



Korea and China leading world in Artificial Reef technology

Recfishwest will travel to Korea and China later this month as part of a study tour looking at artificial reefs and marine fish stocking technology.

Recfishwest Principal Policy Officer Kane Moyle said the study tour, with representatives from the Department of Fisheries and the Office of the Fisheries Minister, will be useful in helping to plan for future artificial reefs in Western Australia.

"An artificial reef is typically built to enhance marine life productivity and to provide additional fishing opportunities," Mr Moyle said.

"It would be fantastic to have artificial reef sites built in WA within the reach of 'Mum and Dad' fishers in small boats, with public boat ramps located close to each site."

"They have strong potential to facilitate sustainable recreational fishing for generations to come."

In Korea, artificial reefs have been installed since the 1970s at many coastal areas for the enhancement of fisheries productivity. They are constructed and installed as government-subsidized projects. The delegation will visit established reefs and manufacturing companies in Seoul and regional Korea.



What we may expect to see in Korea. Tetrahedral concrete fish and shellfish modules awaiting deployment.

"The Koreans are world leaders in the use of habitat enhancement and have been able to clearly show that fish and other marine life have increased significantly in artificial reef areas. We are also hoping to use artificial reefs as potential trade-offs for habitat loss through urbanisation or specific developments."

The delegation will also visit China's 2nd International Recreational Fishing Forum in Xiamen, where Mr Moyle has been invited to provide an opening address on Recreational Fishing in Western Australia. A focus of the conference is on stocking and enhancement projects and will include talks by Murdoch University and Challenger TAFE.

"We are excited about the potential of stocking barramundi in Lake Kununurra, but we also want to see how other parts of the world deal with stock enhancement issues, especially in estuarine and inshore waters," Mr Moyle said.

Recfishwest looks forward to updating you about the study tour and how WA may benefit, after the visit to Korea and China in November.

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