

Dear Licensee,

## **WHALE ENTANGLEMENT MITIGATION MEASURES APPLYING TO THE WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER MANAGED FISHERY FROM 1 MAY 2015 AND UPCOMING EXTENDED SETOSE RULE REMOVAL TRIAL**

### **Whale Entanglement Mitigation Measures**

On 15 April 2015, the Minister approved modified measures that operators in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (the Fishery) must take from 1 May until 14 November each year to mitigate the risk of whale entanglements. The Minister's decisions took into account advice from the Operational Whale Entanglement Reference Group the Whale Entanglement Mitigation Taskforce and the Western Rock Lobster Council. The amendment to the *West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Management Plan 2012* (Management Plan) to give effect to the changes was today published in the *Government Gazette* (Gazette). The Gazette can be viewed at [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au).

The modified whale entanglement mitigation requirements, including an illustrative diagram and coordinates for a new inshore area relevant to entanglement mitigation measures are enclosed with this letter. This material will also be available through the Department of Fisheries' (Department's) website. In addition, it is intended that the Department will provide a ".gpx" file containing the coordinates for the new inshore whale entanglement mitigation areas. Please be aware that while information on the website has been provided to assist fishers, it remains your responsibility to ensure that you are operating in accordance with the Management Plan.

### **Dog Boning**

It has come to the Department's attention that there may be some confusion within industry regarding "dog boning". The Management Plan is silent on "dog boning". That is, there are no rules which either require or prohibit this practice. However, "dog boned" rope is considered to be part of the pot line, so is part of the rope length taken into account in circumstances where pot line length to water depth restrictions apply.

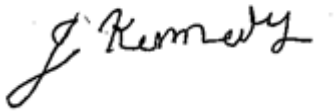
### **Extended Trial Removal of the Setose Rule**

As previously advised, an exemption to permit the taking, consigning and sale of setose western rock lobsters has been signed and will be in effect from 1 July 2015 to 14 November 2015. Amongst other things, this exemption will enable the Department to gain a better understanding of the role removing this rule could play in reducing the risk of whale entanglements.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all industry members who provided input into the development of the modified whale entanglement mitigation measures.

If you have any queries regarding the information in this letter, please contact Ben Rome on ph (08) 9482 7231 or via email [Ben.Rome@fish.wa.gov.au](mailto:Ben.Rome@fish.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

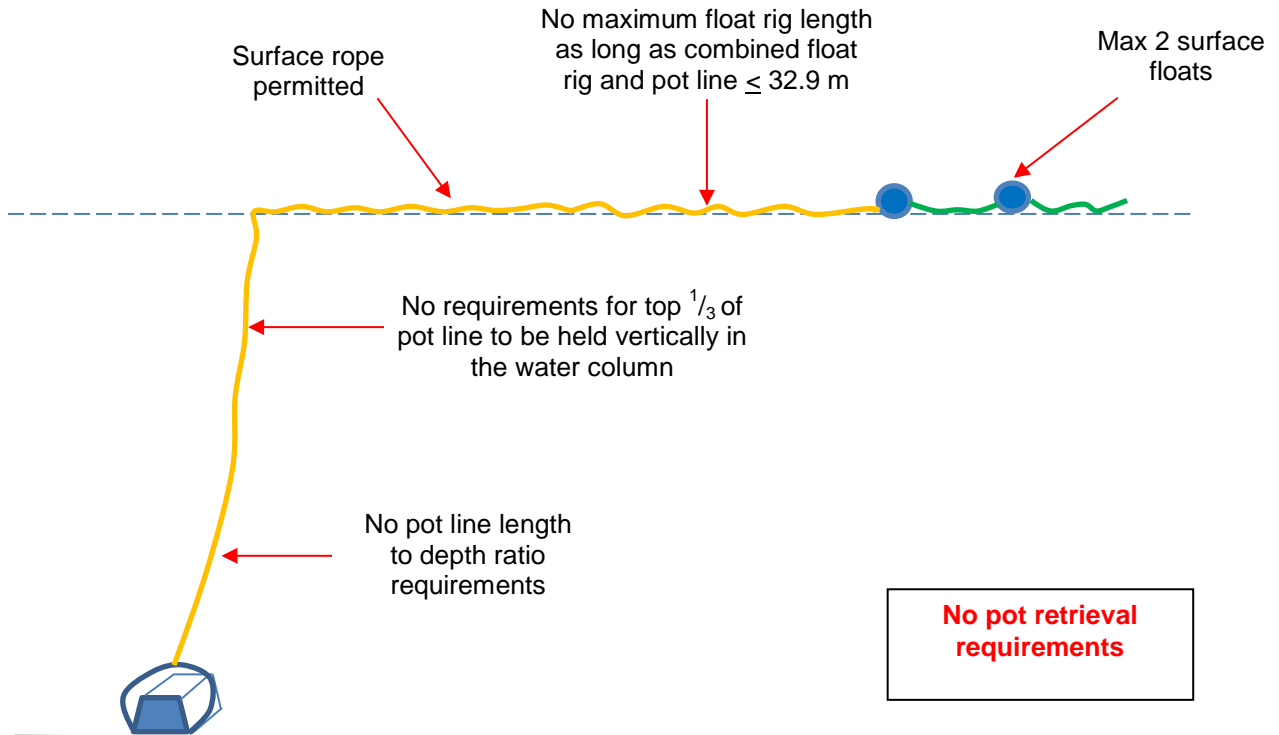
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kennedy', written in a cursive style.

**Joanne Kennedy**  
**MANAGER WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER**

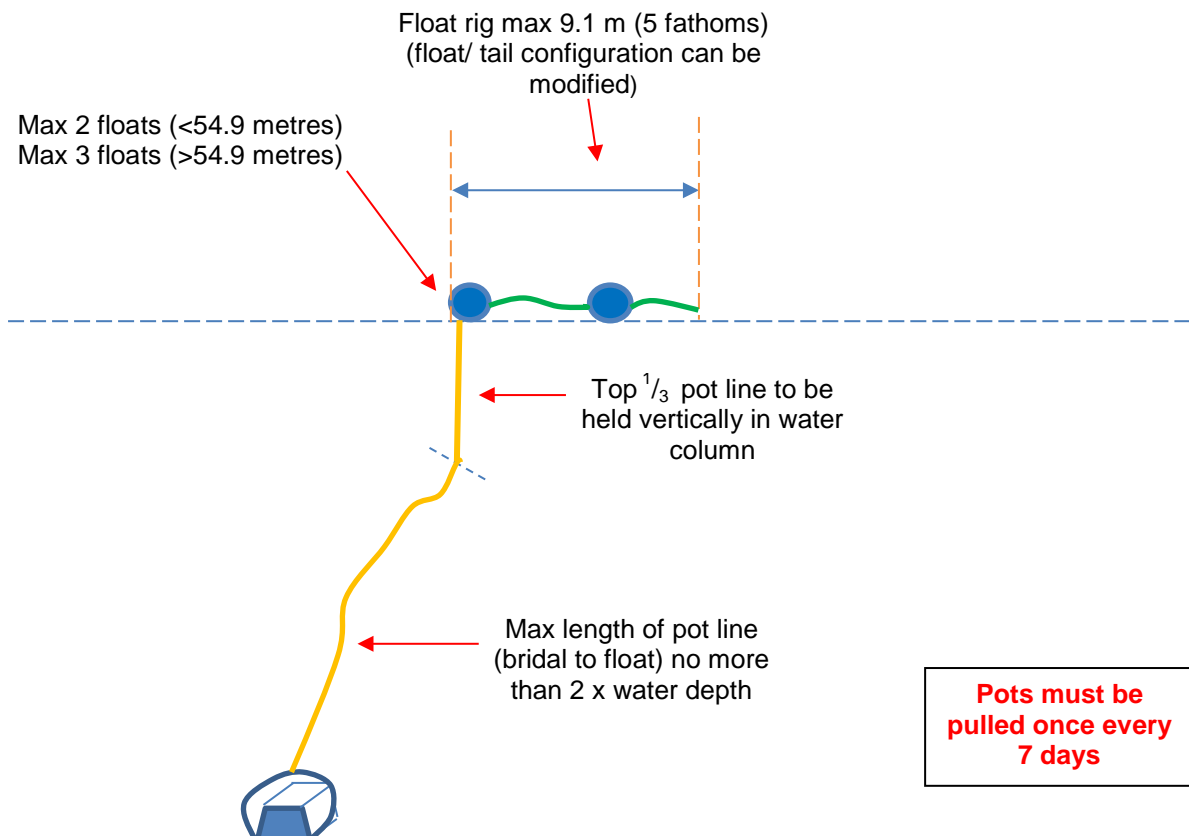
21 April 2015

# West Coast Rock Lobster mitigation measures for 2015

**When fishing with ropes  $\leq 32.9$  m (18 fathoms) in the waters described in Schedule 14 of the Management Plan**



**When fishing with  $> 32.9$  m (18 fathoms) of rope, or in waters outside those described in Schedule 14 of the Management Plan**



## Whale Entanglement Mitigation Measures for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery for 2015

- When fishing with ropes that are less than or equal to 32.9 m (18 fathoms) long in waters described in Schedule 14 of the *West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Management Plan 2012* and reproduced in the following pages-
  - the pot line and float rig can be configured according to the fisher's preference (i.e. no rope length to depth ratio or maximum float rig or "tail" length) provided that the total pot line and float rig does not exceed 32.9 m (18 fathoms);
  - the pot line does not need to be weighted to prevent rope on the surface; and
  - no more than two surface floats may be used.
  
- When fishing with greater than 32.9 m (18 fathoms) of rope, or in waters outside those described in Schedule 14 of the *West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Management Plan 2012* -
  - the top third of the pot line must be held vertically in the water column;
  - no rope is to be on the surface other than the float rig;
  - the maximum length of the pot line must not exceed two times the water depth being fished;
  - the maximum float rig length must not exceed 9.1 m (5 fathoms), but floats may be spaced according to the fisher's preference (i.e. no maximum "tail" length);
  - no more than two surface floats may be used in water less than 54.9 m (30 fathoms), with no more than three surface floats permitted in waters deeper than 54.9 m (30 fathoms); and
  - pots must be pulled at least once every seven days.

Please note that a pot line is the length of rope from the bridle to the first surface float.

### Schedule 14 Gear modification areas

#### **Area 1: Wallabi Group**

All waters bounded by a line commencing at 28° 15.047' south latitude and 113° 33.653' east longitude (Point 1), thence sequentially connecting the following points:

Point	South Latitude	East Longitude
2	28° 17.575'	113° 34.121'
3	28° 22.651'	113° 35.385'
4	28° 24.238'	113° 35.500'
5	28° 26.172'	113° 36.095'
6	28° 27.114'	113° 37.021'
7	28° 27.147'	113° 37.715'
8	28° 28.155'	113° 37.996'
9	28° 29.197'	113° 39.815'
10	28° 29.726'	113° 41.584'
11	28° 29.594'	113° 43.088'
12	28° 29.974'	113° 43.551'
13	28° 30.760'	113° 42.090'
14	28° 31.215'	113° 40.442'
15	28° 31.922'	113° 40.506'
16	28° 32.329'	113° 41.149'
17	28° 32.027'	113° 42.394'
18	28° 31.431'	113° 42.954'
19	28° 31.432'	113° 44.427'
20	28° 30.490'	113° 45.931'
21	28° 29.652'	113° 46.588'
22	28° 30.344'	113° 47.579'
23	28° 29.531'	113° 48.675'
24	28° 26.717'	113° 49.700'
25	28° 24.341'	113° 49.115'
26	28° 24.171'	113° 48.279'
27	28° 25.957'	113° 47.700'
28	28° 27.373'	113° 47.215'
29	28° 27.511'	113° 46.824'
30	28° 25.660'	113° 46.641'
31	28° 25.345'	113° 45.154'
32	28° 24.375'	113° 43.968'
33	28° 23.428'	113° 41.369'
34	28° 24.006'	113° 40.212'
35	28° 22.469'	113° 39.220'
36	28° 21.312'	113° 38.757'
37	28° 20.204'	113° 36.476'
38	28° 19.072'	113° 37.401'
39	28° 17.060'	113° 36.716'

40	28° 15.319'	113° 35.616'
41	28° 14.856'	113° 34.657'

thence along a line to the commencement point.

**Area 2: Easter Group**

All waters bounded by a line commencing at 28° 38.128' south latitude and 113° 38.951' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 36.660' south latitude and 113° 54.402' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 44.415' south latitude and 113° 53.496' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 48.924' south latitude and 113° 45.500' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 48.710' south latitude and 113° 43.602' east longitude, thence along a line to the commencement point.

**Area 3: Pelsaert Group**

All waters bounded by a line commencing at 28° 51.579' south latitude and 113° 47.171' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 50.308' south latitude and 113° 49.270' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 50.158' south latitude and 114° 2.323' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 53.456' south latitude and 114° 2.133' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 59.577' south latitude and 113° 58.218' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 59.506' south latitude and 113° 55.205' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 56.930' south latitude and 113° 51.251' east longitude, thence along a line to the commencement point.

**Area 4: Hummock Island**

All waters bounded by a line commencing at 28° 48.794' south latitude and 114° 2.572' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 49.441' south latitude 114° 3.408' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 50.176' south latitude and 114° 3.663' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 50.105' south latitude and 114° 3.825' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 48.885' south latitude and 114° 3.618' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 48.681' south latitude and 114° 3.281' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 48.146' south latitude and 114° 3.451' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 47.205' south latitude and 114° 2.539' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 47.646' south latitude and 114° 1.479' east longitude, thence to a point at 28° 48.838' south latitude and 114° 1.647' east longitude, thence along a line to the commencement point.

**Area 5: Zone B waters**

The waters situated on the west coast of the State bounded by a line commencing at the intersection of the high water mark and 30° 0.000' south latitude, thence west to a point at 30° 0.000' south latitude and 114° 54.011' east longitude (Point 1), thence sequentially connecting the following points in a general northerly direction:

Point	South Latitude	East Longitude
2	29° 54.960'	114° 53.520'
3	29° 47.820'	114° 50.640'
4	29° 44.280'	114° 52.200'
5	29° 35.160'	114° 53.580'
6	29° 29.549'	114° 52.020'
7	29° 23.673'	114° 49.091'
8	29° 15.980'	114° 50.057'

9	29° 5.527'	114° 45.775'
10	28° 56.844'	114° 36.310'
11	28° 50.228'	114° 34.376'
12	28° 45.910'	114° 31.873'
13	28° 38.886'	114° 34.397'
14	28° 32.134'	114° 31.770'
15	28° 24.783'	114° 25.621'
16	28° 19.397'	114° 21.556'
17	28° 9.606'	114° 7.313'
18	28° 7.697'	114° 6.510'
19	28° 4.021'	114° 8.583'
20	27° 57.114'	114° 7.470'
21	27° 51.289'	114° 5.821'
22	27° 46.871'	114° 6.456'
23	27° 42.271'	114° 8.725'
24	27° 34.318'	114° 6.840'
25	27° 24.707'	114° 2.747'
26	27° 2.380'	113° 50.032'
27	26° 41.517'	113° 35.287'
28	26° 26.279'	113° 19.325'
29	26° 23.888'	113° 17.460'
30	26° 18.907'	113° 16.488'
31	26° 9.031'	113° 8.754'
32	25° 56.017'	113° 2.670'
33	25° 46.986'	112° 57.868'
34	25° 38.643'	112° 55.561'
35	25° 35.851'	112° 54.994'
36	25° 31.664'	112° 55.432'
37	25° 20.647'	113° 2.070'
38	25° 4.271'	113° 5.073'
39	24° 44.696'	113° 8.675'
40	24° 27.371'	113° 24.022'
41	24° 13.421'	113° 23.270'
42	24° 1.942'	113° 25.132'
43	23° 53.621'	113° 27.901'
44	23° 45.646'	113° 31.433'
45	23° 35.233'	113° 37.783'
46	23° 28.884'	113° 45.675'
47	23° 5.193'	113° 43.562'
48	22° 36.271'	113° 37.108'
49	21° 53.907'	113° 55.870'
50	21° 47.970'	114° 2.636'
51	21° 44.000'	114° 12.888'

thence east to the intersection of the high water mark and 21° 44.000' south latitude, thence along the high water mark in a general southerly direction to the commencement point.

**Area 6: Zone C waters**

The waters situated on the west coast of the State bounded by a line commencing at the intersection of the high water mark and 34° 24.000' south latitude, thence west to a point at 34° 24.000' south latitude and 115° 7.694' east longitude (Point 1), thence sequentially connecting the following points in a general northerly direction:

Point	South Latitude	East Longitude
2	34° 15.654'	114° 59.535'
3	33° 57.763'	114° 57.891'
4	33° 41.990'	114° 58.051'
5	33° 37.721'	115° 0.767'
6	33° 31.964'	114° 59.666'
7	33° 31.231'	115° 1.282'
8	33° 34.829'	115° 8.524'
9	33° 34.402'	115° 17.782'
10	33° 26.856'	115° 27.426'
11	33° 11.228'	115° 36.138'
12	33° 4.230'	115° 34.623'
13	32° 53.460'	115° 34.522'
14	32° 42.789'	115° 31.250'
15	32° 30.044'	115° 35.739'
16	32° 16.910'	115° 36.718'
17	32° 9.369'	115° 35.180'
18	32° 3.633'	115° 33.722'
19	32° 2.212'	115° 33.208'
20	32° 1.927'	115° 26.624'
21	32° 0.910'	115° 26.395'
22	31° 57.998'	115° 31.284'
23	31° 58.114'	115° 34.983'
24	31° 58.954'	115° 38.752'
25	31° 53.896'	115° 40.157'
26	31° 36.847'	115° 35.980'
27	31° 18.527'	115° 23.074'
28	30° 59.021'	115° 16.216'
29	30° 51.060'	115° 10.320'
30	30° 30.540'	115° 0.060'
31	30° 25.020'	114° 58.500'
32	30° 12.420'	114° 57.000'
33	30° 4.200'	114° 54.420'
34	30° 0.000'	114° 54.011'

thence east to the intersection of the high water mark and 30° 0.000' south latitude, thence along the high water mark in a general southerly direction to the commencement point.