



Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC)

Dear Stakeholder

FUTURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY

The Minister for Fisheries has commenced a process of considering possible long-term management options for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery. As a part of this process, the following papers relating to quota management and industry profitability were released on the Department of Fisheries website for industry consideration in February 2009.

- *'Proposed Quota Settings for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery'* by the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) Quota Management Working Group (Fisheries Occasional Publication No 61).
- *'Review of the Draft Paper: Proposed Quota Settings for the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery'* by Dr Gary Morgan (Fisheries Occasional Publication No 59).
- *'An Analysis of Maximum Economic Yield in the Western Rock Lobster Fishery'* by Dr Chris Reid (Fisheries Occasional Publication No 60).

The Minister for Fisheries has subsequently requested advice from the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) on the best Quota Management System for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery by June 2009.

To assist the RLIAC in preparing its final advice to the Minister, the committee commissioned a panel of independent fisheries management experts to develop an optimised Quota Management System for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery.

The panel was comprised of:

Dr. Gary Morgan
Dr. Caleb Gardner
Mr. Roger Edwards, and
Mr. Ian Cartwright

The Panel was convened in Perth on the 26 February for a 1-day workshop to consider the development of a Quota Management System (QMS). Following the workshop the panel submitted its report and covering letter to the RLIAC on 9 March.

The RLIAC reviewed this report and sought clarification from the panel regarding some issues. Furthermore the RLIAC requested that the Panel prepare a comparative paper on an optimised Input Control Management System (ICMS) so that a rational comparison could be made between the two types of management frameworks.

As a result the Panel reconvened on 20 and 21 May 2009 for a 2-day workshop. The second day of the workshop provided a forum for the RLIAC to meet with the Panel to discuss various issues and to provide some operational perspective regarding the nature of the fishery.

The RLIAC also requested advice from the Panel on what administrative and other pre-requisites would be necessary to implement either a QMS or an improved ICMS.

The Panel submitted its report on an optimised ICMS and covering letter to the RLIAC on the 4 June 2009.

In the interests of keeping industry and the community informed on all developments relating to future management options for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery, the RLIAC has taken the view that the Expert Panel's documents should be released for industry discussion.

These documents are now available on the Department of Fisheries website at: <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/op/index.php?0706>

- *A Quota Management System for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery* - An independent report commissioned by the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) (Fisheries Occasional Publication No 68), and
- *An Input Control Management System for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery* - An independent report commissioned by the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) (Fisheries Occasional Publication No 69).

It should be noted the Panel was requested to provide advice on optimised management systems that will endeavour to meet the defined Management Principles and Objectives for the fishery for the medium to longer term. Both optimised systems involve significant change from our existing input control system of management and there are many common elements within the two proposed systems.

The RLIAC invites you to review the abovementioned documents as provided by the Panel and in particular to consider these papers as important background information on possible management options for the fishery in the medium to longer term.

It is envisaged that these reports will form the basis of industry discussion on long-term future management options for the fishery at the Western Rock Lobster Council's (WRLC) Rock Lobster Industry Congress on 24 and 25 July 2009. The industry's views on possible long-term management options will then be provided to the Minister through the WRLC following the Congress.

Should a decision be made to introduce a new management framework for the fishery, the RLIAC's view is that it would take at least two years to implement. In the interim, the Western Rock Lobster Fishery should continue to be managed under the existing input control management system.



**Dr Ron Edwards
CHAIRPERSON
ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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