



Objective ID: A5024327

1 July 2021

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

2 Hamra Avenue
West Beach SA

GPO Box 1625
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel (08) 8226 0900

www.pir.sa.gov.au

NOTICE TO MARINE SCALEFISH FISHERY, NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY, SOUTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY AND LAKES AND COORONG FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear Licence holder

I write to inform you of the Southern Garfish management arrangements for the 2021/22 fishing season to address the continued concerns with the stock status of Southern Garfish.

I have considered the following information:

- The most recent stock assessment report prepared by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) classified the regional Southern Garfish stocks as follows:
 - Northern Gulf St Vincent stock is classified as 'depleted'.
 - Northern Spencer Gulf stock is classified as 'recovering'.
 - Southern Spencer Gulf, southern Gulf St Vincent, South East and West Coast stocks are classified as 'sustainable'.
- The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (the "Act").
- The operational objectives of the Southern Garfish harvest strategy in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery* to rebuild stocks.
- Industry advice provided by the Marine Fishers Association and the Marine Scale Net Fishers Association.
- Outcomes of the Marine Scalefish Fishery reform.
- The recommendations of the Red Tape Reduction Working Group .
- SARDI advice on risk related to changes in mesh size and the commercial size limit for garfish, following the implementation of a total allowable commercial catch (TACC).

Having taken all the information available into account, as delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, the following management arrangements apply for Southern Garfish in 2021/22:

- **A legal minimum length (LML) of 23 cm for commercial fishers from 1 July 2021 in all waters of the State.**

- **Hauling nets used in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone and the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone must have the pocket of the net made of knotted mesh not less than 36 mm. For hauling nets used in all other coastal waters of the State, this size is 32 mm.**

The seasonal closures that previously applied to the Spencer Gulf and the Gulf St Vincent implemented under a section 79 issued under the Act will no longer apply.

Haul net mesh size licence condition

In order to implement the above minimum mesh sizes for the pocket of a haul net, the following licence condition has been imposed on all Marine Scalefish Fishery, Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery, Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery and Lakes and Coorong Fishery licences:

A hauling net used in the Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone or the Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone must have the pocket of the net made of knotted mesh not less than 36 mm.

A hauling net used in all other permitted coastal waters of the State must have the pocket of the net made of knotted mesh not less than 32 mm.

For the purpose of this condition 'Gulf St Vincent and Kangaroo Island Fishing Zone' and the 'Spencer Gulf Fishing Zone' have the same meanings as in the Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fisheries) Regulations 2017.

For the purpose of this condition, 'pocket' of the net has the same meaning as in the Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017.

REVIEW AND APPEAL RIGHTS

Licence holders have a right under section 111 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to seek a review of a variation or imposition of a licence condition or refusal to issue, renew or consent to the transfer of an authority. Appeal rights also exist under sections 112 and 113 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* to the District Court and the Environment, Resources and Development Court respectively.

Hauling nets will continue to be inspected on the water by Fisheries Officers through random and intelligence-driven inspections. If you require your hauling net to be measured prior to fishing, please contact your local Fisheries Officer or the FISHWATCH Duty Officer (PH: 1800 065 522).

For any queries relating to Southern Garfish management arrangements, please contact Sam Stone on telephone (08) 8429 2010 or email sam.stone@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**