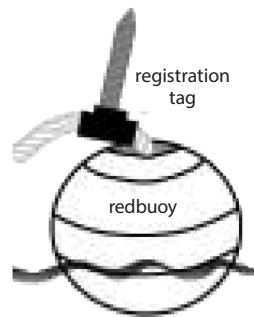


Rock lobster pots must meet the following dimensions: maximum width of 1.5 metres and a maximum height of 1.2 metres. The mouth of the pot must be at the top and there should be two escape gaps on opposite sides of the pot.

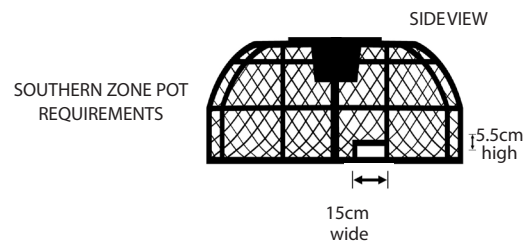
The tops of the escape gaps must be no more than 11 cm from the base of the pot.

All rock lobster pots must be marked with a red buoy of 4L volume and a current registration tag as provided by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. It is an offence to use buoys that have commercial licence numbers on them.



Southern Zone pot requirements

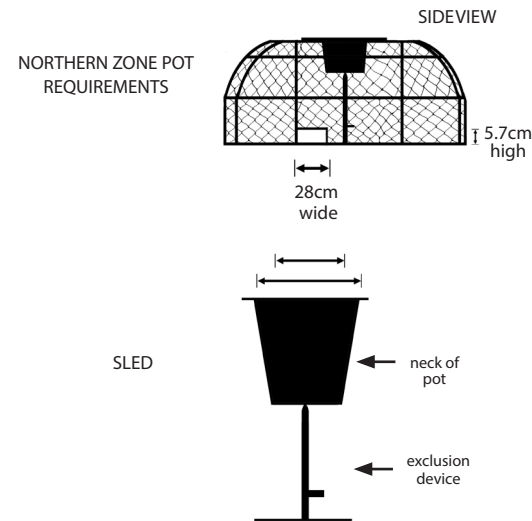
In the Southern Zone only, minimum dimensions of escape gaps are 15 cm wide by 5.5 cm high. If there are no escape gaps, the pot must be covered in a mesh that will easily allow a cylindrical rod 5 cm in diameter to pass through the mesh.



Northern Zone pot requirements

In the Northern Zone, escape gaps and Sea Lion Exclusion Devices (SLEDs) are mandatory. A SLED is a metal rod that extends from the centre of the base of the pot to a height not less than level with the base of the pot neck.

The minimum dimensions of escape gaps are 28 cm wide measured in a straight line from the inside to inside edge, and 5.7 cm high.



For further information on pot specifications visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing

Prohibited devices

In South Australia, it is an offence to:

- take, or attempt to take, rock lobster using a spear, hook or other pointed instrument
- use corfs to keep rock lobster alive in the water
- return a pot containing rock lobster to the water

Important note: recreational fishers are not allowed to sell their catch.

Rock lobster pot registration

Register your pots online at www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing or at selected PIRSA offices (listed on the website) to receive an annual registration certificate and a registration tag. Pots can only be used once the tag is attached as close as practicable to the red buoy.

Pots can only be used by the holder of the current registration.

The minimum age to register a rock lobster pot is 15.

If you lose a tag, remove the pot from the water immediately and report it to Fishwatch on 1800 065 522.

Please note that a fee applies for the replacement of lost tags.

For further information and updates:

- Call the 24-hour Fishwatch hotline on 1800 065 522
- Email PIRSA.Fishwatch@sa.gov.au
- Visit www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing
- For size, bag and boat limits, SMS 'Southern Rock Lobster' to 0427 767 995
- Download the SA Fishing app for Southern Rock Lobster catch rules, limits and tips: pir.sa.gov.au/SAFishingApp



Government
of South Australia
Department of Primary
Industries and Regions

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Southern Rock Lobster

South Australian Recreational Fishing Guide



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The Southern Rock Lobster is one of South Australia’s most sought after seafood delicacies.

As our rock lobster stocks are a precious resource, rules have been put in place to ensure that there are plenty for future generations to enjoy.

By following these rules you will help maintain the sustainable development of rock lobster stocks.

Zones and closures

In South Australia, the recreational Southern Rock Lobster fishery is divided into two zones.

The Northern Zone is the area from longitude 139°E (east of the Murray Mouth) to the Western Australia border, including Kangaroo Island.

Taking rock lobster in the Northern Zone is prohibited from 6pm on 31 May to 12pm (noon) on 1 November annually.

The Southern Zone ranges from longitude 139°E east to the Victorian border.

Taking rock lobster in the Southern Zone is prohibited from 6pm on 31 May to 6am on 1 October annually.

During closed seasons, rock lobster must not be taken and rock lobster pots must be removed from the water.



Protected areas

There are several Southern Rock Lobster sanctuaries where rock lobsters are protected from fishing at all times.

These are:

- Cape Jaffa
- Margaret Brock Reef (within 0.55 nautical miles of the lighthouse)
- Rivoli Bay, including Penguin Island (from Glen Point to Cape Martin)
- Gleasons Landing
- All aquatic reserves
- Port MacDonnell breakwater (restrictions apply to the use of rock lobster pots, hoop nets, crab nets, drop nets and snares around the breakwater).

Details of these sanctuaries and closures are available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing

Fishing may be prohibited in some areas of marine parks. For more information, visit

Size limits

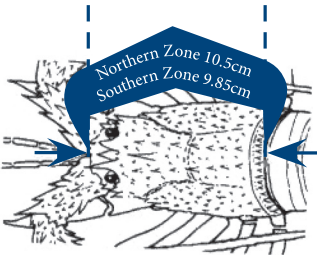
The minimum legal sizes for Southern Rock Lobster are:

- 10.5cm in the Northern Zone.
- 9.85cm in the Southern Zone.

Southern Rock Lobster must be measured along the top of the carapace (head part of the shell).

Place one end of your measuring device firmly into the groove between the antennae (frontal tubercle) and measure from this groove to the rear edge of the carapace. Hairs do not form part of the carapace.

The carapace of the rock lobster must be larger than the measuring device.



Bag and boat limits

A maximum of four rock lobster per person, per day, may be taken (regardless of which fishing method is used).

Two or more people fishing from a boat are able to take a maximum of eight rock lobsters per day.

One person fishing on a boat can take no more than four rock lobster (regardless of whether this is by diving, drop net, hoop or registered rock lobster pot).

Protected female rock lobster

Berried rock lobster (females carrying eggs) are protected at all times.

Any berried rock lobster caught must be handled with care and returned to the water immediately.

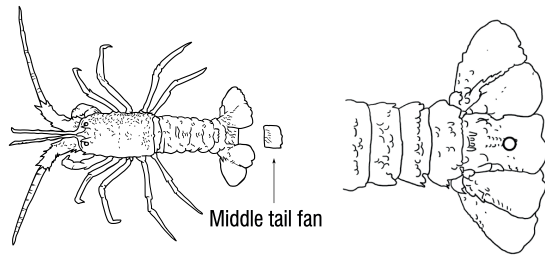
Tail fan marking

Before being brought ashore or landed, all rock lobster (of any species) caught by recreational fishers in South Australian waters, must be marked to identify them from those commercially caught.

Tail fan marking can be done in one of two ways:

- the middle tail fan clipped in half horizontally; or
- a round hole of no less than 10 mm in diameter punched in the distal end of the middle tail fan.

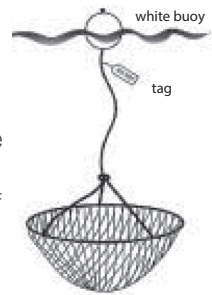
Failure to either clip the tail fan or punch a round hole in the middle tail fan may result in prosecution.



Permitted devices

When taking rock lobster, you can use up to two pots OR three drop nets OR three hoop nets per person at a time. Gear cannot be used simultaneously. For example if you are using lobster pots, all hoops and drop nets must be removed from the water. When using these devices, you may also use a fishing rod or hand line. All fishing gear must conform to the legal specifications. Any number of registered pots, drop or hoop nets may be used from the one boat, as long as the owner (in the case of rock lobster pots, the registered owner) is on board, and operating their own pots. There is no limit to the number of times pots, drop nets or hoop nets from the one boat may be checked in any one day. Daily bag and boat limits still apply.

Hoop nets are made of one hoop holding a cone-shaped net bag. The maximum hoop diameter of 107 cm and maximum bag depth of 92 cm applies. Hoop nets do not need to be registered but must be buoyed and tagged correctly, with a white buoy of 4L volume and a tag showing the owner’s name and address.



A **drop net** is made of two hoops that are joined by a cylindrical or cone shaped net bag. A maximum hoop diameter of 107 cm applies. Drop nets do not need to be registered but must be buoyed and tagged correctly, with a white buoy of 4L volume and a tag showing the owner’s name and address.



A **snare** is a noose that is attached to a length of pole and is specifically designed and constructed for the taking of rock lobster.

