

Fisheries (Spider Crab) Notice 2023

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I have decided to implement the Fisheries (Spider Crab) Notice 2023, after undertaking consultation in accordance with Section 3A of the Fisheries Act 1995.

The Fisheries (Spider Crab) Notice 2023 continues the reduced daily recreational catch and possession limit of 15 crabs for spider crabs across Victorian waters. This reduced catch and possession limit was introduced in the Fisheries (Spider Crab) Notice 2021. 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 reduced catch limit better balances spider crab values and more equitably shares spider crabs among fishers and other stakeholders. All other recreational fishing rules that apply to spider crabs remain unchanged.

The reduced 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.

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

Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

06 / 02 / 2023