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Marine industries applaud expert review of marine parks

Peak bodies representing recreational fishing, the boating industry and fishing trade industry voiced their strong support for a report by environmental expert, Prof Robert Kearney, commissioned and paid for by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Fund. This reviewed "The Torn Blue Fringe" which calls for more marine parks and greater restrictions on recreational fishing. Fishing is the soft target and governments are reluctant to tackle the real environmental threats of pollution, habitat destruction and unconstrained urban growth.

<http://www.recfish.com.au/docs/MR%20-%20Industry%20Supports%20Kearney%20Review.pdf>

Environment groups increase pressure for ocean sanctuary zones

A Community Cabinet meeting was to be used to increase pressure for large sanctuary zones in south western Commonwealth waters, supported by a media campaign heavily funded by foreign organisations. Recreational fishing group claims this is being fast and loose with the truth, attempting to steal the agenda and subvert real and reasonable processes already in place such as the case-by-case management process through public consultation.

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2008/s2549808.htm>

Ethanol blend fuel a disaster risk for boats.

Blended fuel poses a risk for boat owners and is potentially disastrous for any vessels that use fuel tanks more than a few years old. The blend is corrosive and eats into many materials including fibreglass and aluminium tanks. The ethanol does not stay mixed with the petrol, can absorb water and sink to the bottom of the tank.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/qld-news/ethanol-disaster-risk-for-boats-20090419-ab3b.html>

Fish seized after search of house

As a result of information received from the community and covert surveillance, Fisheries Officers executed a search warrant at a Kalbarri house and found a large quantity of processed fish in storage. 181 kg of fillets, possibly Spanish mackerel, in excess of the legal possession limit were seized. Penalties could exceed \$15,000.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=621>

Rec-fished rock lobster allegedly sold to metropolitan hotel

As a result of a surveillance operation, a man is facing many charges under the Fish Resources Management Act for allegedly selling recreationally caught rock lobsters to a suburban Perth hotel. The hotel is also being investigated and could also face charges related to a delivery of more than 220 rock lobsters. Fishing laws allowed for seizure of vessels, vehicles and/or equipment that may have been used in alleged offences.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=617>

Community consultation over new coastal development

Public consultation will be held in early May about a proposal for a 200m pier, 550m breakwater with public access as a fishing platform, retail precinct, up to 500 boat pens, charter boat access, refuelling and sillage facilities in Rockingham. The EPA approved the Environmental Scoping Document in March 2008.

<http://www.portrockingham.com.au>

Consultation over the future of fishing at Green's Pool

The Department of Fisheries is calling for submissions on whether fishing should be prohibited at popular Green's Pool, a major swimming and fishing tourist attraction 15 kilometres west of Denmark. The proposal is to ban the take of all fish and marine life by line, net and spear along 600 metres of beach and headland.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=619>

Monday fishing back as industry meets reduced lobster catch target

A review of reduced catch predictions has allowed an extra day's fishing for commercial rock lobster.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx?ItemId=131733>

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