



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Our ref: eA202772
Obj ID: A6864611
Receipt: 21334367

The Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Dr Centofanti

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* received by the Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries on 15 April 2025 requesting access to the following:

“A copy of all documents (including hard copy or electronic briefings, minutes, reports, emails, letters, and any other correspondence) in relation to monitoring and surveillance of presence and spread of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (Abalone Virus) in South Australia held by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development”

Date range: 01/01/2024 – 20/03/2025

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located twenty-seven documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
3	Letter from The Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 14/3/2025 re awareness of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis in South Australia	1
4b	Attachment to Document 4: Map of progress of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis in 2024	1
4c	Attachment to Document 4: Map of diver observations of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis in the SZAF	1

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



5a	Attachment to Document 5: Map of SARDI observations of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis progress in Southern Zone Abalone Fishery	1
5b	Attachment to Document 5: Map of diver observations of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis in Southern Zone Abalone Fishery in December 2024 to January 2025	1
6a	Attachment to Document 6: Notice of Fishery Closure Breaksea Reef to Nene Valley dated 31/5/2024	1
6b	Attachment to Document 6: Map of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis fishery closure dated 29/5/2024	1
6c	Attachment to Document 6: Map of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis in the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery dated 16/12/2024 - New active area	1
7a	Attachment to Document 7: Gazettal Notice dated 14/11/2024 re Section 37 – <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> - Requirements for the control of Abalone Herpes Virus	2
7b	Attachment to Document 7: Gazettal Notice dated 21/11/2024 re Section 4 – <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> - Notifiable Diseases	4
10a	Attachment to Document 10: Notice under Section 79 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> dated 17/5/2024 - Temporary prohibition on the taking of Abalone	1
10b	Attachment to Document 10: Map of temporary closure near Southend on the taking of Abalone dated 16/5/2024	1

Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email thread between Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Member for Mount Gambier dated 26/2/2024 re banning of fishing – Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis	3
4a	Attachment to Document 4: Southern Zone Abalone Management Inc meeting minutes dated 20/2/2025	2
5	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 26/2/2025 re Update on Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis outbreak in the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery	4
6	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regions dated 2/1/2025 re update on Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis outbreak in the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery	7
10	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 20/5/2025 re Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis temporary fisheries closure at Southend	4

11	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 3/4/2024 re response to constituent re Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis related fishing restrictions in the South East	4
12	Letter from Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development to constituent dated 20/4/2024 re fishing restrictions due to Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis	2
13	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 28/2/2024 re Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis detection in Port MacDonnell	4

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”

The information removed consists of the following:

- Documents 1 and 6 - Mobile telephone numbers of Ministerial and Departmental officers
- Documents 4a and 12 – Names of individuals
- Documents 5 and 11 – Name of individuals and mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers
- Documents 10 and 13 – Mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers

The term ‘personal affairs’ has been held to involve ‘matters of private concern to an individual’ and the ‘composite collection of activities personal to the individual concerned’.

As a mobile telephone number allows a person, including an officer of an agency, to be contacted outside of business hours and is information that is not ordinarily available to the public, the information is taken to concern the personal affairs of an individual.

The individuals concerned have not consented to the release of their names and it is therefore considered that there would be an expectation that this information would not be released.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

Determination 3

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
4	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 28/2/2025 re Closure of Southern Zone Abalone Fishery	6
4d	Attachment to Document 4: Southern Zone Abalone Industry AVG meeting minutes dated 31/1/2025	2
4e	Attachment to Document 4: Southern Zone Abalone Industry AVG meeting minutes dated 25/2/2025	3
7	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regions dated 27/11/2024 re notification of use of Minister's powers	3

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) and Clause 9(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The information removed pursuant to Clause 6(1) consists of the following:

- Document 4 – Name of individual and other identifying information
- Document 4d and 4e – Names of individuals
- Document 7 - Mobile and landline telephone numbers of a Departmental officer

The individuals concerned have not consented to the release of their names and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that this information would not be released.

It is considered that members of the public can correspond with Members of Parliament without fear that their identities are released.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

Clause 9(1) states:

“9—Internal working documents

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter—

(a) that relates to -

(i) any opinion, advice or recommendation that has been obtained, prepared or recorded; or

(ii) any consultation or deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purpose of, the decision-making functions of the Government, a Minister or an agency; and

(b) the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

The information removed pursuant to Clause 9(1) consists of detail relating to matters for internal decision-making purposes.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 9(1) exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

In favour of the public interest:

- Meeting the objects of the Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- High level of community and media interest in the issue.

Contrary to the public interest:

- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters
- Protection of the deliberative processes of Government.
- Providing an agency with the ability to brief its Minister without unnecessary interference.
- Allowing internal communications to occur in a reasonably uninhibited manner, particularly where the discussion is of a sensitive nature.
- Release of this information would discourage the flow of free exchange of ideas and options during deliberative processes.
- The confidentiality of some details must be maintained for internal decision-making purposes of Government.
- Disclosing this information may compromise the manner in which information is gathered in the future for the decision-making processes of Government to the detriment of the betterment for South Australia.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Determination 4

I have determined that access to the following document is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
8	Enclosure to a Cabinet Submission - Report addressed to Members of the Legislative Review Committee	16

Access to the above document is refused pursuant to Clause 1(1)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“1 – Cabinet Documents

(1) A document is an exempt document –

(a) if it is a document that has been specifically prepared for submission to Cabinet (whether or not it has been submitted)

The document consists of an attachment to a Cabinet document which has been specifically prepared for submission to Cabinet, whether or not it had been submitted.

Determination 5

I have determined that access to the following documents is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
2	Parliamentary Briefing Note dated 7/3/2025 re Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis	12
9	Parliamentary Briefing Note dated 12/8/2024 re Aquatic Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness	5

Access to the above documents is refused pursuant to Clause 17(c) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“17 – Documents subject to contempt etc

*A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the public disclosure of which would, but for any immunity of the Crown –
(c) infringe the privilege of Parliament.”*

The documents consist of briefing notes which were specifically prepared for the purpose of use in proceedings in Parliament. Disclosure of this information would infringe the privilege of Parliament.

If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving this determination.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 8226 8699 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA’s disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Rachael Colegate on 8226 2931 or email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. M. Scriven". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

14 / 5 / 2025

Houston, Jaime (PIRSA)

From: Jones, Lucas (PIRSA)
Sent: Monday, 26 February 2024 5:14 PM
To: Mount Gambier EO; PIRSA:Minister Scriven
Cc: Spencer, Meagan (PIRSA); Bell, Troy; Fatchen, Travis
Subject: RE: Banning of fishing - abalone viral ganglioneuritis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Advisor Query

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Denise,

Thanks for your time on the phone just now. As discussed, please see below the answers to the questions raised this morning.

If you have any additional or follow up questions please let us know.

1. Will boat ramps along the control area coastline have signs erected on them notifying that fishing is banned along the coast line?

Yes. There are currently electronic signs at Port Macdonnell and at the Nene Valley beach access point, and printed signs are being developed now for installation at boat ramps in the Control Area.

2. If an amateur fisher person pulled a craypot on Friday, is that crayfish that they caught ok to be eaten?

Yes, AVG has no impact on human health, but any crayfish (rock lobster) taken from that area before the controls were in place must be eaten where it's currently stored and not moved further. Controls came into place around 11pm Friday 23 February; from that point on, nothing can be taken from the Control Area.

3. Are you allowed to swim in the control area?

Yes, but you cannot take anything from the ocean or the shore, to reduce the risk of spreading AVG.

4. Are dogs allowed to go swimming in the control area?

Yes, the risk of the virus being spread through water on your dog is low. Give your dog a wash with fresh water and your usual dog shampoo after swimming in the control area.

5. Where can the community go to for more information (besides the PIRSA website) if the question they have is not covered on that page?

Call Fishwatch on 1800 065 522.

Regards,

Lucas

Lucas Jones | Senior Ministerial Advisor
Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Office of the Minister for Forest Industries

Level 10, 1 King William Street, Adelaide | GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
P: +61 8 8226 2931 | M: Clause 6(1) E: lucas.jones@sa.gov.au



**Government of
South Australia**

From: Mount Gambier EO <MtGambier@parliament.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 10:30 AM
To: PIRSA:Minister Scriven <Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Spencer, Meagan (PIRSA) <meagan.spencer@sa.gov.au>; Jones, Lucas (PIRSA) <lucas.jones@sa.gov.au>; Bell, Troy <Troy.Bell@parliament.sa.gov.au>; Fatchen, Travis <Travis.Fatchen@parliament.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Banning of fishing - abalone viral ganglioneuritis

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mtgambier@parliament.sa.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning Minister

Following the recent ban announced last week Troy has been approached by many constituents with questions.

Can you please advise who Troy or a representative from our office can contact to seek immediate answers.

The most common questions appear below, and it would be appreciated if we could have answers to these today.

1. Will boat ramps along the control area coastline have signs erected on them notifying that fishing is banned along the coast line?
2. If an amateur fisher person pulled a craypot on Friday, is that crayfish that they caught ok to be eaten?
3. Are you allowed to swim in the control area?
4. Are dogs allowed to go swimming in the control area?
5. Where can the community go to for more information (besides the PIRSA website) if the question they have is not covered on that page?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards.

Denise Urquhart | Electorate Assistant

TROY BELL MP
Member for Mount Gambier



Electorate Office
24A Bay Road, Mount Gambier SA 5290
Phone (08) 8724 9944

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, access to it is unauthorised and any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it is prohibited and may be unlawful.

Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
GPO Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001

By email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au

14 March 2025

Dear Minister,

I am writing regarding the awareness of the Abalone Viral ganglioneuritis in South Australia.

After a recent lunch I held with members of South Australia's South-East community, it was brought to my attention that there is still very little knowledge of the virus and its potential implications on South Australia's South-East coast. This is despite the Abalone Viral ganglioneuritis being confirmed in water near Port MacDonnell approximately 12 months ago.

I would like to understand:

- How are PIRSA minimising the risk of disease spread through recreational divers travelling the state?
- What protocols does the Department for Primary Industries and Regions SA have in place to track recreational divers across South Australia?
- Has the Department communicated with recreational divers about the implications of Abalone Viral ganglioneuritis and how it is spread?

I would appreciate an update from your Department on any other related matters to this issue, and I look forward to your response.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nicola Centofanti'.

Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council
Shadow Minister for Regional South Australia
Shadow Minister for Primary Industries
Shadow Minister for Water Resources & the River Murray

📍 Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000 @ centofanti.office@parliament.sa.gov.au
☎ (08) 8237 9350 📘 [NicolaCentofantiMLC](https://www.facebook.com/NicolaCentofantiMLC) 🌐 [nicolacentofanti.com.au](https://www.nicolacentofanti.com.au)

Printed and authorised by N. Centofanti, Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000





Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: A6741031

For	Noting
Critical Date	Urgent (to enable implementation of new arrangements for stock recovery)
Subject	Closure of Southern Zone Abalone Fishery due to Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG)

Synopsis

The Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, intends to close the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery (SZAF) due to Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG). The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) commenced surveys in the SZAF in February 2025 with preliminary results indicating depletion of Abalone stocks in the zone between 41% and 95% in the areas surveyed to date due to AVG-induced mortality.

The Executive Director has considered the outcomes of the survey, observations recorded by commercial fishers indicating AVG is now spread throughout the entire zone, and a request from the SZAF industry to close the fishery, and determined a closure to all fishing for Abalone in the zone is considered necessary and appropriate to support rebuilding of depleted stocks. The closure will prohibit take of Abalone over the entire SZAF zone for all fishing sectors and will be in place initially for 12 months while longer-term arrangements are considered. A specific monitoring program to observe rate of Abalone stock recovery will be designed and implemented during the initial closure period.

Recommendations

That you note:

1. Southern Zone Abalone Management Inc, as the representative body for the SZAF has requested the SZAF be closed to fishing.
2. Diver observations of AVG-affected Abalone from throughout the SZAF have been provided to PIRSA indicating that AVG is now present throughout the whole zone.
3. The Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, as your delegate, intends to temporarily prohibit fishing for Abalone in the SZAF under Section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* prohibiting the take of all Abalone in the SZAF by recreational and commercial fishers.
4. PIRSA is coordinating a media strategy to communicate the arrangements under the fishery closure.

5. PIRSA is considering fee relief for commercial licence holders in the SZAF whilst the fishery is closed.

NOTED



Hon Clare Scriven MLC

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**

Minister for Forest Industries

28/2 / 2025

Ministerial Comments

Background

- [Clause 6\(1\)](#) [Clause 6\(1\)](#) of the Southern Zone Abalone Management Inc (SZAM), representing the commercial Southern Zone Abalone Fishery (SZAF) has recommended the SZAF be closed to fishing due to impacts of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) (**Attachment A**).
- Abalone herpes virus (Haliotid herpesvirus 1), the disease that causes AVG, is a notifiable disease under the *Livestock Act 1997* (LS Act). The virus is specific to Abalone, causing weakness and eventually death with up to 90% mortality in some instances.
- The first record of AVG in South Australia was confirmed from samples of dead and dying Abalone from Breaksea Reef, offshore from Port MacDonnell in the state's South East within the SZAF on 23 February 2024. Further background information about AVG and the response to the outbreak are provided in various briefings (A6292642, A6612996, A6697336) and PBNs (see A6648208).
- To support recovery of Abalone stocks affected by AVG a closure area was implemented between Breaksea Reef (in March 2024 - A6212350) with an extension to Nene Valley (in May 2024 - A6289737) to support stock recovery. This closure prohibits the take of marine bottom-dwelling species including Abalone, Rock Lobster and Turbo until 31 May 2025, unless amended or revoked earlier.
- Fishing in the SZAF continued in 2024 to February 2025 under the operating and decontamination procedures described in a [Code of Practice \(CoP\)](#) developed in April 2024 in consultation with stakeholders. Management of fishing under the CoP allowed fishing to continue where possible with appropriate mitigation measures to limit human-induced spread of AVG.

Discussion

- The SZAF commercial divers have been providing the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) with reports of observations from daily diving activities, including any observations of sick or dying Abalone as indicators of the potential spread of AVG in the SZAF. Reports of sick and dead Abalone in marine waters between Beachport and Cape Jaffa were received by PIRSA from December 2024 to February 2025 from commercial SZAF divers and other sources (**Attachment B and C**). These reports indicate AVG is likely present in these areas, and throughout the entire zone.
- Industry members were advised at a meeting between industry, PIRSA and SARDI on 31 January 2025 that if the stocks were reduced to levels considered to be "depleted" it would be appropriate to close the fishery to support stock rebuilding (**Attachment D**).
- SARDI commenced "baseline" surveys in the main fishing areas of the SZAF in February 2025 to estimate the current level of depletion of stock in the fishery. Preliminary results of surveys at five key areas indicate levels of depletion of up to 96% with average depletion across the areas surveyed to date estimated between 79% and 88% (**Table 1**).

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Table 1: Preliminary results from SARDI SZAF AVG baseline surveys.

Site	No transects	Count Previous Survey	Count Feb 2025	% reduction
Breakesea Reef	6	1736	78	96
Gerloffs Bay	10	522	308	41
Middle Point	5	382	58	85
Douglas Bay	5	218	12	94
No 2 Rocks (partial)	7	486	101	79
		Average % reduction		79
		Average % reduction (exc. Gerloffs)		88

- It is considered likely that the virus is now spread throughout the SZAF, the preliminary SARDI survey results indicate that the AVG impact on the SZAF stocks is significant and the stock is likely at, or close to “depleted” levels.
- Given the biology of Abalone it is considered likely that recovery of depleted stocks will require significant time of five plus years to possibly a decade. For example, following an outbreak of AVG in Victoria in 2006-07, resulting in a closure of some areas for up to three years and then limited fishing at around 10% of pre-AVG levels since, the stock has realised only limited stock rebuilding. The experience of the AVG outbreak in Victoria indicates harvesting of any Abalone could impact on the recovery time of depleted Abalone stocks.
- A closure to all fishing (i.e., commercial and recreational) for Abalone in the SZAF is considered necessary and appropriate to support rebuilding the Abalone stocks in this zone as quickly as possible.
- PIRSA met with the SZAF industry members on 25 February 2025 to discuss their request to close the fishery (**Attachment E**). At that meeting discussion of the following items were noted:
 - The available updated information on the AVG outbreak indicates significant mortality throughout the zone.
 - Proposed management arrangements for closing the fishery including prohibiting the take of all Abalone across the whole zone by all fishers.
 - A closure would likely be required for an extended period of time to achieve stock recovery.
 - Monitoring would be undertaken by SARDI during the closure with outcomes communicated to industry. Industry may also provide observations to SARDI.
 - A strategic communication plan would be developed prior to implementation of the closure.
- The temporary closure will be implemented in the first instance under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. A declaration to prohibit a fishing activity under this section of the Act can be in place for a maximum of 12 months and may be renewed once for a further period of 12 months. Beyond this period, PIRSA will consider longer-term arrangements via regulations to support Abalone rebuilding in the SZAF.
- **Clause 9(1)**

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- The SZAF industry requested the closure to the fishery and was supportive of the closure at a meeting on 25 February 2025. Industry has been comprehensively consulted throughout the outbreak and are aware of the available information on the extent of the current AVG impact. Most recently PIRSA met with the industry members of the SZAF on 31 January 2025 and 25 February 2025 (**Attachment D and E**).
- A communication plan to advise the community of the closure and why it is necessary will be developed as soon as possible prior to implementation of the closure notice.
- A Notice to Fishers and letters to relevant industry representatives, RecFish SA and other stakeholders will be provided. The Seafood Industry South Australia (SISA) and RecFish SA have been informed of the proposed actions.
- In 2022-23, the SZAF contributed approximately \$5.3 million in revenue. Closure of the commercial Abalone industry would have significant impact on the industry divers and licence holders with flow-on benefits to the community. Closure of recreational fishing for Abalone in the SZAF will also impact on the recreational sector and tourism in the Limestone Coast, noting other recreational fishing activities will be unaffected by the closure.

Management of key risks

- The SZAM requested an exemption to the fishery closure to enable Greenlip Abalone to be harvested from two areas of the SZAF (**Attachment A**). This request is not supported as AVG effects all species of Abalone. It is therefore considered that the impact of AVG on Abalone would be similar to Greenlip Abalone as Blacklip Abalone and the same protection through the fishery closure is required for both species.
- A notice under the Livestock Act is in place requiring diving and fishing equipment and anchors that have come in contact with the sea floor in the Southern Zone to be decontaminated prior to use in waters outside of the Southern Zone to mitigate the risk of spread of AVG to other fishing zones (A6217734). In addition, the notice controls the possession of Abalone and marine benthic species sourced from the waters of the Southern Zone in fish processing facilities. These arrangements will remain in place.
- Management controls are in place under the *Fisheries Management Act 2017* prohibiting the use of Abalone as bait or berley to appropriately mitigate the spread of AVG.
- A strategic communication plan will be implemented and include targeted key messaging to identified stakeholders and the community about the fishing closure.
- The presence of AVG in the SZAF has significantly impacted the Abalone industry throughout South Australia with restrictions on the movement of unprocessed Abalone to Victoria and New South Wales. PIRSA will remain in communication with the other jurisdictions to respond to any further concerns they have about the AVG outbreak in the SZAF.

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Legislative and/or financial implications

- Section 79(1) of the Act provides that the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette—
 - (a) declare that it is unlawful for a person to engage in a fishing activity of a specified class during a specified period;
 - (b) declare that it is unlawful for a person to have possession or control of aquatic resources of a specified species during a specified period;
 - (c) vary or revoke such a declaration.
- By instrument dated 13 December 2024, you delegated certain powers and functions under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to the position of Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture. Under this instrument the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture has the power to issue, vary or revoke a declaration by notice under Section 79 of the Act.
- Pending approval of fee relief for the SZAF for 2025-26, the costs associated with the program of services will be sought through Government or will be a budget pressure for PIRSA. Approval for funding of the program will be sought through the appropriate process once the program is developed and costed.

Attachments

- A. SZAM meeting minutes 20 February 2025
- B. Map of progress of AVG in 2024
- C. Map of diver observations of AVG in the SZAF
- D. Meeting minutes – Industry meeting 31 January 2025
- E. Draft Meeting minutes – Industry meeting 25 February 2025



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

26/2/2025

CONTACT	Prof Gavin Begg
POSITION	Executive Director
DIVISION	Fisheries & Aquaculture
MOBILE	Clause 6(1)
Cleared by	Dr Annabel Jones, General Manager Fisheries Management

SOUTHERN ZONE ABALONE MANAGEMENT Inc.

**Meeting #34 Thursday 20th February, 2025
Commodore Motel – 1pm**

Meeting start: 12.55pm

Present – Clause 6(1) – Chair/Secretary

- Clause 6(1)
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Apologies

Clause 6(1) [Redacted]

**Confirmation previous Minutes #33 – Clause 6(1)
Carried.**

Closure of Fishery

That the Industry voluntarily close the entire fishery for a period of 12 months (includes area already gazetted) effective 20th February, 2025. An exemption in place to fish Greenlip only in SAU1 and SAU2 until quota is caught.

**Moved A03 – Clause 6(1) seconded A06 – Clause 6(1)
Carried – 5 – 1 Clause 6(1)**

Other Business:

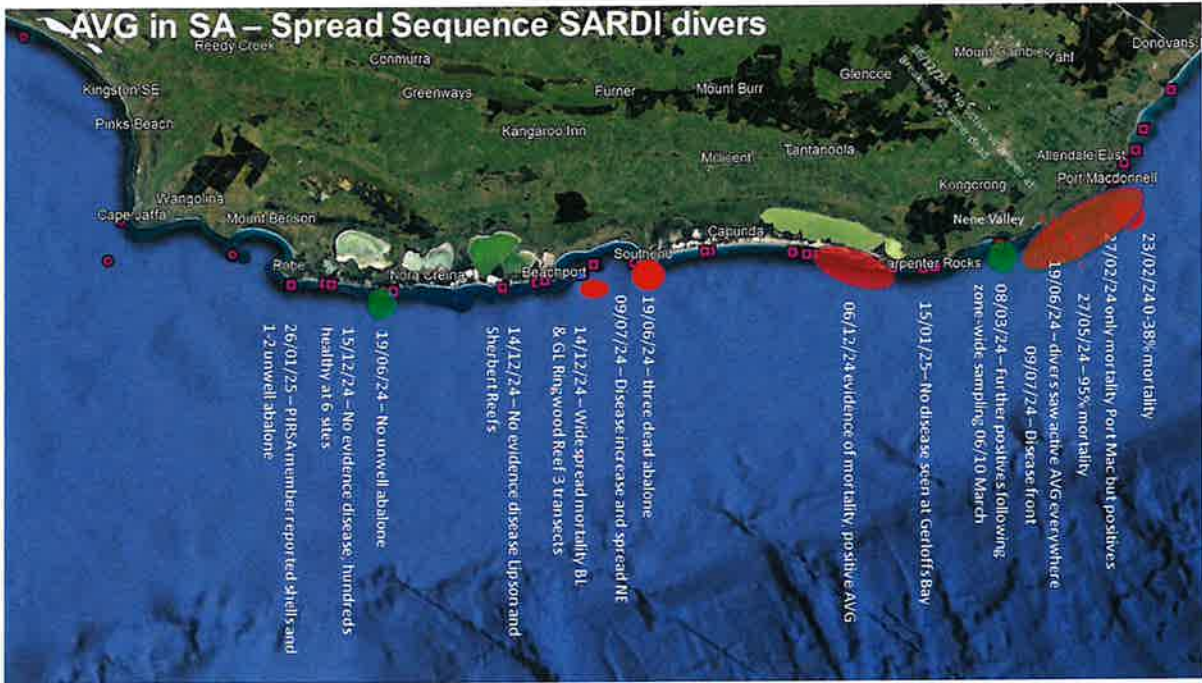
Questions for PIRSA –

- 1. How to stop Recreational Diving for the 12-month period.**
- 2. What relief will be available regarding licence fees for 2025 - 2026.**
- 3. What Grants/funding are available in order to conduct surveys of fishing areas other than the transact lines.**

Meeting closed 1.40pm.

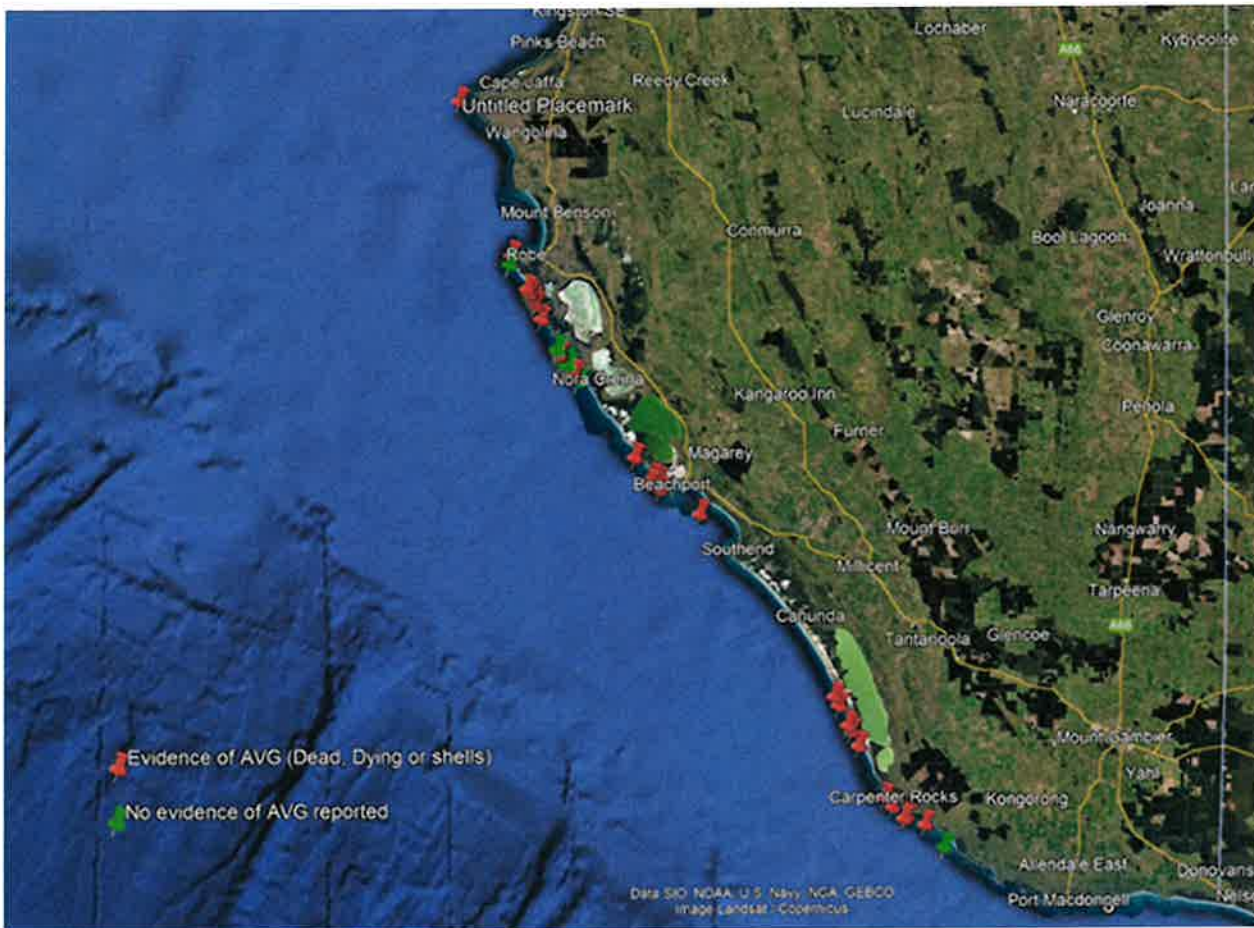
Chair – Clause 6(1)

Attachment B



SARDI observations of AVG progress in SZAF from February 2024. Areas in red indicate AVG observations and mortality rates and/or confirmed AVG in samples.

Attachment C: Map of diver observations



Southern Zone Abalone Industry AVG Meeting

Friday 31 January 2025

10:00 am

PIRSA Office, Krummel St, Mt Gambier and online

Attendees: Clause 6(1)

Online: Clause 6(1)

Agenda

1) Updated situation

SARDI provided a presentation setting out the progression of the virus since first being identified in February 2024 through the SARDI surveys, diver reports and other reports from other sources. It was acknowledged by Industry and SARDI that it was likely the whole area of the fishery was now affected.

SARDI also provided some information related to the response to AVG in Victoria and noted that fishing is likely to impact on stock recovery.

Industry noted that the areas that remained open to fishing was producing some good catches, noting in some cases this was in areas divers had not fished previously and were not familiar with. Divers also acknowledged they were encountering areas where AVG had affected stocks.

2) Response options to current situation

A request from an Industry member to close the whole fishery was considered. The motion was not supported by the majority of licence holders. The majority of industry members supported fishing to continue utilizing the arrangements described in the Code of Practice with an agreement to close SAU 2, Ringwood SAU and South End as a voluntary industry closure.

3) Catch Caps and SAU catch

The catch caps agreed at the 2024/25 TACC meeting with industry of 1 August 2024 and the total catch in each SAU to date was presented and considered. Industry members advised there had been an industry agreement to increase catch caps at several SAUs. It was noted that with many areas of the SZAF now impacted by fishing, divers were looking for areas where healthy fish could be located. It was noted the areas to the west of the fishery have only been lightly fished for many years. Although the catch caps are a voluntary industry arrangement, it was noted that PIRSA had not formally endorsed these changes.

4) Baseline survey

SARDI advised participants they would be undertaking a “baseline” survey of the main area of the fishery as early as possible, commencing in February 2025 to:

- determine the current extent of impact of AVG in the SZAF;
- estimate the current level of depletion of the Abalone stock in the fishery, which will provide a baseline level for future analyses and understanding of stock recovery.

The outcome of this survey would be considered in implementing appropriate management arrangements to ensure adequate protection for Abalone stocks through enabling the greatest opportunities for stock recovery. In the case the survey indicated high levels of mortality of Abalone across the Zone, potential management options may include closing the fishery to enable stock recovery. It was acknowledged that this was a serious decision with significant impact on industry, but it is the responsibility of Government to protect stocks from being overexploited and any fishing of a depleted stock would likely prolong stock recovery. PIRSA indicated such a closure, if required, would be across all fishing for Abalone by recreational and commercial fishers.

5) TACC Setting Process

It was noted that a decision on a TACC for 2025/26 would be informed by the outcome of the baseline survey and would take into account the extent of AVG-impact across the SZAF. The timing of a discussion on the 2025/26 TACC would be considered once the baseline survey outcome was known.

6) AVG Communication activities

PIRSA compliance provided an update of the communications related to AVG recently including road signs at key locations in the state, media posts and social media along with various other avenues. The communications implemented encourages ongoing reporting of suspected disease and mortalities via the Fishwatch Hotline as well as biosecurity and reporting measures.

7) Other business

Clause 9(1)



MEETING MINUTES

Document 4e

Southern Zone Abalone Industry AVG Meeting**Tuesday 25 February 2025**

11:00 am

PIRSA Office, Krummel St, Mt Gambier and online

Attendees: Clause 6(1)

Online: Clause 6(1)

Apologies: Clause 6(1)
Clause 6(1)**Discussions**

1. Update of SARDI survey results and diver reports (SARDI)

SARDI provided a presentation including a map depicting AVG presence from diver surveys from West of Douglas Bay to Cape Jaffa.

SARDI is undertaking structured surveys. While these surveys are not as yet completed, the preliminary results indicate that Abalone abundance at survey sites are significantly below previous surveys in all sites.

Average reduction of Abalone indicated in the recent surveys is 79%. It was noted that Gerloffs Bay has areas of lower mortality rates than other areas and if Gerloffs was omitted from the overall survey results the mortality rate in other areas is 88%.

2. Industry position on status

SZAM Secretary indicated the industry position was to voluntarily close the fishery except for SAU 1 and SAU2 for Greenlip Abalone.

The PIRSA Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, noted that a closure to the fishery was a highly significant decision and would not be taken lightly. PIRSA supports the industry request for a closure of the SZAF based on evidence available from surveys and diver observations, and the known information on Abalone biology and experience from other jurisdictions.

AVG effects both of the South Australian commercially fished Abalone species and likely those species not fished commercially, therefore, PIRSA was not supportive of omitting Greenlip from the closure and the Executive Director indicated a closure would apply to all species of Abalone across the whole of the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery.

1. Proposed management arrangements (PIRSA)

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The closure would initially be implemented under Section 79 of the Fisheries Management Act for 12 months in the first instance and this notice can be repeated once for a further 12 months. Longer term arrangements would require a regulation change.

It is known from the experience of the Victorian and Tasmanian AVG outbreaks that recovery from AVG is likely to take a number of years (five years or more) and regulation changes will likely be needed.

It was noted that regulation changes do not mean the fishery would be closed permanently and it was acknowledged that the fishery could reopen following adequate rebuilding of the stocks.

It was noted that on implementation of the SZAF-wide abalone closure (which would apply to both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors), the current closure at Breaksea to Nene Valley would be revoked. The SZAF-wide closure would then be limited to Abalone take only and would allow for other species, such as Turbo and Rock Lobster, to be harvested throughout the closure area.

Diver reports from the area between the Victorian border and Breaksea had observed very few Abalone in that area and that weed has begun overgrowing areas where Abalone would have previously been present. The overgrowth of algae in areas depleted of Abalone has been reported in other countries and may be a reason they have experienced low recruitment. This phenomena would be worth monitoring in the future.

The Executive Director indicated the proposed closure will likely take 1 – 2 weeks to finalise to allow for necessary planning and strategic communications to align with implementation of the closure.

2. Monitoring

SARDI is currently undertaking baseline surveys at sites that have been historically surveyed. Based on industry feedback, they also plan to undertake surveys in new areas such as:

- Cape Jaffa (Robe)
- Beachport
- Southend
- Admella
- Red Rock Bay
- Nora Creina.

Surveys of the same locations would be repeated annually in the following years to monitor recovery of Abalone stocks during the closure. Reports on the outcomes of SARDI annual surveys in the form of an advice note will be provided to industry on completion.

It was noted that the information provided in diver observation reports have been useful to monitor the progress of the outbreak and if divers want to continue to do this reporting during the closure (albeit not catching) the additional information would be useful. Reports can continue to be provided to SARDI and PIRSA.

3. Fee relief (PIRSA)

The Executive Director indicated the 2025-26 licence fees would be set at zero to provide some relief to licence holders. The SARDI monitoring program and other PIRSA management activities undertaken during the closure would be at no cost to industry.

The 2024-25 fees are still payable as around 65% of quota has been taken to date and a range of activities have been undertaken by Government during the current financial year.

Industry raised the issue of further support, such as consideration of a buy-back of licenses, other activities for divers, etc.

4. AVG communication activities (PIRSA)

Communications will continue to be an important component of the AVG response and PIRSA will develop a strategic and targeted plan to ensure the SZAF closure is clearly communicated and understood by community, particularly recreational fishers. This program would include signage, social messaging and a range of other avenues. The focus would be on communicating what the closure is and why the closure is required. This messaging would include that the closure in the SZAF was to support stock recovery to allow for the fishery to reopen in the future.

5. Other business

Reseeding/translocation

The consideration of reseeded as a recovery option was discussed. PIRSA noted that reseeded required breeding stock to be obtained from the area where juveniles were to be released to ensure genetic diversity is maintained. This requirement means that reseeded takes some time to achieve. It was also noted that reseeded (or translocation) of any areas in the SZAF would be best undertaken when it was certain AVG was no longer present to enable best chance of success. At this stage it was considered not a viable option.

Rock Lobster Pots risk

Clause 6(1) requested information about the risk assessment undertaken in regard to use of rock lobster pots.

The PIRSA Aquatic Animal Health Manager noted that observations of the SA outbreak indicated that there was an outbreak front that appeared to run westward from the initial outbreak site at Breaksea to Southend between February and May 2024. The risk assessment undertaken during the outbreak was in consideration of the whole Southern Zone area based on the fact there was continuous reef structure and Abalone populations across the whole zone. This was a significant consideration in undertaking the risk assessment. It was also noted there was a separation to Central Zone and Western Zone Abalone fishing areas and hence the inclusion of management arrangements requiring all fishing gear that has been used in the SZAF to be decontaminated prior to use in any other zone.



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: A6697336

For	Noting
Critical Date	Routine
Subject	Update on Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) outbreak in the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery

Synopsis

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) was first confirmed in wild Abalone in waters of the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery (SZAF) in February 2024. Recent reports from industry indicate AVG is now likely active in all areas of the SZAF. A meeting with industry held on 31 January 2025 discussed the current situation, at which industry requested the fishery remain open. A full survey of the SZAF will be undertaken in February/March 2025 by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) to determine the current level of depletion of Abalone stocks in the region from AVG, the outcomes of which may be that the stock is classified as "depleted" in which case closure of the fishery would be considered. It is likely rebuilding of a depleted Abalone stock may take a decade or more.

Recommendations

That you:

- Note the brief.

NOTED

Hon Clare Scriven MLC

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**

Minister for Forest Industries

26/2/2025

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Background

- Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) was confirmed from samples of dead and dying Abalone from Breaksea Reef offshore near Port MacDonnell in the state's South East within the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery (SZAF) on 23 February 2024. This was the first record of AVG in South Australia.
- Abalone herpes virus (Haliotid herpesvirus 1), the disease that causes AVG, is a notifiable disease under the *Livestock Act 1997* (LS Act). The virus is specific to Abalone, causing weakness and eventually death. Up to 90% mortality can occur in some instances.
- To support recovery of Abalone stocks affected by AVG a closure area between Breaksea Reef and Nene Valley has been implemented prohibiting the take of marine bottom-dwelling species including Abalone, Rock Lobster and Turbo shells until 31 May 2025, unless amended or revoked earlier.
- A [Code of Practice \(CoP\)](#) was developed in April 2024 in consultation with stakeholders describing operating and decontamination procedures for fishers. Management of fishing under the CoP allows for fishing to continue in AVG effected zones where possible with appropriate mitigation measures to limit human-induced spread of AVG.
- A notice under the LS Act is also in place requiring diving and fishing equipment and anchors that have come in contact with the sea floor in the Southern Zone to be decontaminated prior to use in waters outside of the Southern Zone to mitigate the risk of spread of AVG to other fishing zones (A6217734). In addition, the notice controls the possession of Abalone and marine benthic species sourced from the waters of the Southern Zone in fish processing facilities.
- Further background information about AVG and the response to the outbreak in 2024 are provided in various briefings (A6292642, A6612996) and PBNs (see A6648208).

Discussion

- Reports of sick and dead Abalone in marine waters between Beachport and Robe were received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) in December 2024 and January 2025 from commercial SZAF divers and other sources (**Attachment A** and **B**). While samples from these Abalone are not available for testing these reports indicate AVG is likely present in these areas.
- It is considered likely that the virus is now spread throughout the SZAF. It is also likely that Abalone stocks in the zone are now impacted by the disease including mortality of at least some proportion of the stock. SARDI surveys of the initial AVG outbreak site at Breaksea Reef identified levels of mortality of 95% (**Attachment A**) and it is likely that mortality rates in that range can be expected in other impacted areas.
- Given the biology of Abalone reproduction it is considered likely that recovery of depleted stocks will require significant time of possibly a decade or more. For example, following an outbreak of AVG in Victoria in 2006-07, resulting in a closure of some areas for up to three years and then limited fishing at around 10% of pre-AVG levels since, the stock has realised only limited stock rebuilding.
- PIRSA and SARDI met with the SZAF licence holders and divers on 31 January 2025 to consider and discuss management of fishing in the SZAF in consideration of the current AVG situation in that fishing zone.
- At that meeting a majority of industry members indicated they were still able to locate areas where Abalone were seemingly uninfected and could commercially fish those

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areas in economic quantities. The majority of licence holders supported continuation of fishing in the SZAF at this time.

- The meeting considered the potential impact of removal of remaining fish on rebuilding of the stock if mortality reduces stock abundance to levels considered as “depleted”. The meeting participants noted the protracted recovery time of a decade or more that may be required to recover a depleted Abalone stock.
- At that meeting SARDI advised participants that they would be undertaking a survey of the main area of the fishery in February and March 2025 to:
 - 1) determine the current extent of impact of AVG in the SZAF;
 - 2) estimate the current level of depletion of the Abalone stock in the fishery, which will provide a baseline level for future analyses.

The survey will provide evidence of the extent of AVG impact in the SZAF and the stock status. Industry members were advised that if the stock has been reduced to levels considered to be “depleted” it would be considered appropriate to close the fishery to support stock rebuilding. It was advised that if the Abalone Fishery was closed, the closure would be applied to all fishing sectors to support the greatest rate of stock recovery.

- Commercial Abalone divers are providing SARDI and PIRSA with reports of observations from daily diving activities, including any indicators of AVG. These reports will be monitored to gauge the continued AVG impacts in the SZAF.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- The representative industry association has requested a further meeting with industry members once the SARDI surveys are completed. PIRSA will facilitate this meeting once the survey results are available, or sooner if other information becomes available.

Management of key risks

- Management controls remain in place under the LS Act including restrictions on the movement of fishing gear outside of the SZAF without appropriate decontamination and the use of Abalone as bait or berley. A ban on the use of any part of any Abalone species as bait or berley is also in place. It is considered these arrangements provide for appropriate mitigation of the spread of AVG to fishing areas outside of the SZAF.
- A strategic communication plan has been developed and implemented around AVG and includes targeted key messaging to identified stakeholders and the community and encourages ongoing reporting of suspected disease and mortalities via the Fishwatch Hotline. PIRSA considers this communication plan is an essential component to mitigate the risk of human-induced spread of AVG to other Abalone fishing zones in South Australia.
- PIRSA acknowledges the impacts the AVG outbreak is having and will continue to have on the SZAF industry. In 2022-23, South Australia’s Abalone fishing industry generated \$35 million in revenue, which is the wholesale value of processed wild catch and aquaculture Abalone in the State. The SZAF contributed approximately \$5.3 million in revenue. Closure of the commercial Abalone industry would have significant impact on the industry divers and licence holders with flow-on benefits to the community. Closure of recreational fishing for Abalone in the SZAF will also impact on the recreational sector and tourism in the Limestone coast.

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- The presence of AVG in the SZAF has significantly impacted the Abalone industry throughout South Australia with restrictions on the movement of unprocessed Abalone to Victoria and New South Wales. PIRSA will remain in communication with the other jurisdictions to respond to any further concerns they have about the AVG outbreak in the SZAF.
- Once the SARDI survey in the SZAF is completed, the levels of stock depletion will be considered as part of future management decisions.

Legislative and/or financial implications

- Nil

Attachments

- A. Map of SARDI records of progress of AVG in SZAF
- B. Map of diver observations of AVG in the SZAF



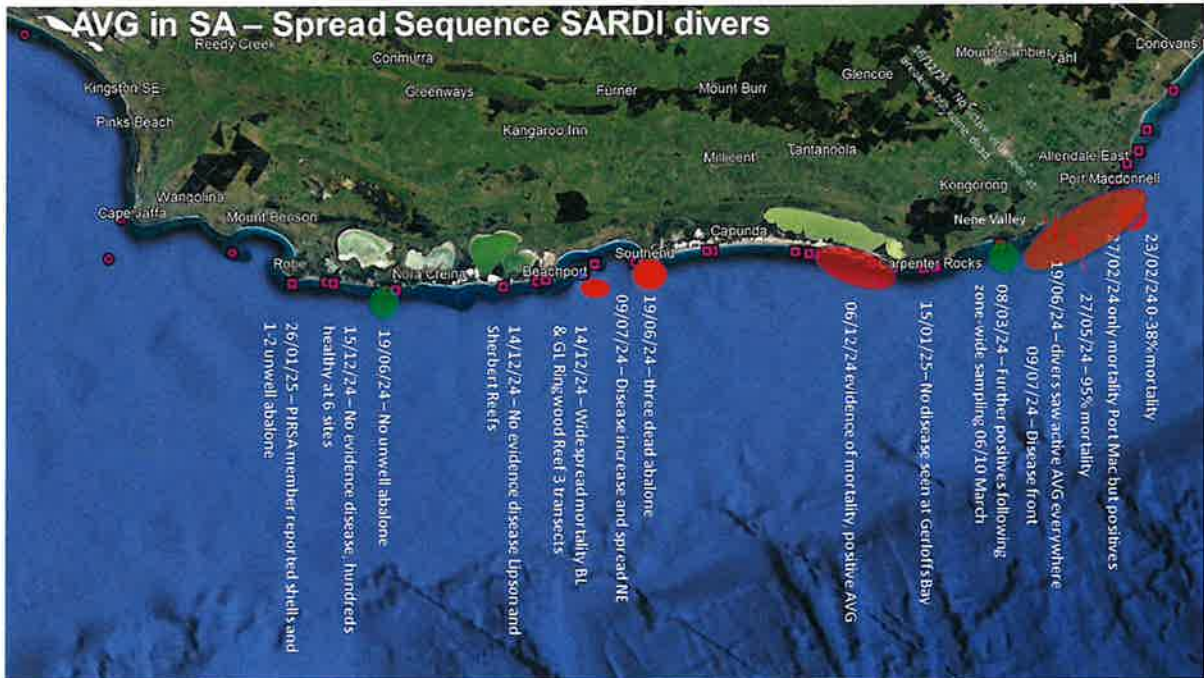
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Department of Primary Industries and Regions

7/2/2025

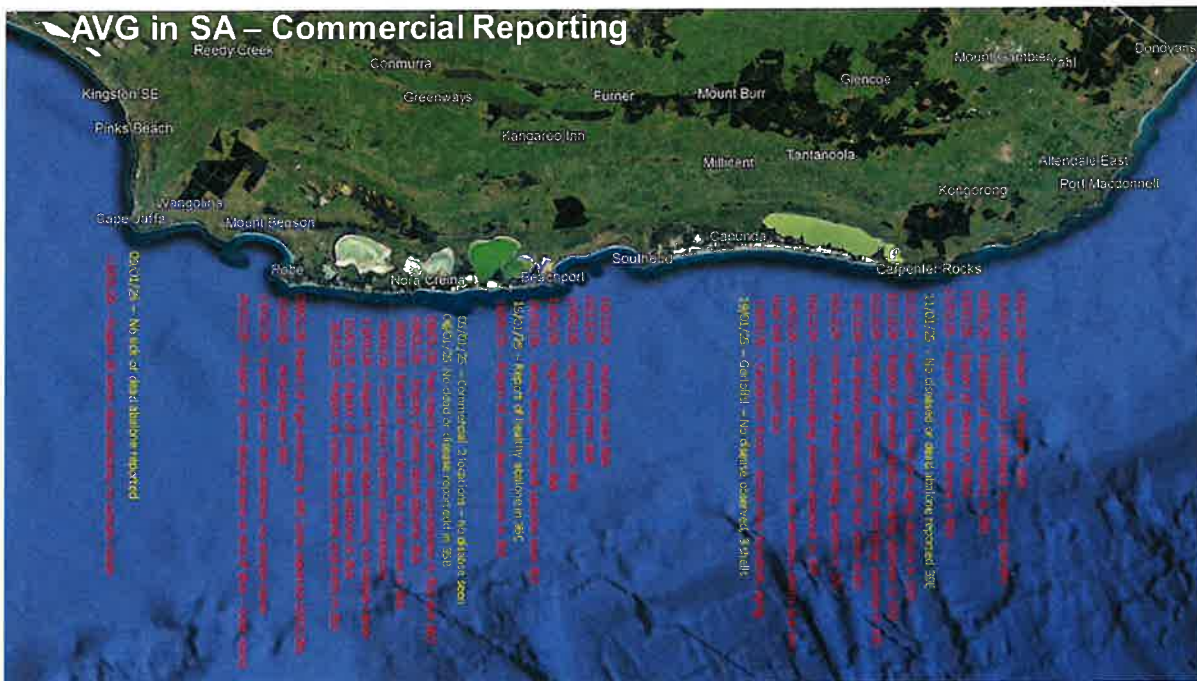
CONTACT	Prof Gavin Begg
POSITION	Executive Director
DIVISION	Fisheries & Aquaculture
MOBILE	Clause 6(1)
Cleared by	Dr Annabel Jones, General Manager Fisheries

Attachment A



SARDI observations of AVG progress in SZAF from February 2024. Areas in red indicate AVG observations and mortality rates and/or confirmed AVG in samples.

Attachment B



Daily diver observations in December 2024 to January 2025 indicating locations of diving activity. Records in red indicate observations of AVG effected Abalone. Records in yellow indicate healthy Abalone observed.



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: A6612996

For	Noting
Critical Date	Routine
Subject	Update on Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) outbreak in the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery

Synopsis

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) was first confirmed in wild abalone in waters of the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery (SZAF) in February 2024, resulting in a range of management arrangements including spatial closures in effected areas. On 10 December 2024, samples from a new area of the fishery tested positive for AVG. Surveillance activities at priority areas in the SZAF were undertaken by SARDI on 14/15 December 2024 with suspect abalone collected from a further area.

AVG is now assumed to be endemic across the SZAF and further fishing closures are unlikely to halt the spread of AVG within that fishing area and management is utilising a Code of Practice developed with industry and a strategic communication plan.

Recommendations

That you:

- Note the brief.

NOTED


 Hon Clare Scriven MLC
**Minister for Primary Industries
 and Regional Development**
Minister for Forest Industries
 21/1/2025

This confirms the verbal briefing received prior to Christmas.

Background

- On 21 February 2024, a commercial abalone fisher reported dead and dying abalone at Breaksea Reef offshore near Port MacDonnell in the South-East of South Australia (SA) within the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery (SZAF). Samples from the mortality site tested positive for the virus that causes Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) were received on 23 February 2024.
- Abalone herpes virus (Haliotid herpesvirus 1), the disease that causes AVG, is a notifiable disease under the *Livestock Act 1997* (LS Act). The virus is specific to abalone and affects the abalone nervous system, causing weakness and eventually death. Up to 90% mortality can occur in some instances.
- AVG is endemic to Tasmanian, Victorian and now South Australian wild abalone populations with the February 2024 detection in South Australia being the first recorded in this state.
- Following detection in SA, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) activated an Incident Management Team (IMT) and subsequent measures to contain the spread of disease through human activity were put in place under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* and the LS Act. A Control Area was initially declared in the Port MacDonnell area from Nene Valley in the west to the SA/Victorian border in the east, 5 nautical miles (approximately 10 km) out to sea.
- On 5 March 2024, the Control Area was extended to Southend and a Buffer Zone created between Southend and the mouth of the Murray River in response to further positive results from fish collected from Nene Valley and Nora Creina, noting these fish were not displaying active AVG symptoms. These notices expired 27 March 2024 and the areas of Nene Valley and Nora Creina were considered to be non-active areas.
- On 22 March 2024, the AVG IMT response concluded following a transition of the management arrangements to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- On 27 March 2024, a notice under the LS Act was issued providing longer-term arrangements with respect to movement of fishing equipment outside of the SZAF, with requirements prescribed for decontamination of fishing equipment and storage of live abalone in fish processing facilities.
- On 28 March 2024, a temporary closure under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* prohibiting the take of abalone and other benthic (bottom-dwelling animals) by diving was implemented at the initial outbreak site where significant mortality had been observed to support abalone stock recovery in that area.
- A [South Australian AVG Code of Practice](#) (CoP) for all affected fishing sectors was developed in collaboration with industry to provide standards for dive operations, equipment decontamination and movement of fishing equipment outside of the Southern Zone, as well as observing and reporting suspect abalone.
- On 12 May 2024, a recreational diver observed and collected a dead abalone from Stanway Point (near Southend). It was also observed by that diver that some abalone in the area were easily removed from the reef, indicating potential active symptoms of the virus. The abalone was subsequently submitted for testing. Results from that testing received on 14 May 2024 confirmed the fish was positive for the herpes virus causing AVG.
- On 23 May 2024, SARDI personnel undertook surveillance activities and identified dead and dying abalone in the area of Douglas Bay, approximately 10 km northwest of Breaksea Reef. Subsequent surveillance in this area on 27 May 2024 confirmed abalone with clinical signs including mortality rates of up to 95% in some affected

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areas. These observations were corroborated by an industry diver in the area.

- To support recovery of abalone stocks affected by AVG the closure area at Breaksea Reef was extended to include waters between Port MacDonnell and Nene Valley prohibiting the taking of marine benthic species including, but not limited to, Abalone, Rock Lobster and Turbo shells from 31 May 2024. This closure remains in place until 31 May 2025 (**Attachment A and B**)
- On 27 March 2024 (refined on 11 November 2024), a notice under the LS Act (A6217734) was implemented requiring diving and fishing equipment and anchors that have come in contact with the sea floor in the Southern Zone to be decontaminated prior to using that gear in waters outside of the Southern Zone mitigating the risk of spread of AVG to other fishing zones. In addition, the notice controls the possession of abalone and marine benthic species sourced from the waters of the Southern Zone in fish processing facilities.
- Restrictions are also in place prohibiting the use of Abalone for bait or berley under a LS Act notice dated 10 July 2023.

Discussion

- On 3 December 2024, a commercial diver observed dead and dying abalone at Number 2 Rocks, northwest of Carpenter Rocks. Samples of dead and dying abalone were subsequently collected by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) on 6 December 2024 from this location and adjacent locations to the northwest and southeast of Number 2 Rocks. Samples collected were submitted for analysis. PIRSA was advised all samples tested positive for the herpes virus that causes AVG on 10 December 2024.
- Test results received on 10 December 2024 confirmed all samples collected from the suspect area were positive for AVG. Under the CoP this area is now considered to be an "Active Area within a "Known AVG Zone". The new AVG Active Area covers approximately 31 km of coastal waters between Number 1 Rocks and Cape Banks near Carpenter Rocks and is located approximately 15 km northwest of the current closure area at Breaksea Reef/Nene Valley (**Attachment C**).
- Surveillance activities at priority areas in the SZAF were undertaken by SARDI on 14/15 December 2024 with suspect Abalone collected from Ringwood Reef in Rivoli Bay with analysis of these samples pending. Reports from independent divers were received from several other locations in the SZAF including Beachport. SARDI will attempt to collect samples from these reported locations if possible (**Attachment C**).
- PIRSA met with the SZAF licence holders and divers on 11 December 2024, and other relevant commercial fishing industries, including the Central Zone Abalone Fishery and the Western Zone Abalone Fishery, on 12 December 2024 to provide an update on the current AVG outbreak and discuss response actions. Noted at that meeting were the following key information:
 - Given the area over which AVG has now been confirmed in the SZAF, it is considered likely that the virus is now spread throughout the fishing zone.
 - Further closures are unlikely to halt the spread of AVG through the SZAF as the virus is now over a significant area of the zone and natural spread through water currents will occur.
 - The operating procedures and decontamination procedures described in the CoP are considered appropriate mitigation measures to limit human-induced spread of AVG in the SZAF while allowing for fishing activities to continue where possible.

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- Mitigation measures under the LS Act requiring decontamination of fishing and diving gear used in the Southern Zone prior to use in another fishing zone and prohibiting the use of abalone as bait or berley are considered effective mitigation measures to reduce the risk of spread of AVG outside the SZAF.
- Communication of the management arrangements is essential to ensure all fishers, including recreational fishers are aware of the need for good biosecurity procedures to be applied when fishing in the SZAF to mitigate the spread of AVG within the SZAF and to the other zones.
- Options considered to respond to the latest AVG outbreak took into account the risk of the spread of AVG to other areas of the SZAF, other abalone fishing zones, impact on commercial fishing industries and recreational fishers, and stock rebuilding of AVG-affected abalone populations. The response options considered were:
 - Status quo – Management of fishing using operating procedures described in the CoP and current management through LS Act notices and temporary fishing closures.
 - Further area closures – temporary fishing closures to be applied to:
 - Commercial and recreational fishing sectors,
 - Commercial and recreational abalone and Turbo shell fishing sectors only,
 - Recreational abalone and rock lobster diving sector only.
- The need for communication on AVG impacts, the current AVG outbreak and mitigation measures are essential to support the continued and ongoing response to the outbreak. PIRSA Strategic Communications Unit has been advised of the latest situation and a communication plan has been activated.

Recommended response

- It is recommended the response to the AVG outbreak in the SZAF be managed using the operating and decontamination procedures in the CoP, supported by a comprehensive communications strategy.
- The proposed key elements of the response relevant to the impacted fishing sectors are:

Commercial Abalone and Miscellaneous Dive Fisheries

- Clear communication to licence holders of Active Areas.
- Divers report observation of unusual numbers of sick, dying or dead abalone.
- Divers operating in the Active Area avoid fishing in areas where they observe sick, dying or dead abalone, and cease fishing if they encounter abalone suspected of being infected with AVG.
- Decontamination of diving gear as described in the CoP is applied consistently.
- The commercial SZAF industry has voluntarily undertaken to avoid fishing within 200-300 metres around known AVG positive areas and to provide reports to SARDI on each diving day providing observations of AVG effected abalone.

Commercial Rock Lobster Fishery

- Clear communication to licence holders of Active Areas.

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- Fishers to avoid fishing in known Active Areas.
- Decontamination of lobster pots as described in the CoP is applied consistently.

Recreational Abalone and Rock Lobster divers

- Communication to recreational fishers regarding:
 - The areas where AVG is known to be active.
 - Current requirements under the LS Act to decontaminate fishing gear that has been used in the SZAF prior to use in other waters outside the SZAF and the prohibition on the use of abalone for bait or berley.
 - Decontamination protocols as described in the CoP.
 - The requirement to report observations of sick or dying abalone.
- Commercial abalone industry members raised concerns related to the risk of spread of AVG to other abalone fishing zones (i.e., Central Zone and Western Zone) in SA by recreational fishing activities. Recreational diving for abalone and rock lobster are important activities for recreational fishers, particularly in the summer months. Commercial abalone industry members also raised concerns related to the risk of spread of AVG by rock lobster potting activities. Potting for rock lobster in the SZAF is an important fishing activity and a significant contributor to the regional economy and was deemed a low risk by the IMT.
- Noting that AVG is now likely to be endemic through the SZAF, and that in a marine environment the spread of the virus will naturally occur, it is considered that further fishing closures will not halt the spread of AVG in the SZAF. It is also considered that the management controls under the LS Act restricting the movement of fishing gear outside of the Southern Zone without appropriate decontamination are appropriate mitigation measures to limit the risk of spread of AVG to fishing areas outside of the SZAF.

Communication activities

- An extensive communication plan has been developed and is being implemented as a matter of urgency including the following activities:
 - Media release and talking points – proactive messaging around decontamination for fishers and divers in the South-East.
 - Focus article in the December 2024 Recreational Fishing newsletter.
 - Strategic social media posts targeting divers and fishers in the South-East.
 - Roadside signs located at Taillem Bend, Port Wakefield and at Port Augusta as key entry points from the South-East, into Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula, and at the Victorian Border.
 - Signage placed along the coast in the South-East at key dive locations, raising awareness of the virus and decontamination protocols.
 - Information posters updated and provided to industry members for distribution in areas of the Central Zone and Western Zone Abalone fisheries.
 - Website updates to current pages and homepage banner.
 - Regular emails sent to recreational fishers about biosecurity practices.
 - Radio ads – targeted to South-East with focus on biosecurity practices.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- The CoP provides standard operating procedures and decontamination directions for commercial Abalone and Rock Lobster fisheries and to a lesser extent Marine Scalefish fishers, as well as recreational fishing activities.
- A strategic communication plan has been developed and implemented and includes targeted key messaging to identified stakeholders and encourages ongoing reporting of suspected disease and mortalities via Fishwatch Hotline.
- PIRSA acknowledges the impacts the AVG outbreak is having and will continue to have on the abalone fishing industry. The new outbreak area in addition to the currently closed Port MacDonnell area contributes a significant component (around 85-90%) of the total catch of abalone commercially harvested by the SZAF. It is likely that abalone populations that suffer high levels of mortality will take decades to rebuild.
- There were an estimated 14,800 South Australian recreational fishers who undertook fishing in the South-East in 2020-21. It is important to note that the 2020-21 estimate did not include inter-state fishers fishing in the waters of the South-East.
- On 11 December 2024, an industry meeting was held with the SZAF to advise of the current situation, and to consult on management response options. On 11 December 2024, RecFish SA was also informed of the situation. Other relevant stakeholder groups will be advised of the response activities to be implemented following the expansion of the AVG outbreak in the SZAF.
- The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) has been informed of the current situation, noting it is vital to maintain access to markets in Victoria.

Management of key risks

- Further AVG surveillance in areas of the SZAF is planned to be undertaken as soon as possible by SARDI at priority locations.
- Management controls remain in place under the LS Act including restrictions on the movement of fishing gear outside of the Southern Zone without appropriate decontamination and the use of abalone as bait or berley. Additionally, from 1 January 2025 a permanent regulated ban on the use of any part of any abalone species as bait or berley will commence under the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017*. It is considered these arrangements provide for appropriate mitigation of the spread of AVG to fishing areas outside of the SZAF.
- The presence of AVG in the SZAF has significantly impacted the abalone industry with restrictions on the movement of unprocessed abalone to Victoria where much of the product from the SZAF are processed. PIRSA has worked closely with the VFA on movement restrictions such that heat-treated abalone can now be transported to Victoria for canning and in one case, a processor has been provided an exemption to transport unprocessed, chilled abalone from the SZAF to Victoria for the purposes of canning. PIRSA will remain in communication with the VFA to respond to any further concerns they have about the AVG outbreak in the SZAF.

Legislative and/or financial implications

- In 2022-23, SA's abalone fishing industry generated \$35 million in revenue, which is the wholesale value of processed wild catch and aquaculture abalone in the State. The SZAF contributed approximately \$5.3 million in revenue. The commercial

OFFICIAL

Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery contributed around \$134 million to the Gross State product in 2022-23.

Attachments

- A. Current Fishery Closure Breaksea Reef to Nene Valley
- B. Map of AVG fishery closure
- C. Location of new Active Area



.....

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

17/12/2024

CONTACT	Lambertus Lopez
POSITION	A/Executive Director
DIVISION	Fisheries & Aquaculture
MOBILE	Clause 6(1)
Cleared by	Dr Annabel Jones, General Manager Fisheries

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2007: SECTION 79*Temporary Prohibition on the taking of marine benthic animals in specified waters of SE—Port MacDonnell to Nene Valley*

Pursuant to section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, I Professor Gavin Begg, Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture, delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, hereby declare that it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the act of, or an act preparatory to or involved in, the fishing activities specified in Schedule 1, within the area described in Schedule 2 during the period specified in Schedule 3.

SCHEDULE 1

The collection of benthic animals other than pipis, including but not limited to Abalone, Rock Lobster and Turbo shells by diving unless the Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture has provided written notice to the contrary.

SCHEDULE 2

The coastal waters of the south east of South Australia contained within and bounded by a line commencing near mean high water springs closest to 140° 46' 12.65" E 38° 03' 34.05" S at Pointe Des Coreux, then Southerly to 140° 46' 12.99" E 38° 07' 22.99" S, then Westerly to 140° 40' 19.99" E 38° 07' 22.99" S, then North westerly to 140° 36' 39.99" E 38° 06' 29.99" S, then north westerly to 140° 27' 27.02" E 38° 02' 48.95" S, then north easterly to a point at mean high water springs near Nene Valley closest to 140° 31' 01.74" E 37° 59' 23.57" S then south-easterly along the line of Mean High Water Springs to the point of commencement (GDA2020).

SCHEDULE 3

From 17:00 hours 31 May 2024 to 12:00 hours 30 May 2025 unless varied or revoked earlier.

Dated 31 May 2024



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

South East Abalone Closure

29-05-2024

□ Closure area

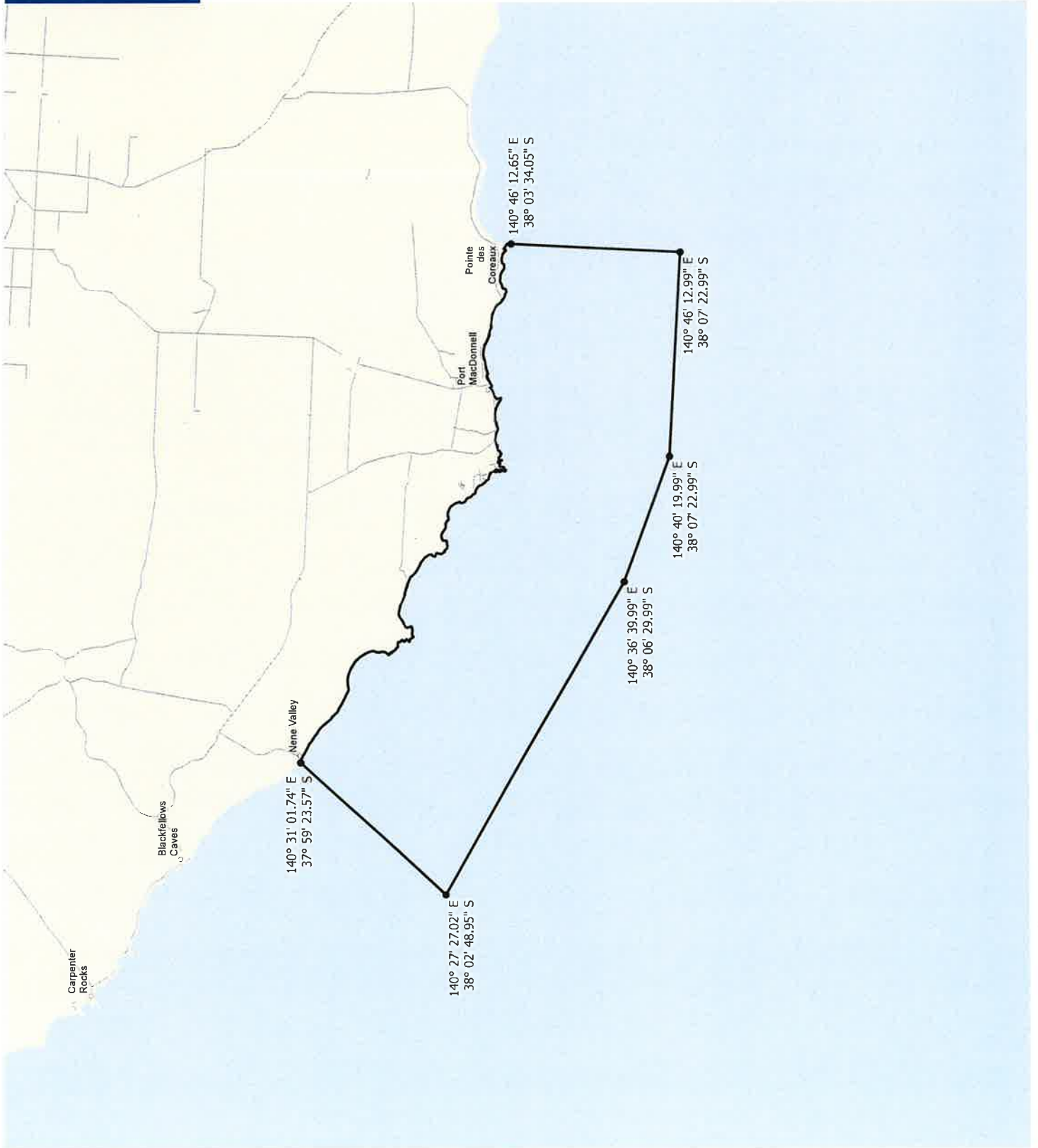


0 1 2 3
Kilometers

0 1 2
Nautical Miles



Map produced date 29 May 2024
Map produced by PIRSA Spatial 00026
Data sources Government of South Australia
Datum GDA2020





Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: A6583258

For	Noting
Critical Date	Routine
Subject	Notification of use of Ministers powers

Synopsis

To inform you of the exercising of delegated powers by the Chief Inspector of Stock to publish two notices under the *Livestock Act 1997*, section 37 for the control of abalone herpes virus and section 4 to declare notifiable diseases.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the Chief Inspector of Stock's use of Ministerial powers to amend a notice under section 37 of the *Livestock Act 1997* to control abalone herpes virus (Attachment A).

NOTED

2. Note the Chief Inspector of Stock's use of Ministerial powers to update the section 4 notice under the *Livestock Act 1997* to declare notifiable diseases (Attachment B).

NOTED

.....
 Hon Clare Scriven MLC
**Minister for Primary Industries
 and Regional Development**
Minister for Forest Industries

/ / 2024

Ministerial Comments -

Background

- The *Livestock Act 1997* (the Act) falls within your portfolio as the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.
- On 17 July 2023, you delegated certain powers and functions of the Act to the Chief Inspector of Stock pursuant to section 66 (ref. A5941854).
- On 20 March 2024, you appointed Elise Katherine Spark as the Chief Inspector of Stock pursuant to section 63(1)(a) of the Act (ref. A6206822).
- To keep you informed, PIRSA Biosecurity will advise when your powers and functions have been exercised by delegates.

Discussion

Section 37

- On 9 November 2024, the Chief Inspector of Stock made a notice under section 37 of the Act to restrict activities in relation to controlling abalone herpes virus (AbHV-1) to incorporate the new decontamination code of practice and to remove a reference to 30-meter depth which inadvertently imposed onerous decontamination requirements.
- The notice revokes the previous notice made by the Chief Inspector on 27 March 2024.
- The notice was published in the SA Government Gazette on 14 November 2024 on page 4200.

Section 4

- On 14 November 2024, the Chief Inspector of Stock made a notice under section 4 of the Act to declare notifiable diseases. The main changes include the removal of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis from the exotic list and moving to the notifiable list following the establishment of AbHV-1 and additional nomenclature changes consistent with a review by Animal Health Committee of the national notifiable pests and diseases lists.
- The notice revokes the previous notice made by the Chief Inspector of Stock on 1 December 2022.
- The notice was published in the SA Government Gazette on 21 November 2024 on page 4230.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation, and engagement

- Nil

Management of key risks

- Nil

Legislative and/or financial implications

- None

Attachments

- A. 20241114 – S37 – Abalone AVG
- B. 20241121 – S4 – Notifiable Diseases



CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

27/11/2024

CONTACT	Mehdi Doroudi
POSITION	Chief Executive
DIVISION	Biosecurity
MOBILE and LANDLINE	Clause 6(1) and Clause 6(1)
Cleared by	Acting Chief Veterinary Officer

LIVESTOCK ACT 1997

SECTION 37

Requirements for the control of Abalone Herpes Virus-1 (AbHV-1)

Pursuant to Section 37 of the *Livestock Act 1997* and for the purposes of controlling Abalone Herpes Virus-1 (AbHV-1), I, Elise Katherine Spark, Chief Inspector of Stock, delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, hereby:

- prohibit the activities listed in Schedule 1 within South Australia,
- prohibit the activities listed in Schedule 2 Column A unless they are undertaken in accordance with requirements in Schedule 2 Column B.

Pursuant to Section 87 of the *Livestock Act 1997*, I, Elise Katherine Spark, Chief Inspector of Stock, delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, revoke the notice '*Requirements for the control of Abalone Herpes Virus-1 (AbHV-1)*' under Section 37 of the *Livestock Act 1997* dated 27 March 2024 and published in the *South Australian Government Gazette* dated 27 March 2024 on page 504.

DEFINITIONS

In this Notice:

biological material does not include fish that are lawfully able to be taken under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.

diving equipment includes wetsuits, fins, masks, weight vests and belts, hookah gear and diving accessories, including but not limited to knives, bags and nets.

fishing equipment includes but is not limited to rods, reels, lines, hooks, sinkers, lures, jigs, bins, baskets, buckets, nets, pots, bags, spearguns and knives and does not include giant crab pots.

marine benthic species includes but is not limited to southern rock lobster, gastropods and macroalgae, but does not include pipis collected in the intertidal zone.

rock lobster pot means a rock lobster pot as defined in the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017*.

Southern Zone means waters of the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery adjacent to South Australia east of the meridian of longitude 139° East.

Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery has the same meaning as in the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017*.

SCHEDULE 1

Activities Prohibited Within South Australia

Keeping of abalone originating from the *Southern Zone* in the same holding system (water, tanks or aquaria, equipment) as any other abalone.

Keeping of non-abalone *marine benthic species* originating from the *Southern Zone* in the same holding system (water, tanks or aquaria, equipment) as abalone.

SCHEDULE 2

Activities Subject to Requirements

Column A	Column B
Activity	Requirements
<p>A. Any activity that involves the use of <i>diving equipment</i>, <i>fishing equipment</i>, and anchors that have come into contact with the marine benthic environment other than the setting and retrieval of <i>rock lobster pots</i>.</p>	<p>A. All relevant equipment specified in Column A that is used within the waters of the <i>Southern Zone</i> must be decontaminated before being used in any State waters outside of the waters of the <i>Southern Zone</i> in the following manner:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While at sea, any <i>biological material</i> must be removed from any equipment and returned to sea at the location where the equipment is removed from the water. 2. Before moving equipment from the location where the equipment is removed from the water, it must be washed with fresh or sea water. 3. Equipment must be returned to land and thoroughly washed with fresh water and detergent, ensuring all surfaces are covered with detergent and then rinsed with fresh water. 4. Cleaning must take place in an area where none of the washdown water or debris can re-enter the marine environment. 5. Equipment must be air dried in a well-ventilated place, preferably in full sun.
<p>B. Any activity that involves the setting and retrieval of <i>rock lobster pots</i></p>	<p>B. <i>Rock lobster pots</i> used within the waters of the <i>Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery</i> must be decontaminated before being used in State waters outside of the area of the <i>Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery</i> in the following manner:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While at sea, any <i>biological material</i>, sand or sediment must be removed from the pots and returned to sea at the location where the pots were removed from the water. 2. Before moving <i>rock lobster pots</i> from the location where they were retrieved, they must be washed with fresh or sea water.

Column A	Column B
Activity	Requirements
	3. Equipment must be returned to land and thoroughly washed with fresh water and detergent, ensuring all surfaces are covered with detergent and then rinsed with fresh water.
	4. Cleaning must take place in an area where none of the washdown water or debris can re-enter the marine environment.
	5. Equipment must be air dried in a well-ventilated place, preferably in full sun.

This Notice will remain in force until 14 November 2026 unless amended or revoked by a subsequent Notice.

Dated: 11 November 2024

ELISE KATHERINE SPARK
Chief Inspector of Stock
Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ELECTIONS) ACT 1999

CITY OF TEA TREE GULLY

Close of Roll for Supplementary Election

A supplementary election will be necessary to fill the vacant position of Councillor for Pedare ward.

The voters roll for this supplementary election will close at 5pm on Friday, 29 November 2024.

You are entitled to vote in the election if you are enrolled on the State electoral roll for the council ward. If you have recently turned 18 or changed your residential or postal address, you must complete an electoral enrolment form available online at www.eesa.sa.gov.au.

If you are not eligible to enrol on the State electoral roll you may still be entitled to enrol to vote if you own or occupy a property in the council ward. Contact the council to find out how.

Nominations to fill the vacancy will open on Thursday, 9 January 2025 and will be received until 12 noon on Thursday, 23 January 2025.

The election will be conducted by post with the return of ballot material to reach the Returning Officer no later than 12 noon on polling day, Monday, 3 March 2025.

Dated: 14 November 2024

MICK SHERRY
Returning Officer

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ELECTIONS) ACT 1999

CITY OF UNLEY

Close of Roll for Supplementary Election

A supplementary election will be necessary to fill the vacant position of Councillor for Goodwood ward.

The voters roll for this supplementary election will close at 5pm on Friday, 29 November 2024.

You are entitled to vote in the election if you are enrolled on the State electoral roll for the council ward. If you have recently turned 18 or changed your residential or postal address, you must complete an electoral enrolment form available online at www.eesa.sa.gov.au.

If you are not eligible to enrol on the State electoral roll you may still be entitled to enrol to vote if you own or occupy a property in the council ward. Contact the council to find out how.

Nominations to fill the vacancy will open on Thursday, 9 January 2025 and will be received until 12 noon on Thursday, 23 January 2025.

The election will be conducted by post with the return of ballot material to reach the Returning Officer no later than 12 noon on polling day, Monday, 3 March 2025.

Dated: 14 November 2024

MICK SHERRY
Returning Officer

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT 2016

Rent Control

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the *Housing Improvement Act 2016*, the Delegate of the Minister for Housing and Urban Development hereby fixes the maximum rental amount per week that shall be payable subject to Section 55 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995*, in respect of each premises described in the following table. The amount shown in the said table shall come into force on the date of this publication in the Gazette.

Address of Premises	Allotment Section	Certificate of Title Volume/Folio	Maximum Rental per week payable
8 William Road, Christies Beach SA 5165	Allotment 337 Deposited Plan 7459 Hundred of Norlunga	CT5301/804	\$367.50

Dated: 21 November 2024

CRAIG THOMPSON
Housing Regulator and Registrar
Housing Safety Authority
Delegate of the Minister for Housing and Urban Development

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT 2016

Rent Control Revocations

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the *Housing Improvement Act 2016*, the Delegate of the Minister for Housing and Urban Development hereby revokes the maximum rental amount per week that shall be payable subject to Section 55 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995*, in respect of each premises described in the following table.

Address of Premises	Allotment Section	Certificate of Title Volume/Folio
Lot 1, Carrickalinga Road, Normanville SA 5204	Allotment 1 Deposited Plan 15227 Hundred of Yankalilla	CT5747/459
99 Martin Hill Road, Forreston SA 5233	Allotment 4 Deposited Plan 62439 Hundred of Talunga	CT5920/196
136 Railway Terrace, Tailm Bend SA 5260	Allotment 50 and 51 Deposited Plan 130995 Hundred of Seymour	CT6282/248 CT6282/249
56 Mead Street, Birkenhead SA 5015	Allotment 7 Filed Plan 3729 Hundred of Port Adelaide	CT5496/411
19-19A Beaufort Street, Woodville SA 5011	Allotment 101 Deposited Plan 20115 Hundred of Yatala	CT5088/112
28 McInerney Avenue, Mitchell Park SA 5043	Allotment 4 Deposited Plan 32938 Hundred of Adelaide	CT5421/794

Dated: 21 November 2024

CRAIG THOMPSON
Housing Regulator and Registrar
Housing Safety Authority
Delegate of the Minister for Housing and Urban Development

LIVESTOCK ACT 1997

SECTION 4

Notifiable Diseases

Pursuant to Section 87 of the *Livestock Act 1997*, I, Elise Katherine Spark, Chief Inspector of Stock, delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, revoke the notice made by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development pursuant to Section 4 of the *Livestock Act 1997* on 23 November 2022, published 1 December 2022 on page 6781 of the *South Australian Government Gazette*.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the *Livestock Act 1997*, I declare to be notifiable diseases those diseases listed as exotic diseases and report only diseases plus the following diseases:

Notifiable Diseases

Species	Disease, Infections, and Infestations
Bees	<i>Melissococcus pluten</i> (European foulbrood) <i>Paenibacillus larvae</i> (American foulbrood)
Aquatic species	Abalone herpesvirus (Haliotid herpesvirus-1) <i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> —atypical strains <i>Aphanomyces invadans</i> (epizootic ulcerative syndrome) <i>Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis</i> <i>Bonamia exitiosa</i> Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus Ostreid herpesvirus-1 <i>Perkinsus olseni</i> Betanodavirus
Other livestock species	Aino virus <i>Akabane virus</i> <i>Anaplasma marginale</i> (bovine anaplasmosis) <i>Babesia bovis</i> , <i>B. bigemina</i> or <i>B. divergens</i> (bovine babesiosis) Bovine ephemeral fever Bovine leukaemia virus (enzootic bovine leucosis) <i>Brucella suis</i> <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i> (melioidosis) <i>Chlamydia pecorum</i> (sporadic bovine encephalomyelitis) <i>Taenia saginata</i> (<i>cysticercus bovis</i>) <i>Ehrlichia canis</i> (ehrlichiosis)

Species	Disease, Infections, and Infestations
	<i>Escherichia coli</i> (verotoxigenic strains) Equine herpes virus-1 (EHV-1) Equine infectious anaemia virus Equine arteritis virus Footrot (in sheep and in goats only) Infectious laryngotracheitis virus <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (listeriosis) <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> (avian tuberculosis) in birds <i>Salmonella Pullorum</i> (pullorum disease)
<i>Exotic Diseases</i>	
Species	Diseases, Infections, and Infestations
Bees	<i>Acarapis woodi</i> (acariasis tracheal mite) Acute bee paralysis virus <i>Braula coeca</i> (bee louse) <i>Tropilaelaps clareae</i> or <i>T. mercedesae</i> (tropilaelaps mite) <i>Varroa destructor</i> or <i>V. jacobsoni</i> (varroosis)
Aquatic species	Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease <i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> subsp. <i>salmonicida</i> (furunculosis) <i>Aphanomyces astaci</i> (crayfish plague) Baculoviral midgut gland necrosis virus <i>Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans</i> <i>Boccardia knoxi</i> <i>Bonamia ostreae</i> <i>Decapod iridescent virus 1</i> <i>Edwardsiella ictaluri</i> (enteric septicaemia of catfish) <i>Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei</i> Gill-associated virus <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> <i>Haplosporidium costale</i> or <i>H. nelsoni</i> (haplosporidiosis) <i>Hepatobacter penaei</i> (necrotising hepatopancreatitis) Infectious salmon anaemia virus Infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus Infectious myonecrosis virus Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus Infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus Koi herpesvirus (Cyprinid herpesvirus 3) <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> nodavirus (white tail disease) <i>Marteilia refringens</i> <i>Marteilia sydneyi</i> <i>Marteilioides chungmuensis</i> <i>Mikrocytos mackini</i> Mollusc iridoviruses <i>Monodon</i> slow growth syndrome <i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i> (whirling disease) <i>Oncorhynchus masou</i> virus disease <i>Perkinsus marinus</i> <i>Piscirickettsia salmonis</i> (piscirickettsiosis) <i>Ranavirus</i> species Red sea bream iridovirus <i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i> (bacterial kidney disease) Salmonid alphavirus Scale drop disease virus Singapore grouper iridovirus (ranavirus) Spawner-isolated mortality virus Spring viraemia of carp virus Taura syndrome virus Tilapia lake virus disease Turbot reddish body iridovirus Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus White spot syndrome virus White sturgeon iridoviral disease <i>Xenohaliotis californiensis</i> Yellow head virus genotype 1 <i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> —Hagerman strain (enteric redmouth disease)
Other livestock species	African horse sickness virus African swine fever virus Alcelaphine herpesvirus-1 (malignant catarrhal fever, wildebeest-associated) Anatid herpesvirus-1 Aujeszky's disease virus (pseudorabies virus) Australian bat lyssavirus Avian bornavirus (proventricular dilatation syndrome) Avian metapneumovirus (turkey rhinotracheitis) <i>Babesia caballi</i> , <i>B. equi</i> or <i>Theileria equi</i> (equine piroplasmiasis) <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> (anthrax) Bluetongue (clinical disease)

Species	Diseases, Infections, and Infestations
	<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> (Lyme disease)
	Borna disease virus
	Bovine virus diarrhoea virus (type 2)
	<i>Brucella abortus</i>
	<i>Brucella canis</i>
	<i>Brucella melitensis</i>
	Bungowannah virus
	<i>Burkholderia mallei</i> (glanders)
	Camelpox virus
	<i>Chlamydophila abortus</i> (enzootic abortion of ewes/ovine chlamydiosis)
	Classical swine fever virus
	<i>Chrysomya bezziana</i> (Old World screwworm fly)
	<i>Cochliomyia hominivorax</i> (New World screwworm fly)
	Contagious agalactia (clinical disease)
	Cowpox virus
	Crimcan-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus
	Devil facial tumour disease
	Duck virus hepatitis
	<i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i>
	<i>Ehrlichia ruminantium</i> (heartwater)
	<i>Elaphostrongylus cervi</i>
	Encephalitis virus (tick borne)
	Epizootic haemorrhagic disease (clinical disease)
	Equine encephalomyelitis viruses (Eastern, Western or Venezuelan)
	Equine encephalosis virus
	Equine influenza virus
	<i>Fasciola gigantica</i>
	Foot and mouth disease virus
	<i>Francisella tularensis</i> (tularemia)
	Getah virus
	<i>Haematobia irritans exigua</i> (buffalo fly)
	Haemorrhagic septicaemia (<i>Pasturella multocida</i> serotypes 6:b and 6:e)
	Hantaan river virus
	Hendra virus
	<i>Histoplasma farciminosum</i> (epizootic lymphangitis)
	Infectious bursal disease virus (very virulent and exotic antigenic variant forms)
	Influenza A viruses in birds and swine
	Jembrana disease virus
	<i>Leptospiriosis interrogans</i> serovar <i>Canicola</i>
	Louping ill virus
	Lumpy skin disease virus
	<i>Leishmania</i> spp.
	Maedi-visna virus
	Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus
	Menangle virus
	<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>
	<i>Mycobacterium caprae</i>
	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>
	<i>Mycoplasma capricolum</i> subsp. <i>capripneumoniae</i> (contagious caprine pleuropneumonia)
	<i>Mycoplasma iowae</i>
	<i>Mycoplasma mycoides</i> subsp. <i>mycoides</i> SC (contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)
	Nairobi sheep disease virus
	<i>Neorickettsia risticii</i> (Potomac fever)
	Newcastle disease virus (virulent)
	Nipah virus
	Peste des petits ruminants virus
	<i>Pseudogymnoascus destructans</i> in bats (white nose syndrome)
	<i>Taenia solium</i> (Porcine cysticercosis)
	Porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus
	Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus
	Post-weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome
	<i>Psoroptes ovis</i> (sheep scab)
	Pulmonary adenomatosis (Jaagsiekte)
	Rabies virus
	<i>Rhipicephalus microplus</i> (cattle tick)
	Rift Valley fever virus
	Rinderpest virus
	<i>Salmonella abortus-equi</i>
	<i>Salmonella abortus-ovis</i>
	<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis in poultry
	<i>Salmonella Gallinarum</i> (fowl typhoid)
	Senecavirus A (Seneca Valley virus)
	Sheep pox virus or goat pox virus
	Shope's fibroma virus
	Swine vesicular disease virus

Species	Diseases, Infections, and Infestations
	<i>Taylorella equigenitalis</i> (contagious equine metritis) <i>Taenia multiceps</i> , <i>T. serialis</i> , <i>T. brauni</i> , and <i>T. glomeratus</i> (causing infestation with <i>Coenurus cerebralis</i>) Teschovirus encephalomyelitis <i>Theileria annulata</i> (Mediterranean theileriosis) <i>Theileria parva</i> (East Coast fever) Transmissible gastroenteritis coronavirus Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, chronic wasting disease feline spongiform encephalopathy, scrapie) <i>Trichinella</i> spp. <i>Trypanosomosis cruzi</i> (Chagas disease) <i>Trypanosoma equiperdum</i> (dourine) <i>Trypanosoma evansi</i> (surra) <i>Trypanosomosis</i> (tsetse fly associated) Vesicular exanthema of swine virus Vesicular stomatitis virus Warble-fly (warble-fly myiasis) Wesselsbron virus West Nile Virus (clinical disease)
<i>Report Only Diseases</i>	
	Diseases, Infections, and Infestations Japanese encephalitis virus Paratuberculosis (Johne's disease) <i>Streptococcus equi equi</i> (strangles) Virulent avian paramyxovirus

Dated: 14 November 2024

ELISE KATHERINE SPARK
Chief Inspector of Stock
Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

MENTAL HEALTH ACT 2009

Authorised Mental Health Professional

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 94(1) of the *Mental Health Act 2009*, that the Chief Psychiatrist has determined the following person as an Authorised Mental Health Professional:

Marcelle Sheridan
Sarah Sandford
Shane Rogers
Sharon Sutton

A person's determination as an Authorised Mental Health Professional expires three years after the commencement date. The Chief Psychiatrist may vary or revoke this determination at any time.

Dated: 19 November 2024

DR JOHN BRAYLEY
Chief Psychiatrist

MINING ACT 1971

MINING REGULATIONS 2020

Terms of Reference for the Hawks Nest Iron Ore Project

This Terms of Reference determines the minimum requirements to apply for a mining lease and/or miscellaneous purposes licence in addition to the requirements of the *Mining Act 1971* and *Mining Regulations 2020*.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE HAWKS NEST IRON ORE PROJECT

An application for a mining lease (ML) for the recovery of metallic and industrial minerals must be accompanied by:

- a proposal that complies with Section 36 of the *Mining Act 1971*, Regulations 46 and 47 of the *Mining Regulations 2020* and any determinations set out in this Terms of Reference; and
- information that complies with Regulation 30 of the *Mining Regulations 2020* and any determinations set out in this Terms of Reference; and
- a declaration of accuracy that complies with Regulation 83 of the *Mining Regulations 2020*; and
- the relevant application fee.

An application for a miscellaneous purposes licence (MPL) for ancillary operations must be accompanied by:

- a proposal that complies with Section 49 of the *Mining Act 1971*, Regulations 46 and 47 of the *Mining Regulations 2020* and any determinations set out in this Terms of Reference; and
- information that complies with Regulations 37 and 38 of the *Mining Regulations 2020* and any determinations set out in this Terms of Reference; and
- a declaration of accuracy that complies with Regulation 83 of the *Mining Regulations 2020*; and
- the relevant application fee.



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries



Ref: A6275049

For	Noting
Critical Date	ASAP
Subject	AVG Temporary Fisheries closure at Southend

Synopsis

On 12 May 2024, a recreational diver observed and collected a dead abalone from Stanway Point, near Southend and observed some abalone in that area were easily removed from the reef. The sample was submitted for analysis and tested positive for the herpes virus that causes Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG).

The Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, as your delegate, has approved a temporary fishing closure restricting the take of prescribed marine species in this area while the extent of this recent outbreak is determined.

Recommendations

That you:

- Note the brief.

NOTED

Clare Scriver
 Hon Clare Scriver MLC
**Minister for Primary Industries
 and Regional Development**
Minister for Forest Industries
 23/5/2024

Ministerial Comments -

[Empty box for Ministerial Comments]

OFFICIAL

Background

- On 21 February 2024, a commercial abalone fisher reported dead and dying abalone at Breaksea Reef offshore near Port MacDonnell. Samples from the mortality site tested positive for the virus that causes Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG). This was the first detection of AVG in South Australia.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) activated an Incident Management Team (IMT) and subsequent measures to contain the spread of disease through human activity were put in place under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* and the *Livestock Act 1997* whilst surveillance activities were undertaken.
- On 28 March 2024, a Livestock Act notice was issued, prescribing long term arrangements to reduce the risk of AVG spreading outside of the Southern Zone, including decontamination requirements on the movement of fishing gear and storage restrictions on live abalone sourced from the Southern Zone.
- In addition, a temporary closure under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* prohibiting the take of abalone was implemented at the initial outbreak site near Port MacDonnell where significant mortality had been observed, to support abalone stock recovery in that area. This closure remains in place until March 2025, unless varied or revoked.
- A [South Australian AVG Code of Practice](#) was developed in collaboration with industry to provide standards for dive operations, equipment decontamination and movement of fishing equipment outside of the Southern Zone, as well as observing and reporting suspect abalone.
- On 12 May 2024, a recreational diver observed and collected a dead abalone from Stanway Point (near Southend). It was also observed by that diver that some abalone in the area were easily removed from the reef, indicating potential active symptoms of AVG. The abalone was subsequently submitted for testing. Results from that testing received on 14 May 2024 confirmed the fish was positive for the herpes virus causing AVG.

Discussion

- PIRSA and SARDI met with industry representatives on 15 May 2024 and provided information related to the recent outbreak. A proposal to implement a closure was discussed at that meeting as a precautionary measure to protect abalone stocks and reduce the risk of virus spread while the extent of the outbreak is determined.
- Industry raised concerns about the impact of potential fishing closures on their fishing businesses, and the uncertainty of closures being implemented on short notice as a response to positive animals being detected. However, industry was supportive of the temporary approach proposed by PIRSA.
- Land-based observations by Fisheries Officers indicated dead and dying abalone in the area and unusual abalone behaviour including settlement on the top of reef systems exposed at low tide. These observations support the suggestion that abalone in the area may be actively displaying symptoms of the disease, including mortality.
- The Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, as your delegate, approved a temporary fisheries closure to 30 June 2024 to restrict diving activities in the area for the purposes of bottom dwelling (benthic) animals using diving equipment and all collection activities for abalone whilst surveillance activities to identify the extent of the outbreak are undertaken.
- A copy of the notice and map of the closure is attached (**Attachments A and B**).

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- PIRSA considers the proposed temporary closure, guided by a risk assessment from the initial AVG response, provides a balance between adequate protection of an important aquatic resource and allowing industry to continue to operate as effectively as possible.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- Public information is being updated and includes targeted key messaging to identified stakeholders and encourages ongoing reporting of suspected disease and mortalities via the Fishwatch Hotline.
- PIRSA acknowledges the impacts the fishing restrictions have on industry and recreational activities. The focus is on undertaking further surveillance in the latest affected area as quickly as possible to understand the extent of the disease so management arrangements can be reviewed.
- The Southern Zone Abalone fishing industry has indicated the proposed temporary closure will have limited impact at this time as the closure area have been fully harvested for the season under industry-led catch caps. It is noted the industry remain concerned about the precedent set by the closure if similar outbreaks occur in the future.
- The proposed closure will restrict diving activities for the purposes of harvesting benthic, bottom dwelling animals as well as all collection of abalone. The arrangements will not impact rock lobster pot fishing activities, or other fishing non-diving activities such as pipi collection as these activities are considered to be lower risk to disease spread with appropriate decontamination requirements. It is also noted that limited recreational fishing is likely to occur this time of year.

Management of key risks

- Management controls remain in place under the Livestock Act notice including restrictions on the movement of fishing gear outside of the Southern Zone without appropriate decontamination.
- It is considered the temporary closure to collection of abalone and diving activities near Southend will protect abalone stocks in the area and appropriately mitigate risks associated with human-assisted virus spread, while surveillance activities are undertaken.

Legislative and/or financial implications

- In 2022-23, South Australia's abalone industry generated \$35 million in revenue, which is the wholesale value of processed wild catch and aquaculture abalone in the State. The Southern Zone Abalone Fishery contributed approximately \$5.3 million in revenue.
- The outbreaks of AVG in the Southern Zone remains a difficult time for the abalone industry with impacts related to restrictions on movement of unprocessed abalone to Victoria where much of the product from the SZAF are processed. Restrictions for movement of live fish to New South Wales from all areas of South Australia are also in place.

Attachments

- A. S.79 Fisheries notice
- B. Map of temporary closure near Southend



For
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

20/05/2024

CONTACT	Prof Gavin Begg
POSITION	Executive Director
DIVISION	Fisheries & Aquaculture
MOBILE	Clause 6(1)
Cleared by	Dr Annabel Jones, General Manager Fisheries

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2007: SECTION 79*Temporary Prohibition on the taking of Abalone**Waters of SE adjacent to Southend*

Pursuant to section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, I Professor Gavin Begg, Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture, delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, hereby declare that it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the act of, or an act preparatory to or involved in, the fishing activities specified in Schedule 1, within the area described in Schedule 2 during the period specified in Schedule 3.

SCHEDULE 1

The following activities are prohibited unless the Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture has provided written notice to the contrary:

- The collection of abalone by any means and collecting abalone shells from within the beach area of the closure; and
- The collection of benthic aquatic animals other than pipis including but not limited to, Rock Lobster and Turbo shells, by diving.

SCHEDULE 2

The coastal waters of the southeast of South Australia near Southend contained within and bounded by a line commencing at mean high water springs closest to 140° 03' 48.66" E 37° 29' 16.35" S approximately 750m South easterly of Blowhole Road, Beachport. Then South easterly along the line of mean high water springs to 140° 15' 21.02" E 37° 41' 43.40" S, then South westerly to 140° 05' 49.02" E 37° 43' 36.95" S, then North westerly to 140° 01' 11.02" E 37° 39' 36.95" S, then North westerly to 139° 53' 55.02" E 37° 31' 58.95" S, then North easterly to the point of commencement. (GDA2020)

SCHEDULE 3

From 17:00 hours 17 May 2024 to 12:00 hours 30 June 2024 unless varied or revoked earlier.

Dated 17 May 2024



Prof Gavin Begg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

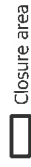
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

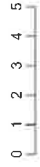
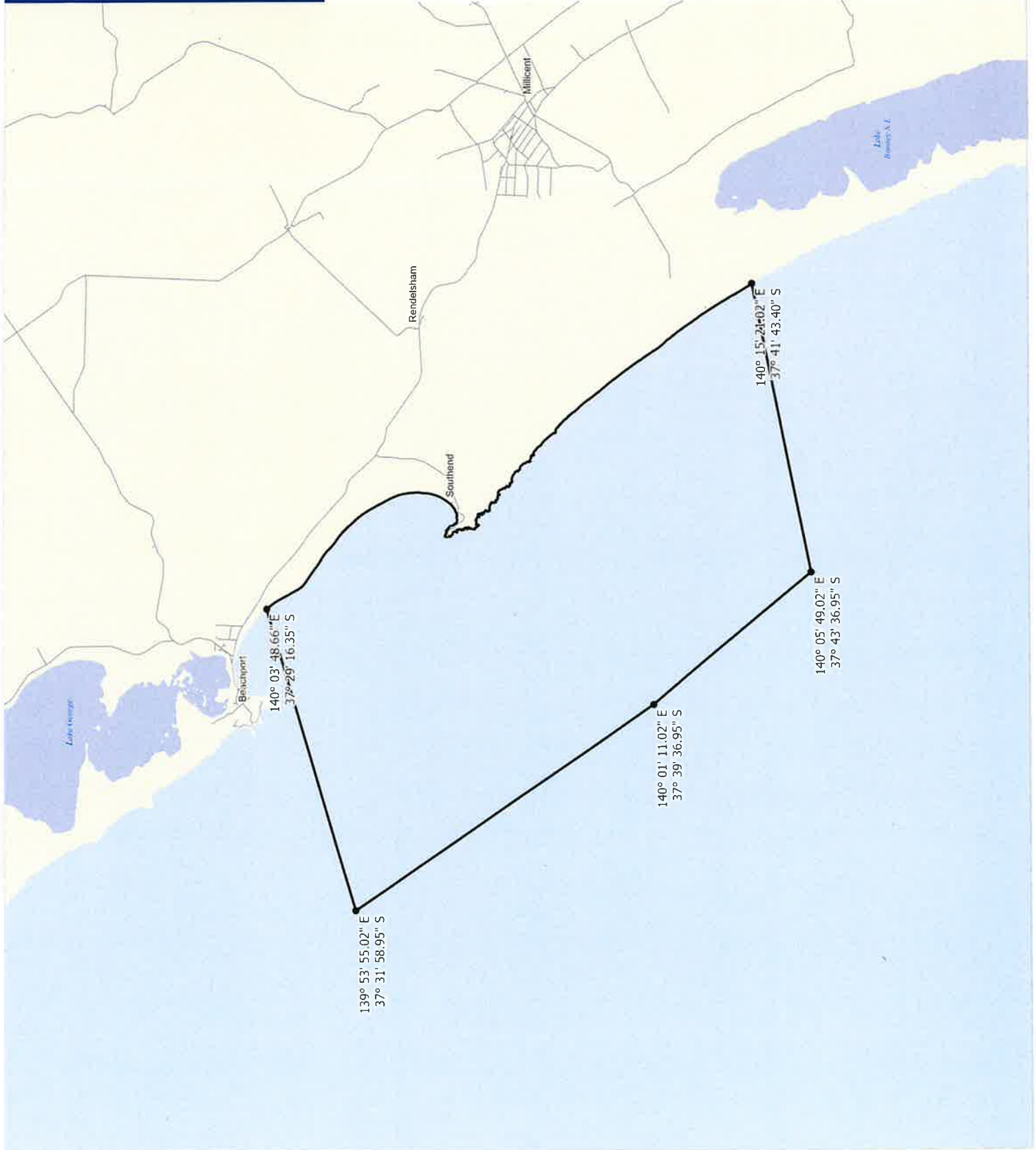
Objective ID: A6270854

**Area prohibited
to the take of Abalone
and other
benthic animals
when using adjacent
equipment adjacent
to Southend**

16-05-2024



Closure area



Map produced date: 16 May 2024
 PIRSA Spatial: 00028
 Map produced by: Government of South Australia
 Data sources: DALIAN 30/3/2020



Government of South Australia
 Department of Primary Industries
 and Regions



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: eA200818

For	Approval and Signature
Critical Date	Routine
Subject	Response to Clause 6(1) regarding AVG related fishing restrictions in the South East

Synopsis

Clause 6(1) wrote to the Premier, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, on 6 March 2024 regarding the impact of fishing restrictions put in place in response to an outbreak of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) in waters off the Limestone Coast. The Premier has referred the matter to you for a response on his behalf.

AVG was confirmed in abalone sampled from Breaksea Reef approximately 2.8 km from Port MacDonnell and an Incident Management Team was activated to coordinate the response to this outbreak. A Control Area in which fishing activities were prohibited was put in place on 23 February 2024 to prevent transfer of AVG through human activity to abalone in unaffected waters. On 25 March 2024, the AVG response was transitioned to management and the Control Area and Buffer Zone were replaced by arrangements requiring decontamination of fishing equipment prior to use in State waters outside the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery and a closure area to the take of abalone around Breaksea Reef to support rebuilding of abalone stocks in that area. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is working with industry to develop a Code of Practice for ongoing management of AVG in South Australia.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Sign the attached to Clause 6(1)
SIGNED / NOT SIGNED

Hon Clare Scriven MLC

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**

Minister for Forest Industries

20 / 4 / 2024

Ministerial Comments -

Background

- **Clause 6(1)** wrote to the Premier, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, on 6 March 2024, regarding the impact of fishing restrictions put in place in response to an outbreak of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) in waters off the Limestone Coast. As the matters raised in the correspondence relate to management of aquatic resources under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Fisheries Act) the Premier referred the matter to you as the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.
- On 21 February 2024, a commercial abalone fisher reported dead and dying abalone at Breaksea Reef approximately 2.8 km from Port MacDonnell and submitted samples to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) for testing. On 23 February 2024, the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness confirmed the presence of AVG in some of these samples.
- This outbreak of AVG in wild abalone is the first time the disease has been detected in South Australia and has the potential to severely impact South Australian abalone stocks and reef ecosystems.
- PIRSA activated an Incident Management Team (IMT) including staff from Biosecurity, Fisheries and Aquaculture and SARDI to coordinate the response to this outbreak.

Discussion

- AVG can spread through the movement of:
 - infected abalone or abalone product (tissue, offal, shell or mucus)
 - fishing equipment (including wetsuits, anchors, rock lobster pots and ropes, rods and lines)
 - people who have come into contact with infected abalone or bottom habitat.
- The aim of South Australia's response is containment of AVG, by limiting human assisted spread of AVG.
- A Control Area was declared in the Port MacDonnell area from Nene Valley in the west to the South Australian-Victorian border in the east reaching 5 nautical miles out to sea on 23 February 2024. All fishing activities were prohibited within the Control Area to prevent transfer of AVG through human activity to abalone in unaffected South Australian waters. The Control Area was extended westward to Southend on 5 March 2024 following detection of infected abalone at the west boundary of the initial Control Area. A Buffer Zone was also created westward of the Control Area to the Murray Mouth where requirements related to cleaning and decontamination of fishing gear was implemented as a further measure to minimise the spread of disease.
- The current Control Area and Buffer Zone were chosen by the IMT based on the evidence available to give the greatest chance of preventing further spread by human activities while surveillance and tracing is undertaken.
- Further surveillance activities were undertaken in the Control Area and Buffer Zone to provide improved understanding on the extent of the disease outbreak. The delimiting surveys of the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery (SZAF) from the western extent of the fishery to the Victorian border was completed by Government with assistance from the SZAF industry. Test results from these surveys were negative for AVG, except for samples taken from the area between Nene Valley to Port MacDonnell and another area near Nora Creina. On the basis of the survey results

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on 14 March 2024 exemptions were granted allowing for some rock lobster fishing and anchoring in the Control Area with controls in place.

- Now that the surveillance activities have been completed a transition to management is underway.
- On 27 March 2024, the previous notices under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* and the *Livestock Act 1997* expired and a transition to management was implemented. A further notice under the *Livestock Act* to control the movement of fishing gear across abalone fishery zones, and to control the possession of abalone and marine benthic species sourced from the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery in processing facilities came into effect to manage the risk of human assisted spread of AVG to areas outside the Southern Zone. A temporary fishing closure under the *Fisheries Act* prohibiting the take of abalone in an area around Breaksea Reef to support rebuilding of the abalone stock in that area has also been put in place. All other formal restrictions to fishing activities related to the AVG response were removed on 27 March 2024.
- Eradication of AVG is not feasible in an open water environment where viral diseases are difficult to manage.
- PIRSA is working with industry to develop a Code of Practice for ongoing management of AVG in South Australia to protect the State's aquaculture and fishing industries. The Code will be an important document for transitioning the AVG response to management.
- Communication of the recommended decontamination processes included in the Code of Practice for all relevant recreational and commercial fishers will be an important aspect of the transition to management by promoting good biosecurity practices moving forward.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- PIRSA is working closely with key industry stakeholder representatives across a range of fisheries and fishing sectors in developing the Code of Practice.

Management of key risks

- A risk assessment was undertaken looking at potential spread pathways for AVG including within or between wild abalone populations, abalone farms, and fish processors. Activities undertaken within the abalone industry and other activities (particularly those involving contact with the seafloor) that may facilitate spread of AVG were assessed to determine the overall risks posed (ref A6197619). The standard operating procedures included in the Code of Practice have been developed in consideration of the relevant risks from that assessment.

Legislative and/or financial implications

- The impact of AVG on the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery, and flow on impacts on other fisheries, such as rock lobster, from fishery closures is likely to result in financial impact, the level of which at this time is unknown.



for
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

3/4/2024

OFFICIAL

CONTACT	Prof Gavin Begg
POSITION	Executive Director
DIVISION	Fisheries and Aquaculture
MOBILE and LANDLINE	Clause 6(1)
Cleared by	Annabel Jones. General Manager Fisheries

eA200818



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Clause 6(1)

Dear Clause 6(1)

Thank you for your email to the Premier, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, on 6 March 2024 regarding the impact of fishing restrictions put in place in response to an outbreak of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) in waters off the Limestone Coast. The Premier has requested I respond to you on his behalf as Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

This outbreak of AVG in wild abalone is the first time the disease has been detected in South Australian waters and has the potential to severely impact South Australian abalone stocks and reef ecosystems, as well as the important abalone commercial fishery and aquaculture industry.

AVG can spread through the movement of:

- infected abalone or abalone product (tissue, offal, shell or mucus)
- fishing equipment (including wetsuits, anchors, rock lobster pots and ropes, rods and lines)
- people who have come into contact with infected abalone or bottom habitat.

Based on the evidence at hand at the time and to give the greatest chance of preventing further spread by human activities while surveillance and tracing is undertaken a Control Area was established in which all fishing activities were prohibited. A Buffer Zone was also created westward of the Control Area to the Murray Mouth where requirements related to cleaning and decontamination of fishing gear was implemented as a further measure to minimise the spread of disease.

Further surveillance activities have now been completed over the extent of the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery. Test results have in the main been negative for AVG, except for samples taken from the area between Nene Valley to Port MacDonnell and near Nora Creina.

Now that the surveillance activities have been completed a transition to management is underway and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is working closely with industry. The aim of this transition is to manage the risk of human assisted spread of AVG to areas outside the Southern Zone noting eradication of AVG is not feasible in an open water environment.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



On 27 March 2024, the previous notices under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* and the *Livestock Act 1997* expired and a further notice under the *Livestock Act* to control the movement of fishing gear across abalone fishery zones, and to control the possession of abalone and marine benthic species sourced from the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery in processing facilities came into effect. A temporary fishing closure under the *Fisheries Management Act* prohibiting the take of abalone in an area around Breaksea Reef to support rebuilding of the abalone stock in that area has also been put in place.

All other formal restrictions to fishing activities related to the AVG response were removed on 27 March 2024.

PIRSA is now working with a number of fishing industry sectors to develop a Code of Practice setting out standard biosecurity operating procedures to manage AVG in South Australia and to protect the State's aquaculture and fishing industries. The Code will be an important document for transitioning the AVG response to management.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this important matter. If you would like further information, please visit the PIRSA website at www.pir.sa.gov.au/avg.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

20 / 4 / 2024



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: A6174972

For	Noting
Critical Date	5 March 2024
Subject	Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis detection in Port MacDonnell

Synopsis

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) has been confirmed in wild abalone in waters south of Port MacDonnell in the southeast of South Australia. AVG has the potential to severely impact local abalone stocks and reef ecosystems. An Incident Management Team has been activated and measures to contain the spread of disease through human activity have been put in place, including a Control Area prohibiting all fishing from Nene Valley to the South Australian Victorian border. The virus only infects abalone and has no known effects on human health. PIRSA is working to determine the extent of spread to inform further decision making.

Recommendations

That you:

- Note the brief.

NOTED

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**
Minister for Forest Industries

13/2024

Ministerial Comments -

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Background

- On 21 February 2024, a commercial abalone fisher reported finding dead and dying abalone at Breaksea Reef offshore from Port MacDonnell. Samples from the mortality site tested positive for the virus that causes Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) using PCR with results reported on the morning of 23 February 2024.
- Abalone herpesvirus (Haliotid herpesvirus-1), the disease that causes AVG, is listed as an exotic disease and is notifiable disease under the *Livestock Act 1997*.
- It affects the abalone nervous system, causing weakness and eventually death. AVG has no known effects on human health and abalone is safe for human consumption.
- The virus that causes AVG can spread through the water from:
 - infected abalone or abalone product – offal, shells or mucus.
 - fishing equipment – wetsuits, anchors, rock lobster pots and ropes, rods and lines
 - people who have come into contact with infected abalone or bottom habitat.
- AVG has the potential to severely impact local abalone stocks and reef ecosystems. However, there have been no previous reports of AVG in South Australia.
- AVG was first detected in Victoria in December 2005; the virus was previously undescribed. AVG is endemic to Tasmanian and Victorian wild abalone populations. Victoria recorded another outbreak at Cape Nelson in 2021 and then in 2023.
- Following the first detection of AVG at Cape Nelson, restrictions were introduced on the movement of abalone into South Australia. Abalone cannot be used for bait or berley in South Australia waters.
- PIRSA has activated an incident management team (IMT) and measures to contain the spread of disease through human activity have been put in place. Two notices were published on the 23 February 2024, under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* and section 33 of the *Livestock Act 1997*.
- A Control Area has been declared in the Port MacDonnell area within the state's Southern Abalone Zone.

Discussion

- SA's Abalone industry generated \$35 million in revenue last year (2022/23), which is the wholesale value of processed wild catch and aquaculture abalone in the State.
- Eradication of AVG is not feasible in an open water environment. The aim of South Australia's response is containment, by limiting further spread of the active AVG outbreak through human activity.
- The Control Area spans the coastline from Nene Valley in the west to the South Australian/Victorian border in the east and reaches 5 nautical miles (approximately 10km) out to sea.
- Viral diseases in open water are difficult to manage and the control area was chosen to give the greatest chance of preventing further spread by human activities while surveillance is undertaken. Surveillance activities have begun, from the most western area of the Control Area on 27 February 2024, this was the first opportunity for this to occur due to unfavourable conditions over the preceding days.
- Under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, All fishing activities or acts preparatory to the taking of fish including acts preparatory to the taking of marine

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benthic species, including southern rock lobster, gastropods and macroalgae, the setting of benthic fishing pots and anchoring any vessel to engage in such activities within the control area is prohibited.

- Under section 33 of the *Livestock Act 1997*, the movement within South Australia of live or dead marine benthic species originating (whether before or after the commencement of this notice) from the control area is also prohibited.
- The IMT has also undertaken tracing of all product within a two-week period leading up to the confirmation of AVG. Relevant tracing information is being passed on to respective State authorities.
- Risk assessments have been and are continuing to be being undertaken, to inform decision-making and further management of the response. Any changes to the Control Area and ongoing restrictions required will be informed by preliminary surveillance activities.
- PIRSA maintains a communication program, with key stakeholders including the commercial and recreational fishing industries regarding reducing the risk of spreading the disease, early detection and legislated requirements. Active compliance is being undertaken in association with the Control Area restrictions.
- Visual surveillance conducted on 27 February at multiple sites within the Control Area, to the west of the outbreak site, has not found evidence of spread beyond the initial detection area within Breaksea Reef. 117 samples have been submitted for laboratory analysis.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- A public information plan has been developed and includes targeted key messaging to identified stakeholders and key messages to encourage ongoing reporting of suspected disease and mortalities via Fishwatch Hotline.
- PIRSA acknowledges the impacts the fishing restrictions have on industry and recreational activities. The focus is on undertaking surveillance to understand the extent of the disease so restrictions and controls can be reviewed.
- PIRSA is working through this rapidly evolving situation and will have more advice soon on fishing gear (recreational and commercial rock lobster pots) that are currently in the control area.
- PIRSA led an abalone industry meeting on 26 February 2024.

Management of key risks

- Movement controls are in place restricting fishing activities and movement of risk product.
- Continuing activities to delimit and minimise spread of disease outside of Control Area.
- There is a significant number of recreational and commercial rock lobster pots currently within the Control Area, and the fishers are prohibited from retrieving those pots. The IMT is working on a procedure to manage the risk of spreading AVG while allowing pot retrieval, before further adverse weather risks their loss. The risk assessment considers appropriate treatment protocols and managing timing of collection to permit compliance oversight.

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- The IMT is investigating abalone held at fish processor, some of which was caught within the Control Area, prior to the closure. Confirmation is pending from the confirmatory laboratory (anticipated 28 February).

Legislative and/or financial implications

- New South Wales published a new AVG Control Order on 24 February 2024 to include prohibition of live abalone movements from SA.
- Victoria published a Fisheries (Abalone Disease Control) Notice 2024 on 26 February 2024 prohibiting the use or possession of any commercial fishing equipment, commercial abalone equipment or recreational fishing equipment, in or on any Victorian waters is prohibited if the equipment has been used within the control area at any time commencing 23 February 2024.
- Unlike other industry sectors the aquatic industries have not signed up to a cost sharing agreement like the livestock (Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement) or plant (Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed) industries. This has been despite many years of effort from government and industry members to promote the benefits of the agreement.
- As such there is no agreed shared funding mechanism for aquatic disease events and in general any costs arising from the response activity are born solely by the affected jurisdiction and the affected business.

Attachments

- A. Section 79 Notice under the Fisheries Management Act 2007 - Temporary prohibition on fishing activities in specified waters of SE
- B. Section 33 Notice under the Livestock Act 1997 - Prohibitions on the movement of marine benthic species to control or eradicate Abalone Herpes Virus-1



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

28/2/2024

CONTACT	Nathan Rhodes
POSITION	Executive Director
DIVISION	Biosecurity
MOBILE and LANDLINE	Clause 6(1)
Cleared by	Executive Director