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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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**NOTICE TO CHARTER BOAT FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS**  
**2023-24 Catch limits for South East Snapper**

Dear licence holder,

I write in relation to the catch limits for Snapper in the South East Fishing Zone (SEFZ) for the 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 period.

In 2021-22, the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) undertook assessments of Snapper stocks in South Australia, including the stock in the South East (SE) region. The stock was sustainable with an increasing biomass. The update of the stock assessment had triggered a re-evaluation of an appropriate harvest fraction for SE Snapper to guide consideration of a total allowable catch (TAC). This involved identification of a harvest fraction that coincided with a stable or increasing stock, consistent with the previous methods applied to set the 2021-22 TAC.

On 16 and 17 May 2023, the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC) held its fourth meeting to consider and develop recommendations to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development for catch limits of Tier 1 stocks in the shared-access Marine Scalefish Fishery.

Considering the re-evaluated harvest fraction, the sustainable stock status, increasing biomass, and record high recruitment of Snapper recorded in Port Phillip Bay in 2018 and 2022, the MSFMAC recommended a TAC increase from 48 tonnes to 70 tonnes based on a 20% harvest fraction, and subsequent proportionate increase in the sector catch limits, based on the existing regional catch shares for Snapper in the SEFZ. In the case of the Charter Boat Fishery, this equates to 9,312 kg.

After consideration of the MSFMAC recommendations, the Objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, the SARDI Snapper Stock Assessment Report 2022 and *Management Plan for the South Australian Charter Boat Fishery*, I have supported the MSFMAC recommendation and can advise that the CBF take of Snapper in the SEFZ will be closed upon the CBF catch reaching 9,312 kg in the 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 period.

Should you have any queries regarding the MSF, you can contact Sam Stone, Community Fisheries Manager on 0439 728 643 or email [sam.stone@sa.gov.au](mailto:sam.stone@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

Prof Gavin Begg

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
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Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development