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FACT SHEET 7

Lakes and Coorong Commercial Fishery Gear Types and Restrictions

Permitted Devices

As a multi species fishery, the numerous gear types reflect the species able to be targeted and the varying environments from which they can be caught.

Device	Main Target Species
mesh nets	mulloway, golden perch, carp, bream, mullet, flounder and salmon
swinger nets	mulloway
hauling nets	mulloway, salmon, mullet, bream and flounder
bait net	bait species collection
drop/hoop nets	crabs
dab net	garfish, other
drum net	golden perch
cockle rake	Goolwa cockle
cockle net	Goolwa cockle
crab rake	crabs
yabbie trap	yabbies
shrimp trap	shrimp
set line	mulloway
razor fish tongs	razor fish
fish spear	flounder
electro-fishing gear	carp

A wide and complex range of restrictions is in place to control the use of all commercial fishing methods in the Lakes and Coorong Fishery, which reflects the multi-species nature of the fishery. These restrictions are in place to limit the amount of effort expended in the fishery, in order to limit total catches to sustainable levels.

Size Limits

Size limits have been applied to individual fish species in the fishery for many years, primarily to maximise the opportunity for individual fish to reproduce at least once before capture, which is intended to protect fish stocks from recruitment over fishing.

Species	Minimum Legal Length
Mulloway	Within Coorong estuary: 46cm Outside Coorong estuary: 75cm
Goolwa cockle	3.5cm
Yellow eye mullet	21cm
Greenback flounder	25cm (currently for commercial sector only)
Black bream	28cm
Murray cod	50cm (minimum) – 100cm (maximum)
Golden perch	33cm
Australian salmon	21cm
Yabbies	No size limit
Bony bream	No size limit
Congolli	No size limit
Carp	No size limit

License Conditions

Most licenses are endorsed with similar gear, but can vary in number depending upon the request of the fisherman who originally owned the license (prior to transferability). Other conditions are endorsed on the back of the license prior to renewal each year and cover specific area or gear restrictions not already covered in the Scheme of Management, or additional conditions for species harvested.

Device Restrictions

Type of Device	Number
mesh nets (coastal waters)	1
mesh nets (inland waters)	Maximum of 25 per licence upon transfer; or a maximum of 100 per licence on amalgamation, subject to approval by the Director of Fisheries
swinger nets	1
hauling nets	1
bait net	1
drop/hoop nets	As per licence conditions
dab net	1 per licensee and agent/s
drum net	The number endorsed on the original licence
cockle rake	1 per licensee and agent/s
cockle net	1 per licensee and agent/s
crab rake	1 per licensee and agent/s
yabbie trap	maximum of 50 per licence upon transfer; or a maximum of 100 per licence on amalgamation, subject to approval by the Director of Fisheries
shrimp trap	The number endorsed on the original licence
Set line (long line)	The number endorsed on the original licence, subject to a 400 hook limit when used in coastal waters
razor fish tongs	1 per licensee and agent/s
fish spear	1 per licensee and agent/s
electro-fishing gear	No transfer or amalgamation unless specifically applied for. All applications will be considered on their individual merits, subject to consultation with the Southern Fishermen's Association.

Closures

Closures are used to restrict catch levels, to protect fish stocks during specific stages of their life cycle or to reduce gear conflict between the commercial and recreational sectors.

Species or Gear	Area	Time Closure Period
Goolwa cockles	Ocean beaches (Area 4)	1 June to 31 October
Murray cod	Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert (Area 3)	1 September to 31 December
All nets	Area 1 of the Coorong	25 December to 7 January
Small mesh nets (set and haul)	Area 1 of the Coorong	1 November to 31 March
All nets	Within 500m of the Murray Mouth	All year round
All nets	Goolwa channel	Between midnight on Friday and sunset on the following Sunday