

Fisheries (Rock Lobster Tagging) Notice 2021

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 and reported. This follows the commitment made by the Minister in 2020 to transition the trial to an ongoing program.

Management arrangements put in place by this proposed Fisheries Notice are unchanged from the previous year. The Fisheries Notice provides for a transitional period during which the VFA prepares to launch the new program set to commence on 16 November 2021.

The program has been highly successful to date and our initiative has been heralded by industry, FRDC and other stakeholders. I would like to thank the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the dedicated *Rock Lobster Tagging Program Steering Committee* who have assisted to build on this initial success in recent months through undertaking a review of the arrangements under the program.

Based on the recommendations from this work we are excited for the future direction of the program. This will include making it easier for fishers to report their catch, removing the requirement to attach plastic tags and providing additional functionality through merging with the *Go Fish Vic App*. Consultation on the new program will be undertaken later this year alongside a number of proposed amendments to the *Fisheries Regulations 2019*.

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

Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

22 / 06 / 2021