



Our reference: A5952955

17 August 2023

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

2 Hamra Ave
West Beach SA 5024
GPO Box 1625
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 210
Tel (08) 8207 5333
Fax (08) 8207 5331
www.pir.sa.gov.au

NOTICE TO SOUTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear licence holder

Determination of the 2023/24 rock lobster unit value, the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) and carry-over/over-catch arrangements for the Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (SZRLF)

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 2022/23 quota period in the SZRLF to be **111.09 kilograms**. Determining the rock lobster unit value for the 2023/24 quota period at 111.09 kilograms per unit sets the TACC at 1,320 tonnes, consistent with the SZRLF harvest strategy in the management plan.

In determining the rock lobster unit value and TACC for the 2023/24 quota period, I have considered:

1. The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
2. Advice from SARDI on the status report for the 2022/23 quota period
3. The recommendation of the Rock Lobster Fishery Management Advisory Committee (RLFMAC) to set the TACC at 1,320 tonnes for the 2023/24 quota period
4. The harvest strategy decision rules in the management plan for the SZRLF.

Carry-over / Over-catch

In regard to provision for over-catch of quota entitlements, I advise that as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have made the following determinations:

- If the total catch of rock lobster taken by the holder of a SZRLF licence during the quota period 2023/24 exceeds the rock lobster quota entitlement under the licence for that quota period:
 - by not more than 50 kg, the conditions of the licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the following quota period (2024/25) by 1 kilogram of rock lobster for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement; or
 - if the catch exceeds the quota entitlement by more than 50 kg, the conditions of the licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the following quota period (2024/25) by 2 kilogram 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 SZRLF quota entitlements on individual licences from the 2022/23 quota period to the 2023/24 quota period up to a maximum of 10% of quota entitlements.

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 to.

SZRLF 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:

Quota period – a quota period for the fishery means -

- The period of 12 months commencing on 1 September 2023 or on 1 September in any subsequent year.

These changes were progressed at the request of industry to provide licence holders additional time to harvest their allocated quota entitlements and greater business flexibility in accessing markets year-round.

Please note the prescribed closed season for the Southern Zone still remains in place as being a period between 1800 hours on 31 May and 0600 hours 1 October 2023. To allow commercial fishing to commence 1 September 2023, I have made a determination to allow licence holders to set a rock lobster pot, take rock lobster and sell live rock lobster for the period 0600 hours 1 September 2023 and 0600 hours 1 October 2023.

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 0600 hours on 1 September to 0600 hours on 1 October 2023 must be released as soon as practicable.

SZRLF Online Quota Transfer Service

This system can be accessed through the eCatch portal and allows users to complete the quota transfer application form, submit payment, and receive all approval documents electronically.

Licence holders who don't currently have access to eCatch will need to firstly create a myPIRSA account by going to <https://mypirsa.pir.sa.gov.au/> and registering as a new user. Once in myPIRSA, users can apply for the eCatch service. Please note that only licence holders and directors will be able to launch the service as all quota transfer applications must be submitted by the holder of the licence.

All communication sent to the eCatch inbox will be automatically forwarded to a nominated email address. By default, this will be the email address used for your myPIRSA account. Licence holders can nominate a different email address or choose not to receive eCatch communication via email. If you wish to change your email preferences or are having difficulty in accessing the system, please contact the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Fisheries and Aquaculture, Leasing and Licensing on (08) 8207 5332.

Further, your final quota statement for the 2022/23 quota period is available on-line through the eCatch portal at: https://pir.sa.gov.au/top_menu/services/mypirsa.

Please find enclosed your quota entitlements extract for the 2023/24 quota period.

Should you have any queries in regard to these matters please contact Elisha Lovell, A/ Fisheries Manager on (08) 8429 3629.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development