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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF GULF SAINT VINCENT PRAWN FISHERY

Dear licence holder

I am writing to inform you that as delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development I have implemented closure of the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery (GSVPF) until 30 June 2026, under regulation 10 of the Fisheries Management (Prawn Fisheries) Regulations 2017 (the Prawn Regulations). A copy of the Regulation 10 notice is attached for your information.

The closure has been implemented following the outcomes from the Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) undertaken in Gulf Saint Vincent on 16 and 17 December 2025 indicating a significant decline of 81% in catch rate of prawns from pre-bloom levels. This result verified a decline in prawn catch rate reported in the FIS undertaken in November 2025 and commercial catch in GSVPF in October 2025. The closure is required to provide protection for heavily impacted prawn stocks and provide the ecosystem a greater opportunity to recover from the significant impacts of the algal bloom. A copy of the advice note provided by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) is attached for your information.

During the closure period ongoing monitoring through FIS will be essential to monitor the recovery of prawn stocks. Please be advised that the St Vincent Gulf Prawn Boat Owner's Association has proposed an approach to reopening the GSVPF using the decision rules outlined Section 9.4.4 of the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Gulf Saint Vincent Prawn Fishery 2022. Please be advised that I am supportive of this approach.

In acknowledgement of the impacts of the temporary closure on industry the Government has extended the fishing fee relief and industry assistance grants to 31 July 2026. Support is also available for licence holders facing financial hardship 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 experiencing hardship. Further information is available at [Summer Plan Algal Bloom Update](#). Industry members may also seek support from [Stay Afloat Australia](#) mental and wellbeing health program for the Australian seafood industry.

PIRSA acknowledges the very difficult time this presents for Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishers should you have any queries regarding the temporary closure, please contact Jade Fredericks, Fisheries Manager on 0417 495 352 or jade.fredericks@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jade Fredericks'.

Matt Read

**A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Attachments:

Regulation 10 temporary closure notice

SARDI GSVPF FIS Advice note