Australian Government

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Rock lobster fishery notification—Maria Island biotoxin zone closure

Date of effect: 25/06/2016

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department) has been advised by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment (DPIPWE), Tasmania, that analysis results in bivalve indicator species in Great Oyster Bay (East Coast) have returned elevated paralytic shellfish toxins (PST) levels. DPIPWE will close the Maria Island zone for rock lobster fishing from 00:01 Saturday 25 June to allow for rock lobster samples to be collected and tested for PSTs.

Analysis results will determine the status of this zone in accordance with DPIPWE's Rock Lobster Biotoxin Plan and Decision Making Protocol July 2015. The toxic algal bloom will be monitored and further notices will be issued by DPIPWE to open or close areas as appropriate. The department will issue further Industry Advice Notices when this occurs.

Detailed information in relation to the DPIPWE closures can be found at: http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/sea-fishing-aquaculture/sustainable-fisheries-management/Biotoxin-Fishery-Events

Contact DPIPWE if you have any questions in relation to the rock lobster fishery notice.

Recreational fishery enquiries: Ph (03) 6165 3233 or 1300 720 647
Commercial fishery enquiries: Ph (03) 6165 3045

Direction to export registered establishments and exporters

The department issues this direction under Order 75 of the *Export Control (Fish and Fish products) Orders 2005*.

To support the export of Tasmanian caught rock lobster and rock lobster products that are **sourced from areas that are open for fishing**, the following statement must be included on all Declarations of Compliance for all Tasmanian caught rock lobster and rock lobster products:

'This rock lobster/rock lobster product has been prepared from rock lobster that has been sourced from an open fisheries area'.

For questions regarding rock lobster exports, please contact dairyeggsfish@agriculture.gov.au.

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