



Document ID: A7622573

17 July 2026

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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**NOTICE TO MARINE SCALEFISH, PRAWN, NORTHERN ZONE ROCK
LOBSTER, SARDINE, ABALONE, BLUE CRAB, MISCELLANEOUS AND
CHARTER BOAT FISHERIES****Release of Snapper Rebuilding Plan**

Dear Licence holder

I write to advise that the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) has developed and released a Snapper Rebuilding Plan 2026 ("the Plan") to support the recovery of Snapper stocks and the potential reopening of the fishery beyond 30 June 2027.

As you will be aware, Snapper fishing has been closed in South Australian waters, other than the South East, since 2019 to help stocks recover, following stocks being classified as depleted or depleting.

The Plan has been developed by PIRSA with guidance from the [Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee \(MSFMAC\)](#) over the last 18 months and has been approved by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. The Plan has been informed by scientific advice from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and has considered stakeholder feedback provided through consultation undertaken in September 2025.

The Plan is available on the PIRSA website: [Snapper Rebuilding Plan](#).

The Plan provides transparent policies and approaches to sustainably manage the recovery of Snapper stocks in South Australia, including:

- Management objectives for stock rebuilding;
- Pre-defined criteria that will guide decisions on
 - when fishing should reopen on currently closed stocks
 - how much fishing should be permitted for a given Snapper population size
 - when fishing levels should be increased or decreased;

- Performance indicators that will be measured to track the Plan's progress against target and other reference points;
- Key management arrangements to achieve the rebuilding objectives, including: decision rules for how catch limits will be set, catch reporting requirements, a seasonal spawning closure, and targeted spatial fishing closures at key Snapper aggregation sites; and
- Plans for the monitoring and assessment of stocks.

Whilst several of the management arrangements outlined in the Plan are not applicable until fishing reopens, some measures, including mandatory reporting of non-retained Snapper catches in commercial fisheries, and spatial closures at key Snapper aggregation sites will be progressed by PIRSA as soon as practicable.

I also wish to advise that a new [SARDI Snapper Stock Assessment](#) has been released. The assessment indicates Snapper stocks were recovering prior to the algal bloom event in 2025, yet there remains significant uncertainty about the bloom's impacts on Snapper, particularly in Gulf St Vincent, and further monitoring is required before any decisions about reopening currently closed fisheries can be considered.

Additional biomass surveys and a further stock assessment are planned for 2026/27 to improve understanding of the impacts of the algal bloom and provide updated information on stock recovery to inform potential reopening of currently closed Snapper fisheries beyond 30 June 2027.

If you have any queries in relation to the Snapper Rebuilding Plan, please contact Mr Samuel Stone, Community Fisheries Manager, on mobile: 0439 728 643 or by email: sam.stone@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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