

PIRSA

Marine Scalefish Fishery



Operator User Guide

March 2024



**Government
of South Australia**

Department of Primary
Industries and Regions

Marine Scalefish Fishery

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Contents

Introduction	4
General Information	5
Marine Scalefish Fishery Fishing Zone	5
Permitted Species	5
Daily Commercial Limits.....	10
Quota Management of Primary Species	11
Trip limits for School and Gummy Shark.....	11
Closed areas and seasons.....	17
Netting Closures	20
Prohibition of Hauling Nets during Public Holidays	34
Aquatic Reserves.....	35
Marine Parks.....	39
Artificial Reefs	39
Permitted Devices and their Use.....	40
Fisher Obligations	60
Mutilation of fish at sea	63
Behaviour of Fishers	64
Logbook Reporting Requirements	65
Sale of Catch	66
Fish Processors	66
Licence Transfers	67
Demerit Points	70
Contact Information.....	72

Introduction

The aim of this document is to outline the legal obligations of licence holders, registered masters and associated operators within the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF).

This information package is to be used as a guide only.

For further information or clarification please contact PIRSA Fisheries & Aquaculture on (08) 8207 5332 or FISHWATCH (1800 065 522). Additional contact details are provided at the end of this document.

The management arrangements for the MSF are complex due to the multi-species and multi-gear nature of the fishery and are implemented through a variety of regulations, licence conditions and other legal instruments.

The fishery has traditionally been managed through the use of input controls which aim to limit the total amount of effort that can be directed into the fishery to ensure the sustainability of the aquatic resources on which the fishery is based. In addition to these input controls, on 1 July 2021 the introduction of total allowable commercial catch (TACC) and individual transferable quota (ITQ) (or 'quota') management systems for King George Whiting, Snapper, Southern Garfish and Southern Calamari came into effect in the MSF as outlined in table 1 below.

Table 1. Total allowable commercial catch (TACCs) and individual transferable quota (ITQ) in each fishing zone

Zone	King George Whiting	Southern Garfish	Southern Calamari	Snapper
West Coast (WC)	TACC	NA	NA	TACC + ITQ *Closed*
Spencer Gulf (SG)	TACC + ITQ	TACC + ITQ	TACC + ITQ	TACC + ITQ *Closed*
Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Is (GSV/KI)	TACC + ITQ	TACC + ITQ	TACC + ITQ	TACC + ITQ *Closed*
South East (SE)	NA	NA	NA	TACC + ITQ

As part of the MSF reform, the commercial taking of Vongole and Sardine were separated from the MSF with the formation of these new fisheries under their own regulations.

General Information

Whilst engaging in any commercial fishing activity you are required to carry your fishing licence, an electronic copy is sufficient.

The minimum requirement to be a registered master on a commercial vessel is a Coxswains certificate. The maximum number of agents (deckhands) permitted on board a commercial fishing vessel can be found on the certificate of registration and entitlements.

If any rules are breached, the licence holder and the registered master may both be guilty of an offence under the legislation and can incur demerit points.

PIRSA sends updates to Licence Holders throughout the year, this includes information about Total Allowable Catches, changes to arrangements, temporary arrangements that may be required and other informant information. This information is sent to the Licence Holders nominated email address. This information is referred to as a Notice To Fishers. You can access copies of all Notice's to Fishers via the following link or by searching 'Notice to Fishers' on the internet.

[Notices to commercial fishers - PIRSA](#)

Marine Scalefish Fishery Fishing Zone

The Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) operates in all coastal waters (State waters, high tide mark to three nautical miles) of South Australia including internal waters, gulfs, bays and estuaries (excluding the Coorong estuary), from the Western Australian border to the Victorian border. For some species, the Offshore Constitutional Settlement extends the fishery area out to the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone - 200 nautical miles.

The Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) consists of the taking of aquatic resources as specified in Schedule 1 of the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fisheries) Regulations 2017* in coastal waters and internal waters of the State.

Permitted Species

Schedule 1 is a list of fish species that may be taken pursuant to a Marine Scalefish Fishery licence. It is located in the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fisheries) Regulations 2017*. Any fish species that are not on this list cannot be taken and must be returned to the water immediately.

*Some species are subject to quota management (Pipi, Blue Swimmer Crabs, Snapper, King George Whiting, Southern Calamari and Southern Garfish). Pipi and Blue Swimmer Crabs in areas subject to individual transferable quota have separate operator user guides available for these activities.

Aquatic resources prescribed for the purposes of regulation 4(2)(a) (take for sale/trade/bait)

Anguilliformes

Conger Eel (Family Congridae)

Annelids

Beachworm (Class *Polychaeta*)

Bloodworm (Class *Polychaeta*)

Tubeworm (Class *Polychaeta*)

Crustaceans

Blue Swimmer Crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) west of 135 degrees East

Sand Crab (*Ovalipes spp*)

Velvet Crab (*Nectocarcinus tuberculatus*)

Rock Crab (*Nectocarcinus integrifrons*) west of 135 degrees East

Spider Crab (Family Majidae) west of 135 degrees East

Molluscs

Southern Calamari (*Sepioteuthis australis*)*

Cuttlefish (*Sepia spp*)

Mussel (*Mytilus spp*)

Octopus (*Octopus spp*)

Oyster (Family Ostreidae)

Scallop (Family Pectinidae)

Gould's Squid (*Nototodarus gouldii*)

Pipi (*Donax spp*)*

Scalefish

Barracouta (*Thyrsites atun*)

Black Bream (*Acanthopagrus butcheri*)

Cod of all marine species (Family Moridae)

Dory (Family Zeidae)

Flathead (Family Platycephalidae)

Flounder (Family Bothidae or Pleuronectidae)

Southern Garfish (*Hyporhamphus melanochir*)

Bluespotted Goatfish (*Upeneichthys vlamingii*)

Australian Herring (*Arripis georgianus*)

Yellowtail Kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*)

Knifejaw (*Oplegnathus woodwardi*)

Leatherjacket (Family Monacanthidae)

Pink Ling (*Genypterus blacodes*)

Blue Mackerel (*Scomber australasicus*)

Common Jack Mackerel (*Trachurus declivis*)

Morwong (Family Cheilodactylidae)

Mullet of all species (Family Mugilidae)

Mulloway (*Argyrosomus japonicus*)

Redfish (*Centroberyx affinis*)

Bight Redfish (*Centroberyx gerrardi*)

West Australian Salmon (*Arripis truttaceus*)

Sergeant Baker (*Latropiscis purpurissatus*)

Samson Fish (*Seriola hippos*)

Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*)*
Snook (*Sphyraena novaehollandiae*)
Southern Sole (*Aseraggodes haackeanus*)
Sea Sweep (*Scorpius aequipinnis*)
Silver Drummer (*Kyphosus sydneyanus*)
Swallowtail (*Centroberyx lineatus*)
Blue-eye Trevalla (*Hyperoglyphe antarctica*)
Trevally (*Carangidae spp*)
Western Striped Grunter (*Pelates octolineatus*)
Whiting (Family Sillaginidae)
Blue Weed-Whiting (*Haletta semifasciata*)
Wrasse (Family Labridae) (other than Western Blue Groper (*Achoerodus gouldii*))

Sharks

Rays of all species (Class Elasmobranchii)
Shark of all species (Class Elasmobranchii) other than White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*)
Skate of all species (Class Elasmobranchii)

Aquatic resources prescribed for the purposes of regulation 4(2)(a) for the purposes of bait only are as follows

Molluscs

Razorfish (*Pinna bicolor*)
Vongole

Scalefish

Australian Anchovy (*Engraulis australis*)
Maray (*Etrumeus teres*)
Australian Sardine (*Sardinops sagax*)
Blue Sprat (*Spratelloides robustus*)
Sandy Sprat (*Hyperlophus vittatus*)

Size Limits		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Size Limit (cm)
Bream, Black	Acanthopagrus butcheri	30
Flathead	Platycephalus spp.	30
Flounder	F. Pleuronectidae, or Bothidae	25
Garfish <i>*measured from upper jaw to tip of tail</i>	Hyporhamphus melanochir	23
Morwong, Blue	Nemadactylus valenciennesi	38
Mullet	F. Mugilidae	21
Mulloway	Argyrosomus japonicas	82
Redfish, Bight	Centroberyx gerrardi	30
Salmon	Arripis truttacea	21
Samson Fish	Seriola hippos	88
Shark, gummy <i>*measured from 5th gill slit to base of tail</i>	Mustelus antarcticus	45*
Shark, school <i>*measured from 5th gill slit to base of tail</i>	Galeorhinus australis	45*
Snapper <i>*see section on snapper closures</i>	Chrysophrys auratus	38
Snook	Sphyaena novaehollandiae	41
Sweep	Scorpis aequipinnus	24
Trevally, Silver	Pseudocaranx dentex	24

Size Limits		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Size Limit (cm)
Wrasse (Excluding Western Blue Groper)	F. Labridae	25 (Min.) 35 (Max.)* Please note a Ministerial exemption currently allows take of this species above this maximum limit.
Whiting, King George	Syllaginodes punctatus	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> east of longitude 136° including all Gulf waters and Proper Bay 		32
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> west of longitude 136° 		30
Whiting, Yellowfin	Sillago schomburgkii	24
Yellowtail Kingfish	Seriola lalandi	60
Pipi <i>*measured at widest part of shell</i>	Donax deltoids	3.5
Cockle or Vongole <i>*measured at widest part of shell</i>	Katelysia rhytiphora – “Yellows”	3.5
	Katelysia peronei “Whites”	3.5
	Katelysia scalarina “Greys”	3.0
	West & Port River Zone Katelysia spp	3.0
Crab, sand <i>*measured at widest part of the carapace</i>	Ovalipes australiensis	10
Crab, blue <i>*measured from the base of the largest spines</i>	Portunus pelagicus	11

Daily Commercial Limits

Razorfish

A licenced person must not take, in any one day, more than 50 Razorfish (Pinna bicolour) per licence holder / agent on board the vessel. It is illegal to sell Razorfish. Licence holders in the West Coast Fishing Zone, in the waters of the State West of longitude 136 degrees east can take less than 150 razorfish (for bait) over a three-day period.

Cockles or Vongole

A 10 kg maximum daily limit has been implemented for use as bait pursuant to your licence if not the holder of Vongole quota.

Pipi

A 10kg maximum daily limit for use as bait pursuant to your licence if not the holder of Pipi quota.

Samson Fish

No more than a maximum of 3 Samson Fish may be taken in any one day from any registered vessel.

School and Gummy Shark

A current daily limit applies to School and Gummy Shark, refer to page 10 for further details.

Quota Management of Primary Species

On 1 July 2021 the introduction of ITQ management and corresponding compliance arrangements for King George Whiting, Snapper, Southern Garfish and Southern Calamari came into effect in the four fishing zones of the MSF, as outlined in the next section.

A quota trading platform is also available on the PIRSA website, fees apply.

Fishing Zones

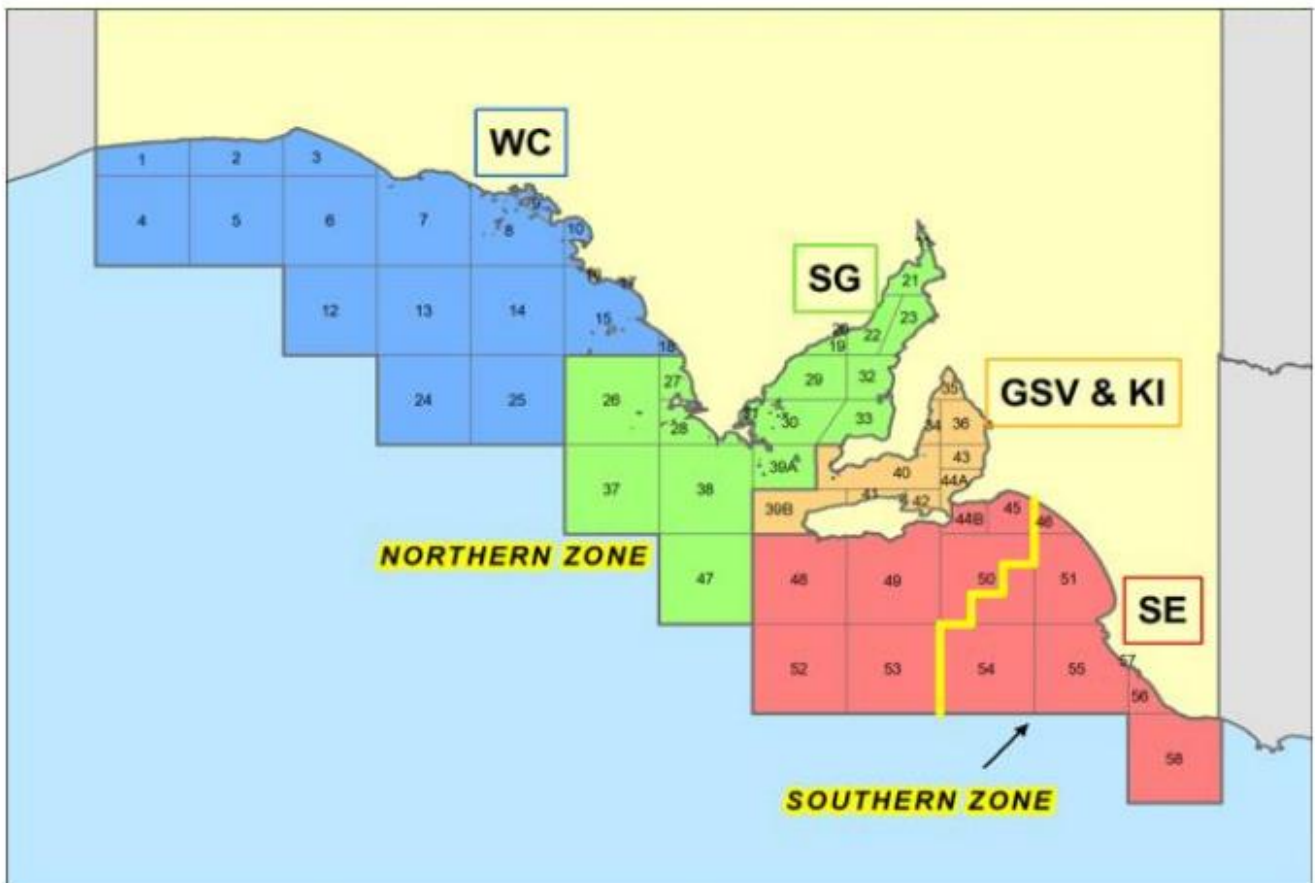


Figure 1. Fishing Zones and Marine Fishing Areas in the Marine Scalefish Fishery

Reporting Requirements – Quota Species

Prior to Fishing and Prior to landing reports only apply to the following species in the fishing zones shown below

1. South East – Snapper
2. GSV and KI – Snapper, Southern Calamari, Southern Garfish and King George Whiting
3. SG – Snapper, Southern Calamari, Southern Garfish and King George Whiting

You can view the Commercial Reporting App reports you have submitted by tapping on the Reports tab at the bottom right corner of the page.

Prior To Fishing Report

If you are targeting quota species, you are required to make a Prior to Fishing Report before engaging in the Fishing Activity in the respective fishing zone.

Reports can be made either through the Commercial Reporting App or by calling FISHWATCH and you will be provided with a reference number.

You are required to provide the following information:

1. Licence number
2. Master Name
3. Telephone number
4. Departure Port
5. Zone Fished
6. Commencement Date
7. Commencement Time

Marine Scale Prior to Landing Report

If you have taken quota species, you are required to make a Prior to Landing Report 30 mins prior to departing the point of landing. Reports can be made either through the Commercial Reporting App or by calling FISHWATCH and you will be provided with a reference number.

You are required to provide the following information:

1. Licence number
2. Master Name
3. Telephone number
4. Landing Port
5. Catch Record Option (BinTag or Weight)
6. If you choose weight you are required to supply the estimated weights for each quota species.
7. If you choose Tags you are required to supply the tag number(s) used to secure the quota fish.
8. Landing date
9. Time departing point of landing.

For Reports made via the Commercial Reporting App please note

- When you select submit for an App report, you will then see a summary page

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- Scroll down and check the details then select confirm and submit.
- You will then receive a Report Sent notification including the prior report reference number.
- You will also receive a copy of the report by SMS.

Multi Zone Fishing Report

If you are intending to take quota species from more than one fishing zone in the same trip you are required to make a Multi Zone Fishing Report in addition to your Prior to Fishing Report.

Reports can be made either through the Commercial Reporting App or by calling FISHWATCH and you will be provided with a reference number.

You are required to provide the following information:

1. Name
2. Telephone number
3. Master Name
4. Licence Number
5. Estimated weight of Snapper, Calamari, Garfish or King George Whiting **and**
6. The tag number(s) provided by the Department used to seal the receptacles(s)
7. The Fishing Zone the fisher will be entering.

CDR Requirements – Quota Species

The completion of a CDR only applies to the following species in the fishing zones shown below

1. South East – Snapper
2. GSV and KI – Snapper, Southern Calamari, Southern Garfish and King George Whiting
3. SG – Snapper, Southern Calamari, Southern Garfish and King George Whiting
4. West – King George Whiting

If you have taken a quota species in a fishing zone (including for bait) you are required to complete a Catch and Disposal Record (CDR):

- Within 24 hours of landing that catch; or
- If the catch leaves the possession/control of the LH or RM; or
- Immediately upon breaking the tag(s) used to seal a receptacle containing the catch

Whichever of the above occurs first.

This report can be completed via the Commercial Reporting App or e-Catch via the internet.

ELECTRONIC REPORTING

The Marine Scalefish fishery has transitioned to electronic reporting for all quota and compliance-based reports. This below information provides important details about submitting these reports.

Licence holders must ensure all masters are registered and endorsed on their licence. Licence holders can download the 'Application to change registration of a master' form (Marine Scalefish Fishery) from the PIRSA website to register or change masters.

All fishers submitting electronic reports must do so using their own login credentials.

Commercial Fishing SA app

To use the Commercial Fishing SA app, fishers (licence holders and masters) must first register to use the app.

For assistance with downloading and installing the app, setting up your details within the app, how to find and submit reports please access the Electronic Reporting Reference Guide link below:

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/428716/msf-e-reporting-reference-guide.pdf

eCatch

The eCatch website offers additional functionality than the Commercial Fishing SA app. eCatch is a website which is enabled for mobile devices and is used to store all the electronic reports submitted by a fisher. In addition, it can be used to submit a catch disposal record.

eCatch offers the following additional functionality:

- reviewing your licence
- quota details
- requesting edits to a submitted report
- reviewing all reports including your Commercial app and Fishwatch call reports.

Access to eCatch

To use eCatch, you must register via myPIRSA.

eCatch can only be accessed by logging in to the myPIRSA portal. You must be online to use eCatch.

myPIRSA is the same platform you use to access your quota balance statements and access to the quota trading platform.

For assistance with registering for MyPIRSA, select your required services such as eCatch/Quota Balance Statements/ Quota trading platform, creating and editing reports, exporting trip data and viewing licence details please access the Electronic Reporting Reference Guide link below.

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/428716/msf-e-reporting-reference-guide.pdf

Trip limits for School and Gummy Shark

On a fishing trip of one (1) day or less you can have up to 5 Gummy/School Shark (combined) on board the registered boat at any time. Fishers undertaking a multi-day trip can have up to 10 Gummy / School Shark (combined) providing they make a report to FISHWATCH/Commercial App 1 hour prior to midnight. See *licence condition 12622*.

Before landing any Gummy and/or School Shark a prior report must be made at least 1 hour prior via FISHWATCH or the Commercial App See *licence condition 13863*.

This is to maintain the State catches of Gummy and School shark within the bycatch allocation provided by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

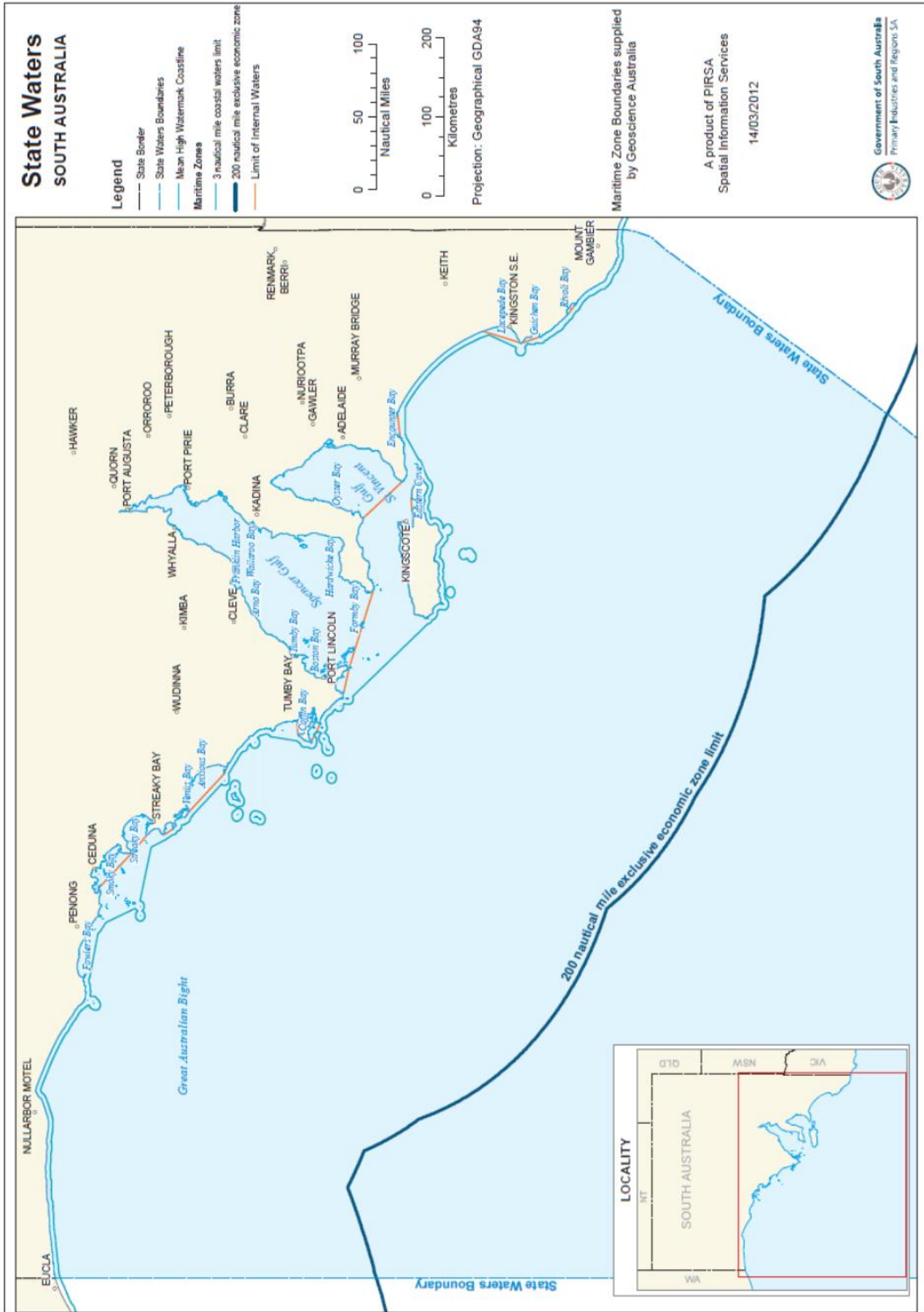
Please note that once the annual bycatch allocation has been reached a prohibition on the take and possession of these species will be implemented.

The minimum size limit for both Gummy and School Shark is 45 cm, measured from the 5th gill slit to the base of the tail. The head of the shark can now be removed at sea allowing fishers to land shark carcasses trunked.

Please note: Persons with an interest in a Commonwealth Licence (AFMA) with Shark entitlements are not permitted to take Gummy / School Shark pursuant to an SA fishing licence.

State coastal waters are measured from shore or territorial baselines out to three (3) nautical miles and also three (3) nautical miles from the shore of islands. An island is anything that is charted as above sea level.

Map showing State coastal waters boundaries.



Closed areas and seasons.

Seasonal and area closures apply for the following species:

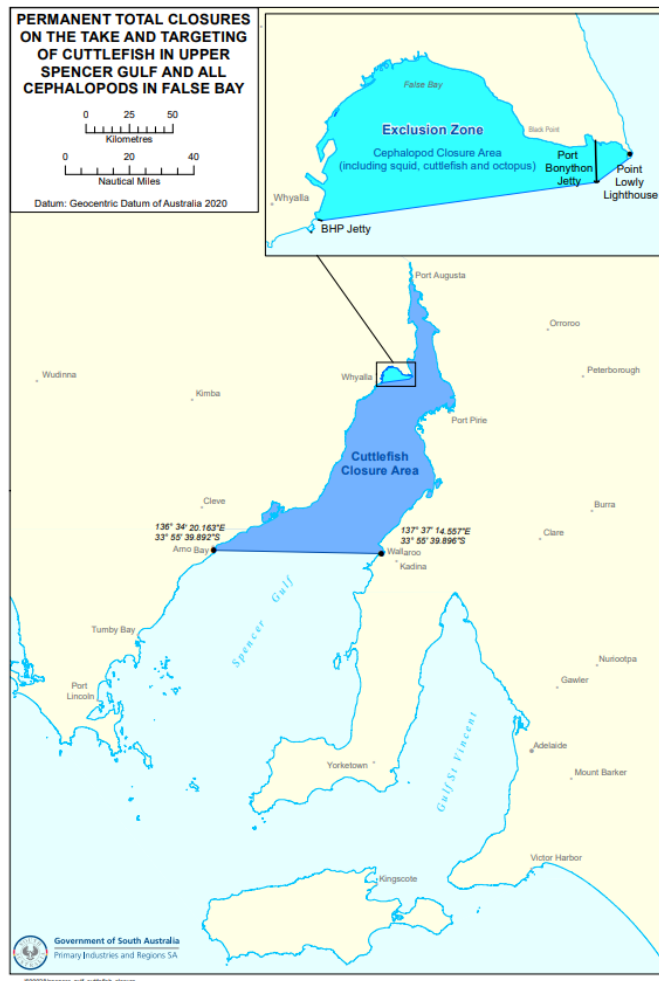
Pipi - Goolwa Beach

Goolwa Beach is closed to the commercial take of Pipi from the Murray Mouth to Middleton. There is also a state-wide closure that operates between 1 June to 31 October (inclusive).

Blue Swimmer Crabs

Blue Swimmer Crabs can only be taken west of 135° E unless you are the holder of Blue Crab quota.

Cuttlefish, Squid and Octopus – Upper Spencer Gulf and False Bay



A permanent cuttlefish fishing closure is in place in the waters of Upper Spencer Gulf. You must not target or take any cuttlefish species in the waters north of a line from:

- the Mean High Water Springs closest to 33°55'39.892"S 136°34'20.163"E (near Arno Bay), to
- the Mean High Water Springs closest to 33°55'39.896"S 137°37'14.557"E (Walleroo Jetty).

In addition, you cannot target or take cephalopods from False Bay, Spencer Gulf, in the waters north of:

- the lighthouse at Point Lowly to the southern end of the Point Bonython jetty
- south-west to the eastern most point of the BHP Jetty:
 - latitude 33°02'12.63"S and longitude 137°36'1.98"E

Snapper

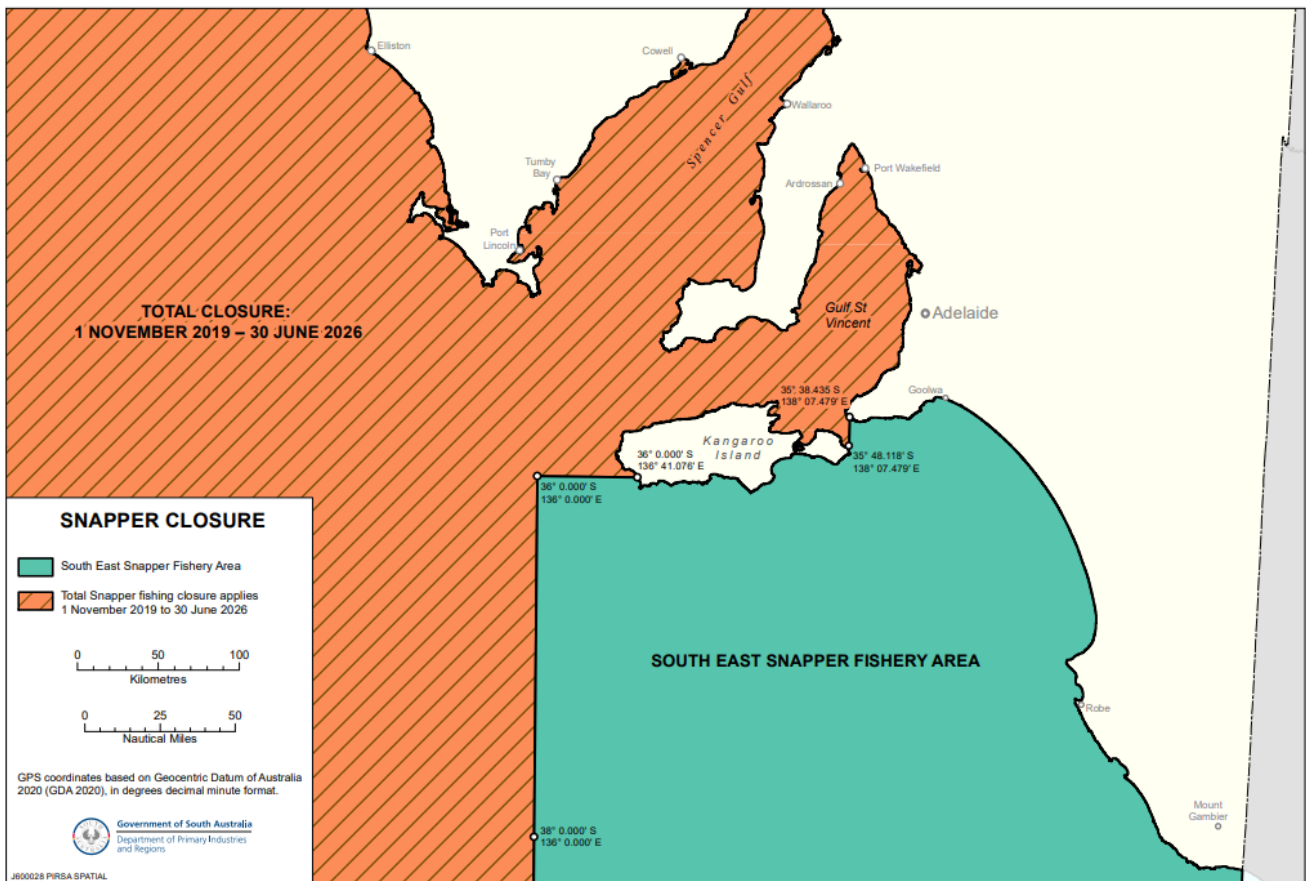
West Coast / Spencer Gulf / Gulf St Vincent

Total species closure until 30 June 2026

During the closure, the take of Snapper is prohibited in these waters and penalties apply. Any Snapper accidentally hooked while fishing for other species must immediately be returned to the water unencumbered and with as little damage or injury as possible.

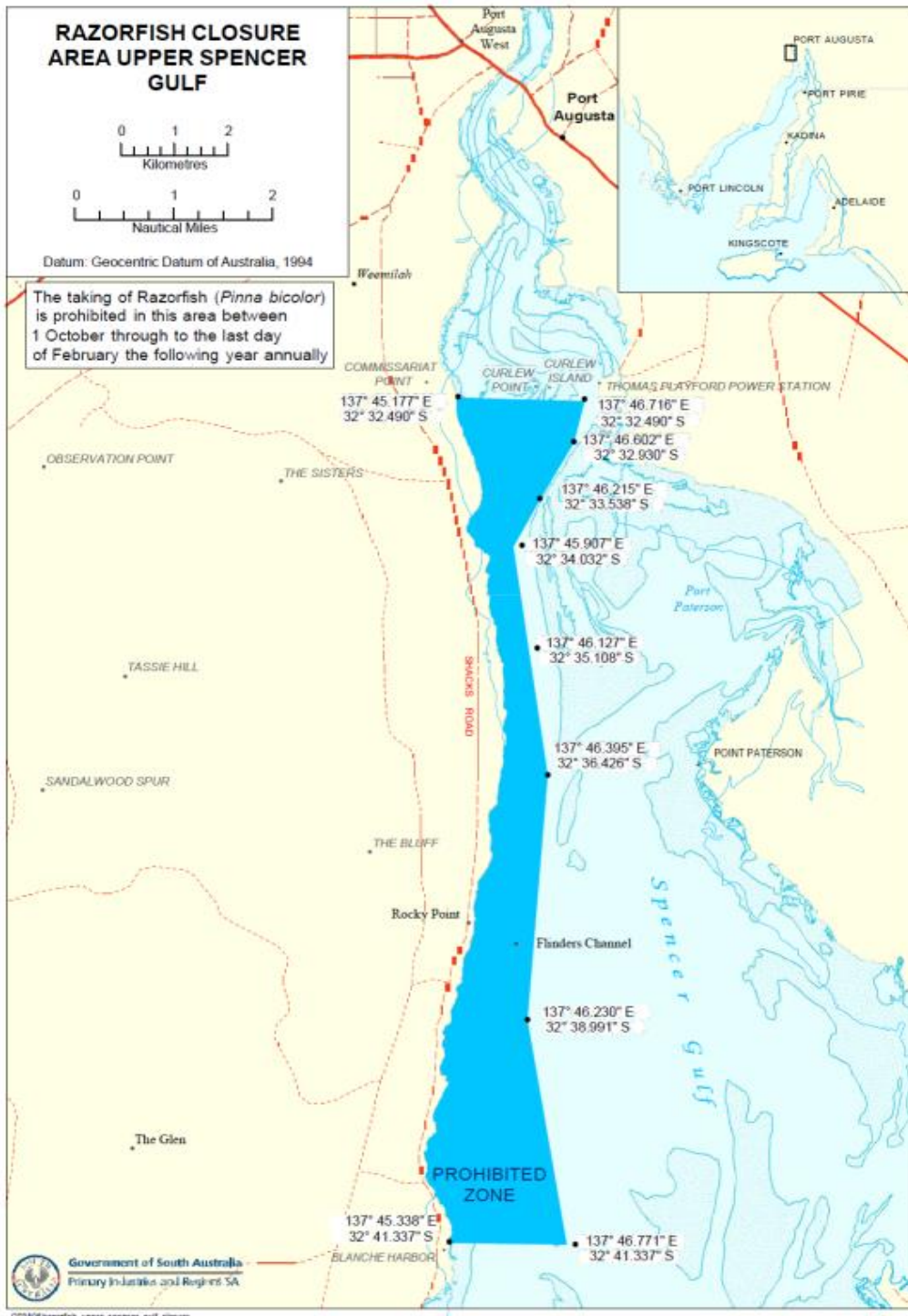
Possession of Snapper in the closed area is permitted provided the Snapper have been caught in the South East fishing zone and additional snapper reporting requirements are undertaken, as follows:

- prior to entering and transiting though the Snapper closed area when in possession of Snapper, the holder of the licence or registered master must ensure that all Snapper are sealed in a receptacle(s) with a tag(s) issued by the Department; and
- notify the Department via the Commercial Fishing SA App or FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522 of key details, including the number of Snapper on board.



Razorfish Closure - Upper Spencer Gulf

The taking of Razorfish in the area below is prohibited from 1 October to last day of February the following year. The upper area within a line commencing on the shore of Spencer Gulf adjacent to beacon number 8, due east to that beacon then generally northerly to beacons 9, 13, 20, 19, 21, 23 and 28, then due west to Curlew



Razorfish Closure - Port River

Section 23A of *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* sets out that a person must not take bivalve filter-feeding molluscs in the Port Adelaide River Estuary unless the Minister has made a determination to the contrary.

Port Pirie

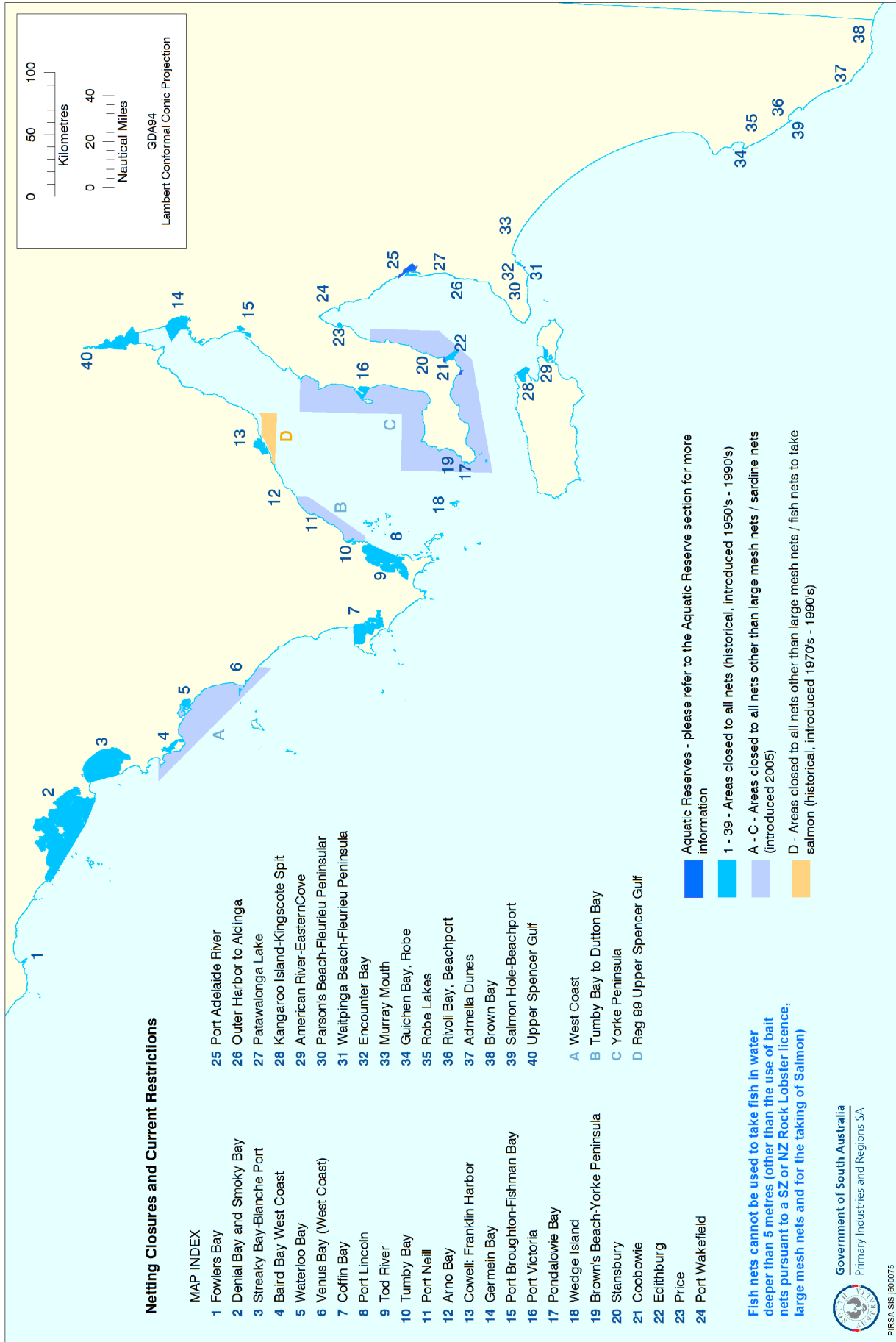
Netting Closures

As a management measure, permanent and seasonal netting closures are in place for the Marine Scalefish Fishery. Net fishing is banned in many areas for reasons relating to resource sharing and in a number of coastal bays as a means of protecting significant juvenile fish habitats.

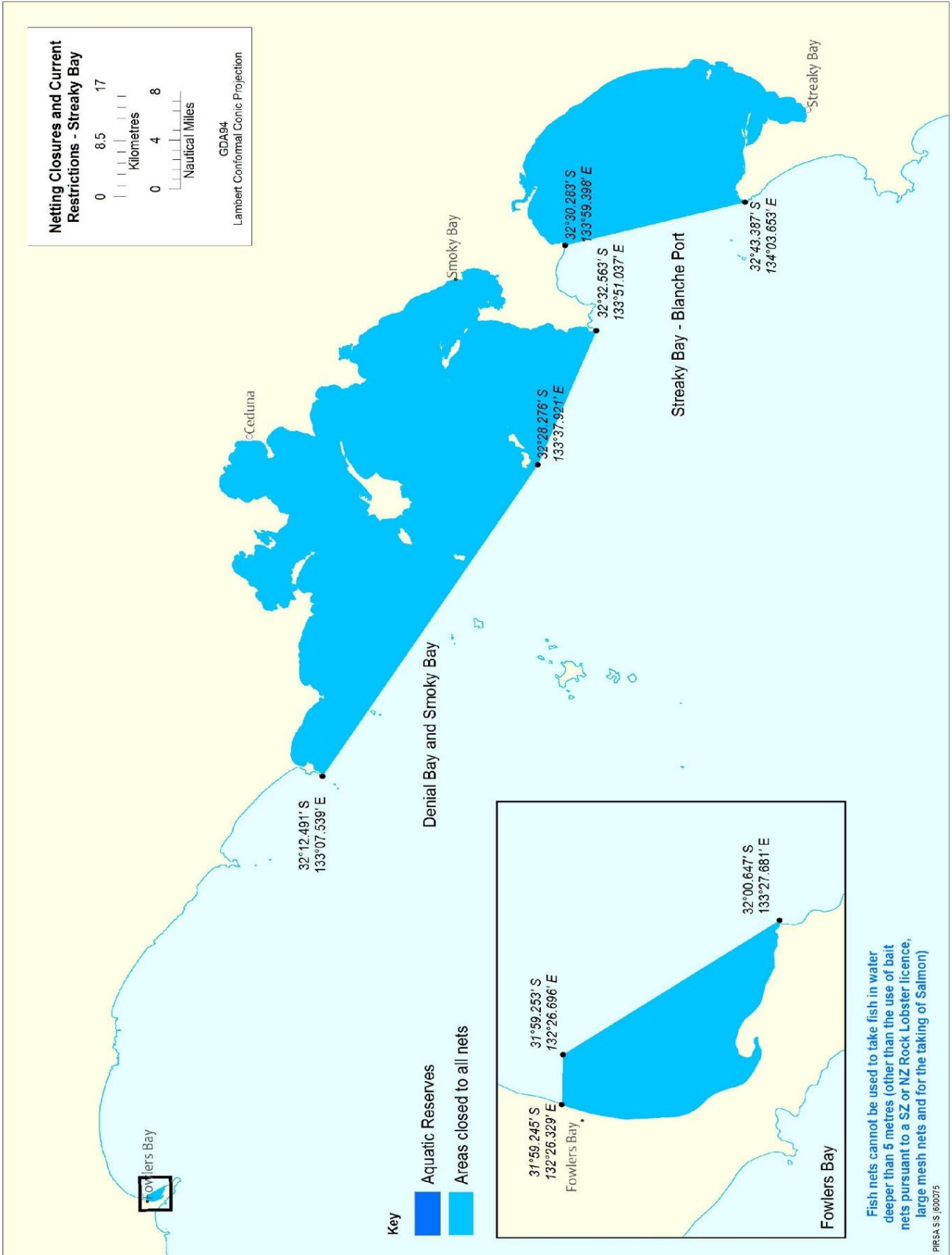
In addition to designated netting closures, a netting ban applies to all waters of the State greater than 5 metres depth, except for large-mesh (Shark) nets, bait nets used pursuant to a Southern Zone or Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery licence and purse seine nets (used to take Salmon). Netting is also banned within 0.5 nautical miles of any legislated artificial reef and within a 100-metre radius of any jetty, wharf or pier.

Descriptions of South Australian waters currently closed to netting are as follows.

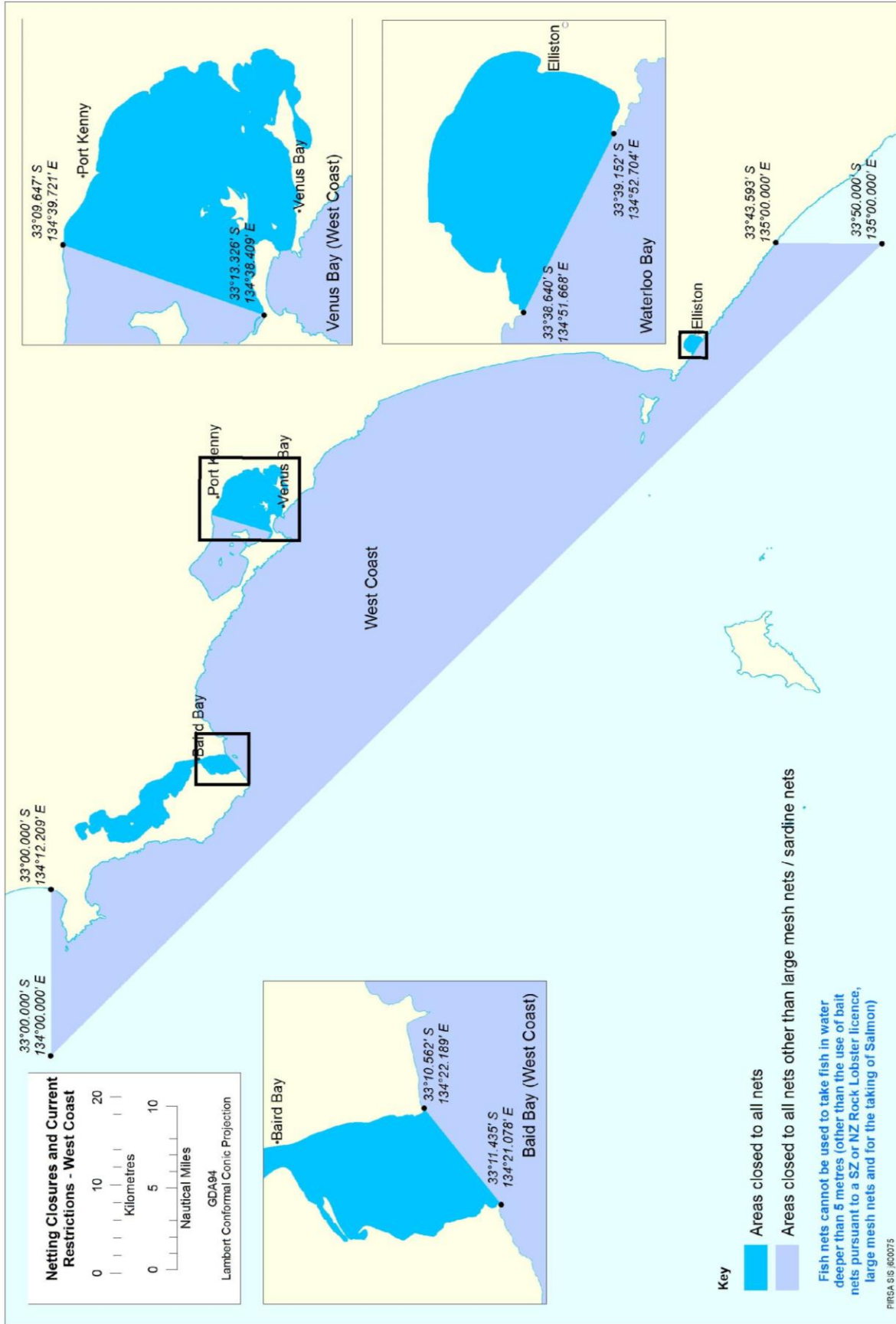
State-Wide Netting Closures Map



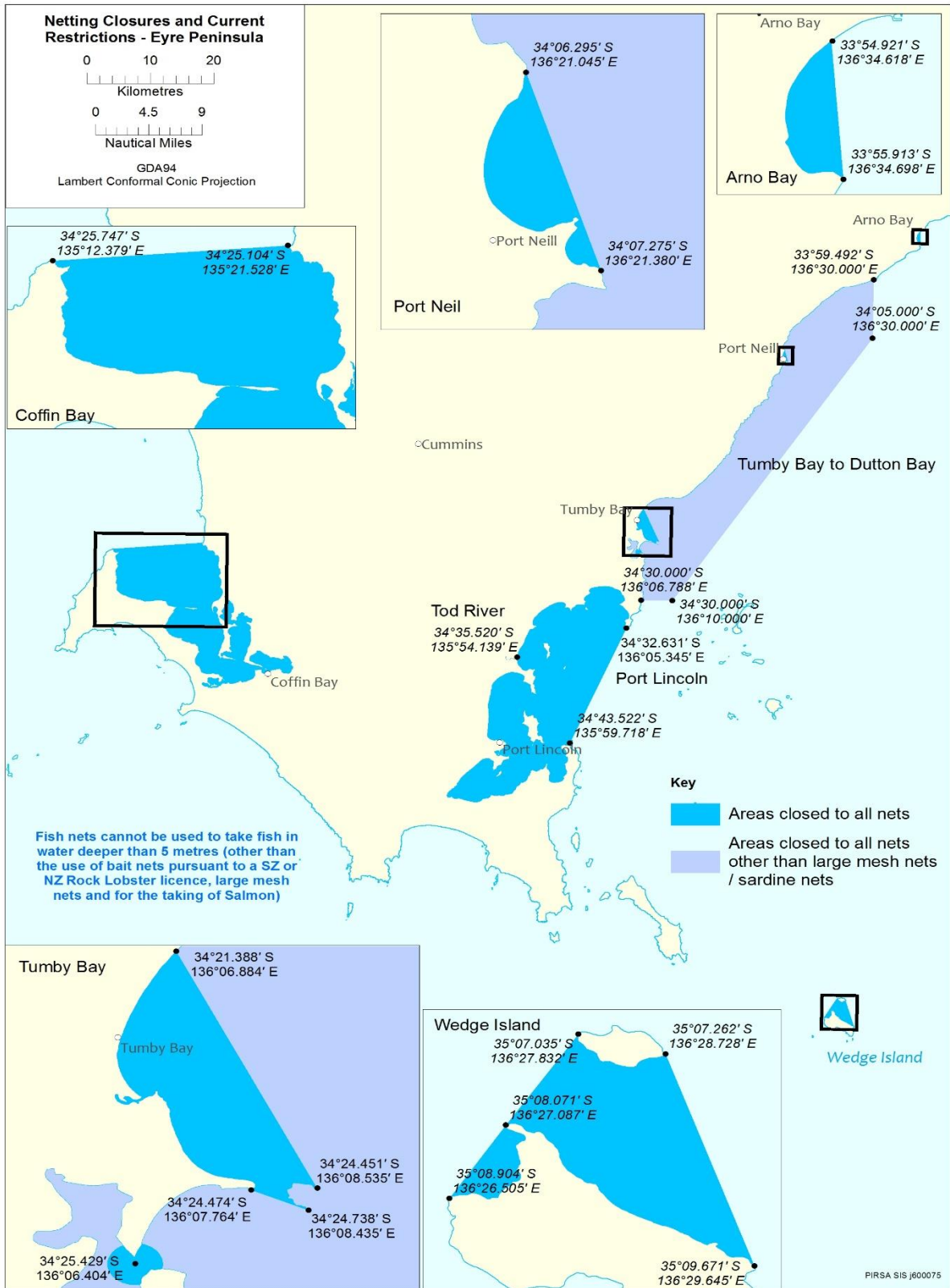
Fowlers Bay to Streaky Bay Netting Closures Map



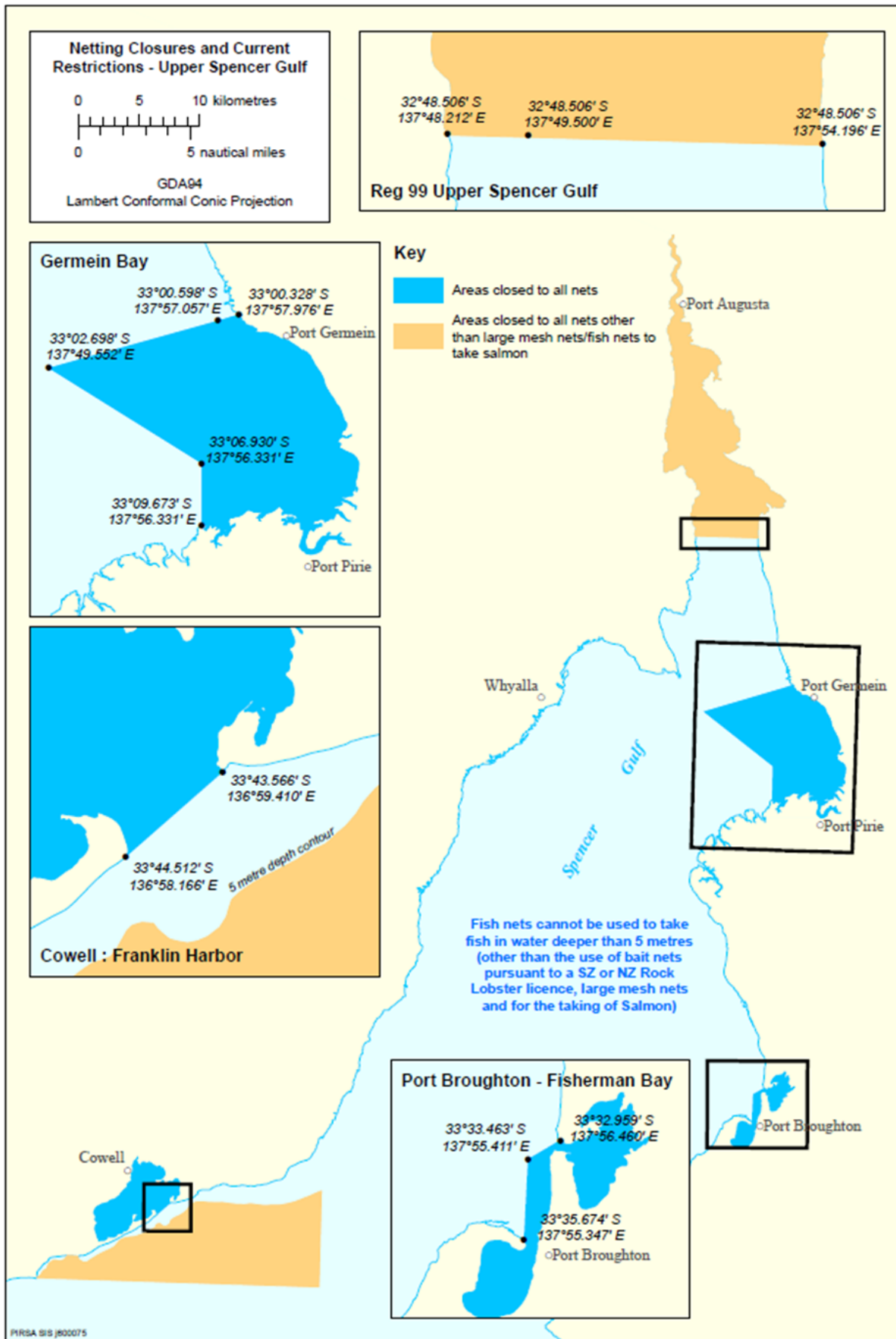
West Coast Netting Closures Map



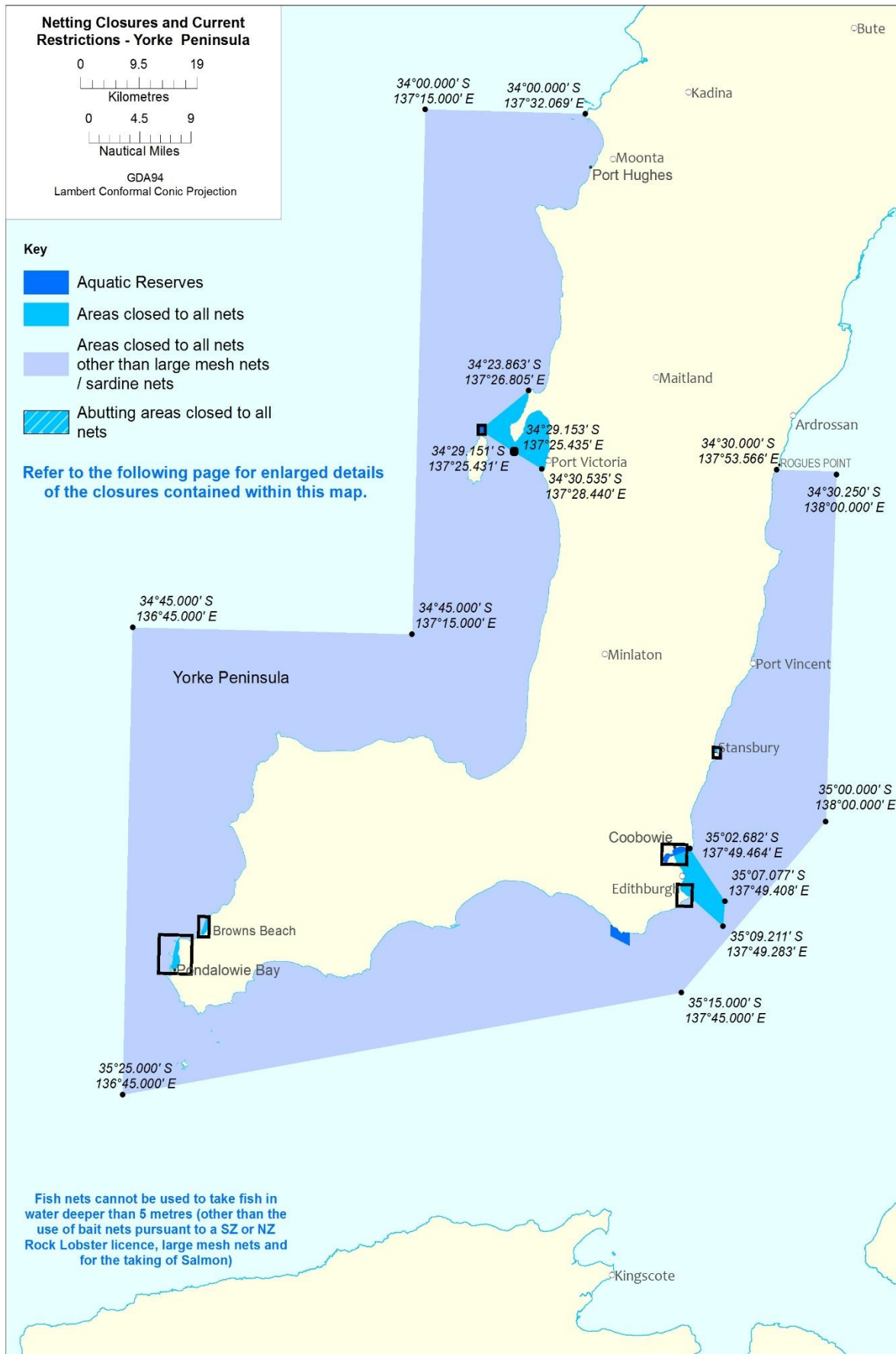
Eyre Peninsula Netting Closures Map



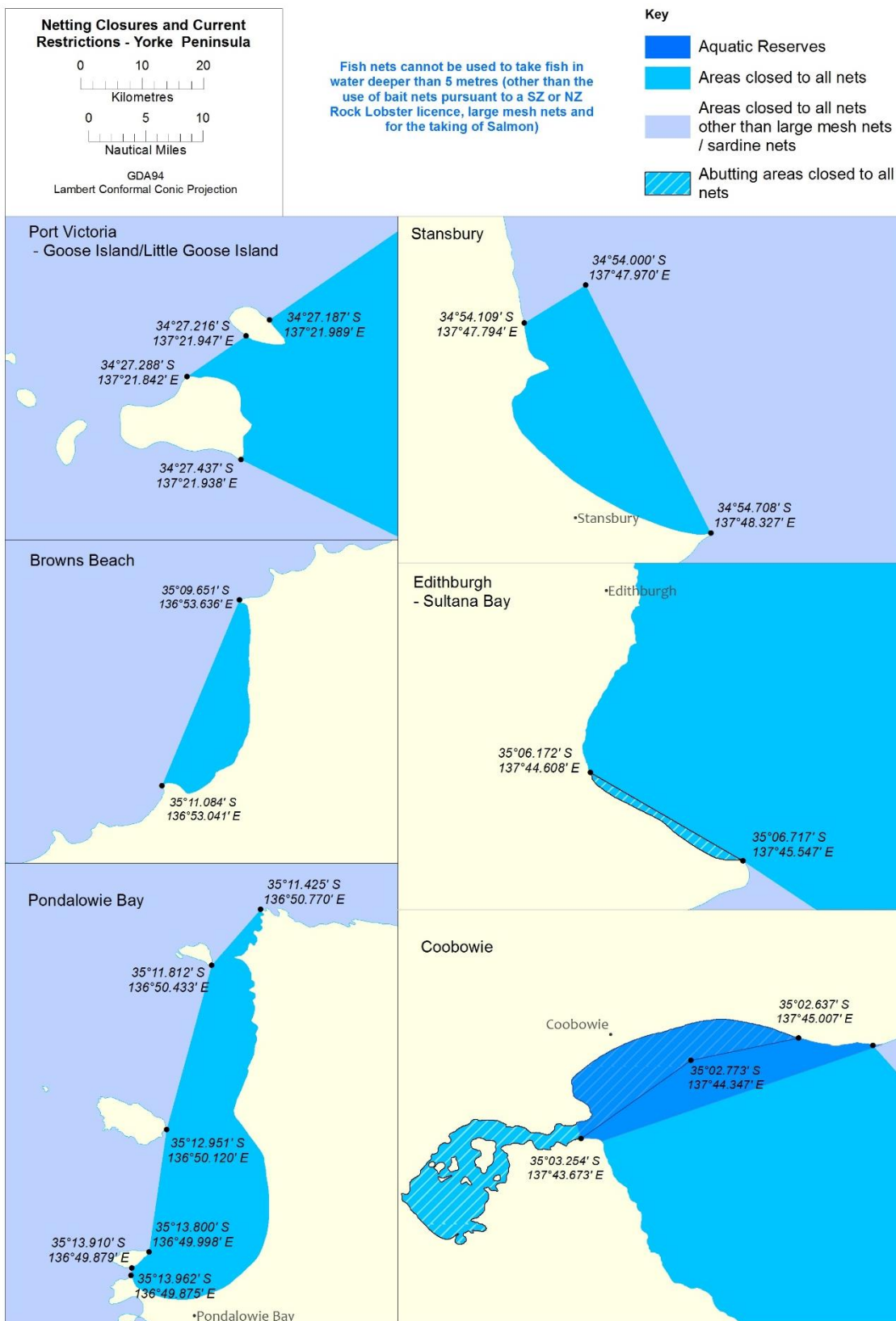
Upper Spencer Gulf Netting Closures Map



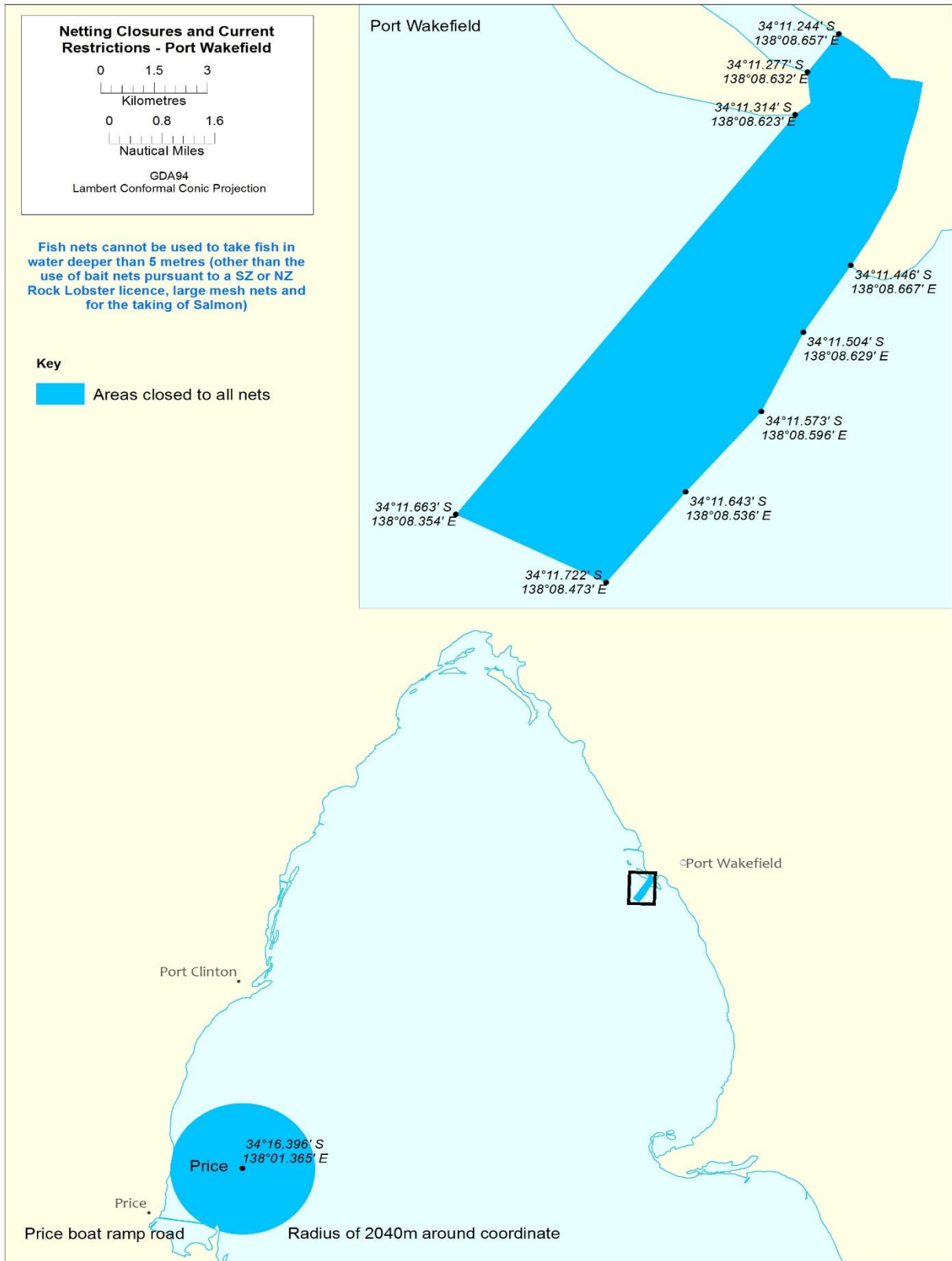
Yorke Peninsula Netting Closures Map



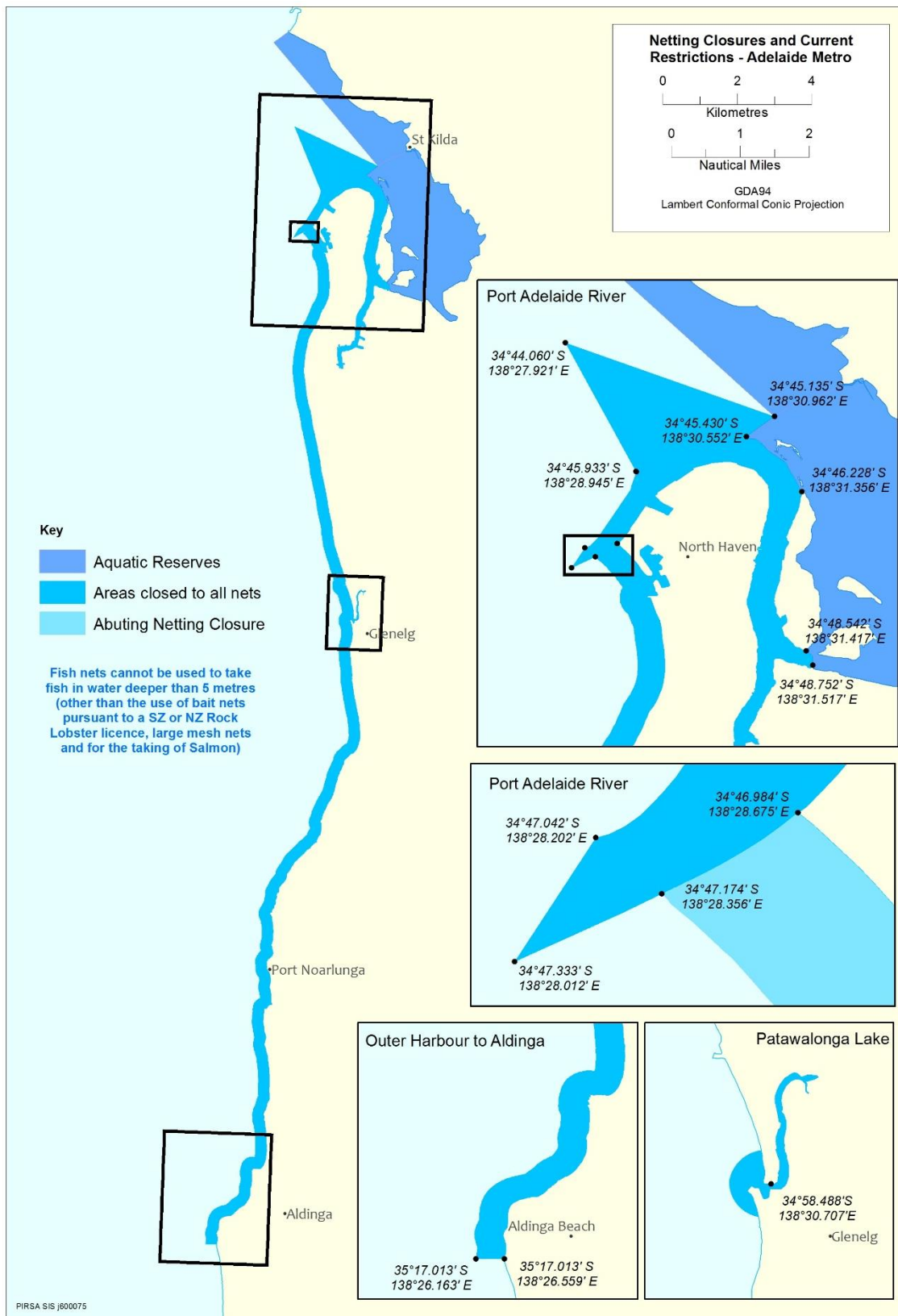
Yorke Peninsula Netting Closures Map



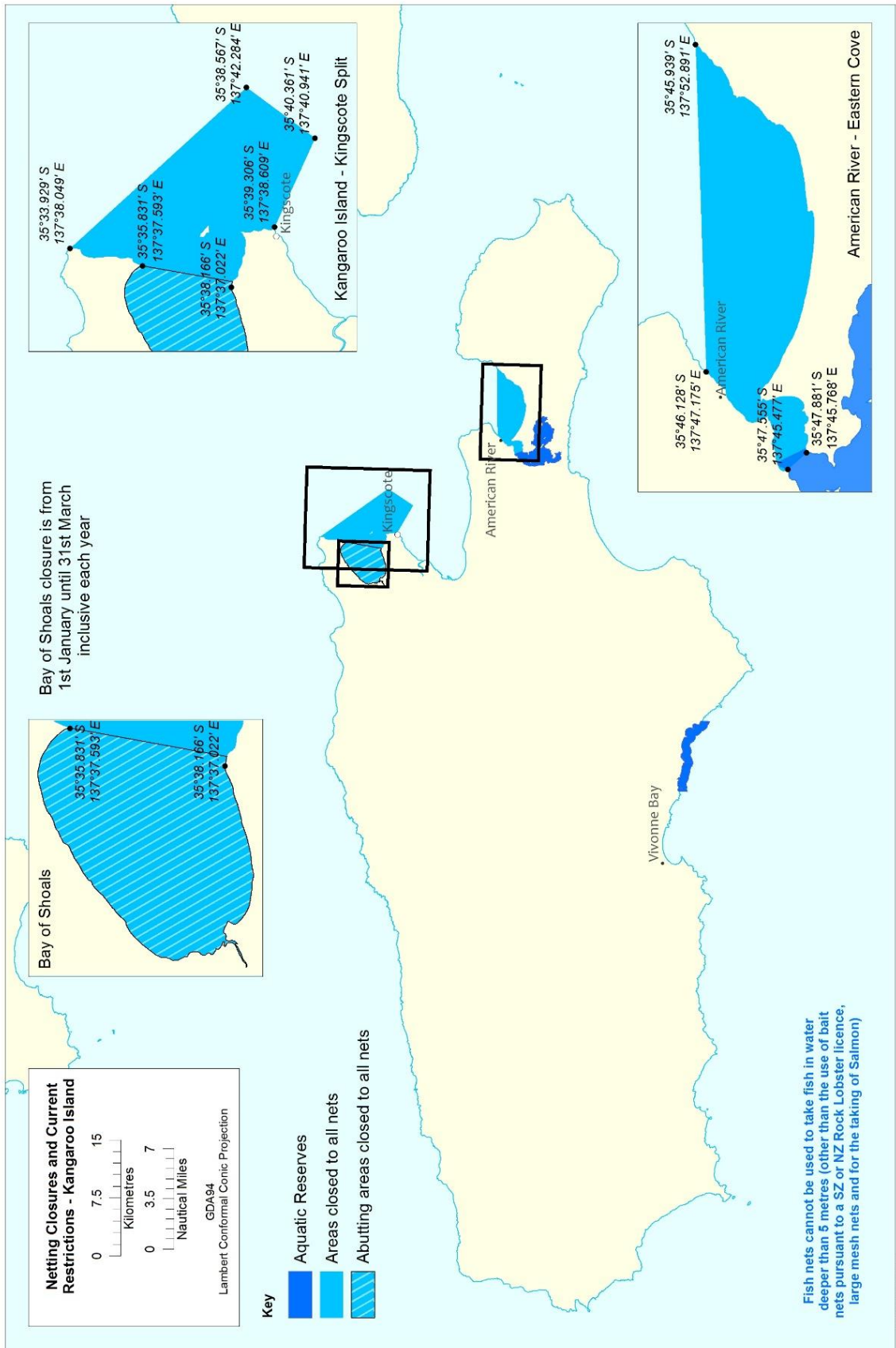
Price to Port Wakefield Netting Closures Map



Adelaide Metropolitan Netting Closures Map

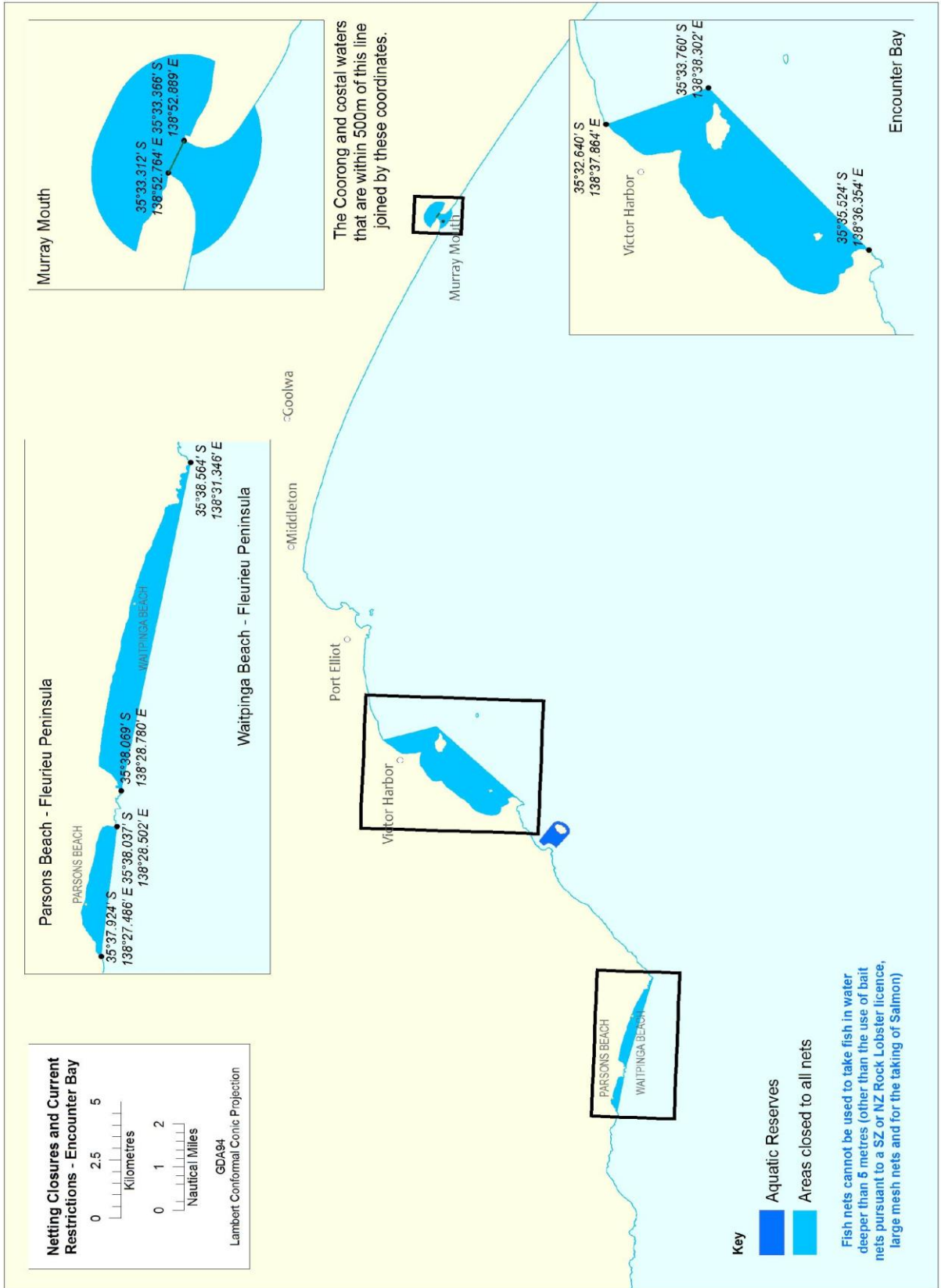


Kangaroo Island Netting Closures Map



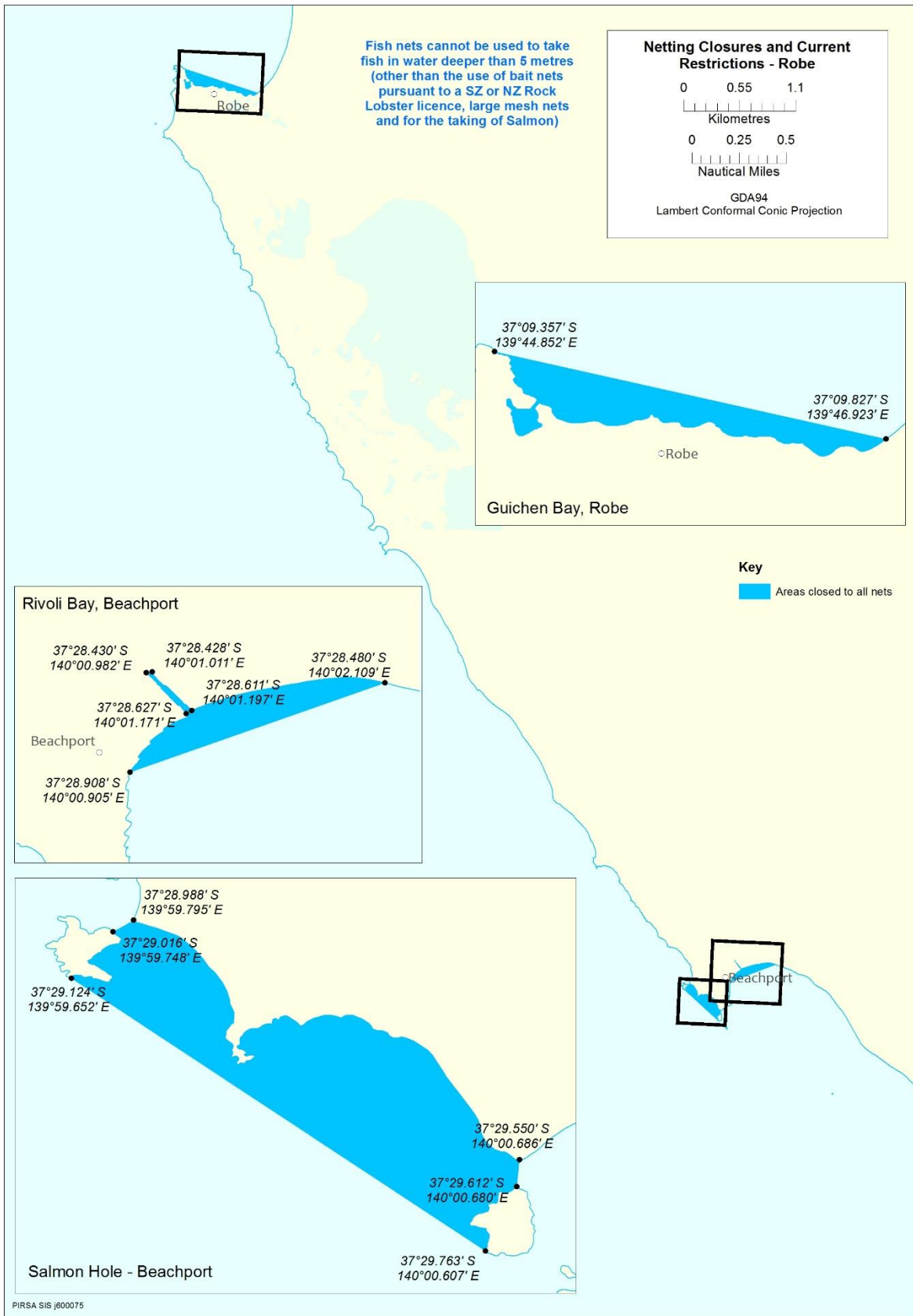
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Fleurieu Peninsula Netting Closures Map

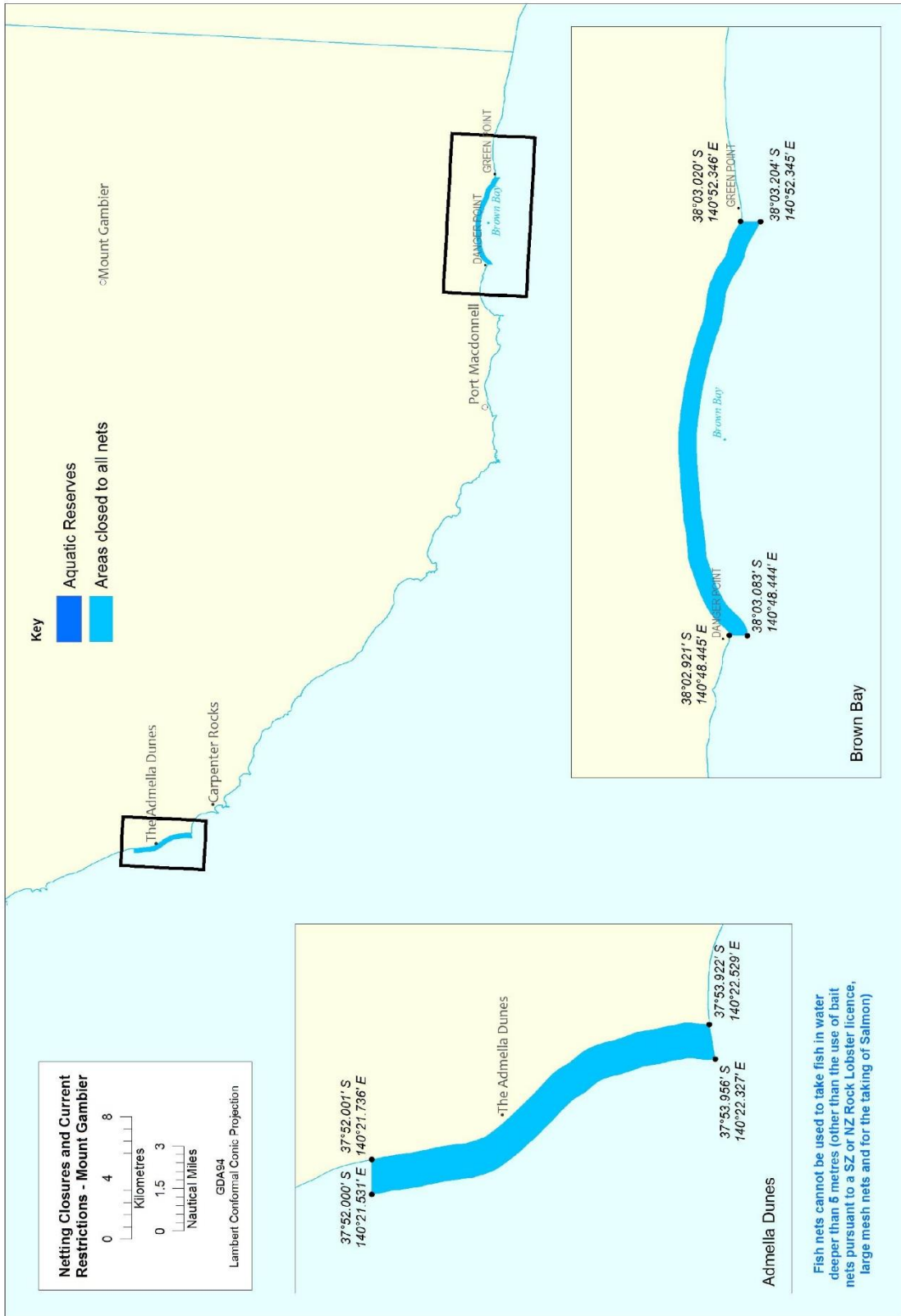


PRSA SIS 060075

South East Netting Closures Map



South East Netting Closures Map



Prohibition of Hauling Nets during Public Holidays

A licensed person cannot take fish by using a hauling net during the Christmas and Easter holiday periods and on any long weekend.

The times for these closures are from:

- 0100 hours on 23 December in any year and ending at midnight on 1 January in the following year; and
- 0100 hours on the Thursday preceding Easter Sunday in any year and ending at midnight on the following Monday; and
- 0100 hours on a Thursday in any year and ending at midnight on the following Sunday if the Friday in that period is a public holiday; and
- 0100 hours on a Friday in any year to midnight on the following Monday if that Monday is a public holiday.

Aquatic Reserves

Aquatic reserves have been established to protect the habitat, ecosystems and communities of the rich variety of underwater organisms found in the marine and estuarine waters of South Australia. Fishing and other activities might be prohibited or restricted within these areas.

More information on the aquatic reserves can be found at:

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries/closures/aquatic_reserves

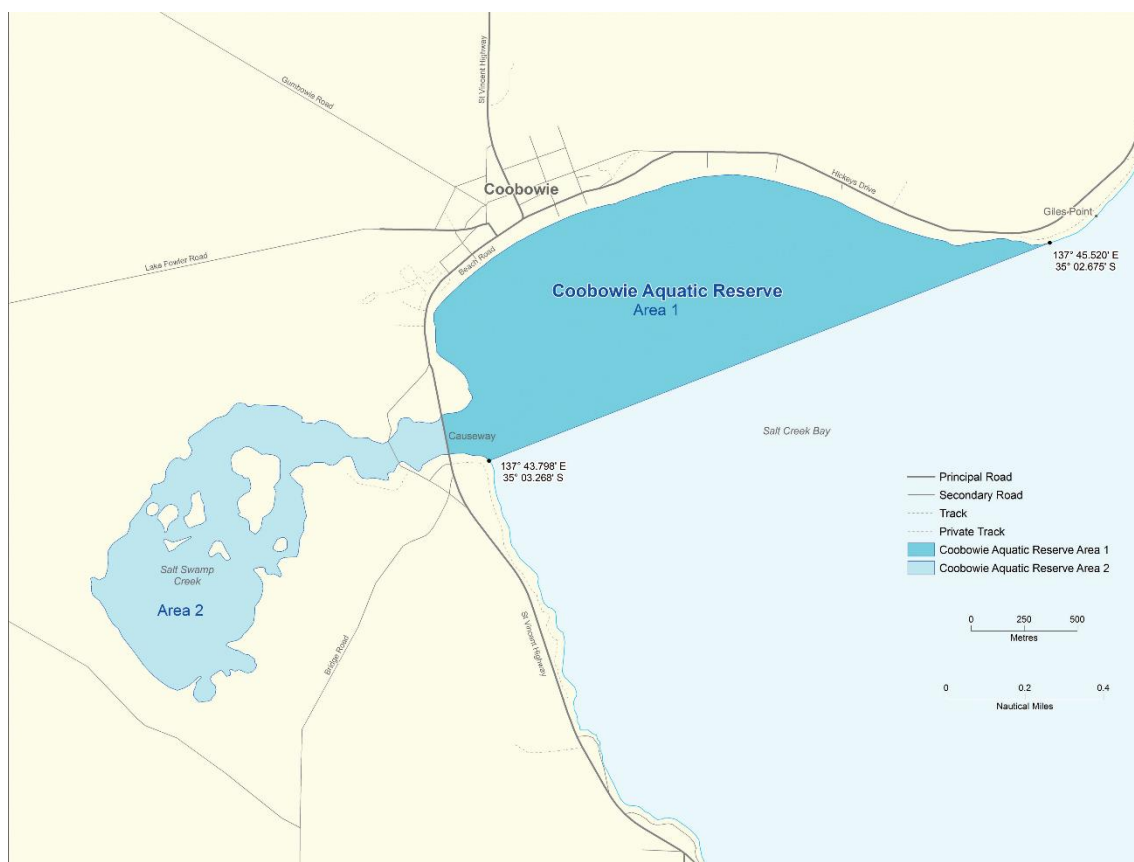
Coobowie Aquatic Reserve

Permitted Activities

Fishing is permitted only from boat or shore using only rod and line or handline in Area 1, Salt Creek Bay. Collecting of bait from the beach, boating and diving are all permitted.

Prohibited Activities

Fishing, collecting or removing any marine organisms is prohibited throughout Area 2, being all the waters of Salt Swamp Lagoon west of the main road causeway.



St Kilda – Chapman Creek Aquatic Reserve

Permitted Activities

Boating and swimming are allowed, as is the taking of Blue Swimmer Crab by hand, crab rake or hoop net only and land-based line fishing from the breakwater.

Prohibited Activities

Bait digging, fishing (other than land based fishing from the breakwater) and collecting or removing any marine organism (other than Blue Swimmer Crabs) is not permitted.



Barker Inlet – St Kilda Aquatic Reserve

Permitted Activities

Boating, the removal of fish by rod and line or handline and the collecting of Blood Worms for bait by use of a hand net is permitted.

Prohibited Activities

Collecting or removing any other marine organism, except by rod and line or handline or collecting Blood Worms by hand net is not permitted.



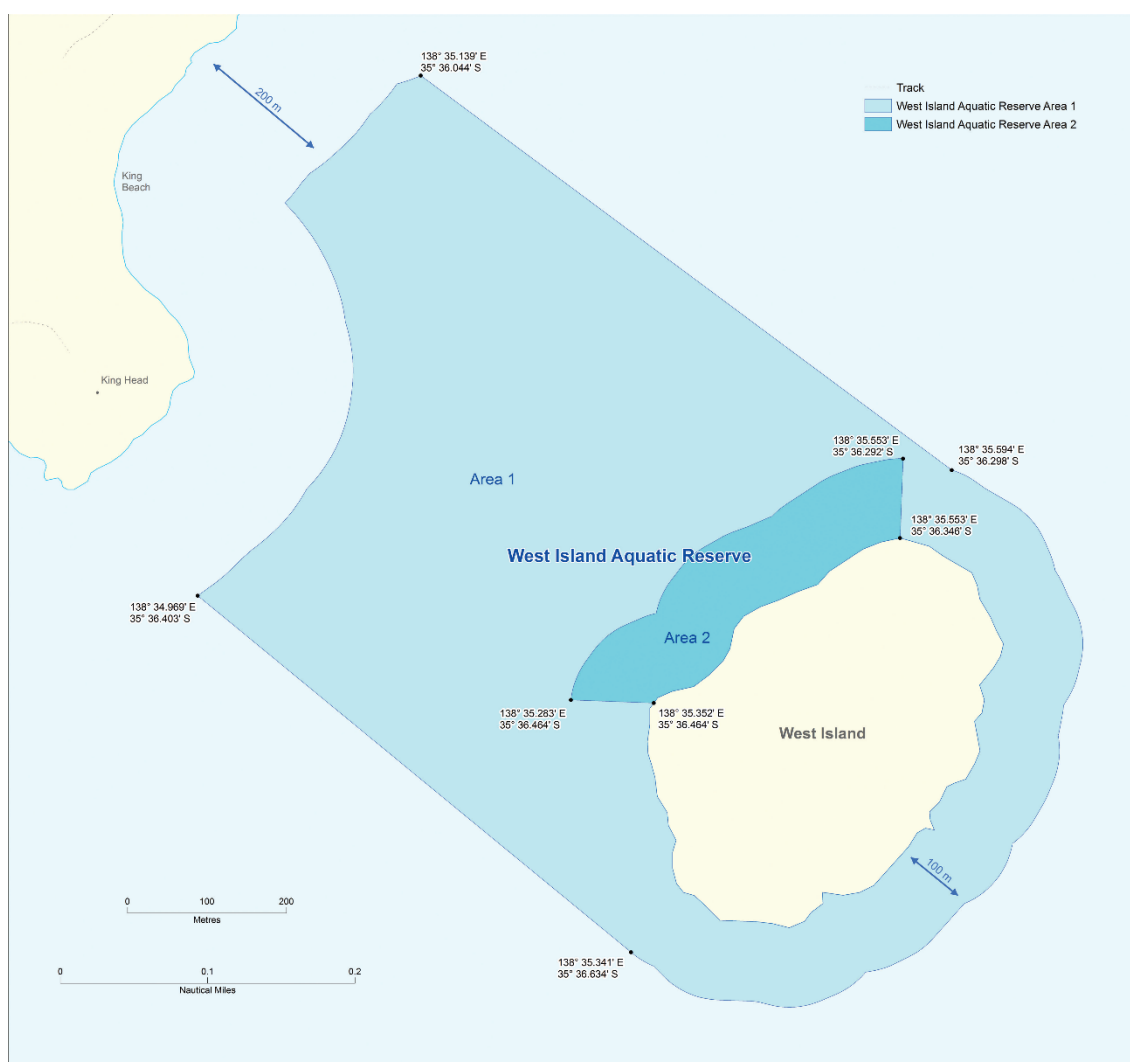
West Island Aquatic Reserve

Permitted Activities

West Island Aquatic Reserve is zoned into two areas – Area 1, and Area 2 (the prohibited zone). In Area 1, diving, swimming and fishing with rod and line or handline are permitted. The removal of marine organisms for study purposes is allowed by approved permit only.

Prohibited Activities

All public access to Area 2 is prohibited.



Marine Parks

For further information regarding Marine Parks refer to the Department for Environment and Water (DEW).

www.marineparks.sa.gov.au

General enquiries: 8124 4900

Free call 1800 006 120

Artificial Reefs

There are a number of artificial reefs in South Australian coastal waters that have been installed by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, recreational fishing associations, service organisations and private individuals. The construction of an artificial reef without prior approval from the appropriate Government department is illegal.

It is an offence to take fish using a fish net, fish trap, hand fish spear, speargun or longline within 0.5 of a nautical mile from any of the following artificial reefs. Excluding Fleurieu Reef which is 930m.

Location	Artificial Reef	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Ardrossan	Dredge	34°31.800"	138°03.560"
Fleurieu Reef 'HMAS Hobart'	Sunken vessel	35°28.150"	138°09.083"
Giles Point	Tyre module	35°03.000"	137°47.340"
Glenelg	Dredge	34°58.800"	138°26.400"
Glenelg	Sunken barge	34°58.800"	138°26.400"
Glenelg	Tyre module	34°58.800"	138°26.400"
Grange	Tyre module	34°55.120"	138°23.999"
Kingscote, KI	Tyre module	35°41.400"	137°40.200"
Port Augusta	Tyre module	32°40.200"	137°45.599"
Port Broughton	Car bodies	33°33.000"	137°51.600"
Port Germein	Pipes	33°03.600"	138°00.000"
Port Lincoln	Sunken vessel	34°40.800"	135°52.200"
Port Neill	Sunken vessel	34°06.600"	136°22.800"
Port Noarlunga	Tyre module	35°09.000"	138°26.400"
Port Pirie	Tyre module	33°05.400"	137°54.600"
Streaky Bay	Tyre module		
Wallaroo	Tyre module	33°51.200"	137°34.200"
Whyalla	Tyre module	32°58.200"	137°46.800"
Whyalla	Tyre module	33°00.000"	137°47.400"
Whyalla	Tyre module	33°06.600"	137°36.600"

Permitted Devices and their Use

The South Australian commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery is comprised of a diverse range of permitted fishing devices and methods of use, designed to take account of the particular characteristics and behaviour of the species being targeted. Although the manner in which a licence holder may use particular commercial fishing devices is described on the individual's licence and in the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017*, further explanation of some conditions and regulations appears below.

Permitted fishing devices, methods used in the fishery, the legal length and the mesh size of nets, are all defined by the regulations. The range of devices and licence conditions can vary between individual licence holders. Each licence is endorsed with a list of permitted fishing gear. Only gear and the listed quantities of such gear endorsed on the licence may be used. Additionally, licence conditions restricting the use of combinations and quantities of gear apply. Licence holders and registered masters must be familiar with these conditions. It is in the best interest of all users of the marine resource, that commercial fishers mark their gear and boats clearly and follow the prescribed usage of devices while engaged in commercial fishing activity.

All devices, excluding handline and rod and line, must be registered on a commercial fisher's licence before they can be used to take fish. The licence amalgamation scheme within the marine scalefish fishery allows for a licence holder to purchase an additional licence and amalgamate the gear endorsed on both licences, but current policy does not allow for additional devices to be endorsed on an existing licence by any other means.

Permitted number of devices allowed set and stored on a boat

From 1 July 2021, a licence holder/registered master can use a combination of nets and lines at the same time. While using any type of net (mesh, gill, hauling, purse seine), a licence holder/registered master is permitted to set in the water and have on board any line related fishing device (drop line, long line, hand line, rod and line or fish trap)

A licence holder may carry on board a registered boat no more than the number of hoop nets, drop nets, lift nets or dab nets that can lawfully be used at any one time according to the conditions of the licence.

Marking of Devices

All set devices must be marked by a 4 litre buoy or buoys which float on the water surface and are marked with the licence number. The appropriate method of marking devices is as follows;

Nets	1 Yellow buoy at one end, 2 black buoys at the other end.
Longline	1 Yellow buoy at one end, 2 black buoys at the other end.
Dropline	1 Yellow buoy.
Hoop/Drop/Lift net	1 buoy.
Fish trap	1 four litre buoy that has a black stripe 5cm in width and visible above the water.
Ocean jacket trap	1 four litre buoy that has a black stripe 5cm in width and visible above the water.
Sand crab pot	1 four litre buoy that has a black stripe 5cm in width and visible above the water.
Octopus trap	1 buoy with a red stripe 5cm in width which is visible above the water.

A buoy which is used to mark any of the above devices must be a floating buoy that is;

- Constructed of material that is durable in water;
- Not less than 4 litres in volume; and
- Marked with the fishery licence number issued to the registered owner in letters and figures not less than 7cm in height.

Registration of Devices

All devices, excluding rods and lines and hand lines, must be endorsed on a Marine Scalefish Fishery licence before they can be used to take fish for trade or business. Current policy does not allow for additional devices to be endorsed on a licence. However, the licence amalgamation scheme within the Marine Scalefish Fishery allows for a licence holder to purchase an additional licence and amalgamate in most cases, the gear endorsed on both licences.

Licence Conditions

There are a number of licence conditions applicable to the Marine Scalefish Fishery that describe the use of gear and the area in which it may be set. The conditions which are applicable to an individual's licence are listed on your licence.

Nets

A number of net types are endorsed on Marine Scalefish Fishery licences to take some marine scalefish species. Due to the diversity of species targeted they are used in a variety of configurations and designs.

Gill (mesh or set) nets

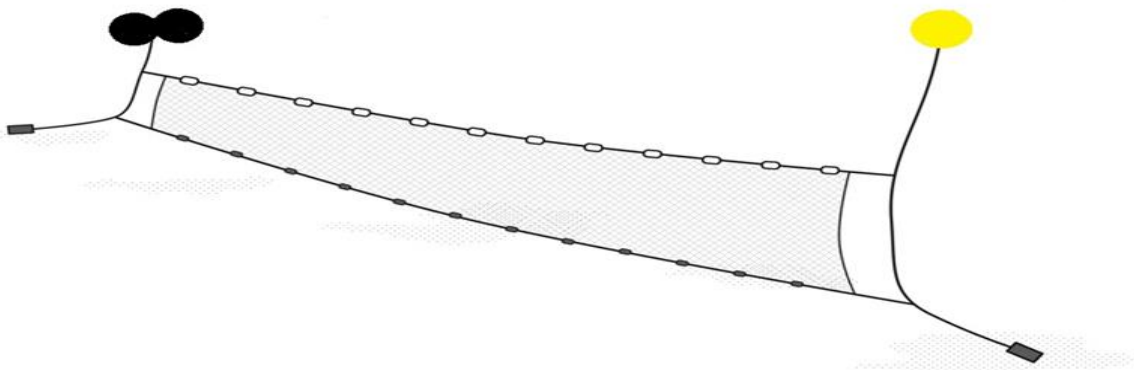
Gill nets consist of a length of net panel held vertically in the water, usually suspended between a floatline or head rope on the surface and a leadline or footrope in contact with the sea bed. It is constructed to be used as a static device to enmesh fish. The size of the mesh in the net determines the size range of the species caught.

Gill nets (<15cm)

The mesh net cannot be less than 5cm. The maximum depth in which a gill net is permitted to be set is 5m, so they are usually set adjacent to shore.

A Gill net must be buoyed with one end consisting of two black 4 litre buoys and the other end consisting of one yellow 4 litre buoy with the licence number clearly written on the buoys not less than 70mm in height.

Max length : 600m
Max depth : 5m
Mesh size : Minimum 5cm



Large mesh nets (>15cm)

Large mesh (shark) nets (15cm minimum mesh) are bottom set and generally made from monofilament with a maximum permitted length of 600m. The maximum number of large mesh nets permitted to be used at one time is three, subject to the number of large mesh nets endorsed on your licence.

A large mesh net or large mesh monofilament net can only be used on or carried onboard any vessel registered under the licence in State waters if the registered master has prior reported the intended use of the net through PIRSA FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522 (or the Fisheries and Aquaculture Commercial Reporting App) and has provided the following information;

- Name of the person making the call and the applicable licence number;
- Location where the fishing activity with either net is to occur.

A large mesh net must be buoyed with one end consisting of two black 4 litre buoys and the other end consisting of one yellow 4 litre buoy with the licence number clearly written on the buoys not less than 70mm in height.

Max length : 600m
Max depth : 5m
Mesh size : Minimum 15cm

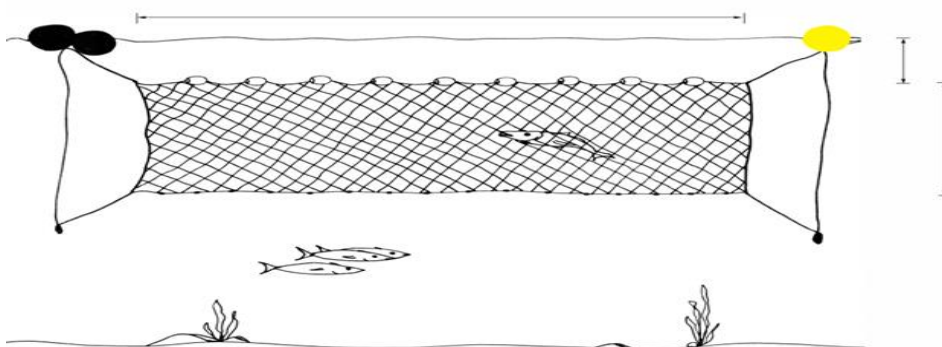
Bait nets

When endorsed on a licence a bait net may be used for taking fish as bait only and not for sale. A bait net should not be longer than 150m and the mesh size should not be less than 30mm or greater than 150mm. A bait net must not be set in a depth exceeding 5m.

A bait net must not be left unattended after it has been set in waters from a registered boat unless the bait net has a mesh size of no less than 50mm in which it can be left unattended for a period not exceeding 12 hours.

A bait net must be buoyed with one end consisting of two black 4 litre buoys and the other end consisting of one yellow 4 litre buoy with the licence number clearly written on the buoys not less than 70mm in height.

Max length : 150m
Max depth : 5m
Mesh size : Minimum 3cm / Maximum 15cm



Hauling nets

Hauling nets have a maximum length of 600m and a pocket at one end. The method of setting and hauling the net varies considerably according to the environmental conditions prevailing at the time, the relative abundance of fish, the tightness of schools, and the experience of the fisher.

Along with a maximum length of 600m, a hauling net can't exceed 10 metres in depth. The mesh size in the pocket must be knotted in a standard manner and must not be less than an average of 3.6cm. The mesh size in the wing of the net (other than in the pocket) cannot be less than an average of 3.0cm. A hauling net cannot have a footrope using pursing rings which exceeds 150m in length when measured from the first purse ring to the last purse ring.

The pocket of a hauling net must remain in the water while all fish are being removed to assist in preventing damage occurring to undersize fish and non-permitted species. The fish are removed using a brailing net (scooped from the water).

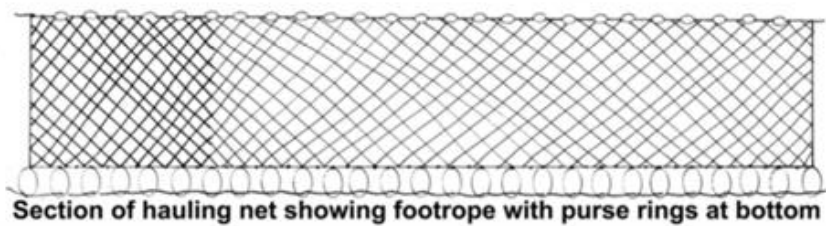
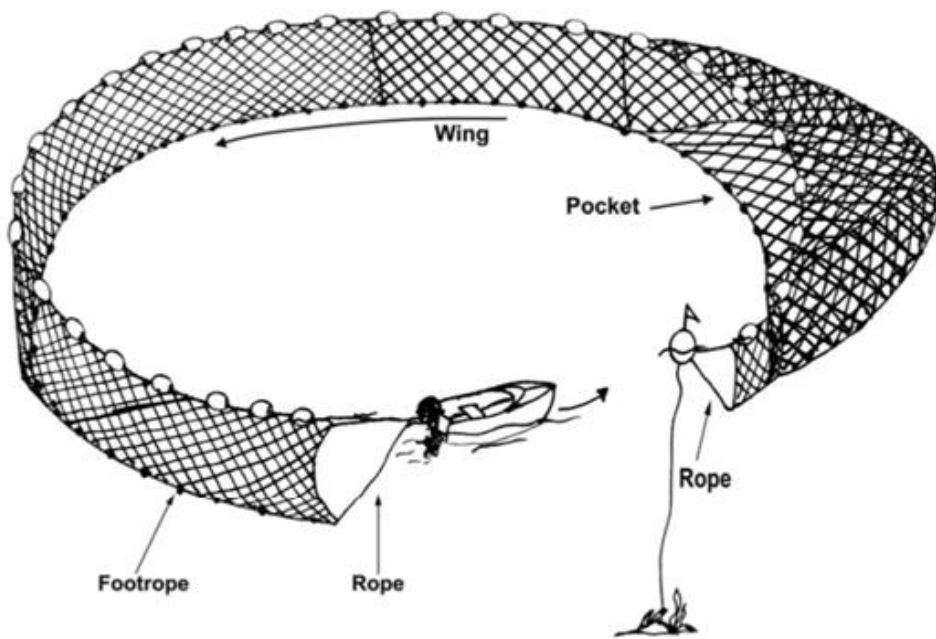
A Power Hauling shot is undertaken by hauling a net through the water with the aid of engine power from the boat. First, the bunt end of the net is anchored and then the remainder set in a semicircle. The wing end of the net is then slowly towed by the vessel until the net is closed to a circle.

Once the net has been closed to a circle, the bunt end of the net is then secured to the bow of the vessel, and the wing end of the net is then retrieved either by hand, through a hydraulic power block or onto a powered net drum. As the vessel motors slowly astern, the area inside the circle of the net diminishes. The fish are herded until they swim into the pocket at the bunt end. The fish are brailed (scooped from the water using a brailing net) onto the boat from the bunt and the undersize fish immediately returned to the water.

A Double drain-off shot is carried out by two separately licensed net fishers, who anchor the bunt ends of the two nets adjacent to each other with stakes. The ends of the nets are not permitted to be joined and the stakes must remain in position until the nets are closed. The shot is dependent on the movement of fish off intertidal banks on an ebbing tide. At the completion of the shot, the nets are hauled in a similar fashion to the power hauling method. Only one drain-off shot is permitted in any one day.

The minimum haul net pocket mesh size in the Gulf St Vincent/Kangaroo Is. and Spencer Gulf Fishing Zones is 36 mm. In all other areas, the minimum pocket mesh size is 32mm. The minimum mesh size for the remainder of the net is 30 mm. Please refer to licence condition 14402.

Max length : 600m
Max depth : 10m
Mesh size : Pocket average of 3.6cm (knotted)
Wing average of 3.0cm



Purse seine nets

Purse seine nets usually have two long wings and a section between (the bunt) in which to concentrate and retain the catch. These nets have a larger mesh size on the wing ends and a smaller mesh size in the bunt to reduce drag when the net is being hauled. They are heavily constructed, with an overall smaller mesh size than the size of the fish being targeted. The net is set around a school of fish, after which a purse line running through rings attached to the footrope, is pulled to close the bottom of the net. They are used to target tightly schooling fish species such as Australian Salmon.

A purse seine used to take Australian Salmon cannot have a drop greater than 13m, a mesh size of less than 5cm and exceed 900m in length.

Max length	:	900m
Max drop	:	13m
Mesh size	:	Minimum 5cm

Lines and hooks

Several configurations of hooks and lines are deployed to target a variety of species and sizes of fish in the commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery. All commercial scalefish fishers are permitted to use handlines but the use of devices that involve lines which are set (droplines and longlines), must be endorsed on the individual's licence.

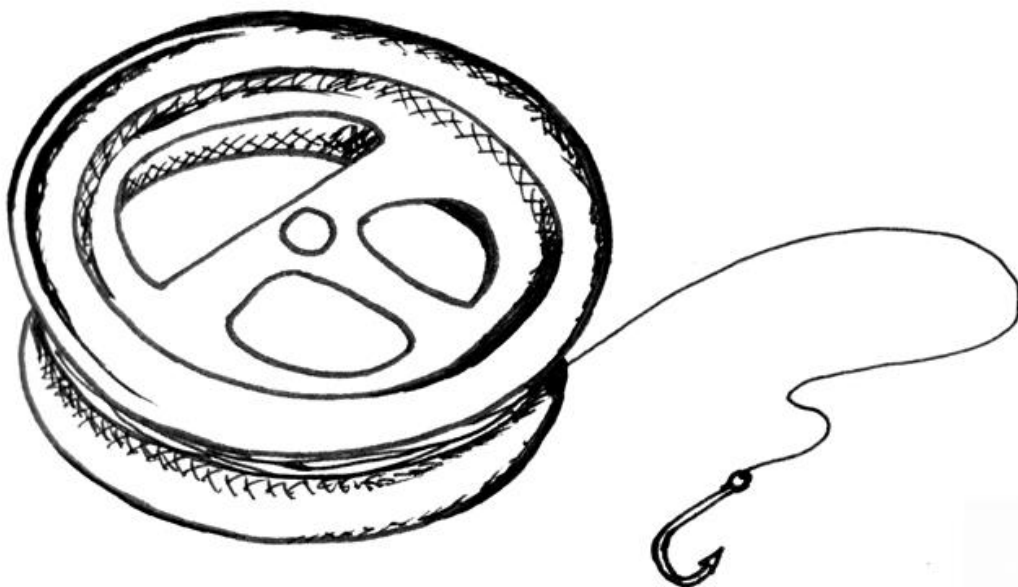
It is not permitted to use a wire trace of 2 mm or greater gauge and fishing hooks size 12/0 or greater.

When using handlines, and rod and line Squid jigs are considered to be one hook. In addition, no more than 5 hooks joined by ganging, or snooding together will be taken to be 1 hook.

Handlines

Handlines, where up to three baited hooks are attached to a line, are the simplest form of commercial scalefish fishing and are generally used in inshore waters to take Snapper and King George Whiting. Squid are also often taken by lures (jigs) on handlines. A commercial marine scalefish fisher and their agent(s) are permitted to use only two handlines at a time with a maximum of three hooks on each line.

From 1 July 2021, a licence holder/registered master can use a combination of nets and lines at the same time. While using any type of net (mesh, gill, hauling, purse seine) a licence holder/registered master is now permitted to set in the water and have onboard any line related fishing device (drop line, long line, hand line, rod and line or fish trap) registered on the licence.

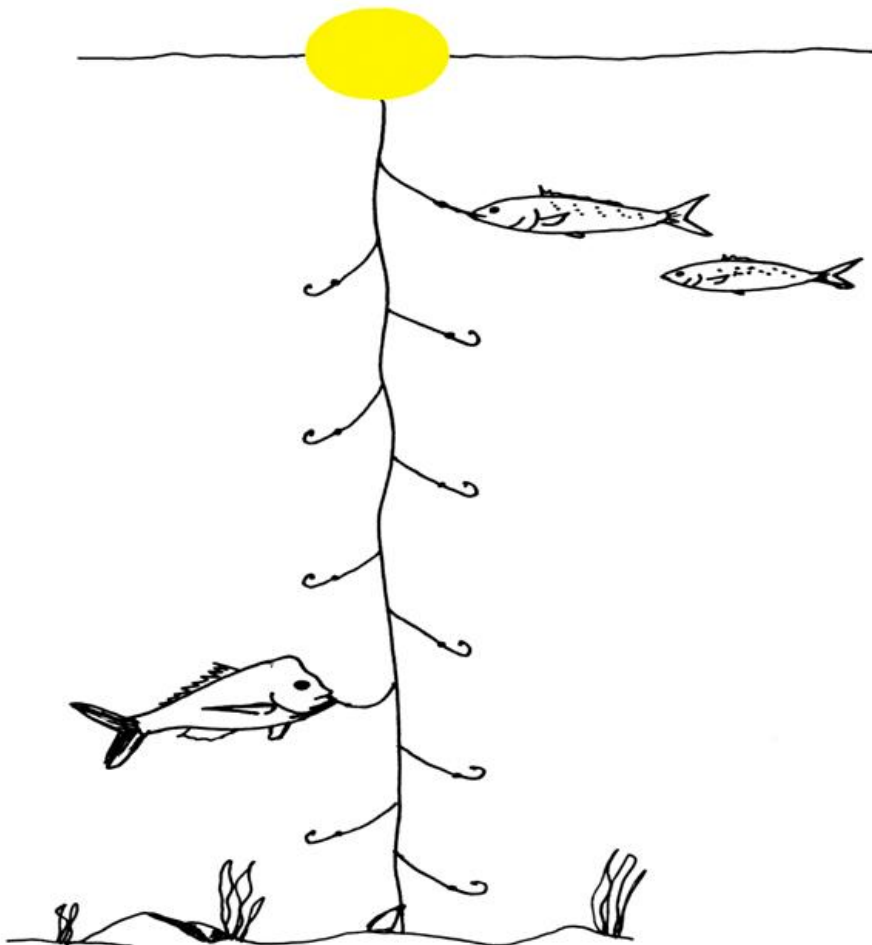


Droplines

A dropline consists of a length of heavy line or rope (mainline) deployed vertically through the water which is anchored by a weight at the bottom and buoyed at the surface. The desired numbers of snoods or traces (short lengths of line carrying baited hooks) are usually attached at regular intervals along the lower section of the mainline as it is fed out of the vessel. Droplines are used offshore to target deep water fish species, particularly school and gummy sharks. A powered winch is generally used to retrieve the line, with fish removed as the snoods come on board.

From 1 July 2021, fishers can operate and have on board droplines and nets at the same time. In all waters of the State, a dropline can have a maximum of 400 hooks in total.

Droplines must be marked with a four litre yellow buoy with the licence number clearly written on the buoy not less than 70mm in height. Droplines are not required to be attended.

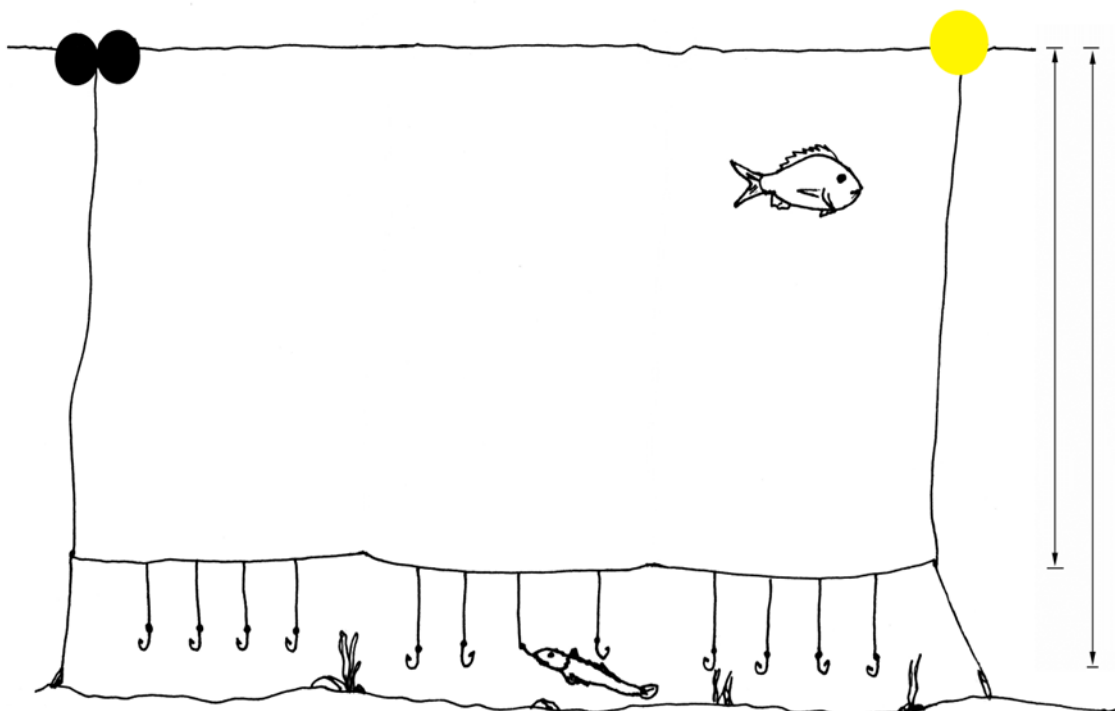


Longlines

A longline or setline differs from a dropline in that the mainline with baited snoods attached is set along the sea bed or surface. It is anchored and buoyed at both ends. The gear is set from a moving vessel and a haul-in line is attached to each end of the mainline. Longlines are generally used in Gulf waters and areas adjacent to the West Coast of Eyre Peninsula to target Snapper and Shark.

From 1 July 2021, licence holders/registered masters no longer need to be in attendance of their longlines. Fishers can operate and have on board droplines and nets at the same time, provided they are registered on the licence. In all waters of the State, longlines cannot exceed a combined total of 400 hooks.

A longline must be buoyed with one end consisting of two black 4 litre buoys and the other end consisting of one yellow 4 litre buoy with the licence number clearly written on the buoys not less than 70mm in height.

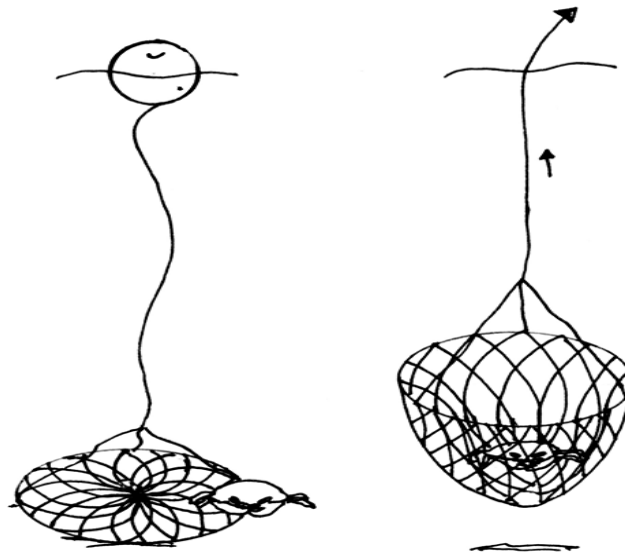


Traps and enclosures

Traps are devices which crustaceans, fish and molluscs enter voluntarily, but from which they are usually prevented in some way from escaping. Animals are enticed into a trap either by bait or because the trap appears to provide some form of refuge.

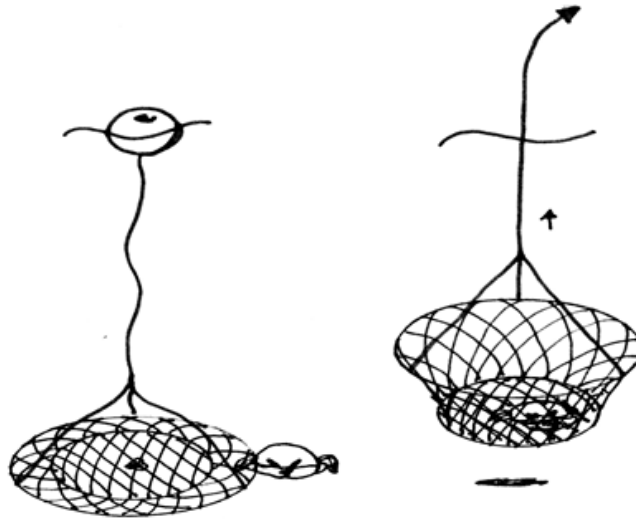
Hoop nets

Hoop nets are used in coastal waters to catch blue crabs and sand crabs. A hoop net consists of one hoop with a diameter not exceeding 107cm to which netting is attached in the form of a cone or bag which does not extend more than 92cm from the hoop. When set, the netting lies flat on the substrate. The net is retrieved by a length of rope which is suspended by a float. Crabs walk onto the baited net to feed and become trapped when the net is hauled and the loose netting falls below the ring. A hoop net must have a 4 litre buoy attached and be marked with your licence number not less than 70mm in height.



Drop nets

A drop net is used in a similar fashion to a hoop net, but consists of two hoops, each having a diameter not exceeding 107cm, to which loose netting is attached so as to form a cylindrical shaped bag. A drop net must have a 4 litre buoy attached and be marked with your licence number not less than 70mm in height.



Lift Net

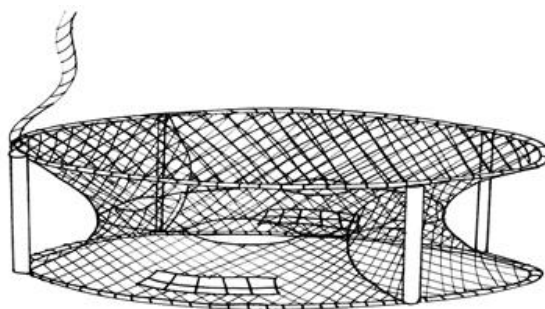
An exemption is currently in place for MSF fishers which allows the interchangeable use of drop nets or hoop nets regardless of which gear type is endorsed on the MSF licence. This is because of the move to a lift net definition. This exemption is in place until April 2024.

Sand crab pots

A Sand Crab pot is a fish trap that is designed and constructed for the purpose of taking Sand Crabs. It must have a maximum height of 450mm, maximum diameter of 1.5m and be covered with mesh with a minimum size of 75mm or have an escape panel with a minimum mesh of 75mm and is at least 700mm by 300mm.

Sand crab pots can be operated by a registered master other than the licence holder. This is for the take of Sand Crabs only.

A Sand Crab pot must be marked with a four litre buoy that has a black stripe that is 5cm in width and visible above the water. The buoy must be marked with the fishing licence number in letters no less than 70mm in height.



Fish Traps/ Ocean Jacket Trap

Fish traps are a bottom set device used to take fish. They can be used for the taking of Ocean Jacket. Licence conditions apply in regards to limits on the maximum number of fish traps that can be used, and the areas they can be used, **in particular licence condition 1316.**

Ocean Jacket traps are a type of fish trap, especially designed to take Ocean Jackets, as such all fish trap rules also apply.

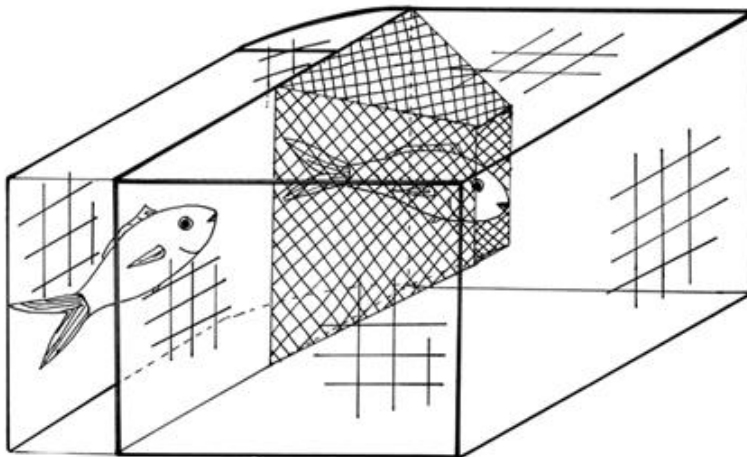
When fishing for Ocean Jackets using an Ocean Jacket Trap in waters **deeper than 60m** the fish trap must be cylindrical, rectangular or square in shape; and constructed of rigid steel rods not less than 8mm in diameter. When calculated by measuring the outside dimensions they must not be greater than 1 cubic metre in volume they cannot have more than 2 openings each not exceeding 30cm in length and 8cm in width.

Fish traps used in **all other circumstances** cannot exceed 2m at its greatest dimension. Each opening in the fish trap can be either rectangular or a funnel and not be greater in size than 20cm by 6cm; and have a rigid frame of steel rod not less than 1.25cm in diameter.

A fish trap must be marked with a four litre buoy that has a black stripe that is 5cm in width and visible above the water. The buoy must be marked with the fishing licence number in letters no less than 70mm in height.

When fishing using Ocean Jacket traps and using a master other than the licence holder, fishing may only be conducted using the Ocean Jacket traps. Refer to the section on artificial reefs, as there are restrictions on their use.

When fishing using a fish trap/Ocean Jacket trap, there are restrictions in relation to the use of other fishing devices, nets are not permitted to be on board the boat. Snapper and crabs cannot be taken by fish traps.

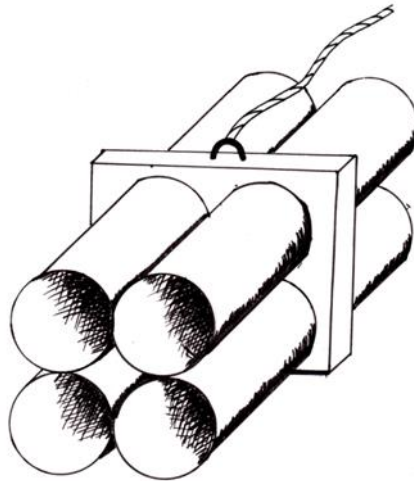


Octopus traps

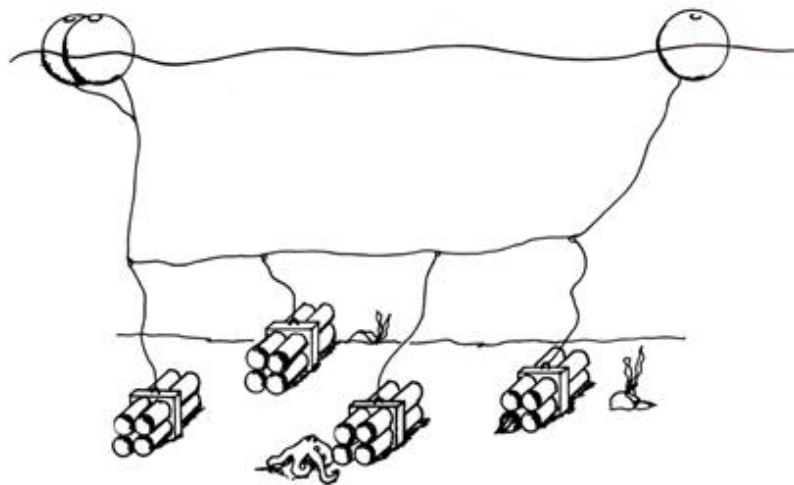
There is currently no device description for an Octopus trap in the regulations. As such Octopus traps may be of any size but cannot have doors or be baited, unless provided for by licence condition.

An Octopus trap must be marked with a four-litre buoy that has a red stripe that is 5cm in width and visible above the water. The buoy must be marked with the fishing licence number in letters no less than 70mm in height.

Please note: The device shown in the diagram pictured below is actually four (4) Octopus traps



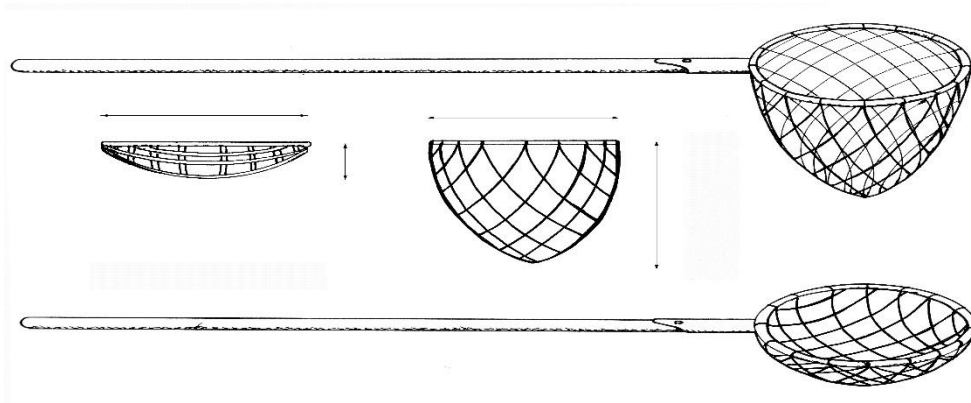
. **Please note:** The devices shown in the diagram below is actually sixteen (16) Octopus traps.



Hand held implements

Hand nets (including dab net)

Dab nets are primarily used to catch Garfish and consist of a net being conical in shape attached to a hoop or ring and extending not more than 1m in depth from the hoop or ring, the hoop and ring being attached to a rigid handle. The diameter of the hoop and ring must not exceed 1m. These nets are used at night, when garfish come to the surface. They are spotted using a light, then scooped out of the water and onto the boat.



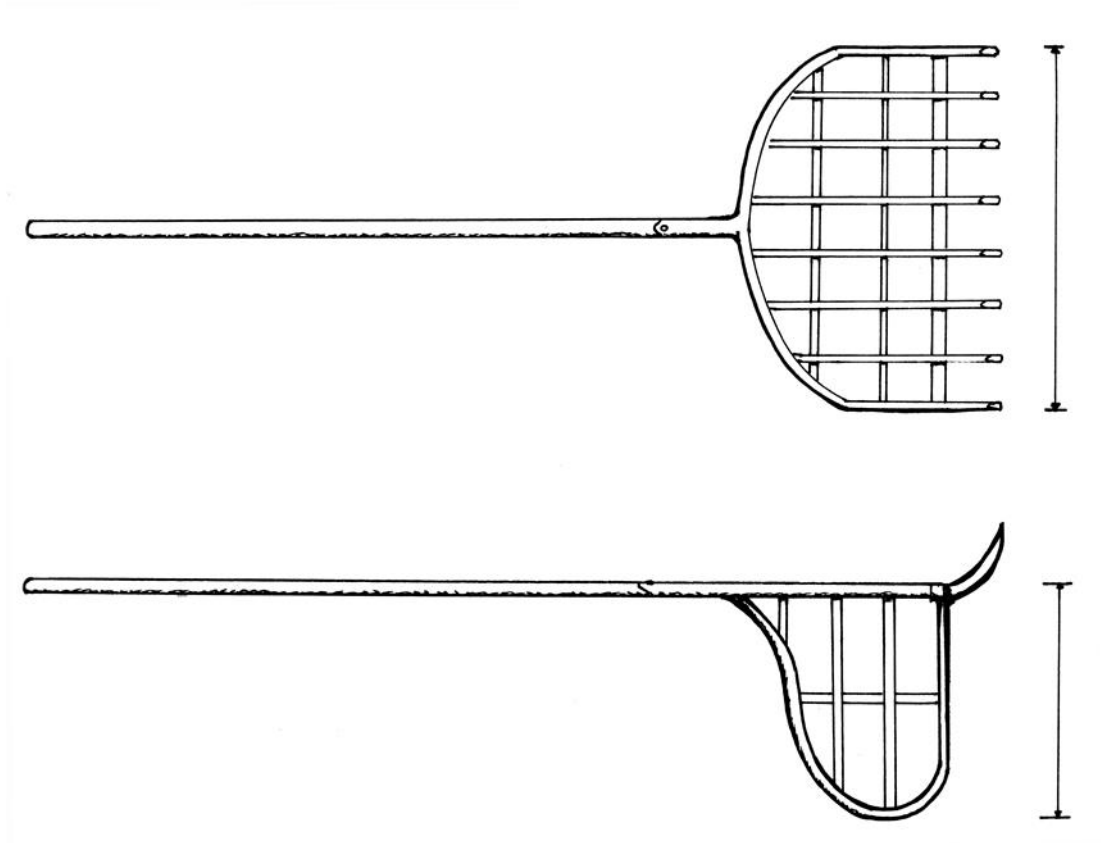
Brailing net

A brailing net is a hand net used to remove fish from the pocket of a hauling net. It can only be used with a hauling net and cannot be used as a fishing device.

Mussel dredges

A Mussel dredge is a device designed and constructed to be held in the hand so as to facilitate the taking of Mussels by scraping the seabed and being no more than 1m wide and having attached to it a net being no more than 1m deep. Mussels collected by commercial marine scalefishers are not permitted to be sold and may only be used as bait.

It is an offence to take Mussels in the waters of the Port Adelaide River between Bower Road, Semaphore Park and the junction of Lipson Reach and North Arm, Port Adelaide.



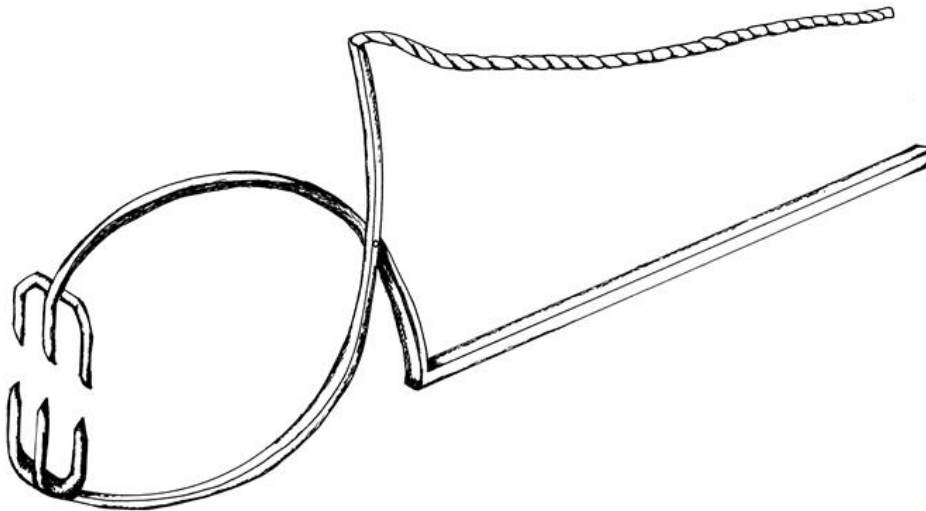
Fish spears

Spears or spear guns used for commercial fishing can only be used by hand and propelled by human power without the use of any explosive, spring, elastic material or mechanism. Flounder are sometimes taken at night by spear in shallow sandy bays.



Razorfish tongs

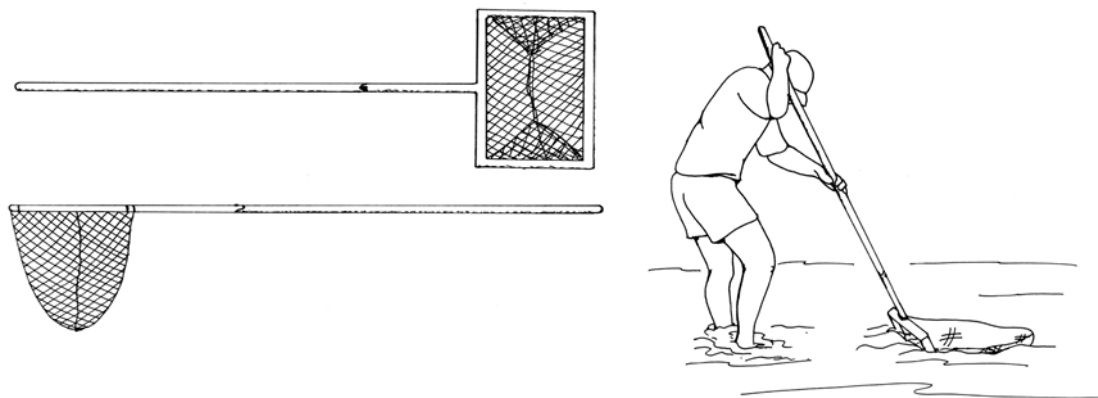
Long handled tongs are used by some commercial scalefishers to collect Razorfish from shallow water which are then used to bait handlines or used as berley to target a number of Scalefish, particularly King George Whiting. The sale of Razorfish is not permitted.



Cockle Net

Means a device to take Pipi (*Donax* sp) designed and constructed to be held in the hand and consisting of a pole which has a flexible mesh bag with a mesh size not less than 43mm mounted on a frame or ring and attached to one end of the pole. It is used in the surf zone of high energy beaches to collect cockles buried just below the surface of the sand.

Only one net can be used per person and it must be endorsed on your licence.

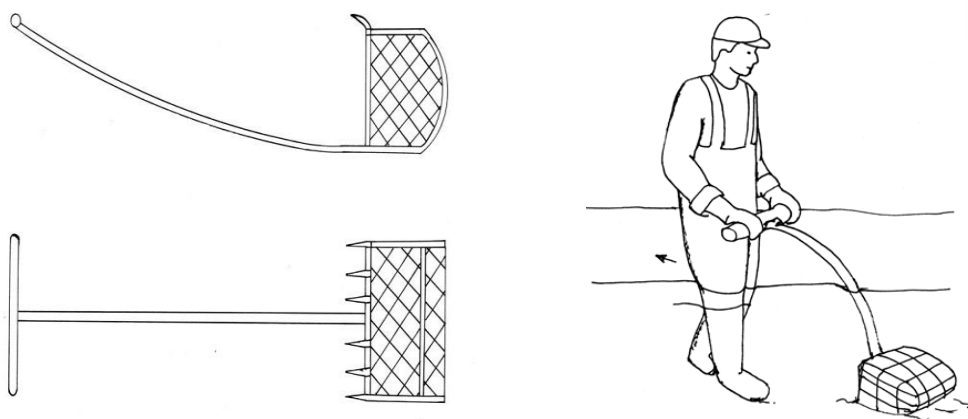


Cockle Rake

Cockle rake means a device designed to be held in the hand and consisting of a pole at 1 end of which is attached— (a) a cross-bar with teeth; or (b) a cross-bar with a net in the form of a bag or cone; or (c) a cross-bar with teeth and a net in the form of a bag or cone.

This device can only be used to take Vongole / Papis.

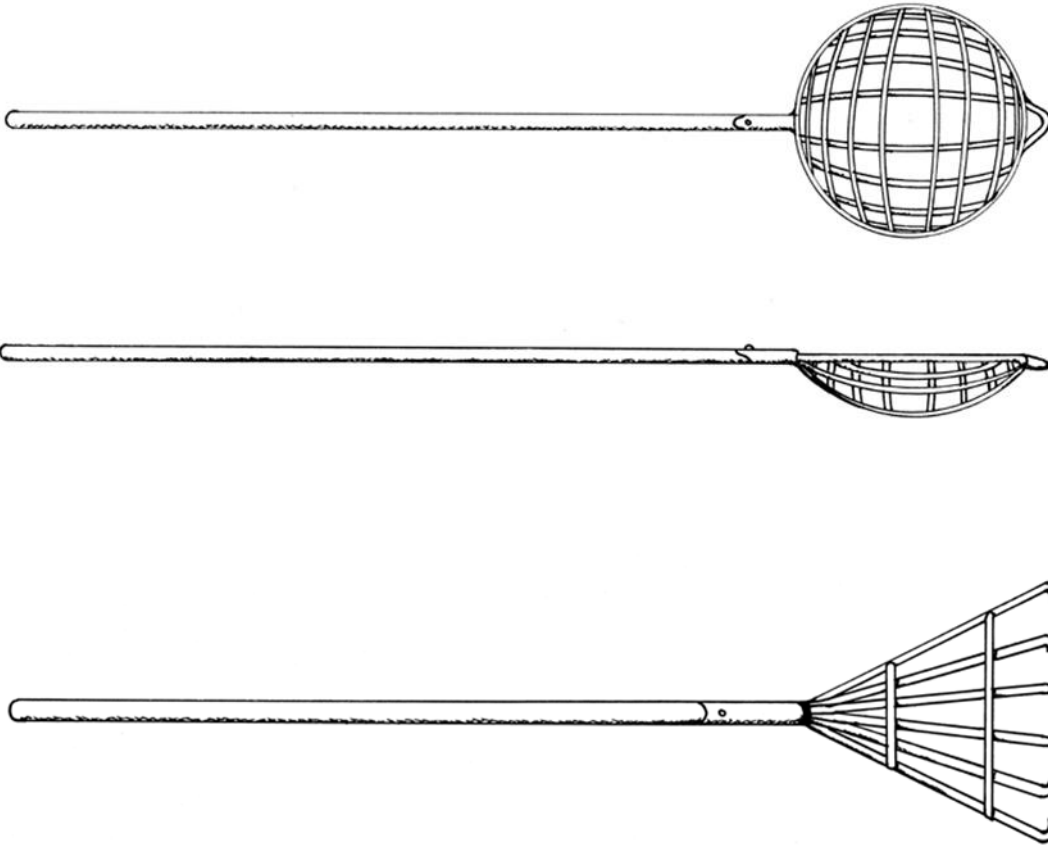
A cockle rake can only be used if it is endorsed on your licence.



Crab Rakes

Crab rake means a device designed to be held in the hand and consisting of a pole at 1 end of which is attached— (a) a cross-bar with teeth; and (b) a circular metal framed mesh. It is a device generally used to take Blue Crabs and Sand Crabs.

In some parts of South Australia the taking of Blue Crabs is regulated by quotas.



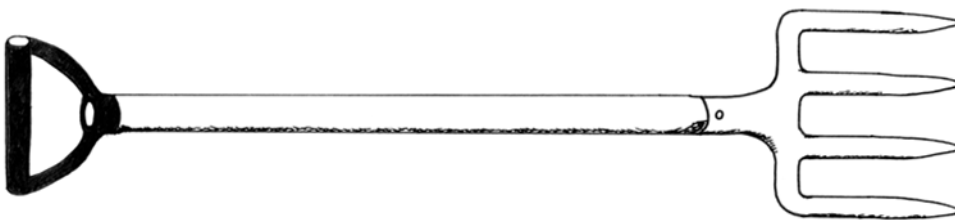
Bait Spade

A hand held and hand operated tool, consisting of a long handle with a blade at one end, which is pressed into the substrate with the foot. Utilised to dig for commercial quantities of worms on tidal flats.



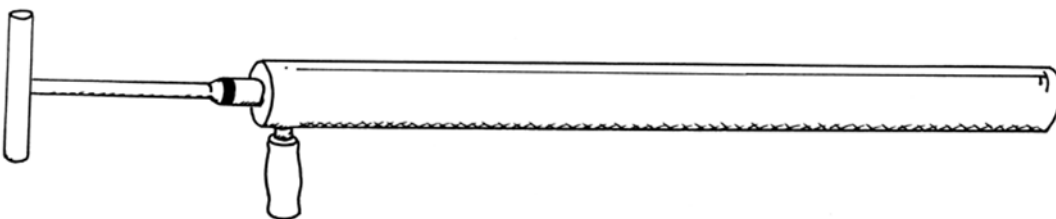
Bait Fork

A hand held tool consisting of a handle at one end and two or more prongs at the other end. Utilised to dig for commercial quantities of worms on tidal flats.



Bait Pump

A hand held cylindrical device that is forced in to the substrate to remove by suction a core of sediment. Various bait species are then removed and collected from the core.



Fisher Obligations

Registration of Vessels

All fishing from a vessel can only be undertaken on a vessel registered on the respective fishing licence. Only one (1) vessel may be used at a time.

Marking of vessels

The commercial licence number must be displayed while undertaking commercial fishing activities. The unique vessel identifier (your survey number) must be visible at all times on your commercial vessel, regardless of your operational activity.

Recreational Fishing from Registered Vessels

Recreational fishing from a commercially registered vessel is permitted subject to the following conditions: The vessel must be “de-registered” by ringing FISHWATCH (1800 065 522) and answering a series of questions.

The commercial licence number must be covered while undertaking recreational fishing.

The unique vessel identifier (your survey number) must be visible at all times on your commercial vessel, regardless of your operational activity.

Tender vessels

A tender vessel does not need to be registered on the fishing licence if it is not going to be used in any fishing activity.

If a tender vessel is not registered on a license it must display the relevant commercial licence number preceded by a “T” e.g. “T-M001”.

Certificate of Operation (Survey)

Under the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, all commercial vessels must carry a Certificate of Operation (Survey) issued by an Australian Marine Safety Agency. A commercial fishing vessel is defined as a boat registered under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* by endorsement on a fishery licence to engage in a fishing activity. For more information regarding the survey of commercial vessels, contact Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Marine Safety Section on (08) 8348 9506. Certificate of Competency Section 47 of the *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993*, states that a person must not operate or accept employment in a key position in the crew of a commercial fishing vessel unless that person holds a Certificate of Competency of the appropriate class. For more information regarding the necessary qualifications to operate commercial vessels, contact the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Marine Safety Section on (08) 8348 9506.

Agents

The maximum number of agents (deckhands who assist the master in fishing operations) permitted on board a commercial fishing vessel can be found on the certificate of registration and entitlements.

Registered Master

The Marine Scale Fishery is an owner operator fishery and as such the use of a registered master to operate the licence, in addition to the licence holder is not permitted, however there are some exceptions to this rule. The licence holder is not required to be the operator of that same licence under the following circumstances:

- a) The licence holder owns another MSF licence and is registered as the master of that licence or
- b) The licence authorises the use of certain gear types (ocean jacket trap, sand crab pot or a sardine net), in which case a registered master can be endorsed on that licence for the purpose of operating that gear type only.
- c) The registered master will be listed on your licence. A master who is not registered on the licence may not operate the licence.

The minimum requirement to be a registered master on a commercial vessel is a Coxswains certificate.

Replacement Master Provisions

Arrangements have been developed and implemented in the Marine Scalefish Fishery to allow the use of replacement masters in certain circumstances.

The purpose of these arrangements is to allow licence holders to take time out of the fishery for official business or training, holidays, health or personal reasons whilst the active licence continues to derive an income.

All applications for the granting of consent to allow a replacement master to be in charge of a registered boat will be considered on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the replacement master guidelines, available at

https://pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/fisheries/marine_scalefish_fishery

The guidelines provide a framework for the consideration of the Minister when making a decision on the use of replacement masters in this fishery under certain circumstances. The circumstances are as follows;

1. Replacement masters for **general purposes** will be limited to a maximum of 28 individual days per financial year.
2. Consent may be granted to allow the use of a replacement master if the licence holder is suffering an **illness and injury** that prevents him/her from fishing. A maximum period of 3 months or the length of a medical certificate, whichever is shorter, may be provided. Application for sudden and serious illness, injury or death will also be considered. It should be noted that the 28 general replacement master days should also be utilised in such circumstances.

Recurring application for a replacement master for reasons of illness or injury may not be approved. Licence holders should make more permanent arrangements if he/she has a long-term illness or injury that may prevent him/her returning to work.

3. The use of replacement masters will be limited to a maximum of 7 individual days per financial year for the purpose of attending **official business and approved training** such as:

OFFICIAL

- Fisheries Council meetings
 - Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Advisory Committee (FARAC) meetings
 - Meetings of recognised industry associations where PIRSA is attending
 - Accredited training courses for a Certificate of Competency
 - Other official business or training approved by the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture
4. Application in writing may be made on a case by case basis for **exceptional circumstances** that are not explicitly considered by the guidelines.

The licence holder and a replacement master will not be permitted to operate the licence at the same time or on the same day.

To gain consent to use a replacement master for general purposes, official business and approved training or illness and injury, the licence holder must first fill and submit the appropriate application form for the circumstances. Only after receiving a letter of consent and a certificate from the Minister (or his/her delegate) may the replacement master operate the licence. In the case of official business and approved training, provided the replacement master is already listed as a replacement master on the licence, the licence holder may be granted consent to use the master after notifying PIRSA FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522, that a training day is to be used, at least one hour prior to commencement of the activity.

For general purpose circumstances only, the days of any proposed fishing activity that will be undertaken by a replacement master will need to be nominated by the licence holder by telephone to PIRSA FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522 at least 1 hour prior to commencement of the activity. If the licence holder wishes to cancel, they must telephone PIRSA FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522.

The application forms to nominate and apply for the use of a replacement master for general purpose, official business and approved training, and illness and injury can be found at https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/licensing_registration/forms

Mutilation of fish at sea

Fish subject to size limits cannot be filleted at sea. They may only be gilled, gutted and scaled.

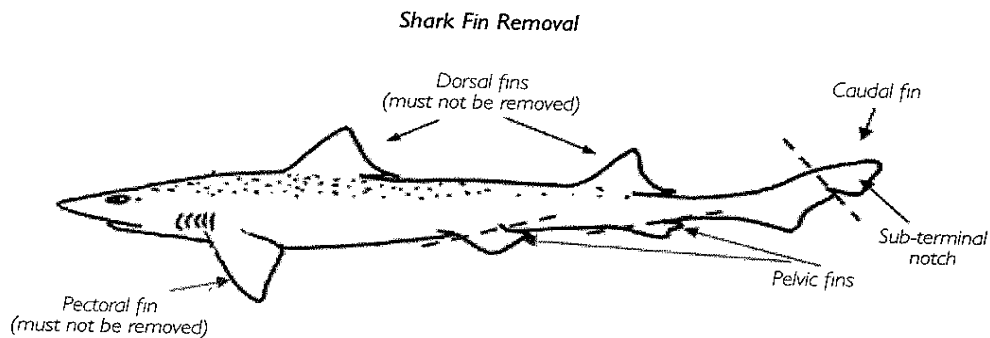
Fish may only be filleted, divided, cut up, mangled or dismembered at sea if they are to be used for bait purposes or consumed during the fishing trip, and are not subject to trip limits or quotas.

Shark can have the head, pelvic fins and claspers removed and the tail at the sub-terminal notch, leaving the caudal lobe attached to the body.

Shark fin removal

It is an offence to mutilate certain fish whilst at sea. Mutilate means to divide, cut up, mangle or dismember fish in any way but does not include (in the case of sharks) –

- The removal of the head of the shark, or
- The removal of pelvic fins and claspers, or
- The removal of the tail at the sub terminal notch, leaving the caudal lobe attached to the body.



Marking of containers (fish bins)

Licence holders are required to mark all containers that are used to store, transport, consign or otherwise used to deal with fish. The licence number or the full name of the licence holder, must be marked on all fish containers.

Behaviour of Fishers

It is the responsibility of all commercial fishers to act in a professional manner when on the water. Where poor behaviour involving fishing activities and/or on the water is observed or personally encountered, you are encouraged to report the incident.

Dependent on the nature of the incident, the matter should be reported to one of the following authorities:

SA Police

Verbal and physical threats, assault, property damage

Telephone: 131 444 or visit a police station.

In the case of an emergency ring 000

Department for Infrastructure and Transport

Operating an unsafe vessel or in a dangerous manner

Relevant legislation: Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012

Penalty: Imprisonment for 2 years or \$180000, or both.

Telephone: Metropolitan 8260 0088
Kadina 0408 851 042
Port Lincoln 0407 553 010
Kangaroo Island 8553 2064
Goolwa / Victor Harbor 0409 792 751

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture –

Interfere with a lawful fishing activity

Relevant legislation: Section 75, *Fisheries Management Act 2007*

Penalty: \$5 000.

Telephone: 1800 065 522 and advise operator that you wish to report an offence.

Email: PIRSA.IllegalFishing@sa.gov.au

You may also choose to advise the Marine Scale Fishers Association that you have made a report (Pat Tripodi - eo@mfasa.org.au)

To assist the relevant authorities, take note of the following :

- the co-ordinates where the incident occurred
- vessel details, including registration number and description
- the driving behaviour that you deemed to be dangerous or reckless
- the time and date of the incident
- description of the person(s) involved and any witness(es).

Logbook Reporting Requirements

Periodic (SARDI) Returns

Periodic (SARDI) Returns are used to monitor and manage the sustainability of South Australia's fisheries. SARDI Returns detailing your catch for the month must be submitted within 15 days of the end of that month. **SARDI returns must be completed accurately by the licence holder.**

If no fish are taken during a particular calendar month a return indicating no fish were taken (NIL return) is to be lodged.

Copies of returns must be retained for a period of 12 months.

Wildlife Reporting Logbook

In addition to your catch and effort logbook, there is a logbook for reporting interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species (TEPS) across all South Australian commercial fisheries. Licence holders are reminded that these wildlife interaction logbooks are required to be submitted when an interaction occurs with a threatened, endangered or protected species (e.g. seahorse, White Shark, etc). If you do not have a copy of the TEPS logbook please contact SARDI's Information Management and Database Support Group on (08) 8207 5400.

Fishers are encouraged to report interactions with TEPS. An interaction could include, physical interaction with fishing gear or vessel, accidental capture, enmeshing in fishing nets or any other interaction where the TEPS physically interacts with the Fishing Activity.

Shark Sighting Register

In the event that you sight a shark that could pose a threat to the public, please report this sighting to SAPOL or Surf Life Saving SA (in the case of metropolitan beaches), for sightings in regional locations please report the sighting to SAPOL and to FISHWATCH 1800 65 522.

PIRSA maintains a Shark Sighting Register. You can register your sighting at the below website:

www.pir.sa.gov.au and search shark sighting register.

Sale of Catch

All Marine Scalefish Fishery species subject to quota or a total allowable commercial catch (TACC) (as per table 1) must be consigned to a registered fish processor in South Australia. Other Marine Scalefish Fishery permitted species taken, may be sold direct to members of the general public who will consume the product or onsold to Fish Processors.

Fish Processors

Two types of fish processor registrations are available. They are:

Fish Processor Registration (Full) FP

As a licensed fish processor (full) you may buy and sell product from:

- A licensed Aquaculture authority holder
- A licensed Commercial fisher
- Any fish processor
- A fish wholesaler

You are not restricted in who you can sell the product to.

Additional note: In order to process Abalone, Prawn or Rock Lobster direct from a Commercial fisher you must be registered as a full fish processor (FP) and pay an additional fee to have each of these species endorsed on your fish processor registration. This can be organised through PIRSA Fisheries & Aquaculture Licensing Services on (08) 8207 5332.

Fish Processor Registration (Restricted) FX

As a licensed fish processor (restricted) you may only process fish from:

- Your own MSF fishing licence
- And then sell this product to:

Any type of business including interstate buyers, unregistered fish processors (e.g. Pubs, restaurants, grocers, take away shops, bait shops etc) and members of the public. This only applies to restricted fish processors in the MSF fishery and was implemented from 1 July 2021 as part of the reform of the fishery.

All sales or consignments of quota monitored species must be recorded in a PIRSA issued "Sales and Consignment" book.

Licence Transfers

The *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fisheries) Regulations 2017* provide that the Minister may only consent to the transfer of a licence if satisfied as to the following:

- (a) that the transfer—
 - (i) is an authorised family transfer; or
 - (ii) is an authorised amalgamation scheme transfer; or
 - (iii) occurs in the course of the administration of a deceased estate under section 57(6) of the Act; or
 - (iv) occurs as a result of the holder of the licence suffering from total and permanent incapacity; or
 - (v) occurs as a result of a disqualification under Part 8 Division 4 of the Act;
- (b) that any fees or other amounts payable in relation to the licence under the Act have been paid in full;
- (c) that the licence to be transferred has not been suspended;
- (d) that the transfer is to 1 person only;
- (e) that no proceedings alleging an offence against the Act are pending or likely to be commenced in the State against the holder of the licence;
- (f) that the transferee is a natural person of at least 15 years of age and is a fit and proper person to hold a licence in respect of the fishery.

An application for consent must be in writing and must be made on a form, which has been approved by the Minister.

Catch History

'Catch History' is the amount of fish taken by a licence holder pursuant to a licence issued under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. In some fisheries, when management arrangements have changed, catch history has been used as one of the relevant criteria when allocating resources. It is important to note that PIRSA Fisheries does not recognise the transfer of catch history from one licence holder to another when a licence is sold or transferred. Catch history can only be recognised for a person who holds a valid licence.

Public Register

The Fisheries Management Act 2007 provides that a public register of authorities (including licences) issued under the Act must be kept. This register must include, among other things, a notation that a specified person has a registered interest in a licence. This notation will be made upon application by the holder of the relevant licence, and on payment of the prescribed fee.

If you are in the process of acquiring a licence under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* you are advised to make independent enquires of the licence holder as to any demerit points that are recorded on that licence.

The Public Register may not be up to date at the time of your search as there are sometimes delays in the allocation process and so should not be relied upon in isolation from other enquiries any demerits that are incurred by the licence as at the time of the transfer will be attributed to the relevant licence in the ordinary course of business regardless of any transfers occurring in that period.

If you require further clarification of the actual demerits held by a licence prior to any transfer you will need to request that from PIRSA Fisheries & Aquaculture in writing and as part of that process you will need written consent of the licence holder for that information to be released to you.

The public register can be accessed at the following link

[Fisheries public register - PIRSA](#)

Transfer of licences between family members

For the purpose of this provision, an immediate family member of the licensee is defined by the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fisheries) Regulations 2017* as:

- the spouse or domestic partner of the licensee; or
- a parent or grandparent of the licensee; or
- a brother or sister, or half-brother or half-sister, of the licensee; or
- a child or grandchild of the licensee; or
- a child or grandchild of the spouse or domestic partner of the licensee.

Transfer of Licences under the Amalgamation Scheme

A licence amalgamation scheme was introduced in 1994 as a method for reducing the number of licences, and therefore the maximum amount of fishing effort, within the fishery. Since the inception of the amalgamation scheme over 40% of licences have been permanently removed from the fishery.

The Minister may only consent to a transfer if that transfer is consistent with the prescribed amalgamation scheme. If the aggregate points value endorsed on a licence is equal to or greater than 24, then the licence may be transferred to any eligible person. If a licence has an aggregate points value of less than 24 points the licence may only be transferred if it is to be amalgamated with another Marine Scalefish Fishery licence and the aggregate points value endorsed on both licences is equal to or greater than 24.

If amalgamation is required, please complete a "Licence Amalgamation Form".

When the amalgamation is approved, the maximum number of permitted devices will be endorsed on the licence in accordance with the regulations and agreed policy.

It is strongly recommended that prior to reaching a contractual agreement to purchase a Marine Scalefish Fishery licence on transfer, the applicant contact Leasing and Licensing, Fisheries & Aquaculture on 8207 5332, for information in respect of current management arrangements.

Deceased Estate

Upon the death of a licence holder, the licence will become vested in the personal representative of the deceased, as part of the estate of the deceased. The requirements that apply in this situation are set out in section 57 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.

Registering a Third Party Interest

Fisheries legislation provides for the Minister, upon application and payment of the prescribed fee by the licence holder, to make a notation on the register that a third party has an interest in the licence. The Minister is required to refuse an application for surrender or transfer of a licence without the consent of the registered third party. A licence holder may nominate more than one third party, but a separate application is required for each third party.

Change of Address

Licence holders are reminded that if they change their address, either postal or residential, notification must be sent to the Leasing & Licensing Section of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, within 30 days, with their current fishery licence.

Replacement Licence

A copy of a licence may be issued if a current fishery licence is lost or destroyed. An application form with the prescribed fee will need to be completed and paid before the replacement is issued.

Demerit Points

A demerit point scheme was introduced in 2009 as a deterrent against Fisheries offences.

Under the scheme if a person or body corporate is found guilty of an offence by a court or pays an on-the-spot fine, they and the relevant authority will also accrue a number of demerit points.

The number of demerit points applied will vary depending on the severity of the offence.

Demerit points have a lifespan of five years from the date that they are accrued. After five years the demerit points are removed.

If a person or body corporate accrues 200 points within five years, there are a range of penalties that can apply, including disqualification from holding an authority issued under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) and disqualification from being a registered master on any boat, both for a period of ten years. An authority will remain disqualified until it is transferred or compulsorily acquired.

The legislation defining the demerit point scheme is in the Act. The list of offences and respective number of demerit points incurred is located in the *Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) Regulations 2017*.

Authority means a licence, permit, registration, authorisation or authority under the Fisheries Management Act 2007.

Demerit Point Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I accrue 200 demerit points?

If a person or body corporate accumulates 200 demerit points within a 5-year period, they are liable to be disqualified from holding any authority issued under the Fisheries Management Act 2007 (the Act) including:

- A commercial fishing licence
- A fish processor registration
- A recreational registration (pot or net)
- Operating as a Director in a body corporate that holds an authority
- Operating as a registered master on a boat used pursuant to an authority

The disqualification period applies for 10 years.

An authority held by a disqualified person will be immediately suspended and must be transferred. If a transfer does not take effect within 180 days the Minister may compulsorily acquire the licence. If the disqualified person holds a non-transferrable fishing licence, the licence will be cancelled.

What happens if a company (body corporate) accrues 200 demerit points?

If a body corporate accumulates 200 points within 5 years, then each Director is disqualified from holding or obtaining an authority for 10 years.

The authority is also suspended and must be transferred within 180 days. If a transfer does not take effect within the required timeframe the Minister will compulsorily acquire the licence. If the disqualified body corporate holds a non-transferrable fishing licence, the licence will be cancelled.

Will I be notified if I am close to accumulating 200 demerit points?

The Minister will send a letter to any person or body corporate when they, or the authority they hold, accumulate 100 demerit points. The letter will provide a demerit points balance. The letter will be updated and re-sent for any subsequent offence.

Do I incur demerit points for verbal or written warnings?

No. Demerit points are only incurred if a person or body corporate is found guilty of an offence by a court or pays an expiation fee.

If a registered master commits an offence while operating my fishing licence, does the licence accumulate points too?

If a registered master fishing pursuant to a commercial fishing licence is found guilty of an offence in court or pays an expiation fee, both the registered master and the Commercial fishing licence accumulate demerit points.

What happens if multiple offences have been committed?

If multiple offences have been committed arising from the same incident, demerit points are only applied pursuant to the one offence that attracts the most demerit points.

If I am found guilty of a recreational offence, will the demerit points affect my commercial fishing licence?

Yes. Demerit points for a recreational offence will be accrued under your name as a natural person; however they will not be accrued on your commercial licence. Should you accumulate 200 demerit points you will be disqualified from holding any Authority issued under the Act and also operating as a registered master for a period of 10 years.

Do demerit points affect my marine qualifications or my drivers' licence?

No. Demerit points only affect authorities issued under the Act. These authorities include commercial fishing licences, fish processor registrations, recreational rock lobster pot registrations and recreational net registrations.

My authority has a number of demerit points recorded against it. If I wish to sell the licence will the demerit points be removed?

No. The demerit points will stay with the authority until they expire after 5 years. As a person or body corporate you will also retain demerit points until they expire after this period. Prospective buyers can obtain information on the number of demerit points accrued by a licence on the details below.

Where can I check my demerit point balance?

Demerit point balances are available by:

- a) Contacting PIRSA Fisheries & Aquaculture on (08) 8207 5332
- b) Viewing the Fisheries Public Register online at: www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries/public_register

Contact Information

Licensing, Quota & VMS Enquiries

2 Hamra Ave, WEST BEACH SA 5024

GPO Box 1625

ADELAIDE SA 5001

Phone: (08) 8207 5332

Fax: (08) 8207 5331

Email: pirsa.fisherieslicensing@sa.gov.au

Fisheries Management and Policy

Yolande Markey, Fisheries Manager, Marine Scalefish Fishery

124 South Quay Boulevard

PO Box 5

PORT LINCOLN SA 5606

Phone: (08) 8683 5315

Mobile: 0427 979 085

Email: Yolande.markey@sa.gov.au

Compliance

For any issues relating to compliance matters, please contact your local Fisheries Office:

West Beach: (08) 8207 5400

Kingscote: (08) 8553 4950

Yorke town: (08) 8852 1861

Whyalla: (08) 8645 5083

Port Lincoln: (08) 8683 5315

Ceduna: (08) 8626 9240

Mount Gambier: (08) 8735 1300

Kingston: (08) 8767 2358

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)

2 Hamra Ave, WEST BEACH

PO Box 120

HENLEY BEACH SA 5024

Phone: (08) 8207 5400

Fax: (08) 8207 5406

Commonwealth Fisheries – Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

Level 6, 73 Northbourne Ave

CIVIC ACT 2600

Phone: (02) 6225 5555

Fax: (02) 6225 5500

AFMA Direct: 1300 723 621

FISHWATCH

Please report any illegal activity through the FISHWATCH service on 1800 065 522.

NOTES:

