



15 June 2023

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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Notice to Licence holders in the commercial Blue Crab Fishery

Dear Licence Holder

I write to advise you of the management arrangements I have determined for the 2023-24 Blue Crab Fishery season commencing 1 July 2023.

As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have considered all the relevant information available and set the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) and determined quota unit values for the commercial Blue Crab Fishery for the 2023-24 quota period (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024) as follows:

Fishery sector	TACC 2023-24 (tonnes)	Unit Value (kg)	No. of units
Spencer Gulf	458.00	69.30	6,609
Gulf St Vincent	245.15	57.75	4,245

In determining the TACC and quota unit values for the 2023-24 season, I have considered the following:

- 1) The objectives of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*;
- 2) The harvest strategy decision rules in the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Blue Crab Fishery;
- 3) Advice from SARDI contained in the 2021/22 Blue Crab Fishery stock assessment report (Beckmann and Hooper 2023), which classified Blue Swimmer Crab stocks in both gulfs as 'sustainable';
- 4) Fishery independent survey results from March 2023;
- 5) Industry advice from the meeting held between PIRSA, SARDI and the SA Blue Crab Pot Fishers Association of 2 June 2023.

As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined the conversion value (quota unit to pot ratio) for both gulfs to be 10 units per pot for the 2023-24 quota period; the same conversion value as the 2022-23 quota period.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Fisheries and Aquaculture licencing unit will assess uncaught or overcaught quota entitlements at the end of each quota period. Adjustments to quota entitlements will be applied to licences as soon as practicable following the beginning of the next quota period. Licence holders will be advised of the changes at the time the adjustments are made in quota statements.

Carry-over and Over-catch

Regulations 10(2)(e) and 10(2)(f) of the *Fisheries Management (Blue Crab Fishery) Regulations* and regulations 16(3)(e) and 16(3)(f) of the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017* provide for carry-over of uncaught quota held on an individual licence at a default level of up to 10% of the quota entitlement, unless a lesser amount is determined by the Minister. The regulations also provide for over-catch of quota, whereby an amount up to 10% or lesser amount determined by the Minister may be over-caught and each kilogram in excess of the quota allocation may be deducted from the quota entitlement on that licence by the Minister in the subsequent quota period at a rate of 1:1.

Consistent with the policy paper *Managing Under-catch and Over-catch in South Australian Fisheries* and considering advice from the South Australian Blue Crab Pot Fishermen's Association, I can advise that the default carry-over and over-catch values of up to 10% will be applied in the 2023-24 quota period.

Please note that where an over-catch amount exceeds 10% of the quota entitlements held on a licence, each kilogram in excess of the quota allocation may be deducted from the quota entitlements on that licence in the subsequent quota period at a rate of 2:1.

If you have any questions in relation to the commercial Blue Crab Fishery please contact Skye Barrett, Blue Crab Fishery Manager, Fisheries Management on (08) 8429 0844.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE