



9 April 2024

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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**NOTICE TO NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY LICENCE
HOLDERS**

**CHANGES TO GEAR DESCRIPTIONS OF HOOP AND DROP NETS ON
LICENCES TO LIFT NETS**

Dear Licence holder

I write to you regarding changes being made to licences to transition and consolidate existing descriptions of drop net and hoop net devices to lift nets. This will entail changes to the descriptions of these registered devices on the entitlement registers of Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery licences that currently have them endorsed and to licence conditions that refer to them. These changes will not change the total number of devices that are already endorsed on affected licences but will allow licence holders to use their hoop nets and drop nets interchangeably.

On 2 May 2023, I wrote to inform you of several miscellaneous amendments that had been made to regulations under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act).

One of these amendments related to updating the definition of a lift net in regulation 3 of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* to include a net consisting of one or two rings. This amended definition encompasses both hoop and drop net devices and reflects the types of lift nets currently in use. This simplified description is now being incorporated into the existing gear descriptions in licence conditions and on entitlement registers of licences that currently have hoop and drop nets in the commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery and also the Lakes and Coorong Fishery and Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery.

Changes to the description of registered devices

To help transition and facilitate the change from regulating hoop and drop nets individually to regulating them together as lift nets, I approved a Ministerial exemption (ME9903241) on 18 April 2023 that allowed the holder of a Marine Scalefish Fishery, Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery or Lakes and Coorong Fishery licence to use hoop nets and drop nets interchangeably as long that the total number used at any time was consistent with the maximum combined number of these devices on the licence.

To complete the transition to managing hoop and drop nets as lift nets, I have now approved changes to be made to the references to hoop net and drop net endorsements on affected licences to be replaced with a combined number of lift nets. Licence conditions relating to hoop nets and drop nets have also been updated to relate to lift nets.

Changes to licence conditions to reflect lift nets

To reflect the change in the description of registered devices, I have approved the revocation of licence conditions on affected licences that relate to hoop nets and drop nets, and the imposition of replacement conditions in the same form that now reference lift nets. Details of these changes are attached at **Appendix A**.

Please note that new licence conditions have only been imposed to replace previous conditions existing on licences that referred to hoop and drop nets. Where these conditions were previously not present on a licence, no new conditions have been imposed.

An updated copy of affected licences, reflecting these changes is available through the myPIRSA portal, available at: <https://mypirsa.pir.sa.gov.au/>

Alternatively you may request a copy from the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Fisheries Licencing at PIRSA.FisheriesLicencing@sa.gov.au

Review and Appeal Rights

Licence holders have a right under section 111 of the Act to seek a review of a variation or imposition of a licence condition or refusal to issue, renew or consent to the transfer of an authority. Appeal rights also exist under sections 112 and 113 of the Act.

Should you have any further queries in regard to this matter please contact Mrs Yolande Markey, Fisheries Manager on 0427 979 085.

Your sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Appendix A – the following licence conditions have been revoked or imposed on applicable Northern Zone Rock Lobster Licences pursuant to s55(2) of the Fisheries Management Act 2007

The following licence conditions relate to hoop and drop nets and have been revoked

Revoked condition 1326

There must not be a number of hoop nets, drop nets, crab nets or dab nets on board the registered boat that are in excess of the number of those devices that are registered and endorsed on this licence.

Revoked condition 1314:

No more than a maximum of ten (10) devices consisting of hoop nets and or drop nets may be used at any one time.

The following licence conditions have been imposed to replace the above conditions to include references to lift nets.

Imposed replacement condition

There must not be a number of lift nets, crab nets or dab nets on board the registered boat that are in excess of the number of those devices that are registered and endorsed on this licence.

Imposed replacement condition

No more than a maximum of ten (10) lift nets may be used at any one time.