



Sustainability certification

Building on our strong record in fisheries management

Western Australia (WA) is one of few jurisdictions in the world with a comprehensive ecosystem-based plan for managing fish stocks. Our Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) framework considers the risk of fishing activities on target species as well as other components of the aquatic environment, and the interactions between these.

This is key to ensuring that our aquatic systems stay in good balance and will be able to provide food, economic, social and community benefits for generations to come.

WA's preferred sustainable fisheries standards

WA's State Government works with the commercial and recreational fishing sectors to enhance the standing of WA's fisheries and aquaculture operations through independent third-party sustainability certification.

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) issue two of the highest sustainability standards in the world. These programs provide the WA community with confidence that our fisheries and aquaculture operations are sustainably managed and local seafood available for purchase is sustainably sourced.

As of 2022, there have been 12 WA fisheries certified as sustainable by the MSC. These include WA's western rock lobster, Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay prawns, Peel-Harvey Estuary blue swimmer crabs (commercial and recreational sectors), sea mullet, deep sea crabs, abalone, pearl oyster, octopus, sea cucumber and Abrolhos Island saucer scallops.

WA has the highest number of MSC certified fisheries in Australia, which have achieved many national and international certification 'firsts', including:

Western rock lobster was the first MSC certified fishery in the world (recertified three times since), and Abrolhos Island saucer scallop was the first MSC certified scallop fishery in Australia. Exmouth Gulf prawn and Shark Bay prawn were the first trawl fisheries to be recertified in 2020 under the new, more rigorous MSC standards. The Peel Harvey blue swimmer crab, the world's first combined recreational and commercial fishery to be certified, and West Coast deep sea crab have since been recertified under these new standards. To find out more visit: [msc.org/en-au/](https://www.msc.org/en-au/)

In the aquaculture sector, two of the State's abalone aquaculture enterprises have been pre-assessed against the ASC standard, with one of these abalone operations now certified as a 'hatch and catch fishery'. Other aquaculture industries have also expressed interest in certification. To find out more visit: [asc-aqua.org](https://www.asc-aqua.org)

Certification program partners

The WA third-party certification program is supported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, in partnership with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and Recfishwest.



Western Australia's certification future

Western Australia's key fisheries involved in the MSC sustainability certification program:



South Coast

Certified



Abalone
(Brownlip abalone,
Greenlip abalone and
Roe's abalone) - 2017



Western Rock Octopus
- 2019



Augusta abalone (hatch
and catch)



North Coast

Certified



WA Pearl Oyster - 2017



WA Sea Cucumber
(Pilbara sandfish and
deep-water redfish)
- 2019



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West Coast

Certified



Western Rock Lobster
- 2000, 2006, 2012, 2017



West Coast Deep Sea
Crab (Crystal Crab)
- 2016, 2021



Peel-Harvey Estuary
(Flathead grey mullet and
blue swimmer crab)
- 2016, 2021



Western Rock Octopus
- 2019



WA Abalone
(Brownlip abalone,
Greenlip abalone and
Roe's abalone) - 2017



Abrolhos Islands Saucer
Scallops - 2021



Gascoyne Coast

Certified



Shark Bay Prawn
(Brown Tiger and
Western King)
- 2015, 2020



Exmouth Gulf Prawn
(Brown Tiger, Western
King and Blue
Endeavour)
- 2015, 2020



West Coast Deep Sea
Crab (Crystal Crab)
- 2016, 2021

Important disclaimer

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