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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO FISHERS SNAPPER MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Dear Charter Boat Fishery Licence Holder,

I write to advise you of the temporary Snapper fishery management arrangements for Charter Boat Fishery licence holders for the South East Snapper fishing season commencing on 1 July 2021 and ending on 31 October 2021.

The Snapper Management Advisory Committee (the Committee) was established in November 2019 to provide advice to the Minister on Snapper science and management programs for the commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery, Charter Boat Fishery, recreational and Aboriginal traditional sectors.

Following a meeting of the Committee in March 2021, it was determined that the Total Allowable Recreational Catch (TARC) for the 2021 South East Snapper fishing season be set at 4,000 kilograms from 1 July 2021 to 31 October 2021.

Consistent with the allocated shares contained in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery* the share of the TARC between recreational fishing and the Charter Boat Fishery will be as follows:

- The recreational sector component of the TARC is 1,706 kg (based on 8% share of the resource); and
- The Charter Boat Fishery component of the TARC is 2,134 kg (based on 10% share of the resource).

Consistent with TARC recommendations of the Committee, I can advise that 1,077 Charter Snapper fishing tags are allocated to the Charter Boat Fishery based on an average individual Snapper weight of 1.98 kg as used for the management arrangements for 2020 and the first half of the 2021 season.

Tags will only be issued to active Charter Boat Fishery licence holders (suspended licences not included), with a total of 15 tags per licence. The following provisions apply to charter operators;

- A minimum size limit of 38 cm for Snapper will continue to apply.
- Charter Boat Snapper tags will be transferable within the Charter Boat Fishery, but not to recreational fishers.
- There will be no limit on the number of Charter Snapper tags a Charter Boat Fishery licence holder can have in their possession.
- Whilst it is not mandatory, the possession and use of a 'release-weight' when

returning Snapper to all waters of South Australia is encouraged.

- There is a current Ministerial exemption to allow Charter boat operators to transit through a Snapper closed area with Snapper on board their vessel, which is enclosed for your records.

Specific management arrangements, implemented by a notice in the Gazette consistent with section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (attached), will be applied to the Charter Boat Fishery for the taking of Snapper in waters of the South East region. This notice requires:

- Snapper taken that measure 38 cm or more must immediately have a Charter Snapper tag secured through the mouth and gill of the fish in such a way that the tag cannot be removed without being broken.
- A tag cannot be removed until the fish is prepared for consumption. If consuming the fish in or near the waters of the South East the removed tag must be retained and produced for inspection if requested by Fisheries Officers.
- All Charter Boat Fishery licence holders or registered masters in possession of Snapper are required to complete the Charter Snapper Tag Return Form prior to departing the point of landing or prior to Snapper being unloaded from the boat. The completed form will need to be sent to SARDI along with the catch and activity record of the South Australian Charter Boat Fishery Logbook returns.

Consistent with the TARC, if the 1,077 Charter Snapper tags are used during the period from 1 July 2021 to 31 October 2021 the fishery will be closed for the Charter Boat Fishery and the section 79 notice will be revoked.

I have enclosed a copy of the Notice published pursuant to section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* for your reference.

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



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Enc: S79 notice – Charter Snapper in the South East from 1 July to 31 October
S115 Ministerial exemption to allow for transit through Snapper closed area