Aquatic Reserve

FISHWATCH
Call 1800 065 522 24 Hours
• fishing regulations • reporting fishing offences

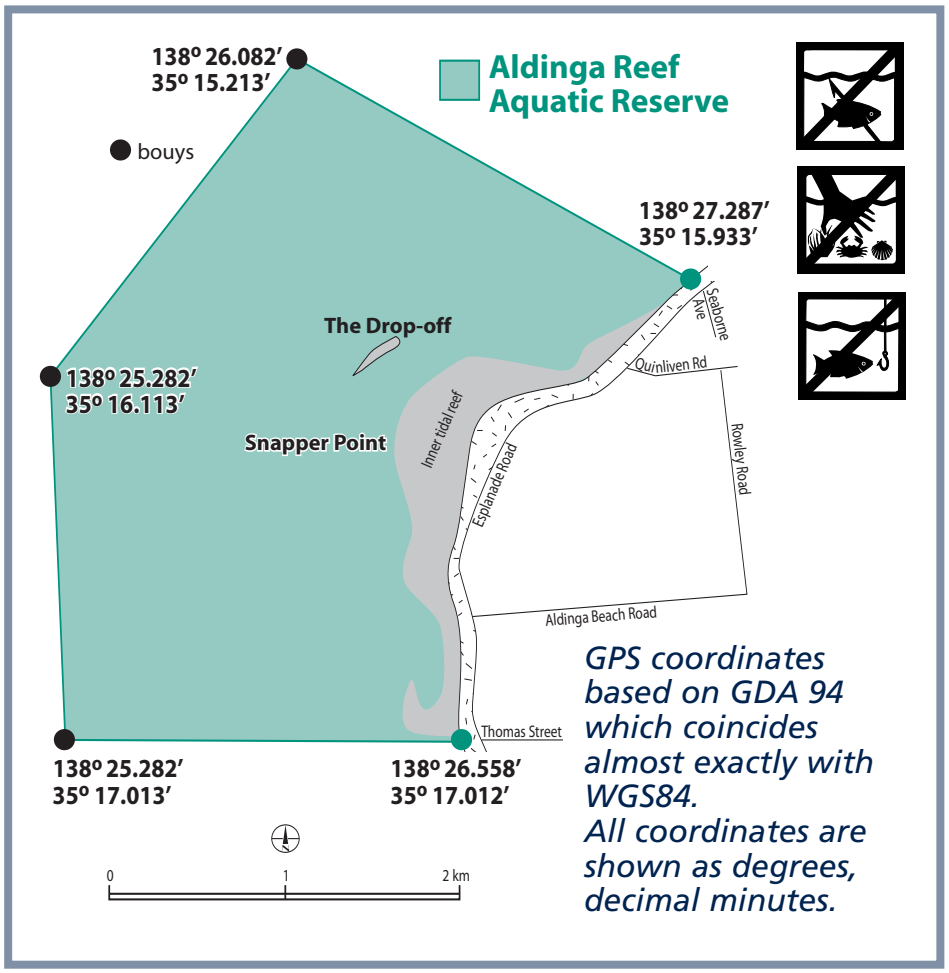
11. ALDINGA REEF

Locality
Eastern side of Gulf St Vincent, south of Adelaide, near Aldinga.

Permitted Activities
Boating, diving, swimming and walking on the reef are all permitted.

Prohibited Activities
Fishing and collecting or removing any marine organism is prohibited.

Primary Purpose
Aldinga Reef Aquatic Reserve was established in 1971 for the protection of aquatic plants and animals associated with the large intertidal limestone reef and the spectacular precipitous underwater cliff known as the 'drop-off' and the surrounding sandy substrate for the purposes of education and recreation.



Major Habitat Types
Aldinga Reef Aquatic Reserve consists of a large intertidal platform which extends approximately 500m off-shore, and submerged reef complex which extends approximately 1200m offshore. It is a moderate wave energy coastline.

Outstanding physical, biological or other features
A large intertidal platform of tertiary limestone extends approximately 500m offshore. The reef complex extends some 1200m offshore from Snapper Point where, at the seaward edge of the reef, there is a spectacular 'drop-off' with a precipitous underwater cliff of about 10m. The cliff and overhangs are extremely rich in marine life, particularly sponges and kelp plants. The area is popular with SCUBA divers.

Known endangered or rare species
Locally endangered species include gorgonian sea fans (*Melithaea species*) and blue groper (*Achoerodus gouldii*).

Additional Information
Aldinga Reef has been set aside as an aquatic reserve to protect an intertidal rock reef habitat and as a sanctuary for local reef inhabitants.

Protected within the reserve is the intertidal limestone reef platform, which extends approximately 500 metres offshore. The reef contains a wide range of marine organisms living in an exposed shallow intertidal zone.

One of the major features of the reserve is the "drop-off", a spectacular underwater cliff, popular with divers. Here rare gorgonian corals, sponges and a wide variety of reef fish may be found.

Offshore from the reef system, the sandy seafloor is interspersed with seagrass meadows.