

## **PROPOSAL FOR CONVERSION OF INTENDED WCRL RECREATIONAL TAC INTO EFFORT AND RELATED LIMITATIONS**

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At present the intended TAC for WCRL for recreationals is translated into a “days of allowed fishing” allocation on a linear proportionality basis. Thus the current recreational TAC of 69.2 tons converts to an allowed fishing day allocation of 21 days in terms of the agreed formula.

However, in comparing such predicted recreational catches with estimates from the telephone surveys, analyses in Johnston and Butterworth (2016, see Figure 1 thereof) show that the recent reduction in this fishing day allocation has not achieved the desired extent of catch reduction. Recent intended catches of 69.2 tons were in fact 92 tons, some 33% higher than intended.

In recommending limitations on recreational fishing for the 2016/17 season, it would thus seem that stronger restrictions than the linear proportional reduction of days fishing allowed to TAC reduction need to be recommended. To compensate for the factors which led to the overshoot of 33% of the recreational TAC that occurred recently, it is suggested that either:

- a) the fishing days allowed be reduced by a further 25%; or
- b) the daily bag limit be reduced from 4 to 3 lobster.

For example then, if the recommendation for next season is a reduction of 1/3 in the global TAC, then under the existing rule the days fishing allowed by recreationals would be reduced from 21 to 14 days; the further options put forward here would then see either a further reduction to 11 days, or a concomitant drop in the daily bag limit from 4 to 3.

### **Reference**

Johnston, S.J and Butterworth. D.S. 2016. Update on analyses of west coast rock lobster recreational telephone survey data to include the 2015 season. DAFF document, FISHERIES/2016/MAY/SWG/WCRL/12.