



Amateur rock lobster holding pot requirements in the Fiordland Marine Area

In September 2009, the Minister of Fisheries approved the separate possession and use of rock lobster holding pots by amateur rock lobster fishers in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area only. Rock lobster holding pots are pots used, or capable of being used, for holding or storing rock lobster – but are not capable of catching rock lobsters.

Why Can Amateur Rock Lobster Holding Pots be used in the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Area Only?

The Fiordland Marine Area is a remote location and amateur fishing trips frequently span multiple days. Because of this, Fiordland is one of the only areas where amateur fishers use pots to store lobsters live and where a legitimate need for amateur rock lobster holding pots has been recognised.

Previously amateur fishers used regular rock lobster fishing pots to hold their lobsters, but this was not desirable as the lobsters in the pots were vulnerable to predators, which could enter the pot through the escape gaps.

Compliance and enforcement issues that can arise from the use of holding pots are mitigated in the Fiordland Marine Area because of lower bag limits and rules that constrain the accumulation of rock lobsters over time.

When do the new reporting requirements take effect?

The new rock lobster holding pot requirements take effect from 1 October 2009.

What do I need to do?

Read and follow the rock lobster holding pot requirements in this notice.

If you need more help, ring or visit your nearest Ministry of Fisheries office and ask to speak to a Fishery Officer.



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These instructions explain and elaborate on the use of rock lobster holding pots in the Fiordland Marine Area. Please refer to the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986 and the Fisheries (Southland and Sub-Antarctic Areas Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1991 for all of your amateur rock lobster fishing requirements or contact your nearest Ministry of Fisheries office for more information.

Amateur Rock Lobster Holding Pot – Definition and Limit

A rock lobster holding pot means a pot or cage that is used, or is capable of being used, for holding or store rock lobster, but excludes any pot or cage that is capable of catching rock lobster.

A person in charge of a vessel within the Fiordland Marine Area must ensure that:

- if there are more than 2 people on a vessel on any day, no more than 2 rock lobster holding pots can be possessed, or used, on or from that vessel on that day;
- If there is only 1 person on the vessel on any day, no more than 1 rock lobster holding pot can be possessed, or used, on or from that vessel on that day.
- No individual may possess or use more than 1 rock lobster holding pot within the Fiordland Marine Area.

Amateur Rock Lobster Holding Pot Labelling Requirements

No person may use, set, possess or have on board any vessel or vehicle any rock lobster holding pot in the Fiordland Marine Area unless the rock lobster holding pot meets the following requirements:

1. If a rock lobster holding pot is being used from or transported on a vessel, the rock lobster holding pot and the buoy or float attached to the rock lobster holding pot (or float line) must be clearly and permanently marked with:
 - the name of the vessel from which it is used or transported, and
 - the characters HP1 for the first rock lobster holding pot and, if applicable, HP2 for the second rock lobster holding pot.
2. If a rock lobster holding pot is not used from or transported on a vessel, the rock lobster holding pot and the buoy or float attached to the rock lobster holding pot (or float line) should be clearly and permanently marked with:
 - the person's surname and initials, and
 - the letters **HP**.

