GO FISH SA

Everything you need to know.

More than 350,000 South Australians pick up their rod every year and head down to the beach, river, lake, jetty or reservoir. We want to see that number hit half a million!

GO FISH SA IS ABOUT

- Getting 500,000 South Aussies fishing by 2030.
- Building South Australia's first freshwater hatchery to breed Murray cod, golden and silver perch, and freshwater catfish.
- Resnagging the Murray River and restoring habitat.
- Stocking our reservoirs and waterways to boost fishing, small business and tourism.

WHY IT MATTERS

South Australia's Murray River fishery is the least productive in the Murray-Darling Basin, requiring an average of 97 trips to catch a Murray cod compared to just 3 in NSW and Victoria. The decline in native fish populations has weakened recreational engagement and tourism. Restoring the fishery is critical to reviving recreational activity and strengthening the economic and environmental future of our communities.

SUPPORTING SA DURING THE ALGAL BLOOM

Recreational fishers currently have very limited options given the state of our oceans and beaches. Small businesses are struggling, tackle shops have seen a 20-30% decline in business, and opportunities to fish continue to shrink in the wake of current restrictions. Expanding access to reservoirs, restocking, and supporting the environment during this time creates jobs and helps our state and industries to flourish.

HOW IT ALL WORKS

Hatchery: Establishing a hatchery at the Loxton Research Centre to breed Murray cod, golden and silver perch, and freshwater catfish makes restocking reservoirs and waterways more feasible and accessible. It reduces costs and reliance on purchasing fish from interstate, removes the negative effects of lengthy interstate transport on fingerlings, and creates unique opportunities for scientists to practice on-site.

Habitat: Resnagging is the only way to naturally replenish native fish populations and is essential for the successful reintroduction of hatchery-raised fish. Artificial snags – also called fish hotels – sustain native fish populations into the future, giving them a place to breed, feed, seek refuge and rest. Restoring habitat has been proven to increase native fish populations by 2 to 3 times.

Restocking and Reservoirs: Opening more fishing spots and getting more fish in our rivers and reservoirs helps our native populations to grow and gets more South Aussies out fishing, boosting tourism and attracting interstate anglers. Restocking also paves the way to address growing scientific interest in reintroducing other iconic native species to our waterways, such as the Murray River crayfish, trout cod, and Macquarie perch.