



Fish Facts May 2009



Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Resources SA



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GPS aquatic reserve downloads

GPS and Google Earth downloads for all South Australian aquatic reserves are now available on the PIRSA Fisheries website.

Along with all the other relevant info for each aquatic reserve, the website now allows fishers to download files that open in GPS software ready to be uploaded to a GPS or a marine plotter device. An aquatic reserve can also be displayed in Google Earth, giving the fisher a very user friendly interface to view their location in the real world. This function will help fishers make certain that they are fishing on the right side of the line. They can also compare their fishing locations to the aquatic reserve data by downloading their own GPS points to their software on Google Earth.

Depending on the adoption of the technology, this functionality may be expanded to other Fisheries closures sometime in the future.

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New Jetty opens at Rapid Bay

The new Rapid Bay jetty has been completed just six months after construction began on the \$4 million structure. It was opened at a community celebration on 11 March by Transport Minister, Patrick Conlon.

“This brand new 240 metre long jetty has reinforced Rapid Bay’s reputation as one of South Australia’s premier recreational fishing and diving locations,” he said.

“The local community, recreational fishers and divers, the on site project team and Adelaide Brighton Cement have all worked together extremely well to deliver such an impressive structure to Rapid Bay.

“I would encourage anyone with a passion for the outdoors and especially for the many and varied pastimes our marine environment caters for to come down and enjoy this fantastic new facility.”

The new Rapid Bay jetty features ample space for fishers and a convenient launching platform for divers drawn to the location by the rich diversity of marine life, including the leafy sea dragon.

A concrete and steel structure, the new jetty is designed to avoid the likelihood of the high costs typically associated with maintaining wooden jetties.

During construction the piles and crossheads for the new jetty were assembled on shore before being hammered into place using a 13 tonne piling hammer.

A fish measuring station to assist recreational fishers will be installed on the new jetty.

Work began on the jetty last August and despite some minor delays due to bad weather has been completed on time.

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Man reported for serious rock lobster offences

A man was recently reported for a number of serious fishing offences involving rock lobster.

A 41 year old man from Tantanoola was questioned and reported by PIRSA Fisheries Officers following investigations into his fishing activities in Lighthouse Bay near Carpenter Rocks. He was found to have committed a variety of offences including pulling unregistered rock lobster pots, pulling pots registered to another person, using more than the allowable number of pots, exceeding the rock lobster bag limit and possessing a commercial quantity of rock lobster taken illegally.

Fisheries Officers seized a number of items from the man including the vessel he was using, seven rock lobster pots and 37 rock lobsters.

Under the Fisheries Management Act, the local man faces severe penalties and could lose his boat and the right to register recreational rock lobster pots in the future.

In several recent Fisheries prosecutions, Magistrate Bill Morris placed orders on defendants preventing them from using rock lobster pots for up to five years and engaging in any type of fishing activity for three years.

PIRSA Fisheries Regional Manager, Limestone Coast, Mel Snart reminds fishers that rock lobster pots can only be pulled by the holder of the current registration and a maximum of two Rock lobster pots can be registered to a person.

"Many fishers think that it is okay to pull pots registered to their friends or family members while they are not present, but this is not the case," Ms Snart said.

"People who think that this is an acceptable practice are damaging the fishery for everyone. Gear restrictions reduce the number of rock lobster taken, which assists in providing a sustainable fishery."

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New Fisheries Minister

On 3 March, Minister Paul Caica became the new Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Minister for Regional Development following the retirement of the previous Minister Rory McEwen. Paul Caica will also retain his role as Minister for Industrial Relations.

On announcing his appointment, Premier Mike Rann said, "he is a Minister who has proven he can make a real connection with all South Australians – he has a natural ability as a listener, a thinker and a problem solver and will be able to continue the important work being left by former Minister Rory McEwen."

Paul Caica is also a keen recreational fisher.

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Bag and size limits change in Victoria

Victoria's new Fisheries Regulations 2009 commenced on 2 March and are designed to sustain fish populations and give all fishers a fair opportunity to catch some fish.

So if you are intending to cross the border to do a spot of fishing, make sure you check the size and bag limits for those fish you intend targeting.

The new rules include changes in the bag limits for several popular species like mulloway, bream and flathead that are targeted by South Australian recreational fishers visiting the Glenelg River and its estuary at Nelson on the southern end of the SA/Victorian border.

The existing rules for the number of recreational rods and lines will continue. Anglers fishing in marine waters may use up to four lines.

Pick up a copy of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide 2009/2010 which is now available (free of charge) from over 900 tackle stores and other retailers that sell Victorian recreational fishing licences for a comprehensive list of all the new recreational fishing regulations.

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New edition of Sharks and Rays of Australia

A new edition of the ID book, *Sharks and Rays of Australia* was launched by CSIRO Publishing in March.

The first edition of *Sharks and Rays of Australia* was produced in 1994. Since then, 29 new species have been discovered in Australian seas and more than 100 species have been named and described.

“More than a quarter of the world’s sharks and rays can be found in Australian waters, and many of the species that live on the continental slope have only been discovered in the past three decades, “ said Dr Last, director of the Australian National Fish Collection at CSIRO and co-author of the book.

With new descriptions and striking portraits, this book provides a valuable identification guide for recreational fishers and anybody interested in the marine environment.

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Premier opens new laboratory

Port Lincoln’s expanded Lincoln Marine Science Centre is at the heart of an ambitious plan to double the value of State’s seafood production and become a world-class centre for southern temperate marine science education.

The new laboratory facilities at the Centre were opened on 18 March by Premier Mike Rann.

“The expansion doubles the size of the Centre and enhances its standing as a global hub for marine research, which will attract visiting scientists from around the world,” he said.

Included in the new state-of-the-art laboratory are facilities for research into bluefin tuna, abalone, mussels and fisheries management.

The project was a major initiative of Marine Innovations SA, a partnership between SARDI, the State Government, Flinders University, Adelaide University, SA Museum and the seafood industry.

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Lead sinkers and your health

The Victorian Department of Human Services has released a document detailing the dangers of making lead sinkers to you and your family’s health.

Some people in Victoria have been poisoned by manufacturing lead fishing sinkers in their homes. Melting lead produces a poisonous gas, which can be breathed in. On other occasions children have ingested small sinkers.

Lead affects the body in many ways, depending on how much is taken up and how long someone has been exposed to it. It can remain in the body for many years and can cause reduced brain function, including memory and concentration problems, learning and behaviour problems in children.

The safest option is not to manufacture lead fishing sinkers yourself. Other things to consider are:

- Never put a lead sinker in your mouth
- Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling lead sinkers or cleaning out your tackle box
- Don’t leave lead sinkers where children can access them
- Consider a non-lead sinker alternative

Lead can also get into the environment from lead fishing tackle. It remains there for a long time and may get into animals and birds, causing illness or death.

Always clean up your fishing spot and pick up dropped or tangled gear.

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PIRSA Fisheries produces Fishfacts as an information service to commercial and recreational fishers. Information about regulations and other laws is provided as a summary only and does not replace the legislation. It is the responsibility of fishers to ensure that they are aware of the law and comply with it.

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