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NOTICE TO SARDINE FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear licence holder

I write in relation to management arrangements for the 2023 quota period for the South Australian Sardine Fishery (SASF).

Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)

In determining the TACC, quota unit values and other management arrangements for the 2023 quota period, I have considered:

1. The objectives of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
2. Regulation 9(2) of the *Fisheries Management (Sardine Fishery) Regulations 2021*.
3. The harvest strategy decision rules in the Draft Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Sardine Fishery.
4. The advice from SASIA recommending the 2023 TACC level, carry-over and carry-under arrangements and observer coverage.

As a delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined that, for the purposes of Regulation 9(2) of the *Fisheries Management (Sardine Fishery) Regulations 2021*, the TACC for Sardines in the Gulfs Zone for 2022 is **30,000 tonnes**, and the TACC for Sardines in the Outside Zone for 2022 is **20,000 tonnes** (as shown in the table below).

These TACCs correspond to quota unit values of **2,142.86 kg/unit** for the Gulfs Zone and **1,428.57 kg/unit** for the Outside Zone.

I have also determined the TACC for Anchovy for the 2022 quota period is **1,000 tonnes**, which equates to a quota unit value of **2,380.95 kg/unit**.

Quota	2023 TACC (tonnes)	Total units	2023 Unit value (kg/unit)
Sardine – Gulfs Zone	30,000	14,000	2142.86
Sardine – Outside Zone	20,000	14,000	1428.57
Anchovy	1,000	420	2380.95

Setting the TACC at 50,000 tonnes implements Tier 2 of the draft harvest strategy decision rules. As such, and as acknowledged by SASIA in correspondence to PIRSA of 16 December 2022, meta-rule 3 of the draft harvest strategy requires three DEPM surveys to be conducted over three years to monitor any changes in spawning biomass. Stock assessments will also continue to be undertaken biennially at this level. The first of these surveys will commence in the first half of 2023.

The interim arrangements implementing a Gulf St Vincent (GSV) Zone will be continued in 2023 with 6,000 tonnes of Outside Zone quota able to be taken from the GSV Zone. Arrangements relating to this temporary zone are contained within licence conditions numbered 14398, 14399, 14400 and 14401. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is currently considering longer-term spatial arrangements related to the GSV Zone through finalising the draft management plan for the fishery.

As you are aware, amendments to the *Fisheries Management (Sardine Fishery) Regulations 2021* prescribing carry-over (under-catch) and over-catch provisions in the SASF come into operation on 1 January 2023. In consideration of SASIA's request, carry-over of uncaught SASF quota entitlements on individual licences from the 2022 quota period to the 2023 quota period up to a maximum of 10% of quota entitlements will be implemented as soon as practicable on the conclusion of the 2022 quota period.

With regard to over-catch provisions, I acknowledge industry's request for 10% over-catch in 2023 such that if the total catch of Sardine taken by the holder of a licence during the quota period 2023 exceeds the Sardine quota entitlement under the licence for that quota period:

- by not more than 10% of the quota entitlement for that licence, the conditions of the licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the following quota period (2024) by 1 kilogram of Sardines for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement; or
- If the catch exceeds the quota entitlement by more than 10%, the conditions of the licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the following quota period (2024) by 2 kilogram of sardines for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement.

You are also advised I have approved continuation of observer coverage in the SASF in 2023 at a target level of 10% of net sets noting the observer coverage target may be reconsidered in 2023 pending the progress of the TEPS Mitigation and Monitoring Workplan. This workplan will now be published on the PIRSA website in fulfilment of Condition G of the export approval for the SASF under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and obligations under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE