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NOTICE TO NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear licence holder

Determination of the 2026/27 rock lobster unit values, Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs), and management arrangements.

Unit values and TACCs for the NZRLF 2026/27 quota period

As delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, under the Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017, I have determined the rock lobster unit value for the 2026/27 quota period to be **5.124 kilograms** for the Inner Region and **0.427 kilograms** for the Outer Region.

Determining these rock lobster unit values sets the 2026/27 Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) at **300 tonnes** in the Inner Region and **25 tonnes** in the Outer Region.

When determining the rock lobster unit values and setting the TACCs for the Inner Region and Outer Region of the NZRLF for the 2026/27 quota period, I have considered:

1. The objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
2. The advice from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) on the fishery status and performance indicators in the NZRLF in 2025/26.
3. The NZRLF Outer Region Working Group advice from 2024 TACC setting for the Outer Region.
4. The recommendation of the RLFMAC and the South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association (SANZRLFA).
5. The harvest strategy decision rules in the *Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery*.

Over-catch of quota entitlements for the 2026/27 quota period

In regard to the arrangements for the over-catch of quota entitlements, as the delegate of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have determined that if the total catch of rock lobster taken by the holder of a NZRLF licence in the Inner Region or Outer Region of the fishery during the 2026/27 quota period exceeds the rock lobster quota entitlement under the licence for that region and quota period:

- By up to 5% of the quota entitlements held on a licence, the conditions of the licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the following quota period by 1 kilogram of rock lobster for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement; or
- By more than 5% of the quota entitlements held on a licence, the conditions of the licence may be varied so as to decrease the quota entitlement for the following quota period by 2 kilograms of rock lobster for each kilogram taken in excess of the quota entitlement.

With regard to the arrangements for the carry-over of uncaught 2025/26 quota entitlements into the 2026/27 quota period, I intend to consider adjustments to licences to carry-over uncaught NZRLF quota entitlements for the respective zones on individual licences by up to a maximum of 10% of individual quota entitlements. Adjustments for carry-over of quota entitlements will be considered and undertaken following completion of the current NZRLF quota period.

Please note that quota entitlements carried over are not transferable and can only be used in the quota period to which they are carried over.

NZRLF Quota Period

The Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster) Regulations 2017 state the quota period being a period of 12 months commencing on 1 September. Thus the 2026/27 quota period commences on 1 September 2026.

Giant Crab Access

The normal fishing closure for Giant Crab will remain in place and any Giant Crab incidentally caught in rock lobster pots in the period between 1800 hours on 31 May to 1200 hours on 1 November must be released as soon as practicable.

Should you have any queries concerning management of the fishery, please contact Steve Shanks, Manager – Commercial Fisheries, on 0477 396 367 or via email on steve.shanks@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE