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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO FISHERS

Charter Boat Fishery

Possession of Snapper in closed area

Dear Licence Holder,

In the notice to fishers of 2 May 2023, I outlined several miscellaneous amendments to regulations under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) that related to the Charter Boat Fishery (CBF). This included changes to implement the Snapper closure through to 30 June 2026.

The amended *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* under regulation 6 set out that it is an offence for persons, who are not the holder of an authority, issued pursuant to the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act), to be in possession of Snapper in the Snapper closed waters of the State – the Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone, the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, the West Coast Fishing Zone or the Port Adelaide River estuary.

As CBF licence holders have an authority under the Act, the above prohibition does not apply to the licence holder, however it is considered to apply to clients (unlicensed persons) on charter trips.

To maintain the ability for recreational fishers on Charter Boat fishing trips to transit the Snapper closed areas with lawfully caught Snapper on board from the South East Fishing Zone, I, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, have considered and provided a Ministerial exemption to the prohibition for unlicensed persons fishing as part of a charter boat fishing agreement with the holder of a licence issued under *the Fisheries Management (Charter Boat Fishery) Regulations 2016* (**ME9903264**).

A copy of the Ministerial exemption notice is enclosed and I encourage you to keep this on board to demonstrate to clients that they can lawfully be in possession of Snapper in the closed areas during fishing charters.

Please note, strict prior reporting and catch and disposal requirements remain in place for possession of Snapper in the closed areas, as outlined in CBF licence conditions and the Ministerial determinations dated 4 March 2022, available on the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) website at:

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/commercial_fishing/management/determinations?shorturl_fishing-determinations

OFFICIAL

If you have any queries regarding these arrangements or would like a copy of the amended regulations referred to above, you can contact Sam Stone, Community Fisheries Manager, on 0439 728 643 or email sam.stone@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE