



Our reference: A7550623

23 June 2026

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF GULF ST VINCENT PRAWN FISHERY

Dear licence holder

I am writing to inform you, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have extended the temporary closure of the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery (GSVPF) under regulation 10 of the Fisheries Management (Prawn Fisheries) Regulations 2017 for a further 12-months (1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027).

As noted at the PIRSA-industry meeting of 14 May 2026, the March 2026 Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) shows there is a high abundance (72%) of small prawns present in the fishery. Therefore, extending the closure will protect these juvenile prawns and support spawning over the 2026/27 summer and recruitment of prawns.

As discussed at the meeting of 14 May 2026, FIS' will be undertaken in March and April/May 2027 to inform consideration of the reopening of the fishery consistent with arrangements described in the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery (2022). An Advice Note reporting on standardised FIS Catch Per Unit Effort from both surveys will be developed by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) prior to considering future management arrangements for the fishery.

I understand that an extension of the temporary closure in the GSVPF will continue to impact licence holders. Be advised that fee relief for 2026/27 is being considered and support is available for licence holders through the [Rural Financial Counselling Service \(RFCS\)](#) and the [Family and Business \(FaB\) Mentor program](#). These services provide financial counselling and wellbeing support for primary producers. Industry members may also seek support from the [Stay Afloat Australia](#) mental and wellbeing health program for the Australian seafood industry.

Should you have any queries in regard to this matter please contact Jade Fredericks, Fisheries Manager on 0417 495 352 or at jade.fredericks@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Begg'.

Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE