

## Black market lobsters cost man \$94k



 Graham Thomas Davies has been fined \$90,000 for selling rock lobsters on the black market. Picture: Barry Wiseman/File.

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### WA News

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A WA man has been fined and banned from lobster fishing for two years after selling hundreds of rock lobsters on the black market.

Graham Thomas Davies from Yanchep has been ordered to pay a fine and costs of \$94,409.35 after pleading guilty to multiple charges following an investigation by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Fisheries.

“This outcome highlights how serious the court considers these offences,” compliance manager Todd A’Vard said on Wednesday.

Davies, 67, pleaded guilty in Joondalup Magistrates Court on August 30.

The department says Davies sold more than 300 rock lobsters he had caught recreationally between November 2015 and March 2016.

Mr Vard says the fine and ban sends a strong message.

“Black market fish thieves are on notice,” he said.

“Individuals tempted to sell their catch illegally need to consider the risk of receiving large fines and having boats, vehicles and gear seized.”

Seafood trafficking offences also carry a penalty of four years, he said.