



28 August 2020

**FISHERIES AND  
AQUACULTURE**

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**NOTICE TO SOUTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY LICENCE  
HOLDERS**

Dear licence holder

**Determination of the 2020/21 Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC), rock  
lobster unit values and early start to the 2020/21 fishing season**

**2020/21 TACC**

I write to advise that, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development under the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017*, I have determined the rock lobster unit value for the 2020/21 quota period in the Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (SZRLF) to be **104.86 kilograms**.

Determining the rock lobster unit value at 104.86 kilograms sets the 2020/21 TACC at 1,246 tonnes which is comparable to the value of a rock lobster unit and the TACC as those set in 2019/20.

Please note, the TACC decision rules for the new harvest strategy that came into effect on 1 July 2020, simplified the TACC levels by rounding to whole number of tonnes at each TACC level. Thus, a TACC of 1,245.7 tonnes under the previous harvest strategy has been rounded to a TACC of 1,246 tonnes in the new harvest strategy. Similarly, the 2020/21 quota unit value is 0.02 kilograms higher than the unit value determined for 2019/20 (104.84 kilograms) due to rounding of the TACC at this level of fishery performance in the new harvest strategy.

In deciding the TACC in the SZRLF for 2020/21 I have considered the following information:

- The harvest strategy included in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Southern Zone Rock Lobster* that came into effect on 1 July 2020.
- A recommendation from the Rock Lobster Fishery Management Advisory Committee (RLFMAC) to maintain the comparable level of TACC for the 2020/21 fishing season by setting the TACC at 1,246 tonnes.
- Advice from SEPFA to the RLFMAC to set the TACC at 1,246 tonnes noting differing views raised by some of the members.

- Quota carry-over arrangements increasing quota entitlements in 2020/21, potential market disruptions continuing and employing a conservative approach which will likely support increasing egg production in the fishery.

The entitlement and registration extract of your licence has been updated and is enclosed with the new quota entitlements for the upcoming season.

My determination has been made considering:

1. The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
2. The recommendation of the Rock Lobster Fishery Management Advisory Committee.
3. Advice from SARDI on the provisional status report for the 2019/20 season for the fishery and industry advice on external factors that may impact on commercial catch rate.
4. The new harvest strategy decision rules for the SZRLF.

### **2020/21 Season Start**

PIRSA has been actively working with industry through the RLFMAC to consider mitigation actions to assist licence holders overcome the impacts of the market disruption related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The RLFMAC met on 21 May 2020 and considered a proposal from the South Eastern Professional Fishermen's Association (SEPFA) to commence the 2020/21 fishing season on 15 September 2020 following consultation with all licence holders in the fishery. The RLFMAC considered the SEPFA proposal and recommended to Government that the 2020/21 fishing season commence on 15 September 2020 to provide flexibility in their fishing operations as a mitigation measure against the potential for continued volatility in global markets. These arrangements were based on the scientific advice provided by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) in an advice note provided to licence holders by SARDI.

Normally, the quota period for the SZRLF is a period of 12 months commencing on 1 October. In addition, a winter fishing closure to commercial and recreational fishing in the SZRLF is normally in place between 1800 hours on 31 May and 0600 hours 1 October. Regulation 12(3), 12(4) and 29(1) in the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017* restrict the setting of rock lobster pots, the taking or rock lobster and sale of rock lobster during the normal fishing closure to implement this fishing closure. Under new arrangements that came into effect on 21 May 2020, the Minister can determine to vary the duration of these restrictions for the commercial fishing sector by notice published in the South Australian Government Gazette.

I write to advise that the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, on the advice and recommendation of the RLFMAC, has approved to amend the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017* to allow for the 2020/21 quota period to commence at 0600 hours on 15 September 2020. Consistent with this arrangement, the Minister has also made a determination to remove the restrictions on fishing in the SZRLF as contemplated under Regulation

12(3), 12(4) and 29(1) of the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017* between 0600 hours on 15 September to 0600 hours on 1 October 2020. These arrangements allow for an early start to the 2021/20 fishing season and quota period on 15 September 2020.

The amendments and determination to allow for the early start to the 2020/21 fishing season and quota period has been made considering:

- the objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*;
- available scientific information;
- advice from the RLFMAC; and
- industry feedback.

### Giant Crab Access

The normal fishing closure for Giant Crab will remain in place and any Giant Crab incidentally caught in rock lobster pots in the period between 0600 hours on 15 September to 0600 hours on 1 October 2020 must be released as soon as practicable.

### **SZRLF Online Quota Transfer Service Implementation**

PIRSA is currently working to modernize and transform our service to licence holders by implementing digital strategies and technologies. As a part of this approach, an online quota transfer system has been developed for the SZRLF. This system can be accessed through the eCatch portal and allows users to complete the quota transfer application form, submit payment, and receive all approval documents electronically.

Licence holders who don't currently have access to eCatch will need to firstly create a myPIRSA account by going to <https://mypirsa.pir.sa.gov.au/> and registering as a new user. Once in myPIRSA, users can apply for the eCatch service. An information sheet regarding how to launch the quota transfer service once in eCatch is enclosed for your reference. Please note that only licence holders and directors will be able to launch the service as all quota transfer applications must be submitted by the holder of the licence.

All communication sent to the eCatch inbox will be automatically forwarded to a nominated email address. By default, this will be the email address used for your myPIRSA account. Licence holders can nominate a different email address or choose not to receive eCatch communication via email.

If you wish to change your email preferences or are having difficulty in accessing the system, please contact PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, Leasing and Licensing on (08) 8207 5332.

Please contact Dr Annabel Jones, Program Leader - Commercial Fisheries, on (08) 8429 0165 if you require any further information regarding the management of the fishery or telephone (08) 8207 5332 for any licensing enquiries.

Yours sincerely



**Prof Gavin Begg**  
**A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**  
As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development