

MEDIA RELEASE
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Safety reminder as salmon fishing season approaches

Salmon are already making appearances at popular fishing locations around the Capes region in time for Easter, as part of their annual migration around the West Australian coast.

Recfishwest Chief Executive Officer Dr Andrew Rowland said it is no coincidence that this time of year coincides with a higher proportion of rock fishing fatalities than any other time of year.

“Recfishwest’s campaign featuring Rex Hunt urges fishers to always wear a life jacket, never fish alone, wear proper footwear and observe first, fish later. These messages are just as important now as they were at the start of summer,” he said.

“Salmon are a magnificent fighting species and a favourite among anglers who eagerly await this annual migration, but it’s not worth putting your life on the line.

“There have been more than 22 rock fishing deaths since 2002 in WA alone but simple steps can ensure that the risk of incident when fishing is reduced.

“Public awareness, promotion and education are of vital importance to reducing fishing incidences.”

Recfishwest recommends Storm Bay, Hamelin Bay, Prevelly Beach and Yallingup Beach for salmon fishing in the Capes region and Boranup Beach, which has 4x4 access only.

Recfishwest has been working closely with regional Department of Parks and Wildlife officers to ensure appropriate safety equipment such as rock anchor points and angel rings are installed at popular fishing locations. Free life jackets are available at Augusta X-Treme Outdoor Sports and Down South Camping and Outdoors Margaret River.

Dr Rowland said this is a good time for fishers to be reminded of fishing etiquette.

“Fishers should remember not to steer boats directly into salmon schools, boat fishers should keep their distance from shore fishers, avoid casting over other fishers’ lines, respect others’ fishing space and take all your rubbish with you.”

Every year salmon form very large schools in southern waters and head westwards in mid to late summer, continuing up the west coast sometimes as far as Perth. Spawning occurs between March and May and salmon eggs drift south and eastwards with the aid of the warm Leeuwin Current. Recfishwest reminds fishers there is a bag limit of four Western Australian salmon with a minimum size of 300 mm.

For more information on Recfishwest visit www.recfishwest.org.au or phone 9246 3366. For more information on recreational fishing rules visit www.fish.wa.gov.au.

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