



FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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2 July 2021

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

Dear licence holder

I write to inform you of several changes to Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (SZRLF) licence conditions and determinations made under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the Act) in order to implement arrangements for the reform of the Marine Scalefish Fishery from 1 July 2021.

Stage 1 and 2 reform information packs were provided to licence holders in June and August 2020, and final arrangements for the reform are now available on the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) website at pir.sa.gov.au/fishingreform

A stage 3 information pack is also being sent out to fishers. As outlined in this information, significant changes to the fishery have been approved by the Government to take effect from 1 July 2021.

To implement these changes, amendments have now been made to regulations under the Act and new regulations have been made. Of relevance to the SZRLF are the following regulations:

Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fisheries) (Fishery Reform) Variation Regulations 2021

Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) (Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform) Variation Regulations 2021

Fisheries Management (General) (Miscellaneous) Variation Regulations 2021

These regulations, together with other amended and new regulations related to the reform of the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) are available on the PIRSA website and copies can be provided upon request.

The majority of regulatory amendments relate to the separation of the Sardine and Vongole fisheries from the Marine Scalefish Fishery, the creation of four management zones for the four priority fish species – King George Whiting, Southern Garfish, Southern Calamari, Snapper – and the move to a total allowable commercial catch (TACC) and individual transferable quota (ITQ) management systems for the priority species in many of these zones.

As a result of these regulatory amendments, many references to existing and new regulations will change as of 1 July 2021, requiring existing Ministerial determinations to be revoked or varied, and new determinations made.

Changes to determinations

Changes to determinations for the SZRLF, primarily relate to the move to introduce ITQs for the priority species in the MSF and subsequent information to be provided for the take, and catch and disposal requirements needed to maintain the integrity of the quota management system. Redundant determinations that were specific to Vongole have also been revoked.

The new determinations are not intended to vary existing arrangements, other than those outlined in the reform. A summary of the determinations that have been revoked and are relevant to the SZRLF are provided in **Table 1** below. A summary of relevant determinations that have been introduced are provided in **Table 2** and are published in full on the PIRSA website at

pir.sa.gov.au/fishing-determinations

Table 1. Determinations that have been revoked

Regulation Title	Regulation	Subject	Status
<i>Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017</i>	21	Information to be provided – taking vongole	Revoked
	25	Catch and disposal requirements - vongole	Revoked

Table 2. New determinations

Regulation Title	Regulation	Subject	Status
<i>Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017</i>	21, 21A, 21B and 21C	Information to be provided – King George whiting, snapper, southern calamari, southern garfish	Implemented
	25, 25A, 25B and 25C	Catch and disposal requirements - King George whiting, snapper, southern calamari, southern garfish	Implemented

Changes to licence conditions

As a result of the reforms to the MSF, several licence conditions have been revoked and new, amended conditions have been introduced on SZRLF licences. These licence conditions are not intended to vary existing management arrangements for the fishery, other than those outlined in the reform.

The majority of changes are a result of the separation of the Vongole fishery from the MSF.

Southern Garfish arrangements

In recent years, various measures have been in place to support the recovery of Southern Garfish stocks in the Northern Spencer Gulf and Northern Gulf St Vincent including seasonal closures in the both gulfs, an increase to the Legal Minimum Length (LML) from 23 cm to 25 cm, and a minimum mesh size in the pockets of haul nets of 36 mm. With a move to TACC and quota management through the reform of the MSF, there has been an opportunity to review these arrangements.

Following consideration of recommendations from the Red Tape Reduction Working Group and after consultation with the Marine Fishers Association and Marine Scalefish Net Fisher's Association, and the provision of scientific advice from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), it is considered important to maintain some of these input controls to support the ongoing recovery of the stocks. The most effective measure was considered to be the minimum pocket mesh size of 36 mm and this will now continue and has been introduced as a licence condition for the fishing of Southern Garfish in the Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent. This mesh size will be 32 mm in all other areas (See **Appendix A** for the full condition).

Please note that the seasonal closures and the larger LML of 25 cm will no longer apply from 1 July 2021. The LML will revert to the 23 cm which applies to all sectors throughout the state. An additional notice to fishers will also be provided to licence holders on this matter.

All the changes to SZRLF licence conditions are listed in **Appendix A** and all current conditions can also be viewed through the myPIRSA portal and from the public register at

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/fisheries/public_register

Southern Calamari arrangements

In relation to the use of Southern Calamari for bait, I wish to advise that, further to the introduction of TACC and ITQ management for Southern Calamari in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone and the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, all Southern Calamari landed in these zones will need to be decremented from the licence holder's quota allocation. This is consistent with provisions for other licence holders where they hold quota for other species managed under ITQ and is an important provision to maintain the integrity of the quota management system.

REVIEW AND APPEAL RIGHTS

Licence holders have a right under section 111 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to seek a review of a variation or imposition of a licence condition or refusal to issue, renew or consent to the transfer of an authority. Appeal rights also exist under sections 112 and 113 of the Act.

If you have any queries regarding these arrangements or would like a copy of the amended regulations referred to above, you can contact Steve Shanks, Fishery Manager, on phone 84290197 or email steve.shanks@sa.gov.au.

Yours 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

Appendix A - The following licence conditions have been revoked or imposed on all Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery licences pursuant to s55(2) of the Fisheries Management Act 2007

Revoke condition 12481

The following conditions apply to vongole:(a) where a licence is subject to a condition fixing a vongole quota entitlement, vongole must only be taken by the licence holder from within a quota management zone; and (b) where a licence is not subject to a condition fixing a vongole quota entitlement holder, a daily limit of 10 kilograms of vongole may be taken by the licence holder for personal bait use.

The licence holder is entitled to take a maximum of 10 kilograms of cockles per day if cockles are permitted to be taken in accordance with this licence.

Revoke condition 12482

The following conditions apply in relation to a licence that is not subject to a condition fixing vongole quota entitlement (a) No more than one cockle rake or cockle net may be used at any one time for the taking of vongole or cockles; and (b) A cockle rake or cockle net may only be used for the purpose of taking vongole, cockles or pipi if those species are permitted to be taken in accordance with the licence.

For the purposes of this condition a 'cockle net' means a device designed and constructed to be held in the hand and consisting of a pole which has a netting bag mounted on a frame or ring and attached to one end of the pole.

Impose new condition

The licence holder is entitled to take a maximum of 10 kilograms of cockles per day.

Impose new Condition

The licence holder is entitled to take a maximum of 10 kilograms of vongole for personal bait use.

Impose new condition

A hauling net used in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone or the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone must have the pocket of the net made of knotted mesh not less than 36 mm.

A hauling net used in all other permitted coastal waters of the State must have the pocket of the net made of knotted mesh not less than 32 mm.

For the purpose of this condition 'Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone' and the 'Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone' have the same meanings as in the Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017.

For the purpose of this condition, 'pocket' of the net has the same meaning as in the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017.