

FMS Appendix 1 - Implementation table for the Lobster Fishery

The following implementation table outlines the time periods within which each management response detailed in the fishery management strategy is scheduled to be implemented. The table also provides information relating to the head of power for implementation and who has the lead responsibility for carrying out the action(s). A general description of the terms used in the table with respect to timeframes are:

Term	Description
Immediate	Upon the time of approval of the strategy
Short term	Within one year of the date of approval of the strategy
Medium term	Within 3 years of the date of approval of the strategy
Long term	In excess of three years of the date of approval of the strategy
As required	Whenever the circumstances warrant action
Ongoing	Continuing into the future

Management responses in the table marked with an asterisk (*) indicate new management actions that are to be implemented.

Goal 1. Manage the Lobster Fishery in a manner that promotes the conservation of biological diversity in the marine environment					
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTES TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	AUTHORITY
1.1 Mitigate the impact of lobster fishing on ecosystem integrity (species, populations and ecological communities)	a) Prohibit commercial lobster fishers from taking species other than species of rock lobster in waters less than 10 m in depth	1, 4	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	* b) Collect information on the number of traps in the fishery that are lost during fishing operations, and implement appropriate management actions if necessary	1, 6, 7	Short term and then as required	Lobster fishers NSW DPI	-
	* c) Develop a code of practice for the Lobster Fishery in consultation with the Lobster MAC	1, 3, 4	Short term	NSW DPI Lobster MAC	Various
	d) Use fishing closures to control fishing activities in the Lobster Fishery	1, 2, 3, 4, 6	As required	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	* e) Map major lobster fishing grounds (including available information on associated geological features), assess the level of lobster fishing on each ground and define the areas in NSW waters open to lobster fishing	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	Long term	NSW DPI Lobster MAC Lobster fishers	-
1.2 Mitigate the impact of lobster fishing activities on non-retained species	* a) Investigate the use of escape gaps in lobster traps set in waters less than 10m depth to minimise the quantity of undersize lobsters captured, and implement the outcome of the investigation	1, 2	Medium term	NSW DPI	-
	b) Implement a periodic observer program to collect information on the quantity and composition of bycatch	1, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI	To be determined
	c) Using best available knowledge and appropriate technology, modify fishing practices to reduce the impacts of the fishery on non-retained fish, invertebrates, reptiles, mammals and birds	1, 3	Ongoing	NSW DPI Lobster fishers	Various
	* d) Use best-practice handling techniques, including a restriction on the use of "spikes" to those times when other handling methods would present an unacceptable health and safety risk	1, 3	Ongoing (Immediate for spikes)	NSW DPI Lobster MAC	Various
1.3 Mitigate the impact of activities within the fishery on marine and terrestrial habitats and their associated biota	a) Modify the use of lobster fishing methods in areas where their use is identified as having a detrimental impact on marine and terrestrial habitat or associated biota	1, 3	As required	NSW DPI Lobster fishers	Various
1.4 Prevent the introduction and translocation of marine pests and diseases by rock lobster fishing activities	a) Implement, in consultation with the Lobster MAC, measures required in accordance with any marine pest or disease management plans	1	As required	NSW DPI Lobster fishers	To be determined

Goal 2. Maintain the stock of eastern rock lobster at a biologically sustainable level and manage byproduct taken in the Lobster Fishery					
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTES TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	AUTHORITY
2.1 Maintain the spawning biomass of eastern rock lobster at or above 25 per cent of pre-exploitation level	a) The TAC Committee will determine the maximum weight of eastern rock lobster to be taken by the commercial Lobster Fishery	2, 5, 6	Ongoing	NSW DPI	FM Act Regulatory
	b) Conduct an annual assessment of the eastern rock lobster resource including a review of the exploitation status of the stock and a risk assessment of alternative harvest strategies	2, 5, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI	-
	c) Develop models of the eastern rock lobster population and fishery	2, 5, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI	-
	d) Monitor catch and effort for eastern rock lobster in the commercial Lobster Fishery	2, 5	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	e) Monitor the length and sex composition of commercial landings of eastern rock lobsters	2, 5, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI	-
	f) Monitor recruitment to the population of eastern rock lobsters	2, 5	Ongoing	NSW DPI	-
	g) Monitor abundance and size-composition of the spawning stock of eastern rock lobsters	2, 5, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI	-
2.2 Provide protection to components of the lobster stock to enhance biological sustainability	* a) Provide enhanced protection to the eastern rock lobster spawning stock and in particular reduce the maximum size limit from 200 mm to 180 mm carapace length	2, 4, 5	Short term and then ongoing	NSW DPI	-
	b) Prohibit taking eastern rock lobster below the minimum size limit or above the maximum size limit	2, 5	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	c) Prohibit taking all female lobsters carrying ova	2, 5	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory

Goal 2. (cont.) Maintain the stock of eastern rock lobster at a biologically sustainable level and manage byproduct taken in the Lobster Fishery					
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTES TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	AUTHORITY
2.3 Effectively manage byproduct taken by the fishery	* a) Limit lobster fishers to a defined list of species that can be retained as byproduct in the Lobster Fishery when working in waters deeper than 10m	1, 2, 4, 6	Immediate	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	* b) Develop a system, in consultation with the Lobster MAC, to provide for appropriate modifications to the list of byproduct species for the Lobster Fishery	2, 5, 6	Medium term	NSW DPI	-
	* c) Monitor, record and differentiate catches of species of rock lobster on log sheets in addition to eastern rock lobster	1, 2, 6, 7	Ongoing	Lobster fishers	-
	* d) Modify the reporting system to record and monitor landings of all other species taken in lobster traps	1, 2, 6, 7	Short term	NSW DPI Lobster fishers	-
	* e) Utilise onboard observers to collect additional biological information, to facilitate estimation of size at maturity and fecundity/brood size data, for the elasmobranch species (i.e. wobbegong sharks, blind sharks, cat sharks and swell sharks) taken by the fishery	1, 2, 6, 7	As required	NSW DPI	-
2.4 Promote the recovery of overfished species	* a) Where the Lobster Fishery is a harvester of an overfished species, contribute to the development of any recovery program for the species and adopt any measures required by a recovery program	1, 2, 4, 6	As required	NSW DPI Lobster fishers	Various

Goal 3. Promote the conservation of threatened species, populations and ecological communities and protected species likely to be impacted by the operation of the Lobster Fishery					
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTES TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	AUTHORITY
3.1 Identify, and minimise or eliminate, any impact of lobster fishing activities on threatened species, populations and ecological communities (including mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, invertebrates and vegetation), and protected species, and where possible promote their recovery	* a) Modify the mandatory reporting arrangements, in consultation with the Lobster MAC, to enable the collection of information on interactions with or sightings of threatened or protected marine species and interactions with other threatened or protected species	3, 7	Short term	NSW DPI Lobster MAC	Policy and/or Regulatory
	b) Implement, in consultation with the Lobster MAC, the provisions of any relevant threatened species recovery plan, threat abatement plan or other similar management arrangements designed to protect critical habitat areas	3, 6	As required	NSW DPI Lobster MAC	Various
	* c) Using the code of practice, promote the use of fishing techniques that avoid the capture of, or interaction with, threatened species, protected species and fish protected from commercial fishing	3, 4	Short term and then ongoing	NSW DPI Lobster fishers	Voluntary

Goal 4. Appropriately share the resource and carry out fishing in a manner that minimises negative social impacts					
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTES TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	AUTHORITY
4.1 Provide an appropriate allocation of the rock lobster resource between harvesting sectors, acknowledging the need of seafood consumers to access fresh quality product	* a) Refine estimates of total catches of eastern rock lobster, taking into account commercial catch and estimates of recreational, Indigenous and illegal catches, for use in stock assessment models and reports to the TAC Committee	2, 4, 5, 7	Medium term and then ongoing	NSW DPI	-
4.2 Provide for fair and equitable sharing of the eastern rock lobster resource within the Lobster Fishery	a) Limit the maximum shareholding in the fishery to 350 shares	4	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	* b) Provide for the transmission of a shareholding to more than one person	4, 6	Short term	NSW DPI	Regulatory

Goal 4. (cont.) Appropriately share the resource and carry out fishing in a manner that minimises negative social impacts					
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTES TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	AUTHORITY
4.3 Provide for fair and equitable management of the interactions between the Lobster Fishery and other commercial fisheries (NSW, interstate and Commonwealth)	a) Use cross-fishery consultation to discuss and manage issues relating to, but not limited to, the multiple use of specific fishing grounds, collaborative research, fair and equitable access to stocks, complementary management arrangements and other interactions between fishing sectors	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI	-
	* b) Require the use of fish escape panels in lobster traps if it becomes evident that lobster traps are being used to target finfish	1, 4, 6	As required	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	c) NSW Fisheries will work cooperatively with staff from other jurisdictions (e.g. Commonwealth, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland) regarding management, research and compliance arrangements for rock lobster species	2, 4, 5, 6, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI	-
4.4 Identify and mitigate negative impacts of the Lobster Fishery on Aboriginal or other cultural heritage	a) Manage the Lobster Fishery in a manner consistent with the Indigenous Fisheries Strategy and Implementation Plan	4	As required	NSW DPI	Various
	b) Modify the activity, where relevant, in response to new information about areas or objects of cultural significance in order to minimise the risk from lobster fishing activities	4	As required	NSW DPI Lobster MAC Lobster fishers	Various
4.5 Promote harmony between the commercial fishery and other resource users, including recreational fishers, Indigenous fishers and local communities, through fair and equitable sharing of the resource	a) In consultation with the Lobster MAC, identify areas of high interaction between the Lobster Fishery and other resource users and respond appropriately to resolve any conflicts	4, 6	As required	NSW DPI Lobster MAC Lobster Fishers	Various

Goal 5. Promote a viable commercial fishery, consistent with ecological sustainability					
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTES TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	AUTHORITY
5.1 Promote the long term economic viability of lobster fishing and assess the economic benefits of the fishery to the community	* a) Investigate the application of minimum shareholding requirements for all shareholders to be eligible for an endorsement, in order to promote positive returns at the fishery level, and implement the outcome of the investigation	2, 5, 6	Medium term	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	b) Limit the quantity of quota that shareholders can acquire through quota transfer during each fishing period	4, 5, 6	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	c) Allow for the storage of live eastern rock lobsters	4, 5	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	d) Identify and promote post-harvest practices that ensure the best return in dollars per kilogram for product of the fishery, within the context of the fishing regulatory controls that apply to harvesting	5	Ongoing	NSW DPI Lobster fishers	-
	* e) Refine the performance indicator for monitoring trends in the commercial viability of typical fishing businesses within each designated commercial fishing activity, so as to be based on net returns	5, 6, 7	Medium term	NSW DPI	-
	* f) Investigate the data available to assess the economic multiplier (flow-on) effects of the Lobster Fishery to the broader community, and develop strategies to improve the quality/usefulness of such data	4, 5, 7	Medium term	NSW DPI	-
	g) Collect information to detect patterns in the quantity and price of share transfers and the quantity of quota traded, and investigate the feasibility of collecting data on the price of quota traded	4, 5, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI Lobster MAC	-
5.2 Maximise the efficiency of trading quota	* a) Investigate the feasibility of implementing an exchange accessible by all lobster shareholders transferring quota and implement the outcomes of the investigation	4, 5, 6	Ongoing	NSW DPI	-
5.3 Appropriately manage food safety risks in the harvesting of fish in the fishery	a) Co-operate with NSW Food Authority in the development and implementation of food safety programs relevant to the fishery	5, 6	Ongoing	Lobster fishers	FP Act

Goal 6. Facilitate effective and efficient compliance, research and management of the Lobster Fishery					
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTES TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	AUTHORITY
6.1 Ensure a transparent and focused approach to compliance, research and management of the Lobster Fishery	a) Utilise and review, in consultation with the Lobster MAC and key stakeholders, the compliance strategic plan and update where appropriate	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Policy
	b) Utilise and review, in consultation with the Lobster MAC and key stakeholders, the research strategic plan and update where appropriate	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Policy
6.2 Maximise compliance in the Lobster Fishery	* a) Utilise, review and amend (where appropriate) the share forfeiture scheme based on demerit points, following the implementation of an endorsement suspension/share forfeiture scheme in other NSW share management fisheries	2, 5, 6	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	b) Require all eastern rock lobsters taken in the Lobster Fishery to have an approved tag attached	2, 6	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	* c) Investigate the feasibility, and implement the outcome, of introducing a requirement that lobster fishers include tag numbers of marketed lobsters on prescribed records to enable effective auditing	2, 5, 6	Short term	NSW DPI	To be determined
	* d) Introduce a requirement that the marking required on each lobster trap to indicate the position of the trap must include (in clearly legible figures which are no less than 50 mm in height): (i) the fishing business (FB) number of the fishing business with which the traps are associated, and (ii) the letter "L" (for lobster trap)	2, 6	Long term	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	* e) Develop strategies to support appropriate practices and behaviour in commercial fisheries, including development of training and accreditation courses in core competencies and the introduction of fit and proper person requirements	All	Long term	NSW DPI Lobster MAC	Various
6.3 Provide effective and efficient communication and consultation mechanisms for the Lobster Fishery	a) Utilise key consultative bodies, such as the Lobster Management Advisory Committee (MAC), when undertaking industry consultation on all aspects of the Lobster Fishery	2, 5, 6	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Policy and/or Regulatory
6.4 Implement this Strategy in a manner consistent with related Commonwealth and State endorsed programs aimed at protecting aquatic environments, and achieving the objectives of ecologically sustainable development	a) Manage the Lobster Fishery consistently with other jurisdictional or natural resource management requirements, such as the marine parks program, aquatic biodiversity strategy, threatened species program, Indigenous Fisheries Strategy and other relevant strategies	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Various
	b) Provide for the issue of permits under section 37 of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> authorising modified fishing practices to assist research programs or for purposes consistent with the vision and goals of this management strategy	All	Ongoing	NSW DPI	FM Act

Goal 7. Improve knowledge of the Lobster Fishery and the resources upon which the fishery relies					
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTES TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY	AUTHORITY
7.1 Improve the community's understanding of commercial lobster fishing	a) Contribute to the ongoing education of shareholders through advisory programs and port meetings	All	As required	NSW DPI	-
	b) Promote awareness of the Lobster Fishery as part of the overall communication strategy across all commercial designated fishing activities by implementing issue-focussed education programs	4, 6, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI Lobster MAC	-
7.2 Promote scientific research and monitoring to gain knowledge of eastern rock lobster, byproduct and bycatch species and the impacts of fishing on other species and the environment, and the status of the fishery as a whole, including economic and social factors	a) Undertake research programs in accordance with the research strategic plan for the Lobster Fishery	All	Ongoing	NSW DPI	-
	* b) Develop a strategy, in consultation with the Lobster MAC, for improving the understanding of economic and social information relating to the Lobster Fishery, taking into account the information gaps outlined in the economic and social assessment in the Environmental Impact Statement for the fishery	4, 5, 7	Medium term	NSW DPI	-
7.3 Maintain and improve the quality of the catch and effort information collected from endorsement holders	a) Continue the requirement that every commercial fisher endorsed in the Lobster Fishery must make a record of all rock lobsters he or she has taken each day (i.e. daily log books) and each month (i.e. monthly reconciliation forms) and send a copy to the Director- General, NSW Fisheries within seven days following the end of the day fished and within seven days after the end of the month (respectively)	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI	Regulatory
	b) Periodically review, in consultation with the Lobster MAC, the mandatory catch and effort return forms submitted by lobster fishers and implement changes if the data collected is perceived to be of poor quality or insufficient for monitoring and assessment purposes	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI Lobster MAC	-
	* c) Assess the accuracy of species identification recorded in catch records and provide advice to industry to make needed changes	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	Medium term	NSW DPI Lobster MAC	-