



PO Box 34, North Beach, WA 6920

**Join RFW to receive this by email**

(08) 9246 3366

[recfish@recfishwest.org.au](mailto:recfish@recfishwest.org.au)

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

# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **Recfishwest Annual General Meeting and election of Board members.**

The 2009 Recfishwest AGM and election of Board members will be held at 7:15pm on Friday 30 October, at Fremantle Sailing Club, Marine Terrace, South Fremantle. Elections will be held for 3 Public members, 5 Association members, and a bioregional representative for South Coast region. Ballot papers can be returned before the night. Special General Meeting for a minor Constitution amendment will be held before the AGM.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/AGMNotice2009.htm>

## **Cockburn Sound crabbing to reopen**

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore announced the reopening of Cockburn Sound to commercial and recreational crab fishers from December 15 following a three-year closure. Commercial crab fishers would have increased size limits and reduced pot numbers. Recreational fishers would follow West Coast rules.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=132637>

## **No extension of Peel Harvey crab closure**

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore has decided not to extend the closure of the Peel Harvey crab fishery into December. Recfishwest and the WA Fishing Industry Council will develop a resource sharing agreement for the fishery and will provide the Minister with a report before the start of the next summer fishing season.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=132637> and

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/PeelHarveyCrab2009.htm>

## **Ledge Care campaign cleans up land based game fishing sites**

Access to deepwater rock fishing locations has become increasingly limited over the past five to ten years. Australian Land Based Anglers Association, in conjunction with various environmental groups and volunteers, held a clean up of several popular rock fishing ledges, collecting 1.26 tonnes of rubbish. Rock fishers now have a means of communication with bodies involved with or affected by marine park closures.

<http://www.fishingworld.com.au/news/jb-ledge-care-effort-bags-1-26-tonnes>

## **Battle over the future of near pristine marine environment**

Fishermen say that despite having over 20 years of protection by no fishing zones, Lihou Reef and Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserves in the Coral Sea have extensive degradation. Significant differences were observed in coral cover, coral bleaching and fish numbers compared to other reefs and observations in 1984.

[www.abc.net.au/news/video/2009/10/23/2722942.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2009/10/23/2722942.htm) and [www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/chnr/pdf/chnr-2003.pdf](http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/chnr/pdf/chnr-2003.pdf) and <http://data.aims.gov.au/extpubs/attachmentDownload?docID=1561>

## **Finding the right indicators for marine ecosystems**

The state of an ecosystem can be understood by measuring the right ecological characteristics. Identifying reliable and robust indicators of change from among the many species and characteristics of the system is a challenging task. In a pilot project undertaken for the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts, CSIRO identified indicators for five 'key ecological features' for the South-West Marine Region off Western Australia's coast, including the Perth Canyon (the "Rottnest Trench") and large ocean eddies.

<http://www.csiro.au/news/Monitoring-marine-ecosystems.html>

## **Quotas cuts for rock lobster**

Rock lobster fishers have made no progress on fee negotiations with the Government following a severe slashing of their quota on the grounds the fishery had been overfished. Other rock lobster fishermen have agreed to cut catches by up to 20 per cent in the next three years to cope with declining lobster numbers.

<http://www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-help-for-fishers/1648717.aspx> and

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/22/2721082.htm>

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