

DRAFT

Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia

2021-2024

Consultation on the draft Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia, hosted by the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC).



DRAFT



Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia

2021-2024

VISION

Building towards Stewardship, Sustainability and Security for the South Australian recreational fishing community.

OUR GOAL

Building trust, unity, strength and resilience

PILLARS, KEY STRATEGIC THEMES & PRIORITY AREAS

1. GROWTH

Increase resourcing and opportunities for the recreational fishing sector

- *Improve management and delivery of key projects and development for the sector*
 - Increase transparency and participation in allocating funds derived recreational fishing activities, such as the Rock Lobster pots
 - i. Leverage current funding to maximise outcomes for recreational fishers
 - ii. Increase transparency and awareness of where funds are spent
 - Secure a government commitment to provide on-going funding proportionate to the value of recreational fishing, or alternatively, explore separate funding resources including the below:
 - i. Investigate the potential to expand current recreational fishing fee structures through comprehensive consultation mechanisms, including a consultation, to seek feedback on a Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL)/cost-free registration for inland and/or marine waters.
 - ii. Undertake a cost benefit analysis for introducing an inland and/or marine waters RFL/cost-free registration
 - iii. Investigate the support to establish a voluntary initiative fund
- *Increase influence on decision-making*
 - Provision of information to influence and have input into decisions across government
 - Increase opportunity to be involved in decision making
 - Improve awareness of impacts on recreational fishing
 - Ensure fisheries and aquaculture regulations and management arrangements consider impacts on recreational fishing
- *Prioritise the establishment of sustainability goals for key recreational species*
 - Develop and set recovery goals for three of the four recreational fishing species for inland waters

DRAFT

- Investigate the opportunity to roll out electronic diaries across recreational fisheries managed by a registration or Total Allowable Recreational Catch (TARC).
- Prioritise and support the sustainability and recovery of priority species and habitats
- Advocate for environmental water flows, and water quality, for recruitment and sustainability of native fish species.
- *Develop a process to prioritise the key areas for growth in the recreational fishing sector*
 - Use participation and visitation information of recreational fishers to prioritise funding.
 - Promote and maximise facilities that support access for Recreational fishers to marine and inland waters.
 - Advocate for the recognition of recreational fishing as a sport and recreation by both state and national standards to enable access to additional funding opportunities for all South Australian recreational fishing groups.
 - Increase the promotion of the mental health and wellbeing benefits of recreational fishing.
- *Continue to promote and raise awareness of being responsible community members*
 - Respond positively to feedback from the community on recreational fishing issues
 - Ensure Recreational fishing rules are available and interpreted for all recreational fishers
 - Improve and promote the role of Recreational fishers as stewards of the marine and freshwater environment
 - Improve the adoption of good fishing practise across the recreational fishing community through increased education, training and awareness (e.g. fishing clinics)
 - Support increased awareness and recognition of compliance through the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Fisheries Officers

2. DELIVERY

Representation that is respected and acknowledged by the community and government.

- *Progress the recreational sector's representation towards increased independence through a formal agreement with government*
 - Increase mutual trust and respect with recreational fishing communities, government, and stakeholders
 - Build capacity and governance of recreational sector's representation and administration
 - Increase transparency of advice, information, and decisions
 - Increase engagement with the recreational fishing groups to build trust, support and facilitate on-ground action and raise awareness of key issues on behalf of the South Australian recreational community.
- *Promote the management of each fishery as a shared resource and co-managed across all sectors*
 - Work with PIRSA to promote the development of whole of fishery management plans that address objectives, risks, and harvest strategies for all sectors.

DRAFT

- Engaging with PIRSA and stakeholders to deliver equitable outcomes for all sectors.
- *Ensure recognition of recreational fishing access is acknowledged and highlighted in environmental assessments, marine planning, development applications, aquaculture, and other resource users*
 - Ensure recreational fishing has a cohesive and unified voice to engage proactively on all strategic issues.
 - Work across recreational fishing groups to ensure where key issues arise, key interest groups are engaged in discussion and advice.
 - Emphasise the expertise held by local recreational fishers and promote the value of this knowledge.

3. PARTNERSHIPS

Increase engagement and improved partnerships

- *Build cohesive relationships and partnerships within the recreational fishing community*
 - Drive a commitment from the recreational fishing community to collaborate and engage constructively and positively for the benefit of all recreational fishers to overcome leadership divisions and absence of a unified vision.
 - Build and strengthen the promotion and engagement of the MRFAC with the Recreational fishing community.
 - Develop partnerships to provide increased opportunities for children and youth to experience fishing.
 - Work with recreational fishing groups to increase fishing skills and best practise handling.
- *Build strategic partnerships with key stakeholders*
 - Strongly promote the Recreational fishing strategy for South Australia to local government, state and federal government departments, non-government organisations (NGO's) and private enterprise.
 - Strengthen relationships and communication with national and state bodies to identify opportunities for the recreational fishing community of South Australia.
 - Undertake joint activities with national organisations to increase the benefit to South Australia's recreational fishing community.
 - Work with schools and the Department for Education to identify opportunities to promote recreational fishing as a safe, family friendly and healthy activity.
 - Work with disability NGO's to continue the rights and needs of all members of the community to access recreational fishing opportunities.
 - Engage the South Australian Tourism Commission to develop an active partnership to assist in promoting recreational fishing as a tourism activity.
 - Actively seek opportunities to partner with environmental organisations and research organisations to increase opportunities for participation in citizen science and research activities.
 - Partnering with relevant organisations to raise further awareness of the mental health and wellbeing health benefits of recreational fishing
- *Increase recreational fishing representation on all relevant state groups that provide advice related to the shared resource.*

DRAFT

- Advocate for recreational fishing representation and membership on relevant Fisheries and Aquaculture-related Management Advisory Committees (MAC's), statutory bodies and relevant working groups.

4. KNOWLEDGE & INFORMATION

Readily available data to provide accurate information in relation to the recreational fishing sector

- *Quantifying the value of recreational fishing*
 - Seek to undertake regular consultations through partnerships with PIRSA, the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), FISHCARE and the community.
 - Promote ongoing collection of data on community participation levels across and regional (land-based) visitation hotspots.
 - Work with relevant stakeholders to determine the economic gain through participation and visitation to benefit the state.
 - Promote the development of a cohesive framework for the collection of recreational fishing data through various platforms. This applies to national, state and regional scales, to ensure rigorous and applicable data collection.
 - Foster the collection of data, and the promotion thereof, of the value of the broader health benefits of recreational fishing, in particular:
 - i. to an individual's wellbeing through improved mental health
 - ii. to those with physical disabilities
 - iii. to youth and the elderly
- *Support the delivery of accurate and accessible information on recreational fishing*
 - Provide up-to-date information through push notifications (Rec fishing apps) of recreational fishing limits, new rules, educational materials, biosecurity and key management issues.
 - Work with stakeholders to provide accurate and accessible, web-based information on recreational fishing matters.
 - Assist relevant organisations with distributing communication materials to continue to raise awareness and promote responsible fishing and fish handling practises
- *Encourage greater participation by recreational fishers in the collection and dissemination of data and information*
 - Support the collection of information and data by recreational fishers.
 - Support the involvement of recreational fishers in citizen science projects.
 - Improve the participation of recreational fishers in research and monitoring projects.
 - Develop a process to ensure appropriate research and funding priorities for the recreational fishing sector.

DRAFT

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

The primary objective of the Recreational fishing strategy for South Australia is to provide a framework to identify the interests and key strategic needs of the recreational fishing community of South Australia for the 3-year period from 2021 to 2024.

The Recreational fishing strategy for South Australia aims to ensure that the recreational community growth strategy meets both state and, where appropriate, national strategic Recreational fishing goals and addresses the major challenges facing the South Australian recreational fishing community.

To achieve this, the plan has been developed to ensure that it:

- meets regional, state-wide, and national needs
- is balanced across regions and stakeholder groups
- focusses on short- and medium-term outcomes for the recreational community of South Australia
- is supported by a consistent management framework

The South Australian recreational community is diverse in its demographics, interests and needs. The community is comprised of several different interest groups across geographically distinct regions, resulting in a complex arrangement of priorities and views. In addition, the South Australian recreational fishing community is currently faced with a variable and changing environment, which provides the opportunity for growth and progression.

In developing the Recreational fishing strategy for South Australia, on behalf of the community, the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC) aim to acknowledge the diversity of the South Australian recreational fishing community and utilise this diversity to foster a united and inclusive recreational fishing strategy for the state.

The first draft of the Recreational fishing strategy for South Australia has incorporated the growth and progress opportunities identified as a result of the 2020 Recreational Fishing Priorities survey. It was agreed that the vision needed to be focused on the establishment of stronger processes to enable building towards the future. This has contributed to the first foundational strategic plan developed for the South Australian recreational fishing community.

A thorough public consultation opportunity is proposed to ensure that the recreational fishing community can provide feedback on the draft. Followed by a review, the Recreational fishing strategy for South Australia will be finalised and presented to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The Recreational fishing strategy for South Australia will be reviewed as required to

- assess performance against the identified priority areas of the plan
- identify and address gaps within the Key Strategic Themes and Priority Areas of the plan
- determine new and emerging priority areas for the South Australian recreational fishing community