

# DRAFT

## Marine Stewardship Council Certification

### Terms of Reference for the proposed review of the stock assessments for the Western Rock Lobster Fishery

#### Preamble

As part to the ongoing MSC certification requirements for the western rock lobster fishery, Scientific Certification Systems require an internationally recognized independent expert to review the 2004 and 2005 stock assessment of the western rock lobster fishery.

The consultant is not required to undertake a new stock assessment for the fishery but will review the 2004 and 2005 assessments that were undertaken by the Department of Fisheries and the management recommendations that arose from those assessments.

The following terms of reference for the stock assessment review are proposed:

#### Terms of Reference for a Review of the Western Rock Lobster Fishery Stock Assessment

1. Review the data descriptions and data sets that were available to the Department of Fisheries (the Department) when it conducted its 2004 and 2005 western rock lobster stock assessments.
2. Review the different time series of data and model outputs and assess the implications of the weights given to alternative data sets during the 2004 and 2005 stock assessments.
3. Review the technical description of the modeling and statistical analyses that were undertaken to produce the 2004 and 2005 stock assessment results that were presented to the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) and other stakeholders.
4. Review the 2004 and 2005 stock assessments and the conclusions on stock status that were drawn from the results of the assessments.
5. Review the written advice provided to the RLIAC and to stakeholders in which the results, conclusions, and implications of the 2004 and 2005 stock assessments for the western rock lobster fishery were reported.
6. Discuss with Department of Fisheries' staff, the data, assessments and the various issues raised by Scientific Certifications Systems (SCS) in its 2005 Final Surveillance Report (December 2006).
7. Report on the general "robustness" of the advice that has been provided to stakeholders on the status of the resource and the need for the specified management responses.
8. Recommend any improvements to the stock assessment process for the western rock lobster fishery that could provide future stock assessment with additional reliability and robustness.

To perform the stock assessment review of the western rock lobster fishery, the consultant will have full access to both hard copy and electronic versions of the necessary data, documents and reports, to the computer procedures used and, if

# DRAFT

necessary, computing facilities required to run those procedures. Access will be provided and facilitated by staff of the Department of Fisheries and overseen by Dr Nick Caputi of the Department's Research Division.

The normal State Government and the Department of Fisheries confidentiality requirements of data relating to individual fishers are to be strictly preserved. The consultant's report on the review of the stock assessment is only to be used for the purpose of Marine Stewardship Council certification/re-certification and cannot be published or released in another public or scientific forum, without the permission of the Executive Director of the Department of Fisheries.

In fulfilling the Terms of Reference for the review the consultant will consult with Dr. Tony Smith from CSIRO in Hobart on relevant aspects of the review.

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) will review the consultant's report and if necessary in the opinion of SCS an independent review on the review's outcomes will be carried out.

The finalization of the contract and time frame for the review is dependent on:

- the availability of the consultant that SCS has agreed should be approached to undertake the review<sup>1</sup> and
- the consultant providing an agreed cost estimate for the work.

---

<sup>1</sup> Professor Dr Norman Hall of Murdoch University in Western Australia has been approached to undertake the review of the 2004 and 2005 western rock lobster stock assessment. Dr Hall acknowledges his employment with the Department of Fisheries prior to 2001 and his previous involvement in stock assessments and modeling of the western rock lobster fishery and will undertake the tasks listed above as objectively as possible.