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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO CHARTER BOAT FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

SE Snapper management arrangements 2026-27

Dear licence holder,

I write to advise of catch limits in place for Snapper in the South East Fishing Zone (SEFZ) for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

After consideration of current snapper related management arrangements and reports, including:

- The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- Recommendations from the [Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee \(MSFMAC\) and related SARDI stock summaries](#)
- The status of Snapper stocks as published in the 'Assessment of the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery in 2023/24' report
- *Management Plan for the South Australian Charter Boat Fishery.*
- *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery 2025*
- Application of the harvest strategy decision rules for SE Snapper, as outlined in the [Implementation Plan for the Marine Scalefish Fishery Harvest Strategy](#)

I support the MSFMAC recommendation for the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Snapper in the South East Fishing Zone (SEFZ) to be set at 121,000 kg for the period 2026-27, with subsequent commercial and recreational catch limits to be set according to the regional catch shares of 19.5% for the recreational non-charter sector, 4.5% for the Charter Boat Fishery (CBF), and 1% Aboriginal traditional share. In the case of the CBF, this equates to 5,445 kg.

I have also approved a reduction of the 2026-27 CBF Snapper catch limit to take into account an over-catch of the 2025-26 CBF share. Upon completion of the 2025-26 season, I will confirm the total amount of the reduction and the updated CBF share for 2026-27. Should the level of CBF Snapper catch in 2026-27 reach the revised CBF catch limit (i.e., 5,445 kg minus over-catch in 2025/26), I will consider prohibiting the further take of Snapper by persons on fishing charters in the SEFZ for the remainder of the season.

Consistent with the MSFMAC recommendations, PIRSA intends to progress with development of a policy to guide future consideration of carry-over and over-catch for the recreational fishing sector, including the CBF.

Additionally, to maintain the ability for charter boats to transit the Snapper closed areas with Snapper lawfully caught from the SEFZ on board, I have considered and approved a Ministerial exemption (**ME9903437**) as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

A copy of the Ministerial exemption notice is enclosed, and I encourage licence holders to keep this on board their fishing vessels to demonstrate to clients that they can lawfully be in possession of Snapper in the closed areas during fishing charters.

Should you have any queries regarding the CBF, please contact Jordan Lear, Charter Boat Fishery Manager on (08) 8429 0931 or email jordan.lear@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Enclosures:

- Ministerial exemption ME9903437