



2 May 2023

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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## NOTICE TO FISHERS

### River Fishery

#### Miscellaneous amendments to regulations

Dear Licence Holder,

I write to inform you of several miscellaneous amendments that have been made to regulations under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) that relate to the River Fishery (RF).

The amendments have been made to implement more efficient and flexible mechanisms for fishery management and to clarify, simplify and update current management arrangements. These amendments will help to increase the economic potential of these fisheries and reduce red tape for fishers. Important changes have also been made to increase the protection of key marine and aquatic animals.

These amendments to regulations came into effect on 1 May 2023. Of relevance to RF licence holders are the following regulations:

*Fisheries Management (General) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Regulations 2023*

*Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Regulations 2023*

These regulation amendments are published in the Government Gazette, No. 26, Thursday 20 April 2023 (pp. 799–858), available at:

[https://governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/2023/April/2023\\_026.pdf](https://governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/2023/April/2023_026.pdf)

#### Amendments to regulations

Amendments to regulations have been implemented to improve the sustainable management of fish resources, provide for improved administration of authorities or to correct administrative errors.

*Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017*

- Regulation 3(3) describing the method for determining the mesh size of a net has been deleted as this method has been superseded by new technology and is no longer necessary. New arrangements now allow the Minister to

approve a measuring instrument for this purpose to ascertain more accurate mesh sizes of nets allowing for new measuring devices to be certified in the future in a timely manner.

- For recreational fishers, Silver Tandan (*Porochilus arenteus*) bag and boat limits has been added to clause 63 of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* and a combined catch limit with Hyrtl's tandan included. This species of catfish was omitted from the regulations in 2016 when Cooper Creek catfish transitioned into the protected species list. These catfish species were formerly grouped together with the same bag and boat limits under the broader family name Plotosidae.
- The opportunity has been taken to make amendments to the *Fisheries Management (General) 2017*, to update all coordinates from GDA94 to GDA2020 based on the Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020) consistent with the Australian national standard.

Amendments to regulations relating to the phasing out of Yabby Pots and the transition to Pyramid Nets will come into effect on 1 July 2023, as indicated in the Notice to Fishers dated 7 April 2023.

These changes are described below. Further information regarding transitioning to Pyramid Nets will be forwarded to relevant licence holders in due course.

#### Yabby pots regulatory amendments

- The removal of Yabby pots by 1 July 2023 as a permitted device in South Australia is the final step of a regulation transition to using pyramid nets as an alternative freshwater device to catch Yabbies. Use of pyramid nets reduces the risk to aquatic air-breathing animals.
- The *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* have been amended to remove references to Yabby pots and Yabby pot entitlements and replace them with references to pyramid nets and pyramid net entitlements with effect from 1 July 2023.
- PIRSA will write to effected licence holders with Yabby pots with further information about the transition to pyramid nets. The arrangements to remove Yabby pot entitlements on the licence and replace the entitlements with the same number of pyramid nets will be at no administrative cost to the licence holder.
- The *Fisheries Management (General) (Yabby Pots) Amendment Regulations 2023* also make the following changes to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* with effect from 1 July 2023:
  - The application of regulation 13(a)(iii) relating to the use of 2 litre buoys on fishing devices in the River Murray proper, Lakes Albert and Alexandrina or the Coorong has been broadened to apply in all inland waters to standardise management arrangements and to remove the reference to yabby pots.
  - Clause 42 of Schedule 6 of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* has been varied to include a restriction on the use

of pyramid nets in coastal waters. Restricting the use of a pyramid net to inland waters will help to facilitate effective compliance of the use of these nets with their intended purpose as a permitted recreational device for use in inland waters.

- Clause 95 of Schedule 6 of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* has been varied to remove a limitation on the types of devices that could be used in the inland waters of the counties of MacDonnell, Robe and Grey and clarify that fyke nets may only be used to take short finned eels. The removal of references to other devices simplifies the clause and allows the unfettered operation of clause 44 which holds the full list of devices that may be used in inland waters.

If you have any queries regarding these arrangements or would like a copy of the amended regulations referred to above, you can contact Elisha Lovell, Fisheries Management Officer, on (08) 8429 3629 or email [Elisha.Lovell@sa.gov.au](mailto:Elisha.Lovell@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
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