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FISHERIES &amp; AQUACULTURE

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**NOTICE TO MARINE SCALEFISH FISHERY AND ROCK LOBSTER  
FISHERIES LICENCE HOLDERS****2022-23 Quota unit values for Snapper, King George Whiting, Southern  
Garfish and Southern Calamari**

Dear licence holder,

I write in relation to the setting of the kilogram unit values of quota units for the priority species in the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) – Snapper, King George Whiting, Southern Garfish and Southern Calamari – for the 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 quota period.

As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, for the purposes of regulations 14(4), 17(4), 17A(4) and 17B(4) of the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017* and regulations 17A(4), 17B(4), 17C(4) and 17D(4) of the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017*, I have determined the kilogram value of quota units for each species in each fishing zone for the 2022-23 quota period (Table 1).

**Table 1: Kilogram value (kg) of a unit for MSF priority species for the 2022-2023 quota period.**

<b>Fishing Zone</b>	<b>King George</b>	<b>snapper</b>	<b>southern calamari</b>	<b>southern garfish</b>
West Coast	N/A	0 kg	N/A	N/A
Spencer Gulf	55.50 kg	0 kg	51.00 kg	50.00 kg
Gulf St Vincent	23.00 kg	0 kg	40.50 kg	35.50 kg
South East	N/A	18.00 kg	N/A	N/A

In determining the kilogram unit values I have considered the following:

- Objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- The *South Australian Management Plan for the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery* (the MSF Management Plan)
- Recommendations from the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC)
- The status of stocks as published in the 'Assessment of the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery in 2019' report provided by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)
- Ongoing processes regarding outcomes of applications for exceptional circumstances and expected allocation of additional quota units in the MSF as communicated in a notice to fishers dated 12 May 2022

- Scientific advice from SARDI regarding the impact on the status of stocks from the potential allocation of additional quota units to accommodate outcomes of the exceptional circumstances processes and potential quota carry-over.

In considering the unit values I have noted there have been no changes to stock status and no updated harvest strategies for the species / stocks in question. Recent catch statistics indicate positive or stable trends for all stocks.

The sum of the kilogram values of all quota units provides the total allowable commercial catches (TACCs) for the MSF priority species. It should be noted that the number of quota units in the fishery is likely to change in the 2022-23 quota period due to the possible finalisation of challenges to certain decisions on the exceptional circumstances processes. A further communication will be provided to licence holders to inform them of any resulting variation to the number of quota units in the fishery for the 2022-23 period.

As outlined in the notice to fishers dated 12 May 2022, processes related to the outcomes of successful exceptional circumstances applications are ongoing and it is likely that additional quota units will be allocated to certain licence holders in the MSF to correct errors made in the initial allocation decision. I acknowledge that the allocation of additional quota units in the MSF is likely to present a level of uncertainty for existing quota holders and further updates will be communicated on this matter as soon as possible.

In the case of King George Whiting in the West Coast Fishing Zone which is not managed under individual transferable quota (ITQ), I can advise that fishing for the species in this zone will be closed when the commercial take reaches 183,000 kg during the 2022-23 period. The reduction of the fishing cap in this fishing zone from 473,000 kg to 183,000 kg has been made to align with a harvest fraction that corresponds with maximum sustainable yield (MSY) instead of the  $\leq 28\%$  harvest fraction provided in the MSF Management Plan. Whilst representing a substantial reduction in the catch limit, I note this is not due to any concerns for stock sustainability and is still significantly above the recent five-year average catch.

Decisions regarding the potential reopening of areas closed to Snapper fishing from 1 February 2023 and associated variation of unit values to allow for Snapper to be taken in those areas, will be made following the release of a new stock assessment report in October 2022. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) will be working with the peak bodies in advance of this to plan around various scenarios.

Should you have any queries regarding the MSF, you can contact Sam Stone, Fisheries Manager on (08) 8429 2101 or email [sam.stone@sa.gov.au](mailto:sam.stone@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development