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MEDIA STATEMENT

Seal of approval for WA's deep sea crab fishers

- **Special recognition for Western Australia's commercial deep sea crab fishery**
- **Marine Stewardship Council 'eco-tick' for fishery's management**

Fisheries Minister Joe Francis today congratulated the state's commercial deep sea crab fishers for securing sustainability certification for the Australian west coast deep sea crab fishery.

"It's a fantastic achievement to be recognised through the highest benchmark for ecologically sustainable fishing – Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification," Mr Francis said.

The fishery operates from Carnarvon to Bremer Bay and currently has an annual harvest quota of 140 tonnes. Fishing occurs in waters 500-800 metres deep, using pots.

The majority of the catch is sent to Asian markets, with exports to China accounting for about 30 per cent of sales.

Mr Francis said the MSC independent certification would further enhance the deep sea crab fishery's reputation as a quality, sustainable, seafood provider.

"The MSC sustainable fisheries standard is internationally recognised as the most prestigious fisheries environmental accreditation.

"Recreational and commercial fishers and other stakeholders all need the confidence that sustainability provides," the Minister said.

"The MSC 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 Western Australians."

Mr Francis thanked the WA Fishing Industry Council and other stakeholders who took part in the MSC's public consultation process for the deep sea crab fishery. The full assessment took around 18 months.

Fact File

- **In 2013 the beach value of WA's deep sea crab fishery was \$2.3 million**
- **Five Western Australian fisheries are now MSC certified; WA rock lobster, Exmouth Gulf prawn trawl, Shark Bay prawn trawl, Peel Harvey Estuary blue swimmer crab and sea mullet, and Australian west coast deep sea crab**

Media contact: [Rob Broun](#) - 6552 6500 or 0427 237 027

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