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# RLRAG #45

## VFA Management Presentation

17 December 2025



Ewan Flanagan

# Agenda



Item	Description	Lead	Timing
<b>1.</b>	<b>Preliminaries</b>		
	1.1 Welcome and apologies	I Knuckey	10:00 – 10:15
	1.2 Overview of meeting and adoption of agenda	I Knuckey	
	1.3 Minutes and actions from last meeting	E Flanagan	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Management Update</b>		
	2.1 Future direction of RLRA / MAC	E Flanagan	10:15 – 10:30
	2.2 Giant Crab Harvest Strategy Outcome	E Flanagan	10:30 – 10:45
	2.3 Eastern Rock Lobster Quota	E Flanagan	10:45 – 11:00
<b>3.</b>	<b>Recreational Reporting Program</b>		
	3.1 2024/25 season results	E Flanagan	11:00 – 11:30
	3.2 2025/26 season update		
	<b>Morning Tea</b>		11:30 – 11:45
<b>4.</b>	<b>Monitoring Program Update</b>		
	4.1 Data summary for 2024/25 season	D Reilly	11:45 – 12:00
<b>5.</b>	<b>Rock Lobster Stock Assessment Results</b>		
	5.1 Draft 2024/25 stock assessment results	K Hartmann	12:00 – 13:30
	5.2 Consideration of results and sector perspectives (including vessel efficiency discussion)		
	5.3 Application of harvest strategy		
	<b>Lunch</b>		13:30 – 14:00
<b>6.</b>	<b>Giant Crab Stock Assessment Results</b>		
	6.1 Draft 2024/25 stock assessment results	K Hartmann	14:00 – 14:30
	6.2 Consideration of results and sector perspectives		
	6.3 Application of harvest strategy		
<b>7.</b>	<b>Other Business</b>		
	7.1 SRL Ltd update	W Dredge	14:30 – 15:00
	7.2 SIV update	M Wassnig	
	7.3 Coastal Indigenous Member update	N Barry	

# 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 RL RAG / 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 RL RAG and new RL MAC structure has been developed

## **Key elements of new strategy:**

- Maintaining independent resource assessment group focused on providing scientific advice (RL RAG)
- Broadening stakeholder input in assessing best practice fisheries management principles for the RL and GC fisheries (RL MAC)
- 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 RL RAG 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 RLRAAG
- 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 is 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

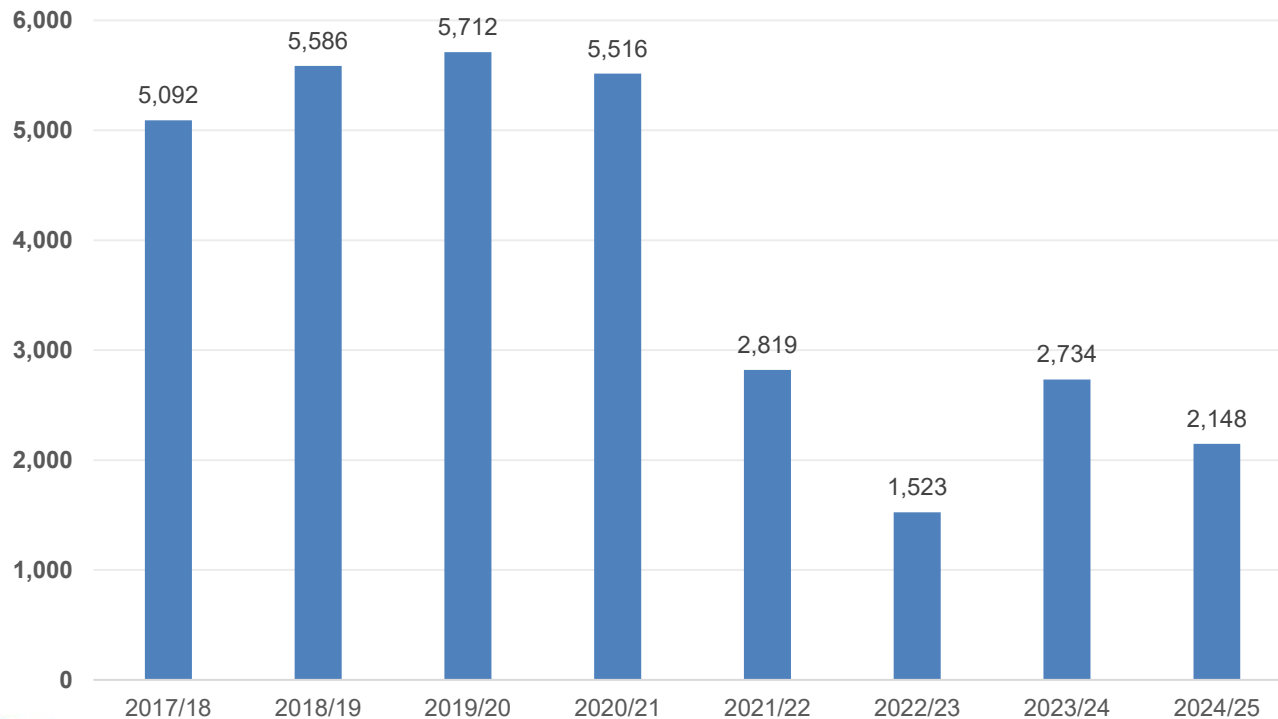
	Total	East	West
<b>Total Registered Users</b>	2,148		
<b>Total RL Caught</b>	2,328	1,118	1,210
<b>Total Male</b>	1,693	720	973
<b>Total Female</b>	607	378	229
<b>Average Length (cm)</b>	14.84	15.08	14.63
<b>Average Weight (kg)</b>	1.77	1.89	1.66
<b>Total Weight (kg)</b>	4,128	2,113	2,015

# Recreational Reporting Program



Fisher Participation

Program Participation

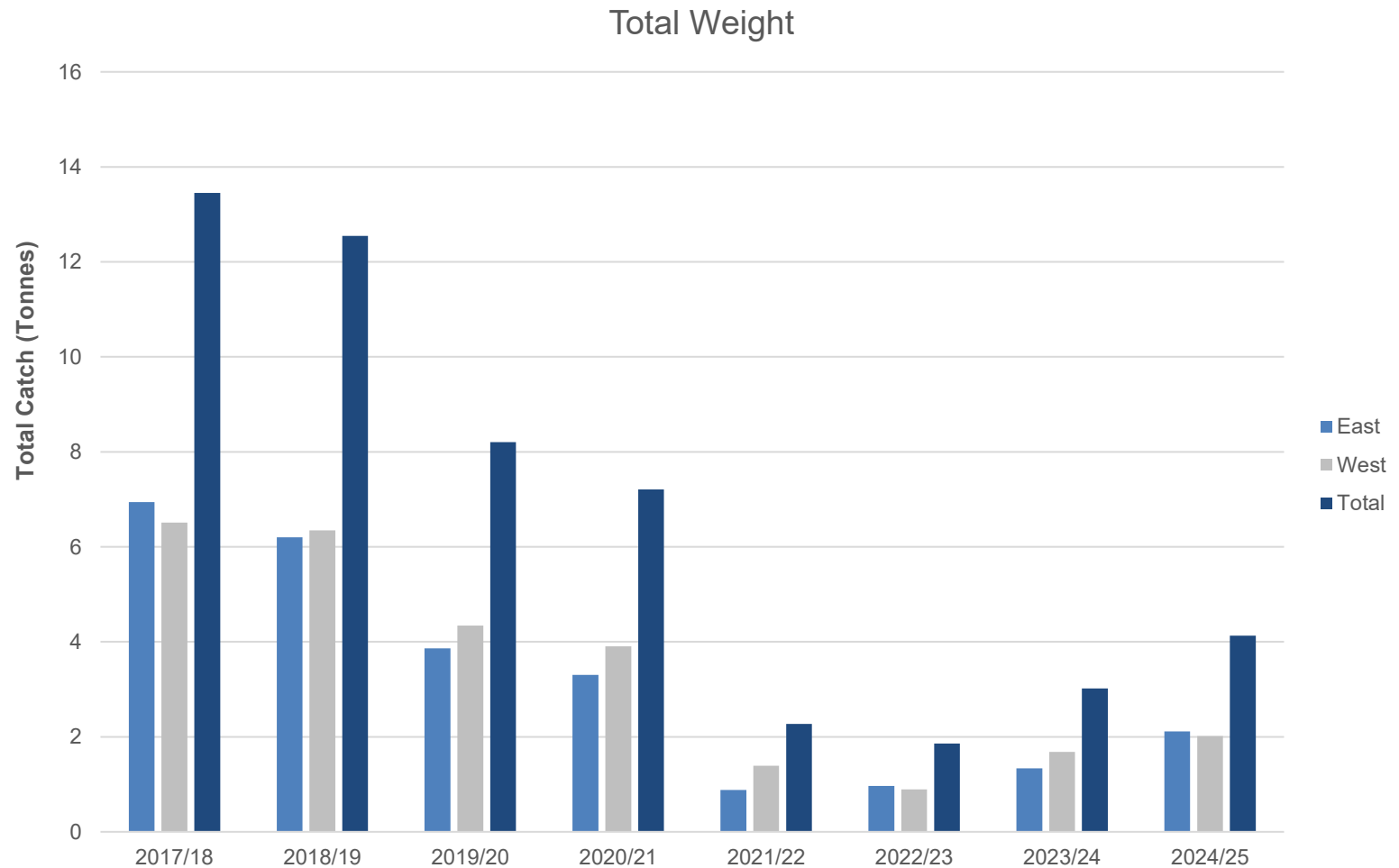




# Recreational Reporting Program



## Total Weight Harvested

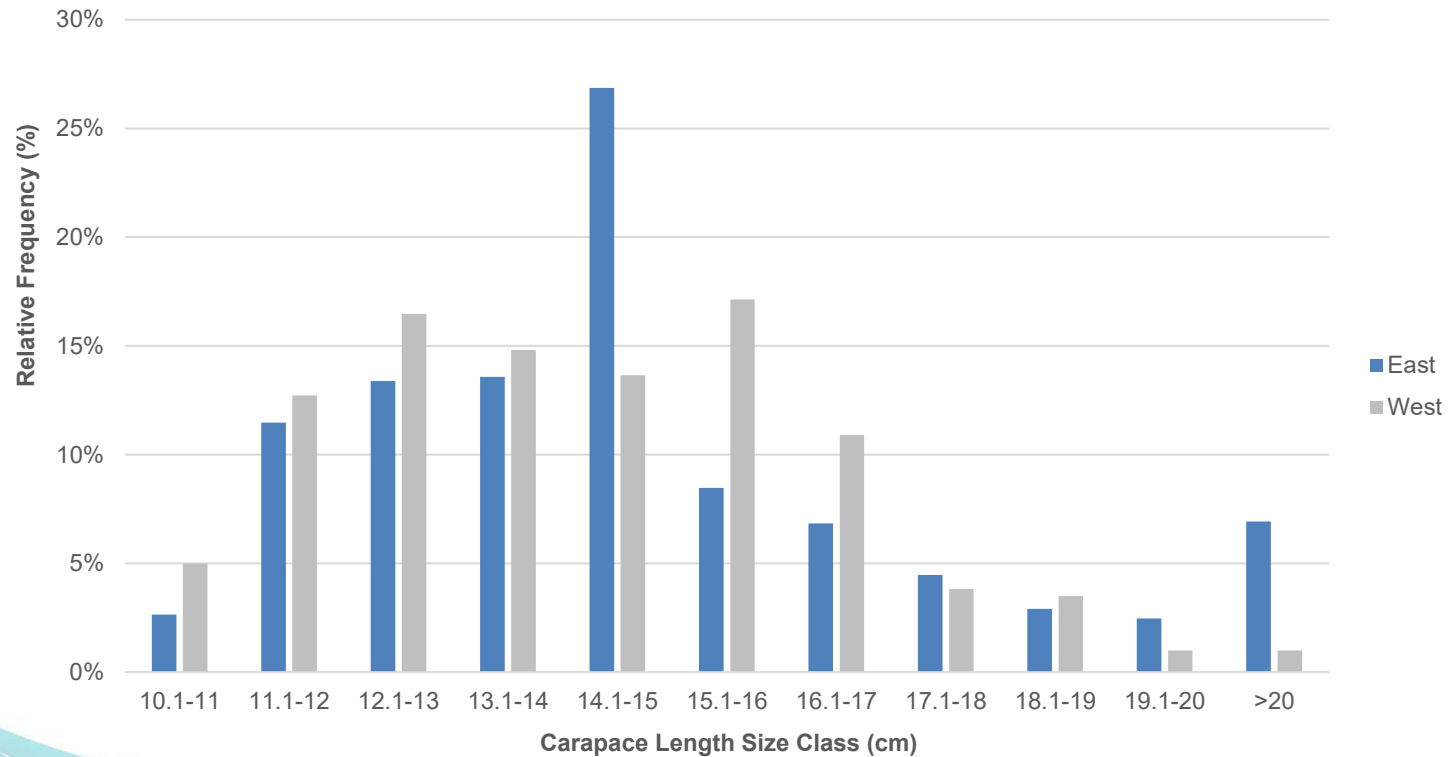


# Recreational Reporting Program



## Length Frequency Distribution

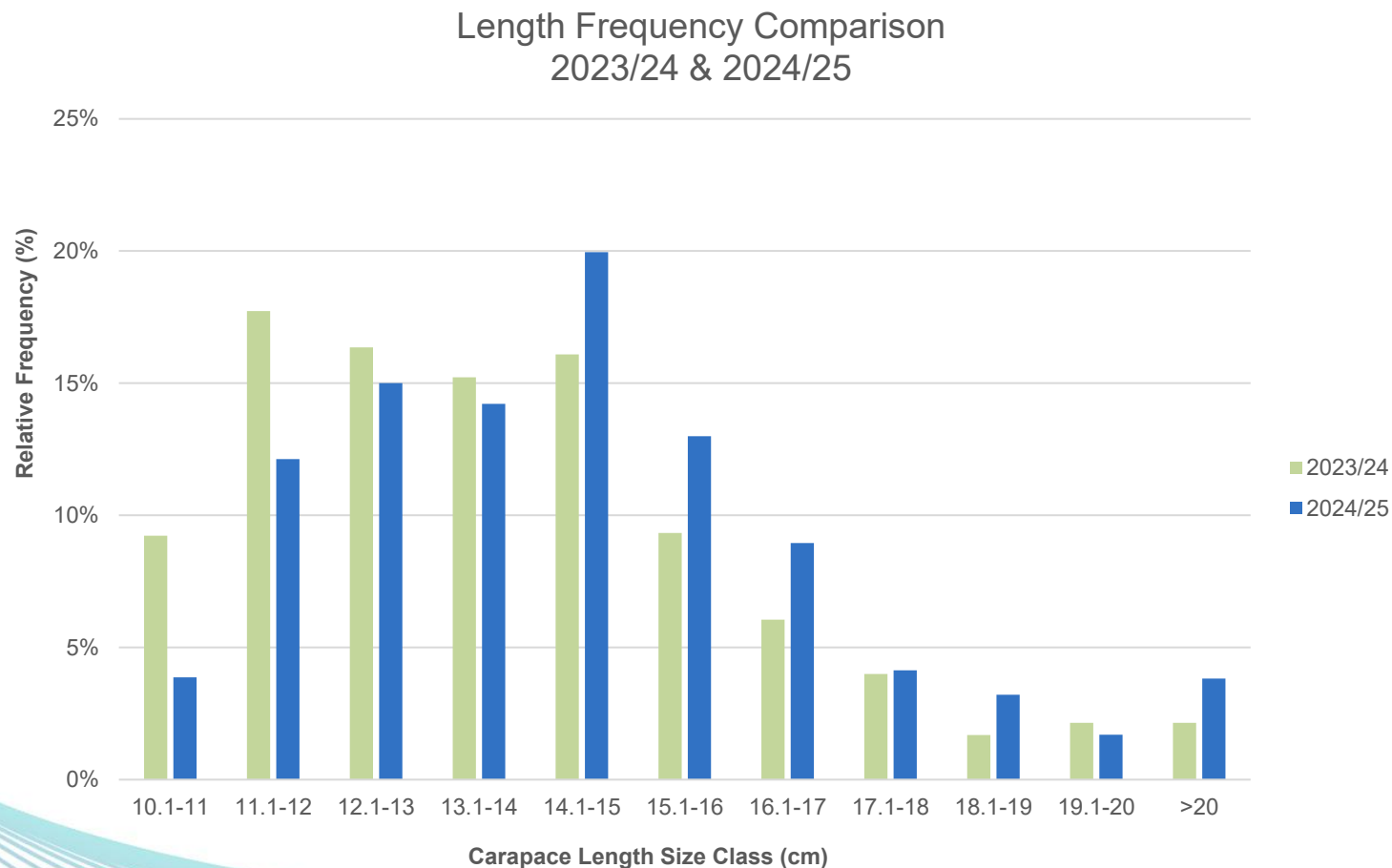
2024/25 Size Frequency Distribution  
of Lobsters Harvested



# Recreational Reporting Program



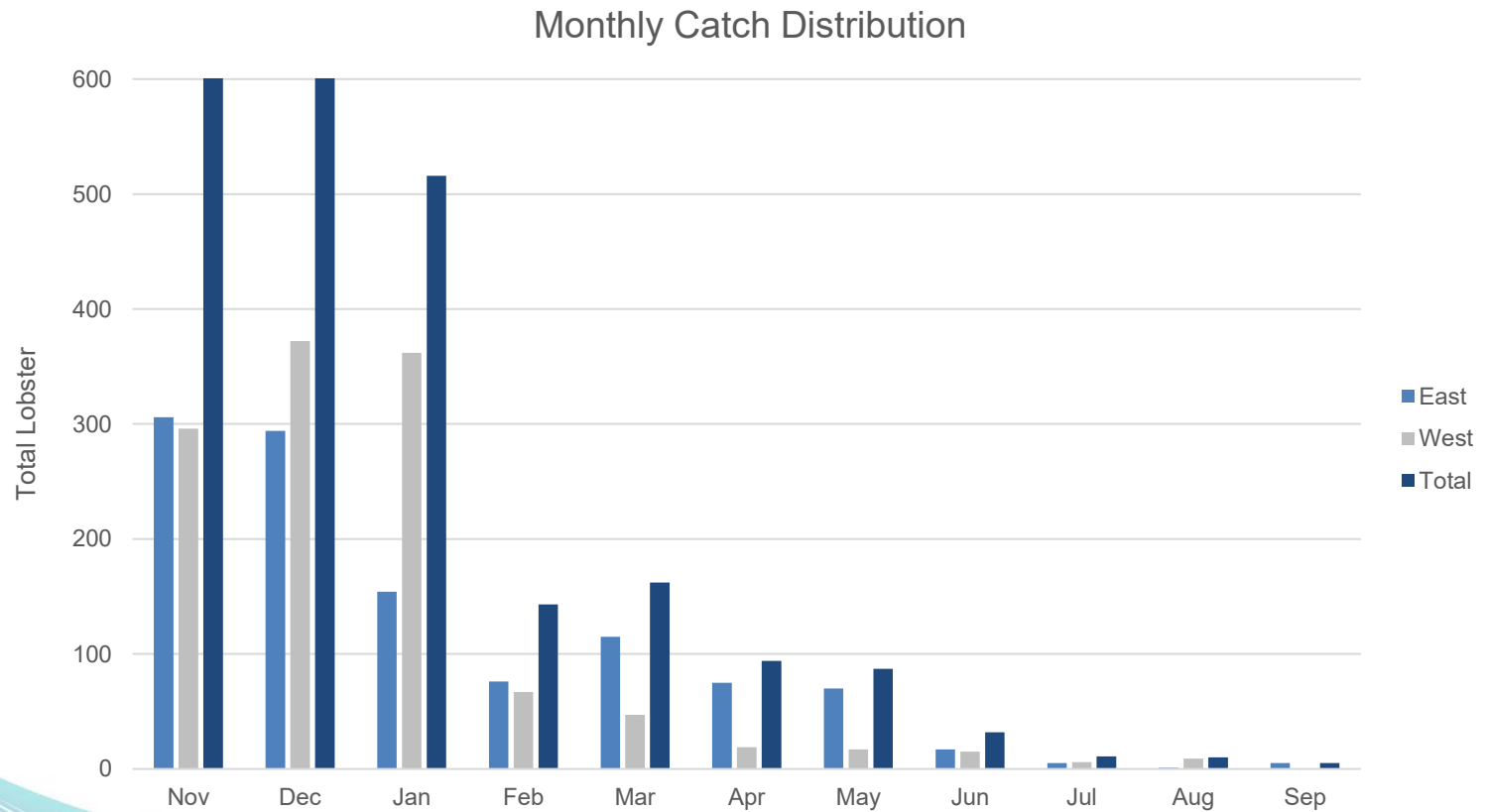
## Length Frequency Distribution – Season Comparison



# Recreational Reporting Program



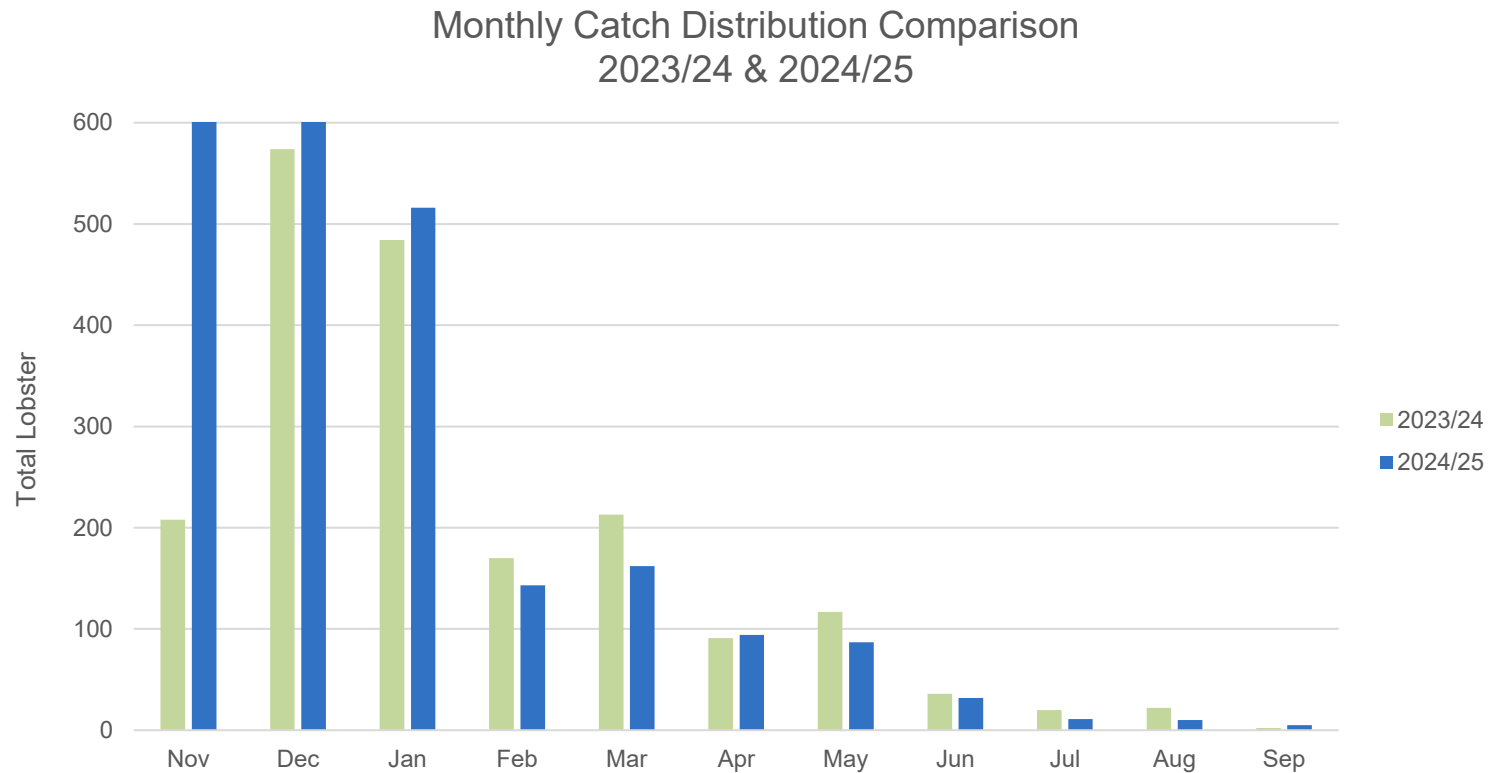
## Monthly Catch Distribution – 2024/25



# Recreational Reporting Program



## Monthly Catch Distribution – Season Comparison





# Recreational Reporting Program



2025/26 Season Update – 15 December 2025

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