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Media Release

Recreational Fishing Sector Receives a Fresh Injection of Young Leaders

The recreational fishing sector has received yet another injection of enthusiastic leaders after the completion of Recfishwest's second successful Young Future Leaders program.

Aimed at educating young recreational fishers in the areas of fisheries management and advocacy, the course has again been hailed an overwhelming success.

Held at the Abrolhos Islands over the past week, 15 participants were given intensive training in areas affecting recreational fisheries management in Western Australia, as well as learning skills in leadership and advocacy.

Experienced industry leaders were on hand to mentor the young leaders throughout the course, providing them with a broad range of presentations about the intricacies involved in fisheries management.

Five participants hailed from regional Western Australia, including the coastal communities of Broome, Exmouth, Busselton and Albany, with a further two travelling from the Northern Territory to take their place in the program.

Recfishwest policy officer Mr Matthew Gillett said "The course was aimed to give participants a balanced view of the stakeholders, and the processes involved in recreational fisheries management"

"The participants were provided with an insight into the views and drivers of other stakeholder groups, including the commercial fishing sector, as well as an overview of fisheries research and governmental processes" Mr Gillett said.

In order to apply their learning's to real life situations, participants took part in one of three case studies. Each case study focussed on assessing resource sharing options for some popular fisheries in Western Australia including Peel/Harvey Crabs, Barramundi and Demersal Scalefish.

The program culminated in the young future leaders presenting their findings from the case studies to their peers and mentors.

Participant and Young Future Leader Richard Carpenter said “The course was very informative, and allowed me to gain a greater insight into the fisheries management process”

“Even more importantly, the course provided options for applying the knowledge gained to make a difference in the community” Mr Carpenter said.

Mr Gillett said he was confident that Recfishwest had yet again unearthed a group of young leaders capable of taking on increased roles in fisheries management and advocacy in Western Australia.

The program was funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, and was supported by the Western Australian Department of Fisheries.

“The Department of Fisheries must be commended for their high level of support throughout the program, including the use of the Saville Kent facility on the Abrolhos Islands and the compliance vessel PV Walcott” Mr Gillett said.

“The high level of application and enthusiasm of the participant’s leaves Recfishwest with no doubt that the recreational fishing sector is in good hands” Mr Gillett said.

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