

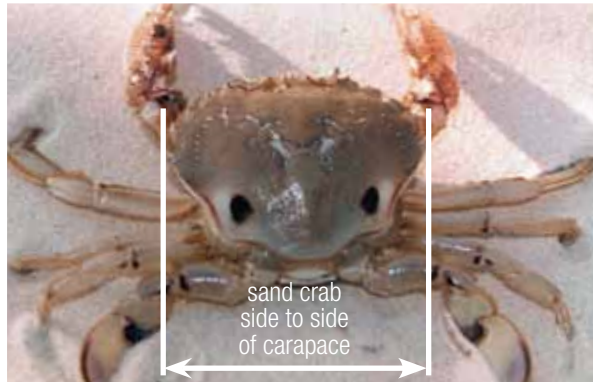
SAND CRABS

(*Ovalipes australiensis*)

In South Australia, the sand crab is common throughout many ocean beaches and the southern areas of Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf. Sand crabs are easily distinguished by two coloured spots at the tail end.

Size limits

A sand crab is undersized if the distance from side to side of the carapace is less than 10cm. Size limits apply in all waters of the State. Any undersize crabs must be returned to the water immediately.



Bag limit

A combined sand crab/blue swimmer crab catch limit of 40 crabs per person per day applies in South Australian waters.

In Gulf St Vincent only, a maximum of 20 blue swimmer crabs is allowed in the combined limit, effective until 30 June 2015. See website for details.

Boat limit

A combined sand crab/blue swimmer crab catch limit daily boat limit of 120 crabs per boat, where three or more persons are on board, applies in South Australian waters. In Gulf St Vincent the daily boat limit for blue swimmer crabs is 60 crabs, effective until 30 June 2015. See website for details.

More information

Other rules apply to fishing in South Australia and these rules can change from time to time.

For the latest information about the rules that apply to fishing in South Australia go to the PIRSA Fisheries website www.pir.sa.gov.au or call the 24 hour Fishwatch hotline on 1800 065 522.

Information is also available through the SA Recreation Fishing Guide smartphone app which is suitable for Apple, Windows and Android mobile devices and can be downloaded from www.pir.sa.gov.au/recfishingapp.



This pamphlet is intended as a guide to fishing regulations in South Australia under the Fisheries Management Act 2007. It does not replace the Act and should not be relied upon as a legal document.

FISHERIES
& AQUACULTURE
PIRSA

Crab Fishing in South Australia

Recreational Fishing Guide

PREMIUM
FOOD AND WINE FROM OUR
CLEAN
ENVIRONMENT



Crabbing is a popular pastime in South Australia. The two main species targeted are the blue swimmer crab and the sand crab. The giant crab (or king crab) is also occasionally caught in rock lobster pots set in deeper water.

A number of rules have been put in place to ensure the long-term health of the crab fishery. It is important that all fishers abide by these rules so that future generations can enjoy catching a feed of crabs.

Rules that apply to all crab fishing

- All undersize crabs must be returned to the water immediately.
- Female crabs with external eggs are totally protected and must be returned to the water immediately.
- It is an offence for recreational fishers to sell or trade their catch.
- There is a combined blue swimmer/sand crab catch limit in South Australia. In other words you add together the numbers of each type of crab to calculate your daily bag or boat limit.



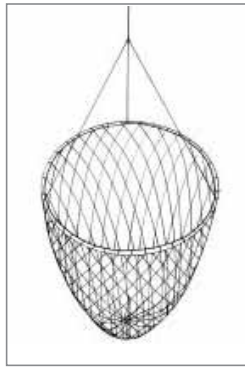
Bait

When using drop nets or hoop nets for crabs, you are permitted to use fish or fish based products only. It is illegal to use bone, meat offal or the skin of an animal including birds.

Fishing gear

Using drop nets or hoop nets to catch crabs is a relatively low cost method of fishing. A number of legally permitted devices are commonly used to catch crabs. If the device does not meet the following dimensions, it cannot be used to take crabs.

Hoop nets



A hoop net is a net attached to a metal hoop. The maximum hoop diameter is 107cm. The maximum depth of the bag is 92cm.

If no other fishing gear is being used, a maximum of 10 hoop nets may be used. If other fishing equipment is being used (e.g. fishing rod/handline) then the maximum number of hoop nets is three.

Drop nets



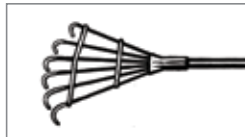
A drop net is made up of two hoops joined by a cylindrical cone-shaped net bag. The maximum hoop diameter is 107cm. The maximum depth of the bag is 92cm.

A maximum of three drop nets per person can be used.

Hoop nets/drop nets

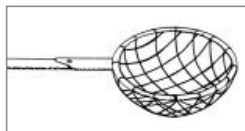
If other fishing gear is being used, you are only permitted to use three drop nets or three hoop nets or a combination of both to a maximum of three.

Crab rake



A crab rake is a handheld device for scraping the bed of any waters. It consists of a pole with a rake attached.

Hand net



A hand net may be a dab net, dip net or shrimp net consisting of a conical shaped net which is attached to a hoop which is attached to a handle.

The maximum diameter of the hoop is one metre. The maximum depth of the net is one metre.

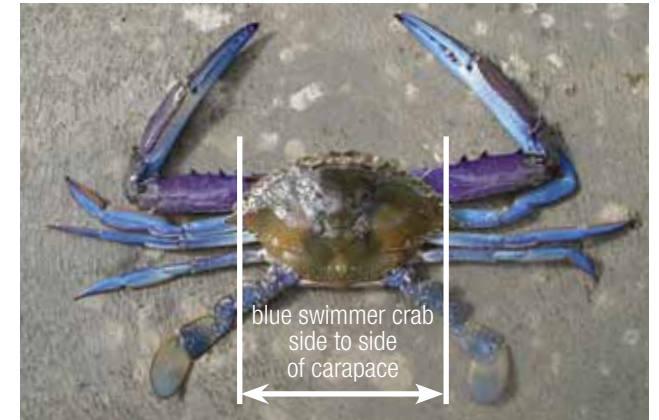
BLUE SWIMMER CRABS

(*Portunus armatus*)

Blue swimmer crabs are widely distributed throughout the inshore waters of South Australia, particularly in areas with extensive sandy bottom and seagrass meadows in Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf.

Size limit

A blue swimmer crab is undersized if the carapace is less than 11cm when measured from side to side at the base of the largest spines. Size limits apply in all waters of the State. Any undersize crabs must be returned to the water immediately.



Bag limit

A combined blue swimmer/sand crab catch limit of 40 crabs per person per day applies in South Australian waters. In Gulf St Vincent the bag limit for blue swimmer crab is 20 crabs per person per day, effective until 30 June 2015. See website for details.

Boat limit

A combined blue swimmer crab/sand crab daily boat limit of 120 crabs per boat, where three or more persons are on board, applies in South Australian waters. In Gulf St Vincent the daily boat limit for blue swimmer crabs is 60 crabs, effective until 30 June 2015. See website for details.