



Toby Jeavons
Fishery Manager
Victorian Fisheries Authority
By email: toby.jeavons@vfa.vic.gov.au

FISHERIES (ROCK LOBSTER TAGGING) NOTICE

Dear Toby,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Fisheries (Rock Lobster Tagging) Notice.

The trial tagging rock lobster tagging program has been well-adopted by Victorian recreational fishers. Many fishers are very receptive as indicated by the uptake of the citizen science component, while some are tolerating the tagging process. Speaking to Fisheries Enforcement staff, we are very pleased they are reporting excellent in-field compliance and recreational rock lobster fishers should be congratulated.

Input by recreational rock lobster fishers (SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria, Victorian Spearfishing Commission and VRFish) on an advisory group during the development of the program we trust has assisted the implementation and this subsequent uptake.

There appears to be some confusion around when it is legally required to tag a lobster whilst diving. Therefore, clause 10 (3) should be emphasized in communications and advisory materials.

There is a great deal of interest by rock lobster fishers in learning more about the data being collected and continued angst in end use of that data. It would be extremely beneficial to host a presentation with interest rock lobster fishers after the collation of year one's data. A summary of information should also be distributed to all registered users by email. The Rock Lobster Tagging Program Advisory Group should also re-convene to examine the data in further detail.

***Let's make fishing
better, for everyone.***



A significant future milestone will be the acquittal of this seasons' tags and the logistical swap-over to the new season tags. At this stage of the trial there does not appear to be any compelling need to modify the Fishery Notice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Loats', written in a cursive style.

Rob Loats
Chair
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

15 June 2018



Re: Proposed Fisheries (Rock Lobster Tagging) Notice 2018 for your consideration
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]Ric.Fallu to: toby.jeavons 08/06/2018 04:48 PM

Victorian Spearfishing Commission submission on renewal of Fisheries Notice on recreational rock lobster tags.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Background

A significant number of recreationally caught rock lobsters are taken by freedivers and spearfishers.

The Victorian Spearfishing Commission (VSC) is an alliance of Victorian spearfishing clubs affiliated with the national Australian Underwater Federation. Views expressed also reflect those who freedive and spearfish but are not members of the VSC clubs.

Last year's rock lobster tag Fishery Notice effectively required freedivers and spearfishers operating from shore to carry tags with them in the water.

Tags, in their current form, are difficult to carry when diving, and there is a significant risk of loss. This provides an incentive for non-compliance.

A hole in the tag, of sufficient diameter, would provide a place for a tie, but divers fear that making a suitable hole would void the tag's validity and render the user liable for prosecution.

Options

Suggested options to rectify this problem are:

1. modify the Fishery Notice, or instruct compliance officers, to allow cray catchers to keep tags in a car, and allow them to take their catch to the car before securing tags
2. modify the Fishery Notice, or instruct enforcement officers to exercise discretion if holes are made in the tags.
3. update tag design to include holes, or other means of attachment, facilitating securing them to floats, spearguns or other gear.

Option 1. is the preferred option.

Recommendation:

That the new Fisheries Notice be changed to allow recreational crayfishers to keep tags in their vehicles, and only be required to attach them to catch when divers return to those vehicles.

Ric Fallu

Chair

Victorian Spearfishing Commission

On 29 May 2018, at 10:35 AM, toby.jeavons@vfa.vic.gov.au wrote:

Dear Mr Fallu,

Please find attached letter and copy of proposed Fisheries (Rock Lobster Tagging) Notice 2018 for your comment.

Please provide your comment in writing to myself by **15 June 2018**.

Kind regards,

Toby

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<LTR_Fallu.pdf>

<FN_DRAFT Rock lobster tagging_June2018.pdf>



RL Tagging feedback on proposed fisheries notice Markus Nolle to: toby.jeavons

12/06/2018 12:04 PM

History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Toby,

I'm assuming that all the feedback that was provided to you / VFA during the TACC port visits regarding the tagging will be included in the review of the proposed fisheries notice for the 'next year' of the program, ie;

- Requiring reporting of used tags within 24 hours of use
- Returning unused tags at the end of the year
- Etc etc

... there were other comments / suggestions, but I just wanted to make sure that the feedback collected during those visits was going to be included in the review process that I understand is now being undertaken.

Cheers,

Markus



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