

# Pipi (Goolwa cockle) Fishing in South Australia

## Frequently Asked Questions

### GENERAL

#### **Q. When can I take pipi?**

Pipi may be taken from 1 November until 30 May each year. The taking of pipi is prohibited during the seasonal closure, which extends from 1 June to 31 October (inclusive) every year.

#### **Q. Is there a minimum legal size for pipi?**

Yes. The minimum legal length for every pipi taken is 3.5 centimetres, measured across the widest part of the shell.

#### **Q. What can I use to collect pipi?**

Recreational fishers may use a cockle rake, bait spade, bait fork or collect by hand. Commercial fishers may use a cockle rake endorsed on their fishery licence or collect by hand.

#### **Q. Why have the recent changes for the pipi fishery been introduced?**

The new restrictions have been introduced to reduce the impacts of fishing on the pipi resource due to possible overfishing and poor environmental conditions in the lower Murray region.

### RECREATIONAL FISHING

#### **Q. Can I take pipi from the Coorong beach?**

No. The taking of pipi by recreational fishers is prohibited along the Younghusband Peninsula (Coorong beach) from the River Murray mouth to Kingston SE until further notice.

#### **Q. Can I take pipi from Goolwa beach?**

Yes. Recreational fishers may take pipi along the Sir Richard Peninsula (Goolwa beach). Commercial pipi fishing between the River Murray mouth and Port Elliot is prohibited.

#### **Q. How many pipi can I take?**

The daily recreational bag limit is a maximum of 600 pipi per person per day. This bag limit will be reduced to 300 pipi per person per day by amendment to fisheries regulations in the near future. Recreational fishers are asked to voluntarily abide by a daily bag limit of 300 pipi until this time. The total allowable commercial catch has also been halved.

#### **Q. Can I sell or trade pipi?**

No. Recreational fishers are **not** permitted to sell or trade their catch. The *Fisheries Management Act 2007* specifies penalties for illegal fishing activities and the illegal sale of fish. These offences may attract heavy fines, as well as seizure and forfeiture for equipment, including boats and vehicles.

### COMMERCIAL FISHING

#### **Q. Who can take pipi?**

Pipi may only be taken for the purpose of sale if a fishery licence is endorsed with a pipi quota entitlement. The unit entitlement and maximum number of kilograms of quota that may be taken are listed on extract from the *Registrations and Entitlements Register* for each licence.

#### **Q. I do not have quota. Can I take any pipi?**

You may only take pipi for use as bait for fishing activities under **your own** fishery licence. You may take a maximum of 10 kilograms per day. You are not permitted to sell or trade pipi.

#### **Q. I have caught all my pipi quota but I want to take pipi for bait. Can I do this?**

No. If a licence holder has held a quota entitlement during the fishing season they cannot take pipi for personal bait using the 10 kg maximum daily limit.

**Q. Can I transfer any of my pipi quota entitlement?**

No. Pipi quota entitlements are not transferable under the existing system of licence conditions. Until regulations are passed to allow transferability, no quota unit transfers can be made.

**Q. Can I take pipi from the Coorong beach?**

Yes. Commercial fishers may take pipi along the Younghusband Peninsula (Coorong beach) from the River Murray mouth to Kingston SE. Recreational pipi fishing in this area is prohibited until further notice.

**Q. Can I take pipi from Goolwa beach?**

No. Commercial pipi fishing is prohibited on Sir Richard Peninsula (Goolwa beach) between the River Murray mouth and Port Elliot.

**Q. How many agents can assist me when taking pipi?**

A licence holder can be assisted by a maximum of 2 agents when taking pipi (licence holder plus 2 agents), in accordance with the existing regulations.

**Q. I have pipi a quota entitlement. What do I have to do when taking pipi?**

All licence holders who have a pipi quota entitlement have conditions on their licence explaining the requirements for quota monitoring, including prior reporting, completing and lodging catch disposal records (CDRs) and the specifications for the use of bags and tags.

**Q. Do I have to use standard bags and tags when taking pipi?**

Yes. The specifications for the standard bags and use of numbered tags are included in your licence conditions. PIRSA Fisheries Compliance has distributed Hessian sacks and tags to pipi quota entitlement holders. It is your responsibility to ensure you have appropriate type and quantity of bags and tags.

**Q. I do not understand the conditions about quota monitoring. Who should I contact to find out more?**

PIRSA Fisheries Compliance should be contacted about quota monitoring arrangements. Please call Randel Donovan, Regional Manager Central South on 0408 845 733 or David Grant, Senior Fisheries Officer on 0408 859 481.

**Q. What appeal rights do I have if I don't agree with the new conditions on my licence?**

All licence holders have rights of appeal against the imposition of licence conditions. These rights are set out in sections 111 and 112 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. You should seek your own legal advice in relation to appeal rights.

## **LEGISLATION**

Recreational size and bag limits are specified in the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2007* under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. Regulations for commercial pipi fishing are specified in the *Fisheries Management (Lakes and Coorong Fishery) Regulations 2006*, *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2006* and *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2007* under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. To view the legislation see the SA Parliament web site address at [www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au).

This information sheet is intended as a guide only and does not replace the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. Any views expressed about the meaning of particular provision of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* or regulations made under that Act are those of PIRSA Fisheries alone and are relied upon by the reader at his or her own risk. When in doubt about the meaning of legislation, readers are advised to seek their own legal advice.