



FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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www.pir.sa.gov.au

25 February 2024

**NOTICE TO FISHERS - SOUTHERN ZONE ABALONE FISHERY,
SOUTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY, MARINE SCALEFISH
FISHERY, CHARTER BOAT FISHERY****MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO AVG OUTBREAK AT PORT
MACDONNELL**

Dear Licence Holder

I advise that Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) has been confirmed in wild abalone in waters south of Port Macdonnell. This is the first time the disease has been found in South Australia and has the potential to severely impact South Australian abalone stocks and reef ecosystems.

Restrictions are now in place in the area from 24 February 2024 to 8 March 2024 unless amended or revoked earlier.

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. PCR tests have confirmed AVG in the samples.

PIRSA has activated an Incident Management Team including staff from Biosecurity, Fisheries and Aquaculture and SARDI to coordinate the response to this outbreak. PIRSA is working closely with key industry stakeholder representatives.

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.

A Control Area has been declared in the Port Macdonnell area from Nene Valley in the west to the South Australian-Victorian border in the east and reaches 5 nautical miles out to sea. The Control Area has been put in place to prevent transfer of AVG through human activity to abalone in unaffected South Australian waters.

PIRSA is aware of the impacts the fishing restrictions are having on industry and recreational activities. We are focussed on undertaking surveillance to understand the extent of the disease so these restrictions can be reviewed.

AVG has no known effects on human health.

Based on advice from the Incident Management Team I have issued a notice under Section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* prohibiting all fishing activities in the Control Area including:

- fishing from shore or a boat
- anchoring for the purposes of fishing activities
- using commercial fishing or abalone equipment
- using a hoop net, bait trap, hauling net and abalone levers for recreational fishing
- collecting any abalone, rock lobsters, sea urchins or other aquatic invertebrates, whether live or dead.

A copy of the notice and a map of the control area is attached for your information and are available on the PIRSA website at www.pir.sa.gov.au/avg

I also inform you that a notice is in force under the *Livestock Act 1997* issued on 10 July 2023 prohibiting the use of abalone or abalone products as bait or berley.

To help reduce the spread of AVG disease, South Australians statewide are encouraged to:

- Check: all vessels, fishing, diving and surfing equipment and remove anything including, water, sand or seaweed. Check your catch for signs of illness.
- Clean: boats at home or at a commercial car wash. Wash your wetsuits, fishing and diving equipment with fresh, soapy water.
- Dry: all boating, fishing and diving equipment completely before heading out into the water again.


You must not dispose of any abalone shell or gut into the ocean. Dispose of abalone shell, meat and gut in household rubbish.

AVG is a notifiable disease. If you see sick, dead or dying abalone in South Australia, please call the Fishwatch Hotline on 1800 065 522.

I will keep you informed as the response to this outbreak progresses. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation as together we work to protect our valuable fisheries.

The PIRSA website will be kept up to date at www.pir.sa.gov.au/avg

Yours sincerely,

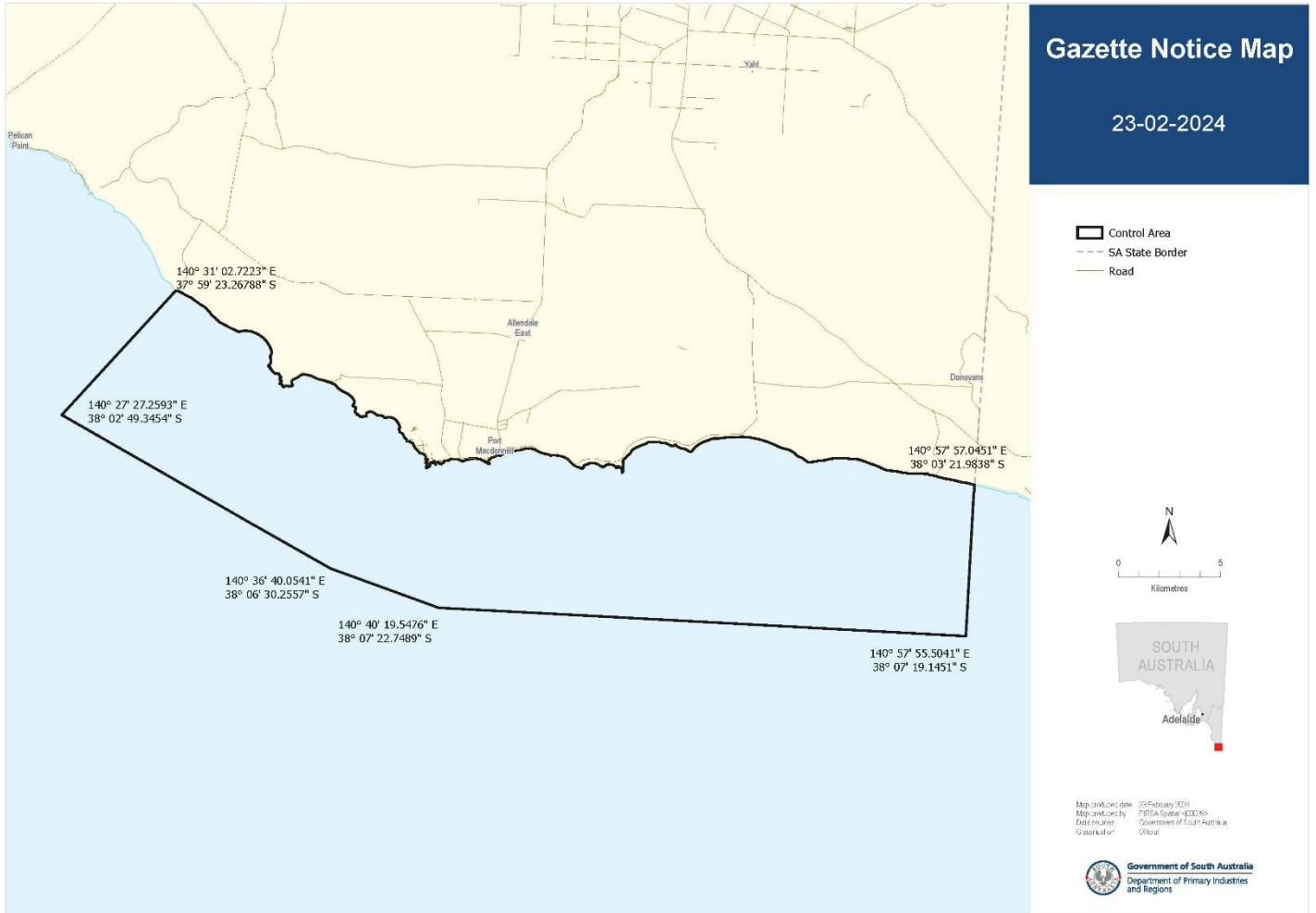


Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Attachments:

- A. Map of the control area
- B. S79 Notice Temporary prohibition of fishing activities in response to AVG

Attachment A: Map of Control Area



FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2007: SECTION 79

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

All fishing activities or acts preparatory to the taking of fish including acts preparatory to the taking of marine benthic species, including southern rock lobster, gastropods and macroalgae, the setting of benthic fishing pots and anchoring any vessel to engage in such activities.

SCHEDULE 2

The coastal waters of the south east of South Australia contained within and bounded by a line commencing at the point closest to 38°02'49.3454" South 140°27'27.2593" East, then north-easterly to the line of Mean High Water Springs closest to the point 37°59'23.26788" South 140°31'02.7223" East, then beginning south-easterly along the line of Mean High Water Springs to the location closest to the point 38°03'21.9838" South 140°57'57.0451" East, then south-westerly to the point 38°07'19.1451" South 140°57'55.5041" East, then north-westerly to the point 38°07'22.7498" South 140°40'19.5476" East then north-westerly to the point 38°06'30.2557" South 140°36'40.0541" East then further north-westerly to the point of commencement. (GDA2020)

SCHEDULE 3

From 24 February 2024 to 8 March 2024.

Dated 23 February 2024



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

Objective ID: A6174595