

# Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
6 August 2013



## **SA Rock Lobster Industry ‘Draws the Line’**

South Australia’s multi-million dollar rock lobster industry has been included in a soon-to-be-released documentary bringing a fishermen’s perspective to the political decision to implement the world’s largest network of marine reserves in Australian waters.

South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council (SARLAC) Executive Officer, Justin Phillips, said the industry was pleased to be involved in the much-anticipated documentary, *Drawing The Line*, which features interviews with fishermen from some of the most remote locations along the State’s coastline.

“*Drawing The Line* will tell an objective story about marine parks and demonstrates that it’s possible to deliver effective protection for the marine environment by dealing with real threats without unnecessarily excluding highly sustainable fisheries that support regional families and communities for political reasons,” Mr Phillips said.

“It’s important for the community to understand what’s happening at both State and Federal levels regarding marine conservation, and *Drawing The Line* will help to deliver some of the key messages in a factual way.

“In both jurisdictions we’re about to see marine park networks implemented which have only succeeded in politicising the noble concept of marine conservation, all for very little, if any, environmental benefit.”

South Eastern Professional Fishermen’s Association President, David Manser, is among those to feature in the documentary and raises concerns over the ‘them and us’ approach to the marine park consultation process.

“There’s been no cooperation as far as people talking to us respectfully and sensibly and trying to come to an agreement, it’s been a very heavy-handed approach and a ‘them and us’ attitude that’s just never going to work,” Mr Manser said.

Other industry participants interviewed for the documentary highlighted the ripple effect the marine parks will have on coastal towns and regional businesses.

“What should have been a really positive Government initiative is now resented by coastal families and communities around Australia who will have to deal with the real economic and social losses which will be far reaching,” said Mr Phillips.

“The SA Government is promoting the production of ‘Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment’ as a strategic priority with a focus on China as an export market. But at the same time is adopting a policy reducing SA exports and jobs from a premium food producing industry which is environmentally friendly and benign.”

Mr Phillips said this type of contradictory policy implementation highlighted the political nature of the marine parks process with both State and Federal elections imminent and the real cost to tax payers having been omitted from the recent State Budget.

“It is still unclear if these marine parks will be an additional burden on taxpayers through increased levies and charges or are they being introduced with no intention of actually funding any meaningful monitoring of the environment,” Mr Phillips said.

“This is unacceptable and goes against a commitment made by the Premier himself - it clearly shows the intent to only deliver ‘feel good paper parks’ - it’s time to draw the line!”

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*Drawing The Line* is due to be released later this year.

SARLAC's own footage for *Drawing The Line*, which was shot off the Limestone Coast in June 2013, can be viewed at [www.sarlac.com.au](http://www.sarlac.com.au) or via the following links:

<http://youtu.be/2Ocz7rjSFEU> - short version (04:49)

[http://youtu.be/rVqhFSkfy\\_c](http://youtu.be/rVqhFSkfy_c) - long version (08:43)

Still shots of the SARLAC footage, and the MP4 files themselves, can be downloaded via the following link:

[www.dropbox.com/sh/3oyuet37mhoy30m/FFMpWKf1yU](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/3oyuet37mhoy30m/FFMpWKf1yU)

The *Drawing The Line* trailer can be viewed here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dxxic91-Wpw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dxxic91-Wpw)

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## **ABOUT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ROCK LOBSTER ADVISORY COUNCIL (SARLAC)**

SARLAC promotes the interests of the South Australian Rock Lobster Industry, and is governed by a Board comprising of industry leaders from each fishing zone together with an independent Chairperson. The SARLAC Board is supported by an Executive Officer. The Southern Rock Lobster Industry is South Australia's most valuable commercial wild-caught fishery, generating up to \$280 million worth of economic activity for the State each year, with much of that supporting regional coastal communities and economies in the South East and Limestone Coast Region, in Port Lincoln and on the West Coast, Yorke Peninsula and Kangaroo Island.

For more information visit: [www.sarlac.com.au](http://www.sarlac.com.au)

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