

The Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) is the peak body representing the professional fishing industry in Western Australia.

Our members comprise the many professional fishing associations along the WA coastline, exporting companies, seafood processors, fishing companies, small businesses and the other fishery specific sector bodies representing pearling, lobster, prawn, aquaculture, abalone and the body representing the rock lobster processors and exporters.

The professional fishing industry in WA:

- Contributes in excess of \$1.2 billion to the WA economy,
- Directly employs over 4,500 people and over 15,000 indirectly through the food chain,
- Annually exports product valued at over \$500 million
- 85% of commercial fishing activity is conducted in regional WA, and often remote locations,
- Has more than \$7 billion invested in land and buildings, vessels and fishing licences,
- Comprise a range of small business enterprises, many of whom are sole business proprietors and family businesses

WAFIC is a full member of the Australian Seafood Industry Council (ASIC), and has provided direct input into the submission prepared by ASIC.

WAFIC is therefore supportive of that submission, and of that presented by the Commonwealth Fisheries Association.

Significantly, WAFIC is of the strong view that State and Federal agencies involved in the marine park planning process should work collaboratively within an overall Marine Planning Strategy that has clear objectives, with outcomes based on scientific, economic and social information and within a process that is measurable and quantifiable.

WAFIC is also of the view that Government should meet the costs of subsequent compliance and enforcement requirements of the MPA, rather than through normal cost recovery guidelines.

WAFIC is also of the strong view that fishers / business enterprises affected by the introduction of MPA`s should be fully and adequately compensated.

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