



Nikki Sarginson
Department of Fisheries
3rd Floor, The Atrium
168 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Nikki

RE WHISKERY SHARK PUPPING CLOSURE PROPOSAL FOR 2010/11

Thank you for your letter, 6 May 2010, requesting Recfishwest's comments to retain the existing whisky shark pupping closure in the temperate demersal gillnet and demersal longline fisheries for the 2010/11 fishing season.

Recfishwest supports maintaining the two month closure into the 2010/11 fishing season to ensure the benefits of the closure on the recovery of the stock can be fully assessed.

Recfishwest is very mindful of the increased conflict between the commercial and recreational sectors during the months following the re-opening of the demersal gill net fishery and the subsequent closure of the recreational demersal scalefish fishery. Recfishwest and WAFIC held a community resource sharing meeting in December 2009 with local recreational and commercial fishers to discuss options on how to resolve some of this conflict. Spatial and temporal separations were two management options discussed.

Should research demonstrate a significant recovery in the whisky shark biomass and the closure no longer deemed essential from a sustainability perspective, Recfishwest would support consideration being given to aligning a portion of a commercial closure with the recreational closure. For this to be progressed we believe a proposal should be developed proactively from discussions between the commercial and recreational sectors and facilitated by Recfishwest and WAFIC.

Resource sharing issues in the demersal gill net fishery has been identified as a high priority for Recfishwest and we will be continuing to investigate management options that minimise potential conflict between sectors. We request that the Department of Fisheries provide their support to these proactive approaches.

Yours sincerely

Kane Moyle
Principal Policy Officer

31 May 2010