Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishery

Information Paper 2019

Proposed Amendments to the Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan
# Contents

**SUMMARY**

- Have your say 4
- How to make a submission 4

**AMENDMENTS TO THE MANAGEMENT PLAN** 7

### Increasing the minimum size of female rock lobster in the North West 7

- Rule Amendments 7
- Why is this change needed? 7
- Compliance 8
- Key Issue: The area over which the proposed size limit should apply 9
- Area 4 – inclusion or exclusion? 10
- Area 6 – inclusion or exclusion? 10
- Location of boundary lines 11
- Prior consultation on this issue 11

### Removing the number of pots/vessel length schedule/associated alternative methods 12

- Rule Amendment 12

### Increasing the maximum number of pots to be carried and used by a commercial rock lobster vessel 13

- Rule Amendment 13
- Why is this change proposed? 13
- Compliance considerations 14
- Prior consultation 14
- Economic and social impacts including interactions with the recreational fishery 15
- Key Issue: The proposed area where a maximum of 60 pots may be used 15
- Location of boundary lines 16

### Removal of endorsement to unload outside State waters 17

- Rule Amendment 17

### Recreational boat limit in Northern Bass Strait 17

- Rule Amendment 17

### Notification of not being able to retrieve fishing gear – recreational fishery 18

- Rule Amendment 18

### Publication of a Public Notice on a website 19

- Rule Amendment 19
Summary

This document outlines proposed amendments to the current Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan (the Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Rules 2011). Amendments to the Management Plan are prepared following the statutory process prescribed in the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 (the Act) which includes a public consultation period for the proposed amendments.

The primary amendments for this review are (a) increasing the female size limit for the north western part of the fishery to improve sustainability and (b) the increasing commercial pot numbers from 50 to 60 in part of the fishery to improve economic efficiency. A number of other minor amendments are also being progressed.

The amendments apply to the commercial and non-commercial fishery, unless otherwise stated. The word recreational fishing or fishery is used for the purposes of this paper and encapsulates the non-commercial fishery, which include recreational fishers and an Aborigine engaging in an Aboriginal activity.

The draft rule amendments can be viewed at www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rocklobster-review.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Tasmanian Government is committed to providing opportunities for community involvement in the development of Government policy and we are seeking your input on the draft rule amendments detailed in this Information Paper.

HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

You are invited to provide written responses from 1 May to 3 June 2019.


Responses should be submitted directly online or by using the printed form. Short email responses and those submitted by mail will also be accepted.

To request a copy of the Information Paper or a printed copy of the response form please email rocklobster.review@dpipwe.tas.gov.au or phone (03) 6165 3047.

Submissions (not submitted directly online) can be forwarded to:

Email: rocklobster.review@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Mail: DPIPWE – Rock Lobster Review

GPO Box 44

HOBART TAS 7001

Hand Deliver: DPIPWE, Wild Fisheries Management Branch

Level 1, 1 Franklin Wharf

HOBART TAS 7000
Responses will not be accepted if received after midnight on 3 June 2019. Responses that deal with matters outside the scope of the proposed amendments detailed in this Information Paper will not be considered as part of this management plan amendment process.

ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBMISSIONS

The Government recognises that not all individuals or groups are equally placed to access and understand information. We are therefore committed to ensuring Government information is accessible and easily understood by people with diverse communication needs.

Where possible, if not using the online response form or printed form, please consider typing your submission in plain English and providing it in a format such as Microsoft Word or equivalent.

The Government cannot however take responsibility for the accessibility of documents provided by third parties.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUBMISSIONS

Respondents using the online response form will receive an automatic acknowledgement of receipt and a copy of the response form. Respondents using mail, or email submissions may make enquiries to check the response has been received, however, the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) will not automatically send an acknowledgement.

HOW RESPONSES TO THE AMENDMENTS WILL BE USED

Written submissions will be considered by DPIPWE, the Crustacean Fisheries Advisory Committee (CFAC) and the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee (RECFAC) after the public consultation period has closed.

DPIPWE will then prepare a report for the Minister on the submissions, including the Fishery Advisory Committees recommendations/comments and DPIPWE’s final recommendations for amendments to the management plan.

This report will be publicly available following the Minister’s consideration. Responses to this paper will be summarised for inclusion in the report to the Minister.

Other than indicated below, submissions will be treated as public information and will be published on our website at www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rocklobster-review at the same time as the report to the Minister is published.

No personal information other than an individual’s name or the organisation making a submission will be published.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO NOTE

Your name (or the name of the organisation) will be published unless you request otherwise.

In the absence of a clear indication that a submission (or parts of the submission) is intended to be treated as confidential, the Department will treat the submission as public.

If you would like your submission treated as confidential, whether in whole or in part, please indicate this in writing at the time of making your submission clearly identifying the parts of your submission you want to remain confidential and the reasons why. In this case, your submission will not be published to the extent of that request.
Copyright in submissions remains with the author(s), not with the Tasmanian Government.

The Department will not publish, in whole or in part, submissions containing defamatory or offensive material. If your submission includes information that could enable the identification of other individuals then either all or parts of the submission will not be published.

THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2009 AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Information provided to the Government may be provided to an applicant under the provisions of the Right to Information Act 2009 (RTI). If you have indicated that you wish all or part of your submission to be treated as confidential, your statement detailing the reasons may be taken into account in determining whether or not to release the information in the event of an RTI application for assessed disclosure. You may also be contacted to provide any further comment.

For further information in relation to the HAVE YOUR SAY section of this paper please email rocklobster.review@dpipwe.tas.gov.au or phone (03) 6165 3047.
Amendments to the Management Plan

This section contains details of the proposed changes.

Increasing the minimum size of female rock lobster in the North West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RULE AMENDMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROPOSED CHANGES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule 17 - new subrule for a regional minimum size limit of 120mm for female rock lobster in north western waters to apply to the commercial and recreational fisheries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule 3 - insert definition of the North-Western Region. Point Sorell on the north coast to the Henty River on the west coast. (NW region is depicted in red in the thumbnail map below, a larger map is on page 9 of this paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule 58 - new subrule to address compliance issues for the commercial fishery associated with the implementation of a regional size limit. All female rock lobster taken in the North West size limit zone to be unloaded before commencing a fishing trip in a zone with a different size limit and visa versa.</td>
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</table>

*Intent* - to improve stock levels and the future sustainability of the fishery in the North West region.

Why is this change needed?

Fisheries scientists from the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) assess the status of rock lobster stocks every year, using information from commercial and recreational fisheries along with other scientific and biological data. A stock assessment model generates estimates of current lobster stocks and egg production as well as forward projections as to how the current levels may change in the future.

North West lobster stocks (stock assessment area 5) are estimated to be about 10% of an unfished or virgin fishery, which is very low level, and they are not rebuilding as quickly as stocks in other areas around the
State. This is not a good situation to be in, as there is little buffer or resilience for the future, if any unforeseen environmental or other changes occur that impact the stocks.

The minimum stock level benchmark used nationally or internationally for many fisheries is 20%. IMAS modelling indicates that under the current commercial and recreational fisheries management arrangements it could take up to 10 years for NW stock levels to be above 20%.

This rate of increase isn’t fast enough, given how low the stocks are. Additional management is needed to accelerate stock rebuilding quickly and to futureproof the stocks and the fishery in this important and productive region.

A key underlying issue is that the current statewide female size limit of 105mm is not well matched to the high growth rate of lobsters in the north west, and does not sufficiently protect female lobsters so they can reach the size of maturity (i.e. the size they generally spawn) before being legally caught.

IMAS modelling indicates that increasing the female size limit to 120mm would be a more appropriate size limit, allowing an average female lobster to spawn at least once (potentially twice subject to localised variability in growth rates) before it could be retained by a fisher. The size limit increase will also leave extra lobsters in the water which will help boost the stock levels and assist in achieving the 20% rebuilding objective within 4 years (i.e. by 2023).

Other management options were evaluated and discussed with stakeholders. These included regional seasonal closures, a commercial catch cap, translocation, and decreasing the statewide total allowable commercial catch. However, increasing the female size limit met a wider range of management objectives including being cost effective, compared with other options.

**Compliance**

To manage the compliance issues associated with enforcing a regional size limit, single zone fishing trip restrictions (similar to the restrictions in place for commercial catch cap areas and recreational eastern/western regions) will need to apply.

For the recreational fishery, this means that fishers cannot take or be in possession of a female rock lobster under the 120mm size limit in the NW size limit zone (on the water) or within 100m of the site of unloading.

For the commercial fishery, when female season is open, commercial fishers undertaking a trip in the NW area must unload all female rock lobster before commencing a fishing trip outside the NW area. Similarly, commercial fishers undertaking a trip outside the NW area must unload all female rock lobster before commencing a fishing trip inside the NW area.

Possession of female rock lobster less than 120mm on a commercial vessel in the NW zone will be only allowed if the vessel is transiting the NW zone to/from a fishing trip outside the zone.

An important component of the compliance strategy for the commercial fishery is the requirement for fishers to make a telephone report prior to commencing a fishing trip and prior to unloading to provide information including fishing area and unloading location. The current pre fishing telephone report will be amended to include a question about whether a commercial fisher is starting a fishing trip in the north west region.
Key Issue: The area over which the proposed size limit should apply

The key operational issue for commercial fishers is the requirement to unload female lobsters taken in the 105mm zone before commencing a fishing trip in the 120mm zone - and vice versa.

As there are few ports of unloading on the northwest coast, there are potentially significant increased operating costs to be considered. To address these operational issues, DPIPWE and industry discussions have focused on the pros/cons of applying the 120mm size limit to a larger area of the fishery than is needed from a pure sustainability perspective.

The map below indicates the proposed area for female size limit increase – Point Sorell (which aligns with the Eastern and Western Region boundary) west around to the Henty River. The numbers on the map relate to the IMAS scientific assessment areas which are used for IMAS fisheries assessment purposes.

The stock assessment areas adjacent to Area 5 are Area 4 (north east) and Area 6 (upper west coast). The current biomass estimates for these areas are 18/20% and egg production estimates 21/28% respectively, with model projections indicating these estimates should continue to increase without additional management.

Consideration of applying the 120mm female size limit to these adjacent areas is a trade-off between ‘locking up potential sustainable catch’ (albeit with longer term sustainability gains) against significant operational cost increases for local commercial fishers.
The impact of single zone fishing restrictions for the recreational fishers is considered minor, due to the inshore/daily fishing trip nature of fishing, boat types and the relatively short travel distances (across water) undertaken by most recreational fishers.

**Area 4 – inclusion or exclusion?**

The Area 4 commercial catch has been managed with a commercial catch cap with associated single zone fishing restrictions since 2017, being introduced at the request of local fishers. These fishers have made representations to the Department and CFAC expressing a clear preference to continue with the north east catch cap to ensure stock rebuilding goals are achieved.

Due to the difference in growth rates between female lobster in the north east and north west, north east fishers believe that there would be a significant reduction in catch (in the order of 30%) for the first few years if the size limit was introduced there.

These fishers argue that such a “cost” is not justified to address operational issues for affecting fishers based in the north west. There is also little historic practice of fishers fishing in these two areas on the same trip, as the majority of central Bass Strait does not have significant areas of lobster habitat. That is the areas effectively operate as separate parts of the fishery.

There would be a similar impact for recreational fishers in the north east. In addition, including Area 4 could create boundary effects around Eddystone Point (the northern boundary of the east coast stock rebuilding zone (ECSRZ)). The potential impacts of these boundary effects for the ECSRZ need to be balanced against the sustainability gains in the north east.

The Department’s view is that the impact of applying the increased female size limit to Area 4 is not warranted or justified at this time. The stock status of Area 4 will continue to be monitored as part of the annual IMAS stock assessment process and if stock rebuilding in this region is not “on track”, adaptive management options will be considered in consultation with stakeholders.

**Area 6 – inclusion or exclusion?**

Area 6 (upper west coast) has different considerations. Traditionally commercial fishers operating out of the 2 main ports in the region (Stanley and Strahan), may frequently fish in Areas 5 and 6 on the same trip. If Area 5 was a single fishing zone, this operational flexibility would be lost and there would be significant cost increases, due to the lengthy steaming time to reach a major port to unload.

To maintain operational flexibility, fishers would be trading off a short term reduction in catch/catch rates noting that there will be longer term gains in biomass and egg production. On average, annual commercial catch from Area 6 is half that of Area 5.

The Department is also mindful of the possible ‘boundary impacts’ on Area 6 - if the size limit was only applied to Area 5 - that is substantial extra fishing effort moving to Area 6, which is not desirable from a stock perspective.

On balance, the Department’s view is there are benefits to including Area 6 in the 120mm female size limit zone.
Location of boundary lines

Northern boundary proposed is at Point Sorell on the north coast

Considerations

- Well established line for the rock lobster fishery
  - the current western boundary line for the commercial NE catch cap area in Bass Strait.
  - the current recreational boundary line for the east / west region in Bass Strait.
- There is virtually no commercial fishing either side of this boundary line.
- Recreational fishers operating out of Port Sorell will need to be aware that if they head west and cross the Point Sorell boundary line into the NW size limit zone they cannot take or possess female rock lobster less than 120mm.
- Clear visual landmark for fishers and accessible vantage points for compliance enforcement activities.

Southern boundary is proposed at 42°S vicinity of Henty River on west coast

Considerations

- This boundary line runs across sandy bottom, not rocky reef habitat.
- The Henty Dunes are a clear visual landmark for fishers and there are accessible land vantage points for compliance enforcement activities.
- Recreational fishers operating out of Strahan will need to be aware that if they head north and cross the Henty River boundary line into the NW size limit zone they cannot take or possess female rock lobster less than 120mm. (Commercial fishers may possess female lobsters less than 120mm providing they adhere to single zone fishing and transiting provisions).

Prior consultation on this issue

Over the last 12 months the Department has engaged with the commercial sector on this issue through port meeting discussions in May and October 2018 and at TRLFA General meetings. The issue discussed at the Devonport Recreational Fishing Forum in 2018, was the subject of a specific presentation and Q & A session at two recent Recreational Fishing Forums at Burnie and Smithton.

The issue has been a key agenda item at CFAC and RecFAC meetings in 2018 and 2019. The Department would like to acknowledge the significant time and effort that CFAC and RecFAC have put into consideration of this issue and the development of advice on an appropriate management response to accelerate stock rebuilding in the north west.

The TRLFA has also been focused on the issue of northern egg production for two years and in response the question of how best to accelerate stock rebuilding, facilitated extensive industry discussion with the Department and IMAS. The TRLFA process culminated with formal TRLFA ballot in September 2018 to determine TRLFA policy on this issue.
Removing the number of pots/vessel length schedule/associated alternative methods

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<tr>
<td>PROPOSED CHANGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rule 75A - the current rule, which specifies that the number of pots on a licence is to be determined by the vessel length schedule or an alternative method approved by the Secretary will be rescinded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The new rule will specify the maximum number of pots that a licence holder may be set, used or be in possession of, on a vessel (see next section for details).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule 2 (vessel length schedule) will be removed.</td>
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Intent - To remove the vessel length/pot numbers schedule and associated alternative methods for determining how many pots can be on a vessel as this provision does not have a current fisheries management objective.

Marine and Safety Tasmanian (MAST) provided advice to DPIW in 2017 that the inclusion of the ‘vessel length schedule’ or approved alternative methods to determine how many pots may be used by a vessel in the Rock Lobster Management Plan was not of practical benefit from a MAST perspective, as it is the Master’s responsibility to ensure that the vessel meets the minimum requirements of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV). The administration of these standards is now undertaken by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

Under the NSCV rock lobster pots are considered as deck cargo. There is no link or relationship between the NSCV and the vessel length/pot number schedule. In accordance with the NSCV, determining a vessel’s stability involves a naval architect undertaking calculations that result in the production of a stability booklet for the vessel. An AMSA accredited surveyor has responsibility for approving the stability booklet as being compliant with the requirements of the NSCV.

As this schedule does not a current fisheries management purpose, the Department proposes that it be removed from the Rules.

A rule specifying the maximum number of pots that may be carried and used from a vessel will be retained, as this maximum number is being set to meet fishery management objective.
Increasing the maximum number of pots to be carried and used by a commercial rock lobster vessel

**RULE AMENDMENT**

**PROPOSED CHANGE**

Rule 75A - the current rule will be amended to provide for a 60 pot area and to prohibit the possession, use and setting of more than 50 pots from a vessel in waters outside the 60 pot area.

The proposed 60 pot area includes waters west from Point Sorell on the north coast to South Cape on the south coast (60 pot area is depicted in red in the thumbnail map below, a larger map is on page 16 of this paper).

![Map](image)

*Intent - To increase the maximum number of pots that can be set by a vessel from 50 to 60 in part of the State to improve economic efficiency for commercial fishers.*

**Why is this change proposed?**

Under a quota management system, which directly limits the catch of the commercial fishery, individual fishers aim to maximise the efficiency of their fishing operations and reduce the costs of catching each kilo of quota. This could be achieved by allowing an individual vessel to use additional pots and reduce the number of days fishing needed to catch their quota.

The number of pots in the commercial fishery is fixed at 10,506. This maximum number is not changing under this proposal. The pots are spread across 311 rock lobster licences. Pots are transferable on a permanent or seasonal basis between licence holders.
A 60 pot west coast winter commercial fishery (May to August) has been run under permit for the last 5 years to allow fishers to explore the economic costs/benefits of using extra pots. Approximately 30 vessels have participated in this program each year.

This proposal builds on the outcomes of the trial which was administered under a permit system and proposes a management plan amendment to allow the use of up to 60 pots by a vessel in the 60 pot area during the commercial open season. In waters outside of the 60 pot area, a vessel will be restricted to the current maximum of 50 pots.

**Compliance considerations**

- Vessels will be prohibited from possessing or using more than 50 pots unless the vessel is undertaking a fishing trip within the 60 pot area.

- Vessels will be allowed to possess more than 50 pots (upto 60) when transiting waters outside the 60 pot area on route to / from the 60 pot area.

- Additional pots have to be removed from the vessel before commencing a fishing trip outside the 60 pot area.

- The prefishing telephone report will include a question about whether the fisher intends to commence a fishing trip in the 60 pot area.

There are no restrictions or requirements in relation to unloading fish between fishing trips in the different pot areas.

**Prior consultation**

At the TRLFA General Meeting October 2017, a notice of motion for the TRLFA to adopt a policy supporting the use of 60 pots per vessel Statewide (during commercial open seasons) received majority support.

The TRLFA subsequently wrote to the Minister requesting the management plan review process be initiated as the next step towards changing the maximum pot rule.

The Minister’s response to this request (December 2017) indicated that the change proposed by the TRLFA was significant and was likely to escalate tension between the recreational and commercial sectors, particularly on the east coast. The CFAC has also flagged the potential impacts within the commercial sector in relation to accelerating the current trend of a shrinking fleet with flow on impacts for regional communities.

The Minister encouraged the TRLFA to engage in further discussion and consultation with the recreational sector through its peak body, the FAC’s and the Department, in order to provide the Minister with more comprehensive advice on the implications of this proposal for further consideration.

The TRLFA has undertaken the consultation suggested by the previous Minister. TARFish and RecFAC considered this issue and have indicated that retaining a 50 pot maximum statewide is preferred, but have expressed qualified support for consideration of 60 pots on the west coast all season, but not in the Eastern Region.
Economic and social impacts including interactions with the recreational fishery

An increase in the maximum number of pots that can be used by a vessel has potential conflicting economic and social impacts.

The total number of pots in the fishery is capped at 10,506. An individual license holder may hold up to 200 pots but is restricted to using a maximum of 50 pots under the current management plan.

The Department acknowledges that the TRLFA 60 pots statewide policy, has the primary objective of improving economic efficiency for commercial fishers, by allowing fishers to catch their quota quicker, thus reducing the costs of fishing for a fixed amount of catch.

However, fishers who own more than 50 pots can seasonally lease pots (separate from the quota unit that is notionally attached to each pot) out to other fishers who may only own a smaller number of pots.

This means that any increase to the maximum number of pots is predicted to reduce the number of vessels fishing, as the number of pots available to lease will be less and this could have a significant negative impact on the operations of fishers who rely heavily on leasing in additional pots each season.

The quantum and regional impact of the fleet size reduction is hard to model precisely, however in relative terms, the greater the increase in the maximum pot number or the larger the area where the extra pots can be used, the bigger the impact is likely to be. It is also possible that the fleet impacts may not be spread evenly around the State.

The impact of the proposal on interactions between commercial and recreational fishers has two discreet lines of argument. If commercial fishers use 60 pots they will catch their fixed quota quicker than with 50 pots so will be off the water sooner and there will be less interaction with recreational fishers.

However, a key issue from recreational fishers is that lobster stocks in popular inshore recreational fishing areas can be impacted more by a commercial vessels using 60 pots than 50 pots, if a commercial vessel choses to fish in these areas. Many recreational fishers have limited capacity to fish beyond sheltered inshore fishing grounds, so the perceived risk of increased commercial impacts on accessible areas is a concern.

The Department is mindful of the wide range of views across the commercial and recreational sectors and has identified a priority to develop more explicit social policy objectives and indicators for both sectors of the fishery to help assess and guide the direction future management changes that have a social and economic impact. The Department intends to commence consultation with FACs and peak bodies on addressing social policy issues this year.

Key Issue: The proposed area where a maximum of 60 pots may be used

The Department is proposing to allow the use of 60 pots from a vessel on the west coast only (Point Sorell to South Cape) not statewide for this package of draft rule amendments.

In developing this proposal, the Department has taken into account the wide range of stakeholder views expressed to date, including the views of the FACs and Peak Bodies. The proposal aims to balance the opportunity for economic gains against potential social impacts, by restricting the pot number increase to the western half of the fishery. The Department intends to monitor and assess impacts of this measure on fleet operations and efficiency and this data will contribute to the strategic discussions around developing economic and social policy objectives for the fishery.
The map below indicates the proposed area where a maximum of 60 pots may be used – Point Sorell (which aligns with the Eastern and Western Region boundary) west around to Sandy Cape. The numbers on the map relate to the IMAS scientific assessment areas that are used for IMAS fisheries assessment purposes.

Location of boundary lines

Northern boundary proposed is at Point Sorell on the north coast

Considerations

- Well established line for the rock lobster fishery
  - the current western boundary line for the commercial NE catch cap area in Bass Strait
  - proposed northern boundary line for the NW size limit zone
  - the current recreational boundary line for the east / west region in Bass Strait.

- There is virtually no commercial fishing in mid Bass Strait on either side of this boundary line.

Southern boundary is proposed South Cape on the south coast

Considerations

- This southern boundary line was established for the 60 pot west coast winter permit fishery after extensive industry consultation.
Removal of endorsement to unload outside State waters

RULE AMENDMENT

PROPOSED CHANGE
Rule 10A (1) to be amended to remove the reference an endorsement to unload outside of State waters.

*Intent:* Remove the reference to a historic commercial endorsement that is no longer applicable.

The amendment is to ‘tidy up’ this Rule by removing the reference to a historic endorsement that is no longer exists and is not applicable to the current management of the commercial fishery.

The provision for an authorisation to unload outside of State waters in an emergency situation will be retained.

Recreational boat limit in Northern Bass Strait

RULE AMENDMENT

PROPOSED CHANGE
Rule 34 (3) is amended to change the recreational boat limit in the Northern Bass Strait western region from 25 to 10. Note the Western Boat Limit remains at 25 below 39 degrees 33’ S.

*Intent:* Align the recreational boat limit for all Northern Bass Strait waters (eastern and western regions) for improved compliance objectives.

Conservative rock lobster catch and possession limits have been applied to the waters north of a line of latitude 39 degrees 33’ S in the Western Region for a number of years. This aimed to align the Tasmanian catch limits with Victorian limits in the waters of close proximity to aid compliance. Alignment of boat limits for this area had been previously overlooked.

The current limits are depicted in the map. The boat limit under review is for the Northern Bass Strait Waters within the Western Region. This area is marked in red on the map.
Notification of not being able to retrieve fishing gear – recreational fishery

RULE AMENDMENT

PROPOSED CHANGE

Rule 26 (4) is amended to replace the words ‘advises’ or ‘advice’ with ‘notifies’ or ‘notification’ and a new subrule added clarify that notification requires compliance with any requirements from a fisheries officer in relation to the notification.
Intent: Provide greater flexibility for the communication methods associated with the notification of pots that cannot be retrieved within the 48 time period, arrangements for retrieval of pots including provisions for directions from a fisheries officer.

Currently recreational fishers are required to directly contact a fisheries officer to notify that fishing gear cannot be retrieved within the prescribed 48 hour period. This is mostly done via the Fishwatch telephone service. The Department and Marine Police intend to investigate alternative services to facilitate these notifications in future.

A minor amendment to the wording of this rule is proposed to ensure that the legislation is not a barrier to the use of alternative modern communication services in the future.

Publication of a Public Notice on a website

**RULE AMENDMENT**

**PROPOSED CHANGE**

Rule 3 insert definition of “published notice”.

Rules 11 (2) and 59A (1) are amended by replacing the word “public” with “published”.

Intent: New provision to allow the publication of a public notice on a web site rather than being restricted to the gazette and newspapers.

For the Rock Lobster Fishery, public notices are used for a range of notifications including biotoxin closures and openings, fishing seasons, the total allowable catch and catch caps.

This amendment will significantly reduce the DPIPWE and industry costs associated with the current requirement to publish a public notice in the Government gazette and print media, for the public notice to be legally published and take effect.

There will be no change to the current communication strategy for providing information to all stakeholders including email, SMS and social media.
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
Wild Fisheries Management Branch

Phone: (03) 6165 3047

Email: rocklobster.review@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Website: www.fishing.tas.gov.au/rocklobster-review