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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO FISHERS

To: Licence holders in the Marine Scalefish Fishery, Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery and Lakes and Coorong Fishery

TEMPORARY FISHING GEAR ARRANGEMENTS

I am writing to you concerning temporary fishing gear arrangements regarding the interchangeable use of drop nets and hoop nets subject to conditions whilst commercially fishing.

As you will be aware, regulatory processes to introduce lift nets across the fishery are continuing. The intention of the addition of lift nets will be to encompass the definition of both hoop nets and drop nets and enable licence holders with greater flexibility to use these gears. To provide the flexibilities in the short-term whilst more permanent arrangements are finalised, I have granted a Ministerial exemption, under section 115 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, to allow for the use of drop nets in place of hoop nets, and hoop nets in place of drop nets on applicable licences (**ME9903241**). A copy of the exemption notice is enclosed.

Please note, the exemption is subject to strict conditions. It is the exemption holder's responsibility to ensure they are aware of their obligations and they have a copy of the exemption notice when undertaking the exempted activity. The *Fisheries Management Act 2007* provides that it is an offence to breach a condition of an exemption.

Please note if a licence is endorsed with licence condition 1314, then the maximum total amount of drop or hoop nets the licence holder can use, pursuant to the Ministerial exemption, is ten consistent with the licence condition. Licence condition 1314 states "*No more than a maximum of ten (10) devices consisting of hoop nets or drop nets may be used at any one time*".

Should you have any further queries in regard to this matter please contact Sam Stone, Community Fisheries Manager on (08) 8429 2101.

Yours sincerely

Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE