



24 June 2016

World First Certification for World Class Fishery

Peel Harvey's iconic Blue Swimmer Crab fishery was today recognised and the world's first internationally certified sustainable recreational and commercial combined fishery.

The certification was awarded to both the Mandurah Licensed Fisherman's Association (MLFA) and WA's recreational fishing peak body Recfishwest, by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), an international non-profit organisation established to safeguard healthy fish stocks - today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

The Peel Harvey Blue Swimmer Crab Fishery is the most popular WA recreational fishery and also provides a livelihood for ten commercial crab licence holders.

Receiving this world first combined certification ensures the sustainability and longevity of this fishery.

Mandurah Licensed Fisherman's Association President Damien Bell and long-time crab fisher said seeing the certification finally come to fruition in line with good science with a sustainability outcome for both sectors is a win - win.

"We have been providing WA with some of the best, most sustainable seafood for many years and we wouldn't be here today if we weren't sustainable in our practices and I'm proud that the fishery has been recognised by an independent third party as sustainable" Mr Bell said.

Recfishwest CEO Dr Andrew Rowland also praised the certification as a win for both sectors and the environment.

"We're thrilled that this is the first recreational fishery in the world to gain recognition through the Marine Stewardship Council certification program," Dr Rowland said.

"Recfishwest entered this process as co-clients because we exist to protect and promote sustainable and enjoyable fishing opportunities for the WA community who like to get out there and catch their own."

"WA families love catching a feed of Mandurah crabs and the MSC certification gives the community reassurance they can continue to do so for years to come at the same time as remaining compatible with the outstanding environmental values of the estuary."

For more on the MSC and other certified fisheries, visit <https://www.msc.org/>

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