

**Fisheries Act 1995**  
**FISHERIES NOTICE**

I, Luke O'Sullivan, Director of Fisheries Management and Boating, Victorian Fisheries Authority, as delegate of the Minister for Outdoor Recreation, having undertaken consultation in accordance with section 3A of the **Fisheries Act 1995** (the Act), make the following Fisheries Notice under section 152 of the Act.

Dated 2 June 2026

LUKE O'SULLIVAN  
Director of Fisheries Management and Boating  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

**FISHERIES (SEAL EXCLUSION DEVICE FOR ROCK LOBSTER POTS) NOTICE 2026**

**1. Title**

This Notice may be cited as the Fisheries (Seal Exclusion Device for Rock Lobster Pots) Notice 2026.

**2. Objectives**

The objectives of this Notice are to –

- (a) require the use of a seal exclusion device in any rock lobster pot when used within a specified seal breeding colony; and
- (b) define the seal exclusions devices acceptable for use within these areas.

**3. Authorising provisions**

This Notice is made under sections 114 and 152 of the Act.

**4. Commencement**

This Notice comes into operation on 1 July 2026.

**5. Definitions**

In this Fisheries Notice –

*seal exclusion device* means:

- a. a metal rod that is securely fastened to the centroid of the base of a rock lobster pot and extends perpendicular to a height not less than level with the base of the neck of the rock lobster pot; or
- b. a metal bar placed through the diameter of the neck of the rock lobster pot that is securely fastened to the frame of the rock lobster pot; or
- c. a rigid frame, rectangular or square in shape, with two opposite sides opening to not more than 135 mm, that is securely attached to the inner or outer surface of the cove mouth opening of the rock lobster pot;
- d. any other device approved in writing by the Chief Executive Officer of the VFA.

*specified seal colony* means the areas shown hatched on the plans in the following schedules, for the periods specified:

- a. Schedule 1 from 1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027 (inclusive);
- b. Schedule 2 from 1 July 2026 to 31 October 2026 (inclusive) and 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027 (inclusive);
- c. Schedule 3 from 1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027 (inclusive);
- d. Schedule 4 from from 1 July 2026 to 31 October 2026 (inclusive) and 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027 (inclusive);
- e. Schedule 5 from 1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027 (inclusive);
- f. Schedule 6 from 1 July 2026 to 31 October 2026 (inclusive) and 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027 (inclusive);

- g. Schedule 7 from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 (inclusive);
- h. Schedule 8 from 1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027 (inclusive);
- i. Schedule 9 from 1 July 2026 to 31 October 2026 (inclusive) and 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027 (inclusive).

**the Act** means the **Fisheries Act 1995**.

**the Regulations** means the Fisheries Regulations 2019.

**VFA** means the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

Terms otherwise used in this instrument have the meanings given to them in the Act and the Regulations.

**6. A rock lobster pot is not to be used within a specified seal colony, unless an approved seal exclusion device is fitted to that pot.**

- (1) For the purposes of section 114 of the Act, the possession and use of a rock lobster pot within a specified seal colony is prohibited.
- (2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply to the holder of a Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence or any person acting or purporting to act under a Rock Lobster Fishery Access Licence, if that pot is fitted with a seal exclusion device.

**Note:** Contravention of any prohibition under section 114 of the Act, as set out in this Fisheries Notice, is an offence under section 114(3) of the Act. A maximum penalty of 100 penalty units or six months imprisonment or both applies.

**7. Application to fisheries reserve**

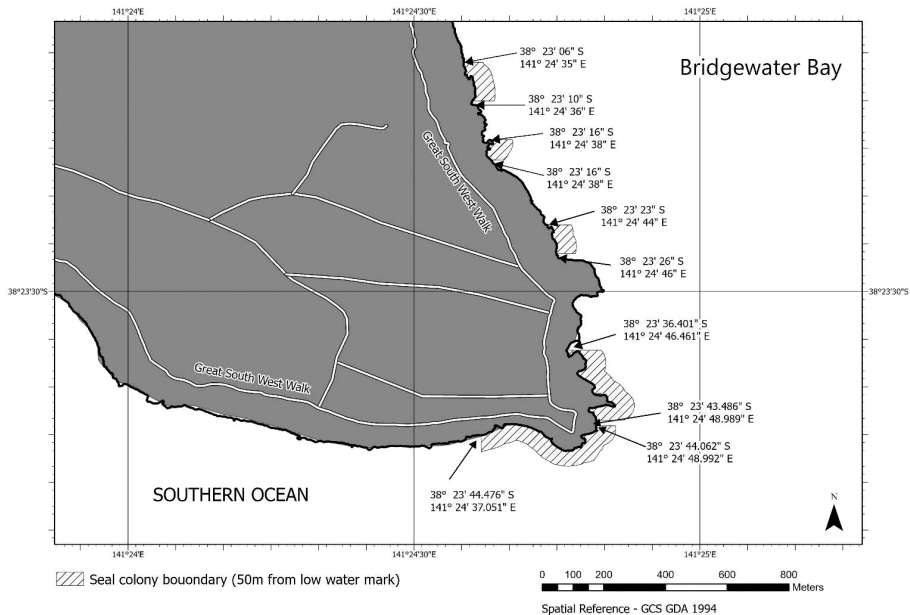
This Notice applies to a Fisheries Reserve, as declared under section 88 of the Act, to the extent that fishing is permitted in the Fisheries Reserve.

**8. Revocation**

Unless sooner revoked, this Notice is revoked on 30 June 2027.

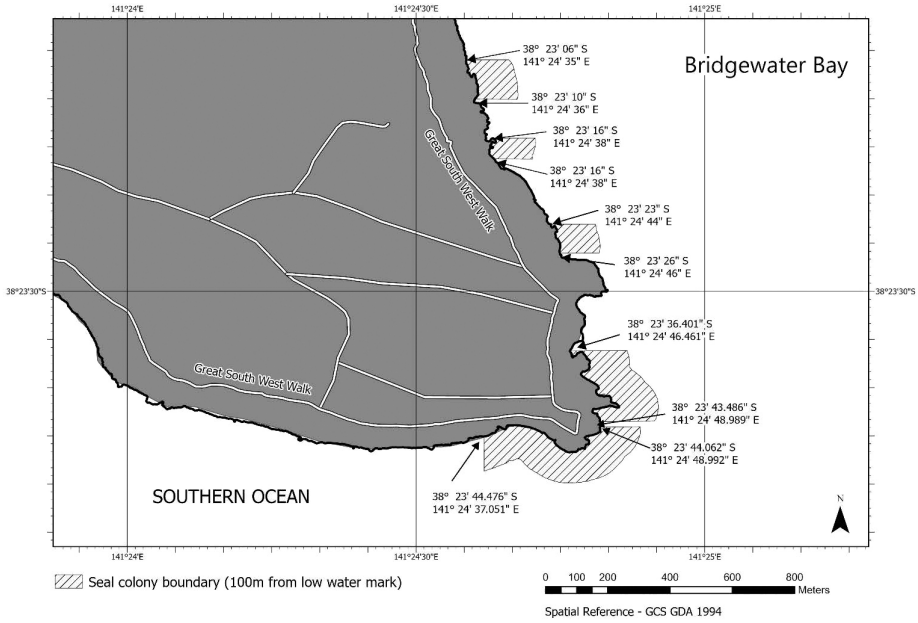
**SCHEDULE 1  
Cape Bridgewater**

(from 1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027)



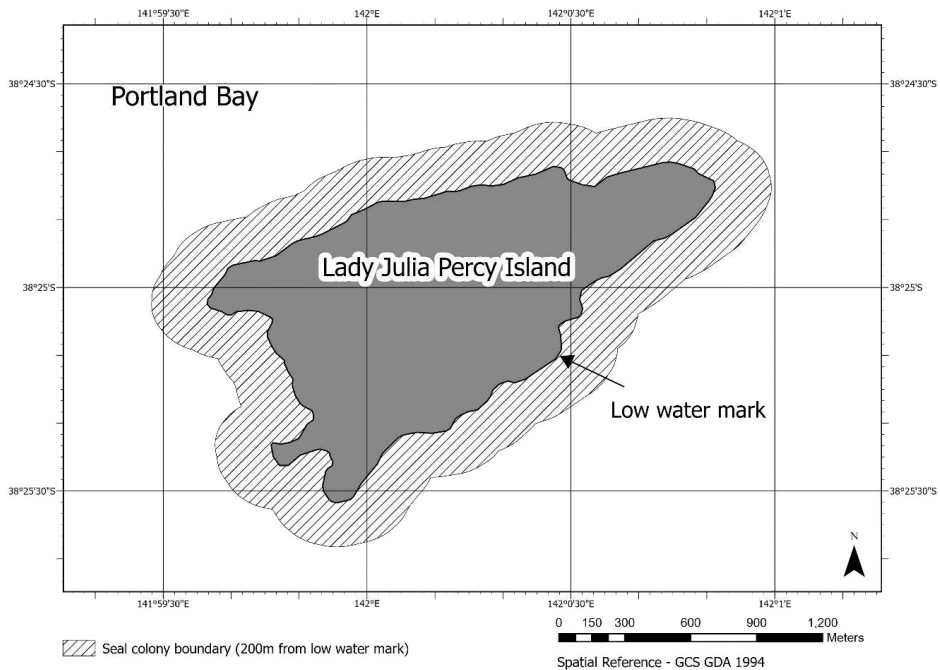
### SCHEDULE 2 Cape Bridgewater

(from 1 July 2026 to 31 October 2026; and 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027)



### SCHEDULE 3 Lady Julia Percy Island

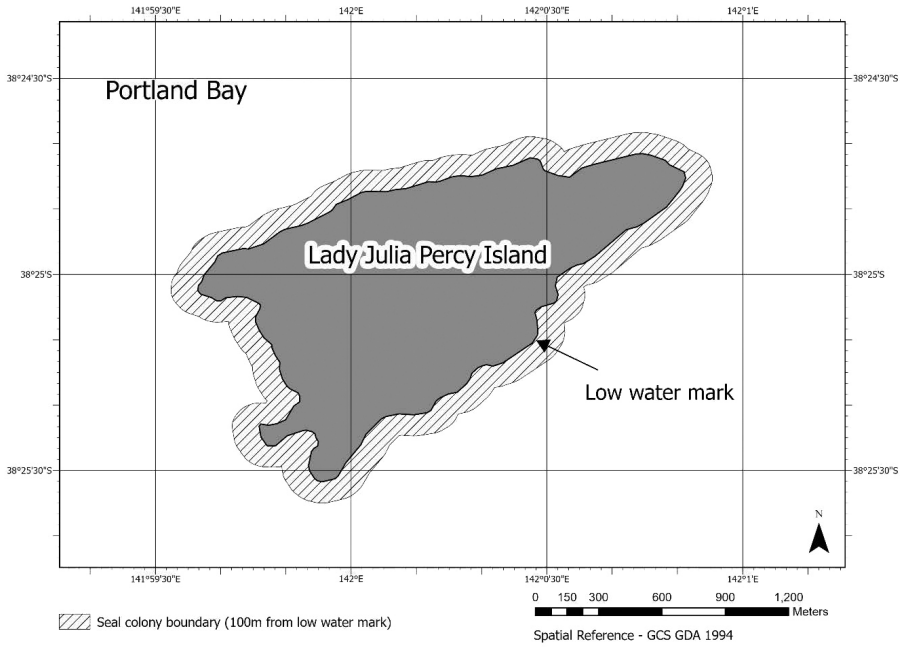
(from 1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027)



**SCHEDULE 4**

**Lady Julia Percy Island**

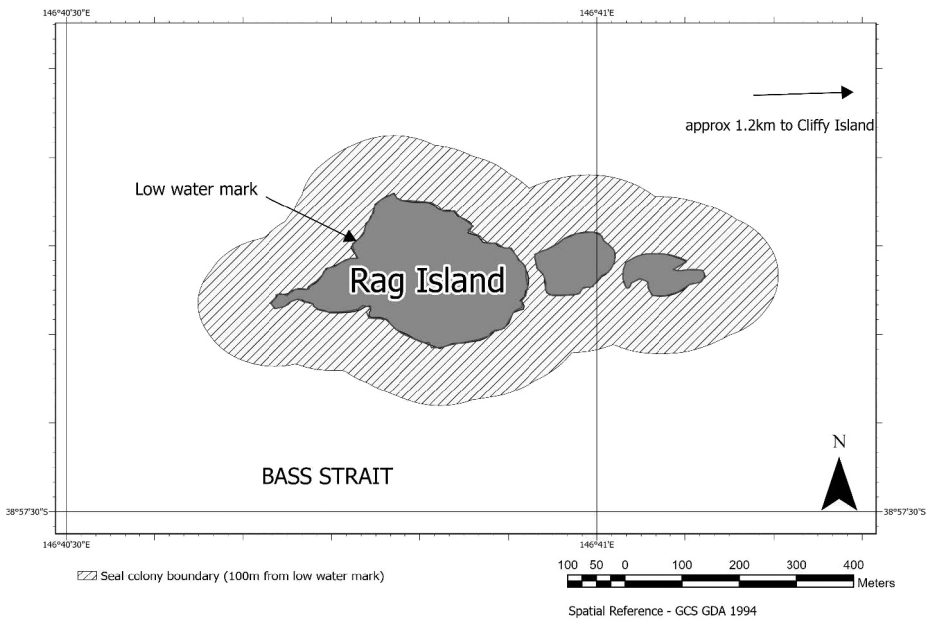
(from 1 July 2026 to 31 October 2026; and 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027)



**SCHEDULE 5**

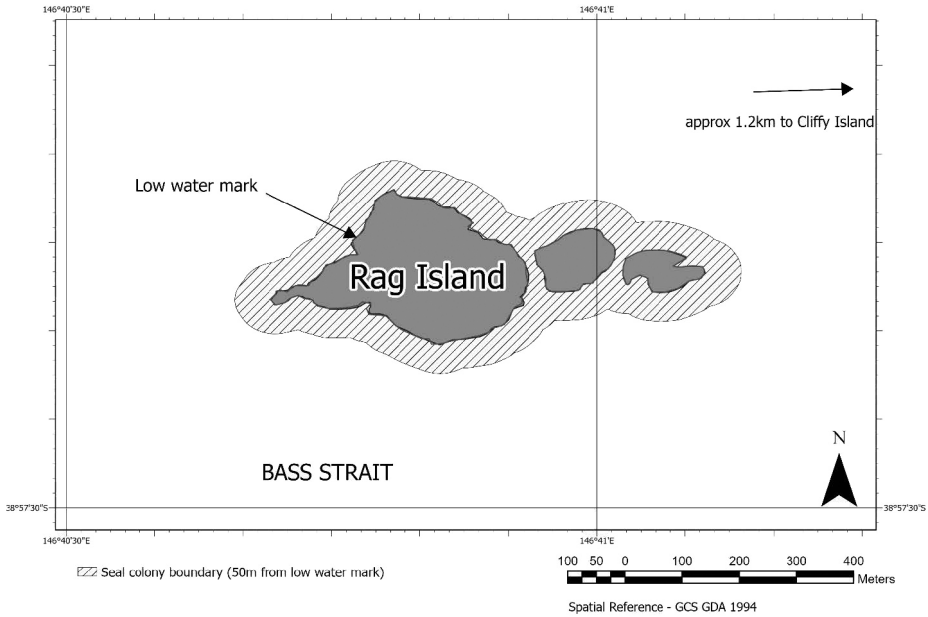
**Rag Island, Clifly Group**

(from 1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027)

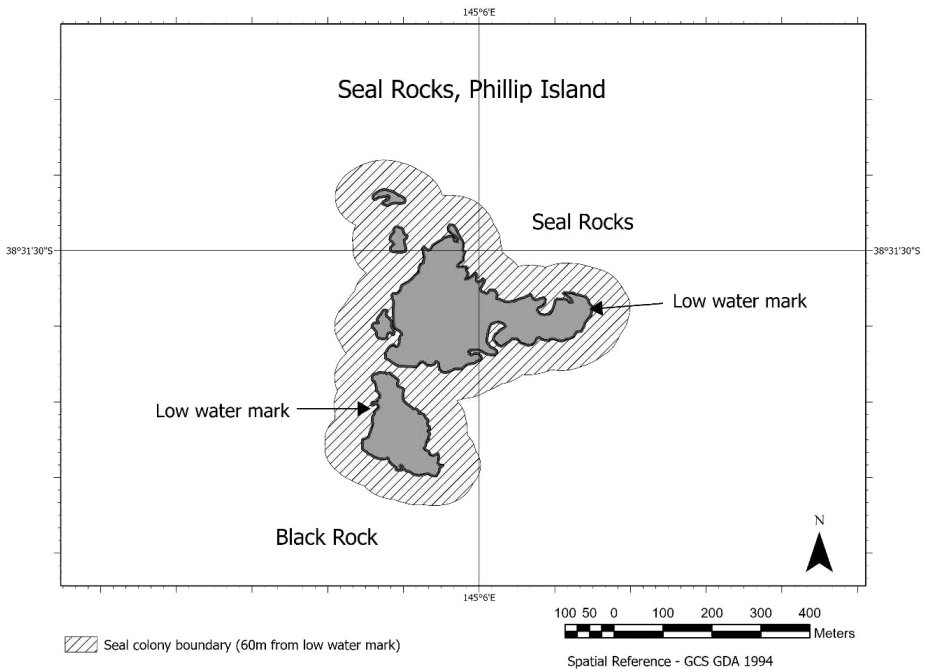


### SCHEDULE 6 Rag Island, Clifly Group

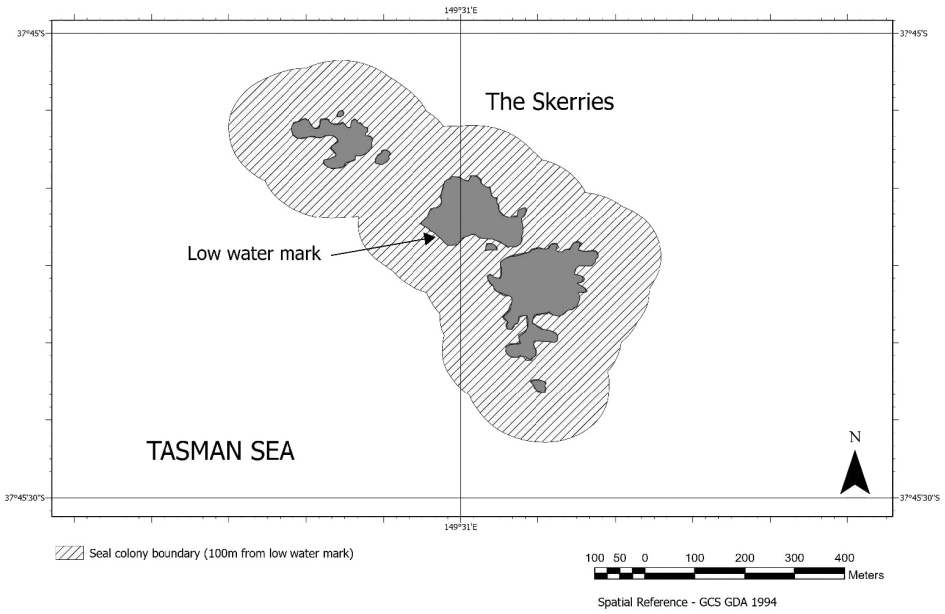
(from 1 July 2026 to 31 October 2026; and 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027)



### SCHEDULE 7 Seal Rocks, Phillip Island (from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027)



**SCHEDULE 8**  
**The Skerries, Croajingolong National Park**  
(from 1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027)



**SCHEDULE 9**  
**The Skerries, Croajingolong National Park**  
(from 1 July 2026 to 31 October 2026; and 1 March 2027 to 30 June 2027)

