

## REGARDING THE RECREATIONAL SEASON LENGTH FOR WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER

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For the recreational fishery, the calculations leading to the new OMP were based on the allocations of 257 tons for each of the 2007/08 to 2009/10 seasons. The associated recreational season lengths were 79-81 days, corresponding to an average catch per day of 3.21 MT. If this 257 ton allocation is changed, a compensatory change in season length is required.

Table 1 shows recreational allocations and season length for the last five seasons. It is clear that the season lengths for the 2010/2011 and 2011/12 seasons were not sufficiently reduced to effect the intended reduced allocations to the recreational sector from the global TAC compared to the preceding years.

Note that unless updated evaluations indicate otherwise, the season length for the 2012/13 and following seasons should be **57** days.

Table 1: Recreational allocations and season-lengths for west coast rock lobster over recent years. The “correct” season length corresponds to the 3.21 MT/day catch rate upon which OMP calculations have been based.

Season	Allocation (MT)	Actual Season length * (days)	Allocation/day	Correct season-length
2007/08	257	80	3.21	80
2008/09	257	79	3.25	80
2009/10	257	81	3.17	80
2010/11	107	41	2.61	33
2011/12	183	67	2.73	57

\*D van Zyl, pers. comm.