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NOTICE TO FISHERS – NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY

Dear licence holder

USE OF ALTERNATIVE SEA LION EXCLUSION DEVICES

I am writing to you concerning an application from the South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association for a Ministerial exemption to allow for the use of alternative sea lion exclusion devices in the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery.

As a delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have approved a Ministerial exemption to be issued under Section 115 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to allow all licence holders to use two alternative sea lion exclusion devices (SLEDs) in the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery during the 2020/21 fishing season in addition to the legislated pot spike required for use in pots when set in waters less than 100m in the Northern Zone.

The two alternative SLEDs that may be fitted to the pot neck under this Ministerial exemption are:

- A rigid metal frame rectangular or square in shape with two opposite sides opening to not more than 135 mm in length; or
- A rigid metal frame circular in shape of not more than 150 mm in diameter.

A copy of the exemption notice is enclosed.

Please note that it is not compulsory to use these two alternative SLEDs and you may continue to use the pot spike, as long as one of these three SLEDs is used when operating pots in less than 100m in the Northern Zone.

Please note there are a number of conditions of the exemption and it is your responsibility, as the exemption holder, to be aware of the conditions of the exemption including that the licence holder or a registered master of a Northern Zone

Rock Lobster Fishery licence (as the 'exemption holder') must inform the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture in writing, prior to using a rock lobster pot fitted with an alternative SLED for the first time in the 2020/21 fishing season: providing the following information:

- a. A description of the metal frame attached to the cove mouth of all pots to be used; and
- b. How the metal frame is attached to the cove mouth of the all pots to be used; and
- c. The total number of pots fitted with the rectangular or circular metal frame on the cove mouth that are to be used by that licence holder.

The *Fisheries Management Act 2007* provides that it is an offence to breach a condition of a Ministerial exemption.

Should you have any other queries concerning the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery, please contact Annabel Jones, Program Leader, Commercial Fishing, on telephone (08) 8429 0165.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Begg', with a stylized, cursive script.

Prof Gavin Begg
A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE