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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO FISHERS

To Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery licence holders

GULF ST VINCENT PRAWN FISHERY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2021/22

The Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery (GSVVPF) will open on 1 November 2021 for the 2021/22 fishing season in accordance with the *Fisheries Management (Prawn Fisheries) Regulations 2017*. A copy of the regulations can be found at <http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au>.

In 2021/22, the fishery will have two prescribed periods:

- Prescribed Period 1 from 1 November 2021 to 24 December 2021
- Prescribed Period 2 from 1 March 2022 to 31 July 2022.

In determining the arrangements for the 2021/22 fishing season, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have considered:

- the objectives of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*;
- the *Fisheries Management (Prawn Fisheries) Regulations 2017*;
- the harvest strategy decision rules that set the fishing nights and pre-Christmas fishing nights for the season contained in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery*;
- The outcome of the review of the current management plan to replace the plan and the advice of the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee (GSVVPFMAC) on identified improvements to the harvest strategy in that management plan;
- advice from the GSVVPFMAC, the Saint Vincent Gulf Prawn Boat Owner's Association and from licence holders on performance of the fishery in 2020/21 and the draft harvest strategy currently in consideration; and
- The outcome of an independent review of the draft harvest strategy.

I advise that consistent with the objectives for the fishery set out in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery*, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined that:

- There is a total of 290 fishing nights prescribed for the fishery for the 2021/22 fishing season.
- There are 45 fishing nights determined for prescribed period 1 in 2021/22.
- For prescribed period 1, 4.44 Class A units are required for one night fished.
- For prescribed period 2, 4.44 Class A units or 4.08 Class B units are required for one night fished.

- If a licence holder is fishing with approved amalgamated gear: for prescribed period 1, 5.55 Class A units are required for one night to be fished; and for prescribed period 2, 5.55 Class A units or 5.1 Class B units are required for one night to be fished.

These arrangements allocate 4.5 pre-Christmas fishing nights to each licence holder and a further 24.5 fishing nights have been allocated to licence holders for the remainder of the fishing season. It is acknowledged that individual licence holders are unable to fish half a night, however the GSVPFMAC has requested these arrangements in the recognition that two licence holders will transfer quota units equal to half a night between their licences to allow for a whole night's fishing on one of those licences.

Licence conditions will be implemented on all licences to determine the Class A and Class B unit values.

The following licence conditions will be revoked on all licences:

Licence Condition 14143 - Where the use of amalgamated gear has not been approved on this licence the number of fishing night units required to lawfully take aquatic resources under this licence on a night during prescribed period 2 (2021) is 6 Class A units or 4.61 Class B units.

Licence Condition 14144 - Where the use of amalgamated gear has been approved on this licence the number of fishing night units required to lawfully take aquatic resources under this licence on a night during prescribed period 2 (2021) is 7.5 Class A units or 5.76 Class B units

New licence conditions have been added to each licence as follows:

Where the use of amalgamated gear has not been approved on this licence the number of fishing night units required to lawfully take aquatic resources under this licence on a night during prescribed period 1 is 4.44 Class A units.

Where the use of amalgamated gear has been approved on this licence the number of fishing night units required to lawfully take aquatic resources under this licence on a night during prescribed period 1 is 5.55 Class A units.

Where the use of amalgamated gear has not been approved on this licence the number of fishing night units required to lawfully take aquatic resources under this licence on a night during prescribed period 2 is 4.44 Class A units or 4.08 Class B units.

Where the use of amalgamated gear has been approved on this licence the number of fishing night units required to lawfully take aquatic resources under this licence on a night during prescribed period 2 is 5.55 Class A units or 5.1 Class B units

Please note licence holders have a right under section 111 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to seek a review of a variation or imposition of a licence condition or refusal to issue, renew or consent to the transfer of an authority. Appeal rights also exist under sections 112 and 113 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to the District Court and the Environment, Resources and Development Court, respectively.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Leasing and Licensing has now adjusted the fishing night unit entitlements on the Registrations and Entitlements Certificate for each licence. Enclosed is a copy of the updated Registrations and Entitlements Certificate for your licence.

Fishing night unit entitlements may be transferred temporarily (within the current season) or permanently between GSVPF licences. The form to conduct a transfer can be found at:

www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries/licensing_and_registration/licensing_and_registration/forms.

A fishing night has been defined as between the prescribed time of sunset and the prescribed time of sunrise for Adelaide (as published in the South Australian Government Gazette pursuant to the requirements of the *Proof of Sunrise and Sunset Act 1923*). These sunrise/sunset times are available at the following link www.sa.gov.au/topics/transport-travel-and-motoring/sunrise-and-sunset-times.

The use of the amalgamated gear type (triple rig with a headline length of up to 43.89 m) requires approval after criteria for minimum unit holdings are met and retained. The forms to apply for amalgamated gear are available at the following link

www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries/licensing_and_registration/licensing_and_registration/forms.

To assist industry with overcoming the impacts of COVID-19, legislative amendments to the *Fisheries Management (Prawn Fisheries) Regulations 2017* to allow for carry-over of unfished fishing nights from the 2019/20 season to the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons for the GSVPF came into effect in December 2020. These carry-over provisions only apply to prescribed period 2 (post-Christmas). A decision related to carry-over of unfished nights to prescribed period 2 of the 2021/22 fishing season will be considered prior to the commencement of prescribed period 2 in February 2022.

Should you have any queries in relation to these arrangements please contact Yolande Markey, A/Fisheries Manager on 0427 979 085.



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE