

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

MARINE RESOURCES

Hobart GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001
Launceston PO Box 46, Kings Meadows, Tasmania, 7249
Devonport PO Box 303, Devonport, Tasmania, 7310
Ph 1300 368 550
Web nre.tas.gov.au



Dear rock lobster licence holder/ supervisor

Approval under rule 84(5)(b) of the *Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Rules 2022*

The Department recently became aware that the *Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Rules 2022* (the Rules) do not contain a provision to allow licence holders and supervisors to possess rock lobster pots in a closed part of the fishery whilst on a fishing trip in State waters transiting to a part of the fishery that is open.

Transiting with pots through a closed area from an open area of the fishery is allowed under certain conditions, as set out in rule 84(5)(a) of the Rules. However, fishers departing to fish in an open area of the fishery cannot currently transit through a closed area with pots on board without approval from a fisheries officer under rule 84(5)(b).

To ensure the lawful continuation of this fishing practice, an approval under rule 84(5)(b) of the Rules has been provided by Angela Iles, Fisheries Officer, Acting Manager Fisheries Compliance and Licensing Branch (enclosed).

The approval allows you to possess rock lobster pots in a closed area, provided you are on a commercial rock lobster fishing trip intending to fish in an open area of the fishery and transiting directly (as set out in rule 4 of the Rules) to this open area. Please read the terms of the approval carefully. You are not required to keep a copy of this approval on your vessel, but you may wish to do so.

This approval will continue to be in force until such time as the rules are re-opened and the required amendment is made. Please call the Fisheries Compliance and Licensing Branch on (03) 6165 3000 if you have any further queries regarding the approval.

As a reminder, please ensure you have a current copy of your licence on your vessel before you commence your fishing trip, and that it specifies the number of pots you are entitled to use on the fishing trip.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Hempel".

Sonja Hempel
Principal Fisheries Management Officer (Crustacean & Scallop Fisheries)
Wild Fisheries Management Branch

14 November 2023