Rock Lobster Management Team

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Resource Brief
Harvest Strategy
Whale Workshop
Legislation Amendments
TACC
Local Lobster Phase 4
Local Lobster Phase 5
Quota Monitoring
Fees
Recreational catch
➢ Departmental planning document (management & research)
➢ What work are we doing on rock lobster (commercial and recreational) this financial year?
➢ Communicated with stakeholders
➢ Draft 2020-21 resource briefs in development and will be seeking peak body comment
High Priorities 2019-20

➢ Review and update Harvest Strategy
➢ Review whale mitigation arrangements
➢ Update stock assessment model
➢ Lobster catchability study
➢ Tag-recapture research project
➢ Review recreational catch estimate methodology
➢ Fishery-independent shallow water survey
➢ 2020 international lobster conference
Harvest Strategy
Context for review

➢ Harvest Strategy due for review - continue until new or revised strategy adopted.

➢ Consider science and modelling review recommendations

➢ Update format in line with contemporary HS Policy - incl. whale entanglements

➢ Council TACC Sub-committee recommended 5% increase to 6,615 tonnes for the 2020/21 season. Advice is currently with the Minister.
1. Issue identification

2. Workshop issues with peak bodies

3. Prepare draft harvest strategy

4. Statutory consultation

5. Ministerial approval and publication
Whale entanglements

8 entanglements in West Coast Rock Lobster gear reported in 2018
Whale Entanglements

- Whale Population
- Entanglement Sightings
- Migration Timing
- Fishing Effort
Whale workshop – 5 & 6 September

- Fishers and Government
- Review current information on migrations
- Workshopped options
- 15 suggested outcomes
- Potential research identified
Consider implementing for 2020/21 season, after consultation complete

1. Extend the period when gear modifications are required to include the months of April and November

2. Apply a 7 day pull rule to the shallow water

3. Industry to undertake voluntary whale sightings surveys, using the whale sightings app

4. Explore options for fishers to be trained and to deploy tracking buoys on entangled whales

5. Undertake a program to promote the positive measures undertaken by industry to mitigate interactions with whales
Whales – What can you do?

➢ Report entangled whales – 9219 9840
➢ Standby entangled whale
➢ First fishing day of month do whale sightings transect
Management Plan Amendments

1. Administrative & operational issues
2. Whale workshop outcomes
3. Issues identified by Fishing Operations Committee
4. Compliance issues
5. Other industry issues?
1. Escape gaps no less than **55mm** in height - currently 54mm (new)

2. Provide for the take/consignment of setose western rock during the whale mitigation period - 1 May and 31 October each year

3. Pot floats be marked with either relevant **MFL number** or **LFB number** (new)

4. Crate labelling— only need to specify either **MFL number** or **LFB number** and relevant zone
Access Fees – 2020/21 season

Zone A - $23.05 / unit
Zone B - $32.83 / unit
Zone C - $33.15 / unit

Fishery GVP for 2017-18 FY – $433 million
4.6 % increase in fees
LLP Phase 4 data

- 1 December 2018 – 30 April 2019
- 22,000 tags issued
- 13 tonnes landed (18,070 lobsters)
- Average price $29.12 / kg

Photo: Facebook, Seaz Denison Seafood
Similar arrangements to Phase 4

- Peak period of summer – Easter (December 2019 – April 2020)
- 100 tags per MFL
Quota Monitoring
Proposal re Landing tags

➢ Landing tags able to be used across multiple seasons
➢ No need to return unused tags at end of the season
➢ Collect new landing tags only when all previous ones used
➢ Tags remain specific for the MFL which they have been allocated to

Benefits:
- Reduced onus on fishers and Department at start of season
- Less unused tags and plastic waste
Quota Monitoring

Online Temporary Unit transfers

➢ Access via ‘Manage MFL’ tab in Fisheye

➢ Security interest requirements (upload form)

➢ BPOINT payment of fee ($162)
Recreational catch 2017-18

15 October 2017 – 30 June 2018

- 61,245 licences
- Recreational catch = 472 tonnes
- Charter catch = 3.45 tonnes

Total recreational catch = 475.45 t

Recreational catch estimate methodology under review – joint project
## Recreational estimates – 5 YR comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rec Season</th>
<th>TARC (t)</th>
<th>Estimated catch (t)</th>
<th>TARC 5-YRA (t)</th>
<th>Catch 5-YRA (t)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>459.4(^\d)</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>307(^\d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18*</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>475.45(^\d)</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>378(^\d)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TARC – Total Allowable Recreational Catch

\(^\d\) includes charter catches

86% of TARC caught
Thank you
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Charter operators - Rock lobster fishing trial arrangements

Ministerial announcement on 2 October
- 3 year trial (Nov 2019 to Nov 2022)
- Increased number of pots, boat limits & flexibility
- part of the recreational 5% allocation
- Q&A document available:

Summary of new rules:

➢ maximum number of pots that may be fished per vessel - from six to 12;

➢ increased boat limit of rock lobster –
  ➢ from 24 to 40 lobsters, for charter boats licenced for six to 10 passengers;
  ➢ from 24 to 80 lobsters, for charter boats licenced for more than 10 passengers;
  ➢ maintain the current boat limit of 24 rock lobster for charter operators with a maximum of 5 passengers;

➢ store rock lobster on board their boat, within the associated boat limit;

➢ capacity to tend pots prior to conducting a tour, provided no lobster are landed; and

➢ increased catch and effort reporting requirements
  ➢ Written log of catch and phone nomination requirements – similar to ‘pre-fishing and post-landing’ nominations type

Note - the individual fisher bag limit of eight lobsters (maximum) per passenger remains unchanged.
Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016

- Delay to full commencement (originally planned for 1 January 2019)

- Act amendment required to address some operational issues.

- Consultation with peak bodies complete.

- Timeframes for amendment not yet known.