



MEDIA RELEASE

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Recfishwest works with State towards a world first for recreational fishing

Western Australia today took its first step towards having the world's first Marine Stewardship's Council (MSC) tick of approval for recreational fishing.

The MSC's science based standard is recognised worldwide as the gold standard in independent, third party certification based on sustainable fish stocks, minimising environmental impact and effective management.

In 2013 the State Government committed \$14.5 million to have all of WA's 47 commercial fisheries independently assessed with the aim of having every Wests Australian fishery meet the MSC standard within the next two decades.

Recfishwest is a key partner in the State Government initiative, which assesses the environmental standard for sustainable fishing.

"Recfishwest supports the independent MSC assessment of WA fisheries against sustainability standards based on target species, ecosystems and management practices, especially as recreational fishers value environmental performance highly," Dr Rowland said.

"In partnership with the Mandurah Licenced Fisherman Association, we are entering the recreational and commercial Mandurah crab fishery for a full MSC assessment.

"If accreditation is achieved, this will be the first recreational fishery worldwide to gain an MSC certification."

"Having the Mandurah crab fishery assessed under this certification, recognises the regional significance of this species, and will improve the stewardship of the estuarine environment on which the stock depends," Dr Rowland said.

"This it is something Recfishwest is proud to stand by and is a great step forward for fishery protection."

Recfishwest advocates for sustainable fishing resources and policies that ensure long term benefits to WA's recreational fishing sector.