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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO FISHERS

**Unit values, total allowable commercial catch and other quota arrangements for the
Vongole Fishery for the 2025/26 quota period**

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) convened a meeting of Vongole licence holders on 13 May 2025 to seek advice on the setting of the Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) for the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the fishery for the 2025/26 quota period.

The May 2025 SARDI Advice Note “West Coast Vongole Fishery – 2024 Harvestable Biomass Estimate” classified the West Coast zone of the Vongole Fishery as “sustainable” and estimated the harvestable biomass in the Coffin Bay zone from the 2024 Fishery Independent Survey at 555 tonnes.

The May 2024 SARDI Advice Note “Coffin Bay Vongole Fishery – 2023 Harvestable Biomass Estimate” classified the Coffin Bay zone of the Vongole Fishery as “sustainable” and estimated the harvestable biomass in the Coffin Bay zone from the 2023 Fishery Independent Survey at 991 tonnes.

The Vongole Harvest Strategy, adopted in June 2024, guides the process for setting the TACCs for the respective zones of the Vongole Fishery.

At the meeting of 13 May 2025, the majority of Vongole Fishery licence holders recommended TACCs for the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the fishery of 58 tonnes and 17 tonnes, respectively. While under the Vongole Harvest Strategy the TACCs for both the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones could be set higher, licence holders considered a precautionary approach should be taken in setting the 2025/26 quota period.

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 2025/26 quota period after consideration of the following information:

- objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- the Vongole Harvest Strategy
- the SARDI Advice Note of May 2025 “West Coast Vongole Fishery – 2024 Harvestable Biomass Estimate”, which reports specifically on the West Coast zone of the fishery
- the SARDI Advice Note of May 2024 “Coffin Bay Vongole Fishery – 2023 Harvestable Biomass Estimate”, which reports specifically on the Coffin Bay zone of the 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:

Vongole fishing zone	2024/25 TACC (kg)	No. quota units	Quota unit value (kg)
Coffin Bay	58,000	1,000.0	58
West Coast	17,000	1,000.0	17

Please note that regulation 23A of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* prohibits the take of bivalves, including Vongole in the Port River. Therefore, a TACC has not been set for the Port River zone and the unit value has been determined as 0.00 kg.

Carry-over arrangements

Regulation 9(3)(f) of the *Fisheries Management (Vongole Fishery) Regulations 2021* provides for carry-over of uncaught quota on individual licences at a default level of up to 10% of the entitlements on the licence unless determined to be a lesser amount by the Minister.

Following consideration of advice from Vongole Fishery licence holders at the meeting of 13 May 2025 and the current SARDI advice on stock biomass, I advise the default carry-over arrangements will be maintained for 2025/26 such that up to 10% of uncaught quota entitlements may be carried over to the 2025/26 quota period at the individual licence holder level. Please note that any quota entitlements carried over can only be fished in that quota period and cannot be transferred.

Over-catch arrangements

Regulation 9(3)(g) of the *Fisheries Management (Vongole Fishery) Regulations 2021* provides that where an over-catch amount on a licence for a quota period 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 13 May 2025 and the current SARDI advice on stock biomass, I advise the default over-catch arrangements of up to 10% of quota entitlements on individual licenses will be maintained as follows:

- where over-catch amounts are less than 10% of quota entitlements in the 2025/26 quota period each kilogram in excess of the quota allocation may be deducted from the quota entitlements on that licence in the subsequent quota period (2026/27) at a rate of 1:1.
- 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 (2026/27) at a rate of 2:1.

Uncaught or over-caught quota entitlements will be considered at the end of each quota period. Adjustments to quota entitlements will 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 Steve Shanks, Manager – Commercial Fisheries, on telephone (08) 8429 0197 or email at steve.shanks@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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