

### Bag limit

A combined blue swimmer / sand crab catch limit of 40 crabs per person per day applies. For example 22 blue swimmer crabs and 18 sand crabs constitutes a bag limit of 40.

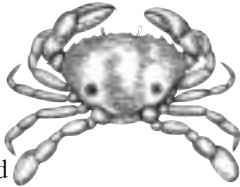
### Boat limit

When fishing from a boat, the daily catch limits are:

1 person	max 40 crabs
2 persons	max 80crabs
3 or more persons	max 120 crabs

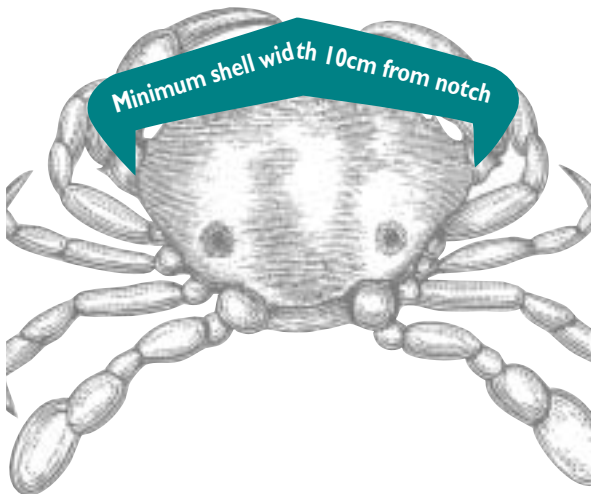
### Sand crabs (*Ovalipes australiensis*)

In South Australia, the sand crab is common throughout many ocean beaches and the southern areas of Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf. Sand crabs are easily distinguished by 2 coloured spots at the tail end of its carapace.



### Size limits

A sand crab is undersized if the distance from side to side of the carapace is less than 10 cm. Size limits apply in all waters of the State. Any undersize crabs must be returned to the water immediately.



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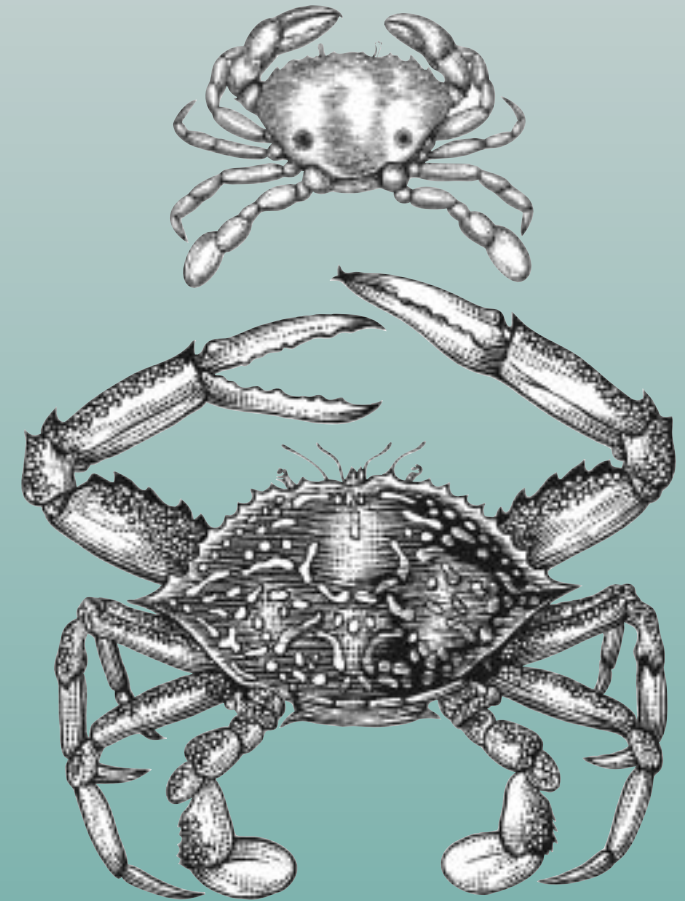
1 person	max 40 crabs
2 persons	max 80crabs
3 or more persons	max 120 crabs

Other rules apply to fishing in South Australia and these rules can change from time to time. For the latest information about the rules that apply to fishing in South Australia go to the PIRSA Fisheries web site [www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing) or call the 24 hour Fishwatch hotline on 1800 065 522.

This pamphlet is intended as a guide to fishing regulations in South Australia under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*. It does not replace the Act and should not be relied upon as a legal document.

# Crab Fishing

*fish for the future*



**FISHWATCH**  
Call **1800 065 522** 24  
Hours  
• fishing regulations • reporting fishing offences

January 2009  
[www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing)



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

## Crabbing in South Australia

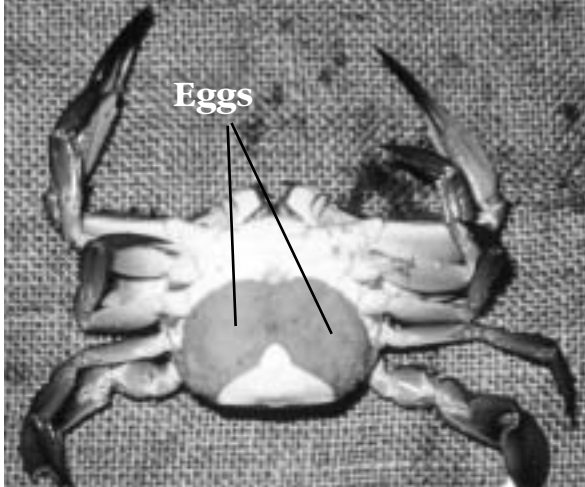
Crabbing is a popular pastime in South Australia. The two main species targeted are the blue swimmer crab and the sand crab. The giant crab (or king crab) is also occasionally caught in rock lobster pots set in deeper water.

A number of rules have been put in place to ensure the long-term health of the crab fishery. It is important that all fishers abide by these rules so that future generations can enjoy catching a feed of crabs.

## Rules that apply to all crab fishing

There are a number of rules that apply to all crab species. They are:

- All undersize crabs must be returned to the water immediately.
- Female crabs with external eggs are totally protected and must be returned to the water immediately.



- It is an offence for recreational fishers to sell or trade their catch.
- There is a combined blue swimmer/sand crab catch limit in South Australia. In other words you add together the numbers of each type of crab to calculate your daily or boat limit.

## Bait

When baiting for crabs, you are permitted to use fish or fish based products only. It is illegal to use bone, meat, offal or the skin of an animal including birds.

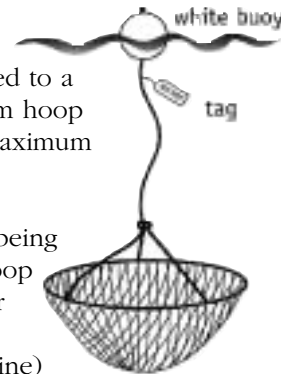
## Fishing gear

Crabbing is a relatively low cost method of fishing. A number of legally permitted devices are commonly used to catch crabs. If the device does not meet the following dimensions, it cannot be used to take crabs.

## Hoop nets

A hoop net is a net attached to a metal hoop. The maximum hoop diameter is 107cm. The maximum depth of the bag is 92cm.

If no other fishing gear is being used, a maximum of 10 hoop nets may be used. If other fishing equipment is being used (eg fishing rod/handline) then the maximum number of hoop nets is 3.



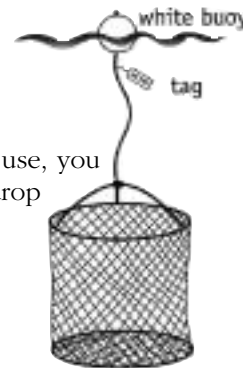
## Drop nets

A drop net is made up of two hoops joined by a cylindrical cone-shaped net bag. The maximum hoop diameter is 107cm. The maximum depth of the bag is 92cm.

A maximum of 3 drop nets per person can be used.

## Hoop nets/drop nets

If other fishing gear is being use, you are only permitted to use 3 drop nets or 3 hoop nets or a combination of both to a maximum of 3.



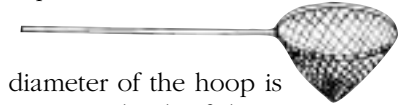
## Crab rake

A crab rake is a handheld device for scraping the bed of any waters. It consists of a pole with a rake attached.



## Hand net

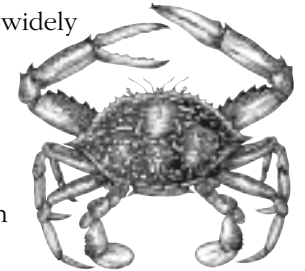
A hand net may be a dab net, dip net or shrimp net consisting of a conical shaped net which is attached to a hoop which is attached to a handle.



The maximum diameter of the hoop is 1 metre. The maximum depth of the net is 1 metre.

## Blue swimmer crabs (*Portunus pelagicus*)

Blue swimmer crabs are widely distributed throughout the inshore waters of South Australia, particularly in areas with extensive sandy bottom and seagrass meadows in Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf.



## Size limit

A blue crab is undersized if the carapace is less than 11 cms when measured from side to side at the base of the largest spines. Size limits apply in all waters of the State. Any undersize crabs must be returned to the water immediately.

