



FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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27 March 2024

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

AVG MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Dear Licence Holder

Following confirmation of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) in wild abalone in waters south of Port MacDonnell, restrictions were implemented to control human assisted virus spread whilst surveillance activities were undertaken to identify the extent of the virus within the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery (SZAF).

Surveillance activities have now been completed, and the current restrictions under the *Livestock Act 1997* and *Fisheries Management Act 2007* expire today.

A new Livestock Act notice has now been issued, outlining management arrangements which seek to reduce the risk of spreading the virus outside of the Southern Zone through appropriate decontamination procedures prior to the movement of fishing equipment that have been in contact with the benthic environment outside of the Southern Zone. These arrangements do not apply to collection of Pipi in the intertidal zone.

These arrangements also prescribe requirements with respect to the holding of abalone and other marine benthic species in the same holding facility.

Please also note, a notice under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* has been issued, temporarily prohibiting the take of abalone by any person from a prescribed area surrounding the initial detection site at Port MacDonnell.

These measures have been introduced to support recovery of local abalone stocks in the impacted area.

I also inform you that a notice is in force under the *Livestock Act 1997* issued on 10 July 2023 prohibiting the use of abalone or abalone products as bait or berley.

A copy of each of the notices is enclosed and available on the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) website at www.pir.sa.gov.au/avg.

To complement these arrangements and further support industry recovery and market access, a Code of Practice for AVG management in South Australia is being finalised in consultation with industry.

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.

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.

AVG is a notifiable disease. If you see sick, dead or dying abalone in South Australia, please call the Fishwatch Hotline on 1800 065 522.

Thank you for your cooperation throughout this response as together we work to protect our valuable fisheries.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Attachments:

- A. Livestock Act notice
- B. S79 Notice Temporary prohibition of abalone fishing