NOTICE TO SOUTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear licence holder

Amendments to *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017*

I write to confirm that amendments have recently been made to the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017* (the regulations).

The amendments principally relate to the management arrangements for Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery licences that historically have been able to operate with less than 40 pots under a ‘grandfather’ clause in the regulations. The changes came into effect on 1 August 2019 and follow consultation with the South Eastern Professional Fishermen’s Association. The regulations now provide for:

- Family transfers of licences that are operable with less than 40 pots (regulation 14(1a)(a));
- The establishment of a new rule that removes the right to operate with less than 40 pots if the pot entitlement under the licence is permanently increased to 40 or more pots (regulation 14(1a)(b));
- The introduction of a minimum pot entitlement of 30 pots for licences that are operable with less than 40 pots. Where the pot entitlement on such a licence falls below 30 pots the licence will not be operable (regulation 14(4a)(b)).

Family transfers are limited to the following persons identified in regulation 14(1b):

- the spouse or domestic partner of the licensee; or
- a parent or grandparent of the licensee; or
- a brother or sister, or half-brother or half-sister, of the licensee; or
- a child or grandchild of the licensee; or
- a child or grandchild of the spouse or domestic partner of the licensee.

This list of persons is the same as that contained in the *Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fisheries) Regulations 2017* for family transfers of licences in that Fishery.

There are further amendments to the regulations that are relevant to all Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery licences. These amendments clarify that:

Objective ID: A4127242
- Rock Lobster pot transfers that result in pot entitlements falling below the prescribed lower limit for a licence must only apply until the end of the quota period to which they apply (regulation 14(1)(f)(i));
- Quota entitlements or unit entitlements can be permanently transferred (regulation 16(3)(d) has been deleted).

The relevant regulation amendments can be viewed in the South Australian Government Gazette dated 1 August 2019 on page 2913 (https://governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/gazette-archive?year_month%5Bvalue%5D%5Bmonth%5D=12&amp;year_month%5Bvalue%5D%5Byear%5D=2019)

Alternatively, the updated Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017 can be viewed at the Legislation SA website. (https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/FISHERIES%20MANAGEMENT%20(ROCK%20LOBSTER%20FISHERIES)%20REGULATIONS%202017.aspx)

If you have any questions in regard to the new arrangements or require any further information, please contact Dr Annabel Jones, Program Leader Commercial Fisheries, on 08 8429 0165.

Yours sincerely

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FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE