

RLRAG #45

VFA Management Presentation

17 December 2025



Ewan Flanagan

Agenda



Item	Description	Lead	Timing
1.	Preliminaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Welcome and apologies 1.2 Overview of meeting and adoption of agenda 1.3 Minutes and actions from last meeting 	I Knuckey I Knuckey E Flanagan	10:00 – 10:15
2.	Management Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Future direction of RLRAG / MAC 2.2 Giant Crab Harvest Strategy Outcome 2.3 Eastern Rock Lobster Quota 	E Flanagan E Flanagan E Flanagan	10:15 – 10:30 10:30 – 10:45 10:45 – 11:00
3.	Recreational Reporting Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 2024/25 season results 3.2 2025/26 season update 	E Flanagan	11:00 – 11:30
Morning Tea			11:30 – 11:45
4.	Monitoring Program Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Data summary for 2024/25 season 	D Reilly	11:45 – 12:00
5.	Rock Lobster Stock Assessment Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Draft 2024/25 stock assessment results 5.2 Consideration of results and sector perspectives (including vessel efficiency discussion) 5.3 Application of harvest strategy 	K Hartmann	12:00 – 13:30
Lunch			13:30 – 14:00
6.	Giant Crab Stock Assessment Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1 Draft 2024/25 stock assessment results 6.2 Consideration of results and sector perspectives 6.3 Application of harvest strategy 	K Hartmann	14:00 – 14:30
7.	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 SRL Ltd update 7.2 SIV update 7.3 Coastal Indigenous Member update 	W Dredge M Wassnig N Barry	14:30 – 15:00

Actions – Meeting 42



	Action	Responsibility	Status / Timing
1	Draft minutes to be circulated for review.	Ewan	Completed
2	VFA to organise a compliance report be provided to the RLRAG every 6 months either via the presence of a compliance officer at meetings or a compliance presentation being provided to be presented at meetings.	Ewan	Ongoing / Planned for RLRAG 46
3	The RLRAG's independent chair to draft a letter to the VFA on behalf of the RLRAG expressing its concerns regarding the proposed VFA restructure.	Ewan	TBA
4	VFA to finalise draft vessel survey form to consider for implementation at February/March RLRAG meeting in 2026.	David	RLRAG 46
5	Klaas to provide a simplified explanation of nominal and standardised CPUE to attendees at port meetings.	Klaas	RLRAG 45
6	Klaas to analyse historic catch rates and subsequent impacts on biomass and present at the next RLRAG meeting.	Klaas	RLRAG 45
7	Next RLRAG meeting to have allocated time to discuss Eastern Zone harvest control rule review.	Ewan	Completed
8	Ewan to circulate Katie's presentation to the group, noting it is not yet available for public release	Ewan	Completed
9	Katie to research the effects of La Nina and El Nino weather patterns on larvae connectivity.	Katie / Klaas	TBA

Future Direction of RLRAG / MAC



Key objective in the current management plan is to form a Management Advisory Committee to recommend and deliver best practice fisheries management

- Based on this objective, and following AFMA guidelines, a revised RLRAG and new RLMAC structure has been developed

Key elements of new strategy:

- Maintaining independent resource assessment group focused on providing scientific advice (RLRAG)
- Broadening stakeholder input in assessing best practice fisheries management principles for the RL and GC fisheries (RLMAC)
- Separation between groups through independent members and chairs
- Two meetings per year for each group plus additional meetings as required
- Membership will be reduced compared to current RLRAG numbers

Giant Crab Harvest Strategy



Implementation

- New Harvest Strategy was implemented in June this year
- Final strategy is consistent with the version endorsed by the RLRAG
- Greater opportunity for growth with increased data collection
- Starting TACC of 8.5 tonnes, as per 2025/26 TACC
- 2024/25 Stock Assessment, and subsequent 2026/27 TACC, is the first to be guided by the new strategy
- A Giant Crab Management Plan review is planned to commence in 2026

Eastern Rock Lobster Catch



- The management plan aims to provide increased opportunity for targeting Eastern Rock Lobster
- *Action: Ensure adequate consultation with NSW Department of Primary Industries in determining Eastern Rock Lobster quota allocation*
- Current advice from NSW suggests fishing effort on the Victorian ERL stock is unlikely to impact key breeding stock in NSW
- Initial management of ERL catch it likely to be on a 12-month trial basis

Question for industry (mainly EZ): Is ERL catch likely to be targeted effort or bycatch when targeting SRL?

Recreational Reporting Program



2024/25 Season Summary

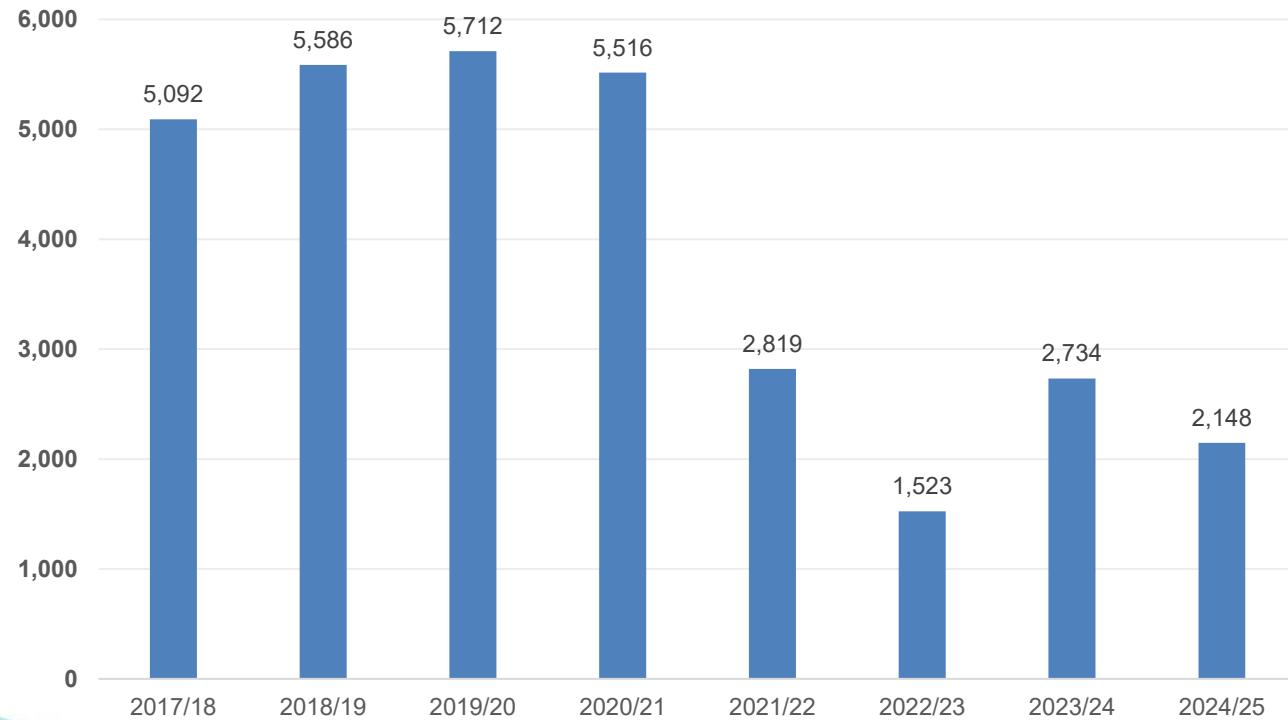
	Total	East	West
Total Registered Users	2,148		
Total RL Caught	2,328	1,118	1,210
Total Male	1,693	720	973
Total Female	607	378	229
Average Length (cm)	14.84	15.08	14.63
Average Weight (kg)	1.77	1.89	1.66
Total Weight (kg)	4,128	2,113	2,015

Recreational Reporting Program



Fisher Participation

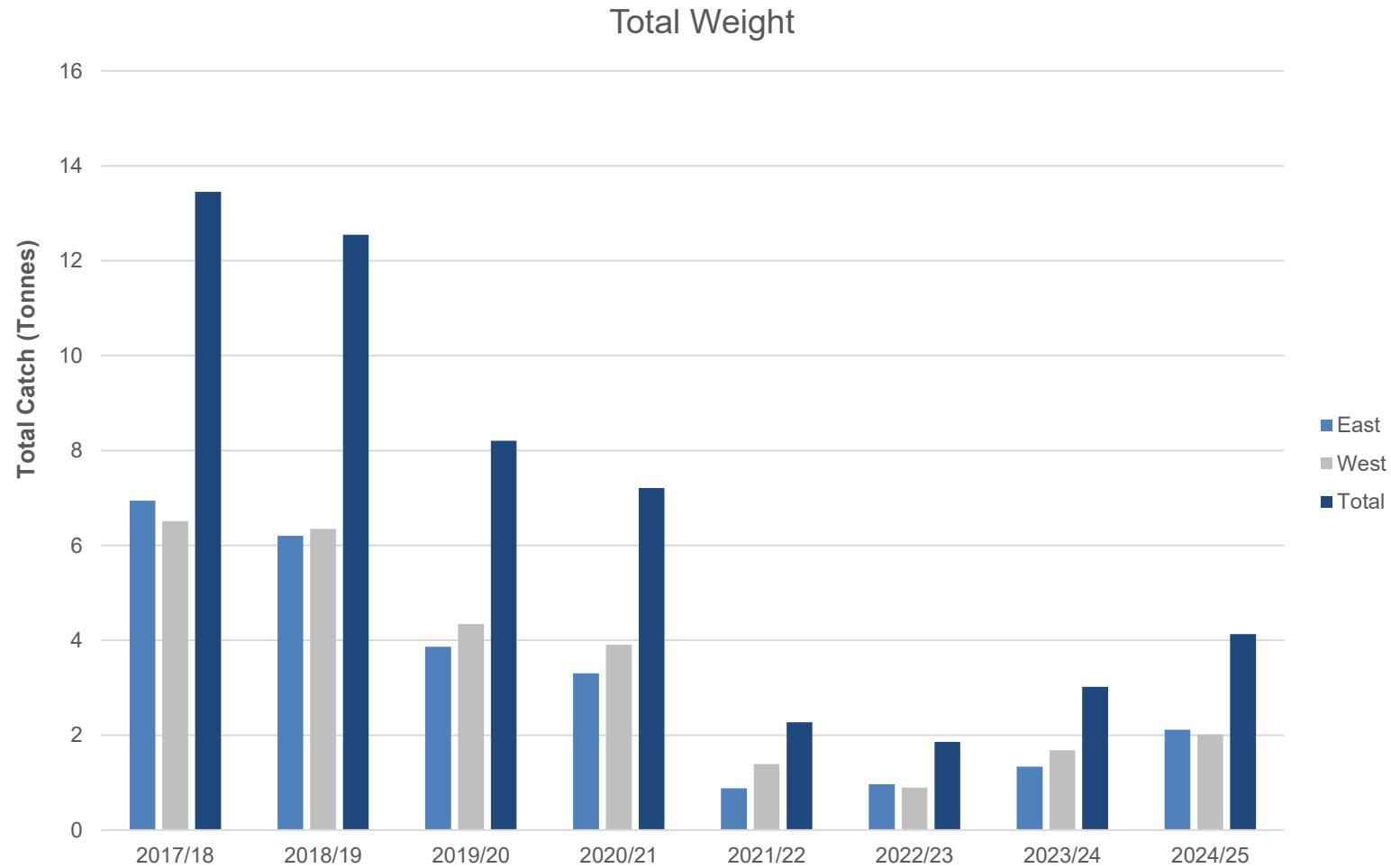
Program Participation



Recreational Reporting Program



Total Weight Harvested

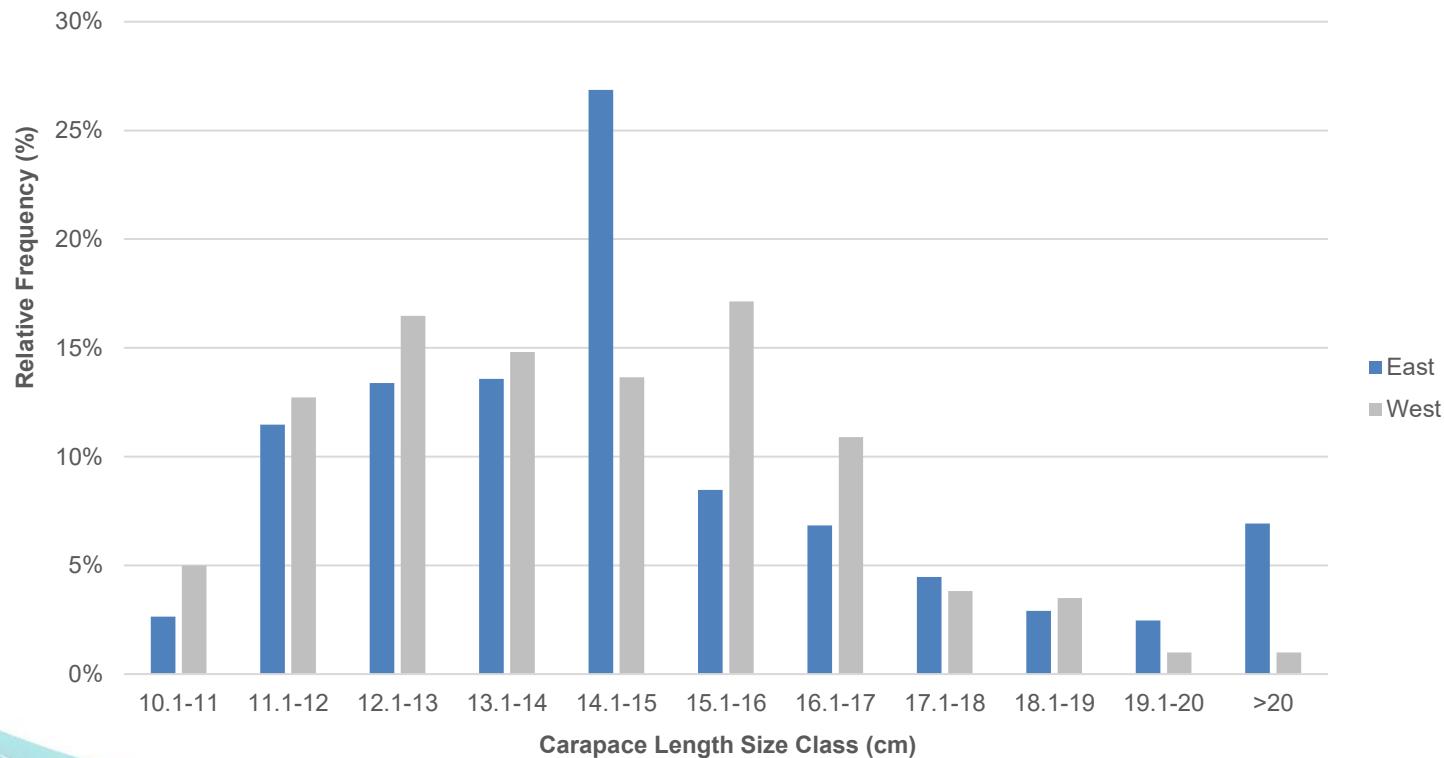


Recreational Reporting Program



Length Frequency Distribution

2024/25 Size Frequency Distribution
of Lobsters Harvested

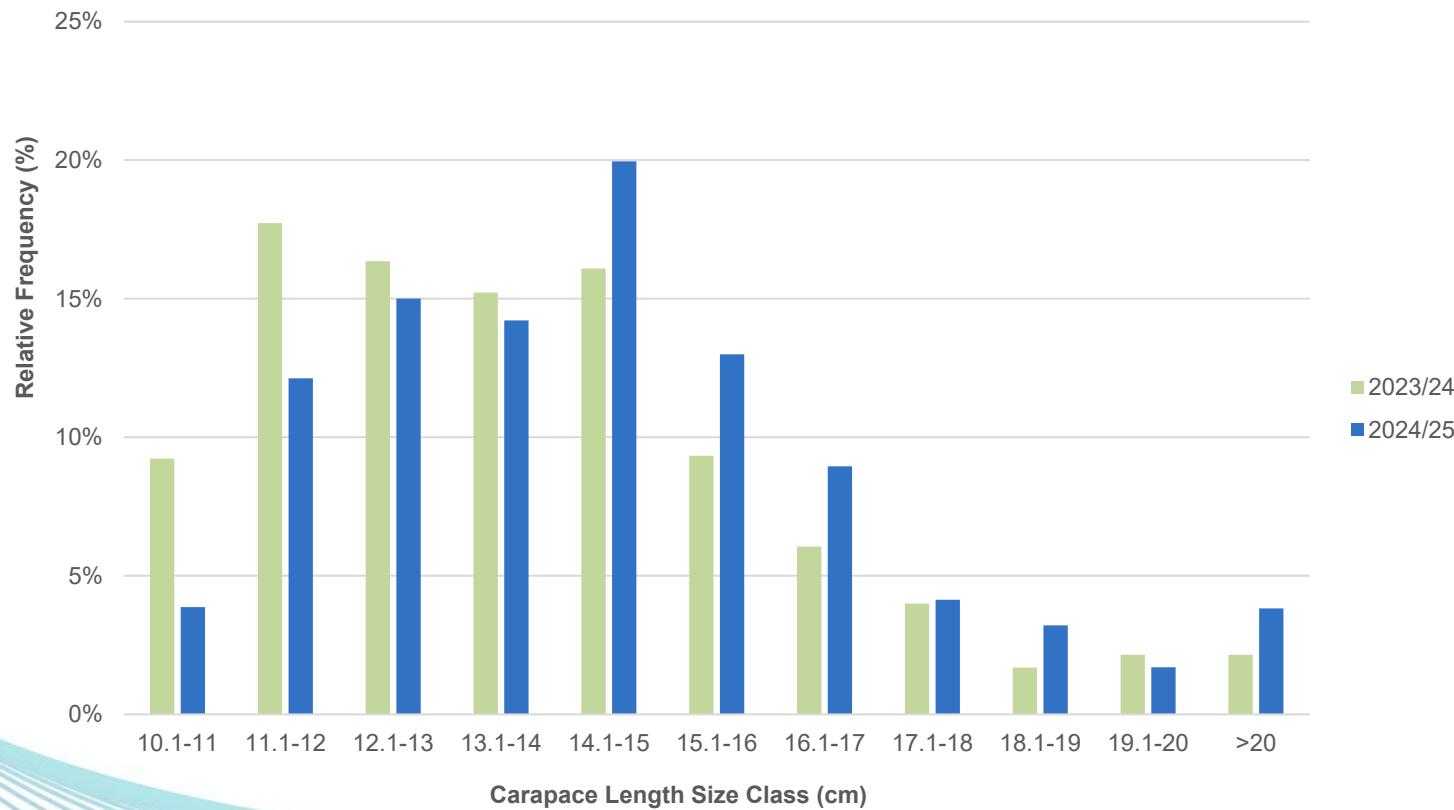


Recreational Reporting Program



Length Frequency Distribution – Season Comparison

Length Frequency Comparison
2023/24 & 2024/25

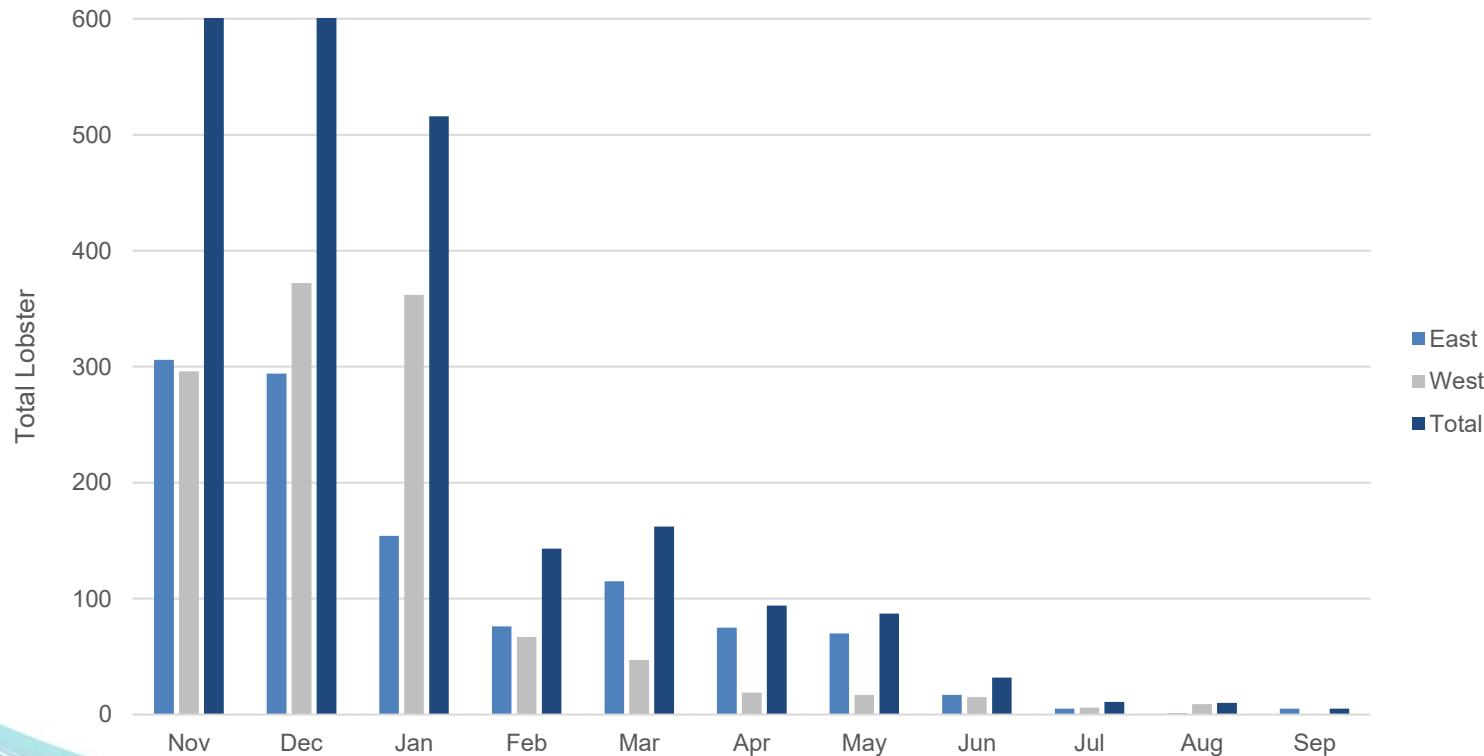


Recreational Reporting Program

Monthly Catch Distribution – 2024/25



Monthly Catch Distribution

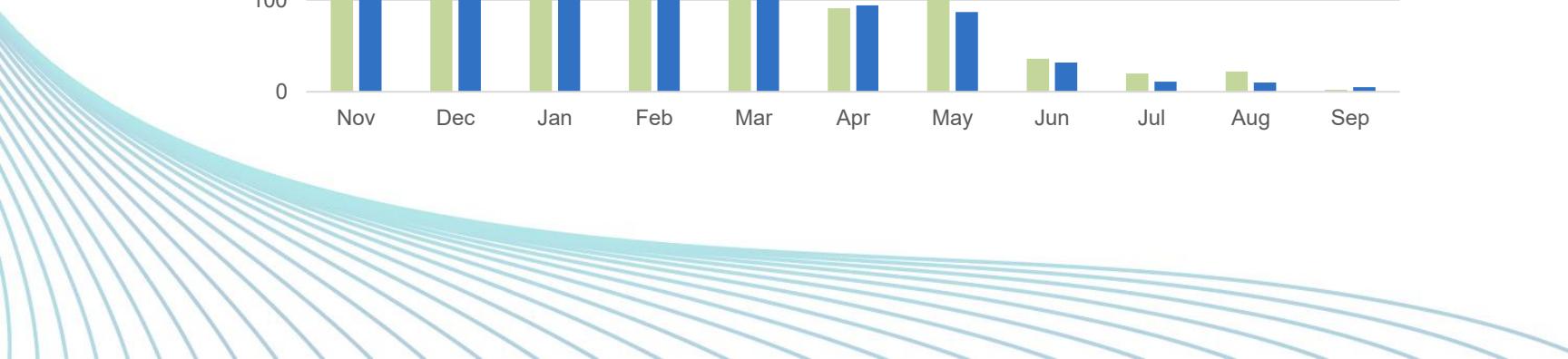
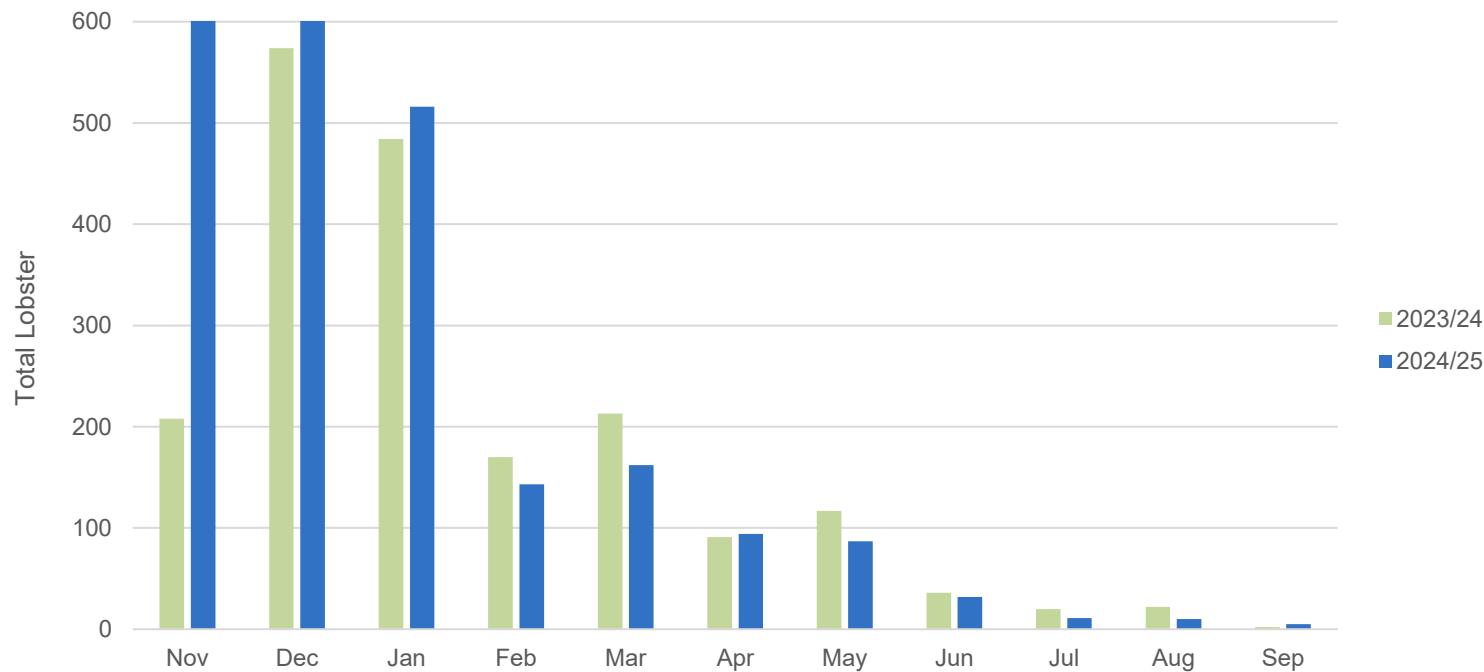


Recreational Reporting Program



Monthly Catch Distribution – Season Comparison

Monthly Catch Distribution Comparison
2023/24 & 2024/25



Recreational Reporting Program



2025/26 Season Update – 15 December 2025

	Total	East	West
Total Registered Users	613		
Total RL Caught	160	64	96
Total Male	110	38	72
Total Female	50	26	24
Average Length (cm)	14.63	14.94	14.42
Average Weight (kg)	2.11	2.03	2.16
Total Weight (kg)	337	130	207