

From: Geoff Kelleher 10/02/2022

Hello my name is Geoff Kelleher I live in the North East of the state in Tasmania in which once was a busy little fishing community but over the years with introduction of quota and other restrictions on fishing our fishing fleet is slowly being squeezed out which will impact various business . I fish primarily the rock lobster fishery .The changes in this industry have turned out fishery around which is a win , yet some of the proposed new changes heading our way would undo all the good we have achieved. The introduction to the area of an increase of 60 pots from 50 would have a negative effect , spatial management will be bad for our local area . In the last few years we have started to see benefits of the hard work we have been doing over the duration of catch caps being introduced . But what comes with that it is reducing our time at sea , but what that does inturn because our areas have been closed for extended periods it is attractive to fishers from away . So with this attraction of areas which have been closed and the addition of extra pots in the near future our 6 months season could possibly blow out to be a 4-5 month season . This not only will impact the fishers but also the community . I thought I had and have been talking to the local fishermen and it seems to be attracting some attention. If the Dept would change the quota season for the state move it forward to start on the 1st of May instead of the 1st of March , to coincide with the closing of the female take of lobster. This may stop the a few of the issues . Also when we start fishing in Nov or December which ever month it maybe , the state all needs to start on the same date instead of shotgun starts