



Commercial Fishing Guide

**Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone)
Supplement**

Edition 2
2023

DISCLAIMER

This publication may be of assistance to you, but the Victorian Fisheries Authority, State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequences which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

This publication is a guide only, it does not replace the *Fisheries Act 1995*, the *Fisheries Regulations 2019* or other Acts and subordinate legislation applying to or affecting commercial fishing.

Copies of the Act and Regulations are available at
<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>

This guide summarises the law at the time of publication and cannot be used as a defence in court.

Fishing laws change from time to time. It is your responsibility to ensure you are acting within the law.

It is the responsibility of fishers to be aware of any changes that are made to fisheries rules and regulations. You can do this by:

- routinely checking the Fisheries Notices on Victorian Fisheries Authority website (www.vfa.vic.gov.au/operational-policy/legislation-and-regulation/fisheries-notices)
- in respect to octopus fishing, contact the octopus fishery manager or
- discuss any queries with your local compliance officers.

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For more information contact Customer Service Centre 186136

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OCTOPUS (EASTERN ZONE) COMMERCIAL FISHING GUIDE

This guide summarises and clarifies the regulations that apply to Octopus Access Licence holders and operators for the Octopus (Eastern Zone) Fishery. Please note that Octopus Fishery Access Licence authorises commercial take of octopus **only from the eastern octopus management zone**.

This supplement is to be read in conjunction with Commercial Fishers User Guide.

Legal framework

Legislation

The key regulations that apply to the Octopus fishery are detailed in the *Fisheries Act 1995*, the *Fisheries Regulations 2019* and *Fisheries (Fees, Royalties and Levies) Regulations 2008*.

In future, there may also be Fisheries Notices in place to regulate or manage Octopus fishing, supplementing, or varying the regulations.

It is your responsibility to familiarise yourselves with these documents.

General information

Further information can be found on the Octopus Commercial Fishing page of the Victorian Fisheries Authority's (VFA) website at <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/commercial-fishing/featured/octopus-eastern-zone-fishery>

Legislation

Search online

- *Fisheries Act 1995*
 - *Fisheries Regulations 2019*
- www.legislation.vic.gov.au

Victoria Octopus Fishery Management Plan

Current fisheries notices can be found at:

www.vfa.vic.gov.au/operational-policy/legislation-and-regulation

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 1 Preliminary
Regulation 5 Definition

DEFINITIONS

Authorised Officer

A Fisheries Officer or a person appointed under the *Victorian Fisheries Act* 2016.

Crew member

A crew member is a person engaged by the licence holder or a licence operator to carry out the activities allowed on the licence. A crew member is not a licence operator.

Commercial Fishers Duty Officer

A Victorian Fisheries Authority staff member – Commercial Fishers Duty Officer – is always available to take enquiries from fishers if problems occur, or if they seek clarification about a specific regulation or process. Phone: 0418 519 215. They also have the required contacts of the relevant Fisheries Officers who may also be able to provide advice if needed.

Catch and effort record/daily catch record

A catch and effort record is the completed information about daily fishing activity that licence holders must provide to the VFA. For the octopus fishery, licence holders must complete the daily catch record forms in both the Octopus Logbook and Octopus Research Sampling logbook. Instruction pages are included in each logbook.

Catch and effort information is collected for each day spent fishing over the month. It must be completed daily.

Electronic catch and effort reporting will be phased in for the Octopus fishery.

Catch and effort record book/logbook

The catch and effort record books are supplied by the VFA. There are two logbooks for the Octopus Fishery – the Octopus Logbook and Octopus Research Sampling Logbook. The Octopus Logbook also includes Protected Species Interaction forms, Nil fishing forms, and resume fishing forms.

The books must be on the boat when licence holder /operators are fishing and when fish are present on the boat.

The original catch and effort record for each month is sent to the VFA. The duplicate copy is retained in the book.

Catch disposal record

The catch disposal record is standardised for each fishery. It contains sequential numbered record of the movement of fish away from the place of landing. It is a specialised form of receipt.

Catch disposal record book

The catch disposal record book is supplied by the VFA. The book must be present at the place of landing. The original record goes with the fish – away from the place of landing. Duplicate copies must be retained in the book.

Eastern Octopus zone

The Eastern Octopus zone extends approximately from Seaspray to the NSW border. A map of the specific zone is provided in this guide. This is the only area octopus fishing operations can be conducted under an Octopus Fisheries Access Licence.

Fish movement record

A fish movement record is used to record how fish came into the possession of a fishing industry participant when it was not retained under a Fisheries Access Licence or purchased.

A fish movement record is also used to record any transfer of octopus from an Octopus licence holder to another entity who has not purchased it (e.g. for transporting the fish, donation of fish).

A fish movement record is also used to record the acquisition of fish, (for example caught recreationally or received as a gift), by a fishing industry participant.

Fish receipt

A fish receipt is created when an Octopus licence holder sells fish outside the Catch Disposal Record. Receipts must be issued when product is sold to:

- Other access licence holder
- Restaurants
- Individuals (where permitted by the VFA to do so).

Fisheries document

A fisheries document is any document that the Fisheries Act and Regulations require be completed, kept or maintained and includes any document issued by the VFA under the Act and Regulations. Fisheries documents must be kept for three (3) years.

Fishing trip

When a boat is used, a fishing trip is the time from when the boat leaves the port, mooring area or launching point to when it returns to a port, mooring area or retrieval point. The boat may return to the same point of departure or another port, mooring area or retrieval point.

Fisheries notification service

The Fisheries Notification service, in the case of the octopus fishery, means the telephone service through which fishers provide pre-fishing, pre-landing or post fishing reports to the VFA. The notifications required and the way that they must be provided is listed on each Octopus Licence.

Fit and proper

Fit and proper means you must satisfy the VFA that you will act reasonably and legally when undertaking fishing operations.

Landed

Landed in the octopus fishery means taking octopus ashore or making contact with any man-made fixed structure including a jetty, pier or wharf, or with any artificial extension of land.

Place of landing

Means a place where octopus are landed.

NOTE: Landing is the act of removing octopus from boat and weighing them to an accuracy of within 1 kilogram (kg) of the actual weight.

Licensing year

Means a period from 1 July to 30 June each year.

Licence operator

A licence operator is listed on the licence as the person permitted to carry-out all fishing activities authorised by the licence.

Octopus pots

An octopus pot is any container that is designed for and capable of catching octopus. Octopus pots are not baited.

Octopus trigger traps *(Currently this equipment is not authorised for use in Victoria)*

Octopus trigger traps are designed to close once an octopus enters the trap. They have one chamber, a single entrance and a self-closing door.

These traps can be unbaited or baited. Only plastic lures and light emitted diodes are allowed to be used to bait these traps.

These traps must be made of rigid material and must not ensnare or entangle other fish. The traps must also be designed so it cannot take any further fish once the trap door is closed.

These traps must not be larger than:

- 62 cm long
- 20 cm wide
- 20 cm high.

Operational Duty Officer

A fisheries officer - Operational Duty Officer - is always available to take call from fishers so they can:

- report a protected species interaction
- request permission to fish without an operational VMS
- notify the VFA of a recreational fishing trip in a commercial fishing boat
- or for any other instruction states in the individual licence or per conditions.

The Operational Duty Officer's number is 0419 844 781

Prime Safe Seafood Safety Licence

Prime Safe is the Statutory Authority responsible for regulating the safety of meat, poultry, seafood and pet food in Victoria. Any business that handles seafood for human consumption must hold a valid PrimeSafe seafood safety licence (Seafood Safety Act 2003).

Quota Management System

The number of individual transferable quota units assigned to an Octopus Fishery Access Licence is known and tracked in the Quota Management System. As octopus are harvested, the weight of the catch is subtracted from the quota balance assigned to the Octopus Fishery Access Licence.

When the entire quota assigned to a licence has been caught, the holder must either acquire more quota units or cease fishing for the remainder of the quota period.

Quota unit holder

An individual can buy a unit of quota, but this unit has to be allocated to an Octopus Licence before it can be caught.

Quota unit balance

The amount of quota, the licence holder has on the licence. The balance is reduced as the fisher registers the catch.

Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)

The total weight of octopus that may be taken across all Octopus Access Licence Holders in the eastern octopus management zone within the annual quota period.

VFA

Victorian Fisheries Authority

OCTOPUS FISHERY

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 1: Preliminary
Regulation 14

The State of Victoria owns the wild octopus resource on behalf of the Victorian community. Octopus is a new and emerging boutique seafood product in Victoria. The Octopus Fishery Access Licence class was established under the *Fisheries Regulations 2019*. The regulations also establish 3 octopus commercial fishing management zones. **This guide relates to the Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone).**

Octopus Fishery Access Licences authorise commercial take of octopus **only from the eastern octopus zone**. This is where the majority of commercial octopus fishing in Victoria has occurred to date.

Only three species of octopus can be caught by commercial fishers.

- Pale octopus (*Octopus pallidus*)
- Maori octopus (*Octopus maorum*)
- Gloomy octopus (*Octopus tetricus*).

Appendix 1 contains the Octopus identification field guide

Octopus fishing in the central and western octopus zones is less established and is being managed by the VFA through exploratory, temporary permits. These permits have different management arrangements and are outside the scope of this guide.

Management zones

For management purposes, the octopus fishery in Victorian water is divided into 3 zones:

- Western Octopus zone
- Central Octopus zone
- Eastern Octopus zone.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 1: Preliminary
Regulation 5
Schedule 5

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019

Part 7

Regulation 244

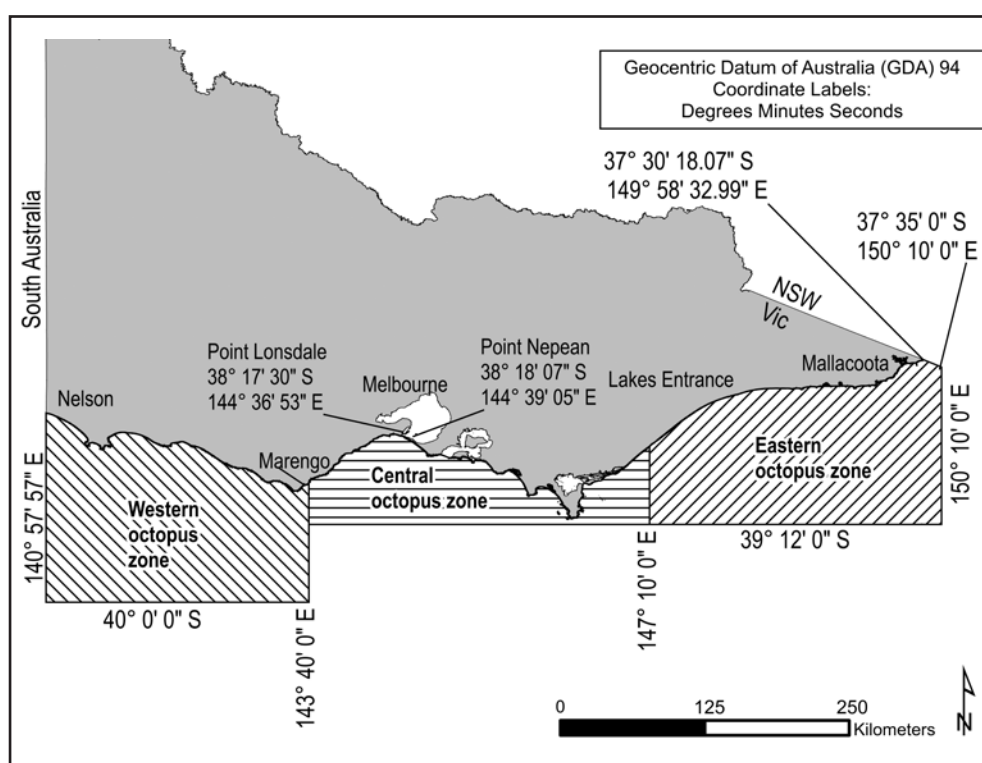
Eastern Management Zone

Currently Octopus Fishery Access Licences only authorise the take of octopus from the eastern octopus zone.

The map below, taken from the *Fisheries Regulations 2019*, shows the location of the **Eastern octopus zone**. This zone extends approximately from Seaspray to the Victorian / NSW border.

Octopus cannot be commercially harvested under an Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone) licence from other Victorian waters (unless under permit) or from Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries, which are protected areas and fishing in them is prohibited (see page 20).

If you are taking octopus from other Victorian waters under a permit, you must not take octopus from more than one octopus commercial fishing management zone during a fishing trip.



 Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 17, 18, 19, 22 and 23
Schedule 17

 Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 7: Commercial Octopus
Fishery Licence Activities
Regulation 241, 242 & 243

 Legislation Search online

Fisheries Act 1995
Section 39
www.legislation.vic.gov.au

 Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulations 62, 63

ENTRY TO THE FISHERY

The Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone) is a limited-entry fishery with 11 licences. No new licences are created for the fishery.

Octopus Fishery Access Licence

An Octopus Fishery Access Licence authorises the licence holder to carry out the following activities **only in the eastern octopus management zone**:

- take octopus for sale
- use or possess octopus pots (in the number specified in the licence)
- employ:
 - only one licence operator, and
 - one or more crew member.

Licences may be transferred provided the transfer is lodged with the VFA and the new proposed Licence holder meets VFA's eligibility criteria for fishing industry participants (fit and proper considerations).

The proposed new Licence holder must also have a thorough knowledge of the Fisheries Act and Regulations relevant to the octopus fishery.

Licence holders

Licence holders must be Australian resident individuals, co-operatives or corporations.

Licence renewal

There is an automatic right of annual renewal of a Commercial Fishery Licence and quota units, subject to the licence holder:

- applying to renew a licence
- paying the applicable levies.
- meeting the criteria specified in Section 57 of the Fisheries Act 1995 to the satisfaction of the VFA.

The VFA sends out information relating to the renewal of licence and quota. Payment must be received before 1 July and prior to any fishing being conducted in the new quota year. It is illegal to operate on a licence if payment has not been received.

If a licence holder is deemed not to be fit and proper to hold a licence, the licence is cancelled and cannot be re-issued (see Commercial Fisher User Guide for further information).

All people who operate on the licence are also required to be 'fit and proper'.

QUOTA MANAGEMENT

The quota year commences 1 July and concludes 30 June.

Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)

Harvest levels from the Octopus Fishery (Eastern zone) are managed using quota, under a TACC. The TACC and value of each quota unit is set annually for the upcoming quota year.

Individual transferable quota

There are 1000 individual transferable quota units in the Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone). These quota units were allocated to Octopus Fishery Access Licences prior to commencement of the fishery on 1 August 2020.

Each year the licence holder is issued with their Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone) quota notice which specifies:

- The TAC for the eastern octopus zone for that quota year
- The quantity of octopus comprising a quota unit for that quota year (in kilograms)
- The number of individual octopus quota units attached to that licence
- The quantity of octopus that the quota units attached to that licence equate to, for that quota year.

Ownership of octopus passes to the quota unit holder when they are taken from waters in accordance with the conditions of the licence.

Minimum quota

There is no minimum quota holding.

NOTE: The VFA will not allocate or transfer quota unless all fees and levies have been paid (i.e. fees/levies with respect to quota or licences).

QUOTA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (QMS)

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulations 82 (c), 83(4), 84(6), 85

The Quota Management System (QMS) is used to monitor the compliance of licence holders against their quota allocations.

The Octopus Quota Management System is based on a mobile reporting application (Vic-eQuota) and written records.

Fishers record the weight of octopus harvested in their daily catch logbook and also report via the application.

Fishers must also have their VMS unit turned on when their vessel leaves the port (see page 11).

Daily catch records are submitted to the Victorian Fisheries Authority each month.

Post-landing notifications are required for the Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone) and must be made by using the Vic-eQuota app. Further information on the post-landing reporting system is on page 17.

Trading quota

Quota units are separate, and independently tradeable within the eastern zone. A quota holder may apply to transfer individual eastern octopus zone quota units permanently or temporarily to a holder of another Octopus Fishery Access Licence authorising fishing in the eastern octopus zone

Tracking quota

Individual quota units that are not taken during a quota period cannot be carried over in the next quota period.

At no time can a licence holder catch or land more than 20 kilograms in excess of his or her quota allocation.

If a licence holder has caught or landed in excess of his or her quota allocation by 20 kilograms or less at the end of a quota period, the amount by which the access licence holder is in excess will be deducted from his or her quota allocation for the next quota period.

VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS (VMS)

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 77 (e)
Regulations 94

Information

For use, please refer to
• <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/commercial-fishing/vessel-monitoring-systems>

VMS must be installed on all vessels listed on the licence.

- VMS unit must be turned on when the vessel leaves the Port on a commercial fishing trip
- VMS unit can be turned off when the vessel returns to Port.

NOTE: VMS units do not have to be turned on when the vessel is not commercially fishing (for e.g. refuelling or traveling to a slipway).

If the VMS system does not operate or malfunctions:

- before a fishing trip commences, fishers can request permission of the VFA to fish and use a manual reporting system.
- during a fishing trip, the fisher must immediately contact the Operations Duty Officer.

VFA contact details

If you have any questions about the VMS system or administration including a VMS unit on a vessel:

- Commercial Licensing Unit (business hours)
03 8392 6860
commercial.licensing@vfa.vic.gov.au

If your VMS is not working and you are seeking approval to manually report during your fishing trip:

- Operations Duty Officer (24 hours)
0419 844 781

Installing VMS on your Vessel

You must :

- ensure the VMS device is of a type approved by the VFA.
- send the Communication notice to the VFA within 5 days of its installation (and before the boat is used for fishing).
This notice advises the VFA of the method of communication with the VMS (mobile/Satellite phone) and its number.
- ensure the VMS is not interfered with, tampered with or damaged.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 71

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 66,
Part 7: Fish other than abalone,
giant crab, rock lobster, scallop
and sea urchin
Regulations 241,

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 67

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 7: Commercial Octopus
Fishery Licence Activities
Regulations 243

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 75(4) & (5)

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 1: Preliminary
Regulation 7
Schedule 16

HARVESTING OCTOPUS

Licence holder or Licence operator must be present and in charge of crew

The licence holder or licence operator must at all times:

- ensure that the crew member is working with the licence holder or licence operator (i.e. with them in person); and
- be in control of that crew member; and
- ensure that the crew member is not engaged in a separate fishing operation.

Only one Licence operator can be engaged on the licence at any one time

The licence holder must nominate themselves as an operator if they wish to harvest octopus.

Licence holder may engage one or more crew members

Crew members do not have to be listed on the licence. However, crew names must be recorded in the Octopus Logbook.

Commercial and recreational fishing activity must not be undertaken at the same time.

Licence holder / Licence operator must ensure that recreational fishing activities are not undertaken while commercial fishing operations are underway.

Taking of octopus by octopus pots

Octopus Fishery Access Licences currently authorise only the use of octopus pots; use and possession of octopus trigger traps is not currently allowed.

The number of pots and lines that can be used, and the ways the pots may be arranged between lines, is also specified on each licence.

The following limits equipment restrictions apply:

- **for quota of 10 tonne or more**, fishers, at any one time, can use or possess a maximum of:
 - 10,000 octopus pots
 - 20 lines of octopus pots
 - 1,000 octopus pots on each line.
- **for quota of less than 10 tonne**, fishers, at any one time, can use or possess a maximum of:
 - 2,000 octopus pots
 - 4 lines of octopus pots
 - 1,000 octopus pots on each line.

Marking of equipment

The Licence Holder must ensure that any fleet of octopus pots are attached to a surface buoy that is **ONLY** marked with the licence number of the licence holder's licence. The licence number must be clear and legible.

Minimum legal size

There is no minimum legal-size limit for octopus.

🔗 Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 70

Octopus must not be transferred at sea

Licence Holder must ensure:

- octopus are not sold or transferred from the boat listed on the licence to any other boat, in or on Victorian waters
- octopus are not sold, transferred or delivered to a person not listed on the licence in or on Victorian waters at any time
- must not take, possess octopus caught by people not listed on the licence in or on Victorian waters, at any time.

Other fish species

Fishers must not catch and keep or possess any other species of fish unless acting in accordance with an additional Licence, such as an Ocean Fishery Access Licence or Wrasse (Ocean) Fishery Access Licence.

🔗 Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 61

Returning fish to the water

Except for noxious species, fishers must ensure any fish or any animal that they are not authorised to take, that they do not want or that is not required, is immediately returning to the water with the least amount of injury or damage.

i Information

Link to Whale Interaction
reproduced in Appendix 6.

i Information

Protected Species Identification
Guide for Victoria's Commercial
Fishers

- <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/commercial-fishing/reporting-of-fisheries-interactions-with-protected-species>

WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

Whale and dolphin entanglements

Entanglements are specific type of Interaction where, usually, marine mammals such as whales and dolphins become entangled in fishing gear

If a whale or dolphin becomes entangled:

- Move away and watch its behaviour
- Record the location, the species, type of entanglement and any other details
- DO NOT attempt to remove any of the entanglement or free the animal
- Report immediately to the Whale and Dolphin Hotline on 1300 136 017
- Watch the situation. Do not risk the safety of the vessel nor the entangled animal.

Reporting interactions with threatened and endangered species.

Reporting of interactions with protected species is a requirement of most commercial fisheries in Victoria.

"Protected" species include all mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian species that are native to Victoria and threatened fish. "Protected" species does not include pest species such as northern pacific seastar. The Protected Species Identification Guide for Victoria's Commercial Fishers (coastal version) will assist fishers identify these species.

These species are protected under State and Federal legislation, however incidental fishing interactions can and do occur.

An "Interaction" is defined as a fishing vessel, gear or operator coming into contact with a protected species, regardless of the outcome.

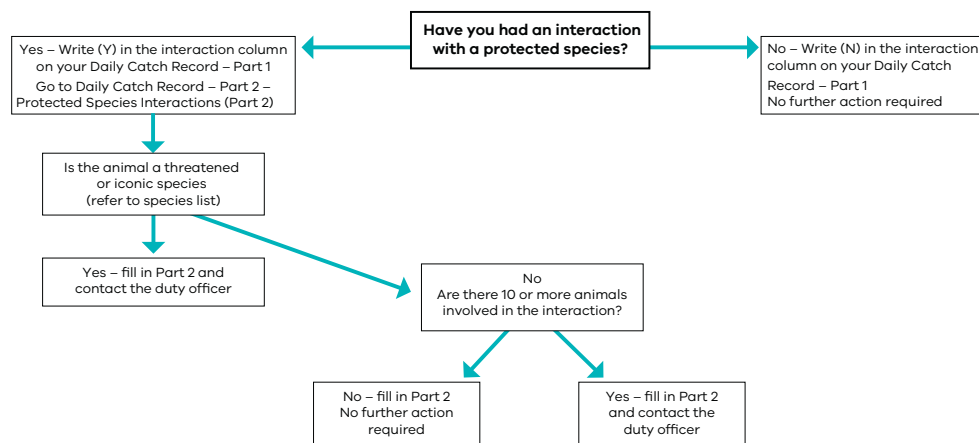
Any interaction with a protected species must be reported in your Protected Species Interaction form.

Legislation has been implemented to exempt commercial fishers from prosecution where the interaction is accidental and reported.

Deliberate or negligent acts will still be subject to prosecution.

"Significant interactions" are interactions with any iconic species, any species listed as Threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act or more than 10 animals of any species. **Significant interactions should be reported to the Operations Duty Officer (0419 844 781) as soon as possible.**

Hard Copy Reporting.



Complete the Protected Species Interactions Form and submit it to the VFA by the 18th of the following month.

Appendix 2 provides an example of the reporting form, instructions for completing the form and an example of a completed form.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 96

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 64(1) and 83(1)

Legislation

Fisheries Act 1975
Part I; Preliminary
Section 11(4)
Part IV; Division 4
Section 68A

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 94 (2) and (8)(b)

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 94(9)(10)

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 94 (2)

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 94(8)(a) (c)

LANDING OCTOPUS

Notifications and reporting

To enable reporting to the VFA, fishers must maintain access to Vic-eQuota or a mobile telephone network.

Octopus weighing

All fishers must ensure their recorded weight of the catch is accurate to within 1 kilogram of the actual weight.

Weighing must occur, within 60 minutes of the boat arriving at the place of landing.

Recording of catch details

Daily catch and effort books are issued by the VFA.

The catch and effort record book must accompany the licence holder/operator when they are fishing. It must:

- be on the boat (used under the licence) during fishing commercial operations
- be on the boat when there is any octopus on-board
- accompany the licence holder or licence operator when they are transporting octopus, unless a Catch Disposal Record, fish receipt or fish movement record has been created for the fish that are being moved.

NOTE: If the catch and effort book is not located at the places detailed above, the licence holder/operator must tell the VFA where the Catch and Effort book is located.

NOTE: The licence holder must produce the Catch and Effort book when asked to so by a Fisheries Officer.

Daily catch reporting

Octopus daily catch and effort record book must be completed accurately each day octopus fishing takes place.

Columns 1 to 22 must be completed before post-fishing reporting is undertaken. Columns 23 to 35 must be filled in after completing Vic-eQuota's post landing reporting (see page 15).

NOTE: The daily catch and effort record book is not to be filled in later from informal records kept by the licence holder or licence operator.

Daily research reporting

Daily research sampling record book must also be completed accurately each day octopus fishing takes place.

Samples should be taken from at least 50 random pots per line and at least one line per area for each day fished.

Examples of the Catch and Effort and research sampling record books are given in Appendix 3.

🔗 Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 94 (3) (6) (7)

Monthly reporting of nil catches

If no fishing activities are carried out during a particular month, the words 'nil fishing' are written on the catch and effort record for that month.

If the Licence holder does not intend to fish for a period, they may notify the VFA using a Nil Fishing form before the beginning of this period.

Note: Once this is done, there is no need to fill out the Catch and Effort 'Nil fishing' requirement for that period of time.

NOTE: In this circumstance Licence holders **MUST NOT re-commence fishing within the specified period, unless they have notified the VFA using a resume fishing form.**

🔗 Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 94 (4) (5)

Daily catch and research records are to be returned to VFA

At the end of each month, the yellow copies of each daily catch record for the month are to be removed from the catch and effort record book and sent to the VFA Secretary by the 18th day of the following month.

Fishers must keep the duplicate copy of each record in the Catch and Effort book.

🔗 Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulations 82, 83(1), 84 (1)

Post-landing notification

The fisher to report post-landing information:

- **within 60 minutes of landing and weighing the catch**
- **before the catch leaves the place of landing.**

Landing information is reported using the Vic-eQuota app.

The following information must be reported:

- the licence number of the access licence
- the estimated time at which the octopus are to moved from the place of landing
- the total weight in kilograms of octopus taken under the licence.

NOTE: The Post Landing Confirmation Number issued by Vic-eQuota along with the Quota balance must be written into the Quota Management Column (on the Daily Catch and Effort Report Form).

📘 Information Box

Instructions for using Vic-eQuota has been sent to all licenced fishers

If you have having difficulties or have questions about the Vic e-Quota app please call:

- Commercial Fishers Duty Officer (0418 519 215), OR
- The local VFA office.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 89, 90, 91, 92, 93

Consigning the catch (via Catch Disposal Records)

The Catch Disposal Record must accompany octopus catch as it leaves the place of landing. This form records:

- Landing information: Place of landing; Time of landing
- Catch information: Species; Weight
- Details of: Purchaser; Transporter.

All fishers must:

- complete the Octopus Catch Disposal Record (CDR) immediately after landing and weighing the catch

and

- before the catch leaves the place of landing.

All entries on this form must be made with a ballpoint pen.

Required information must be clear, legible and accurate.

Note: If the CDR book is not located on the boat specified in the licence or at the place of landing, the licence holder/operator must notify the VFA.

An example of a CDR is given in *Appendix 4*.

The original copy of the Catch Disposal Record must accompany the catch.

If the catch is consigned to two or more purchasers, at the point of landing, then a separate Catch Disposal Record must be completed for each purchaser.

The duplicate copy (yellow) remains in the Catch Disposal Record book.

NOTE: Until all the post reporting paperwork has been completed, fishers must not allow their catch (Octopus) to:

- enter any vehicle that already contains fish
- be sold or to leave the place of landing
- enter any premises on which fish is processed or held.

Dealing with errors

If an error is made, the fisher must write "ERROR_CANCELLED" across the Catch Disposal Record (and all copies) and the next record (sequentially numbered in the book) will be used. The original and duplicate copy of the cancelled record must be kept in the book (initialled by the licence holder).

Accuracy of CDR

The original and duplicate copy of the Catch Disposal Record must be accurately completed and signed by the Octopus fisher.

You must not possess a signed CDR or copy unless all the details of the CDR have been completed.

It is an offence to provide false or misleading information.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 85.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 93

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2: Commercial fishery
licences
Regulations 90 (c) (d)

RECEIPTS AND FISH MOVEMENT RECORDS

Regulation detail

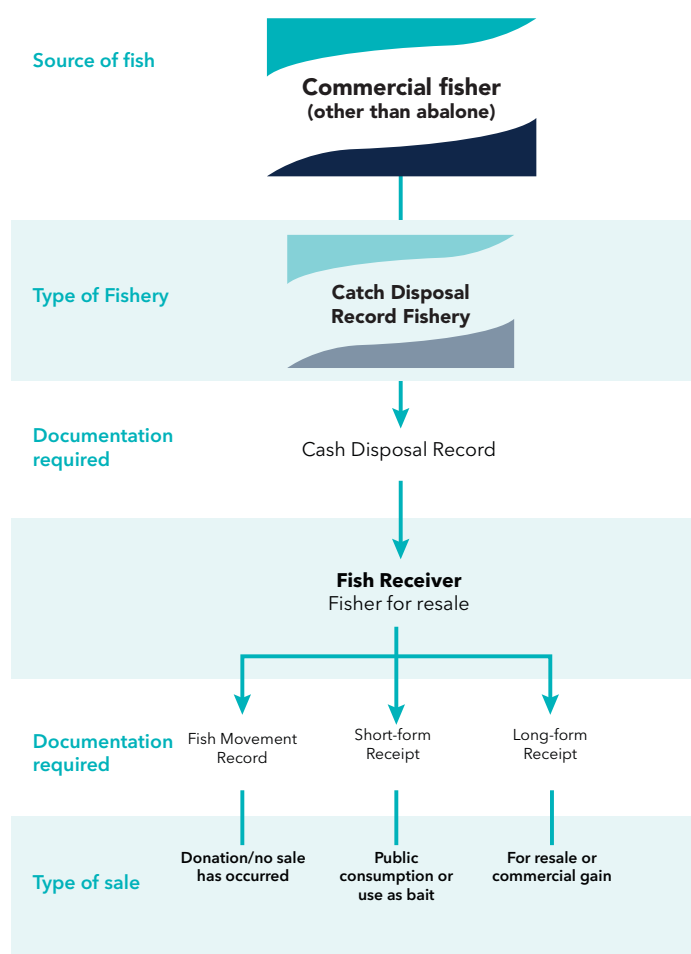
Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 14 Fish receipt and other
documentation requirements
Regulations 448–453

To ensure the integrity of the commercial fish supply chain:

- a receipt must be issued for the amount of Octopus that has been sold at the time of a sale, or
- a fish movement record must be issued to account for the movement of fish outside a sale and for fish located on commercial premises.

For Octopus fishers, the nature of the sale dictates the detail required on the receipt (and hence the type of receipt they need to issue).

The flowchart below shows the documentation that must accompany each sale.



NOTE:

1. Records detailing sales are generated when fishers complete the catch disposal record (CDR) when they consign their catch at the point of landing. For most octopus fishers, this is the only documentation they will need to accompany octopus sales.
2. Fishers can complete a CDR to themselves for further on-sale. These subsequent sales require receipting details in accordance with reg 450(2) and reg 452(3).

Receipts

Two types of receipts are used:

- A short form receipt is issued when octopus are sold to a person for direct consumption
- A long form receipt is issued when the fisher is on-selling octopus for other commercial purposes (for e.g. to restaurants).

Fish movement records

Fish movement records are issued:

- when octopus are given to a transporter for delivery to market or co-op where no sale has yet occurred
- when octopus are donated

OR

- when the licence holder has fish (other than that accounted for by their licence/permit) on commercial premises.

NOTE: The appropriate documentation (e.g. consignment record, sales receipts, and/or fish movement records) is required to be kept to account for all fish purchased, possessed and/or held on the premises.

Receipts or Fish Movement Records are required to be possessed if fish are found in, on or attached to any boat, premises, aircraft or vehicle used for the

- Taking of Fish, or
- Sale of fish, or
- Receiving for sale of fish, or
- Processing of fish for sale.
- Seafood Retailers

Note: Examples of Receipts and Fish Movement Records are given in Appendix 5.

Record keeping requirements

- A copy of each purchase, acquisition or sale record required by the Act and the Fisheries Regulations 2019 must be kept at the place where the fish are sold, received and possessed.
- If requested by an authorised Fisheries Officer, the person must present the record for inspection.
- All records must be kept for 3 years, be legible and in English. This can be in electronic format (such as emailed tax invoices), so long as a copy can be emailed or printed out at the time of request from a Fisheries Officer.
- Any person completing fisheries records must ensure that the information is not false or misleading. It is a serious offence under the Act to make or furnish false or misleading statement or documents.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 14 Fish receipt and other
documentation requirements
Regulation 453

SEAFOOD SAFETY LICENSING

Any business that handles seafood for human consumption must hold a valid PrimeSafe seafood safety licence (Seafood Safety Act 2003). This is separate from the Fishery Access Licence and is not managed by the VFA.

Information on PrimeSafe licensing and auditing can be obtained from the PrimeSafe website or by contacting Info@primesafe.vic.gov.au.

Broadly, there are two PrimeSafe food safety licence options for fish. Only one licence is required. Either:

- Wildcatch licence (no retail sale) allows fishers to harvest and supply to a land-based facility which can sell and process the fish or seafood for sale; or
- Retailer licence, which allows fishers to catch fish and sell it from their vessel.

A seafood business with multiple VFA licences and/or multiple vessels requires a single Wildcatch licence; however, each vessel that is retailing seafood will require a separate retailer licence.

Legislation

Search online

National Parks Act 1975
Part V; Division 2
Regulation 45A
www.legislation.vic.gov.au

FISHING RESTRICTIONS

No fishing in marine national parks and sanctuaries

Commercial and recreational fishing is prohibited in marine national parks and sanctuaries under the *National Parks Act 1975*.

- Two marine national parks and one marine sanctuary are located within the Eastern Octopus zone.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Victorian Fisheries Authority	
Operations Duty Officer	0419 844 781
Commercial Fishers Duty Officer	0418 519 215
13FISH Offence Report Line	13 34 74
Lifesaving Victoria	
LSV Communications (for info on shark sightings, beach closures etc.)	13 SURF (13 7873)
Victoria Police	
Rescue Coordination Centre / Water Police	(03) 9399 7500

KEY STAFF CONTACTS

Luke O'Sullivan

Director Fisheries Management, Policy, Science and Licensing
luke.osullivan@vfa.vic.gov.au

Toby Jeavons

Manager, Marine and Estuarine Fisheries
toby.jeavons@vfa.vic.gov.au

Paul Shea

Fisheries Operations Manager
enforcement@vfa.vic.gov.au

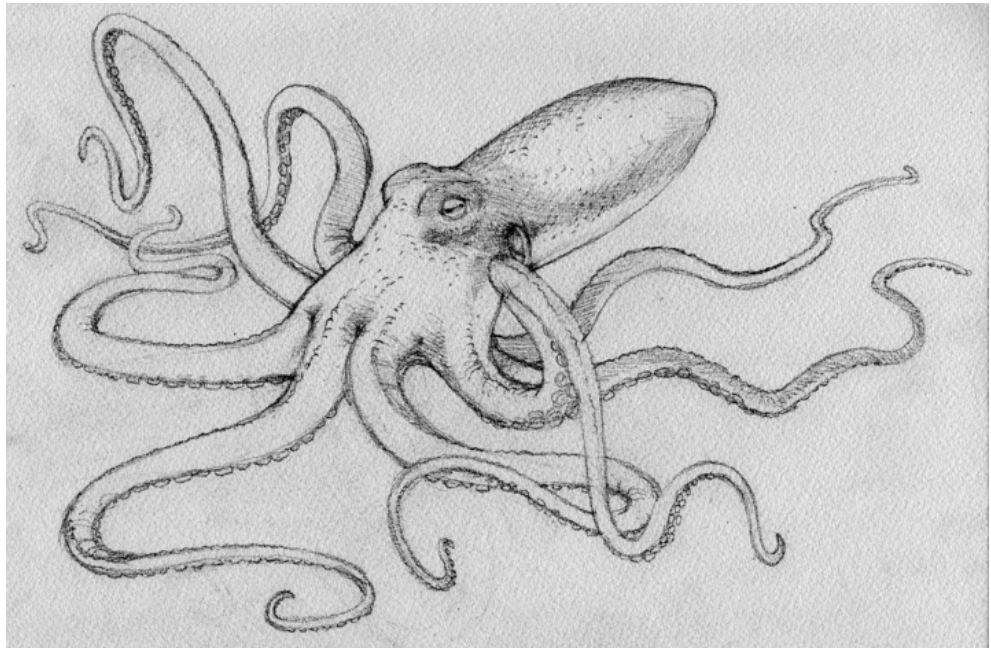
Commercial Licensing Enquiries

Commercial Fisheries Licensing
commercial.licensing@vfa.vic.gov.au
 03 9392 6860

APPENDIX 1: OCTOPUS IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

COMMERCIAL FISHER'S

OCTOPUS FIELD GUIDE



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How do you sex your octopus?

Look at its arms!! (easiest and simplest way)

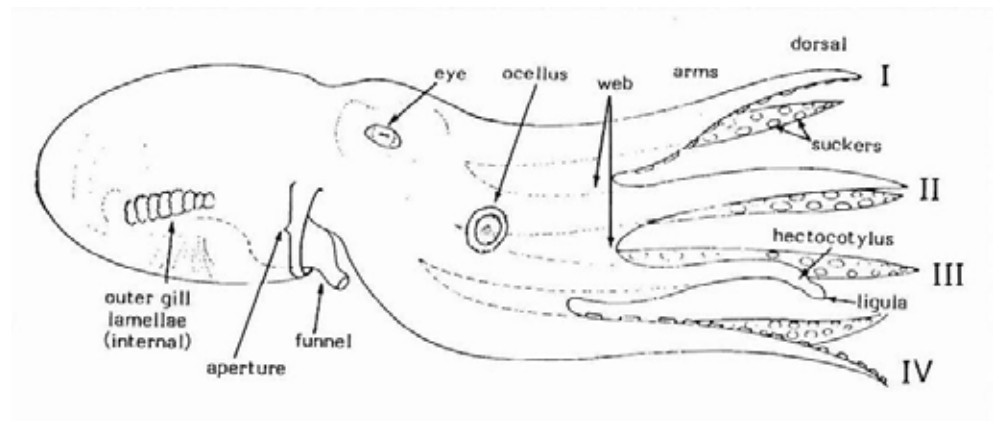
Female octopus have suckers running down their arms to the tips. **On each and every arm.** Male octopus don't.

One or maybe two of the arms have been modified so the male can deliver bundles of sperm to the female.

In male octopus the modified arm (hectocotylus) has a flattened tip (ligula).

The hectocotylus is usually but not always the 3rd arm on the right. If there are more than one, the other is usually the 3rd arm on the left.

On hectocotylus, the suckers stop some distance from the tip of the arm and the tip is modified to the ligula.



Please send us pictures of the arms from male and females for each species you catch.

Marine.discovery@vfa.vic.gov.au

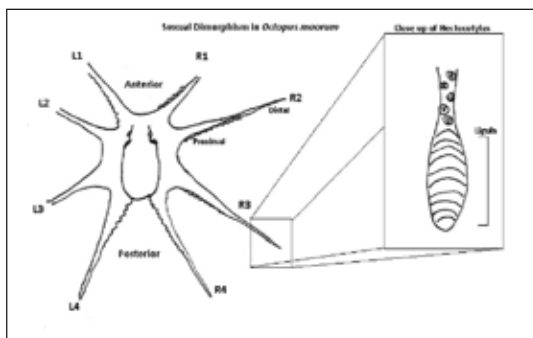
MAORI OCTOPUS: *Octopus maorum*



Identification – large muscular octopus (Australia's largest).

- size – total length 1 m
 - 30 cm maximum mantle length
 - 3 m total arm span
 - 10 kg
- oval-shaped body
- eyes large
- arms
 - long and muscular
 - the front pair being the longest and broadest
- skin covered in scattered large, unbranched fingers of skin (papillae) forming a spiky appearance in some postures
- colour
 - dark orange-brown
 - scattered with small white spots.

■ Hectocotylus (male modified tentacle)



■ Distribution (orange dots)



PALE OCTOPUS: *Octopus pallidus*



Image Graham Edgar

Identification – Medium sized octopus with short arms

- size
 - maximum size 54 cm
 - 15 cm maximum mantle length
 - 60 cm total arm span
- solid body
- arms
 - short
 - roughly the same size
- skin
 - pointed and branched fingers of skin can be raised on its body, head and above its eyes.
- colour
 - pale
 - numerous regular pavement-like patches over entire body and arms

- **Hectocotylus**
(male modified tentacle)
No image available

- **Distribution**
(orange dots)



COMMON SYDNEY or GLOOMY OCTOPUS: *Octopus tetricus*

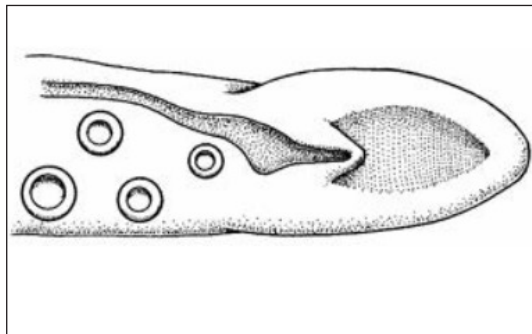


Image Andrew Green

Identification – Distinctive octopus with white eyes and orange-rust red arms

- size
 - 80 cm body length
 - 2 m total arm span (max)
- eyes
 - white iris (middle)
- colour
 - grey to mottled brown
 - orange-rust red colour on the surface of the arms that has the suckers
 - small pavement-like patches over body and arms
 - large papillae which can be raised over the body to produce a spiked appearance

■ Hectocotylus (male modified tentacle)

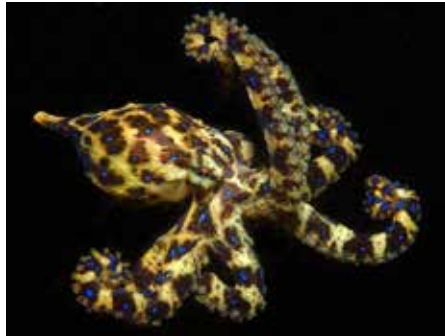


■ Distribution (orange dots)



Blue Ring Octopus *Hapalochlaena maculosa**

DEADLY



Identification – Distinctive blue rings appear when disturbed or cranky

- size – small
 - 22 cm body length (max)
 - 6 cm mantle length (max)
- body oval shaped
 - oval
 - muscular
 - short armed
- colour
 - brown to grey at rest
 - mottled pattern
 - bright blue rings when disturbed
 - skin can be raised to aid camouflage

- **Hectocotylus**
(male modified tentacle)
No image available

- **Distribution**
(orange dots)



References and images

<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/>

<https://australian.museum/learn/>

<https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/>

<https://reeflifesurvey.com/species/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Octopus>


Anderson, Roland; Christie, Barrett; Barord, Gregory; Peters, Alan; Rehling, Mark AZA
Giant Pacific Octopus Animal Care Manual. 2014/09/01

Jereb, P.; Roper, C.F.E.; Norman, M.D.; Julian K Finn (eds) Cephalopods of the world. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of cephalopod species known to date. Volume 3. *Octopods and Vampire Squids*. *FAO Species Catalogue for Fishery Purposes*. No. 4, Vol. 3. Rome, FAO. 2014. 370 p. 11 colour plates

APPENDIX 2: PROTECTED SPECIES INTERACTIONS

Protected Species Interactions Record / Log sheet

Victorian Fisheries Authority - PO Box 114, Queenscliff, Victoria, 3225



DAILY CATCH RECORD PART 2 -
PROTECTED SPECIES INTERACTIONS

Version No. 2

Month
Year

ALN

PFN

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Day of Month

Office Use Only

PI

Species - specify (Number)

Age (Number)

Location & gear

Life status (Number)

Animal fate (Number)

Time of interaction (HHMM) or unknown (U)

Fishing Stage: Set (S) Fishing (F) Retrieval (R) Unknown (U)

Hooked (H) Captured (C) Entangled (E) or Other (O)

Alive (A) Dead (D) Injured (I) Released (R) Euthanised (E) Taken to vet/shelter (S) Disposed of (D)

Area Code

Gear Code

Please complete this report at the end of each fishing day that an interaction has occurred. Please submit your completed monthly form to VFA by the 18th day of the following month. If you have had a significant interaction please contact the duty officer [0419 844 781] as soon as possible to report the details of the incident.

Name of Operator:
Signature:
Date: / /

Name of Operator:
Signature:
Date: / /

Comments:

Victorian Fisheries Authority - PO Box 114, Queenscliff, Victoria, 3225

09999OS99

OCTOPUS DAILY CATCH RECORD PART 2 – PROTECTED SPECIES INTERACTIONS

Version No. 1	
Month Year	07/2020
ALN	OC 999
PFN	9999

Name

Address

Please complete this report at the end of each fishing day that an interaction has occurred. Please submit your completed monthly form to VFA by the 18th day of the following month. If you have had a **significant interaction** please contact the duty officer [0419 844 781] as soon as possible to report the details of the incident.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Day of Month	Office Use Only PI	Species - specify (Number)				Age (Number)			Location & gear		Time of Interaction (HHMM) or unknown (U)	Fishing Stage: Set (S) Fishing (F) Retrieval (R) Unknown (U)	Hooked (H) Captured (C) Entangled (E) or Other (O)	Life status (Number)				Animal fate (Number)			
		Silver gull	Great white shark	Humpback whale				Adult (A)	Juvenile (J)	Unknown (U)				Area Code	Gear Code	Alive (A)	Dead (D)	Injured (I)	Released (R)	Euthanised (E)	Taken to vet/shelter (S)
1		1					1			G9	OP	U	R	E		1					1
8			1				1			J15	OP	11:30	F	E		1					1
Two separate interactions on the same day in different areas.																					
15		1						1		J16	TG	U	R	E		1					1
15				1			1			J15	TG	U	F	E	1			1			

Name of Operator:	
Signature:	
Date:	____ / ____ / ____
Name of Operator:	
Signature:	
Date:	____ / ____ / ____
Comments:	
Significant interaction involving a great white shark reported to the duty officer at 12pm on 8th	
Significant interaction involving a Humpback whale reported to the duty officer at 2:30pm on 15th	

Protected species interactions – species names

Marine fishing

All mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians that are native to Victoria are protected species. Any interaction with a member of a protected species must be reported on your protected species interaction form. With the exception of fish, these lists are not exhaustive lists of all protected species in Victoria.

Threatened species: Species listed with one asterisk (*) are listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998 as at October 2014.

Iconic species: Species listed with two asterisks (**) are iconic species.

Significant interactions: If a fisher has an interaction with

- a species marked with one (*) or two (**) asterisks, and/or
- an interaction with 10 or more animals of any protected species.

please contact the VFA Duty Officer as soon as possible on the phone number at the top of your protected species interaction form to report the “significant interaction”. Also report it in your logbook.

Short Fin Mako Sharks do not need to be reported in your protected species logbook if they are taken in Victorian waters (i.e. in waters within 3 nautical miles of the coast).

Short Fin Mako Sharks cannot be taken commercially in Commonwealth waters (i.e. in waters beyond 3 nautical miles of the coast) as they are listed as a migratory species under the Commonwealth’s Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and Appendix II of the Convention of Migratory Species.

If you have an interaction with a Short Fin Mako Shark in Commonwealth waters, you must report this on your protected species interaction form.

Mammals

Common Name	Scientific name	Common Name	Scientific name
Cetaceans		Seals	
Southern Right Whale*	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Humpback Whale*	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	New Zealand Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus fosteri</i>
Blue Whale*	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Southern Elephant Seal**	<i>Mirounga leonine</i>
Pilot Whale**	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Sub-Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus tropicalis</i>
Pygmy Right Whale**	<i>Caperea marginata</i>	Australian Sea Lion **	<i>Neophoca cinerea</i>
Killer Whale (Orca) **	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Leopard Seal **	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>
Sperm Whale**	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>		
Common Dolphin**	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>		
Bottlenose Dolphin**	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>		
Burrnunan Dolphin*	<i>Tursiops australis</i>		

Reptiles and Amphibians

Common Name	Scientific name	Common Name	Scientific name
Lizards		Turtles	
Swamp Skink*	<i>Egernia coventryi</i>	Leatherback Turtle*	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>

Sygnathids (seahorses, seadragons, pipefish)

Common Name	Scientific name	Common Name	Scientific name
Spotted Pipefish	<i>Stigmatopora argus</i>	Seahorse	
Widebody Pipefish	<i>Stigmatopora nigra</i>	Seadragon	
Other pipefish			

Fish

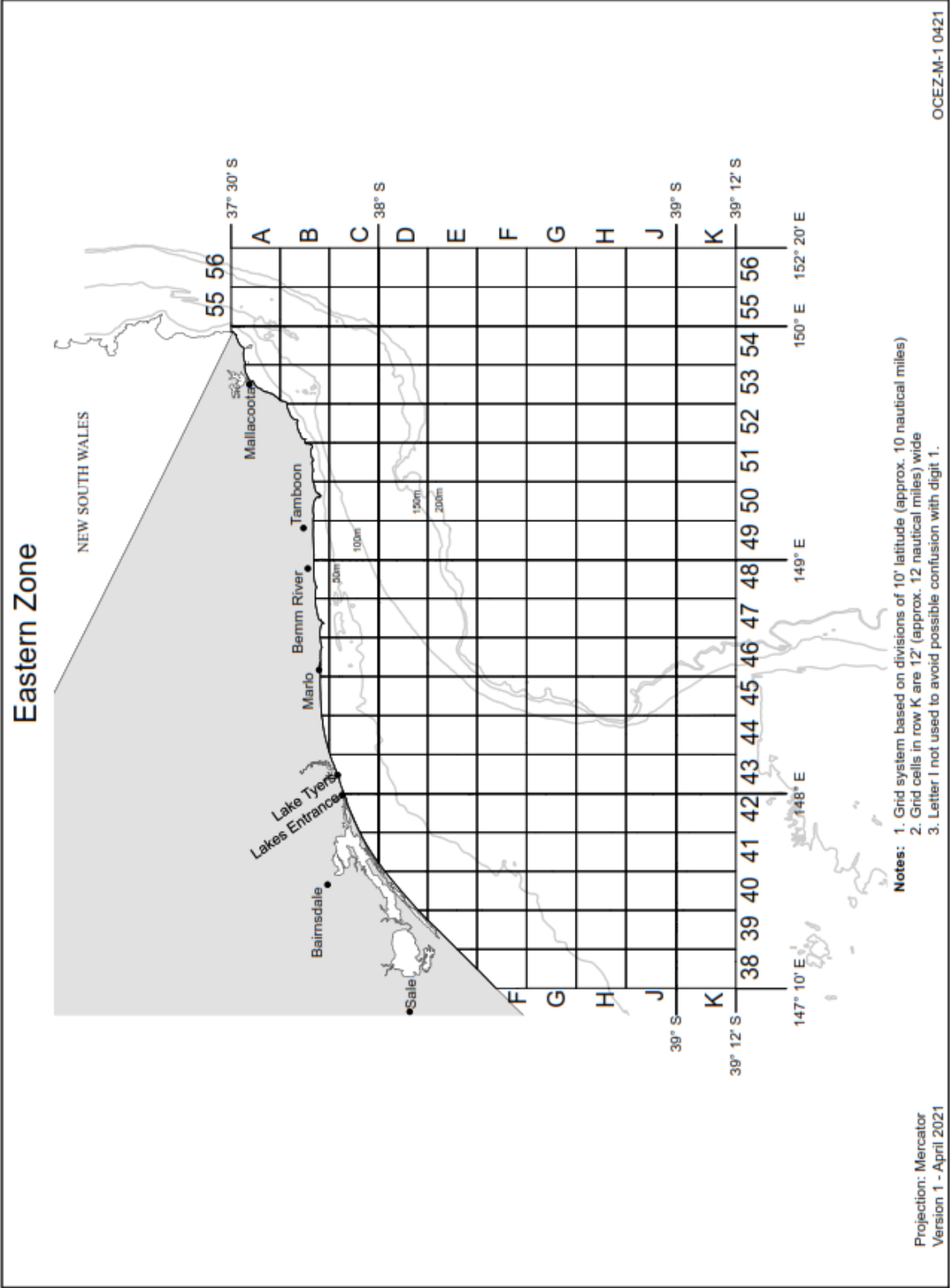
Common Name	Scientific name	Common Name	Scientific name
Australian Mudfish*	<i>Neochanna cleaver</i>	Long Fin Mako Shark*	<i>Isurus paucus</i>
Australian Whitebait* (Tasmanian Whitebait)	<i>Lovettia sealii</i>	Porbeagle Shark*	<i>Lamna nasus</i>
Cox's Gudgeon*	<i>Gobiomorphus coxii</i>	Pale Mangrove Goby*	<i>Mugliogobius adspersa</i>
Great White Shark*	<i>Charcarius taurus</i>	Short Fin Mako Shark*	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>
Grey Nurse Shark*	<i>Charcarius carcharias</i>	Southern Bluefin Tuna*	<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>

Birds

Common Name	Scientific name	Common Name	Scientific name
Australasian Gannet*	<i>Morus Serrator</i>	Lewin's Rail*	<i>Lewina pectoralis</i>
Australasian Little Bittern*	<i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>	Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>
Black Bittern*	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Little Egret*	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Brown Skua*	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>	Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>
Buller's Albatross*	<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	Little Penguin**	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>
Cape Petrel*	<i>Daption capense</i>	Little Tern*	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Caspian Tern*	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Northern Giant Petrel*	<i>Macronectes halli</i>
Eastern Reef Egret*	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Pacific Gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>
Eurasian Coot*	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>
Fairy Prion*	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>
Fairy Tern*	<i>Sterna nereis</i>	Short-tailed Shearwater*	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>
Flesh-footed Shearwater*	<i>Ardenna carneipes</i> / <i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	Shy Albatross*	<i>Diomedea cauta</i>
Great (black) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus noahollandie</i>
Great Egret*	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Southern Giant Petrel*	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>
Great Knot*	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Southern Royal Albatross*	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>
Great Winged Petrel*	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Terek Sandpiper*	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
Grey-headed Albatross*	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Wandering Albatross*	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>
Gull-billed Tern*	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	White-bellied Sea Eagle*	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
Hooded Plover*	<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>	White-chinned Petrel*	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Intermediate Egret*	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	Yellow-nosed Albatross*	<i>Diomedea chlororhynchos bassi</i>

APPENDIX 3: DAILY CATCH AND DAILY RESEARCH RECORDS

Areas codes



Octopus (Part 1) Instructions

OCTOPUS RESEARCH SAMPLING DAILY CATCH RECORD - PART 3 - COLUMN INSTRUCTIONS →	
PLEASE NOTE: Samples should be from at least 50 random pots per line and at least one line per area for each day fished.	
Section Break (Continuous)	
11 Day of Month: 11	Write the day of the month.
2 Operator's Personal File Number: 11	The Operator is the person in charge of the fishing operations and may not be the Access Licence Holder. If the person in charge of the fishing operations on any given day is not the Access Licence Holder, the Personal File Number of that Operator must be entered in this column. An Operator will be given their Personal File Number by contacting the Licensing Branch, Victorian Fisheries Authority.
3 Area Code: 11	Write the area code for the area in which you fished. If, on any day, you fished in more than one area, complete a separate line for each area. Refer to the map in your Octopus Daily Catch Record logbook for area codes.
4 Line Identifier Number: 11	Write the number identifying the longline hauled. Use the same line number as used in the Daily Catch Record - Part 1.
5 Number of Pots: 11	Write the number of pots sampled.
6 Pale Octopus: 11	Specify the weight (kilograms) of Pale Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
7 Pale Octopus: 11	Specify the number of Pale Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
8 Pale Octopus: 11	Specify the number of female Pale Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
9 Pale Octopus: 11	Specify the number of sample pots that have octopus eggs in them.
10 Gloomy Octopus: 11	Specify the weight (kilograms) of Gloomy Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
11 Gloomy Octopus: 11	Specify the number of Gloomy Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
12 Gloomy Octopus: 11	Specify the number of female Gloomy Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
13 Gloomy Octopus: 11	Specify the number of sample pots that have octopus eggs in them.
14 Maori Octopus: 11	Specify the weight (kilograms) of Maori Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
15 Maori Octopus: 11	Specify the number of Maori Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
16 Maori Octopus: 11	Specify the number of female Maori Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
17 Maori Octopus: 11	Specify the number of sample pots that have octopus eggs in them.
Signature: 11	The Operator(s) or Access Licence Holder must sign and date this return in the space provided to verify that the information given is a true and accurate record of the month's fishing activity. If there is more than one Operator, each Operator is responsible for the information associated with their fishing activities.
Comments: 11	Provide any comments relevant to your research sampling.

OCTOPUS – DAILY CATCH RECORD – PART 1

[illegible]

Octopus completed catch and effort example

Octopus Licence Holders – How to report the line number identifier

On each fishing day you must:

1. Give a different 'line number identifier' to every longline you haul in on that day (1, 2, 3, 4, ...)
2. Fill in this same 'line number identifier' on a new row in both of your Octopud logbooks.
Column 13 in Daily catch record and column 4 in Octopus research sampling logbook.

3. Complete the row in both logbooks with the data required on your catch from the longline.

Using the same number in both logbookd allows us to link up all the date on each longline that you haul each day.

Below is a colour coded example to show how to record your catch data from each longline of octopus pots hauled on a fishing day.
Rows with the same colour in each logbook are for the same longline.

Octopus Daily Catch Record – Example

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Day of Month	Boat Registration	Fishing Zone Code	Area Code	Port Code	Operators Personal File Number	Gear Code	Number of Pots	Total Soak Time	Please Circle		Interaction (Y/N)	Line Identifier Number	Pale Octopus			Gloomy Octopus			Maori Octopus			Quota Management		
									Metres	Fathoms			Depth Minimum	Depth Maximum	Total Weight (kg)	Total Number	Discards	Total Weight (kg)	Total Number	Discards	Total Weight (kg)	Total Number	Discards	Post Landing Confirmation Number
12	XXX	EZ	E40	20	9999	OP	1000	8	28	33	N	1	78	54									1365	
12	XXX	EZ	E40	20	9999	OP	1000	19	12	25	N	2	81	61								94427	1287	AA
13	XXX	EZ	E40	20	7777	OP	1000	7	22	37	N	4	70	53									1217	
13	XXX	EZ	D41	20	7777	OP	1000	7	20	38	N	5	90	77	2								1127	
13	XXX	EZ	C43	20	7777	OP	1000	12	24	27	N	6	49	40								60436	1078	AA

Octopus Research Instructions

OCTOPUS RESEARCH SAMPLING DAILY CATCH RECORD - PART 3 - COLUMN INSTRUCTIONS	
PLEASE NOTE: Samples should be from at least 50 random pots per line and at least one line per area for each day fished.	
Section Break (Continuous)	
1	Day of Month: Write the day of the month.
2	Operator's Personal File Number: The Operator is the person in charge of the fishing operations and may not be the Access Licence Holder. If the person in charge of the fishing operations on any given day is not the Access Licence Holder, the Personal File Number of that Operator must be entered in this column. An Operator will be given their Personal File Number by contacting the Licensing Branch, Victorian Fisheries Authority.
3	Area Code: Write the area code for the area in which you fished. If, on any day, you fished in more than one area, complete a separate line for each area. Refer to the map in your Octopus Daily Catch Record logbook for area codes.
4	Line Identifier Numbers: Write the number identifying the longline hauled. Use the same line number as used in the Daily Catch Record - Part 1. Complete a separate row for each longline.
5	Number of Pots: Write the number of pots sampled.
6	Pale Octopus: Specify the weight (kilograms) of Pale Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
7	Pale Octopus: Specify the number of Pale Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
8	Pale Octopus: Specify the number of female Pale Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
9	Pale Octopus: Specify the number of sample pots that have octopus eggs in them.
10	Gloomy Octopus: Specify the weight (kilograms) of Gloomy Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
11	Gloomy Octopus: Specify the number of Gloomy Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
12	Gloomy Octopus: Specify the number of female Gloomy Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
13	Gloomy Octopus: Specify the number of sample pots that have octopus eggs in them.
14	Maori Octopus: Specify the weight (kilograms) of Maori Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
15	Maori Octopus: Specify the number of Maori Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
16	Maori Octopus: Specify the number of female Maori Octopus caught and retained from sample pots.
17	Maori Octopus: Specify the number of sample pots that have octopus eggs in them.
	Signature: The Operator(s) or Access Licence Holder must sign and date this return in the space provided to verify that the information given is a true and accurate record of the month's fishing activity. If there is more than one Operator, each Operator is responsible for the information associated with their fishing activities.
	Comments: Provide any comments relevant to your research sampling.

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Completed Octopus Research Sampling Daily Catch Record

OCTOPUS RESEARCH SAMPLING DAILY CATCH RECORD - EXAMPLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Day of Month	Operator's Personal File Number	Area Code	Line Identifier Number	Number of Traps Sampled	Pale Octopus					Gloomy Octopus					Maori Octopus				
					Total Weight (kg)	Total Number	Number of Females	Weight of Females (kg)	Number of Pots/Traps with Eggs	Total Weight (kg)	Total Number	Number of Females	Weight of Females (kg)	Number of Pots/Traps with Eggs	Total Weight (kg)	Total Number	Number of Females	Weight of Females (kg)	Number of Pots/Traps with Eggs
12	9999	E40	1	50	10	32	8	6	21										
12	9999	E40	2	50	22	38	16	8	10										
13	7777	E40	4	50	7	12	20	10	3										
13	7777	D41	5	50	9	19	7	5	6										
13	7777	C43	6	50	6	15	6	11	9										

APPENDIX 4: CATCH DISPOSAL RECORD

COMPLETING A CATCH DISPOSAL RECORD (CDR)

A catch disposal record(s) must be completed by the Access Licence holder or operator to account for, and to accompany from the landing site, all fish landed under the licence.

You must complete all details of the CDR, including your signature, on both the original and duplicate copies.

You must also write the post landing confirmation number issued to you at the conclusion of the landing report onto each CDR. The confirmation number will be provided to you by the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

It is an offence to provide false or misleading information on these records.

Using the CDR

This book does not require carbon paper. Place the cardboard flap under the duplicate page to prevent marking of the next record. All entries must be made with a ball point pen.

If an error occurs in completing a CDR, the words "ERROR – CANCELLED" must be written across the CDR, the next sequentially numbered record is used, and the original of the cancelled record and the duplicate copy are retained in the book.

When must the CDR be completed?

You must complete the CDR(s) before the fish is moved from the place of landing or delivered for processing.

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO ALLOW FISH TO LEAVE THE PLACE OF LANDING, OR ENTER ANY PREMISES WHERE FISH IS PROCESSED OR HELD, BEFORE A CATCH DISPOSAL RECORD IS FULLY AND ACCURATELY COMPLETED.

Who needs the completed CDR?

You must give the original CDR to the purchaser/transporter to accompany the fish from the point of landing.

It is an offence for a person to receive fish directly from a licence holder at the place of landing without also holding the relevant original catch disposal record for that fish.

You must retain the duplicate copy of the CDR in the book.

What do I do if there is more than one purchaser/transporter?

Where a catch is split between two or more purchasers/transporters at the point of landing, a separate CDR must be completed for each purchaser/transporter who receives fish direct from the access licence holder/operator at the point of landing.

What do I do if I transport the Fish myself?

If the access licence holder/operator is the transporter of the Fish from the place of landing, then his/her details must be entered in that section of the CDR titled 'Name of Purchaser/Transporter' and 'Address of Purchaser/Transporter'.

Other important rules

It is a condition of your Access licence that you ensure that:

- The duplicate copy of each CDR remains in the book and is made available to an Authorised Officer upon request.

- All completed and unused CDR duplicates are retained in the catch disposal record book and that the CDRs and books are retained for 3 years.
- The catch disposal record book is located on the boat or at the place of landing.
- You do not give, lend or make available to any person other than an authorised officer a CDR, a copy of a CDR or CDR book.
- You do not possess a signed CDR or copy unless all details of the CDR have been completed.
- You notify the Victorian Fisheries Authority if the CDR book is lost.

What about subsequent transactions?

Any person subsequently selling any quantity of Fish **for the purpose of resale** must provide a receipt that contains the following details:

(a) any one or both of the following details —

- (i) the name and net weight (in kilograms) of each species of fish sold;
- (ii) if the fish are whole or in the form of carcass, the name and total number of each species of fish sold;

(b) a description of the form of the fish sold and, if processed, the manner in which the fish have been processed;

(c) the date of the sale of the fish;

(d) the price per kilogram, price per packet or price per unit of each species of fish sold;

(e) the total sales value of each species of fish sold;

(f) the full name and address of the seller of the fish;

(g) the full name and address of the purchaser of the fish;

(h) in respect of each sale of fish, a unique identifying number allocated to the sale, being a number that is one of a sequence of unique identifying numbers where each subsequent sale is allocated the next number in the sequence;

(i) if the sale of fish is by the holder or a person acting on behalf of the holder of a commercial fishery licence or permit, the licence number or permit number of that licence or permit;

Any person subsequently selling any quantity of Fish for a **purpose other than resale** must provide a receipt that contains the following details:

(a) the date of the sale of the fish;

(b) the quantity of fish sold;

(c) a description of the fish sold;

(d) the total price paid for the fish;

(e) the full name and address of the seller of the fish;

(f) if the sale of fish is by the holder or a person acting on behalf of the holder of a commercial fishery licence or permit —

- (i) the licence number or permit number of the licence or permit;
- (ii) a description of the form of the fish sold and, if processed, the manner in which the fish have been processed.

Further information

For further information on completing the CDR or your regulatory requirements when fishing, please contact your local Victorian Fisheries Office.

Victorian Catch Disposal Record

Book:

Page:

Licence No:

ACCESS LICENCE HOLDER OR OPERATOR TO COMPLETE

Licence Holder/Operator:		PFN:	
--------------------------	--	------	--

Port of Landing or Weigh Point:		Confirmation No. :	
Time landing completed:		Date: (DD/MM/YY)	

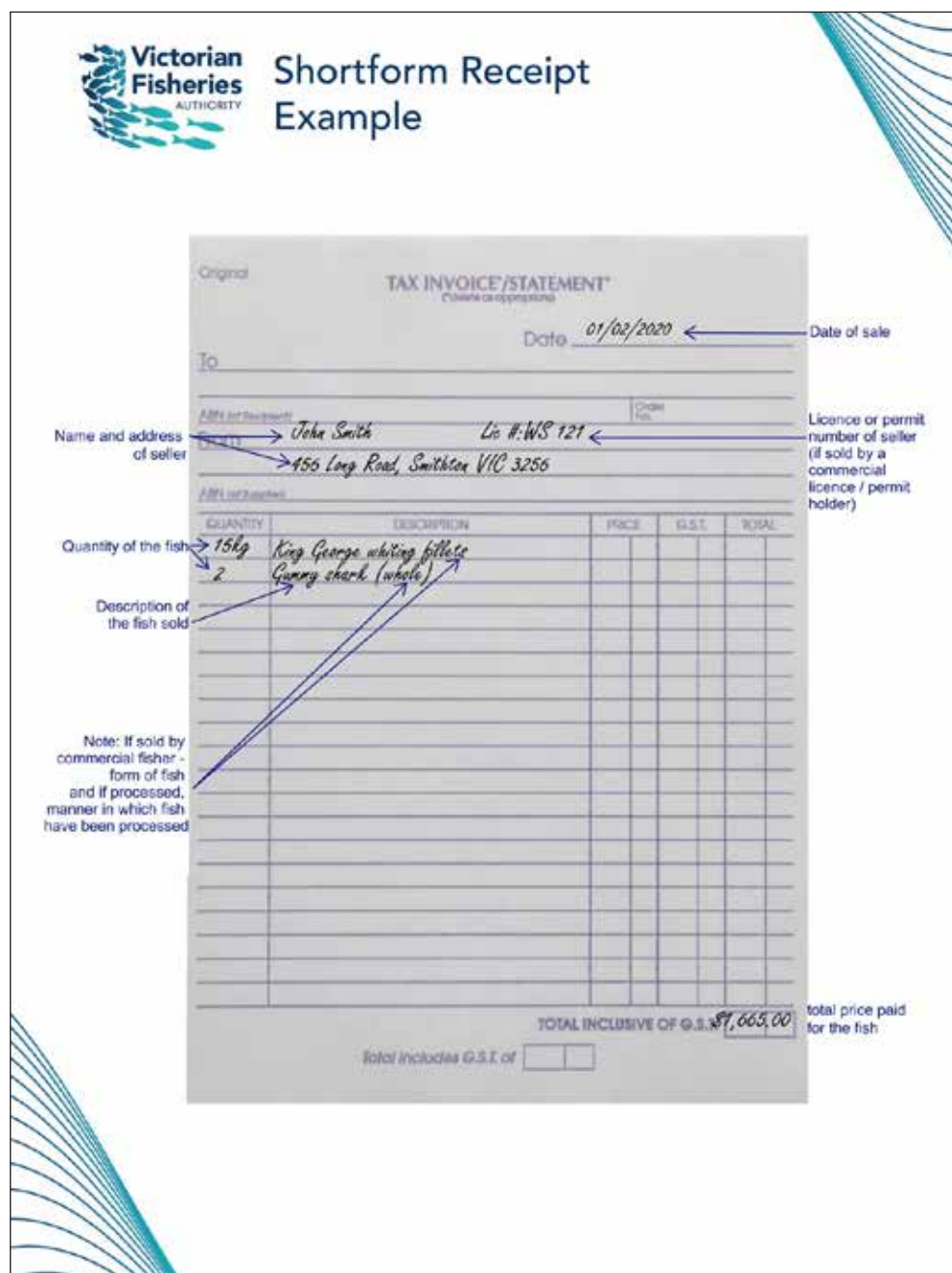
Catch accompanying this receipt		
Species	Accurate weight (kg)	Number

Name of Transporter:
Name of Purchaser:
Address of Purchaser:

Licence Holder or Operator	
<p>I declare that :</p> <p><i>I have personally weighed the amount of fish specified above. All details were filled out by me and are accurate and complete in every respect.</i></p>	
Print Name:	Signature:
PFN: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	Date: / /

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE PURCHASER/TRANSPORTER:
Fisheries Regulations state that this receipt must be retained while the fish are in your possession.

Original to be retained by purchaser\transporter; duplicate copy to be retained in the book by licence holder\operator.



A receipt for further on-sale of fish (long form)

Victorian Fisheries AUTHORITY Longform Receipt Non Abalone Example

Original TAX INVOICE/STATEMENT (Not valid as supporting) 01

Date 01/02/2020

To ACME Seafoods
123 Smith Street, Geelong VIC 3225

Name and address of purchaser

Name and address of seller John Smith
456 Long Road, Smithton VIC 3256

Licence or permit number of seller (if sold by a commercial licence / permit holder) WS 121

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	G.S.T.	TOTAL
15kg	King George whiting fillets	\$55.00		\$825.00
2	Gummy shark (whole)	\$420.00		\$840.00
TOTAL INCLUSIVE OF G.S.T.				\$1665.00

Total includes G.S.T. of

Note: Long-form receipts can be completed in 2 stages.

Stage 1: Licence holder fills in all of the required fields except for the fields:

- name and address of the purchaser,
- price per unit measure (kilogram, packet, etc) for each species, and
- total price paid for each species.

The receipt along with fish is given to a person solely for transportation or storage for later sale (i.e not a purchaser)

Stage 2: The seller of the fish, once a sale has been completed, must ensure **these details** are given to the purchaser of the fish.

Example of Fish movement record to document fish on a licenced premise

Victorian Fisheries AUTHORITY

Fish Movement Record Non Abalone Example

Original 51 Unique sequential ID number

01/01/2020 ← Date of acquisition

Received from: John Smith Licence: WS121 ← Licence or permit number (if acquired from a commercial licence / permit holder)

John Smith

Quantity of the fish → 5 kg Flathead filets ← Form of the fish and, if processed, the manner of processing

2kg King George whiting - whole

APPENDIX 6: MINIMISING WHALE ENTANGLEMENTS IN VICTORIA

Minimising whale entanglements in Victoria

Information for rock lobster fishers

What is an entanglement?

Whales or dolphins can get tangled and caught in fishing gear like ropes and nets. Entangled whales or dolphins can drag fishing gear long distances.

Entanglements inhibit the whale's or dolphin's normal behaviour. It can limit or prevent feeding or swimming. Entanglements cause significant injuries and can be fatal.

Who responds to entanglement?

Victoria's Emergency Management Framework classifies whale and dolphin entanglements as declared emergencies.

Victoria's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is the lead government agency that responds to entanglements. Parks Victoria and the Victorian Fisheries Authority support DELWP.

Established protocols direct the response to entanglements. Disentanglement requires trained and accredited staff, specialised equipment and vessels. Fishers should never attempt to approach or free an entangled animal.

Whale and dolphins in Victoria

A variety of whale and dolphin species inhabit Victorian waters. Entanglements can occur when whales and dolphins move into rock lobster fishing areas.

Whales most likely to entangle in rock lobster gear are:

Southern right whale



- slow swimming and migrate through coastal waters
- breed in-shore in coastal waters during winter (between May to October)

- have rough callosities on its head and very long baleen plates, which can get tangled in gear
- are uncooperative and often aggressive making it difficult to disentangle.

Humpback whale



- slow swimming
- migrate through Victorian waters during May to July and November to December
- have increased in numbers in recent years and are now more likely to entangle
- have very long flippers with knobby leading edges, which get caught in gear.

Blue Whale



- quick swimming
- feed in Victorian waters from December to May
- co-exist alongside Rock lobster fisheries in the Bonney Up-welling
- are at risk of having gear tangled in their baleen plates and flippers when they feed
- are large and powerful making it very difficult to disentangle.

Minimising whale entanglements in Victoria

Minimising entanglements

To reduce the risk of entanglement with rock lobster fishing gear, fishers must:

- Understand species at high risk of entanglement, their migratory patterns and routes
- Consider the placement of fishing gear and whenever possible, move it away from headlands
- Keep pot ropes tight to minimise likelihood of entanglement. Slack pot ropes increase risk of entanglement.

Adjust rope to the smallest length appropriate to the depth and strength of tide. This reduces the risk of entanglement, especially in inshore waters. Coil the excess slack and tie-up close to floats. The amount of slack in the rope should be the minimum required to allow for the safe recovery and lifting of pots.

- Regularly check pots, as per standard fishing practice
- Do not leave pots in the water when you are not fishing for long periods of time
- Avoid setting pots in clusters and consider the use of negatively buoyant rope

What do I do if I find an entangled whale or dolphin?

If a whale or dolphin becomes entangled:

- **Move away** and watch its behaviour
- **Record the location**, the species, type of entanglement and any other details
- **DO NOT** attempt to remove any of the entanglement or free the animal
- **Report immediately to the Whale and Dolphin Hotline on 1300 136 017.**

- **Watch the situation.** Do not risk the safety of the vessel nor the entangled animal.

Whale strandings and vessel strikes are also classified as declared emergencies and must be reported.

Follow the same procedure to report a stranding or injured animal.

Where else do I need to report the entanglement?

Notify the VFA that you have had an interaction via Vic-eCatch and report the entanglement in your protected species interaction form. You must also notify the Operations Duty Officer as soon as possible on 0419 844 781.

What other things do I need to report?

Fishers may interact with a range of protected species. When they do, it is known as an incidental interaction. This includes ship strike and by-catch.

You must report all Incidental interactions on the Protected Species Interactions form.

Is there a penalty for an incidental interaction?

There is no penalty for incidental interactions:

- if they are accidents (i.e. not deliberate)
- if they occur in the normal course of fishing
- if you report the incident via Vic-eCatch and in the protected species interaction form.

This protection arises from orders under the *Fisheries Act 1989*, the *Wildlife Act 1975* and the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Further information

For further information on whale and dolphin emergencies go to <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/wildlife-emergencies/whale-and-dolphin-emergencies> or contact your local Victorian Fisheries Office.

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