



Hon Joe Francis MLA
Minister for Fisheries

24/6/16

MEDIA STATEMENT

‘Eco-tick’ for Mandurah’s crab fishery

- **Peel-Harvey’s blue swimmer crab fishery recognised as ecologically sustainable**
- **Marine Stewardship Council seal of approval for the fishery’s management**

Fisheries Minister Joe Francis today congratulated the Mandurah Licensed Fisherman’s Association and Recfishwest for their efforts to secure third party sustainability certification for Peel-Harvey Estuary’s blue swimmer crab fishery.

“It’s great to see the commercial and recreational sectors working together. It’s a fantastic achievement for them to be recognised through the highest benchmark for ecologically sustainable fishing - Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification,” Mr Francis said.

“This MSC certification is an ‘eco-tick’ of approval. It confirms Mandurah’s prized blue swimmer crab fishery - which is shared by recreational and commercial fishers - is well managed and sustainable.

“The certification, which was funded as part of a \$14.5 million third party certification program, is another example of the Liberal National Government’s commitment to providing better fishing opportunities to West Australians.

“The joint effort by the commercial and recreational sectors to gain MSC certification is recognition of the sustainability of the fishery and its social and economic importance to people in the Peel region.”

The Minister thanked community members and groups who took part in the MSC’s public consultation process for the blue swimmer crab fishery to ensure a rigorous outcome that took account of important environmental considerations.

“Recreational and commercial fishers and other stakeholders all need the confidence that sustainability provides,” he said.

Mr Francis said Peel-Harvey Estuary’s sea mullet fishery had also been awarded an ‘eco-tick’ - the first finfish fishery in WA to receive MSC certification.

A number of other WA commercial fisheries are currently undergoing full assessment.

“This trend for independent third party certification is continuing to strengthen around the world, so it is vital we seek certification for the State’s key fisheries,” the Minister said.

Last year, WA’s western rock lobster fishery became the first in the world to be recognised internationally for 15 years of continuous MSC certification.

Fact File

- **The State Government has invested \$14.5 million on ‘eco-ticks’ for WA fisheries**
- **Independent third party certification provides a vital edge in modern fisheries**
- **For more information, visit <http://www.wamsc.com.au>**

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