December 2017

Notice to Fishers: Licence holders in the Blue Crab Fishery

I am writing to inform you the Management Plan for South Australian Commercial Blue Crab Fishery was approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries on 29 November 2017 and will take effect from 1 January 2018 for a 5-year period.

The Management Plan was developed through the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Review Committee which included representatives from industry, RecFish SA, SARDI, PIRSA and an independent Chair. This work has resulted in a harvest strategy within the Management Plan becoming more explicit in its guidance of decision making through the annual total allowable commercial catch (TACC) setting process.

The Management Plan includes provision for a planned review of the harvest strategy within two years of the commencement of this management plan to:

- consider the timing of the fishing independent surveys that determine the biological indicators for the fishery
- consider changes to decision rules to consider reasonable increases in commercial catch levels when stocks are considered to be in high abundance and biological indicators are above the target reference points
- consider changes to the commercial seasonal closures
- ensure allocated shares to access stocks are maintained
- ensure equitable levels of access for all fishing sectors is maintained.

Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) will ensure a clear process and timelines for this planned review will be discussed and agreed between all stakeholders by 31 March 2018.

Enclosed is a copy of the Management Plan for your reference. If you have any questions, please contact Keith Rowling, Program Leader Community Based Fisheries (08) 8429 0513 or Keith.Rowling@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Sean Sloan
A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

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