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Issue 68 21 September 2009

WA announces new package to manage recreational fishing

Minister Moore has announced changes to previous plans for expensive fishing licences, with concessions allowing unlicensed boat anglers to fish within the bag limit of a licensed angler, new reduced bag limits for demersal fish and dhufish in an alternative package driven by the Minister's and Fisheries' not negotiable requirement for 50% cut in all demersal fish as recommended in expert reviews of data and options available. Other changes for pelagic fish, combined limits, with comprehensive answers to frequently asked questions.

www.fishforthefuture.com.au/ and <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/MediaReleaseDemersalPackage.htm>

Opposition supports fish management package, opposes boat fishing licence

Shadow Minister Jon Ford congratulated the government on its strong, robust announcement regarding limiting the dhufish catch in particular, and tightening restrictions on demersal finfish, but called on the government to reconsider licence fees because these target one group over another. Advised the Opposition will support regulations for sustainability, but will seek to disallow the regulations for a general boat fishing licence. Has empathy if the Minister wants to talk about a small general fishing licence that applies to all.

[http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Hansard%5Chansard.nsf/0/7f155c7bfd3e04fec8257635002d66dd/\\$FILE/C38%20S1%2020090916%20p7123b-7124a.pdf](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/Hansard%5Chansard.nsf/0/7f155c7bfd3e04fec8257635002d66dd/$FILE/C38%20S1%2020090916%20p7123b-7124a.pdf)

Public comment sought on proposals for extended crabbing closures in Peel Harvey Inlet

Department of Fisheries is seeking stakeholder's comments on a proposal to extend the current September-October seasonal closure of crabbing in the Peel Harvey Inlet to include November and 1-14 December for both commercial and recreational fishers. Media reports ask for public comment by 25 September.

<http://www.mandurahmail.com.au/news/local/news/general/plan-to-extend-crabbing-ban/1625517.aspx?storypage=0>) and <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/PeelHarveyCrab2009.htm>

Yanchep Lagoon beach proposed closure to fishing

City of Wanneroo is seeking public feedback on a proposal to restrict or prohibit fishing at the Yanchep Lagoon beach. The online survey gives three options and a place for comments. 1. Support prohibiting fishing; 2. Support restricting fishing to between 7.00pm and 7.00am the following day; or 3. Prefer that no restriction to fishing be introduced. A resource sharing question, the proposed restricted options include some times that swimmers, etc wouldn't want to use the area and yet fishermen would still be locked out.

http://www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au/3/809/1/community_consultation_survey_fishing_yanchep_la.pm

Greater access to water catchments to be explored

A Parliamentary committee will examine allowing greater recreation access to dams, water courses and catchment areas that provide drinking water. Sport and Recreation Minister Terry Waldron said some activities were possible on dams and water courses as well as in catchment areas. These could include water skiing, sailing, fishing, kayaking, bushwalking, motorbike riding and horse riding where appropriate.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx?ItemId=132494>

Fish catch reporting goes electronic

New rules will allow fishers to use computerised reporting systems that will capture catch information and electronically report accurate data directly to the catch reporting system in Fisheries. Replacing a paper system, this brings an important part of the fisheries process into the modern day and save all parties considerable time and money. Catch reporting provides important information for monitoring catch levels and the health of fish stocks and ensuring that commercial fishers do not exceed their catch entitlements.

<http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Press/Catch+reporting+goes+electronic.htm>

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