



**SARLAC**  
Inc

South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council Inc



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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011*

### **Positive News for Rock Lobster**

The Rock Lobster Industry has welcomed the decision made today by Fisheries Minister Michael O'Brien to maintain current quota levels in both lobster fishing Zones and to re-open the month of October to commercial fishing in the Southern Zone Fishery.

Independent Chair of the South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Committee Inc (SARLAC), Ms Catherine Barnett, said the decision was a reflection of sound consultative processes and the ongoing commitment between Government and industry to ensure the long-term sustainability of this valuable export industry.

"The level of collaboration between industry, PIRSA Fisheries and SARDI Aquatic Sciences over the past months to arrive at this point must be commended," said Ms Barnett.

"Over the past few months the industry has been working together with PIRSA and SARDI to develop revised harvest strategies for each Zone, the decision to maintain the quota has been driven largely as a result of that good work.

"This decision provides the industry here in South Australia with stability and certainty for the coming season.

"The incorporation of those harvest strategies into the new Management Plans, to be finalised next year, also provides future business certainty but most importantly a sustainable management base for the fishery."

Ms Barnett said that recent work amongst fishery stakeholders had laid the foundation to work towards true co-management of the resource over the coming period.

"This really is a very exciting time for the rock lobster industry as we continue to build a sound and truly inclusive consultative framework," Ms Barnett said.

"Ultimately this will deliver the best advice to ensure the sustainability of the resource while allowing the fishery to maximise its social and economic values for South Australia."

The South Australian Southern Zone and Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fisheries will maintain individual quotas of 1,250 tonnes and 310 tonnes respectively for the 2011/12 fishing season.

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