NOTICE TO FISHERS

Dear Licence Holder in the Western Zone Abalone Fishery

Ministerial Exemption to take Roe’s Abalone

I write in relation to Ministerial Exemption (ME9902970) to take *Haliotis roei* (Roe’s Abalone) in 2018 pursuant to Section 115 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act).

As agreed by AIASA and PIRSA, SARDI provided an advice note to PIRSA on *H. roei* harvest in the WZAF on 1 November 2017, which was then provided to the Abalone Industry Association of South Australia on 17 November 2017 for distribution to licence holders. This advice note indicated that reporting by WZAF licence holders of measurements of 50 *H. roei* per fishing day has been inadequate and in some cases important analysis was unable to be conducted. As the outcomes of this scientific research are essential to monitor the status of the *H. roei* stock in the WZAF and to inform ongoing management arrangements for commercial exploitation of this stock, it is essential that adequate fishery information is available.

The advice note also indicates that reporting of *H. roei* harvest on Catch Disposal records has in some cases not clearly identified the form (meat weight or whole weight) of *H. roei* compromising accurate estimates of total harvest.

You should note that your obligations under the Ministerial exemption includes the requirement to measure the first 50 *H. roei* harvested each fishing day and to provide this information to SARDI. The level of compliance with conditions of this exemption will be considered in reviewing the management arrangements for the continued harvest of *H. roei* in the future.

As a delegate of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, I have approved a Ministerial exemption to be issued under Section 115 of the Act related to the harvest of *H. roei*. This exemption will apply effective from 18 January 2018 until 31 December 2018 unless varied or revoked earlier. The conditions of this exemption are similar to those in place in 2017 with the following strengthened management arrangements:

- The estimated meat weight or whole weight of *Haliotis roei* must be recorded on Part A of the CDR1 form separately to other species of abalone in a manner that clearly indicates the form of *Haliotis roei* recorded.

Licence Holders are reminded that a condition of the exemption requires that the first 50 shells of Roe’s Abalone caught on each fishing day (including when less than 50 Roe’s Abalone have been caught on any one day) are measured and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet to SARDI Aquatic Sciences. You should note that SARDI are
implementing a new catch and effort reporting system to improve data collection for these measurements in 2018.

The *Fisheries Management Act 2007* provides that it is an offence to breach a condition of an exemption. If compliance in relation to this Ministerial Exemption is unsatisfactory, including reporting of biological data, then management arrangements for the activity including shucking at sea may be revoked.

A copy of the Ministerial exemption notice (Number ME9902970) is enclosed.

If you have any queries concerning the Western Zone Abalone Fishery please contact Fishery Manager, Dr Belinda McGrath-Steer on Belinda.McGrath-Steer@sa.gov.au or telephone 08 8429 0142.

Yours sincerely

[signature]

Jon Presser
A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
Delegate of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
CC: Abalone Industry Association of South Australia (AIASA)