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# *Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest*

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## **Minister announces changes to fishing rules and licensing**

Fishing from boats anywhere in the State will require a licence from mid October, and people targeting demersal scalefish from a boat in the West Coast bioregion will also need a specific demersal licence. A two month ban on recreational fishing on the West Coast for species on the demersal scalefish list will apply from 15 Oct to 15 Dec each year. The mixed bag limit for lower risk category 3 fish in the West Coast will reduce from 40 per angler to 30 and for medium risk category 2 fish will reduce from 16 to 12 per day. Revenue raised would be quarantined in a recreational fishing trust and spent only on recreational fishing. Scientific review of the demersal fishery and the review of management arrangements have been released.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx?ItemId=132159> and

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/RecFishArrange/index.php>

## **Recfishwest expects strong reactions to West Coast recreational fishing changes**

Recfishwest does not support the proposed fee structure. The preferred licensing model would be for a much lower fee shared amongst all recreational fishers. RFW supports a State wide boat fishing licence, but as a step towards a general angling licence. This would spread the financial cost, allow for the needs of all fishers to be met and provide data across all recreational fisheries. RFW supports a 2 month closure compared to the 4 month closure previously proposed, the wider suite of species being included in the demersal finfish category, the changes to the tailor slot limit and bag limit reductions for category 2 and 3 inshore species.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/MediaReleaseWestCoastRuleChanges2009.htm>

## **New fish licences and management media conference**

Minister Norman Moore outlines the new licence system to apply to WA's recreational fishing sector and explains the State Government's reasons for introducing a new management regime to protect the long-term sustainability of fish stocks under increased pressure. Dept of Fisheries scientist provides details of the research into Western Australia's recreational fisheries.

<http://www.premier.wa.gov.au/Ministers/Norman-Moore/Pages/Video.aspx>

## **Government's response on general recreational fishing licences**

Premier Colin Barnett says the Government has deferred any decision on a general recreational fishing licence, but it is not totally off the agenda. Species such as tailor and herring are also under threat, but not to the extent of the species from the deeper water. People should be able to drop a line off a jetty or cast out from a beach and try and catch a fish. Fishing from a jetty is not going to drive a species to extinction.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx?ItemId=132180>

## **Minister expects action on Auditor General's report on compliance in WA's fisheries**

Report finds the Dept of Fisheries is unable to demonstrate that it has an effective compliance program for WA's commercial and recreational fisheries, enforcement activity covers less than 5% of total fishing activity, and information systems do not support effective monitoring or reporting of compliance activities and results. Minister requires the Dept to implement recommendations and deal with valid concerns raised.

[http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/reports/report2009\\_07.html](http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/reports/report2009_07.html) and

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=132111>

## **\$660,000 research into herring, tailor and whiting**

Changes to rules for demersal species may result in an increased fishing effort for near shore species. Researchers will work with Recfishwest and universities to collect data and set up sampling programs studying indicator species like herring, tailor and whiting stock levels. It is important that any shift in fishing effort resulting from the reduced take of offshore species does not increase the decline in near shore species.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=132160>

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