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Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest

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Christmas prizes for lucky Recfishwest members

Four lucky Recfishwest members received early Christmas presents following the prize draw on 19 Dec. Recfishwest wishes all of our members a safe, happy and fishy Christmas and New Year for 2009.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/XmasPrizes2008.htm>

Responsible recreational fishing activism and representation changes long standing methods

The peak national representative organization, Recfish Australia, led a focused protest of Australian sport fishers and influenced the Australian Government, after more than 50 years, to change the method of developing new federal fisheries and to introduce and strengthen underlying ecological sustainability principles in its fisheries management plans. Blue mackerel was and is a vital trophic or prey species, essential for sustaining other finfish and the marine ecosystem underpinning both the recreational and commercial fishing industries.

http://www.recfish.com.au/hot_topics/pdf/WRFC%20Slimy%20mackerel%20Paper%20final%20version.pdf

New Fisheries patrol vessel for Perth's northern waters

The powerful 12.5 metre PV Waterman was specifically designed to meet the wide variety of tasks required for Fisheries and Marine Safety patrols to carry out compliance work in the ocean off Perth's northern suburbs. It can handle the worst weather the "Fremantle Doctor" can throw at it, can cruise at 30knots fully laden with six crew, has range to go well offshore, outstanding manoeuvrability and a very shallow draught for inshore compliance.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=602>

Esperance fish declared safe to eat

Health Department said it was confident Esperance fish were safe to eat after tests on 17 samples of fish from the region. A study by the Conservation Council found elevated lead levels in the kidneys of some razor fish.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/22/2452632.htm>

Fisheries phone-in to stop fish thieves

A special phone-in manned by local Fisheries Officers will allow members of the local community to report any suspected fish thieves, illegal catch or sale. There are still some unscrupulous fishers out there looking to profit from the illegal exploitation of a community owned resource, which can significantly impact on the whole community. Callers can remain anonymous and all information collected is treated as confidential.

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/home/media_list/fisheries/fisheries_phone-in_to_stop_fish_thieves

Comments sought on coastal planning for the next 10 to 15 years

Public comments are sought by 31 March 2009 on a draft strategy for the future land use, development and conservation of the Perth metropolitan coastline from Two Rocks to Singleton. The draft strategy covers the location, scale and density of developments over the next 10 to 15 years, including recreational use and infrastructure and marina developments, protecting from environmental harm while welcoming development.

<http://www.wapc.wa.gov.au/Publications/1759.aspx>

Marine park rule confusion puts Ningaloo anglers at risk of prosecution

Regulations for Commonwealth waters of Marine Parks are not consistent with State based fishing regulations, creating a situation where nearly all recreational fishers in the Ningaloo Marine Park would be inadvertently breaking the law. State fishing laws, as developed and agreed to as part of the State management of fisheries, are specifically tailored to the sustainability requirements of the species present in the area. These were agreed to as part of the Offshore Constitutional Settlement, and should apply in the Commonwealth Marine Parks. Recfishwest has previously attempted to resolve this issue with the Minister, Hon Peter Garrett.

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

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