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Fishing survey aimed at saving lives

An online survey conducted by The Royal Life Saving Society is aimed directly at fishers, and rock fishers in particular. With statistics revealing 74 people died while rock fishing in NSW between 1992 and 2000, and 14 last year 2008/09, the Society's survey aims to aid in the prevention of further rock fishing related drownings.

<http://www.fishingworld.com.au/news/fishing-survey-aimed-at-saving-lives> and <http://www.royalnsw.com.au>

Council approves work to shift the Blackwood River mouth

The mouth of the Blackwood River is to be moved to the western end of the sand bar. Closure and reopening is planned in early winter to ensure the river is closed for minimum time to give a 0.5metre increase in Inlet water levels above average levels and that river flows are available for maximum flushing of the new opening. Page 40

(http://www.amrsc.wa.gov.au/library/file/1Council/Meetings/2010%20Ordinary%20Meetings/100224_OM_Minutes.pdf)

Bigger fish to fry - aquaculture feed stocks close in on Omega 3 'Holy Grail'

Most popular aquaculture farmed fish species need to eat fish or at least fish oil to get the healthy ingredients which make them such an important part of the human diet. Fish meal and fish oil come from the marine environment and it's not sustainable. Researchers believe they may have solved one of the most pressing food supply problems of the 21st century by breeding canola containing the same Omega 3 oils found in fish.

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/03/05/2837750.htm and www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2010/s2838754.htm

Parry Inlet fish kill blamed on algal bloom

An estimated 1000 dead fish on the shores of the inlet included bream, mullet, salmon, trout, and king george whiting, with the majority being small hardyheads. Analysis of water samples and dead fish showed that the probable cause of the fish deaths was a bloom of the microscopic algae *Heterosigma akashiwo*, which causes oxygen stress in fish by clogging and irritating gills, and by removing available oxygen from the water.

<http://www.water.wa.gov.au/News+and+events/Current+news/1307.aspx>

Economics of marine protected areas - application to South West Marine Region

Policy makers need to be clear what goals marine protected areas are intended to achieve and must incorporate these objectives in the design of reserves. Some design options will be highly successful at promoting protection of biodiversity but deliver little in the way of beneficial outcomes for existing fisheries, and could impose significant costs. Marine reserves should be understood as a complementary management tool to maintain or enhance yields rather than being used in place of effort and output controls. Adaptive management is important. Assumptions on displaced recreational fishing in this report are sure to be widely used by certain groups.

http://www.allenconsult.com.au/resources/ACG_Marine%20Report.pdf

Dredging stirs harbour toxins, plume blocks light

Toxin tests on live mussels in bags in the Swan River and Fremantle Harbour for the first six weeks of dredging have shown detectable levels of tributyltin, polychlorinated biphenyls and heavy metals. The results released in Fremantle Ports' latest water quality monitoring report show that poisons disturbed by dredging in Fremantle harbour are being absorbed by filter feeders. A survey will check the extent of damage to seagrass and coral.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/6919142/dredging-stirs-harbour-toxins/>

Voters reject lawyers for animals and fish

All Swiss cantons voted against the proposal by animal rights activists to extend a system already in place in Zurich where each area would have a State appointed lawyer to act on behalf of animals and fish at taxpayers' expense.

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/switzerland/7394698/Swiss-voters-reject-lawyers-for-animals-in-referendum.html and www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/mar/05/lawyer-who-defends-animals

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