

SHELLFISH

Recreationally harvested wild shellfish

There is always some risk to your health from eating wild shellfish that you have collected. Do not take shellfish from:

- where boats discharge;
- marinas;
- near sewerage, industrial or stormwaters outfalls;
- near septic tanks; or
- places affected by heavy rainfall.

Tasmania is periodically affected by harmful algal blooms. Red wild shellfish warning signs are displayed at popular boat ramps and jetties along Tasmania's north east, east and south east coastlines when harmful algal blooms are present.

Follow any Public Health Alerts about collecting and eating wild shellfish at www.publichealthalerts.tas.gov.au or phone the DOH hotline on 1800 671 738.

Derwent or Tamar Estuaries

Do not consume shellfish from the Derwent or Tamar Estuaries including Ralphs Bay as they contain high levels of heavy metals – see

www.derwentestuary.org.au/fishing-and-seafood-safety.



SCALEFISH

Derwent Estuary

- Heavy metal contamination in the Derwent Estuary affects the type and amount of seafood caught in the area that you should eat.
- The Director of Public Health advises people not to eat bream caught in the Derwent Estuary and Browns River.
- Limit meals of Derwent caught scalefish to no more than two per week or one meal per week for pregnant and breastfeeding women, women planning to become pregnant and children aged 6 years and younger.
- More information at www.derwentestuary.org.au/fishing-and-seafood-safety

Other Areas

- For areas outside the Derwent Estuary, fish can be eaten as part of a balanced diet in line with Food Standards Australia New Zealand advice – see www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumer/chemicals/mercury/pages/default.aspx.



Do not eat bream from the Derwent



Derwent-caught scalefish: not more than two meals per week

BIOTOXIN INFORMATION

Toxic Algal Blooms

Some species of naturally occurring algae that produce toxins have been present in eastern and southern Tasmanian waters over the past few years.

These algae can produce **paralytic shellfish toxins (PSTs)** that accumulate in shellfish feeding on the algae. Humans can ingest these toxins when eating shellfish such as oysters, mussels, scallops and clams.

Abalone, scallop roes and the intestines and livers of rock lobster can also be affected when toxic algal blooms are present.

Rock Lobster Fishery

Extensive algal blooms affecting the rock lobster fishery have occurred off the east coast periodically since 2012. Rock lobster feed on shellfish and can become contaminated with PSTs. Toxins build up in specific organs (rarely in the flesh) and can be dangerous to humans when eaten. When biotoxin levels are above the prescribed minimum limit, the affected zones may be closed to fishing.

Can I transit through a rock lobster biotoxin closed area to an open area?

Yes you can transit during a biotoxin closure, for example if an Eastern Region zone is closed for biotoxin reasons, fishers can possess pots, rings and lobster in their boats and transit the closed area. It is different during

a *seasonal closure* when Eastern Region waters are not open so fishers cannot transit through them carrying rock lobster, pots or rings to access an open area in the Western Region.

Stay Informed

Read the Recreational Rock Lobster Fishery Biotoxin Events Policy at:

Web: www.fishing.tas.gov.au/biotoxin-events

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FisheriesTasmania

Email alerts: www.fishing.tas.gov.au/emailnews

Public health information on collecting and eating wild shellfish:

www.publichealthalerts.tas.gov.au

