St Vincent Gulf

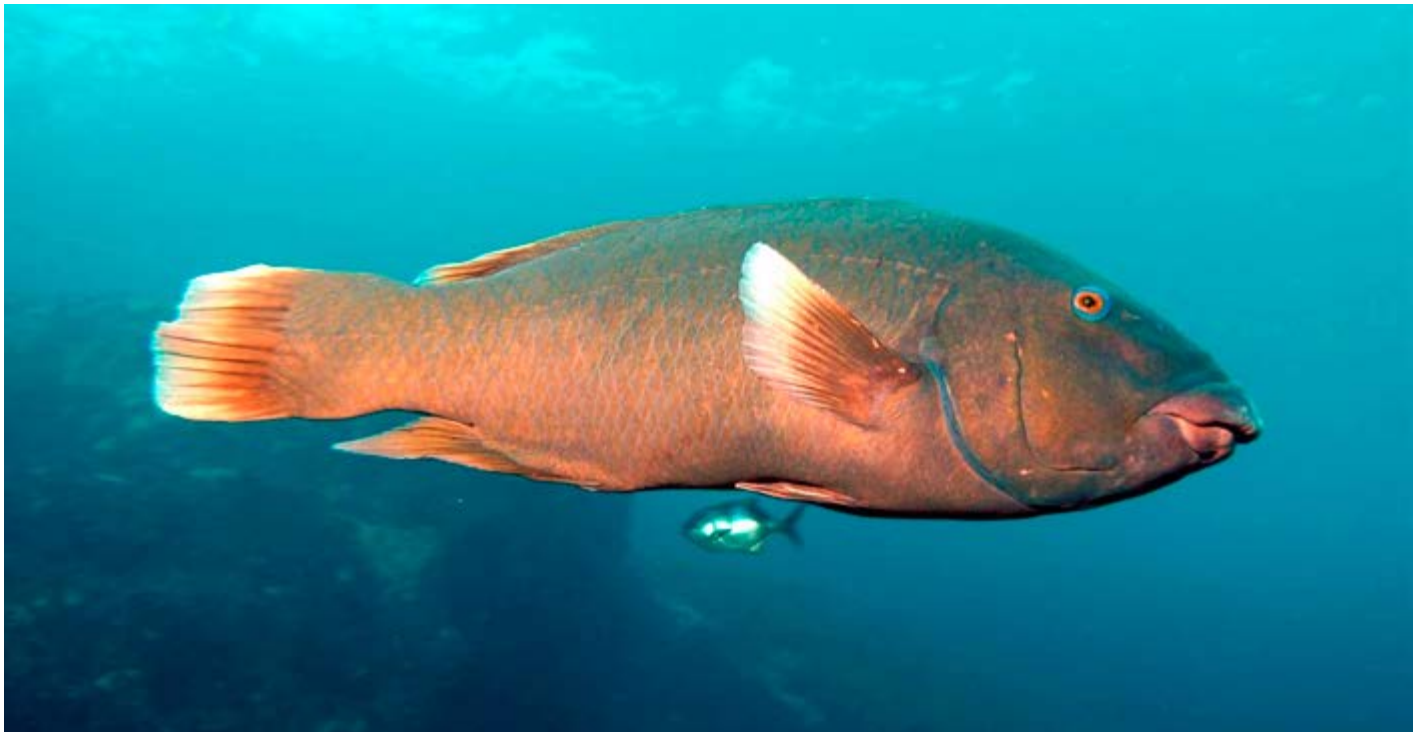

Photo Greg Adams

Western Blue Groper

The St Vincent Gulf bioregion extends 170km from Port Wakefield at the northern end of the bioregion, to Cape Jervis in the south. This includes the whole of the marine ecosystem of the St Vincent Gulf, across to Kangaroo Island including fringing coastal areas.

The bioregion's climate ranges from semi-arid in the north to Mediterranean in the south, with hot dry summers and cool winters which are moist in southern parts of the region.

The main human activities in the bioregion are shipping, fishing, aquaculture, scuba diving, boating and coastal development. All of Adelaide's metropolitan area is associated with this bioregion which means metropolitan pollution has a major impact on this region.

Biodiversity and habitat

In this bioregion, you will find seagrass meadows, mangroves, algal communities, saltmarshes, temperate reefs, rocky reefs, sandy beaches, coastal wetlands, mudflats and estuaries.

The St Vincent Gulf is one of the richest areas for stationary invertebrates such as sponges and sea squirts in South Australia. The bioregion provides important habitat for many species including the Leafy Seadragon, Sea Slug and the Australian Sea-lion. Many of the coastal wetlands of the bioregion are of national importance and the sheltered gulf waters have some of the largest temperate seagrass ecosystems in the world.

Photo DEH

Inman River

Threats

Threats to the St Vincent Gulf bioregion and its dependent species include:

- marine pollution through recreational and commercial fishing as well as through suburban drainage systems
- storm-water runoff containing pollutants leading to losses of seagrasses and habitat degradation

The bioregion includes the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary in the Port Adelaide River and Barker Inlet.

Conservation

The bioregion is under a lot of pressure from coastal development in highly sought after locations. There are many conservation groups working to protect and rehabilitate the St Vincent Gulf bioregion. For example, through creating coastal conservation zones which are re-vegetated for bird habitat and to minimise sand dune damage.

You can help conserve the St Vincent Gulf bioregion and its dependent species by:

- not polluting – anything washed down a storm-water drain goes straight out to sea and damages important marine habitats like seagrass meadows
- finding out more about marine conservation issues and educating others
- Getting involved with a local coastcare or reefwatch group.

For further information

Public enquiries

For more local information on any of the species in this resource please contact your nearest Natural Resource Centre office on:

Eastwood: (08) 8273 9100
Gawler: (08) 8523 7700
Lobethal: (08) 8389 5900
Willunga: (08) 8550 3400

Education enquiries

For teachers wanting more information about environmental education resources and opportunities please contact the relevant NRM Education sub regional team on:

Northern Adelaide: (08) 8406 8289
Barossa: (08) 8563 8436
Central Adelaide: (08) 8234 7255
Southern Adelaide: (08) 8384 0176
Southern Fleurieu: (08) 8551 0524

FIS: 92288