



22 December 2022

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

2 Hamra Ave
West Beach SA 5024
GPO Box 1625
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 210
Tel (08) 8207 5333
www.pir.sa.gov.au

NOTICE TO FISHERS

2023 Total Allowable Commercial Catch for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery

Dear licence holder

I write in relation to the setting of the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery (CZAF) for quota period 2023.

In determining the TACCs for quota period 2023, I have considered the following:

- The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- Information contained in the SARDI report *Assessment of the Central Zone Abalone (Haliotis laevis and H. rubra) Fishery in 2021*
- The latest scientific information from SARDI
- The outcomes of the harvest strategy included in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone Fisheries (2021)*
- Outcomes of the TACC meeting held on 3 November 2022 and meeting with industry held on 5 December 2022
- Advice received from the Central Zone Abalone Industry (CZAI)

As delegate for the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have made the following determination for the CZAF 2023 quota period:

- The Greenlip Abalone TACC has been determined as **36,050 kg** meat weight (Table 1).
- The Greenlip Abalone unit value has been determined as **124.50 kg** meat weight (Table 1).
- The Blacklip Abalone TACC has been set at zero prohibiting commercial fishing for Blacklip Abalone in 2023.

Table 1. Greenlip and Blacklip Abalone unit values and TACCs for 2023.

	Greenlip Abalone	Blacklip Abalone
TACC (kg, whole weight)	108,160	0
TACC (kg, meat weight)	36,050	0
Total abalone quota units	289.56	237.90
Abalone unit value (kg, whole weight)	373.54	0
Conversion value	0.3333	0.3333
Abalone unit value (kg, meat weight)	124.50	0

In making this decision, I acknowledge the TACC for Greenlip Abalone is greater than that recommended by the Central Zone Abalone Industry (CZAI) of 69.06 tonnes whole weight (23 tonnes meat weight). Please be advised there is no requirement for licence holders to harvest their entire quota entitlement in a quota period, therefore, industry may wish to implement an industry-led catch limit for Greenlip Abalone in 2023. If this is the case, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is supportive of such an initiative and will assist in monitoring the catches over the quota period.

PIRSA also acknowledges the request from the CZAI to continue the industry-managed monitoring of Blacklip Abalone in 2023 provided through setting a nominal TACC. In setting the 2023 Blacklip TACC at zero, I have taken into account the following information:

- The stock status derived from the harvest strategy is “recovering” however, there is no evidence of recovery in abundance of Blacklip Abalone stocks in the CZAF.
- The industry-collected information provided by industry in 2019, 2020 and 2021 to PIRSA has not been provided in sufficient time and quality to allow for analysis by SARDI and this has significantly reduced its useability.
- Industry have indicated they are not willing to commit to improving reporting measures to address the previous inadequate data delivery.
- SARDI proposed monitoring program using fine-scale commercial catch rate data from targeted dives reported in Catch and Effort Logbooks and GPS loggers.

PIRSA will engage with industry to consider the SARDI proposed monitoring program for Blacklip Abalone stocks in the CZAF if wish to reconsider their commitment to data recording in the future.

I acknowledge the actions taken by the industry to support the recovery of abalone stocks in the CZAF and look forward to working with industry to support a sustainable Blacklip Abalone TACC in the future.

Carry-over and over-catch arrangements

Regulation 10(3)(b) and (c) of the *Fisheries Management (Abalone Fisheries) Regulations 2017* (the Regulations) that come into operation on 1 January 2023 provide for carry-over of uncaught quota and over-catch of quota entitlements, respectively, at a default level of 10% unless determined to be a lesser amount by the Minister.

Regulation 10(3)(aa) of the Regulations provided for 100% of uncaught quota entitlements from quota period 2020 over the (then) ongoing 50kg amount, to be carried over to the next five quota periods in response to impacts of COVID-19.

In consideration of a request from the CZAI for zero carry-over of any uncaught quota entitlements I have determined under regulation 10(3)(b) and (c) that the level of carry-over to 2023 will be zero kilograms.

The CZAI did not provide a recommendation on over-catch arrangements for 2023. Please note that I have determined Greenlip over-catch at a maximum level of 50kg in 2023 consistent with the historical arrangements in the Regulations as a practical approach for licence holders fishing to an individual transferable quota.

In consideration of concerns for Blacklip stock and the proposed zero TACC recommended the maximum level of over-catch determined for 2023 for Blacklip is zero kilograms.

Tiparra seasonal closure

Consistent with a recommendation from the CZAI, legislated arrangements for a season fishing closures on Tiparra Reef will not be in place in 2023. I note the intention of industry to voluntarily manage fishing activity at Tiparra Reef. PIRSA will continue to monitor fishing effort and catch at Tiparra through 2023.

Catch sampling data

Licence holders are reminded a Ministerial determination under Regulation 16(1)(a) of the *Fisheries Management Abalone Fisheries Regulations 2017* is in place requiring CZAF licence holders or the registered master to cause the diver engaged in the taking of any class of abalone pursuant to the licence to measure and record the shell length in the form as determined by SARDI of at least five Greenlip Abalone from every catch bag containing abalone taken from the waters of the CZAF. This Ministerial determination will continue to apply in 2023. A copy of the determination is available on the PIRSA website at:

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/fisheries_management/determinations

Extract certificate

An updated licence extract certificate is included with this notice.

Quota unit transfers

If you wish to transfer quota units to another licence, application forms can be obtained from the PIRSA website www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries or by contacting PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture on (08) 8204 1370.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the actions taken by the industry to support the recovery of abalone stocks in the CZAF. This action reflects a strong co-management approach, and I commend the industry for taking this position.

If you have any other queries in relation to the Abalone fisheries please contact Dr Annabel Jones, General Manager – Fisheries Management, on (08) 842 90165.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benn Gramola', written in a cursive style.

Benn Gramola

A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

Delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development