



Document ID: A7695320

6 October 2026

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

2 Hamra Avenue
West Beach SAGPO Box 1625
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel (08) 8207 5333

www.pir.sa.gov.au

NOTICE TO CHARTER BOAT FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS**Trial use of recreational rock lobster pots during charter boat fishing services
2026/27**

Dear licence holder,

I write in relation to the streamlined registration process and management arrangements for the continued trial use of recreational rock lobster pots on charter boats.

As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have approved a:

- Ministerial exemption (ME9903459) under section 115 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to enable Charter Boat Fishery licence holders, or a person endorsed on the licence as a registered master to set recreational rock lobster pots registered to a client on behalf of that client prior to the commencement of their intended charter; and
- An updated application form for the registration of recreational short term rock lobster pots to be used on charter boats, pursuant to regulation 10 of the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017 – to be used under a streamlined registration process.

This approval follows a review of the 2025/26 trial use of recreational rock lobster pots on charter boats and took into consideration stakeholder feedback. The new exemption will enable the arrangements to be trialed for the remainder of the recreational rock lobster fishing season duration.

Please note that whilst the same core arrangements of the initial trial have been retained, the Ministerial exemption notice, application for registration, and instructions for use of a recreational short term rock lobster pot on a Charter, have all been updated to address key issues identified through the review, including: to clarify the client registration process, accommodate arrangements for cancelled or rescheduled trips, support compliance and monitoring activities, clarify charter operator requirements and use of rock lobster pot tags.

To ensure compliance with the 2026/27 arrangements and to mitigate risk, PIRSA may undertake targeted checks and compare registration, Fishwatch, catch-log and reporting records and at-sea and landing pot and vessel checks.

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.

The arrangements have been implemented on a temporary basis to allow for monitoring, and if necessary, variation, of the activity while longer-term arrangements are considered.

A copy of the Ministerial exemption notice, client registration application form, and instructions for use of recreational short term rock lobster pots on Charters are enclosed.

Should you wish to offer use of recreational short-term rock lobster pots, please follow the instructions enclosed.

When engaging in fishing using registered rock lobster pots during your charter operations, please be aware of all other requirements, restrictions and limits under the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017 including:

- A passenger limit of 2 rock lobster per person actively fishing – noting this means that only clients using a registered recreational rock lobster pot in their name can lawfully retain any rock lobster taken from the registered rock lobster pot.
- The requirement to mark the middle tail fan of retained rock lobster before they are brought ashore or landed by cutting it in half horizontally or punching a hole (no less than 10 mm in diameter) in the distal end.

I thank you for your time and efforts in working through this strategic priority. Should you have any queries on this matter, please contact David McPharlin – Charter Boat Fisheries Manager on 0498 069 714 or at or email: david.mcpharlin@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,



Prof Gavin Begg
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

Enclosed:

- Ministerial exemption notice ME9903459
- Client registration application form
- Instructions for use of a recreational short term rock lobster pot on Charters