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WA anglers back seasonal bans to protect demersal species

Australian Anglers Association has told the Government they will support seasonal bans in some boat fishing areas to protect vulnerable demersal species such as dhufish and pink snapper. More research on these fish populations is needed. Sole consideration should be protection of fish, not people's ability to fish during holidays. The Association supports licensing as a way to give a more accurate indication of fishing activity.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuId=77&ContentID=139854>

Council wants continued Green's Pool fishing

Denmark Shire Council will write to the Department of Fisheries recommending that fishing not be banned at Green's Pool. Spear and net fishing should remain banned but line fishing should continue to be allowed.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/30/2556973.htm>

Pair fined over illegal barramundi

A South Australian couple have been fined almost \$6,000 in the Kununurra Magistrates Court for illegally fishing barra in the Ord River, being found in possession of 11 barra where the legal limit is 1 per person.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/04/2560124.htm>

Commercial fisher fined over 80 Mile Beach shark dumping, two more to face trial

A commercial fisher was fined \$1500 plus \$270 costs in Broome Court for dumping 50 shark carcasses in breach of a condition of his exemption allowing him to net fish there. His exemption was cancelled in 2008. Two other commercial fishermen will stand trial in July charged with taking protected species, sharks illegally killed for their fins and dumped on the beach. Their commercial fishing licences have been revoked.

www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=623 & www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/05/2561361.htm

Recfish Australia seeks support from recreational fishers.

It is surprising and very disappointing that the current Australian Government has not financially supported the peak recreational fishing body Recfish Australia which provides independent expert advice for Government, community and fishers. Without nationally coordinated recreational fishing group such as Recfish Australia, future environmental, fishing and diving interests will not be represented and you could be severely restricted and could be excluded from many areas and decisions that affect you and your children.

<http://www.recfish.com.au/members/pdf/Challenges%20facing%20our%20fishing%20future.pdf> and

<http://www.recfish.com.au/members/index.html>

Marine Parks, what's below the surface?

South Australian fishing industry claims the Government is "casting people a line" about marine park proposals covering 46% of State waters, the current proposals are not based on identifying the real threats to marine habitats, and do nothing to help areas already under stress. Focus on any real threats, look deeper, and don't just take the bait. The fishing industry wants marine conservation; zealots only want marine parks.

<http://www.whatsbelowthesurface.com.au/> and <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/>

SA commercial fishing industry funds department's marine park position

South Australia Department for Environment and Heritage's marine parks team has been strengthened with the addition of a new contract position, jointly funded by DEH and industry peak body Wildcatch Fisheries SA. Feedback from the fishing industry will inform the development of marine park management plans with zoning over the next couple of years, and help to minimise any displacement of commercial fishing.

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/data/press/090124FishingInd.pdf>

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