



FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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11 August 2021

NOTICE TO CHARTER BOAT FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear Licence Holder,

I write to inform you of amendments made to regulations under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act), and to update you on Red Tape Reduction measures.

Of relevance to the Charter Boat Fishery, on 1 July 2021 amendments were made and gazetted to the *Fisheries Management (General) (Miscellaneous) (No 2) Variation Regulations 2021*.

These regulations are available on the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) website at pir.sa.gov.au/fishingreform

Key changes to the regulations

As outlined further below, these regulatory amendments were primarily made to enable current Snapper management across the State to be maintained, protect berried crabs, and implement reductions in red tape. The key changes of relevance to the Charter Boat Fishery are as follows:

Snapper management

The existing Snapper fishing closure, which applies to the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island, the Spencer Gulf and the West Coast fishing zones, has been announced to be in effect until 1 February 2023. This temporary closure had been implemented through several prohibition of Snapper fishing notices under section 79 of the Act. A notice under section 79 of the Act may only apply for a period not exceeding 12 months and renewed once for a further period not exceeding 12 months.

The reform of the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) to total allowable commercial catch (TACC) and individual transferable quota (ITQ) management for Snapper and other priority species for the commercial sector, now provides for fishing closures for Snapper to be implemented as a TACC determined at zero kilograms.

To continue the recreational and charter fishing closure for Snapper fishing, an amendment to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* has been made which prohibits the take of Snapper until 1 February 2023 in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island, the Spencer Gulf and the West Coast fishing zones.

The above regulatory amendments mean that section 79 notices will no longer be required to implement the recreational and charter fishing closure for Snapper and the existing section 79 notice will subsequently be revoked.

Protection for berried crabs

An amendment has been made to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* to extend the protection of female berried crabs to Sand Crab, Rock Crab and Spider Crab species. This is intended to protect spawning females and, the reproductive potential of the stock. This is important as further amendments outlined below to reduce red tape in the MSF have added Rock Crab and Spider Crab as commercial permitted species to the MSF.

Red tape reduction - Changes to Southern Bluefin Tuna Charter Boat limits, and corresponding trip limits for tuna and a number of large scalefish species

To reduce red tape for the Charter Boat Fishery, amendments have been made to allow all customers who fish on a charter boat to keep one tuna, consistent with current bag limits for the Charter Boat Fishery. Further, trip limits of a maximum of one fish per person per charter fishing trip have been set for the following large scalefish species:

- Western Blue Groper
- Yellowtail Kingfish
- Mulloway
- Samsonfish
- Bronze Whaler Shark
- Dusky Shark

Please be advised, the South Australian Charter Boat Fishing Limits Brochure is currently being updated to reflect these changes. Once updated a copy will be provided to the Executive Officer of the Charter Boat Association South Australia for distribution, and it will be available to access at

pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/fisheries/charter_boat_fishery

Red tape reductions update

As part of red tape reduction measures to reduce the impacts of the State-wide Snapper ban, the Charter Boat Association South Australia submitted a request for a licence condition to enable Charter Boat licence holders, registered masters or agents assisting the registered master to fish for live bait to be used on the charter. Where this sits within the constitution of the Charter Boat Fishery is currently being assessed. Further, approval is currently being sought to review the Charter Boat Fishery Management Plan. Should the review be approved, it is likely the provisions for allowing fishing for bait will be considered in the review process during which PIRSA will work in close consultation with the Association.

If you have any queries regarding these arrangements or would like a copy of the amended regulations referred to above, you can contact Jordan Lean, Fisheries Management Officer, on phone 8429 0931 or email Jordan.lear@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE**

Delegate for the Minister of Primary Industries and Regional Development