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30 April 2026

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL FISHERS

Temporary fishing arrangements

Dear licence holder,

I write to inform you of a range of temporary measures being implemented in response to the most recent algal bloom assessment delivered by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

An [Algal Bloom Fishery Management Roadmap](#) (the Roadmap) has been developed to guide decisions on whether algal bloom management arrangements are further restricted or relaxed in response to the latest scientific information.

The most recent SARDI assessments for South Australia's gulfs have been completed and the main findings include:

- **Gulf St Vincent/Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone (GSV/KIFZ):** Evidence of declines in King George Whiting with widespread indication of post-settlement failure. Southern Calamari and Southern Garfish have been severely affected, with near absence reported in many areas. No Southern Calamari egg masses were detected in dive surveys at known spawning areas. Juvenile Southern Garfish numbers also appear impacted.
- **Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone (SGFZ):** Catches of King George Whiting, Southern Garfish, Western King Prawn, Blue Crab, Abalone and Sardine remain relatively stable but strong evidence of declines in Southern Calamari.

The latest Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) for the Blue Crab Fishery indicates:

- The recorded evidence from the targeted Blue Crab surveys (Sept/Oct 2025 and Jan/Feb 2026) and a FIS (March 2026) indicate increasing performance and the FIS results are also well in excess of the target reference point in the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Blue Crab Fishery.
- These results meet the decision rules within the Roadmap.

The latest SARDI Snapper information also indicates uncertainty from impacts of the algal bloom on rebuilding Snapper stocks.

Based on the available SARDI algal bloom fish assessments, the Blue Crab FIS results and information regarding Snapper stocks, a number of amendments to the current temporary management arrangements are being implemented or amended as a precautionary measure consistent with the objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) and the Roadmap. These arrangements aim to promote stock recovery, and in the case of Blue Crab appropriately respond to positive stock recovery from the impacts of the bloom.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, has made declarations under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (unless varied or revoked) relating to the **commercial fishing** sector to:

- Remove the restrictions to allow the take of Blue Crab by commercial Blue Crab quota entitlement holders in the GSV/KIFZ from 1 May 2026.
- Extend the temporary prohibition on take of marine scalefish species by the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) and Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (NZRLF) in the waters of the GSV/KIFZ and Port Adelaide River Estuary from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2027.
- Temporarily prohibit the take and possession of Southern Calamari in the waters of the SGFZ by MSF and NZRLF fishers from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2027.
- Temporarily prohibit the take or possession of Snapper in the waters of the GSV/KIFZ, SGFZ and West Coast Fishing Zone (WCFZ) from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.
- Implement a King George Whiting Spawning Season closure in an area of southern Gulf St Vincent, Investigator Straight and southern Spencer Gulf by temporarily prohibiting the take or possession of King George Whiting between April and July in any year that the temporary arrangements apply, commencing from 1 May 2026 (map attached). The use of a prawn trawl net in the King George Whiting Spawning Season closure area in this period is also prohibited.

Licence holders will be able to transit through the relevant zones in circumstances detailed in the notice. Please note the transit arrangements included in the notice require a report prior to entering the closed zone or area to be made. The section 79 notice is provided as an attachment.

These difficult decisions to implement further restrictions for Southern Calamari, King George Whiting as well as Snapper, which was announced last year, is in line with the priority principle of the Act to ensure proper conservation and management measures are implemented to protect aquatic resources of the state from over-exploitation and ensure those resources are not endangered. The arrangements also take into account the principle that if there are threats of a serious or irreversible damage to the aquatic resources of the state, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent such damage.

The King George Whiting Spawning Season closure introduces a further tool to support recovery of this species in Gulf St Vincent based on SARDI advice on the scale, location and timing of spawning and connectivity between the spawning sites and settlement of juveniles. These closures reduce capture of larger breeding fish, minimise disturbance of breeding activity, and will therefore enhance the success of recruitment of juvenile fish.

In addition to the above arrangements pertaining to algal bloom response measures, the management arrangements that protect our shark and ray species are also provided for in these notices for each respective sector. It is noted, the

intent remains to implement ongoing changes to shark and ray management through regulatory change.

The following temporary restrictions will also be in place for recreational fishers and Charter Boat passengers (unless varied or revoked):

- Continue the temporary reduction of recreational and charter boat passenger daily bag and boat limits by 50% in the GSV/KIFZ including the Port River Estuary (excluding migratory species and Blue Swimmer Crab where pre algal bloom bag and boat limits will be in place and further restrictions on Southern Calamari and Southern Garfish), from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2027.
- Temporarily prohibit the take or possession of Southern Calamari and Southern Garfish in the waters of the GSV/KIFZ and the take of Southern Calamari in the SGFZ from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2027.
- Continuation of the current algal bloom response reductions and other arrangements for sharks and rays from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2027.
- Temporarily prohibit the take or possession of Snapper in the waters of the GSV/KIFZ, SGFZ and WCFZ from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.
- Temporarily prohibit the take or possession of King George Whiting in an area of southern Gulf St Vincent, Investigator Straight and southern Spencer Gulf between April and July in any year that the temporary arrangements apply.

In acknowledgement of the impacts of the temporary management arrangements on industry the Government had previously extended the fishing fee relief and industry assistance grants to 31 July 2026 and is committing \$500,000 to examine, in partnership with industry, the long-term sustainability of the Marine Scalefish Fishery and other algal bloom impacted fisheries, through a structural adjustment analysis. Information about the Structural Adjustment Assessment Panel is available at <https://www.algalbloom.sa.gov.au/fisheries-assessment>.

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.

Should you have any queries on this matter, please contact your local Senior Fisheries Officer in your region, or fisheries managers:

- Marine Scalefish Fishery – Yolande Markey, Ph: 0427 979 085 or email yolande.markey@sa.gov.au.
- Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery – Steve Shanks Phone: (08) 8429 0197 or email: steve.shanks@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Begg', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Attachments:

- A. Map of King George Whiting Spawning Season Closure
- B. Section 79 notices

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2007: SECTION 79*Temporary Commercial Fishing Prohibitions in Waters of Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone and other waters*

Pursuant to section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, I, Hon Clare Scriven MLC, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, hereby declare that it shall be unlawful for a person as described in this notice to engage in the act of, or an act preparatory to or otherwise involved in, the fishing activities specified in Schedule 1, or to have possession or control of specified aquatic resources within the area described in Schedule 2 during the period specified in Schedule 3.

SCHEDULE 1

1. The taking, by the holder of a Marine Scalefish Fishery or Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery licence or their registered masters, of the following:
 - aquatic resources prescribed in schedule 1 of the Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017 within the waters of the Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone; and the Port Adelaide River Estuary;
 - Southern Calamari (*Sepioteuthis australis*) within the waters of the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone;
 - King George Whiting (*Sillaginodes punctatus*) within the waters of the King George Whiting Spawning Spatial Closure Area (within the Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone and the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone), during the period of 1 May 2026 to 31 July 2026 and 1 April 2027 to 30 April 2027 only.
2. The use of a prawn trawl net (as defined in the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017) within the King George Whiting Spawning Spatial Closure Area, during the period of 1 May 2026 to 31 July 2026 and 1 April 2027 to 30 April 2027 only (the spawning period).
3. The taking of the following species by any licensed person or registered master in all waters:
 - a. Whitefin Swellshark (*Cephaloscyllium albipinum*)
 - b. Oceanic Whitetip Shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)
 - c. Green Sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*)
 - d. Greeneye Spurdog (*Squalus chloroculus*)
 - e. Southern Dogfish (*Centrophorus uyato*)
 - f. Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)
 - g. Grey Nurse Shark (*Carcharias taurus*)
 - h. All stingaree species of genus *Urolophus*
 - i. All skate species of genus *Dipturus* or *Dentiraja*.
4. The failure to immediately return a fish, other than a noxious species, to the water with the least possible injury or damage, unless the person is lawfully retaining that fish.

SCHEDULE 2

1. The possession by a Marine Scalefish Fishery or Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery licence or their registered masters of aquatic resources prescribed in schedule 1 of the Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017 within the waters of the Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone and the Port Adelaide River estuary; or possession of Southern Calamari within the waters of the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, other than Southern Calamari bait purchased lawfully, or lawfully taken prior to 1 May 2026; or possession of King George Whiting within the waters of the King George Whiting Spawning Spatial Closure Area during the relevant spawning period, unless transiting through the relevant zone or area with the abovementioned aquatic resources lawfully taken in the waters of other fishing zones in the following circumstances:
 - where the registered boat travels to the intended place of landing without engaging in any fishing activity, other than setting or retrieving rock lobster pots under a Northern Zone Rock Lobster licence; and
 - where prior to entering the zone, the licence holder or register master has made a report to the Department, by using the Commercial Fishing SA app or by calling Fishwatch 1800 065 522 and has provided the following information:
 - the name of the person submitting the report;
 - the contact number of the person submitting the report;
 - the licence number and name of the holder of the licence, or the registered master operating the vessel;
 - the species on board and estimated weight;
 - the zone fish were taken from; and
 - the estimated date, time and place of landing.
2. The possession of any of the following species by the holder of any fishery authority or their registered master in any waters of the State:
 - a. Whitefin Swellshark (*Cephaloscyllium albipinum*)
 - b. Oceanic Whitetip Shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*)
 - c. Green Sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*)
 - d. Greeneye Spurdog (*Squalus chloroculus*)
 - e. Southern Dogfish (*Centrophorus uyato*)
 - f. Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)
 - g. Grey Nurse Shark (*Carcharias taurus*)
 - h. All stingaree species of genus *Urolophus*
 - i. All skate species of genus *Dipturus* or *Dentiraja*.

SCHEDULE 3

From 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2027 unless varied or revoked earlier.

For the purpose of this notice:

Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone means the waters of Gulf St. Vincent and surrounding waters contained within and bounded by a line commencing at Mean High Water Springs closest to 34°59'59.95" South, 136°58'07.73" East (Gleasons Landing, Yorke Peninsula), then beginning southerly following the line of Mean High Water Springs to the location closest to 35°38'26.13" South, 138°07'28.73" East (southern Fleurieu Peninsula), then southerly to Mean High Water Springs closest to 35°48'07.14" South, 138°07'28.73" East (Cape St. Albans, Kangaroo Island), then beginning south-westerly following the line of Mean High Water Springs to the location closest to 35°59'59.95" South, 136°41'04.52" East (south-western Kangaroo Island), then westerly to 35°59'59.95" South, 136°00'00.03" East, then northerly to 35°29'59.95" South, 136°00'00.03" East, then easterly to 35°29'59.95" South, 136°40'12.03" East, then northerly to 34°59'59.95" South, 136°40'12.03" East, then easterly to the point of commencement.

King George Whiting Spawning Spatial Closure Area means the State waters contained within and bounded by a line commencing at 35°06.699' South, 138°00.000' East, then south to 35°33.166' South, 138°00.000' East, then west to 35°33.166' South, 136°40.000' East, then north to 34°29.999' South, 136°40.000' East, then east to the location on mean high water springs closest to 34°30.000' South, 137°20.236' East, then beginning southerly following the line of mean high water springs to the location closest to 34°31.649' South, 137°20.800' East, then south to the location on mean high water springs closest to 34°55.802' South, 137°20.800' East, then beginning north-westerly following the line of mean high water springs to the location closest to 35°06.699' South, 137°45.390' East, then east to the point of commencement.

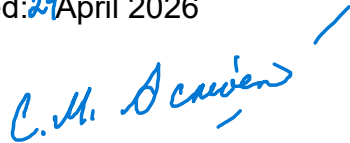
Port Adelaide River estuary means all waters of the Port Adelaide River estuary contained within and bounded by a line commencing at the line of Mean High Water Springs closest to 34°40'12.26" South, 138°26'35.25" East (end of Port Gawler Road), then beginning easterly following the line of Mean High Water Springs, including West Lakes, North Arm and tributaries, to the location closest to 34°46'59.03" South, 138°28'40.48" East, then north-westerly to the point of commencement, but excluding any land or waters so encompassed that lie landward of the line of Mean High Water Springs.

Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone means the waters of Spencer Gulf and surrounding water contained within and bounded by a line commencing at Mean High Water Springs closest to 33°59'59.90" South, 135°15'32.12" East (western Eyre Peninsula), then beginning southerly following the line of Mean High Water Springs to the location closest to 34°59'59.95" South, 136°58'07.73" East (Gleasons Landing, Yorke Peninsula), then westerly to 34°59'59.95" South, 136°40'12.03" East, then southerly to 35°29'59.95" South, 136°40'12.03" East, then westerly to 35°29'59.95" South, 136°00'00.03" East, then southerly to 36°59'59.95" South, 136°00'00.03" East, then westerly to 36°59'59.95" South, 135°00'00.03" East, then northerly to 35°59'59.95" South, 135°00'00.03" East, then westerly to 35°59'59.95" South,

134°00'00.03" East, then northerly to 33°59'59.95" South, 134°00'00.03" East, then easterly to the point of commencement.

All coordinates are expressed in GDA2020

Dated: 29 April 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. M. Scruven" with a diagonal slash at the end.

Hon Clare Scruven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2007: SECTION 79

Temporary Prohibition on the take and possession of Snapper in the Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone, the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, the West Coast Fishing Zone or the Port Adelaide River estuary.

Pursuant to section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, I, Hon Clare Scriven MLC, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, hereby declare that it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in a fishing activity specified in schedule 1, or to have possession or control of aquatic resources specified in Schedule 2, during the period specified in schedule 3.

SCHEDULE 1

The act of taking or an act preparatory to or involved in the taking of Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) within the waters of the Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone, the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, the West Coast Fishing Zone or the Port Adelaide River estuary.

SCHEDULE 2

The possession or control of Snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) within the waters of the Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone, the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, the West Coast Fishing Zone or the Port Adelaide River estuary.

SCHEDULE 3

From 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 unless varied or revoked earlier.

For the purpose of this notice:

Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone means the waters of Gulf St. Vincent and surrounding waters contained within and bounded by a line commencing at Mean High Water Springs closest to 34°59'59.95" South, 136°58'07.73" East (Gleesons Landing, Yorke Peninsula), then beginning southerly following the line of Mean High Water Springs to the location closest to 35°38'26.13" South, 138°07'28.73" East (southern Fleurieu Peninsula), then southerly to Mean High Water Springs closest to 35°48'07.14" South, 138°07'28.73" East (Cape St. Albans, Kangaroo Island), then beginning south-westerly following the line of Mean High Water Springs to the location closest to 35°59'59.95" South, 136°41'04.52" East (south-western Kangaroo Island), then westerly to 35°59'59.95" South, 136°00'00.03" East, then northerly to 35°29'59.95" South, 136°00'00.03" East, then easterly to 35°29'59.95" South, 136°40'12.03" East, then northerly to 34°59'59.95" South, 136°40'12.03" East, then easterly to the point of commencement and includes the Port Adelaide River estuary.

Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone means the waters of Spencer Gulf and surrounding water contained within and bounded by a line commencing at Mean High Water Springs closest to 33°59'59.90" South, 135°15'32.12" East (western Eyre Peninsula), then beginning southerly following the line of Mean High Water Springs to the

location closest to 34°59'59.95" South, 136°58'07.73" East (Gleasons Landing, Yorke Peninsula), then westerly to 34°59'59.95" South, 136°40'12.03" East, then southerly to 35°29'59.95" South, 136°40'12.03" East, then westerly to 35°29'59.95" South, 136°00'00.03" East, then southerly to 36°59'59.95" South, 136°00'00.03" East, then westerly to 36°59'59.95" South, 135°00'00.03" East, then northerly to 35°59'59.95" South, 135°00'00.03" East, then westerly to 35°59'59.95" South, 134°00'00.03" East, then northerly to 33°59'59.95" South, 134°00'00.03" East, then easterly to the point of commencement.

West Coast Fishing Zone means the waters adjacent to the west coast of South Australia contained within and bounded by a line commencing at Mean High Water Springs closest to 31°41'16.13" South, 129°00'00.03" East (Western Australian-South Australian border), then beginning southerly following the line of Mean High Water Springs to the location closest to 33°59'59.90" South, 135°15'32.12" East (western Eyre Peninsula), then westerly to 33°59'59.95" South, 134°00'00.03" East, then southerly to 34°59'59.95" South, 134°00'00.03" East, then westerly to 34°59'59.95" South, 132°00'00.03" East, then northerly to 33°59'59.95" South, 132°00'00.03" East, then westerly to 33°59'59.95" South, 131°00'00.03" East, then northerly to 32°59'59.95" South, 131°00'00.03" East, then westerly to 32°59'59.95" South, 129°00'00.03" East, then northerly to the point of commencement.

Port Adelaide River estuary means all waters of the Port Adelaide River estuary contained within and bounded by a line commencing at the line of Mean High Water Springs closest to 34°40'12.26" South, 138°26'35.25" East (end of Port Gawler Road), then beginning easterly following the line of Mean High Water Springs, including West Lakes, North Arm and tributaries, to the location closest to 34°46'59.03" South, 138°28'40.48" East, then north-westerly to the point of commencement, but excluding any land or waters so encompassed that lie landward of the line of Mean High Water Springs.

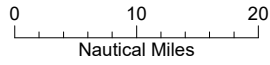
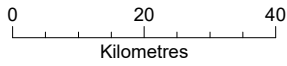
All coordinates are described in GDA2020.

Dated: 29 April 2026




Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

KING GEORGE WHITING SPAWNING SPATIAL CLOSURE



GDA2020 Geographics Projection
in degrees decimal minutes format

 King George Whiting Spawning Spatial Closure, 1 April to 31 July



Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Regions SA