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Rock Lobster Fishing Tours – Now a genuine option for WA locals and tourists

Marine Tourism WA welcomes Minister Kelly's decision to improve the current Western Rock Lobster charter regulations. These changes will enhance boat-based charter tourism opportunities, generate new business opportunities and create employment for the charter industry.

The new changes will make it easier for national and International tourists to access boat-based Rock Lobster tours and more importantly provide a great benefit to the local wider community who wish to experience catching Western Australia's Rock Lobster on a safe and managed platform through the fishing charter sector. The improved Rock Lobster regulation changes for the tourism industry will not only enhance the Rock Lobster Tour experience but will also inject much needed tourism to the metropolitan harbours and to the regional coastal towns.

President of Marine Tourism WA and charter boat owner Matt Howard said the improved regulations will give the industry the ability to diversify, create growth and increase business flexibility.

"These changes will assist small charter tourism businesses in assisting operator viability in a tough business market and will help offset the 2-month demersal fishing closure that the industry has endured for 10 years," Mr Howard said.

"It will not only secure current employment, but it will increase permanent employment opportunities within our sector."

"We look forward to being able to provide the opportunities for people to experience catching their own feed of crayfish through being able to now run dedicated rock lobster fishing tours."

"Marine Tourism WA appreciates the support from Recfishwest, DPIRD and Fisheries Minister Dave Kelly in recognising the need for the fishing charter sector to grow and diversify." He said.

The new arrangement will commence on November 1st.

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