



Whale Mitigation Measures

West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan

Modified gear is required from **1 April to 31 October** - The modified gear requirements are specified in clause 26A of the Management Plan. Requirements during the whale mitigation period include:

- a pot line greater than 32.9m must have weighted rope or a weight attached;
- no more than **two surface floats** when used in waters less than or equal to 54.9 metres in depth;
- no more than **three surface floats** when used in waters greater than 54.9 metres in depth; and
- all pots must be pulled at least once every **7 days** regardless of depth of water in which they are set.
- Pot usage rates (outlined below) apply.
- Fishers are required to provide information regarding the number of pots left in the water at the end of a trip (this applies year round).

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.

Voluntary Measures

- In addition to the mandatory management plan changes above, fishers are encouraged to conduct whale sighting surveys as part of their fishing operations using the Marine Fauna Sightings app.
- Find the [Marine Fauna sightings on the App Store](#)

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