



**FISHERIES AND
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**NOTICE TO NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER
FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS**

Dear licence holder

**Carry-over of uncaught quota entitlements in the Northern Zone Inner Region
from the 2020/21 season to the 2021/22 season**

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 the advice provided by the RLFMAC at their meeting of 10 February 2021, I am writing to provide the following advice in relation to the carry-over of uncaught quota in the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (NZRLF).

Northern Zone Outer Region

There is little available data for the Northern Zone Outer Region for the current 2020/21 fishing season and as a result, model testing to determine the effect on the stock of quota carry-over could not be conducted. Therefore, as per the advice of the RLFMAC this matter will be considered again at the July meeting of the RLFMAC when more data are available to assess the impact on the stock.

Northern Zone Inner Region

Regulation 15(3)(ac) of the *Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017* permits the carry-over of uncaught quota entitlements on licences in the NZRLF from the 2020/21 season to the 2021/22 and 2022/23 seasons.

With regard to carry-over of uncaught 2020/21 Northern Zone Inner Region quota entitlements on individual NZRLF 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 all uncaught NZRLF Inner Region quota entitlements on individual licences from the 2020/21 season to the 2021/22 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 2020/21 season ends on 31 October 2021 when the total amount of uncaught quota at the end of the fishing season is known. Once the 2020/21 season has finished, I intend to implement these arrangements.

It is noted that the new arrangements allow for uncaught Inner Region 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

Where a licence holder has temporarily transferred quota unit entitlements in 2020/21 and has not been able to harvest all of their quota entitlements, the new carry-over arrangements allow for those uncaught quota entitlements to be carried over to the licence that held the quota entitlements at the end of the fishing season, i.e. the transferee, to be used in 2021/22 and 2022/23 fishing seasons. As per normal transfer arrangements, at the beginning of the 2021/22 fishing season any temporary transferred quota units will return to the permanent quota unit holder.

Transferring quota entitlements

The normal rules for the transfer of quota unit entitlements will apply for the remainder of 2020/21, and for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 fishing seasons.

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



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE