Centrostephanus Forum
East Coast Rock Lobster Perspective
Exploitation background
Situation in 2013

Biomass Levels
Area 1: 16%
Area 2: 8.5%
Area 3: 10%

Unstandardised CPUE (kg/potlift)

Year
East Coast Management Plan Objectives

Objective:
Rebuild to 20% Virgin Biomass by 2023.
– To be achieved in each area with a 70% probability

Secondary objective:
– Rebuild large lobster biomass

But HOW?
Scenario Testing

Hundreds of management options tested including

– Size limit changes (minimum and maximum)
– Seasons
– Catch limits (statewide and regional)
– Regional translocation

Summaries considered by DPIPWE, RecFAC, CFAC etc.

The most effective method for increasing biomass (overall and large lobster) was to catch fewer lobsters in this area.

Consequently 200t limit for combined commercial and recreational catch established.
Recreational Catch

ECMP Inception

Fishing Season

Recreational Catch (t)

Area
1
2
3

2000
2005
2010
2015
East Coast Commercial Summary

![Graph showing fishing season and catch CPUE with ECMP Inception remark]
Virgin Biomass (>60mm Carapace Length)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2023</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area 1</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area 2</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Area 3</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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Large lobster biomass (>145mm Carapace Length)

Modelling suggests:
- Doubling since inception
- Increases to 1.6%, 4.0% and 8.4% by 2023

Length-frequency data shows no upturn yet.
Current Challenges

- Maintaining recreational catches at level stipulated in ECMP
- Commercial catch cap being reached more quickly and by fewer vessels
- No evidence of increases in large lobster biomass from length-frequency data (but difficult to detect due to extreme low density).

Beyond 20% and 2023?

- 20% is a very low target, ongoing rebuilding highly desirable