SAND CRABS
(Ovalipes australiensis)

In South Australia, the Sand Crab is common throughout many ocean beaches and the southern areas of Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf. Sand Crabs are easily distinguished by two coloured spots at the tail end.

Size limits
A Sand Crab is undersized if the distance from side to side of the carapace is less than 10 cm. Size limits apply in all waters of the state. Any undersized crabs must be returned to the water immediately.

Bag limit
A combined Sand Crab/Blue Swimmer Crab catch limit of 20 crabs per person, per day applies in South Australian waters.

Boat limit
The boat limit applies where three or more people are onboard. A combined Sand Crab/Blue Swimmer Crab daily boat limit of 60 crabs per boat applies in South Australian waters.

More information
Other rules apply to fishing in South Australia and these rules can change from time to time.

For the latest information about the rules that apply to fishing in South Australia go to the PIRSA website www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing or call the 24 hour Fishwatch hotline on 1800 065 522.

Information is also available through the free SA Recreational Fishing Guide app which is suitable for Apple, Windows and Android mobile devices and can be downloaded via www.pir.sa.gov.au/recfishingapp.
Crabbing is a popular recreational pastime in South Australia. The two main species targeted are Blue Swimmer Crab and Sand Crab.

A number of rules have been put in place to ensure the long-term health of the crab fishery. It is important that all fishers abide by these rules so that future generations can enjoy catching a feed of crabs.

### Rules that apply to all crab fishing

- All undersize crabs must be returned to the water immediately.
- It is an offence for recreational fishers to sell or trade their catch.
- There is a combined Blue Swimmer/Sand Crab catch limit in South Australia. In other words, you add together the numbers of each type of crab to calculate your daily bag or boat limit.
- All female crabs with external eggs are totally protected and must be returned to the water immediately.

### Hoop nets

A hoop net is a net attached to a metal hoop. The maximum hoop diameter is 107 cm. The maximum depth of the bag is 92 cm. If no other fishing gear is being used, a maximum of 10 hoop nets may be used. If other fishing equipment is being used (e.g., fishing rod/handline) then the maximum number of hoop nets is three.

### Drop nets

A drop net is made up of two hoops joined by a cylindrical cone-shaped net bag. The maximum hoop diameter is 107 cm. The maximum depth of the bag is 92 cm. A maximum of three drop nets per person can be used.

### Hoop nets/drop nets

If other fishing gear is being used, you are only permitted to use three drop nets or three hoop nets or a combination of both to a maximum of three.

### Crab rake

A crab rake is a handheld device for scraping the bed of any waters. It consists of a pole with a rake attached.

### Hand net

A hand net may be a dab net, dip net or shrimp net consisting of a conical shaped net which is attached to a hoop which is attached to a handle.

The maximum diameter of the hoop is 100 cm. The maximum depth of the net is 100 cm.

### Blue Swimmer Crab

**Blue Swimmer Crab (Portunus armatus)**

The Blue Swimmer Crab is widely distributed throughout the inshore waters of South Australia, particularly in areas with extensive sandy bottom and seagrass meadows in Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf.

#### Size limit

A Blue Swimmer Crab is undersized if the carapace is less than 11 cm when measured from side to side at the base of the largest spines. Size limits apply in all waters of the state. Any undersized crabs must be returned to the water immediately.

**Female crab with external eggs**

**Bag limit**

A combined Blue Swimmer/Sand Crab catch limit of 20 crabs per person, per day applies in South Australian waters.

**Boat limit**

The boat limit applies where three or more people are onboard. A combined Blue Swimmer Crab/Sand Crab daily boat limit of 60 crabs per boat applies in South Australian waters.