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Issue 16

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Recfishwest Annual General Meeting, annual report and election of Board Members

Recfishwest's 2006/7 annual report was presented to members at the AGM. Howard Gill has been re-elected, Jamie Chester and Mark Morris are new Board members. Revised fees include a new family membership of \$40 for 2 adults and 2 children, and \$10 for people over 65 or under 18 years.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/AGMNotice2007.htm> www.recfishwest.org.au/AnnualReport2006-7.htm

Toxic shellfish found – public advised to avoid eating wild shellfish from Peel-Harvey Estuary

The Health Department has advised people not to eat wild shellfish including mussels, after tests confirmed the presence of toxins caused by algae in samples taken from the Peel region.

www.health.wa.gov.au/press/view_press.cfm?id=738 www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/10/18/2063583.htm

Fremantle boat launching area included in plans for public comment

Three concept plans have been released for public comment. The preferred option will lead to a 30-year plan that will have up to five new breakwaters built farther out to sea to create sheltered harbours for commercial and recreational boats. Includes recreational boat launching on the southern boundary of Success Harbour.

www.dpi.wa.gov.au/fremantleharbour www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=43978

Geraldton public briefing on recreational fishing rules for at risk demersal fish

Starts 5 pm Thursday, 25 October at the African Reef Resort Hotel, Tarcoola Beach. Fisheries managers and researchers will hold a public briefing to outline important research on 'at risk' WA demersal fish stocks, and the need for new options to manage recreational catches sustainably. No decisions would be made on long-term strategies until the Fisheries Minister had reviewed community comment on this discussion paper and on a further paper to be issued early next year summarising the submissions and feedback received.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=496>

Commercial fishers to join sustainability consultation meetings

The WA Department of Fisheries has bowed to pressure from commercial fishermen to allow them to take part in community consultation meetings. Sustainability issues and management practices and concerns for commercial fishermen will be covered at meetings in Geraldton and Fremantle, 25 and 29 October.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/10/19/2063798.htm>

Court order bans repeat offender from fishing

A 40 year-old man has been fined \$9,100 and prohibited from fishing for abalone in Western Australia under an order by a Joondalup court. This was a second similar offence. The order was issued under Section 225 of the Fish Resources Management Act because the offence was serious and he hadn't learnt his lesson.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=495>

Commonwealth funding for Great Australian Shark Count project

The Great Australian Shark Count will involve community monitoring by divers, fishers, scientists and conservationists; and provide the community, managers and decision makers with a valuable data source. Aust Underwater Federation has been granted financial support of \$70,000 for ongoing education and monitoring.

www.recfish.com.au/hot_topics/pdf/media%20release%20Great%20Australian%20Shark%20Count111007a.pdf

Taste for shark fin could threaten the species

A huge appetite for shark fin, mostly in Asia, is making commercial fishing for these creatures increasingly enticing, but critics say it's a recipe for an environmental disaster. Fins fetch between \$40 and \$110 a kilo, but a shark's body brings in between \$1 and \$3 a kilo. There's been a severe decline in some shark species.

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2007/s2061987.htm>

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