

Licence: rock lobster licence required

Size limit: males 110mm, females 105mm

Daily bag limit: Eastern Region - 2 rock lobster; Western Region - 5 rock lobster; northern Bass Strait - 2 rock lobster

Possession limit: Eastern Region - 4 rock lobster; Western Region, mainland Tasmania, Flinders, Cape Barren and Bruny Islands - 10; northern Bass Strait - 4 rock lobster

Non-licensed possession limit: 0 rock lobster on state waters; 2 rock lobster on land

Boat Limit: Eastern Region - 10 rock lobster; Western Region - 25 rock lobster

Boat Gear Limit: 5 rock lobster pots and 20 rock lobster rings

Season:

Western Region

Females - open from 4 November 2017 to 30 April 2018.

Males - open from 4 November 2017 to 31 August 2018.

Eastern Region

Open from 18 November 2017 to 30 April 2018.

Biotoxin Status:

To check closures, see page 7.

Licences

A rock lobster dive licence allows you to take rock lobster by hand, a rock lobster pot licence to use one pot and a rock lobster ring licence to use up to four rings.

You must be 10 years old or older to hold a rock lobster licence. The licence holder must personally set and retrieve any rock lobster fishing gear and another person may assist them if needed eg. to lift the pot. The rules apply to both southern and eastern (green) rock lobster.



Southern rock lobster

Eastern rock lobster

Special Rock Lobster Licence

The holder of a recreational rock lobster licence can buy a special rock lobster licence which allows you to possess 15 rock lobster in the Western Region and on mainland Tasmania for a 14 day period nominated by the fisher. During this 14 day period, you are **not allowed to fish for rock lobster in the Eastern Region**. Daily bag and boat limits still apply.

Setting gear at season opening

You can only possess a rock lobster pot on state waters **from 6am** the day before the season opens and only set a pot **after 1pm** on the same day. Pots can then be pulled after midnight.

Size Limits

There are different minimum size limits for female and male rock lobster:

- Female rock lobster – 105mm.
- Male rock lobster – 110mm.

Get your free rock lobster measuring gauge at any Service Tasmania outlet.

Aboriginal fishers should use a unique identifying code to mark their gear as specified on page 15.

Rock Lobster Regions

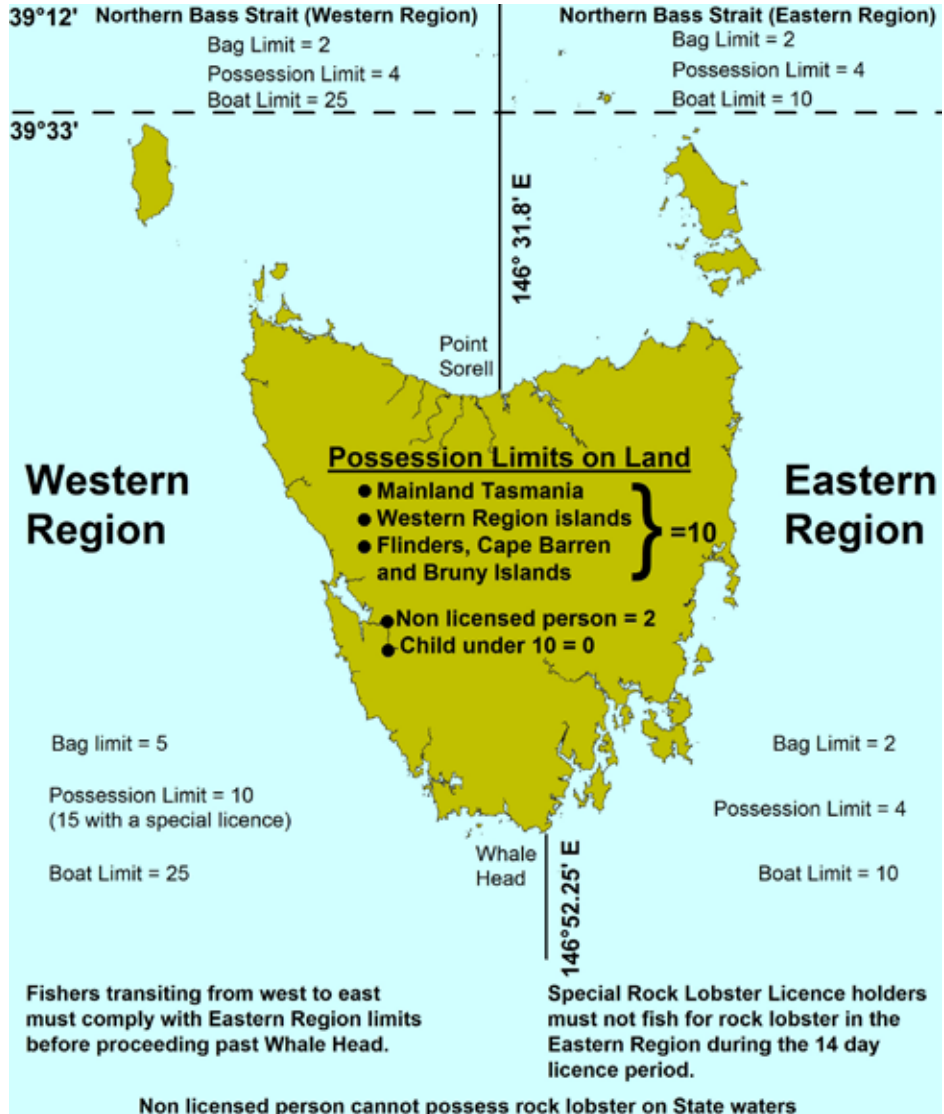
Eastern Region: includes all State fishing waters and islands eastward of Point Sorell and Whale Head (southern most point).

Western Region: includes all State fishing waters and islands westward of

Point Sorell and Whale Head.

Northern Bass Strait: Includes all waters north of a line of latitude 39°33'.

Note: The line separating the Regions applies to State waters. It does not extend through mainland Tasmania.



Possession Limits

- A possession limit of 10 applies on mainland Tasmania, islands in the Western Region and on Flinders, Cape Barren and Bruny Islands including homes, shacks and vehicles. A lower possession limit of 4 applies in the Eastern Region.
- Eastern Region possession limits apply within 100 metres of unloading any rock lobster, except where the fisher's shack or home is within the 100 metres.
- If you are on State waters with more than the daily bag limit you must prove you have fished for more than one day eg. an extended or overnight trip.
- If you do not have a licence, you cannot possess more than two rock lobster, unless you have a receipt or the lobster has a commercial tag.
- A child under 10 cannot possess rock lobster. Any rock lobster held by that child are deemed to be in the possession of the supervising adult.

Sexing Rock Lobster

Female rock lobster:

- Have large, overlapping pleopods (swimmerets/flaps) under the tail.
- Have a small nipper claw on the end of each rear leg.
- You cannot take rock lobster in berry (with eggs) or strip the eggs. If you catch a lobster in berry, you



must return it to the water as soon as possible.

Male rock lobster:

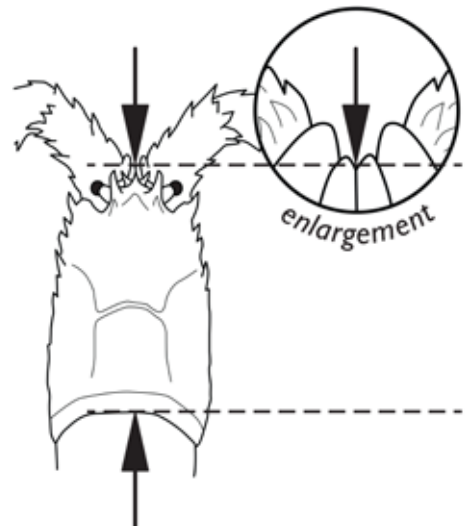
- Have small pleopods (swimmerets/flaps) under the tail.
- Have no nipper claws on the rear legs.



Measuring Rock Lobster



1. Spread the antennal horns.
2. Place the gauge tip hard into the middle notch.
3. Measure from the notch to the end of the carapace.



Handling Rock Lobster

- Measure your catch as soon as possible.
- Gently release undersized rock lobster on the reef where they were taken.
- If you are diving, size up the rock lobster before taking it.
- Handle lobster carefully particularly if they are soft-shelled or in berry.

Tail-clipping Rock Lobster

Rock lobster that you keep must be marked as 'recreationally-caught' fish as follows:

- Cut off at least a quarter of the central tail flap OR punch a 10mm hole in it.
- If fishing from a boat, mark the tail fan within five minutes of the lobster being brought to the boat and before landing; or
- If fishing from the shore, mark the tail fan within five minutes of landing and within 50 metres of where you are fishing.



Eating Rock Lobster at Sea

- You can cut up and eat one lobster per licence holder. This lobster is included in your daily bag limit.

Tagged and Specially Marked Rock Lobster

- You cannot possess specially-marked research rock lobsters, which have either two separate holes of at least 5 mm in diameter in the tail fan, two coloured lines on the underside of the tail or a blue T-bar tag with the words *TAFI Research Illegal To Take* (see photos).

- You can keep other tagged lobster. See page 12 on reporting of tagged fish.



Rock Lobster Fishing Gear

Pot: You can only possess and use one rock lobster pot on State waters. A person in charge of a boat must not allow more than 5 rock lobster pots to be on, or used from their boat and all licensees must be present. A rock lobster pot must:



- be no larger than 1250mm x 1250mm at base and 750mm high;
- have only one neck or entrance at least 200mm in diameter;
- have escape gaps at least 57mm high and the lower inside edge no more than 150mm up from the floor of the pot. If there is only one escape gap, it must be at least 400mm wide and if there are two, they must each be at least 200mm wide. There must be nothing obstructing the escape gap;
- not contain anything likely to entangle the rock lobster in the pot; and
- be marked with a buoy with the licence number and the letter 'P' for pot.
- you cannot leave your pot in the water for longer than 48 hours.

You cannot recreationally fish for rock lobster or have a recreational pot or ring on a commercial fishing trip. You cannot use rock lobster for bait.

Ring or Hoop Net:

- You may only possess and use up to four ring nets on State waters.
- A person in charge of a boat must not allow more than 20 rock lobster rings to be on, or used from their boat and all licensees must be present.
- A rock lobster ring is a single ring or hoop of no more than one metre in diameter, covered with mesh.
- If you are more than 100m from a ring, a marker buoy with the licence number and the letter 'R' for ring must be attached.



Rock Lobster Buoys: Rock lobster pots, caufs and unattended rings must be marked with a buoy:

- that has only the licence number and 'P' if it is a pot or 'R' if it is a ring clearly marked in figures at least 70mm high and 12 mm wide.
- that is specifically designed as a buoy and floats on the surface of the water; and
- is at least 195 mm in diameter at the widest point.

Additional buoys may be attached to improve visibility.

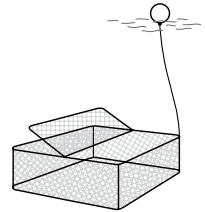
Diving: You can take rock lobster by SCUBA, surface air and snorkelling. The only aid that can be used to take rock lobster is a gloved hand. Nooses, gaffs, nets and spears can not be used for rock lobster fishing. It is illegal to possess a

crook or noose while diving, or to possess a noose on a boat unless it is being used for game fishing. Rings and pots can be used from a boat that is being used by divers.

Lines / Nets: It is illegal to take rock lobster by a hook and line or a net.

Rock Lobster Cauf:

- A rock lobster cauf is a device for holding rock lobster in the water.
- A person can only use one cauf at a time. It must have a yellow buoy marked with the licence number attached.
- A cauf can be used by more than one fisher, but lobsters in a shared cauf must be separated from other fishers' lobster into their own compartments. Each fisher must have their own yellow buoy marked with their licence number attached to their compartment of the cauf.
- All rock lobster in the cauf must be tail-clipped and count toward your possession limits.



Lost, Stolen and Irretrievable Gear

If you leave your pot in the water for longer than allowed due to bad weather, illness or theft, contact the Marine Police Fishwatch line on 0427 655 557 and provide them with your licence number.

Public Health Restrictions

Check for any current public health alerts relating to eating wild shellfish at www.publichealthalerts.tas.gov.au

Area Restrictions

See page 50 for a full list of restrictions. Specific No Rock Lobster Pot areas are listed below. Rock lobster rings can be used in these areas.

D'Entrecasteaux Channel – with a southern boundary being a line from Scott Point to the northern tip of Partridge Island and then from the southern tip of Partridge Island south to Labillardiere Peninsula on Bruny Island and a northern boundary being a line from Dennes Point to Piersons Point. See map on page 69.



Derwent River – upstream from a line from Dennes Point to Cape Direction.

Georges Bay – west of the line of longitude of the end of the training wall situated at the entrance to Georges Bay.



King Island – within 300 metres of the Blowhole on the Eastern side of King Island.