

Michaelmas Cay

Michaelmas and Upolu Cays National Park



Access to Michaelmas Cay is only permitted inside the roped area, between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm daily.

National park

Michaelmas Cay is one of the most important seabird breeding areas on the Great Barrier Reef. Seabirds nest here all year round; up to 20 000 breeding pairs have been recorded. Sooty tern numbers peak in the winter, while common noddies, crested and lesser crested terns peak during the summer months.

Seabird nests and chicks can be easily disturbed. If disturbed, adult birds may abandon their chicks and eggs, leaving them to be eaten by predatory birds or to die from exposure to the sun.

To reduce the impact on seabird populations, visitor access and activities are confined to this area of beach between the ropes.

Marine parks

The reef and waters of Michaelmas Cay are protected within the Great Barrier Reef Coast and the Great Barrier Reef marine parks as a Marine National Park (Green) Zone. All forms of fishing and collecting are prohibited. Activities, such as kite flying or the use of beach umbrellas, are also prohibited under the zoning plan.

The Michaelmas Cay Locality (one nautical mile radius from the cay) is a sensitive location under the Cairns Area Plan of Management and special rules apply.

- Motorised watersports are prohibited.
- Maximum vessel speed is six knots.
- Use of horns, public address systems or sirens is prohibited.

Caring for park

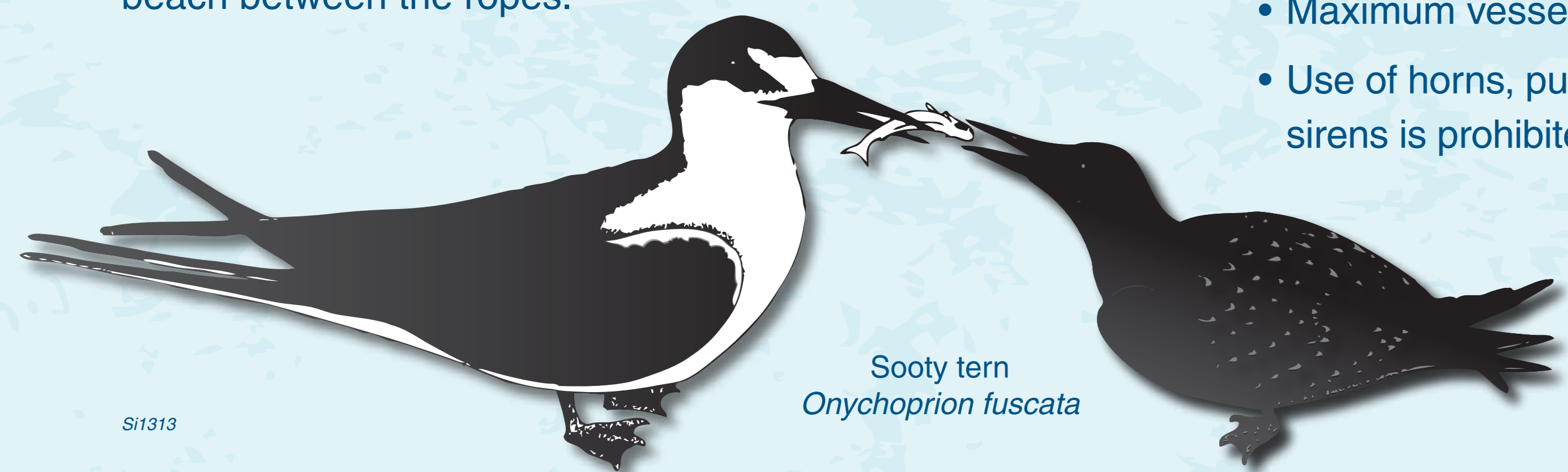
- Avoid touching kicking or standing on coral; rest only on sand.
- Do not touch or collect corals, clams, shells or other marine life.
- Avoid disturbing nesting seabirds; do not handle any chicks or eggs and do not disturb roosting birds.
- Never fly kites, erect beach umbrellas or carry out any other activities that may disturb seabirds.

For your safety

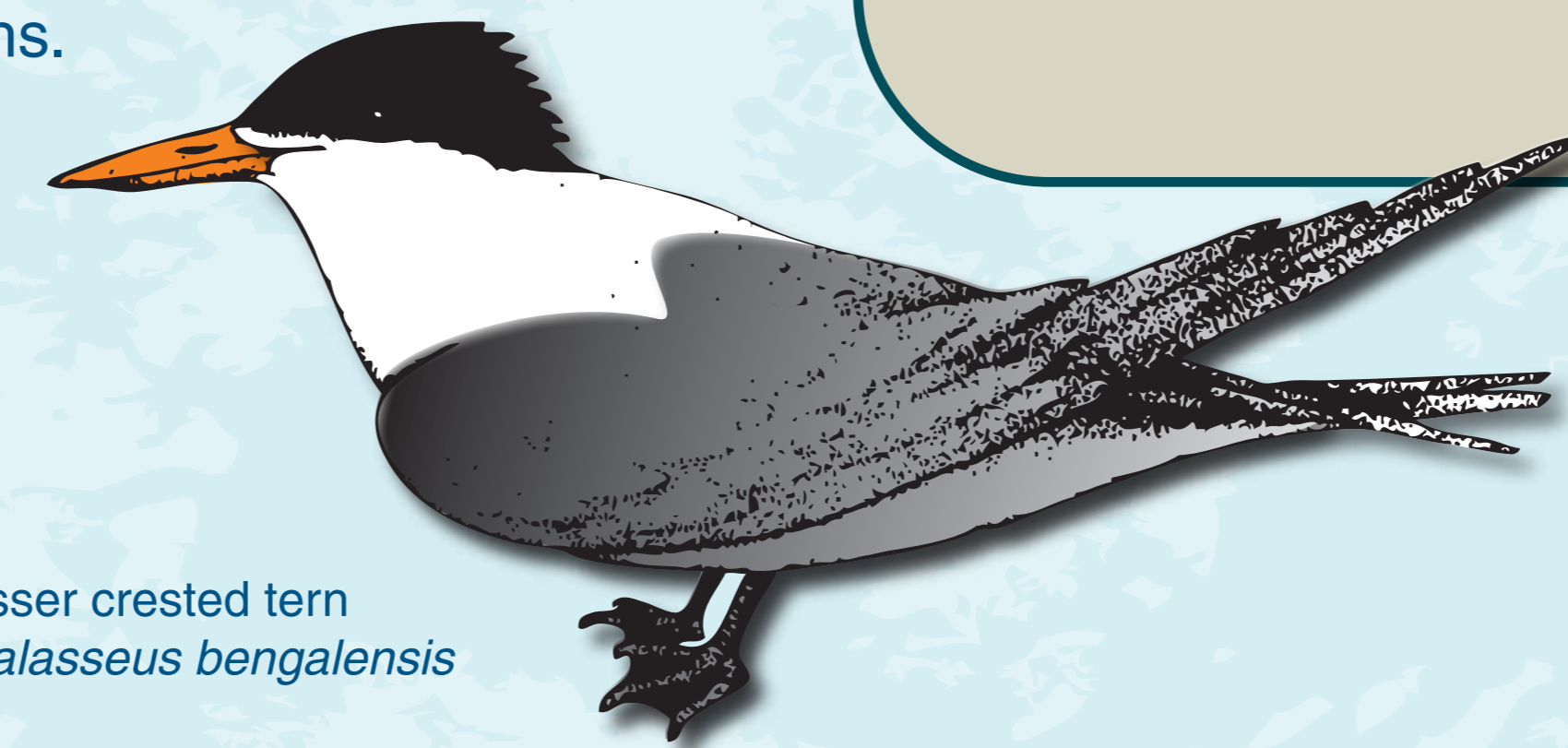
- Be aware of winds, tides and the direction of currents.
- Dangerous stinging jellyfish ('stingers') may be present in the coastal waters at any time, but occur more frequently in the warmer months. A full-body lycra suit, or equivalent, may provide a good measure of protection against stinging jellyfish and sunburn.
- Protect yourself from the sun, even on cloudy days.



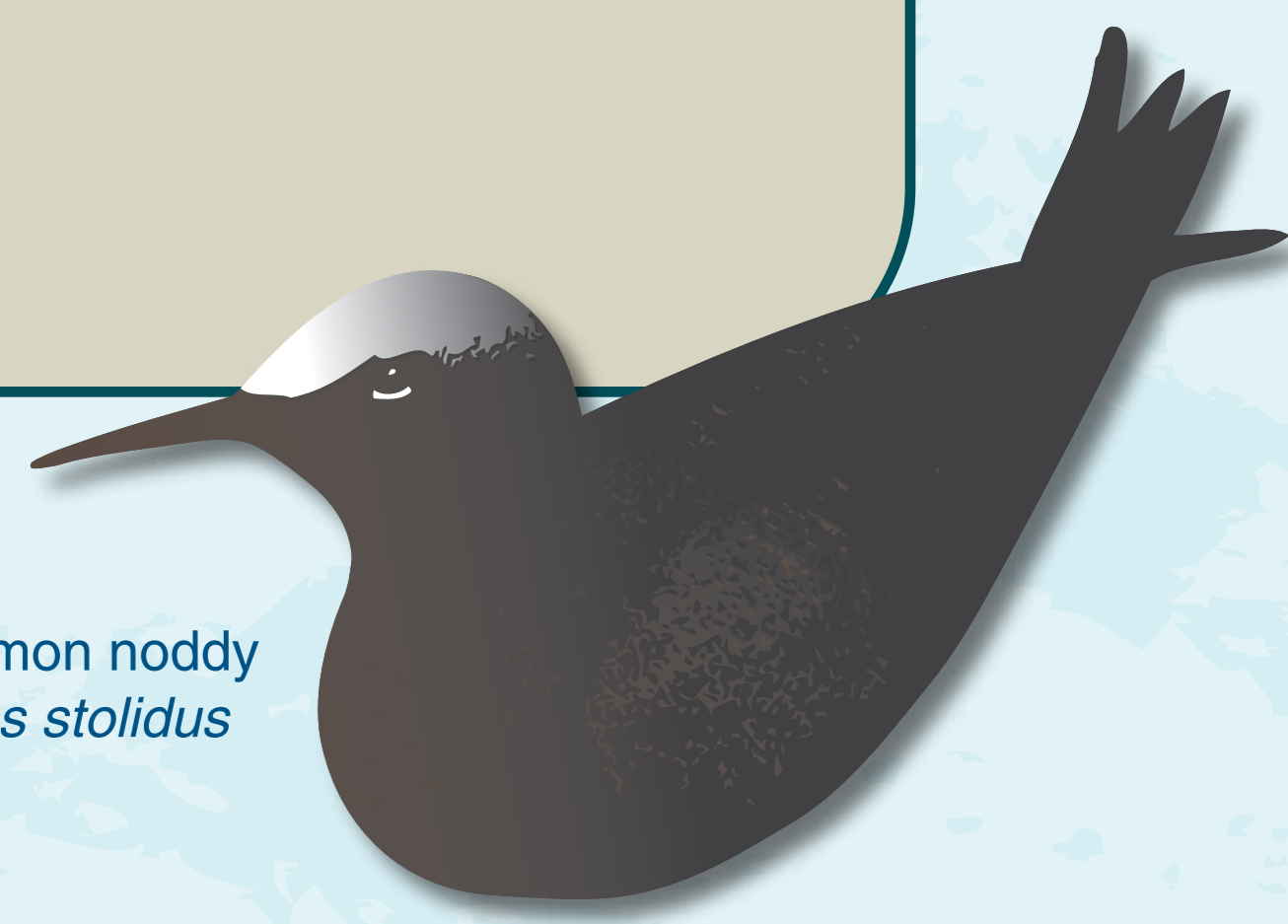
Crested tern
Thalasseus bergii



Sooty tern
Onychoprion fuscatus



Lesser crested tern
Thalasseus bengalensis



Common nody
Anous stolidus

Restricted Access Area

Unauthorised entry prohibited

Seabird conservation

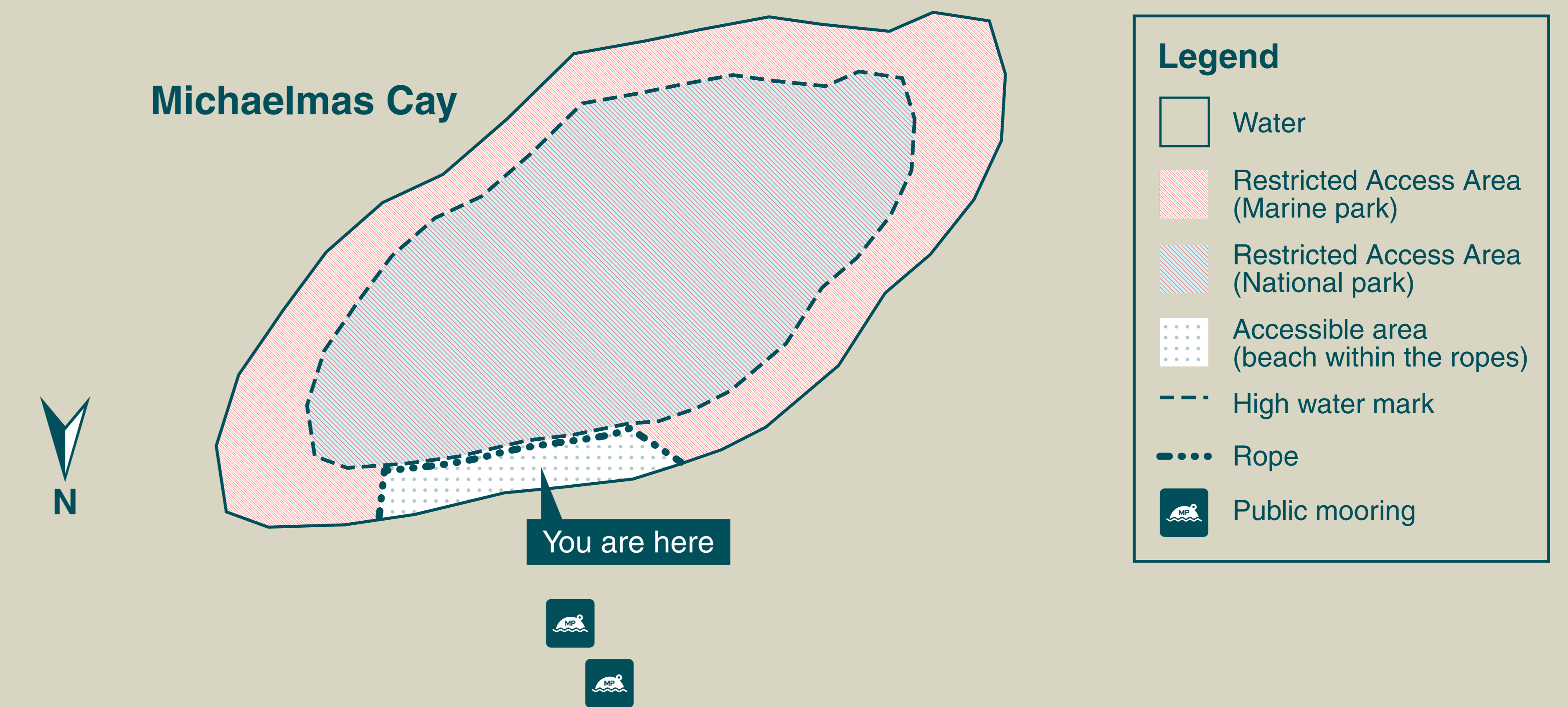
Access to the national park at Michaelmas Cay (above high water) is prohibited to protect nesting seabirds. See map.

Contravention of a requirement of this notice is an offence under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.
Maximum penalty: 80 penalty units.
On-the-spot fines apply.

Access to Michaelmas Cay below high water is limited to the roped area. Access to the roped area can only occur between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm daily. See map.

Contravention of a requirement of this notice is an offence under the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.
Maximum penalty: 80 penalty units.
On-the-spot fines apply.

Michaelmas Cay



Legend

- Water
- Restricted Access Area (Marine park)
- Restricted Access Area (National park)
- Accessible area (beach within the ropes)
- High water mark
- Rope
- Public mooring

Scan for information on seabird monitoring.

