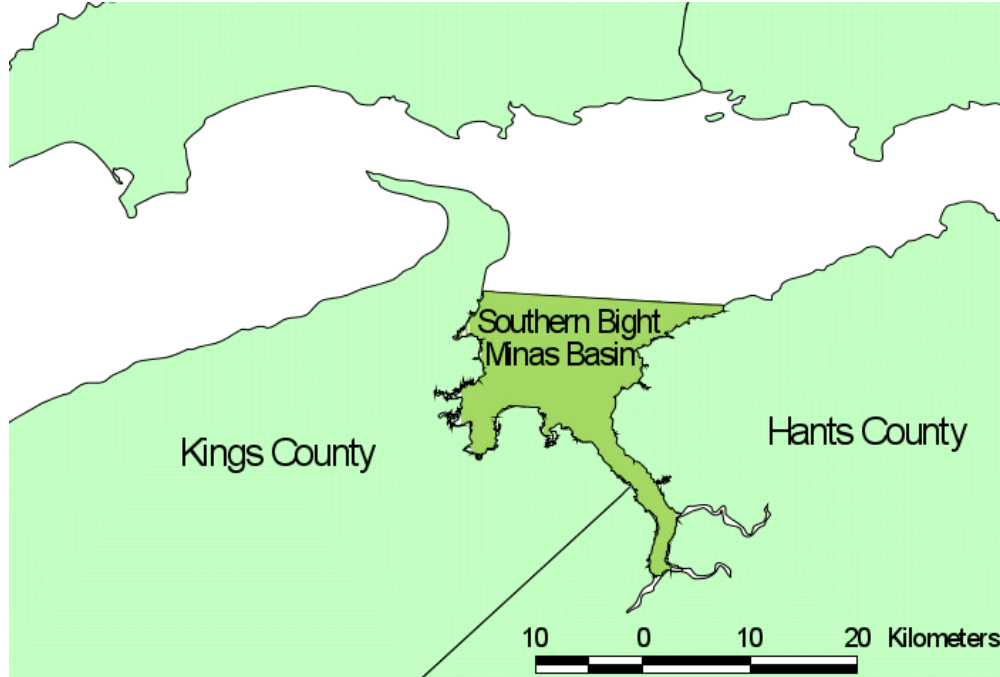


Minas Basin Proposed Wildlife Management Area



The southern bight of Minas Basin has the highest tides in the world and is a globally important site for migrating shorebirds. Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop here during migration to fatten on the invertebrates found on tidal flats. The feeding stop is a critical part of their annual cycle.

The proposed wildlife management area will protect globally important populations of migratory shorebirds and their habitats. Activities around and access to roost sites and mudflats where birds feed will be limited seasonally to minimize disturbance to birds and degradation and loss of habitat.

The southern bight has an area of some 23,500 hectares, most of which is marine or estuarine water. There are 3938 hectares of estuarine flats, 2383 hectares of marine flats, 500 hectares of salt marsh and 21 hectares of beach.

Most of the area is intertidal or underwater and is undeeded. A large proportion of the salt marsh is privately owned. The only island of any size is Boot Island, which is about 107 hectares. It is owned by the federal government and is a National Wildlife Area.

The site is a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve.