



18 December 2020

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO FISHERS:

Temporary management arrangements for Southern Bluefin Tuna in the Charter Boat Fishery

Dear Charter Boat Fishery Licence Holders

I write to inform you of a temporary change to management arrangements for Southern Bluefin Tuna in the Charter Boat Fishery.

In September 2019, the former Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development announced a \$500,000 Charter Boat Diversification Fund to support the charter fishing sector. The Surveyed Charter Boat Owners and Operators Association (SCBOOA) provided a submission to the \$500,000 Charter Boat Diversification Fund to support the charter fishing sector.

The submission included a proposal to reduce the current catch limit of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) for charter fishing to one per person (from two) and removal of the boat limit.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development has considered the proposal and advice put forward from SCBOOA and the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association (ASBTIA) and supports reducing the SBT per person limit to one and removing the boat limit for charter.

Amendments to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* are proposed to bring the changes to SBT Charter Boat Fishery limits into effect.

In the interim period, as the delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have approved a section 79 notice under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, declaring it is unlawful for an unlicensed person on a charter boat to take more than one SBT per person per day, or per trip, if the trip lasts more than one day.

A copy of the section 79 notice is attached.

I wish to thank the SCBOOA and ASBTIA for the constructive approach taken in developing these arrangements. Should you have any further queries in relation to this matter please contact Keith Rowling, Program Leader Community Based Fisheries on (08) 8429 0513.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Begg', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**