



## **- Position Statement -**

### **Artificial Reef and Habitat Enhancement**

*Recfishwest supports responsible Artificial Reefs and Habitat Enhancement projects when undertaken for the purpose of protecting, regenerating, increasing biodiversity/ population/habitat complexity for the benefit of living aquatic resources, with particular emphasis on fish and/or recreational fishing opportunities.*

#### **Background**

Artificial reef and habitat enhancement is of high general interest to many recreational fishers. Accordingly, Recfishwest has long advocated for government, industry and community support for such activities. Recfishwest believes that well considered Artificial Reefs and Habitat Enhancement projects can provide positive social, environmental and economic outcomes.

Recfishwest was instrumental in the development of the current government policy on Habitat Enhancement structures in Western Australia (Fisheries Management Paper 256) which can be found on the Department of Fisheries website.

#### **Definitions**

*Habitat enhancement structure* - means any purpose-built structure or material placed in the aquatic (oceanic, estuarine, river or lake) environment that results in creating, restoring or enhancing a habitat for fish, fishing, and recreational activities generally.

*Artificial reef* - means a structure designed to sit directly on the seabed typically built to attract and increase the productivity of various marine species.