

Estimates of current levels of poaching of immature versus mature lobsters for West Coast Rock Lobster and how this relates to the overall take

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The results reported below are based on the following simplifications and assumptions.

- Whilst there are six different scenarios which the WCRL SWG considers in the simulation of the current level of poaching, the estimates reported here are for the averaged values that result were one to consider all six scenarios and weight them accordingly.
- Results report estimates both by weight and by number.
- Mature lobsters are male lobsters 70mm CL and larger and female lobsters 65mm CL and larger.
- All legal sectors retain only mature lobsters due to the current legal size limits being 70mm (recreational and IR sectors) and 75mm (commercial sectors) – poachers retain everything.

Table 1: 2015 poaching tonnage assumed for each super-area (and the resource as a whole), as well as the estimated weights and numbers of poached lobsters that are either mature or immature. The % immature is also provided. The final row reports estimates for the total take of the resource (legal and illegal).

Super Area	Poached tonnage (MT)	Weight			Numbers		
		Mature	Immature	% Immature	Mature	Immature	% Immature
A12	3.25	3.23	0.023	0.71	6823	203	2.89
A34	8.13	7.58	0.54	6.65	26364	4547	14.71
A56	8.13	7.9	0.22	2.71	22627	1578	6.52
A7	45.5	44.67	0.83	1.82	144106	5871	3.91
A8	720	624	96	13.33	2507669	674577	21.20
Total Poached	785.01	687.38	97.61	12.43	2707589	686776	20.23
Total take ¹ - all catches	2709.09	2611.46	97.61	3.60	8806129	686887	7.23

Conclusion

The total proportion of immature lobsters in the illegal take removed by the poaching sector is 12.4% by weight and 20.2% by number. The total proportion of immature lobsters of the total take removed from the resource as a whole (poached and legal) is 3.6% by weight and 7.2% by number.

¹ Includes commercial, subsistence, recreational and poached lobsters.