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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Safety Bay

Most of the Safety Bay foreshore area is well grassed and shaded. There are picnic tables and shelters, barbecues, toilets and changerooms, plenty of parking areas, a yacht club and boat launching facilities. Here one can laze all day on the grass, swim in the sheltered waters, sail, fish or use a boat to reach the fascinating outer reefs and rocks.

Warnbro Sound

The clean waters of Warnbro Sound are perfect for swimming and fishing. There are spectacular views of the Sound - and of the entire Shoalwater Islands Marine Park from the top of the vegetated dunes, which serve as backdrops to the wide beaches fringing the area.

Becher Point

This is the southern most point of the Marine Park and a popular resting place for a number of birds. At present it is only accessible by 4WD vehicles.

It is an excellent spot for beach fishing - in season schools of fish provide plenty of sport for the enthusiastic fisherman. No facilities are provided.

MANAGING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The Shoalwater Islands Marine Park is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). The Fisheries Department is responsible for managing professional and recreational fishing in collaboration with CALM. The Department of Marine and Harbours is responsible for all boating and navigation. In addition, local authorities, community associations, clubs and the Penguin Island Volunteer Group all have an important input into management. CALM is currently developing a management plan for the Marine Park that will cater for conservation, education and recreation.

CARING FOR SHOALWATER

BE CAREFUL: When SCUBA diving or snorkelling display the appropriate flag.

BE RESPONSIBLE: No barbecues or fires are permitted on the islands.

BE CLEAN: Take your litter home with you when you leave.

BE CAUTIOUS: Observe and conserve marine wildlife by causing as little disturbance as possible. Pets are not allowed on the islands.

BE COURTEOUS: Make sure your activities do not spoil some one else's enjoyment of the Park.

COME BACK: Conserve fish numbers by taking only what you need. Come back, enjoy and learn about this magnificent environment with your children.

FURTHER INFORMATION

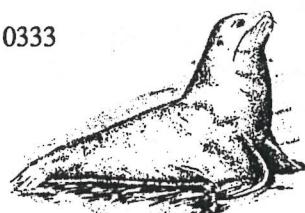
CALM officers regularly patrol the islands and waters of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. The Penguin Island Volunteers are on duty at the Information Centre on Penguin Island most weekends during summer. They will all be pleased to answer any questions. For further information contact:

Marine and Islands Manager
Department of Conservation and Land Management

Hillarys Boat Harbour
HILLARYS. Tel: 448 5800

or

Department of Conservation and Land Management
50 Hayman Road
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SHOALWATER ISLANDS MARINE PARK



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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT W.A.

SHOALWATER ISLANDS MARINE PARK

The Shoalwater Islands Marine Park encompasses an area which has long been used for recreation by both the local community and tourists. As well as being an attraction for visitors, the limestone reefs, seagrass beds, sandy seafloors and numerous islands are home to a host of plants and animals including breeding colonies of little penguins and resting Australian sea-lions.

The Park is only a 30 minute drive from Perth. It extends from Cape Peron, south of Rockingham to Becher Point and contains waters of Shoalwater Bay and Warnbro Sound. Warnbro Sound is an important conservation area. The deep silty basin contains a distinctive mixture of temperate and sub-tropical invertebrates. Shallow seagrass beds stabilise the sand and protect a myriad of juvenile fish.

The Shoalwater Islands Marine Park was established to protect this ecologically important area while continuing to provide for recreation for the local community and for the many national and international visitors.

WHY A MARINE PARK?

The varied and increasing pressure on the area has caused the State Government to recognise the need to manage Shoalwater Bay as a multiple purpose Marine Park for conservation, education, scientific research and fishing (both recreational and commercial).

A range of activities currently take place in the Park and are predicted to increase in the future.

The Park is within easy reach of a variety of educational institutions and is frequently used for nature study. With the emphasis of management of the new park being on conservation and education, it is likely that this demand will increase.

Recreational activities such as sailing, windsurfing, skiing, diving, snorkelling, fishing and just relaxing and enjoying the peaceful surrounds, are all popular activities which compete for space.



Because such a range of both active and passive experiences are offered within the Park, tourism is increasing. With this accelerated demand comes opportunities for commercial facilities and concessions (for example, bay boat tours).

Causeway Boat Ramp

An excellent all-weather boat launching ramp located near the causeway access to Stirling Naval Base on Garden Island. With plenty of parking facilities, it is an ideal starting point for exploration of Cockburn Sound and the waters off Cape Peron. The Causeway Boat Ramp is the base for the Rockingham Volunteer Sea Rescue Group (Inc.). Toilets with access for the disabled are provided.

Cape Peron

Shallow limestone reefs make Cape Peron an excellent location for fishing, swimming, diving or exploring the marine life in the many rock pools.

A number of walk trails to features like the historic gun emplacements and lookouts installed for the protection of Cockburn Sound during World War II, encourage exploration of the area.

Shoalwater Bay

Picture-postcard scenery and safe, sandy beaches make Shoalwater Bay an ideal destination for a family outing. There is easy access to a variety of beaches, with grassed picnic facilities, barbecues, parking areas, toilets and changerooms.

A day can be spent sailing, windsurfing, swimming, fishing, diving and boating around the reefs, rocks and islands dotting the small, sheltered bay. At the end of the day, visitors can experience the glory of the sun setting behind the islands.

Penguin Island

Penguin Island has been set aside for the conservation of its plants and animals and for a low key recreation site. It is the most northerly breeding site of the little penguin, and an important breeding and resting site for many other sea birds - like bridled, caspian and fairy terns, pied cormorants, shearwaters and silver gulls.

Access to the Island is by ferry from Mersey Point. An absorbing day can be spent strolling the defined walk trails and exploring the limestone caves - once the home of the eccentric mining engineer, 'Seaforth' McKenzie. Fires and barbecues are not permitted on the Island, but picnics can be enjoyed on the grassy picnic area. Safe swimming can be found on the sheltered eastern beaches and there is good surfing on the west coast.

An Information Centre, manned by volunteers, is open during weekends and public holidays and there are toilets available on the Island.

Mersey Point

Mersey Point is the departure point for boat tours of Shoalwater Bay. Highlights of the tour include the viewing of Australian sea lions lazing on Seal Island, the crystal clear waters of the Bay and the craggy wild beauty of the many islands and rocks.

A number of facilities are provided at Mersey Point including parking, toilets and changerooms and a mobile kiosk during summer holidays and weekends.

