

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment  
WATER AND MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

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WILD FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH

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Dear holder of a fishing licence (commercial dive)

## **Final arrangements for 2021/2022 commercial dive licensing year**

Following the most recent Commercial Dive Association meeting, there have been some additional changes to the commercial dive fishery arrangements put forward for the upcoming year commencing 1 September 2021. This letter incorporates those changes in the arrangements previously agreed to.

### **1. Subsidy arrangements**

Firstly, once again I would like to congratulate the commercial dive sector for the job you have done in harvesting long spined sea urchins. In excess of 460 tonnes have been harvested to date this licensing year which is 100 tonnes more than last year's catch.

As you are aware, the existing subsidy program for 2020/2021 concludes at the end of August. Any subsidy program structure for 2021/22 and beyond is still to be determined with the AIRF coming into its final funded year and as many areas of the industry recognise, there is a need for the fishery to become self-sustaining.

You will be advised of developments as they become available but in the interim, your views on a subsidy would be most welcome.

### **2. Proposed changes to northern zone size limits**

Over the past few years, divers have identified what they believed to be a population of periwinkles in the northern area that do not grow through to the 45 mm size limit. This year, a similar claim has been put forward about the short spined urchins in the northern zone.

The Department has therefore agreed to work with IMAS and industry to arrange for sampling and testing of both *Heliocidaris* and periwinkles from the northern zone to determine size at maturity for the reported two undersized species populations.

Preliminary discussions with IMAS suggest that the sampling may possibly be accommodated late this year. If found to be viable, a northern size limit may be introduced for the 2022/2023 season. A new size limit must still allow for at least two years of spawning before the fish enter the fishery.

### 3. Zone changes for both periwinkles and the short spined urchin

For 2021/2022 there will two minor changes to zoning.

1. The boundary between the north-eastern and northern zone will be moved from Tomahawk to Musselroe. There is a short vertical boundary from Musselroe before it extends from west to east. This is to encompass a sandy strip in its entirety within the northern zone.

All the Furneaux Group remains within the northern zone.

2. The boundary between central eastern and south eastern boundary will be simplified by making it a single line from west to east starting at the bottom (southern end) of Marion Bay.

### 4. TACs for periwinkles and *Heliocidaris*

The TAC for *Heliocidaris* will remain the same as for 2020/2021 however; for periwinkles, the three zones on the east coast (south-eastern zone, central-eastern zone and the north-eastern zone) will each have a TAC reduction of 20%. The TACs for periwinkles in the northern and western zones will remain unchanged.

#### Zone closure arrangements

Once catch has reached 80% of the TAC in a zone (trigger point), the Department and industry will assess the performance of the area to determine the most appropriate course of action taking into account CPUE and the effects of relayed fishing pressure should an area be closed.

**Table 1: Comparison of TACs in zones for periwinkles (Kg)**

TACs	South Eastern	Central Eastern	North Eastern	Mainland Tasmania Northern	Western	Total
2020/2021	10,000	9,000	16,000	4,440	13,600	53,040
2021/2022	8,000	7,200	12,800	4,440	13,600	46,040
Trigger point	6,400	5,760	10,240	3,552	10,880	
Variation	-2,000	-1,800	-3,200	0	0	-7,000

**Table 2: TACs in zones for *Heliocidaris* (Kg)**

TACs	South Eastern	Central Eastern	North Eastern	Mainland Tasmania Northern	Western	Total
2021/2022	44,000	45,000	37,000	30,000	10,000	166,000
Trigger point	35,200	36,000	29,600	24,000	8,000	

**Table 3: Bass Strait Island TACs for both *Heliocidaris* and Periwinkles 2021/2022**

<b>Area in Northern Zone</b>	<b>Additional TAC</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Block for reporting</b>
<b>King Island</b>	3 Tonnes	Closest high tide mark seaward 3NM	As indicated on block map
<b>Furneaux Group</b>	3 Tonnes	Closest high tide mark seaward 3NM	As indicated on block map
<b>Kent Group</b>	3 Tonnes	Closest high tide mark seaward 3NM	KG01

Please note, if you are taking catch from the Kent Group, use block code KG01.

### **5. Georges Bay *Heliocidaris* cap**

The 7 tonnes cap for *Heliocidaris* in Georges Bay will be maintained for 2021/2022. The area is defined as:

“State waters enclosed by an imaginary line commencing at Grants Point then following the line of high water around Georges Bay to St Helens Point then running straight to the point of commencement”.

The Georges Bay capped area will be closed to the take of *Heliocidaris* from 1 September 2021 until 12:01 AM on 4 October 2021. This arrangement should allow the 7 tonnes of urchins to be taken at the peak time.

To stop the cap being overrun as has happened in past years, divers taking *Heliocidaris* from the capped area are asked to e-mail the catch weight to [greg.ryan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:greg.ryan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au) on the day of each fishing trip in the area. Once the cap is reached, divers will be e-mailed by the Department to ask for all take of short spined urchins from the capped area to cease until the next licensing year.

**It should be noted that any “over-run” of the 7 tonne cap will be deducted from the cap in the following year.**

### **6. Other *Heliocidaris* areas to be carefully monitored**

In addition to Georges Bay, three other areas have been identified by the TCDA as being of concern regarding the level of take of short spined urchins. The Department will be closely monitoring the three areas taking into consideration the fishing effort and catch rates at each site and will discuss appropriate management arrangements as the sites approach allocated trigger points. The sites and their allocated trigger points are shown below.

#### **1. Derwent River**

Commercial dive blocks B036, B037, BN36, BN37

Trigger point - approaching 9 tonnes

#### **2. Coles Bay**

Commercial dive blocks BG45, BH45

Trigger point – approaching 15 tonnes

3. St.Helens

Commercial dive blocks AV45, AW45, AW46, AX45, AX46

Trigger point – approaching 13 tonnes

## 7. Eddystone Point periwinkle cap

Following discussions with the TCDA at the AGM, the cap of 4 tonnes on periwinkles at Eddystone Point in 2020/2021 will remain unchanged for 2021/2022.

Eddystone Point is defined as-

the area between a line running east to west through Red Rocks at lat. 41°00'26"S and a line running east to west through the southern end of Cod Bay at lat. 40°55'59"S.

In a similar arrangement as that in place for the cap at Georges Bay for *Heliocidaris*, divers taking periwinkles from the area defined as Eddystone Point are asked to e-mail the catch weight to [greg.ryan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:greg.ryan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au) on the day of each fishing trip. Once the cap is reached, divers will be e-mailed by the Department asking for all take of periwinkles from the capped area to cease.

**As is the case for the Georges Bay cap, any “over-run” of the 4 tonne cap will be deducted from the cap in the following year.**

If you would like to discuss any of the points raised, please e-mail Greg Ryan on [greg.ryan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:greg.ryan@dpipwe.tas.gov.au) or call 0457 046 561.

Yours sincerely



Dr Ian Dutton  
**Director, Marine Resources**

## **Description of Zones:**

### **South Eastern Zone**

being that area of State waters on the east coast of Tasmania bounded to the north by an imaginary line running west to east from a point at lat 42°50'42.3"S long 147°53'9.8"E from the high-tide mark on the southern end of Marion Bay and bounded in the west by an imaginary line running north to south from Whale Head at a point at Lat 43°38'17.6"S long 146°52'15"E including Eagle Hawk Neck.

### **Central Eastern Zone**

being that area of State waters on the east coast of Tasmania bounded in the south by an imaginary line running west to east from a point at lat 42°50'42.3"S long 147°53'9.8"E from the high-tide mark on the southern end of Marion Bay and bounded in the north by an imaginary line running east to west from Isaacs Point at Friendly Beaches at a point at lat 41°59'29"S long 148°17'13"E.

### **North Eastern Zone**

being that area of State waters on the east coast of Tasmania bounded in the south by an imaginary line running east to west from Isaacs Point at Friendly Beaches at a point at lat 41°59'29"S long 148°17'13" and bounded to the north by an imaginary line from the northern side of the mouth of the Great Musselroe River where Musselroe Bay enters Great Musselroe Bay then 100 metres off the shore around to the northern tip of Musselroe Point then due north up to latitude 40° 48' South then due east.

### **Northern Zone**

being that area of State waters on the northern coast of Tasmania and including the Kent group of islands, the Furneaux group of islands and King Island bounded on the east coast to the south by an imaginary line from the northern side of the mouth of the Great Musselroe River where Musselroe Bay enters Great Musselroe Bay then 100 metres off the shore around to the northern tip of Musselroe Point then due north up to latitude 40° 48' South then due east and bounded to the south on the west coast by an imaginary line running east to west from a point at Cape Grim lat 40°40'40"S long 144°41'11"E.

### **Western zone**

being that area of State waters on the west coast of Tasmania bounded on the north by an imaginary line running east to west from a point at Cape Grim lat 40°40'40"S long 144°41'11"E and bounded to the east by an imaginary line running north to south from Whale Head at a point at Lat 43°38'17.6"S long 146°52'15"E.

Commercial Dive Zones 2021/2022

