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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO CHARTER BOAT FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

No annual licence fee payment for licence holders who will not be operating a charter boat fishery licence during 2023-24

Dear licence holder

Following the decision last year to extend the Snapper closure within the waters of Gulf St. Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone, the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone, the West Coast Fishing Zone and the Port Adelaide River estuary until 1 July 2026 the Government has provided a suite of support initiatives including 50% relief applied to the annual licence fees for Charter Boat Fishery licence holders for the duration of the closure commencing from the beginning of the 2023/24 financial year.

Furthermore, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development has approved an annual Zero fee option for those Charter Boat Fishery licence holders for the 2023-24 financial year who will not be providing any Charter Boat fishing services during the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

These initiatives have been made to reduce the financial hardship faced by some industry members in acknowledgement that they have historically been dependent on Snapper fishing.

To implement the Zero fee arrangement Charter Boat fishery licence holders who will not be operating any fishing charters during the 2023-24 financial year will be required to apply to remove (de-register) **all** vessels registered on the licence before **9 June 2023** by completing the enclosed form and submitting to pirsa.fisherieslicensing@sa.gov.au. In this way the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) will know that the licence holder is not intending to use the licence.

This arrangement is optional and Charter Boat licence holders who at a later stage wish to recommence charter boat fishing services at any point during the course of the year only need to register a vessel to their licence and pay for the full year's licence fee. Please note that there will be no application fee payable to remove all boats from a Charter Boat fishery licence. Where you apply to re-register a boat or otherwise vary an existing boat registration the normal prescribed boat variation fee will need to be paid.

It is incumbent on licence holders who wish to avoid being invoiced the annual fee not to register any vessel on their licences at any point during the financial year.

Licence holders who have licence fees outstanding are still required to pay this debt to avoid the licence from being suspended and debt recovery action being taken.

We would encourage setting up a payment plan with an agreed repayment amount which would help reduce any outstanding licence fees. If you wish to request this, please confirm in writing to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing via email.

As the Snapper closure will be in place until 30 June 2026 this arrangement will be open to any Charter Boat fishery licence holders for the financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 only where the licences are not used during that time.

If you choose to continue to operate, Charter Boat fishery licence holders will pay a 50% reduced annual fee from 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2026.

Should you have any further queries in regard to this matter please contact Elisha Lovell, Fisheries Management Officer on telephone (08) 8429 3629 or email elisha.lovell@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE