



7 March 2024

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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[www.pir.sa.gov.au](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au)

**NOTICE TO FISHERS - SOUTHERN ZONE ABALONE FISHERY,  
SOUTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY, MARINE SCALEFISH  
FISHERY, CHARTER BOAT FISHERY, EXPLORATORY AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL, MISCELLANEOUS FISHERY AND LAKES AND COORONG  
FISHERY**

**MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO AVG OUTBREAK IN SOUTH  
EAST**

Dear Licence Holder

I write to provide further information in relation to the response to an Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) outbreak detected in wild abalone in waters in the South East of South Australia.

On 21 February 2024, a commercial abalone fisher reported dead and dying abalone at Breaksea Reef approximately 2.8 km from Port MacDonnell and submitted samples to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) for testing.

On 23 February 2024, the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness confirmed the presence of AVG in the samples.

On 23 February 2024, PIRSA set up an AVG Incident Management Team to respond to this detection. Notices under the *Livestock Act 1997* and the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* were put in place the same day to prohibit fishing and related activities in a control area of waters adjacent to Nene Valley to the Victorian border.

The Control Area in coastal waters in the South East, established to help control the spread of AVG through human activity, has now been extended westward to include adjacent waters up to Southend, with a range of restrictions in place from 3pm, Tuesday 5 March 2024. The extension follows the detection of AVG at the western edge of the former Control Area.

A new Buffer Zone has also been created and put in place under the *Livestock Act 1997* from Southend further westward to the Murray Mouth where lighter restrictions are in place largely relating to the cleaning and decontaminating of items and gear used. This will allow further surveillance to determine the extent of the current spread of AVG while minimising the risk of the disease being spread by human activity.

The current Control Area and Buffer Zone were chosen by the AVG Incident Management Team based on the evidence at hand to give the greatest chance of

preventing further spread by human activities while surveillance and tracing is undertaken. Once the extent of the disease is understood, restrictions can be reviewed and a plan for the transition to management developed.

AVG can spread through the movement of:

- infected abalone or abalone product (tissue, offal, shell or mucus)
- fishing equipment (including wetsuits, anchors, rock lobster pots and ropes, rods and lines)
- people who have come into contact with infected abalone or bottom habitat.

AVG has no known effects on human health.

Based on advice from the AVG Incident Management Team, a new notice under Section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* is now in place.

Under the notice the following restrictions apply:

In the Control Area:

- No taking of fish from the seafloor such as abalone, rock lobster, macro algae, other than pipi from the intertidal zone.
- No anchoring of any vessel to undertake fishing.
- Anything permitted to be taken from the area (water or beach) cannot be returned to State waters (including for use as bait).

In the Buffer Zone:

- All fishing activities including rock lobster and abalone fishing is permitted but any fishing or diving equipment which has contacted abalone habitat or the sea floor must be cleaned and decontaminated following PIRSA guidelines.
- Use of anchors is permitted but they must be cleaned when raised following PIRSA guidelines.
- Anything permitted to be taken or collected from the area, other than pipis, cannot be returned to State waters except in the Buffer Zone.

A copy of the notice and maps of the Control Area and Buffer Zone are attached and you are advised to regularly review the current fisheries and livestock notices and maps on the PIRSA website at [www.pir.sa.gov.au/avg](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/avg) as arrangements may change in the coming weeks.

Notices are also in force under the *Livestock Act 1997* issued on 10 July 2023 prohibiting the reef diving, use of abalone or abalone products as bait or berley, and further notices issued on 5 March 2024 restricting the movement of rock lobster pots and abalone. These notices are available at [pir.sa.gov.au/avg](http://pir.sa.gov.au/avg)

To help reduce the spread of AVG disease, South Australians State-wide are encouraged to:

- Check: all vessels, fishing, diving and surfing equipment and remove anything including, water, sand or seaweed. Check your catch for signs of illness.
- Clean: boats at home or at a commercial car wash. Wash your wetsuits, fishing and diving equipment with fresh, soapy water.
- Dry: all boating, fishing and diving equipment completely before heading out into the water again.

You must not dispose of any abalone shell or gut into the ocean. Dispose of abalone shell, meat and gut in household rubbish.

I will keep you informed as the response to this outbreak progresses. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation as together we work to protect our valuable fisheries.

The PIRSA website will be kept up to date at [www.pir.sa.gov.au/avg](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/avg) it is recommended that you review this site regularly.

Yours sincerely

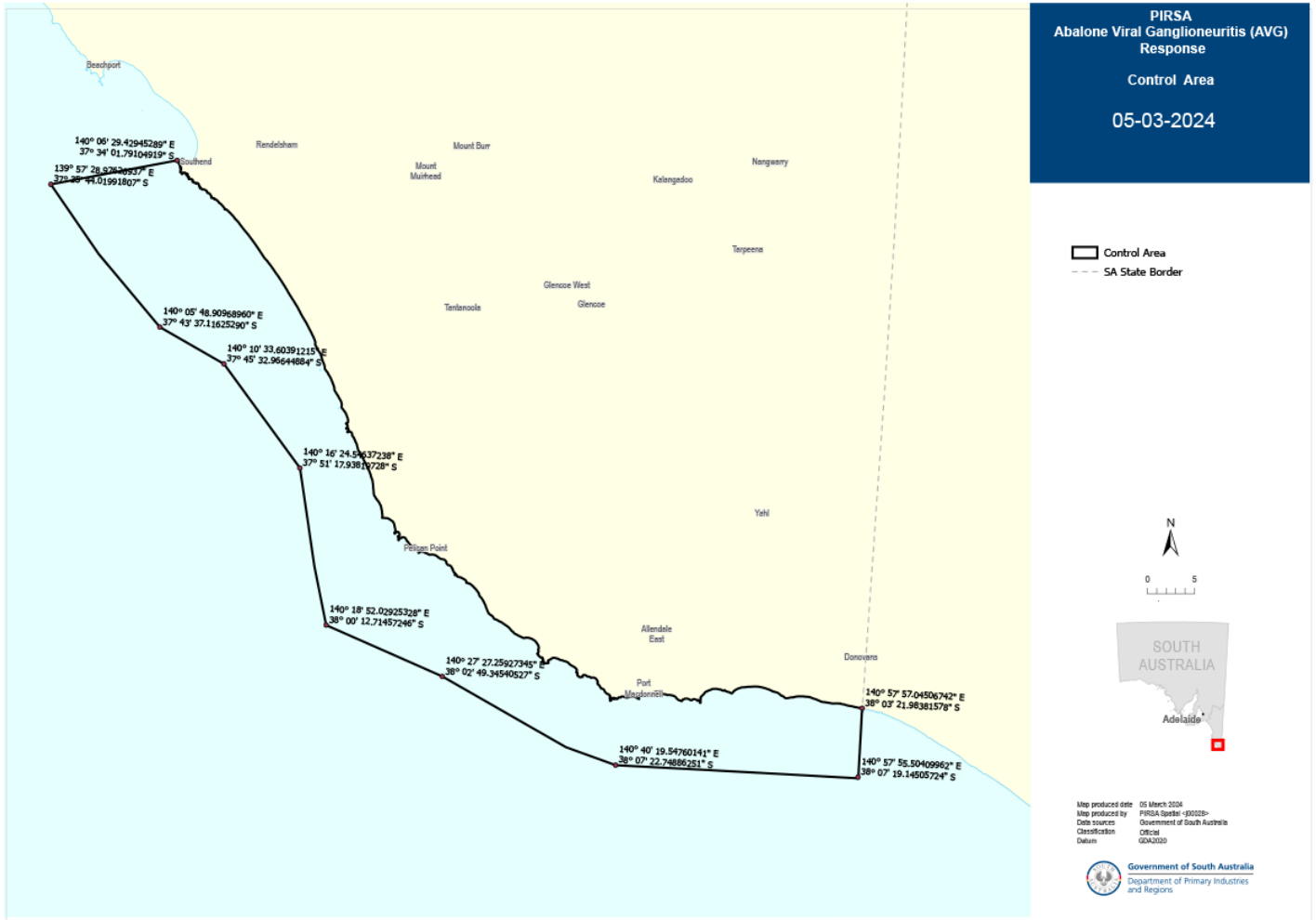


Prof Gavin Begg  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

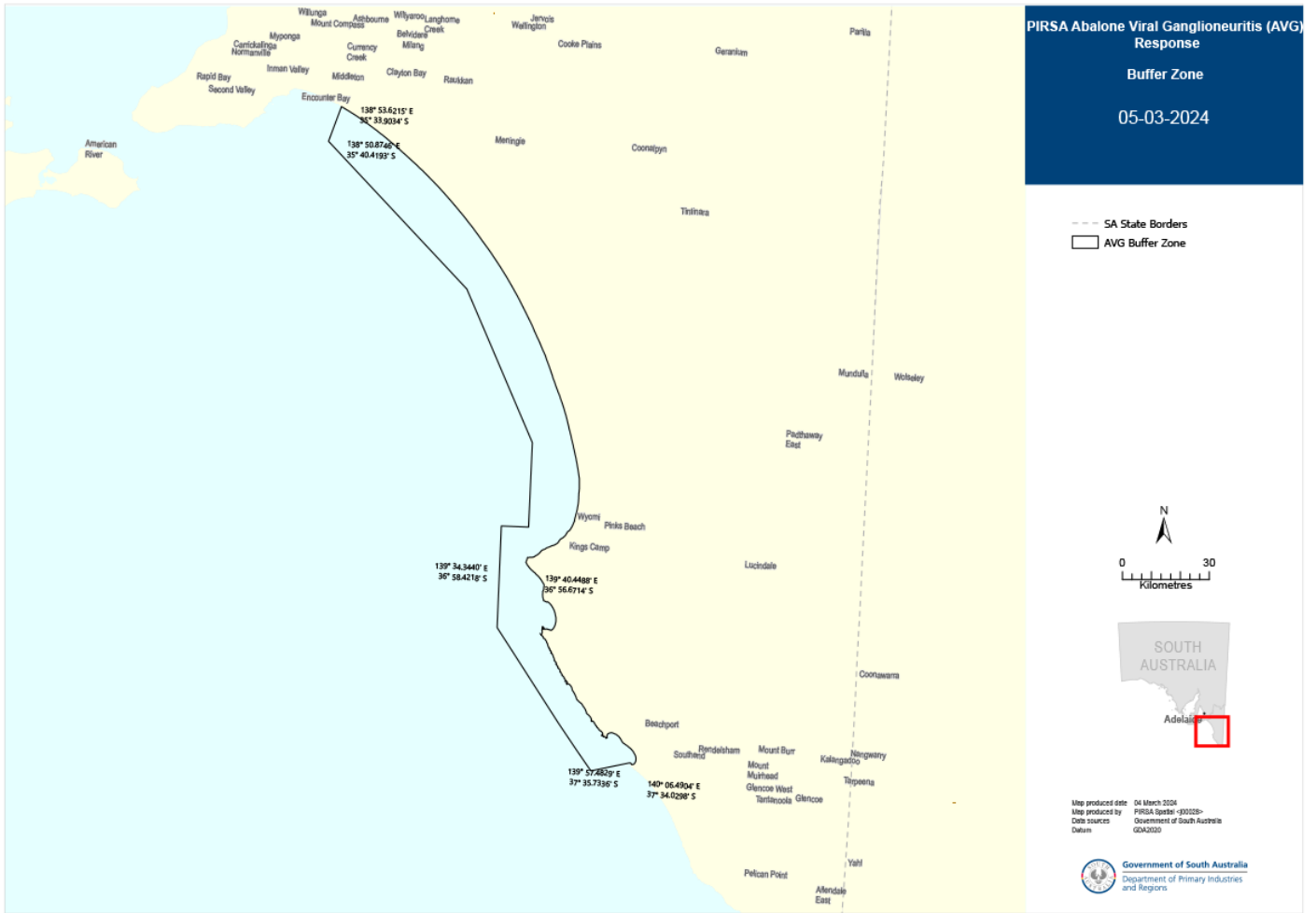
Attachments:

- A. Map of the Control Area
- B. Map of the Buffer Zone
- C. S79 Notice Temporary prohibition of fishing activities in response to AVG

# Attachment A: Map of Control Area



# Attachment B: Map of Buffer Zone



## Attachment C: Temporary Closure Notice

No. 14

p. 367

## SUPPLEMENTARY GAZETTE



THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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ADELAIDE, TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2024

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## STATE GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTS

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2007

SECTION 79

*Revocation of Declaration*

Pursuant to Section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, I Professor Gavin Begg, Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture, delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, hereby revoke the declaration dated 23 February 2024 being the first notice published on page 276 of the *Government Gazette* prohibiting fishing activities in Specified Waters of the SE and also revoke the variation declaration for the same notice dated 26 February 2024 and published on page 297 of the *Government Gazette* being the only notice on that page.

Dated: 5 March 2024

PROFESSOR GAVIN BEGG  
Executive Director  
Fisheries and Aquaculture

Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2007

SECTION 79

*Temporary Prohibition on Fishing Activities in Specified Waters of SE  
AVG Control Area*

Pursuant to Section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, I Professor Gavin Begg, Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture, delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, hereby declare that it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the act of, or an act preparatory to or involved in, the fishing activities specified in Schedule 1, within the area described in Schedule 2 during the period specified in Schedule 3.

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All instruments appearing in this gazette are to be considered official, and obeyed as such

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Objective ID: A6187348

## SCHEDULE 1

All fishing activities or acts preparatory to the taking of fish in the marine benthic zone (close to or on the sea floor) including acts preparatory to the taking of marine benthic species, including but not limited to taking southern rock lobster, gastropods, macroalgae but excluding the collection of pipi in the intertidal zone, and including the use of benthic fishing devices or gear (such as rock lobster pots) and anchoring any vessel to engage in fishing activities are prohibited unless the Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture has provided written notice to the contrary.

## SCHEDULE 2

The coastal waters of the south east of South Australia contained within and bounded by a line commencing at the point 38°03'21.9838" South 140°57'57.0451" East, then southerly to the point 38°07'19.1451" South 140°57'55.5040" East, then westerly to the point 38°07'22.7489" South 140°40'19.5476" East, then north-westerly to the point 38°02'49.3454" South 140°27'27.2593" East, then further north-westerly to the point 38°00'12.7146" South 140°18'52.0293" East then further north-westerly to the point 37°51'17.9382" South 140°16'24.5464" East then further north-westerly to the point 37°45'32.9664" South 140°10'33.6039" East then further north-westerly to the point 37°43'37.1163" South 140°05'48.9097" East then further north-westerly to the point 37°35'44.0199" South 139°57'28.9763" East then north-easterly to the point closest to Mean High Water Springs at 37°34'01.7910" South 140°06'29.4295 then south-easterly along the line of Mean High Water Springs to the point of commencement (GDA2020).

## SCHEDULE 3

From 5 March 2024 to 27 March 2024.

Dated: 5 March 2024

PROFESSOR GAVIN BEGG  
Executive Director  
Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

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