NOTICE TO LICENCE HOLDERS

To licence holders with hauling net endorsements in the following fisheries: Marine Scalefish Fishery, Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery, Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery and Lakes and Coorong Fishery

Dear Licence holder

I am writing in relation to the Garfish management arrangements for the 2019/20 fishing season to address the continued concerns with the stock status of Garfish.

I have considered the following information:

- The most recent stock assessment report and updated information prepared by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) classifying the regional Southern Garfish stocks as follows:
  - Northern Gulf St Vincent stock is classified as ‘depleted’.
  - Northern Spencer Gulf stock is classified as ‘recovering’.
  - Southern Spencer Gulf, southern Gulf St Vincent, South East and West Coast stocks are classified as ‘sustainable’.
- The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- The operational objectives of the Southern Garfish harvest strategy in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery* to rebuild stocks.
- Industry advice provided by the MFA and the Marine Scale Net Fishers Association.

Having taken all the information available into account, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development I have continued the management arrangements applied in 2018/19 for another year. For 2019/20 the following Garfish management arrangements will apply.

- **A Garfish legal minimum length of 25 cm for commercial fishers.**
- All hauling nets will be required to have a pocket made of knotted mesh not less than 36 mm until 2359 hours on 30 June 2020.
- A closure is in place for the commercial take, possession or landing of Garfish for a period of 60 days commencing at 1201 hours on 3 August 2019 until 1159 hours on 1 October 2019 for Spencer Gulf. Note this seasonal closure applies to all commercial Garfish fishing.
- A closure is in place for the commercial take, possession or landing of Garfish for a period of 80 days commencing at 1201 hours on 14 July 2019 until 1159 hours on 1 October 2019 for Gulf St Vincent. Note this seasonal closure applies to all commercial Garfish fishing.
- During the closure, a commercial licence holder must not use a hauling net in Gulf St Vincent other than a hauling net that has a pocket made of knotted mesh not less than 36 mm, has a maximum bunt length of 60 m, a minimum mesh size of 30 mm for panels immediately adjacent to the pocket, a 50 mm minimum mesh size in the remainder of the hauling net and a maximum hauling net length of 600 m.
Copies of the notices issued under section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to enact these arrangements are enclosed.

If you have other questions about the measuring of the hauling nets please contact Pat Tripodi, Fisheries Compliance, Marine Scalefish Fishery coordinator on telephone 0429 000 282.

For any queries relating to Southern Garfish management arrangements, please contact Jonathan McPhail on telephone (08) 8429 0508 or email jonathan.mcphail@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Sean Sloan  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

cc: Marine Fishers Association (MFA)  
   South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen’s Association (SANZRLFA)  
   South East Professional Fishermen’s Association (SEPFA)  
   Southern Fishermen’s Association (SFA)  
   Goolwa Pipi Harvesters Association (GPHA)