



9 June 2023

**FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE**

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## NOTICE TO FISHERS

### **Total Allowable Commercial Catches, Carry-over and Over-catch for the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the Vongole Fishery for the 2023-24 quota period**

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) convened a meeting of Vongole licence holders on 30 May 2023 to seek advice on the setting of the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the fishery for the 2023-24 quota period.

The May 2022 SARDI report “Harvestable Biomass in the South Australian Vongole Fishery” has classified the Coffin Bay and West Coast stocks of the fishery as “sustainable” with harvestable biomass estimates of 1,095 tonnes and 630.8 tonnes for Coffin Bay and the West Coast, respectively.

The harvest strategy for the Vongole Fishery, contained within the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery* recommends the TACCs for the respective zones of the fishery can be determined up to a maximum of 7.5% of the harvestable biomass estimate.

At the meeting of 30 May 2023, the majority of Vongole Fishery licence holders recommended TACCs for the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the fishery of 55 tonnes and 16 tonnes, respectively. While under the harvest strategy higher TACCs for both the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones could be set licence holders considered a precautionary approach should be taken in setting the 2023-24 TACCs.

As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined the Vongole TACCs for Coffin Bay and the West Coast for the 2023-24 quota period after consideration of the following information:

- objectives of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- the harvest strategy for Vongole set out in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery*
- advice from Vongole Fishery licence holders at the meeting on 30 May 2023
- scientific advice provided in the May 2022 SARDI report “Harvestable Biomass in the South Australian Vongole Fishery”.

Based on this information, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined the quota unit values required under Regulation 9(2) of the *Fisheries Management (Vongole Fishery) Regulations 2021*, and TACCs for Vongole in the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the fishery as:

<b>Vongole fishing zone</b>	<b>2023-24 TACC (kg)</b>	<b>No. quota units</b>	<b>Quota unit value (kg)</b>
Coffin Bay	55,000	1,000.0	55
West Coast	16,000	1,000.0	16

Please note that section 23A of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* prohibits the take of all bivalves in the Port River. As a result of this prohibition a TACC setting for the Port River zone of the Vongole fishery under Regulation 9(2) of the *Fisheries Management (Vongole Fishery) Regulations 2021* is not required.

### **Carry-over arrangements**

Regulation 9(3)(f) of the *Fisheries Management (Vongole Fishery) Regulations 2021* that came into operation on 1 July 2023 provides for carry-over of uncaught quota at a default level of 10% unless determined to be a lesser amount by the Minister.

In consideration of advice of Vongole Fishery licence holders during the meeting held on 30 May 2023 to support the default level, and further SARDI advice, I have determined under regulation 9(3)(f) that the level of carry-over to the 2024-25 season will be 10% of the quota held on a licence. Any quota entitlements carried over from the 2023-24 quota period into the 2024-25 quota period must be fished on the same licence and cannot be transferred.

### **Over-catch arrangements**

Regulation 9(3)(g) of the *Fisheries Management (Vongole Fishery) Regulations 2021* that came into operation on 1 July 2023 provides that when an over-catch amount is equal to or less than 10% of the quota held on a licence, each kilogram in excess of the quota allocation may be deducted from the quota entitlement on that licence by the Minister in the subsequent quota period at a rate of 1:1.

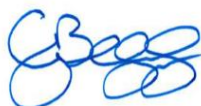
In consideration of advice from Vongole Fishery licence holders during the meeting held on 30 May 2023 to support the default level, and further SARDI advice, I have determined under regulation 9(3)(g) that the maximum level of over-catch for the 2023/24 season that can be deducted at a ratio of 1:1 from the 2024/25 season is to be 10% of quota held.

It is noted that where an over-catch amount exceeds 10% of the quota entitlements held on a licence, each kilogram in excess of the quota allocation may be deducted from the quota entitlements on that licence in the subsequent quota period at a rate of 2:1.

The PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture licencing unit will assess uncaught or overcaught quota entitlements at the end of each quota period. Adjustments to quota entitlements would be applied to licences as soon as practicable following the beginning of the next quota period. Licence holders will be advised of the changes at the time the adjustments are made in quota statements

Should you have any further queries in regard to these matters please contact Clint Rollins, Fisheries Management Officer, on telephone (08) 71337644 or email [clint.rollins@sa.gov.au](mailto:clint.rollins@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**  
Delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development