

## BAIT AND BERLEY

Please note: It is an offence to release live bait in a water other than where it was initially caught. The use of live bait in waters other than where they were collected can lead to the accidental release of undesirable fish species and/or the spread of disease.

### Berley

Berley is any plant or animal tissue or extract that is placed in the water for the purpose of attracting fish. Berley must not be used to attract fish for any purposes other than as part of a fishing operation. You must not use more than 10 litres of berley to assist in the taking of shark.

### Mammal Blood or Offal

The use of mammal blood or offal in Victorian waters to attract any species of fish is prohibited. This does not apply to berley pellets that contain mammal blood or offal.

### Bait Restrictions

**Undersize fish:** You must not use undersize fish as bait in Victorian waters.

**Noxious fish:** You must not use live noxious fish (including carp and goldfish) as bait in Victorian waters.

**Trout and salmon ova:** You must not use trout and/or salmon ova as bait or berley to take any species of fish in Victorian waters.

**Frogs:** Frogs' eggs, tadpoles and frogs – dead or alive – are protected wildlife under the *Wildlife Act 1975* and must not be used as bait in Victorian waters.

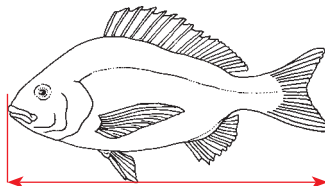
### Protected fish

You must not use as bait, any fish protected under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, unless an authorisation has been made under that Act (see page 30).

## MEASURING YOUR CATCH

### Measuring

The legal size of fish must be checked at the first available opportunity. Undersize fish must be released immediately.

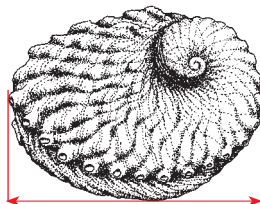


### Scale fish

Measure fish from tip of snout with mouth closed, to tip of tail.

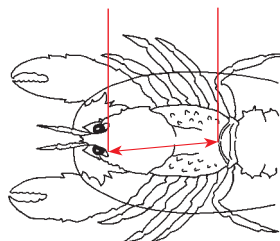
### Abalone

Abalone must be measured prior to removal from its original location. Abalone must be measured at the widest part of the shell, regardless of whether the shell is whole or damaged.



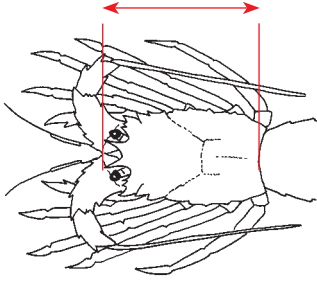
### Spiny freshwater crayfish

Spiny freshwater crayfish are measured from the rear of the eye socket to the nearest part of the rear edge of the carapace (main body shell).



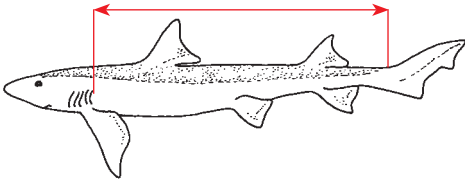
## Rock lobster

Rock lobster is measured from the front edge of the groove between the large antennae to the nearest part of the rear edge of the carapace (main body shell). Divers are required to measure rock lobster underwater prior to bringing them to the surface.



## Shark

Measure shark from the rear most gill slit to the base of the tail fin. Measurement can be made on any side of the body.



## CLEANING/FILLETING YOUR FISH

### Landing in Carcass Form

Catches of certain fish species must be retained either whole or in carcass form until they have been brought ashore. This is to ensure that size and/or catch limits for key species are adhered to. Refer to the particular fish in the section, Limits and Closed Seasons, on pages 32-62.

### Definition of Carcass

**Scale fish:** The body of a fish which is not cut or mutilated in any manner other than to remove the gut, gills or scales.

**Sharks including elephant fish:** The body of a shark or elephant fish which is not cut or mutilated in any manner other than to remove the gut and head forward and clear of the rear-most gill slit.

**Spiny freshwater crayfish:** The body of a crayfish which is not cut in any way other than to remove one or more legs or claws, or is not mutilated in any way other than the absence of one or more legs or claws.

## DEFINITIONS

**Catch limit:** A general term used to describe any limit on catching or possession of fish. Bag limits and possession limits are types of catch limits.

**Bag limit:** The maximum number of a particular type of fish that a person may take on any one day.

**Possession limit:** The maximum number of a particular type of fish that a person may possess at any time while in, on or next to Victorian waters. However, for abalone, a person must not possess more than one day's catch anywhere in Victoria.

**Scale fish:** Species of fish with fins other than sharks, skates and rays.

**Seasons:** A 'closed season' for a particular species is a period during which you must not take, attempt to take or possess that species. Species for which there is a closed season may be fished only during their open season. Fish caught accidentally during the closed season must be released immediately with as little harm as possible.

**Lake and river boundaries:** For the purposes of regulations, the boundary between a lake and a river is the point at which the flowing water of the river meets the backed-up waters of the lake, regardless of the water level of the lake.

**Inland waters and marine waters:** For a definition, please refer to the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

**Keeper hook:** An assembly of two hooks arranged to secure one bait in one position at the end of a line. The assembly has one hook attached to the end of the line and one hook capable of sliding down the same line and touching the attached hook when unbaited.

**Bait jig:** Up to 6 unbaited lures with hooks less than 2cm in length, attached to a line with a total rig length of up to 3m.

## RESPONSIBLE FISHING BEHAVIOURS

### Handling Fish

Treating fish humanely, maintaining table fish quality and avoiding waste means:

- using only tackle that is appropriate for the size and type of fish;
- attending gear to ensure that fish are retrieved as soon as they are caught;
- dispatching fish immediately, and;
- icing fish and storing them away from sunlight, preferably in a moist bag or cooler.

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### Handling Fish to be Released

You are obliged to immediately return to the water any fish that you do not intend to keep. Unwanted fish must be returned to the water with the least possible injury or damage. This does not apply to:

- fish declared to be noxious, and
- live bait fish.

While toadfish, rays and native seastars are not desired species to keep, they must be returned to the water unharmed. The fish's body has a slimy protective coating, which can be damaged by excessive handling. Incorrect handling damages fish and reduces their chances of survival after release.

### Hook Removal

If a fish is to be released, if possible, the hook should be removed while the fish is still in the water. Removal of the hook is a matter of judgement in relation to the potential damage that may be caused to the fish:

- if the fish is hooked in the jaw or mouth, remove the hook as cleanly as possible using a hook remover or long-nosed pliers;

- if the fish is hooked deeper in the mouth or in the stomach through having swallowed the bait, do not try to pull or twist the hook out. Leave the hook where it is and cut the line near the hook.

### Reducing Damage to Fish

If the fish that is to be released must be handled out of water, reduce damage to the fish by:

- using a net without knotted mesh;
- retrieving fish as quickly as possible;
- using wet hands or a wet cloth, and a minimum of handling to ensure that released fish have a good chance of survival;
- wetting any surface on which you place the fish, and avoiding hot dry surfaces, and;
- prior to release, hold the fish gently and move it forward to force water through its gills until it has revived and is able to swim normally.

### Marking and Stocking Fish

You must not tag, brand, mark, fin-clip (other than as required by the fishing regulations) or stock any fish in Victorian waters without prior written permission from the Department of Primary Industries.

### Tagged Fish

Research agencies and recreational fishers tag and release fish to learn more about their growth and movement. If you catch a tagged fish, record the date and location of the capture, the fish's fork length and the tag number.

If you intend to keep the fish then retain the tag, some scales and, if possible, freeze the fish frame. If the tag does not display a phone number, report your capture on 1800 652 598 or VICTAG on 1800 677 620.

