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Research to assess metro inshore fishing

Scarborough MLA Liza Harvey announced an additional \$300,000 research program to improve the scientific knowledge of fishing along the metro coast. Changes to recreational fishing rules mean that some fishers are not likely to fish as much for species like dhufish, groper and pink snapper, and instead target more heavily the species like herring, whiting and tailor. This would put increased pressure on these near-shore fish species that are so important to the fishing public. About 80 per cent of WA's recreational fishing effort occurs in the West Coast bioregion and the majority of this effort is focused on the Perth metropolitan area.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/wa/6624440/research-bid-to-assess-perth-fishing-future/>

Go fishing for science, send in your skeletons

The Nearshore and Estuarine Finfish Research team needs your help to collect recreationally caught fresh or frozen skeletons (frames) of Australian Herring, Tailor and Southern Sea Garfish. Measurements from fish frames, including length, sex and reproductive state, help work out the age of individual fish, fishing mortality rate and the status of fish stocks. Fishers who donate frames will be in a prize draw in September 2010.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/macs/research/filletedframesPage03.php?0000>

Ten ways to fish more in 2010

If a year flies by and you're left wondering why you didn't go fishing as often as you'd have liked, use this list to "justify" fishing more often. Reflect on how fortunate and blessed you are that you can fish, you have such a wonderful sport to enjoy and so many beautiful places in which to fish. Now, get on out there, and go fishing!

http://www.sportfishingmag.com/blog_archives.jsp?start=1259643600

Record funding available for recreational boating facilities

A record \$1.85million has been allocated for the development of local recreational boating facilities in WA. The scheme, funded from boat registration fees, provides recreational boaters access to upgraded ramps, jetties and amenities such as trailer parking and waste facilities along the coast and on inland waterways. Recreational boat owners with a proposal to improve or create public boating facilities should approach their local authority.

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx?ItemId=132981> and

<http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine/19116.asp>

Customary fishing to be recognised under sustainability principles

Customary fishing serves the cultural, educational and traditional purposes of the State's Indigenous communities and is separate to recreational and commercial fishing. Recognition of customary fishing is vital in order to respect the rights of Aboriginal people, to establish clear principles of sustainable fisheries management that needed to apply across all fishing sectors and enhance compliance for WA fish stocks.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=692>

Winged wonders of the sea

Some fishers regard rays as pests, snaffling baits intended for other species. But rays play an important part in our marine ecosystem as scavengers and predators, and warrant further study. Rays eat molluscs, crustaceans, worms and small fish. Their mouths are located on their underside, so rays are often unable to see what they are going to eat. Rays have developed highly sensitive sensory systems for detecting their prey, including the ability to sense minute water vibrations and electric signals given out by the muscles and nerves in their prey.

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/FactSheets/rays-download.php>

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