



2 May 2023

NOTICE TO FISHERS

Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery

Miscellaneous amendments to regulations

Dear Licence Holder,

I write to inform you of several miscellaneous amendments that have been made to regulations under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) that relate to the Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (SZRLF).

The amendments have been made to implement more efficient and flexible mechanisms for fishery management and to clarify, simplify and update current management arrangements. These amendments will help to increase the economic potential of these fisheries and reduce red tape for fishers. Important changes have also been made to increase the protection of key marine and aquatic animals.

These amendments to regulations came into effect on 1 May 2023. Of relevance to SZRLF licence holders are the following regulations:

Fisheries Management (General) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Regulations 2023

Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Regulations 2023

Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Regulations 2023.

These regulation amendments are published in the Government Gazette, No. 26, Thursday 20 April 2023 (pp. 799–858), available at:

https://governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/2023/April/2023_026.pdf

Key changes to regulations

The changes implemented relating to your fishery are described below.

Prescribed species and quota unit values in the Rock Lobster Fisheries (RLF)

- The aquatic resources prescribed for the Marine Scalefish Fishery described in Schedule 1, Part 1 of the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017* were amended in July 2021 to include several marine scalefish species incidentally caught as bycatch and discarded. The amendments allowed Marine Scalefish Fishery licence holders to retain these bycatch species. The species added are:
 - Sergeant Baker
 - Blue Weed-Whiting
 - Conger Eel
 - Rock Crab (West of 135 degrees East)
 - Spider Crab (West of 135 degrees East)
 - Knifejaw
 - Silver Drummer
- Licence holders in the Rock Lobster Fisheries also have access to marine scalefish species and, therefore, also encounter these species added to the Marine Scalefish Fishery. To standardise the arrangements for marine scalefish species across all licence holders with access to these species, amendments to the prescribed species under the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017* have been made to add these species. Rock Lobster Fishery licence holders may now access these species from 1 May 2023.
- This amendment standardises the arrangements across both sets of fishery regulations and thus provide a consistent approach to management across fishing licences with commercial access to Marine Scalefish Fishery species. These species are classified with a low or medium risk ranking through an ecologically sustainable development risk assessment.
- To standardise the arrangements for marine scalefish quota species across both the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017* and the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017* amendments have also been made to regulations to insert powers of the Minister to increase the quota unit values for marine scalefish quota species. These provisions mirror provisions contained in the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017* and allow for more consistent flexible management of marine scalefish quota entitlements.

Extension of the Snapper closure

- Further to correspondence dated 23 January 2023 regarding the initial extension of the Snapper closure via a temporary declaration notice issued under section 79 of the Act, amendments have now been made to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* to implement the Snapper closure through to 30 June 2026, as previously announced.
- The take and/or possession of Snapper within the Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone, the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, the West Coast Fishing Zone, and the Port Adelaide River estuary has been prescribed as an offence in regulation 6(1)(c) of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* for the purposes of section 72(2) of the Act.

- PIRSA will be undertaking various administrative updates to transition to the amended regulations, including work to enable ongoing transit through the Snapper closed area with lawfully caught Snapper on board.

Other amendments to regulations

Several additional amendments to regulations have been implemented to improve the sustainable management of fish resources, provide for improved administration of authorities or to correct administrative errors.

Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017

- Regulation 3(3) describing the method for determining the mesh size of a net has been deleted as this method has been superseded by new technology and is no longer necessary. New arrangements now allow the Minister to approve a measuring instrument for this purpose to ascertain more accurate mesh sizes of nets allowing for new measuring devices to be certified in the future in a timely manner.
- Regulation 18 has been varied to correct the spelling of Chondrichthyes and to allow the removal of the head of a shark to the definition of mutilation. This amendment allows for the removal of the head of shark at sea to support efficient fishing operations and to ensure effective enforcement of the appropriate management arrangements.
- The opportunity has been taken to make amendments to the *Fisheries Management (General) 2017*, to update all coordinates from GDA94 to GDA2020 based on the Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020) consistent with the Australian national standard.

If you have any queries regarding these arrangements or would like a copy of the amended regulations referred to above, you can contact Hamish Telfer, Fishery Manager, on (08) 8767 2358 or email Hamish.Telfer@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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