



REEL NEWS

Issue 20 November 2010

Looking after our Sambos

Each year, towards the end of spring, metropolitan anglers wait with baited breath for reports of the first schools of Samson fish to begin aggregating in waters offshore from Perth. Fast forward a few months, and many anglers have already tussled with this strong, hard fighting species. December is usually one of the best months to target Samson fish in deep water.

This season however, the increasing numbers of sharks around common Samson fish grounds has been concerning. Large numbers of fish are being hooked and then lost to these hungry predators.

Increasing numbers of concerned anglers have been contacting Recfishwest in regards to this issue. Reports of recreational anglers hooking and losing fish to sharks for hours at a time have been very concerning. Unfortunately fishing mortality of this level is unacceptable.

West Aussies are lucky to have such a great sportfish in inshore waters. The uniqueness of these amazing fish is even more reason to urge those fishing for them to treat them with care and respect.

Samson fish are indeed a wide ranging and easily targeted species. Much of the west coast region is blessed with the kind of features that Samson fish like to call home. Any rocky or reefy area deeper than about 5m is likely to hold 'sambos' at various times.

One method for targeting these brutes in shallow water is to anchor and berley. Although a little patience is required, you will certainly know when they arrive as gang attacks are made on baits and lures in the water.

Fishing for sambos in shallow water can be very exciting, as these giants take off for the nearest bit of reef. Recfishwest asks fishers to be vigilant for the rest of the sambo season. If sharks are about, it might be time to try for some inshore Sambo action.



Sambos provide great fun over shallow ground. This fish was caught on a soft plastic in only 10m of water.

Fish today for tomorrow

www.recfishwest.org.au