

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

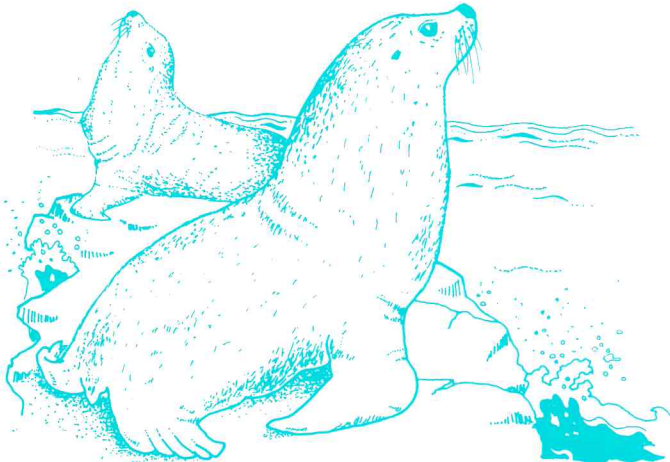
This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

Point Becher

The sandy spit of Point Becher is of international scientific interest. It is the southernmost point of the Marine Park and a popular resting place for a number of birds. At present, it is only accessible by four-wheel-drive 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). In consultation with CALM, the Fisheries Department is responsible for managing professional and recreational fishing. The Department of Marine and Harbours is responsible for all boating and navigation. In addition, local authorities, community associations, clubs and the Shoalwater Guides (CALM's volunteers for the area) all have an important input into management. CALM has just completed a management plan for the islands and will produce a supplementary plan for the marine environment in which conservation, education and recreation issues are all addressed.



CARING FOR SHOALWATER

- **BE CAREFUL:** When SCUBA diving or snorkelling, please display the appropriate flag.
- **BE RESPONSIBLE:** Barbecues or fires are not permitted on the islands.
- **BE CLEAN:** Please take your litter home with you when you leave.
- **BE CAUTIOUS:** Observe and conserve. Disturbing or feeding marine wildlife and mammals can alter their natural instincts.
- **BE CARING:** Please leave pets at home. Avoid the disappointment of being turned away, as they are not permitted on the islands of the Marine Park.
- **BE COURTEOUS:** Make sure your activities do not spoil someone else's enjoyment of the Park.
- **BE MODERATE:** Conserve fish numbers by taking only what you need.
- **COME BACK:** Come back with your children to enjoy and learn more about this magnificent environment.

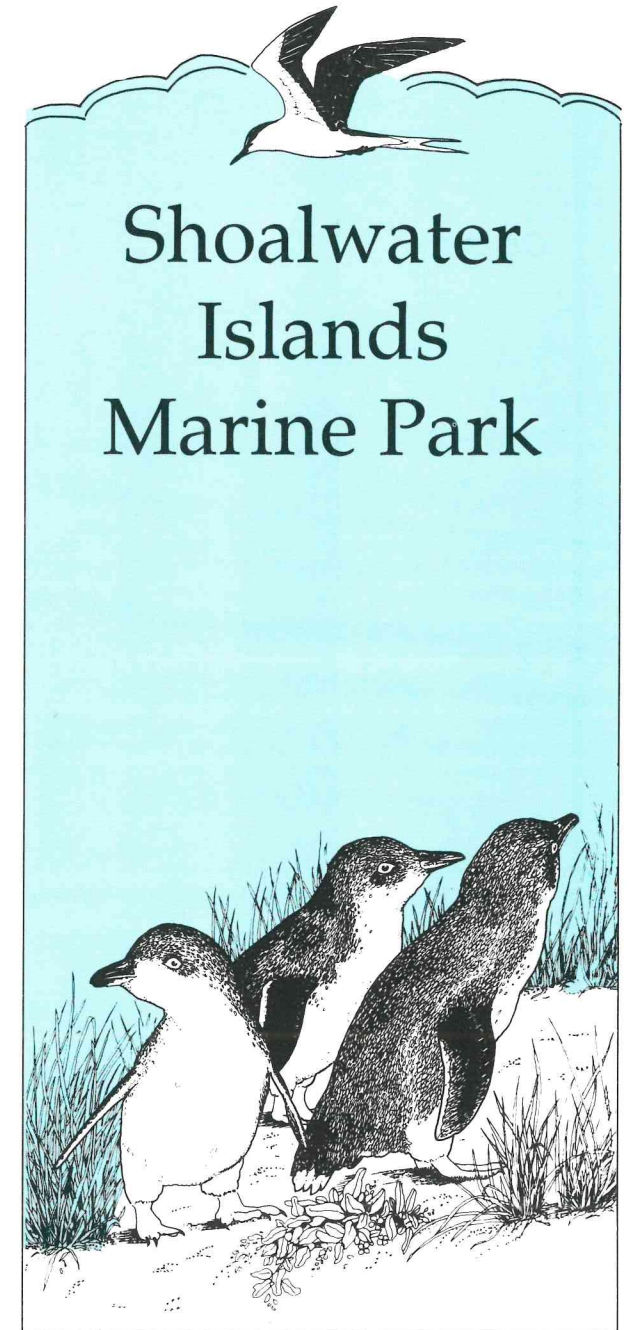
FURTHER INFORMATION

CALM officers regularly patrol the islands and waters of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. The Shoalwater Guides are on duty at the Information Centre on Penguin Island most weekends during summer. They will 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
- Department
of Conservation
and Land Management
50 Hayman Road
COMO Tel. 367 0333



0915.0991.5M



SHOALWATER ISLANDS MARINE PARK

The Shoalwater Islands Marine Park encompasses an area which has long been used for recreation by the local community and, more recently, by 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 45-minute drive from Perth. It extends from Cape Peron, south of Rockingham, to Point Becher, and contains the waters of Shoalwater Bay and Warnbro Sound. Warnbro Sound is an important conservation area because it represents an example of Cockburn Sound as it might have been in an undisturbed state forty or more years ago.

The deep silty basin of Warnbro Sound 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 commercial fishing and 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).

The Park offers a range of activities, which will almost certainly increase in the future.

The Park is within easy reach of a variety of educational institutions and is frequently used for nature study. The new Park's emphasis will be on conservation and education, so it is likely that this demand will increase.

Popular recreational activities are sailing, windsurfing, skiing, diving, snorkelling, fishing, and just relaxing and enjoying the peaceful surroundings.

Because so many experiences are offered within the Park, tourism is increasing. With this accelerated demand come opportunities for commercial facilities and concessions (for example, bay boat tours).



WHERE TO GO

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 lead to features like the historic gun emplacements and lookouts installed for the protection of Cockburn Sound during World War II.

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, the largest of all the islands in the Park, 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 seabirds - 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 walk trails and discovering traces of the ocean world washed up on the beaches. Fires and barbecues are not permitted on the Island, but lunch or a snack can be enjoyed on the grassy picnic area. Safe swimming can be found on the sheltered eastern beaches

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. Mobile kiosks provide food and liquid refreshments during summer holidays and weekends.

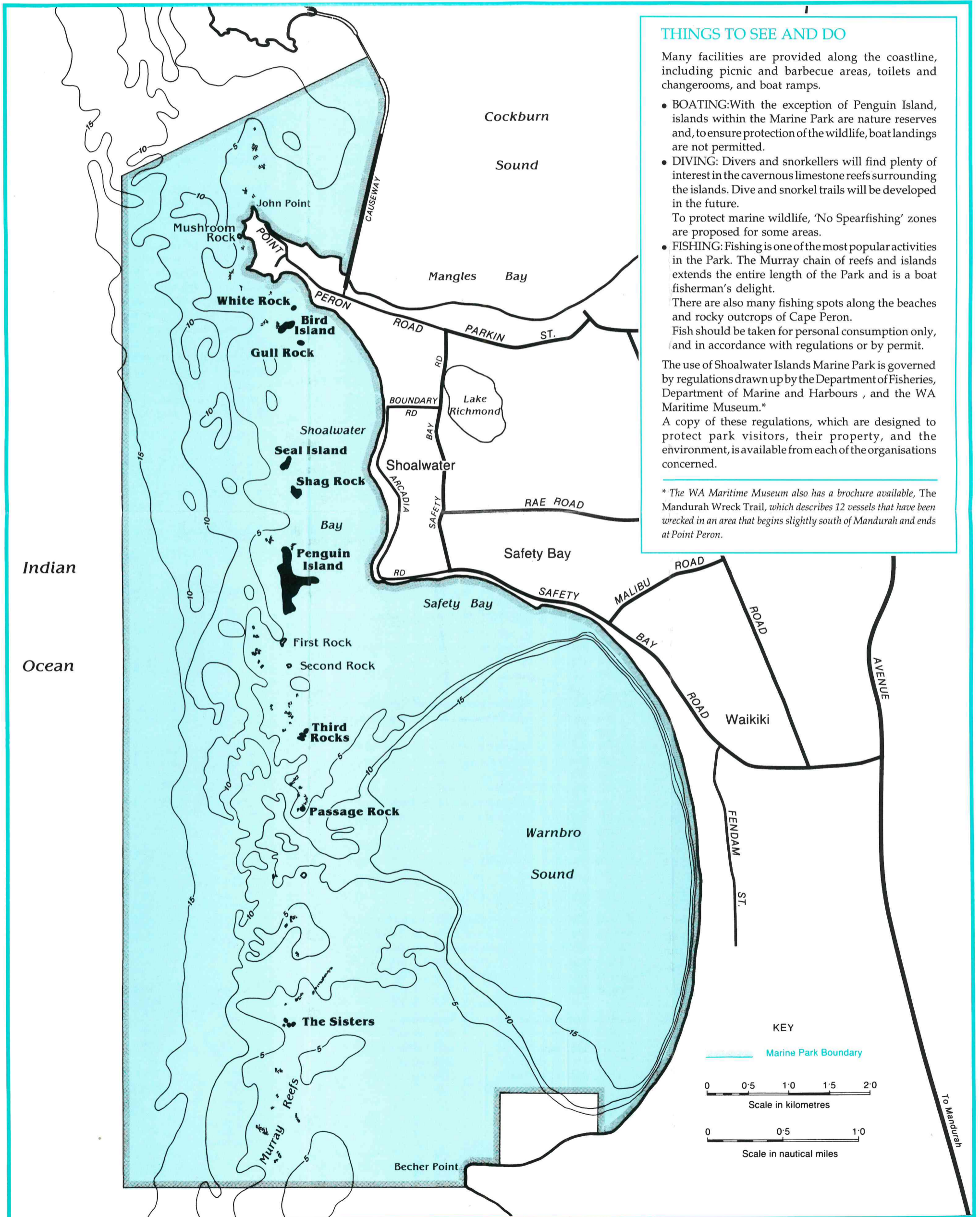
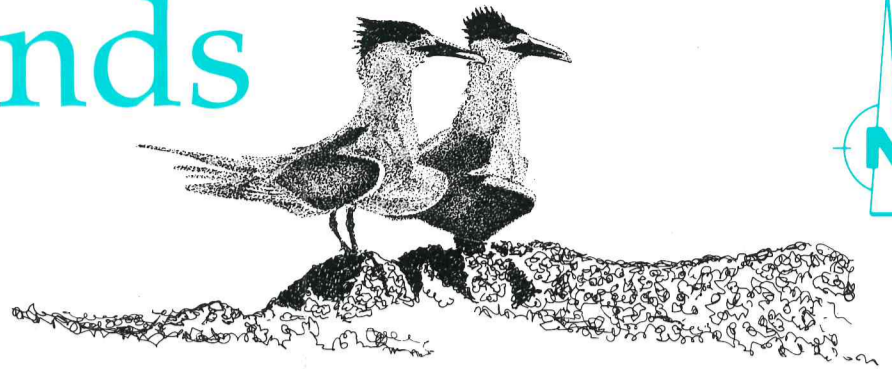
Safety Bay

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 sheltered waters, fish, or sail off to explore 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.

Shoalwater Islands Marine Park



THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Many facilities are provided along the coastline, including picnic and barbecue areas, toilets and changerooms, and boat ramps.

- **BOATING:** With the exception of Penguin Island, islands within the Marine Park are nature reserves and, to ensure protection of the wildlife, boat landings are not permitted.
- **DIVING:** Divers and snorkellers will find plenty of interest in the cavernous limestone reefs surrounding the islands. Dive and snorkel trails will be developed in the future.
To protect marine wildlife, 'No Spearfishing' zones are proposed for some areas.
- **FISHING:** Fishing is one of the most popular activities in the Park. The Murray chain of reefs and islands extends the entire length of the Park and is a boat fisherman's delight.
There are also many fishing spots along the beaches and rocky outcrops of Cape Peron.
Fish should be taken for personal consumption only, and in accordance with regulations or by permit.

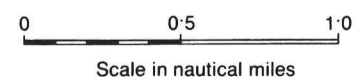
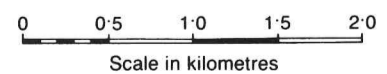
The use of Shoalwater Islands Marine Park is governed by regulations drawn up by the Department of Fisheries, Department of Marine and Harbours, and the WA Maritime Museum.*

A copy of these regulations, which are designed to protect park visitors, their property, and the environment, is available from each of the organisations concerned.

* The WA Maritime Museum also has a brochure available, The Mandurah Wreck Trail, which describes 12 vessels that have been wrecked in an area that begins slightly south of Mandurah and ends at Point Peron.

KEY

Marine Park Boundary



To Mandurah