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**FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE**

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**NOTICE TO SARDINE FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS**

Dear licence holder

I write in relation to the observer level coverage for the South Australian Sardine Fishery (SASF) in 2026.

To adequately monitor interactions with dolphins in the SASF and ensure under-reporting of dolphin mortalities is not occurring, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development has approved observer coverage in the SASF in 2026 as follows:

- Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf Fishing zones - target levels 20% of net sets consistent with the 2025 arrangements.
- Outside Fishing Zone - target level of 10% of net sets

In making this decision, the Minister considered the request for a reduction in the observer coverage in the Outside Zone from the South Australian Sardine Industry Association and the records of interactions and mortalities of dolphins in that region. PIRSA will continue to monitor the observer coverage and could consider new information if it becomes available.

Should you have any further queries in relation to these matters, please contact Dr Annabel Jones, General Manager Fisheries Management at email: [annabel.jones@sa.gov.au](mailto:annabel.jones@sa.gov.au) or phone number: 0417 612737.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Read'.

Matt Read  
**A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**