**Licence:**
Rock lobster licence required

**Size limit:**
**North West Zone** (see map next page)
Males 110mm
Females 120mm

**Other Waters**
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 and mainland Tasmania including Flinders, Cape Barren and Bruny Islands - 10 rock lobster
Northern Bass Strait - 4 rock lobster

**Non-licensed possession limit:**
On land - 2 rock lobster
On state waters - 0 rock lobster
Child under 10 – 0 rock lobster

**Boat limit:**
Eastern Region - 10 rock lobster
Western Region - 25 rock lobster
Northern Bass Strait - 10 rock lobster

**Boat gear limit:**
5 pots and 20 rings

**Season Open:**
All waters outside the East Coast Stock Rebuilding Zone (ECSRZ)
Open from 2 November 2019.
(see map opposite)

**East Coast Stock Rebuilding Zone**
Open from 7 December 2019.

**Season Closed:**
**Eastern Region (including ECSRZ)**
Closes 30 April 2020.

**Western Region (Females)**
Closes 30 April 2020.

**Western Region (Males)**
Closes 31 August 2020.

**Biotoxin and Public Health Info:**
See page 51.

**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 rules apply to both southern and eastern (green) rock lobster.

**East Coast Stock Rebuilding Zone (ECSRZ)**
**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.

**Transiting at season opening**

You cannot possess pots or rings in any part of the ECSRZ including the D’Entrecasteaux Channel or waters between St Helens and Eddystone Point until that area opens. For Biotoxin Closures see page 51.

**Size limits**

Regional size limits apply for female rock lobster.

You cannot possess female rock lobster smaller than 120mm:
- inside the North West Zone; or
- when transiting from outside the Zone to inside it.

**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 limits apply within 100 metres of unloading 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.
- A child under 10 cannot possess rock lobster. Any rock lobster held by a child are deemed to be in the possession of the supervising adult.
- A special rock lobster licence is available that allows you to possess 15 lobster in the Western Region and on mainland Tasmania for a 14 day period.

**North West Zone:** Waters bounded in the south by line of latitude 42°00 S on the West Coast and bounded in the north by a line running northward at Point Sorell.

**Value your East Coast catch**

Do your part by sticking to catch limits and valuing your East Coast catch. Consider voluntarily limiting your total season catch in the ECSRZ to fewer than 10 lobsters.
Rock Lobster Regions

Western Region: Waters and islands westward of Point Sorell and Whale Head.

Northern Bass Strait: Waters north of latitude 39°33’.

Eastern Region: Waters and islands eastward of Point Sorell and Whale Head. This region includes the East Coast Stock Rebuilding Zone.

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

Possession Limits

Fishers transiting from west to east must comply with Eastern Region bag limits before passing Whale Head.
**Sexing Rock Lobster**

**Female rock lobster:**
- Have large, overlapping swimmerets or 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 swimmerets or 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.

Highgrading your catch is not allowed – see page 30

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 79 on reporting of tagged fish.

Rock Lobster Fishing Gear

The licence holder must personally set and retrieve any rock lobster fishing gear.

Another person may assist them if needed eg. to lift the pot.

**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.

1 November 2019 - 31 October 2020
You cannot recreationally fish for rock lobster or have a recreational pot or ring on a commercial fishing trip.

**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. See page 9 for marker buoy specifications.

**Aboriginal fishers** should use a unique identifying code to mark their gear as specified on page 9.

**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 cannot 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, ring 1300 720 647 and provide your licence number.
Area Restrictions
See page 52 for a full list of restrictions. Specific No Rock Lobster Pot areas are listed below. Rock lobster pots cannot be set in these areas however rock lobster rings can be used.

**D’Entrecasteaux Channel and Derwent Estuary** – 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.

**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.