NOTICE TO NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS: DETERMINATION OF THE VALUE OF A ROCK LOBSTER QUOTA UNIT FOR THE 2017/18 FISHING SEASON

Dear licence holder

I write to advise that as delegate of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, under the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2006*, I have determined the value for an Inner Region rock lobster unit at **4.27 kilograms** and an Outer Region rock lobster unit at **1.02 kilograms** for the 2017/18 quota period in the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (NZRLF).

The entitlements and registration extract of your licence has been updated and is enclosed with the new quota entitlements.

This determination has been made considering:

- The objectives of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- The Harvest Strategy adopted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in 2015
- The recommendation and advice of the Rock Lobster Fishery Management Advisory Committee (RLFMAC) for TACC in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 fishing seasons.
- Information about the NZRLF in the report entitled *Review of the Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program for the South Australian Rock Lobster Fishery* by Dr Tony Smith
- The advice from SARDI on the fishery status and performance indicators in 2016/17

Determining the rock lobster unit values for the 2017/18 quota period at these levels sets a TACC for the Inner Region at 250 tonnes and the Outer Region at 60 tonnes, giving a 310 tonne TACC for the NZRLF. The Inner Region TACC will be reduced to 250 tonnes from the 2016/17 value of 300 tonnes while Outer Region TACC will be maintained at the same level as in 2016/17.

You should be aware that the TACC levels set for the NZRLF are as recommended by the RLFMAC. These TACC levels are not consistent with the harvest strategy for the fishery adopted for the fishery in 2015 following RLFMAC advice.

The decision to support alternative TACC levels in 2017 and 2018 as proposed by the RLFMAC is based on the new fishery specific scientific information identified by an independent scientist, Dr Tony Smith, in his recent 2017 review of the stock assessment and monitoring program for the South Australian Rock Lobster Fishery.

Objective ID: A3264922
In making this decision for 2017/18, please note that I have also adopted the proposed TACC decision rules put forward by the RLFMAC for the 2018/19 season as described in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fishing Season</th>
<th>Inner Region</th>
<th>Outer Region</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>250 t</td>
<td>60 t</td>
<td>310 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19 (If CPUE ≥0.77 kg/potlift) OR</td>
<td>250 t</td>
<td>60 t</td>
<td>310 t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19 (CPUE &lt;0.77 kg/potlift)</td>
<td>TACC levels as per 2015 harvest strategy decision rules</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the constructive and collaborative work undertaken by the South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen’s Association and the RLFMAC to inform this decision making process.

Please contact Dr Annabel Jones, Program Leader-Commercial Fisheries, on (08) 8429 0165 if you require any further information regarding the management of the fishery or 8204 1370 for any licensing enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Sean Sloan
A/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
Delegte of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries