

Fisheries (Rock Lobster Tagging) Notice 2020

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 2020 continues the requirement for all recreationally caught rock lobsters to be tagged and reported. This follows the commitment made by the Minister earlier this year to transition the trial to an ongoing program.

Management arrangements put in place by the Fisheries Notice are largely unchanged from the previous year and provide for a transitional period during which the VFA will work with you to shape the future direction of the program. The total number of unused tags that a person may have in their possession has been reduced to 10, whilst tag numbers remain unlimited during the season.

The trial has been highly successful to date and our initiative has been heralded by industry, FRDC and other stakeholders. The VFA looks forward to undertaking work over the next 12 months to build on this initial success as we begin to progress a number of potential App enhancements and the concept of adopting a digital tag.

Information collected under the program is continuing to account for annual total mortality of rock lobster and is enhancing the capacity to make robust fishery management decisions that maintain a healthy, sustainable rock lobster fishery.

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

Travis Dowling
CEO Victorian Fisheries Authority

24 / 06 / 2020