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Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest

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Mandurah crab catches increase

The first 12 months of a three-year research program on Mandurah's crabs have found increased catches by both recreational and commercial fishers and a change in the methods recreational crabbers use. Recreational catch rose 23.5% to 357 tonnes in 2007/08 compared with 289 tonnes in 98/99, commercial catch rose 40.6% to 90 tonnes in 07/08 from 64 tonnes in 98/99. Total annual catch has risen by 26.7% or 94 tonnes.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=631>

Marine stocking forums bring great ideas together

Diverse groups came together to share information and explore the possible opportunities and safeguards that need to be considered in developing a saltwater fish stocking program. Stocking fish provides a big boost to regional areas through fishing related economic activity and enjoyment of anglers. It is worth considering marine stocking of salt water fish as an option for new recreational fishing opportunities for anglers.

<http://www.fishvictoria.com/pnews/govt/090513stockforums.php>

Marine Planning in the South-west

Seven *Areas for Further Assessment* including the Rottnest Trench have been identified for development of Marine Reserves along WA's south and west coasts between Eucla and Kalbarri. Further information being gathered from stakeholders on specific areas will be used in a draft proposal for a Marine Reserves Network, including proposed zoning arrangements. This will be released for at least 60 days of public consultation during the first half of 2010. *Areas for Further Assessment* are NOT proposed reserves or no fishing zones.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/publications/south-west/pubs/areas-for-assessment.pdf> and

<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/publications/south-west/planning-updates.html>

Environmental Protection Authority review of Cockburn Sound monitoring

The significance of impacts to the marine environment from the discharge of brine by the Desalination Plant is still uncertain and the marine environment of Cockburn Sound continues to be under stress. Real time monitoring should continue all year round for the next two years at a minimum of two monitoring stations.

<http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/article.asp?ID=2957>

Sharks and Rays of Australia reference book

New edition includes updated species classifications and descriptions, distribution maps, line illustrations by Georgina Davis, family keys and outlines of biology and interactions with humans. 322 shark, ray and chimaerid species are illustrated in the latest edition with portraits by water colourist Roger Swainston.

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/5960.htm>

Rock fishing death and near misses

There have been renewed calls for anglers to take extreme care when rock fishing, following another death recently. Three other anglers had great luck to survive a large wave, shown in a sequence of graphic photographs. It is unwise to take part in this potentially dangerous activity unless experienced in rock fishing and having the proper equipment, especially in rough conditions. Staying alert is critical in this sport.

<http://www.fishingworldmag.com.au/news/another-rock-fishing-fatality> and <http://southern-courier.whereilive.com.au/news/story/going-going-gone/>

Fisheries experts in Fremantle for international conference

Researchers from 36 countries will take part in the 8th Indo-Pacific Fish Conference on biodiversity and biogeography, the most significant international forum for fisheries researchers and biologists ever held in WA. Lessons learned help scientists to understand the impacts of climate change and fishing pressure. Understanding marine biodiversity hot spots, what supports them and their broader role, help to better manage our fisheries.

www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=131963 and <http://www.ipfc2009asfb.com/>

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