

BENEFITS

The fishery: The program can benefit the entire fishery, as better information will be available for management decisions, which may result in less restrictive TACs.

Trip catch: Increases to your trip catch every time you bring your research pots.

Feedback reports: You will receive quarterly feedback reports showing a summary of research pot catches from the areas where the most records came from.

Data availability: We will also make available combined size data on the Tasmanian Wild Fisheries Assessments website (tasfisheriesresearch.org/).

Here, you will find interactive plots and maps to explore size structure state-wide per assessment areas and fishing seasons.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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The Research Pot Program

A partnership between IMAS, DPIPWE and Tasmania's commercial rock lobster fishers



UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA



Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies

BACKGROUND

The IMAS Research Pot Program (RPP), first established in 2011, aims to gather more information about rock lobster sizes.

The RPP allows volunteer commercial fishers to carry two extra pots, with closed escape hatches. This will see a range of different sized rock lobster caught, including undersized lobster, which would normally escape through open hatches.

This program provides IMAS researchers with critical data to conduct stock assessments and ultimately contribute to setting a total allowable catch (TAC).

CHALLENGES

Undersized rock lobster: Researchers need information on undersized lobsters to better assess their recruitment to legally sized lobsters. Research pots are important as they provide more information on a range of different sized lobster.

Stock projection certainty: Ultimately, the program reduces uncertainty in stock projections, meaning the TAC may be less restrictive.



HOW IT WORKS

Step 1: Add two research pots to your fishing trips and set them alongside your permitted pots.

Step 2: Once you have hauled them, measure all the captured lobsters, both under size and legal size, and complete the provided data sheet.

Step 3: You can keep all the legally sized rock lobster as part of your catch, but you must release undersized lobster.

Step 4: You can use your own methods to operate the research pots, but we recommend hauling them at the end of the shots so that you have sufficient time to measure all the caught lobsters.



WHAT WE'RE IMPROVING

Greater participation: Stock assessment modelling is conducted separately for each assessment area, so we need to increase geographical coverage through increased fisher participation.

Stock size composition: Currently, size composition is well represented in some areas but requires more effort in others.

Standardised pots: There are many different pot designs across the industry, which means we need to remove bias. To achieve this we will be providing two standardised research pots.

Measurement tools: Assist with rock lobster measurements by providing a rock lobster-specific ruler.

Waterproof jumper: When you enroll in the program you will receive a heavy-duty jumper suitable for operations on board of fishing vessels.

