

### Commercial Fishing Guide

Rock Lobster Supplement

Edition 2 2023

### **DISCLAIMER**

This publication may be of assistance to you, but the Victorian Fisheries Authority, State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequences which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

**This publication is a guide only**, it does not replace the *Fisheries Act 1995*, the *Fisheries Regulations 2019* or other Acts and subordinate legislation applying to or affecting commercial fishing.

Copies of the Act and Regulations can be downloaded from www.legislation. vic.gov.au

This guide provides a summary the law at the time of publication and cannot be used as a defence in court.

Fishing laws change from time to time. It is your responsibility to ensure you are acting within the law.

It is the responsibility of fishers to be aware of any changes that are made to fisheries rules and regulations. You can do this by:

- routinely checking the Fisheries Notices on Victorian Fisheries Authority website (www.vfa.vic.gov.au/operational-policy/legislation-and-regulation/ fisheries-notices)
- in respect to rock lobster fishing, contact the rock lobster fishery manager or
- discuss any queries with your local compliance officers.

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For more information contact Customer Service Centre on 186 386

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### **ROCK LOBSTER SUPPLEMENT**

This guide provides a summary and clarifies the specific management arrangements that apply to Commercial Rock Lobster Licence holders and operators. This supplement is to be read in conjunction with Commercial Fishers User Guide.

### Legal framework

### Legislation

Legislative requirements for the Rock Lobster fishery are detailed in the Fisheries Act 1995, the Fisheries Regulations 2019 and Fisheries (Fees, Royalties and Levies) Regulations 2008. Fisheries Notices may also implement management arrangements that supplement or vary current regulations.

It is your responsibility to familiarise yourselves with these documents and regularly check if any changes have been made to the management arrangements of the fishery.

### Management plan

The Victorian Government's primary objective for the Rock Lobster fishery is to optimise its long-term value for the Victorian community, in accordance with the objectives and provisions specified in the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

The Victorian Rock Lobster Management Plan specifies the objectives, strategies and actions for managing this Fisheries until a new plan is declared or it is cancelled in accordance with the requirements of the *Fisheries Act* 1995.

The objectives of the current management plan are:

- ensure the sustainability of the Rock Lobster resource
- ensure a fair and equitable allocation of the Rock Lobster resource
- ensure optimal economic utilisation of the Rock Lobster resource
- cost-effective and participatory management
- maintain the ecological integrity of the fishery ecosystem.

### **General information**

Further information can be found on the Rock Lobster Commercial Fishing page of the Victorian Fisheries Authority's (VFA) website.

### Legislation

- Fisheries Act 1995
- Fisheries Regulations 2019

### (i) Information

- www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- www.vfa.vic.gov.au/ operational policy/legislation and regulation

### **i** Information

Victorian Rock Lobster Management Plan https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ commercial-fishing/featured/ victorian-rock-lobstermanagement-plan

### **i** Information

Victorian Rock Lobster https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ commercial-fishing/commercialfisheries/rock-lobster

### **DEFINITIONS**

### Berry

The clusters of small berry-like eggs that female crustaceans carry on the underside of their tail during the reproductive cycle.

### **Biosecurity**

Preventive measures to reduce risks associated with the transmission of diseases, pests and exotic species.

### Coff

A coff is anything that is used to hold and/or keep live rock lobster. The use of a coff must be authorised on the licence. A coff must be clearly labelled with the Licence Holders licence number (see page 14 for details of regulations that apply to coffs).

In the Rock Lobster fishery, coffs are required to be registered and there is a limitation on the maximum number permitted.

A coff may be:

- attached to the vessel
- outside the vessel.

A coff does not include a wet well. A wet well is part of the boat.

### Coff register

In the rock lobster fishery, a register must be kept for each coff and well wet used. These registers record:

- the number of rock lobster in the coff or wet well
- the number of rock lobster removed from the coff or wet well
- the number of animals added to the coff or wet well
- the number of rock lobster that die in the coff or wet well.

The Coff and Wet well registers are maintained on the Vic-eCatch app.

### **Commercial Fishers Duty Officer**

A Victorian Fisheries Authority staff member – Duty Officer – is always available to take enquiries from fishers if problems occur with FisherWeb or Vic-eCatch, or if they seek clarification about a specific regulation or process. Phone: 0418 519 215. They also have the contacts of fisheries officers who may also be able to provide advice if needed.

### Regulation detail

Regulation detail

Fisheries regulations 2019

Part 2 Commercial fishery

**Regulation detail** 

Part 10 Rock Lobster

Regulation 389

Part 1 Preliminary

Regulations 75 (1c),

Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulation 387

Regulation 5

licences

Fisheries regulations 2019
Part 1 Preliminary
Regulation 5
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulations 50(A)(B)
Part 10 Rock Lobster
Regulation 386

### Endorsement on eligible access licences to take additional gummy/ school shark

A rock lobster fishery licence is one of a group of access licences that is eligible to have an endorsement attached to it, which allows the take of five gummy/school shark in accordance with regulation 50 (of which no more than one can be school shark).

The VFA issues an endorsement notice to licence holders that specifies what can be legally undertaken.

Holders of non-endorsed licences can only take 2 gummy/school shark (of which no more than one can be school shark).

### **FisherWeb**

FisherWeb is a webpage where licence holders can view their licence information (quota balances and transactions).

### **Fit and Proper**

Fit and Proper means you must satisfy the Victorian Fisheries Authority that you will act reasonably and legally when undertaking fishing operations.

### Input controls

Indirect controls on catch including regulation of the amount or type of fishing gear and fishing period (e.g. closed seasons).

### Legal minimum size Limit

The regulated minimum size required to harvest Rock Lobster.

### Limited entry fishery

A fishery where the number of operators or vessels is restricted.

### **Operations Duty Officer**

A fisheries officer - Operations Duty Officer - is always available to take calls from fishers so they can:

- request permission to fish without an operational VMS
- report a protected species interaction
- notify the VFA of a recreational fishing trip in a commercial fishing boat (for abalone)
- or for any other instruction stated in individual licence or permit conditions.

To contact the Operations Duty Officer phone 0419 844 781.

### **Output controls**

A direct limit on the catch in a fishery (e.g. a Total Allowable Catch) or on an Access Licence holder (e.g. individual transferable quota).

### Place of landing

Rock Lobster can only be landed at selected ports and moorings (see **Appendix 4** for details).

Landing is the act of removing the Rock Lobster from the boat and taking it ashore onto a man-made fixed structure or artificial extension of land, where it is weighed.

### Weighing catch

Rock Lobster must be weighed to an accuracy of 0.1 kg if under 100 kg. If weight is over 100 kg, weighing to an accuracy of 1 kg is required.

\*\*If for any reason you cannot achieve this then call the commercial duty officer and the relevant fisheries officers at the port of landing.

For the purposes of Rock Lobster fishing, the 'place of landing' is the place nearest to where the Rock Lobster is landed that the Licence holder can reasonably comply with the Licence conditions.

Please refer to **Appendix 3**: Guideline for accurate weighing of rock lobster for more information.

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 81(c)
Schedule 19

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 2 Commercial fishery licences Regulation 64

### Quota management system

The number of individual transferable quota units assigned to a Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence is known and tracked in the Quota Management System. As Rock Lobster are landed, the weight of the catch is subtracted from the quota balance assigned to the Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence.

When the entire quota assigned to a Licence has been caught, the holder must either acquire more quota units or cease fishing for the remainder of the quota period.

The Rock Lobster Quota Management system is now managed via ViceCatch.

If the Vic-eCatch system is ever unavailable on a given day, a manual reporting process is available via a phone call to the commercial duty officer.

### **Quota** year

The quota year commences 1 July and concludes 30 June each year.

### Setae

Setae are the fine hair-like structures on the under surface of female Rock Lobster tails. These fine hairs are sticky. Eggs attach to the setae.

### Soft-shelled Rock Lobster

A soft-shelled lobster has recently moulted, or shed its old shell, so it can begin growing a new, larger shell. The new larger shell has yet to harden leaving the lobster vulnerable to predators. Soft-shelled lobsters can be easily damaged when handled. The definition of soft shell is a Rock Lobster where the carapace, if depressed along the dorsal median line, fails to immediately return to its original shape. Soft-shelled Rock Lobster must be returned to the water.

### Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)

The weight of Rock Lobster that may be taken by Commercial Access Licence holders within the annual quota period.

### Wet wells

Wet wells are part of the boat and are used to keep live Rock Lobster. A wet well register needs to be maintained recording:

- the number of live Rock Lobster removed from the wet well
- the date and time when rock lobsters are removed
- the number of dead rock lobster (if any) removed
- the number of rock lobster remaining in the wet well.
- See Regulation 5 for definitions of wet wells.

The wet well register is maintained via the Vic-eCatch app.

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 1 Preliminary
Regulation 5 Preliminary
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Part 10 Rock Lobster
Regulation 390

4

### (i) Information

The Quick Reference Guide for Vic-eCatch for rocklobster/ giant crab and helpful videos explaining app features can be accessed here https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ commercial-fishing/vic-ecatchsupport

### Vic-eCatch

Vic-eCatch is an electronic reporting system, for catch reporting, fisheries notifications and the creation and distribution of Catch Disposal Records.

Vic-eCatch is available to fishers as a smartphone and tablet app.

See the Vic-eCatch Reference Guide for full details.





### **ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY**

The State of Victoria owns the wild Rock Lobster resource on behalf of the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government manages the commercial harvest of Rock Lobster through the allocation of:

- Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licences and
- Rock Lobster Quota Units.

### **Fishery**

The Rock Lobster Fishery is Victoria's most valuable wild catch fishery and is based primarily on the Southern Rock Lobster (*Jasus edwardsii*). The fishery spans the length of the Victorian coast and supports both commercial and recreational rock lobster fisheries. Almost all the catch from the commercial fishery is exported to international markets, mostly in Asia, with the remainder sold in the domestic market.

Small quantities of Eastern Rock Lobster (*Sagmariasus verreauxi*) are taken annually, particularly off Eastern Victoria near the border of New South Wales and Victoria.

The Fisheries Act 1995 defines Rock Lobster as all species in the family Palinuridae, which includes both Southern and Eastern Rock Lobsters. As such, while the TACC is set for Southern Rock Lobster, it also includes any catch of Eastern Rock Lobster. Commercial fishers must report catch separately by species in Vic-eCatch.

### Fishing gear

Rock Lobster fishers can only use boats that are listed against the rock lobster licence under which they are fishing. Boats used must be registered and display the appropriate markings (See Commercial Fishing Guide page 11 to 12).

Rock Lobsters are caught with baited pots that are generally set and hauled once each day. Commonly used baits include barracouta, Australian salmon, mackerel, carp and some imported fish species.

The dimensions and specifications of the pots can be found in the *Fisheries Regulations*. Pots must be no more than 1.5 metres wide by 1.5 metres long and 1.2 metres high. The pots must have **one entrance**, **one chamber** and escape gaps to allow undersize animals to escape.

Escape gaps must be rectangular, at least 25 cm long and at least 6 cm high. The bottom edge of the escape gap must be located not less than 7 cm and no more than 10 cm from the inside surface of the bottom of the pot.

Escape gaps must be made of from either:

- a solid steel bar with a diameter of at least 1.2 cm in square section or 1.2 cm in diameter, OR
- a steel plate that is 0.2 cm thick.

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 2 Commercial fishery licences Regulation 21

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 378, 379

0

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 2 Commercial fishery licences Regulations 75 (1), (2), (5)

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 380

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 1 Preliminary
Regulation 5
Schedule 9

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulations 22 and 23
Schedule 17

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 10 Rock Lobster
Regulations 375 and 376
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 43

There must be a 3 cm depth of steel around the actual escape gap. Escape gaps must remain clear (not obstructed) and be open at all times.

Pots are tied to lines with identifying buoys or flags that are visible on the surface of the water. Buoys and flags must be marked with the registration number of the boat associated with the licence. Care must be taken to ensure whale entanglements are reduced by shortening pot ropes as much as practicable during the soak period.

There is a maximum number of pots that can be fished on a Rock Lobster Access Licence:

- 140 pots in the Western Zone.
- 120 pots in the Eastern Zone.

**NOTE**: This is the maximum allocation available under the regulations in the fishery. The maximum available for a specific licence is listed in the licence conditions for the licence.

### **Management Zones**

The commercial fishery is divided into two management zones:

- Western Rock Lobster Zone
- Eastern Rock Lobster Zone.
   See Table on page 9 for the coordinates for each zone.

### **Limited entry**

No new licences are created for the Rock Lobster fishery. Existing licences can be bought, leased, and sold.

There are 107 fishery access licences in the Victorian Rock Lobster Fishery:

- 71 in the Western Zone
- 36 in the Eastern Zone.

The Fishery is quota-managed and there is a set number of quota units in each zone. Annual quotas are set for each zone, and once determined, it is divided by the number of quota units to give a kilogram value to each unit.

The number of quota units are:

- 3633.48 in the Western Zone, and
- 1000 in the Eastern Zone.

### **Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence**

A Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence, in conjunction with Rock Lobster quota units, entitles the holder to:

- take Rock Lobster for sale from specified waters (i.e. from the zone or other waters specified on the licence)
- use or possess commercial Rock Lobster equipment
- take fish (other than Abalone, giant crab, jellyfish, pipi, scallop and sea urchin) for sale from specified waters

- use and possess fishing lines and hooks to take fish (other than abalone, giant crab, jellyfish, pipi, scallop and sea urchin) for bait for the purposes of Rock Lobster fishing
- have other persons carry out activities authorised under the Licence in the zone specified on the Licence.

A maximum of two operators can be named on a Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence. One or more crew members can be employed.

Rock Lobster can only be taken from waters in the zone specified on a Rock Lobster Access Licence.

### **Licence holders**

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster

(e)

licences Regulation 18

Regulations 375(1)(e) and 376(1)

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019

Part 2: Commercial fishery

Licence holders must be Australian resident individuals, single corporations, or a co-operative. Licence holders cannot be a partnership or a consortium.

### **Total Allowable Commercial Catch**

Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) is the primary method used to manage the commercial Rock Lobster Fishery.

The TACC is set annually for each zone through the Further Quota Order for a 12 month period (1 July to 30 June each year).

The Further Quota Order is Gazetted annually stating:

- the Total Allowable Commercial Catch for each zone
- the kilogram value of each quota; and
- the period for which the quota notice applies.

### Individual transferable quota

Each licence holder is assigned a proportion of the TACC through Individual Transferable Quota units.

### Minimum quota

To operate an Access Licence, each Licence holder is required to **attach a** minimum amount of Rock Lobster quota units and a minimum number of pots to the licence at all times:

- 10 quota units and 20 pots in the Western Zone
- 5 quota units and 15 pots in the Eastern Zone.

There is no limit on the maximum number of quota units that can be held by an individual.

### **Trading quota**

A licence holder may apply to transfer quota to the holder of another Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence in the same zone.

Individual transferable quota units may be transferred:

- permanently
  - or
- for a quota period.

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### NOTE:

- Licence holders with permanent units attached to their licence are able to transfer units for a quota period only.
- Licence holders with no permanent units on their licence cannot transfer units for a quota period only. As such, these fishers are not able to 'lease in' and 'lease out' quota to activate a licence and fish under the entitlements for a quota period only.

**NOTE**: A Licence holder can own quota without pots but cannot operate in the fishery unless the minimum number of pots have been allocated.

### **Tracking quota**

As Rock Lobster are taken under the authority of a Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence, the net weight of the catch is subtracted from the quota balance of that Licence.

When all of a Licence holder's quota is caught, the Licence holder must:

 acquire more quota units (by completing a Form 28; https://vfa.vic.gov.au/commercial-fishing/forms-licences-permits-boats)

### or

- stop fishing until the start of the next quota period (i.e. do not set/immerse Rock Lobster pots)
- not have any Rock Lobster pots on the boat specified on the licence unless:
  - the boat is in port
  - the boat is in transit with the approval of an Authorised Officer
  - they own a Giant Crab Licence with available quota.
     NOTE: If the Licence holder holds a Giant Crab Licence with quota then the Licence holder may set pots to catch Giant Crab.

NOTE: An over-catch provision is in place and permits a licence holder to exceed their quota balance by up to 20kg. The amount by which the quota balance is exceeded up to a maximum of 20kg will be deducted from the licence holders quota balance in the following quota period.

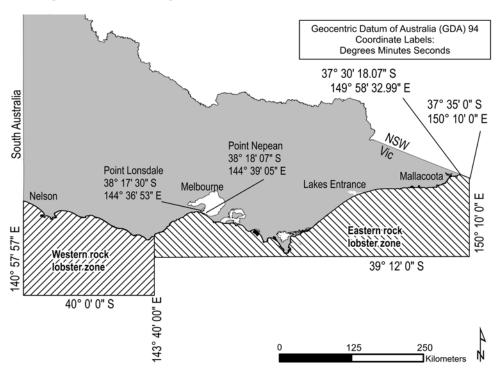
Before the next quota year, licence holders must ensure:

- their Rock Lobster Licence has been renewed
- quota has been allocated to this Licence
- pots have been allocated to the Licence.

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 388

### Fishing areas summary



Commercial fishery		
	Western Zone	Eastern Zone
Zone boundary	Longitude 143°40'E	Longitude 143°40'E
Zone Boundary	Longitude 140°57.57′E	Longitude 150°10′E
	Latitude 40°S	Latitude 39°12′S
Maximum number of licences	71	36
Maximum number of licences per boat	Not limited	Not limited
Total number of quota units per zone	3633.48	1000
Total number of pots in zone	5162	2021
Maximum number of pots per boat	140	120
Minimum number of pots to activate Licence	20	15
Minimum quota holding per Licence	10 units	5 units
Maximum quota holding per Licence	No maximum	No maximum

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Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 2 Commercial fishery licences Regulations 62, 63

### Search online

Fisheries Act 1995 Section 39 www.legislation.vic.gov.au

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 2: Commercial fishery Regulations 82, 83(3), 84(3), (4) and (5), 85, 86, 87 Regulations 95 and 96

### Information

The Quick Reference Guide for Vic-eCatch for rocklobster and helpful videos explaining app features can be accessed here https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ commercial-fishing/featured/vicecatch-support.

### **LICENCING**

### Licence renewal

There is an automatic right of annual renewal of a Commercial Fishery Licence, subject to the licence holder:

- applying to renew a licence
- paying the applicable levies, and
- meeting the criteria specified in Section 57 of the Fisheries Act 1995 to the satisfaction of the VFA.

The VFA sends out information relating to the renewal of Licence, boats and quota. Payment for licences and quota must be received before 30 June or prior to any fishing being conducted in the new quota year. Payment for boats must be received before 31 March. It is illegal to operate on a Licence if payment has not been received.

If a Licence holder is deemed not to be fit and proper to hold a Licence, the Licence is cancelled and cannot be re-issued (see Commercial Fisher User Guide for further information).

All people who operate on the Licence are also required to be 'fit and proper'.

### **Quota Management System (QMS)**

The Quota Management System (QMS) is used to monitor the compliance of Licence holders against their quota allocations. This information is submitted via the Vic-eCatch application.

When completed correctly, the Vic-eCatch application automatically notifies the VFA of the post fishing details required by regulation.

### NOTE: Different sections of Vic-eCatch must be completed within specified time periods (see Appendix 6).

Additional details on Protected Species (TEP) notifications are required to be submitted to the VFA in hard copy (see Appendix 1).

The fisher must make these notifications using Vic-eCatch (or the Commercial Fishers Duty Officer if experiencing technical issues). The Licence holder/ operator must ensure access to the internet is maintained when landing catch, disposing of catch and landing from a coff or wet well.

The Vic-eCatch manual contains detailed instructions on how to use the Vic-eCatch App for the rock lobster fishery.

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 77
Part 17 General
Regulations 469-477

### VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS (VMS)

- VMS must be installed on all vessels listed on the licence.
- VMS unit must be turned on when the vessel leaves the Port on a commercial fishing trip
- VMS unit can be turned off when the vessel returns to Port.
   NOTE: VMS units do not have to be turned on when the vessel is not commercially fishing (for e.g. refuelling or traveling to a slipway).

If the VMS system does not operate or malfunctions:

- before a fishing trip commences, fishers can request permission of the VFA to fish and use a manual reporting system.
- during a fishing trip, the fisher must immediately contact the Operations Duty Officer.

### (i) Information

For use, please refer to the Regulatory Guide for VMS at

- https://vfa.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/ assets/pdf\_file/0004/539401/ RG-4.2-Vessel-Monitoring-Requirements-July-2020.pdf
- https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ commercial-fishing/vesselmonitoring-systems

### VFA contact details

If you have any questions about the VMS system or it's administration, contact:

Commercial Licencing Unit (business hours)
 03 8392 6860

If your VMS If not working and you are seeking approval to manually report during your fishing trip contact:

Operations Duty Officer (24 hours) 0419 844 781

### Installing VMS on your Vessel

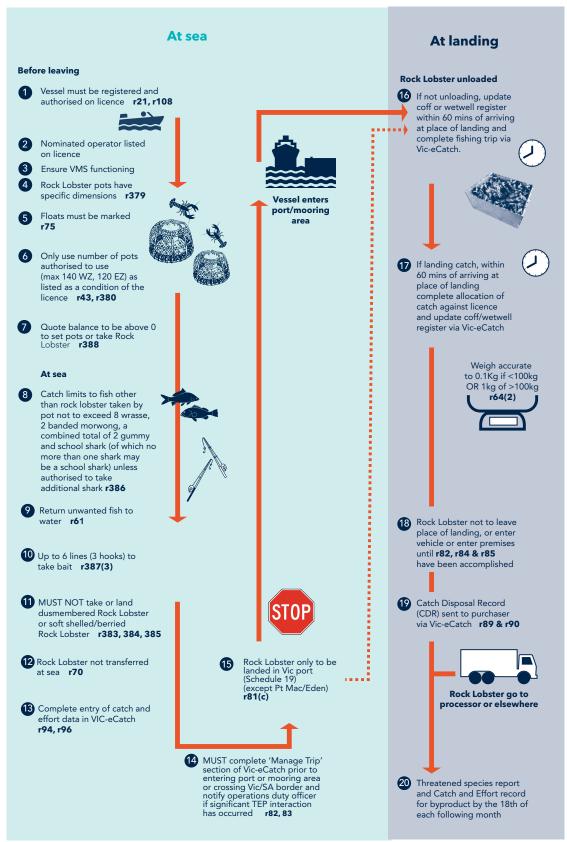
### You must:

- ensure the VMS device is of a type approved by the VFA.
- send the Communication notice to the VFA within 5 days of its installation (and before the boat is used for fishing).
  - This notice advises the VFA of the method of communication with the VMS (mobile/Satellite phone) and its number.
- ensure VMS is not interfered with, tampered with or damaged.

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### **OVERVIEW**

The diagram below summarises the regulations that apply to each stage of the fishing process. It also summaries key regulations associated with the harvest of rock lobster.



Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulation 382

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 360

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 362

### **HARVESTING ROCK LOBSTER**

### **Harvest rules for Rock Lobster across zones**

Commercial fishers:

- must not take Rock Lobster under a Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence from more than one management zone on any fishing trip
- must not possess Rock Lobster taken from more than one management zone on-board any boat being used under a Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence
- must set, haul and retrieve Rock Lobster pots using the vessel specified on their Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence
- must not haul or retrieve pots set by another boat.

### Minimum legal size

The minimum legal size for Rock Lobster varies with the sex of the lobster.

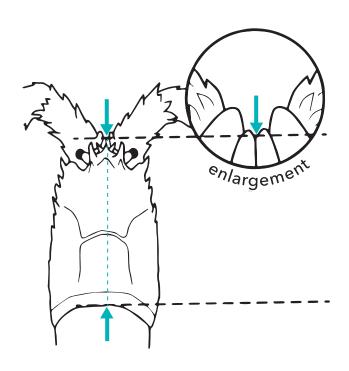
The minimum legal size for Rock Lobster is:

Male: 11 cm

Female: 10.5 cm.

### Measuring rock lobster

Rock Lobster must be measured down the middle of the body from the edge of the groove between the large antennae and the rear edge of the carapace. Hairs do not form pair of the carapace. See image below



Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulation 386

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 2 Commercial fishery licences Regulation 50A & B

### Catch limits for finfish (bycatch caught with pots)

Rock Lobster fishers can legally catch and retain for sale some species that have been caught in their pots. Note: bycatch is entered into Vic-eCatch.

In any one day, Rock Lobster fishers can catch and keep (possess) a maximum of:

- eight (8) Wrasse
- two (2) Banded Morwong
- a combined total of two (2) Gummy Shark and School Shark (of which no more than one may be a school shark); or five (5) if endorsed.

**Note**: Licence Holders must have an endorsement against the licence to take 5 sharks (of which no more than one may be school shark).

### NOTE:

- If endorsed to take gummy/school shark the licence holder MUST have a copy of the endorsement licence on them AT ALL times when taking, possessing or transporting gummy/school shark.
- 2. If VMS is not operating, Licence Holders are required
  - a) to seek permission to fish from the Operations Duty Officer
  - b) if granted, provide the following details to the VFA BEFORE landing
    - i. endorsed licence number
    - ii. date and time of proposed landing
    - iii. number of gummy/school shark to be landed
    - iv. Port at which the shark are to be landed.
- 3. The requirement to report shark does not apply if the licence holder is fishing under an Authority issued by AFMA (under the Commonwealth Act).

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 387 (3)

### Use of other fishing equipment to catch bait for use in pots

Hooks and lines can only be used to catch bait for the purpose of rock lobster fishing.

The licence holder must not:

- use more than six fishing lines at any one time
- use a fishing line with more than three hooks or more than one bait jig attached to the line
- possess a fishing line with more than three hooks or more than one bait jig attached to the line.

Catch limits apply to some fish species (see Commercial Fishing Guide page 13).

### Returning fish to water

Unwanted fish (i.e. in excess of catch limits, species the fisher is not authorised to take, protected species and prohibited species) must be returned to the water immediately and with the least possible injury or damage.

Aquatic noxious species must not be returned to the water alive. (See Commercial Fishing Guide for list of Prohibited and Protected species).

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 2 Commercial fishery licences Regulation 61

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 387 (1&2) 389

### Use of a coff

The use of a coff must be authorised on the Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence before it can be legally used.

The Rock Lobster Access Fishery also specifies:

- the number of coffs that can be used (maximum three coffs per licence)
- the location of the coff(s)
- a coff register be maintained for each coff specified on the Licence
- the coff register records the movement of Rock Lobster into and out of coffs, the data and time of each occasion that rock lobster are moved into or out of the coff, the number of dead rock lobster removed from the coff and the number of rock lobster remaining in the coff.

Rock Lobster fishers must not:

- use a coff at locations other than those specified by their Licence
- use their coff(s) to store Rock Lobster taken under any other Access Licence or by any other Rock Lobster Access Licence.

If a coff is not specified on the licence, then Rock Lobster fishers must not:

- possess or use a coff in or on Victorian watersor
- load any Rock Lobster into a coff in or on Victorian waters.

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 7: Fish other than abablone, giant crab, rock lobster, scallop and sea urchin.
Regulation 157 and 158.
Schedule 24 and 25

### Minimum and maximum sizes of certain species of fish

The Licence holder/Licence operator must not have on board or land any species of fish that is smaller or larger than the minimum and maximum legal sizes specified in Schedule 25 and Schedule 24.

The size limits for fish set out in Schedule 25 are specific to commercial access licence holders. If the fish species is not listed in this Schedule, then the minimum and maximum size limits set out in Schedule 24 apply.

Minimum size limits for some of the fish commonly caught as by-catch are:

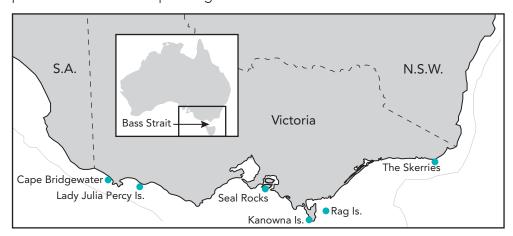
snapper	28cm
sweep	23cm
luderick	23cm
<ul><li>Australian salmon</li></ul>	21cm
Bluethroat wrasse	30cm
Other wrasse	27cm.

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### WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

### Fishing in designated protected areas to protect seal breeding colonies

In accordance with the Wildlife (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2019, fishers are permitted to operate within a number of designated seal breeding colony exclusion zone across the State as the holder of a Victorian commercial fishery access licence when tending to commercial fishing equipment. Best practice fishing requires that seal mitigation devices or 'seal poles' are used when operating within the exclusion zones.



### **Seal mitigation measures**

The Code of Practice Southern Rock Lobster (Responsible fishing guidelines for operators in Victoria) details the measures fishers take to reduce bycatch. The Code recommends the adoption of bait protection devices and seal excluder bars in pots to prevent seals reaching the bait.

The code also details other practices fishers can undertake to reduce bycatch in this fishery. The code also presents detailed maps of each individual seal breeding colony.

### Whale and dolphin entanglements

Entanglements are specific type of Interaction where, usually, marine mammals such as whales and dolphins become entangled in fishing gear

If a whale or dolphin becomes entangled:

- Move away and watch its behaviour
- **Record the location**, the species, type of entanglement and any other details
- DO NOT attempt to remove any of the entanglement or free the animal
- Report immediately to the Whale and Dolphin Hotline on 1300 136 017
- Watch the situation. Do not risk the safety of the vessel nor the entangled animal.

### (i) Information

Link to Code of Practice http://www.siv.com.au/ uploads/9/8/7/7/98771034/rlcode-final-2013\_2.pdf

### (i) Information

Whale Interaction Brochure reproduced in Appendix 5

### (i) Information

Protected Species Identification Guide for Victoria's Commercial Fishers

https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ commercial-fishing/reportingof-fisheries-interactions-withprotected-species

### Reporting interactions with threatened and endangered species.

Reporting of interactions with protected species is a requirement of most commercial fisheries in Victoria.

"Protected" species include all mammal, bird, reptile and amphibian species that are native to Victoria and threatened fish. "Protected" species does not include pest species such as northern pacific seastar. The Protected Species Identification Guide for Victoria's Commercial Fishers (coastal version) will assist fishers identify these species.

These species are protected under State and Federal legislation, however incidental fishing interactions can and do occur.

An "Interaction" is defined as a fishing vessel, gear or operator coming into contact with a protected species, regardless of the outcome. Interaction includes to take, destroy, dispose of and possess. It also includes boat strike or collision with a protected species.

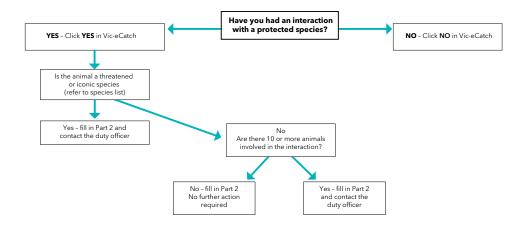
Any interaction with a protected species must be reported via Vic-eCatch and in your Protected Species Interaction form.

Legislation has been implemented to exempt commercial fishers from prosecution where the interaction is accidental and reported.

Deliberate or negligent acts will still be subject to prosecution.

"Significant interactions" are interactions with any iconic species, any species listed as Threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act or more than 10 animals of any species. Significant interactions should be reported to the Operations Duty Officer (0419 844 781) as soon as possible.

### Reporting flow chart



### Hard Copy Reporting.

Complete the Protected Species Interactions Form and submit it to the VFA by the 18th of the following month.

Appendix 1 provides an example of the reporting form, instructions for completing the form and an example of a completed form.

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Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulations 82, 83(3), 84(3), 84(4),
84(5), 85, 86, 87
Regulations 95 and 96

### (i) Information

The Quick Reference Guide for Vic-eCatch for rock lobster and helpful videos explaining app features can be accessed here https://vfa.vic.gov.au/commercial-fishing/featured/vic-ecatch-support.

### LANDING ROCK LOBSTER

By following the instructions in the Vic-eCatch manual for rock lobster, fishers will comply with the regulations relating to the:

- reporting of catch and effort data
- quota Management System
- notification of landing intentions
- maintaining coff and wet well registers
- landing from a coff/ wet well (when no trip has occurred)
- notification of catch consignment
- consigning catch.

Completion of all Vic-eCatch requirements, will ensure that electronic records are forwarded appropriately and constitute a record of catch for both VFA and fisher purposes.

**NOTE**: Until all the Vic-eCatch reporting has been completed, fishers must not allow their catch (Rock Lobster) to:

- enter any vehicle that already contains fish
- be sold or to leave the place of landing
- to enter any premises on which fish is processed or held.

### **NOTE** Regulation Information - Coff and wet well landing details

Regulation 86(1) requires the following information to be communicated to the VFA, when landing from a coff or wet well:

- licence number of the access licence
- the number of rock lobster to be landed
- the port or mooring area where the coff or wet well is located
- the estimated time and date the rock lobster are to be retrieved.

The Vic-eCatch app, when correctly used, will provide these details to the VFA. **Note** Appendix 6 contains a summary of the reporting time-lines, which are further explained in the Vic-eCatch guide.

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 14 Fish receipt and other documentation requirements
Regulations 448-453

### (i) Information

Safe and legal Seafood Receipt examples https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ enforcement/buy-safe-and-legalseafood/receipt-examples

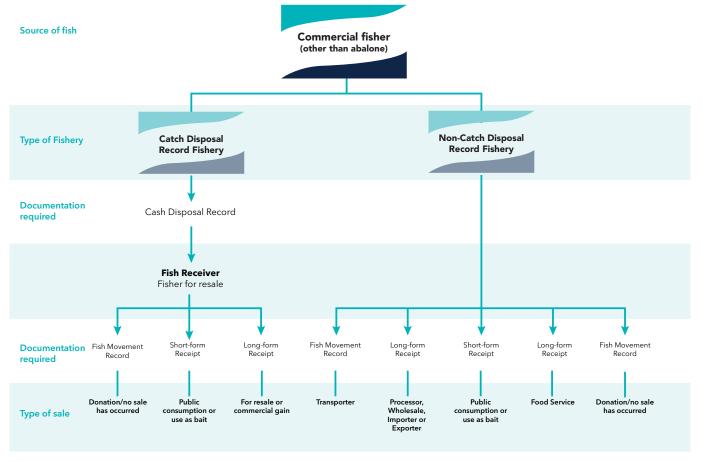
### RECEIPTS AND FISH MOVEMENT RECORDS

To ensure the integrity of the commercial fish supply chain,

- receipt must be issued for the amount of rock lobster that has been sold at the time of a sale or
- a fish movement record must be issued to account for the movement of fish outside a sale and for fish located on commercial premises.

For Rock Lobster fishers, the nature of the sale dictates the detail required on the receipt (and hence the type of receipt they need to issue).

The flowchart below shows the documentation that must accompany each sale.



### NOTE:

- Electronic records detailing sales are generated by the Vic-eCatch app when they consign their catch at the point of landing (CDR). For most Rock Lobster fishers, this is the only documentation they will need to accompany Rock Lobster sales.
- 2. Fishers can complete a CDR rock lobster to themselves (for e.g. if they store fish in tanks at home) for further on-sale. These subsequent sales require receipting details in accordance with reg 450(2) and reg 452(3).
- 3. The sale of other by-product finfish and invertebrate species will require a receipt in accordance with reg 452(3) and r450(3).
- 4. Long-form receipts can be completed in a 2-stage process under some circumstances, provided all of the details required by regulation are provided to the purchaser. For details visit the website listed in the Information Box above or see Appendix 2.

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### **Receipts**

Two types of receipts are used:

- A short form receipt is issued when rock lobster or by-product are sold to a person for direct consumption
- A long form receipt is issued when on-selling rock lobster or by-product for other commercial purposes (for e.g. to restaurants).

### Fish movement records

Fish movement records are issued:

- when Rock Lobster or by-product are given to a transporter for delivery to market or co-op where no sale has yet occurred
- when rock lobster or by-product are donated

### OR

when the licence holder has fish (other than that accounted for by their licence/permit) on commercial premises.

**NOTE**: The appropriate documentation (e.g. consignment record, sales receipts, and/or fish movement records) is required to be kept to account for all fish purchased, possessed and/or held on the premises.

- Receipts or Fish Movement Records are required to be possessed if fish are found in, on or attached to any boat, premises, aircraft or vehicle used for the:
  - Taking of Fish; or
  - Sale of fish; or
  - Receiving for sale of fish; or
  - Processing of fish for sale.
  - Seafood Retailers

**NOTE**: Examples of Receipts and Fish Movement Records are available at https://vfa.vic.gov.au/enforcement/buy-safe-and-legal-seafood/receipt-examples and are listed in Appendix 2.

### **Record keeping requirements**

- A copy of each purchase, acquisition or sale record required by the Act and the Fisheries Regulations 2019 must be kept at the place where the fish are sold, received and possessed.
- If requested by an authorised Fisheries Officer, the person must present the record for inspection.
- All records must be kept for 3 years, be legible and in English. This can be in electronic format (such as emailed tax invoices), so long as a copy can be emailed or printed out at the time of request from a Fisheries Officer.
- Any person completing fisheries records must ensure that the information is not false or misleading. It is a serious offence under the Act to make or furnish false or misleading statement or documents.

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 375 (c, d) and 376 (c, d)

### Legislation

### Search on line

National Parks Act 1975 Part V; Division 2 Regulations 45A www.legislation.vic.gov.au

### Legislation

### Search on line

National Parks Act 1975
Part 17; Access to Cape Howe
Marine National Park
Regulations 128,
Schedule 12

### FISHING RESTRICTIONS

### Other fish species

Rock Lobster fshers can only take fish for sale when using a rock lobster pot or when acting in accordance with an additional licence or permit, such as an Ocean Fishery Access Licence,

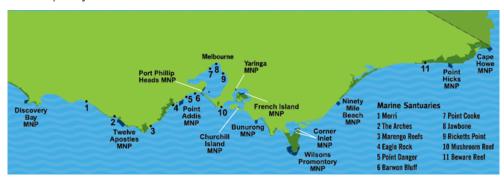
Giant Crab Access Licence or Wrasse (Ocean) Fishery Access Licence or specific endorsements on their licence.

Rock Lobster fishers are not permitted to take (catch and keep) the following fish species: Abalone, Giant crab, Jellyfish, Pipi, Scallop and Sea Urchins and Protected and Prohibited species (see Commercial Fishing Guide pages 19 and 20).

### No fishing in Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries

Commercial and recreational fishing is prohibited in Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries under the *National Parks Act 1975*.

- Two Marine National Parks and three Marine Sanctuaries are located in the Western Zone.
- Seven marine national parks and five marine sanctuaries are located in the Eastern Zone.
- Five Marine National Parks and three Marine Sanctuaries occur in Port Phillip Bay, Western Port and Corner Inlet.



### **Traversing (crossing) Marine National Parks**

Commercial fishing vessels specified on a Rock Lobster Access licence are authorised to travel through Marine National Parks whilst carrying Rock Lobster, when undertaking activities authorised by that licence. This activity will be monitored by VMS.

Mooring/anchoring in Marine National Parks is not permitted if rock lobster pots or priority species other than rock Lobster are on board

Mooring/anchoring in Marine National parks is prohibited when the following are on board the vessel:

- Rock Lobster pots
- Priority species (other than rock lobster).

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Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 363, 364

### No fishing in closed seasons

Fishing for Rock Lobster is prohibited during closed season. Possession of Rock Lobster is prohibited during the closed season. Rock Lobster pots must not be left immersed during closed season.

### **Female**

The closed season for female Rock Lobsters is from 1 June to 15 November.

This protects females with eggs attached during the breeding cycle.

The removal of eggs, spawn, setae or fibres from females is prohibited.

### Male/total closure

The closed season for male Rock Lobster is from 15 September to 15 November.

This protects males during the moulting period when soft shells increase their vulnerability.

### Rock Lobster pots must not be used if there is zero quota allocation

When the entire quota assigned to a Licence has been caught, the holder must either acquire more quota units or cease fishing for the remainder of the quota period.

**NOTE:** Lobster pots may be moved (i.e. on board the vessel specified on the licence) during this time ONLY with the approval of an authorised fisheries officer.

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulation 381

### Rock Lobster pots must not be used during the total closure

From the start of the closed season on 15 September until 9 am on 15 November, fishers must not:

- use any Rock Lobster pot in any Victorian waters
- leave or have any rock lobster pot immersed or set in any Victorian waters
- have a Rock Lobster pot on board a vessel in any Victorian waters other than in a port or mooring area specified in Schedule 19.

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 383 (2)

### No take of soft-shelled Rock Lobster

Soft-shelled Rock Lobster cannot be taken or possessed at any time.

**NOTE**: See definitions (page 3) for description of soft-shelled lobster.

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulation 381 (1)

### No take of berried Rock Lobster

Female Rock Lobster in berry (carrying eggs on the under surface of her tail) cannot be taken or possessed at **any** time.

It is also prohibited to:

- possess a female Rock Lobster with berry
- remove the berry (eggs) from the female Rock Lobster.

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 384

### Must not possess or land dismembered Rock Lobster or parts of Rock Lobster

Rock Lobsters must only be landed whole i.e. with the tail and the carapace attached to each other.

It is an offence to possess or land dismembered Rock Lobsters.

Rock Lobster fishers must not:

- possess dismembered Rock Lobsters
- possess parts of Rock Lobster.

### Must not possess marked Rock Lobster

Commercial Rock Lobster fishers must not possess Rock Lobsters that:

- have a hole punched in the central segment of the tail fan
- are missing the back quarter of the central segment of the tail fan.

These marks are legislated to identify recreationally caught Rock Lobsters. It is illegal to sell Rock Lobsters caught by recreational fishers.

### Must not transfer Rock Lobster to unlicensed people or a boat not specified on the Licence

Rock Lobster fishers:

- must not transfer Rock Lobster to a boat not specified on the Licence, when in, under or on Victorian waters
- must not sell, transfer, or deliver Rock Lobster to another person in, under or on Victorian waters
- must not take or possess Rock Lobster collected by other people (not acting on behalf of the Licence holder) when in, under or on Victorian waters.

Rock Lobster fishers may place Rock Lobster collected under their Licence into a tender vessel so long as it proceeds directly to the mooring area or port specified in the Vic-eCatch notification.

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 10 Rock Lobster Regulations 385

### Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 2 Commercial fishery licences Regulation 70

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### **EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Victorian Fisheries Authority								
Commercial Fishers Duty Officer	0418 519 215							
Operations Duty Officer	0419 844 781							
13FISH Offence Report Line	13 34 74							
Victoria Police								
Rescue Coordination Centre / Water Police	(03) 9399 7500							
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action								
Whale and Dolphin Emergency Hotline	1300 136 017							

### **KEY VFA CONTACTS**

### Luke O'Sullivan

Director Fisheries Management, Policy, Science and Licensing luke.osullivan@vfa.vic.gov.au

### **Toby Jeavons**

Manager, Marine and Estuarine Fisheries toby.jeavons@vfa.vic.gov.au

### **Paul Shea**

Fisheries Operations Manager enforcement@vfa.vic.gov.au

### **Commercial Licensing Enquiries**

Commercial Fisheries Licensing commercial.licensing@vfa.vic.gov.au 03 9392 6860

# **APPENDIX 1: THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

## **Protected Species Interaction Record**

\*Instructions for completing are detailed in your Protected Species Interaction Form

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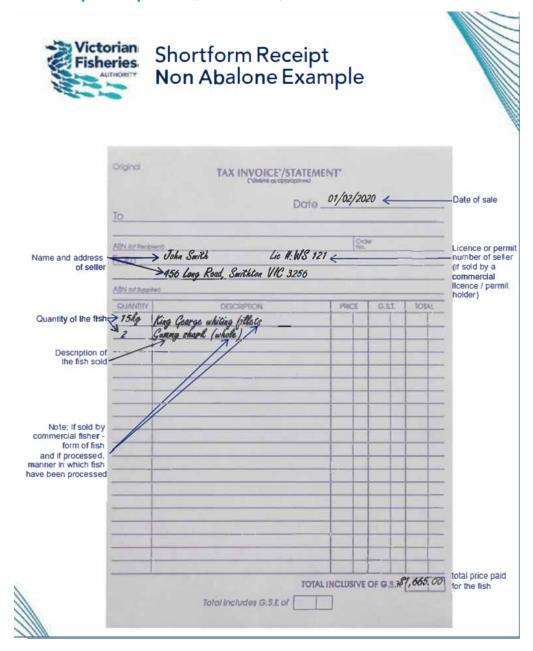
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## **Example of a completed Protected Species Interaction Record**

Version No. 2 Month	Year	ALN	ZHA			fishing day that an interaction has occurred. Please submit your completed monthly forms to VFA by the 18th day of the following month. Interaction please contact the duty officer (0419 844 781) as soon as possible to report the details of the incident.	17   18   19   20   21	Life status (number)	Dead (D)  Injured (I)  Released (R)  Euthanised (E)  Taken to vetv shelter (S)		1	3	3				1	-		e 1st.			
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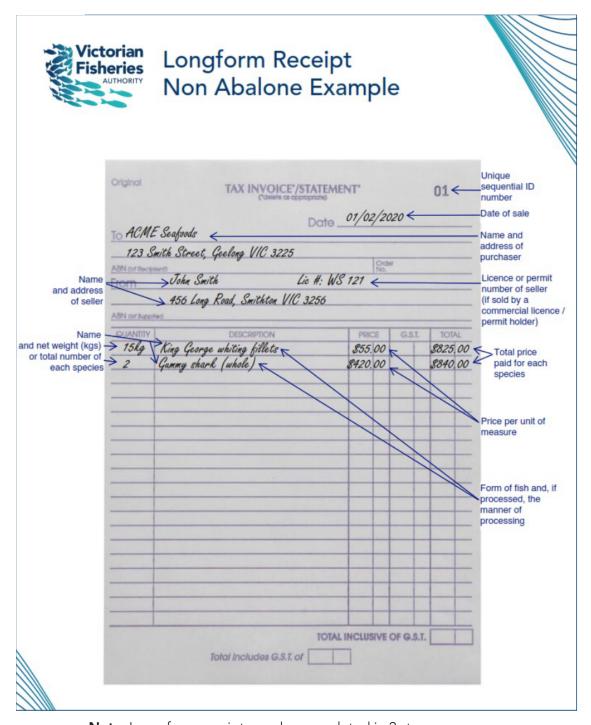
### APPENDIX 2: EXAMPLES OF RECEIPTS AND FISH MOVEMENT RECORDS

A receipt to a person (short form)



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### A receipt for further on-sale of fish (long form)



**Note**: Long-form receipts can be completed in 2 stages.

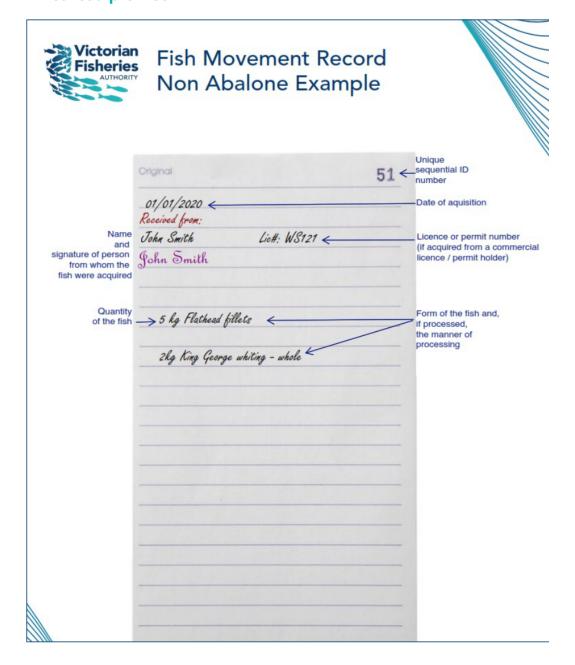
Stage 1: Licence holder fills in all of the required fields except for the fields:

- name and address of the purchaser,
- price per unit measure (kilogram, packet, etc) for each species, and
- total price paid for each species.

The receipt along with fish is given to a person solely for transportation or storage for later sale (i.e not a purchaser)

Stage 2: The seller of the fish, once a sale has been completed, must ensure **these details** are given to the purchaser of the fish.

### **Example of Fish movement record to document fish on a licenced premise**



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### APPENDIX 3: GUIDELINES FOR ACCURATE WEIGHING OF ROCK LOBSTER

When weighing consideration should be given to the following:

Weigh the Rock Lobster in the presence of the consignee. In doing so ensure:

- The scales are on a stable and on a solid surface out of the wind if possible.
- Scales are level, in good working order
- Ensure that scales are accurate and tare weights for bins and lids are worked out prior to weighing off catch
- Make sure scales are certified and are accurate. This can be done by placing certified weights on the scales prior to weighing off catch
- Bin tare weights can vary depending on size, configuration, age and design. It is the responsibility of the fisher to ensure that their weights are accurate. This should be taken into consideration when working out tare weights of bins prior to weighing off catch.

In determining the net weight, the gross weight of all of the consignment should be weighed and the tare weight should then be subtracted.

The VFA encourages all bins, bin lids and inserts be placed on the scales and be tared to 'zero' before weighing the Rock Lobster. This is best practice and will ensure an accurate representation of the catch

In both situations each displayed weight should be recorded as displayed and the sum of the weight can then be determined.

The practice of rounding up or down on individual bin tallies is to be avoided. If a situation occurs where the accurate weight of the catch cannot be determined due to environmental or other factors creating variance in the scale readings, the fisher should call the Operations Duty Officer to seek guidance.

Reminder: Quantities over 100kg must be accurate to within 1kg of the actual weight, quantities less than 100kg must be correct to within 0.1kg of the actual weight.

### **Glossary**

tare weight sometimes called unladen weight, is the weight of an empty vehicle or container. By subtracting it from the gross weight (laden weight), the weight of the goods carried (the net weight) may be determined.

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 2 Commercial fishery licences Regulation 81c Schedule 19 Part 10 Rock Lobster

Regulation 381(c)

### **APPENDIX 4: FISHING PORTS**

Fishing operations mainly occur from the following coastal ports:

1.	Port MacDonnel (South Australa)	996
_	NOTE: requires special endorsement or	
2.	Portand	300
3.	PortFairy	280
4.	Warrnambool	440
5.	Port Campbell	270
6.	Apollo Bay	20
7.	Queensciff	330
8.	San Remo	360
9.	Port Welshpool	320
	LakesEntrance	160
11.	Mallacoota	190.
Roc	ck Lobster can also be landed at the follo	wing locations:
1.	Anglesea	10
2.	Barwon Heads	30
3.	Cape Bridgewater	305
4.	Cape Conran	402
5.	Cowes	70
6.	Eden (New South Wales)	997
	NOTE: requires special endorsement or	n licence to land outside Victoria
7.	Flinders	100
8.	Hastings	140
9.	Inverloch	150
10.	Lorne	180
11.	Marlo Jetty	404
12.	McLoughlins Beach	255
13.	Ocean Grove	32
14.	Port Albert	250
15.	Portsea Pier	380
16.	Seaworks (Williamstown)	460
17.	Sorrento	380
18.	Torquay	420
19.	Ventnor (Cowes Jetty)	70

432

32

20. Walkerville South

### **APPENDIX 5: WHALE INTERACTION BROCHURE**



### Minimising whale entanglements in Victoria

### Information for rock lobster fishers

### What is an entanglement?

Whales or dolphins can get tangled and caught in fishing gear like ropes and nets. Entangled whales or dolphins can drag fishing gear long distances.

Entanglements inhibit the whale's or dolphin's normal behaviour. It can limit or prevent feeding or swimming. Entanglements cause significant injuries and can be fatal

### Who responds to entanglement?

Victoria's Emergency Management Framework classifies whale and dolphin entanglements as declared emergencies.

Victoria's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is the lead government agency that responds to entanglements. Parks Victoria and the Victorian Fisheries Authority support DELWP.

Established protocols direct the response to entanglements. Disentanglement requires trained and accredited staff, specialised equipment and vessels. Fishers should never attempt to approach or free an entangled animal.

### Whale and dolphins in Victoria

A variety of whale and dolphin species inhabit Victorian waters. Entanglements can occur when whales and dolphins move into rock lobster fishing areas.

Whales most likely to entangle in rock lobster gear are:

### Southern right whale



- slow swimming and migrate through coastal waters
- breed in-shore in coastal waters during winter (between May to October)

- have rough callosities on its head and very long baleen plates, which can get tangled in gear
- are uncooperative and often aggressive making it difficult to disentangle.

### **Humpback whale**



- slow swimming
- migrate through Victorian waters during May to July and November to December
- have increased in numbers in recent years and are now more likely to entangle
- have very long flippers with knobby leading edges, which get caught in gear.

### Blue Whale



- quick swimming
- feed in Victorian waters from December to May
- co-exist alongside Rock lobster fisheries in the Bonney Up-welling
- are at risk of having gear tangled in their baleen plates and flippers when they feed
- are large and powerful making it very difficult to disentangle.





### Minimising whale entanglements in Victoria

### Minimising entanglements

To reduce the risk of entanglement with rock lobster fishing gear, fishers must:

- · Understand species at high risk of entanglement, their migratory patterns and routes
- · Consider the placement of fishing gear and whenever possible, move it away from headlands
- · Keep pot ropes tight to minimise likelihood of entanglement. Slack pot ropes increase risk of entanglement.

Adjust rope to the smallest length appropriate to the depth and strength of tide. This reduces the risk of entanglement, especially in inshore waters. Coil the excess slack and tie-up close to floats. The amount of slack in the rope should be the minimum required to allow for the safe recovery and lifting of pots.

- · Regularly check pots, as per standard fishing practice
- · Do not leave pots in the water when you are not fishing for long periods of time
- · Avoid setting pots in clusters and consider the use of negatively buoyant rope

### What do I do if I find an entangled whale or dolphin?

If a whale or dolphin becomes entangled:

- · Move away and watch its behaviour
- · Record the location, the species, type of entanglement and any other details
- DO NOT attempt to remove any of the entanglement or free the animal
- Report immediately to the Whale and Dolphin Hotline on 1300 136 017.

· Watch the situation. Do not risk the safety of the vessel nor the entangled animal.

Whale strandings and vessel strikes are also classified as declared emergencies and must be reported.

Follow the same procedure to report a stranding or injured animal.

### Where else do I need to report the entanglement?

Notify the VFA that you have had an interaction via ViceCatch and report the entanglement in your protected species interaction form. You must also notify the Operations Duty Officer as soon as possible on 0419

### What other things do I need to report?

Fishers may interact with a range of protected species. When they do, it is known as an incidental interaction. This includes ship strike and by-catch.

You must report all Incidental interactions on the Protected Species Interactions form.

### Is there a penalty for an incidental interaction?

There is no penalty for incidental interactions:

- · if they are accidents (i.e. not deliberate)
- · if they occur in the normal course of fishing
- · if you report the incident via Vic-eCatch and in the protected species interaction form.

This protection arises from orders under the Fisheries Act 1989, the Wildlife Act 1975 and the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

### **Further information**

For further information on whale and dolphin emergencies go to

https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/wildlife-

emergencies/whale-and-dolphin-emergencies or contact your local Victorian Fisheries Office.

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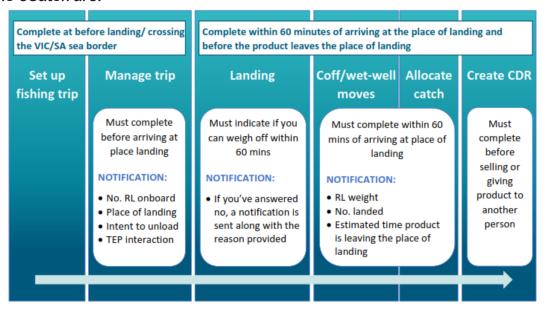
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### **APPENDIX 6: NOTIFICATION TIMINGS**

The notification timings associated with completing a fishing trip through Vic-eCatch are:



The notification timings associated with an unloading where no trip was undertaken (i.e. from wet well) through Vic-eCatch are:

