



# ALGAL BLOOM RETAILERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ARE HURTING



*"The recreational fishing sector in South Australia comprises of dedicated and resilient individuals who consistently address the challenges they face. However, the combination of fishing restrictions and the recent algal bloom—which can only be regarded as a natural disaster—has created unprecedented difficulties. We remain deeply concerned about the mental health and well-being of our South Australian members during this time"* - **Bob Baldwin - Independent Chair AFTA.**

*In an SA first for recreational fishing, we are looking down the barrel of complete collapse- across all elements of the \$1b industry the South Australian economy receives from us. \$380 million in SA is associated with recreational fishing tourism.*  
- **REC FISH SA**

In collaboration between Recfish SA & AFTA a survey was sent to South Australian retailers to see what the real effect the algal bloom is having on our industry. During the months of April - June retailers were faced with a decline in sales including a massive decline in bait sales due to the number of people not fishing.

Both AFTA & Recfish SA are deeply concerned the algal bloom is having on the industry with some stores having no choice to reduce their hours, reduce staff hours, reduce their stock purchasing and look at other options to try and ensure they keep their doors open.

In particular the Adelaide retail stores are suffering the most with regional stores still to feel the full effect of the algal bloom due to the late arrival to their region in the last few weeks.

## OUTCOMES FROM THE SURVEY:



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

**AFTA and RecFishSA are seeking State and Federal assistance, pushing for the crisis to be declared a natural disaster to unlock support. While the SA Government has allocated \$500,000 in fee relief for commercial fishers, it has yet to recognise the severe impact on the recreational sector.**

Utilising the \$200,000 approved for RecFish SA's reef build plan as part of the Snapper Recovery package. This can be used to support bounce back of biodiversity, juvenile fish stock recovery and improve recruitment moving forwards.

Fast tracking change to federal legislation wording, enabling recreational fishers to contribute to FRDC funding for federal support, prioritise rec species research and plan rec marine recovery research projects in a self sufficient way.

Create alternative recreational fisheries/access immediately, reducing tier 1 species pressure particularly in the Lower Fleurieu, Yorke Peninsula and Western SA.

Supporting tackle stores as negative media collapses business by over 30% and decreases bait sales by up to 80% with messaging, engagement, small business support and regional experience activation.

Providing SATC support for charter and accomodation businesses impacted by negative messaging, including positive information campaigns and voucher systems supporting bookings as seen before in SA.

Supporting regional rec tourism events and fast tracking fishing projects and events approvals.

Fast tracking and resourcing RFSA native fish stocking efforts, and introduction of instant fisheries around the state to decrease pressure on the marine environment as it recovers.

Providing clear messaging and a campaign on areas free from algae and travelling tips, consumption of seafood.

Supporting regional winter recreational fishing events with tourism, industry and suppliers, all keen to step up for SA and help in our time of need.

Free boat launching around the state for citizen science contributors and organisations as they complete voluntary and general business supporting the algae event.

*Support your local retailer*