



Fish claim 'naive

A CALL for the WA rock lobster fishery to be closed for the foreseeable future has been described as an outrageous and naive attack on the livelihood of fishermen.

Local MPs Brian Ellis and Ian Blayney said the call by the Conservation Council and the Wilderness Society showed them to be more interested in protecting lobsters than families.

They said the groups appeared to lack a practical understanding of the industry.

"They appear to be basing their argument solely on the basis of the puerulus count without taking into consideration other management measures," Mr Ellis said.

"The Government is optimistic that the puerulus count is beginning to slowly increase, but has nevertheless taken a precautionary approach to sustaining the fishery."

Mr Blayney said the conservation groups had "jumped the gun" and were shooting down the livelihood of around 400 families.