

# RECREATIONAL FISHING GEAR

## Rock Lobster Ring

### Gear Description

A **rock lobster, cray ring** or **hoop net** is a pocket of netting attached to a single steel ring of not more than one metre in diameter.

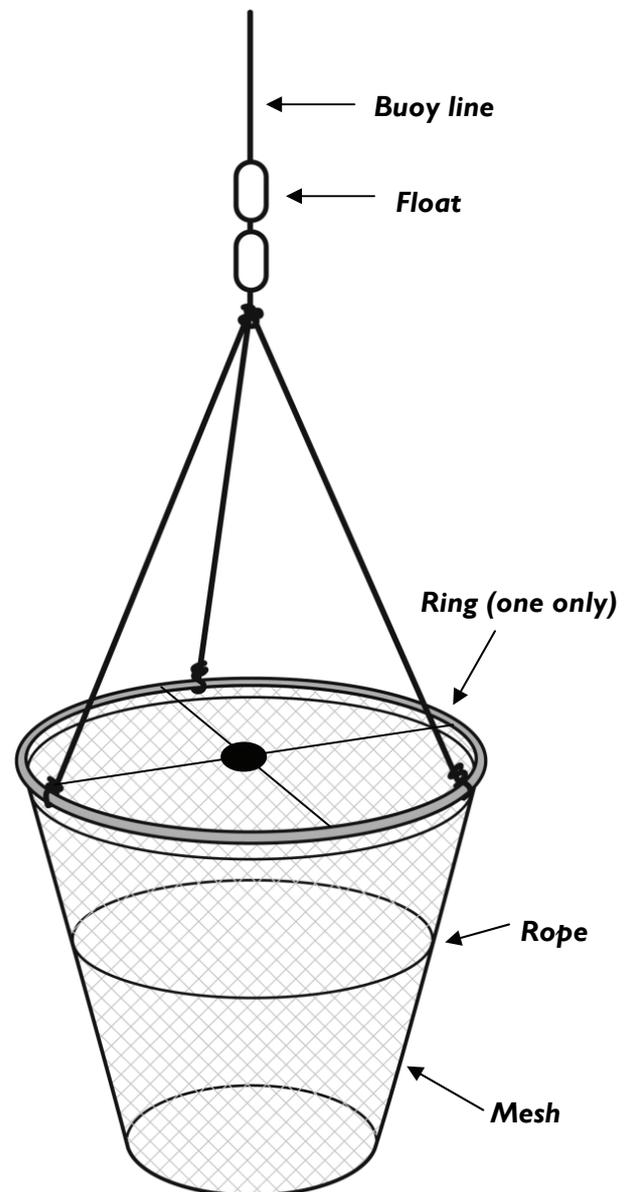
Three or more lines are attached to the ring and joined above the centre of the ring to a **small float** which acts as an attachment point for the **buoy line**. A line is tied across the ring to enable bait to be attached.

### How it works

Rock lobster rings are used only by recreational fishers in Tasmania, more commonly in shallow waters. They are deployed from the shore or at a depth range where the fisher can observe them using an underwater viewer.

The **baited ring** is set on the sea floor on habitat preferred by rock lobster such as **rocky reef**. The bait provides a plume of scent in the water that attracts the lobster into the middle of the steel ring where it becomes enmeshed.

When a rock lobster is observed by the fisher to be feeding on the bait, the **metal ring** is then lifted trapping the rock lobster in the pocket of netting hanging under the ring. They are unable to escape due to the **water movement** on them as the ring is pulled to the surface or because they have become entangled in the mesh.



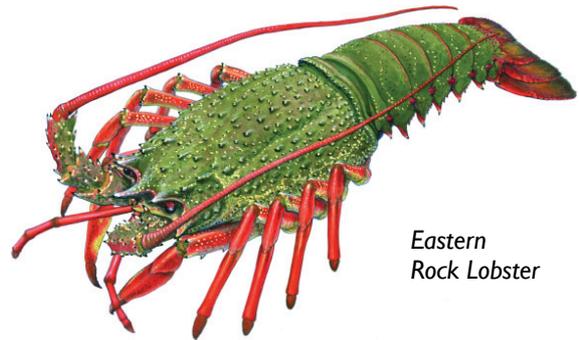
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### Target Fish

Rock lobster rings are used to target target **southern rock lobster** and less commonly, **eastern (green) rock lobster** that inhabit rocky reefs and other hard sea floor in shallow waters less than 10 metres. The types of bycatch species caught are limited as many escape during retrieval of the ring but can include conger eels, octopus, crabs, wrasse and cod species.

*Southern  
Rock Lobster*



*Eastern  
Rock Lobster*

### Responsible Fishing Tips

- Attend your rock lobster ring, but if you can't use a marker buoy as required.
- 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 lobster when handling the ring.
- Use fish head and frames from previous fishing efforts as bait.
- If using a **marker buoy** is large enough to stay afloat in strong currents and not be pulled under by the weight. Make sure the buoy line length is greater than the depth of water being fished.
- Check the weather forecast so the ring 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 net specifications, licensing and area rules, get a copy of the  
*Recreational Sea Fishing Guide.***

#### CONTACT DETAILS

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Tasmania

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