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**FISHERIES AND
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NOTICE TO NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear licence holder

Determination of the 2023/24 rock lobster unit values, Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC), and management arrangements.

Total Allowable Commercial Catches for the 2023/24 quota period

I write to advise that, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development under the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017*, I have determined the rock lobster unit value for the 2023/24 quota period to be **4.27 kilograms** for the Inner Region and **0.79 kilograms** for the Outer Region.

Determining the rock lobster unit values at 4.27 kilograms for the Inner Region and 0.79 kilograms for the Outer Region sets the 2023/24 total allowable commercial catches (TACCs) at **250 tonnes** in the Inner Region and **46 tonnes** in the Outer Region. These are the same values of rock lobster units and TACCs determined in 2022/23.

When determining the rock lobster unit values and setting the TACCs for the Inner Region and Outer Region of the NZRLF for the 2022/23 quota period I have considered:

1. The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
2. The recommendation of the Rock Lobster Fishery Management Advisory Committee (RLFMAC) and the South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association (SANZRLFSA) that the TACCs be set in the Inner Region and Outer Region of the NZRLF at 250 tonnes and 46 tonnes, respectively.
3. The advice from SARDI on the fishery status and performance indicators in 2022/23.
4. Industry feedback on the fishery performance and performance indicators.
5. The harvest strategy decision rules in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery*.

Over-catch of quota entitlements in the 2023/24 season

In regard to the provision of over-catch of quota entitlements, as the delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined that if the total catch of rock lobster taken by the holder of a licence during the 2023/24 quota period, in either the Inner Region or Outer Region of the fishery, exceeds the rock lobster quota entitlement under the licence for that quota period:

- By up to 5% of the quota entitlements held on a licence, the conditions of the licence will be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the following quota period for that region by 1 kilogram of rock lobster for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement; or

- By more than 5% of the quota entitlements held on a licence, the conditions of the licence will be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the following quota period for that region by 2 kilograms of rock lobster for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement.

With regard to the carry-over provisions, I intend to make adjustments to licences to carry-over uncaught NZRLF quota entitlements for the respective regions on individual licences from the 2022/23 quota period to the 2023/24 quota period up to a maximum of 10% of quota entitlements. The carry-over of quota entitlements will be undertaken following the completion of the current NZRLF quota period. Please be advised that carried over quota entitlements are not able to be transferred and can only be used in the quota period to which they are carried over.

NZRLF Quota Period

On 27 July 2023, amendments to the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster) Regulations 2017* (the Regulations) were made by the Governor and published in the South Australian Government Gazette, No 58. A copy is available at https://governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/2023/July/2023_058.pdf

These amendments include:

- The removal of the closed season for the Inner Region of the NZRLF, effective from 1 November 2023; and
- The changing of the quota period start date from 1 November to 1 September, commencing 1 September 2024, through amendments to the definition of quota period under Regulation 15 of the regulations, to prescribe that:

Quota period – a quota period for the fishery means -

- The period commencing on 1 November 2023 and ending on 31 August 2024; or the period of 12 months commencing on 1 September 2024 or on 1 September in any subsequent year.

Giant Crab Access

The normal fishing closure for Giant Crab will remain in place and any Giant Crab incidentally caught in rock lobster pots in the period between 1800 hours on 31 May to 1200 hours on 1 November must be released as soon as practicable.

Should you have any queries concerning management of the fishery please contact Hamish Telfer, A/Commercial Fisheries Manager on 0427 648 866 or via email at hamish.telfer@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE