

CODE OF PRACTICE

Southern Rocklobster

*Responsible fishing guidelines for
operators in Victoria*



SOUTHERN ROCKLOBSTER IDENTIFICATION



*Underside view of a male
Southern Rocklobster*

Male

Males have small swimmerets under the tail and no rods or nipper claws on the rear legs.

The minimum landing size for males is 110mm

Closure period for males:

15th September to 15th November



*Underside view of a berried female
Southern Rocklobster*

Female

Females have large swimmerets under the tail with a slender rod (which holds the eggs) under each swimmeret. A small nipper claw is present on the ends of the rear legs.

The minimum landing size for females is 105mm

Closure period for females:

1st June to 15th November

Our vision is to be part of a safe and profitable fishing industry that harvests premium quality seafood from a thriving, healthy ocean

Maximising sustainability

In 2004 the Victorian Southern Rocklobster Fishery was first assessed under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* as being ecologically sustainable for export. This is reviewed every five years and this Code of Practice helps to ensure the fishery maintains its status under the EPBC Act.

Maximising quality

A healthy Southern Rocklobster commands the highest price. Following the guidelines for handling and storage as set out in this Code will deliver a quality product to the consumer and help to obtain the best price for everyone involved – from capture to sale.

Maximising value

The value of the fishery is maximised when healthy Southern Rocklobsters are harvested and commercially unsuitable ones are returned quickly to the sea. This Code lays out guidelines for maximising the economic, social and environmental value of the fishery for all users of the marine environment. Buyers are increasingly looking for responsibly sourced seafood and those fishers following the Code will be able to demonstrate their best practice to the supply chain.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Background

The Victorian Southern Rocklobster fishery has been in operation for over 100 years and the fishermen and their families have a long history of catching premium quality seafood consumed throughout Australia and Asia. Regulations have been developed for the ongoing management of this fishery and a series of input and output controls including operating licenses, catch quotas and minimum landing sizes ensure the continued productivity of the fishery.

Purpose & scope of the Code

This Code has been developed by the Victorian Southern Rocklobster Fishery to outline best practice for the commercial sector. It brings together a range of legal requirements and voluntary measures and sits alongside legislation to further define and promote responsible management and to minimize environmental risks. The Code is voluntary and the scale of its impact will depend on uptake by industry.

Implementation & review

This Code applies to all fishers in the Victorian Southern Rocklobster Fishery and has been developed by fishers, Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV) and SeaNet.

The Code of Practice will be reviewed every 5 years in conjunction with the Victorian Southern Rocklobster Fishery Management Plan and in consultation with the Southern Rocklobster industry, the Rocklobster and Giant Crab Resource Assessment Group (RAG), SIV and SeaNet.



Measuring the carapace: A code of practice sets out principles and behaviour for responsible fishing practices

2 ABOUT THE FISHERY

Southern Rocklobster is the second most valuable commercial fishery in Victoria after abalone. The fishery is important to the state's economy and coastal communities, employing about 200 people in the catching sector. The catch in 2010/11 was 300 tonnes valued at over \$15 million (DPI, Commercial Fish Production Bulletin 2011).

Southern Rocklobster (*Jasus edwardsii*) is found on coastal reefs to depths of 150 metres. Most of the catch comes from inshore waters less than 100 metres deep and is caught using baited pots. In Victoria, the abundance of Southern Rocklobster naturally decreases from west to east reflecting a decreasing area of rocky reef habitat.

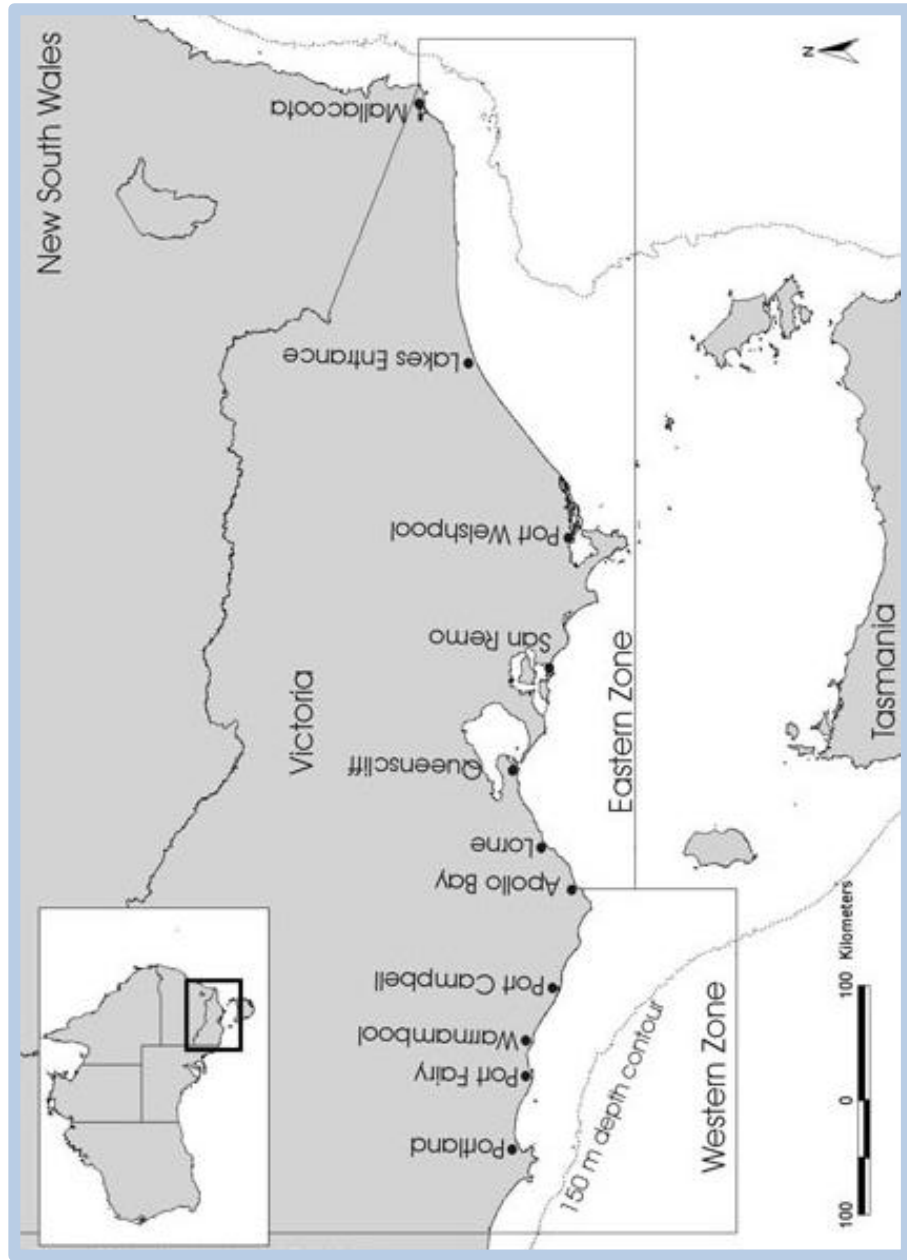
The fishery in Victoria is divided into two separately managed fishing zones: The Western (from the South Australian border to Apollo Bay) and the Eastern Zone (from Apollo Bay to the New South Wales border) (*see map*). Under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Arrangement, the Victorian Government has jurisdiction over the commercial Rocklobster fishery in waters adjacent to Victoria out to 200 nautical miles.

Commercial Rocklobster fishers must hold a Southern Rocklobster Fishery Access Licence which is renewed annually. The number of available licenses is capped and each of the Zones has a restriction on the number of pots that can be used. In each Zone the allocated catch quota (in tonnes) is divided into individual transferable quota units distributed amongst the license holders.



*Southern Rocklobster
Jasus edwardsii*

Map of the Southern Rocklobster fishery



THE SOUTHERN ROCKLOBSTER CODE OF PRACTICE

3.1 SUSTAINABLE HARVESTING

- Familiarise yourself with and adhere to relevant fisheries legislation. See section 9.
- Report any instances of illegal fishing that you witness to the fisheries offence line **13FISH (13 3474)**.
- Observe closed seasons and enter coordinates of spatial closures and Marine Protected Areas into electronic navigation devices.
- Do not leave Rocklobster pots unattended, immersed or set during closed seasons in Victorian waters.
- Only take legal-sized Rocklobsters (noting differences between male and female as documented in the Victorian Fisheries Regulations).
- Return undersized Rocklobsters and berried females to the sea as soon as possible and near to the place they were caught to ensure their maximum chance of survival.
- Use bait from responsible sources and keep records of bait purchased.
- Check your licence for allowable byproduct which might be used as bait.



*Good choices for bait include:
Australian salmon, bony
bream, New Zealand
mackerel, pilchards and
barracuda heads.*

3.2 HANDLING & STORING LIVE LOBSTER

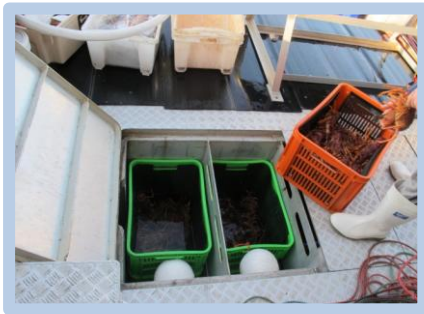
Stress makes the Southern Rocklobster more likely to die or reach the market in a poor condition. Stress can be minimised from the moment you start hauling pots by following these guidelines.

- Haul pots in a steady, continuous motion.
- Remove Rocklobsters from the pots gently, do not shake them out.
- Handle the Rocklobsters as gently and as little as possible.
- Handle the Rocklobsters by the carapace or at the base of the antennae and never put too much pressure on the gills.
- Choose well designed pots and tippers so that legs and feelers do not protrude and get broken off during unloading.
- Sort pots as soon as they are pulled to reduce stress to the Rocklobster.
- Limit Rocklobster time on deck to less than 10 minutes.
- Hold Rocklobsters in a low-light environment.
- Holding baskets should fit snugly into live tanks so that water flows through them not around them. The design should avoid breakage of any protruding legs and feelers.
- Tank water should be kept between 9 and 13 degrees Celsius.

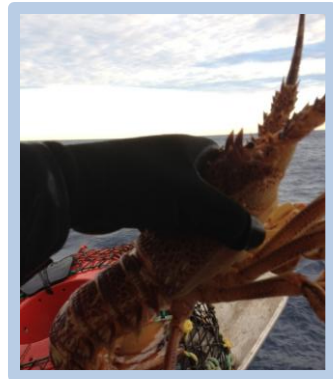


Southern Rocklobsters lose up to 8% of their body weight as water if they get stressed. That's 8% off your market price

- Ensure water flow through the tanks delivers adequate oxygen for the lobsters (minimum level is 70% but greater than 80% is preferred). Oxygen can be added by aeration or increasing the water flow.
- Avoid overcrowding in baskets and limit trip length according to your vessel carrying capacity.
- Adjust water flow and carrying capacity for the warmer months (dissolved oxygen decreases as temperature increases).



Good storage facilities are essential



Handle Rocklobster by the carapace or base of the antennae

3.3 REPORTING

- Track daily catch records and report by telephone using the interactive voice response system within the specified minimum time period (20 minutes after landing).
- Provide accurate data to assist in the ecological assessment of your fishery.
- Report your catch weight and fish within your quota limits.
- Surface buoys must be clearly marked with the vessel identification mark.

3.4 BYCATCH MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Bycatch is the portion of the catch that is not retained because it has no commercial value or because regulations mean it cannot be kept.

Byproduct is the portion of the catch that is not an intentionally targeted species but is kept to be sold or used as bait where regulations allow.

- Conduct fishing operations in areas, at times and in a manner that minimises levels of bycatch.
- Ensure that pots comply with minimum mesh size and escape gap requirements to reduce bycatch levels.
- Adopt slow lifting rates for pots to reduce trauma and therefore maximise the likelihood of bycatch surviving.
- Document records of bycatch and by-product in your logbook.
- Non-commercial or protected bycatch shall be carefully returned to the sea as soon as practical.
- Adopt practices that minimise the chance of predation of unwanted animals after release e.g. be vigilant for seals, keep undersized onboard if seals are present and release away from seals.
- Comply with your licence conditions for allowable byproduct.
- If you are a giant crab licence holder, only take legal size crabs, fish within your limits and report your catch.



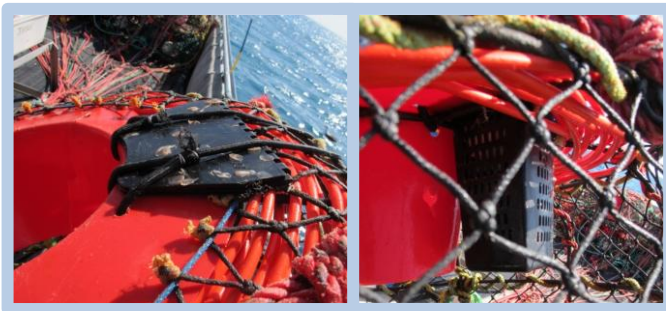
Richard Wylie / Marine Photobank

Octopus is the most common byproduct

3.5 INTERACTIONS WITH PROTECTED SPECIES, INCLUDING WHALES, DOLPHINS & SEALS

A number of whale, dolphin and seal species inhabit Victorian Waters as important habitat. These species can, at times, come into contact with Rocklobster fishing gear causing unwanted entanglements or entrapments. The most vulnerable for entanglements is the Southern Right Whale, which is listed as endangered under the National Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and listed as threatened under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. Southern Right Whales migrate to Victorian coastal waters every winter to mate and give birth. Other species likely to be effected in Victoria include the migrating Humpback Whale and the endangered Blue Whale, which feeds in the Bonney Upwelling off Portland. Refer to Sections 5 and 6 for important information about marine mammals. The following points of the Code aim to minimise the risk of entanglement or entrapment of marine mammals:

- Be familiar with the species that might be encountered during fishing. Refer to Sections 5 and 6.
- Seals may try to reach the bait in pots, where they can become trapped. To prevent this, use bait protection devices or seal excluder bars in your pots.



An example of a bait protection device used by Victorian fishermen. Fishers who use these devices have found that seals will not be attracted to their pots because the bait is inaccessible.

- Avoid excessive slack in pot ropes to minimise likelihood of entanglement.

Ropes should be adjusted to a length appropriate to the depth and strength of tide being worked, especially inshore. Excess slack in pot ropes can be coiled and tied close to floats. Slack should be limited to enough rope to allow for recovery and to commence hauling safely.

- Regularly check pots, as per standard fishing practice.
- Don't leave pots in the water if not fishing for prolonged periods.
- Keep up to date contact details aboard for reporting incidents.
- If a whale or dolphin entanglement, stranding or injury occurs:
 - Report immediately using the hotline below. Disentanglement teams have a greater chance of success if the entanglement is discovered quickly
 - Monitor the situation with due regard for the safety of the vessel and the entangled animal, until assistance teams arrive
- You should use the Whale and Dolphin Emergency Hotline to report a whale or dolphin entanglement, stranding or injury including ship strike.



- To report a seal entanglement or injury, or to enquire about taking part in DSE disentanglement training programs, contact the DSE Customer Service Centre on 136 186.
- Report all incidental interactions with protected species in your logbook and by using the Protected Species Interactions form contained in the Southern Rocklobster Daily Catch Record Book. Incidental interactions may include entanglements, ship strike or by-catch.

You will not be prosecuted for any incidental interactions. Rocklobster fishers will not be prosecuted for any incidental interaction with protected species provided that they occur accidentally, in the normal course of fishing, reasonable efforts are taken to return the animal to the water and the interaction is reported to Fisheries Victoria in logbooks. This protection was created by orders under the Fisheries Act 1989, the Wildlife Act 1975 and the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. The intention of the orders is to support existing reporting requirements by removing the risk that the fishers will face prosecution for these interactions.

- Adopt a cooperative approach to avoiding entanglements and responding to entanglements when they occur.
- Investigate new technologies that may reduce entanglements.



Fishers can participate in DSE training programs to ensure that they are aware of procedures and familiar with disentanglement team personnel. Local knowledge of fishers is very beneficial, but fishers are not encouraged to attempt to disentangle whales themselves.

3.6 WASTE & POLLUTION

Pollution of the marine environment is strictly controlled by law and penalties for not complying are large.

- Dispose of all rubbish responsibly on shore. Recycle where possible.
- Remove straps from bait boxes before going to sea and dispose of them correctly.
- Use recyclable bait boxes that can be unfolded and flattened easily. Don't use double waxed bait boxes.
- Collect any litter or derelict gear you see whilst out fishing and dispose of it responsibly on land. If you cannot collect it yourself, report it to the EPA on **1300 372 842**.
- Never discharge oil overboard. Dispose of oil and oil filters at your local waste station.
- Use a bilge rat to soak up waste oil.
- Train all crew in correct refuelling procedure.
- Use environmentally-friendly cleaning products on the vessel.
- Report any oil or chemical spills or other incidences of environmental damage e.g. algal blooms or fish kills to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria on **1300 372 842**.

3.7 MARINE PESTS & DISEASE

Marine pests & disease can significantly impact the marine environment, human health and the economy. The key to protecting our fishing grounds is to prevent vessels moving pests from place to place.

- Periodically clean (and allow to dry if possible) areas that may harbour marine pests such as; anchor, chain wells and lockers, live tanks and wells, decks, pots, propellers and access points to internal water systems.
- Clear warps and anchors of biological matter and mud/sand as they are hauled.
- Inspect, clean and dry gear and equipment (do a topside freshwater rinse if possible).
- Return bycatch to the sea as near as possible to the point of capture.
- If gear is cleaned away from fishing grounds or in port, dispose of biological waste at land-based facilities.
- Clean hull and antifoul if vessel has been in port for a prolonged period.
- Freeze or preserve in salt water suspected marine pests and report to DSE or Parks Victoria.
- Report suspected marine pest & disease outbreaks to the DSE customer service centre on **136 186**.
- If a pest or disease outbreak occurs, cooperate with the emergency response procedures.

3.8 QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Under the Seafood Safety Act 2003, Southern Rocklobster harvesters in Victoria require a licence issued by PrimeSafe. Application forms can be obtained from the PrimeSafe website www.primesafe.vic.gov.au.

- Harvesters will ensure that they have a Primesafe licence and their supply chain is also licenced.
- Consider the time of day and air temperature when unloading Rocklobsters at the jetty to avoid heat stress.
- Landed animals should be alive.
- Pack Rocklobster comfortably for transport. Consider using a basket exchange system with your buyer so that lobsters can stay in the same baskets from the first time they are handled until they are sorted at the depot for further processing. This minimises limb loss.
- All seafood businesses will put in place a food safety plan to assume responsibility for control of the production of safe food. The plan must cover topics such as a cleaning and maintenance programme, traceability and management.

Food Safety Plan templates are available on a CD-ROM from Seafood Industry Victoria or at www.siv.com.au

- Ensure that all fish landed for sale are marketed in an authorised manner and using the standard name “Southern Rocklobster”.
- Ensure your seafood buyer complies with relevant legislation.

3.9 SAFETY ON BOARD

Transport Safety Victoria (TSV) is the State regulator for marine safety.

All vessel operators must create a risk register and develop a Safety Management System (SMS) to effectively manage the identified risks.

TSV can assist you in developing a risk register and an SMS. Visit www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au, email operationalsafety@transportsafety.vic.gov.au or call 1800 223 022

3.10 COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Ensure that all crew and visitors are made aware of this Code of Practice
- Be courteous and cooperative with any member of the community.
- Take a proactive and cooperative approach in investigations relating to:
 - Identification and mapping of significant habitat and areas of environmental sensitivity
 - Gear modification for bycatch reduction
 - Sustaining fish stocks
 - Research and development to continually improve the management of the resource e.g. onboard sampling programmes



Seafood Industry Victoria at the Queenscliff Seafood Festival

4 RADIO DISTRESS PROTOCOL & MAN OVERBOARD PROCEDURES

Radio Distress Protocol

To issue a radio distress call turn your radio to a distress channel and then the following message:

“MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY. This is (name of the vessel and call sign)” x3

“MAYDAY (name of the vessel and call sign)”

- *Vessel position*
- *Nature of distress*
- *Number of persons on board*

Man Overboard Procedure

On board:

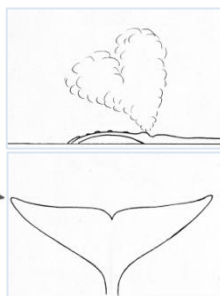
- *Turn towards the side the person fell (to keep stern away)*
- *Hit Man Overboard (MOB) button on GPS or mark your waypoint*
- *Raise the alarm*
- *Throw rescue aid*
- *Keep a visual lookout*

Person in the water:

- *Remain calm*
- *Don't try to swim*
- *Wait until the boat retrieves you*
- *Attract attention before retrieval*

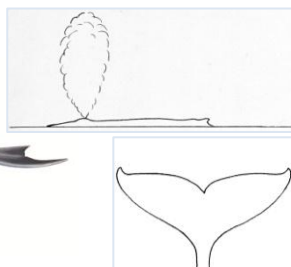
5 WHALE IDENTIFICATION CHART

Southern Right Whale



Southern Right Whale blow and tail

Humpback Whale



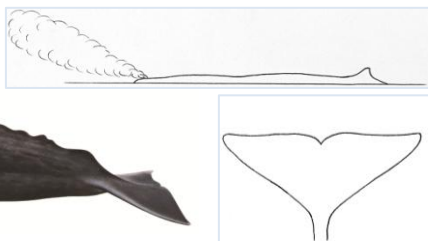
Humpback Whale blow and tail

Blue Whale



Blue Whale blow

Sperm Whale



Sperm Whale blow and tail

6 IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT WHALES, DOLPHINS & SEALS

The Problem of Entanglement

Since 2003, Victoria has had 15 reported cases of whale and dolphin entanglement incidents, mostly involving Southern Right Whales and Humpback Whales. Seal entanglements are regularly reported to DSE and birds and sea turtles (particularly Leatherback Sea Turtles) are also susceptible to entanglement. Entanglement of marine mammals with fishing gear is a problem and can be a serious threat to marine mammals, particularly for endangered species. The causes of entanglements in Australia are varied, but records of the types of materials involved include fishing nets, shark nets, pot rope used for attachment of lobster and crab pots to surface floats, aquaculture equipment and mono-filament fishing line.

Whale entanglements are complex and often dangerous incidents to respond to. Due to the size of the whales, disentanglement operations require staff to have specialist training and skills. In addition, there is increasing public interest and concern when these incidents occur.

As whale populations continue to increase, it is predicted that the number of entanglements occurring will also increase. Although the number of pots in the fishery is capped, pot placements and effort have the potential to concentrate in areas of significance to whales. This situation will be monitored by Fisheries Victoria, Department of Primary Industries (DPI), in accordance with the Southern Rocklobster Fishery Management Plan.

DSE is legally responsible for responding to whale entanglement incidents

Responding to a large whale entanglement incident is an extremely dangerous situation, with DSE's response personnel being exposed to a

range of hazards. An entangled whale is a large and powerful animal that is most likely distressed and unpredictable in its behaviour. Some of the equipment needed to remove the entanglement are very sharp and dangerous and require specialist skills to use safely. As such, whale disentanglement operations are carried out by DSE, DPI Fisheries Victoria and Parks Victoria staff who operate under a very rigid training program and protocols to ensure the safety of all rescue personnel.

DSE use the technique called 'kegging' to disentangle whales, which has been used in Australia for several years and was developed by the Centre for Coastal Studies in eastern USA. The technique involves attaching long lines and heavy buoys to the whale to slow it down, tire it out and keep it on the surface, allowing trained personnel to approach more safely, assess the entanglement and attempt to remove the entanglement completely. The entanglement is cut away using specialised knives attached to long poles. It is important to remove the rope entirely from the whale. The rescue operations are conducted according to a recognised response system used for emergency situations in Australia.

While disentanglement provides a means for dealing with incidents as they arise, the best 'solution' to the problem involves preventing the source of the entanglement. These species are particularly vulnerable to entanglement for the following reasons:

Southern Right Whales:

- are slow swimming and migrate through coastal waters
- breed in-shore in coastal waters during winter between May to October
- have rough callosities on the head and very long baleen plates (like teeth), which could increase the risk of entanglements
- are difficult to disentangle due to their uncooperative and often aggressive nature

Humpback Whales:

- migrate through Victorian waters during May to July and November to December
- are slow swimming and have very long flippers with knobby leading edges that could be easily entangled

Blue Whales:

- are a fast, streamlined whale
- feed in Victorian waters from December to May
- co-exists in the Bonney Upwelling alongside Rocklobster fisheries
- are at danger of entanglement in their baleen plates or flippers while feeding
- the size and power of these whales make it very difficult to disentangle them

Important areas for marine mammals

While it is important to note that marine mammals are very mobile and can be found anywhere, there are certain areas along Victoria's coastline that are favoured habitat for whales, dolphins and seals:

Victorian coastal waters are important habitat for the Southern Right Whale. Logan's Beach, Warrnambool is a designated boating exclusion zone from the 1 June to 31 October every year due to the area being known as an important calving zone for Southern Right Whales and their young.

Blue Whales are often found in the deeper offshore waters off Portland where the Bonney Upwelling occurs.

There are six protected or significant Australian Fur Seal breeding colonies along Victoria's coast, at the following locations:

- Cape Bridgewater, near Portland
- Lady Julia Percy Island, near Port Fairy

- Seal Rocks, Phillip Island
- Kanowna Island, Wilson's Promontory
- Rag Island, Clifty Group east of Wilson's Promontory
- The Skerries, Croajingalong National Park

Port Phillip Bay and Gippsland Lakes are home to a unique population of inshore Bottlenose Dolphins.

Restrictions are in place when boating around whales, dolphins and seals. For more information on these restrictions, refer to the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) website: www.dse.vic.gov.au.

MAPS SHOWING SEAL BREEDING AREAS AND LOGANS BEACH EXCLUSION AREA



Department of Sustainability and Environment

Cape Bridgewater Seal Breeding Colony

LEGL/09-306

0 160 320 480 640
Metres

Projection: Vicgrid 94
Latitude and Longitude values are based on GDA 94

- Seal Breeding Colony
- Ocean or waterbody
- Discovery Bay Coastal Park

See Map

Lodged in the Central Plan Office
Plan Number : LEGL/09-306
Dated this day of 2009
Surveyor General

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Department of Sustainability and Environment

Lady Julia Percy Island Seal Breeding Colony

LEGL/09-240

0 150 300 450 600
Metres

Projection: Vicgrid 94

- Seal Breeding Colony
- Ocean or waterbody

See Map

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Dated this day of 2009
Surveyor General

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Logans Beach Exclusion Zone

LEGL/09-235



Projection: Vicgrid 94
Latitude and Longitude values are based on GDA 94

- Exclusion zone
- Ocean or waterbody



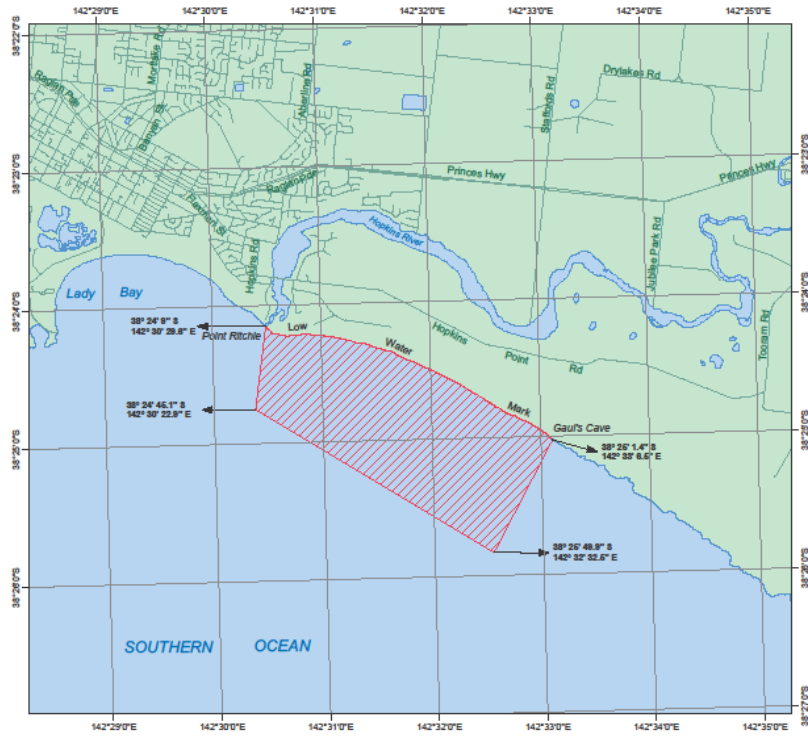
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SOUTHERN OCEAN

146°40'30"E 146°41'0"E



Rag Island Seal Breeding Colony

LEGL/09-241



Projection: Vicgrid 94

- Seal Breeding Colony
- Ocean or waterbody



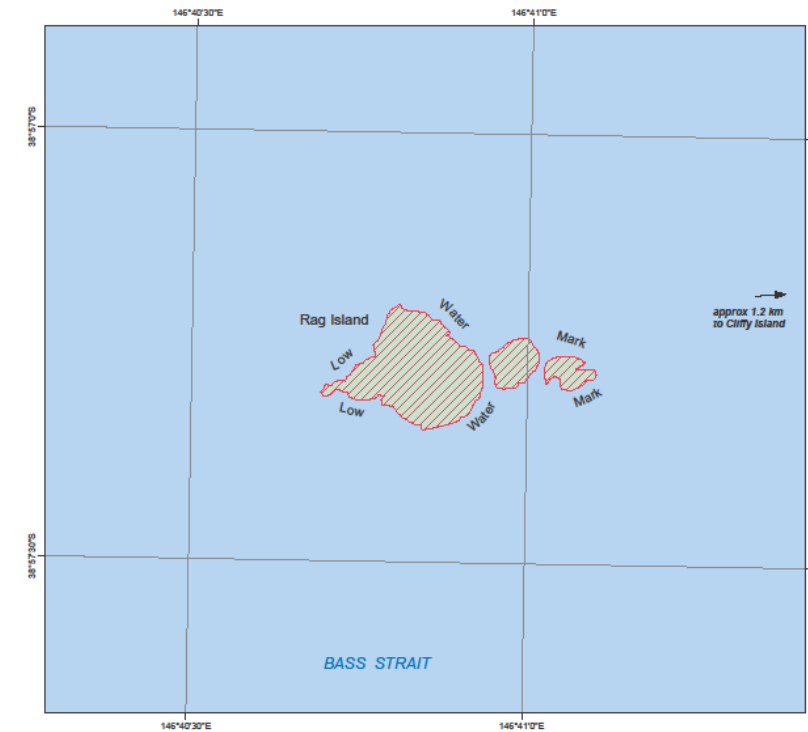
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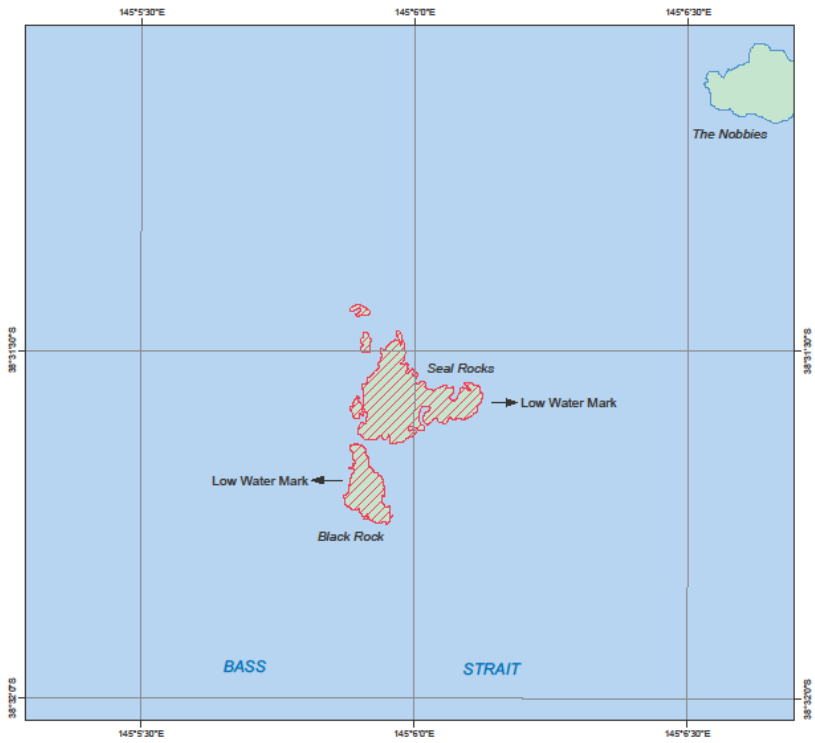
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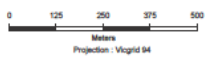


BASS STRAIT



Seal Rocks Seal Breeding Colony

LEGL/09-237



- Seal Breeding Colony
- Ocean or waterbody

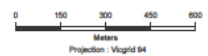


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Surveyor General



The Skerries Seal Breeding Colony

LEGL/09-239



- Seal Breeding Colony
- Ocean or waterbody

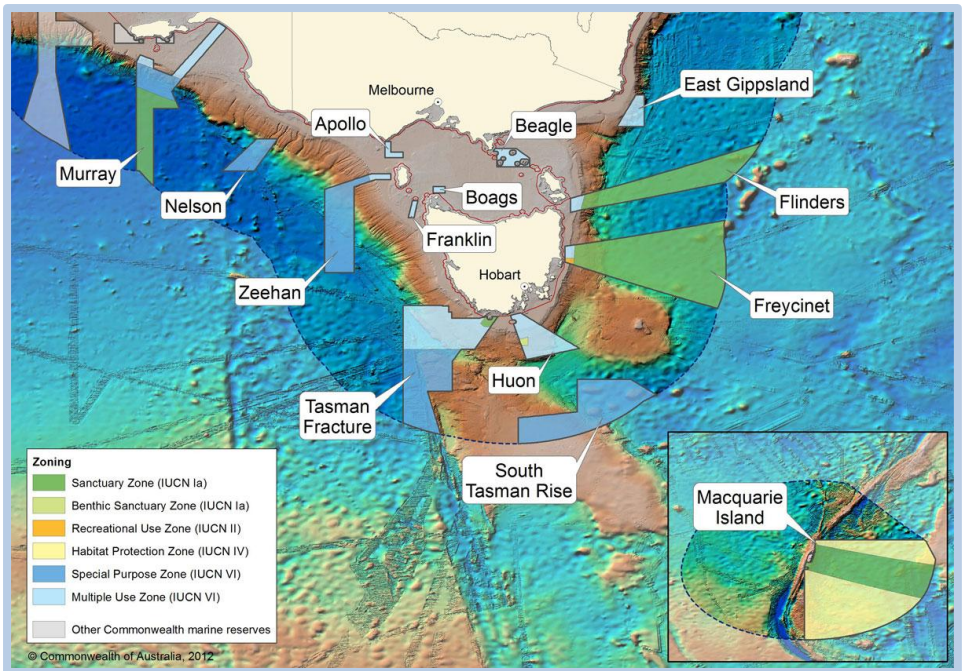


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Dated this day of 2009
Surveyor General

7 MARINE PARKS & SANCTUARIES

Commonwealth Marine Reserves

Australia's South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network stretches from the far south coast of New South Wales, around Tasmania and Victoria and west to Kangaroo Island off South Australia. The network includes 14 marine reserves.



For a list of commercial activities allowed at each site and boundary coordinates of Commonwealth Marine Reserves in Victorian waters visit www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves/south-east/

State Marine Parks and Sanctuaries

Marine parks and sanctuaries have been established to protect a sample of Victoria's marine plants and animals and their habitats. Fishing is prohibited in marine parks and sanctuaries.



- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Discovery Bay | 5-7. Westernport Bay (3 sites) | 11. Ninety-Mile Beach |
| 2. Twelve Apostles | 8. Bunurong | 12. Point Hicks |
| 3. Point Addis | 9. Wilson's Promontory | 13. Cape Howe |
| 4. Port Phillip Heads | 10. Corner Inlet | |



- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Merri | 5. Point Danger | 9. Ricketts Point |
| 2. The Arches | 6. Barwon Buff | 10. Mushroom Reef |
| 3. Marengo Reefs | 7. Point Cooke | 11. Beware Reef |
| 4. Eagle Rocks | 8. Jawbone | |

For boundary coordinates of State marine parks and sanctuaries visit
<http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/>

8 MARINE PEST IDENTIFICATION



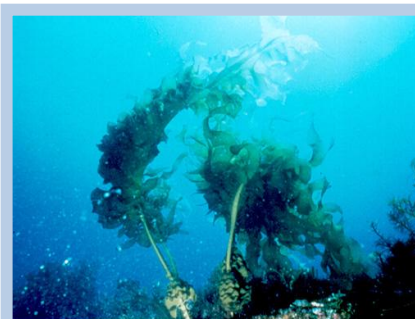
Northern Pacific Seastar

5 arms with pointed upturned tips, yellowish/orange with purple markings and yellow underneath. Up to 50 cm across. Currently established in Port Phillip Bay.



European Tube Worm

Large worm, tube length can exceed 300mm. Crown colour varies from orange, white and red-brown bands to pale fawn throughout with distinct bands. Crown can be completely withdrawn into tube if worm is disturbed. Established Port Phillip Bay.



Japanese Wakame

A brown seaweed that can reach an overall length of 1-3 metres. Mature plant only found from early winter to late summer. Generally brown/green. Has smooth thin blades that stop well short of base and a frilly growth around the base. Established Port Phillip Bay and Apollo Bay

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG)

AVG affects the nervous tissue of abalone and rapidly causes death. Most abalone fishing grounds are also utilised by the Victorian rocklobster fishery. Be aware of the AVG biosecurity protocols for the prevention of spread and observe area closures. The protocol can be found at www.dpi.vic.gov.au.

9 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Fisheries Act 1995

Provides the legislative framework for the regulation and management of Victorian fisheries and for the conservation of fisheries resources, including their supporting aquatic habitats.

Fisheries Regulations 2009

Lays out the specific management controls for the commercial and recreational Southern Rocklobster fishery. This includes licensing and quota management requirements, gear restrictions, catch limits, size limits etc.

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places and includes a list of protected species.

Offshore Constitutional Arrangements

Provides a framework for managing commercial fisheries that pass between State (0-3nm) and Commonwealth (3-200nm) waters. The Victorian Government has jurisdiction over the commercial Southern Rocklobster fishery.

Seafood Safety Act 2003

Provides a regulatory system under which all sectors of the seafood supply chain are required to manage food safety risks in accordance with accepted practices.

Marine Safety Act 2010

The *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic) and *Marine Safety Regulations 2012* (Vic) provide for safe marine operations in Victoria. The Act and Regulations commenced on 1 July 2012 and replace the *Marine Act 1988* (Vic).

10 USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency Contacts

Marine Radio	27MHz Channel 88 VHF Channel 16 HF frequencies 4125
Phone	Call 000 or Water Police direct 1800 135 729

Fisheries

Fisheries Victoria

<i>Commercial Fisheries</i>	03 9658 4000
<i>Reporting fishing offences</i>	13 FISH 133 474
<i>Disease Watch</i>	1800 675 888
<i>Duty Officer</i>	0418 519 215

Conservation & Environmental protection

Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE)

Customer Service Centre 136 186

Whale and Dolphin Emergency Hotline 1300 136 017

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)

EPA Melbourne Metropolitan Area 03 9695 2777

EPA Outside Metropolitan Melbourne 1800 444 004

EPA Pollution Hotline 1300 372 842

Parks Victoria 131 963

Oceanwatch Australia/SeaNet Victoria 03 9687 0673

Industry

Seafood Industry Victoria 03 9687 0673

Sea Safety & Licensing

Transport Safety Victoria (TSV)	1800 223 022
Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)	02 6279 5767
Boat registration & licensing (Vic Roads)	131 171
Australian Search & rescue (24hrs)	1800 641 792

Quality Assurance

PrimeSafe Victoria	03 9685 7333
Southern Rocklobster 'Clean Green'	0423 533 133

Health & Wellbeing

Beyond Blue	1300 224636
Lifeline	13 11 14
Nurse on call	1300 60 60 24

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www.southernrocklobster.com.*

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Our vision is to be part of a safe and profitable fishing industry that harvests premium quality seafood from a thriving, healthy ocean

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