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# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **Western Australia's recreational fishing future is in safe hands**

Recfishwest is thrilled with the overwhelming success of the Young Future Leaders in Recreational Fishing program held at the Abrolhos Islands. Fourteen passionate young recreational fishers all demonstrated a considered understanding of the challenges facing the recreational fishing sector as well as offering innovative solutions. Participants were also given an insight into the views of the conservation and commercial sectors.

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

## **New commercial scalefish fishery for West Coast back on track**

Fisheries Minister Jon Ford announced that compensation for commercial fishermen affected by new laws was back on track following the withdrawal of a disallowance motion in Parliament. This is part of measures needed to reduce catches of demersal scalefish by all fishing sectors. Final recommendations for reducing the recreational catch of demersal scalefish along the west coast will soon be released for public comment.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=534>

## **National code of practice for recreational and sport fishing**

Recfish Australia has called on people interested in recreational fishing to comment on the revised National Code of Practice for recreational fishing. The code has four main areas of fishing responsibility:- Looking after our fisheries, Treating fish humanely, Protecting the environment and Respecting the rights of others.

[www.recfish.com.au/hot\\_topics/pdf/mediarelease%20COP-%2024February%202008.pdf](http://www.recfish.com.au/hot_topics/pdf/mediarelease%20COP-%2024February%202008.pdf) and

[www.recfish.com.au/pdf/Draft%20Revised%20NCOP.pdf](http://www.recfish.com.au/pdf/Draft%20Revised%20NCOP.pdf)

## **Impacts of climate change on the Swan and Canning rivers**

A study about the impacts of climate change identified potential changes to the river system and provided strategies to manage the adverse effects. Blowfish provide one of the best examples of the response of a marine opportunist to the changing patterns of runoff and riverine discharge. Absence of significant periods of fresh water discharge has helped blowfish become established as a permanent, dominant part of the fish community.

<http://portal.environment.wa.gov.au/pls/portal/url/ITEM/41C2FC78A8F47C2FE04010AC6E057F04>

## **Seafood retailer, spear fishers and abalone fishers fined over illegal activities**

A seafood retailer has paid \$9,949 in fines, mandatory penalty and court costs after pleading guilty to receiving fish and failing to keep records. Two spearfishermen were fined \$500 each plus additional mandatory penalty of \$3,710 plus court costs of \$234.60. Eight abalone thieves were fined between \$1,150 and \$2,800

[www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=531](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=531) & [www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=537](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=537)

## **Australia leads the world in community shark research**

The Great Australia Shark Count project has set a new world record. It has over 2,100 sightings and is now the largest community shark count in the world. A dedicated community shark counting weekend will be held 28 to 30 March and several other weekends in 2008. All major participants will be supported with some fantastic incentives including the chance to win a 4 day dive trip to the Great Barrier Reef.

[http://www.auf-spearfishing.com.au/serendipity/auf\\_index.php](http://www.auf-spearfishing.com.au/serendipity/auf_index.php)

## **Special hook for “tagging” of Spanish mackerel**

Spanish mackerel are difficult to capture, tag and release uninjured. Methods have been developed to “tag” mackerel without the need to actually catch the fish. A special hook, the “Genetag Hook”, has been designed to remove a very small piece of tissue for DNA fingerprinting, causing minimal damage to the fish. Subsequent DNA screening of tissue samples from the catch will reveal those which have been “tagged” before.

[http://www.nt.gov.au/dpifm/Fisheries/Content/File/2004\\_FSR\\_spanish\\_mackerel.pdf](http://www.nt.gov.au/dpifm/Fisheries/Content/File/2004_FSR_spanish_mackerel.pdf) and

Video:- <http://www.frdc.com.au/escapewiththet/?pid=4>

Become a RFW member <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/MembershipDet.htm> to receive this by email.