



Recreational use of hand-operated lassoes for harvesting rock lobsters in all New Zealand waters

This leaflet does not cover all of the rules for recreational rock lobster fishing. It explains and elaborates on the new rule allowing the use of hand-operated lassoes for harvesting rock lobster (crayfish) in all New Zealand waters.

What is a hand-operated lasso?

A hand-operated lasso (also known as a “cray loop”) is defined as a snare, lasso, or noose attached to a length of tubing that is used to take rock lobster by placing it over the lobster and drawing it tight.

Where and when can I use a hand-operated lasso?

Recreational fishers can use a hand-operated lasso to harvest rock lobster in all New Zealand waters from 1 October 2009.

Why can I now use a hand-operated lasso?

The New Zealand Recreational Fishing Council along with the National Rock Lobster Management Group supported the change to regulations to allow the use of hand-operated lassoes.

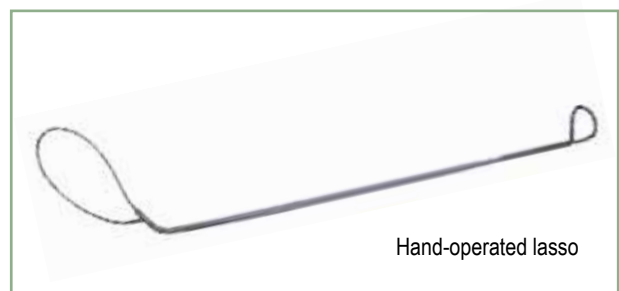
Current research suggests properly used lassoes cause fewer injuries to lobsters than hand gathering, which is an already permitted method.

Are there any constraints on the type of lasso I can use?

Yes — you cannot use a lasso that is:

- spring-loaded — this is defined as a loop that is drawn by tight springs or any other trigger mechanism, or
- constructed in a way that, if used, is likely to puncture, penetrate, cut or otherwise damage the tail or body of a rock lobster.

Additionally, you must not possess a rock lobster while in possession of one of these prohibited lassoes.



Require further information?

Please refer to the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986, specific area amateur fishing regulations or visit the Ministry of Fisheries website at www.fish.govt.nz for further rules governing the recreational catch of rock lobster.

Alternatively, ring or visit your nearest Ministry of Fisheries office and ask to speak to a Fishery Officer.

