

CALLING ON ALL SPORT DIVERS AND FISHERMEN ON THE KZN COAST

- ASSISTANCE REQUIRED IN ROCK LOBSTER PROJECT -

Researchers at the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) are investigating the movements of the East Coast rock lobster on the KwaZulu-Natal coast. The project involves the tagging of rock lobsters on the Blood Reef system off the Bluff and the re-capture of tagged specimens. Given the popularity of this area for the harvesting of rock lobster, divers and fishermen are encouraged to support this research programme by returning the tags on any legal-sized rock lobsters they harvest.



Rock lobsters have been tagged with a 2mm wide 20mm long yellow plastic spaghetti tag underneath the abdomen. Any persons capturing legal-sized tagged rock lobsters during the open season are encouraged to send the tags to the postal address indicated on the tag. Information on the date of capture, depth, distance from and the position along the shore will also be very valuable.

The results of the study will help researchers to monitor rock lobster movements and determine the size of the rock lobster population on Blood Reef. This will provide essential information for the management and conservation of the rock lobster resource along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline. As the success of this project is largely dependant on public participation, your help in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

The public are kindly requested to send their rock lobster tags and the relevant details to: ORI, P O Box 736, Durban 4000. For more information on the project, please contact Erika at (031) 328 8222 / 328 8160 or erika@ori.org.za.

