



**FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE**

2 Hamra Ave
West Beach SA 5024
GPO Box 1625
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 210
Tel (08) 8207 5333
www.pir.sa.gov.au

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

Dear licence holder

Carry-over of uncaught quota entitlements in the Southern Zone from 2020/21 to 2021/22, extension of the 2020/21 season until 31 July and early commencement of the 2021/22 season on 15 September 2021

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) has been actively working with industry through the Rock Lobster Fishery Management Advisory Committee (RLFMAC) to consider mitigation actions to assist licence holders overcome the impacts of the significant disruption to exports and trade of Southern Rock Lobster to China.

Following consideration of advice provided by the RLFMAC at their meeting of 10 February 2021, I am writing to provide the following advice in relation to the extension of the fishing season and the carry-over of uncaught quota in the Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (SZRLF).

Carry-over of uncaught quota

Regulation 16(3)(ac) of the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017* permits the carry-over of uncaught quota entitlements on licences in the SZRLF from the 2020/21 season to the 2021/22 season.

With regard to carry-over of uncaught 2020/21 quota entitlements on individual SZRLF licences, I have taken the position that as soon as practicable after the end of the 2020/21 fishing season, I plan to make necessary determinations to carry-over uncaught SZRLF quota entitlements on individual licences from the 2020/21 season to the 2021/22 season up to a maximum of 20% of total quota entitlements allocated to that licence at the end of the fishing season.

Please note that the carry-over of quota entitlements on licences from the 2020/21 season to the 2021/22 season cannot be determined until the total amount of uncaught quota and total quota entitlements at the end of the fishing season is known. Once the 2020/21 quota period has finished, I intend to implement these arrangements.

It is noted that the new arrangements allow for uncaught quota entitlements carried over to licences from the 2019/20 quota period to be carried over to 2021/22 if they remain uncaught at the end of the 2020/21 fishing season.

The position to support these carry-over arrangements has been made considering:

- The objectives of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*;
- The advice of the RLFMAC; and
- Industry feedback on the temporary arrangements.

Temporary transferred quota entitlements

The SZRLF links quota units to pots, therefore transferring quota units also requires the transfer of pots as per the normal transfer arrangements.

Where a licence holder has temporarily transferred quota units/pots in 2020/21 and has not been able to harvest all of their quota entitlements in 2020/21, the new arrangements allows for the uncaught quota entitlements being carried over to the licence that held the quota units/pots at the end of the fishing season where uncaught quota entitlements are within the 20% limit.

Licence holders should note that carried over quota entitlements will not be able to be transferred as they will not be linked to a pot or a unit. This will only apply to the carried over entitlements; quota entitlements that result from the quota set for the fishery in 2020/21 and 2021/22 can be transferred as per the normal arrangements.

Extending the fishing season for the SZRLF

Under regulations 12 and 29 of the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017*, the Minister by notice in the South Australian Government Gazette may make a determination varying the period of the Southern Zone closed season allowing for an extension to the fishing season for commercial fishers.

As the delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, on the advice and recommendation of the RLFMAC, I have determined by notice in the South Australian Government Gazette that the 2020/21 SZRLF season will be extended to 1800 hours on 31 July 2021 and the 2021/22 season will commence earlier at 0600 hours on 15 September. I have enclosed a copy of the gazettal notice enacting these arrangements for your information.

The determination to allow for the extension of the 2020/21 fishing season and early start to the 2021/20 fishing season 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 1800 hours on 31 May and 31 July 2021, and 0600 hours on 15 September to 0600 hours on 1 October 2021 must be released as soon as practicable.

Please contact Steve Shanks, Fisheries Manager, on telephone: (08) 8429 0197 or email: steve.shanks@sa.gov.au should you have any queries regarding these matters.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Begg', with a stylized, cursive script.

Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE