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Harbor dredging fishery outcry

THE dredging of the Outer Harbor channel is having "serious environmental repercussions", the state's peak fishing industry body has warned.

In a letter to State Government ministers, the SA Fishing Industry Council has warned of "extensive turbidity" in the northern and metropolitan beaches due to the dredging.

The letter says "the commercial fishing industry continues to have considerable concern and trepidation regarding the environmental impacts from the upgrade and deepening" and that fishers are worried about the impact on fisheries.

Council general manager Neil MacDonald said yesterday that prawn surveys and evidence from local fisherman had shown the dredging had made the habitat unsuitable for squid, prawns and other species. Seagrass areas - where calamari, prawns and garfish lay eggs - were being subjected to sediment.

He called on the Environment Protection Authority to intervene.

Opposition environment spokesman Iain Evans said the EPA had to "make sure the environmental impact is not bigger than originally forecast".