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WA pushes the global envelope in sustainable fisheries management

Western Australia's continues to lead the world in sustainable fisheries management with today's announcement of a world-first collaboration between commercial and recreational fishing sectors to protect seafood stocks.

Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) Chief Executive Officer John Harrison welcomed today's announcement of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for the Peel-Harvey estuarine fishery.

"This is the culmination of more than 15 months of intensive assessment by an independent third-party into the sustainability of the Peel-Harvey Blue Swimmer Crab fishery – a joint recreational and commercial resource – and also the commercial sea mullet fishery," Mr Harrison said.

City of Mandurah Mayor Marina Vergone said gaining MSC certification was a wonderful achievement and she congratulated everyone who worked so hard to bring about the result.

"This achievement has put Mandurah under a global spotlight as an exemplar of what can be achieved when commercial and recreational fishers join forces to protect the long-term viability of seafood stocks," she said.

"A fishery that is MSC certified has passed the world's most rigorous, scientific standards and this achievement will help ensure sustainable fishing enjoyment for our community for generations to come."

Mr Harrison said that in September 2012 the State Government, in partnership with WAFIC and Recfishwest, announced a \$14.5million MSC initiative designed to help every commercial fishery in WA gain MSC certification.

Since that time WA's Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay Wild prawn fisheries had achieved certification – joining WA's Western Rock Lobster fishery, the world's first to gain MSC certification in 2000, and its Patagonian toothfish fishery which is harvested in the sub-Antarctic waters of the Southern Ocean.

WA's Deep Sea Crab, Pearl and Abalone fisheries are in the process of completing full MSC assessment while the Pilbara Trap and Kimberley Trap will soon begin the full assessment process.

A range of other WA fisheries are expected to undergo the full MSC assessment process in the near future. More information about the MSC initiative can be found at <http://www.wamsc.com.au>

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