

Recreational Rock Lobster Fishery Season 2013

Rock Lobster Season Opening Dates

Western Region:

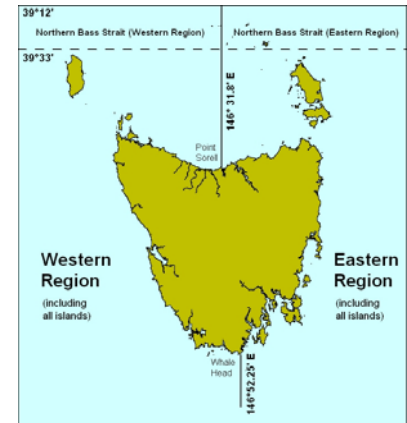
Open to fishing from 2 November 2013.

Eastern Region (excluding South East Amended Area):

Open to fishing from 16 November 2013. During the closed season for the Eastern Region, recreational fishers can't possess rock lobster or pots on state waters in the Eastern Region.

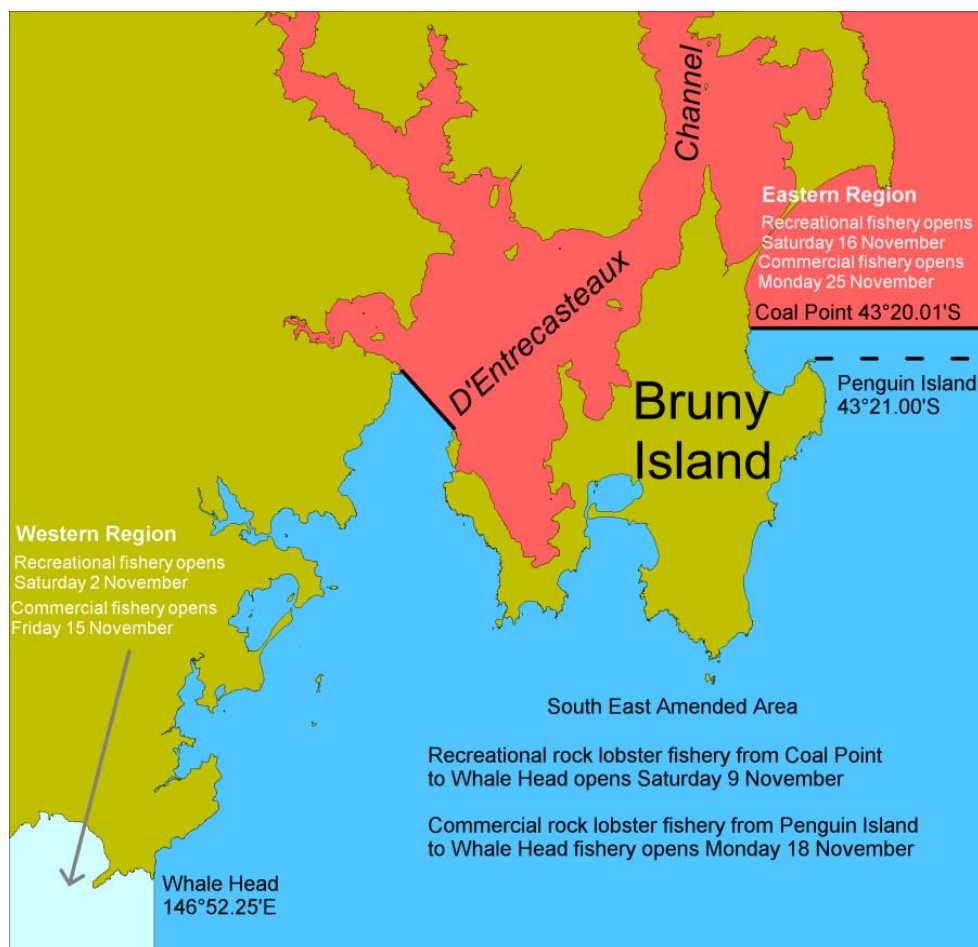
South East Amended Area (Eastern Region):

Open to fishing from 9 November 2013. From Whale Head east to Coal Point (on the east coast of Bruny Island) excluding the D'Entrecasteaux Channel



South East Amended Open Area

The area from Whale Head east to Coal Point (on the east coast of Bruny Island) excluding the D'Entrecasteaux Channel will now open on **Saturday 9 November for this year (2013) only**.



Rock Lobster Season 2013-14

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I catch rock lobster in the Western Region and transit with rock lobster on my boat back to the Eastern Region?

No. You cannot possess rock lobster in an area that has a closed season. For example you may not catch lobster around the south west and then proceed eastward until the area where you are headed opens to fishing. This means you cannot transit with rock lobster aboard from west of Whale Head at all until the South East Amended Open Area opens on the **9 November**.

During the period **9 -16 November**, you may proceed with rock lobster taken from the Western Region into the South East Amended Area (provided that you are within Eastern Region catch limits) but you can't proceed past the South East Amended Area (boundary is at Coal Point) north into the rest of the Eastern Region.

From **16 November** when the rest of the Eastern Region opens, fishers may transit from Western to Eastern Regions provided they comply with Eastern Region catch limits.

Can you possess rock lobster pots in an area having a closed season?

You can only possess a rock lobster pot on state waters from 6 am and set a pot after 1 pm **the day before the season opens for that area**. Pots can only be pulled after the start of the open season (after midnight).

Fishers should be aware that having pots aboard their boat may affect their ability to transit to open areas. For example, you cannot transit through the D'Entrecasteaux Channel with a pot or rock lobster on board until the Eastern Region is open on 16 November.

Can I leave and return to Margate with my rock lobster pot and any lobster I may catch during the South East Amended Area opening weekend?

No. You cannot have rock lobster or a rock lobster pot on your vessel in closed waters. From the following week when the rest of the Eastern Region opens, you can then carry a pot and rock lobster.

Can I take my boat and pot and any lobster I have caught on the Bruny Island ferry when the South East Amended Area is open?

Yes.

Can I arrange to collect and drop off my pot with a friend in Southport along with any rock lobster I may catch on the South East Amended Area opening weekend?

Yes, but if there are more than two rock lobster, then any friend you leave them with must be the holder of a recreational fishing licence (rock lobster) to allow him to possess them legally. If they hold this licence, they are only allowed to possess a maximum of 10 rock lobster (daily bag limits still apply).

If I don't catch any lobster, can I still have my pot on my vessel?

Only in an area that has an open season.

If I am staying at Partridge Island for two nights or anchoring my boat on the northern side near the old jetty for the South East Amended Area opening weekend, what do I do with any lobster I catch on the first night/day?

These lobster are not allowed to be transported by boat into the D'Entrecasteaux Channel (the boundary line is Partridge Island to Scott Point) until the Eastern Region waters open on 16 November. Also, you can't take any rock lobster pots back into the D'Entrecasteaux Channel until all of the Eastern Region opens. You may caulk your lobster on the southern side of the island that is open to fishing.

Can I possess a rock lobster ring in an area with a closed season?

Yes, but you cannot use or set a rock lobster ring in any closed area.

MORE INFORMATION:

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Tasmania

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