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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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**NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL MARINE SCALEFISH, NORTHERN ZONE ROCK
LOBSTER, CHARTER BOAT, SPENCER GULF PRAWN FISHERY AND GULF
ST VINCENT PRAWN FISHERIES LICENCE HOLDERS****Updated temporary fishing arrangements – King George Whiting spatial
closure period**

Dear licence holder,

I write to inform you of refinements to the period of the temporary King George Whiting (KGW) spatial closure currently in place, following consideration of additional advice provided by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

The additional advice provided by SARDI, with respect to the most suitable period of the KGW spatial closure indicates:

- Previous advice recommended an April to July closure based primarily on back-calculated hatch dates from settlement stage KGW larvae.
- Additional biological data show that (1) March-May represents the peak reproductive development and spawning period, (2) some spawning also occurs in June, and (3) only limited spawning occurs in July.
- In combination, these analyses suggest the most appropriate seasonal spawning closure for KGW in southern Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent is from March to June.

Based on this updated information, and following consultation with impacted sector representatives, an amendment to the current temporary management arrangement for the KGW spatial closure is being implemented. This refinement aims to ensure the period of the spatial closure adequately promotes positive KGW stock recovery.

As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have therefore varied the current notices implementing the KGW Spawning Spatial Closure to remove all reference to the closure, thereby enabling fishing to occur in July subject to other prohibitions in place. I have made a new declaration pursuant to section 79 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to implement the closure for all sectors from 1 March to 30 June 2027.

A copy of the relevant section 79 variation notices, new section 79 prohibition notice and updated map (with updated timeframes) of the KGW closure are attached for reference. The SARDI advice to inform the revised timing will be published on the [PIRSA website](#).

Should you have any queries on this matter, please contact your local Senior Fisheries Officer in your region, or fisheries managers:

- Marine Scalefish Fishery – Yolande Markey, Phone: 0427 979 085 or email yolande.markey@sa.gov.au.
- Rock Lobster and Prawn Fisheries – Steve Shanks Phone: (08) 8429 0197 or email: steve.shanks@sa.gov.au
- Charter Boat Fishery – Jordan Lear, Phone: or email Jordan.lear@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Attachments:

- A. Section 79 variation notice – MSF, NZRLF, Prawn Fisheries
- B. Section 79 variation notice – Charter
- C. Section 79 notice – 2027 KGW closure all sectors
- D. Updated map of King George Whiting Spawning Season Closure