

Fisheries (Spider Crab) Notice 2021

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I have decided to implement the Fisheries (Spider Crab) Notice 2021 after undertaking consultation in accordance with Section 3A of the Fisheries Act 1995.

The Fisheries (Spider Crab) Notice 2021 sets a new daily recreational catch and possession limit of 15 crabs for spider crabs across Victorian waters. Spider crabs previously fell under the general crab recreational catch and possession limit in Victoria of up to 30 crabs or 1 litre, combined across species.

The new, reduced catch limit will better balance spider crab values and more equitably share spider crabs among fishers and other stakeholders. All other recreational fishing rules that apply to spider crabs remain unchanged.

The new catch limit applies to all spider crabs in the family Majidae. This includes giant spider crabs, *Leptomithrax gaimardii*, and a number of other spider crab species which can be difficult for non-experts to tell apart particularly at small sizes.

Alongside the new catch limit, spider crab research will continue and the VFA is working with other agencies on management and education initiatives to improve amenity values during giant spider crab aggregations at Rye and Blairgowrie piers.

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

Travis Dowling

Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

08/01/2021