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# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **Join or renew your Recfishwest membership to be in line for some great prizes**

All financial members of Recfishwest are eligible for the draw of a 60 litre Engel fridge/freezer valued at \$1,639 RRP donated by Engel Australia, two Halco lure packs donated by Halco Tackle, and a rod/reel combination from Recfishwest. The draw will be held on 19 December, just in time for some great Christmas presents. If you were thinking of joining or have not renewed your membership, you have only a few days left to be included.

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

## **Minister appoints independent experts to review recreational fishing options**

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore has announced appointments to assess the scientific advice and management options for recreational fishing of highly vulnerable demersal fish species. Michael O'Neill, a well respected specialist in stock assessment, mathematical modelling, survey techniques, fish ageing and taxonomy will carry out the research review. The management reviewer is Peter Neville, currently chair of Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and has broad experience in fisheries management. Reports are expected by April.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=131039>

## **New look brochure explains the fishing rules**

Department of Fisheries has updated the Recreational Fishing Guide for the West Coast Region with the new rules for high risk fish and demersal fishing which apply from 1 January 2009. The new format expanded guides include more information about understanding the rules, penalties, areas restricted and closed to fishing, closed seasons, with references to legislation, and where to drop off fish frames for research.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/sec/rec/west/index.php?0102>

## **Octopus aquaculture licence for Garden Island**

Department of Fisheries has licensed a 10 hectare aquaculture site off the north-east of Garden Island which will contain 48 sea cages to grow octopus to size for restaurants and an existing market for marinated octopus.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=104484>

## **Experts call on State funding to save ailing Swan River after decades of neglect**

Warm weather and recent rainfall could result in devastating algal blooms not seen since February 2000 when sections of the Swan and Canning rivers were closed for swimming, recreational boating and fishing. Swan River Trust's latest monitoring already shows high algae levels at half of its recording sites, while the middle and upper basins of the river have repeatedly failed to meet important river health targets since 2004.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=113023>

## **Reports on contaminated shellfish are misleading**

Conservation Council's findings from a sample of Esperance shellfish have been publicised in a misleading way, comparing kidneys which are known to concentrate lead with the Australian Food Standards Code which covers the whole of flesh. There is no indication of what the concentration of lead would be in the flesh that people generally eat. Health Department says there is no evidence that other fish in the area are unsafe.

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2008/s2440899.htm>

## **Spate of offences raises concerns about rock lobster rule breakers**

The number of offences detected since the rock lobster season began in mid-November has increased by 75% on those detected for the same period last year. Recreational fishers have been found with undersize rock lobster, rock lobster with eggs attached, no recreational licenses, operating pots with no gear identification numbers, and pulling other fishers' pots. Commercial offences included taking undersized lobster, lobster with eggs attached, operating without commercial licences and failure to label consigned rock lobster.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=598>

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