

Operational Guide for the Commercial Dive, Shellfish and Undaria Fisheries

LICENCE HOLDER/SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

2024-25 EDITION

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About This Document

This document is a guide for those operating within the Commercial Dive Fishery with a commercial dive licence – including the adjacent Shellfish and *Undaria* Fisheries. The rules summarised here are contained in the [Fisheries \(Commercial Dive\) Rules 2021](#), the [Fisheries \(Shellfish\) Rules 2017](#), and the [Fisheries \(Marine Plant\) Rules 2017](#) (collectively, the Rules). All are made under the provisions of the [Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995](#) (LMRMA). Subordinate rules and regulations to the LMRMA, including the [Fisheries Rules 2019](#), [Fisheries \(General and Fees\) Regulations 2016](#), and [Fisheries \(Penalties\) Regulations 2021](#) also apply.

Disclaimer

This Guide is intended as a plain English summary of most of the Rules and is produced for general guidance only. The Guide must not be used as a substitute for the legislation that regulates the fishery.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) and its employees do not warrant or make any representation regarding the use, or results of the use, of the information contained herein as regards to its correctness, accuracy, reliability, and currency or otherwise. NRE Tas and its employees expressly disclaim all liability or responsibility to any person using the information contained in this Guide.

Licence Holder Responsibility

Information provided in this Guide is correct as at the time of publication. Fishery Management Plans, the LMRMA and its other subordinate legislation (the legislation) and Policy may change, and NRE Tas makes every endeavour to advise operators of these changes when they occur.

Licence holders are reminded of their responsibility to ensure that any person specified as an authorised supervisor on their licence is made aware of these changes as they occur.

It remains **your responsibility** as a licence holder or authorised supervisor to read and understand the relevant legislation in full, and to maintain knowledge of the management plan relevant to your activities.

Legislation and management plans are available for download from the NRE Tas website, via www.fishing.tas.gov.au/legislation or <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/>

Review of Fisheries Legislation

The Rules are in force from 10 years from the date of effect. The date of expiry for the Commercial Dive Rules is 15 February 2032, Shellfish Rules is 20 March 2027, and Marine Plant Rules is 31 August 2027. A review may occur sooner than this period, subject to any management action that is required for all or part of the fishery.

Industry Representation

The main way that industry is represented in the planning and management process is via the relevant recognised fishing bodies, who are part of the co-management framework for managing Tasmania's marine resources. The peak bodies represent industry at all 'fishery core group' meetings (i.e., regular meetings between the regulator, industry, and the research institute).

Licence holders and supervisors may also contact NRE Tas directly or write to the Minister about their issue, but peak bodies should be considered the first point of contact.

Tasmanian Commercial Divers Association (TCDA)

Commercial divers are primarily represented by the [Tasmanian Commercial Divers Association](#) (TCDA). An annual industry levy is charged during the renewal of each fishing licence (commercial dive) to fund the TCDA.

TCDA Executive Officer: tcdaeo@gmail.com

TCDA President: tcdapresident@gmail.com | TCDA Vice President: tcdavicepresident@gmail.com

Seafood Industry Tasmania (SIT)

Industry is further represented by the Tasmanian seafood industry peak body, [Seafood Industry Tasmania](#) (SIT). An annual levy is charged during the renewal of each fishing licence (personal) to fund SIT; all persons who hold a fishing licence (personal) are automatically members.

Contact: tsic@sit.org.au | (03)-6224-2332

Government Contacts

The fishery is managed by Marine Resources of NRE Tas.

Wild Fisheries Management Branch

For questions relating to the information contained within this document and the management arrangements for the fishery, please contact the Wild Fisheries Management Branch (Commercial Dive Section) using the contact details below. Alternatively, you can email commercial.fisheries@nre.tas.gov.au with the fishery name in the subject line.

Sharna Rainer Commercial Dive, Shellfish & Marine Plant Fisheries Manager Sharna.Rainer@nre.tas.gov.au (+61)-457-124-668	Matt Bradshaw Principal Fisheries Management Officer (Dive Fisheries) Matt.Bradshaw@nre.tas.gov.au (+61)-457-097-534	Wetjens Dimmlich Branch Manager (Wild Fisheries Management) Wetjens.Dimmlich@nre.tas.gov.au (03)-6165-3000
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NRE TAS Fisheries Compliance and Licensing Branch

Licensing forms and fee information is available at www.fishing.tas.gov.au/forms

For questions relating to licensing matters or docket books, please contact the Fisheries Compliance and Licensing Branch on (03)-6165-3000 or email one of -

Licensing matters: Fisheries.Licensing@nre.tas.gov.au

Docketing and records matters: Fisheries.Monitoring@nre.tas.gov.au

Report Fish Kills to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

A fish kill is characterised by a sudden and unexpected large number of fish dying over a short time period, and generally within a limited area. Fish kills can be a result of human induced impacts or due to natural events. Report any fish kill event immediately to [EPA Tasmania's Incident Response Hotline](#) on 1800-005-171, or email incidentresponse@epa.tas.gov.au

Report Signs of Marine Heatwave Impact

The east coast of Tasmania recently experiences marine heatwave conditions from mid-November 2023 to mid-2024. Future events are likely. Please report signs of marine heatwave impact, like sick or dying fish, to your Fisheries Manager or via the [online form](#) at [Report Signs of a Marine Heatwave | Fishing Tasmania](#).

Report Illegal Fishing to the Tasmanian Police – Marine & Rescue Division

Report illegal fishing via Fishwatch 24-hour hotline on (+61)-427-655-557 or marine@police.tas.gov.au

Your report should include as much information as possible, such as the time and location of the offence, fishing gear used (including licence or ID numbers), vehicle registration numbers, and vessel name, distinguishing marks and descriptions, and the name or description of persons involved. Information can be given anonymously.

Marine Wildlife (Whale) Hotline for Interactions with Protected Species

The NRE Tas Natural Cultural Heritage Division's [Marine Conservation Program](#) is keen to hear about all cetacean (whales and dolphins) sightings in Tasmanian waters. Reports contribute valuable information to long term monitoring and conservation of these species.

If you locate an entangled or injured marine mammal (whale, dolphin, seal) or seabird do not attempt to rescue the animal yourself, but immediately ring the 24-hour Marine Wildlife Hotline on 0427-WHALES (+61)-427-942-537 and seek professional advice. Time is critical during a rescue attempt, or for testing deceased animals to determine the cause. If you are outside of phone range call TAS MARITIME RADIO on VHF Channel 16 for advice. They will initiate procedures to collect information and notify the disentanglement team who will provide advice.

The Fishery

The Tasmanian Commercial Dive Fishery is a multi-species fishery that is primarily owner-operated. This fishery authorises the commercial take of:

- Shortspined Sea Urchins 'Helio' (*Heliocidaris erythrogramma*)
- Longspined Sea Urchins 'Centro' (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*)
- Wavy Periwinkles 'Peri's' or 'Winkles' (*Lunella undulata*)

Operators within the Commercial Dive Fishery may also hold additional licences to participate in the commercial Shellfish Fishery, which authorises the take of:

- Native Flat Oysters (*Ostrea angasi*)
- Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*)
- Venus Clams (*Venerupis largillierti*)

Operators within the Commercial Dive Fishery may also hold additional licences to participate in the commercial *Undaria* dive fishery, which is one part of the larger Marine Plant Fishery that also includes the collection of beach-cast kelp. The *Undaria* Dive Fishery authorises the take of:

- Introduced Japanese wakame seaweed (*Undaria pinnatifida*)



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Licences

The Tasmanian Commercial Dive, Shellfish, and *Undaria* Fisheries contain six different licence types to allow access to certain species in specific areas by wading or diving:

Fishery	Licence	Number of Licences	Endorsements	Species
Commercial Dive	Fishing licence (commercial dive)	Limited (53) Transferrable	1 supervisor (diver) Unlimited cauf sites	Shortspined Sea Urchin & Longspined Sea Urchin & Periwinkles only
Undaria	Fishing licence (introduced marine plant)	Unlimited Non-transferrable	1 supervisor Specific areas Unloading requirements	<i>Undaria</i> only
	Fishing licence (undaria)	Limited (1) Transferrable	Unlimited supervisors (divers) Specific areas Unloading requirements	<i>Undaria</i> only
Shellfish	Fishing licence (Pacific oyster)	Unlimited Non-transferrable	1 supervisor (diver) 1 purge site supervisor Unlimited cauf sites Use of fish punt/hand tool	Pacific oyster only
	Fishing licence (native oyster – Georges Bay)	Limited (2) Transferrable	1 supervisor (diver) 1 purge site supervisor Unlimited cauf sites Use of fish punt/hand tool	Native oyster only
	Fishing licence (clam – Georges Bay north)	Limited (2) Transferrable	1 supervisor (diver) 1 purge site supervisor Unlimited cauf sites Use of fish punt/hand tool	Venus clams only

A person must also hold a fishing licence (personal) to take fish for commercial purposes.

A person cannot dive from a vessel unless the vessel is appropriately authorised on a fishing licence (vessel) – however, you do not need to be the holder of that licence, and you may dive from a vessel listed on another person’s fishing licence (vessel).

Acquire, Transfer, or Surrender a Licence

'Limited' licence types have a fixed number of licences available under the Rules, and these can be transferred between persons upon agreement and by jointly applying for a licence transfer. The endorsements are not usually transferred with the licence, and the new licence holder will usually need to apply for these separately.

'Unlimited' licence types cannot be transferred, but they may be applied for at any time.

Any licence may be voluntarily surrendered at no cost upon submission of a licence surrender form. Licences expire automatically if they are not renewed within 12 months of expiry.

Licensing information, including application and transfer forms, can be accessed at www.fishing.tas.gov.au/forms or by calling the Fisheries Licensing Team.

Licence Renewals

All Commercial Dive, Shellfish, *Undaria*, and Personal fishing licences expire 31 August. The fishing licence (vessel) expires on the last day of February.

You must renew your fishing licence(s) within 12 months of expiry, otherwise the licence(s) will automatically expire.

Renewal forms are automatically generated by the Licensing team in July, and these are sent to licence holders for completion and submission with the applicable fees.

There is a set schedule of fees which applies for each licence type. The fees are expressed as 'fee units'. The number of fee units charged per licence does not change from year to year, but the value of a fee unit may increase. In the 2024-25 financial year, the fee unit value is \$1.87, and the fee schedule is as shown below:

Licence Type	Fee Type	Number of Fee Units	Fee Charged
Commercial Dive	Renewal Fee	400	\$748
	TCDA Levy	182	\$340.34
	Research Levy	100	\$187
	TOTAL	682	\$1,275.34
Native Oyster	Renewal Fee	2,000	\$3,740
Clams	Renewal Fee	2,000	\$3,740
Pacific Oyster	Renewal Fee	100	\$187
Intro. Marine Plant	Renewal Fee	200	\$374
<i>Undaria</i>	Renewal Fee	4,650	\$8,695.50

Licence Endorsements

Under the various Rules, there are provisions made for the different licence types to be endorsed for the use of persons or equipment:

1. A person must not dive or wade on a licence unless they are endorsed as an authorised supervisor on that licence.
2. A person must not store fish in a cauf/s in State waters unless the fish cauf site/s* are endorsed on that licence.

*A person may store fish in holding tanks outside of State waters without having those locations endorsed on their licence, but they should be aware of other requirements governing that activity. This includes but is not limited to, biosecurity requirements, food safety standards, local council by-laws, etc.

Licensing information, including forms to vary a licence with an endorsement, can be accessed at www.fishing.tas.gov.au/forms

Licence Conditions

All fishing licences carry a set of standard conditions, and they may be further conditioned with additional requirements for fisheries management or compliance purposes. Conditions are reviewed and updated at renewal time, if necessary, and it is your responsibility to ensure you are familiar with, and comply with, all conditions. Current conditions on all relevant commercial dive licences include:

1. A fish cauf site is not to exceed 25 square metres per cauf site specified on a licence.
2. Whilst diving, a charged GPS logger and Dive Depth logger are to be used.
3. Whilst diving, an accurate measuring device is to be carried and used in the water.
4. An accurate weighing instrument is to be used when determining any non-estimated weight to be entered on a dive docket.

Shellfish licences also contain specific conditions for compliance with the ShellMAP program.

Undaria licences contain specific conditions relating to biosecurity consideration and which govern the unloading of *Undaria* to a licenced fish processor endorsed for *Undaria*, or to a named receiver.

Permit Activities

Permits allow for actions that would otherwise contravene a provision of the legislation and can be granted for up to 12 months at a time. The issuing of a permit does not imply any type of ongoing access right. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Department prior to submitting an application. The LMRMA sets out very specific purposes for which permits can be issued:

- scientific research;
- the promotion of fishing or fish products*;
- the development of fisheries*;
- the development of fishing technology*;
- educational and community awareness programs;

- fish stock depletion or enhancement*;
- the collection, keeping, breeding, hatching or cultivating of rare or endangered fish;
- sport or recreation purposes by a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, would otherwise be unable by reason of that person's disability to engage in fishing by methods permitted under this Act;
- Aboriginal cultural and ceremonial activities;
- the development of marine farming*;
- law enforcement;
- environmental monitoring; and
- bioprospecting.

* The purposes marked with an asterisk require the Minister to consult with the relevant peak fishing bodies. Consultation also occurs in other relevant instances.

Where possible, permits to take species by way of diving are usually conditioned to require a licenced commercial diver. In the past, this has included collection of aquaculture seedstock, and clearing of urchins/marine plants for kelp rehabilitation or handfish habitat protection.

To apply for a permit, go to www.fishing.tas.gov.au/permits.

Species Limits and Fishery Closures

Species Catch Limits

Catch and size limits apply within the Commercial Dive and Shellfish Fisheries, but not to the non-native species including the *Undaria* fishery, Longspined Sea Urchin and Pacific Oysters.

Commercial Dive Species Catch Limits							
	Minimum Size Limit	South-Eastern	Central Eastern	North Eastern	Northern	Western	Total Catch Limit
Periwinkles	45 mm	3 t	3.6 t	5.5 t	8.1 t	6.8 t	27 t
Shortspined Sea Urchin	80 mm	22 t	22.5 t	18.5 t	19.5 t	5 t	87.5 t
Shellfish Species							
	Minimum Shell Length		Total Allowable Catch				
Native Oysters	70 mm		20,046 dozen				
Venus Clams	40 mm		840 kg				

Several catch-capped areas further apply to the Commercial Dive Fishery. These are:

Zone	Species	Sub-blocks	Catch-capped Area Name	2024-25 Cap (t)
W	Periwinkles	12C, 12D, 13A & 13B	Southwest	2.5
NE	Periwinkles	31A	Eddystone	2.5
NE	Shortspined Sea Urchin	30D*	Georges Bay*	3.5*
NE	Shortspined Sea Urchin	29D, 30A & 30B	St Helens	6.5
CE	Shortspined Sea Urchin	24A, 24B & 24C	Mercury Passage	7.5
CE	Shortspined Sea Urchin	26B, 26C & 26D	Coles Bay	6.8
SE	Shortspined Sea Urchin	23B	Dunalley	5
SE	Shortspined Sea Urchin	18	Derwent River	3
SE	Shortspined Sea Urchin	19B	Dodges, Sloping Island	7.5

Caught Closures

Your Fisheries Manager monitors catch using data from the Commercial Diver's Dockets and Prior Fishing Reports/Tas eFish Reports.

Alerts are emailed to licence holders when one of the 5 large fishery parts, but not the small catch-capped areas, are approximately 80 per cent caught.

In consultation with the TCDA/SIT executive, areas are closed once caught. Licence holders are emailed closures with 24 hours notice, and the notices are made available online at <https://www.tas.gov.au/publicinfo> and linked to from the [Catch and Closures | Fishing Tasmania](#).

Biotoxin Management Closures

Marine biotoxins are chemicals produced during harmful algal blooms (HABs) that pose a risk to human health. Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) is the most common biotoxin of concern for Tasmanian seafood products, although there are others.

A range of monitoring programs are in place to detect HABs and rising PSTs. If PST levels exceed the allowable threshold of 0.8 mg/kg, fishery closures may be enacted.

Research is underway at IMAS to underpin a comprehensive biotoxin risk profile for Tasmanian urchins and periwinkles. In the interim, a precautionary approach to HABs must be taken.

The chain of events that may lead to a formal fishery closure, or recommendation not to take urchins, periwinkles, and/or shellfish is shown in the diagram below. Commercial operators will be notified and provided with directions if a HAB is detected or an exceedance of PSTs occurs.

Generally, to protect consumers in the domestic market batch-testing is recommended for urchins and periwinkles taken in areas closed to commercial abalone fishing due to PSTs, and in other areas where monitoring programs indicate that PST risk is significantly elevated. If the fish are destined for the export market then the recommendation becomes a requirement.

To keep informed you should be aware that ShellMAP publish current closures for shellfish [harvest areas](#), and the latest results for all monitoring programs are available in the [Biotoxin News](#). Fishing Tasmania also publish biotoxin [events](#) and [alerts](#) affecting fishers.

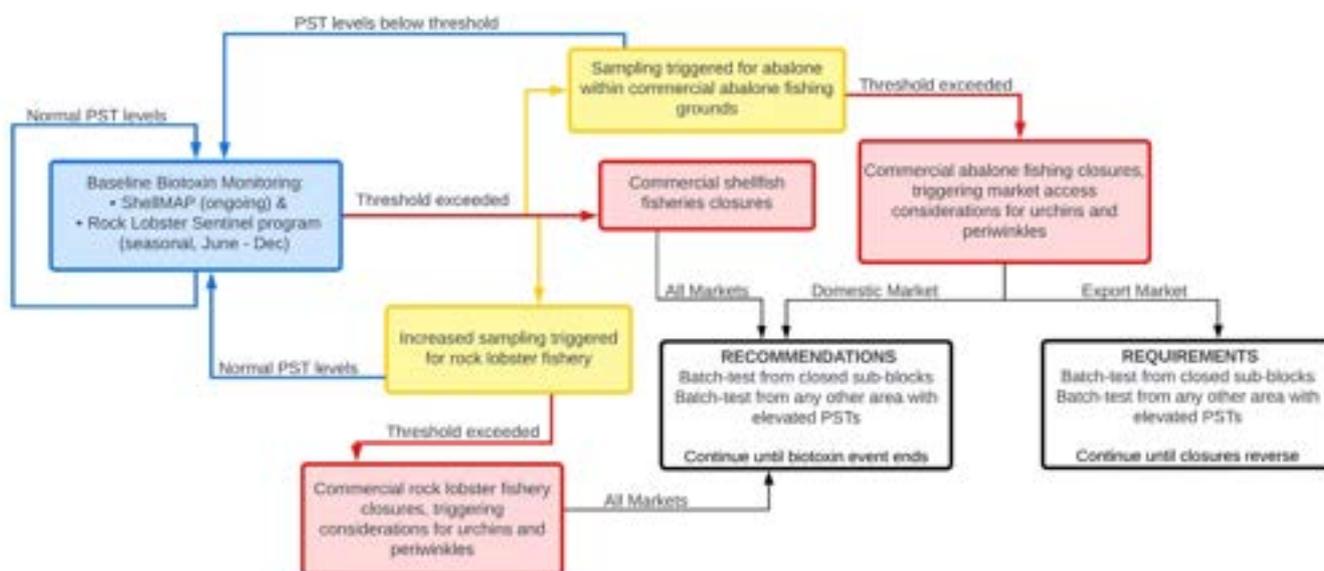


Figure 1: Chain of triggers and management/industry responses during Harmful Algal Blooms where Paralytic Shellfish Toxins (PST) exceed the allowable limit of 0.8 mg/kg.

Fishing Zones

Each of the Fisheries is managed spatially, with separate maps that apply.

Commercial Dive Fishery Parts

There are five fishery parts defined for this fishery, each of which may also have smaller catch-capped areas for specific species. All coordinates are in GDA94:

Zone	Sub-blocks	Defined Area
Northern	5A to 31B	being that area of State waters on the north coast of Tasmania (including the Kent group of islands, the Furneaux group of islands and King Island) bounded in the west by an imaginary straight line running due west from Bluff Point to the outer limit of State waters, and bounded in the east by an imaginary line from the northern side of the mouth of the Great Musselroe River at Musselroe Bay running due west for 100 metres, then following the shoreline 100 metres from shore to the northernmost tip of Musselroe Point, then running due north until intersection with the line of latitude 40°48'00"S, and running due east to the outer limit of State waters
North-Eastern	31A to 27D	being that area of State waters on the north-east coast of Tasmania bounded in the north by an imaginary line from the northern side of the mouth of the Great Musselroe River at Musselroe Bay running due west for 100 metres, then following the shoreline 100 metres from shore to the northernmost tip of Musselroe Point, then running due north until intersection with the line of latitude 40°48'00"S, and running due east to the outer limit of State waters, and bounded in the south by an imaginary straight line running north-east from a point at lat 42°10'19"S long 148°18'03"E to lat 42°09'51"S long 148°18'56"E, and then running due east to the outer limit of State waters
Central-Eastern	27C to 24E	being that area of State waters on the east coast of Tasmania bounded in the north by an imaginary straight line running north-east from a point at lat 42°10'19"S long 148°18'03"E to lat 42°09'51"S long 148°18'56"E, then running straight due east to the outer limit of State waters, and bounded in the south by an imaginary straight line running due east from a point at lat 42°46'02"S long 147°52'50"E to the outer limit of State waters
South-Eastern	23B to 13C	being that area of State waters on the south-eastern coast of Tasmania bounded in the north by an imaginary straight line running due east from a point at lat 42°46'02"S long 147°52'50"E to the outer limit of State waters, and bounded in the south by an imaginary straight line running due south from Whale Head near South East Cape to the outer limit of State waters
Western	13B to 5B	being that area of State waters on the west coast of Tasmania bounded in the south by an imaginary straight line running due south from Whale Head near South East Cape to the outer limit of State waters, and bounded in the north by an imaginary line running due west from Bluff Point to the outer limit of State waters

Catch-Cap Area	Sub-blocks	Defined Area
Southwest (Western)	12C, 12D, 13A & 13B	being that area of State waters bounded in the east by an imaginary straight line running due south from Whale Head near South-East Cape to the outer limit of State waters, and bounded in the west by an imaginary straight line running due south from the southernmost point of Cox Bluff to the outer limit of State waters
Eddystone (North-Eastern)	31A	being that area of State waters bounded in the north by an imaginary line from the northern side of the mouth of the Great Musselroe River at Musselroe Bay running due west for 100 metres, then following the shoreline 100 metres from shore to the northernmost tip of Musselroe Point, then running due north until intersection with the line of latitude 40°48'00"S, and running due east to the outer limit of State waters, and bounded in the south by an imaginary straight line running due east from Eddystone point to the outer limit of State waters
Georges Bay (North-Eastern)	30D	being that area of State waters enclosed by an imaginary line commencing at Granite Rock Point, then following the line of high water around Georges Bay to the end of the breakwater at Blanche Point, then running straight to the point of commencement
St Helens (North-Eastern)	29D, 30A & 30B	being that area of State waters bounded in the north by an imaginary straight line running due east from the northernmost point of Gardens Lagoon Beach to the outer limit of State waters, and bounded in the south by an imaginary line running due east from the mouth of the Scamander River to the outer limit of State waters
Mercury Passage (Central-Eastern)	24A, 24B & 24C	being that area of State water (excluding Maria Island Marine Reserve) bounded in the north by an imaginary straight line running due east from the easternmost point of Cape Bougainville to a point at lat 42°30'31"S long 148°04'18"E, then due south to Cape Boullanger, then following the line of high water in an approximately south-west direction to Cape Peron at lat 42°44'32"S long 148°00'54"E, then running due south to the line of latitude 42°45'58"S, then running due west to the line of high water at lat 42°46'02"S long 147°52'50"E
Coles Bay (Central-Eastern)	26B, 26C & 26D	being that area of State water enclosed by an imaginary line running from Point Bagot at lat 42°05'58"S long 148°13'55"E to the point at lat 42°18'48"S long 148°08'19"E, then running due east to the line of high water at lat 42°18'42"S long 148°14'10"E, then following the line of high water in an approximately north-east direction to Passage Point at lat 42°17'32"S long 148°17'45"E, then running due north to the line of high water at lat 42°16'59"S long 148°17'44"E, then following the line of high water in an approximately north-west direction straight to the point of commencement
Dunalley (South-Eastern)	23B	being that area of State water bounded in the west by the western entrance of the Denison Canal, and bounded in the north by an imaginary straight line from lat 42°46'02"S long 147°52'50"E, then running due east to a point at lat

		42°45'52"S long 148°11'37"E, then running due south to a point at lat 42°52'24"S long 148°11'43"E, then running due west to a point at lat 42°52'31"S long 147°59'24"E then running in an approximately south-west direction to the line of high water at lat 42°52'55"S long 147°57'28"E in Lagoon Bay
Derwent River (South-Eastern)	18	being that area of State water (excluding Tarooma Waters Reserve and Research area, and Tinderbox Marine Reserve) bounded in the north by an imaginary straight line downstream of Lyell Hwy from lat 42°46'43"S long 147°03'23"E to lat 42°46'46"S long 147°03'25"E, and bounded in the south by an imaginary straight line from the point of lat 43°03'13"S long 147°20'28"E to the line of high water at Boulder Point, then running in an approximately north-east direction to Kellys Point at lat 43°03'50"S long 147°21'29"E, then running due east to a point of lat 43°04'04"S long 147°27'18"E, then running due north to the line of high water at lat 43°02'02"S long 147°27'17"E
Dodges, Sloping Island (South-Eastern)	19B	being that area of State water (including Pitt Water lagoon) enclosed by an imaginary line running south from a point at Seven Mile Beach lat 42°50'15"S long 147°34'50"E to a point of lat 42°57'39"S long 147°34'54"E, then running due east to the line of high water at Lobster Point

Maps are available for viewing or download at: www.fishing.tas.gov.au/comdive or <https://maps.thelist.tas.gov.au/listmap/app/list/map?bookmarkId=808234>

Commercial Dive fishing sub-blocks and zones

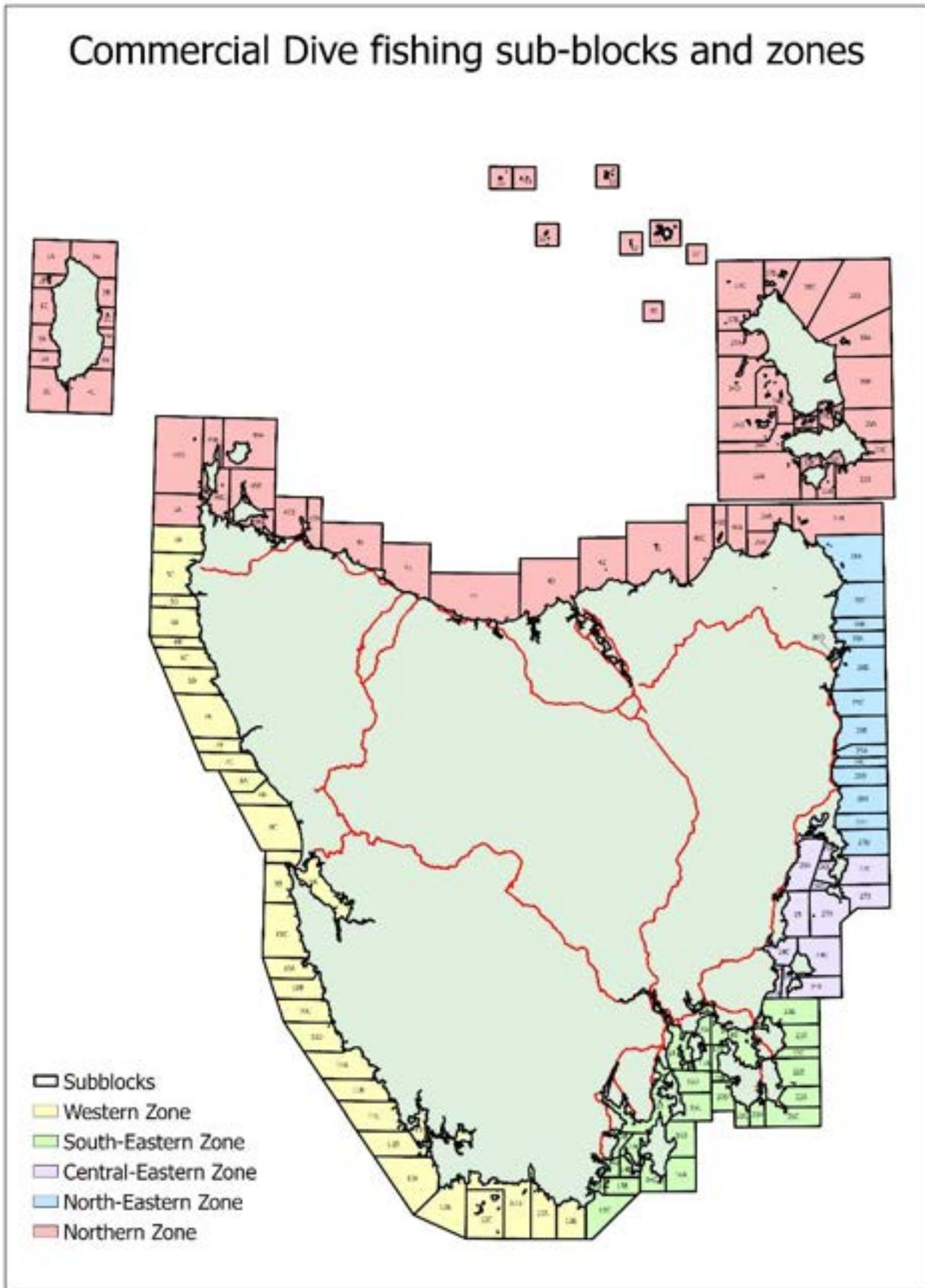


Figure 2: A map of the Tasmanian Commercial Dive Fishery showing the zoned areas.

Shellfish Fishery Zones

Each shellfish licence type is restricted to specific waters as defined below:

Species	Zone	Defined Area
Native Oysters	Georges Bay	means the State waters enclosed west of an imaginary straight line extending from the tip of Grants Point to the tip of St Helens Point in the north-east of the State
Pacific Oysters	State Waters	means State waters specified by an endorsement on that licence
Venus Clams	Georges Bay North Clam Zone	being that part of Georges Bay north of line of latitude 41°18.4797' South (GDA94)



Figure 3: A map of the Tasmanian Georges Bay Zone and the North Clam Zone delineation

Undaria Fishery Zones

There are two fishing zones in the *Undaria* dive fishery, with specific licensing restrictions.

Zone	Defined Area
Undaria Zone	being that area of State waters adjacent to the east coast of the mainland of Tasmania from Binalong Bay 41°14'11.73"S and 148°17'29.62"E in the North to Whale Head in the South (GDA94)
Restricted Undaria Zone	being that area of State waters inshore of an imaginary line extending from Cape Degerando straight to Cape Sonnerat thence straight to Mistaken Cape and straight to Cape Frederick Hendrick, other than the waters of Blackman Bay west of an imaginary straight line from the southernmost extent of the spit to the northernmost part of Little Chinaman Bay

All other zones are only relevant for the beach-cast marine plant fishery. The map can be enlarged and viewed or downloaded from www.fishing.tas.gov.au/marineplant

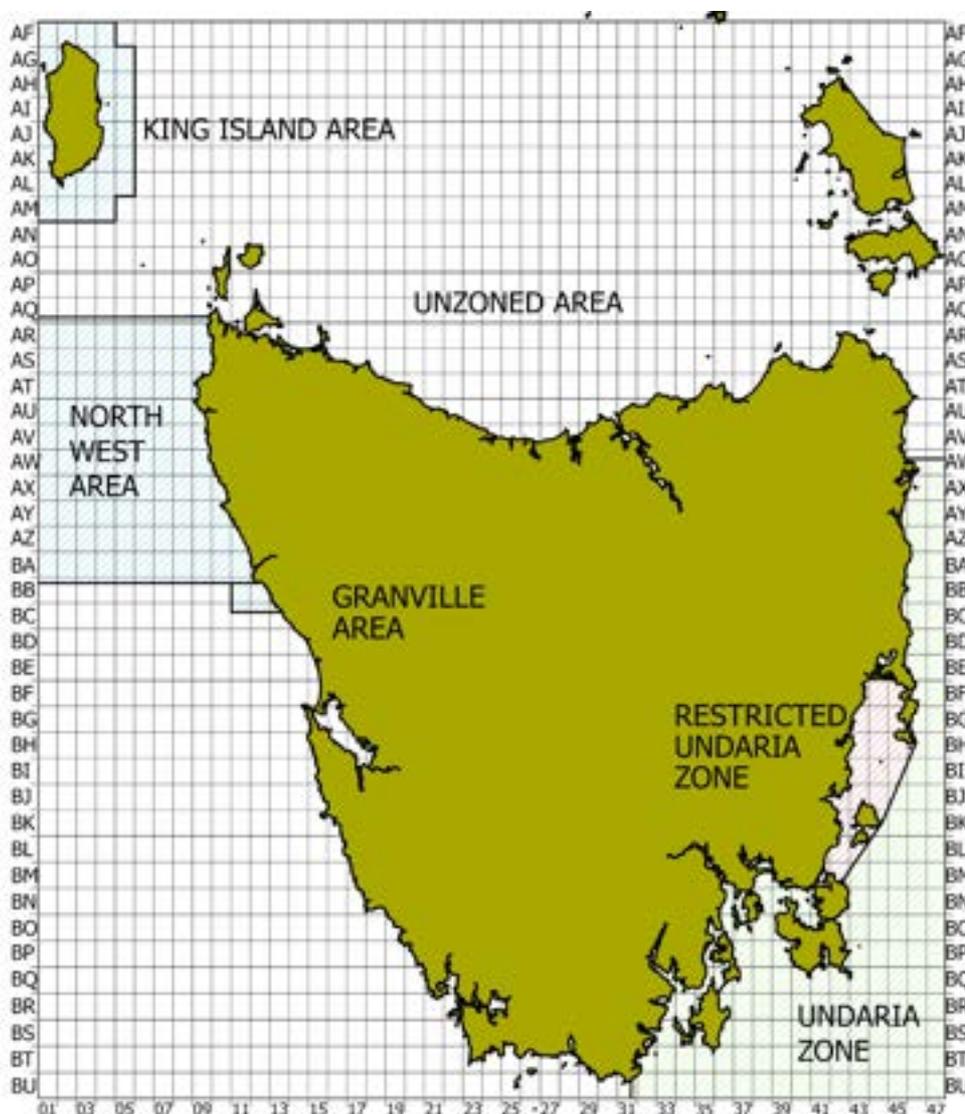


Figure 4: A map of the Tasmanian Marine Plant Fishery showing the zoned areas.

Where can you operate?

Fishing Licence (Undaria)

Can operate in the entirety of the Undaria Zone, including the Restricted Undaria Zone

Fishing Licence (Introduced Marine Plant)

Can only operate in the Undaria Zone, and not in the Restricted Undaria Zone

Undaria cannot be fished by any licence outside of the Undaria Zone

No Diving Areas (Marine Parks and Reserves)

There are areas around Tasmania where no fishing is allowed, including by way of diving or wading. These areas include [National Marine Parks](#), [Marine Nature Reserves](#) and [Research Areas](#).

There is a downloadable guide available for the South East Commonwealth Marine Parks Network at <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/factsheets/south-east-users-guide.pdf>

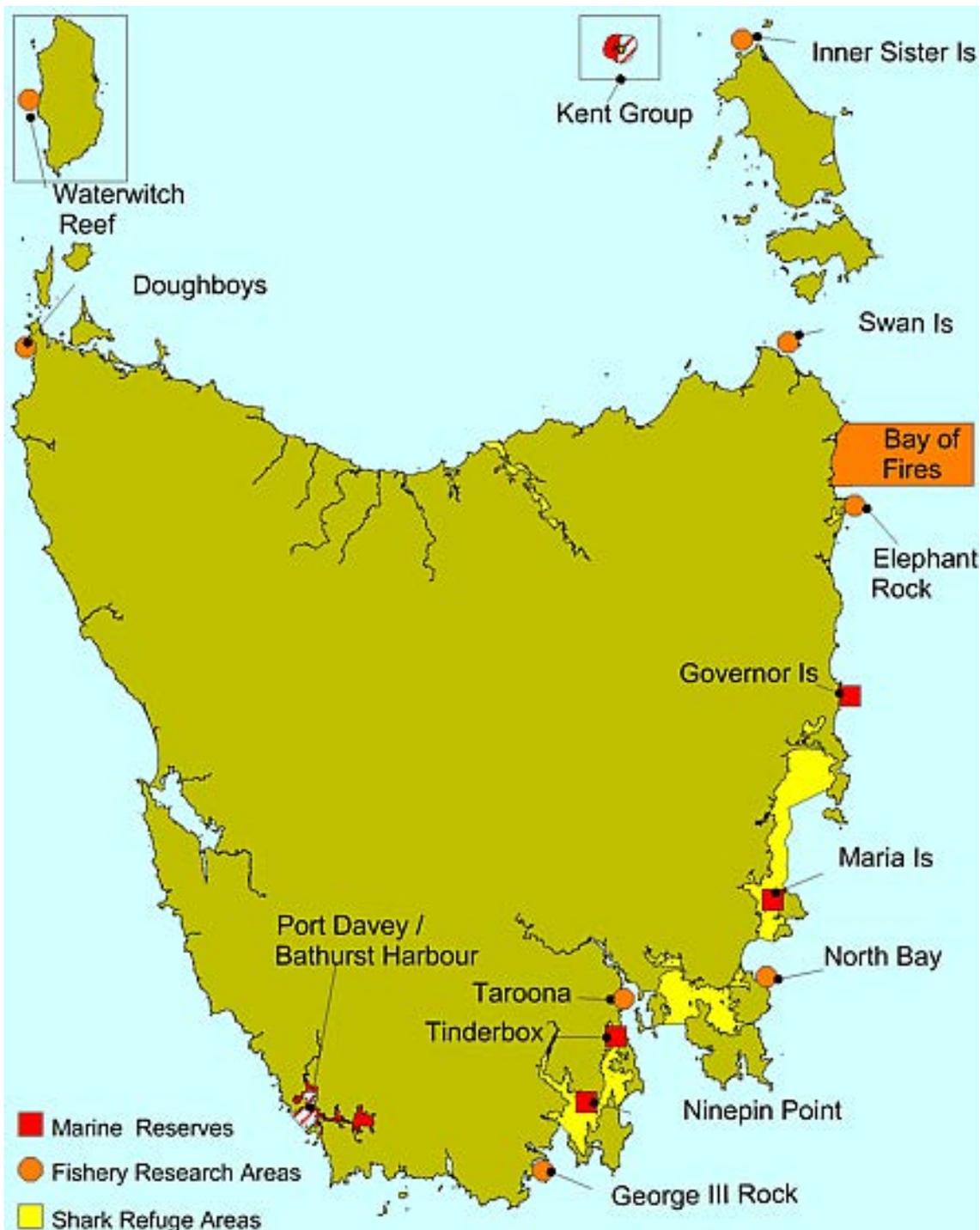


Figure 5: A map of areas where diving or fishing is restricted in Tasmanian waters

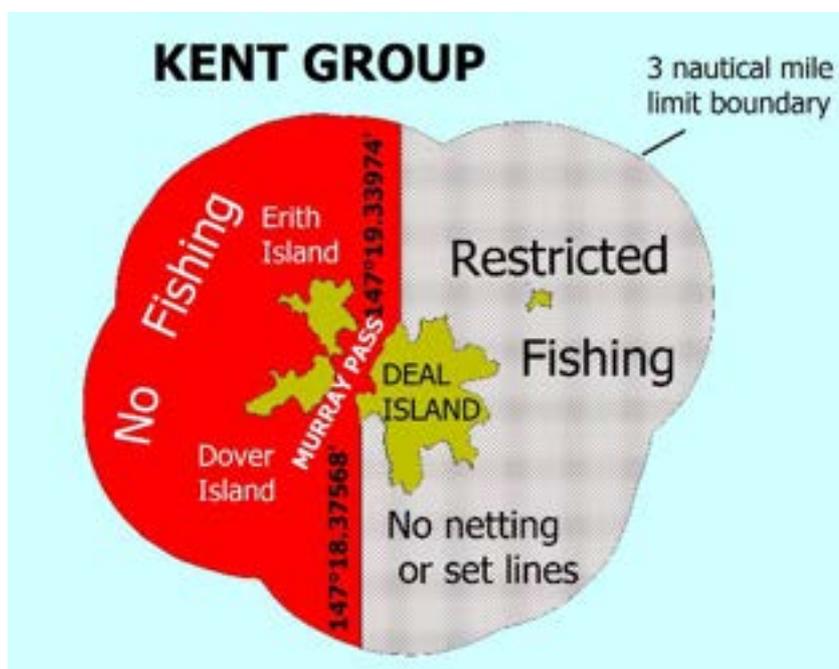
Governor Island Marine Reserve

No fishing, including by way of diving, allowed. The reserve extends 400 metres eastward from the shoreline. The 50 hectare reserve includes the island itself and Alligator Rock. There are white paired poles marking the western boundary.



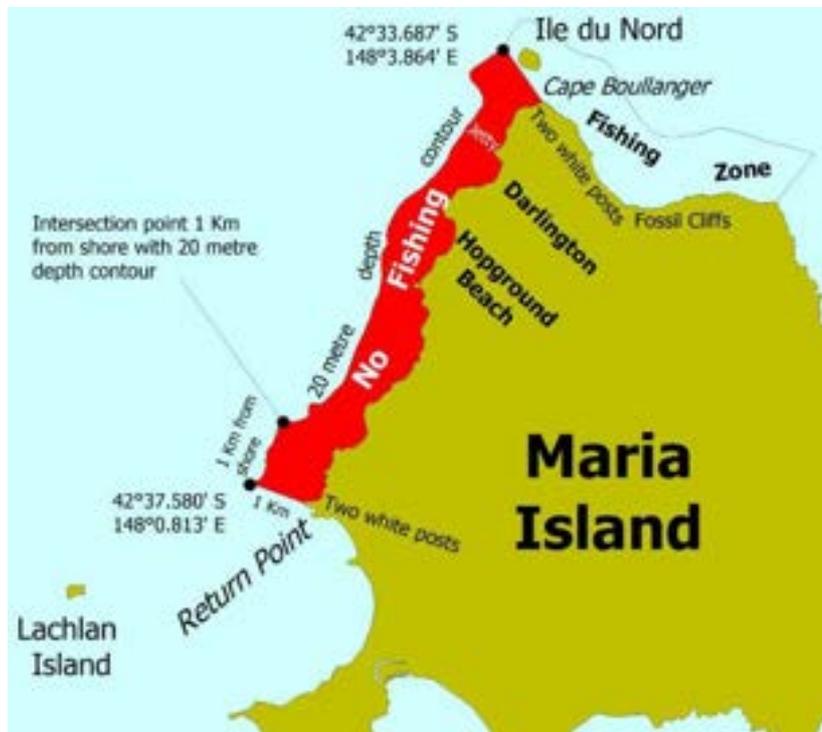
The Kent Group National Park

No diving for commercial dive species in either zone.



Maria Island National Park

No fishing, including by way of diving, in the reserve between Cape Boullanger in the north and Return Point in the south. Commercial fishing of all types is permitted east of Cape Boullanger. The reserve includes all waters up to one kilometre offshore from the north eastern point of Fossil Bay to Return Point, and covers 1,500 hectares.



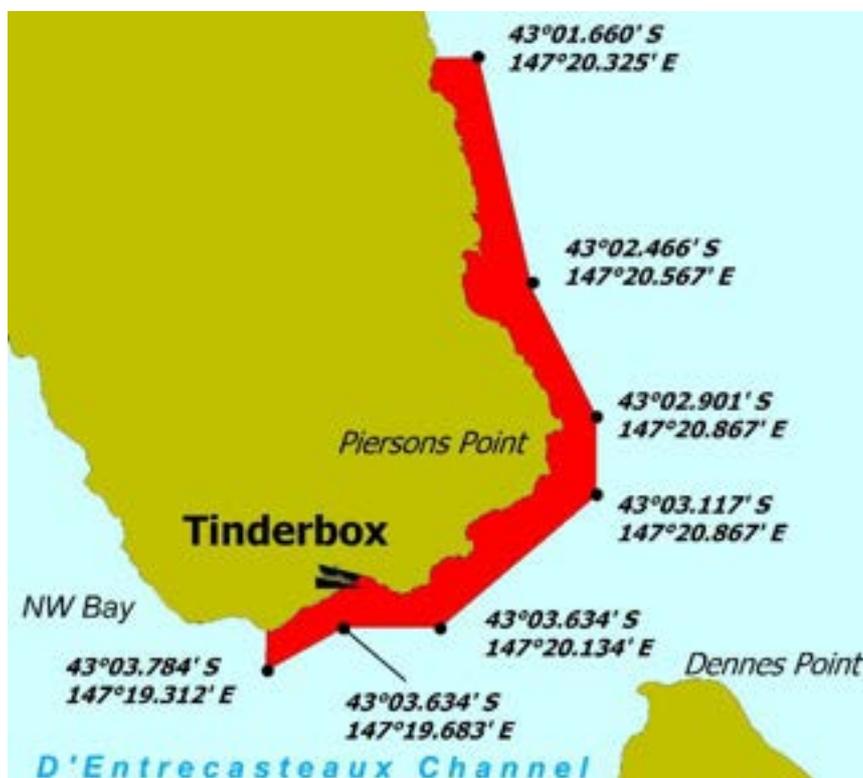
Ninepin Point Marine Nature Reserve

No commercial fishing, including by way of diving. The eastern and western boundaries are marked by white paired poles



Tinderbox Marine Reserve

No commercial fishing, including by way of diving. The northern boundary is approximately 800 metres south of Fossil Cove. The northern boundary and western boundaries are marked by white paired poles.



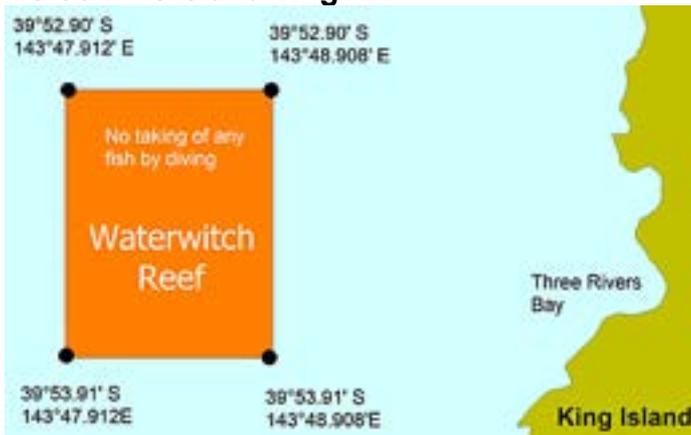
Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour Marine Reserve

No diving for commercial dive species in either zone.



Waterwitch Reef Abalone Research Area

No commercial diving.



Inner Sister Island Abalone Research Area

No commercial diving.



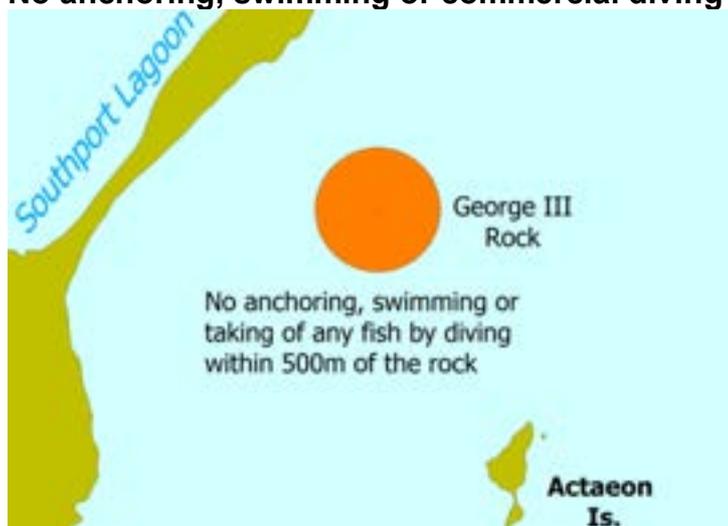
Swan Island Abalone Research Area

No commercial diving.



George III Rock Abalone Research Area

No anchoring, swimming or commercial diving allowed within 500 m of the rock.



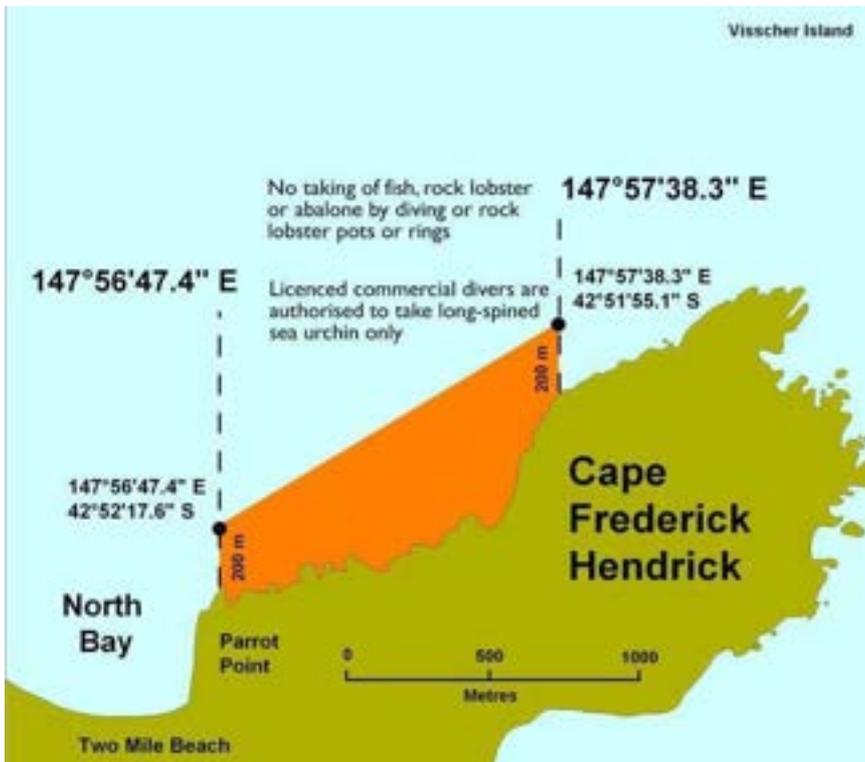
Elephant Rock Rock Lobster Research Area

No fishing by diving, except for commercially licensed divers who can take longspined sea urchins only under an Exemption Order effective from 3 March 2022.



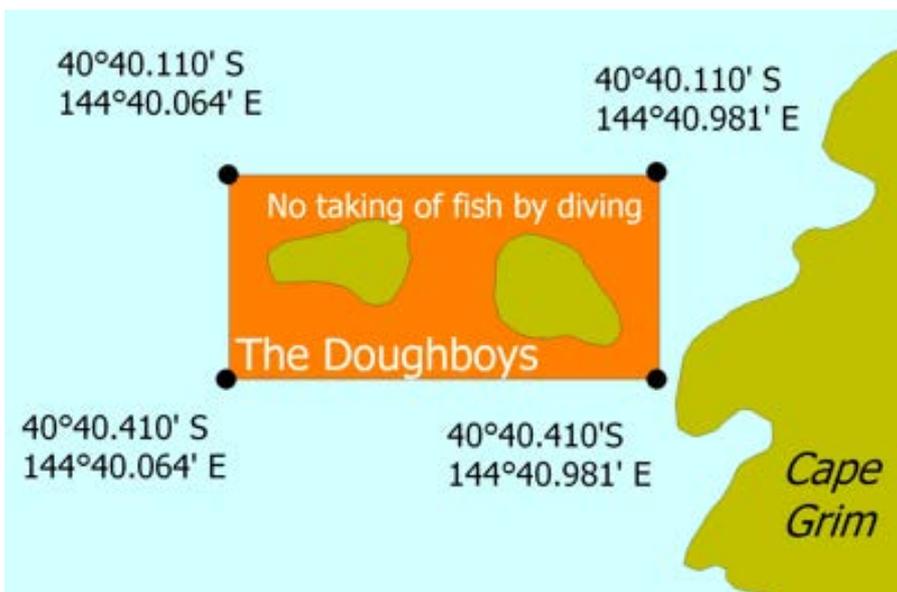
North Bay Rock Lobster Research Area

No fishing by diving, except for commercially licensed divers who can take longspined sea urchins only under an Exemption Order effective from 3 March 2022.



Doughboys Abalone Research Area

No commercial diving.



Centrostephanus Fishery

The Centrostephanus Fishery targets Longspined 'Centro' Sea Urchin, which are range-extended along the eastern coastline of Tasmania from NSW and Victoria. While both native urchins and Centro can eat all the kelp and algae within an area to form an urchin barren, Centro are particularly good at it in Tasmania. This poses a severe ecological risk to native kelp habitats and the ecosystems and fisheries they support, including the abalone and rock lobster fisheries.

Abalone Industry Reinvestment Fund (AIRF)

The AIRF is a joint initiative between the Government and the Tasmanian Abalone Council Limited (TACL) which has made one million dollars available per annum since 2018 for the purposes of Abalone enhancement and Centro control. It is currently funded to the end of the 2024/25 financial year, with potential for extension to be announced in the September 2024 State Budget. The fund is chaired by a committee of representatives from TACL, NRE Tas, and IMAS who meet several times a year to assess project applications for funding, and to fund the Centro subsidy.

Centrostephanus Subsidy

The Centro Subsidy is the name of the incentivised fishing program which was introduced to encourage divers to harvest Centro from within areas that would otherwise be too costly to operate in – it compensates for reduced catch rates and increased costs to operate in certain areas. The subsidy value is spatially variable, reflecting that it generally costs more to catch Centro in the south than in the north.

The subsidy value is reviewed and updated seasonally to re-direct effort to areas of high ecological value or importance to the Abalone Fishery, like the Actaeon's. There is no subsidy required or applied to areas where the fishery is self-sustaining, like St Helens.

NRE Tas release details of the subsidy that will apply each year, and a claim form to be completed by divers each fortnight. Divers claiming the subsidy must provide their bank and business details, and their claim forms are verified against their Commercial Diver's Dockets. Any commercial diver may participate in the subsidised fishery.

National Centrostephanus Taskforce

The National Centrostephanus Taskforce is an agreement to collaborate and progress national outcomes for Centro management, which has been made between the State Fisheries Management Authorities of Tasmania, Victoria, and New South Wales, and the Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRCD) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The Taskforce formed at the conclusion of the February 2023 National Centrostephanus Workshop held in Tasmania.

In late 2023 the Taskforce consulted extensively with stakeholders across all three States to develop a [Business Plan](#) for collaborative, best practice management of Centro. The Business Plan is being used by the Taskforce to make a case to the Commonwealth Government for \$55M of national funding to protect the Great Southern Reef and manage centro across its range.

More information can be found at [Longspined Sea Urchin Strategy | Fishing Tasmania](#)

Commercial Dive Core Fishery Group

The Commercial Dive Core Fishery Group is a regular meeting between the regulator (NRE Tas), industry (TCDA/SIT executive committee representatives), and the research institute (IMAS). They are a critical component of the co-management approach led by NRE Tas, allowing for industry matters to be raised and discussed, and for NRE Tas and IMAS to stay abreast of industry developments, informing future management and research activities.

Meetings occur at least three times per year, usually timed around new season arrangements and TCDA Annual and General Meetings.

Assessment and Research

The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) is contracted as NRE Tas lead research provider under the [Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement \(SMRCA\)](#). IMAS produce periodic Fishery Assessments for some of the Commercial Dive and Shellfish Fisheries.

Scientific information is available for all of the fisheries at www.tasfisheriesresearch.org. In some instances, some reports remain available under 'Other Tasmanian Fisheries' at <https://www.imas.utas.edu.au/research/fisheries-and-aquaculture/publications-and-resources>

The latest assessments include:

- [2024 Small Bivalve Assessment \(Angasi\)](#)
- [2021/22 Tasmanian Longspined Sea Urchin Fishery Assessment](#)
- [2020/21 Tasmanian Longspined Sea Urchin Fishery Assessment](#)
- [2022 Small Bivalve Assessment \(Venerupis\)](#)
- [2021 Small Bivalve Assessment \(Angasi\)](#)

There are two main funding sources for research in the Commercial Dive, Shellfish & *Undaria* Fisheries, including the [Abalone Industry Reinvestment Fund \(AIRF\)](#) and [Fisheries Research and Development Corporation \(FRDC\)](#). Current projects are listed below but the webpages should be consulted for updated lists:

- [FRDC 2022-039](#): Developing spatial based assessment methodologies and tools for small scale dive fisheries: Case study of the Tasmanian Commercial Dive Fishery
- [FRDC 2021-108](#): Risk profile for paralytic shellfish toxins in Tasmanian Periwinkles
- [AIRF 2023/61](#): Assessing Longspined Sea Urchin incursion in Abalone Blocks 21 and 29
- [AIRF 2023/60](#): Website Development and Communication products for the Longspined Sea Urchin to increase community awareness
- [AIRF 2023/59](#): Longspined sea urchin on Tasmania's East Coast: an education and engagement program
- [AIRF 2022/57](#): Restoration by Harvest Pilot Program: Fortescue Bay
- [AIRF 2022/56](#): Developing a spatial planning framework for Longspined Sea Urchin Control in Tasmania
- [AIRF 2022/55](#): Social-economic analysis for the Tasmanian dive sector
- [AIRF 2020/44](#): Risk profile for the paralytic shellfish toxins from *Alexandrium catenella* in Tasmanian Sea Urchins

Export Approval

The [Tasmanian Commercial Dive Fishery](#) and the [Tasmanian Native Oyster Fishery](#) are on the List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS) under Part 13 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) until 25 July 2026. Re-application to maintain the status is due by July 2025 and January 2026, respectively.

The Tasmanian *Undaria* dive fishery, as a component of the [Tasmanian Marine Plant Fishery](#), is an approved Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) under Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) until 5 December 2026, having just completed the re-application process to maintain WTO status.

This means that the animals and products taken under these fisheries can continue to be legally exported out of Australia, subject to the fishery meeting the fishery-specific conditions set by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water (DCCEEW).

Marine Resources is responsible for providing annual reports to DCCEEW regarding the fishery, including any information required to determine if the specific conditions are being met. The reports are due by 31 December of each year.

Diver's Checklist

There are many specific arrangements that Commercial Dive, Shellfish, and *Undaria* divers should be aware of prior to engaging in harvesting or processing activities.

GPS & Depth Logger Use

Loggers are issued by IMAS to collect critical data about the locations fished, time spent fishing, and depths fished – all of which contributes to our understanding of these small fisheries and assists in determining management arrangements.

It is a condition of your fishing licence (commercial dive) that you must not enter the water without being in possession of these data loggers, and the loggers must be charged, activated, and used every time you dive, including for Shellfish and *Undaria*.

NRE Tas would like to remind divers the use of data loggers is mandatory and failure to comply with the conditions on your licence is an offence under Section 86A of the LMRMA and currently carries a 3-penalty unit infringement of \$585.00.

If your logger is lost, damaged, or faulty, contact IMAS on the Logger Hotline (+61)-408-301-367.

Spare logger units may also be accessed from the St Helens, Stanley & Strahan police stations.

Loggers are provided free of charge to all new commercial divers. Lost, malfunctioning, or damaged loggers must be replaced. If the replacement arises from diver negligence or improper use, then the replacement fee will be charged to the diver. At June 2022, the costs are:

- Depth logger: \$580+GST
- Charge Pad: \$30+GST
- GPS logger: \$1754+GST
- GPS Charger: \$50+GST

Measuring & Undersize Allowance

It is a condition of your licence that a measuring device is carried when diving, and that fish are measured under the water prior to bringing them to the vessel.

The Rules allow for 10% of sea urchins or periwinkles to be undersized, and 100 native oysters or clams to be undersized. However, you are encouraged to ensure the whole of your catch is equal to or above size limits to protect stocks. To do this you should check the accuracy of your measuring devices and measure more frequently throughout dives. Divers can also ask deckhands to check catches and return undersized fish to the water.

Size limits do not apply to *Undaria*, however you must harvest the entirety of a plant including any holdfast, fronds, and reproductive sporophyll. You may not harvest only a part of the plant. This is to reduce the quantity of reproductive material and reduce the spread of this invasive species.

Telephone Reports and Tas eFish Reports

A Prior Fishing Report must be made 24 hours or less before entering the water for a Commercial Dive or Shellfish fishing trip. They do not apply for *Undaria* fishing or Shellfish fishing trips that will only take Pacific oysters.

If you have made a Prior Fishing Report and then cannot go on the fishing trip, you must make a Cancellation Report within 2 hours after the time of the intended trip. If you entered the water and then decide to not continue with the fishing trip, or you fail to harvest any fish, you do not need to make the Cancellation Report.

Telephone reporting services are strictly for compliance purposes, and they do not serve as a safety check for divers; they are not monitored in real-time. For safety, you should ensure a responsible person is aware of your planned diving activities.

The number to call to make a report is (03)-8329-2202.

In the 2024-25 season, an alternative method of reporting will be made available to commercial divers, including for Shellfish. The Tas eFish app will soon be available to make Prior Fishing Reports and Cancellations Reports. For information or trouble-shooting, contact the team at (+61)-499-845-657 or email fdtp@nre.tas.gov.au

Team Diving

There is no provision for abalone-style team diving within these fisheries. Team diving within the abalone fishery enables divers to share their quota allowance, however, there is no quota within the commercial dive fisheries and no provisions for team diving.

You may share a vessel and dive with any other number of commercially licensed divers, if you can identify your catch for compliance and research purposes. IMAS cross-references catch totals with dive time/depth/location data provided by the loggers to generate standardised catch per unit effort (CPUE) rates. Sharing of catch can impact the CPUE calculations which are considered when setting Catch Limits. There is also a compliance risk if there are undersized fish onboard.

If abalone is to be commercially harvested on the same fishing trip, all divers aboard the vessel must be dually licenced with both a fishing licence (commercial dive) and a fishing licence (abalone dive), and the vessel must have a standard fishing licence (vessel) rather than being

designated as an 'abalone only' vessel. This means that a diver who is not commercially licenced for abalone, cannot be aboard a vessel that is taking abalone, even if that diver is not participating in the abalone diving activities.

Fish Caufs

If you are using a fish cauf to hold fish (not applicable to *Undaria*) in State waters you will need to apply for an endorsement. Once approved, the endorsement will be specified on the relevant fishing licence with the location of the cauf site/s as well as any restrictions relating to its use or size. It is an offence to use a fish cauf without having it endorsed on your licence.

You must keep fish separated according to both species and date taken. This means that you cannot keep fish taken on different days in the same cauf, or fish of a different species (even if taken on the same day) in the same cauf.

You may place fish caught by another diver into your own cauf, but you must keep those fish separate from any other fish, appropriately labelled, and you must be in receipt of a Commercial Diver's Direct Sales Receipt issued to you by the other diver for those fish.

You must clearly mark each cauf with the date that the fish were placed into it, and the Commercial Diver's Docket number (or Commercial Diver's Direct Sales Receipt number if the fish are from another diver) containing the relevant fishing trip details.

You must not continue to hold previous seasons fish in a cauf past the 30th September in any year.

You must keep detailed written cauf records for 5 years, and the record should include the date that fish were placed in the cauf, species, weight in kilograms, the docket number for the fishing trip in which the fish were caught, the date that fish were removed, and the weight removed in kilograms. An example of a suitable cauf record is located at the end of the Commercial Diver's Docket Book – you may use that document or your own, provided it meets the criteria. The record may be inspected by a Fisheries Officer at any time.

Shellfish – Purge Supervisors

The Shellfish Fishery only allows for a single Purge Site Supervisor to be nominated on the licence. This person may not harvest fish or place fish in a cauf on a purge site, and they cannot be present on a vessel which is being used for commercial shellfish fishing.

The Purge Site Supervisors may remove fish from a cauf at a purge site for selling or transfer purposes. This person must be in possession of the cauf records and must maintain accurate records of fish removed within their own personal Shellfish Disposal Receipt Book.

The Purge Site Supervisor must ensure that fish removed from a cauf are not mixed with any other fish, and that they remain identifiable until the point at which they are transferred/sold.

Shellfish – Apparatus and Punt Use

A Shellfish Licence Holder/Supervisor only may apply to be endorsed to use a fish punt or a handheld implement to assist in harvesting shellfish.

A punt is defined as a non-mechanically powered vessel that is less than 2.5 metres long, and which is used only for transporting shellfish. Dive equipment cannot be stored onboard a punt, and diving cannot occur from a punt.

Apparatus is defined as a mechanised or powered hand tool used to take shellfish. This does not include motorised vehicles or heavy machinery.

Shellfish – Assistants

A Shellfish Licence Holder/Supervisor may allow assistants to participate in fishing under the licence, if they are actively supervised by the licence holder/supervisor. There is a limit of two assistants per licence, except for Pacific oyster fishing which is an unlimited number of assistants.

Undaria – Biosecurity Group Permit

Undaria pinnatifida is a 'declared plant pest/weed' under the [Biosecurity Act 2019](#). This means that special provision is required to be granted by Biosecurity Tasmania to make *Undaria* fishery activities lawful.

In July 2023, Biosecurity Tasmania issued a five-year group permit to all holders of a valid *Undaria* fishing licence or permit, to enable continuation of regular fishing activities including collection, transportation, importing/exporting, and processing, as well as some aquaculture activities. The group permit will remain publicly available at www.fishing.tas.gov.au/marineplant

The group permit automatically applies to any person authorised by Marine Resources to handle *Undaria* and licence holders do not need to take any special action except to ensure they comply with the conditions of the group permit. Marine Resources is responsible for maintaining the permit into the future.

Undaria – Biosecurity Requirements

Five licence conditions apply to manage biosecurity concerns:

1. Where possible and safe to do so, seaweed must be removed from the seabed by cutting the plant off at the holdfast.
2. Vessel bungs must remain screwed in the vessel when hauling it out of the water, such that the bilgewater is retained in the vessel until such time as that water is able to be released at a location where there is no reasonable likelihood that that water and any detritus could enter State waters.
3. Dive boats, dive gear and seaweed collecting bags must be thoroughly washed with freshwater and air dried at the conclusion of each trip during which an introduced marine plant was harvested.
4. Any seaweed detritus or part of the plant that is not required is to be placed into sealed rubbish bags and disposed of at a site on land from which there is no reasonable likelihood that it could enter State waters.
5. On landing, the introduced marine plant is to be sealed into containers and transported directly to the holder of a fish processing licence endorsed to process that species or to the location from which it is to be exported.

Undaria – Unloading Requirements

Undaria harvesters should be aware that they must only unload *Undaria* to a 'licenced processor endorsed for *Undaria*' meaning the holder of a Fish Processing Licence that is specifically endorsed to process *Undaria*. Alternatively, the *Undaria* may be unloaded at the place from which it will be exported or used.

Supervisors who harvest under the authority of the fishing licence (undaria) may only unload to the holder of that licence, Marinova Pty Ltd, as a condition of the licence.

Fish Processing

Commercial divers, including for shellfish but not *Undaria*, are able to process any fish they harvest under their own licence, per Section 67 of the [Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995](#).

Anyone, including commercial divers, can process up to 10 tonnes of urchins, periwinkles, and shellfish, and up to 100 kilograms of marine plants per Rule 19 of the [Fisheries \(General and Fees\) Regulations 2016](#), in any one licencing year (1 Sep to 31 Aug of the following year) before a Fish Processing Licence is required. A person may apply for a Fish Processing Licence at any time.

Any person who processes fish should be aware of other requirements governing that activity. This includes but is not limited to, biosecurity requirements, food safety standards including biotoxin testing, local council by-laws, etc.

Direct Sales

Holders of a Commercial Dive or Shellfish licence may, in most instances, circumvent fish processors and directly sell their product to the public or retailers. This is most common for shellfish and periwinkles.

If direct selling urchins or periwinkles, the diver must complete a Commercial Dive Direct Sales Receipt and supply a copy of that to the purchaser as a receipt for the fish. If direct selling other Shellfish, the diver must complete a Shellfish Disposal Receipt and supply a copy of that to the purchaser as a receipt for the fish.

Commercial divers are also able to transfer their fish to another licenced commercial diver to enable the fish to be purged in an endorsed cauf. In this case, the diver who caught the fish is required to complete a Commercial Dive Direct Sales Receipt and supply a copy of that to the receiving diver as evidence of where the fish came from.

Any diver who sells their own fish direct to the public or retailers, without first having those fish pass through a licenced fish processor, must be aware of other requirements governing that activity. This includes but is not limited to, biosecurity requirements, food safety standards including biotoxin testing, local council by-laws, etc.

Catch Dockets

All instructions are contained within the relevant docket book, and it is your responsibility to complete and submit docket books in accordance with the instructions. If you are unsure, please contact the Fisheries Monitoring team or your Fisheries Manager.

Deadlines

Ensure you adhere to submission deadlines – this is within 48 hours of the completion of a fishing trip (Commercial Dive, Shellfish) or within 7 days of the end of the month (*Undaria*).

Why Catch Dockets are Required

Recording your catch, effort and disposal data as accurately as possible is important:

- Your catch and effort information are used by IMAS to produce fishery assessments. This information is used to determine whether a species is “sustainable”, “depleting”, “recovering” or “depleted”.
- The outcomes of the assessment and the catch and effort data itself are used by Fisheries Managers to monitor how much catch and/or effort is happening in different areas and to determine if any management action is required. This includes the setting of annual catch limits and catch-caps for areas.
- The sales/transfer/disposal information is used to track fish, and to inform fishery value calculations used by the State and Commonwealth to categorise fisheries.

What Happens with Catch Dockets After Submission?

All catch docket books and returns are received by the Fisheries Monitoring Team who scan copies into the Tasmanian Fisheries Integrated Licensing and Management System (FILMS) database. The data is verified and checked by the team and the FILMS software, including cross-checks with other sources of fisheries information, like telephone reports.

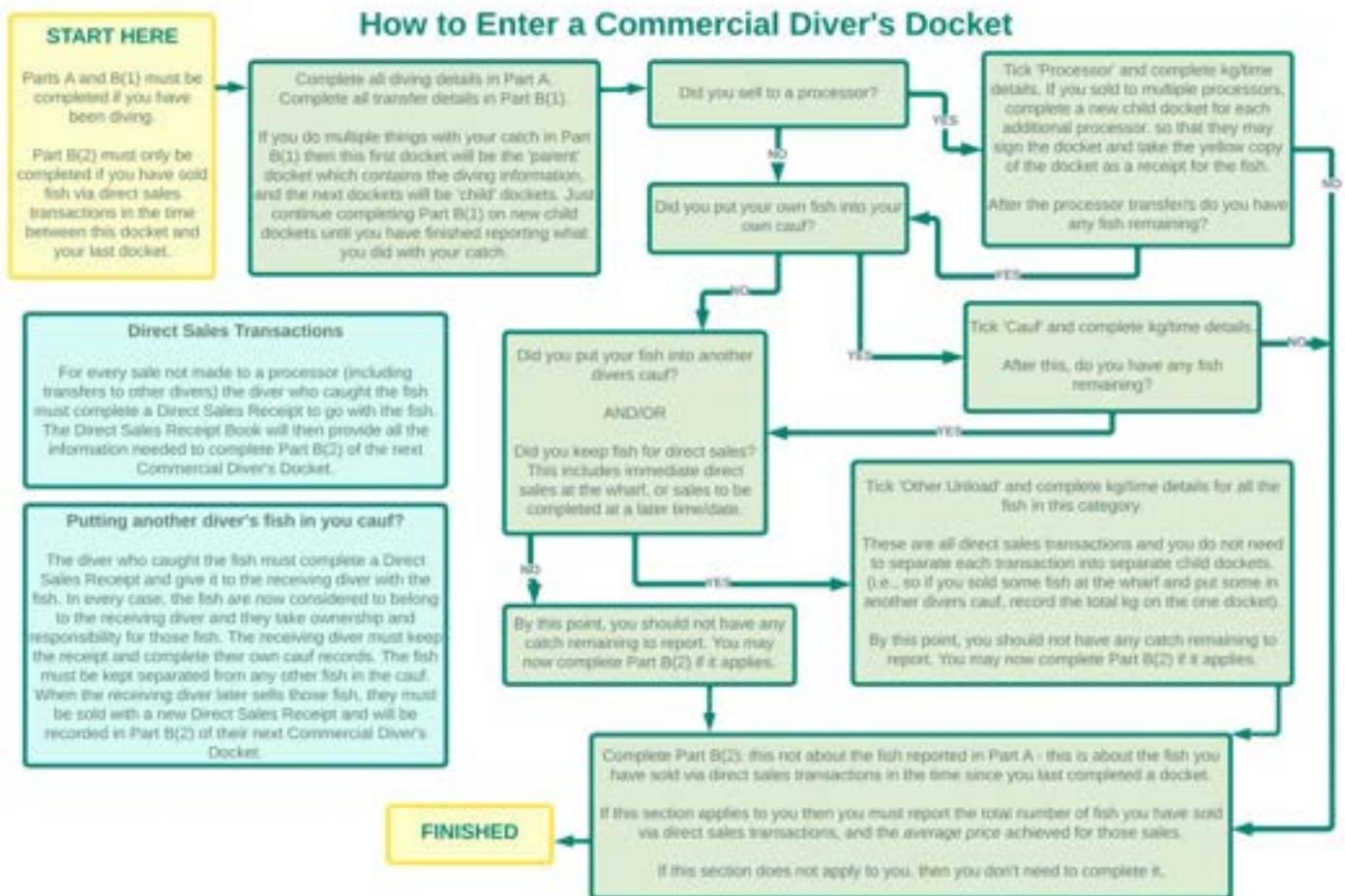
Once scanned and entered, the data becomes immediately available for fisheries management and compliance purposes. Within the Commercial Dive Fishery, the data is monitored by the Dive Fisheries Manager for catch and closure purposes, and reported regularly at [Catch and Closures | Fishing Tasmania](#).

You can request access to your own data at any time through your Fisheries Manager or the Fisheries Licensing team.

What if an Error is Detected on a Catch Docket?

The Fisheries Monitoring team will notify you via email or phone if they have detected an error requiring your attention. Likewise, if you realise that you have made a mistake after submitting a docket, you may contact the Fisheries Monitoring team to report the mistake and have it corrected.

Completing A Commercial Diver's Docket



You must complete Part A and Part B(1) every time you go fishing, without exception.

- Part A collects the diving data – it is critical that you record this information as accurately as possible.
- Part B(1) collects the disposal data. Divers may dispose of their catch in 3 different ways: transfer to a fish processor, add to a cauf, or direct sales to another party.

You do not need to complete Part B(2) unless you have sold fish direct to the public or retailers (i.e., if you have written a Commercial Dive Direct Sales Receipt) in the time since your last Commercial Diver's Docket was completed.

- Part B(2) is only relevant to divers who cauf their fish and/or sell their fish to someone other than a fish processor.
- Instead of reporting to the Department every individual direct sale that you make, you are asked to report a summary of the direct sales, which are recorded in your Commercial Dive Direct Sales Receipt Book, that have occurred since the last time you submitted a Commercial Diver's Docket.
- Regardless of the number of direct sales you have made, you only need to report the total number of fish sold in that period, and the average price (\$) you received for the fish.

Parent and Child Dockets

Parent and Child Dockets were introduced with the new version of the Commercial Diver's Docket Book. The concept is the same as that used in the Abalone Dive Fishery – it allows divers to do more than one thing with their catch upon landing.

If you do just one thing with your catch when you land – if you *only* sell to one processor, or you *only* cauf all your fish each time you land – then this does not apply to you.

A Parent docket captures the diving information from a fishing trip (in Part A), and the first transfer/sale that a diver makes upon landing (in Part B(1)).

A Child docket does not record any diving information in Part A, it simply captures the subsequent transfer/sale that a diver makes upon landing (in Part B(1)). Part A remains blank, and the Parent docket number must be recorded in the available space as shown below:

PART B(1) – Commercial Diver's Docket
(completed by the diver, if adding to fish cauf or self-processing, or fish processor)

Transfer Date Transfer Time (24 hour) Parent Docket Number

Tick the Transfer Type: Transfer to Fish Processor Add to Cauf Other Unload

There can be more than one child docket. For example, if a diver caufs some of their fish and then splits the rest of their catch between two processors, then they will need to complete a total of three dockets – one parent docket to capture the fishing information and the first transfer, and two child dockets – one to capture the second transfer and one to capture the addition to the fish cauf.

Completing a Marine Plant Commercial Fishing Docket

You must complete a Marine Plant Commercial Fishing Docket for every month that you are licensed.

If you have not harvested any *Undaria* for a period, you may submit one docket page as a 'nil' entry for that whole period. *Undaria* is a seasonal fishery, and most divers anticipate that they will not fish through certain months of the year – to assist you to not fall behind with your docket returns, you may submit a 'nil' docket ahead of time, which can be overridden with future dockets.

The Marine Plant Commercial Fishing Docket is dual purpose, and its design is primarily to capture information relevant to the beach-cast marine plant fishery. In future, it may be possible to capture *Undaria* fishing on a Commercial Diver's Docket, but that is not yet the case.

Completing a Shellfish Docket

You must complete all fields, except for 'comments', of the Shellfish Docket and submit a Docket for every fishing trip.

The Shellfish Docket Book has not been recently updated, and it is anticipated that it will be reviewed soon to better meet the needs of shellfish divers, and to improve fishery management outcomes. You will be given opportunity to provide feedback on changes.

Interactions with Protected Species

The Commercial Dive, Shellfish, and *Undaria* fisheries are all hand collection by wading or diving. The risk of interacting with threatened, endangered, or protected species (TEPS) is considered negligible, and no reporting facility is provided on the docketts.

However, whilst on the water you may encounter a protected species. Guidelines for viewing and approaching whales and dolphins are outlined below; these apply to all water users. In general, when a whale or dolphin is observed, vessel operators should:

- Slow down and avoid erratic changes in speed and direction.
- Approach no closer than the specified approach distances (see below).
- Avoid approaching from directly in front of or behind the animal.



If you locate an entangled or injured marine mammal (whale, dolphin, seal) or seabird **do not attempt to disentangle the animal yourself**, but immediately ring the 24-hour Marine Wildlife (Whale) Hotline on **0427 942 537 (0427 WHALES)** and seek professional advice. If you are outside of phone range call **TAS MARITIME RADIO on VHF Channel 16** and advise them of the entanglement. They will initiate procedures to collect information and notify the disentanglement team who will provide advice via VHF radio.

Infringements and Penalties

There are penalties for breaching the legislation. The penalty structure is set out in the [Fisheries \(Penalties\) Regulations 2021](#). The rules also have Infringement Notices that may be served by Fisheries Officers, subject to the level of the offence.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Below are responses to frequently asked questions that may assist to answer your query. We welcome any suggestions of new questions for this section.

Can I Fish for Other Species?

The licences only allow for the species provided for under the Rules and explained in this document. However, occasionally other species are of interest and may be relevant to a commercial dive licence. If the interest is industry-wide, as in the case of scallops, it is for the

TCDA executive to present a proposal to NRE Tas via the relevant Fisheries Manager. If an interest is at the individual level, then that person is invited to discuss the proposal with the relevant Fisheries Manager and submit a permit application for a developmental fishery.

In all cases, the progression of any kind of additional fishery will be at the discretion of the Department, with consideration given to environmental impacts, socio-economic costs/benefits, and whether the fishery would be feasible to manage and in the best interests of the public and the fisheries resource.

What is the Fisheries Digital Transition Project (FDTP)?

The FDTP aims to facilitate digital fishing reporting, including licensing transactions, and the capture and reporting of catch data.

Tas eFish is a product of the FDTP which will be phased in to the Commercial Dive, Shellfish, and *Undaria* fisheries during the 2024-25 fishing season. This is an app that will enable divers to make and cancel Prior Fishing Reports using a phone app, rather than having to make a telephone call.

In future, the FDTP may expand to capture catch and effort data for key fisheries, including the Commercial Dive, Shellfish, and *Undaria* Fisheries. If so, divers will be offered opportunity to engage with the development process.

More information can be found at www.fishing.tas.gov.au/fdtp

What is the Shellfish Market Access Program (ShellMAP)?

ShellMAP operates under a Partnership Agreement between NRE Tas, Oysters Tasmania, and SIT. The program has three components: Regulatory Services, Industry Development and Operational Services.

ShellMAP has oversight of biotoxin testing for all Tasmanian bivalves, including the wild shellfish fishery and the aquaculture fishery. The scientific monitoring and testing that ShellMAP does is funded through the ShellMAP levy, which is paid by bivalve shellfish licence holders across the aquaculture sector and the wild shellfish fishery.

The ShellMAP levy covers the cost of the scientific monitoring and testing program. It does not include staffing or any other program costs, which are covered by NRE Tas. The 2023-24 (paid in the 2024-25 license period) cost for the monitoring and testing program is \$864,073. In the past, this figure has been divided equally between wild-catch and aquaculture shellfish licence holders.

Over the past few years, wild-catch shellfish licence holders have secured a waiver for the ShellMAP levy. In 2023, the Minister indicated this practice could not continue, and operators in the shellfish fishery were asked to negotiate an appropriate outcome with SIT. An alternative model has since been presented by SIT and will be considered by the Minister when deciding how to distribute the cost of the ShellMAP levy to wild-catch shellfish licence holders.

The ShellMAP levy falls due at the same time as licence renewals but is invoiced separately.

Can I Dive From a Vessel Being Used in Another Fishery?

You may dive from a vessel being used in another commercial fishery, provided you adhere to the following:

- Abalone – if the vessel is being used for an abalone diving trip, all divers onboard the vessel must be dual licenced for both the abalone and commercial dive fisheries, and the vessel must have a standard fishing licence (vessel) rather than being designated ‘abalone only’;
- Rock Lobster and Giant Crab – if the vessel is being used for a rock lobster or giant crab fishing trip, then you may not dive from the vessel and take commercial dive species;
- Scalefish – if the vessel is being used for a scalefish fishing trip, you may dive from the vessel and take commercial dive species.

Can I Recreationally Fish Whilst on a Commercial Fishing Trip?

In most instances you cannot recreationally fish whilst on a commercial fishing trip:

- Abalone - A commercial diver cannot be in possession of recreationally caught abalone when on a commercial dive fishing trip – any abalone possessed must be commercially taken under a commercial fishing licence (abalone dive) held by the diver.
- Rock Lobster and Giant crab – A commercial diver cannot be in possession of rock lobster or giant crab, or gear to take rock lobster and giant crab (including a rock lobster pot, rock lobster ring, and giant crab trap) when on a commercial fishing trip.
- Scalefish – A commercial diver is permitted to recreationally fish for scalefish, whilst on a commercial dive fishing trip.

What if I Forget to Make a Telephone Report?

If you forget to make a Prior Fishing Telephone Report, you are advised to call the Marine Compliance team on (03)-6165-3000 as soon as you are able to provide all necessary details and make a statutory declaration.

Divers are encouraged to try the new Tas eFish app to make and cancel Prior Fishing Reports.

What is the ‘5-Diver’ Rule?

The 5-diver rule comes from the Departments Fisheries Data Disclosure Policy:

1. The Department may publish total fishing catch and effort statistics **by season** for any species taken aggregated by fishing method and/or licence class at the minimum spatial resolution reported, including fisheries in which there are fewer than five operators.
2. The Department may publish total fishing catch and effort statistics **within a season** by licence class, species and/or method at the minimum spatial resolution reported where the information represents data from five or more operators.

This means that we only publish current season data if there are 5 or more divers operating within an area. When the season is finished, data can be published for areas where there were less than 5 divers operating because NRE Tas has a statutory obligation under the LMRMA to assess and manage fisheries which exploit a Crown resource; reporting of such activity is clearly in the public interest. However, NRE Tas extends to operators the ability to make a case in writing to the General Manager (Marine Resources) as to why such a disclosure should not occur.



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