NOTICE TO NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

SETTING OF TACC AND DETERMINATION OF THE VALUE OF A ROCK LOBSTER QUOTA UNIT FOR THE 2018/19 FISHING SEASON

Dear licence holder

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 Inner Region rock lobster unit value for the 2018/19 quota period at 4.27 kilograms and the Outer Region rock lobster unit value for the 2018/19 quota period at 0.79 kilograms.

Determining the Inner Region rock lobster unit value for the 2018/19 quota period at 4.27 kilograms sets the Inner Region TACC at 250 tonnes. This determination, therefore, maintains the TACC in the Inner Region at the same level as set for 2017/18.

This level of TACC for the Inner Region is considered appropriate given fishery information provided by SARDI that commercial catch rate, being the primary performance measure for the NZRLF, had increased by 2.5% in 2017/18 compared to the 2016/17 fishing season.

In relation to the NZRLF Outer Region, the kilogram value of an Outer Region rock lobster unit for the 2018/19 quota period has been set at 0.79 kilograms. This unit value is a 23% reduction from the 2017/18 value of 1.02 kg/unit and sets the 2018/19 Outer Region TACC at 46 tonnes.

This TACC is considered appropriate to address declining fishery performance in the Outer Region of the NZRLF in 2017/18, particularly a 20% decrease in catch rate in the Outer Region of the NZRLF from 2016/17 to 2017/18. The performance of the Outer Region of the NZRLF will continue to be monitored throughout the 2018/19 fishing season by way of commercial catch rate as the currently agreed primary performance indicator for the fishery. If scientific monitoring conducted during the 2018/19 season shows further declines in stock levels or raises concerns over the exploitation rate in the Outer Region, further action may be required to protect this portion of the stock from becoming overfished.

Objective ID: A3705928
An advice note from SARDI Fisheries and Aquaculture is attached to provide further information on the performance of the fishery in the Outer Region in 2017/18.

These quota unit determinations have been made considering:

1. The objectives of the Fisheries Management Act 2007
2. The recommendation of the RLFMAC that the TACC be maintained in the Inner Region of the NZRLF at 250 tonnes and be decreased in the Outer Region to 46 tonnes
3. The advice from SARDI on the fishery status and performance indicators in 2017/18
4. Industry feedback on the fishery performance and performance indicators
5. The harvest strategy for the NZRLF.

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

Please contact Dr Annabel Jones, Program Leader-Commercial Fisheries, on telephone (08) 8429 0165 or email Annabel.jones@sa.gov.au if you require any further information regarding the management of the fishery or telephone 8204 1370 for any licensing enquiries.

I would like to thank the South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen’s Association and industry members in your participation in the TACC setting process for 2018/19.

Yours sincerely

Sean Sloan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development