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# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **Prawn White Spot virus in seafood imports**

White spot virus is extremely pathogenetic, has a wide host range, can be transmitted by insects and birds and can spread rapidly, with a lot of deaths occurring in a short period of time. If it were to occur in the ocean it would be very difficult to put a boundary around it and deal with the animals that have been infected.

<http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/qld/content/2006/s1670663.htm>

## **Increased use of imported raw prawns as bait or berley ramps-up the risk**

A 2007 survey found a significant increase in the number of fishers using imported prawns, sold for human consumption, as bait or berley, creating a disease pathway for the introduction of exotic diseases into Australia's marine and aquaculture resources. All Australia's valued crustaceans, mud crabs, blue swimmer crabs, rock lobsters, red claw and prawns are susceptible to these diseases.

<http://www.apfa.com.au//media/article.cfm?mediaid=73>

## **Stronger quarantine measures for prawn imports**

Federal Fisheries Minister, Senator Eric Abetz, said revised quarantine measures are intended to reduce the risk of prawn diseases which are of concern to Australia's fisheries and aquaculture.

<http://www.mffc.gov.au/releases/2007/07073a.html>

## **New fishing bag and size limits announced**

Changes to fishing rules in NSW reflect the findings of scientific assessments, the National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey, an inquiry into illegal fishing, advice from expert committees of fishers and more than 3300 public submissions. Includes a new combined bag limit of 20 for bream and tarwhine.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/recent-news/fishing-and-aquaculture/new-fishing-limits>

## **Setting of Fish Harvest Levels**

Keeping fish stocks higher than the biological reference point involves a deliberate choice to manage the fishery so as to catch and take less fish. Many fishers would agree that it is better to deliberately limit their take to only a small number of fish from a plentiful stock rather than their catch being limited intentionally as result of the stock being over-fished.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/PolicySettingFishHarvestLevels.html>

## **Recreational fishers to record their catch in statewide survey**

Commencing on 1 August, Fisheries is preparing to undertake the largest survey ever of recreational fishers in South Australia. Aims to give better understanding of changes in fish populations and recreational fishing.

<http://www.ministers.sa.gov.au/news.php?id=1894>

## **Water quality in live wells affects survival of catch and release fish**

To avoid unwanted mortalities, fishers must know how to keep fish alive and in good condition for release after a weigh in. Fish must be watched, dissolved oxygen levels, temperature, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and pH levels must all be controlled:- keep the water cool, circulate and aerate by pumps, airstones or spraybars.

<http://www.info-fish.net/releasefish/files/421/Fish%20in%20Live%20Wells.pdf>

## **Western Australian Marine Science Institution research**

WA is committed to the sustainable development of its marine resources and conservation of its biodiversity, especially in marine protected areas. Research areas have been identified, linked by science themes of ocean systems forecasting, biodiversity conservation and natural resources development and management.

<http://www.wamsi.org.au/research/nodes>