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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO BLUE CRAB FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

**Unit value, total allowable commercial catch and other quota arrangements
for 2026-27**

Dear Licence Holder

I write to advise you of the quota management arrangements I have determined for the Blue Crab Fishery for the quota period commencing 1 July 2026.

As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (the Minister), I have determined the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) and set quota unit values for the Blue Crab Fishing Zones of the commercial Blue Crab Fishery for the 2026-27 quota period as outlined in the table below.

Blue Crab Fishing Zone	TACC 2026-27 (tonnes)	Unit Value (kg)	No. of units
Spencer Gulf	458	69.30*	6,609
Gulf St Vincent	294.18	69.30*	4,245

*Rounded to 2 decimal places

I have also determined the conversion value (quota unit to pot ratio) for both fishing zones to be 10 units per pot for the 2026-27 quota period – the same conversion value as the 2025-26 quota period.

In determining the TACCs and quota unit values for the 2026-27 season, I have considered the following:

- 1) The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*;
- 2) The harvest strategy decision rules in the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Blue Crab Fishery;
- 3) Fishery Independent Survey results from March 2026 indicating the primary performance indicator of legal-sized Catch Per Unit effort was above the target reference point in both gulfs;
- 4) The SARDI Blue Crab Fishery stock assessment report 2023-24, which classified Blue Crab stocks in both gulfs as 'sustainable';

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- 5) Industry advice from the meeting held between PIRSA, SARDI and the SA Blue Crab Pot Fishers Association (SABCPFA) of 5 June 2026.

Carry-over and Over-catch arrangements

Regulation 10(2)(e) of the Fisheries Management (Blue Crab Fishery) Regulations 2013 provides arrangements for the carry-over of uncaught quota entitlements held on an individual licence at a default level of up to 10% of the quota entitlements held on a licence, unless a lesser amount is determined by the Minister. The Minister may also determine an increased amount where the Minister is satisfied that exceptional circumstance apply.

Regulation 10(2)(f) of the Fisheries Management (Blue Crab Fishery) Regulations 2013 provides penalty arrangements for dealing with over-catch of quota on individual licences, whereby any over-caught amount of up to 10% of the entitlements on the licence may be managed by deducting the kilogram amount taken in excess of the quota allocation in a quota period from the quota entitlement on that licence in the subsequent quota period at a rate of 1:1 kilograms. The default amount of up to 10% may be reduced to a lesser amount determined by the Minister.

After considering advice from the SABCPFA and SARDI, and noting the temporary restrictions that were in place in the Gulf St Vincent Blue Crab Fishing Zone between 1 November 2025 and 30 April 2026 in response to the algal bloom, I can advise that I, as delegate of the Minister, am satisfied that exceptional circumstances apply in the Gulf St Vincent Blue Crab Fishing Zone and I have determined a variation to the regulated default carry-over values from up to 10% to up to 20% of a licence holder's 2025-26 Blue Crab quota entitlements (where they are uncaught), which may be carried forward to 2026-27 in the Gulf St Vincent Blue Crab Fishing Zone. No change is made to the default carry-over value of up to 10% 2025-26 Blue Crab quota entitlements that may be carried forward to 2026-27 in the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, or to the over-catch arrangements in either zone.

Please note that where an over-catch amount exceeds 10% of the quota entitlements held on a licence, each kilogram in excess of the quota allocation held on a licence may be deducted from the quota entitlements on that licence in the subsequent quota period at a rate of 2:1 kilograms.

Uncaught or over-caught quota entitlements will be considered at the end of each quota period when the total catch taken on each licence has been assessed. Any adjustments to quota entitlements will be applied to individual licences as soon as practicable following the beginning of the next quota period. Licence holders will be advised of the changes at the time the adjustments are made in quota statements.

If you have any questions in relation to the commercial Blue Crab Fishery please contact Sam Stone, Community Fisheries Manager, on 0439 728 643 or email sam.stone@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Begg', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE