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# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **So long and thanks for all the fish - a crisis for recreational fishers**

Recfish Australia, the peak national recreational fishing body, has been told the Rudd Government will not provide any funding in 2008/9 to continue the recent \$100,000 annual funding, despite the Minister saying the government supports the recreational fishing industry which generates jobs and tourism in rural and regional areas, and allocating \$2 million to a Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy over 3 years.

<http://www.recfish.com.au/docs/mr%20-%20So%20long%20and%20thanks%20for%20all%20the%20fish%20-%20a%20crisis%20for%20recreational%20fishers.pdf>

## **Studies reveal extensive pollution in Swan River**

The middle section of the river, including Claisebrook, Maylands, Belmont Race Course, Burswood and sites directly in front of the city, were the most contaminated found in a three-year program to determine the nature of contaminants other than nutrients, delivered to and present in the Swan Canning river system. Funding has been provided to look at the impact of catchment run-off on crustaceans, and examine fish health in Claisebrook Cove.

[http://portal.environment.wa.gov.au/portal/page?\\_pageid=973,8098266&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://portal.environment.wa.gov.au/portal/page?_pageid=973,8098266&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)  
and <http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=131513>

## **\$300,000 over three years fails to stop spread of feral fish into the river**

Feral pearl cichlids have been found in the Swan River despite a three year program to eradicate them using various control techniques in a range of water bodies, drainage systems and natural streams like Bennett Brook. Department of Fisheries will continue to monitor the river in the area where the cichlids were found to confirm whether the species has become established, but action to eradicate them was not considered a viable option. In most cases, it was impossible to eradicate these unwanted species once they had become established.

[www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=616](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=616) and [www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/op/op057/index.php?00](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/op/op057/index.php?00)

## **Vandalised life buoy hampered Albany rescue**

A man who helped save another man from drowning after slipping off rocks at the popular Albany Salmon Holes says they are both lucky to be alive after a vandalised life buoy failed. One of the device's floats had been stolen, the other damaged and the electronic device used to alert emergency services was destroyed.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/17/2518401.htm>

## **Safety fears shut Busselton Jetty before Easter**

The fast-deteriorating 140-year-old Busselton Jetty has been shut to the public after engineers found piles under sections of the jetty had failed causing the deck to sag, declaring it was unsafe and could collapse. Visitors will be able to use only 200m of the jetty to fish. The jetty was due to be closed in May to allow a \$27 million restoration project to start after years of debate over how best to fund the jetty's restoration.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuId=146&ContentID=134024>

## **Recreational fishers urged to help demersal research project along West Coast**

Demersal fishing in the Metro zone is now exclusively for recreational fishing. Recreational fishers themselves should step up to the mark and assist with research efforts into this highly valued fishery. The frame collection program to date indicated there may be virtually no dhufish and pink snapper left over 20 years old, which was a major concern given that those species have been known to live to at least 40 years.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=618> and  
<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/macs/research/filletedframesPage01.php?0000>

## **WA fishing magazine and website expands**

The revised local fishing website complements the monthly printed magazine with videos, fishing reports, articles, a forum, links to moon, tides, weather, coastal cameras, boat ramps, fishing and environmental news.

<http://www.hotbite.com.au>

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