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Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest

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Minister releases proposed changes to recreational fishing to help save vulnerable fish

A package of 11 recommendations to save some of Western Australia's most popular and iconic oceanic fish species has been released by Fisheries Minister Jon Ford. Includes reduced individual mixed bag limit of four Category 1 'high risk' fish; pink snapper from four to two fish with minimum size limit increased to 50cm; introduction of boat limits; 4 months closed season 15 Oct–25 Dec and 1 Feb–31 Mar but only for five species.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=129922>

Strategy for managing the recreational catch of demersal scalefish in West Coast Bioregion

This Dept of Fisheries publication describes and explains the issues raised in comments received on Fisheries Management Paper No. 225. It makes additional recommendations for reducing recreational catches to sustainable levels to maintain breeding stocks and allow for successful breeding resulting in good numbers of juvenile fish when environmental conditions allow. To be read in conjunction with the Minister's proposals.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/mp/mp228/index.php?0706>

Recfishwest describes proposals for recreational anglers on the West Coast as a 'mixed bag'

RFW fully accepts the need for management reforms for the recreational fishing community. The principles behind the proposals are sound. Closed seasons to provide additional protection for important demersal fish is a difficult and challenging management tool which if too restrictive has the potential to seriously affect the enjoyment of fishing. Species such as Queen snapper, foxfish, spangled emperor and coral trout should be added. It is essential to provide comment to the Minister on these recommendations before the end of April.

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

Media release website links in "Casting Around the Internet"

All links are checked to be correct, valid and working on the date of the document. Rearrangements of external websites may remove or change some of the links in the PDF versions emailed to members. Some government websites have changed recently. Corrected links have been used in some recent editions on the RFW website.

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

Black bream – 'Know your catch' brochure

Contains interesting information about the biology, age and variable growth rates, with fish from some areas taking 10 years to reach 26 cm, while others reach that size in just 3 years. Has tips on simple things you can do to help reduce deep hooking and increase the post release survival of unwanted and undersize fish.

http://www.fishcare.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=58&Itemid=25

Tracking the movement patterns of black bream

One black bream studied swam over 3000 km in a year. One travelled 10 km in just over 3 hours. Large woody debris can be considered a type of 'road house.' While black bream regularly move up and down the rivers, individual fish spend significant periods of time resting, seeking shelter and/or feeding near these structures.

http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/marine_fishtrack

Resnagging Angler monitoring program to assess the success of resnagging project

More than 3000 woody habitats (snags) have been placed to act as habitat for fish to spawn, feed and avoid predators. Anglers have logbooks and have been trained in removing the otoliths (earbones) from any tagged fish they keep for eating. Researchers use the otoliths to determine the age and growth of the fish.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/news/recent-news/fishing-and-aquaculture/anglers-monitor-success>