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# RLRAG #46

VFA Management Presentation

27 February 2026



Ewan Flanagan

# Agenda



Item	Description	Lead	Timing
1.	<b>Preliminaries</b>		
	1.1 Welcome and apologies	I Knuckey	10:00 – 10:15
	1.2 Overview of meeting and adoption of agenda	I Knuckey	
	1.3 Minutes and actions from last meeting	E Flanagan	
2.	<b>Management Update</b>		
	2.1 2025 RLRAG overview	E Flanagan	10:15 – 11:15
	2.2 2026 RLRAG workplan	E Flanagan / I Knuckey	
	2.3 2026 port meetings	E Flanagan	
	2.4 Export approvals update	E Flanagan	
3.	<b>Compliance Update</b>		
	3.1 2025/26 season compliance statistics	S Fletcher	11:15 – 11:45
	<b>Morning Tea</b>		11:45 – 12:00
4.	<b>Recreational Reporting Program</b>		
	4.1 Data review	D Reilly	12:00 – 12:15
5.	<b>Monitoring Program</b>		
	5.1 Fixed site surveys	D Reilly	12:15 – 12:30
	5.2 Rock lobster tagging		
6.	<b>Rock Lobster Stock Assessment Results</b>		
	6.1 Final 2024/25 stock assessment results	K Hartmann	12:30 – 13:15
	6.2 Application of harvest strategy and TACC recommendation	All	
	6.3 OzLob model update	K Hartmann	
	6.4 Historic catch rate analysis	K Hartmann	
	<b>Lunch</b>		13:15 – 13:45
7.	<b>Giant Crab Stock Assessment Results</b>		
	7.1 Draft 2024/25 stock assessment results	K Hartmann	13:45 – 14:15
	7.2 Application of harvest strategy and TACC Recommendation		
8.	<b>Other Business</b>		
	8.1 SIV update	M Wassnig	14:15 – 14:45
	8.2 SRL Ltd update	G Ryan	

# Actions – Meeting 45



Action	Responsibility	Timing	Status
1. VFA to circulate the draft minutes.	Ewan	January	<b>Completed</b>
2. VFA to consider RLRAG feedback in finalising RLMAC and RLRAG Terms of Reference.	Ewan	January	<b>Completed</b>
3. VFA and VRFish to discuss options to improve community engagement the Recreational Rock Lobster Reporting Program.	Ewan, Anthony McGrath	April	<b>tba</b>
4. VFA to review reporting data to assess the time between the date of capture and date of reporting.	Ewan	March/April	<b>RLRAG 46</b>
5. RLRAG to consider opportunities for improved voluntary data collection in the Western Zone.	David	Next RLRAG	<b>RLRAG 46</b>
6. Klaas to include an explanation outlining the difference between standardised and nominal CPUE in the stock assessment report, and for discussion at port meetings.	Klaas	Next RLRAG / port meetings	<b>RLRAG 46</b>
7. Klaas to rectify the outcome wording in the Western Zone decision rule table, part 2a, which incorrectly states that CPUE has remained in the same band	Klaas	Next RLRAG	<b>Completed</b>
8. Klaas to rectify the outcome wording in the decision rule table in part 2b, which incorrectly states the assessment year	Klaas	Next RLRAG	<b>Completed</b>
9. Klaas to rectify minor errors in stock assessment.	Klaas Hartman	January	<b>Completed</b>
10. SIV to provide feedback to RLRAG regarding discussions of voluntary data collection with Giant Crab fishers.	Matt Wassnig	June/July	<b>tba</b>
11. VFA to organise a compliance update for the next meeting.	Ewan	Next RLRAG	<b>RLRAG 46</b>
12. Klaas to analyse historic catch rates and subsequent impacts on biomass and present at the next RLRAG meeting.	Klaas	Next RLRAG	<b>RLRAG 46</b>

# 2025 RLRAG Overview



## Key Discussion Items

1. **Recreational Reporting Program**
  - Mid-season results
  - End of year review
2. **2023/24 Compliance Summary**
3. **2023/24 Stock Assessment Results**
  - Final review and endorsement of harvest strategy application and TACC recommendation
4. **Larval Dispersal Connectivity Project**
  - Update on results of work (previously introduced in 2024)
5. **Giant Harvest Strategy Development**
  - Dedicated sub-committee of the RLRAG
  - New strategy introduces scope to increase TACC with greater data collection
6. **Eastern Zone PRI Review**
  - Dedicated sub-committee of the RLRAG
7. **2024/25 Stock Assessment Results**
  - Preliminary review of draft stock assessment
8. **Management Advisory Committee**
  - New Terms of Reference review and comment
  - New Mac RLRAG structure to commence in 2026

# 2026 RLrag Workplan



Activity	Timing
Assess and review Draft 2025/26 Stock Assessment	December
Eastern Zone Pre-Recruit Index Review	July
Improvement of recreational catch and biological data	July / December
Reviewing monitoring program plan	July
Continual stock assessment improvement (OzLob)	July
Research priorities	Review at July meeting
Climate change risks/issues	Consider annually (July)
Export Approval	February
Giant Crab Management Plan development	July – December
MSC Review (if required by industry)	As required

# 2026 Port Meetings



Port	Location	Date	Time
<b>Apollo Bay</b>	Marrar Woorn Community House 6 Pengilley Ave, Apollo Bay	Monday, 23 March	2:00pm – 5:00pm
<b>Port MacDonnell</b>	Port Macdonnell Golf Club Elizabeth Street, Port Macdonnell	Tuesday, 24 March	3:00pm – 6:00pm
<b>Port Fairy</b>	Charlies on East 4 Hughes St, Port Fairy	Wednesday, 25 March	2:00pm – 5:00pm
<b>Queenscliff</b>	Queenscliff VFA 2A Bellarine Highway, Queenscliff	Thursday, 26 March	2:00pm – 5:00pm
<b>San Remo</b>	San Remo Fishermans Co-op 170 Marine Parade, San Remo	Friday, 27 March	12:30pm – 3:30pm

# Export Approvals Update



## Rock Lobster

- Current approval expires August 2026
- New application was submitted mid 2025 (early at request of the DCCEEW)
- Key concerns raised:
  - 1. Reliability of reported TEPS interactions in logbook data**
    - Alleviated by supporting data provided through the observer program
  - 2. Risk of fur seal interactions**
    - Based on a single reported incident during 2020 (30 deaths)
    - Response included full review by VFA / DEECA / Wildlife Interactions Committee
    - Mitigation response implemented through the RL Code of Conduct

# Export Approvals Update



## Rock Lobster

- **Proposed condition relating to fishing activity in declared seal breeding colonies (as per *Wildlife (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2019*)**
  - Requirement to have seal exclusion device in pots when fishing in seal breeding colony area
  - Based on proximity to colony, consistent with vessel exclusion regulations
  - Possibility to incorporate depth if preferred by fishers
  - ***RLRAG to consider possible impacts on fishers / acceptable solution.***
- **Current Boating Restrictions:**

Colony	Boating Exclusion to low water mark
<b>The Skerries (EZ)</b>	100m (1 Nov to end of Feb) 50m (1 Mar to 31 Oct)
<b>Rag Island (EZ)</b>	100m (1 Nov to end of Feb) 50m (1 Mar to 31 Oct)
<b>Kanowna Island (EZ)</b>	200m (1 Nov to 31 Jan) 50m (1 Feb to 31 Oct)
<b>Seal Rocks (EZ)</b>	60m (Year-round)
<b>Lady Julia Percy Island (Dean Maar) (WZ)</b>	200m (1 Nov to end of Feb) 100m (1 Mar to 31 Oct)
<b>Cape Bridgewater (WZ)</b>	100m (1 Nov to 28 Feb) 50m (1 Mar to 31 Oct)

# Export Approvals Update



## Giant Crab

- Current approval expires August 2026
- New application submitted – due date 28 February
- Possible concern in missing bycatch data
  - Bycatch data has been required since the introduction of eCatch
  - No bycatch has been reported in the GC Fishery, only byproduct
  - Electronic Monitoring System and observer coverage has provided some bycatch data