

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS for Local Lobster Program (LLP) Tag System

UPDATE APRIL 2020 – CURRENT LOCAL LOBSTER PROGRAM EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on operators in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery, many of whom have not been fishing in recent times, the current Local Lobster Program has been extended to now finish on 30 September 2020. Specifically:

- Tagged lobsters may now be landed and sold by eligible commercial fishers until 30 September 2020;
- Unused tags must be returned by 15 October 2020,
- Record of Western Rock Lobster Local Supply Landing and Sales Forms must be returned by no later than 15 October 2020 or when all lines on the form are complete, or upon use of all of the LLP Tags, whichever occurs first.
- Note that the changes implemented allow for additional time to use the existing Local Lobster Tags; no additional tags will be made available if they have already been collected or used by an eligible Managed Fishery Licence holder.

The arrangements for Local Lobster Program Phase Five are largely the same as the arrangements for last phase, i.e.:

- Local Lobster must be either sold to increase domestic supply; or donated to a registered charity. Lobsters may not be retained for personal consumption by licence holders, masters or crew.
- A master, crew or licence holder may not have a rock lobster with a Local Lobster Tag attached at their place of residence. *See page 3 for more details.*
- Each active West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence may be issued 100 tags.
- If you are not using Fish Eye then you may not participate in the Local Lobster Program, as the number of tagged local lobsters must be included in the pre-landing nomination. Note that Departmental officers are available to assist licence holders who wish to start using Fish Eye. Please contact the Fish Eye Support helpline 1300 550 763 or FishEye.Support@fish.wa.gov.au for more information.

What's new for Phase Five?

There are new LLP Tags for use in the period 1 December 2019 – 30 September 2020 (*NOTE - new extended end date*). They are pale blue in colour, have the words 'Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development' on one side of the tag, and on the other side the words 'Local Lobster Program' and a unique serial number:



Sustainability and Biosecurity

Gordon Stephenson House, 140 William Street, Perth WA 6000
Locked Bag 4, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

Telephone +61 (0)8 6551 4444 Facsimile +61 (0)8 9482 7389 enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au

dpird.wa.gov.au

ABN: 18 951 343 745

When can I start fishing for LLP Lobster?

You can start fishing for LLP Lobster from **1 December 2019**.

How many LLP Tags can I collect?

The holder of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence (MFL) or master of an authorised boat named on a MFL (i.e. operating over the minimum OPERATING holding of 300 units of current entitlement) may collect 100 LLP Tags.

Who can collect LLP Tags?

The holder of the MFL or master of an authorised boat named on a MFL that has over 300 units of current entitlement can collect LLP Tags.

When and where can I collect LLP Tags?

LLP Tags will be available from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Fisheries) Offices at Mandurah, Fremantle, Hillarys, Lancelin, Jurien Bay* and Geraldton from 18 November 2019. Please contact the office prior to collecting the tags to ensure that the office is open. Note that all offices will be shut for the Christmas / New Year period from Tuesday 24 December, re-opening on Thursday 2 January.

*If you are wishing to collect tags from the Jurien Bay office, please collect tags prior to the 24 December.

How long am I able to fish using my LLP Tags?

The LLP commences on 1 December 2019 and **ceases on 30 September 2020**. Note the program was originally due to finish on 30 April, but has now been extended in light of the impacts of COVID-19.

How long am I able to land lobster with an LLP Tag attached?

Lobster with a LLP Lobster Tag attached must not be taken or landed **after 30 September 2020**.

How do I use LLP Tags?

Insert the tail of the LLP Tag through the fastener to form a loop. Ensure the number on the LLP Tag is facing upwards, then slip over end of the antenna and slide to the bottom – last joint of antenna under the “horn”. Pull the tail of the LLP Tag until it closes firmly around the base of the horn. Note:

- the LLP Tag must be fastened tightly so it cannot be removed,
- all LLP Tags are to be used sequentially; and
- a LLP Tag must not be used more than once.

How should lobsters with a LLP Tag be landed?

Lobster with a LLP Tag attached should be landed in open containers or can be stored on board the vessel until sold.

Do I need to provide any information via Fish Eye if fishing for local lobster?

If you are using LLP Tags, you must record the number of lobsters to be landed in the ‘comments’ field of the Pre-landing Nomination to Fish Eye. In the unlikely event that Fish Eye is not available, please contact the Fish Eye Support Helpline (1300 550 763) and advise the details of any local lobster to be landed. As there is no capacity to provide this information via IVR, if you do not use Fish Eye (including CatchER) then you may not use LLP Tags.

What if I land LLP Lobsters but I am unable to sell them at the point of landing?

You can leave the lobsters with a LLP Tag attached on your boat, even if you go on another trip. You should again record the number of lobsters to be landing in the 'comments' field of the Pre-landing Nomination to Fish Eye, when returning from your second trip. Alternatively, you can store the lobsters at another location until sold, however they may not be held at the place of residence of the crew, master or licence holder.

Do I need to record sales of lobsters with a LLP Tag attached and if so, where do I record this information?

Sale or disposal (e.g. giving the lobster to a registered charity) with a LLP Tag attached is to be recorded accurately by the master in the Record of Western Rock Lobster Local Supply Landing and Sales Form. It is also the responsibility of the master to submit this form to Fisheries once all LLP Tags are used, or all lines on the form are completed, or prior to 15 October 2020, whichever comes first. If required additional forms can be obtained by emailing pia.dobson@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Do I need to issue a receipt to someone who purchases a lobster with a LLP tag attached?

It is recommended that you provide a purchaser of local lobster with a receipt. Particularly in cases of restaurants, or other commercial/retail premises a receipt is important in order to be able to prove that the lobsters were not caught recreationally. Note that neither the Record of Western Rock Lobster Local Supply Landing and Sales Form nor the Local Lobster Tag, are considered to be a receipt.

Who is permitted to sell lobsters with a LLP Tag attached?

A master, crew or licence holder permitted to operate under the Local Lobster Exemption may sell lobsters with a LLP tag attached. A person who obtains the lobster from the master, crew or licence holder may on-sell the lobster for retail sale, including the provision of meals.

Who can I sell LLP tagged lobsters to?

LLP tagged lobsters may be sold to members of the public, restaurants and other retail outlets, registered receivers, and wholesalers who sell lobsters to the domestic market.

Who may I not sell LLP tagged lobsters to?

A holder of a Fish Processors Licence (or anyone acting on their behalf) that exports western rock lobster is not permitted to purchase or be in possession of a LLP tagged lobster.

Can I sell local lobsters from my home?

Not if the seller is involved in the fishing operation, as a LLP tagged lobster may not be held at the place of residence of the master, crew or licence holder. Arrangements should be made to sell the lobsters from the back of the boat or other location.

Can my crew sell a LLP tagged lobster on my behalf?

This is permitted provided that the master accurately records the details in the Record of Western Rock Lobster Local Supply Landing and Sales Form, within 24 hours of the sale.

Can I keep local lobsters for my own consumption?

Retaining local lobsters for fisher's personal consumption is not in line with the objectives of the program. Under Phase Five local lobster may not be retained for personal consumption. The arrangements which prohibit a master, crew or licence holder having tagged local lobster at their place of residence have been introduced to prohibit personal consumption.

I am a MFL holder who leases out all my units, and I'm not directly involved in a fishing operation. Can I buy a tagged local lobster from another fisher for my own consumption?

Yes. Managed Fishery Licence holders who have **not** been issued Local Lobster tags are not included in the prohibition on having tagged local lobsters at their place of residence.

If I hold two MFLs (one active and one inactive) can I have LLP tagged lobster at my place of residence if I have collected Local Lobster tags on one MFL but not the other?

No. A Managed Fishery Licence holder who has been issued tags under the Exemption may not have in their possession at their place of residence a rock lobster with an LLP Lobster Tag attached.

Can I donate local lobsters to a registered charity or other community groups like my school's P&C?

The objective of the program is to increase the supply of rock lobster to local/regional communities. A donation of local lobsters to a registered charity falls within the objectives of the initiative and is permitted. You can check whether a charity is registered, or not, at this website: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity> Should you wish to provide local lobsters to other community groups which are not registered charities (i.e. school P&C, sporting club, etc.), then the lobsters must be sold, not donated.

What do I do with excess LLP Tags?

Any excess or unused LLP Tags **must be** returned to a Fisheries office **no later than 15 October 2020**.

What do I do if a tag breaks?

Any tags broken prior to attaching to a lobster should be returned to the local Fisheries office. Any tags broken after attaching to a lobster should be reported via the Rock Lobster Helpline (1300 574 071) and the details of the broken tag recorded on the Record of Western Rock Lobster Local Supply and Landing Form.

Can I give my LLP Tags to another fisher?

No. LLP Tags are assigned to a specific MFL and cannot be traded or given away to other fishers.

How long are the LLP Tags to stay on the lobster?

LLP Tags are food safe but should not be exposed to direct heat. They must remain on the lobster until it is being prepared for immediate consumption.

Can I fish using my LLP Tags if I have exhausted all my quota and if so what do I need to nominate for my pre and post landing?

Yes. You will still be required to nominate to fish and submit a zero pre and post landing nomination. In the 'comments' field of the pre landing nomination you must indicate the number of tagged local lobsters that you are landing.

What happens if a MFL holder does not renew their licence going into the new season, but has already collected the LLP Lobster Tags?

If a MFL holder collects LLP Lobster Tags in December 2019, and then does not renew their Managed Fishery Licence before 15 January 2020, all unused LLP Tags should be returned to the local Fisheries office. LLP Tags may only be used by persons operating under a MFL where at least 300 units of current entitlement are held on the licence.

Please direct any additional questions to Pia Dobson on pia.dobson@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Current as at 29 April 2020.