

Review of the Local Lobster Program

November 2018

Background

Commercial fishing for western rock lobster is managed under the *West Coast Rock Lobster Management Plan 2012*. Commercial catches are limited by an individual transferable quota (ITQ), with the 2017 and 2018 fishing seasons' annual commercial catch limited to 6,300 tonnes. At present the majority of the lobster commercially caught in WA is exported to China, as it is the largest and highest paying market. Accordingly, the price received in the export market drives the beach price (TACC Committee Report 2018). The weighted average beach price of rock lobster in 2017/18 was \$63.06 / kg.

As almost all of western rock lobster is exported, the Western Australian community does not have the opportunity to readily obtain Western Australian rock lobsters, and when they are available the price is beyond the means of most consumers. This has the potential to create a disconnect between the Western Australian community and the commercial fishery, and may erode the level of support the fishery has from the broader community.

The Local Lobster Program arose as a result of a collaboration between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (the Department), and Western Rock Lobster (WRL). The program commenced in December 2016 and was established to increase the opportunity for WA residents and visitors to regional towns to access fresh, locally caught, rock lobster. A Local Lobster Working Group was established in September 2017 and comprised of members representing commercial licence holders, WRL and the Department.

To date there have been three phases of the program, as follows:

- **Phase one** ran from 15 December 2016 – 30 April 2017, incorporating peak periods of **Christmas 2016 and Easter 2017**.
- **Phase two** ran from 3 December 2017 to 14 January 2018, covering the peak period of **Christmas 2017 and New Year 2018**.
- **Phase three** ran from the 23 March to 15 May 2018, covering the peak period of **Easter 2018** and April school holidays.

A fourth phase from 1 December 2018 to 30 April 2019 has also been approved.

The catches of rock lobster under the Local Lobster Program have been in addition to the ITQ commercial allocation. However, it is important to note that the total take of lobsters by the commercial sector (including the take through the Local Lobster Program) is still within their notionally allocated quantity of the resource (95% Allowable Harvest Level), and within sustainable limits.

Administration of the Local Lobster Program has been achieved via short term Instruments of Exemption (Exemption) issued by the Department. The additional catches permitted under the program were administered and acquitted via the allocation tags, with one horn tag to be attached to each lobster landed under the program. Catch reporting was done via a paper based 'Landing and Sales' form (rather than electronically by Fisheye) resulting in manual entry of catch data. It was a condition of the Exemption that lobsters taken under the Exemption could not be exported, and

holders of a Fish Processing Licence who sell to non-domestic markets were not permitted to sell, purchase or deal in these rock lobster.

The allocation of Local Lobster tags has been made to 'active' fishing boats only (i.e. fishing boats that hold at least 300 units of usual and current entitlement, or held an exemption to permit them to fish with less than 300 units). Each active boat received 50 tags in each phase of the program¹, irrespective of their unit holdings (note for Phase four, each boat will receive 100 tags). The allocation of Local Lobster tags to date has not been proportional to unit holdings and therefore has not reflected the varying degrees of investment in the fishery.

The Department has not charged any licencing or administrative fees associated with the Local Lobster Program. However, in calculating the access fees for the 2019 /20 season, the GVP of the Fishery for the 2016/17 financial year incorporated the revenue from Phase one of the Local Lobster Program. This will allow for the Department to recover approximately \$13,800 (5.75% of the estimated value of Phase one) through the 2019/20 access fees. The Department has paid for the local lobster tags (total cost of \$17,454) and borne the costs of administering the program.

In January 2018 the WRL Board proposed that a permanent Local Lobster Program be implemented for the 2018/19 season, and that an additional 0.65% of the Total Allowable Commercial Catch be allocated to this program (this equated to 68,250 lobsters with an associated weight of approximately 41 tonnes). To date the nature and scope of any on-going Local Lobster Program has not been finalised.

This review document has been prepared to allow for consideration of the objectives and outcomes of the program so far, and provide a list of issues for consideration in developing an on-going Local Lobster Program.

Program objective

It has been difficult to identify a single, consistently stated objective of the Local Lobster Program. The following statements have been made about the objective(s) of the Local Lobster Program:

"The objective was to increase the opportunity for WA residents and visitors to regional towns to access fresh local caught rock lobster".

"To give locals and tourists new opportunities to enjoy one of WA's favourite seafood"

"To address concerns raised about the limited availability of western rock lobsters for coastal communities and local seafood retailers, including restaurants".

"The objective of the Local Lobster Program is to increase the supply of lobsters to WA communities and businesses."

"The Local Lobster Program will improve the availability and supply of lobsters to the local market at more affordable prices"

"The Local Lobster Program is intended to boost WA tourism and regional development."

¹ Some boats received a second lot of 50 tags in Phase one.

- Industry principles:

The WRL Board resolved in August 2016 that the overarching principles to guide the Local Lobster Working Group (then known as the Local Access Trial Working Group) were:

1. *The western rock lobster industry is the WA fishery to provide local lobster product to WA*
2. *Local lobster product will be available at a reasonable price*
3. *Providing local lobster product will be managed in an equitable way*

- Other objectives

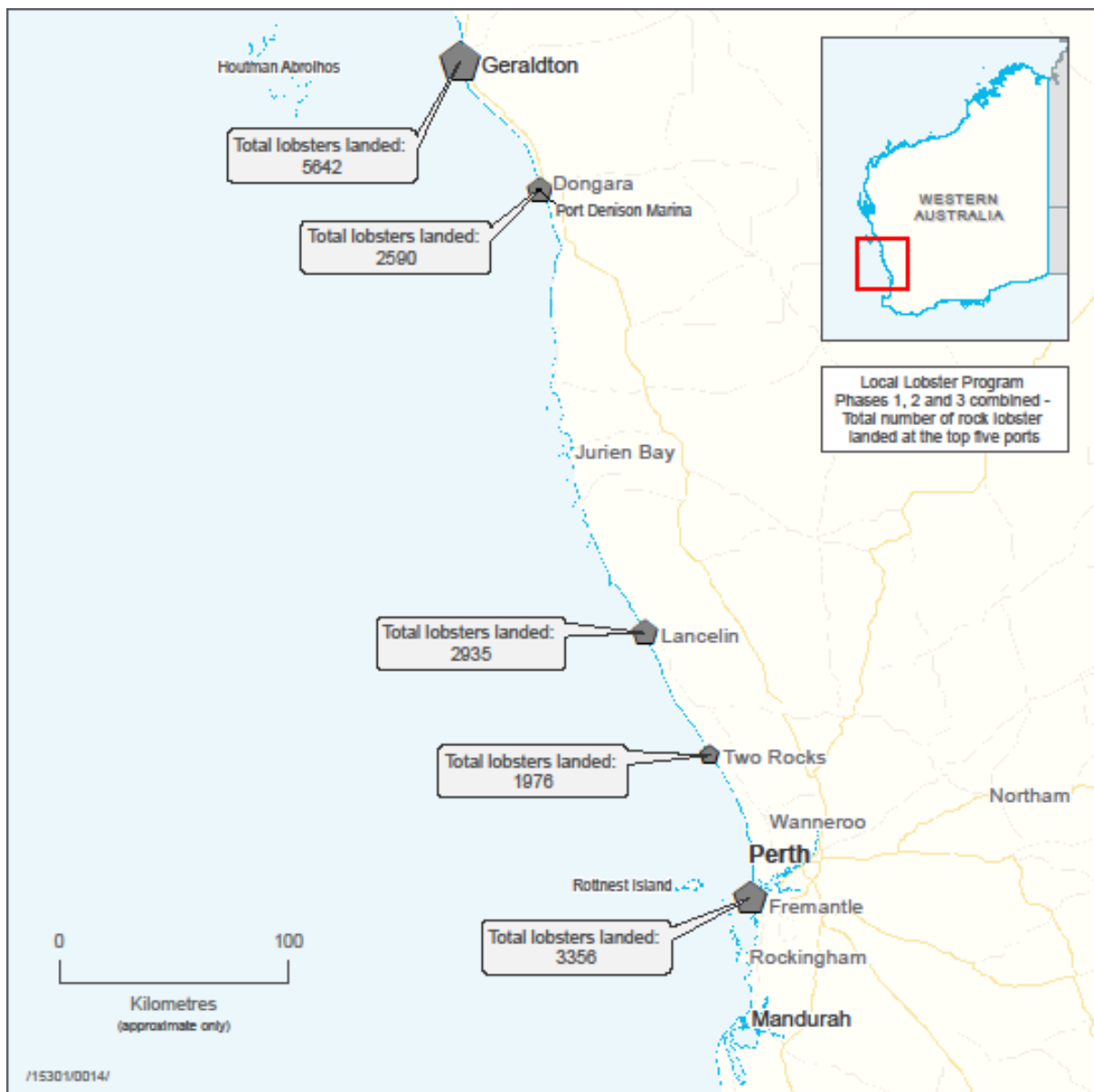
An additional potential benefit of the Local Lobster Program is that having an on-going supply of lobsters locally may compete with, and reduce demand for, black market rock lobsters (i.e. recreationally caught rock lobster being sold illegally).

WRL has also proposed an allocation of 'local lobster' to WRL to support broader community/charity purposes and initiatives.

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Summary and analysis of Local Lobster Program Phases 1 to 3

The following map shows the total number of local lobsters landed at the top five ports for all three phases combined:



Geraldton has been the main port of landing for local lobsters (5,642 lobsters), followed by Fremantle (3,356), Lancelin (2,935) and Dongara (2,590).

Appendix 1 provides a summary of the key data in relation to Phases one, two and three of the Local Lobster Program.

Phase one ran for the longest period, and had the best level of uptake of the three phases (most participants (177 boats) and highest catches (7.7 tonnes)). During Phase one anecdotal information from restaurants was that there was approximately a 40% reduction on the lobster plate price whilst available, and supermarkets such as Farmer Jack's (\$61 / kg.) and Woolworths (\$36 / kg.) advertised WA lobster in the lead up to Christmas 2016.

Phase three had a short lead time (less than one week), had a short duration and had the lowest level of uptake. In Phase three the lowest number of lobsters was landed (7,094), but they had an average weight of 0.77 kilo / lobster, which meant that the landed weight of lobsters during Phase three (5.4 tonnes) was higher than Phase two (4.7 tonnes), despite a higher number of lobsters being landed (7,580 lobsters; average weight of 0.62 kilo / lobster). This disparity in average weight of lobsters may reflect the different time of year in which the phases ran and associated different life stages of lobster targeted by the fishery at those times (i.e. 'whites' in December / January, 'reds' in April).

Price

Across the three phases of the program, the average price of local lobster was \$30 - \$34 / kg.; which is significantly lower than the beach price for exported lobsters (~\$63 / kg.).

Personal Consumption

The rates of personal consumption (i.e. fisher does not sell lobster but instead retains it for their own consumption) were high in Phase one (27%) and Phase two (25%). This level of personal consumption was of concern to WRL and the Department, given lobsters retained for personal consumption do not contribute to the objectives of the program. WRL undertook significant messaging on this issue in the lead up to Phase three, and the rates of personal consumption decreased to 12%.

Communication / Advertising of Lobster for Sale

There have been some challenges in communication with the public regarding where the lobsters can be purchased. One of the main methods of communication has been regionally focused Facebook pages. For example, a Geraldton Facebook page was established for Phase one to connect fishers and members of the public looking to buy lobsters. Unfortunately, by Phase three the Facebook page was not active and there were anecdotal reports that the Geraldton public found it hard to find lobster available for sale. This may be linked to the quantity of lobsters available – with only 50 lobsters to sell from each vessel, there may not be sufficient incentive to develop local arrangements for the sale of the lobsters. WRL also established a Local Lobster Program Community Page via Facebook in December 2017, which has had limited activity.

Feedback from local restaurants in Geraldton following the end of Phase one were that the biggest issue was continuity of supply, and that dealing with multiple suppliers was also problematic.

Location of Sales

Fishers home was the most common location for the sale across all three phases; followed by sales from the boat. More details can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Catch Reporting

The submission of Landing and Sales forms and associated acquittal of the tags has been poor. A contributing factor to this may have been that the landing information could only be provided in hard copy. There was a lack of Departmental resources available to follow up with each individual fisher regarding missing returns.

Level of Support for the Program

There appears to be a high level of support for the program from regional development bodies, tourism bodies and restaurants, along with a reasonable level of support from the general public.

Appendix 2 and 3 provides a summary of letters, media articles and verbal feedback received on the Local Lobster Program. The majority of letters and verbal feedback recorded are positive, and also support the development of an on-going program.

WRL- can you please provide some comment about the level of industry support for the program.

Benefits to the State

Benefits to the State from the program (such as increased employment) have been negligible, given the temporary nature of the program. Given the administrative arrangements (Instrument of Exemption) there has been very little additional revenue to the Department from the program, and the costs of supplying the tags and administering the program have to date been borne by the Department.

The administrative costs of the Local Lobster Program have been relatively high. The program required the development of a separate quota management system to be implemented and managed. The administration was labour intensive, particularly in relation to tag allocation and acquittal and the separate, paper based catch reporting mechanism, with associated manual data entry.

Tag Allocation

The method of allocation of tags has been identified by industry as an equity issue, in that a licence holder's relative investment in the fishery (through purchasing of units) is not reflected in their domestic allocation. However, there is no evidence that a fisher with a large quota holding will be a willing or effective participant in the Local Lobster Program, given participation necessitates delivering small regular volumes to local suppliers.

The Local Lobster tags have not been transferable, which has meant that if the vessel that is allocated the tags is not interested in fishing them, they are not available to any other vessel to utilise. No provision has been made to date for a new entrant into the fishery operating as a dedicated Local Lobster fisher. Supply has been spread over a large number of fishers, which has allowed for a good regional spread of the local supply, however it may have made it more difficult for restaurants or other purchasers of the lobsters to obtain lobsters in sufficient quantity and continuity.

Assessment against objectives

Based on the above, an assessment of the program against the various objectives is provided below;

- *the objective was to increase the opportunity for WA residents and visitors to regional towns to access fresh local caught rock lobster – **PARTIALLY MET***
- *the Local Lobster Program will improve the availability and supply of lobsters to the local market at more affordable prices – **MET***

- *The Local Lobster Program is intended to boost WA tourism and regional development –*
UNABLE TO ASSESS

A longer term program with larger quantity of lobsters available could allow for the objectives of the program to be more fully realised.

WRL comments / perspectives on success of program

Future of the Program

Phase Four – Exemption

A further short term Local Lobster Program has been approved from 1 December 2018 to 30 April 2019, to provide locally available lobster during the peak period of demand.

The administrative arrangements will be similar to the first three phases, with arrangements provided via an Exemption. There have been some changes to the arrangements for Local Lobster Program Phase Four, in order to address the issue of personal consumption, and to strengthen the compliance arrangements. These changes are:

- Local Lobster must be either sold to increase domestic supply; or donated to a registered charity. Lobsters may not be retained for personal consumption by licence holders, masters or crew.
- A master, crew or licence holder may not have a rock lobster with a Local Lobster Tag attached at their place of residence.
- Fishers must be using Fish Eye to participate in the Local Lobster Program, as the number of tagged local lobsters must be included in the pre-landing nomination.

In addition, each active West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence will be issued 100 tags.

On-going Program

In respect of an ongoing 'local lobster' program, the following issues – in no particular order – may require consideration:

- Identification of clear objectives (e.g. purpose, intended benefits and beneficiaries, size and scope).
- Inclusion of the parameters of the program in any revised Harvest Strategy for the rock lobster resource including quantity of lobsters available.
- How best the program is administered and managed to achieve its objectives including optimising benefits of the program to supply lobster to consumers.
- Whether the use of an individual tag per local lobster is the best way to manage the allocation, noting there will be a point at which the volume is too large to individually tag each lobster.

- Identification of knowledge gaps (such as demand analysis) and steps that may be taken to gather required information.
- Compliance arrangements for the program, including electronic catch reporting and methods to ensure the lobster are sold on the domestic market only.
- Communication arrangements including a single point for information to the public so that they can find out how, where and when to purchase lobsters.
- Requirements for broader consultation with the purchasers of local lobster and regional representative bodies to ensure program design meets their needs and optimises benefits.
- Review horizon for the program and how performance against objectives may best be assessed.
- Additional issues identified by Western Rock Lobster to be incorporated...

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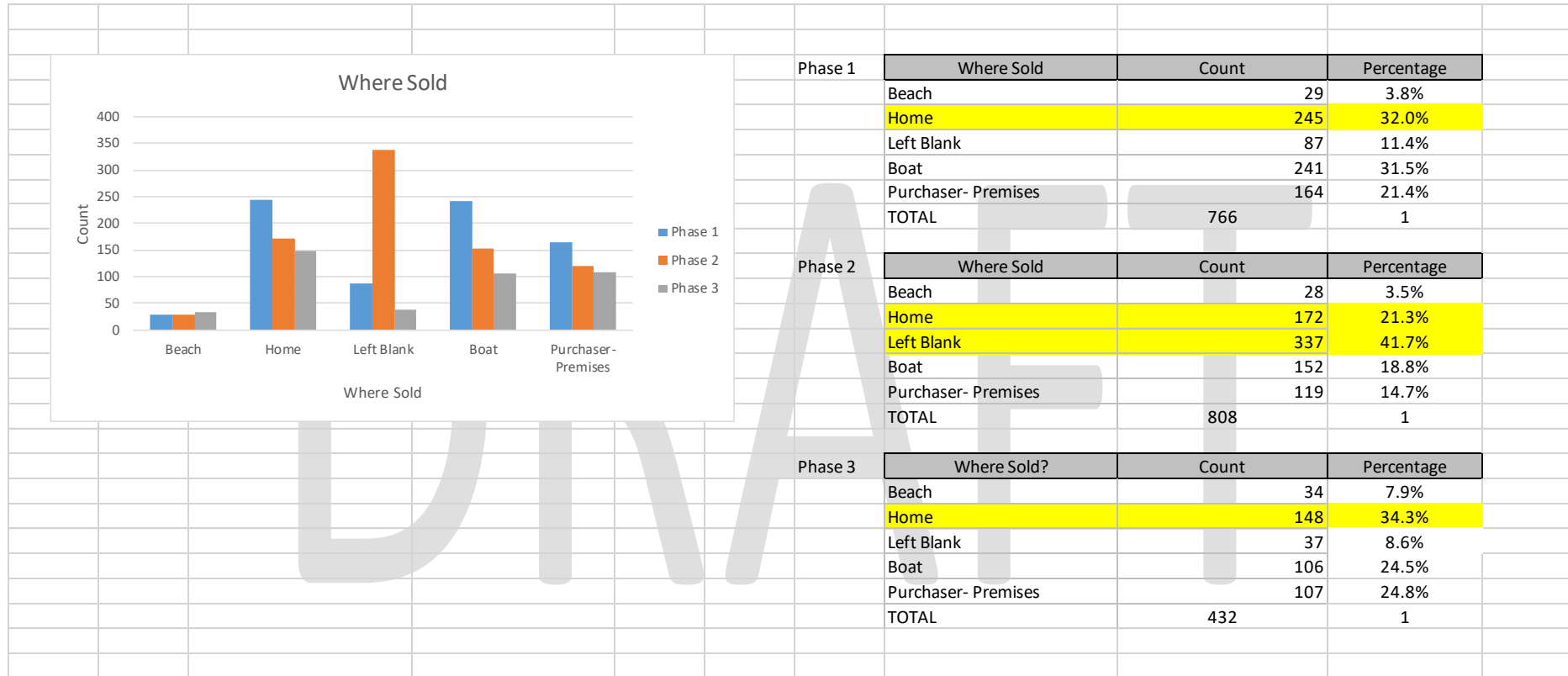
Appendix 1: Summary of data for Local Lobster Program Phases 1, 2 and 3*

	Number of days	Number of boats participating	Number tags available	Number tags issued to fishers	Reported catch (# of lobsters)	Reported catch (weight - kgs)	Average price
Phase 1	136	177	15,000	15,014	11,196	7,762	\$31 / kg
Phase 2	42	149	13,500	9,100	7,580	4,703	\$34 / kg
Phase 3	35	124	12,500	8,950	7,094	5,472	\$30 / kg

	Personal consumption	Restaurant	Public sales
Phase 1	27%	27%	28%
Phase 2	25%	30%	24%
Phase 3	12%	33%	24%

*Note that this data has not been fully validated. Some data validation in correcting obvious outliers has occurred where appropriate.

Location of sale



*Note that this data has not been fully validated. Some data validation in correcting obvious outliers has occurred where appropriate.

Appendix 2: Summary of written and verbal feedback received in relation to Local Lobster Program

2016 Phase 1				
Date	Author	Format	For / Against	Comments
5/08/2016	Mid West Development Commission - Chairperson Murray Criddle	Letter to Minister	For	Request that "the Department... investigate legal mechanisms to support the increase supply of locally caught rock lobster on the domestic market so that...rock lobster can become an affordable signature dish..."
15/12/2016	Tourism Council Media release	Media release	For	Congratulated Minister and Department on reform. Noted fresh seafood experience would create point of difference for visitors to WA
Dec 16 - April 17		Verbal feedback to Department	13 For 4 Against	17 respondents were commercial fishers; 1 public comment and 2 from fish retailers
2017				
Date	Author	Format	For / Against	Comments
21/03/2017	Mid West Development Commission	Letter to Department	For	"anecdotal advice received thus far has indicated that the initial trial has been a significant success". "Win win outcome for commercial fishers, local restaurant and tourism sectors... Keen to explore options for a further 12 month trial, with a view to establishing a permanent setting."
5/05/2017	Shane Love MLA (Member for Moore)	Letter to Tourism Minister	For	Writing on behalf of restaurant / café owners from Mid West Coast. Great imitative and would like to see it continue. Dedicated number of rock lobsters should be set aside each year for local hospitality industry.
29/11/2017	Nola Brown, Lancelin Beach Hotel	Email to Minister	For	Purchased tagged local lobster in phase one, very supportive, guests expect local produce. Wants to know when next lot of tags will be available.
2018 Phase 2 & 3				
Date	Author	Format	For / Against	Comments
27/02/2018	Ian Blayney (Member for Geraldton)	Letter to Minister	For	Writing on behalf of Geraldton restaurant owners enquiring as to why the Local Lobster program had finished, and noting program has been popular.
19/04/2019	Ian Blayney (Member for Geraldton)	Letter to Minister	For	Local restaurant operators would like permanent LLP. 'View commonly expressed to me is that the program should continue on a permanent basis'
19/06/2018	Peel Development Commission; Mr Paddi Creevey & Mr Greg Poland	Letter to Minister	For	Support for LLP trail to be extended or implemented on a permanent basis. Commercial fishers have approached commission to advocate for reintroduction of program. Program has positive impacts for local tourism, local operators and local economy. Requesting Mandurah commercial fishers to have priority access to tags.

Appendix 3: Summary of media coverage relating to Local Lobster Program

2016 Phase 1			
Date	Media Outlet	Format	Headline and Comments
14/12/2016; updated 15/12/2016	ABC News	Online / print	Rock lobsters sold direct to public in Trial to boost WA market
15/12/2016	Western Rock Lobster Council Inc	Media release	Western Rock Lobster Local Access trial
15/12/2016	Tourism Council Media release	Media release	Congratulated Minister and Department on reform. Noted fresh seafood experience would create point of difference for visitors to WA
15/12/2016	WA Today	Online / print	Eight tonnes of WA lobster to hit local markets just in time for Christmas
16/12/2016	West Australian newspaper	Media article	Extra crayfish for locals to cut prices
Dec-16	WAFIC Newsletter	Newsletter	Rock Lobster trial will seel crayfish fresh off fishers boat to WA public
19/12/2016	World Fishing and Aquaculture	online	Rock Lobster trial for the local market
21/12/2016	Busselton-Dunsborough Mail	Print	Greater access to rock lobsters in WA
2017 Phase 2			
Date	Media Outlet	Format	Headline and Comments
4/12/2017	GWN7, Golden West News	TV	The Department of Fisheries has launched its local lobster Program
4/12/2017	West Australian	Online news	More crays for Christmas with catch quota boost
4/12/2017	ABC Goldfields	AM radio	Interview with Leeman Fisherman D McTaggart, re Local Lobster Program
2018 Phase 3			
Date	Media Outlet	Format	Headline and Comments
27/03/2018	Triple M Albany	Radio	The WA Government will provide 12,500 additional lobsters available in the Easter period

A Compact between the Western Australian Government and the Western Rock Lobster Council to deliver rock lobsters to WA consumers and businesses

Introduction

Western rock lobsters are an important natural asset for Western Australia that are managed to world's best practice standards to ensure they can be sustainably harvested for export, recreational fishing and local consumption.

They are a signature premium food product for Western Australia and demonstrate the State's excellence in delivering high quality produce to local, national and international markets.

It is recognised that there are opportunities to further develop this important industry and strengthen community support for it.

Principles

- Western Rock Lobster (WRL) and WA Government are jointly committed to maintaining the reputation of the industry for its high standards of stewardship based on sound environmental and economic management.
- WRL and WA Government jointly recognise the importance of delivering best value to fishers and the State.
- WRL and the WA Government jointly recognise the need to increase local supply of rock lobster to the WA Community.
- WRL and WA Government jointly recognise that readily available, accessible and more affordable local supply of Western Rock Lobster will help build community support for the industry and create new opportunities in other sectors such as tourism and hospitality.
- WRL and the WA Government jointly recognise the quantity of lobster taken as part of the trial shall have regard for demand and supply channels, with a preference that lobster remain in the water in the event of oversupply.
- Recognising that security and certainty is critical to industry development, WRL and WA Government remain committed to the objectives set out in the Terms of Reference for the Premier's Industry Taskforce. The work of the Taskforce will commence as early as practicable following this Compact to deliver rock lobsters to WA consumers and businesses.

LOCAL LOBSTER SUPPLY TRIAL (2019 – 2021)

1. WRL and WA Government commit to increasing the local supply of Western Rock Lobster into the WA market through a trial approach over three years, building up to an additional 275 tonnes pa (approximately 550,000 lobsters).

2. The local lobster supplied as part of this trial will be in two forms. The first form of landing - bulk supply consigned to Registered Receivers will make up the vast majority of the supply. The second form of landing will be 'Back of boat sales' via the current Local Lobster 'tag' Program. The ratio of bulk versus tagged lobster is to be advised by the working group and subject to review by the Independent panel.
3. The first phase will be in place for the 2019/20 summer period (1 November 2019 to 14 January 2020), with an intention to at least double the volume of local supply for this period – to approximately 100 – 130 tonnes (approximately 200,000 to 260,000 lobsters). This will allow more local lobsters to be available for the Christmas 2019 peak period.
4. Subject to market demand, the volume of local supply will be further increased through a second phase to approximately 130 – 200 tonnes (approximately 260,000 to 400,000 lobsters) for the 2020/21 season, and up to 275 tonnes (approximately 550,000 lobsters) as a third phase for the 2021/22 season.
5. The phased nature of the trial recognises the need for industry to develop supply chains and ensure appropriate Key Performance Indicators are being met.

Working group on program design details

6. The WA Government recognises that industry knowledge and capability is critical to successfully meeting the shared commitment to the local lobster trial.
7. To support the timely and effective development and implementation of the local supply trial, an operational working group including broader stakeholders, will be formed to provide advice on the detailed design of the trial for commencement by November 2019. This will include appropriate engagement with key industry players and ongoing communication and consultation with fishers.
8. The opportunity to catch and supply the additional local supply for the trial will be provided to existing, active fishers based on proportional allocation.
9. The local supply trial will be implemented using a Ministerial exemption under the *Fish Resources Management Act (1994)*.

Independent review panel

10. The WA Government commits to establishing an independent review panel, chaired by an eminent Western Australian, to provide transparent public advice on the management arrangements, supply chains and the market response, at a time that will allow the accepted recommendations to be incorporated into the following phase. The panel will include an independent chair and one representative nominated from each of WRL and Government.
11. The independent review panel will also consider any surplus rock lobster held by Registered Receivers at the end of each phase and provide advice on options for on- selling to provide best return to the State.
12. Subject to the results of the trial, longer-term arrangements will be considered and recommended by the review panel.

ROCK LOBSTER FESTIVAL: 2020 AND BEYOND

13. WRL and WA Government commit to working closely together to plan, promote and deliver an International Rock Lobster Festival, commencing in 2020, to showcase quality WA rock lobster to the community and international visitors.
14. WRL and WA Government commit to making available up to 25 tonnes pa to support the Festival, and acknowledge that the arrangements for supply to the Festival (including cost) will be critical for the Festival to be successful and viable. To this end, WRL and WA Government will jointly assess the best options to achieve the lobster supply requirements for the Festival.
15. WRL and WA Government commit to delivering one or more small scale “taster” events in 2019, as a precursor to the first Festival in 2020. These may coincide with community events such as the *Blessing of the Fleets* in October/November 2019.

RECREATIONAL FISHING CHARTER TRIAL 2019 – 2021

16. WRL and WA Government recognise there are opportunities to enhance recreational rock lobster tourism experiences through the commercial charter industry.
17. The Government will establish a notional catch target of 20 tonnes pa (an additional 15 tonne – 30, 000 lobster from within the overall 315 tonne local supply policy). This catch target is purely for the purposes of creating a lobster tourism experience and as such no commercial sales will be permitted. These new arrangements will be restricted to existing Charter operators with current history in conducting extractive rock lobster tours.
18. The Government will implement the measures by way of Ministerial exemption under the *Fish Resources Management Act (1994)*, and will reference an increase in pot numbers, and increase in boat limits and increased reporting and compliance requirements to ensure lobster can be identified as charter caught.

LONGER TERM END POINT

19. WRL and WA Government recognise the importance of a longer term management framework to support local supply, through a more formal domestic quota system.
20. Domestic quota to be implemented via amendment to the Management Plan.
21. Domestic quota to be tradeable and transferable
22. Arrangements for domestic quota must maintain the integrity of the existing quota system.
23. Resource allocations (including recreational and charter) and volume to be incorporated in the rock lobster Harvest Strategy.

Domestic Lobster
Meeting Outcomes
26 April 2019

The following summary represents the outcomes from the meeting to progress the domestic lobster initiative.

During the meeting industry expressed support for the local lobster initiative and recognised Government's objective to increase the supply of local lobster to the domestic market at an affordable price.

The key elements outlined below have been agreed to in principle between representatives from the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the Western Rock Lobster (Council). These outcomes are designed to provide a framework for further discussion and feedback from industry. They do not represent the final position of the Board of Western Rock Lobster, or the Government of Western Australia.

It is proposed that Government establish a Domestic Supply Steering Committee, including broader stakeholders, to provide advice and progress the implementation of this initiative

Phase 1 Arrangements

- Trial (via Exemption) to commence 1 November 2019 for the remainder of the season
- A proportion of the 315 tonnes allocated to domestic supply be used in Phase 1 given the limited time period and need to develop the market. The domestic supply quota is proposed to be 165 tonnes in Phase 1. This expected volume is made up of an estimated 50 tonnes of traditional supply during that 2.5 month period plus an additional 100 tonnes of new bulk supply plus an additional 15 tonnes of new tagged lobster from back of boat sales.
- Domestic lobster to be allocated to existing active fishers proportional to unit holding at the time of implementation.
- Non transferable
- Bulk supply
 - Quota for bulk supply proposed to be 150 tonnes in Phase 1.
 - Lobster to be marked pre-landing
 - Lobster landed and acquitted as separate consignment via fisheye
 - Must be consigned to registered receiver
 - Domestic supply steering committee will review and provide advice on arrangements and compliance related to bulk supply program.
- Back of boat sales

- The existing local lobster tag-based program will continue, the existing 15 tonne allocation for this program is not included in the 315 tonne allocation for domestic supply.
 - Increases to the local lobster tag-based program will be included in the additional domestic lobster supply.
 - It is proposed that the phase one allocation for the local lobster tag-based program is 30 tonnes (existing 15 tonne allocation and a further 15 tonne allocation from the domestic allocation).
 - Domestic supply steering committee will review and provide advice on arrangements and restrictions related to local lobster tag-based program.
- Exemptions to apply on a season by season basis:
 - Phase 1 – 1 November 2019 to 14 Jan 2020 – 165 tonnes (150 bulk supply and 15 tag based program.)
 - Phase 2 - 15 Jan 2020 to 14 Jan 2021
 - Phase 3 – 15 Jan 2021 to 14 Jan 2022
- Staged increases in supply volume based on previous phase performance – noting Government’s expectation that 315 tonnes will be made available as per agreement of 8 February between Government and the Council
- Phases will have KPI’s and be reviewed by Steering Committee.
- KPIs to be developed with advice from the Steering Committee
- Exemptions will be adaptive and may be modified over time
- 315 tonnes - target for domestic supply:
 - Minus 25 tonnes for festival
 - Minus additional 15 tonnes for charter
- Approx. 275 tonnes to existing fishers

Festival

- 25 tonnes – supply will be via EOI to processors initially (Industry preferred option). Government retains right to pursue second option of EOI to fishers directly if necessary to ensure an affordable supply of lobster to the festival
- Involvement with domestic supply steering group, to ensure industry engagement

Charter Trial

- Notional catch target of 20 tonnes (15 tonnes additional take)
- To provide increased opportunity for recreational lobster fishing experiences
- New arrangements would only apply to existing Charter operators with current history in conducting extractive rock lobster tours
- Measures to be implemented initially by Exemption and would include:
 - Increase in pot numbers
 - Increase boat limits
 - Increased reporting requirements
- No commercial sales

- Supported by additional management/compliance program, including identifying lobster as charter caught.
- Government intends to announce these changes shortly after the conclusion of the Council's Coastal Tour.

End Point

- Domestic quota be implemented via amendment to the Management Plan
- Domestic quota be tradeable and transferable
- Domestic quota to be readily available to hospitality sector and broader community
- Arrangements maintain integrity of the quota system
- Provides an opportunity for fishers to specialise in domestic supply
- Need the mechanism for determining allocations (incl Rec and charter) and volume to be illustrated in Harvest Strategy.

Key Issues which require further consideration

- Need for Harvest Strategy to be updated to reflect longer term allocations between commercial, charter and rec sectors
- Domestic Lobster Program best supported by an integrated marketing and communication strategy
- A Domestic Supply Steering Committee be formed to include broader stakeholders
- Industry required to work together to build new supply chains for WA domestic lobster