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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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1 May 2024

NOTICE TO CHARTER BOAT FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

No annual licence fee payment for licence holders who will not be operating a Charter Boat Fishery licence during 2024-25

Dear licence holder

Following the decision last year to extend the Snapper closure within the waters of Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone, the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, the West Coast Fishing Zone and the Port Adelaide River estuary until 1 July 2026 the Government provided a suite of support initiatives including 50% relief applied to the annual licence fees for Charter Boat Fishery licence holders for the duration of the closure. Additionally, for the duration of the closure, an annual Zero Fee option for Charter Boat Fishery licence holders who will not be providing any Charter Boat fishing services during a given financial year has been approved.

These initiatives have been made to reduce the financial hardship faced by some industry members in acknowledgement that they have historically been dependent on Snapper fishing.

To implement the Zero Fee arrangement, Charter Boat Fishery licence holders who will not be operating any fishing charters during the 2024-25 financial year are required to apply to remove (de-register) <u>all</u> vessels registered on the licence before <u>3 June 2024</u> by completing the enclosed form and submitting to <u>pirsa.fisherieslicensing@sa.gov.au</u>. In this way the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) will know that the licence holder is not intending to use the licence.

Please note, that if you removed all vessels for the 2023-24 financial year and will not be operating any fishing charters during the 2024-25 financial year, you do not need to reapply.

This arrangement is optional and Charter Boat licence holders who at a later stage wish to recommence charter boat fishing services at any point during the course of the year only need to register a vessel to their licence and pay for the full year's licence fee. Please note that there will be no application fee payable to remove all boats from a Charter Boat Fishery licence. Where you apply to re-register a boat or otherwise vary an existing boat registration the normal prescribed boat variation fee will need to be paid.

Licence holders who wish to avoid being invoiced the annual fee, should not register any vessel on their licences at any point during the financial year.

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Licence holders who have licence fees outstanding are still required to pay this debt to avoid the licence being suspended and debt recovery action being taken.

We would encourage setting up a payment plan with an agreed repayment amount which would help reduce any outstanding licence fees. If you wish to request this, please confirm in writing to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing via email.

If you choose to continue to operate, Charter Boat Fishery licence holders will pay a 50% reduced annual fee until 30 June 2026.

Should you have any further queries in regard to this matter please contact Jordan Lear, Fisheries Manager on 0401 121 955 or at Jordan.lear@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Prof Gavin Begg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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