



23 July 2021

NOTICE TO BLUE CRAB FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear licence holder

I write to inform you of recent legislative amendments to allow for protection of berried spider crabs and rock crabs and adoption of spatial closures previously applied to the Blue Crab Fishery.

Following consultation with licence holders and relevant stakeholders on these matters in 2020, amendments to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* were approved to allow for the protection of berried spider crabs and rock crabs, and for the permanent implementation of spatial arrangements in the Blue Crab Fishery.

The relevant legislative amendments were published in the South Australian Government Gazette on 1 July 2021 and came into effect on that day. These amendments to regulations are described below.

Protection for berried crabs

An amendment has been made to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* to extend the protection of female berried crabs to Rock Crab and Spider Crab species. These arrangements are intended to protect spawning females and, therefore, the reproductive potential of the stock.

Changes to fishing closures and spatial management

An amendment has been made to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* to formalise spatial management arrangements included in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Blue Crab Fishery* adopted in 2020. These arrangements were implemented in the fishery previously through Section 79 notices.

From 1 December in any year and ending on the Monday after Easter Sunday in the following year, closures to commercial fishing are in place in the following areas:

1. All waters within two (2) nautical miles (nm) from the boat ramps at the following locations:
 - Ardrossan (latitude 34°26'05.52" South, longitude 137°55'02.70" East)
 - Black Point (latitude 34°36'22.74" South, longitude 137°52'55.38" East)
 - Port Vincent (latitude 34°46'39.96" South, longitude 137°51'46.44" East)
 - Stansbury (latitude 34°54'13.62" South, longitude 137°47'51.66" East)

2. All waters landward of a line commencing at the seaward end of the southern Outer Harbor breakwater closest to latitude 34°47'18.96" South, longitude 138°28'00.12" East, then westerly along the geodesic to latitude 34°47'12.12" South, longitude 138°24'54.00" East, then south south-easterly along the geodesic to latitude 35°02'30.84" South, longitude 138°29'16.44" East, then east along the parallel of latitude 35°02'30.84" South to the point on Mean High Water Springs closest to latitude 35°02'30.84" South, longitude 138°30'37.44" East.
3. All waters landward of a line commencing at the seaward end of the northern Outer Harbor breakwater closest to latitude 34°47'02.52" South, longitude 138°28'12.12" East, then north-westerly along the geodesic to latitude 34°44'51.06" South, longitude 138°26'40.80" East (spoil ground navigation mark), then north-easterly along the geodesic to the point on Mean High Water Springs closest to latitude 34°41'36.84" South, longitude 138°28'24.36" East
4. The waters of or near Wallaroo contained within 2 nautical miles from an approximate point location of 33°55'34.415" South, 137°37'26.060" East, but excluding any land or waters so encompassed that lie landward of the line of Mean High Waters Springs.
5. The waters of or near Moonta contained within 2 nautical miles from an approximate point location of 34°04'28.397" South, 137°32'48.225" East, but excluding any land or waters so encompassed that lie landward of the line of Mean High Water Springs.
6. The waters of or near Franklin Harbor contained within and bounded by a line commencing at Mean High Water Springs closest to 33°43'34.047" South, 136°59'25.230" East, then south-westerly to the location on Mean High Water Springs closest to 33°44'25.604" South, 136°58'11.766" East, then beginning northerly following the line of Mean High Water Springs to the point of commencement, but excluding any land or waters so encompassed that lie landward of the line of Mean High Water Springs.

If you have any queries regarding these arrangements or would like a copy of the amended regulations referred to above, you can contact Yolande Markey, Fisheries Manager, on phone 0427 979 085 or email Yolande.markey@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
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