G'day Melissa - a couple of comments on the web site item and the draft Fisheries Notice outlining the recreational rock lobster tagging requirements set to start on 1 July.

On the web page <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/tagging-of-recreationally-caught-rock-lobsters>,  under the "key principles" the 9th dot point begins "Tags must be placed on the horn of the lobster ..."

First, the word "placed" leaves a fair bit of room for interpretation and should be tightened.  Second, from my days as a recreational diver and a rock lobster fishery researcher in Tasmania and Victoria, the "horn" or rostrum has commonly been known as the single upturned spine immediately above and between the large antennae.  In fact the legal minimum lengths in Victoria and Tasmania used to be defined as from the tip of that spine to the rear of the carapace.

I suggest that a better description - one that matches the tagging illustration - would be "A tag must be firmly secured to one antenna of the lobster ..."

Regarding the draft notice, I suggest that it should be made clear that the tag must be securely attached to one of the antennae of the lobster - the antenna should be among the definitions.  I realise that antennae can be wrenched off during the capture process but it is extremely rare that both would be lost.  As it stands, the current wording of the draft Fisheries Notice leaves the alternative - attachment to a leg.  This is quite unsatisfactory.  Legs are very readily discarded during handling, in fact the simple process of attaching a tag securely could be enough for a lobster to discard a leg.

Cheers!  Ross.