



# Recfishwest Survey Result

## Results of Recfishwest's Crab Survey

Recfishwest recently conducted a survey to gauge the public response to a proposed extension of the Peel-Harvey Crab Fishery closed season.

- Current Situation      Fishery closed      1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- Proposed Situation      Fishery closed      1<sup>st</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> December.

A total of 108 respondents took part in the survey, of which 27 were residents of the greater Mandurah area and 81 were residents from elsewhere.

### The question:

Which of the following **best** summarise your thoughts on additional management for Peel-Harvey crabs?

### The results:

Response	Overall		Local	Non-local
	n	%	%	%
Support extending the closed season.	72	<b>67</b>	59	69
Do not support extending the closed season.	14	<b>13</b>	22	10
Need more time to assess the data.	17	<b>16</b>	8	19
Do not think there is a problem with crabs.	1	<b>&lt;1</b>	4	0.0
More effective alternatives exist.	4	<b>4</b>	7	2

### Other information collected from respondents:

Do you fish for crabs in the Peel-Harvey Estuary?

	n	%
Yes	81	75
No	27	25

**N.B.** All local respondents indicated they fished for crabs in the Peel-Harvey.

Fishing method	n	%
Drop nets	28	35
Scoop	14	17
Both	39	48

At this stage the Minister for Fisheries has made a decision **not** to extend the two-month seasonal closure in the Peel Harvey Estuary this year. Instead, catches will be closely monitored over the summer crab fishing period as part of the final year of a current three year Department of Fisheries research project. Recfishwest believes that this data together with information collected through public consultation should be used to determine the course of any future management actions.

Over the 2009/10 season, Recfishwest and the WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) will be working together to develop a resource sharing agreement for the fishery and are expecting to provide an arrangement before the start of the next summer fishing season.

The three year closure of Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery will soon be lifted with Fisheries Minister Norman Moore recently announcing the reopening of this fishery from December 15 this year to March 31, 2010.

For any further enquires please contact the Recfishwest office on 9246 3366.