



# recfishwest

## REEL NEWS

Issue 10 August 2010

Additional opportunity to provide opinion on Demersal Scalefish Allocations

Recfishwest and IFAAC (Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee) recently held a public meeting in Fremantle to discuss a **DRAFT** report on allocation of **West Coast** demersal fish species for the commercial and recreational sectors (Fisheries Management Paper 237). An overwhelming turnout of almost 140 recreational fishers demonstrated a high level of concern for the future management of demersal scalefish on the West Coast. This was further reinforced with another 130 people attending the Mandurah meeting the following night.

It is for that reason, Recfishwest has organised an additional meeting in the Metropolitan area to be held in Hillarys next week. We also remind fishers in the south west that meetings are being held in Bunbury and Busselton this week.

### *Busselton*

Wednesday 4 August  
6.30 pm - 8.30 pm  
Royal Palms Hotel  
2 Albert Street  
Busselton

### *Bunbury*

Thursday 5 August  
6.30 pm - 8.30 pm  
The Sanctuary Golf Club  
Lot 100 Old Coast Road  
Pelican Point

### *Hillarys*

Thursday 12 August  
6.30 pm – 8.30 pm  
WA Fisheries Laboratories  
39 Northside Drive,  
Hillarys Boat Harbour,

The IFAAC has considered what proportion of the harvest should be allocated to the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. At this stage the committee has recommended a split of approximately 1/3 to the recreational sector and 2/3 to the commercial sector. These allocations are very important as they will likely underpin all future management of the demersal scalefish resource on the West Coast.

Recfishwest is reminding the fishing public that these meetings are IFAAC meetings to present their recommendations for allocation that will ultimately be incorporated into recreational fisheries management in the West Coast bioregion. These meetings will be chaired by, and discussion co-ordinated by Recfishwest. Recfishwest believes that all members of the community have the right to express their views on the proposal.

At this point, Recfishwest have gauged some strong public responses from the recreational fishing community regarding the suitability of Integrated Fisheries Management for West Coast Demersal species.

These responses include concerns about the Department of Fisheries ability to collect recreational catch data with a sufficient amount of accuracy and precision required to effectively manage this large suite of species under IFM principles. Recreational fishers have commented that managing a large number of species under a single allocation will be very difficult given the highly different biological characteristics of these species and the fact that they are spread over a wide geographical area (Kalbarri to Augusta). Recreational fishers have also expressed concern that the social and economic aspects of west coast demersal species have not been taken into account when determining allocations of the resource between sectors.

Based upon Recfishwest raising concerns about the time needed for getting an understanding of the issues – the closing date for comments on the DRAFT allocation report has been extended to **30 September 2010**.

Recfishwest has not yet formalised a position on this issue, our role at these meetings is to listen to the concerns of local recreational fishers and gage the thoughts and feelings of the community. We will post our draft submission on our website by the end of August so interested recreational fishers have a chance to understand our position before the 30 September deadline.

IFAAC's DRAFT Allocation Report on the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Resource (FMP 237) can be downloaded here:

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/mp/mp237/index.php?0706>



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