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Recfishwest to release draft comments on West Coast recreational fishing proposals

Recfishwest's draft submission on the proposals for changes to recreational fishing in West Coast region will be released for members' and public comments and information and use in personal submissions if they wish. An updated final version will be released by 24 April, giving 18 days or 5 days respectively before the closing date of 30 April. The link below includes links to current and previous discussion papers and submissions.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/DraftSubDemersalFishingFMP228.htm> (draft comments will be added 11 April)

Community information sessions for Pilbara - 80 Mile Beach Marine Park planning

The State Government is to expand the Marine Park and reserve system in the Pilbara and lower west Kimberley (Eighty Mile Beach) regions. Community information sessions will commence in Perth 6pm to 9pm on 10 April. Sessions are open door style format where you can come along at any time during the advertised time and stay as long as you like. It is also an opportunity to share your local knowledge about the values of the study areas. Sessions will follow in Broome, 80 Mile Beach, Pt Hedland, Karratha and Onslow.

<http://www.naturebase.net/pilbara80mile> and <http://www.naturebase.net/content/view/3127/1513/1/6/>

FRDC 5 year program invests in the future

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation's "People Development Program" invests in research and development activities which develop the capabilities of the people to whom the industry entrusts its future. It recognises there is a shortage of industry leaders in all sectors of the fishing industry, and there is an urgent need to develop people within all sectors who have the skills to effectively contribute to debate and policy development for significant challenges, including access to and sharing of fish resources.

<http://www.frdc.com.au/peopledevelopment/> and <http://www.frdc.com.au/download/pd/74314.DOC>

Crayfish crisis

Puerulus (very small juvenile lobster) drift on the currents and then settle on weed banks and reefs to grow to legal size. Department of Fisheries research into this year's settlement has found one of the lowest on record. This means that in three or four years time, WA could have one the lowest rock lobster catches in 40 or 50 years. Commercial fishermen are divided whether their management should be by quotas or effort controls.

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2006/s2195464.htm>

Second stage of highway to start in June

Stage Two of the Lancelin to Cervantes road will complete the Indian Ocean Drive, linking Perth's northern suburbs with Dongara and all the coastal communities in between. Scheduled for completion in 3 years, the 55km \$110 million project will provide sealed roads to Wedge and Grey and an alternative to Brand Hwy.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/RecentStatements.aspx?ItemId=41566>

Promising artificial breeding method for southern bluefin tuna

Water temperature and daylight changes have convinced captive southern bluefin tuna that they have swum to tropical waters and it is time to breed. Eggs have hatched, releasing live and active tuna larvae. Dependent on successful grow out, hopes are that this method will be able to duplicate Australia's annual bluefin quota.

www.smh.com.au/news/conservation/bonanza-if-breeding-plan-works/2008/03/20/1205602586993.html
and www.cleaneastuna.com.au/documents/nr-lifecycleclosure3.08.pdf

Bayswater targeted for improved water quality

A nutrient-stripping wetland is part of a plan to reduce the amount of nutrients and other contaminants entering the Swan River by improving the quality of water flowing through the Bayswater Brook. The drainage is from the largest urban catchment in the Perth metropolitan area, covering 27,000 hectares.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=129976>

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