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# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **Tough decisions have to be made in fisheries because of increasing pressure on fish stocks**

There are people who wish the evidence pointed a different way and avoid the truth because the truth can be inconvenient. But even if you stop telling the truth, it doesn't go away just because some people don't want to hear it. When one sector, commercial or recreational, tries to get someone else to carry its share of the load, all you do is put off the day of reckoning. When you put off tough decisions, they only get harder.

<http://feeds.beehive.govt.nz/release/tough+decisions+all+need+keep+talking>

## **Rocky reef fin fish fishery under review**

Stakeholders from commercial, recreational and charter fishing sectors have raised sustainability concerns over highly sought after fish stocks such as pink snapper. Rapid population growth is occurring in the areas where these fish can be caught in fishing grounds close to densely populated areas. Need to ensure that these types of impacts are considered in future management arrangements for the fishery's ongoing sustainability.

<http://statements.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=59177>

## **Recreational fishing plan is "an election must"**

Amateur Fishermen's Association NT has called on political parties to commit to the urgent development of a comprehensive recreational fishing industry development plan as part of their platforms for the upcoming elections, to cover key areas essential to maximise the benefits of ongoing recreational fishing development.

<http://www.afant.com.au/hottopics/2008Election.shtml>

## **EPA recommends against proposed salt farm in important wetlands**

Environmental Protection Authority has recommended against environmental approval for a plan to build a solar salt farm on the east coast of Exmouth Gulf. Disturbance to salt flats could have serious and irreversible adverse impacts on algal mats and mangroves which underpin the productivity of the wetland and Gulf.

<http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/article.asp?ID=2752> and <http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/1295/Rep129523708.pdf>

## **To the marina in the hunt for unpaid taxes**

The Australian Taxation Office will request and collect details of individuals or entities who have a registered marine vessel after a pilot program found a quarter of all boat owners had outstanding tax returns. Records for approximately 160,000 will be matched with other Tax Office data to detect tax non compliance.

(<http://www.ag.gov.au/portal/govgazonline.nsf/e4c4373007f4dfafca256cd2007c7bc9/50e7948fb268b1a9ca257488000be005!OpenDocument>) page 51

## **Recfishwest calls for recreational angler involvement in implementation of Shark Bay changes**

Rock fishing has its inherent risks, but can be carried out safely by people who are aware of these risks. No other body should make decisions about restricting access based mainly on any perceived "safe fishing" criteria, or inability to provide extras such as rock anchor points. Rationalising and managing access tracks must maintain reasonable access to areas which have been used by recreational fishermen for many years.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubSharkBayTerrestrial2008.htm>

## **Department of Fisheries community surveys**

Telephone community surveys are used to determine the level of recall and awareness, the understanding and support of the community for the management strategies and key aspects of community participation in recreational fishing. Surveys estimated that the overall participation rate for recreational fishing in WA was 788,000 individuals or 45.6% of the total population in 2006 and 445,000 individuals or 25.8% in 2007.

[www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/op/op047/index.php?0706](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/op/op047/index.php?0706) & [www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/op/op045/index.php?0706](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/op/op045/index.php?0706)

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