

Toby Jeavons
Fishery Manager
Victorian Fisheries Authority
By email: toby.jeavons@vfa.vic.gov.au

FISHERIES (ROCK LOBSTER TAGGING) NOTICE

Dear Toby,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Fisheries (Rock Lobster Tagging) Notice.

The trial tagging rock lobster tagging program has been well-adopted by Victorian recreational fishers. Many fishers are very receptive as indicated by the uptake of the citizen science component, while some are tolerating the tagging process. Speaking to Fisheries Enforcement staff, we are very pleased they are reporting excellent in-field compliance and recreational rock lobster fishers should be congratulated.

Input by recreational rock lobster fishers (SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria, Victorian Spearfishing Commission and VRFish) on an advisory group during the development of the program we trust has assisted the implementation and this subsequent uptake.

There appears to be some confusion around when it is legally required to tag a lobster whilst diving. Therefore, clause 10 (3) should be emphasized in communications and advisory materials.

There is a great deal of interest by rock lobster fishers in learning more about the data being collected and continued angst in end use of that data. It would be extremely beneficial to host a presentation with interest rock lobster fishers after the collation of year one's data. A summary of information should also be distributed to all registered users by email. The Rock Lobster Tagging Program Advisory Group should also re-convene to examine the data in further detail.

***Let's make fishing
better, for everyone.***

A significant future milestone will be the acquittal of this seasons' tags and the logistical swap-over to the new season tags. At this stage of the trial there does not appear to be any compelling need to modify the Fishery Notice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Loats', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Loats
Chair
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

15 June 2018