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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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West Beach SA
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www.pir.sa.gov.au**NOTICE TO LAKES AND COORONG FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS AND MARINE SCALEFISH
FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS WITH PIPI QUOTA****PIPI AND FINFISH TACC & TACE FOR 2026/27**

Dear licence holder

I write to advise you of the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) and Total Allowable Commercial Effort (TACE) management arrangements for Pipi and Finfish for the 2026/27 season of the Lakes and Coorong Fishery (LCF) commencing 1 July 2026.

In determining the TACC and TACE for Pipi and Finfish, respectively, I have considered the following:

- The Objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- SARDI Advice Note reporting on the biological performance indicators for Pipi
- The BDO Econsearch report on the Fishery Gross Margin for Pipi
- The results of the draft SARDI report *Assessment of the South Australian Lakes and Coorong Fishery 2024/25*
- Draft recommendations from the Lakes and Coorong Fishery Management Advisory Committee (LCFMAC) meeting of 19 June 2026
- The application of the harvest strategies for Pipi and Finfish in the *Management Plan for the Commercial South Australian Lakes and Coorong Fishery*.

As a delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, under regulation 10(2) of the Fisheries Management (Lakes and Coorong Fishery) Regulations 2024 and 15(2) of the Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017 I have determined the kilogram value for Pipi for the 2026/27 quota period to be 375 kg per unit, which corresponds to a TACC of 375 tonnes.

I have determined the TACE for Finfish for the 2026/27 fishing season to be set at the maximum entitlement of the fishery of 1175 net units (being made up of licence holders holding 25, 50, 75 and 100 mesh nets) for the Coorong Small Mesh Gill Net and Estuarine Small Mesh Gill Net sectors.

Noting the primary performance indicator for the Estuarine Large Mesh Gill Net sector (being the habitat available for Mulloway in the Coorong estuary) was 54.1% in 2024/25, which is below the target reference point of 55%, a reduction of nets from 1175 to 987 for the Coorong Estuarine Large Mesh Gill Net sector has been triggered, consistent with the harvest strategy decision rules.

To implement the reduction of nets within the Estuarine Large Mesh Gillnet sector, I, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, have approved a notice pursuant to section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to restrict the number of large mesh gill net entitlements that an LCF licence holder can operate in the estuarine waters of the Lakes and Coorong, as follows:

- If the licence has a 25 net unit entitlement, the licence holder/ registered master may only operate a maximum of 21 nets
- If the licence has a 50 net unit entitlement, the licence holder/ registered master may only operate a maximum of 42 nets
- If the licence has a 75 net unit entitlement, the licence holder/ registered master may only operate a maximum of 63 nets
- If the licence has a 100 net unit entitlement, the licence holder/ registered master may only operate a maximum of 84 nets.

A copy of this notice is Enclosed.

Pipi Carry-over and Over-catch

Regulation 10(3) of the Fisheries Management (Lakes and Coorong) 2024, and regulation 15 of the Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017 provides for carry-over of uncaught Pipi quota entitlement held on an individual licence up to 10% of the quota entitlement, unless a lesser amount is determined by the Minister. The regulations also provide for over-catch of quota, whereby an amount up to 10%, or a lesser amount determined by the Minister, may be over-caught and the quota entitlement on that licence in the subsequent quota period may be decreased by 1 kilogram for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement.

These regulations also allow for higher levels of carry-over above the default levels in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

I am satisfied exceptional circumstances apply due to the algal bloom restrictions that were in place for much of 2025/26. Consistent with the policy paper *Managing Under-catch and Over-catch in South Australian Fisheries* and considering recommendations from the LCFMAC, I have determined a variation to the commercial quota carry-over amount to increase the amount up to 100% of 2025/26 uncaught quota and the over-catch amount will be maintained at 10% for the 2026/27 quota period.

Please note that where an over-catch amount exceeds 10% of the quota entitlements held on a licence for the 2026/27 quota period, the quota entitlement on that licence in the subsequent quota period may be decreased by 2 kilograms for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement.

The Minister will consider uncaught or over-caught quota entitlements at the end of each quota period. Any adjustments to quota entitlements will be applied to licences as soon as practicable following the beginning of the next quota period. Licence holders will be advised of the changes at the time the adjustments are made in quota statements.

I wish to offer my thanks to the LCFMAC for its valuable recommendations in relation to the Pipi TACC, carry-over/over-catch and Finfish TACE for 2026/27.

Should you have any questions in relation to these matters, please contact Michelle Williams, Fisheries Management Officer, on 8429 0996 or email michelle.williams@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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

Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Enclosures: Section 79 notice - Temporary Reduction in ELMGN for the LCF