

U. SHORES

Field Note U12a7. Archaeology - Fish traps – Arniston



The fish traps north of Arniston. View to the north.

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There are twenty-eight sites of intertidal fish trap clusters along the Cape South Coast, nine of which are along the shores of the Study Area. They are (from southwest to northeast): Suiderstrand, Rasperpunt, Cape Agulhas, Struis Bay, Struis Point, Arniston, Ryspunt, Skaapkop and Breede River, containing in total >100 traps of all shapes and sizes (Figure 1). This Field Note is about the traps at Arniston.



Figure 1. Satellite image (rotated) showing the locations of fish trap clusters in the Study Area. Arrow points to the fish traps at Arniston.

Arniston's fish traps are located in a small embayment, north of Langklipkrans (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Topography map (top) and satellite image (bottom) of the shore north of Arniston, showing the location of the fish traps (arrow).

These small fish traps were not noted by other researchers, as the walls are partly destroyed and the traps are filled with sand. They are only visible at very low tide and when the sea is relatively calm. In most available satellite images, except the one from 2005 the traps can hardly be discerned (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Satellite image (June 2005) of the fish traps at Arniston.

These fish traps are the smallest, shallowest and least impressive of all the fish traps, which are described in this chapter.

The traps are visible at very low tide (Figures 4 to 6).



Figure 4. The south fish trap. Top – View from the south; bottom - view from the northwest.



Figure 5. The south fish trap wall. Top – view from the south; bottom - view from the north.

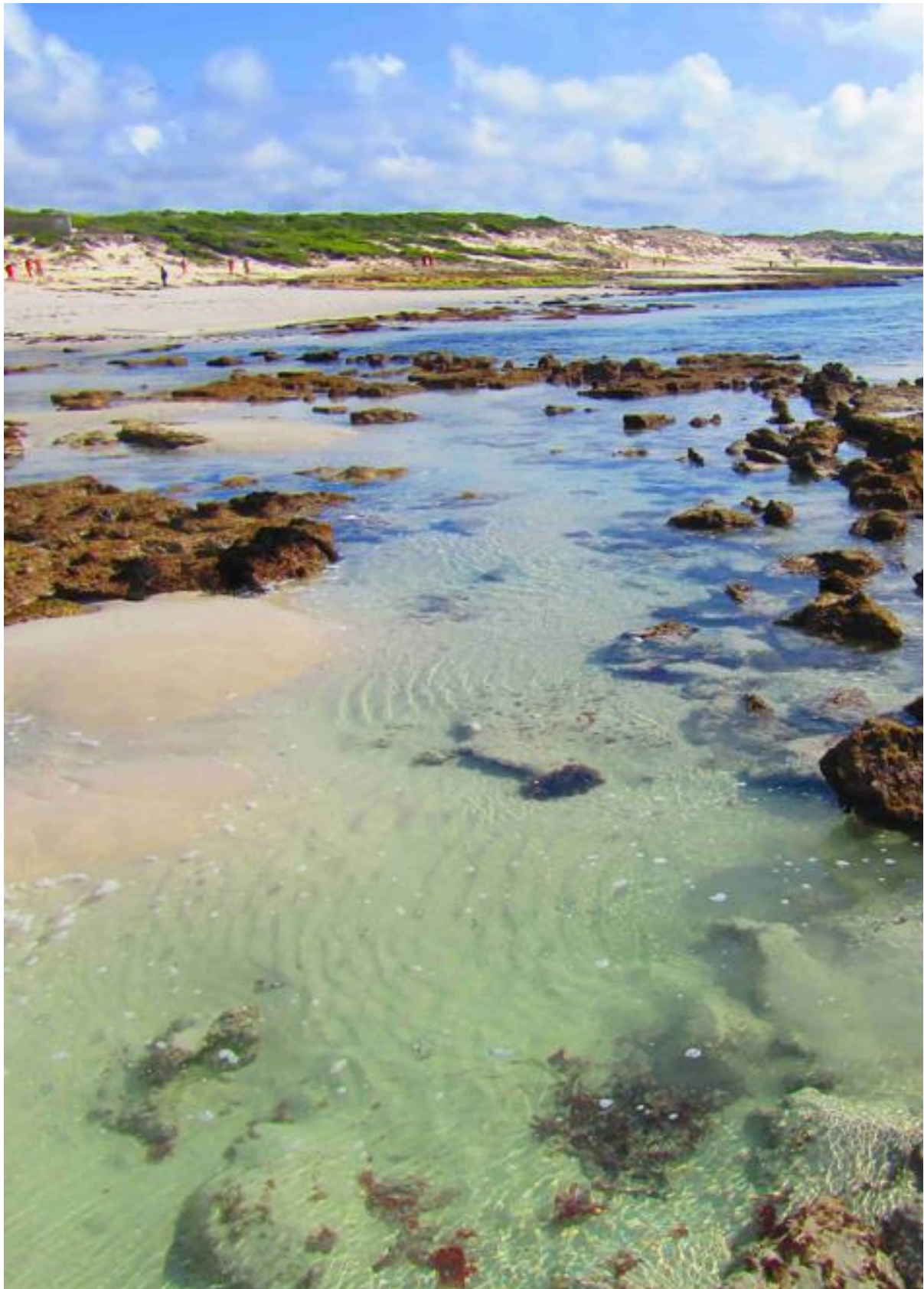


Figure 6. The north fish trap. Top – View to the northwest.

The traps were constructed on a shore with low availability of stones (see Breede River traps).