



2 May 2023

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO FISHERS

Lakes and Coorong Fishery

Miscellaneous amendments to regulations

Dear Licence Holder,

I write to inform you of several miscellaneous amendments that have been made to regulations under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) that relate to the Lakes and Coorong Fishery (L&CF).

The amendments have been made to implement more efficient and flexible mechanisms for fishery management and to clarify, simplify and update current management arrangements. These amendments will help to increase the economic potential of these fisheries and reduce red tape for fishers. Important changes have also been made to increase the protection of key marine and aquatic animals.

These amendments to regulations came into effect on 1 May 2023. Of relevance to L&CF licence holders are the following regulations:

Fisheries Management (General) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Regulations 2023

Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Regulations 2023.

Fisheries Management (Lakes and Coorong Fishery) (Yabby Pots) Amendment Regulations 2023

Fisheries Management (General) (Yabby Pots) Amendment Regulations 2023

These regulation amendments are published in the Government Gazette, No. 26, Thursday 20 April 2023 (pp. 799–858), available at:

https://governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/2023/April/2023_026.pdf

Key changes to regulations

Several additional amendments to regulations have been implemented to improve the sustainable management of fish resources, provide for improved administration of authorities or to correct administrative errors.

The changes implemented relating to your fishery are described below.

Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017

- The definition of a lift net in regulation 3 has been amended to include a net consisting of 1 or 2 rings rather than only a net with two rings. This reflects the types of lift nets currently in use and allows for the transition from hoop and drop nets to lift nets in the commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery, Lakes and Coorong Fishery, Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery and Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery. PIRSA will write to effected licence holders with hoop and drop nets in the near future with further information about the transition to lift nets. The existing Ministerial exemption (ME9903241) regarding the interchangeable use of hoop nets and drop nets remains in effect, as communicated in the notice to fishers dated 18 April 2023.
- Regulation 3(3) describing the method for determining the mesh size of a net has been deleted as this method has been superseded by new technology and is no longer necessary. New arrangements now allow the Minister to approve a measuring instrument for this purpose to ascertain more accurate mesh sizes of nets allowing for new measuring devices to be certified in the future in a timely manner.
- Regulation 18 has been varied to correct the spelling of Chondrichthyes and to allow the removal of the head of a shark to the definition of mutilation. This amendment allows for the removal of the head of shark at sea to support efficient fishing operations and to ensure effective enforcement of the appropriate management arrangements.
- The opportunity has been taken to make amendments to the *Fisheries Management (General) 2017*, to update all coordinates from GDA94 to GDA2020 based on the Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020) consistent with the Australian national standard.

Amendments to regulations relating to the phasing out of Yabby Pots and the transition to Pyramid Nets will come into effect on 1 July 2023, as indicated in the Notice to Fishers dated 7 April 2023.

These changes are described below. Further information regarding transitioning to Pyramid Nets will be forwarded to relevant licence holders in due course.

Yabby pots regulatory amendments

- The removal of Yabby pots by 1 July 2023 as a permitted device in South Australia is the final step of a regulation transition to using pyramid nets as an alternative freshwater device to catch yabbies. Use of pyramid nets reduces the risk to aquatic air-breathing animals.

- The removal of Yabby pot references from the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* also impacts commercial fishers who hold gear entitlements for these pots and use these devices. As such the *Fisheries Management (Lakes and Coorong Fishery) Regulations 2009* have been amended to remove references to Yabby pots and Yabby pot entitlements and replace them with references to pyramid nets and pyramid net entitlements with effect from 1 July 2023.
- PIRSA will write to effected licence holders with Yabby pots with further information about the transition to pyramid nets. The arrangements to remove Yabby pot entitlements on the licence and replace the entitlements with the same number of pyramid nets will be at no administrative cost to the licence holder.
- The *Fisheries Management (General) (Yabby Pots) Amendment Regulations 2023* also make the following changes to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* with effect from 1 July 2023:
 - The application of regulation 13(a)(iii) relating to the use of 2 litre buoys on fishing devices in the River Murray proper, Lakes Albert and Alexandrina or the Coorong has been broadened to apply in all inland waters to standardise management arrangements and to remove the reference to yabby pots.
 - Clause 42 of Schedule 6 of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* has been varied to include a restriction on the use of pyramid nets in coastal waters. Restricting the use of a pyramid net to inland waters will help to facilitate effective compliance of the use of these nets with their intended purpose as a permitted recreational device for use in inland waters.
 - Clause 95 of Schedule 6 of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* has been varied to remove a limitation on the types of devices that could be used in the inland waters of the counties of MacDonnell, Robe and Grey and clarify that fyke nets may only be used to take short finned eels. The removal of references to other devices simplifies the clause and allows the unfettered operation of clause 44 which holds the full list of devices that may be used in inland waters.

If you have any queries regarding these arrangements or would like a copy of the amended regulations referred to above, you can contact Sam Stone, Manager – Community Based Fisheries, on (08) 8429 2101 or email Sam.Stone@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE