

Draft *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Lakes and Coorong Fishery*

Summary Report

November 2020

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# Introduction

Pursuant to the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) a five-year Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Lakes and Coorong Fishery was adopted on 1 March 2016. Prior to its expiry, a new management plan is required to come into effect immediately following expiry of the current plan to ensure continued certainty for Government and industry stakeholders on sustainable management arrangements for the fishery.

The previous Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) tasked the Lakes and Coorong Fishery Management Advisory Committee (LCFMAC), through the Lakes and Coorong Fishery Management Plan Review Committee (LCFMPRC), to review the current management plan and make recommendations as to whether it should be reinstated without change or be amended through a new plan if necessary.

The membership of this committee included an independent Chair, industry members, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

This document summarises the draft management plan developed by PIRSA pursuant to section 44(2) of the Act, taking into account advice from the LCFMAC.

## Purpose of the management plan

The role of a management plan as set out in section 43 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* is to describe the broad structure and nature of the fishery and to set out the objectives and strategies to manage the fishery. A management plan must also:

* Identify the impacts or potential impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem as well as ecological factors that could have an impact on the performance of the fishery;
* Specify methods to monitor the performance of the fishery, including performance indicators, reference points and trigger points for review and/or action; and
* Specify the share of aquatic resources to be allocated to each fishing sector and prescribe a method for adjusting allocations.

The management plan sets out the management arrangements for the fishery, including co-management arrangements with industry, allocation of access between sectors, harvest strategy, stock assessment and research, compliance and monitoring and regulatory arrangements.

## Analysis and reasoning in formulating the plan

### Fishery to which this plan applies (Section 1)

No changes from current management plan required.

## Consistency with other management plans (Section 2)

Minor amendments from current management plan required to simplify.

## Term of plan (Section 3)

Minor amendments from current management plan to include reference to section 44 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.

Natural resource management governance in the lower lakes and Coorong region (Section 4)

Minor changes from current management plan required to update relevant regulatory or planning bodies with obligations that govern the region’s resources and capacity.

## Description of fishery (Section 5)

Updated to reflect changes since the current management plan was published. Redundant information removed. References updated. New section included on Long-nosed Fur Seals.

## Co-management arrangements (Section 6)

Minor changes from current management plan to update and remove redundant information.

## Allocation of access between sectors (Section 7)

Updated from current management plan to remove redundant information.

## Ecosystem impacts (Section 8)

Updated from the current management plan to refer to an updated Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) risk assessment conducted in 2019 and remove redundant information.

## Goals and objectives (Section 9)

Minor amendments to the wording of objectives recommended from the current management plan to address strategies with indicators that are able to be managed as part of the fishery and remove redundant information.

## Harvest Strategy (Section 10)

Updated from the current management plan to incorporate recommended amendments to the harvest strategy for Pipi and finfish. Key changes include:

* incorporating a change to the decision table in the Pipi harvest strategy to support retaining higher levels of biomass on the beach and to smooth out variability of outputs;
* incorporating secondary (biological) performance indicators into decision tables for finfish to supplement the management process, including Total Allowable Commercial Effort (TACE) setting process for each sector (freshwater and estuarine) of the fishery to ensure the finfish resources are harvested within ecologically sustainable limits;
* updating decision tables with decision table outputs and revised TACE (net unit) values in the finfish harvest strategy recognizing changes in the number of net units in the fishery over the past couple of years (from 1250 to 1175); and
* including information on the reference points for secondary (biological) performance indicators for finfish.

The following subheadings were added to the draft management plan:

* *Exceptional circumstances* - It is recommended that the Management Plan consider exceptional circumstances. These circumstances may include stressors on the stock fisheries that are deemed outside the impacts considered as a part of the harvest strategy at the time of development and may include mass mortality events, disease out-breaks, market failure, natural or human-induced disasters. In these instances it may be necessary to temporarily amend management arrangements to address these exceptional circumstances.
* *Review of the harvest strategy* - It is recommended that the management plan consider a review of the harvest strategy at any time to incorporate such measures into the management framework of the fishery required to address any significant issues (biologically, environmentally or in design) not anticipated when the plan and harvest strategy was developed.

## Stock assessment and research (Section 11)

Updated from the current plan to incorporate the years 2025/26 to 2029/30 into a strategic research plan for the Lakes and Coorong Fishery.

## Compliance and monitoring (Section 12)

Updated from the current plan to reflect general arrangements and remove redundant information.

Review of plan (Section 13)

Updated and simplified from the current plan.

Resources required to implement the plan (Section 14)

Minor changes from the current plan to simplify text and remove redundant information.

References (Section 15)

Updated from the current plan to include references listed in the draft management plan.

Acronyms (Section 16)

Updated from the current plan to include acronyms listed in the draft management plan.

Glossary of common fisheries management terms (Section 17)

Updated from the current plan to include common fisheries management terms listed in the draft management plan.

Schedule 1 (Section 18)

No changes from the current plan.

