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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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20 May 20226

FISHING CLOSURE IN WATERS OVER NEW ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Dear licence holder

As you may be aware, the State Government has committed to supporting the recreational fishing sector through impacts of the algal bloom by implementing a range of measures, including more recreational fishing reefs. I am writing to inform you that the installation of two recreational artificial reefs is scheduled for late May 2026.

A cross-government Artificial Reef Working Group (ARWG) has been established to guide the delivery of the artificial reef project, with a key component of progressing the commitment being the identification of suitable locations.

Following consideration of locations based on connectivity to other artificial reefs or natural reef systems, as well as survey work to identify areas with suitable substrate, the two following locations have been selected (see maps attached):

Nepean Bay (Kangaroo Island) reef site (Attachment A):

- Reef size: approximately 70 m x 70 m (total area of 4,900 m²)
- Location: 35°42.237' S, 137°42.841' E (centre point of the artificial reef)
- Substrate: mixed sand and mud
- Exposure: sheltered bay environment
- Depth: approximately 11 m – outside of marine habitat protection zone
- Design: four concrete module clusters no greater than 1.08 m high.

Wirrina (Fleurieu Peninsula) reef site (Attachment B):

- Reef size: approximately 70 m x 70 m (total area of 4,900 m²)
- Location: 35°27.245' S, 138°12.419' E (centre point of the artificial reef)
- Substrate: mixed sand and mud
- Exposure: approximately 6.5-7 km offshore from Wirrina Marina
- Depth: approximately 24-25 m – outside of marine habitat protection zone
- Design: four concrete module clusters no greater than 2.16 m high.

Please note, as delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have implemented a temporary prohibition on all fishing activities around each reef under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* from 25 May 2026 for an initial 12-month period for all sectors. The closure will apply to the

waters described in Schedule 1 of the s79 notice (attached). The 12-month closure is intended to support the settlement and recruitment of marine organisms on the reefs without disturbance from any fishing activity.

Following the initial 12-month closure, the intent will be to implement an ongoing closure to commercial fishing that will allow recreational fishing. Recreational fishing on a commercial fishing charter will be the only commercial exception to the ongoing fishing restrictions. The scale of this closure is still to be determined, with consultation feedback being considered.

Should you have any queries in regard to this matter please contact Jordan Lear, Fisheries Manager, on 0401 121 955 or jordan.lear@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

20 / 05/ 2026

Attachment:
Section 79 notice – artificial reef closure
Map of Nepean Bay
Map of Wirrina