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Commercial fishing body WAFIC demands no recreational fishing in the Perth Metro zone

If the Fisheries Minister is serious about sustainability of our icon species he will ban all fishing in the metropolitan area. Commercial fishing closure is just part of a public relations exercise to cover-up the crisis, lack of research and proper management of the recreational sector. Sustainable fishing is paramount.

<http://www.wafic.com.au/images/wafic-23--ookoo.pdf>

New recreational management strategies required for sustainable demersal scalefish fishing

Recreational fishing need urgent management changes so that iconic species such as dhufish and pink snapper will remain available for future generations. More fish are being caught or killed each year than are being replaced in the population by natural reproduction. Catches of key demersal species in the West Coast Bioregion must be reduced at least 50 per cent as soon as possible. Tighter rules in force before July 2008.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/WestCoastDemersal/index.php>

Fisheries Minister Jon Ford encourages debate on how to save iconic fish species

Minister calls on Western Australians to debate about the future of recreational fishing for demersal scalefish such as dhufish and pink snapper. The serious problems now faced require new and innovative solutions.

www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/media/media.nsf/news/840D9A26EC80EF67C825735C0008FDF9?opendocument

Consultation process to help determine long term management for recreational fishing

The management of recreational fishing is now at the crossroads. A new management approach is required to effectively manage the recreational catch at a sustainable level. It is important to understand and obtain community views on the best way forward. Public briefings and discussion sessions by fisheries specialists will be held at major regional centres during October. Public comments close 15 November.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/WestCoastDemersal/Media%20Statement%20and%20Fact%20Sheets.pdf>

Wilderness and low impact fishing areas

There can be benefits for fish stocks, recreational fishers and the community by establishing some Western Australian coastal areas or rivers as wilderness or low impact fishing areas. Ideally populations of fish species would be only lightly exploited and be very close to their natural state.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/PolicyWildernessArea.htm>

Scheme offers \$1 million collected from boat registration fees for improved boating facilities.

Local governments and other organisations providing facilities for recreational boating in WA are invited to apply for a share of more than \$1million from round 13 of the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme.

www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/media/media.nsf/news/45E2B2D2A6E38F63C8257354002B1275?opendocument

70,000 Recreational Skippers' Tickets issued in WA

More than 70,000 Western Australians have their recreational skipper's ticket (RST) ensuring the success of one of the State's most significant marine safety initiatives. All skippers in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of more than 4.5 kilowatts (6HP) must have an RST by April 2008 (April 2007 for under 25s)

(<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/media/media.nsf/0c079b992e7e607a48256a5a0016e16b/d8eb75ddc0ab e31bc8257338000dbc92?OpenDocument>)

Making grass meadows under the ocean.

The achievements of Cockburn Sound Seagrass Research and Rehabilitation Plan, the largest seagrass rehabilitation project in the world and certainly the most successful in Australia, have surprised even the WA marine scientists working on the project. If this success continues, this will demonstrate for the first time, especially in difficult marine environments, that large scale seagrass rehabilitation is feasible.

http://www.sciencewa.net.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1637&Itemid=587

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