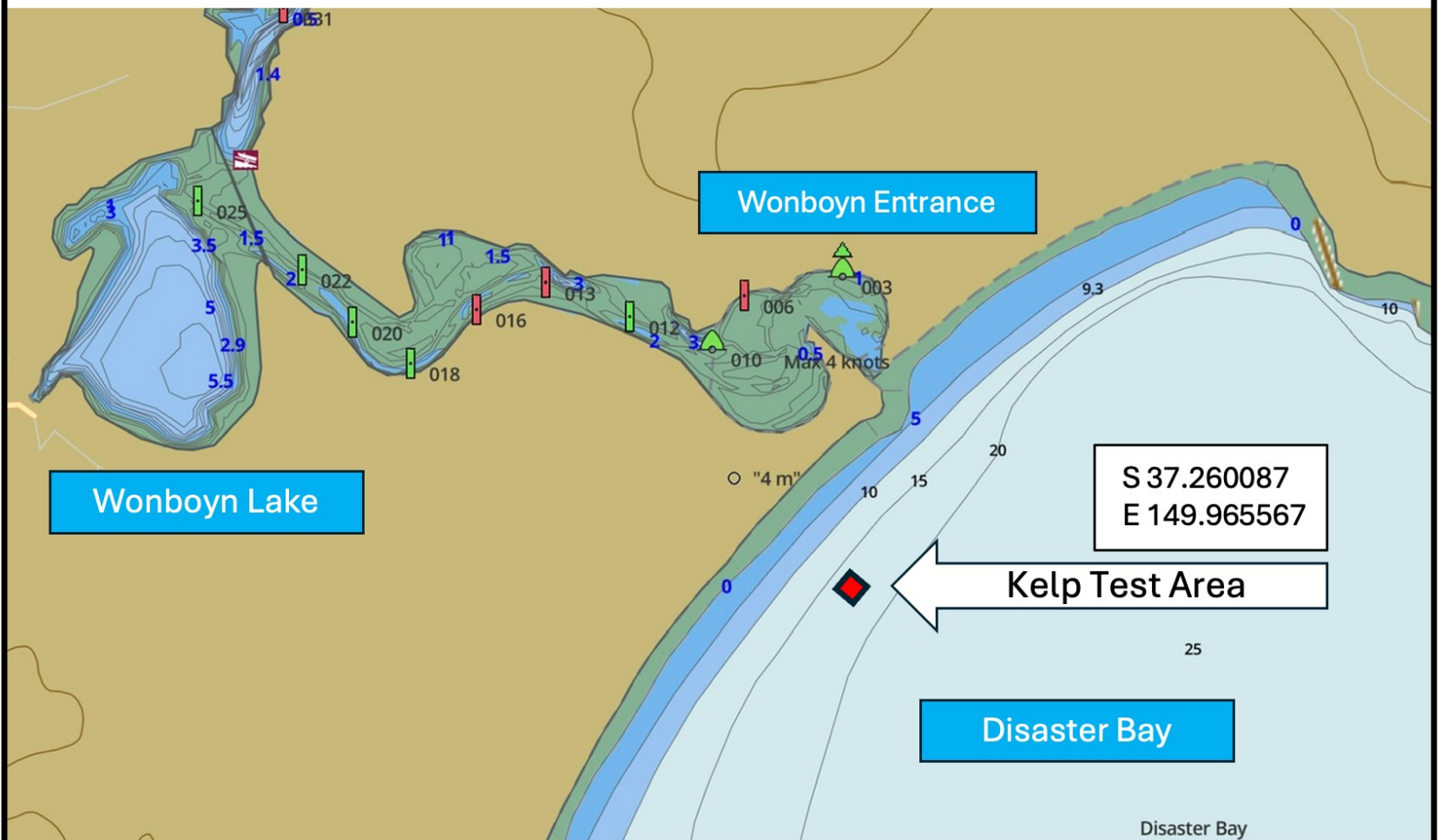


Navigation



Warning

Offshore Kelp Testing

The NSW Government (Fisheries DPIE) has provided Auskelp with a Section-37 licence to test the growing of locally acquired kelp in Disaster Bay. A temporary **50m x 50m** test area has been provided for a term of 18-months. The ocean test area is located 1.2km from the entrance to Wonboyn Lake, 700m from Greenglades Beach, directly to the south of Baycliff (see map above). The test location is marked by 4 x yellow navigation markers with flashing lights on top. The site is monitored, and all infrastructure is marked.

Why are we testing in Disaster Bay?

Rising ocean temperatures are reducing wild kelp in Australian waters, with up to 80% of wild kelp beds lost in the last 40 years. Testing the growth of locally acquired kelp on longlines in Disaster Bay proves if kelp can be grown in clean open-ocean conditions, in deeper water, where upwelling still brings vital nutrients to the surface.

Why is kelp important?

Brown kelp is one of the fastest growing plants on earth. It takes excess nutrients and CO2 from the ocean to grow, and it provides critical foundation habitats for fish, crustations and ocean mammals. Kelp has many uses:- as human food, in food thickeners and vitamin supplements, animal feed, fertiliser, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, in bioplastics and biofuels, and also for carbon storage.

What will this testing prove?

That kelp seedlings sourced from Disaster Bay can be grown in open ocean conditions, and at what rates. Growing kelp is recognised as the world's most environmentally-friendly form of agriculture or aquaculture. Whilst kelp farming is highly advanced in many other countries, we have a lot to learn about how to grow our native kelps in open-ocean conditions in Australian waters.

For more information on Auskelp, visit us at www.auskelp.net

