



21 June 2021

## NOTICE TO FISHERS: LICENCE HOLDERS WITH VONGOLE QUOTA

### Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) for the 2021/22 season

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) met with Licence Holders with Vongole quota and Gary Morgan of the Marine Fishers Association (MFA) on 9 June 2021 to seek advice on the setting of the TACCs for the 2021/22 Vongole Fishery season.

The SARDI Stock Status classifications for Coffin Bay, West Coast and the Port River are currently defined as depleting, undefined and depleted, respectively.

The harvest strategy for the Vongole fishery, contained within the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery* states the TACC for the respective zones should be set at 7.5% of the biomass estimate.

The 2019/20 Coffin Bay TACC was set at 50 tonnes, which translated to 9.3% of the 2019 biomass estimate. The TACC was set higher than the harvest strategy harvest fraction of 7.5% due to the uncertainty around the biomass estimate and the advice from fishers that the 2018/19 season catch rates remained constant.

In 2020/21, the TACC for the Coffin Bay zone was set at 50 tonnes, which was outside the harvest strategy requirement to harvest at 7.5% of the harvestable biomass estimate, and corresponded to 9.3% of the harvestable biomass estimate from 2018 of 538 tonnes.

The April 2021 SARDI Advice Note on “the 2020 harvestable biomass estimate for Coffin Bay”, which is based on a fishery independent survey (FIS), has classified the Coffin Bay Vongole stock as “depleting”. This stock status classification is based on the 2020 harvestable biomass estimate halving from the 2015 estimate.

In regard to the West Coast zone the stock status classification is “undefined” as the areas within the zone have not been surveyed recently to accurately determine the stock status classification (Streaky Bay: 303.5 tonnes in 2016; Smoky Bay: 139.3 tonnes in 2017; and Venus Bay: 100.6 tonnes in 2018).

I have determined the Vongole TACCs for Coffin Bay and West Coast for the 2021/22 season after consideration of the following information:

- objectives of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- the harvest strategy for Vongole set out in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery*
- advice from fishery licence holders, at the meeting of quota licence holders on 9 June 2021
- scientific advice provided by SARDI on Vongole stocks on the West Coast classified stocks as undefined and in Coffin Bay as depleting
- the classification of Vongole in the Port River Vongole fishing zone as depleted.

Based on this information, as the Minister’s delegate under *the Fisheries Management Act 2007* I have determined the quota unit values and TACCs for Vongole in the Coffin Bay, West Coast and Port River Vongole fishing zones consistent with the table below:

Vongole fishing zone	2021/22 TACC (kg)	No. quota units	Quota unit value (kg)
Coffin Bay	40,790	1,000.0	40.79
West Coast	16,000	1,000.0	16.0
Port River	0	890.3	0.0

### Port River Vongole fishing zone

The Port River Vongole fishing zone has been closed annually under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* since 2011. A change seeking the adoption of a new regulation in the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* to prohibit the take of bivalves in the Port River is being considered. If adopted this regulation will prohibit the take of Vongole in the Port River unless the Minister or delegate has, by notice in the Gazette, made a determination to the contrary.

Please note consistent with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* the TACCs will be set prior to the commencement of the 2021/22 season on 1 July 2021. Should you have any further queries in regard to these matters please contact Keith Rowling, Program Leader, Community Based Fisheries on telephone (08) 8429 0513 or email [Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au](mailto:Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Prof Gavin Begg**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

Delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development