



Our ref: CORP F2026/000134
Receipt No: 23808050

CORPORATE SERVICES
Level 20
11 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000
GPO Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 667
Tel 8429 0422
www.pir.sa.gov.au

14 August 2026

The Hon Dr Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Dr Centofanti

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 15 July 2026, seeking access to the following:

"A copy of all records relating to the investigation into the mortality of spider crabs, blue swimmer crabs and other crab species reported between Glenelg and Seaford during July 2026, including but not limited to:

- *Pathology reports*
- *necropsy reports*
- *Histopathology reports*
- *Laboratory analysis and/or results*
- *Toxicological reports*
- *Scientific advice provided by SARDI or any other agency*

A copy of any preliminary laboratory findings, draft reports or interim scientific advice

Any reports or correspondence comparing the July 2026 crab mortality event with the ongoing Harmful Algal Bloom, including consideration of brevetoxins, Karenia species, or secondary ecological effects from either."

Timeframe: 1/07/2026 to 15/07/2026

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located thirty-one documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
2	Email from SASQAP Scientific Officer, South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program, PIRSA to PIRSA officer dated 14/7/2026 re Fishkill - Glenelg reports	1
2a	Attachment to Document 2 – Phytoplankton Report - SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program – Certificate of Analysis dated 14/7/2026 – Location: Glenelg, Site 1	1
2b	Attachment to Document 2 – Phytoplankton Report from SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program – Certificate of Analysis dated 14/7/2026 – Location: Glenelg, Site 2	1
2c	Attachment to Document 2 – Phytoplankton report from SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program – Certificate of Analysis dated 14/7/2026 – Location: Glenelg, Site 3	1
3a	Attachments to Documents 3, 10 and 12 – Fish Kill Incident Data Collection Sheet dated 12/7/2026 re spider crabs	3
3b	Attachment to Documents 3, 10 and 12 – Photograph – Crab leg - Glenelg fishkill event	1
3c	Attachment to Documents 3, 10 and 12 – Photograph – Crab leg – Glenelg fishkill event	1
3d	Attachment to Documents 3, 10 and 12 – Photograph - Crab exoskeletons - Glenelg fishkill event	1
3e	Attachment to Documents 3, 10 and 12 – Photograph - Crab exoskeletons - Glenelg fishkill event	1
3f	Attachment to Documents 3, 10 and 12 – Photograph - Beach - Glenelg fishkill event	1
4a	Attachment to Document 4 – Photograph - Crab exoskeletons - Grange fishkill event	1
4b	Attachment to Document 4 – Photograph - Crab exoskeletons - Grange fishkill event report	1
8	Email from SASQAP Scientific Officer, South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program, PIRSA to PIRSA officer dated 15/7/2026 re SASQAP reports 13/7/26 - Grange fishkill	1
8a	Attachment to Document 8 – Phytoplankton report from SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program – Certificate of Analysis dated 15/7/2026 – Location: Grange, Site: Fishwatch	1
8b	Attachment to Document 8 – Phytoplankton report from SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program – Certificate of Analysis dated 15/7/2026 – Location: Grange 2, Site: Fishwatch	1
8c	Attachment to Document 8 – Phytoplankton report from SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program – Certificate of Analysis dated 15/7/2026 – Location: Grange 3, Site: Fishwatch	1

Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Fish Kill Incident Data Collection Sheet dated 13/7/2026 re spider crabs	2
3	Email thread between PIRSA officers dated 12/7/2026 and 13/7/2026 re Glenelg fishkill – Water testing at West Beach (is also an attachment to Documents 10 and 12)	3
4	Emails between PIRSA officers dated 13/7/2026 re Grange fishkill	2
5	Spreadsheet listing reported fishkills along Grange and Glenelg beaches dated 4/7/2026 to 13/7/2026 re deceased crabs	2
6	Email thread between A/g Principal Biosecurity Officer, Weeds and Aquatic Pests, Invasive Species Unit, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Media Manager, PIRSA dated 14/7/2026 re Situational Report re crab mortalities metro coast	4
7	Email thread between A/g Principal Biosecurity Officer, Weeds and Aquatic Pests, Invasive Species Unit Biosecurity PIRSA and Subprogram Leader Rock Lobster SARDI PIRSA dated 13/7/2026 re spider crab molting season	2
9	Email from FisheriesSA to PIRSA:Fisheries Operational Management dated 5/7/2026 re fishkill event - Glenelg Beach	1
10	Email thread between Senior Media Adviser, PIRSA and General Manager, Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 13/7/2026 re Glenelg crab Facebook screenshot	3
10a	Attachment to Documents 10, 12 and 16 – Photograph from email to PIRSA:Media dated 13/7/2026 titled 'Glenelg crab FB screenshot'	1
11	Email thread between Research Director, Aquatic and Livestock Sciences, SARDI (PIRSA) and General Manager, Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 13/7/2026 re water samples and location details from Glenelg fishkill event	3
12	Email thread between Senior Media Adviser, PIRSA, Research Director, Aquatic and Livestock Sciences, SARDI (PIRSA), General Manager, Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA and Subprogram Leader Rock Lobster, SARDI (PIRSA) dated 13/7/2026 re Glenelg crab fishkill	6
13	Email thread between A/g Principal Biosecurity Officer, Weeds and Aquatic Pests, Invasive Species Unit, PIRSA, Media Manager, PIRSA, Director, Plant and Invasive Species, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Executive Director, SARDI (PIRSA) dated 14/7/2026 re Situational Report for crab mortalities – metro coast	9

14	Email thread between A/g Principal Biosecurity Officer, Weeds and Aquatic Pests, Invasive Species Unit, PIRSA, Executive Director, SARDI (PIRSA) and other PIRSA officers dated 14/7/2026 and 15/7/2026 re Situational Report for crab mortalities – metro coast	3
15	Email thread between media outlet, Senior Media Adviser, PIRSA, A/g Principal Biosecurity Officer, Weeds and Aquatic Pests, Invasive Species Unit, Biosecurity, PIRSA and General Manager, Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 13/7/2026 re media enquiry re deceased crabs at Glenelg	3
16	Email thread between Senior Media Adviser, PIRSA, General Manager, Operations Support, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA and Fisheries Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA dated 13/7/2026 re Glenelg crab Facebook screenshot	4

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“6 – Documents affecting personal affairs

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”

The information removed consists of the following:

- Documents 1, 6, 7, 11, 13 and 14:
 - Mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers
- Document 3:
 - Mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers
 - Call ID
- Document 4:
 - Call reference number
 - Name and mobile telephone number of an individual
 - Mobile telephone number of a Departmental officer
- Document 5:
 - Case/Item numbers relating to callers to Fishwatch
- Document 9:
 - Names of individuals
 - Mobile telephone number of an individual
 - Call Reference Number
- Documents 10 and 16:
 - Private email address and mobile telephone number of a Departmental officer
 - Name of member of the public

- Document 10a:
 - Facebook profile picture
 - Name of member of the public
 - Private email address of Departmental officer
- Document 12:
 - Private email address of Departmental officer
 - Mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers
 - Name of a member of the public
- Document 15:
 - Mobile telephone number of a Departmental officer
 - Name, email address and other contact details of a staff member from a media outlet and identifying information of the organisation

The term 'personal affairs' has been held to involve 'matters of private concern to an individual' and the 'composite collection of activities personal to the individual concerned'.

As a mobile telephone number allows a person, including an officer of an agency, to be contacted outside of business hours and is information that is not ordinarily available to the public, the information is taken to concern the personal affairs of an individual.

Call ID reference numbers, report numbers and case/item numbers are considered as being the personal affairs of the callers, based on the potential risk of the references being able to correspond to the identity of the callers.

It is expected that individuals from organisations can correspond with public sector agencies without the fear that their identities will be revealed.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

The remaining information removed from Documents 1, 6, 13 and 14 is outside of the scope of your request.

Right of Appeal

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation [Making a Freedom of Information Application | State Records of South Australia \(archives.sa.gov.au\)](#), by completing the "FOI Application Form for Internal Review of a Determination" and returning the completed form to:

Freedom of Information Principal Officer
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

or via email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au

FOI Disclosure Log

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at

http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Senior Freedom of Information Advisor on 8429 0422 or email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MG' or similar initials, written over a horizontal line.

Michelle Griffiths

**Accredited Freedom of Information Officer
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS**

Fish Kill Incident Data Collection Sheet

Fish Kill Incident - Site Information

Fish Kill Incident Details	Responding Officer Details
Date: 13/07/2026	Name: Kimberley Batley
Time:	Phone: Clause 6(1)
Location (GPS):	Email: kimberley.batley@sa.gov.au

Approximate number of dead fish:

hundreds

Fish species effected:

Spider crabs, Out of scope

Other wildlife involved:

N/A.

Appearance of fish (e.g., lesions/red sores):

Few Very soft Shells (molted + dead?), many hard Shells - no meat found in thorax/legs.

Type of water body (e.g., marine, estuary, river, creek, etc.):

Marine

	Water conditions		
	<div>34.912455, 138.491035</div> Site 1	<div>34.911540, 138.490755</div> Site 2	<div>34.910809, 138.490563</div> Site 3
Swell	0.8m	0.8m	0.8m
Current	incoming tide	incoming tide	incoming tide.
Turbidity	High	High	High.
Signs of discharge (e.g., sewage, chemical)	N/A	NA	NA
Dissolved oxygen (mg/L):	7.85 mg/L	7.9	7.79
Water temperature (°C)	13.6	13.6	13.8
Salinity (ppt)	34.5	34.5	34.3

OFFICIAL

Weather conditions:

- Wind strength and direction: 32.4 km/h WNW
- Rain (mm): 0.2 mm
- Air temperature (°C): 15°C

Any other relevant information (e.g., samples collected):

No fresh Samples with meat found for collection.
6 x Water Samples collected (3 x fresh, 3 x fixed).

Take photos of the incident.

From: [Palomino, Alessandra \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Spurling, Sarah \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:SASQAP](#)
Subject: Fishkill - Glenelg reports
Date: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 12:06:31 PM
Attachments: [AR 16624 Glenelg 1 20260712.pdf](#)
[AR 16625 Glenelg 2 20260712.pdf](#)
[AR 16626 Glenelg 3 20260712.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Kimberley,
Please find the reports for the fishkill samples.
No *Karenia* sp. detected.
Regards,

Alessandra Palomino | SASQAP Scientific Officer,
South Australia Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (SASQAP)
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | 1 Hindmarsh St,
PO Box 5 PORT LINCOLN SA 5606
P: +61 8 8688 3411 | **E:** alessandra.palomino@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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| Courage & Tenacity | Sustainability**

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Phytoplankton Report

S.A. Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Certificate of Analysis

Lincoln Marine Science Centre. PO Box 5 Pt Lincoln SA 5606 phone (08) 8688 3409

AR 16624

Full Count Toxic Species Report

Location

Glenelg

Sample Date

12-July-2026

Sample Time

1.15 pm

Site

1

Count Date

14-July-2026

Comments

Diatom Species Present		Cells/litre
Pseudo-nitzschia	delicatissima	0
Pseudo-nitzschia	Seriata Group	0

Dinoflagellate Species Present		Cells/litre
Alexandrium	catenella	0
Alexandrium	cysts	0
Alexandrium	margalefi	0
Alexandrium	minutum	0
Alexandrium	ostenfeldii	0
Alexandrium	sp.	0
Alexandrium	tamarense	0
Dinophysis	acuminata	0
Dinophysis	acuta	0
Dinophysis	caudata	0
Gymnodinium	catenatum	0
Karenia	sp.	0
Karlodinium	sp.	0
Prorocentrum	lima	0

Algae Summary		Cells/litre
Total Phytoplankton		0
Total Diatom		0
Total Dinoflagellate		0

Report Status: **Interim**

Date of Report: **14-July-2026**

Test Method P-050



Signature:



Phytoplankton Report

S.A. Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Certificate of Analysis

Lincoln Marine Science Centre. PO Box 5 Pt Lincoln SA 5606 phone (08) 8688 3409

AR 16625

Full Count Toxic Species Report

Location

Glenelg

Sample Date

12-July-2026

Sample Time

1.15 pm

Site

2

Count Date

14-July-2026

Comments

Diatom Species Present		Cells/litre
Pseudo-nitzschia	delicatissima	0
Pseudo-nitzschia	Seriata Group	0

Dinoflagellate Species Present		Cells/litre
Alexandrium	catenella	0
Alexandrium	cysts	0
Alexandrium	margalefi	0
Alexandrium	minutum	0
Alexandrium	ostenfeldii	0
Alexandrium	sp.	0
Alexandrium	tamarense	0
Dinophysis	acuminata	0
Dinophysis	acuta	0
Dinophysis	caudata	0
Gymnodinium	catenatum	0
Karenia	sp.	0
Karlodinium	sp.	0
Prorocentrum	lima	0

Algae Summary		Cells/litre
Total Phytoplankton		0
Total Diatom		0
Total Dinoflagellate		0

Report Status: **Finalised**

Date of Report: **14-July-2026**

Test Method P-050



Signature:



Phytoplankton Report

S.A. Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Certificate of Analysis

Lincoln Marine Science Centre. PO Box 5 Pt Lincoln SA 5606 phone (08) 8688 3409

AR 16626

Full Count Toxic Species Report

Location

Glenelg

Sample Date

12-July-2026

Sample Time

1.15 pm

Site

3

Count Date

14-July-2026

Comments

Diatom Species Present		Cells/litre
Pseudo-nitzschia	delicatissima	0
Pseudo-nitzschia	Seriata Group	0

Dinoflagellate Species Present		Cells/litre
Alexandrium	catenella	0
Alexandrium	cysts	0
Alexandrium	margalefi	0
Alexandrium	minutum	0
Alexandrium	ostenfeldii	0
Alexandrium	sp.	0
Alexandrium	tamarense	0
Dinophysis	acuminata	0
Dinophysis	acuta	0
Dinophysis	caudata	0
Gymnodinium	catenatum	0
Karenia	sp.	0
Karlodinium	sp.	0
Prorocentrum	lima	0

Algae Summary		Cells/litre
Total Phytoplankton		0
Total Diatom		0
Total Dinoflagellate		0

Report Status: **Finalised**

Date of Report: **14-July-2026**

Test Method P-050



Signature:

From: [Tietzel, Renee \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Fishkill Glenelg 12/7 - water testing West Beach
Date: Monday, 13 July 2026 9:33:16 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[0832_001.pdf](#)
[Z733.jpg](#)
[Z734.jpg](#)
[Z735.jpg](#)
[Z736.jpg](#)
[Z737.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

From: Greco, Leon (PIRSA) <Leon.Greco@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 8:09 AM
To: Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Conahan, James (PIRSA) <James.Conahan@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Fishkill Glenelg 12/7 - water testing West Beach

OFFICIAL

Hi Renee

The water samples are in esky by my desk. Once Kimberley responds to email below, please coordinate whilst I'm out in the field.

Thanks

Leon Greco | Fisheries Officer
Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue West Beach
GPO Box 1625 Adelaide SA 5001
M: ^{Clause 6(1)} [REDACTED] | **E:** leon.greco@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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| Courage & Tenacity | Sustainability

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From: Greco, Leon (PIRSA)
Sent: Sunday, 12 July 2026 2:58 PM
To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Jakaitis, Aaron (PIRSA) <Aaron.Jakaitis@sa.gov.au>; Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>; French, Victoria (PIRSA) <victoria.french@sa.gov.au>; Bolch, Christopher (SARDI) <christopher.bolch@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Fishkill Glenelg 12/7 - water testing West Beach

Hi Kimberley

We received a Fishwatch call today about dead crabs on Glenelg Beach, call ID Clause 6(1).

FO's attended and collected water samples.

The Spider and Blue crabs were very decayed, and I think most had washed out with the high tide. See report and photos attached.

Can you please advise what the procedure is now for FO's lodging water samples, in terms of logistics to get samples to West Beach testing facility and the contacts. For FO's based at West Beach, the process will be different to our regional sites, where they will need an account to book freight.

Regards

Leon Greco | Fisheries Officer
Fisheries and Aquaculture | **Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Avenue West Beach
GPO Box 1625 Adelaide SA 5001
M: Clause 6(1) | **E:** leon.greco@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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| Courage & Tenacity | Sustainability

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Appendix D – Fish Kill Incident Data Collection Sheet

Fish Kill Incident - Site Information

Fish Kill Incident Details

Date: 12-7-26

Time: 1315 hrs.

Location (GPS):

Responding Officer Details

Name: GRECO / FRENCH

Phone:

Email: LEON.GRECO@JA.GOV.AU

Approximate number of dead fish:

100+ plus scattering of individual legs

Fish species effected:

Predominantly Spider Crabs + a few BSC

Other wildlife involved:

No

Appearance of fish (e.g., lesions/red sores):

Crabs in stages of decay - carapaces w/out legs & individual legs scattered

Type of water body (e.g., marine, estuary):

1# - Water conditions:

- GPS location of Site 1# water collection (Fish Kill Site)

-34.97956 138.51028

- Swell:

1.5m - 15knot NW

- Current:

incoming tide

- Turbid:

yes

- Signs of discharge (e.g., sewage, chemical):

No

- Dissolved oxygen (mg/L):

7.11 mg/l

- Water temperature (°C):

15.1

- Salinity (ppt):

34.5

2# - Water conditions:

- GPS location of Site 2# water collection

-34.97837 138.50994

- Swell:

1.5m 15k NW

- Current:

incoming tide

- Turbid:

Yes.

- Signs of discharge (e.g., sewage, chemical):

No

- Dissolved oxygen (mg/L):

7.88

- Water temperature (°C):

13.8.

- Salinity (ppt):

33.5

3# - Water conditions:

- GPS location of Site 3# water collection

-34.97757 138.51035 (south of #1)

- Swell:

1.5m 15k NW.

- Current:

incoming tide

- Turbid:

No

- Signs of discharge (e.g., sewage, chemical):

- Dissolved oxygen (mg/L):

7.48

- Water temperature (°C):

13.4

- Salinity (ppt):

34.2.

Weather conditions:

- Wind strength and direction:

NW 15 knots

- Rain (mm):

< 1mm

- Air temperature (°C):

15

Any other relevant information (e.g., samples collected):

WATER ONLY.

Take photos of the incident.

***NB – Each water collection site requires 2 x 250ml containers of water (total of 6 x containers for 3 x test sites). 1 x sample from each site must be fixed with lugol (enough to turn the sample the colour of weak tea).**

If the samples are in a clear container and will be exposed to the light, they should have foil wrapped around the sides of the container)











From: [Heycock, Penny \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Jakaitis, Aaron \(PIRSA\)](#); [Tietzel, Renee \(PIRSA\)](#); [Kotsoglous, Nicholas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Grange fish kill
Date: Monday, 13 July 2026 2:06:54 PM
Attachments: [13.07.26 2.jpeg](#)
[13.07.26 1.jpeg](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Kimberly,

FYI – photos obtained by DFO.

Did you end up attending to collect samples?

Thanks

Penny

From: Kotsoglous, Nicholas (PIRSA) <Nicholas.Kotsoglous2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 12:59 PM
To: Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Jakaitis, Aaron (PIRSA) <Aaron.Jakaitis@sa.gov.au>; Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Grange fish kill

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Afternoon team

Have contacted the caller.

Fish kill – Grange beach. Just south of Reedy st.
Approx 300-500 crabs washed up in seaweed.

Caller has sent through some pictures which are attached.

Call Reference Number: Clause 6(1)
Date / Time: 13/07/2026 11:03:29 AM
Caller Name: Clause 6(1)
Location: Grange Sa Beach
Tel Number: Clause 6(1)
Date Sighted: 13/07/2026
Time Sighted: 11:00:00
Pest Type: Other
Species: Crabs
Action Type: Escalation
Send To: PortsShared
Transfer Outcome: Transfer NOT Successful FDO Name: Nicholas Kotsoglous Number Of Fish: Couple of
Hundreds Sea Foam: None Have Photographs: Yes - Have Photograph

Nicholas Kotsoglous | Fisheries Officer
Fisheries and Aquaculture | Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 9 Krummel st Mount Gambier

PO Box 2124 Mount Gambier SA 5290

T: +61 8 8735 1300 | M: Clause 6(1)

| E: nicholas.kotsoglous2@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Case/Item Id	Kill Date	Aqua culture or Wild Fish		Kill Type	Location	Species	Reported	Reported To	Comments Or Reason For Submission	Type of	Investigating Officers	Notifiabl	Notifiabl	Lab Results / Comments	Project
		By	e Diseases				e Disease			Excluded		Confirmed			
Out of Scope															
8(1)	13/07/2026	Wild		Wild - Fish Kill Investigation	Grange beach	Crab;	Public	FISHWATCH	Couple hundred dead crabs	Water	Kimberley Batley			No Karenia detected (Karenia sp. = 0 cells/L). No fresh crabs found for collection.	
6(1)	12/07/2026	Wild		Wild - Fish Kill Investigation	Glenelg Beach	Spider Crab; Blue Swimmer Crab;	Public	FISHWATCH	100+ dead crabs	Water	Leon Greco			No Karenia detected (Karenia sp. = 0 cells/L). No fresh crabs found for collection.	
Out of Scope															
Out of Scope															
Clas	4/07/2026	Wild		Wild - Fish Kill Investigation	Glenelg Beach	Spider Crab;	Public	FISHWATCH	Hundreds of spider crabs	N/A	Cobi Lovett			No FO or Biosecurity Officer available. Karenia counts from 29/06 = 0 cells/L. High rainfall and strong westerlies days prior. Spider crabs are known to moult in winter months, possible moulting event. Will monitor for further reports.	
Out of Scope															

From: [Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [PIRSA:Media](#)
Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast
Date: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:22:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

Hey Tom,

Made a few changes. I changed to “several” because there were very few “in-tact” shells. Also unsure whether to change “likely” to “possibly”. We have no hard evidence, other than this is what happens in Victoria (and I found some casts that suggest moulting).

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:06 PM
To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks Kimberley, I think that could be a good thing to add, are you ok with the below edit in red? Could we say the majority or just large proportion?

Cheers
Tom

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO A DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESPERSON:

PIRSA responded to reports of a large number of crabs at Glenelg beach on Sunday 12 July, and at Grange beach on Monday 13 July to take water samples and investigate.

SASQAP testing showed there was zero Karenia sp. detected in the water samples from Glenelg, which supports the belief that this event is not related to the harmful algal bloom.

*Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, **likely/possibly** to moult and breed. **PIRSA officers observed several spider crab moult shells at Grange.** It is believed that this event **involves** a combination of factors, including **a spider crab moulting event** and the influx of fresh water due to the heavy rainfall during recent severe weather events changing the water quality.*

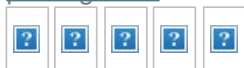
Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au





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From: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:02 PM

To: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Sorry for the delay Tom.

Looks good to me, have just added in red. I removed "causing the mass mortality". It's a complicated event given the death of some crabs, but also a large proportion of the spider crab shells are crab moults (suggesting they did not die, but have shed their shell).

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 2:19 PM

To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>; Fielder, Kate (PIRSA) <Kate.Fielder@sa.gov.au>; Mellor, Emily (PIRSA) <Emily.Mellor@sa.gov.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Gaut, Maddison (PIRSA) <Maddison.Gaut@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thank you Kim.

Please see below statement for a quick review. Mike Steer has also been on FiveAA today on this and I will also run it past him for further input.

Thanks

Tom

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO A DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESPERSON:

PIRSA responded to reports of a large number of crabs at Glenelg beach on Sunday 12 July, and at Grange beach on Monday 13 July to take water samples and investigate.

SASQAP testing showed there was zero *Karenia* sp. detected in the water samples from Glenelg, which supports the belief that this event is not related to the harmful algal bloom.

Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, likely to moult and breed. It is believed that this event was caused by a combination of factors, including the influx of fresh water due to the heavy rainfall during recent severe weather events changing the water quality.

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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From: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 1:39 PM

To: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>; Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>; Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>; Fielder, Kate (PIRSA) <Kate.Fielder@sa.gov.au>; Mellor, Emily (PIRSA) <Emily.Mellor@sa.gov.au>; Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Gaut, Maddison (PIRSA) <Maddison.Gaut@sa.gov.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>

Subject: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon all,

Situation report (SITREP) #1

Incident in brief

- On Sunday 12 July 2026, PIRSA received a Fishwatch call for dead crabs along Glenelg Beach.
- On the same day, Fisheries Officers attended the site and observed hundreds of crabs. The species involved were predominantly spider crabs, and a small number of blue swimmer crabs.
- On Monday 13 July 2026, PIRSA received a Fishwatch report for dead crabs along Grange Beach.

- On the same day, a Biosecurity Officer attended the site and found hundreds of spider crab exoskeletons, Out of scope

Samples

- Only crab exoskeletons were found so were not suitable for sample collection and analysis.
- Dissolved oxygen concentrations, water temperature, and salinity levels were measured at three sites along the beaches:
 - Glenelg: 7.11 mg/L, 7.88 mg/L, 7.48 mg/L (dissolved oxygen); 15.1 °C, 13.8 °C, 13.4 °C (temperature); 34.5 ppt, 33.5 ppt, 34.2 ppt (salinity)
 - Grange: 7.85 mg/L, 7.9 mg/L, 7.79 mg/L (dissolved oxygen); 13.6 °C, 13.6 °C, 13.8 °C (temperature); 34.5 ppt, 34.5 ppt, 34.3 ppt (salinity)
- Water samples were collected and sent for testing.

Environment

- Large rainfall has been experienced across Adelaide in the days prior to the mortality event
- SASQAP testing from Glenelg on 12 July 2026 did not identify *Karenia* sp. (cells/L = 0).

Biology

- In Victoria, spider crabs migrate to shallow waters in winter to moult their shells and breed. Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, likely to moult and breed.
- A small number of very thin shells were observed at Grange beach, evidence of a freshly moulted (dead) spider crab.
- Blue swimmer crabs generally moult in the warmer months of spring and summer (in SA).

From the available information, the event is likely attributed to a combination of a spider crab moulting event and environmental causes, most likely an influx of freshwater and resulting changes to water quality.

Action

- PIRSA will distribute another SITREP if further critical information becomes available, otherwise, please consider this the final SITREP.

Kind regards,
Kimberley

Dr Kimberley Batley | A/g Principal Biosecurity Officer, Weeds and Aquatic Pests
Invasive Species Unit | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | Entry 4 Waite Road Urrbrae SA 5064
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
P: +61 8 8429 7428 | M: Clause 6(1) | E: kimberley.batley@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



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From: [Linnane, Adrian \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#)
To: [Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\)](#); [McLeay, Lachlan \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#)
Subject: RE: Spider crab molting season - help please
Date: Monday, 13 July 2026 4:08:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Kimberley,

Yes – we are aware of these reports.

So this is the time of year that we see aggregations of spider crabs coming inshore in SA so its reasonable to presume - that like Victoria – they are coming in to moult and mate. From the limited pics I've seen – at least some of the shells look like moults casts- which would be normal.

Blue crabs generally moult in the warmer months of Spring/ Summer. Its been a strange year obviously with the algal bloom – whether this has resulted in a late moult for some individuals is unclear. Our most recent surveys for Blue Crab in GSV were in March and were very positive in terms of stock numbers.

My mobile is Clause 6(1) if you need to discuss further.

Regards,
Adrian

From: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 3:49 PM
To: McLeay, Lachlan (PIRSA-SARDI) <Lachlan.McLeay@sa.gov.au>; Linnane, Adrian (PIRSA-SARDI) <Adrian.Linnane@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Spider crab molting season - help please

OFFICIAL

Hi Adrian and Lachlan,

We've received a number of reports for hundreds of dead crabs along the metro coast. It's mostly spider crabs, but there have been a few BSC too.

Do either of you know when molting season is, or know someone that might know? I've looked at some literature, and it seems as though molting season is during winter in Port Phillip Bay, but I haven't seen much for South Australia or blue swimmers.

I went down to Grange today to investigate. There were plenty of paper-thin shells, and in-tact arms with no meat inside. There were also plenty of hard shells. Just trying to gain as much information as I can on spider crabs and crab molting in general.

Many thanks,

Kimberley

Invasive Species Unit | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | Entry 4 Waite Road Urrbrae SA 5064
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
P: +61 8 8429 7428 | M: Clause 6(1) | E: kimberley.batley@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



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From: [Palomino, Alessandra \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Spurling, Sarah \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:SASQAP](#)
Subject: SASQAP reports 13/7
Date: Wednesday, 15 July 2026 4:21:30 PM
Attachments: [AR 16633 Grange 1 20260713.pdf](#)
[AR 16634 Grange 2 20260713.pdf](#)
[AR 16635 Grange 3 20260713.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Kimberley,

Please find attached reports from Grange fishkill. No Karenia sp. detected

Regards,

Alessandra Palomino | SASQAP Scientific Officer,
South Australia Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (SASQAP)
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | 1 Hindmarsh St,
PO Box 5 PORT LINCOLN SA 5606
P: +61 8 8688 3411 | **E:** alessandra.palomino@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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| Courage & Tenacity | Sustainability**

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Phytoplankton Report

S.A. Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Certificate of Analysis

Lincoln Marine Science Centre. PO Box 5 Pt Lincoln SA 5606 phone (08) 8688 3409

AR 16633

Full Count Toxic Species Report

Location

Grange

Sample Date

13-July-2026

Sample Time

1.30 pm

Site

Fishwatch

Count Date

15-July-2026

Comments

No Karenia sp. detected

Diatom Species Present		Cells/litre
Pseudo-nitzschia	delicatissima	0
Pseudo-nitzschia	Seriata Group	0

Dinoflagellate Species Present		Cells/litre
Alexandrium	catenella	0
Alexandrium	cysts	0
Alexandrium	margalefi	0
Alexandrium	minutum	0
Alexandrium	ostenfeldii	0
Alexandrium	sp.	0
Alexandrium	tamarense	0
Dinophysis	acuminata	0
Dinophysis	acuta	0
Dinophysis	caudata	0
Gymnodinium	catenatum	0
Karenia	sp.	0
Karlodinium	sp.	0
Prorocentrum	lima	0

Algae Summary		Cells/litre
Total Phytoplankton		0
Total Diatom		0
Total Dinoflagellate		0

Report Status: **Finalised**

Date of Report: **15-July-2026**

Test Method P-050



Signature:



Phytoplankton Report

S.A. Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Certificate of Analysis

Lincoln Marine Science Centre. PO Box 5 Pt Lincoln SA 5606 phone (08) 8688 3409

AR 16634

Full Count Toxic Species Report

Location	Grange 2	Sample Date	13-July-2026
		Sample Time	1.45 pm
Site	Fishwatch	Count Date	15-July-2026
Comments	No Karenia sp. detected		

Diatom Species Present		Cells/litre
Pseudo-nitzschia	delicatissima	0
Pseudo-nitzschia	Seriata Group	0

Dinoflagellate Species Present		Cells/litre
Alexandrium	catenella	0
Alexandrium	cysts	0
Alexandrium	margalefi	0
Alexandrium	minutum	0
Alexandrium	ostenfeldii	0
Alexandrium	sp.	0
Alexandrium	tamarense	0
Dinophysis	acuminata	0
Dinophysis	acuta	0
Dinophysis	caudata	0
Gymnodinium	catenatum	0
Karenia	sp.	0
Karlodinium	sp.	0
Prorocentrum	lima	0

Algae Summary		Cells/litre
Total Phytoplankton		0
Total Diatom		0
Total Dinoflagellate		0

Report Status: **Finalised**

Date of Report: **15-July-2026**

Test Method P-050



Signature:



Phytoplankton Report

S.A. Shellfish Quality Assurance Program - Certificate of Analysis

Lincoln Marine Science Centre. PO Box 5 Pt Lincoln SA 5606 phone (08) 8688 3409

AR 16635

Full Count Toxic Species Report

Location

Grange 3

Sample Date

13-July-2026

Sample Time

2.00 pm

Site

Fishwatch

Count Date

15-July-2026

Comments

No Karenia sp. detected

Diatom Species Present		Cells/litre
Pseudo-nitzschia	delicatissima	0
Pseudo-nitzschia	Seriata Group	0

Dinoflagellate Species Present		Cells/litre
Alexandrium	catenella	0
Alexandrium	cysts	0
Alexandrium	margalefi	0
Alexandrium	minutum	0
Alexandrium	ostenfeldii	0
Alexandrium	sp.	0
Alexandrium	tamarense	0
Dinophysis	acuminata	0
Dinophysis	acuta	0
Dinophysis	caudata	0
Gymnodinium	catenatum	0
Karenia	sp.	0
Karlodinium	sp.	0
Prorocentrum	lima	0

Algae Summary		Cells/litre
Total Phytoplankton		0
Total Diatom		0
Total Dinoflagellate		0

Report Status: **Finalised**

Date of Report: **15-July-2026**

Test Method P-050



Signature:

From: FisheriesSA@oraclecms.com
To: [PIRSA:Fisheries Operational Management](#)
Cc: [Missen, Harry \(PIRSA\); Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\); Gaut, Maddison \(PIRSA\); PIRSA:Fisheries Operational Management; Clause 6\(1\) @sa.gov.au](#)
Subject: Unusually High Mortality Rate (Fish Kill) - Log Call Normally
Date: Sunday, 5 July 2026 1:57:26 PM

Call Reference Number: Clause 6(1)
Date / Time: 05/07/2026 01:51:39 PM
Caller Name: Clause 6(1)
Location: Glenelg Beach
Tel Number: Clause 6(1)
Date Sighted: 04/07/2026
Time Sighted: 10:30:00
Species: Spider Crabs
Action Type: ExtraPage
Send To: FDO,PIRSAEmail
FDO Name: Cobi Lovett
Number Of Fish: Hundreds of Them
Sea Foam: No
Have Photographs: No - NOT In Position NOT Have Photograph

From: [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Grammer, Gretchen \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#)
Cc: [Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July
Date: Monday, 13 July 2026 10:25:26 AM
Attachments: [FW Fishkill Glenelg 127 - water testing West Beach.msg](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Gretchen,
 PIRSA Media is now aware FO's responded yesterday and collected water samples (see attached email)
 As I understand Kimberley Batley (Bio) has contacted Christopher Bolch at SARDI re the water sampling as it may be more appropriate to do it at SARDI West Beach than courier them to SAQAP in Lincoln. No further advice received as yet and the water samples are still here.
 Kind Regards
 Gary

From: Darter, Gary (PIRSA)
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 9:35 AM
To: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>; Jakaitis, Aaron (PIRSA) <Aaron.Jakaitis@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

Sorry Team,
 I've just been advised that FO's took water samples yesterday. NFA required at this time
 Regards
 Gary

From: Darter, Gary (PIRSA)
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 9:31 AM
To: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>; Jakaitis, Aaron (PIRSA) <Aaron.Jakaitis@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

Hi Fontella,
 I can confirm there are no reports received in Fishwatch.
 Appropriate for a Biosecurity team response. Kimberley, please advise if you can't mobilise a team
 Kind regards
 Gary

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 9:25 AM
To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>
Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Subject: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Kimberley and Matt,

This is a little bit of a heads up we have a heads up on this FB post this morning and as we suspect media will contact us as they tend to follow Clause 6(1) posts (well they have been with H5 Bird Flu) we are trying to prep up as much as possible. Have we received any Fishwatch reports on this? I'll also check with the EAD hotline in case they called there given the Bird Flu focus.

If anyone from either the Aquatic Invasive Species unit or F&A is going out to take samples please let us know. I am chasing up with SARDI on the out of season comment but Kim if you do have some advice that will be fantastic.

Thanks,

Fontella

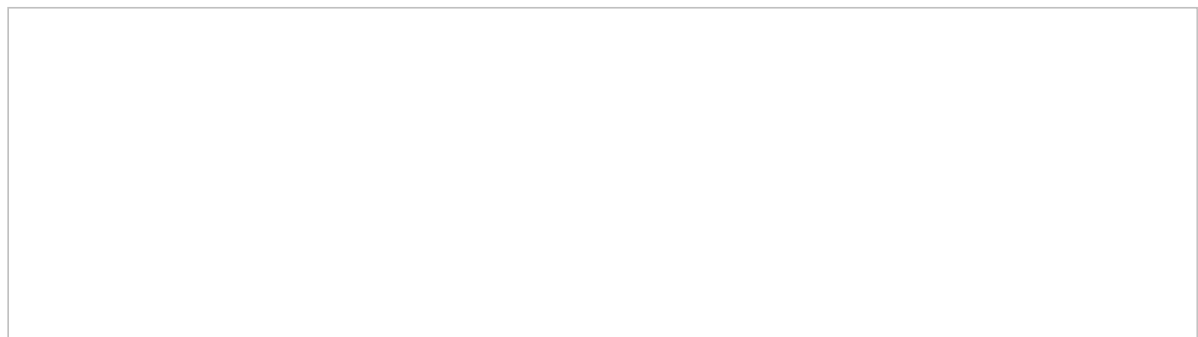
Fontella Koleff | Senior Media Adviser
Industry, Strategy and Partnerships | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth Street
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: +61 8 429 0488 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** Fontella.koleff2@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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From: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 8:56 AM
To: PIRSA:Media <pirsa.media@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Glenelg crab FB screenshot



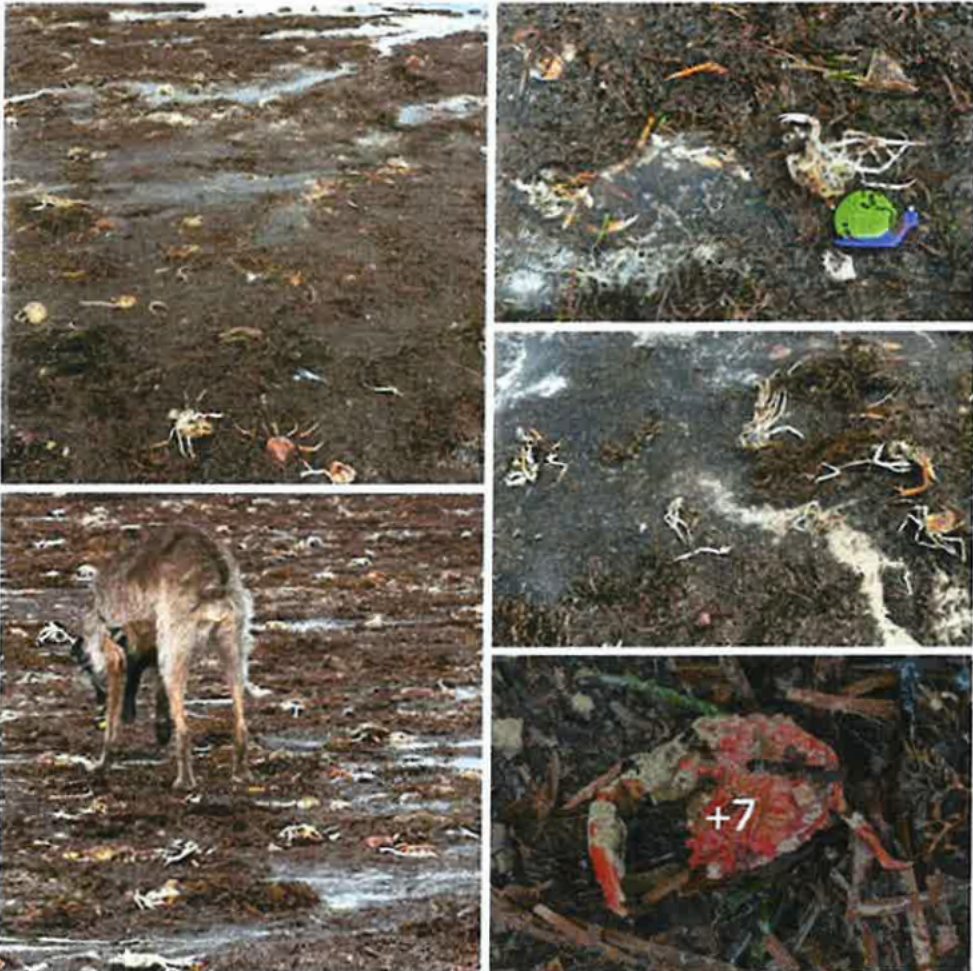


Sent from my iPhone

From: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) [Clause 6\(1\)](#)
 Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 8:56 AM
 To: PIRSA:Media <pirsa.media@sa.gov.au>
 Subject: Glenelg crab FB screenshot

[Clause 6\(1\)](#) [Clause 6\(1\)](#) is at Glenelg Beach, ... X
 Adelaide, Australia. · Follow
 1h · 🌐

Apparent total HAB related ecosystem collapse. At least 500 crabs washed up on a 100 metre section of Glenelg beach this morning. Gulls and even off-leash dogs feasting on the spoils. Mainly great spider crabs, but a fair few blue swimmers as well, that aren't supposed to be here between end of April and start of September. Moulting is November to April, but all of these had legs (before the gulls got to them).




What caused crab die-off?

How long do HABs last?

What is ecosystem collapse?

Can HABs kill birds?

H

🤔 😮 👍 10

5 comments 2 shares

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Grammer, Gretchen \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#)
Cc: [Greco, Leon \(PIRSA\)](#); [Tietzel, Renee \(PIRSA\)](#); [Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\)](#); [Heycock, Penny \(PIRSA\)](#); [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: RE: location details for crab washup
Date: Monday, 13 July 2026 11:28:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Understood – thanks Gretchen

Regards

Gary

From: Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 11:21 AM
To: Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Greco, Leon (PIRSA) <Leon.Greco@sa.gov.au>; Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>; Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: location details for crab washup

OFFICIAL

Thanks, Gary. I think it's important to stick to the standard protocol that's in place where the SASQAP lab analyses these samples as a NATA accredited lab.

In the future, if a duplicate sample can be collected, we are happy to look at it while the other one is shipped to SASQAP.

Thanks,
Gretchen

Dr Gretchen Grammer | Research Director, Aquatic and Livestock Sciences
 South Australian Research and Development Institute – SARDI | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
 Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Ave West Beach SA 5024 | PO Box 120 Henley Beach SA 5022
 Affiliate Associate Professor – Flinders University
P: +61 8 8429 0797 | **M:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** gretchen.grammer@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au/research



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 We recognise and own a difficult past, and together we will walk forward. We acknowledge the many Aboriginal people of this Country as the oldest continuous living culture in the world.*

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From: Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 11:10 AM
To: Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>

Cc: Greco, Leon (PIRSA) <Leon.Greco@sa.gov.au>; Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>; Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: location details for crab washup

OFFICIAL

Hi Gretchen,
The water samples are currently being packed for SAQAP (thru Toll)
Regards
Gary

From: Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 10:26 AM
To: Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: location details for crab washup

Hi Gretchen,
Hopefully that's all in the email I just sent.
Let me know if you want the water samples provided to Chris
Cheers
Gary

From: Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 10:22 AM
To: Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: location details for crab washup

OFFICIAL

Hi Gary,

Could you send me location details and any other information you have about the crabs that have washed up in Glenelg?

I'll likely ask Chris Bolch to get some fresh water samples.

Thanks,
Gretchen

Dr Gretchen Grammer | Research Director, Aquatic and Livestock Sciences
South Australian Research and Development Institute – SARDI | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Ave West Beach SA 5024 | PO Box 120 Henley Beach SA 5022
Affiliate Associate Professor – Flinders University
P: +61 8 8429 0797 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** gretchen.grammer@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au/research



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From: [Linnane, Adrian \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#)
To: [Grammer, Gretchen \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#); [Beckmann, Crystal \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#)
Cc: [Mayfield, Stephen \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#)
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July
Date: Monday, 13 July 2026 11:31:05 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hard to tell conclusively from report Gretchen.

Worth noting that spider moults will have some gill remanent still in them – sometimes people confuse this for dead crabs – but it is actually just a moult cast.

From: Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 11:06 AM
To: Beckmann, Crystal (PIRSA-SARDI) <Crystal.Beckmann@sa.gov.au>; Linnane, Adrian (PIRSA-SARDI) <Adrian.Linnane@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Mayfield, Stephen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Stephen.Mayfield@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

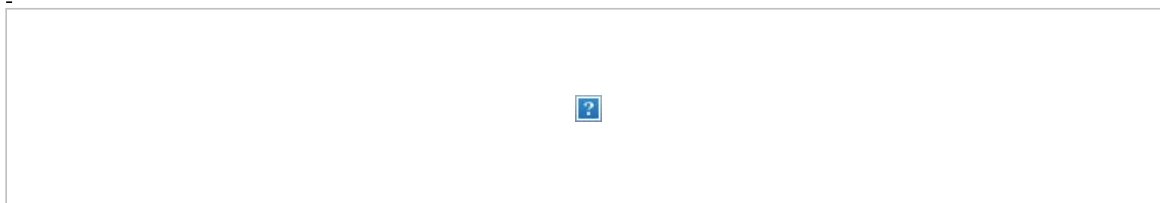
OFFICIAL

Hi Adrian and Crystal,

Attached is the fishwatch report. Have a look and see what you think – not sure these are moults.

Thanks,
 Gretchen

Dr Gretchen Grammer | Research Director, Aquatic and Livestock Sciences
 South Australian Research and Development Institute – SARDI | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
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P: +61 8 8429 0797 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** gretchen.grammer@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au/research



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From: Beckmann, Crystal (PIRSA-SARDI) <Crystal.Beckmann@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 10:24 AM
To: Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>; Linnane, Adrian (PIRSA-SARDI) <Adrian.Linnane@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Mayfield, Stephen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Stephen.Mayfield@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

OFFICIAL

I agree, peak moulting of blue crabs is generally associated with warmer water temperatures, so if large numbers of blue crabs are washing up now there may be other causes.

I can call Dennis Holder to see if they have noticed anything unusual if that helps?

Cheers,

Crystal

From: Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 10:14 AM
To: Linnane, Adrian (PIRSA-SARDI) <Adrian.Linnane@sa.gov.au>; Beckmann, Crystal (PIRSA-SARDI) <Crystal.Beckmann@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Mayfield, Stephen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Stephen.Mayfield@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

OFFICIAL

Thanks Adrian. Crystal – see below – any ideas re: blue crabs?

Thanks,
Gretchen

Dr Gretchen Grammer | Research Director, Aquatic and Livestock Sciences
South Australian Research and Development Institute – SARDI | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
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From: Linnane, Adrian (PIRSA-SARDI) <Adrian.Linnane@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 10:12 AM
To: Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Mayfield, Stephen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Stephen.Mayfield@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

OFFICIAL

Hi Gretchen,

Hard to tell from the pics but for spider crabs it does look like at like some of them are moult casts. Probably to be expected as this is the time of year they come into shallow water to moult and mate.

Blue crabs have more of a Spring/Summer moult so not sure what's going on there. Maybe Crystal would have more of an insight?

Cheers,
Adrian

From: Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 9:51 AM
To: Linnane, Adrian (PIRSA-SARDI) <Adrian.Linnane@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Mayfield, Stephen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Stephen.Mayfield@sa.gov.au>
Subject: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

OFFICIAL

Hi Adrian – FYI below. Any insight?

Thanks,
Gretchen

Dr Gretchen Grammer | Research Director, Aquatic and Livestock Sciences
South Australian Research and Development Institute – SARDI | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | 2 Hamra Ave West Beach SA 5024 | PO Box 120 Henley Beach SA 5022
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From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 9:21 AM

To: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>; Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

OFFICIAL

Hi Mike and Gretchen,

This is a little bit of a heads up and seeing who might be the best person within the team to chase up some information on as we suspect media will contact us as they tend to follow Clause 6(1) posts (well they have been with H5 Bird Flu).

If someone can advise as soon as possible that'll be great.

I'll also check with Fishwatch team as to whether a report has been made. If there is anyone going out from SARDI to collect samples let us know.

Thanks,

Fontella

Fontella Koleff | Senior Media Adviser
Industry, Strategy and Partnerships | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth Street
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: +61 8 429 0488 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** Fontella.koleff2@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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From: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)>

Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 8:56 AM

To: PIRSA:Media <pirsa.media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: Glenelg crab FB screenshot



Sent from my iPhone

From: [PIRSA:Media](#)
To: [Steer, Michael \(PIRSA-SARDI\)](#)
Cc: [PIRSA:Media](#)
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - crab mortalities Metro coast
Date: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:45:43 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Can do, Ive replaced the second half of the last sentence.

Cheers

Tom

PIRSA responded to reports of a large number of crabs at Glenelg beach on Sunday 12 July, and at Grange beach on Monday 13 July to take water samples and investigate.

SASQAP testing showed there was zero Karenia sp. detected in the water samples from Glenelg, which supports the belief that this event is not related to the harmful algal bloom.

Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, likely to moult and breed. PIRSA officers observed several spider crab moult shells at Grange.

The event is more likely to reflect a combination of natural seasonal crab activity and the recent weather, including heavy rainfall, freshwater runoff, large tides and rough onshore conditions that may have changed nearshore water quality and transported crabs and discarded moult shells onto the beach.

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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this Country as the oldest continuous living culture in the world.

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From: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:37 PM
To: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks,

There was also strong westerly, onshore, conditions and relatively large tides.

Can this be included:

The event is more likely to reflect a combination of natural seasonal crab activity and the recent weather, including heavy rainfall, freshwater runoff, large tides and rough onshore conditions that may have changed nearshore water quality and transported crabs and discarded moult shells onto the beach.

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:32 PM
To: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>
Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Mike, Ive had more enquiries come through so drafted up the below from the sirtrep, your interview etc.

Kimberley and Nick Secomb have approved, all good with you?

Cheers

Tom

STATEMENT:

PIRSA responded to reports of a large number of crabs at Glenelg beach on Sunday 12 July, and at Grange beach on Monday 13 July to take water samples and investigate.

SASQAP testing showed there was zero Karenia sp. detected in the water samples from Glenelg, which supports the belief that this event is not related to the harmful algal bloom.

Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, likely to moult and breed. PIRSA officers observed several spider crab moult shells at Grange. It is believed that this event involves a combination of factors, including a spider crab moulting event and the influx of fresh water due to the heavy rainfall during recent severe weather events changing the water quality.

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

E: tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au

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From: Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:29 PM

To: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Approved thanks Tom

nick

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:24 PM

To: Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Apologies Nick, please review this statement, I sent you an older draft.

Thanks

Tom

PIRSA responded to reports of a large number of crabs at Glenelg beach on Sunday 12 July, and at Grange beach on Monday 13 July to take water samples and investigate.

SASQAP testing showed there was zero Karenia sp. detected in the water samples from Glenelg, which supports the belief that this event is not related to the harmful algal bloom.

Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, likely to moult and breed. PIRSA officers observed several spider crab moult shells at Grange. It is believed that this event involves a combination of factors, including a spider crab moulting event and the influx of fresh water due to the heavy rainfall during recent severe weather events changing the water quality.

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: Clause 6(1)

E: tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au

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From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:23 PM

To: Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: FOR APPROVAL - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Nick, statement below for approval, reviewed by Kim

Mike has been on radio on this topic today so will also seek his approval.

Thanks

Tom

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO A DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESPERSON:

PIRSA responded to reports of a large number of crabs at Glenelg beach on Sunday 12 July, and at Grange beach on Monday 13 July to take water samples and investigate.

SASQAP testing showed there was zero Karenia sp. detected in the water samples from Glenelg, which supports the belief that this event is not related to the harmful algal bloom.

Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, likely to moult and breed, and a large proportion of the crabs observed by PIRSA officers were crab moults. It is believed

that this event was caused by a combination of factors, including the influx of fresh water due to the heavy rainfall during recent severe weather events changing the water quality.

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: Clause 6(1) | **E:** tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au
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From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:06 PM

To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks Kimberley, I think that could be a good thing to add, are you ok with the below edit in red?
Could we say the majority or just large proportion?

Cheers

Tom

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO A DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESPERSON:

PIRSA responded to reports of a large number of crabs at Glenelg beach on Sunday 12 July, and at Grange beach on Monday 13 July to take water samples and investigate.

*SASQAP testing showed there was zero *Karenia* sp. detected in the water samples from Glenelg, which supports the belief that this event is not related to the harmful algal bloom.*

*Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, likely to moult and breed, **and a large proportion of the crabs observed by PIRSA officers were crab moults**. It is believed that this event was caused by a combination of factors, including the influx of fresh water due to the heavy rainfall during recent severe weather events changing the water quality.*

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: Clause 6(1)

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From: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 3:02 PM

To: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Sorry for the delay Tom.

Looks good to me, have just added in red. I removed “causing the mass mortality”. It’s a complicated event given the death of some crabs, but also a large proportion of the spider crab shells are crab moults (suggesting they did not die, but have shed their shell.

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 2:19 PM

To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>; Fielder, Kate (PIRSA) <Kate.Fielder@sa.gov.au>; Mellor, Emily (PIRSA) <Emily.Mellor@sa.gov.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Gaut, Maddison (PIRSA) <Maddison.Gaut@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thank you Kim.

Please see below statement for a quick review. Mike Steer has also been on FiveAA today on this and I

will also run it past him for further input.

Thanks

Tom

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO A DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESPERSON:

PIRSA responded to reports of a large number of crabs at Glenelg beach on Sunday 12 July, and at Grange beach on Monday 13 July to take water samples and investigate.

*SASQAP testing showed there was zero *Karenia* sp. detected in the water samples from Glenelg, which supports the belief that this event is not related to the harmful algal bloom.*

Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, likely to moult and breed. It is believed that this event was caused by a combination of factors, including the influx of fresh water due to the heavy rainfall during recent severe weather events changing the water quality.

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au
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From: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 1:39 PM

To: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>; Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>; Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>; Fielder, Kate (PIRSA) <Kate.Fielder@sa.gov.au>; Mellor, Emily (PIRSA) <Emily.Mellor@sa.gov.au>; Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Gaut, Maddison (PIRSA) <Maddison.Gaut@sa.gov.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>

Subject: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

Good afternoon all,

Situation report (SITREP) #1

Incident in brief

- On Sunday 12 July 2026, PIRSA received a Fishwatch call for dead crabs along Glenelg Beach.
- On the same day, Fisheries Officers attended the site and observed hundreds of crabs. The species involved were predominantly spider crabs, and a small number of blue swimmer crabs.
- On Monday 13 July 2026, PIRSA received a Fishwatch report for dead crabs along Grange Beach.
- On the same day, a Biosecurity Officer attended the site and found hundreds of spider crab exoskeletons, Out of scope

Samples

- Only crab exoskeletons were found so were not suitable for sample collection and analysis.
- Dissolved oxygen concentrations, water temperature, and salinity levels were measured at three sites along the beaches:
 - Glenelg: 7.11 mg/L, 7.88 mg/L, 7.48 mg/L (dissolved oxygen); 15.1 °C, 13.8 °C, 13.4 °C (temperature); 34.5 ppt, 33.5 ppt, 34.2 ppt (salinity)
 - Grange: 7.85 mg/L, 7.9 mg/L, 7.79 mg/L (dissolved oxygen); 13.6 °C, 13.6 °C, 13.8 °C (temperature); 34.5 ppt, 34.5 ppt, 34.3 ppt (salinity)
- Water samples were collected and sent for testing.

Environment

- Large rainfall has been experienced across Adelaide in the days prior to the mortality event
- SASQAP testing from Glenelg on 12 July 2026 did not identify *Karenia* sp. (cells/L = 0).

Biology

- In Victoria, spider crabs migrate to shallow waters in winter to moult their shells and breed. Spider crabs are known to migrate to shallow waters in winter in South Australia, likely to moult and breed.
- A small number of very thin shells were observed at Grange beach, evidence of a freshly moulted (dead) spider crab.
- Blue swimmer crabs generally moult in the warmer months of spring and summer (in SA).

From the available information, the event is likely attributed to a combination of a spider crab moulting event and environmental causes, most likely an influx of freshwater and resulting changes to water quality.

Action

- PIRSA will distribute another SITREP if further critical information becomes available, otherwise, please consider this the final SITREP.

Kind regards,
Kimberley

Dr Kimberley Batley | A/g Principal Biosecurity Officer, Weeds and Aquatic Pests
Invasive Species Unit | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | Entry 4 Waite Road Urrbrae SA 5064
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
P: +61 8 8429 7428 | M: Clause 6(1) | E: kimberley.batley@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au





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Out of Scope

From: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2026 4:11 PM
To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks, don't need tonight.

Just needing to understand seasonality of any crab mortalities that may be on record prior to 2025.

From: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2026 4:08 PM
To: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Mike,

Our database is rarely by species so is not a good indicator.

I had a look on iNaturalist earlier today. There was a peak of spider crabs washing up August through to

October in 2025 (and very few reports prior to winter 2025).

Between 2000 and winter 2025 there were very few reports (less than 40) of spider crabs along the metro coast in SA. Since winter 2025 there have been over 1,400 reports of spider crabs.

Happy to look at other species. Do you need this tonight?

Cheers,
Kimberley

From: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2026 3:54 PM
To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Kimberley,

Are you able to explore whether we have had any other records of crabs washing up around this time of the year along SA's coast.

Thanks

From: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 July 2026 1:39 PM
To: Steer, Michael (PIRSA-SARDI) <Michael.Steer@sa.gov.au>; Grammer, Gretchen (PIRSA-SARDI) <Gretchen.Grammer@sa.gov.au>; Begg, Gavin (PIRSA) <Gavin.Begg@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>; Fielder, Kate (PIRSA) <Kate.Fielder@sa.gov.au>; Mellor, Emily (PIRSA) <Emily.Mellor@sa.gov.au>; Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Gaut, Maddison (PIRSA) <Maddison.Gaut@sa.gov.au>
Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>; Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au>
Subject: SITREP 1 - crab mortalities Metro coast

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon all,

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Kind regards,
Kimberley

Dr Kimberley Batley | A/g Principal Biosecurity Officer, Weeds and Aquatic Pests
Invasive Species Unit | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | Entry 4 Waite Road Urrbrae SA 5064
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
P: +61 8 8429 7428 | M: Clause 6(1) | E: kimberley.batley@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



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From: [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [PIRSA:Media](#); [Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT APPROVAL: Proposed media response - [Clause 6\(1\)](#) - Dead crabs at Glenelg DEADLINE: ASAP TTODAY
Date: Monday, 13 July 2026 1:01:23 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Fontella,

This (with Kim's edits) reads fine to me. Thank you. Please send to the appropriate ED for approval

Regards

Gary

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 12:59 PM
To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT APPROVAL: Proposed media response - [Clause 6\(1\)](#) - Dead crabs at Glenelg DEADLINE: ASAP TTODAY

OFFICIAL

Thanks Kimberley... rug up! If you can take some photos of the situation at Grange that'll be great. I haven't added Grange into the response yet as they were only just asking about Glenelg.

Gary have you got anything further to add otherwise I'll send up.

Thanks,

Fontella

Fontella Koleff | Senior Media Adviser
Industry, Strategy and Partnerships | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth Street
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: +61 8 429 0488 | **M:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** Fontella.koleff2@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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From: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 12:57 PM
To: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR URGENT APPROVAL: Proposed media response - **Clause 6(1)**. Dead crabs at Glenelg DEADLINE: ASAP TTODAY

OFFICIAL

Hi Fontella,

Thank you for this, I changed “acidity” to “oxygen” just because we don’t test pH but do test the amount of oxygen available in the water.

Heading out now, I’ll have my phone on me in case you need anything further – otherwise Nick Secomb can comment.

Cheers,
Kimberley

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 12:51 PM
To: Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>; Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>
Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FOR URGENT APPROVAL: Proposed media response - **Clause 6(1)** - Dead crabs at Glenelg DEADLINE: ASAP TTODAY
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Gary and Kimberley,

Thanks for the speedy response this morning on this one. We have now received our first media query (surprise, surprise). See below. I suspect at this stage given we are still investigating we can’t actually answer with any certainty why this is happening?

Are you happy for this to proceed?

PROPOSED RESPONSE

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) have received reports relating to a significant number of multiple crab species found washed up at Glenelg beach over the weekend. Investigations into the cause of the incident is underway.

While the cause of this incident is not yet known, marine mortality events can occur by a variety of causes, including changes to environmental factors such as temperature, salinity, or oxygen levels, or through the introduction of disease or pollutants.

Latest results show zero or low level of Karenia along the metropolitan coast.

PIRSA is aware through social media posts of dogs interacting with the crab carcasses. PIRSA would like to remind dog owners to keep their pets away from sick or dead fish or other marine animals.

PIRSA would like to remind people that if they notice something unusual involving dead or dying fish along any waterways or the coast to call FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522 so all incidents can be investigated.

Thanks,

Fontella

Fontella Koleff | Senior Media Adviser
P: +61 8429 0488 | **E:** Fontella.Koleff2@sa.gov.au

From: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 12:28 PM
To: PIRSA:Media <pirsa.media@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Dead crabs Glenelg

Hi,

Why are there so many different kinds of dead crabs washed up on Glenelg beach? Spider crabs, blue swimmer grabs and sand crabs?

<https://www.facebook.com/abacadelaide/posts/pfbid02eZziPdKjMBYAFFooHVdmGwcPfLW8Z1gUnMvhqnQfPfhJBE1M3CSaSg5o74db29Zvl>

Clause 6(1)



From: [Tietzel, Renee \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [PIRSA:Media](#); [Darter, Gary \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Batley, Kimberley \(PIRSA\)](#); [Read, Matt \(PIRSA\)](#); [Heycock, Penny \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jakaitis, Aaron \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July
Date: Monday, 13 July 2026 11:24:58 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Fontella,

Its commonly known amongst the rec sector that crabs are mainly caught in the months from September-March, so while there isn't a closed season from a fisheries point of view its simply referring to when crab catches are at their highest.

Kind regards
 Renee

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 10:56 AM
To: Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>; PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>; Jakaitis, Aaron (PIRSA) <Aaron.Jakaitis@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

OFFICIAL

Hi Everyone,

Thank you F&A team!

Can anyone explain the "out of season" comment in this post it would be most appreciated. Don't worry if you can't but I suspect media will ask that question.

Thanks,

Fontella

Fontella Koleff | Senior Media Adviser
P: +61 8429 0488 | **E:** Fontella.Koleff2@sa.gov.au

From: Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 9:35 AM
To: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>; Jakaitis, Aaron (PIRSA) <Aaron.Jakaitis@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

OFFICIAL

Sorry Team,

I've just been advised that FO's took water samples yesterday. NFA required at this time

Regards

Gary

From: Darter, Gary (PIRSA)

Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 9:31 AM

To: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Cc: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Heycock, Penny (PIRSA) <Penny.Heycock@sa.gov.au>; Tietzel, Renee (PIRSA) <Renee.Tietzel@sa.gov.au>; Jakaitis, Aaron (PIRSA) <Aaron.Jakaitis@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

Hi Fontella,

I can confirm there are no reports received in Fishwatch.

Appropriate for a Biosecurity team response. **Kimberley**, please advise if you can't mobilise a team

Kind regards

Gary

From: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 9:25 AM

To: Batley, Kimberley (PIRSA) <Kimberley.Batley@sa.gov.au>; Read, Matt (PIRSA) <Matt.Read@sa.gov.au>; Darter, Gary (PIRSA) <Gary.Darter2@sa.gov.au>

Cc: PIRSA:Media <PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au>

Subject: SEEKING INFORMATION - In case of media - Glenelg crab FB screenshot DEADLINE: ASAP Today - Monday, 13 July

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Kimberley and Matt,

This is a little bit of a heads up we have a heads up on this FB post this morning and as we suspect media will contact us as they tend to follow Clause 6(1) posts (well they have been with H5 Bird Flu) we are trying to prep up as much as possible. Have we received any Fishwatch reports on this? I'll also check with the EAD hotline in case they called there given the Bird Flu focus.

If anyone from either the Aquatic Invasive Species unit or F&A is going out to take samples please let us know. I am chasing up with SARDI on the out of season comment but Kim if you do have some advice that will be fantastic.

Thanks,

Fontella

Fontella Koleff | Senior Media Adviser

Industry, Strategy and Partnerships | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

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T: +61 8 429 0488 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** Fontella.koleff2@sa.gov.au

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From: Clause 9(1) >
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2026 8:56 AM
To: PIRSA:Media <pirsa.media@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Glenelg crab FB screenshot





Sent from my iPhone