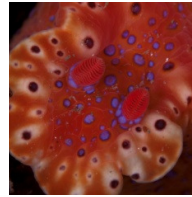


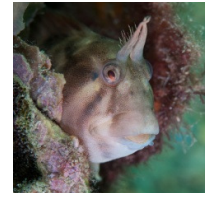
Email: info@downunderpix.com
Mobile: 0419 819 083



Expect to see:
You should see anglerfish, sea horses, pipefish, squid, octopus, cowfish, nudibranchs and Tasmanian blennies.



Star Gazers:
Look out for the eyes in the sand. Star Gazers lay under the sand in wait for their prey to swim past.



Jetty:
The shallow depth allows for extended bottom time to explore and photograph the amazing marine life to be found here.

Dive Location

Port Hughes

Port Hughes was named after pastoralist and Wallaroo and Moonta mine owner, Sir Walter Watson Hughes, whose 1872 gift of 20,000 pounds led to the founding of the University of Adelaide.

Port Hughes jetty was completed in 1913 as a deeper water alternative to the existing nearby Moonta Bay jetty. The jetty cost £23,323 to build. Originally the jetty was 430m long but was later shortened to its present length of 417m.



Port Hughes jetty predominately serviced the local farming community for the export of grain. It was also expected that the jetty would service the nearby Moonta copper mines but there was difficulty laying a rail track across the several kilometres of sand between the mines and the jetty. The commercial use of the jetty was short lived with the Wallaroo jetty built in the late 1920's offering much deeper water.



The jetty is a very underrated dive site. Entry is via a set of steps on the northern side of the jetty about 1/3 of the way along. Don't be fooled by the shallow depths. In fact, the

shallow depth allows for extended bottom time to explore the amazing marine life to be found here. With a maximum depth of just 7m and usually no current and viz greater than 10m this is a very easy and relaxing dive site.



As you head out under the jetty look closely in the seaweed for the numerous and well camouflaged pipefish. You may also find weedy sea dragons and sea horses in this area. Watch out for the blue crabs that regularly raise their claws at divers that come too close before swimming away into the distance. Very soon you get to the wider section at the end of the jetty. Here the fish life is usually prolific with big schools of horse mackerel. Take your time to fossick amongst the dead razorfish shells towards the end of the jetty and you might find an anglerfish or blue ringed octopus. Prickly, smooth and tasselled anglerfish are regularly sighted under the jetty. If you look closely you may also find one of the warty prowfish that live amongst the debris.

There are also several varieties of nudibranchs to be seen on the dive. And watch out for the eyes in the sand. Here stargazers lay buried in the sand with just their eyes protruding waiting for prey to swim past. Also expect to see squid, cuttlefish, octopus, cowfish, magpie perch, dusky morwong, cobbler, moonlighters, Tasmanian blennies and sweep.



The jetty is also a fantastic night dive. All those critters that hide and are difficult to find during the day come out to play. The sea horses, pipefish, warty prowfish and anglerfish are all out on display.

