NOTICE TO FISHERS

To: Licence holders in the Lakes and Coorong Fishery, Marine Scalefish Fishery with Pipi quota

I am writing to notify all licence holders that on 15 January 2018, variations to the *Fisheries Management (Lakes and Coorong Fishery) Regulations 2009* will come into effect. The varied regulations have been made as part of the Premier’s Simplify Day initiative and follow consultation with the Southern Fishermen’s Association and Goolwa PipiCo.

While the varied regulations are essentially in the same form as the current regulations, there is one change that I draw to your attention. The change relates to the removal of the owner-operator provisions for the Pipi sector (regulations 6(3)(d) and (e) and 7(3)). This allows for company ownership of a Lakes and Coorong Fishery licence (for Pipi fishing only).

The new regulation provides that the Minister may only consent to the transfer of a licence if satisfied as to the following:

**Regulation 6(3)**

- (d) if the transferee is a natural person – that the transferee is at least 15 years of age and is a fit and proper person to hold a licence in respect of the fishery;

- (e) if the transferee is a company, that –
  1. The licence is subject to a condition fixing a pipi quota entitlement; and
  2. The only devices registered for use under the licence are devices that may be used for taking pipi; and
  3. Each director of the company is a fit and proper person to be a director of a company that holds a licence in respect of the fishery.

**Regulation (7)(3)**

If the holder of a licence in respect of the fishery is a company, a device, other than a device for taking pipi, must not be registered for use under the licence.

The regulation was introduced at the request of industry to allow for greater operating efficiency and improvements in the associated business environment for the quota managed Pipi fishery.
It is an individual business choice to consider company ownership or to stay as an owner-operator. If a licence holder applies to transfer a Lakes and Coorong Fishery licence to a company name, the licence holder is required to hold Pipi quota and agree to relinquish all gear entitlements, other than those used to harvest Pipis.

Any licences that hold Pipi quota and continue to hold gear entitlements, other than those used to harvest Pipis, will be required to remain in a ‘natural person’s’ name and effectively remain owner-operator. This will allow for company ownership of those Lakes and Coorong Fishery licences with only Pipi quota and gear used to harvest Pipis, without increasing the risk of effort increase in the finfish sector of the Lakes and Coorong Fishery.

I encourage you to look at the new regulations on the PIRSA website and familiarise yourself with them prior to them coming into effect on 15 January 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Atkins, Lakes and Coorong Fishery Manager on (08) 8429 0241 or Rebecca.Atkins@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Sean Sloan
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