

Recreational Netting in Lake George

Changes to recreational mesh net fishing in Lake George including area closures, net registrations, permitted devices, rules and regulations.

The recreational fishing sector is a significant contributor to the state's economy as well as being a major recreational pursuit of South Australians and interstate and international visitors.

As of 1 July 2016, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture has implemented various changes to recreational fishing arrangements in Lake George to promote sustainable fishing opportunities for local and visiting fishers, including an annual registration system for the use of recreational mesh nets. No changes have been made to the arrangements for recreational mesh net fishing in the Lower Lakes and Coorong.

Registration of recreational mesh nets:

From 1 July 2016, a new system has been introduced allowing fishers to register and pay an annual fee to operate recreational mesh nets in Lake George.

Annual registration for the use of a recreational mesh net is open to anyone over the age of 15 years. There is a maximum of one recreational mesh net permitted per registration.

Registration holders, including current registration holders, will be limited to using one net at a time and will only be permitted to net in the central and northern lagoons of Lake George. The southern lagoon will be closed to netting.

All registered nets will receive a PIRSA tag and this PIRSA tag must be attached to the yellow buoy. If your tag is lost or stolen, you must immediately remove your net from the water and report it to Fishwatch on 1800 065 522. An application for a replacement mesh net tag form is available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/lakegeorge. A replacement fee applies.

Existing net registrations will continue until they expire, when they will transition to the new annual registration system.

Mesh Nets:

A mesh net used in Lake George **can only be used by the registered owner** and must meet the following specifications:

- Maximum length: 75 m
- Minimum mesh size: 70 mm
- Maximum height of net (drop): 2.5 m
- Net must float on the surface and be no more than 2.5 m below the surface of the water

Mesh nets used in Lake George must be attended by the registered owner between one and a half hours after sunrise and one and a half hours before sunset on the same day. The net is not required to be attended outside of these times.

Attendance of your net means the registered owner must be no more than 50 m from the landward boundary of the Lake. The use of mesh nets is not permitted in marine coastal waters of South Australia.

Marking Devices:

All mesh nets must be marked with a yellow buoy at one end and two black buoys on the other end. Buoys must be a minimum volume of 4 litres.

A current PIRSA issued registration tag must be attached to the top of the yellow buoy.

Netting Closures:

The following netting closures apply to the Lake George region:

- The Southern Lagoon;
- The drainage channel connecting Lake George to Rivoli Bay; and
- Any other waters that feed into Lake George.

Line fishing – using rods, handlines and hand nets is permitted in these closed areas.

Size, Bag and Boat Limits:

All existing regulations for size, bag and boat limits apply to recreational fishing in Lake George.

Please remember that recreational fishers are not allowed to sell or trade their catch.

Mullet

Minimum legal length:	21 cm measured from tip of snout to tip of tail
Personal daily bag limit:	60
Daily boat limit (3 or more people onboard):	180

The personal daily bag limit applies to the person who took the fish, that is, the registered operator of the net. Bag and boat limits apply for a 24-hour period from midnight to midnight.

Permitted Devices:

Each person can use:

- Up to two rods; or
- Two handlines; or
- One of each.

Each line can have:

- Up to three hooks attached; or
- Up to five hooks joined eye to shank or threaded together (this will be considered as one hook).

In addition to a rod and handline, a person can only use at any one time no more than:

- One mesh net (registered in your name); or
- One hand net.

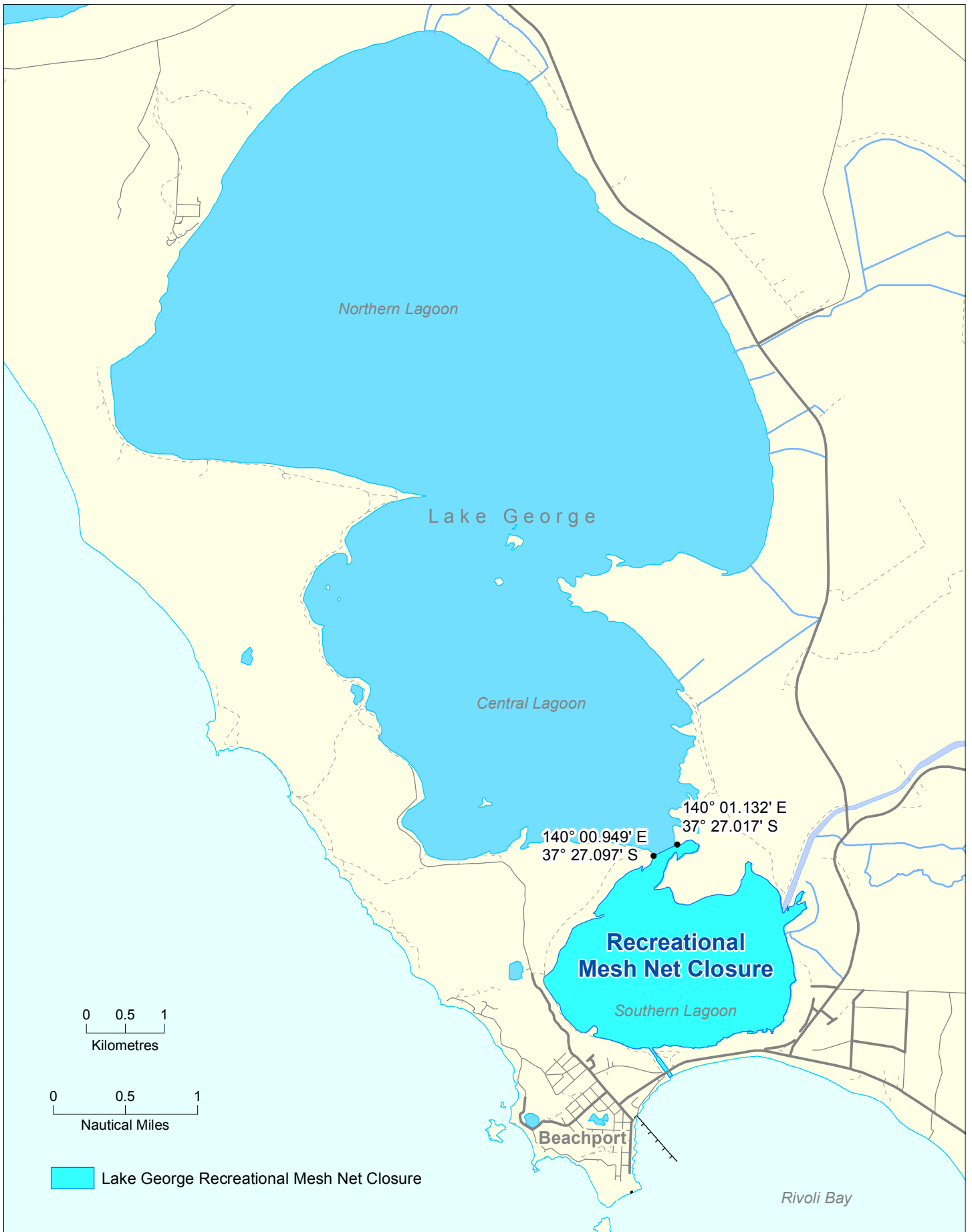
It is your responsibility to make sure that any device you already have, or intend to buy or construct, conforms to the legal specification. Devices that do not conform might be seized and subsequently forfeited, and in some cases carry the risk of a fine or penalty.

Hand Net:

A hand net consists of conical-shaped netting joined to a hoop that is attached to a rigid handle. It can be a dab net, dip net or shrimp net. Only one hand net per person can be used. Hand nets do not need to be registered. Hand nets must meet the following specifications:

- Maximum hoop diameter: 100 cm (1 m);
- Maximum depth of net: 100 cm (1 m).

For further information, visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/lakegeorge or download the free SA Recreational Fishing Guide app at www.pir.sa.gov.au/recfishingapp



Lake George Recreational Mesh Net Fishing Closure

The mesh net fishing closure applies to the Southern Lagoon, the drainage channel connecting Lake George to Rivoli Bay and any other waters that feed into Lake George.



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