



## Australian Marine Sciences Association (SA Branch) Annual Symposium

16th & 17th October 2008

### SPENCER GULF ECOLOGY & OCEANOGRAPHY OF AN INVERSE ESTUARY

Spencer Gulf is one of the few inverse estuaries in the world, wedged between Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas and stretching more than 300 km from the arid lands of the southern Flinders Ranges to the temperate Southern Ocean. It is a truly unique ecosystem, which includes a diverse array of habitats and species.

Over the last 30 years, this estuary has attracted attention from many marine scientists, particularly in the areas of oceanography, geology, and ecology. Of particular interest are the vast seagrass meadows, the mangrove communities, the cuttlefish populations near Whyalla, and the commercially important fisheries taxa and aquaculture carrying capacity.

The symposium intends to examine many questions such as; how unique is the marine environment of Spencer Gulf; how different is Spencer Gulf from other marine environments; and what is the importance of the Gulf for ecological processes in the coastal and shelf seas of southern Australia?

Over two days the symposium will strive to provide a contemporary snapshot of our existing knowledge about Spencer Gulf. The overview is intended to provide a solid base for discussions on the ecological challenges to and the future of Spencer Gulf. The symposium will conclude with a workshop to identify knowledge gaps and suitable approaches to address them. This will provide a starting point for a proposed book on the Natural History of Spencer Gulf.

This is an **open call for contributions** to the symposium

As an exciting mix of presentations is expected, a two-day event is being planned to avoid concurrent sessions.

#### **Important dates:**

*Deadline for submitting abstracts:*

30<sup>th</sup> June 2008

*Notification of acceptance:*

30<sup>th</sup> July 2008

*Program announced:* 30<sup>th</sup> August 2008

*Symposium dates:* 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

#### **Abstract specifications:**

Title in bold

Author names and affiliations, with presenter underlined.

Abstract text 300 words limit.

Format A4 Times New Roman 12 pt.

Submit to AMSA-SA via email or post at address below by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008

#### **Symposium venue**

SARDI Aquatic Sciences

For more information, contact AMSA-SA (c/o SARDI Aquatic Sciences)

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