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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO CHARTER BOAT FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Temporary bag and trip limits for charter fishers in Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island and Spencer Gulf Fishing Zones

Dear licence holder,

I write in follow up to my letter of 31 October 2025 regarding the implementation of temporary, precautionary management arrangements restricting passenger limits for all species (excluding Rock Lobster, and including migratory species) in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone (including the Port Adelaide River estuary) and for Southern Calamari, King George Whiting, Blue Swimmer Crab and Southern Garfish in the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone.

Consistent with previous advice, the temporary arrangements were implemented as a precautionary approach to reduce harvest pressure and promote recovery for all species in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone impacts from the algal bloom, and to reduce pressure on key species from any pre-occurring or anticipated shift in effort to the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone. Importantly the temporary arrangements were implemented based on initial rapid stock assessments and advice from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) as to algal bloom impact on species.

When implemented, the intent to continue to monitor algal bloom impacts on fish stocks and to review arrangements where appropriate was communicated. Further advice has been provided by SARDI that recognise:

- The impact on migratory species is complex, because they enter Gulf St Vincent periodically and their population status is shaped by harvest and environmental pressures across a large spatial range.
- Catch restrictions on migratory species in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone for these species may provide only marginal local benefit during migration and will most likely not materially influence their broader scale stock status or sustainability concerns.
- Albacore, Australian Herring, Barracouta, Southern Bluefin Tuna and Western Australian Salmon are not known to be dependent on South Australian gulfs for spawning, nursery or recruitment. Recreational bag and boat, and charter boat passenger catch limit reductions inside the gulfs are therefore unlikely to have any significant benefit to the (transient) stocks of these species.
- Mulloway and Yellowtail Kingfish are either known to be or potentially dependent on the gulfs for part of their life cycle. While reducing the recreational bag and boat, and charter boat passenger catch limits may

provide low to moderate local benefit during migration, it is unlikely to significantly influence their broader scale stock status.

- Most of the recreationally caught migratory species have relatively low catches (and zero to very low reports of fish kills over the duration of the algal bloom).

Additionally, updated assessments indicate Southern Garfish and Blue Swimmer Crab stocks in Spencer Gulf remain relatively stable.

As such, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development has approved the implementation of variation notices to remove the following temporary fishing restrictions for recreational fishers, including persons on a fishing charter:

- Reduced limits for the taking of the following migratory species in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone;
 - Albacore
 - Australian Herring
 - Barracouta
 - Mulloway
 - Southern Bluefin Tuna
 - Western Australian Salmon
 - Yellowtail Kingfish.
- Reduced limits for the taking of Blue Swimmer Crab and Southern Garfish in the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone.

The removal of these temporary restrictions will be effective from 19 December 2025, consistent with the enclosed variation notice. A copy of the original notice is also enclosed for your reference.

The revised passenger catch limits, including the temporary reductions that remain in place will be available on the PIRSA Website ([Charter boat fishing limits - PIRSA](#)).

Should you have any queries on this matter, please contact your local Senior Fisheries Officer in your region, or Jordan Lear – Charter Boat Fisheries Manager: Ph: (08) 8429 0931 or email: jordan.lear@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely,



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Attachments:

- A. Section 79 variation notice - charter
- B. Section 79 notice - charter

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