



Our reference: A5958623

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New Licence Fee Structure for the Marine Scalefish Fishery

Dear Licence Holder

Each year the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) collects licence fees from all licence holders to provide for the costs of managing a fishery. These licence fees are critical in ensuring that sufficient resources are available to appropriately manage the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF). Over a number of years the State Government has provided different fee subsidies to the fishery as a result of the reform and other initiatives. These subsidies will cease in the 2024/25 season, with the exception of the Snapper closure relief.

As an outcome of the MSF reform and implementation of quota into the fishery, the current licence fee structure for the fishery needed to be reviewed. The current licence fee structure incorporates a Base Fee and Net fee, with no consideration of the new quota arrangements in the fishery. This has resulted in licence holders with more access to the resource paying the same cost as those with less. Therefore, it is important that a new licence fee structure is implemented to reflect a licence holder's access to the resource.

To assist in determining a new licence fee structure PIRSA formulated the MSF Licence Fee Structure Working Group. The Working Group was comprised of representatives from each sector that has defined access to the fishery (Marine Scalefish, Northern Zone Rock Lobster, Southern Zone Rock Lobster and Lakes and Coorong fisheries). The Working Group was tasked with developing a suitable licence fee structure that ensures equity in the licence fees across participants, based on access.

Based on the feedback from the working group and in consideration of the sectors operating environment the new licence fees for 2024/25 will be set on the following:

- The Base Fee will remain in place and a new Unit Fee will be introduced for each quota species. Each unit of quota will result in one unit fee being applied to a licence.
- The total cost of management of the fishery will be split between the Base Fee and Unit Fee. A total of 30% of the management costs will be attributed to the Base Fee and 70% of management costs will be attributed to the Unit Fees.

- The 70% of management costs applied to the Unit Fees will be equally distributed between the four priority species quota units (i.e. one quarter of the 70% applied to each species).
- The Net Fee will be removed, and all management costs will be apportioned between the Base Fee and Unit Fees. There will be no gear specific fees.
- All licence holders pay the same Base Fee; there is no further concessions for the different sectors.
- As the Net fee has been removed, Lakes and Coorong fishers with Marine Scalefish access will now pay the Base Fee instead of the Net Fee.

To assist in understanding the changes and what this means to individual fishers I have provided some examples for further clarity in Attachment A. Please note the figures in the examples provided are based on the 2022/23 management costs for the fishery and only offered as an example and will vary when the new fee structure is introduced in 2024/25.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Begg', with a stylized, cursive script.

Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Attachment A: Examples of Licence Fees for the Marine Scalefish Fishery under the new Licence Fee Structure

Please note all these figures were calculated on the 2022/23 management costs and are provided as examples. These do not accurately reflect the final fees for licence holders for 2024/25. The 2024/25 licence fees will be determined by the costs of management of the fishery for that year.

Example 1: Marine Scalefish Fishery Licence Holder no quota

Pay Base Fee Only

Unit Type	Unit Fees	Number of Units	Total Cost
King George Whiting Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -
King George Whiting Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -
Calamari Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 57.00	0	\$ -
Calamari Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 57.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Snapper Gulf St Vincent (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper Spencer Gulf (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper West Coast (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper South East	\$ 40.00	0	\$ -
Total Unit Fees			\$ -
Total Base Fee			\$ 1,916.00
Total Licence Fee (Base + Unit)			\$ 1,916.00

Example 2: Marine Scalefish Licence holders with quota

This will vary based on the number of quota units held by the licence holder.

Smaller Quota Holding

Unit Type	Unit Fee	Number of Units	Total Cost
King George Whiting Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 112.00	5	\$ 560.00
King George Whiting Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 112.00	15	\$ 1,680.00
Calamari Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 57.00	5	\$ 285.00
Calamari Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 57.00	10	\$ 570.00
Garfish Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Snapper Gulf St Vincent (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper Spencer Gulf (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper West Coast (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper South East	\$ 40.00	0	\$ -
Total Unit Fees			\$ 3,095.00
Total Base Fee			\$ 1,916.00
Total Licence Fee (Base + Unit)			\$ 5,011.00

Larger Quota Holding

Unit Type	Unit Fees	Number of Units	Total Cost
King George Whiting Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 112.00	35	\$ 3,920.00
King George Whiting Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 112.00	15	\$ 1,680.00
Calamari Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 57.00	5	\$ 285.00
Calamari Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 57.00	50	\$ 2,850.00
Garfish Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 111.00	10	\$ 1,110.00
Garfish Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 111.00	25	\$ 2,775.00
Snapper Gulf St Vincent (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper Spencer Gulf (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper West Coast (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper South East	\$ 40.00	0	\$ -
Total Unit Fees			\$ 12,620.00
Total Base Fee			\$ 1,916.00
Total Licence Fee (Base + Unit)			\$ 14,536.00

Example 3: Northern and Southern Zone Licence holders with MSF Access (Option C) and No Quota

Pay Base Fee Only

Unit Type	Unit Fees	Number of Units	Total Cost
King George Whiting Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -
King George Whiting Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -
Calamari Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 57.00	0	\$ -
Calamari Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 57.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Snapper Gulf St Vincent (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper Spencer Gulf (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper West Coast (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper South East	\$ 40.00	0	\$ -
Total Unit Fees			\$ -
Total Base Fee			\$ 1,916.00
Total Licence Fee (Base + Unit)			\$ 1,916.00

Example 4: Northern and Southern Zone Licence holders with MSF Access (Option C) and hold Quota

Northern Zone with quota holdings

Unit Type	Unit Fee	Number of Units	Total Cost
King George Whiting Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -
King George Whiting Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 112.00	10	\$ 1,120.00
Calamari Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 57.00	0	\$ -
Calamari Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 57.00	15	\$ 855.00
Garfish Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 111.00	12	\$ 1,332.00
Snapper Gulf St Vincent	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper Spencer Gulf	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper West Coast	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper South East	\$ 40.00	0	\$ -
Total Unit Fees			\$ 3,307.00
Total Base Fee			\$ 1,916.00
Total Licence Fee (Base + Unit)			\$ 5,223.00

Southern Zone with quota holdings

Unit Type	Unit Fee	Number of Units	Total Cost
King George Whiting Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -
King George Whiting Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -
Calamari Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 57.00	0	\$ -
Calamari Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 57.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Snapper Gulf St Vincent	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper Spencer Gulf	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper West Coast	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper South East	\$ 40.00	50	\$ 2,000.00
Total Unit Fees			\$ 2,000.00
Total Base Fee			\$ 1,916.00
Total Licence Fee (Base + Unit)			\$ 3,916.00

Example 5 Lakes and Coorong Fisher with MSF access

Pay Base Fee Only

Unit Type	Unit Fees	Number of Units	Total Cost
King George Whiting Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -
King George Whiting Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 112.00	0	\$ -
Calamari Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 57.00	0	\$ -
Calamari Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 57.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Gulf St Vincent Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Garfish Spencer Gulf Units	\$ 111.00	0	\$ -
Snapper Gulf St Vincent (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper Spencer Gulf (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper West Coast (Currently Closed)	\$ -	0	\$ -
Snapper South East	\$ 40.00	0	\$ -
Total Unit Fees			\$ -
Total Base Fee			\$ 1,916.00
Total Licence Fee (Base + Unit)			\$ 1,916.00