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Sensational seafood a succulent centerpiece for Margaret River Gourmet Escape

The Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) has joined the Margaret River Gourmet Escape to help showcase sensational seafood from some of the world's most sustainable fisheries.

WAFIC Chair Arno Verboon said products from WA's Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified fisheries would supply a seafood extravaganza set to capture the imagination of international chefs.

"Feasting on our vast coastline's bountiful seafood harvest is always a joy," Mr Verboon said.

"It's WAFIC's mission to ensure that seafood consumers are supremely confident that it also sustainably harvested."

To help realise this vision, WAFIC has partnered with the State Government in a \$14.5million plan to have every commercial fishery in the State achieve independent MSC certification.

Mr Verboon said it is WAFIC's goal to see a wide range of WA's magnificent seafood harvest carrying the MSC's blue tick eco-label.

"We can think of no better place that the Margaret River Gourmet Escape to showcase our fisheries in the MSC program," Mr Verboon said.

"Here, we can share with chefs and seafood lovers our vision to have every WA fishery independently assessed against the rigorous MSC environmentally sustainable fishing standard."

Rick Stein's dinner at the Jetty will include WA's delicious Western Rock Lobster, supplied by fishermen from Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative. WA's lobster fishery was the first in the world to become MSC certified, and this year celebrates 15 years of continuous MSC certification.

There will also be MSC-certified Austral Fisheries' Glacier 51 Toothfish, which is caught in the icy waters off the storm-tossed Southern Ocean around Heard Island in Australia's sub-Antarctic region.

Western Australia's commercial fishing, pearling and aquaculture sectors generate about \$400million in exports each year, contribute close to \$1billion to the State's economy and directly and indirectly employ close to 10,000 workers.

WAFIC is the peak industry body representing the commercial fishing, pearling and aquaculture sectors and works closely with the State Government to ensure the long-term sustainability of WA's fisheries and pristine marine environment.

For more information on WA's vibrant commercial fishing industry and the seafood it supplies to the community www.wafic.org.au And for information on WA's MSC seafood future visit www.wamsc.com.au

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Media contact:

John Duffy
Mobile: 0417 932 985
Email: cpo@wafic.org

