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**FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE**

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## **NOTICE TO GULF ST VINCENT PRAWN FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS**

Dear licence holder

### **Determination of carry-over/carry under arrangements for the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery.**

On 1 September 2022, the legislative amendments to enact the carry-over of unused fishing night entitlements and overfishing of night entitlements at the licence holder level in the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery were made by the Governor and published in the South Australian Government Gazette.

These legislative amendments vary the *Fisheries Management (Prawn Fisheries) Regulations 2017* (the regulations) and provide standardised administrative powers for the Minister to carry-over unused fishing night entitlements and manage any over-use of fishing night entitlements in the fishery. These new arrangements implement the provisions described in the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Policy Paper "*Managing under-catch and over-catch in South Australian Fisheries*" released in December 2021.

#### Carry-over

The level of carry-over of unused fishing night entitlements has been set in regulations at 10%, unless determined at a lesser amount by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development prior to the commencement of the subsequent prescribed period in which the unused entitlements will be fished.

Consistent with the Policy Paper, PIRSA will seek advice from a relevant Management Advisory Committee or Industry Association in regard to these arrangements during normal consultation on the setting of the total fishing nights.

Consistent with the Policy Paper, any entitlements carried over to the subsequent prescribed period must be used by the same licence in the prescribed period they have been carried over to and cannot be transferred.

#### Over-use

In relation to over-use arrangements, the amendments will allow the Minister to administratively manage the fishing night entitlements on individual licences where nights fished have exceeded the fishing night entitlements in specified fishing periods held on the licence at two levels:

1. Where any additional nights fished during a specified period are equal to or less than 10% of the fishing night entitlements held on a licence, each

fishing night in excess of the licence's entitlement may be deducted from the entitlements on that licence by the Minister in the subsequent prescribed period at a rate of 1:1.

2. Where any additional nights fished during a specified period exceeds 10% of the fishing night entitlements held on a licence, each fishing night in excess of the licences' allocation may be deducted from the entitlements on that licence in the subsequent prescribed period at a rate of 2:1.

These new arrangements also provide the capacity to set the over-use provisions at less than 10% of the fishing night entitlements held on a licence or a corresponding amount of nights. PIRSA will seek advice from a relevant Management Advisory Committee or Industry Association in regard to these arrangements during normal consultation on the setting of the total fishing nights

It should be noted that the Minister still has the ability to commence prosecution action for significant over-fishing of night entitlements should this occur.

These new over-fishing arrangements will apply from the 2022/2023 fishing season.

#### Adjustments to licences

The PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture licencing unit will assess unused entitlements at the end of each prescribed period 2. Adjustments to entitlements would be applied to licences as soon as practicable following the beginning of the next prescribed period 1. Licence holders will be advised of the changes at the time the adjustments are made in entitlement statements.

Should you have any queries in regard to these matters please contact Hamish Telfer, Fisheries Manager on (08) 8767 2155 or at hamish.telfer@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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