



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Ref: 2012/08787

Dr Lindsay Joll
Director, Aquatic Management
Department of Fisheries Western Australia
3rd Floor, the Atrium
168 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000


Dear Dr Joll

I am writing to you as Delegate of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in relation to assessment of the Western Rock Lobster Fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Product derived from the Western Rock Lobster Fishery is currently included in the list of exempt native specimens under the EPBC Act until 4 September 2012.

On 20 June 2012, you wrote to me requesting a short extension of the export approval under the EPBC Act for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery. In your letter, you indicated that the new Western Rock Lobster Fishery Management Plan was still in development and is expected to be completed after the current export approval expires. I understand that the draft management plan is expected to be released for public consultation in September 2012.

On the basis of your request and given the management arrangements currently in place for the fishery, I have decided to amend the list of exempt native specimens to allow ongoing export of product from the Western Rock Lobster Fishery for a period of 6 months, until 28 February 2013. This is to allow this department to undertake an assessment of the fishery on the basis of the revised management arrangements which you advise will shortly be in place. You will be able to find a copy of my decision at <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/wa/rocklob/index.html>

I look forward to receiving updates on progress towards finalisation of the new management plan. If you have any further queries regarding the export approval for this fishery, please contact me on 02 6274 1917 or by emailing nathan.hanna@environment.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Nathan Hanna
A/g Assistant Secretary
Marine Biodiversity Policy Branch

20 July 2012