

Activity Sheet: 6 - Channel & Entrance Issues



1 Case Study - The Changing Natural Environment

The ocean entrance to Lake Macquarie has always presented difficulties for European navigators. Swansea Heads was first known as "Reid's Mistake", after Captain William Reid mistook the island at the mouth of the "bar lagoon" for that of Nobby's Island at the mouth of the Hunter River. In 1801, the Lady Nelson was nearly lost at the entrance and thus the scene was set for navigation problems over the next 200 years.

The entrance has undergone many changes which have resulted in changes to the natural environment. Investigate two major (man-made) changes to the entrance and trace the effects they have had on the natural environment.

Suggestions:

- Change One
 - Effect
 - Change Two
 - Effect
- Erection of Swansea breakwalls
 - Erosion of beach at Salts Bay
 - Building of Swansea Bridge (Northern Approach)
 - Narrowing of channel impacting on the tidal prism and the 'drop over' at Marks Point

Web Reference:

<http://www.infohunt.nsw.gov.au/livinglakemacquarie/main05.html>

