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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

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NOTICE TO WEST COAST PRAWN FISHERY LICENCE HOLDERS

Dear licence holder

I am writing to inform you that I have approved the adoption of a revised 2026 West Coast Prawn Fishery (WCPF) harvest strategy (HS) following consultation with the industry and the Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Association.

The key changes in the 2026 WCPF HS include:

- Re-calculation of reference points using an amended calculation method and updated data that industry considers better reflects contemporary catch and economic aspirations (using data where average commercial catch rate of 43 kg/hr or greater, compared to 59 kg/hr used in the 2022 WCPF HS). The recalculation has resulted in lower limit, trigger and target reference points (see appendices in the HS).

Reference Point	2022 HS	2026 HS
Target	72 kg/hr	60 kg/hr
Trigger	54 kg/hr	45 kg/hr
Limit	36 kg/hr	30 kg/hr

- Clarification on the ability for licence holders to fish in waters outside the four main regions as per the definition of West Coast Waters in the Fisheries Management (Prawn Fisheries) Regulations 2017 (section 1 of HS).
- Clarification of decision rules related to ceasing fishing during a fishing trip (section 6.2.2 of HS).
- Ability to undertake spot surveys prior to a fishing run in each region to support the development of a fishing strategy for that period (section 6.2 of HS).
- Alignment of stock status classifications to the national Status of Australian Fish Stock guidelines (section 5 of HS).
- Updated definitions including the extension of a fishing run notice with prior to unload reporting (*fishing run*): *a period of fishing activity between quarters of the lunar cycle that includes a new moon which is Gazetted for the fishery. Fishing may start two nights before the last quarter of the moon and finish two nights after the first quarter of the moon. The number of nights included in a fishing run may be greater than 14 nights and up to 22 nights where completion of prior to unload reporting (all*

*species) is not less than 4-hours in advance of the time of unload.
However, the maximum number of fishing nights that may be fished
during a fishing run must not exceed the maximum number defined in
relevant decision rules included in this harvest strategy (7-14 nights).*

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation and commitment in the development of a contemporary harvest strategy for the WCPF and I look forward to continuing to work with the WCPF industry and the Association to implement the 2026 WCPF HS.

You are able to access a published copy of the 2026 WCPF HS, and additional information related to the fishery at: [Spencer Gulf and West Coast prawn fisheries - PIRSA](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Jade Fredericks, Fisheries Manager on jade.fredericks@sa.gov.au Or 0417 495 352.

Yours sincerely



Prof Gavin Begg
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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