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# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **Adventures of the Australian recreational fishing study tour to the USA**

A daily blog outlines some of the activities of the tour, shows some areas where the US is far ahead of Australia and vice versa in recreational fishing and environmental management, research and engagement with recreational fishers. Australia should sell what it does well, and continually assess its performance against other countries. Each country can learn from the other to make a real difference to future fisheries management.

[http://recfishstudytour.blogspot.com/2008\\_11\\_01\\_archive.html](http://recfishstudytour.blogspot.com/2008_11_01_archive.html)

## **Pink snapper create their own whirlpool**

Hundreds of pink snapper, layered and swimming, created their own four-metre whirlpool in a spawning ritual photographed in Cockburn Sound. Large schools of pink snapper visited the Sound every year to spawn, but it was rare for people to see them spawning. Fishing is prohibited there until January to protect the spawning fish.

[www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/hundreds-of-pink-snapper-school-in-cockburn-sound-20081123-6eq4.html](http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/hundreds-of-pink-snapper-school-in-cockburn-sound-20081123-6eq4.html)

## **Developing long-term indicators for the fish of Cockburn Sound**

Adult populations of pink snapper in the lower west coast region have been identified as being low and depleted. Blue swimmer crab stocks in Cockburn Sound are more vulnerable than previously thought with this fishery collapsing in 2005/06. This project aims to assess changes in the distribution and abundance of blue swimmer crab and snapper by comparison with Fisheries' long-term dataset, and establish a system to monitor the abundance and distribution of sub-tidal embayment faunal communities in Cockburn Sound.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/frr/frr181/index.php?0401>

## **New Woodman Point facilities to help ease ramp rage**

Recreational boat owners can expect fewer delays launching their vessels at peak times over summer with the increase from four to eight ramps plus a floating landing at Woodman Point, one of the busiest facilities in the metropolitan area. Forecast growth in boat ownership shows demand for 25 more launch ramp lanes north of river, 9 south of the river by 2025. The campaign includes the education of boat owners in good ramp etiquette.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/RecentStatements.aspx?ItemId=131014>

## **Promising fish farm in receivership following fish deaths**

A Jurien Bay Yellowtail Kingfish aquaculture company which had severe stock losses from bacteria in November has been placed into voluntary administration, considering options for the restructure of the company.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/04/2437709.htm>

## **Farm trial off Two Rocks promises seafood bounty**

A pilot project with 170,000 yellowtail kingfish could pave the way for a bigger industry that would reduce Australia's dependence on imported fish and reduce pressure on wild fish stocks. The first fish farm in Australia based in the open ocean rather than on-shore waters, the site was ideal because the farm could be expanded without using areas that were environmentally sensitive or favoured by leisure or commercial boats.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=109625>

## **High levels of lead found in Esperance shellfish**

A study of the fallout from the port's contamination with toxic lead carbonate dust found lead from a sample of razorfish (a shellfish) which could also be present in other filter feeding shellfish and fish which feed on them. However a safe distance for taking shellfish and fish needs to be determined to properly inform all fishermen. WA Health department's advice was to avoid eating wild shellfish in any area because its safety could not be guaranteed.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=111923> and

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/08/2440407.htm>

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