



REEL NEWS

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Life Saving Rock Bolts now in Place

Members of the Esperance recreational fishing community have recently finalised the installation of 21 rock bolts in popular fishing locations throughout the region. Rock bolts are stainless steel rings secured into hard granite boulders in order to allow fishers a secure point to which they can tie themselves off whilst rock fishing.

Rock bolts have been used widely across the south west region over the past few years. Rock fishing safety expert Ray Walker has been responsible for the installation of dozens of rock bolts in the Capes region. Mr Walker recently travelled to Esperance to help in the rock bolt project there.

Local recreational fisher Graham Cooper, who has been championing this project, said the installation of the rock bolts in areas near Salmon Beach, Wylie Bay, and Chapman point would help save lives. This region of the south coast with its particularly large swells has seen fishers pay the ultimate price in the past.

With the rock bolts now installed, the challenge now lies with ensuring fishers make use of these important safety devices. The local recreational fishing community will be working hard to get the word around and start educating people about how to use these devices correctly.



Recfishwest commends the local community members in Esperance who saw the project through to the end. Recfishwest reminds fishers that they are ultimately responsible for their own safety, and that rock bolts should not be used as a reason to fish in conditions they otherwise wouldn't. This project is not about encouraging rock fishing, but about encouraging fishing from the rocks safely.

Final signage for these devices, which will include tips on safe fishing, will be erected at each location shortly. Local recreational fishers are also planning to educate school students on safe fishing practises as part of this project.

Recfishwest would also like to congratulate the Shire of Esperance who will ensure these bolts are pressure tested annually and provide the ongoing maintenance of these newly created community assets. Funding for the Esperance project was provided by the Department of Fisheries.

Fish today for tomorrow

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