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Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest

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Scientists discuss best methods to measure recreational catch

Some of the Southern Hemisphere's leading recreational fisheries scientists came to Perth to help discuss the best utilisation of information to be gathered through Western Australia's new *Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence* system. Some of the methods discussed include phone surveys, creel surveys and aerial surveys, as well as a wide range of other innovative fishing data collection options. The four day workshop will help map out the most robust recreational catch monitoring programmes for boat and other types of recreational fishing.

<http://www.wamsi.org.au/event/dept-fisheries-wamsi-recreational-fishing-wshp> and
<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=707>

Survey to reel in fishing data

More than 4,000 recreational fishers will take part in a telephone survey this year to help determine the true dollar value worth of recreational fishing. The survey will target a cross section of recreational fishers throughout the state for a 12 month period. Survey data will be used in decisions about the sector to boost development and enhance the recreational fishing experience. Boat ramp surveys will provide finer details.

<http://statements.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=68605>

Nutrient magnet to reduce algal blooms in Canning River

Up to 50 tonnes of a Western Australian developed nutrient magnet that blocks damaging algal blooms would be applied to hot spots along a 2.5km stretch of the Canning River, where phosphorus concentrations are high from urban and rural land use. The clay, known as Phoslock, attracts and binds phosphorus so algae can't use it.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=133141>

Campaign result - Exmouth Gulf salt project withdrawn

WA's EPA has confirmed that plans to develop a solar salt project on the eastern side of Exmouth Gulf have been withdrawn by the proponent. The eastern Gulf is a pristine area that should be protected for future generations. The wealth of scientific opinion against the Project was eventually backed by the EPA which concluded in its July 2008 report that the Yannarie Solar Salt Project was "fundamentally in the wrong place."

(<http://www.haltthesalt.org.au/newsletters/newsletter18.php>)

Discussion paper examines options for sharing fisheries resources

A discussion paper, examining mechanisms for adjusting or trading fisheries catch allocations within a sustainable management framework, has been released for public comment. How ecologically sustainable harvests of fish resources can best be shared between competing user groups is an increasingly important issue for fisheries managers and Governments. The project looks at mechanisms to allow for future adjustments once the initial allocations have been established. Submissions on the discussion paper are invited before 23 April.

www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/mp/mp236/index.php?0401 and www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/mp/mp238/index.php?0401
<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=706>

The effect of western rock lobster fishing on the deepwater ecosystems of the west coast

This study has collected biological, population and habitat data that improves the understanding of the role of western rock lobster in the deepwater ecosystem. The relationship between western rock lobster size and abundance and habitat established in this study is important for the effective management of the fishery. It provides invaluable information for the design and implementation of marine protected areas as a tool for research and species conservation. Gut content analysis and the high contribution of bait to lobster diet suggests bait is likely to be subsidising lobster production in deep coastal ecosystems during the fishing season.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/frr/frr199/index.php?0401>

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