



FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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23 July 2021

NOTICE TO ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear licence holder

I write to inform you of a second tranche of amendments made to regulations under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) in order to implement arrangements related to the reform of the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF).

Further to the amendments to regulations outlined in the Notice to Fishers dated 2 July 2021, a second tranche of amendments to regulations have been made and gazetted on 1 July 2021. Of relevance to Rock Lobster Fishery licence holders are the following regulations:

*Fisheries Management (General) (Miscellaneous) (No 2) Variation
Regulations 2021*

These regulations, together with other amended and new regulations related to the reform of the MSF, are available on the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) website at pir.sa.gov.au/fishingreform

Key changes to the regulations

Of relevance to Rock Lobster Fishery licence holders are changes to regulations that relate to the management of Snapper and the specifications of a haul net, as outlined below.

Snapper management

The existing Snapper fishing closure, which applies to the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island, the Spencer Gulf and the West Coast fishing zones, has been announced to be in effect until 1 February 2023. This closure has been implemented through notices under section 79 of the Act which are designed to be applied for the temporary (up to 24 months) prohibition of certain fishing activities. With the move to total allowable commercial catch (TACC) and individual transferable quota (ITQ) management for Snapper and priority species as part of the reform of the MSF, the commercial sector fishing closures for Snapper can now be implemented, in effect, as a TACC determined at zero kilograms, as is currently the case in these zones.

To continue the recreational and charter fishing closure for Snapper fishing, an amendment to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017* has been made which prohibits the take of Snapper until 1 February 2023 in the aforementioned fishing zones, subject to scientific evidence the Snapper populations have recovered to levels where fishing would be sustainable. The above amendments mean that section 79 notices will no longer be needed to implement the fishing closure for Snapper and the existing section 79 notice will subsequently be revoked.

Haul net mesh size

The regulation prescribing the minimum mesh size in the pocket of a haul net has been removed. As has been communicated in a separate Notice to Fishers dated 1 July 2021, the pocket mesh sizes of haul nets are now specified in a licence condition. This will allow for greater flexibility to adaptively manage the fishing for Southern Garfish.

If you have any queries regarding these arrangements or would like a copy of the amended regulations referred to above, you can contact Steve Shanks, Fisheries Manager, on phone 84290197 or email steve.shanks@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Begg', with a stylized, cursive script.

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