



**5049 Coastal Community**  
*Stronger together*

To The Hon David Basham MP  
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Dear Minister Basham,

### **30 year Spear fishing ban to be reinstated**

5049 Coastal Community asks that the 30-year ban on spearfishing along Adelaide's metropolitan coast, which was recently lifted in 2 areas, be reinstated for the following reasons:

1. The consultation carried out last year by PIRSA did not adequately consult affected coastal communities and groups – for instance, 5049 Coastal Community was not consulted.
2. Conservation Council SA, City of Marion and City of Onkaparinga were asked to submit and all replied that the ban should remain (but were then apparently ignored in favour of a spearfishing group lobbying for change). It appears they received no notification of the results of the consultation or of the subsequent changes to the rules. This also happened to a private citizen who made a submission (again, he wanted the ban to remain as it was).
3. PIRSA does not seem to have notified either the general public or Fishwatch staff of the new regulations. 'No spearfishing' signs were not removed (later this was done by spear fishers) so the first locals knew about it was seeing spear fishers with their lethal guns at spots where families with children like to play.
4. The reason given for lifting of the ban is that it will encourage economic activity. However, families, swimmers, snorkelers and divers contribute greatly to coastal economies, much more so than people with cheap spears, and they will be less likely to patronise their local beach if spear fishers are present killing marine species in front of their children and reducing the sea to a dead zone. Injured and dying fish may also attract sharks inshore. The fish were not scared of people and easily seen by swimmers, snorkelers and divers so would have been easy to spear - hardly sport - but now most are gone and the pleasure of seeing them is lost so the economic support of these people and also of tourists may be lost if they go elsewhere or stop diving etc. Taking a photo or seeing a fish is sustainable but killing a fish stops other people from enjoying it - permanently.
5. Spear fishers do not seem to be doing the right thing. They are leaving their spears on the rocks and boat ramp at Marino Rocks without covering the barbs so that people, their children and dogs are endangered. As they need no licence or registration (unlike most other areas of the world), they usually have no training and are unaware of what species they are killing and whether it is edible or not. See the attached photo of a large dusky morwong, an inedible fish, that was left on the ground beside a bin after being speared – what a waste and a potential health hazard, council staff had to remove it.
6. Did PIRSA realise the number of spear fishers that would descend on suitable sites like Marino Rocks where several groups of spear fishers have been present almost continuously over the last few weeks and have decimated the marine life that used to live

there? Did PIRSA consider the effects of this on these marine species and the coastal ecology generally? It seems likely that many of the fish being speared are juveniles and if this wholesale killing continues, there will be few fish left to mature, breed and inhabit our coastal waters. Also, as many of these creatures stay in their home territory and don't travel, restocking the area from outside will be slow.

Please reinstate the ban on spearfishing to all metropolitan coastal waters so people can enjoy the coast as before. The population is too large to make spearfishing a sustainable activity. See the petition at [https://www.change.org/Restore\\_Adelaide\\_Spearfishing\\_Ban](https://www.change.org/Restore_Adelaide_Spearfishing_Ban)



Spear fishers

Discarded dusky morwong

Protest at Marino Rocks

We are happy to discuss this matter at any time.

*Lynda Yates*

**Lynda Yates** *Environmental task group lead, Treasurer*

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We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land where our 5049 community resides.

We respect their spiritual relationship with country that has developed over thousands of years, and the cultural heritage and beliefs that remain important to Kurna People today.

CC The Hon David Speirs MP Minister for Environment and Water

CC Rob George 'Restore the Ban'

CC Craig Wilkins Conservation Council SA

CC Mark Pierson Friends of Gulf St Vincent