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Demerit penalty scheme to protect fisheries

A demerit point system for commercial fishing offences will strengthen the protection of the State's fisheries from the 1st of July. Fishers who incur 200 points within a five-year period will be disqualified from holding a fishing licence or other fishing authority for ten years. Existing penalties for recreational fishers will also incur demerit points, which may prevent them from being registered to use rock lobster pots or fishing nets.

www.premier.sa.gov.au/news.php?id=4917 and www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries/commercial_fishing/demerit_points

Fish habitat protection area at Point Quobba

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore announced an expanded restricted zone would apply at Point Quobba's Fish Habitat Protection Area (FHPA) from early July. The expansion to 900m by 340m follows a community driven initiative to better protect fish and the coral reef and lagoon system in a popular snorkelling site.

Fishing is still permitted in the section of the FHPA that is outside the expanded restriction zone.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=132077>

Some reef fish do not move as much as previously thought

New data on the long-term movement patterns of sharks and other fish in the Ningaloo Marine Park will have important implications for future management decisions on the size and placement of sanctuary zones. 104 acoustic receivers along the Ningaloo coastline make this Australia's largest array of acoustic receivers.

<http://www.csiro.au/news/Ningaloo-Reef-fish.html>

Sustainable recreational fishing in Commonwealth waters and marine parks

Recfish Australia has big concerns with the planning process after workshops in Cairns and Sydney. The biggest threat to recreational fishing are the calls from extreme conservation groups such as the American - based Pew Environment Group that continues to lobby government to close extensive areas in the Coral Sea and off Southwest Australia. Recfish Australia encourages all recreational fishers to apply political pressure through their local federal MPs and senators to guarantee that all sectors have a chance to present their cases.

<http://www.recfish.com.au/docs/MR%20-%20Recfish%20committed%20to%20sustainable%20fishing.pdf>

and (<http://www.fishingworldmag.com.au/news/cairns-meeting-reveals--smoke-and-mirrors->)

Fishermen left in limbo with convictions

Over 300 people convicted of fishing in a green (no fishing) zone prior to December 2006 have not had their convictions 'spent' even after the passing of an amendment bill in 2008 which removed criminal convictions. Once a conviction is 'spent', any searches will reveal no information on the past recording of a conviction.

<http://www.fishingworldmag.com.au/news/fishermen-left-in-limbo> and <http://ronboswell.com/?p=754>

On the spot fines for ignoring no fishing zones

After a four month education period and verbal warnings to more than 70 people, \$500 on the spot fines will apply, court penalties of up to \$16,500 for repeat offenders, and \$400 fines for ignoring 'go slow' areas.

<http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=64375>

ASI Groyne clean up day 9am - 12.30pm, 5 July

You are invited to help a clean up of the popular recreational fishing spot, the ASI Groyne in Henderson, organised by recreational fishermen from the Western Angler Fishing Forum. Rubbish pickers and gloves, bags and bins are supplied. The more hands, the lighter the work. Free sausage sizzle afterwards.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/ASIGroyneCleanup2009.htm>