

Ref: 70/14

Dear Licensee

## **MANAGEMENT CHANGES FOR THE 2015 WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER MANAGED FISHERY LICENSING PERIOD**

This letter is to advise you of management changes for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery which will occur during the 2015 licensing period.

### **Changes to Totally Protected Rock Lobster Rules**

In accordance with the Minister's approval, from 15 January 2015, commercial West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence (MFL) holders and those acting for or on their behalf, will be able to retain lobsters which are greater than 76 mm carapace length. Female western rock lobsters which are greater than the current maximum (105 mm carapace length in Zone C and 95 mm carapace length in Zones A and B) will also be able to be retained (note, this change will not apply to recreationally caught western rock lobster).

With regard to setose lobsters, a further trial allowing retention of these lobsters has been endorsed by the Minister. This trial is to occur from **1 July 2015 until 14 November 2015 inclusive**.

### **Pot Usage From 15 January 2015 Until 28 February 2015**

Following advice from the Western Rock Lobster Council, an exemption has been granted with respect to pot usage in order to assist fishers at the start of the season. Under this exemption, the maximum number of pots that may be operated under an MFL between **15 January 2015 and 28 February 2015** is the greater of:

- (a) the number of pots able to be used on 14 January 2015 based on the current entitlement of the MFL at that date: or
- (b) the number of pots able to be used based on the current entitlement of the MFL (i.e. the standard requirement of the *West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Management Plan 2012* (Management Plan)).

As of 1 March 2015, the maximum number of pots being operated under an MFL must not exceed the number permitted in accordance with the Management Plan.

Should you require any further information regarding the matters discussed in this letter, please contact me on 9482 7338 or e-mail [joanne.kennedy@fish.wa.gov.au](mailto:joanne.kennedy@fish.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Jo Kennedy  
**MANAGER WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER**

9 January 2015