



16 December 2021

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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## NOTICE TO FISHERS

### 2022 Total Allowable Commercial Catch for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery

Dear licence holder

I write in relation to the setting of the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery (CZAF) for quota period 2022.

In determining the TACCs for quota period 2022, I have considered the following:

- Objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- Information contained in the SARDI report *Assessment of the Central Zone Abalone (*Haliotis laevigata* and *H. rubra*) Fishery in 2020*
- The latest scientific information from SARDI
- The outcomes of the Harvest Strategy for the CZAF included in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone Fisheries*
- Outcomes of the TACC meeting held on 12 November 2021
- Advice received from the Central Zone Abalone Industry (CZAI)

As delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have made the following determination for the CZAF 2022 quota period:

- The Greenlip Abalone TACC has been determined as **36,000 kg** meat weight for 2022 (Table 1) representing a 22% reduction from the 2021 TACC of 46,046 kg meat weight.
- The Greenlip Abalone unit value has been determined as **124.31** kg meat weight (Table 1).
- The Blacklip Abalone TACC will be set at zero prohibiting commercial fishing for Blacklip in 2022.

The TACCs for both Greenlip Abalone and Blacklip Abalone are consistent with the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone Fisheries* that came into effect on 1 October 2021.

Table 1. Greenlip and Blacklip Abalone unit values and TACCs for 2022.

	<b>Greenlip Abalone</b>	<b>Blacklip Abalone</b>
TACC (kg, whole weight)	108,011	0
TACC (kg, meat weight)	36,000	0
Total abalone quota units	289.6	237.9
Abalone unit value (kg, whole weight)	372.97	0
Conversion value	0.3333	0.3333
Abalone unit value (kg, meat weight)	124.31	0

In making this decision, I acknowledge the TACC for Greenlip Abalone is greater than that recommended by the CZAI of 69.06 tonnes whole weight (23 tonnes meat weight), where the industry position was inconsistent with the outcomes of the harvest strategy included in the recently adopted management plan for the fishery.

Please be advised there is no requirement for licence holders to harvest their entire quota entitlement in a quota period, therefore, industry may wish to implement an industry-led catch limit for Greenlip Abalone in 2022, consistent with their recommendation of 23 tonnes. If this is the case, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is supportive of such an initiative, and will assist in monitoring the catches over the quota period.

PIRSA also acknowledges the request from the CZAI to continue the industry-managed monitoring of Blacklip in 2022 provided through setting a nominal TACC and diver surveys. In setting the 2022 Blacklip TACC at zero, I have taken into account the following information:

- The stock status derived from the harvest strategy is “recovering” however, there is no evidence of recovery in abundance of Blacklip Abalone stocks in the CZAF.
- The industry-collected information provided by the CZAI in 2019 and 2020 to PIRSA has not been provided in sufficient time and quality to allow for analysis by SARDI and this has significantly reduced its useability. Data from 2021 have not been provided to PIRSA as yet.

PIRSA would like to engage with industry in the near future to investigate alternate measures for cost-effectively monitoring Blacklip Abalone stocks in the CZAF.

I acknowledge the actions taken by the industry to support the recovery of abalone stocks in the CZAF and look forward to working proactively in the future to support a sustainable Blacklip TACC in the future.

### ***Use of data logger system***

A Ministerial determination under Regulation 16(1)(c) of the *Fisheries Management (Abalone Fisheries) Regulations 2017* is in place requiring CZAF licence holders or the registered master to cause the diver engaged in the taking of any class of abalone pursuant to the licence to use the data logger system. If requested by the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Licence holders are required to provide the GPS logger systems to SARDI.

This Ministerial determination will continue to apply in 2022. A copy of the determination is available at:

[https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial\\_fishing/fisheries\\_management/determinations](https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/fisheries_management/determinations)

### ***Catch sampling data***

Licence holders are reminded a Ministerial determination under Regulation 16(1)(a) of the *Fisheries Management Abalone Fisheries Regulations 2017* is in place requiring CZAF licence holders or the registered master to cause the diver engaged in the taking of any class of abalone pursuant to the licence to measure and record the shell length in the form as determined by SARDI of at least five Greenlip Abalone from every catch bag containing abalone taken from the waters of the CZAF. This Ministerial determination will continue to apply in 2022. A copy of the determination is available on the PIRSA website at:

[https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial\\_fishing/fisheries\\_management/determinations](https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/fisheries_management/determinations)

### ***Tiparra catch cap and seasonal closure***

Consistent with a recommendation from the CZAI, legislated arrangements for a catch cap and season fishing closures on Tiparra Reef will not be in place 2022. I note the intention of industry to voluntarily manage fishing activity at Tiparra Reef. PIRSA will continue to monitor fishing effort and catch at Tiparra through 2022.

### ***Extract certificate***

An updated licence extract certificate is included with this notice.

### **Quota unit transfers**

If you wish to transfer quota units to another licence, application forms can be obtained from the PIRSA website [www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries) or by contacting PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture on (08) 8204 1370.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the actions taken by the industry to support the recovery of abalone stocks in the CZAF. This action reflects a strong co-management approach, and I commend the industry for taking this position.

If you have any other queries in relation to the Abalone fisheries please contact Dr Annabel Jones, Program Leader - Commercial Fisheries, on (08) 842 90165.

Yours sincerely



**Prof Gavin Begg**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE**

Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development