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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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2026 TOTAL ALLOWABLE COMMERCIAL CATCH FOR THE CENTRAL ZONE ABALONE FISHERY (CZAF)

Dear licence holder,

I write in relation to the setting of the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery (CZAF) for the 2026 quota period.

In determining the TACCs for quota period 2026, I have considered the following:

- The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- The latest scientific information from SARDI
- The harvest strategy outcomes included in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone Fisheries (2021)*
- Advice received from industry regarding the 2026 TACCs.

As delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have made the following determination for the CZAF 2026 quota period:

- The Greenlip Abalone TACC has been set as **16.8 t** meat weight (Table 1).
- The Greenlip Abalone unit value has been set as **58.019 kg** meat weight (Table 1)
- The Blacklip Abalone TACC has been set at **zero** prohibiting commercial fishing for Blacklip Abalone 2026.

Table 1: Abalone unit values, conversion value, and TACCs for the two classes of Abalone in the CZAF for the 2026 quota period.

	Greenlip Abalone	Blacklip Abalone
TACC (kg, whole weight)	50,400	0
TACC (kg, meat weight)	16,800	0
Total Abalone quota units	289.56	237.90

Abalone unit value (kg, whole weight)	174.057	0
Conversion value	0.3333	0.3333
Abalone unit value (kg, meat weight)	58.019	0

In making this decision, I acknowledge the TACC for Greenlip Abalone is lower than the zonal catch level derived from application of Abalone Fishery harvest strategy. The Greenlip Abalone TACC set is consistent with the recommendation provided by the Central Zone Abalone Industry (CZAI) and is in line with catches taken over the quota periods from 2020 to 2025.

I acknowledge that industry intend to harvest in the Tiparra area between 1 January until 30 June 2026. I also acknowledge that industry will voluntarily manage fishing activities in that area and understand a voluntary pause on fishing in the area from 1 July to 31 December 2026 is intended.

Carry-over and over-catch arrangements

I support the request from the CZAI for carry-over of any uncaught quota entitlements of up to 10% of the quota entitlement held on individual licences. These arrangements will be applied in carrying over uncaught 2025 quota entitlements to 2026 on licences following completion of the current quota period.

I have also supported the request from the CZAI for application of over-catch arrangements such that where the total catch of abalone taken by the holder of a licence in respect of the fishery during the 2026 quota period exceeds the abalone quota entitlement under the licence for that quota period:

- By up to 10% of the quota entitlement, the conditions of the licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the subsequent quota period (2027) by 1 kilogram of abalone for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement; or
- By an amount greater than 10% of the quota entitlement, the conditions of the licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the subsequent quota period (2027) by 2 kilograms of abalone for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement.

Catch sampling data

Licence holders are reminded a Ministerial determination under Regulation 16(1)(a) of the Fisheries Management Abalone Fisheries Regulations 2017 is in place requiring CZAF licence holders, or the registered master, to cause the diver engaged in the taking of any class of abalone pursuant to the licence to measure and record the shell length in the form as determined by SARDI of at least five Greenlip Abalone from every catch bag containing abalone taken from the water of the CZAF. This Ministerial determination will continue to apply in 2026. A copy of the determination is available on the PIRSA website at:

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/fisheries_management/determinations

Should you have any queries in relation to the Abalone fisheries please contact Steve Shanks, Manager – Commercial Fisheries, on (08) 8429 0197.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Begg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development