

ROCK LOBSTER AND GIANT CRAB NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

2013/2014 SEASON

As at 9 March 2014 a total of 1,087 tonnes equating to 98.5% of the total TACC for the year had been caught. This was a good result considering that September was only open in the North West and King Island. Fishers tell me that depending on the area some averaged around \$63 dollars whilst others were up to \$70. At the moment the price is a four way split depending on the processor with the top figure being \$100 for under 800 grams.



LEASE QUOTA FOR 2014/2015

I have available 3 tonnes of research quota for the current year. The process will be the same as in previous years. The quota will be divided equally amongst those people who contact me. Please contact me by 1 April to express an interest in leasing any of this.

TRLFA SUCCESSION PLAN



As has been conveyed to members at previous meetings I finish in my role as CEO of the TRLFA on 6 June 2014. As previously outlined the Board has a succession plan to ensure a seamless change over. On 1 April John Sansom will start in the role of executive officer and Clive Perryman will take over the position of Chairman/President until the November AGM. I will be ensuring that, as my future replacement, John attends all the board meetings, committee meetings, advisory groups and so on that we are members of representing the rock lobster industry. As President in the past John has attended many of these meetings and this will help him ease into the position.

TRLFA REVIEW

As discussed at the last two meetings, the TRLFA Board has now engaged a consultant to do a review of its current structure, membership and voting rights. The review is being conducted by Greg d'Arville from CRG essentials, a company specialising in compliance, risk and governance.

Greg has access to the TRLFA membership list and will be picking random members to solicit their views. His report will be finalized by the end of April 2014, distributed to members prior to the May port visits and Greg will be at the May meeting to deliver his report to members. Members will then have the choice of voting on his recommendations or not.

A range of minor cosmetic changes to the constitution will also be put to members to vote on. These are mainly procedural and will tidy up the rules, which have been mostly in place since 1985.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1...Translocation update maps areas etc.
- 2...60 West Coast trial
- 3...East Coast Catch Cap Rules
- 4...Bait savers in pots in closed areas or out of season
- 5...Changes to reporting

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CEO

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2014/15 Seasons

Season opening and closing dates are formally determined by publishing a Public Notice signed by the Minister or Minister's delegate. The last public notice (30 October 2013) determined the season dates from 1 Sept 2013 to 1 Sept 2014. Determination of season dates from 1 Sept 2014 onwards will be made by the incoming Minister after this month's State Election. The Department will be recommending to the Minister that the season dates for 2014/15 are as announced in 2013 (and as detailed below and on the DPIPWE website).

Under the East Coast stock rebuilding strategy (as announced in Aug 2013), the following closures apply to the 2014 commercial fishery:

*23 April – 14 June	between Point Sorell east to Penguin Is (Bruny Island)
*15 Aug – 31 Aug	between Point Sorell east to Penguin Is (Bruny Island)
1 Sept – 23 Nov	between Point Sorell east to Whale Head
1 Sept – 14 Nov	between Sandy Cape south to Whale Head

The last closure is to address industry concerns re quality, market and associated economic issues. Supported by TRLFA members (May 2013) and recommended for 3 years by CFAC (May 2013).

* indicates closures that have been formally determined by Public Notice on 30 October 2013. For more information contact Hilary Revill by phone (03) 6165 3036 or by email hilary.revill@dPIPWE.tas.gov.au

TRLFA 60 pot west coast trial

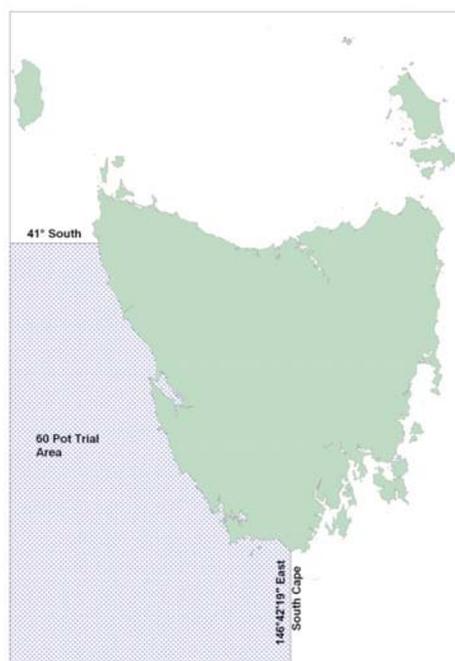
This trial will commence 1 May 2014. To participate, fishers should check that they can meet all the operational criteria, including the MAST requirements.

1. Participants will operate under individual permits issued by DPIPWE
2. Fishing with additional pots will be confined to Areas 6, 7, 8 and their deepwater components, Areas 9, 10, 11. The southern boundary is proposed to be South Cape. See map.
3. The additional pots may only be used from May 01 to August 31 inclusive.
4. Additional pots signed on for any or all of these four months must be beached for the remainder of the season. Compliance will be monitored via DPIPWE's licensing database.
5. Carrying more than 50 pots will be a 'dedicated trip'. A phone report will be required on leaving port, all pots must remain on deck while transiting other Areas and a two hour unloading report must be made.
6. A fisher's upgrade application to DPIPWE must include declaration of accepting the participation requirements and a copy of MAST's vessel stability approval.

MAST approval: MAST advises that a fisher may opt for a relatively inexpensive roll and immersion analysis, with all pots on board. Should a vessel fail this test, the fisher has the option of a full stability assessment, supervised by a naval architect or marine surveyor.

Fishers will need to apply to DPIPWE for a permit at least 1 week before they plan to participate in the trial. Contact James Parkinson by email james.parkinson@dPIPWE.tas.gov.au or phone (03) 61653045.

Right: Indicative map to illustrate proposed trial area.



East Coast catch cap area - clarification re transiting rules and FAQ's

Q – *Do my pots have to be unbaited when transiting the catch cap area ?*

A - The restriction on transiting the catch cap area with no bait savers or bait in pots ONLY applies when the catch cap area is CLOSED, - either because of a seasonal closure or if the catch cap tonnage has been reached. (note this was not made clear in the new rules information previously sent out to fishers with their new quota docket book)

Q – *When do I have to make a transiting telephone report?*

A - The requirement to make the new transiting telephone report ONLY applies when the catch cap area is OPEN.

Q - *“ A fisher has made a pre fishing report to fish in catch cap area, but after pulling a few pots for no fish, decides to change plans and fish outside of the catch cap area. The fisher has no rock lobster on board. Does he have to return to port prior to commencing new trip?”*

A - No, if the fisher has no rock lobster on board, he can make a cancellation report (at sea) to cancel the pre fishing report and then immediately make a transiting telephone report prior to commencing transiting.

Q - *“Can the same pre fishing telephone report receipt number be used on more than one quota docket?”*

A - Yes, if there are multiple unloading events relating to the fishing activity covered by the one pre-fishing telephone report. For example, fishers who day fish from a port within the catch cap area are only required to make a pre fishing report when they leave port with their pots on board, not every time they return to port to overnight or unload. There may be multiple unloadings covered by the initial pre fishing report, so the same receipt number would be used on more than one quota docket. Fishers are reminded that a telephone unloading report must be completed at least 2 hours prior to the commencement of each unloading. For further information contact Angela Iles, Fisheries Compliance phone (03) 6165 3038 or email angela.iles@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Changes to the Rock Lobster Catch effort logbooks

New rock lobster catch effort logbooks are being sent out this month. The new book includes some important changes which will provide better and more timely reporting of rock lobster catch and effort information. These changes include reporting the catch and effort for each shot separately, not combining the data from multiple shots in a 24 hour period and recording the start time for each shot. Returns will be due 14 days after the end of each month not 30 days. Fishers have been asked to start using the new logbooks from 1 April 2014.

For more information contact the Fisheries Monitoring section phone (03) 6165 3000 or by email Fisheries.licensing@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

A Reminder of Telephone Reporting Requirements for the Unloading of Rock Lobster and Giant Crab

There have been several instances recently where telephone reports for the unloading of rock lobster have been made in less than the prescribed time of 2 hours prior to the commencement of unloading.

Rule 60(2) of the *Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Rules 2011* and Rule 35(2)(a) of the *Fisheries (Giant Crab) Rules 2013* requires that a telephone unloading report must be completed at least 2 hours prior to the commencement of unloading. The unloading of the rock lobster/giant crab must then commence within 2 hours after the time of unloading stated in the telephone report, as required under Rule 87(4)(b) of the *Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Rules 2011* and Rule 53(4)(b) of the *Fisheries (Giant Crab) Rules 2013*.

This means that rock lobster and giant crab fishers must make the prior unloading telephone report at least 2 hours before they intend to start to unload rock lobster and giant crab.

Port Meetings Schedule

Location	Date	Time	Venue
Port Huon	Wed 7 May	10am -12 noon	Kermandie Hotel Main Rd , Port Huon
Hobart	Wed 7 May	1.30 – 4.00pm	DSS yacht club Sandy Bay
Eaglehawk Neck	Thur 8 May	9 – 11am	Lufra Hotel
Triabunna	Thur 8 May	12.30-2.30pm	Spring Bay Hotel
Bicheno	Thur 8 May	4 – 6pm	Beachfront Hotel
St Helens	Fri 9 May	9.30am – 12noon	Marine Search and Rescue office
Launceston	Mon 12 May	11am – 1.30pm	Best Western Abel Tasman Airport Motor Inn
Strahan	Tues 13 May	9 – 11am	Parks and Wild Life Office
Stanley	Tues 13 May	3.30- 5.30pm	Stanley Cabin Park
King Island	Wed 14 May	1.30 – 4.00pm	KI regional development office

Rock Lobster Translocation March 2014

Background

The TRLFA translocation steering committee has met twice to progress a strategic and operational plan for translocation for the next 3 years. The Committee's brief is to deliver the best value and the greatest success from commercial translocation. Firstly, to establish the most cost-effective and beneficial collection and release locations for the first of three annual translocation initiatives, plus alternative locations and strategies for both catch and release should any problems arise with the first choice. Secondly, to devise appropriate protocols and an action plan to manage the translocation process.

The Committee has decided that, to maximise flexibility and counter seasonal variations, translocation should be managed as a three-year rolling program, rather than a series of discrete one-year initiatives. There will be a target movement of about 100,000 lobsters each year – initially 40,000 from Areas 6 and 7 into Area 5, 40,000 from Area 8 to Area 7 and 20,000 from deep to shallow within Area 8.

The depth criteria and specific capture or take sites will be required to be strictly adhered to as part of the permit conditions that the translocation vessel is operating under. All translocation vessels will have an IMAS, DPIPWE or industry observer on board. The broad strategy will be to release lobsters in pre agreed primary release sites 'where weather allows' in Year One. If primary release sites became inaccessible, secondary release sites will be used. In Years Two and Three the remaining unutilised target sites from Year One would be chosen and duplication would be avoided. In either circumstance, translocation operators would be required to contact the committee Chair for approval to release in a secondary site if a primary release site was inaccessible.

The steering committee intends to complete planning as soon as practicable, to allow maximum flexibility in the timing of translocation voyages. The mid-October to mid-November section of the closed season was favoured, providing target fish were in hard enough condition and potential was seen in the West Coast winter fishery.

The Committee resolved that translocation operators would be required to release fish on inshore bottom with a maximum 12 fathom depth and not at any offshore pinnacles within an extended release site. Operators without practical knowledge of target release sites would be required to obtain the necessary insights from fellow fishermen with local expertise.

Committee members were asked to help establish a reporting service by fishers at sea to advise when and where target fish were running. The Committee's next task will be to develop the tender process and associated protocols. The indicative maps on later pages show the take and release sites to be used over the next three years.

IMAS funded translocation activities

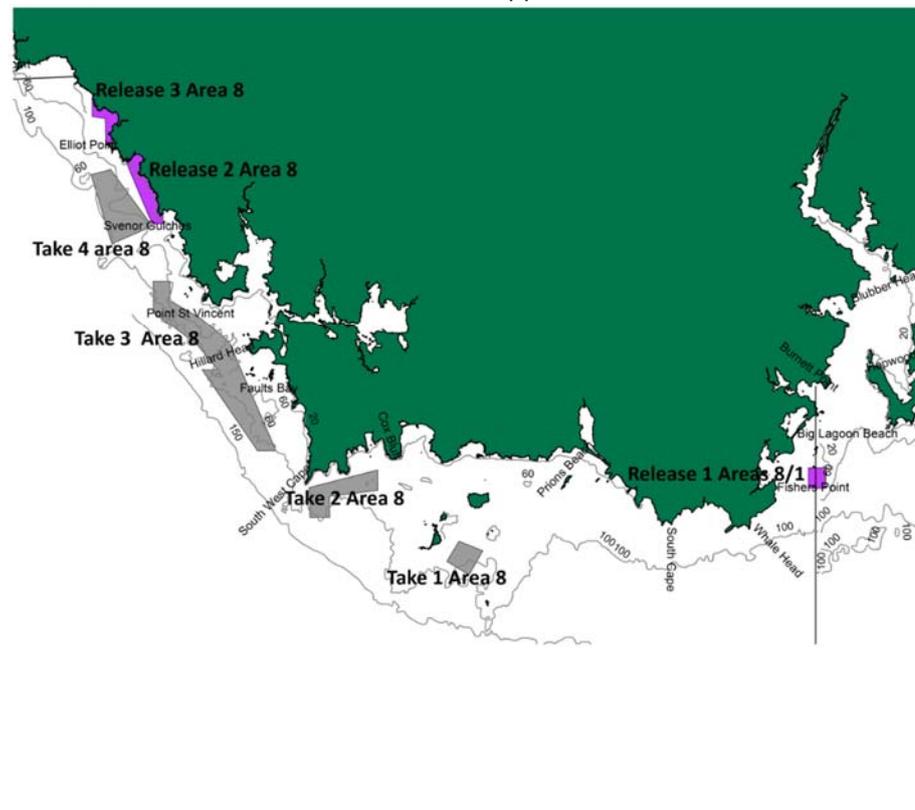
Additional Funding accrued through disciplined budget control of the initial Seafood CRC-funded and IMAS-managed research phase of translocation has been made available to initiate translocation this month, whilst the TRLFA translocation levy is being collected.

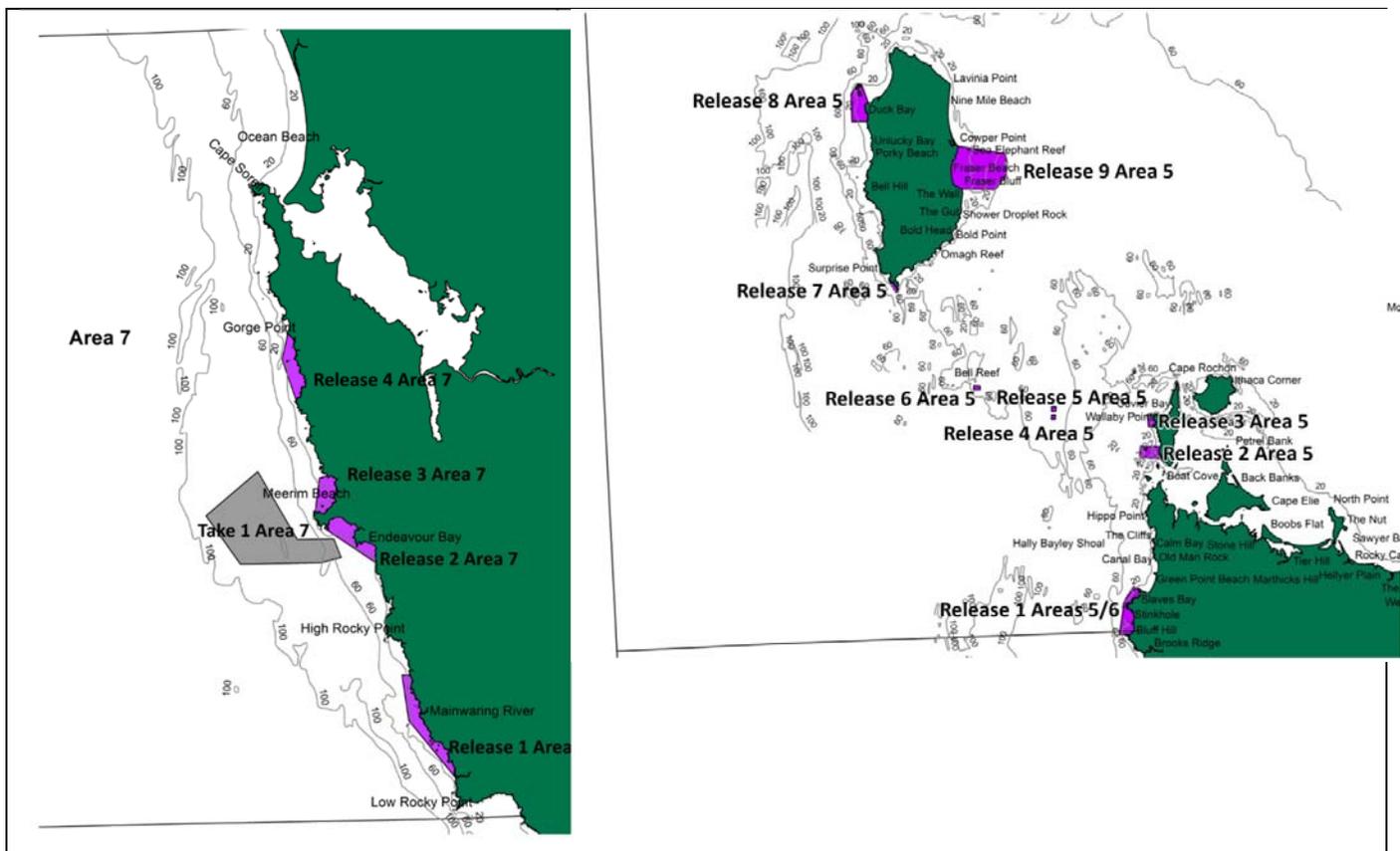
March Update

During March 2014 the Institute for Marine & Antarctic Studies (IMAS) conducted the final pilot scale evaluation of the commercialisation of rock lobster translocation. Any future rock lobster translocation work will be under the auspices of the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association. The objective was similar to previous work undertaken in this project: to relocate rock lobsters from identified offshore locations to identified inshore locations off the West Coast of Tasmania. Specifically, a commercial vessel was chartered to:

- a) Capture: a total of 40,000 lobsters with up to 20,000 from each site (in lobster assessment area 8), identified as "Take Sites".
- b) Release: a total of 40,000 lobsters with 10,000 into each of the locations (in lobster assessment area 7), identified as "Release Sites".

Area 8. Capture sites marked here as Take 1 Area 8; Take 2 Area 8; Take 3 Area 8; Take 4 Area 8. Release sites not applicable to this tender.





Area 7. Release sites marked here as Release 1 Area 7; Release 2 Area 7; Release 3 Area 7; Release 4 Area 7. Site labelled “Take 1 Area 7” is a translocation capture site and unrelated to this tender.

Operation

Rock Lobster Translocation was undertaken during March 2014 by the vessel *Climax*. Fishing gear used was a total of lobster 52 pots, a mix of commercial stick construction pots and some steel framed square pots loaned from IMAS. All pots had escape gaps closed off in order to target smaller sized lobster. All undersize lobsters were translocated. Legal sized lobsters were released on site rather than translocated.

An IMAS observer was aboard the vessel to quantify numbers and locations of catch and release. In addition the observer tagged approximately 10% of the catch. IMAS will be relying on reports of tag recaptures by commercial fishers in order to monitor future growth of these translocated lobsters.

Capture

A total of 21 capture shots were effected between the 1st and 9th of March, during which a total of 40,417 rock lobsters were caught. Location and timing of lobster captures are presented in the following table.

Location	Date Fished	No. Shots	Lobsters Captured
Teloepa Point, 3/2014	1 – 2 March 2014	4 ¹	6282
Wilsons Bight, 3/2014	2 - 3 March 2014	2 ¹	3037
White Rock, 3/2014	3 March 2014	1 ¹	859
East Pyramids, 3/2014	4 March 2014	4 ²	8700
Port Davey, 3/2014	5 - 7 March 2014	5 ^{2,3}	11476
Long Point, 3/2014	7 - 9 March 2014	5 ⁴	10063

Large figures in the column labelled ‘No. Shots’ indicate the number of shots in each area (see map below for further details); superscript figures indicate the release destination for undersize lobsters caught in that area. Key to release locations: 1: The Shank & Mainwaring, 2: Wanderer to Hibbs, 3: Top side of Point Hibbs, 4: Albina Rocks - Birthday Bay. See map of release sites below for further details.

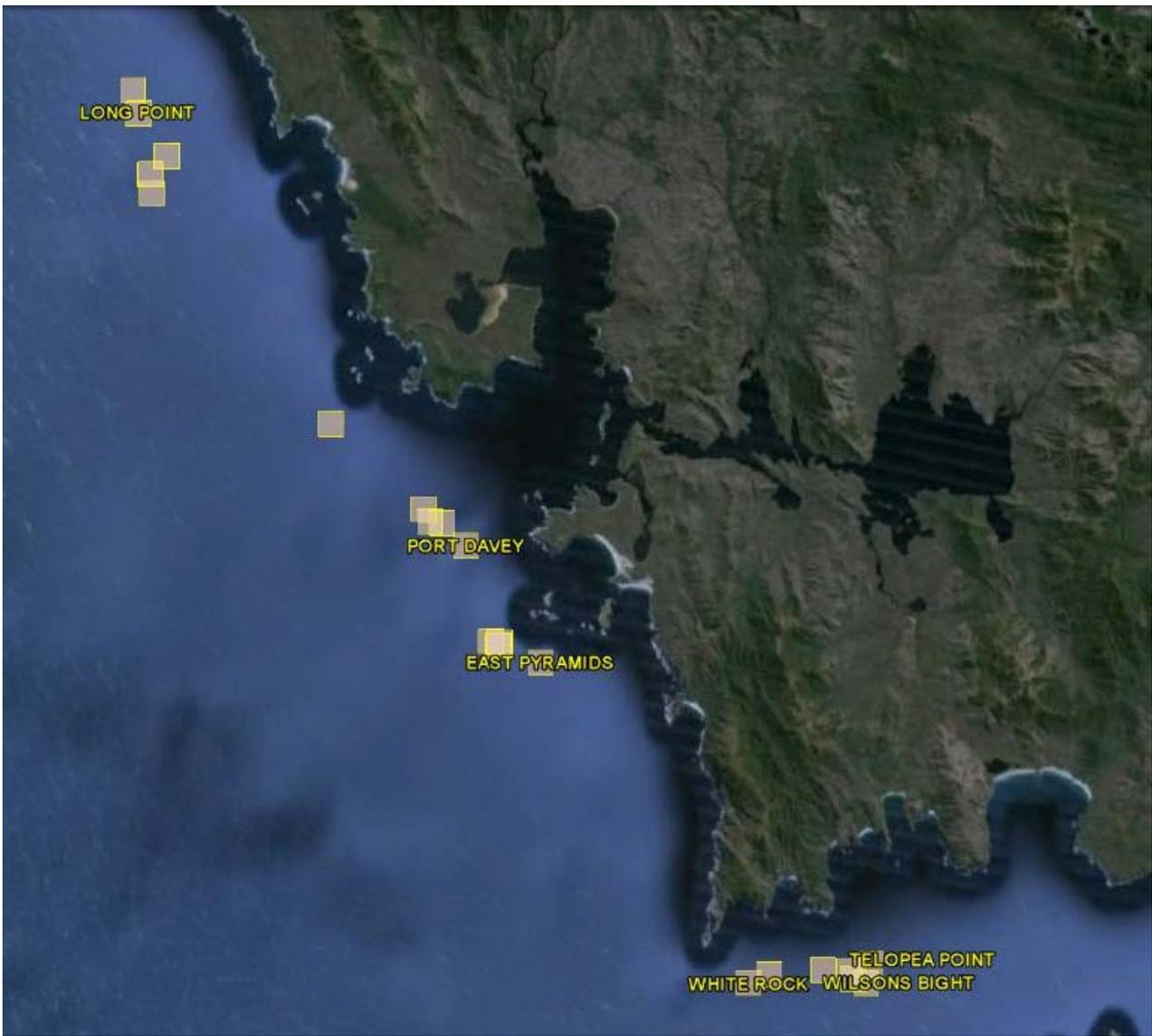


Figure 1. Translocated rock lobster capture sites for March 2014. This detail shows the southwest coastline of Tasmania from Maatsuyker Island to north of Port Davey. Marks represent each of the 21 capture shots. Note that, for clarity, locations of all pots have not been shown and each icon here has been centred on the average of pot locations for that shot with sides of the squares standardised to a half nautical mile.

Release of translocated lobsters

Four release events occurred at the following sites:

Release Date	Site	Lobsters Released
3/03/2014	The Shank & Mainwaring	10178
5/03/2014	Wanderer to Hibbs	10026
8/03/2014	Top side of Point Hibbs	10150
10/03/2014	Albina Rocks - Birthday Bay	10063

Figure 2. below: Translocated rock lobster release sites for March 2014. This detail shows the coastline north of Low Rocky Point; marks represent start and end of release events. Lobsters were released as vessel traversed the area between the marked points for each site.

