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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
2023/24**

The Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery (GSVPF) will open on 1 November 2023 for the 2023/24 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 2023/24, the fishery will have two prescribed periods:

- Prescribed Period 1 from 1 November 2023 to 31 December 2023
- Prescribed Period 2 from 1 March 2024 to 31 October 2024.

In determining the arrangements for the 2023/24 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*;
- Data on the performance of the fishery in 2022/23 and the harvest strategy decision rules that set the fishing nights contained in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery (2022)*;
- Advice from the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee (GSVPMAC).

I advise that as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined that:

- There is a total of 390 fishing nights prescribed for the fishery for the 2023/24 fishing season of which 80 fishing nights are determined for prescribed period 1 and 310 nights determined for period 2 in addition to any unused nights from period 1.
- For prescribed period 1, 2.5 Class A units are required to fish for one night.
- For prescribed period 2, 2.5 Class A units or 3.23 Class B units are required to fish for one night.
- If a licence holder is fishing with approved amalgamated gear: for prescribed period 1, 3.13 Class A units are required to fish for one night; and for prescribed period 2, 3.13 Class A units or 4.04 Class B units are required to fish for one night.

Please note these arrangements provide each licence with Class A units with 8 fishing nights for prescribed period 1, and licences with Class B units 31 fishing nights in prescribed period 2, in addition to any unused nights from prescribed period 1.

Please note these arrangements are consistent with 2022/23 and no amendments are required to licence conditions.

Enclosed is a copy of the Registrations and Entitlements Certificate for your licence.

With regard to carry-over provisions, I intend to consider adjustments to applicable licences to carry-over unused fishing nights from the 2022/23 fishing season to the 2023/24 fishing season up to a maximum of 10% of night entitlements for each prescribed period where these equate to a whole number of fishing nights. Carried over nights cannot be transferred and will not be carried over to the following season.

In addition, provisions for over-fishing of up to 10% of night entitlements in each fishing period will continue in the 2023/24 fishing season. Where additional nights fished during a specified period are equal to or less than 10% of the fishing night entitlements held on a licence, each night fished in excess of the licence's entitlement may be deducted from the entitlements on that licence in the subsequent prescribed period at a rate of one fishing night for each night fished in excess of the licences entitlements.

Where additional nights fished during a specified period are greater than 10% of the fishing night entitlements held on a licence, each night fished in excess of the licence's entitlement may be deducted from the entitlements on that licence in the subsequent prescribed period at a rate of two fishing nights for each night fished in excess of the licences entitlement.

Fishing night unit entitlements (except carried over nights) may be transferred temporarily (within the current season) 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. Fishing night units must be transferred in lots equalling a whole fishing night.

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. Fishing will be conducted in whole nights.

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.

Should you have any queries in regard to these matters please contact Hamish Telfer, Fisheries Manager on 0427 648 866 or at hamish.telfer@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE