

Management implications for movement and migration in a rock lobster fishery

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Abstract

Rock lobsters may migrate significant distances and this phenomenon can create implications for the management of these fisheries. Abundance may be influenced by depth, season, temperature, shelter, food and other environmental factors. Scientific advice on migration, including settlement of juvenile rock lobsters, can be critical for development of sustainable management strategies. Changes in catch rates across fisheries due to annual changes in abundance alter the impact of fishing effort and may lead to localised depletion. Movement and migration of rock lobsters can also have regional economic impacts due to loss of catch or increased fishing costs. Stock assessment advice needs to consider issues related with movement and migration to ensure appropriate management action can be considered.

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