

# Rock Lobster Fishery Draft Management Plan

## Summary of Proposed Changes – April 2011

**A draft management plan has been prepared for the rock lobster fishery. The table below summarises the proposed rule changes. Public comment is now invited on these proposals. Please turn over for information about how to have your say.**



Rule Change	Intent
<b>Applies to Commercial and Recreational Fishers</b>	
Introduce a maximum size limit of 160mm carapace length for male and female rock lobster. Applies to all lobster fishing south of Eddystone Point to Whale Head (Max Size Limit Region) Commercial fishers can transit this region with lobsters >160 mm but cannot fish within this region if they have lobsters >160 mm onboard	Increase the biomass of large lobsters to assist in reducing the risk of the long spined urchin ( <i>Centrostephanus</i> ) barren formation
<b>Applies to Recreational Fishers</b>	
Reduce daily bag limit from 5 to 3, applies east of Port Sorell to Whale Head (Eastern Region)	To assist with stock rebuilding by reducing current levels of total catch from this region of the fishery
On extended fishing trips, the on water possession limit in the Eastern Region is reduced from 10 to 6	Complements eastern region bag limit change
Use of Special Licence (possession limit of 15 lobsters for a 14 day period) limited to fishing west of Port Sorell to Whale Head (Western Region)	Prohibit use in eastern region where catch reduction strategy is focused
Introduction of boat limits equivalent to 5 x individual's gear allocation, 5 x individual's bag and possession limits	To limit fishing activity to reflect a non commercial scale of operation and reduce opportunities for illegal activity
Introduce a possession limit of 4 in northern Bass Strait north of the line of latitude 39° 30'S	To align Vic and Tas possession limits where vessels return to Vic after fishing in Tas waters
Requirement for all fishers to mark all gear with a unique identification code (including rings)	To assist the Marine Police with identification of legal fishing apparatus
Restriction on possession of noose on a vessel or when diving Restriction on possession of a crook when diving	To improve compliance of recreational divers who use illegal devices
Limit on using one fish cauf only and the ability to identify different fisher's lobsters within the cauf	To assist Marine Police in enforcement of bag and possession limits
<b>Applies to People who do not hold a Rock Lobster Licence</b>	
Reduce the individual possession limit (with no receipt) from 5 to 2 rock lobster; Deem any lobster possessed by a child (<10 yrs) to be the possession of the supervising adult	To reduce the compliance risk and illegal use of recreationally caught lobster by better controlling the amount of lobsters that can be possessed by non licensed persons
<b>Applies to Commercial Fishers</b>	
Removal of carryover (under-catch) provisions	To remove the potential for significant carryover tonnage to undermine effects of TACC reductions and stock rebuilding
Introduction of an annual cap of 30 lobsters per year to the existing personal possession (take home) provisions	To put in place an overall annual cap on the amount of lobsters that may be retained under this provision
Reduce the giant crab by-catch provisions from 100 kgs to 50 kgs per year	To bring the by-catch provisions into line with the current kilogram value of a giant crab unit
Changes to administrative approvals, including the ability of Secretary to exempt the commercial tagging of lobster under exceptional circumstances	Minor administrative changes to provide clarification or operational flexibility

## Further Information

Copies of the draft rules (draft management plan) and accompanying Information Paper can be accessed from our website [www.fishing.tas.gov.au](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au) or by contacting our office at the address below.

- Recreational rock lobster enquiries: (03) 6233 9072
- Commercial rock lobster enquiries: (03) 6233 6797

**DPIPWE Website:** [www.fishing.tas.gov.au](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au)

## How do I make a comment?

You are encouraged to comment on all proposals or just those most relevant to you. Please go to [www.fishing.tas.gov.au](http://www.fishing.tas.gov.au) and fill out the online response form.

Alternatively, you can forward your written comments on the draft management plan by the close of business on the **8 June 2011**, to:

**Email** [fishreview@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:fishreview@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au)

**Mail** The Secretary  
Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan  
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment  
GPO Box 44  
HOBART TAS 7001

**Fax** (03) 6223 1539, marked for attention to 'Rock Lobster Plan'

**Hand Deliver** Wild Fisheries Management Branch, DPIPWE  
Level 1, Marine Board Building  
1 Franklin Wharf  
Hobart Tasmania 7000

## What will happen to my comment?

All submissions will be acknowledged as received. No direct reply to correspondence will be provided. Submissions will be considered by the Department, the Crustacean Fishery Advisory Committee (CFAC) and the Recreational Fishery Advisory Committee (RecFAC). The Department will then prepare a report for the Minister summarising the submissions along with the FAC's and Department's final recommendations for changes to the draft management plan. The report will be publicly available on the Department's web site or on request.