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Recreational fishing licence money put back into community projects

Three extra Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) will be deployed off the WA coast thanks to a culmination of recreational fishing licence funding and community stewardship.

The manmade structures are expected to be ready for deployment this year and will be placed off the coast between Cervantes and Jurien Bay.

Funding for the project came from a small community grants scheme administered by Recfishwest.

Other projects funded by the scheme and will come into fruition during the next few months include new fish species signs being erected around Esperance, fishing educational trips for underprivileged children in the East Kimberley and the manufacture of “brag mats” to educate fishers and improve compliance in Broome.

Recfishwest acting chief executive officer Andrew Rowland said the FADs project and these other initiatives demonstrated how recreational fishing licence money was being reinvested in the recreational fishing sector.

“Aside from these projects providing enhancement to WA’s recreational fishing sector, they are an example of recreational fishers working together with the state government to ensure recreational fishing licence money provides benefits to the sector,” Dr Rowland said.

“What makes these projects even better is that community groups are getting behind the initiatives and providing their own time and effort to enhance recreational fishing in WA.”

Dr Rowland was delighted the majority of the eight projects funded by the Recreational Fishing Licence Grant scheme would directly benefit recreational fishing in regional WA.

“When Recfishwest called for the recreational fishing community to apply for the grants, we were overwhelmed by applications from regional WA,” he said.

Recfishwest is pleased that the funding has been granted for projects based in Esperance right through to Kununurra and is hoping to call for another round of projects in the next few months.

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