



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 2023, there have been 12 WA fisheries certified as sustainable by the MSC. 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 four 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, the south coast's Augusta abalone 'hatch and catch' fishery was certified for the first time in 2023. WA Pearl Oyster was certified for the first time in 2017 and when it was re-certified in 2023, the hatchery component was added to the certification. 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 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, 2023
- 
WA Sea Cucumber
 (Pilbara sandfish and deep-water redfish) - 2019



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
- 
Western Rock Lobster - 2000, 2006, 2012, 2017, 2022
- 
West Coast Deep Sea Crab (Crystal Crab) - 2016, 2021



West Coast

Certified

- 
Western Rock Lobster - 2000, 2006, 2012, 2017, 2022
- 
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

Important disclaimer

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