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Issue 74 25 November 2009

Recreational crab fishers from Cockburn Sound required

The Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery will open this year from 15 December to 31 March following a three year closure. The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation has approved a proposal for a research project exploring innovative management arrangements for the Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery, coordinated by OceanWatch Australia working closely with Recfishwest, WAFIC, recreational and professional fishermen.

<http://www.recfishwest.org.au/MediaReleaseCockburnCrabsResearch2009.htm>

Comment sought on WA's recreational trout fishery

The management of Western Australia's recreational trout fishery is under review in a discussion paper outlining the issues facing the fishery. With the changing environmental conditions, it is appropriate that current stocking practices are reviewed to ensure the right balance between ensuring sustainability of native species and providing for recreational fishing in defined areas. Comments close 31 December 2009.

www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=683 & www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/mp/mp234/index.php?0706

Recreation activities within public drinking water source areas

Almost every jurisdiction in Australia allows recreational fishing in some or most drinking water supplies. Recfishwest has consistently advocated for continued or improved fishing access to WA water storage dams. We have been continually frustrated by inconsistencies in the approach of the Water Corporation insisting that the community apply an acceptable risk strategy to water and waste management that is delivered to them, but a no risk policy when it applies to drinking water protection. Comment period extended to 4 Dec.

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

Greenies 'irresponsible and ignorant' in claims about lobster fishery

Two scientists representing two significant environmental groups say the State's \$400million commercial rock lobster fishery should be closed immediately, showing ignorance about how juvenile lobster numbers relate to the fishery's current state; and a simplistic approach to management at odds with scientific rigour.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Results.aspx?ItemID=132772>

Blackwood River mouth relocation

Feedback from the community on a management strategy to move the Blackwood River mouth shows wide support for preparation of a water quality improvement plan for the river. The early onset of an algal bloom in the inlet has reinforced the need to address nutrient runoff from agricultural land and septic systems. Water quality in the inlet has deteriorated to such an extent that fish populations are already being severely affected.

(<http://www.amrsc.wa.gov.au/library/file/1Council/Meetings/2009%20Meetings/MINUTES%20OM%2012%20Nov%2009.pdf>) pages 71-85

Investigation of eight Bunbury dolphin deaths

Murdoch University researchers with the South-West Marine Research Program are investigating multiple deaths of dolphins over the last two years within the inner waters around the city of Bunbury. These mortalities show some similarities with the deaths of six dolphins in the Swan-Canning Estuary in 2009.

<http://www.murdoch.edu.au/News/Investigation-of-eight-Bunbury-dolphin-deaths/>

Ban on fishing for mako sharks

The federal Environment Minister may be forced to ban fishermen from catching mako sharks. Three shark species which occur in Australian waters have been added to the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species, an international treaty that aims to conserve migratory species throughout their range.

(<http://www.fishingworld.com.au/news/will-garrett-ban-fishing-for-makos->) and http://www.cms.int/press/pressreleases/press_release_CMS_COP9_rev.pdf

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