



Document ID: A6015992

23 October 2023

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

2 Hamra Avenue
West Beach SA
GPO Box 1625
Adelaide SA 5001
Tel (08) 8207 5333
www.pir.sa.gov.au

NOTICE TO MARINE SCALEFISH FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Use of two licences from one registered vessel

Dear Licence Holder,

I write regarding recent enquiries received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Fisheries Compliance Team regarding whether two Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) licences may be fished from the one registered vessel during a single fishing trip ("the activity").

I note there is currently no specific regulation or licence condition in place which prohibits the activity, provided that each licence holder or person acting in their place is present and devices and receptacles are marked appropriately with each licence number as provided for in the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017*. However, the current *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery 2013* ("the Management Plan") includes the following clause, under the 'Regulatory Arrangements' section:

13.1.4 – The number of boats that may be registered on a MSF licence at any one time is not restricted; however only one boat may be fished pursuant to a licence at any one time. Whilst the same vessel may be registered on multiple licences, multiple licences cannot be operated from one vessel at the same time.

Considering this clause, and after investigation into the matter, I understand there has previously been the intention by Government to introduce regulation and/or licence conditions to restrict the activity.

Whilst the activity may increase efficiencies for operators with two licences, it can also present management challenges, such as maintaining data integrity, attribution of gear, catch and effort, and appropriateness of other management measures that were intended to apply to one licence being operated at a time.

Considering the above, there is need to review and finalise government policy and any subsequent management arrangements regarding the use of two licences from the one vessel. To commence this process, I have written to the Marine Fishers Association (MFA) to seek views in regard to allowing multiple licences to operate from one registered boat. I have requested feedback from the MFA by 15 December 2023.

Licence holders should note that, subject to consideration of MFA comments and finalisation of the review, the activity may be restricted or prohibited in future.

Objective ID: A6015992

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Yolande Markey, Fishery Manager, on 0427 979 085 or Yolande.Markey@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE