

Tasmanian Calamari Fishery

*Managing Stocks for **Sustainability***

Discussion Paper
October 2021



In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, we acknowledge the palawa people as the traditional and original owners and ongoing custodians of land and sea country of lutrawita/Tasmania and pay respects to their elders past and present.

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SUMMARY

Southern calamari are highly valued by commercial and recreational fishers, and by the Tasmanian community who consume them. The potential options for change are being put forward now to gain early involvement from the broader fishing community.

Catch levels and stock status

The calamari fishery on the north coast of Tasmania has experienced increased fishing pressure from both the recreational and commercial sectors since 2010 and is also impacted by changing environmental conditions.

The calamari fishery has been assessed as depleting by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) since 2017. Changes are needed to reduce fishing levels and return calamari to a sustainable fishery.

Risks to the fishery

The risk of doing nothing means it is increasingly likely that the north coast could follow a similar path to Great Oyster Bay in the mid-2000s, where large spawning aggregations dispersed due to sustained heavy fishing pressure by both sectors over a prolonged period.

Actions to address sustainability risks that apply to all sectors will make the fishery more resilient for the future. A spawning closure introduced on the north coast in 2017 has reduced some risks but more needs to be done.

Proposed changes

The options for possible changes include:

- introducing limited licences to the commercial fishery (pp. 9-22), and
- reducing catch limits for recreational fishers (pp. 7-8).

Have your say

Preliminary stage – DPIPWE would like your input on options for possible changes to how Tasmania's calamari fishery is managed to gain early involvement from the broader fishing community. Feedback will help refine these for the formal statutory stage.

Formal public consultation – You will have the opportunity to comment on the final proposed changes to the *Fisheries (Scalefish) Rules 2015*, expected to be in early 2022. We aim to have changes in place by 1 November 2022.

Who the changes apply to

The proposed options apply to the commercial and non-commercial fishery, unless otherwise stated. The word *recreational fishing* or *fishery* is used in this paper to capture the non-commercial fishery, which includes both recreational fishers and Aboriginal people.

TIMEFRAME



October 2021

Release of the Discussion paper for Public Consultation.



November 2021

Summary report for the Minister on issues identified by key stakeholders, FACs and the wider community.



December 2021

The Minister decides on what will be consulted in the statutory stage scheduled for 2022.

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Calamari fishers are being asked to comment on options for possible changes to how Tasmania's calamari fishery is managed.

Anyone with an interest in fishing for calamari is asked to provide their feedback by completing the relevant survey on the options proposed.

This feedback will inform development of any future rule changes which stakeholders will have a further opportunity to comment on.

You are invited to provide written responses from Friday, 8 October 2021.

Online, email and post

Online: The online surveys are at: www.fishing.tas.gov.au/calamari

Recreational survey link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/RecCalamari

Commercial survey link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommercialCalamari

Email: Responses can be emailed to calamari@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au

Post: Wild Fisheries Management Branch, DPIWWE, GPO Box 44, Hobart, TAS, 7001

RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT SUNDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2021.

Information about responses

All responses will be treated as public information and made available on the Department's website. If you wish for your response to be treated as confidential, either whole or in part, please note this in writing at the time of submitting your response.

WHAT THE SCIENCE SAYS

Stock status

Southern calamari live for less than a year, have rapid growth, aggregate to spawn, and are sensitive to environmental conditions and increased fishing pressure. The [2018/19 Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery Assessment](#) and the [Status of Australian Fish Stocks \(SAFS\)](#) have assessed the Tasmanian calamari fishery as depleting, indicating the need for further management.

Table 1: Stock status of southern calamari from the Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery Assessment 2019/20¹ (Fraser et al, unpublished).

STOCK STATUS	DEPLETING
<i>Sharp regional increases and subsequent fluctuations in catch and effort in recent years suggest that fishing pressure on Southern Calamari is likely to be too high to be sustainable. Despite closures during part of the spawning season, many operators rely on targeting spawning aggregations, which represents a high risk of recruitment impairment. Aggregation fishing also means that data on catch and catch rates are unlikely to reflect abundance. Data poor stock assessment results give further reason for concern that fishing mortality might have been excessive and that stocks on the south-east and east coast might be depleted or still recovering, while more recently targeted stocks on the north coast might be depleting.</i>	

Risks

IMAS indicate there is a similar regional pattern emerging to that experienced in Great Oyster Bay in the mid-2000s, which saw high catch and effort in areas with large spawning aggregations followed by a subsequent decline in both catch and catch rates. The large spawning aggregations in Great Oyster Bay have now apparently dispersed.

If catch and effort from both sectors is not restrained on the north coast, then it is increasingly likely that a similar scenario may occur there.

Seasonal closures

Seasonal closures aim to restrain catch and protect as much spawning activity as possible during the peak period. They are implemented by public notice.

The east coast calamari closure has operated for over a decade. The northern waters closure has operated for 3 years but has not been incorporated into the rules to allow for flexibility around the peak timing, key areas and length of closure and environmental changes. Feedback suggests that fishers would prefer more certainty about this closure.

Proposal:

- Continue the protection of key spawning areas by implementing seasonal area closures.

¹ Fraser K, Lyle J, Hartmann K and Krueck N [unpublished] Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery Assessment 2019/20

RECREATIONAL FISHERY PROPOSALS

Intent – to improve stock levels and the sustainability of the fishery by restraining recreational catch.

Summary

The recreational catch can be limited by reducing the bag limit, introducing a boat limit, extending the current spawning closure, or a combination of all these.

Reducing the bag limit

The current bag limit of 10 calamari and possession limit of 20 has been in place since 2015.

DPIPWE suggest reducing the bag limit from 10 to 5 to limit the recreational catch. Generally, the possession limit is twice the bag limit, so this is suggested to be 10.

Reducing a bag limit does not lead to the same level of reduction in total recreational catch, so halving the bag limit is unlikely to result in a 50% reduction in catch as fishers do not catch their bag limit on every fishing trip.

The potential impact can be estimated by applying theoretical bag limits to past recreational survey data. IMAS indicate that:

- applying a bag limit of 5 to the 2012/13 and 2017/18 survey data would have reduced the recreational catch by around 10%, and the bag limit by 3%.
- the average catch per fisher per trip was around 4 to 5 calamari.

While these numbers are theoretical and future behaviours may change, they illustrate the magnitude of potential reductions.

Reducing the bag limit will:

- Restrain recreational catch and limit expansion.
- Provide long term stock resilience to rebuild a sustainable fishery.

Introducing a recreational boat limit

Currently there is no recreational boat limit for calamari.

A boat limit is proposed as boat fishers potentially have more impact on the stock than shore-based fishers. ***The general formula used for boat limits is three times the bag limit, so the recreational boat limit is suggested to be 15 calamari.***

Boat limits aim to prevent taking more fish than can be reasonably consumed by those fishing. They limit the total catch of a group, particularly on larger vessels.

Introducing a boat limit will:

- Prevent recreational fishers from taking more fish that can be reasonably consumed by those fishing.
- Provide long term stock resilience to rebuild a sustainable fishery.

What would this mean for recreational fishers?

1. This means that individual recreational fishers would only be able to catch and land up to the new individual bag limit of calamari per day.
2. A person in charge of boat would need to ensure that the boat limit is not exceeded.
3. Individuals fishing on a boat may need to take less than the daily bag limit to ensure the boat limit is not exceeded.

Size limits

Small calamari can double in size in just a few weeks. The potential for introducing a minimum size limit for calamari has been discussed in the past as they have high post release survival if handled properly.

A legislated size limit was considered but there are practical difficulties in measuring and handling small calamari. DPIPWE will focus education programs to encourage recreational fishers to release and better handle small calamari to increase survivability.

Taking and using squid for bait

Traditionally squid is an important source of bait for recreational fishers. Given the poor stock status of calamari, fishers will be encouraged to use Gould's squid instead which is sustainable. Using parts of calamari that are not consumed for bait will also be promoted.

There is no proposal to change the limits for Gould's squid, so the bag limit and possession limits will remain at 15 and 30 respectively.

COMMERCIAL FISHERY PROPOSALS

Intent – to improve stock levels and the sustainability of the fishery by restraining commercial catch.

Summary

- Introduce two new regional calamari licences – one for the north west region and one for the north east region.
- Limiting entry would decrease the number of participants and remove latent effort in these areas.
- Not all fishers who take calamari now will qualify for one of the new licences.

The key proposal for the commercial fishery is to introduce two new limited licences for the north west and north east regions. This option was developed after analysing available management options and consulting the Scalefish Fishery Advisory Committee and potentially affected fishers.

- Currently around 208 scalefish licence holders have full access to the calamari fishery outside the south east area.
- In recent years, effort has increasingly concentrated on the north coast.
- Limiting entry to calamari would significantly decrease the number of fishers in these areas and remove latent effort from the fishery.
- This is a similar process that was applied to the south east calamari fishery in 2008.

What would this mean for commercial fishers?

Introducing two new regional licences will:

- Reduce effort by reducing the number of vessels taking calamari
- Provide limited access through trip limits for those that do not qualify for a licence
- Remove latent effort from all parts of the fishery
- Provide long term stock resilience to rebuild a sustainable fishery.

The southern calamari fishery on the north coast of Tasmania has experienced a rapid increase in effort since 2010, and volatility in catches since 2015. Commercial catches fell in 2017/18 relative to the preceding two fishing years. Consistent with this trend, the estimated recreational catch in 2017/18 was also lower than for previous estimates, suggesting an increased impact on calamari by both sectors.

In 2018/19 commercial catches returned to historically high levels and it is likely that recreational catches also increased, suggesting very high overall fishing pressure.

If catch and effort from both sectors is not restrained, then it is increasingly likely that a similar scenario that happened in Great Oyster Bay may occur on the north coast.

IMAS indicate there is a similar regional pattern of overfishing emerging to that experienced in the south east fishery 20 years ago. High catch and effort occurred in areas with large spawning aggregations resulted in a subsequent dramatic decline in both catch and catch rates. For the south east, the large spawning aggregations in Great Oyster Bay have apparently dispersed. Since the introduction of limited access in March 2009 the south east has reached a relatively stable level of catch and effort, albeit at a lower level.

Given that total catches of Southern Calamari have continued to rise since 2012/13—aside from the dramatic decline in catch in 2017/18—and that the distribution of catch and effort has shifted to the North coast, it is likely that the overall environmental risk has increased due to climate change (Krueck et al 2020)².

Area of waters for each licence

In moving to new limited entry, it has been the objective to incorporate the whole State, so that other areas are not left open access and potentially require yet another allocation process in the future.

- The north east and north west are (to a degree) separate fisheries and can be treated as separate management areas.
- The proposal is for two limited entry licences—a north west licence and a north east licence.
- A key challenge is the area and boundaries for each.
- Larger areas allow fishers to move around as conditions change or in response to availability of fish on an intra-annual and inter-annual basis—i.e., more options for fishers.
- Conversely, smaller areas would see tighter limits on the number of operations which could concentrate effort in certain key hotspots and spawning areas.
- The west coast [below Bluff Hill Point (latitude 41°S) in the west and west of Whale Head (in the south)] has had little catch of calamari over the last 10 years—less than 200 kilograms.
- Leaving the west coast as an “open” area may attract displaced latent effort.
- For those that do not qualify for a new licence—i.e., non-licence holders—a daily trip limit (in kilograms) would apply statewide.

DPIPWE has proposed two options for licence area boundaries and would like to hear from industry which is preferred.

² Krueck N, Hartmann K and Lyle J 2020 Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery Assessment 2018/19 pp. 144

Option 1

This model sees a north west area, a north east area then a third area on the west coast with some form of common access. The boundary for the west coast/north west would lie near Bluff Hill Point (latitude 41°S) and the west/south east boundary remaining at Whale Head.

Under this model all holders of any calamari licence may access the west coast waters with no limit. However, transiting into another licence area to land calamari if you don't hold a licence for that area would not be permitted.

Non-licence holders would be on a trip limit as the trip limit would be statewide.

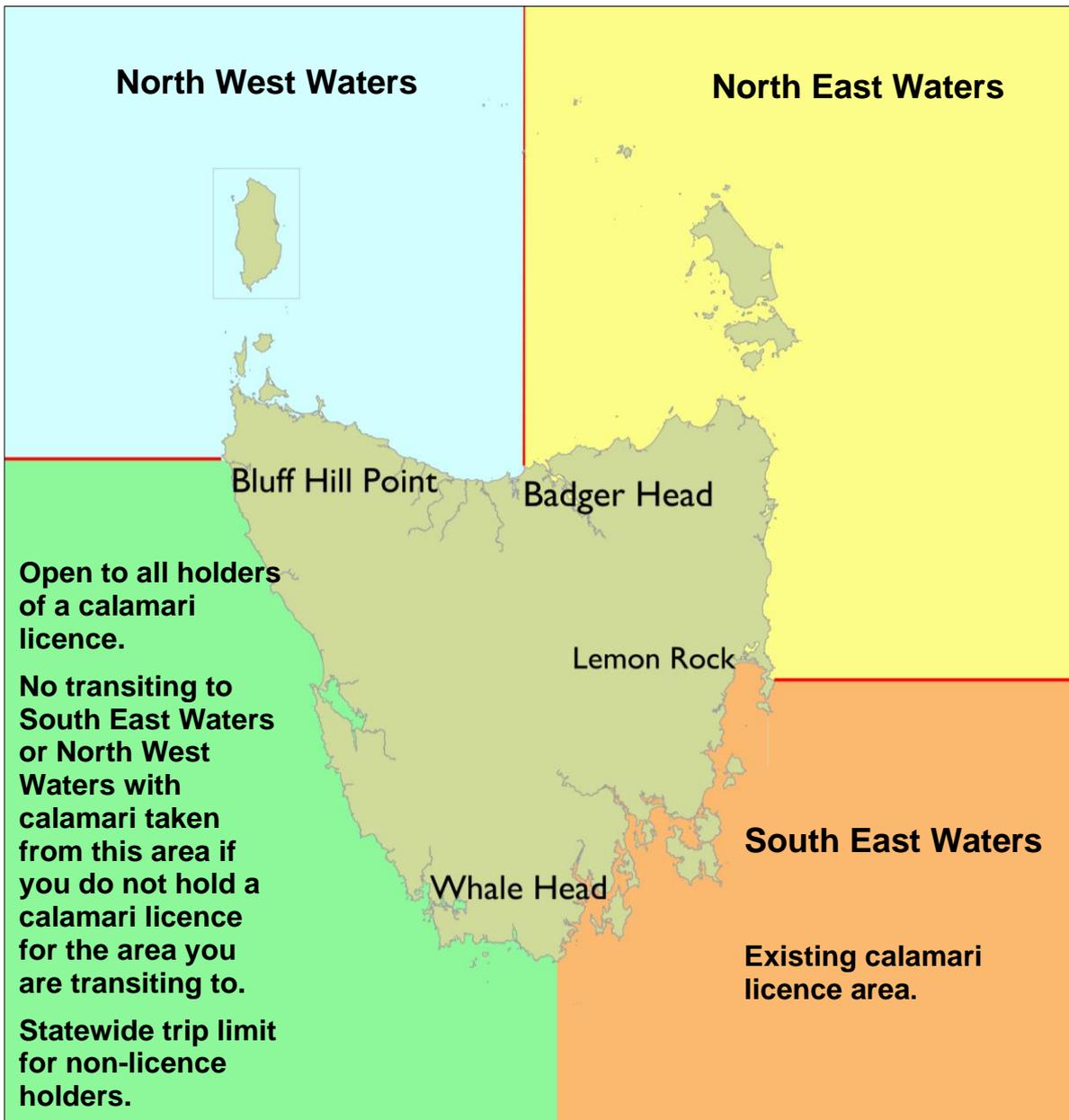


Figure 1: A representation of proposed licence boundaries for Option 1. Boundaries for existing South East waters remain the same. All calamari licence holders would be able to access waters in the west coast between the boundaries of North West Waters and South East Waters.

Option 2

Option 2 would see the west coast split into either a north west area and an amended south east area with a boundary north of Strahan near the Henty River (latitude 42°S)—i.e., the western area boundary would be extended down the west coast and south east waters extended up the west coast.

Non-licence holders would be restricted to the statewide daily [trip] limit.

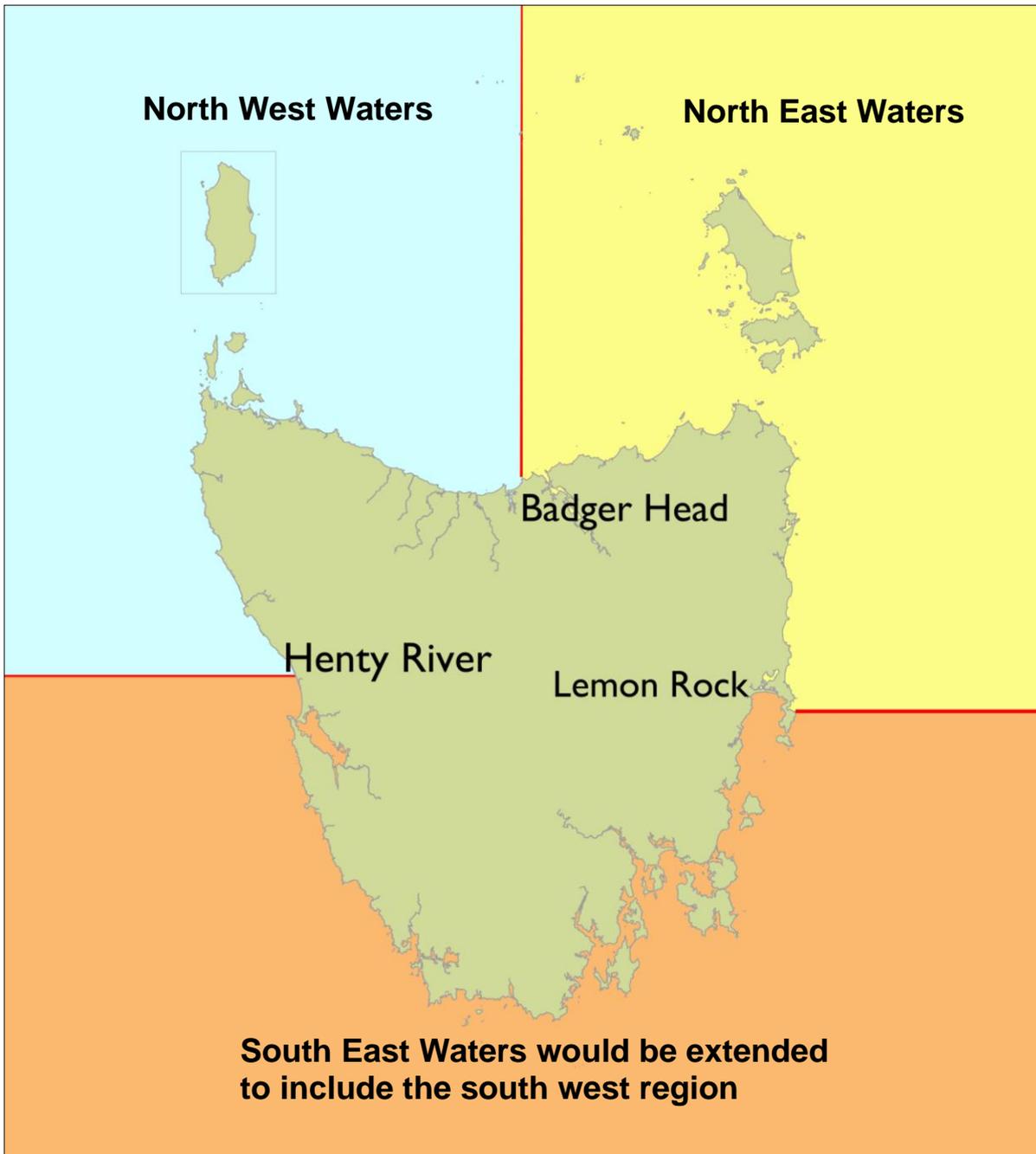


Figure 2: Proposed licence boundaries in Option 2. Note the South East Waters (SEW) boundary moves from Whale Head west and north to 42°S. The green dashed line represents the current boundary of SEW. There would be a statewide trip limit for non-licence holders.

The qualifying fishing blocks representing the two new calamari licences are listed in the next section.

Eligible waters to qualify for each licence type

Proposed qualifying areas for each licence

The Qualifying Areas would be drafted as:

(1) In this clause eligible waters means –

(a) waters off the north west coast of Tasmania bounded –

- (i) in the east by the line of longitude 146°37.5'E; and
- (ii) in the west and south by the line of latitude 43°S to the line of longitude 145°30'E.

(b) waters of the north east coast of Tasmania bounded –

- (i) in the west by the line of longitude 146°37.5'E; and
- (ii) in the east and south by the line of latitude 42°S.

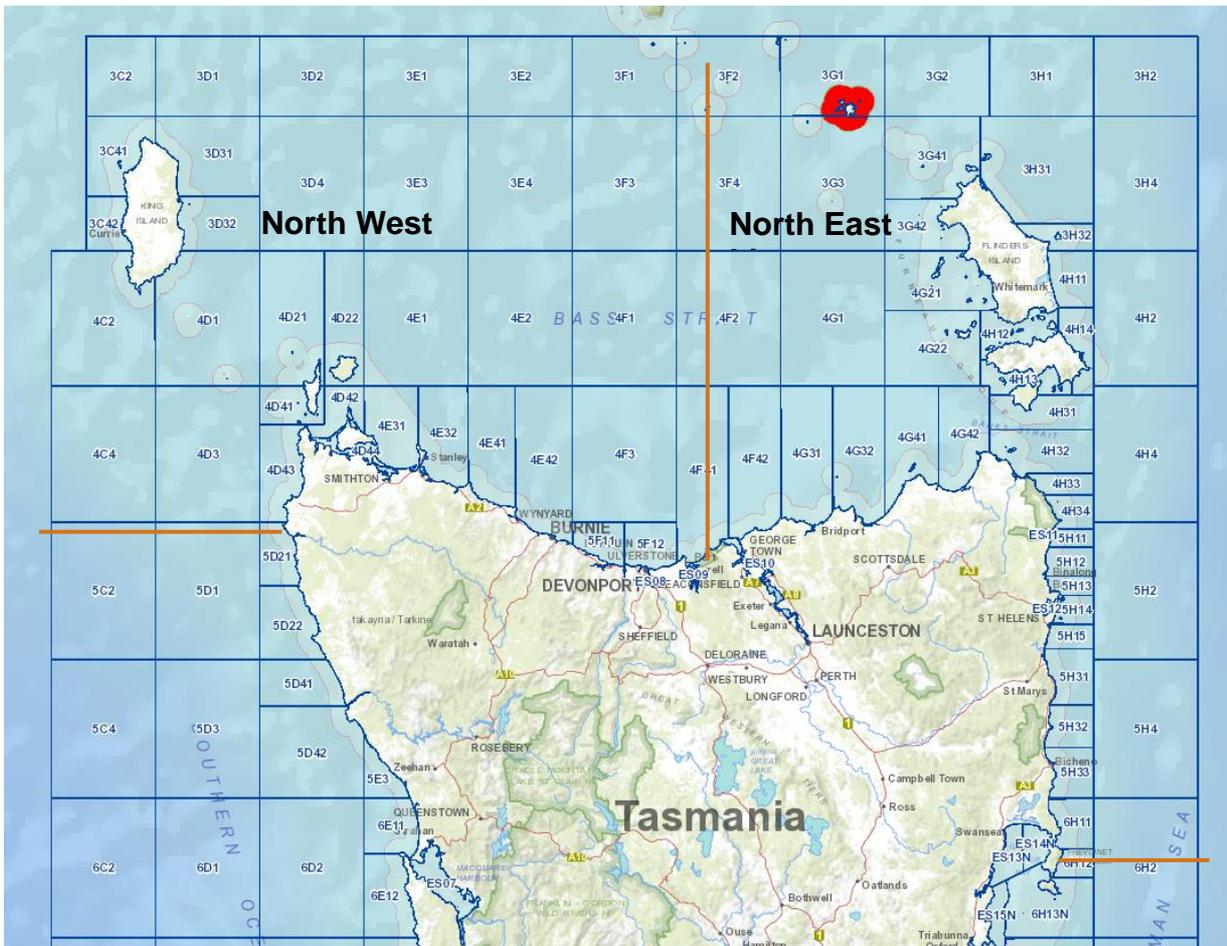


Figure 3: Proposed qualifying areas for each licence type. Both qualifying areas include fishing block 4F41, but the catch history can only be used once—i.e., it cannot be used in more than one application.

The current limited entry area extends from Whale Head (in the south) east and north to Lemon Rock (near Wineglass Bay) on the east coast (Figure 3). Less than 200 kg in total has been taken from west and south west waters—south of 41°S and west of Whale Head—over the past 10 years.

To qualify for one of the new licences an applicant would need to provide catch history for the relevant area described below.

Table 1: Qualifying fishing blocks for each licence region.

Licence	Qualifying fishing blocks	Comments
North West Licence	3C41, 3C42, 3D31, 3D32, 4C1, 4D1, 4D3, 4D21, 4D22, 4D41, 4D42, 4D43, 4D44, 4E1, 4E31, 4E32, 4E41, 4E42, 5F11, 5F12, 4F41, ES09.	Note: catch in 4F41 can only be used in a single application, i.e., for a NW licence or a NE licence, and the applicant will need to specify which licence catch taken in this block will apply to.
North East Licence	4F41, 4F42, ES10, 4G31, 4G32, 4G41, 4G42, 4G22, 4G21, 3G42, 3G41, 3H31, 3H32, 4H11, 4H12, 4H13, 4H14, 4H2, 4H31, 4H32, 4H33, 4H34, 5H11, 5H12, 5H13, 5H14, 5H15, 5H31, 5H32, 5H33, 6H11	Note: catch in 4F41 can only be used in a single application, i.e., for a NE licence or a NW licence, and the applicant will need to specify which licence catch taken in this block will apply to.

Accrual of catch history

There will be rules in place about how a licence holder or lessee can accrue catch history. This will include situations where a person who holds the catch history is unable to be contacted or has died and the holder's representatives are not qualified to claim the catch history, or situations where the holder is unable to claim any catch history.

There is a default position for accrual where the catch history accrues to the holder of the licence at the time the fish were taken. A suite of provisions would apply to potentially allow the catch history to accrue to other supervisors or licence holders.

The following criteria has been proposed.

1. The catch history for southern calamari taken by use of a fishing vessel specified on a fishing certificate accrues to the licensee named on that fishing certificate at the time the fish were taken.
2. However, the catch history does not accrue to the licensee referred to in subclause (1) if –
 - a) There is a written agreement in respect of the licensee's scalefish licence, to the satisfaction of the Secretary that stipulates that any catch history is to accrue to the supervisor of the licence at the time the fish were taken, in which case the catch history accrues to that supervisor; or
 - b) There is a purchase agreement with that holder for which the catch history is claimed and the licence was transferred to that purchaser, in which case the catch history accrues to the purchaser; or
 - c) The licensee is deceased, in which case the catch history accrues to the executor or administrator of the deceased licensee's estate.
 - d) The holder is unable to be contacted or is deceased and the holder's representatives are not qualified to claim the catch history in which case the catch history accrues to –
 - e) The person who held a lease for that licence during the period for which the catch is claimed; or
 - f) The holder of a fishing licence who operated the licence during the period for which the catch history is claimed; or
 - g) The holder of the licence is unable to claim any catch history, in which case the catch history accrues to the person who held a lease for that licence if –
 - h) A lease agreement existed during the period for which the catch history is claimed; and
 - i) That person operated the licence during that period.
 - j) the holder of the licence is unable to claim any catch history and the catch history has not been claimed by a lease, in which case the catch history accrues to the supervisor at the time the fish were caught.

Catch history criteria to qualify for a licence

Unlike allocating quota where most fishers receive a portion depending on their catch, developing criteria for a new licence to limit access is challenging as many fishers may not qualify.

Proposed qualifying criteria for new licences

The qualifying amount for each licence would be:

1. At least 500 kilograms of southern calamari taken in the qualifying area in at least 8 of the 10 financial year periods within the period from 1 July 2008 to 23 August 2018 inclusive; or
2. At least 4 tonnes of southern calamari taken in the qualifying area over at least two financial year periods from 1 July 2015 to 23 August 2018; or
3. At least 3 tonnes in one of the two financial year periods from 1 July 2016.

Note: for qualifying via option 3 the period from 1 July 2018 to 23 August 2018 can be included in the 2017/18 financial year.

Only catch and effort information for the take of southern calamari recorded from 1 June 2008 to 23 August 2018 (inclusive) in the Commercial Catch, Effort and Disposal Record book (including previous versions of this return) will be considered for qualification of a licence—as indicated in the investment warning published on the 23 August 2018.

Eligible waters for each licence area are shown in Figure 3 and are described in each example.

Noting that a year is a financial year (1 July to 30 June the following year) and that the 2017/18 financial year will include catch of southern calamari taken from the relevant eligible waters from 1 July 2018 up to and including 23 August 2018.

Transferability of calamari licences

If an application includes catch history associated with a fishing licence (scalefish C) and the applicant is successful in applying for a calamari licence this licence would be set at the same transferability status as the scalefish gear licence—i.e., as a fishing licence (scalefish C) is a non-transferable licence the calamari licence issued to that licence package would also remain non-transferable.

Applying for a licence

A range of other criteria previously utilised in similar processes may also be required in this instance. For example, fishers who have left the industry are not allowed to purchase back into the fishery for the single objective of claiming catch history and gaining a valued licence for sale.

For a person to apply for one or both licences the following criteria would apply:

1. The applicant holds a scalefish licence (as licensee).
2. The applicant held a scalefish licence on 23 August 2018 and continued to hold a scalefish licence uninterrupted after that day.
3. Catch was not taken by a class seine or Danish seine licence (potential to introduce a trip limit specific to Class seine and Danish seine statewide).

1. Limits on use of southern calamari catch history

Catch history of southern calamari may only be used once—i.e., for one application and issue of a calamari licence for the region for which the catch history applies.

2. Proof of catch history

(1) The Secretary may require a person claiming a catch history for southern calamari to verify that history in the form of documents such as receipts of sale.

(2) If the Secretary is not satisfied as to the matters specified in subclause (1), any scalefish claimed as catch history are to be excluded from the catch history.

Exceptional circumstances provision

Some recognition of circumstances which may have impacted a person's ability to meet the criteria is also proposed. These provisions aim to recognise a circumstance, where other for that circumstance a person would have met the licence criteria.

A person who does not meet all the requirements of these rules may qualify for a licence if the Minister is satisfied that –

- a) The person can demonstrate a pattern of activity in the calamari fishery at some prior period to the date of the investment warning that is consistent with the criteria required to qualify for a licence; and
- b) Exceptional circumstances prevented the person from meeting all requirements and the person would have met the requirements had the exceptional circumstance not occurred; and
- c) The person applying for the licence demonstrates a continuing commitment to the scalefish fishery.

Removal of calamari licence restriction

Proposed rule removal if new calamari licences are introduced

Proposed change – remove Rule 86(3)

The holder of a fishing licence (southern calamari) must not take, or be in possession of, southern calamari for commercial purposes in State waters other than south-east waters when acting under the authority of that fishing licence or any other fishing licence that is specified on the same fishing certificate as the fishing licence (southern calamari).

Penalty: Grade 3 penalty.

When the southern calamari licence was introduced for South East Waters, a rule was included [Rule 86(3)] that states that a licence package that has a fishing licence (southern calamari) on it cannot take calamari outside south east waters.

The rationale for this limitation was questioned during the recent review of management, and it was argued this is an unwarranted inefficiency in the operations of a vessel if all the appropriate licences were held.

If any further licences are introduced to other areas in the future, it was argued that a south east licence holder should have the option to also hold a north coast licence on the same licence package as the south east licence and vice versa.

DPIPWE proposes that as part of a management package, remove rule 86(3).

Other proposed changes

Trip limit for non-licence holders

Intent – to maintain low catch levels to supplement fishing for those fishers who do not qualify for a licence

Proposed change – amend Rule 86 (4)

The holder of a fishing licence (personal) must not take or possess more than **15 kilograms** of southern calamari in State waters in a day, unless that licensee also holds a calamari licence, a seine licence or a Danish seine licence.

If limited entry is pursued for the north coast then a trip limit will be required for fishers who do not qualify for access to an area—as was the case for the SE Waters calamari licence. It is anticipated that a similar trip limit would be part of a proposal for any new licensed areas. This trip limit would cover all holders of a fishing licence (scalefish A, B or C) and a fishing licence (rock lobster).

Currently the legislation refers to trip limits for calamari in numbers of fish. Ideally, any trip limit amount should be set in kilograms of fish rather than a number.

The trip limit for SE waters is currently set at 10 fish in a 24-hour period. The intent of the 24-hour period is to stop fishers doing multiple trips in a day to specifically target calamari. So it is clear to Marine Police when a 24 hour period starts and ends the preference is to refer to “day” rather than 24-hour period.

Rules [89\(2\)\(xi\)](#) and [93\(1\)](#) would also need to be amended to reflect any new statewide limit for calamari.

Trip limit for seine catch

Intent – to reduce the targeting of large schools of calamari with seine nets while maintaining low levels of access.

Proposed options for Rule 86:

Option 1 – The holder of a seine licence or Danish seine licence must not take or possess more than 100 kilograms of southern calamari in State waters in a day.

Option 2 – The holder of a seine licence or Danish seine licence must not take or possess more than 50 kilograms of southern calamari in State waters in a day except in fishing blocks surrounding the Furneaux Group where a 100 kg trip limit in a day would apply.

Option 3 – The holder of a seine licence or Danish seine licence must not take or possess more than 15 kilograms of southern calamari in State waters in a day unless the holder of an endorsement for a higher amount [case by case basis].

Option 4 – In addition to option 1, 2 or 3, the holder of a seine licence or Danish seine licence must not take or possess southern calamari (0 kg) in part of State waters known as fishing block 4E31 (figure 4) unless the holder of an endorsement for a higher amount.

Note: holders of a fishing licence (Australian salmon) are also authorised to use beach seine and purse seine nets but are limited to taking or possessing on a fishing vessel no more than 50 kilograms of fish

of any species or type other than Australian salmon unless also the holder of a fishing licence (purse seine net) or fishing licence (beach seine).

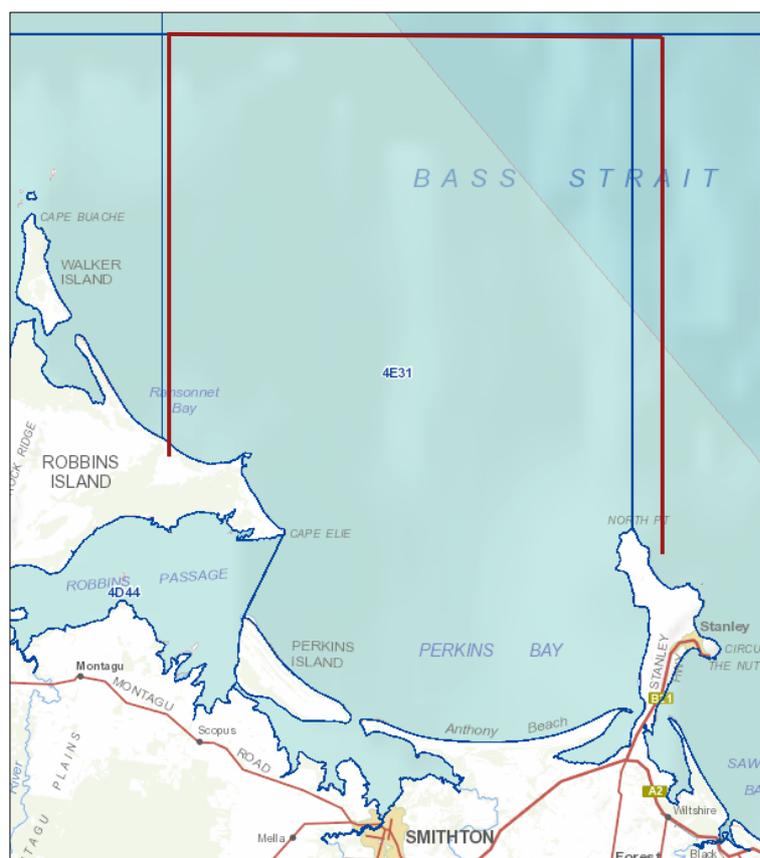


Figure 4: Scalefish fishing block 4E31, referenced in Option 3 located north of Smithton, north and east of Robbins Island and west of North Point.

A sector of industry expressed concern about the targeting of large calamari spawning aggregations with seine nets as had occurred in the south east. It was suggested that:

- there are times when calamari do not bite jigs such as when they are breeding or fighting—although they are likely to be spawning and laying eggs at the time
- this is considered an additional safeguard when using squid jigs to target calamari
- seine nets can be highly effective and have the potential to take all aggregating calamari from an area in a short period of time—i.e., a potential sustainability impact
- significant latent effort due to the number of unused seine licences.

DPIPWE is aware of some level of catch in the seine and Danish seine sectors and examined beach seine, purse seine and Danish seine catch of southern calamari to determine if there was a considerable amount of calamari taken using those methods.

In total only 19 kilograms of southern calamari was taken by seine from the North West Coast from 1 July 2008 to 23 August 2018. In contrast, 19 tonnes were taken from the North East Coast with nearly 17 tonnes coming from around Flinders Island during the same period. Of the 30 vessels reporting daily seine catch of calamari, only 4 reported daily catch of more than 100 kilograms. The remaining 26 vessels reported less than 50 kilograms per fishing day.

DPIPWE supports introducing a trip limit for the taking and possessing southern calamari in State waters by seine and Danish seine nets. Although most southern calamari are taken by beach seine nets it would be prudent to apply such a limit to seine nets generally.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Prior consultation on the proposals

Date	Action
April 2018	Scalefish Fishery Advisory Committee (SFAC) meeting 64 – a recommendation was made to the Minister to review existing management to ensure the sustainability of the resource, the economic viability of fishing operations, and maximising the value of this resource to the State.
June 2018	The Minister for Primary Industries and Water tasked the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) with examining the Calamari Fishery and to investigate the use of all management tools—including limiting access to the fishery in regions outside the existing licenced area.
August 2018	As part of this review process, an investment warning was released by DPIPWE for the commercial fishery on Thursday, 23 August 2018 via the DPIPWE website at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/southern calamari . The key aspect of the warning is that: “If any access arrangements are introduced based upon historical activity in the fishery in terms of investment or catches in the fishery, any such investment or catches made after 23 August 2018 will not be considered in that process.”
Late 2018	The review of options available to reduce catch and effort was canvassed at both SFAC and the Recreational Fishery Advisory Committee (RecFAC).;
	The key options supported by SFAC were limiting commercial access via introduction of two new licences for the north coast and a statewide trip limit for those that do not qualify for a licence.
	The key options supported by RecFAC were a review of the recreational bag limit and potential for introducing a recreational boat limit; and a minimum size limit.
Early 2019	DPIPWE drafted a paper proposing management options for further discussion by both sectors.
October and December 2019	DPIPWE further refined the management options and consulted directly with commercial calamari fishers potentially affected by the proposed management options.
2020	Throughout 2020 DPIPWE consulted with SFAC crafting qualifying criteria for the new commercial licences. DPIPWE also consulted with RecFAC and the Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing (TARFish) on the potential for reviewing the bag limit and possibility of introducing a boat limit and minimum size limit.
2021	DPIPWE further refines the discussion paper and aims to release for public comment in October 2021.

Appendix 2 – Calamari investment warning

23 August 2018

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Managing our Calamari Fishery

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) is reviewing the management arrangements for the state’s Calamari Fishery.

The Calamari Fishery is a component of the commercial Scalefish Fishery that operates in Tasmanian coastal waters, predominantly along the south east, east and north coasts.

General Manager of Water and Marine Resources at DPIPWE Fiona Bourne says the review will investigate alternative ways to manage catch and effort.

“This review is about delivering holistic management and sustainability objectives and providing greater certainty for licence holders,” Ms Bourne said.

Ms Bourne said all options for the management of this fishery will be considered and the review does not mean any particular outcome will be pursued in the future.

Any changes to the management plan require the full statutory process for changing the rules which includes mandatory public consultation to allow input from all stakeholders and licence holders.

If any access arrangements are introduced based upon historical activity in the fishery in terms of investment or catches in the fishery, any such investment or catches made after 23 August 2018 will not be considered in that process.

Only catch and effort information recorded up to and including the 23 August 2018 in the Commercial Catch, Effort and Disposal Record book and submitted to the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment is likely to be considered in the event that access is allocated based upon historic catches in the fishery.

More information about the Calamari Fishery can be found on the DPIPWE website at <https://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/sea-fishing-aquaculture/commercial-fishing/scalefish-fishery/southern-calamari-fishery>



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