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# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **Forging that special bond**

There's an element to recreational fishing that is all too easily discounted or overlooked by some. There is the social value of the sport, and it's much more far-reaching than just the camaraderie enjoyed by a group of mates camping on a beach or spending a day in a boat together. What better family bonding experience than sharing the excitement of a child catching his or her first fish? It's not just the excitement, it's the sense of achievement as well, with that small but significant reinforcement of the children's self-esteem.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=157&ContentID=136723>

## **Sawfish slaughter: minister closes fishing spot**

An area will be closed to all commercial barramundi fishing for 90 days while the Department of Fisheries investigates a mass sawfish killing, pending prosecution. Dozens of sawfish that have been killed by commercial fishermen to prevent them getting caught in nets. Minister will not tolerate people acting in that way - not even abiding by their code of conduct they themselves have developed in order to be allowed to continue fishing there.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/09/2539774.htm>

## **Inquiry into the provision, use and regulation of caravan parks and camping grounds**

A Parliamentary committee is taking submissions aimed at maintaining a viable caravan park industry, protecting the rights of operators and users, and providing an adequate mix of long and short stay facilities and sites. The right to camp out is not separately listed. Submissions close 1 May 2009, report is expected in Sept.

<http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Parliament/commit.nsf/%40EvidenceOnly%41/595E6C7A18EE54A0C8257576001B025E?opendocument>

## **Management and monitoring of fish spawning aggregations**

The report covers increased understanding and appreciation of the ecological and fisheries importance of fish spawning aggregations, awareness of the tools available for studying and monitoring fish species, a highly successful research collaboration between research scientists and recreational fishers, specific information used in new management plans for West Coast Demersal scalefish species, and protocols for sports fisheries.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/frf/fr187/index.php?0401>

## **Where to now for Recfish Australia**

Recreational fishing in Australia needs effective national direction and unity. Recfish Australia has the potential to give that and more. One of the tactics of the anti-fishing movement is to masquerade as conservation. There seems to be a plethora of organisations and viewpoints, one of the attributes of our community. We may have many different viewpoints but are united in one aspect and that is a love of fishing, fish and the environment. It is possible to accommodate a range of views and present these views.

<http://www.fishingworldmag.com.au/index.cfm?objectid=D64009D5-23D9-11DE-A6490050568C22C9>

## **Boat owners object to plans to raise registration fees**

Recreational boaters object to reports of increased boat registration fees, and failure to tackle the critical shortage of public facilities killing the industry, despite commitments before the last election. Minister said boating groups said they were prepared to pay more to get better facilities; proposals for new public facilities had been submitted by local governments, and he pledged to announce within weeks the projects funded.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=136078> and

<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,21598,25321320-2761,00.html>

## **\$1.7m to go to boating facilities boost**

The Western Australian Government is making \$1.7 million available to improve recreational boating facilities across the state, money which has been partly raised through boat registration fees.

[www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/20/2521916.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/20/2521916.htm) and [www.dpi.wa.gov.au/imarine/19116.asp](http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au/imarine/19116.asp)

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