

Interim Relief for west coast rock lobster fishers

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For the 2008/09 season:

- The OMP allocated 257 MT to the recreational sector.
- We assume that only 171 MT would be taken by the recreational sector (i.e. the recreational telephonic survey estimate for 2007/08 applies to 2008/09 as well as the recreational regulations are unchanged).
- The uncaught recreational catch would thus be 86 MT.
- Assuming a season of 15 Nov 2008 -15 April 2009 (108 weekdays days), the number of interim fishers to be 1000, the average weight of lobster caught by interim relief fishers to be 0.402 kg (Keulder and van Zyl 2008), and a total of four lobsters per day to be caught, then the estimated interim relief catch for the 2008/09 season will be 174 MT
- If interim relief fishers catch 174 MT during the 2008/09 season – this is **88 MT** (174 MT-86 MT) **more** than the OMP global quota had allocated to the fishery as a whole for the 2008/09 season.
- The OMP recommendation of 2340 MT for 2008/09 is a 9% reduction from the 2007/08 season. If the interim relief catch of 88 MT is taken during the 2008/09 season, this will mean a total catch of 2428 MT which will be only a 6% reduction from the 2007/08 global TAC.

Reference

Keulder, F. and D. van Zyl. 2008. Interim relief report west coast rock lobster 2007/08. MCM document, MCM/2008/JUN/SWG-WCRL/03. 7pp.