



RECFISHWEST REEL NEWS

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RESOURCE SHARING PROCESS BEGINS IN THE PEEL/HARVEY

If you ask any recreational fisher, crabbing is the first recreational fishing activity most would identify with Mandurah. Whether it is wading the shallows scooping, running a line of drop nets or even diving; catching a feed of crabs is much valued past time for many West Australians.

However, as Mandurah has grown to the point where it is now considered part of the wider metropolis of Perth, so have the pressures on these important fishery resources.

Recfishwest recognises the immense importance of crabbing and the need for a healthy Peel/Harvey Estuary to the recreational sector.

In late 2009, Recfishwest and WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) wrote jointly to the Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Norman Moore, seeking his support to initiate a process to develop a set of recommendations for the sustainable and equitable use of fish and crab resources in the Peel/Harvey Estuary. As a result, the Minister advised his support for this process going ahead with the view to providing advice back to him for the 2010/11 season.



The first in a series of meetings between commercial and recreational fishers was held 8 April 2010 in Mandurah. Recfishwest and WAFIC have enlisted the expertise of a group of prominent local recreational fishers and members of the Mandurah Licensed Fisherman's Association to begin these negotiations. Expectations are high that this process can facilitate a set of recommendations that guides the future of this important fishery and its reliant ecosystem.

Final recommendations from this group to the Minister are expected by June 2010. More details will follow soon.

Fish today for tomorrow

www.recfishwest.org.au