



Use of berley in South Australian Waters

Background

Berleying is a method used to attract fish and is a generally accepted fishing practice. But, the use of certain berley specifically designed to attract sharks has the potential to endanger the lives of swimmers and divers in the same area.

For this reason, the legislation has recently been amended to minimise the impact berleying may have on the safety of other water users. Below are answers to some frequently asked questions.

Q. Can fishers use chicken necks, carcasses (or pieces), meat products such as ox heart, old chops, dog bones, roo tails etc for bait in crab nets (hoop nets (1 ring) or drop nets (2 rings)) off the metropolitan jetties?

A. No. Fishers can only use fish-related products like fish frames, heads, pieces, including squid and cuttlefish as bait for catching crabs.

Q. Can fishers use chicken necks, carcasses (or pieces), meat products such as ox heart, old chops, dog bones, roo tails etc for bait in my crab nets (hoop nets (1 ring) or drop nets (2 rings)) from a boat?

A. No. Fishers can only use fish-related products like fish frames, heads, pieces, including squid and cuttlefish as bait for catching crabs.

Q. How long has this regulation been in effect?

A. The regulation was updated and clarified as part of a recent regulation review. These changes came into effect from 1 December 2007.

Q. What could happen to fishers who are caught illegally berleying?

A. Fisheries Officers will be using an educational approach to this issue in the first instance, informing fishers of the rules. Blatant or repeated illegal behaviour may result in an expiation notice (on-the-spot fine) of \$210 being issued.

For major breaches, a brief of evidence may be prepared and the matter heard in Court by a Magistrate. In these cases, fines of up to \$2,500 may apply.

Q. Is it illegal to sell chicken meat and other animal products as berley?

A. While it is not illegal to sell this type of product, it is illegal to use it in marine waters. PIRSA Fisheries would ask suppliers and sellers of bait to assist in helping fishers to comply with this legislation by not stocking these products for sale.

Q. What about the use of commercial pelleted berley that contains meat products?

A. The intent of the law is to minimise the impact berleying may have on attracting sharks to areas close to other water users. It is unlikely that these products will have any attractant properties and so they are permissible.

Q. Where can I find out more information about the fishing rules that apply in South Australia?

A. Copies of the booklet "South Australian Recreational Fishing Guide" are available free of charge from PIRSA Fisheries offices, fishing and tackle shops, Visitor Centres and other outlets. This booklet provides an overview of the rules that apply to recreational fishing in South Australia. Information is also available from the Fisheries website www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing or by ringing the 24 hour Fishwatch telephone hotline on 1800 065 522.

Legislation

Berleying is covered in Section 23, of the *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.

This FAQ sheet is PIRSA Fisheries' interpretation of the legislation and is not a substitute for legal advice.



Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Resources SA

FISHWATCH

Call **1800 065 522** **24**
Hours

• fishing regulations • reporting fishing offences