



PERTH GAME FISHING CLUB

HOOK-UP

Perth Game Fishing Club Inc

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In this issue:

Club Championship points. Kayak snapper fishing. New website. Strike magazine. Fisheries statistics on stocks.

5th August 2011

Fishing

Mostly second hand, but reliable information coming in over the past 2 weeks of still high water temperatures out wide and good sized yellowfin tuna coming from around west end. Not much fishing recently due to winter storms.

John Sorrell, a member who is a keen kayak fisherman has sent in this item on stealthy snapper fishing in Cockburn Sound at night. An activity that sounds quite uninviting at this time of the year.

"Recently, I have been out kayak fishing around Cockburn sound at night in search of pink snapper. I have managed to land a single fish each time in the last 3 nights, all just under a metre (98cm, 95cm and a 90cm to be exact). Using a Nitro Innovator Magnum Butt 4-6k g 7'6" rod, Daiwa Sol 3000 reel and 5kg line (braid), my technique is very simple. I cover many km's in silence using my foot pedalled kayak, while scanning my fish finder looking for any large arches near the bottom. After finding them, I move away and cast large soft plastic lures around the area (Gulp Saltwater are my favourite by far for night fishing, specifically the 7in Jerk Shad using a 3/8oz 8/0 jig-head). Nearly all the snapper hooked, have hit the lure on the drop, so when I know there are fish in the area, I cast and allow the lure to sink to the bottom constantly. Basically, if I don't get a bite after a few seconds of the lure hitting the sand, ill retrieve and cast again."

August Social Night

When first advertised, this function filled within a couple of day. The 85 members and guests that came along despite the blustery conditions were not disappointed. Jeremy Green's talk, which included some maritime history of Fremantle was fascinating, with his images and video really giving a good understanding of why the Rottneest Deepwater Graveyard is such a prolific fish habitat.

It was one of the best presentations we have had at a social night thanks to Rhyss Whittred's persistence in getting Jeremy to come down to the club, expect more next year as we continue to secure interesting speakers.

David Maitland from sponsor Taylor Marine, whose WASSP demonstration drew a lot of interest was there, along with Barry Wiseman from WA Newspapers and club sponsors Ross and Rosa Ezekiel. Several new and prospective members were welcomed at the evening.

A humorous sideline of the evening was when the invincible Ian McCarthy (Mort) who kindly donated some of his home made lures for raffle prizes, once again was a multiple raffle prize winner and as usual was good enough to re-raffle some.



New club stickers available
in black, blue or white.

Dress up your boat with a PGFC self adhesive sticker for just \$25.
Available from Johnno Wroth 0417 960088
or at social nights. Cannot be posted

Unusual captures



Unusual as far south as Rottneest, this small rainbow runner was caught out wide by Damien Wham.



A Jurien Bay specimen of whatever species. Any ideas? Craig White' picture.



Whitey got this juvenile sailfish from a small school in 50 m, 12 Nm off Jurien in June.

Website

www.pgfc.com.au A completely revised website was launched on August 1st. It is simple, concise, and easy to navigate, with all the information online for members and guests. Most importantly it is in a format that makes it easy to keep up to date.

Strike Magazine

Strike magazine editorial and advertising has closed for 2012. This year it is packed full of more information in a 60 page format. It will be distributed in late September.

Data Page

With cooler weather and less local fishing activities, the data a page is omitted until the November issues of Hook-Up.

For those still interested in keeping an eye on things that affect fishing, the following websites are helpful sources:

The Works – all the links:

www.pgfc.com.au

Weather forecasts:

www.seabreeze.com.au

www.bom.gov.au/marine/wind.shtml

www.willyweather.com.au

Sea Surface Temperatures:

www.seasurface.com

www.bom.gov.au/oceanography/forecasts/idyoc10.shtml?region=10&forecast=1#

Tides:

www.bom.gov.au/oceanography/tides/MAPS/wa.shtml#form

Western Angler Item

The most Aug/ Sept 2011 issue of Western Angler magazine has an interesting piece by Hal Harvey under the Tackle and Tactics banner. Hal offers a very good description of the last season's fishing activity and summarises it as "the best year I've seen for Perth fishing."

Well worth the read.

2011 Club Championship Effective 30th July

Eddy Moss Trophy Champion Angler

Sangeeta Menon (F)	6900
Darren Burleigh	6210
Damien Wham	4205
Brian Arnett	3050
David Gray	2988
David Dubbelboer	1825
Robert Doyle	1708
Mark Jarrett	1550
Glen Rattigan	1542
Nick Hocking	1350
Harald Pammer	1275
Paul Cestrilli	1265
Casey Sorrell (F)	1138
Chris Robertson	1135
Grant Mills	1042
Michael Smalley	1000
Kevin Baker	900
Neil Patrick	892
Johnno Wroth	848
Joff Weston	831
Shannon Wham (F)	800
Dean Chapman	766
Chris Martin	700
Robin Gray (F)	633
Ivan Erceg	625
Andy Ziepe	600
John Sorrell	500
Luke Gilbert	500
Ben Weston	499
Rob Martin	482
Steve Ducas	375
Kim Hames	332
Phil Volich	300
Dean Watson	299
Dwane Hunt	287
Jim Ireland	225
David Valentino	182
Greg Simmonds	150
Gabriel Gomez	140
Jessica Jarrett (JF)	115
Basil Downs	114

President's Trophy Champion Boat

Buddha	13863
Naturaliste	6820
Reel Addiction	5064
Rampage	4900
Soggy Moggy	4350
Valkoista	3157
Reel Game	3150
Soleado II	3133
DJ 708	1829
Rock 'N' Roll	1550
Kai Mana	892
Safari II	892
Gametime	513
Our Time	375
Ulua	287

Neil Patrick Trophy

Most tagged Marlin outside Perth metro waters

Neil Patrick	4
Brian Arnett	2
Pater Babarskas	2
Kim Meldrum	1
Johnno Wroth	1

Club Merchandise Now available:

- Tournament and Club Shirts
- Boat Stickers
- Club Caps
- Club Burgees
- FAD Charts
- PGFC Number Plates

[Click here](#) to contact any Committee Member

2012 Calendar

At the last committee meeting on 27th July, some important decisions were made regarding the club's program of tournaments and other activities in the year going forward.

Perhaps the most significant of these is the plan to move Opening Weekend to the second weekend of November.

The next social night will be on September 6th, a theme will be advised shortly.

The ISAF World Sailing Championships will affect our access to RPYC Annex, so look out for changes.

The Annual Presentation Night will be held as planned on 15th October at RPYC Crawley. From there, the venue for the AGM on November 8th and the annual Christmas Party in December has yet to be decided.

In a further break from tradition the Shimano WA Open will next year be held at Jurien Bay over the weekend of 31st March & 1st April. Details of how this is to be run will be out before Xmas so those participating will have plenty of time to get organised.

The calendar also includes a number of designated "Club Days" which will morph into Sambo Comp, Ladies & Juniors Day, Tuna Comp etc in time.

All told there is an active program planned for the club's 64th year.

[Click Here](#) to view the full draft calendar

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WA BAIT SUPPLY





MONITORING THE STATUS OF THE WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE

NEWSLETTER NO. 1 – MAY 2011

Results of monitoring in 2009/10

How many frames did we collect?

Over the three year period from 2008/09 to 2010/11 we need to collect, from recreational fishers, up to 500 frames of West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper in the zones of the West Coast Bioregion (WCB) in which they are shown in Figure 1. We are also collecting frames from the commercial sector. The data from these frames will be used in a new stock assessment in 2012. The closer we are to 500 of each species from each sector in each zone of the WCB, the more confident we can be about the status of stocks of demersal species in the WCB and whether they are recovering. This followed previous assessments which showed that overfishing of the demersal resource in the WCB had been occurring.

At a minimum, we're trying to collect at least 300 of each species in each zone in each of those years from each sector, to be sure that we'll have plenty of samples by the end of June 2011. That includes collecting snapper from commercial fishers in the Kalbarri zone and bearing in mind that we are solely reliant on recreational fishers in the Metropolitan zone. That's a total of at least 3,900 frames per year from both sectors!

In 2009/10, we collected from recreational fishers, 623 dhufish, 484 snapper and 311 baldchin frames at fishing competitions, boat ramps and by donations across the WCB. In addition, a total of 1,718 frames were collected from commercial fishers. The numbers of frames of dhufish, snapper and baldchin donated by recreational fishers in 2009/10 from each zone is shown in Figure 1. The numbers of frames donated for each species in each zone was close to 300 in most cases, but we didn't fair so well for snapper in the Metro zone and both dhufish and snapper in the South-west.

We are extremely grateful to all those fishers who donated frames and congratulate the winners of our quarterly prize-draws, which included \$200 vouchers from Bluewater Tackle.

We hope that you have continued to donate frames in 2010/11, because this year the grand prize is much more substantial. As a way of saying thank you, we have arranged a grand-prize of a charter-trip for two to the Montebello

Islands, kindly donated by Montebello Islands Safaris. Other prizes include Metropolitan fishing charters and fishing rods. You have until June 30, 2011 to donate frames to be eligible for the prize draw. A pamphlet on the Department's website at www.fish.wa.gov.au/frames explains all you need to know to enter and where you can drop frames off or how you can have them picked up. Note that donations of frames of nearshore indicator species (herring, all whiting species, tailor and garfish) from the West and South Coast Bioregions also get you entries to the draws.

We have a new drop-off spot at Jurien Dive (3 Dorcas Drive, Jurien Bay; Ph 9652 1109). Also, in Geraldton and the South-west, we may be able to pick up your frames.

Please call:

Geraldton: Rhys Allen on 0407 388 930

Adam Eastman on 0417 977 900

South-west: Kim Clayton on 0419 192 101

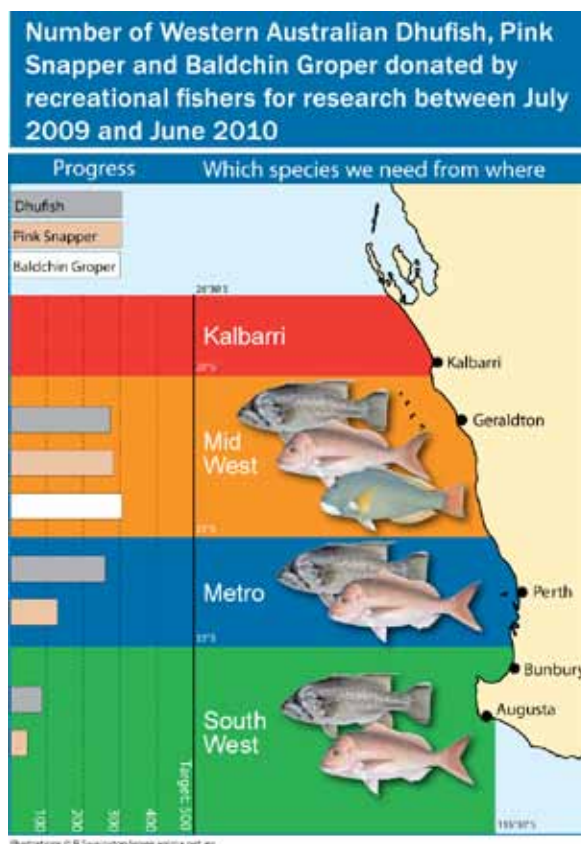


Figure 1. Map of the West Coast Bioregion showing the numbers of each indicator species collected from recreational fishers in each zone in 2009/10.

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What do the data for 2009/10 tell us?

From each fish frame, we collected length and sex data and removed its otoliths. The age of each fish was then determined (Fig. 2). Table 1 details some general information from all the recreational samples collected in 2009/10 in each zone of the bioregion.

As an example, the age structure for dhufish from all frames/otoliths provided by recreational fishers in 2009/10

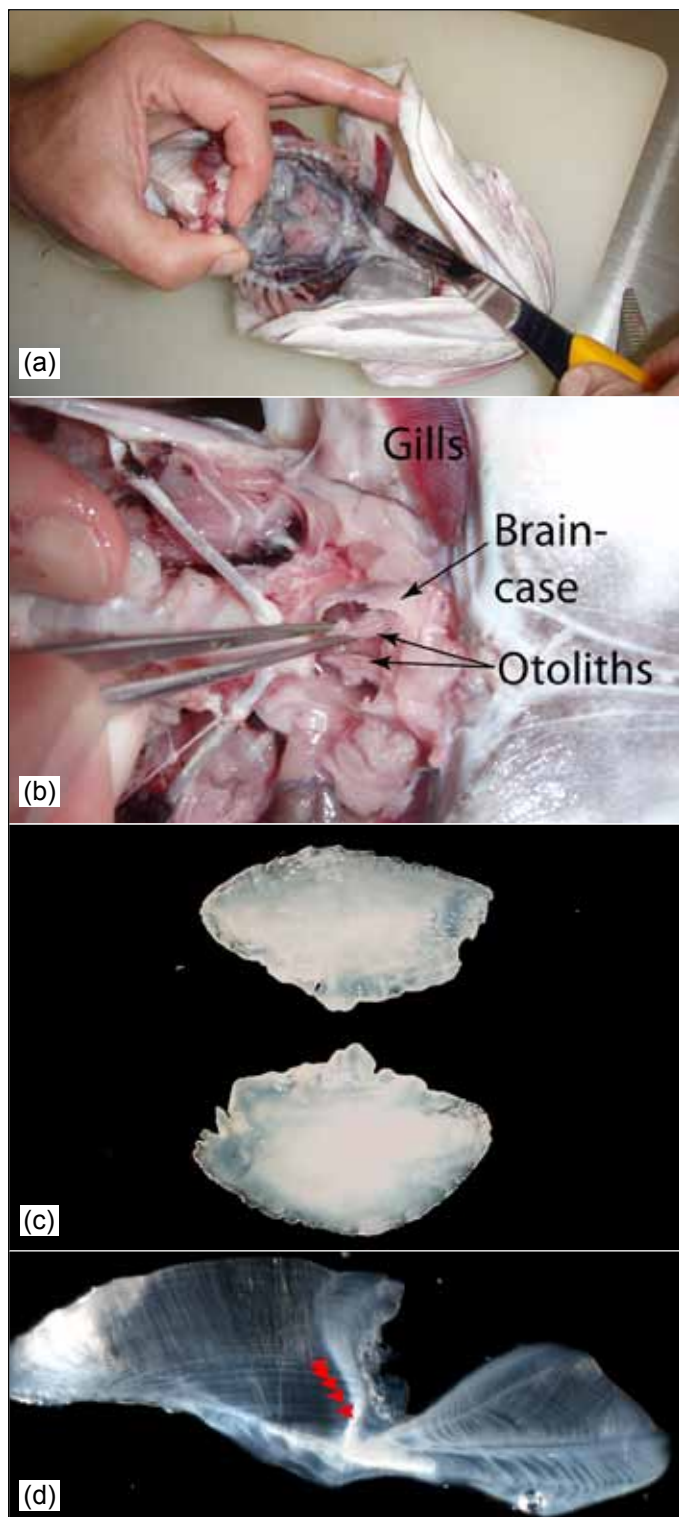


Figure 2. (a, b) Removing the otoliths from a dhufish's brain case, (c) two whole dhufish otoliths and (d) one of those otoliths after sectioning, the red arrows indicating some of its 29 growth rings.

Table 1. Numbers of West Australian dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper donated by recreational fishers in 2009/10 in each zone and their average lengths, ages and weights.

Zone	No. fish	Average length (mm)	Average age (years)	Average weight (kg)
West Australian dhufish				
Mid-West	291	682	10.3	5.7
Metro	245	714	10.6	6.5
South-west	87	765	13.5	7.3
Pink Snapper				
Mid-West	313	547	6.2	2.2
Metro	116	669	6.8	3.8
South-west	55	752	9.3	5.2
Baldchin groper				
Mid-West	311	478	10.4	3.4

is shown in Figure 3. The blue circle shows that there were no fish in our samples that were below five years of age. Those fish haven't reached the minimum legal length (MLL) of 500 mm yet and are not retained. Therefore, they are not represented in our samples. You can also see that the number of fish in our samples tend to increase from age 5 to 8. That's because, as those fish get bigger, they become more susceptible to being caught and are then retained.

There are a relatively large number of 8 and 11 year olds in the age structure from 2009/10 (Fig. 3). In fact, they each represented about 18 per cent of all samples. This suggests that better than average spawning occurred 8 and 11 years ago, i.e. in 2002 and 1999. In other words, more young were produced in those years relative to other years. These are often called strong recruitment years. However, we need to wait a couple of years before we can be sure that 2002 was a strong recruitment year, as those fish are still becoming susceptible to fishing. Dhufish are fully susceptible to fishing by about 10 years of age, in other words when all dhufish of that age have reached the MLL.

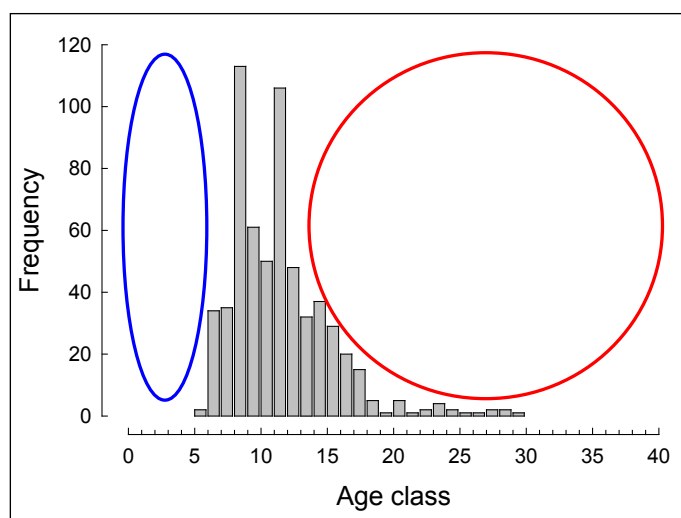
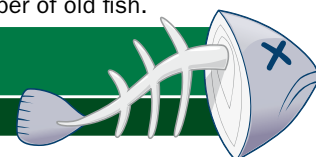


Figure 3. Age structure for West Australian dhufish collected from recreational fishers in the West Coast Bioregion in 2009/10. The blue circle highlights the age of fish below the MLL and the red circle indicates the small number of old fish.

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Dhufish from the 1999 year-class have now all reached the MLL, but they range substantially in length (from 550-900 mm; Fig. 4). As 1999 was a strong recruitment year, you might have found that the dhufish you were catching in 2009/10 were often in that range, because those fish were (and still are) relatively abundant.

Dhufish can reach about 40 years of age. However, there were very few dhufish above the age of 15 in the samples from 2009/10 (Fig. 3). In fact, 90 per cent of the fish collected were less than 16 years old. That's akin to not many people living longer than 30 years if most people live to about 80; we'd be worried if that was the case. Similarly, that's why we have ongoing concerns about the status of stocks of dhufish and other demersal species in the West Coast Bioregion and why significant changes in management occurred. Our ongoing role is to continue to monitor stock status and look for signs of recovery.

A big fish isn't always an old fish and an old fish isn't always a big fish!

Scientists often talk about the need to maintain adequate numbers of older fish in a population. But older fish aren't always large. Each grey dot in Figures 5 and 6 represents one of the female dhufish donated by recreational fishers in 2009/10. The bottom axes show the ages of fish in years and the left axes show the length in millimetres (Fig. 5) and weight in kilograms (Fig. 6).

Once dhufish reach sexual maturity at about 300-320 mm and three to four years of age, they expend some of their energy each year on producing eggs or sperm and less on growth. So, although dhufish will typically get longer and heavier with age, the growth rate of individuals will slow down after they mature. They may take a long time to reach a large size and how long and heavy each fish gets during its life will vary substantially. You can see this effect in Figures 5 and 6.

By the time female dhufish reach the minimum legal length (MLL) of 500 mm and about 2.2 kilograms, they range from 5 to 9 years old (Figs 5 and 6). However, by the time they reach 800 mm and about 8 kilograms, they range from 11 to 23 years old. So, a big fish isn't always an old fish.

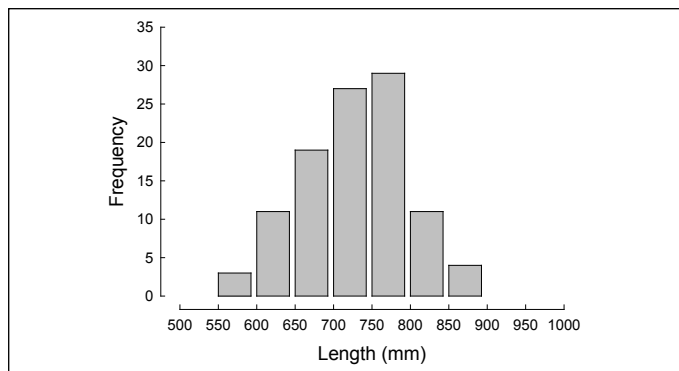


Figure 4. Length-frequency histogram of West Australian dhufish born in 1999 and donated by rec. fishers in 2009/10.

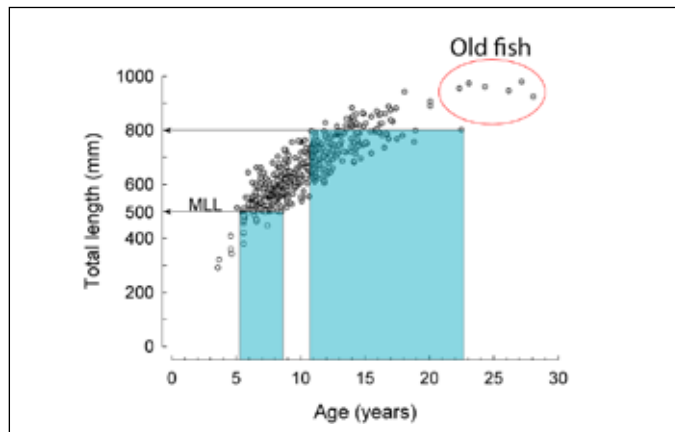


Figure 5. Lengths-at-age of West Australian dhufish collected from recreational fishers in 2009/10 (grey points). [The white points are smaller fish collected during previous projects].

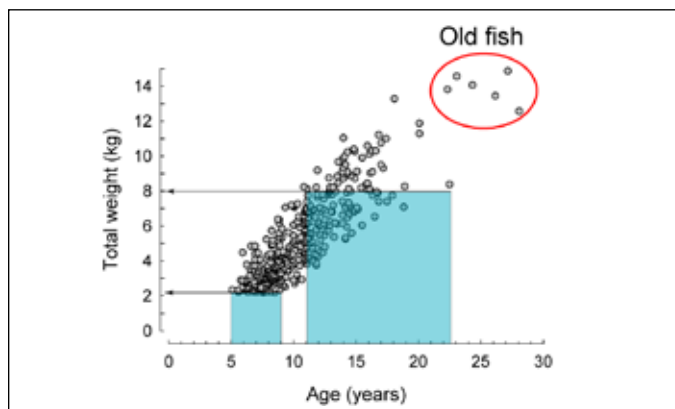


Figure 6. Estimated weights-at-age of West Australian dhufish.

Other research in the WCDSF

- Finding the elusive juvenile dhufish** (funded by WA Natural Resource Management, led by Paul Lewis and Gabbie Mistopoulos). This project aims to determine the habitats that are critical to juvenile dhufish in the Metropolitan zone and to investigate whether an index of recruitment strength can be developed for this species (similar to the one used to predict recruitment strength of Western rock lobster). Researchers have found juveniles in patchy seagrass, algae and sponge habitats about 25-30 m deep, but individuals are few and far between (Fig. 7). Read more on page 46 of Western Fisheries Feb. 2011.



Figure 7. A juvenile West Australian dhufish

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- Stock structure of indicator species for the WCDSF** (funded by the West Australian Marine Science Institute, led by David Fairclough and Gary Jackson at the Department of Fisheries, Murdoch University and CSIRO). This project is investigating whether there are important nursery areas for juveniles for the populations of dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper and is using both genetic and otolith microchemistry techniques. We already know that adult dhufish and baldchin groper spawn throughout their range and the results of this study indicate that there are multiple sources of recruits for both species. They also show that adults do not travel far. The picture is a little more complex for snapper, which we're still working on. A paper has been published on the stock structure of baldchin groper, with one on dhufish and snapper to follow.
- Acoustic tagging of snapper in Cockburn Sound** (funded by the Department of Fisheries, led by David Fairclough). Snapper aggregate in Cockburn Sound every spring to spawn (Fig. 8). But, do the same fish come back to the sound every year? This work aims to determine the timing and locations of movement of pink snapper to and from the Sound. Thirty fish have been tagged with acoustic transmitters and can be detected by an array of acoustic receivers moored in the water for three years. The data will also tell us whether fish return to the sound every year. Each fish is also tagged externally with a tag that says "Acoustic tag inside fish". If you do catch one, we'd prefer it to be released alive, so that we can continue to collect data. If you choose to keep it, please call us on 9203 0111. We would like to retrieve the acoustic tag from its abdomen – and there is a reward.
- Snapper spawning stock biomass** (funded by the Department of Fisheries and led by David Fairclough, Gary Jackson and Corey Wakefield). During the snapper spawning season, researchers at the Department have, for several years, been surveying the abundance of snapper egg numbers in Cockburn and Warnbro Sounds and Owen Anchorage. The number of eggs can be used to produce an estimate of the spawning stock biomass of snapper in those areas in any one year. Spawning stock biomass is a measure of how many snapper are spawning each season. This will tell us whether closures to fishing for snapper in those areas during their spawning season have helped the stock in those areas to rebuild.

These data should be available by the next stock assessment in 2012.

For further information on research projects and catch trends, see the annual State of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Report (<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/sof/index.php?0706>)

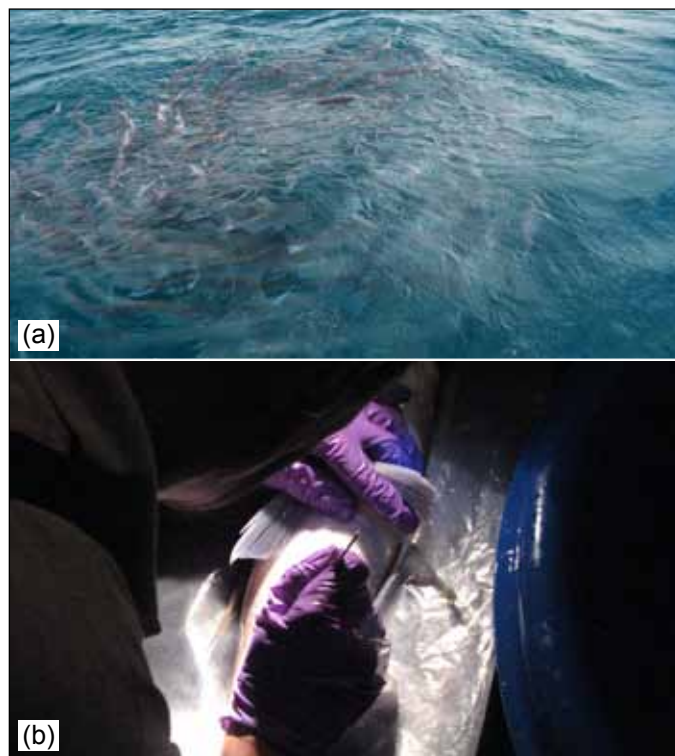


Figure 8. (a) An aggregation of pink snapper and (b) surgery to insert an acoustic tag in the abdomen of an adult snapper.

The final word

The ongoing support of recreational and commercial fishers is essential to continue to monitor the recovery of the West Coast demersal scalefish resources. Without your support we would not be able to monitor these important stocks. We thank you again for your contribution in 2009/10 and look forward to your ongoing support.

The West Coast Demersal Team

(Dr David Fairclough, Ian Keay, Brett Crisafulli, Rhys Allen and Kim Clayton).

Phone: (08) 9203 0111 **Website:** www.fish.wa.gov.au/frames **Email:** research@fish.wa.gov.au
39 Northside Drive, Hillarys, Western Australia 6025 ABN 55 689 794 771

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