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FISHERIES &amp; AQUACULTURE

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## NOTICE TO CHARTER BOAT FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

### Streamlined registration and setting of recreational rock lobster pots for use during charter boat fishing services

Dear licence holder,

I write in relation to a new streamlined registration process and management arrangements for the use of recreational rock lobster pots on charter boats.

Following discussions with the Charter Boat Association of South Australia (CBASA) to progress the strategic priority listed in the Management Plan for the South Australian Charter Boat Fishery in relation to rock lobster pot access, I can advise that amendments have been made to the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017. The Fisheries Management (General) (Rock Lobster Pots) Amendment Regulations 2026 provide for the registration of a recreational short term rock lobster pot applicable to rock lobster pots that may be used for short term periods under a charter boat fishing agreement. A corresponding new registration fee (\$30 for two pots) has also been added into the Fisheries Management (General Fees) Notice 2025 explicitly for recreational short term rock lobster pots.

The amended regulations and varied fees notice are available in the South Australian Government Gazette at [www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/2026/January/2026\\_003.pdf](http://www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/2026/January/2026_003.pdf) and will be made available on the South Australian Legislation website, [www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au).

Further to the above changes, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have approved the following:

- An application form for the registration of recreational short term rock lobster pots to be used on charter boats, pursuant to regulation 10 of the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017 – to be used under a streamlined registration process described below; and
- A Ministerial exemption (ME9903404) under section 115 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to enable Charter Boat Fishery licence holders, or a person endorsed on the licence as a registered master to set recreational rock lobster pots registered to a client on behalf of that client prior to the commencement of a charter. The exemption is subject to listed conditions including prior reporting requirements and a restriction of a maximum of 6 pots per boat.

The arrangements have been implemented on a temporary basis to allow for monitoring, and if necessary, variation, of the activity while longer-term arrangements are considered.

Should you wish to offer use of recreational short term rock lobster pots as part of your charter fishing services, the following streamlined registration process needs to be followed:

- Email [pirsa.fisherieslicensing@sa.gov.au](mailto:pirsa.fisherieslicensing@sa.gov.au) and request a number of recreational short term rock lobster pot tags to be sent to you.
- The unassigned rock lobster pot tags will then be provided to you to be held (and not used) until they are issued to a registered person.
- When a customer requests rock lobster pot fishing, the attached application form is to be completed (including the number of the tag/s intended to be issued to the person) and submitted by you to [pirsa.fisherieslicensing@sa.gov.au](mailto:pirsa.fisherieslicensing@sa.gov.au), and the associated registration fee paid.
- The application will then be considered by the Minister's delegate, and if approved, a registration certificate will be provided to you and the client, and activities can proceed (i.e., the tag(s) can be attached to a pot for use by the registration holder and may be used consistent with Ministerial exemption ME9903404.

Please note, under the streamlined registration process, application forms must be submitted at least two business days prior to the date on which the pots are intended to be set. Further, consistent with the conditions of ME9903404, a report is required to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) by telephone on 1800 065 522 or via the Commercial reporting App prior to the setting of any rock lobster pots on behalf of clients and prior to landing on any charter boat trip in which pots have been operated.

A copy of the application form and exemption notice are attached.

When engaging in fishing using registered rock lobster pots during your charter operations, please be aware of all other requirements and limits under the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017 including:

- A passenger limit of 2 Rock Lobster per person actively fishing – noting this means that only clients using a registered recreational short term Rock Lobster pot in their name can lawfully retain any Rock Lobster taken from the registered rock lobster pot.
- The requirement to mark the middle tail fan of retained Rock Lobster before they are brought ashore or landed by cutting it in half horizontally or punching a hole (no less than 10 mm in diameter) in the distal end.

Should you have any queries on this matter, please contact Jordan Lear – Charter Boat Fisheries Manager on 0401 121 955 or at or email: [jordan.lear@sa.gov.au](mailto:jordan.lear@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



**Matt Read**  
**A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

Attachments:

- A. Application form
- B. Ministerial exemption