



Whale mitigation: Management plan changes September 2020



Additional measures to reduce whale entanglement in rock lobster gear are now in effect, including:

1. A maximum pot usage of **200 pots per licence** applies from September through to 31 October 2020, and from 1 May to 30 June 2021.
2. Outside of the above periods the pot usage rates (outlined overleaf) apply.
3. There is a new requirement for fishers to provide information regarding the number of pots left in the water at the end of a trip (this applies year round).
4. The period in which modified whale gear is required has been extended to include April. Modified gear is now required from **1 April to 31 October**
5. Additional requirements during the whale mitigation period include:
 - a. a line must have a weight attached, or weighted rope must be used; and
 - b. all pots must be pulled at least once every **7 days** regardless of depth of water in which they are set.

Voluntary Measures

In addition to the mandatory management plan changes above, Western Rock Lobster has suggested that fishers undertake voluntary whale sighting surveys as part of their fishing operations using the Marine Fauna Sightings app.

Find the [Marine Fauna sightings on the App Store](#)

Pot usage rates

The number of pots that may be used in a Zone of the Fishery is calculated from the current number of units of entitlement held on a licence. There are two different periods of pot usage rates:

- (1) 1 May – 31 October (i.e. 'winter'; during whale migration); and
- (2) 1 November – 30 April (i.e. 'summer'; outside of whale migration).

During the 'winter' period (**1 May – 31 October**) the maximum number of pots that may be used is 1 pot per 20 units (this is sometimes referred to as '50% pot usage').

In addition, if a licence holder has units of entitlement in both Zone A and Zone B, they may use additional pots in Zone B, calculated based on the number of Zone A units held, multiplied by 0.028.

For the 'summer' period (**1 November – 30 April**), the maximum number of pots that may be used is 1 pot per 10 units (this is sometimes referred to as 100% pot usage, and has now been formally included in the Plan).

In addition, if a licence holder has units of entitlement in both Zone A and Zone B, they may use additional pots in Zone B, calculated on the number of Zone A units held, multiplied by 0.056.

Incorporating the new changes, a hypothetical Zone C fisher with 5,000 units is therefore permitted to use the following number of pots:

Time period	Number of pots	Number of units
September - 31 October 2020	200	5,000
1 November 2020 – 30 April 2021	500	5,000
1 May 2021 - 30 June 2021	200	5,000
1 July 2021 – 31 October 2021	250	5,000
1 November 2021 – 30 April 2022	500	5,000

Important disclaimer

Please note this is provided as general information only, for further details please access the [Management Plan](#) or contact DPIRD.

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