



GUIDELINES FOR ACCESSING GOVERNMENT MONIES TO MOVE A FISHERY INTO FULL MARINE STEWARDHSIP COUNCIL (MSC) ASSESSMENT

1. Likelihood of Success - Mandatory

The fishery is highly likely to pass a full assessment with confidence based on either:

- a. The fishery comprises units of certification (UoC)¹ from a recent pre-assessment that was completed with advice that the fishery would likely achieve a score of 60 or more for all 31 performance indicators and a weighted average of equal to or greater than 80 across the performance indicators for each of the 3 principles under full MSC assessment; or
- b. WAFIC and the Department of Fisheries agree that the fished stock has a high likelihood of being healthy, that the fishery is low impact in regard to principle 2 and that a well-defined management system with an explicit harvest strategy and control rules either exists or could be rapidly implemented prior to the period of the full assessment.

2. Fishers Support - Mandatory

The fishery demonstrates significant commitment to proceed such that:

- a. An incorporated Association, which in the opinion of the Director General of Fisheries (on advice from WAFIC) genuinely represents most licensees in a fishery, and formally agrees to the conditions set out in dot point in b below; or
- b. 75% of licensees, and, if unitized, holding 75% of fishing rights, formally agree to:
 - enter full MSC assessment and agree to source funds² for subsequent audits (following the initial audit), and
 - to enter into and fund reassessment if an independent business case (as may be required) and fishery objectives remain consistent with MSC certification; or
- c. In exceptional circumstances if a sizeable majority of licensees (but less than 75% but say greater than 60%) wish to enter full assessment and formally agree to source funds for subsequent audits (following the initial audit), determine agreed funding arrangements and agree to enter into and fund reassessment if the business case (as may be required) and

¹ The unit of certification describes what is being assessed. Usually this comprises: the fishery, the fishing method, gear, geographic area, fish stock, client and, in the case of licensees not part of the client group, list other eligible licensees.

² Given at least 75% support funding for audits following the initial audit can be sourced through a levy on all licensees through the *Fishing Industry Promotion Training and Management Levy Act*. The levy would apply to all licensees in the fishery.



fishery objectives remain consistent with MSC certification, full assessment may³ proceed; or

- d. In the case of a shared or exclusive recreational fishery, Recfishwest has been consulted, agrees, and has advised that the necessary funds should be drawn from the Recreational Fishing Account.

In the case of a, b or c the relevant fishery or organization representing the fishery will appoint the Department of Fisheries as a co-client⁴ for the MSC assessment and initial audit.

3. Department of Fisheries Capacity - Mandatory

The Department has the capacity at that time to support the full assessment for the relevant fishery.

4. High Impact on the WA Community - Priority

- The UoC comprises iconic, high value or high volume fisheries;
- The UoC will be supplied to international or domestic markets that have indicated a preference for third party certified products (existing or future);
- The fishery is of strong community interest; and
- There is strong community support eg. local government, conservation organisations, local recreational fishers and Recfishwest.

As at March 2014

³ The approval for a fishery to access Government funds under these circumstances will be determined on a case by case basis by the Director General of Department of Fisheries following consideration of advice from the Certification Advisory Panel

⁴ Whilst Government funds are being expended on MSC assessments and initial audits the Department of Fisheries will be a co-client of the relevant fisheries. This will be reviewed following the initial audit.