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Fisheries (Rock Lobster Tagging) Notice 2018

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I have decided to continue the Fisheries (Rock Lobster Tagging) Notice for a further twelve months after undertaking consultation in accordance with Section 3A of the Fisheries Act 1995.

Fisheries (Rock Lobster Tagging) Notice continues the requirement for all recreationally caught rock lobsters to be tagged as part of the three-year trial tagging program implemented on 1 July 2017.

Management arrangements are unchanged from the previous year. The number of tags used each year represents the number of rock lobsters that are removed by the recreational sector from the stock in that year.

With over 5000 divers from all over Victoria registering accounts, and more than 400 participants volunteering to collect additional data as citizen scientists, the program has got off to a great start. A total of 6843 tags have been reported since 1 July 2017. This includes 3628 tags in the Western Zone and 3215 tags in the Eastern Zone.

This information is needed to account for the total rock lobster catch in Victoria and is enhancing our ability to maintain a healthy, sustainable rock lobster fishery now and into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Dowling".

Travis Dowling

CEO Victorian Fisheries Authority

21 10/2018