



**Tasmanian Rock Lobster
Fishermen's Association Ltd**

PO Box 109
SOUTH HOBART TAS 7004
Tel: (03) 6224 8299
Fax: (03) 6224 0900
ABN: 30 009 553 413

ROCK LOBSTER AND GIANT CRAB NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

Catch Update

The statewide catch from quota docketts as at 6th March 2017 is 1028 tonnes. In the catch cap area at 28th February, the total was 105 tonnes (14 tonnes under the cap). These figures are not final as there will be more unloads after this date.

West Coast 60 Pot Winter Fishery Proposal

The TRLFA conducted a ballot of all rock lobster entitlement holders during February to establish the amount of support for a 60 pot fishery on the west coast during the winter period. The Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC) acted as independent scrutineers for the ballot. TSIC have advised that the Ballot resulted in the following outcome:

Total Ballots received - 221 representing a 70.8 % participation rate.

Votes in favour of the proposal – 1190 – 54.6% (each licence ballot was to the value of 10 votes)

Votes against the proposal – 990 – 45.4% (each licence ballot was to the value of 10 votes)

Invalid – 3 ballot papers

The ballot was declared won by a margin of 200 votes - 9.2%.

The TRLFA will now advise the Minister through his Department of the result and request the implementation of the proposal for this coming winter. Fishers will be advised when the Minister has approved the proposal and permit applications are available. A permanent arrangement will be sought through an amendment to the fishery Management Plan in due course.

Nova Scotia Visit

The Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture from Nova Scotia, Canada, recently visited Australia on a good will visit. While in Tasmania, the TRLFA President Clive Perryman, TRLFA Chief Executive Officer and Rock Lobster Fishery Manager Hilary Revill hosted a meeting with the Minister, Hon Keith Colwell and his senior advisor. The Minister was given a presentation of the Tasmanian fishery from a fishing and management perspective. The Minister commented that despite the obvious differences in the fisheries in species and size of catch, there are many similarities in operational and management issues. The Minister was extremely impressed with the Clean Green program and is intent on pursuing a similar project in Nova Scotia. He congratulated the industry on being proactive and resourceful in having a program that provides so much for industry in meeting statutory requirements and meets community expectations for responsible custodianship of the fishery.

Strategic Plan

The TRLFA Board conducted a strategic planning workshop on the 2/3 February. The workshop was facilitated by Greg d'Arville who also conducted the review of the TRLFA in 2014. The intention is to take the results of the workshop and formulate a draft strategic plan for the TRLFA. The draft plan is intended to be presented to all TRLFA members for review and comment in May 2017. It is proposed that a finalised version be presented to the members for ratification at the October/November General Meeting. The plan is expected to enable the Board to prioritise work plans, resources and responses and guide the association towards identified goals for the benefit of TRLFA members.

Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Congress

Registrations for the Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Congress are now available direct at www.rocklobstercongress2017.com The Congress theme, "Are we on Course?" follows on from the last Congress in WA titled "Adapt to Thrive". The agenda will consist of speakers from all rock lobster states and New Zealand giving updates on the performance of their respective fisheries and the challenges they face. International speakers will provide insight and experience in their respective fields. The congress provides an opportunity for attendees to interact with other industry participants and compare fisheries, share knowledge and gain from others experiences. Don't miss out, book early.



10th TRANSTASMAN ROCK LOBSTER CONGRESS

"Are we on course?"

Hotel Grand Chancellor
Hobart

23-25 SEPTEMBER 2017

Register at: www.rocklobstercongress2017.com



Communications Manager: John Sansom
Email: johnsansom1@bigpond.com Tel: +61 3 6224 8299

Wooden Boat Festival

This year's event has again proven extremely popular, with in excess of 200,000 people attending the festival. The seafood promotion was very popular and provided one of the few interactive sites for the public. The seafood kitchen proved a huge success with not only guest chefs like Tetsuya Wakuda, but also our own industry volunteers cooking their product and telling the industry story. TSIC's Project Officer Emma Woodcock deserves special recognition for the overall coordination of the seafood site and industry participation. Our own rock lobster section was another example of what a group of volunteers can achieve. President Clive Perryman along with his wife Coreena and their two girls Holly and Layla are to be congratulated on their dedicated service and organisation of the TRLFA section. The Galifrae with crew Sandra and John Parker along with Joe Sayers had a huge amount of visitors aboard the vessel for a hands on explanation of a day in the life of a rock lobster fisher. Stealing the show once again however was the pot making demonstration by Joe Oakley, "Ringer" Shea and Marcus Hardwick.



The SMEG Kitchen with Neville and Clive Perryman demonstrating the attributes of rock lobster cooking



Sandra and John Parker on board The Galifrae with a group of on-lookers.



Pot making demonstration with Marcus Hardwick, Joe Oakley and "Ringer" Shea

Thanks must go to the other helpers throughout the festival: Andrew Kent, Chris Parker, Neville Perryman, Brendan Taylor, Stuart Atkins, Annie Jenkins, Cherylynn Perryman, Jeff Whayman and Brian Adkins who together with Michael Blake from SALCO supplied the lobsters for cooking displays and tastings. Bernard Wilson, Barry Wilson and Ron (Wag) Heddle provided interesting commentary on wooden boats and their part in the rock lobster fishery during the display. The seafood industry exhibition was again a demonstration of what can be achieved when a dedicated group of volunteers coordinate their activities to show off the best seafood in the world and tell the world "our story" and our role in the fabric of coastal communities.

Management Plan Amendments

Everyone would now be aware of the new Management Plan amendments that came into force on 1 March. The changes have been a long time getting here with more than a few frustrating delays along the way. A full list is available on the DPIPWE website and all TRLFA members and fishers should have received explanatory emails from DPIPWE and the TRLFA. A hard copy letter should also have now been received from the Department, please contact DPIPWE if you have not received one (James Parkinson 6165 3045). The main changes for fishers and licence holders are:

Carry over of a partially caught rock lobster quota unit from one quota period to the next;

The rule will be applied retrospectively to partially caught units (up to 99kg) from the 2015/16 quota year as well as the current quota year 2016/17.

Prohibition on multiple night shots state-wide;

From 1 March 2017 multiple night shots will be prohibited State wide as well as in a catch cap area.

The rule does not prevent a rock lobster fisher retrieving a pot during the night, but makes it an offence to re-set it.

Fishermen who are setting their pots for the first time on a trip (since making a pre-fishing report) will be able to set their pots at night.

Rock Lobster vessel Pot Allocation - Provision of an alternative option

The new rule provides for a Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) stability certificate - to determine the number of rock lobster pots, up to a maximum of 50 that can be set from a vessel. A MAST vessel stability approval or stability assessment signed by a Naval Architect will need to be submitted to the Licensing and Fisheries Monitoring Section for verification prior to a new Fishing Certificate being issued.

All current vessels will be “grandfathered” under the current Length Tonnage Schedule, so unless you want to use the new option you do not have to do anything and there is no change for your vessel.

Fishers registering a new vessel on their entitlement will be able to choose between the existing Length Schedule or the MAST stability certificate options.

Catch cap and closed area compliance measures;

Telephone reports

The catch cap pre fishing report will be replaced with pre fishing report for **ALL** rock lobster fishers commencing **ANY** new fishing trip.

The Department has supplied an operational guide for fishers that provides more detail on the telephone reporting changes and other monitoring requirements associated with these rule amendments.

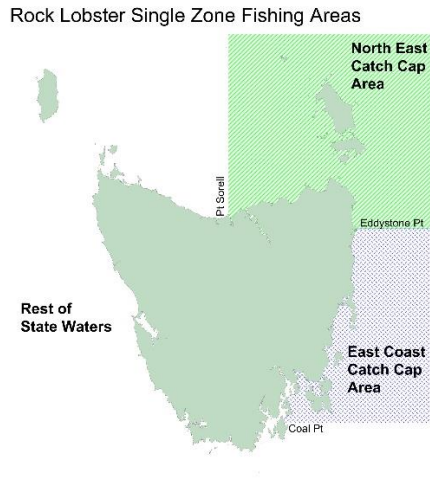
Designated Ports of unloading

Single zone fishing trips will continue to apply, but as of 1 March 2017, there will be no new restrictions where a fisher can unload – it must be at an authorised port detailed in Schedule 1 of the Rules. (As before)

Single Zone Fishing

There are now 3 single zone fishing areas:

- East coast catch cap – St Helens Point to Penguin Island
- North east coast catch cap – Point Sorell to St Helens Point
- Rest of State waters – Non catch cap area Penguin Island west to Point Sorell



Definition of a fishing trip;

The definition of a fishing trip has been amended. The rule states that a fishing trip means *a trip undertaken for fishing, or in preparation for fishing, commencing on the departure from a port, port of landing or authorised mooring and ending when all rock lobster pots have been removed from State waters and the fishing vessel returns to a port, port of landing or authorised mooring.*

Fishers particularly need to be aware of this definition in relation to;

- making a pre fishing telephone report
- recording “start” and “end” in their catch and effort logbook
- the personal use (take home fish) provisions

More details are provided in the new operational guide for fishers.

Changes to retention by commercial fishers of rock lobster for personal use provisions;

The possession of rock lobster retained for personal use by licensed commercial fishers at any one time is restricted to no more than 10, and this possession limit to include any rock lobster taken and possessed under the authority of a recreational rock lobster licence.

There are a number of further minor amendments that are available on the DPIPWE website

May Port Meetings

Dates for the May Port meetings are:

St Helens, Bicheno – 2 May 2017; Triabunna, Eaglehawk Neck – 3 May 2017; Port Huon, Hobart – 4 May 2017
 Strahan – 8 May 2017; Stanley – 9 May 2017; King Island - 10 May 2017; Launceston – 11 May 2017
 Times and venues will be advised later.

May TRLFA General Meeting

The next general meeting of the TRLFA will be held in Launceston at the Country Club Casino on 31 May 2017. Members will be notified of meeting details closer to the event.

[John Sansom](#)

Chief Executive Officer

0427 477 284