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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

2 Hamra Avenue
West Beach SA
GPO Box 1625
Adelaide SA 5001
Tel (08) 8207 5333
www.pir.sa.gov.au

NOTICE TO FISHERS

Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) for the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the Vongole Fishery for the 2022/23 quota period

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) convened a meeting of Vongole Licence Holders on 11 May 2022 to seek advice on the setting of the TACCs for the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the fishery for the 2022/23 quota period.

The May 2022 SARDI report “Harvestable Biomass in the South Australian Vongole Fishery” has classified the Coffin Bay and West Coast stocks of the fishery as “sustainable” with harvestable biomass estimates of 1,095 tonnes and 630.8 tonnes for Coffin Bay and the West Coast, respectively.

The harvest strategy for the Vongole fishery, contained within the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery* recommends the TACCs for the respective zones of the fishery can be determined up to a maximum of 7.5% of the harvestable biomass estimate.

Following the meeting of Vongole Fishery licence holders of 11 May 2022, written advice from the South Australian Vongole Fishermen’s Association (SAVFA) recommended TACCs for the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the fishery of 55 tonnes and 16 tonnes, respectively, noting a precautionary approach should be taken in setting the 2022/23 TACC for the Coffin Bay zone.

As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined the Vongole TACCs for Coffin Bay and West Coast for the 2022/23 quota period after consideration of the following information:

- objectives of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- the harvest strategy for Vongole set out in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery*
- advice from fishery licence holders at the meeting of quota licence holders on 11 May 2022
- scientific advice provided in the May 2022 SARDI report “Harvestable Biomass in the South Australian Vongole Fishery”
- written advice provided by the SAVFA and licence holders who are not members of the Association on the setting of TACCs in the fishery for the 2022/23 quota period.

Based on this information, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined the quota unit values required under Regulation 9(2) of the *Fisheries Management (Vongole Fishery) Regulations 2021*, and TACCs for Vongole in the Coffin Bay and West Coast zones of the fishery as:

Vongole fishing zone	2022/23 TACC (kg)	No. quota units	Quota unit value (kg)
Coffin Bay	55,000	1,000.0	55
West Coast	16,000	1,000.0	16

Please note that section 23A of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* prohibits the take of all bivalves in the Port River. As a result of this prohibition a TACC setting for the Port River zone of the Vongole fishery under Regulation 9(2) of the *Fisheries Management (Vongole Fishery) Regulations 2021* is not required.

I also advise that PIRSA in consultation with licence holders with Vongole quota entitlements will develop a new harvest strategy to guide TACC setting for the fishery in 2022/23.

Should you have any further queries in regard to these matters please contact Steve Shanks, Fisheries Manager, on telephone (08) 8429 0197 or email Steve.shanks@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Begg', with a stylized, cursive script.

Prof Gavin Begg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development