

REVIEW OF RECREATIONAL FISHING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*A management strategy for the sustainable  
development of recreational fishing in South Australia*

A FIVE YEAR PROGRAM



PREPARED BY THE RECREATIONAL FISHING  
INDUSTRY REVIEW COMMITTEE

# Foreword

This management strategy is the culmination of three years work by the Recreational Fishing Industry Review Committee and provides an excellent framework for the development of recreational fishing in South Australia over the next five years.

Recreational fishing is an activity that is enjoyed by many South Australians. The industry provides a unique and exciting recreational pursuit for those people who enjoy angling in our magnificent marine and freshwater ecosystems. The South Australian Government is committed to ensuring that the many social and economic benefits of recreational fishing are maintained and enhanced.

This strategy provides both a framework and specific recommendations for the management of recreational fishing. The Government will be considering each recommendation and moving to implement those recommendations where there are benefits to the whole community.

An important component of this plan is the recognition that recreational fishers can have an impact on our fish resources. Therefore, future fisheries management programs need to incorporate better information on the fishing pressure of the recreational sector to provide for sustainable fishing outcomes for current and future generations.

South Australians can feel proud of the quality of fishing experiences available in our waters. Through a continued partnership between the recreational fishing industry, tourism, the community and Government, we can all strive to achieve a world class recreational fishery for South Australia.

I commend the Review Committee for their immense contribution to the review and would like to specifically recognise the efforts of Mr Tweed Harris (deceased) the Chairman of the Review Committee.



## DISCLAIMER

This draft document has been developed in full consultation with the public of South Australia, and is intended to define future management directions for recreational fishing in South Australia. However, this document does not represent formal government policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rob Kerin'.

Rob Kerin  
DEPUTY PREMIER  
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES  
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Introduction

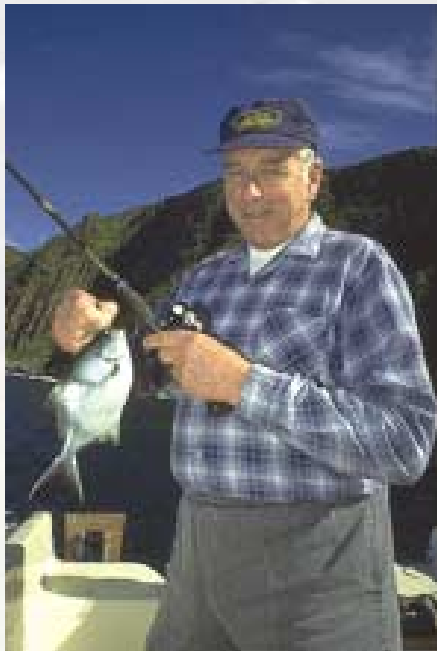
In May 1997, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture published the results of an extensive survey of recreational fishing in South Australia, undertaken by the Marketing Science Centre of the University of South Australia (Marketing Science Centre 1997). Although many of the results of this survey have previously been reported, it is worth presenting them again:

## A profile of the recreational fishery in South Australia.

Number of recreational anglers in SA aged over 5 years which fish at least once a year	<b>453 000</b>	Proportion of metropolitan recreational fishers that fish mainly in the country regions	<b>68%</b>
The proportion of the total population over the age of 5 years that fish at least once a year	<b>31%</b>	The proportion of country fishers that fish mainly in the country regions	<b>93%</b>
The number of fishers living in the metropolitan area	<b>268 000</b>	The annual recurrent expenditure of recreational fishers in SA	<b>\$350 million</b>
The proportion of people living in the metropolitan area that fish once a year	<b>28%</b>	The investment in fishing tackle by recreational fishers	<b>\$219 million</b>
The number of fishers living in the country regions	<b>185 000</b>	The replacement value of boats owned by recreational fishers aged over 15	<b>\$893 million</b>
The proportion of the people living in country areas that fish once a year	<b>47%</b>	The total capital investment in recreational fishing boats and tackle	<b>\$1.112 billion</b>



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Quite clearly the results show that recreational fishing is not only a popular pastime, but one which provides substantial economic and social benefits to the South Australian community, in particular the rural and regional areas. Economic activity in these regional centres provides numerous employment opportunities in the hospitality, service and retail trades, and recently the guided charter fishing industry.

Recreational fishing also contributes significant social benefits to the community through the provision of an activity that allows people to be involved in a range of leisure experiences. The South Australian Recreational Fishing Survey demonstrates that being with friends and family is the most important motivation contributing to recreational fishing as a satisfying experience. Other important motivations include relaxation, 'getting away from it all', appreciation of the natural environment and catching a feed of fish.

The development of recreational fishing in South Australia also relies on a cultural change occurring within the recreational fishing fraternity. Certainly there has been a strong transition in recreational fishing in recent years to a more conservative approach to catching fish. Concepts such as catch and release are a clear demonstration of this. Catching enough fish for ones immediate needs is now a principle adopted by many fishers, and it will continue to be promoted as demonstration of the progressive cultural change that is occurring.

This document will provide the broad framework for maintaining and building upon the already significant values and benefits of recreational fishing in South Australia, and will form the basis for ensuring that this activity can continue to be enjoyed by current and future generations of South Australians.



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# A framework for the strategy

## VISION

The vision for this strategy projects an integrated approach to the management of recreational fishing aimed at achieving sustainable management and development.

**Achievement of a world class recreational fishery in South Australia providing diverse and high quality experiences for current and future generations.**



## MISSION

**To optimise the long term value of, and opportunities for, a sustainable recreational fishery in South Australia, based upon sound management and a healthy environment.**

## PRINCIPLES

The principles identified in this strategy are the fundamental premises that the government and the community will use to develop and apply policy and subsequent actions including decision making, regulation and enforcement.

- Recreational fishing is a valuable, significant and legitimate use of South Australia's living aquatic resources.
- Government, the community, and industry share responsibility for the conservation and wise use of South Australia's fisheries resources.
- Within the context of their responsibilities, government, the community, and industry are partners in the management of South Australia's fisheries resources.
- Government, the community, and industry adopt a precautionary approach to fisheries resource management.
- We value and care for our fisheries resources and the environments they are dependent upon.
- The recreational fishing community plays an important role in the management and allocation of our fisheries resources.
- Government, the community, and industry integrate the use of environmental, economic, social, and equity considerations in the management of our fisheries resources.
- Fisheries resources are common property resources, managed and regulated by government in partnership with the community and industry.
- Management arrangements for our fisheries resources must be clear and easily understood.





## GOALS

The goals of the strategy are to lay the foundations for sustainable development based on integrated management practices and processes for the next five to ten years. To this end the Government and the recreational fishing community of South Australia must commit itself to using resources in the most effective way to implement this strategy and integrate and coordinate its approach to fisheries management.

- To define, develop and optimise the economic and social benefits of recreational fishing in South Australia.
- To enhance the long term quality of the recreational fishing experience in South Australia.
- To attract local, interstate and overseas interest and investment in South Australia through the development and promotion of a world class recreational fishery.
- To participate in the long term care and protection of the marine and freshwater environments of South Australia.
- To identify, understand and meet the current and future requirements of the recreational fishing industry in South Australia.
- To encourage and promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable fisheries management.
- To support the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) in the management of recreational fishing in South Australia.





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**Strategic  
Goal 1:**

**Healthy Environments and Habitat**

**OBJECTIVE:** To contribute to the maintenance, enhancement and protection of the marine and freshwater environments, which are fundamental to the health of all fish stocks.

**Strategic  
Goal 2:**

**Sustainable Fish Stocks**

**OBJECTIVE:** To foster the maintenance and enhancement of the fish stocks targeted and taken by recreational fishers in order to provide quality recreational fishing opportunities now and in the future, and to ensure sustainability of stocks in perpetuity.

**Strategic  
Goal 3:**

**Education and Public Awareness**

**OBJECTIVE:** To promote and improve the knowledge and understanding of fisheries management principles within the community and to encourage the adoption of sustainable fishing practices for the benefit of current and future generations.

**Strategic  
Goal 4:**

**Community Ownership**

**OBJECTIVE:** To promote and develop the involvement of recreational fishers in the management of South Australia's fisheries.

**Strategic  
Goal 5:**

**Quality and Diversity of Fishing**

**OBJECTIVE:** To develop and promote recreational fishing opportunities in a manner that will ensure the sustainability of fish stocks and a fair and equitable allocation of fish stocks to recreational fishers.

**Strategic  
Goal 6:**

**Business Development**

**OBJECTIVE:** To recognise and promote the development of business based upon recreational fishing that will provide economic and social benefits to South Australia.



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## Strategic Goal 1: Healthy Environments

**OBJECTIVE:** To contribute to the maintenance, enhancement and protection of the marine and freshwater environments, which are fundamental to the health of all fish stocks.



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Strategic issues	Key tasks
<b>Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the development of management plans which integrate the significant elements of the aquatic environment, particularly linking the impact of aquatic degradation with fish stock sustainability (ie: Marine &amp; Estuarine Strategy)</li> </ul>
<b>Marine Protected Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the needs of the recreational fishing industry are recognised when Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are being considered. Support the responsible and appropriate establishment of MPAs to ensure the protection of living marine resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the establishment of management guidelines for marine dredging and dumping activities, which aim to minimise or remove the impacts on the environment, fish habitats and stocks.</li> <li>Support strategies which focus on the complete removal of point sources of pollution.</li> <li>Identify specific polluting activities such as waste water discharge, stormwater discharge and dredging which may have significant deleterious effects on fisheries production.</li> <li>Support programs that aim to quantify the effects of identifiable pollution on fish stocks and aquatic environments.</li> <li>Work with government agencies and industry to integrate fisheries issues with broader natural resource management planning.</li> <li>Contribute to the development of exotic marine pest prevention and response policies.</li> </ul>
<b>Ecosystem Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to integrate fisheries management with broader government policies and strategies for rehabilitation of degraded aquatic habitats, and the terrestrial habitats that impact upon them.</li> <li>Continue to support the development and adoption of a regionally based ecosystem management approach to fisheries management.</li> </ul>

## Strategic Goal 2: Sustainable Fish Stocks

**OBJECTIVE:** To foster the maintenance and enhancement of the fish stocks targeted and taken by recreational fishers in order to provide quality recreational fishing opportunities now and in the future, and to ensure sustainability of stocks in perpetuity.



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Strategic issues	Key tasks
<p><b>Research</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the development of fisheries research programs that focus on acquiring and reporting information that aims to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Incorporate regional data into stock assessments, particularly with regards to future recreational research programs;</li> <li>II. Place an increased emphasis on appropriate fisheries independent data in stock assessments, to allow the generation of long-term information that may be used in predictive modelling systems for fisheries management;</li> <li>III. Integrate both commercial and recreational fishery catch and effort information into stock assessments; and</li> <li>IV. Provide for a stronger regional focus that aims to identify the localised impacts of fishing.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Encourage programs that identify the use of biological and environmental indicators as benchmarks for future management and research triggers.</li> <li>• Encourage research programs that identify and quantify the predator/prey relationships between species.</li> <li>• Establish appropriate representation of the recreational fishing industry on research sub-committees of Fisheries Management Committees (FMC) and the SA Fisheries Research Advisory Board (SAFRAB).</li> <li>• Encourage the recreational fishing industry to assume more responsibility in determining its own research requirements and developing clear objectives and priorities for research of recreational importance.</li> <li>• Encourage communication strategies that disseminate research outcomes to the broader community.</li> </ul>



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Strategic issues	Key tasks
<b>Sustainable Fishing Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an integrated awareness program that accelerates the cultural change amongst recreational fishers to adopt sustainable fishing practices to reduce the level of unnecessary mortalities. The adoption of practices, such as catch and release fishing, proper handling techniques, fishing for ones immediate needs, best practice fishing which does not result in avoidable mortalities and utilisation of appropriate gear when targeting certain species, should be emphasised.</li> <li>• Focus management on enhancing stocks by protecting juvenile fish stocks in nursery areas and adult fish in spawning aggregations. Such programs would require the identification of stocks that may benefit from such a strategy, important nursery and spawning areas, the effects and efficiency of certain items of fishing gear and practices in identified nursery and spawning areas, and the nature of practices employed in fishing.</li> </ul>
<b>Compliance and Regulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within the proposed review of the <i>Fisheries Act 1982</i>, assess the applicability and effectiveness of the current penalties and broad strategies used to regulate the recreational fishing sector.</li> <li>• Develop simpler regulations that more adequately support the practical aspects of the fishery and the increasing conservation ethic of recreational fishers.</li> <li>• Continue to support the current emphasis on the educational components of compliance activities to achieve cultural change towards responsible fishing practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Management Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop regional recreational fishery management plans that integrate the requirements of all user groups and extend beyond current boundaries to include aspects such as infrastructure requirements and regional service needs (eg: guides &amp; charters.) Such plans must integrate broadly with the whole fishery and natural resource planning.</li> <li>• Provide for an increased focus in developing individual species management programs for all major species within the marine scale fishery.</li> </ul>

### Strategic Goal 3: Education and Public Awareness

**OBJECTIVE:** To promote and improve the knowledge and understanding of fisheries management principles within the community and to encourage the adoption of sustainable fishing practices for the benefit of current and future generations.



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Strategic issues	Key tasks
<b>Fish for the Future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support educational programs which promote greater awareness of fisheries management issues within the community.</li> <li>• Examine the development of a recreational fishing program for incorporation into educational institutions, which integrates with the Fishcare volunteer program, and other recreational fishing strategies.</li> <li>• Ensure ongoing and effective community education programs which further promote the “Fish for the Future” theme.</li> <li>• Develop educational training programs for members of South Australian Recreational Fishing Advisory Council, Recreational Fisheries Committees (RFCs), fishing associations, and other relevant community bodies that promote these concepts.</li> <li>• Examine the development of partnerships with educational institutions, to provide input on the recreational fishing industry in the development of curriculum for schools and other education programs.</li> </ul>
<b>Regulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Align the activities of the Fishwatch program with the requirements of the recreational fishing industry, to achieve effective community awareness and education programs that address the needs of government and the recreational fishing community.</li> <li>• Examine opportunities to optimise compliance services and effectiveness, including the identification of increased funding sources.</li> </ul>
<b>Managing Perceptions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support the PIRSA Fisheries Community Education and Awareness program and ensure that new programs integrate with other community educational programs (Fishcare, RFCs, clubs and associations).</li> <li>• Contribute to further development of a communication strategy that provides broader dissemination of fisheries related information.</li> <li>• Improve the transparency of fisheries management decision making processes to the broader community.</li> <li>• Examine options for the establishment of additional resources to increase the capability to educate and disseminate fisheries information to the public.</li> </ul>



## Strategic Goal 4: Quality and Diversity of Fishing

**OBJECTIVE:** To develop and promote recreational fishing opportunities in a manner that will ensure the sustainability of fish stocks and a fair and equitable allocation of fish stocks to recreational fishers.

Strategic issues	Key tasks
<p><b>Resource sharing and allocation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve appropriate and transparent mechanisms for the allocation of fisheries resources between all competing users. These mechanisms must define the criteria, the process, the key considerations and a quantification of the allocation, and take into account the economic, ecological, social and environmental benefits of allocation arrangements.</li> <li>• Provide for the more effective communication of the benefits of increasing the share of fisheries resources to the recreational sector where appropriate.</li> <li>• Consider the establishment of a network of priority recreational fishing locations throughout the State, which are managed primarily for recreational fishing values.</li> <li>• Assess the benefits to fish stocks and recreational fishers of reducing commercial catch and effort in the marine scale fishery, particularly in nursery areas and inshore waters where netting activities are prevalent, and where there is strong recreational activity.</li> <li>• Continue to refine and improve management arrangements that effectively and appropriately allocate resource shares between the recreational and commercial sectors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Access</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with government agencies and the community to develop agreements to enhance the opportunities for access to freshwater impoundments. These should minimise risk through the inclusion of protective regulations, definition of management responsibilities, and development of a code of conduct.</li> <li>• Provide clarity and definition to land tenure and rights in respect of Crown land, gazetted reserves and public access rights to potential fishing locations.</li> <li>• Support the development of an access plan for the attainment and maintenance of access to new and existing recreational fishing locations. Access to the vicinity of aquaculture sites should also be addressed and negotiated under this policy.</li> <li>• Incorporate into educational programs for recreational fishers the potential impacts and likely consequences of irresponsible behaviour when fishing.</li> </ul>

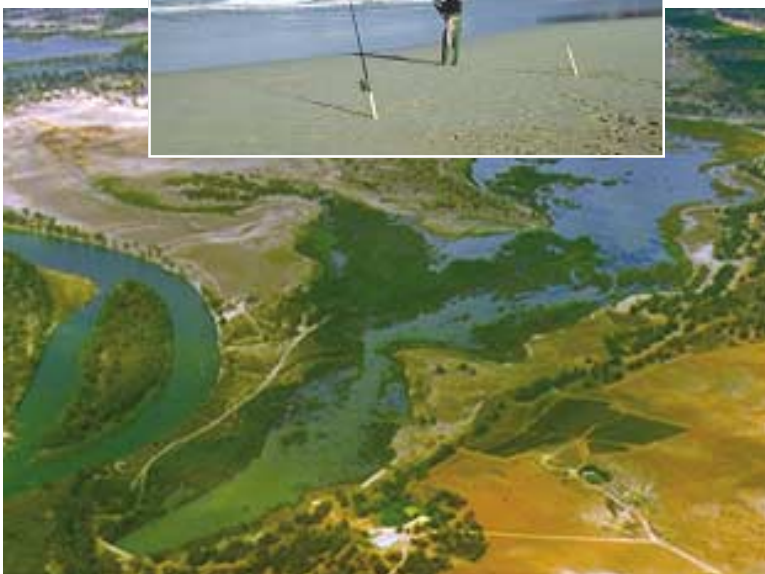


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Strategic issues	Key tasks
<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the development of a Recreational Fishing Infrastructure Plan, that recognises the requirements of the recreational fishing industry, including physically impaired fishers, and which focuses infrastructure planning on a regional basis.</li> <li>• Integrate the infrastructure plan with the existing Recreational Boating Facilities Fund and jetty upgrading programs.</li> <li>• Achieve greater transparency in approval processes for the use of the Recreational Boating Facilities Fund through the adequate representation of recreational fishers on the Recreational Boating Facilities Advisory Committee.</li> <li>• Identify funding sources for infrastructure development that improve recreational fishing opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stock Enhancement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the establishment of partnerships with the aquaculture industry in appropriate restocking programs for important recreational fish species.</li> <li>• Place emphasis on improved management of wild fish populations using environmental solutions.</li> <li>• Ensure that the community clearly understands the constraints and opportunities when developing restocking programs.</li> <li>• Identify and develop opportunities for the stocking of available impoundments that will result in the development of high quality recreational fisheries.</li> </ul>

## Strategic Goal 5: Community Ownership

**OBJECTIVE:** To promote and develop the involvement of recreational fishers in the management of South Australia's fisheries.



Strategic issues	Key tasks
<p><b>Representation and consultation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the establishment of appropriate representation of recreational fishing interests in appropriate areas, in particular Fisheries Management Committees, which may impact upon recreational fisheries and the aquatic environments of South Australia.</li> <li>• Identify mechanisms, including alternative management structures that simplify and expedite fisheries management processes and, allow for adequate representation of recreational fishing industry issues.</li> <li>• Gain broader community acknowledgment and support of the need for integrated and coordinated recreational fishing representation in appropriate forums.</li> <li>• Gain a greater level of government and community recognition of the importance of recreational fishing to the social and economic fabric of South Australia.</li> <li>• Improve communication networks across all stakeholder groups.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Funding</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a funding strategy for the management and development of the recreational fishing industry in South Australia, within the context of establishing suitable resources and support to allow the implementation of this strategy over the next five years</li> <li>• Assess the feasibility of developing a financial strategy that allows for the ongoing investment of funds into a resource acquisition program that will achieve equity of access to the State's living marine resources.</li> <li>• Examine and assess alternative sources of funding for recreational fishing management.</li> </ul>

## Strategic Goal 6: Business Development

**OBJECTIVE:** To recognise and promote the development of business based upon recreational fishing that will provide economic and social benefits to South Australia.



Strategic issues	Key tasks
<p><b>Regional development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify regional opportunities for the development of recreational fishing related business.</li> <li>• Identify programs that:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. identify key regional recreational fishing areas and opportunities for associated business development;</li> <li>II. quantify the benefits achievable for regional communities through the development of recreational fishing;</li> <li>III. plan, promote and develop recreational fishing related business opportunities and benefits.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Tourism</b></p> <p>regional authorities which</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the promotion of State and national tourism initiatives that benefit recreational fishing tourism, such as the development of regional infrastructure.</li> <li>• Encourage the promotion of recreational fishing to enhance State and national tourism initiatives.</li> <li>• Contribute to the development of quality training programs and codes of conduct for recreational fishing tours in partnership with relevant organisations.</li> <li>• Establish partnerships with SA Tourism Commission (SATC) and local and actively manage interstate and international tourism to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Identify, understand and communicate the wants and needs of recreational fishing visitors;</li> <li>II. identify and promote recreational fishing tourism opportunities.</li> <li>III. Identify and promote recreational fishing as a significant contributor to regional tourism</li> </ol> </li> </ul>



Strategic issues	Key tasks
<b>Publicity and promotion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster the development of a publicity and promotional campaign, that communicates the benefits of the SA recreational fishing industry to the national and world markets.</li> <li>• Investigate appropriate funding sources to enable effective publicity and promotional programs that communicate the quality of recreational fishing in SA and portray the benefits to this State of developing recreational fishing.</li> </ul>
<b>Charter boats and guides</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to the development of a Charter Boat and Guide industry which clearly defines strategies for attaining accreditation, standards and a code of conduct.</li> <li>• Identify the key research requirements of the Charter Boat and Guide industry.</li> <li>• Support the development of the Charter Boat industry in accordance with the objectives of the recreational fishing industry.</li> <li>• Contribute to the development of quality standards and accreditation for the Charter Boat Fishing and Guide Industries.</li> </ul>
<b>Tournaments and competitions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop research programs to identify the impacts of tournaments and competitions on fisheries resources.</li> <li>• Develop and promote a code for conduct of tournaments and competitions.</li> <li>• Encourage corporate sponsorship of competitions through increased publicity and promotion, to achieve national and international recognition.</li> </ul>

# Recreational Fisheries Strategic Action Program

Strategic goal	Action	2001				2002				2003				2004				2005			
1	Develop a recreational fishing policy for input into the establishment of MPAs.																				
1	Review the functions and effectiveness of current marine reserves.																				
1 & 2	Establish biological and environmental indicators in all fisheries.																				
1 & 2	Identify major spawning and aggregation areas of important fish stocks.																				
1 & 2	Commence the development of regional recreational fishing management plans.																				
1,2 & 5	Identify costs and investigate additional funding sources for the research, management and development of recreational fishing.																				
1,2 & 6	Identify impacts of increased visitation for recreational fishing purposes.																				
1 & 5	Establish liaison for input into water catchment management plans.																				
2	Establish a recreational fishing catch and effort data base																				
2	Incorporate recreational fishing catch and effort data into stock assessments																				
2	Review recreational fishing membership of the SA FRAB.																				
2	Review penalties for breaches of the <i>Fisheries Act 1982</i> .																				
2 & 3	Develop and review appropriate bag and boat limits.																				
2 & 4	Identify fish stocks that can be effectively managed through the establishment of TAC and quota.																				
2 & 5	Establish recreational fishing representation on the Recreational Boating Facilities Advisory Committee.																				
2 & 5	Appoint more recreational members to all FMCs in particular the Blue Crab, and Marine Scalegfish FMC's, to achieve equal representation on these committees.																				

Strategic goal	Action	2001			2002			2003			2004			2005		
3,4 & 5	Develop information brochures and guidelines for stocking and restocking programs.															
3 & 5	Establish legislative recognition of recreational fishing, management processes in the Fisheries Act 1982.															
4	Review and further develop the Community Education and Awareness Program undertaken by PIRSA Fisheries.															
4	Identify areas for consideration as recreational only fishing areas.															
4	Establish an access committee that considers issues of recreational access to fishing venues.															
4	Develop a code of conduct for recreational fishers utilising facilities and infrastructure.															
4 & 6	Ensure that the needs of physically impaired persons are recognised and addressed in infrastructure programs.															
4 & 6	Identify regional infrastructure requirements for recreational fishers.															
4 & 6	Establish a freshwater impoundment working party.															
5	Identify and prioritise opportunities for the development of regional recreational fishing business opportunities.															
6	Establish mechanisms to ensure adequate representation of recreational fishers in natural resource planning forums.															
6	Develop a recreational fishing tourism plan in conjunction with SATC and regional tourism associations.															
6	Facilitate the development of a code of ethics and accreditation system for charter boat operators and fishing guides.															
6	Establish guidelines for conducting recreational fishing tournaments and competitions.															
6	Develop a monitoring program for tournaments and competitions.															

KEY



Develop



Ongoing



Review

# The regulation of recreational fishing in South Australia

## Proposed changes to size and bag limits

One of the actions defined in this strategy is the formulation of a set of bag, size, boat and gear regulations that apply to recreational fishers in South Australian waters. The new proposals were developed from extensive consultation between PIRSA Fisheries, the South Australian Recreational Fishing Advisory Council, the Recreational Fisheries Committees and the fishing community.

The regulations have been developed to meet many objectives, foremost of these being the protection of fish stocks for future generations. In order for the regulations to work, they must be easy to understand and apply.

In considering recommendations for size and bag limits the following factors were taken into consideration:

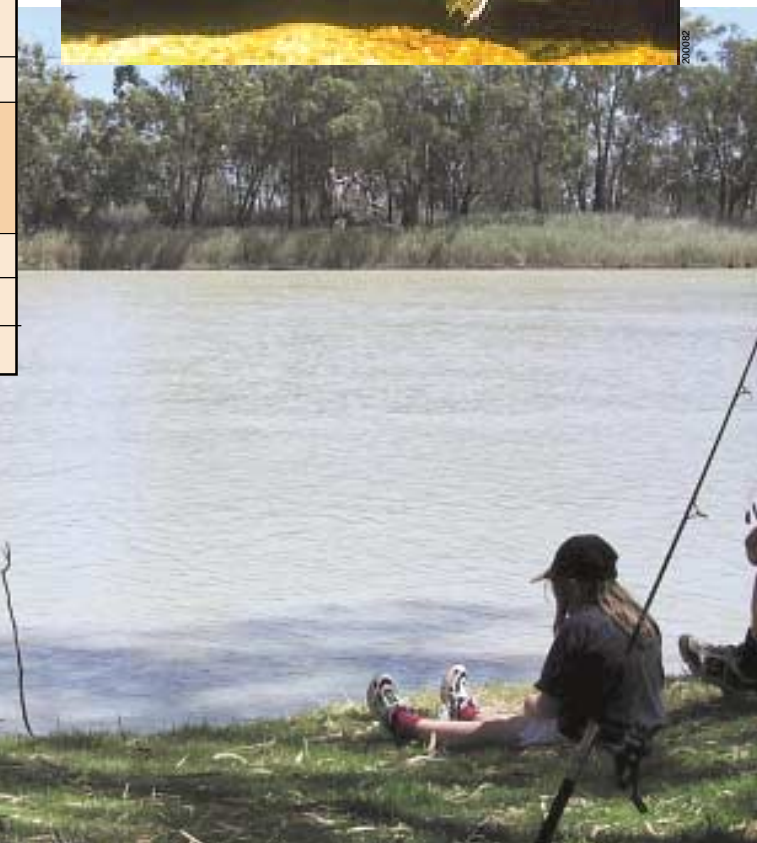
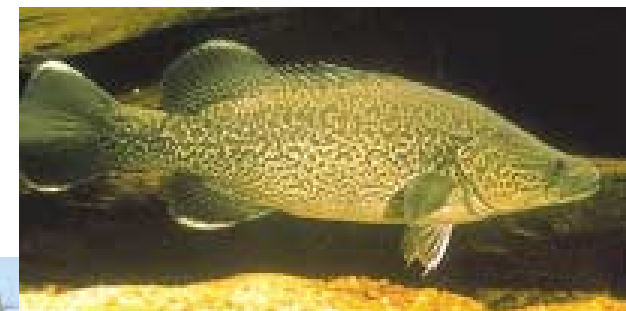
- Biological imperatives;
- Simplicity of regulations;
- Ability to enforce regulations;
- Regional considerations;
- Consistency with commercial size limits;
- Gear changes compatible to new and existing size limits; and
- Bag limits reflect contemporary values and attitudes of recreational fishers, and the nature of the recreational fishing experience.

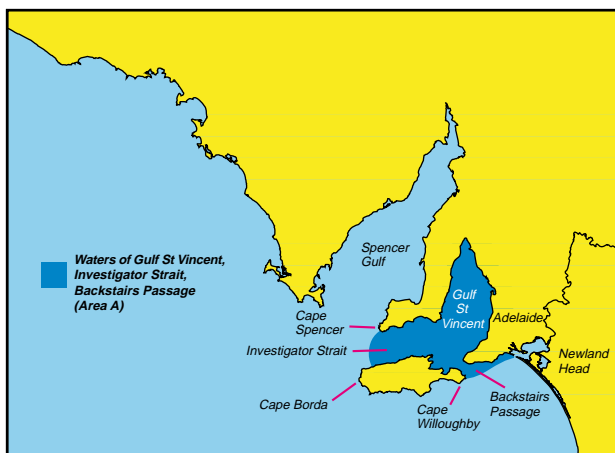


## FRESHWATER FISHERIES

Recommended size, bag and boat limits for the major inland fish species in South Australia.

SPECIES	LENGTH (cm)	BAG LIMIT	BOAT LIMIT
Callop (all waters)	33	5	15
Grunter (family)	Nil	5	15
Cooper Creek Catfish	<33	10	30
	>33	2	6
Murray cod	50 - 100	2	6
Silver perch	protected		
River Murray Catfish			
River blackfish			
Trout (all species)	28	3	
Yabby	Nil	200	
South East Crayfish	10	5	





## MARINE FISHERIES

Recommended size, bag and boat limits for the major marine fish species in South Australia.

SPECIES	LENGTH (cm)	BAG LIMIT	BOAT LIMIT
<b>SCALEFISH</b>			
Blue groper	60 - 100	2	6
Mulloy	75	2	6
Tunas	Nil	2	6
Yellowtail kingfish	75	2	6
Samson fish	75	2	6
School shark	40**	Combined bag limit of 2	Combined boat limit of 6
Gummy shark	45**		
Snapper	>60	2	6
(Area A)*	38 - 60	5	15
Snapper (Other areas)	38 - 60	10	30
Blue morwong	38	5	15
Bream spp.	28	10	30
Flathead spp.	30	10	30
Red Snapper (Nannygai)	30	10	30
Australian salmon	>35	10	30
	24-35	20	60
Flounder	Nil	20	60
Snook	45	20	60
Sweep	24	20	60
Silver trevally	24	20	60
Yellowfin whiting	24	20	60
King George whiting	30	20	60



## MARINE FISHERIES

Recommended size, bag and boat limits for the major marine fish species in South Australia, cont.

SPECIES	LENGTH (cm)	BAG LIMIT	BOAT LIMIT
<b>SCALEFISH (cont.)</b>			
Garfish	24	60	180
Mullet	21	60	180
Tommy ruff	Nil	60	180
<b>MOLLUSCS AND CRUSTACEANS</b>			
Sthn rock lobster(NZ)	10.5	4	12
Sthn rock lobster (SZ)	9.85	4	12
Sthn calamary	Nil	Combined bag limit of	Combined boat limit of
Cuttlefish		15	45
Blue swimmer crabs	11	Combined bag limit of	Combined boat limit of
Sand crabs	10	40	120
Black cowrie		1	3
Blacklip abalone	13	5	15
Greenlip abalone (Western Zone)	13 14.5	5	15
Scallops	6.5	100	300
Razorfish		50	150
Goolwa cockle	3.5	600 or 10 litres whichever is the lesser amount	N/A
Mud cockle	3.0	300	N/A

\*Gulf St Vincent, Backstairs Passage, Investigator Strait.

\*\* from 5th gill slit to base of tail.



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### Additional Management Measures for Selected Species and Locations

SPECIES	ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES
Bream spp.	Closed season for the taking of bream in the Onkaparinga River upstream of the Main South Road Bridge, between 1 September and 30 November.
Trout	The trout fishery in South Australia should be reviewed with a view to developing a long-term management strategy that recognises the opinions of all stakeholders.
Southern rock lobster	The centre tail fan of the lobster be cut to a recognisable straight line.
Mesh Nets	Area 1 of the Coorong be closed to the use of mesh nets on a year round basis.
ITEMS FOR REVIEW	
<p>The Action Plan for this strategy suggests that the regulations that apply to recreational fishing should be reviewed every 2 years. It is recommended that these items receive particular attention during these reviews.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To further investigate the clipping of fish caught by recreational fishers as a means of preventing the illegal sale of fish.</li> <li>• To investigate the use of slot limits as a possible future tool for conservation of specific species.</li> <li>• To develop management arrangements that prevent charter fishing operations and other fishing operations from impacting upon the stocks of very large adult King George whiting and snapper, particularly on known breeding grounds and during peak breeding times.</li> <li>• To review the possibility of a closed season for large King George whiting as a conservation measure.</li> <li>• To examine the option of utilising trip limits and possession limits, as a management tool in recreational fishing.</li> <li>• To review the applicability of all recreational netting in South Australia.</li> <li>• To examine the possibility of using additional area closures as a management tool for the conservation of mulloway stocks.</li> <li>• To examine the applicability of closed seasons for Black bream in other areas of the State.</li> </ul>

## Gear Regulations

The amount and type of gear that can be used by recreational fishers is a varied and complex issue. Recreational fishers regularly report confusion in interpreting current regulations and the need for a simplification of gear regulations is well recognised.

The following table shows the proposed changes to gear regulations that should apply to recreational fishers in South Australian waters. Note that other regulations relating to permissible and non-permissible gear that can be used by recreational fishers are contained in the *Fisheries Act 1982*.



## The Recreational Fishers Tool Box For All Waters

Group 1: Basic fishing gear	
<b>Maximum number of devices per person</b> 2 Rods or handlines 1 Teaser line 1 Shrimp trap	Recreational fishers may use all or any combination of these devices, except in conjunction with devices in Group 3.
Group 2: Specialised fishing gear	
<b>Maximum number of devices per person</b> 3 Lift nets* or yabby pots (or a combination of devices not exceeding 3 devices) 2 Rock Lobster pots**	Recreational fishers may only use one of these sets of devices at any one time eg: 3 lift nets <u>or</u> 3 yabby pots (or a combination not exceeding 3) <u>or</u> 2 rock lobster pots. These may be used in conjunction with devices shown in Group 1.
Group 3: Restricted fishing gear	
<b>Maximum number of devices per person</b> 10 Lift nets* 1 Mesh (gill) net **^	This devices cannot be used in conjunction with any other device. Mesh nets must be registered with PIRSA Fisheries.  Note that additional regulations apply to the use of mesh nets in South Australian waters.

\* Formerly drop nets and hoop nets.

\*\*These devices must be registered with PIRSA Fisheries. There are strict limits on the number of registrations allowable.

^ No new registrations will be issued for this device.

*All other gear is deemed non-permissible unless otherwise specified within the Fisheries (General) Regulations 2000. There are no other alterations proposed for currently permissible gear.*

# The Recreational Fishing Industry Review Committee (RFIRC)

The Hon. Rob Kerin, Deputy Premier and Minister for Primary Industries and Resources established the Recreational Fishing Industry Review Committee in December 1998. The committee was given the task of addressing the many issues raised by recreational fishers as part of the Review of Recreational Fishing undertaken by PIRSA Fisheries. The members of the RFIRC are:

Mr Tweed Harris (Deceased) Chairman of the South Australian Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (SARFAC)

## Committee Members

Mr Graham Woolard V/Chair  
Mr Barry Brown  
Mr Ray Brown  
Mr Malcolm Clifton  
Mr Ian Fitzgerald  
Mr Knut Gassmanis  
Mr Brian Geraghty/Les McDonnell  
Mr Phil Taylor  
Mr Greg Wood/Graham Hewitson

## Representing

South Australian Game Fishing Association (SAGFA)  
Fleurieu RFC  
Inland RFC  
Yorke Peninsula RFC  
Metropolitan RFC  
Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA)  
South East RFC  
West Coast RFC  
Australian Anglers Association (AAA)

## Executive Officer

Mr Danny Simpson

PIRSA Fisheries – Fisheries Management & Policy

## Technical Support

Dr Keith Jones  
Mr David McGlennon  
Mr Michael Koch

South Australian Research & Development Institute (SARDI) Aquatic Sciences  
SARDI Aquatic Sciences  
PIRSA Fisheries – Compliance

## Executive Support

Mr Trevor Watts  
Mr John Winwood

SARFAC  
SARFAC

# Notes



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*Copies of this report are available from PIRSA Fisheries, 14th floor,  
25 Grenfell Street Adelaide.*