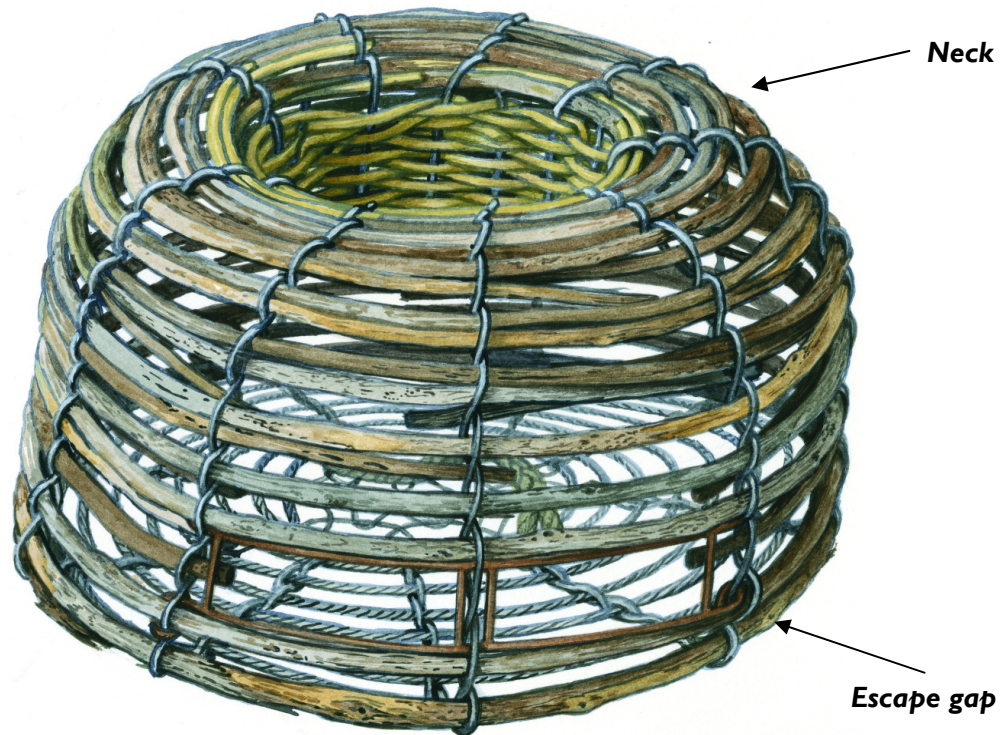


RECREATIONAL FISHING GEAR

Rock Lobster Pot



Gear Description

A **rock lobster** or **cray pot** is a dome shaped enclosed basket with a single entrance at the top. A **neck** protrudes into the pot to prevent the rock lobster from escaping. Traditional Tasmanian beehive lobster pots are constructed of a metal frame interwoven with steel cable at the base and strips of timber such as tea tree saplings on the sides and top. The **collar and neck** is made of a tight cane weave. Pots may also be a box shape made out of a heavy steel mesh base with a lighter metal frame covered in netting with solid plastic collar and neck.

A **surface buoy** is used to identify where the pot has been set and additional buoys or a dhan pole and flag can be used to improve detection. **Escape gaps** are fitted at the base of pot to enable rock lobster smaller than the minimum legal size to leave the pot.

How it works

The rock lobster pot is **baited** by attaching bait to the neck on the inside of the pot using wooden skewers or wire ties. The baited pot is then set on the sea floor on habitat preferred by rock lobster such as **rocky reef**. The bait provides a scent in the water that attracts the rock lobster to enter the neck of the pot and become trapped. Using a sounder to provide an image of the seafloor helps fishers locate rocky reef areas and improve placement of the pot.

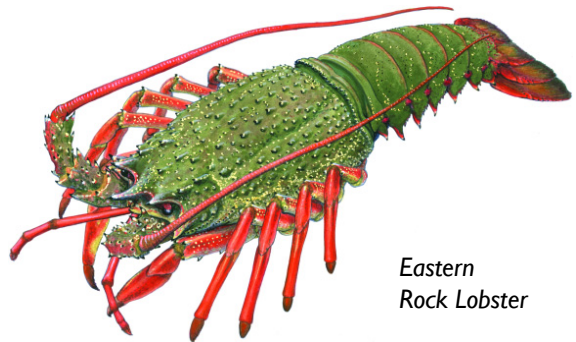
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Target Fish

Rock lobster pots are used to target **southern rock lobster** and less commonly, **eastern (green) rock lobster** that inhabit rocky reefs out to a depth of 150 metres. The types of bycatch species caught depends on the depth range and may include conger eels, octopus, crabs, wrasse, cod species and sharks.

*Southern
Rock Lobster*



*Eastern
Rock Lobster*

Responsible Fishing Tips

- To increase the survival of undersize rock lobster and unwanted bycatch, **sort the catch** as soon as possible and keep them out of the heat and wind.
- Handle undersize rock lobster and bycatch with care and **release alive** over the reef where they were caught as soon as possible.
- Take care to **prevent damage** to protruding legs, antenna and soft-shelled fish when handling the pot.
- Use fish head and frames from previous fishing efforts as bait.
- Ensure the **marker buoy** is large enough to stay afloat in strong currents and will not be pulled under. Make sure the buoy line length is greater than the depth of water being fished.
- As well as the required marker buoy, use additional buoys, large floats, or a dhan pole and flag to **improve visibility** so you can locate the gear for retrieval and avoidance by other boat users. A GPS fix also assists locating gear.
- Check the weather before setting the pot so it can be **safely retrieved**.
- Avoid interactions with marine mammals by not having **excess loose line** on the surface which may cause a hazard to wildlife or other boats.

For licensing and area rules, pick up a copy of the [Recreational Sea Fishing Guide](#).

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Tasmania

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