

Government and industry agree to significantly increase local lobster supply

Friday, 8 February 2019



Hon Dave Kelly BA MLA
Minister for Water, Fisheries;
Forestry, Innovation and ICT;
Science

- Constructive and positive discussion between Premier, Fisheries Minister and Western Rock Lobster Council
- Government will not be proceeding with proposal to increase the catch by 1,700 tonnes, of which 1,385 tonnes were to be held by Government
- Industry and Government have agreed that the annual catch will be increased by 315 tonnes with all or a significant majority allocated for local supply
- The Government and industry agreed to support the establishment of an annual international rock lobster festival
- An independently chaired industry and Government group will be convened to examine other opportunities to grow the industry

The State Government and the western rock lobster industry have today agreed on a plan to significantly increase local lobster supplies.

The agreement was reached at a constructive and positive meeting between Premier Mark McGowan, Fisheries Minister Dave Kelly and representatives from the Western Rock Lobster Council.

At the meeting it was agreed that the annual catch would be increased by 315 tonnes, with all or a significant majority to be sold within Western Australia. The details of how this will be delivered will be finalised by the end of March.

The industry also demonstrated strong support for an annual international western rock lobster festival in Western Australia to showcase our State's iconic seafood product, and grow tourism and hospitality opportunities.

An independently chaired working group of industry and Government representatives will be convened to examine further opportunities to grow the industry. This includes indigenous participation, growing the industry, providing a better economic return to the State, improving security of access rights and increasing community donations.

Comments attributed to Fisheries Minister Dave Kelly:

"This is a positive outcome for the industry and also Western Australian families who will have access to more of our premium seafood product.

"Plans to establish an annual international lobster festival provides us with an opportunity to create WA jobs and support the tourism and hospitality sectors."

Comments attributed to Western Rock Lobster Council chairperson Kim Colero:

"The industry is very pleased to support this important initiative that will see an increased supply of local lobster for all Western Australians to enjoy.

"We also appreciate the Premier and Minister's commitment to work with the industry to grow this valued and important natural resource."

Minister's office - 6552 6100