

***Fish Resources Management Act 1994*****Section 7****INSTRUMENT OF EXEMPTION**

I, Joanne Kennedy, Manager Aquatic Resource Management, as delegate of the Minister for Fisheries, pursuant to section 7(1) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*, HEREBY EXEMPT the class of persons specified in **Schedule 1** from Clause 26A(2)(e)(i) of the *West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Management Plan 2012* that would otherwise prevent those persons from carrying out the activities specified in **Schedule 2**, for the period specified in **Schedule 3** for the purpose specified in **Schedule 4**, subject to the conditions specified in **Schedule 5**.

**Schedule 1  
Persons**

The Master of an authorised boat operating under the authority of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence.

**Schedule 2  
Activity**

Using a float rig with up to three surface floats attached in waters greater than 45.7 metres in depth when fishing for rock lobster under the authority of a West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery Licence.

**Schedule 3  
Period**

This Exemption is valid from

- Date of signing until 31 October 2026; and
- 1 April 2027 until 31 October 2027.

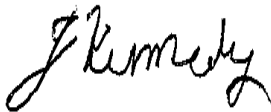
**Schedule 4  
Purpose**

This exemption is granted pursuant to Section 7(2)(e) of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* to trial alternative three-float rig arrangements when commercially fishing for rock lobster during the whale migration period in the West Coast Rock Lobster Managed Fishery.

**Schedule 5  
Conditions**

- 1) The Master of an authorised boat must not use a float rig with more than two surface floats attached in waters less than or equal to 45.7 metres in depth.
- 2) When the Master of an authorised boat, operating under the authority of this exemption, has finished setting and pulling rock lobster pots on a trip and is intending to steam to an approved landing area, the Master of an authorised boat must provide the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development with a record of whale sightings (including nil sightings) by either

- a. Commencing a survey and logging a sighting in the Marine Fauna Sightings App; or
- b. sending an SMS text message to [whale.tag@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:whale.tag@dpird.wa.gov.au) that includes:
  - i. prior to commencing steaming:
    - 1. the current latitude and longitude of the authorised boat;  
and
    - 2. the Licensed Fishing Boat number; and
    - 3. the approved landing area where catch will be consigned.
  - ii. during steaming to report a whale sighting:
    - 1. the current latitude and longitude of the authorised boat;  
and
    - 2. the number of whales sighted.



**Joanne Kennedy**  
**MANAGER AQUATIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**  
**as delegate of the MINISTER FOR FISHERIES**

24 April 2026