

MEDIA RELEASE

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Libs looking at options to sustain recreational fishing

South Australia's fish stocks must be protected from fishermen operating on the edge of existing legislation and threatening the sustainability of the recreational fishing industry and its spin-off benefits says Shadow Fisheries Minister Adrian Pederick.

His comments follow media reports detailing excessive fish-takes from SA waters – often by fishermen from interstate.

Mr Pederick said commercial quantities of fish were being caught by unlicensed fishermen over the space of a few weeks, frozen and carted back across borders to serve what amounted to a black market interstate.

'The Liberal opposition have been in discussion with both commercial and recreational fishing groups over time to determine the best way forward to ensure fish stocks remain at sustainable levels.

'Recreational fishing attracts more participants than any other sport in Australia and is a significant economic generator making a vital contribution to SA's regional economies.

'We are looking at all options that may play a part in ensuring fish stocks are sustainable and regional economies continue to benefit from fishing tourism.

'We want to encourage fishing families and visitors to enjoy the best of what SA has to offer but it must be effectively managed.

'I would further point out that the Labor government's proposed sanctuary zones will do nothing to reduce this problem, and whatever action is taken will require investment in proper monitoring to ensure rules are not being openly flouted for lack of proper management.'