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## **NOTICE TO WESTERN ZONE ABALONE FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS**

### **Western Zone Abalone Fishery – 2023 TACC and carry-over / over-catch determinations**

Dear licence holder

I write in relation to management arrangements for the 2023 quota period.

#### ***Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)***

As delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have made the following determinations for the Western Zone Abalone Fishery 2023 quota period:

- Greenlip Abalone TACC of **42,480 kilograms** meat weight with a unit value of **34.91 kilograms**
- Blacklip Abalone TACC of **43,490 kilograms** meat weight with a unit value of **39.31 kilograms**
- Conversion value of **0.3333**

In determining the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for Greenlip Abalone and Blacklip Abalone in the WZAF, I have considered:

- The Objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
- The harvest strategy included in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone Fisheries (2021)*.
- The latest information available for the fishery including that Blacklip Abalone and Greenlip Abalone stocks in the WZAF in 2021/22 were classified as sustainable however, the harvestable biomass remains low.
- The outcomes of the TACC meeting held on 26 October 2022.
- Advice provided by the Abalone Industry Association of South Australia (AIASA).

I also acknowledge the AIASA voluntary initiatives to implement:

1. A total season closure for harvesting both Greenlip Abalone and Blacklip Abalone from 1 August to 31 October 2023.
2. A cap on Greenlip Abalone harvesting of no more than 10% of each licence's entitlement in January, no more than 10% in February, and no more than 10% in March and no more than 10% from 1 November to 31 December 2023.
3. A cap on Blacklip Abalone harvesting of no more than 25% of each licence's entitlement from 1 November to 31 December 2023.
4. Limiting harvest periods in specific areas as follows:

- a. East of Cape Carnot open for 3 months from 1 April to 30 June 2023.
- b. Anxious Bay and St Francis Island open for 4 months from 1 April to 31 July 2023.
- c. Waterloo Bay open for harvesting under the 1-day access arrangement (odds and evens).

In regard to provisions for carry-over and over-catch of quota entitlements, I advise that as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, and in consideration of the request from AIASA, I have made the following determinations:

1. If the total catch of abalone in 2022 is less than the abalone quota entitlement under the licence in respect of that class of abalone in that quota period, the abalone quota entitlement in respect of that class of abalone for the 2023 quota period may be increased by 1 kilogram of abalone meat for each kilogram by which the catch fell short of the abalone quota entitlement up to **50 kilograms**; and
2. Where the total catch exceeds the abalone quota entitlement
  - a. by an amount **not exceeding 50 kilograms** in the 2023 quota period, the conditions of a licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the 2024 quota period by 1 kilogram of abalone for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement; or
  - b. by an amount **exceeding 50 kilograms** in the 2023 quota period, the conditions of the licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the 2024 quota period by 2 kilograms of abalone for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement.

I also note the COVID-19 carry-over arrangements applicable to licences under Regulation 12(3)(b) of the *Fisheries Management (Abalone Fisheries) Regulations 2017* with respect to remaining carry-over from the 2020 quota period. I intend to consider any uncaught abalone quota entitlements carried over from 2020 that remains uncaught on individual licences at the end of the 2022 quota period to be carried over to the 2023 quota period. Please note this is the final year these COVID-19 carry-over arrangements can be applied.

If you have any other queries in relation to the WZAF please contact Dr Annabel Jones, General Manager Fisheries Management, on (08) 8429 0165 or 0417 612 737.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**