

Office use only

EXEMPTION
NUMBER 251044622

Fish Resources Management Act 1994
Section 7(2) (a)

INSTRUMENT OF EXEMPTION

I, Nathan Harrison, Director, Aquatic Resource Management, as delegate for the Minister for Fisheries, pursuant to Section 7(1) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* (the Act), HEREBY EXEMPT the persons named in **Schedule 1** from all or any provisions of this Act which would otherwise prevent those persons from lawfully carrying out the activities specified in **Schedule 2**, in the area specified in **Schedule 3**, for the period specified in **Schedule 4**, subject to the conditions listed in **Schedule 5**.

Schedule 1

Persons

1. All persons holding a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL); or
2. All persons operating under the authority of a Fishing Tour Operator's Licence (FTOL).

Schedule 2

Activity

Use octopus trigger traps for recreational fishing purposes.

Schedule 3

Area

Western Australian marine waters.

Schedule 4

Period

From the date of signing of this instrument until 31 March 2024.

Schedule 5

Conditions

1. In order to use octopus trigger traps under this Exemption there is a requirement that fishing can only be undertaken by the holder of a RBFL or a person operating under the authority of a FTOL when conducting a fishing tour.

2. A person must not operate more than 6 octopus trigger traps at any one time.
3. A person must not set or pull more than 6 octopus trigger traps in any one day. Any reference to "one day" in this exemption has the meaning described in Regulation 3 of the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*.
4. A person must not set or pull an octopus trigger trap in Marine Protected Areas including: State Marine Nature Reserves, Marine Parks, Fish Habitat Protection Areas or Reef Observation Areas; in which recreational octopus fishing or rock lobster potting is prohibited.
5. Fishing activities conducted under the authority of this Exemption must be carried out in accordance with all other relevant fisheries legislation.
6. The master of a boat, or any other person operating under this Exemption, must not cause or permit more than a maximum of 18 octopus trigger traps to be set or pulled from a boat on any one day.
7. All octopus trigger traps authorised under this exemption must conform to the following descriptions:
 - a. Octopus Trigger Trap Design
 - i. A maximum of 6 octopus trigger traps can be used by the holder of a RBFL or person operating under the authority of a FTOL. No more than 2 traps may be combined in a cradle or on a single line.
 - ii. Each octopus trigger trap is to comprise one chamber only. The chamber will have a single entrance and a self-closing door.
 - iii. Made of rigid inflexible material which will not be capable of ensnaring or entangling crabs or other fish. Any octopus trigger trap must be approved by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development prior to use.
 - b. Octopus Trigger Trap Colour and Marking
 - i. RBFL holders and a person operating under the authority of a FTOL are prohibited from using green coloured octopus trigger traps.
 - ii. Each trap must be permanently branded or stamped in legible characters not less than 60 mm high and 10 mm wide with the RBFL gear identification number of the person setting or pulling the trap followed by a dash and the letter 'O'; or
 - iii. The FTOL licence number followed by a dash and the letter 'O'.
 - c. Ropes, Floats and Marking

When set, each octopus trigger trap, or each end of a line of traps, must have a line attached that is buoyed on the surface of the water by a float that:

 - i. is of a diameter of not less than 150 mm if the float is spherical and, in any other case, and a length of not less than 200 mm and a width of not less than 100 mm.
 - ii. is branded or stamped in legible characters not less than 60 mm high and 10 mm wide with the RBFL gear identification number of the person setting or pulling the octopus trigger trap followed by a dash and the letter 'O'; or

- iii. is branded or stamped in legible characters not less than 60 mm high and 10 mm wide with the FTOL licence number followed by a dash and the letter 'O'.
 - iv. is fluorescent orange coloured.
 - v. When more than 20 meters of rope length (combined trap line and float rig) is attached to a trap, fishers must ensure that the top half of the trap line is hung vertically in the water column.
8. Any octopus trigger trap used under this Exemption must be designed in such a way as to prevent it from being able to take any fish once the door of the trap has closed.
9. Loss of an octopus trigger trap must be reported to the nearest Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development office and to the officer in charge.
10. No bait other than plastic lures and Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) is to be used in an octopus trigger trap.
11. All fish (other than octopus) taken in the octopus trigger trap must be returned to the water immediately upon discovery that they have been taken with the least possible injury.
12. Recreational octopus fishers and persons operating under the authority of a FTOL under this Exemption are prohibited from setting or pulling octopus trigger traps from 7.30 pm to 4.30 am in summer (15 October - 31 March) and from 6.00 pm to 6.00 am in winter (1 April - 14 October).



Nathan Harrison
Director, Aquatic Resource Management

Dated this 17 day of October 2022