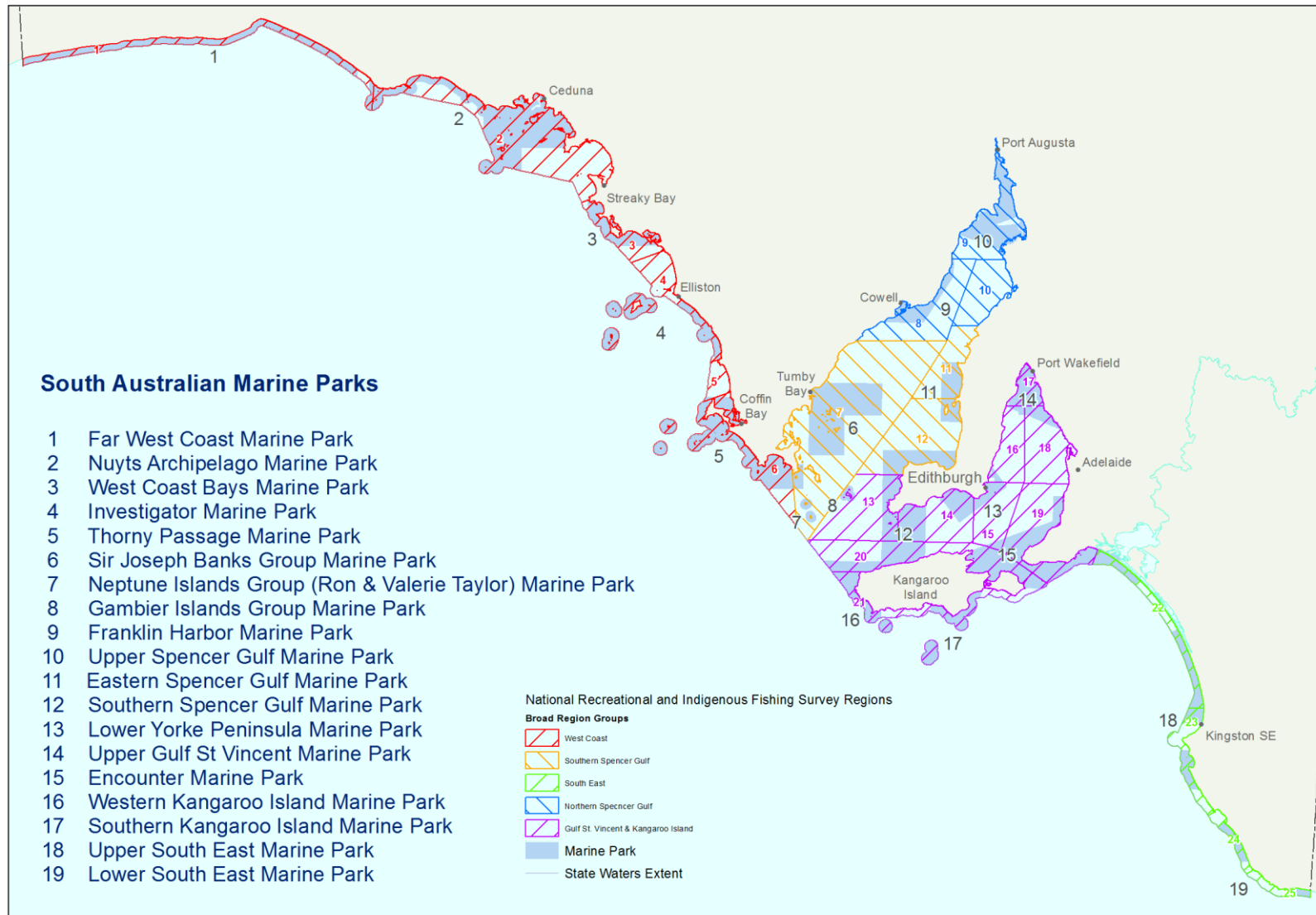
C19. EconSearch regions

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with EconSearch regions, as defined for Regional Impact Assessments (Bailey et al. 2012a, b)

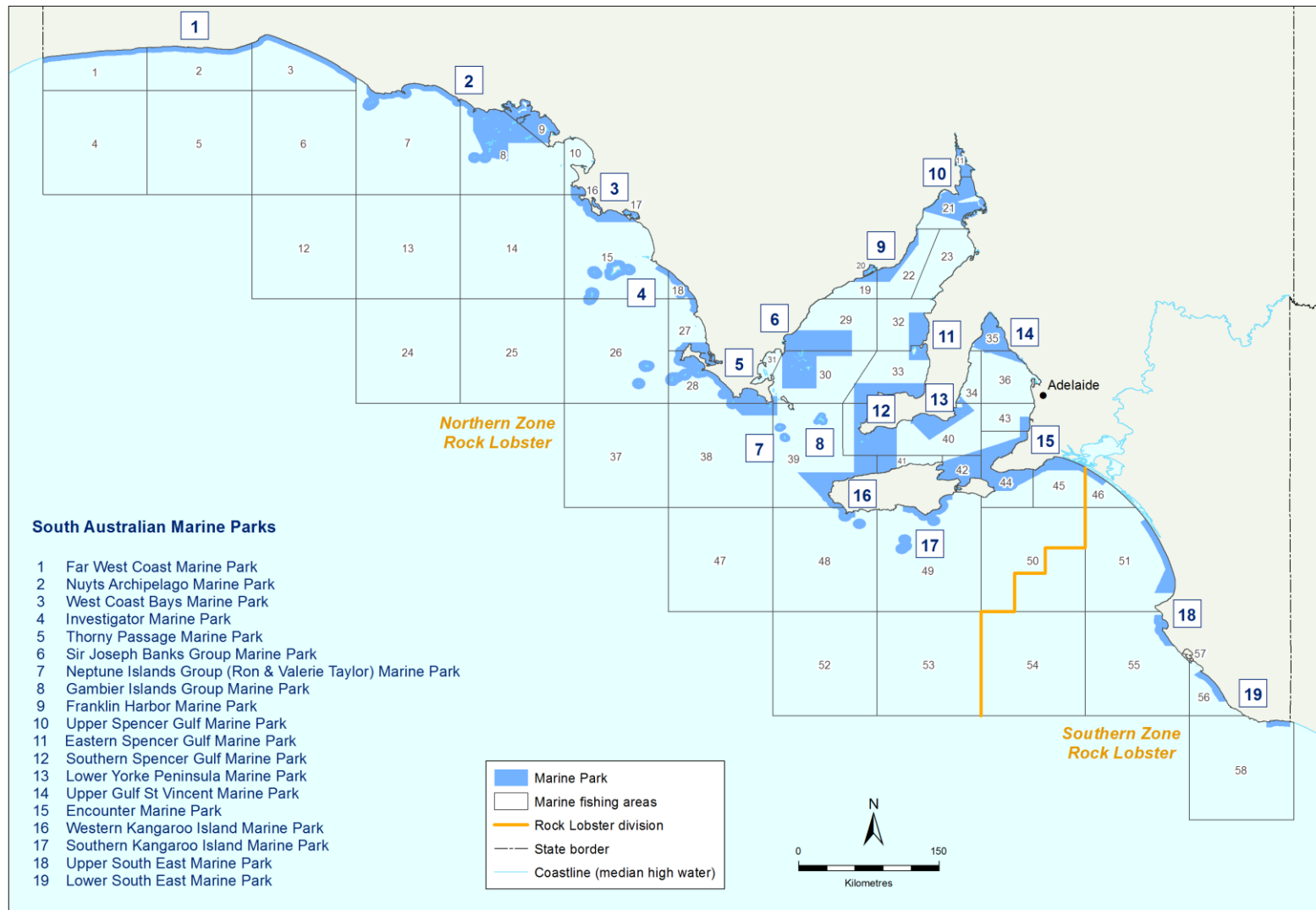
C20. Tourism regions

Marine park boundaries and the overlap with tourism regions, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

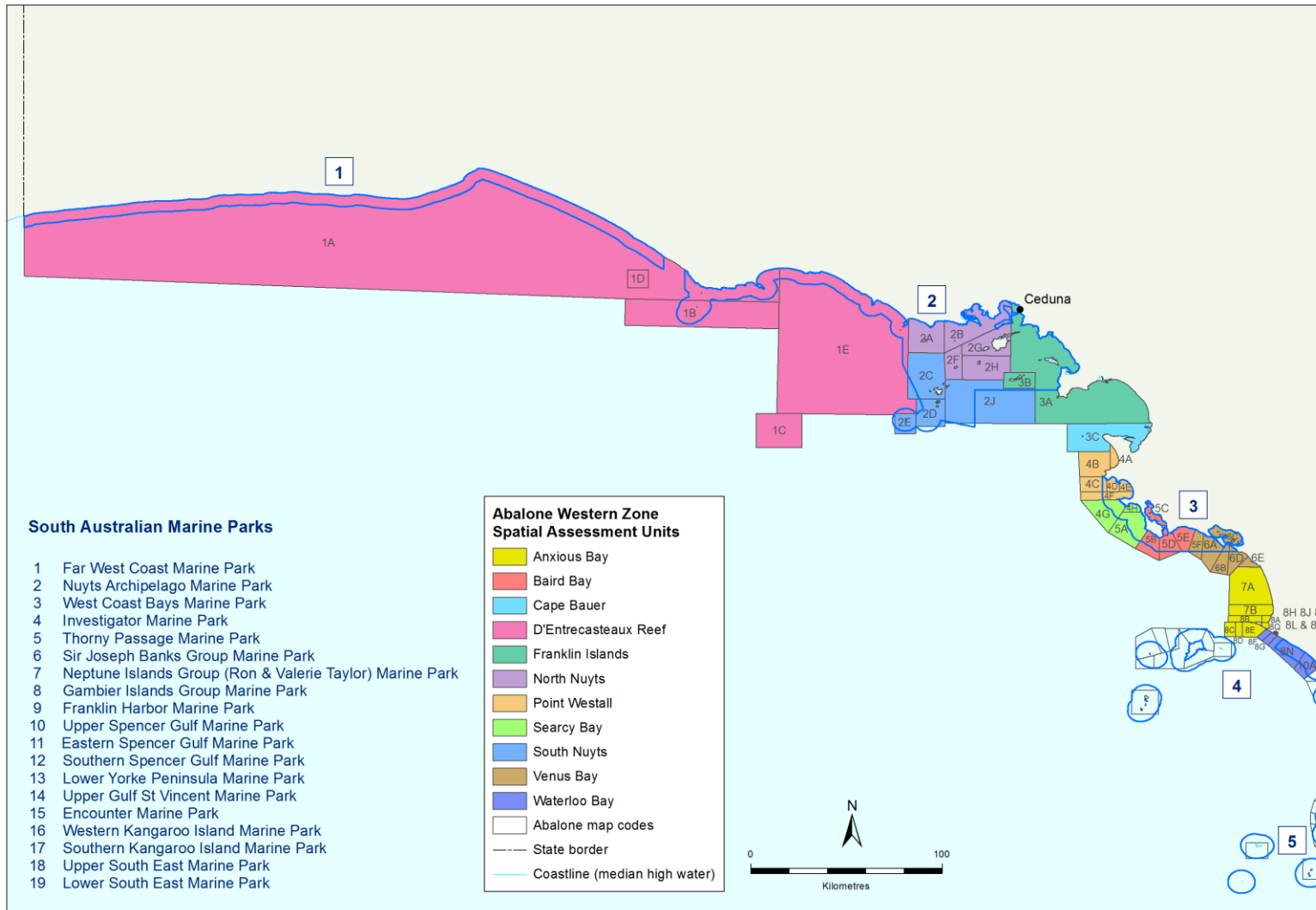
C1. Recreational fishing Marine park boundaries and the overlap with survey areas/regions for the Recreational Fishery



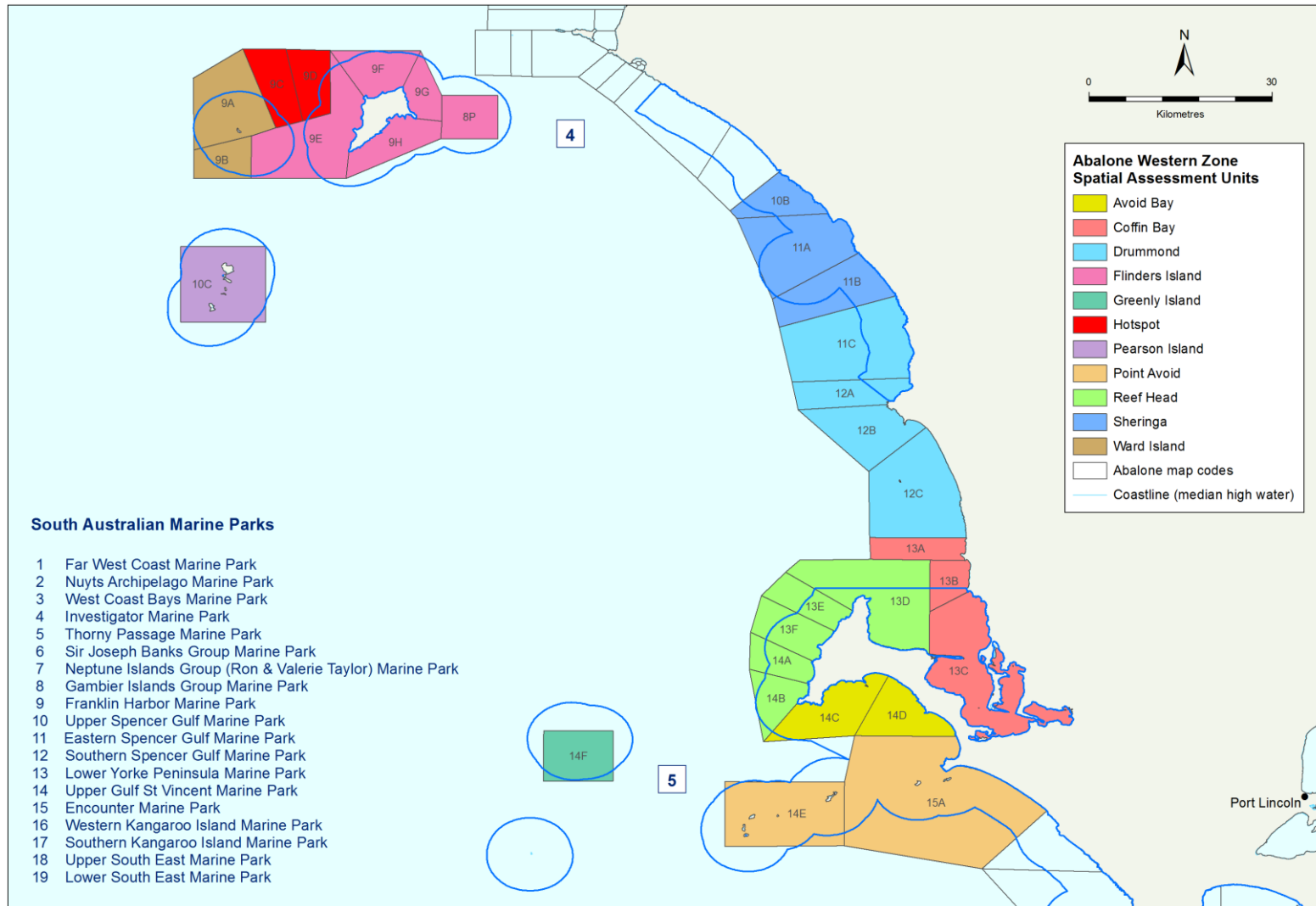
C2. Rock lobster fishing Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas for the Northern Zone and Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fisheries



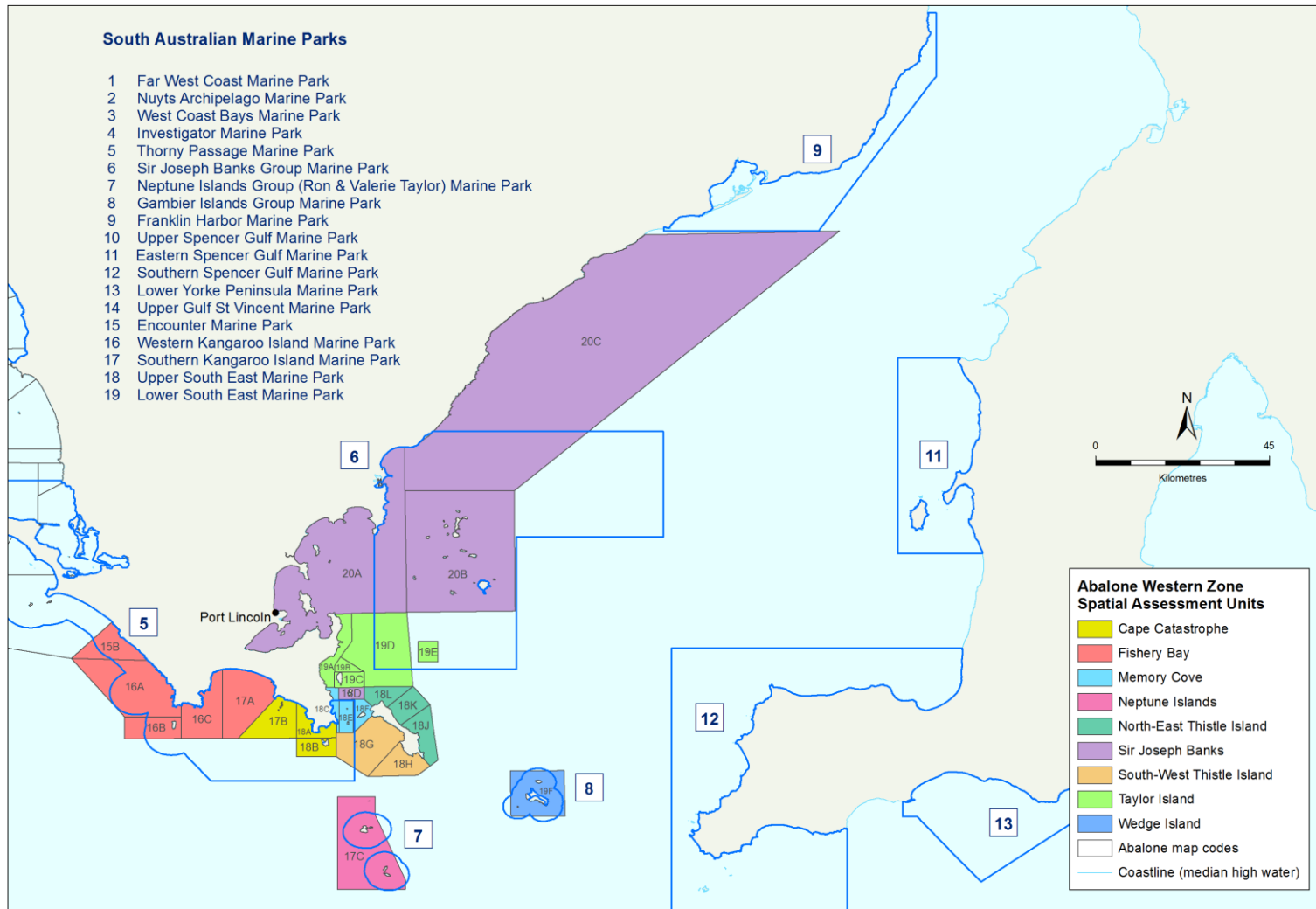
C3. Abalone fishing (Western Zone) Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for part of the Western Zone Abalone Fishery off the far-west coast of South Australia



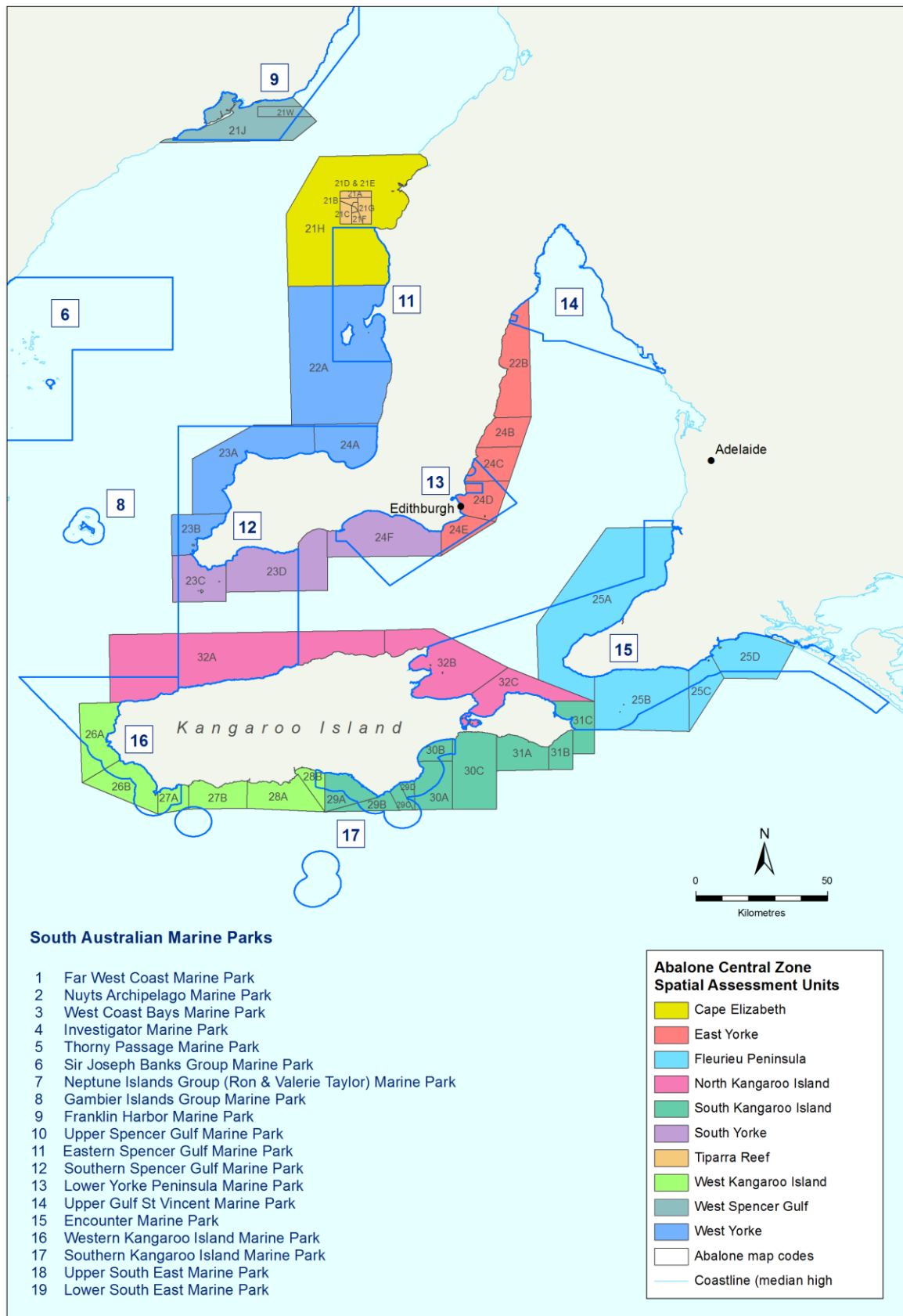
C4. Abalone fishing (Western Zone) Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for part of the Western Zone Abalone Fishery off south-west Eyre Peninsula



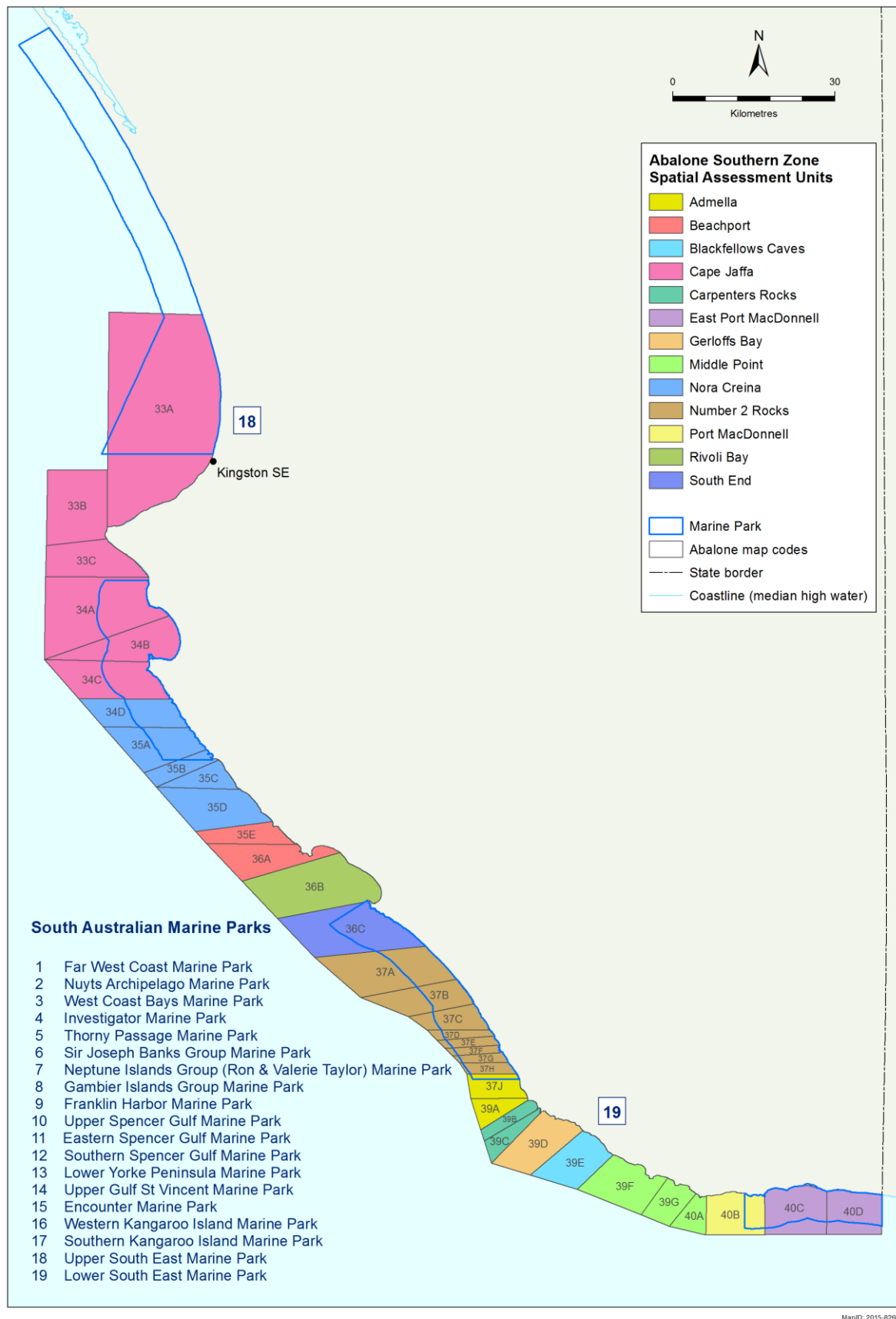
C5. Abalone fishing (Western Zone) Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for part of the Western Zone
Abalone Fishery off south-east Eyre Peninsula



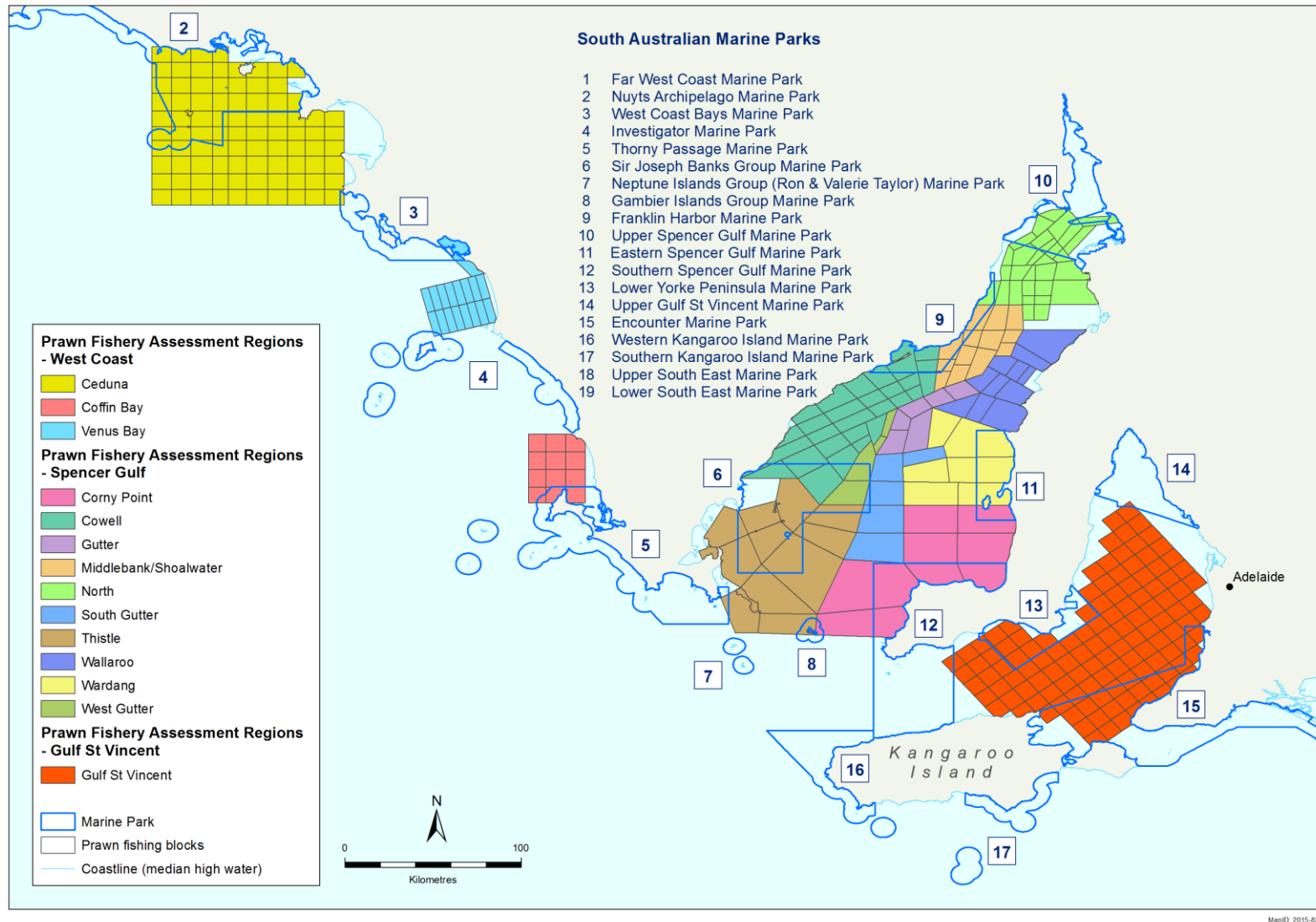
C6. Abalone fishing (Central Zone) Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery



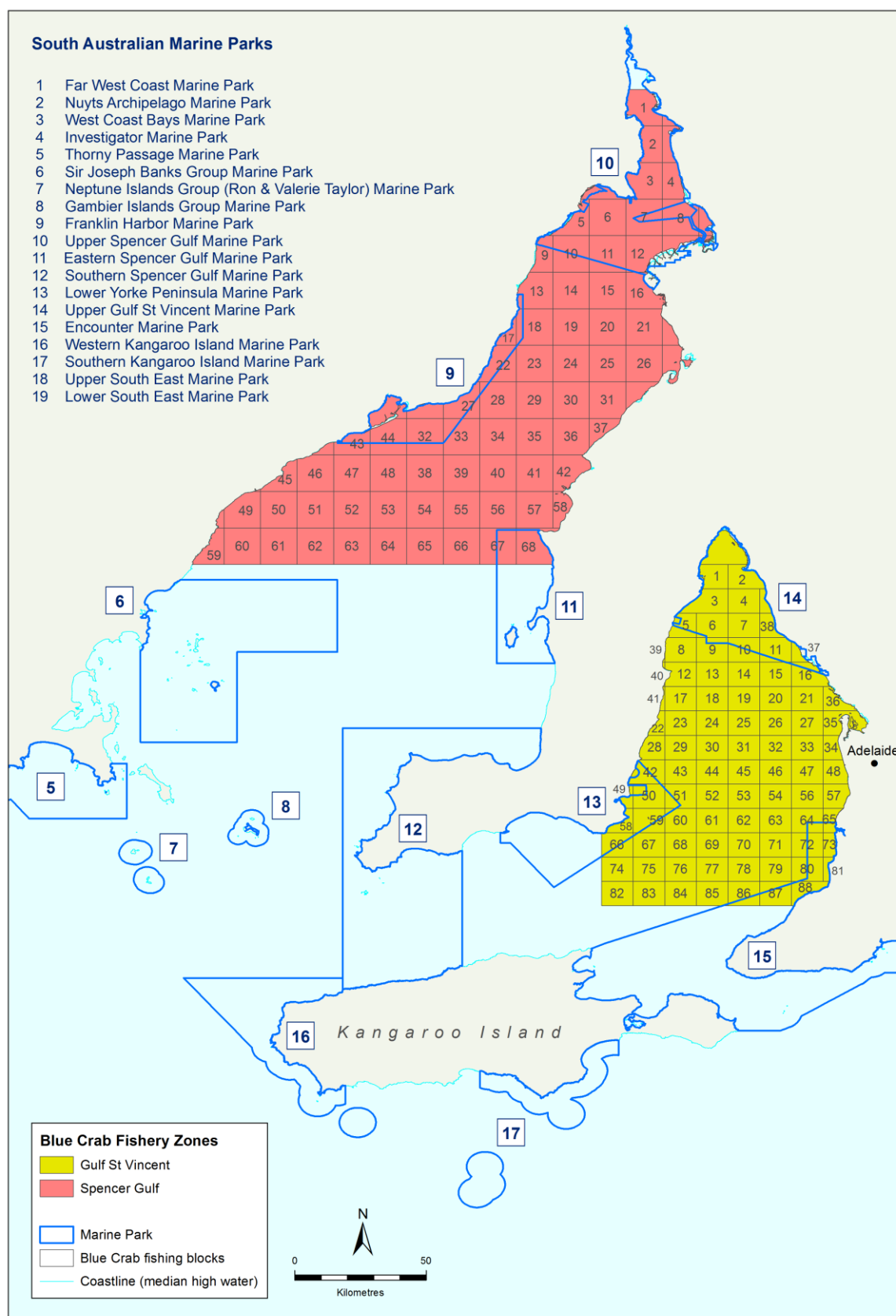
C7. Abalone fishing (Southern Zone) Marine park boundaries and the overlap with map codes and spatial assessment units for the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery



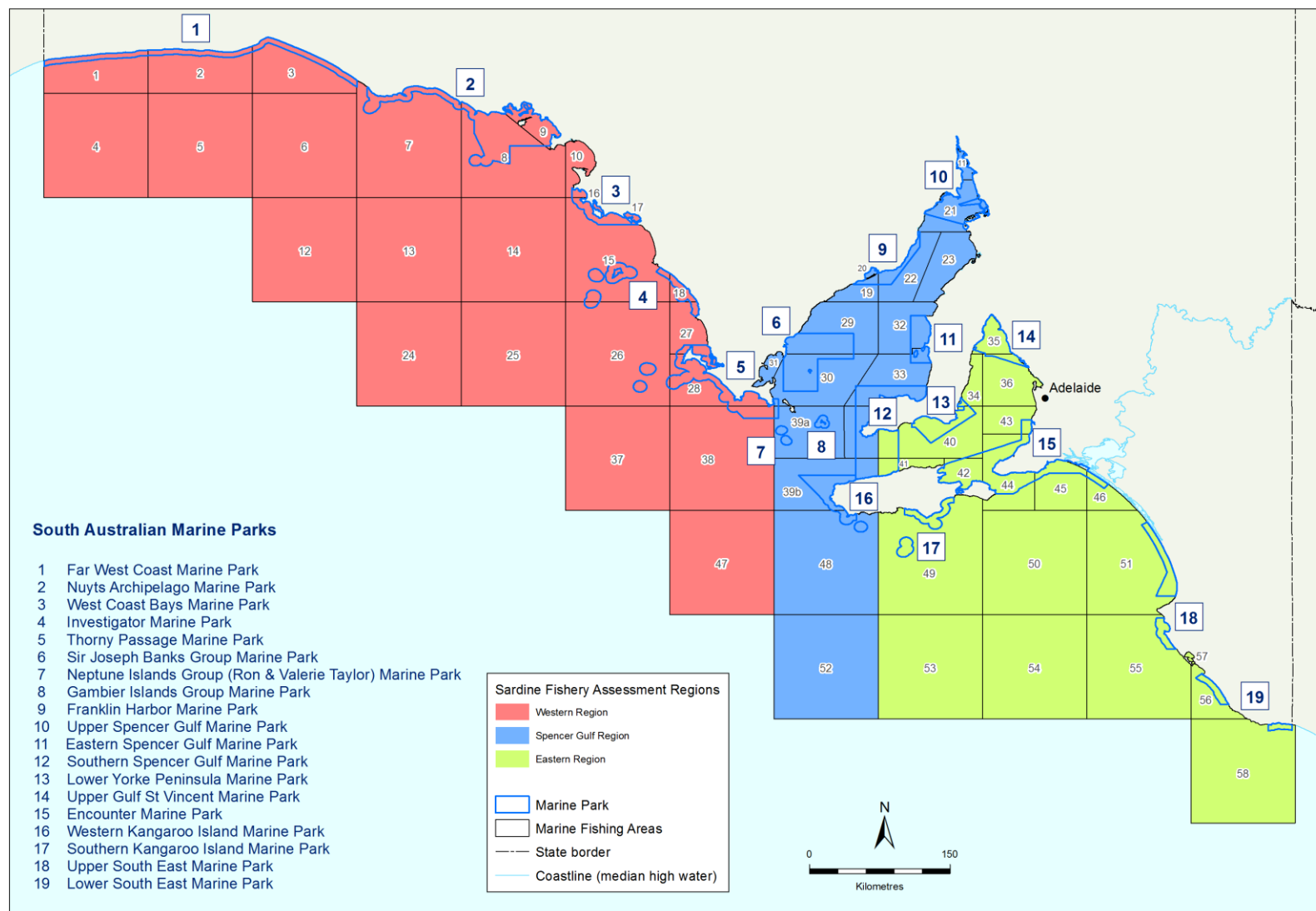
C8. Prawn fishing Marine park boundaries and the overlap with fishing blocks for the West Coast, Spencer Gulf, and Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fisheries



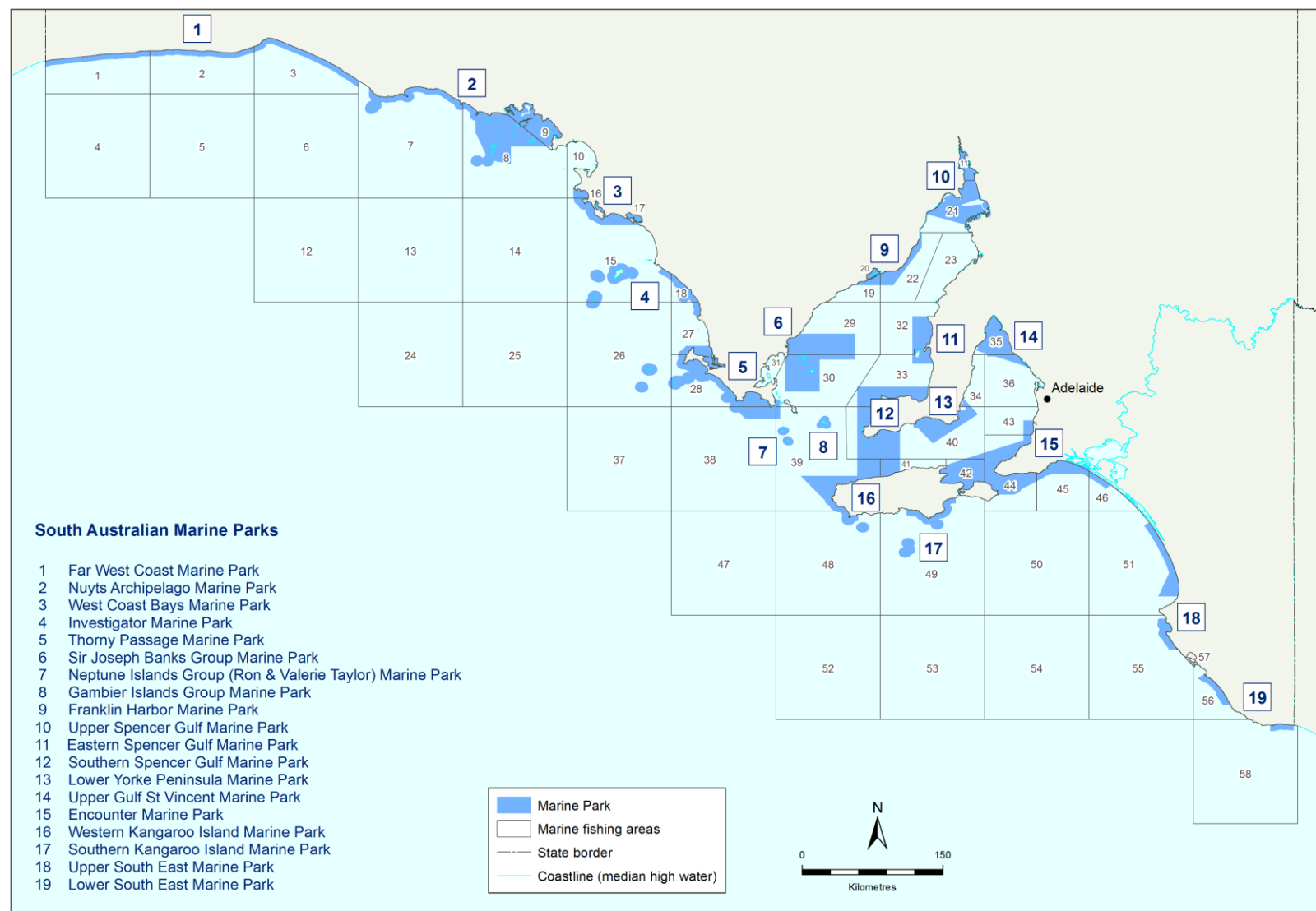
C9. Blue crab fishing Marine park boundaries and the overlap with fishing blocks for the Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent zones of the Blue Crab Fishery



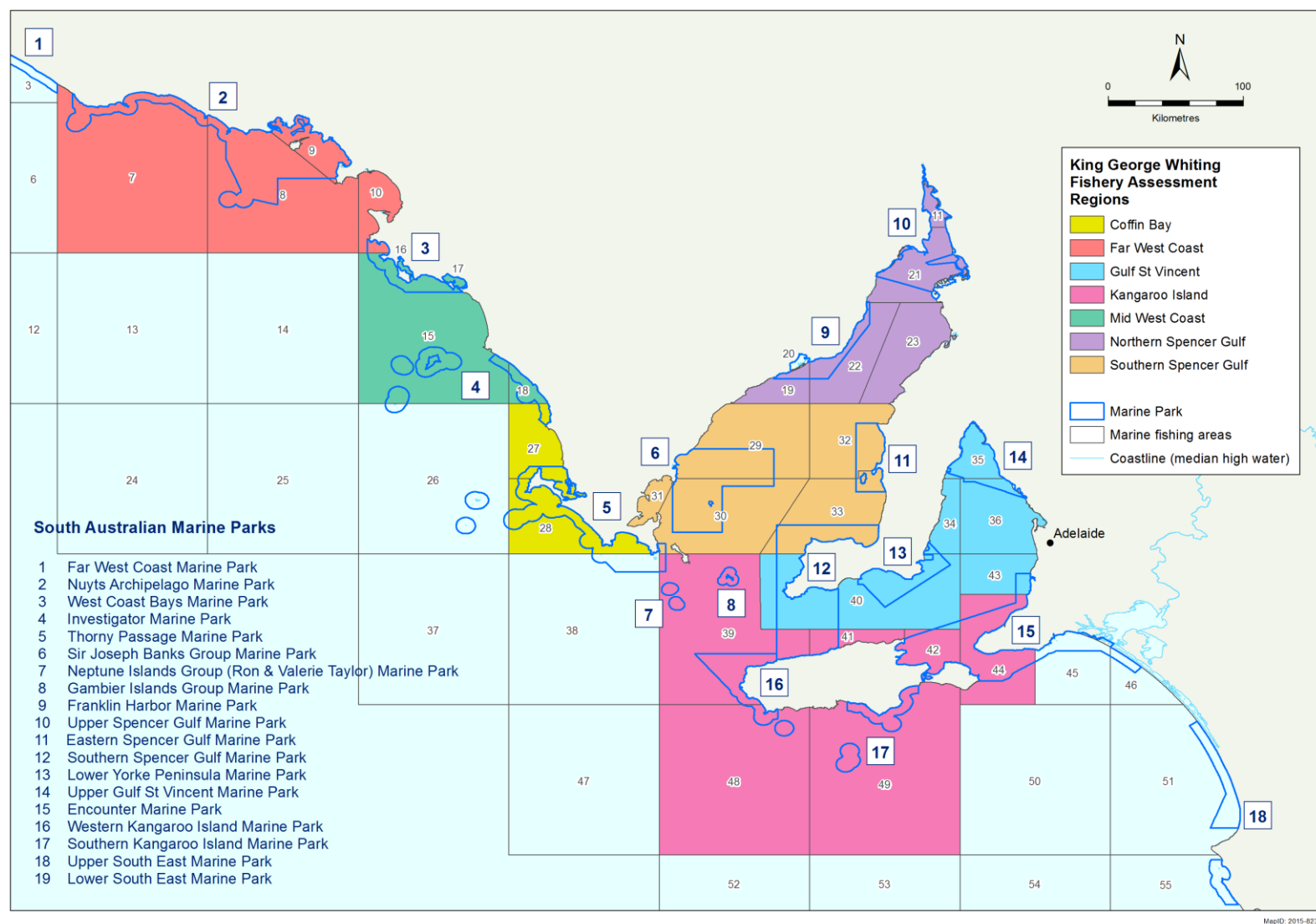
C10. Sardine fishing Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery assessment regions for the Sardine Fishery



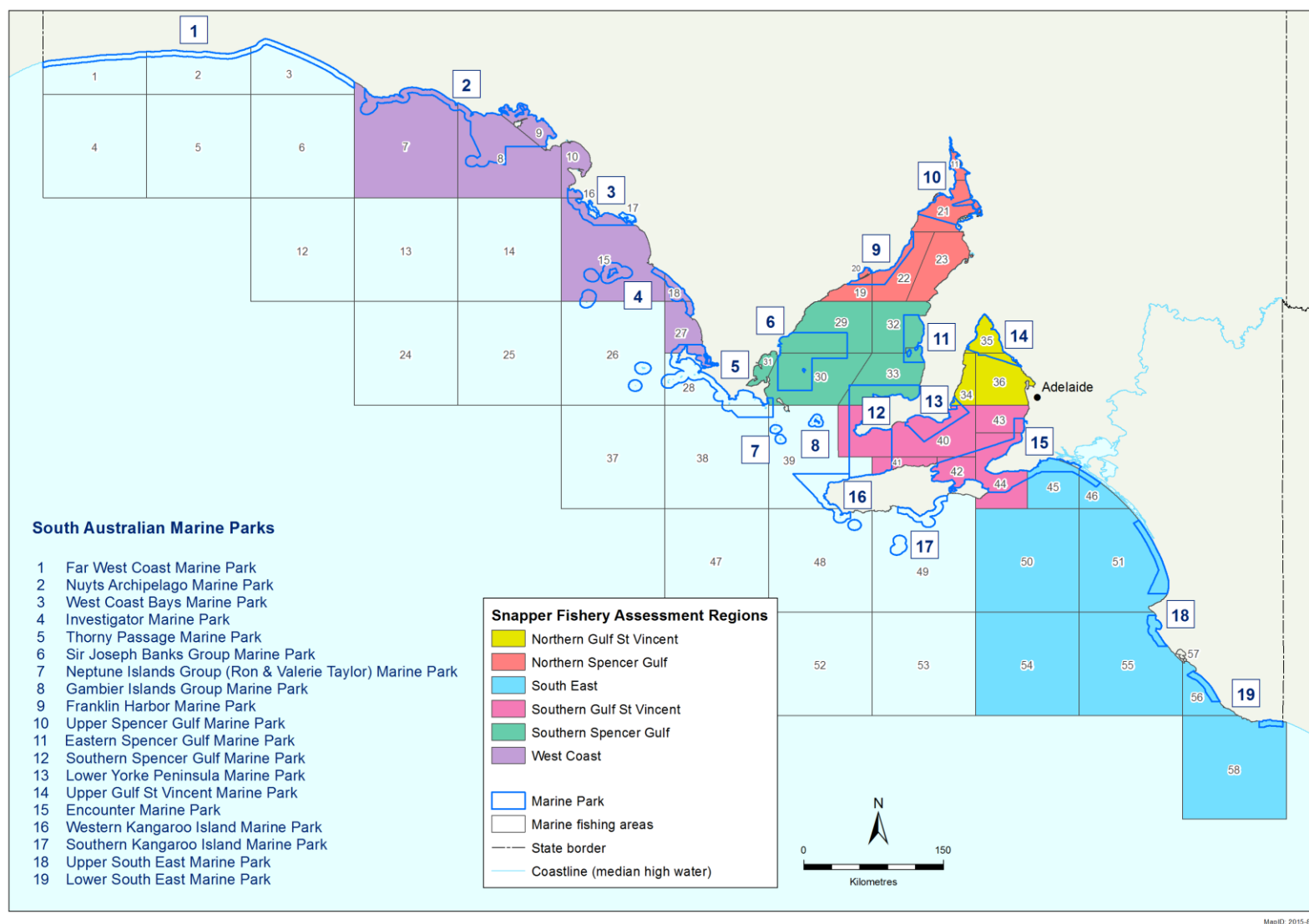
C11. Marine Scalefish fishing Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas for the Marine Scalefish Fishery



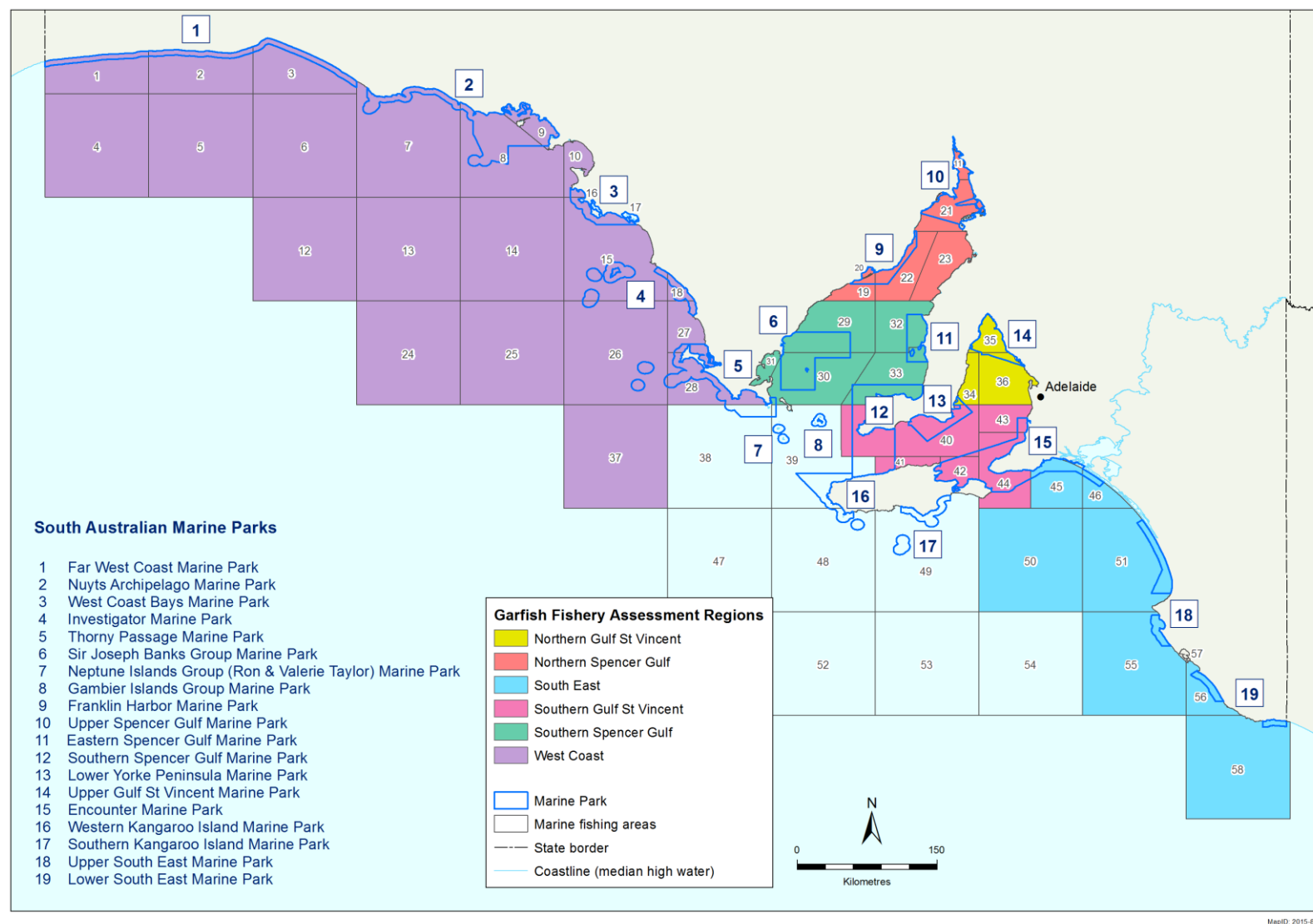
C12. Marine Scalefish fishing (King George whiting) Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery stock assessment regions for King George whiting in the Marine Scalefish Fishery



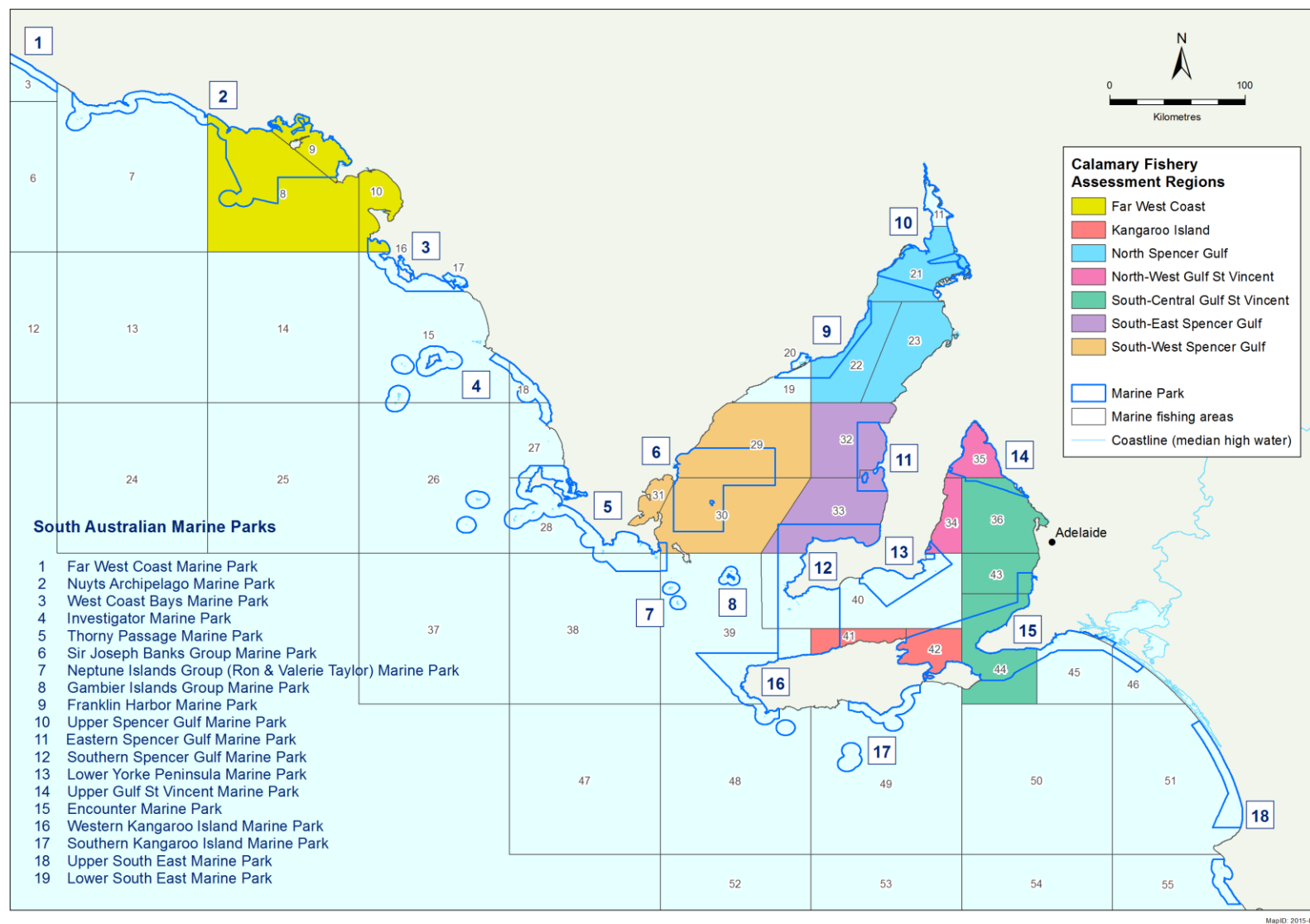
C13. Marine Scalefish fishing (snapper) Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery stock assessment regions for snapper in the Marine Scalefish Fishery



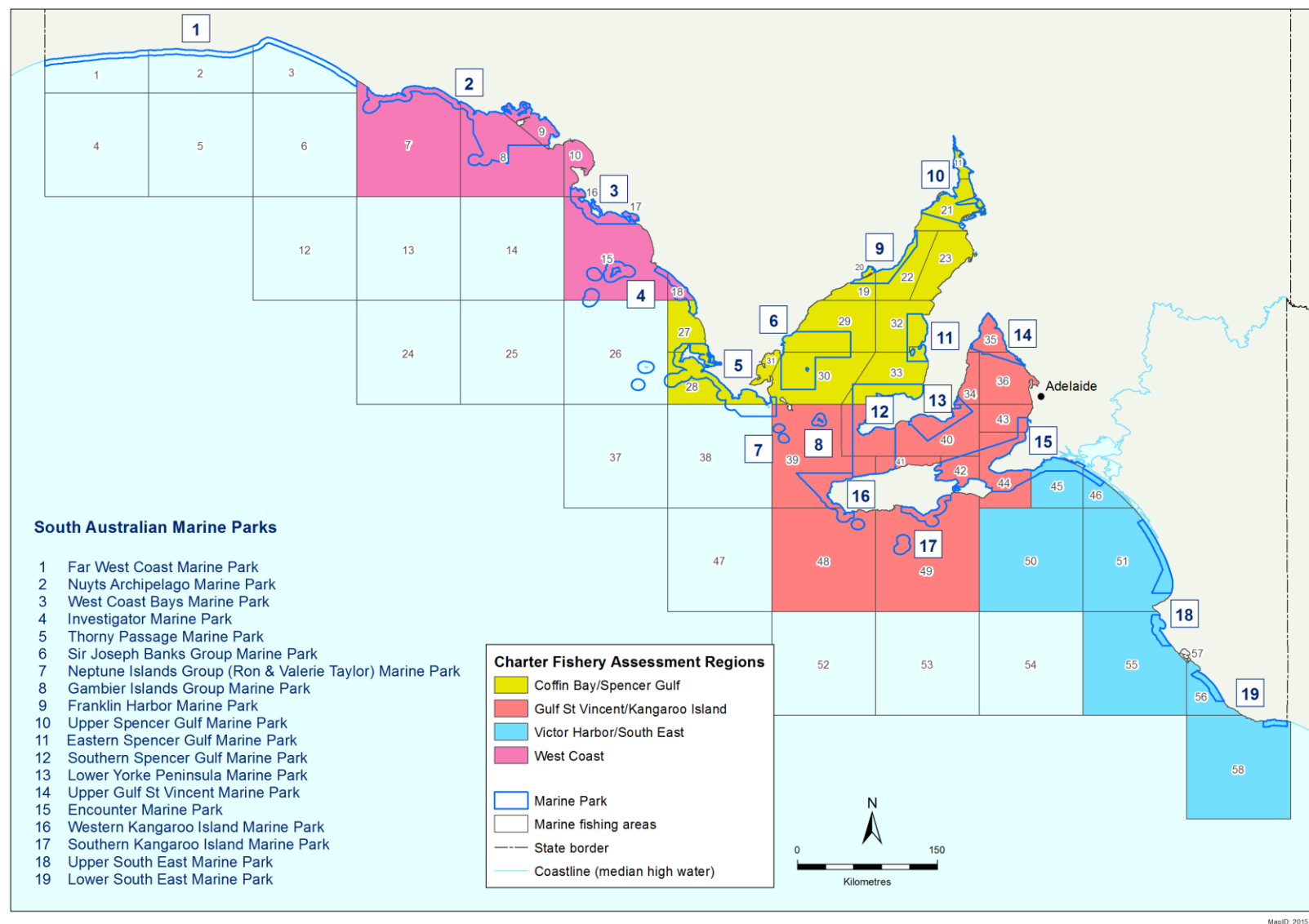
C14. Marine Scalefish fishing (garfish) Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery stock assessment regions for garfish in the Marine Scalefish Fishery



C15. Marine Scalefish fishing (calamary) Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery stock assessment regions for calamary in the Marine Scalefish Fishery



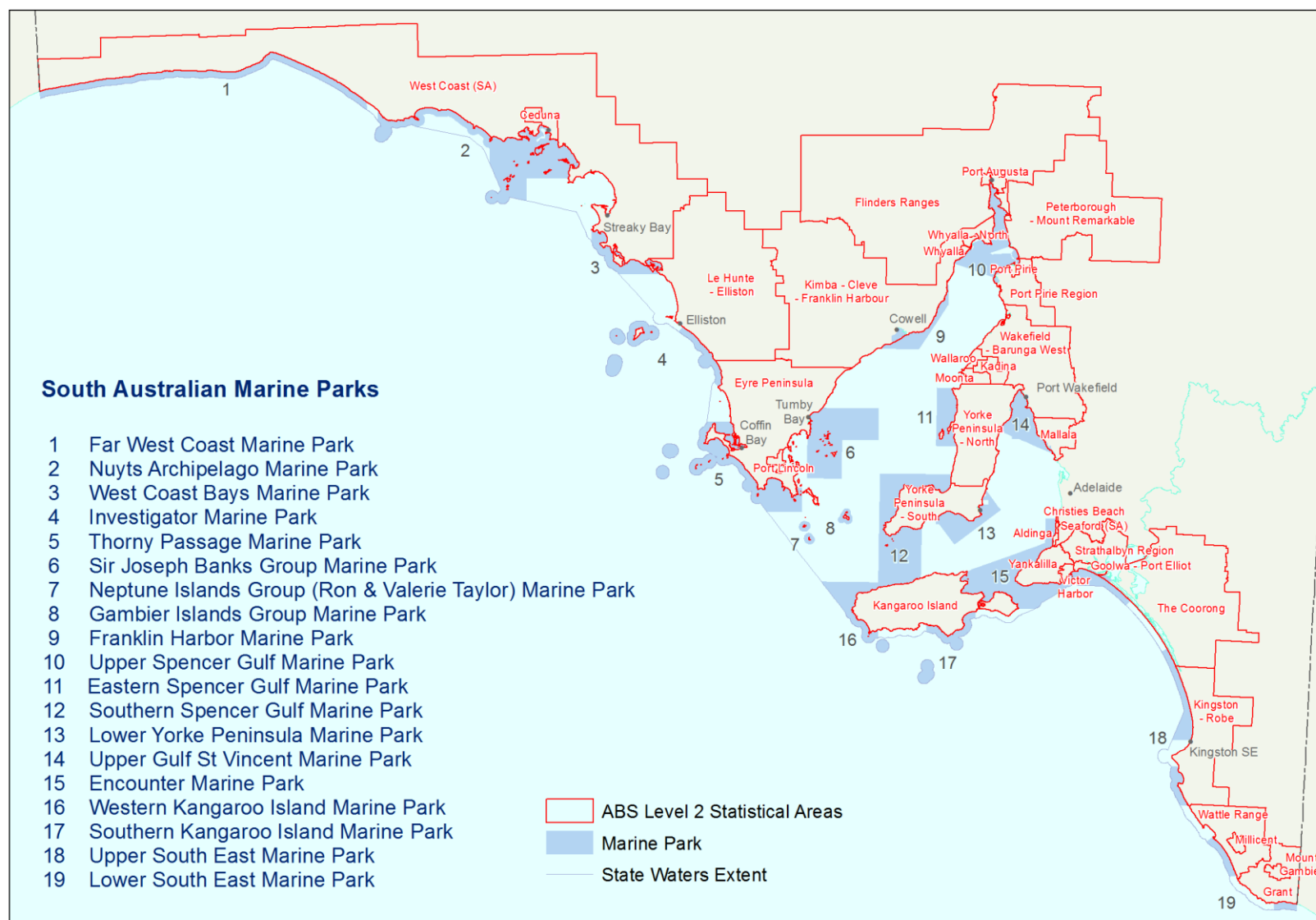
C16. Charter boat fishing Marine park boundaries and the overlap with marine fishing areas and fishery assessment regions for the Charter Boat Fishery



C17. Local Government Areas Marine park boundaries and the overlap with selected local government areas of South Australia that lie adjacent or near to the coast. Note that the numerous local government areas in the Adelaide region are not shown.



C18. Statistical Areas Level 2 Marine park boundaries and the overlap with selected Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s), as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as part of its Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ABS 2011b), that lie adjacent or near to the coast



C19. EconSearch regions Marine park boundaries and the overlap with EconSearch regions, as defined for Regional Impact Assessments (Bailey et al. 2012a,b)



C20. Tourism regions Marine park boundaries and the overlap with tourism regions, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)



D. Management priorities and strategies of the USGMP management plan

Management objectives for South Australia's marine parks are set out in the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*. The Act requires management plans to set out strategies for achieving those objects in relation to the marine park.

Management plans for South Australia's marine parks have been developed around four management priorities with associated strategies, to directly support the achievement of the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*. The strategies will guide marine park managers and inform the development of an implementation plan for each marine park, which will include more specific actions for day-to-day management.

Protection

Marine park zones are the principal tool under the *Marine Parks Act 2007* for managing both current and future activities that take place in marine parks. Management activities will be integrated to achieve multiple-use outcomes, in accordance with the objects and the four types of zones established by the Act.

Strategies

1. Manage activities and uses in the marine park in accordance with zoning and special purpose area provisions.
2. Actively influence activities and uses within and adjacent to the marine park to help mitigate threats to marine biodiversity and marine habitats.
3. Consider additional protections and/or temporary restrictions where necessary in circumstances of urgency:
 - (a) to protect a listed species² of plant or animal, or threatened ecological community
 - (b) to protect a feature of natural or cultural heritage significance
 - (c) to protect public safety.
4. Introduce a permitting system to provide for the following activities (where not otherwise authorised):
 - scientific research in a sanctuary or restricted access zone
 - tourism operations in a sanctuary zone
 - competitions and organised events in a sanctuary zone
 - commercial film-making (including sound recording and photography) in a sanctuary zone
 - installation of vessel moorings in a sanctuary zone.

Stewardship through community involvement

Providing opportunities for public appreciation, involvement, education, understanding and enjoyment of marine environments is central to the success of South Australia's marine parks network, and is integral to the implementation of marine park management plans.

² "listed species" and "threatened ecological community" refers to species or ecological communities of conservation concern listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth), the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* or the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.

Strategies

5. Provide for public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the marine park.
6. Create and promote opportunities for sustainable nature-based tourism in the marine park.
7. Provide education to support the implementation of the marine park.
8. Seek to involve local communities and stakeholders in the day-to-day management and monitoring of the marine park.
9. Work cooperatively with Aboriginal communities to conserve country, plants, animals and culture.

Performance assessment, knowledge and review

A monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program will be implemented to assess the effectiveness of this plan in achieving the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*. Under the Act, the Minister is required to review marine park management plans within a 10 year period. The MER Program will provide critical environmental, economic and social information to inform management plan review. The marine environment is complex and challenging to study. It also supports a range of uses that fill diverse community needs. Good marine park management decisions are informed by an in-depth understanding of the environment and the impacts of the activities that take place within it.

Strategies

10. Develop and implement a monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program that measures the effectiveness of this marine park management plan and its contribution to South Australia's marine parks network (2011 baseline), and that:
 - is designed to measure the effectiveness of the management plan in delivering the predicted outcomes to inform adaptive management
 - Includes linkages to relevant state, national and international monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks
 - Sets out targets and indicators linked to strategies and outcomes for monitoring, which include ecological, socio-economic, environmental and management elements
 - Monitors the delivery of education, research and governance mechanisms
 - Assesses the effectiveness of compliance activities.
11. Foster partnerships to support the implementation of the MER Program incorporating opportunities for community and stakeholder involvement.
12. Ensure outcomes of the MER Program and research outcomes are made publicly available and inform decision making and periodic review of this management plan.
13. Conduct priority research and foster research partnerships to assess the integrity of knowledge frameworks that underpin the predicted outcomes.
14. Encourage Aboriginal people, local communities and stakeholders to preserve traditional and historic knowledge and, where appropriate, share this knowledge with others.

Compliance

The *Marine Parks Act 2007* provides for a range of regulatory instruments to support the achievement of the Act's objects. Compliance with these instruments is vital to the success of the marine parks program.

Three guiding principles underpin marine park compliance:

- Voluntary compliance is maximised through education initiatives
- Across Government collaboration supports compliance
- Operational improvement is achieved through monitoring and review of compliance activity.

Strategies

15. Develop and implement a compliance strategy for the marine park that:

- is cost-efficient
- is focussed on sanctuary zones and other conservation priorities
- complements existing compliance efforts
- maximises voluntary compliance
- includes measures to address serious or repeat non-compliance.

14 Glossary

GMUZ — General Managed Use Zone

HPZ — Habitat Protection Zone

LGA — Local Government Area

MER — monitoring, evaluation and reporting program

USGMP — Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park

RAZ — Restricted Access Zone

SPA — Special Purpose Area

SZ — Sanctuary Zone

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