

Mr Patrick Cavalli  
Principal Management Officer  
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
140 William Street  
Perth WA 6000

Dear Patrick,

**RECFISHWEST ADVICE ON PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF THE GASCOYNE OCEANIC PINK SNAPPER STOCK**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed management of the Gascoyne oceanic pink snapper stock. Pink Snapper are the lifeblood of recreational fishing in the Gascoyne. These highly prized fish provide fantastic opportunity for both local and visiting fishers to tussle with a hard fighting, yet accessible sportfish that is also rated highly on the plate.

During the public consultation period, Recfishwest received the views of over 100 fishers, both directly and through an online survey. Overall, there was an extremely high level (96%) of support for the protection of Pink Snapper spawning aggregations as a management strategy for this fishery. The results of this consultation confirm that the people of Carnarvon love fishing and genuinely care about healthy fisheries.

Given the relative proportions of catch in this fishery, there is a high level of community interest in the proposed management arrangements for the commercial sector. Whilst the consultation did not seek the communities' views on these arrangements, the feedback provided to Recfishwest indicated that the community have provided any advice conditional to the commercial sector being managed to the proposed quota of 51.42 tonnes.

Based on feedback received during the public consultation period, Recfishwest provides the following comments:

1. Recfishwest supports the protection of Pink Snapper spawning aggregations as a management strategy for this fishery;
2. Recfishwest supports the proposed duration of the spawning closure;
3. Recfishwest supports the closure applying only to Pink Snapper
4. Recfishwest believes current access to safe anchorages must not be impacted by any management changes. Allowances must be made for vessels carrying pink snapper. This is an important safety issue regardless of fishing sector.

Recfishwest requests that the North West corner bay of Cape Ronsard and the East side bay known as Hospital Bay are designated as safe anchorages. Vessels should be allowed to anchor in these areas with Pink Snapper on board.

Local fishers have shown an overwhelming willingness to be part of the solution for recovering the Pink Snapper fishery and Recfishwest looks forward to seeing this important stock managed in a way which allows its immediate recovery.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our office on 9246 3366.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Rowland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Andrew Rowland  
Chief Executive Officer  
6 April 2018