

TACC Setting Process 2026

Overview

Each year, the Minister for Fisheries determines the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery (WCRLMF). In making this determination, the Minister may use his/her full discretion but takes advice from two primary sources – the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the industry peak body for the WCRLMF, the Western Rock Lobster Council (WRLC).

WRLC adheres to the process outlined below to determine the TACC for the forthcoming season. This process must be completed by mid-March each year to allow the Minister a minimum of six weeks for consideration and approval. DPIRD then requires an additional six weeks to draft the necessary management plan amendments and obtain Ministerial approval for gazettal prior to the commencement of the season.

Stage 1

- 1.1. Before the first TACC meeting, WRL updates the MEY model with the latest stock assessment data from DPIRD and updates the benchmarking data accordingly.
- 1.2. TACC Meeting 1, 18 February 2026 – TACC Committee and the WRL Board
Purpose – Information
Presentations as follows:
 - 1.2.1. DRAFT Global Trade Report
 - 1.2.2. Stock Assessment – DPIRD Simon Delestang
 - 1.2.3. Benchmarking
 - 1.2.4. Starting MEY Model
- 1.3. Processors are provided with all presentation materials and given one week to conduct an internal review, resolve their assumptions regarding the appropriate MEY, and submit their data to WRL together with justification for their proposal.

Stage 2

- 2.1 TACC Meeting 2, 25 February 2026 - TACC Committee and Processors (**NOTE: this could be reduced to a circular motion rather than an in-person meeting**)
Purpose - resolution of the data received from Processors and finalising the Global Trade Report.
- 2.3 WRL receives responses from processors and calculates a consensus MEY model informed by the feedback received.
- 2.4 The consensus MEY model is circulated to processors for consideration.

Stage 3

- 3.1 TACC Meeting 3, 4 March 2026 – Board, TACC Committee and Processors by invitation for a dedicated timeslot.
- 3.2 Each processor is given the opportunity to discuss the consensus MEY model, their proposed TACC, and the justification for both with the Board, in isolation from other processors.
- 3.3 Once the Processors have completed their presentations and withdrawn, the WRL Board will deliberate on the feedback received and determine a suggested TACC for the following season for consideration at the Annual Management Meetings (AMM).
- 3.4 The suggested TACC is included in the DPIRD and WRL presentations at the AMM.

Stage 4

- 4.1 Annual Management Meetings – 9th March Fremantle; 11th March Geraldton – Attendees, Members, Board, DPIRD. These are important forums, providing the opportunity for Managed Fishing License (MFL) holders to consider and discuss market and scientific information relevant to the TACC setting decision in formulating their opinion on the TACC level for the upcoming season and to have input to that decision.
- 4.2 Following comprehensive stock assessment, benchmark and MEY model presentations, members will be asked to provide their opinion on the TACC setting recommendation by way of a vote of MFLs present at the meeting in accordance with 4.3.
- 4.3 The Chair of the AMM will facilitate a vote of MFLs present at the meeting as follows:
 - Members must register and attend the AMM in person or on Teams to receive one voting card for each of their own MFL.
 - Each MFL is entitled to one vote at one AMM.
 - No proxies will be permitted.
 - The voting cards will contain the following options:
 - Agree with the suggested TACC
 - Disagree, the TACC should be higher
 - Disagree, the TACC should be lower
 - Free TEXT BOX – Preferred alternative TACC within the MEY model range
 - WRL process votes after each AMM.

The AMM industry forums are not formal meetings under the WRL Rules of Association and do not bind WRL. MFL holder opinion is an important input to the TACC recommendation decision and will be given due consideration by the WRL Board together with other evidence presented in Stages 1, 2 and 3 when formulating its advice on the TACC to the Minister.

Stage 5

- 5.1 Board Meeting - 12 March 2026 – Attendees, Board
- 5.2 Voting tallies from both AMMs will be presented to the WRL Board for consideration, following which the Board will deliberate and agree on a final TACC recommendation.
- 5.3 Board TACC Recommendation, together with justification to be presented to Minister Jarvis.
- 5.4 Board TACC Recommendation to be shared with Industry shortly after advising the Minister.

Stage 6

- 6.1 The Minister has approximately 6 weeks for consideration and approval once the TACC recommendation has been received.
- 6.2 Following that, DPIRD draft Management Plan amendments and seek Ministerial approval for gazettal, to be completed by May.
- 6.3 DPIRD License renewals are issued.

TACC SETTING PROCESS CHART

