



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS for Local Lobster Program (LLP) Tag System

What is new under Phase Four (December 2018 – April 2019)?

There have been some key changes to the arrangements for Local Lobster Program Phase Four. These changes are:

- Local Lobster must be either sold to increase domestic supply; or donated to a registered charity. Lobsters may not be retained for personal consumption by licence holders, masters or crew.
- A master, crew or licence holder may not have a rock lobster with a Local Lobster Tag attached at their place of residence. *See page 3 for more details.*
- Each active West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence will be issued 100 tags.
- If you are not using Fish Eye then you may not participate in the Local Lobster Program, as the number of tagged local lobsters must be included in the pre-landing nomination. Note that Departmental officers are available to assist licence holders who wish to start using Fish Eye. Please contact the Fish Eye Support helpline 1300 550 763 or FishEye.Support@fish.wa.gov.au for more information.

When can I start fishing for LLP Lobster?

You can start fishing for LLP Lobster from **1 December 2018**.

How many LLP Tags can I collect?

The holder of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence (MFL) or master of an authorised boat named on a MFL (i.e. operating over the minimum OPERATING holding of 300 units of current entitlement) may collect 100 LLP Lobster Tags.

Who can collect LLP Tags?

The holder of the MFL or master of an authorised boat named on a MFL that has over 300 units of current entitlement can collect LLP Tags.

When and where can I collect LLP Tags?

LLP Lobster Tags will be made available from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Fisheries) Offices at Mandurah, Fremantle, Hillarys, Lancelin, Jurien Bay and Geraldton from 19 November 2018. Please contact the office prior to collecting the Tags to ensure that the office is open.

How long am I able to use my LLP Tags?

The LLP commences on 1 December 2018 and **ceases on 30 April 2019**.

How long am I able to land lobster with an LLP Tag attached?

Lobster with a LLP Lobster Tag attached must not be taken or landed **after 30 April 2019**.

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How long am I able to possess lobster with an LLP Tag attached?

You must not possess any lobster with a LLP Lobster Tag attached after **15 May 2019**.

How do I use LLP Lobster Tags?

Insert the tail of the LLP Lobster Tag through the fastener to form a loop. Ensure the number on the LLP Lobster Tag is facing upwards, then slip over end of the antenna and slide to the bottom – last joint of antenna under the “horn”. Pull the tail of the LLP Lobster Tag until it closes firmly around the base of the horn.

Note:

- the LLP Lobster Tag must be fastened tightly so it cannot be removed,
- all LLP Lobster Tags are to be used sequentially; and
- an LLP Lobster Tag must not be used more than once.

How should lobsters with a LLP Tag be landed?

Lobster with a LLP Lobster Tag attached should be landed in open containers or can be stored on board the vessel until sold.

Do I need to provide any information via Fish Eye if fishing for local lobster?

If you are using LLP Tags, you must record the number of lobsters to be landed in the ‘comments’ field of the Pre-landing Nomination to Fish Eye. In the unlikely event that Fish Eye is not available, please contact the Fish Eye Support Helpline (1300 550 763) and advise the details of any local lobster to be landed. As there is no capacity to provide this information via IVR, if you do not use Fish Eye (including CatchER) then you may not use LLP Tags.

What if I land LLP Lobsters but I am unable to sell them at the point of landing?

You can leave the lobsters with a LLP Lobster Tag attached on your boat, even if you go on another trip. You should again record the number of lobsters to be landing in the ‘comments’ field of the Pre-landing Nomination to Fish Eye, when returning from your second trip. Alternatively, you can store the lobsters at another location until sold, however they may not be held at the place of residence of the crew, master or licence holder.

Do I need to record sales of lobsters with a LLP Tag attached and if so, where do I record this information?

Sale or disposal (e.g. giving the lobster to a registered charity) with a LLP Lobster Tag attached is to be recorded accurately by the master in the Record of Western Rock Lobster Local Supply Landing and Sales Form. It is also the responsibility of the master to submit this form to Fisheries once all LLP Lobster Tags are used, or all lines on the form are completed, or prior to 15 May 2019, whichever comes first. Additional forms can be obtained from a Fisheries office if required.

Do I need to issue a receipt to someone who purchases a lobster with a LLP Lobster tag attached?

It is recommended that you provide a purchaser of local lobster with a receipt. Particularly in cases of restaurants, or other commercial/retail premises a receipt is important in order to be able to prove that the lobsters were not caught recreationally. Note that the Record of Western Rock Lobster Local Supply Landing and Sales Form is not a receipt.

Who is permitted to sell lobsters with a LLP Lobster Tag attached?

A master, crew or licence holder permitted to operate under the Local Lobster Exemption may sell lobsters with a LLP Lobster tag attached. A person who obtains the lobster from the master, crew or licence holder may on-sell the lobster for retail sale, including the provision of meals.

Who can I sell LLP tagged lobsters to?

LLP tagged lobsters may be sold to members of the public, restaurants and other retail outlets, registered receivers, and wholesalers who sell lobsters to the domestic market.

Who may I not sell LLP tagged lobsters to?

A holder of a Fish Processors Licence or anyone acting on their behalf that exports western rock lobster is not permitted to purchase or be in possession of a LLP tagged lobster.

Can I sell local lobsters from my home?

Not if the seller is involved in the fishing operation, as a LLP tagged lobster may not be held at the place of residence of the master, crew or licence holder. Arrangements should be made to sell the lobsters from the back of the boat or other location.

Can my crew sell a LLP tagged lobster on my behalf?

This is permitted provided that the master accurately records the details in the Record of Western Rock Lobster Local Supply Landing and Sales Form, within 24 hours of the sale.

Can I keep local lobsters for my own consumption?

Retaining local lobsters for fisher's personal consumption is not in line with the objectives of the program. Under Phase Four local lobster may not be retained for personal consumption. The new arrangements which prohibit a master, crew or licence holder having tagged local lobster at their place of residence have been introduced to prohibit personal consumption.

I am a MFL holder who leases all my units, and I'm not directly involved in a fishing operation. Can I buy a tagged local lobster from another fisher for my own consumption?

Yes. Managed Fishery Licence holders who have **not** been issued Local Lobster tags are not included in the prohibition on having tagged local lobsters at their place of residence.

If I hold two MFLs (one active and one inactive) can I have LLP tagged lobster at my place of residence if I have collected Local Lobster tags on one MFL but not the other?

No. A Managed Fishery Licence holder who has been issued tags under the Exemption may not have in their possession at their place of residence a rock lobster with an LLP Lobster Tag attached.

Can I donate local lobsters to a registered charity or other community groups like my school's P&C?

The objective of the LLP is to increase the supply of rock lobster to local/regional communities. A donation of local lobsters to a registered charity falls within the objectives of the initiative and is permitted. You can check whether a charity is registered, or not, at this website: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity> Should you wish to provide local lobsters to other community groups which are not registered charities (i.e. school P&C, sporting club, etc.), then the lobsters must be sold, not donated.

What do I do with excess LLP Lobster Tags?

Any excess or unused LLP Lobster Tags **must be** returned to a Fisheries office **no later than 15 May 2019**.

What do I do if a tag breaks?

Any tags broken prior to attaching to a lobster should be returned to the local Fisheries office. Any tags broken after attaching to a lobster should be reported via the Rock Lobster Helpline (1300 574 071) and the details of the broken tag recorded on the Record of Western Rock Lobster Local Supply and Landing Form.

Can I give my LLP Lobster Tags to another fisher?

No. LLP Lobster Tags are assigned to a specific MFL and cannot be traded or given away to other fishers.

How long are the LLP Lobster Tags to stay on the lobster?

LLP Lobster Tags are food safe but should not be exposed to direct heat. They must remain on the lobster until it is being prepared for immediate consumption.

Can I fish using my LLP Lobster Tags if I have exhausted all my quota and if so what do I need to nominate for my pre and post landing?

Yes. You will still be required to nominate to fish and submit a zero pre and post landing nomination. In the 'comments' field of the pre landing nomination you must indicate the number of tagged local lobsters that you are landing.

What happens if a MFL holder does not renew their licence going into the new season, but has already collected the LLP Lobster Tags?

If a MFL holder collects LLP Lobster Tags in December 2018, and then does not renew their Managed Fishery Licence before 15 January 2019, all unused LLP Lobster Tags should be returned to the local Fisheries office. LLP Lobster Tags may only be used by persons operating under a MFL where at least 300 units of current entitlement are held on the licence.

Please direct any additional questions to Pia Dobson on 6551 4496 or pia.dobson@dpird.wa.gov.au. Current as at 15 November 2018.