

**Western Australian Rock  
Lobster  
Fishers' Federation Inc**

**Zone C**

**Fishermens' Observations**

**2008/09 WCRL Season**

**July 2009**

FOR FISHERMEN..

SEEING IS BELIEVING....

Jurien  
Two Rocks  
Garden Island  
South of Mandurah



“My fishing experience ranges over the last 44 years, and from late February to June 1 I fish the Bouvard Reefs, 16 mile south of Mandurah in depths from 3 to 12 fathoms. Over the last two years the small crayfish have increased considerably, especially the size ranging from 3 inches to 7 inches in overall length. The next 3-4 years, in my experience look very favourable” Barry Watkins *Ty-Winds*

## **2007/2008 C Zone Effort Settings**

82% Pot Usage

210 Available Fish Days

77mm Until January 31st

## **2008/2009 Effort Settings**

74% → 62% → 50% Pot Usage

156 Available Fish Days (1/3/2 days off)

77mm Entire Season

## **2009/2010 (Proposed) Effort Settings**

42% Pot Usage

117 Available Fish Days (4/3 days off)

77mm Entire Season

## **2010/2011 Effort Settings ????????????**

**\*\* Since the 2007/08 Season \*\***

Loss of 93 Available Fish Days

Loss of 48% of Pot Usage

# THE SOCIAL STORY

“Rock Lobster fishing has been responsible for the establishment of, and is a critical element in the economic survival of many towns along WA’s coast from Mandurah to Kalbarri” (DOF 2005)

## Boat Numbers

1989/90	704
1993/94	639
2006/07	495
2008/09	396
2009/10	316?

Since 1989/90 we have lost **55%** of the fleet

*“A Social Assessment of Coastal Communities Hosting The Western Rock Lobster Fishing Fleet”* By Veronica Huddleston 2006

## Persons Engaged In The Fishery

1989/00	1819
2004/05	1496
2006/07	1360
2009/10	????

How many more BOATS, PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, TOWNS, SUPPORT INDUSTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE, CULTURAL IDENTITY, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, VOLUNTEER WORKERS, SCHOOLS will we lose???

## THE ECONOMIC STORY

### Pot Licence Fees

1993/94	\$34.00/pot
2001/02	\$138.00/pot
2008/09	\$147.00/pot

**432%** Increase in License Fees in 15 years

### Fuel Prices

1993/94	Fuel Index (ABS) 112.00	(67.5c/L)
2007/08	Fuel Index (ABS) 218.1	(126.4c/L)

**227%** Increase in Fuel Prices in 15 years

Season	Actual Beach Price	CPI Index
1990/91	\$20.00	107.6
2007/08	\$24.00	166.0

**54%** Increase in CPI since 1990/91

BUT only a 20% Increase in Beach Price

Compared to 1990/91 Beach Prices, If industry beach price has increased with CPI, we would need to achieve **\$30.80/kg** last season to be on par with CPI increase