



recfishwest

- Position Statement -

Restocking and Stock Enhancement in Western Australia

Recfishwest supports responsible fish restocking and stock enhancement when undertaken in accordance with government policies and approvals.

Background

Fish restocking and stock 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 restocking and stock enhancement projects can provide positive social, environmental and economic outcomes.

Recfishwest was instrumental in the development of the current government policy on Restocking and Stock Enhancement in Western Australia (Fisheries Management Paper 261) which can be found on the Department of Fisheries website.

Definitions

Restocking – refers to the production and release of fish into wild populations where the species historically occurred naturally, to restore severely depleted spawning biomass to a level where it can provide regular yields or to restore self-sustaining populations in the wild.

Stock enhancement – refers to the production and release of fish into wild populations where the species historically occurred naturally, for the purpose of augmenting the natural supply of fish and optimise harvest or increase catch rates.

Reference

Western Australian Department of Fisheries (2013), Fisheries Management Paper No. 261, Policy on Restocking and Stock Enhancement in Western Australia.

** Recfishwest acknowledges that there exists varying risks associated with translocation and stocking of non-endemic aquatic species, which are not covered in Fisheries Management Paper 261. Recfishwest believes that stocking of non-endemic species should be assessed on a case by case basis.