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Legislative Council Select Committee on recreational fishing

The Committee will look at current policies for the regulations and policy making processes controlling recreational fishing, the effectiveness of existing marine protected areas (MPAs) and marine parks, the value of recreational fisheries to the economy, ecologically sustainable development for improving recreational fisheries, and the benefits and opportunities that improved recreational fisheries may represent for fishers.

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/fishinginquiry>

Recreational fishers spending \$2.3 billion annually

Economic research about the benefit and economic contribution of recreational fishing showed fishers' activity generated direct expenditure of \$2.3 billion at a time of unprecedented negative economic pressures, and puts recreational fishing as one of the most popular pastimes. The industry contributed significantly to the state's economy and employed 5,200 people, showing the need to maintain a healthy fishery in the future.

(http://www.vrfish.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=155:ernst-a-young-study&catid=10:media-releases&Itemid=15)

Fish kill wipes out suburban lake

A marine scientist has rejected claims a fish kill in a suburban lake is a naturally occurring event after thousands of dead fish were found floating, and after local residents had been complaining of a "sewage smell" for weeks. It appears groundwater from a pumping station works had been pumped directly into the lake, with the discharge smelling very highly of hydrogen sulphide, which is highly toxic to aquatic animals.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/25/2752686.htm> and

(<http://www.fishingworld.com.au/news/fish-kill-wipes-out-suburban-honeyhole->)

Swan River water testing funding ends

An environmental testing program will wind up as federal funding finishes. An audit of 6,000 businesses had found 35 per cent were dumping contaminated water into drains. The pollutants entered waterways, contributing to the deterioration of the Swan and Canning Rivers, leading to reductions in fish numbers.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/12/03/2760768.htm>

Scientists listen in on Western Blue groper

Marine scientists are using acoustic transmitters and receivers to investigate the habits and home range of the iconic western blue groper. Some of the fish have also been fitted with pressure sensors, to detect the depth the fish swim to. Ten receivers on a 3.5 kilometre stretch of the sea floor have detected the fifteen tagged western blue gropers almost 700,000 times. Early results confirm the fish are very site-specific.

<http://www.fishingworld.com.au/news/scientists-listen-in-on-groper>

Anglers hook endangered fish to rescue them

Anglers are deliberately targeting critically endangered species of fish that were once common. But their efforts to catch rare sharks, skates and rays are for scientific purposes, helping tag the fish which are then tracked by scientists. The programme is critical to spreading the message about endangered species. The anglers are embracing a catch and release policy, so they are fishing but have a conservation message with it.

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/nature/Anglers-hook-rare-fish-.5842575.jp>

Frequently asked questions on West Coast recreational fishing rules

West Coast demersal fishing will reopen on 16 December with new fishing rules and bag limits and categories of fish. Recreational fishers need to be aware of a number of other changes that come into effect for the West Coast. Changes to the rules and limits are explained in answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

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

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