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Changes proposed for popular fishing destinations Steep Point and Dirk Hartog Island

This magnificent part of Western Australia is valuable for a range of reasons, but it is also vulnerable. The proposal to place the popular Steep Point / False Entrance fishing areas into a National Park is part of the plans for large areas near Shark Bay. These include to manage and rationalise vehicle tracks, camping, access to safe fishing spots and conflict between users. The plan is open for public submissions until 7 July.

<http://www.naturebase.net/content/view/3297/1340/> and

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/RecentStatements.aspx?ItemId=130077>

Fish identification and measuring stations on the way

New fish identification and measuring stations will become an iconic and visually attractive part of the maritime environment and provide recreational fishers and visitors with the knowledge to fish sustainably. Local councils and Fishcare Volunteers will help with installing 60 stations at jetties and boat ramps around Tasmania. Funding assistance comes from the State Government and previous Federal Government program.

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=23568>

No fishing allowed at WA drinking water dams

Following the closure of Logue Brook Dam to all recreational activities, and 8 apprehensions since September, Department of Fisheries has reminded the community that no fishing is allowed in any of WA's drinking water dams. Fisheries and Water Corporation Officers often do joint patrols at drinking water dams near Perth and in the South West. Two men received fines, penalties and costs amounting to almost \$27,000.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=542>

Over limit fishermen fined, boat and two cars seized

Two fishermen were fined \$2,500 each plus \$590 costs, and surrendered their boat, LandCruiser and Rodeo worth \$70,000 to police. The men claimed NT's possession limit laws disadvantaged people from inland areas.

http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2008/04/29/3991_ntnews.html

Rockingham's Palm Beach jetty to be demolished

Rockingham Council is planning to demolish the popular fishing jetty by 30 June. Advice received from DPI is there would be an unacceptable risk to the City and the public in keeping the jetty open this 2008 winter. Consultants to continue to finalise the detailed design drawings for a proposed new jetty structure. Funds for the reconstruction of the jetty will be considered for the Council's forthcoming 08/09 financial year budget.

<http://www.rockingham.wa.gov.au/pdf/minutes/2008/march-council-mins.pdf>

Animal welfare legislation moves to restrict recreational fishing

Before being granted a fishing license, anglers will have to demonstrate their expertise by taking a course on humane methods of catching fish. Fish caught should be killed immediately following their capture. Fishing with the '*intention*' to release the fish is not permitted, so "Catch and Release" fishing will be banned in Switzerland from next year. The use of barbed hooks will be prohibited except in certain situations.

http://www.eftta.com/english/news_indepth.html?cart=1209734165904436&SKU=2047259523

Abalone disease spreading after isolation attempt fails

The fatal abalone virus "ganglioneuritis" has jumped 20 kilometres along the Victorian coastline. Industry fears the disease could infect more stocks and move into adjacent States unless strict quarantine is applied.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/04/28/2229169.htm>