

Politics | Mark McGowan | State Politics | WA News

Mark McGowan defends WA recreational fishing ban, warning there won't be any fish without it



Peter Law | The West Australian
Sun, 21 August 2022 2:13PM | [Comments](#)

[Peter Law](#)



Premier Mark McGowan says the decision is based on science. Credit: Michael Wilson/The West Australian

Mark McGowan says a ban on recreational fishing for species such as pink snapper and dhufish for nine months each year for the rest of the decade is needed because without drastic change “there won't be any fish”.

The Premier issued the warning – which he said was based on science – as the State Government faced an angry backlash after announcing new restrictions that aim to rebuild stocks of demersal scalefish by 2030.

The recreational fishers who operate in the west coast bioregion, between Kalbarri and Augusta, have been given two options – a 94-day season in staged openings from December to May or a 123-day limit from April to October.

Recfishwest has argued both proposals would disproportionality impact the recreational sector and instead called for alternatives, including a compensation scheme to allow commercial fishers to transition out of the industry.



SNAPPY REPLY

‘Take the pain’: Fisheries Minister responds to ban outrage

Steve Butler

“We're putting it out for consultation but all of the science says that the decline in fish stocks needs remedial action. If you don't do something, in five or 10 years' time, there won't be any fish,” Mr McGowan said on Sunday.

“Now what's a government supposed to do? Just let all the fish stocks go? Let them all disappear? Get below reproductive capacity so we can't have some of those iconic species still available in waters around here for both fishing and also for ecological purposes?”








If we don't act, they won't be a fishery, so we've got to act.

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-
- **Erin R** 1 week ago
Thank you McGowan for acting on the science which has been clear for now.
You have shown political courage to take on the fishing lobby. I just wish my crayfish licence fees didn't go to Recfishwest as they rarely speak for me.
Is it just me or have you noticed a correlation between low IQ and people who ignore science?
- 👍 Respect ↩ Reply ↗ Share  Report
-
- **Paula J** 1 week ago
Show us the science
Rob j
- 👍 Respect 2 ↩ Reply ↗ Share  Report
- **Erin R** 1 week ago
↩ In reply to **Paula J**
You sound like Malcolm Roberts on Q & A asking Brian Cox for evidence of climate change!
So much hard work has been done by researchers to get to this point.
The science is clear. You choose whether you want to accept it, but it doesn't change facts. Too many people trying to catch a finite number of fish.
Surely you are smart enough to join dots without pretending to want to see the science.
Common sense will suffice, assuming you possess it.
- 👍 Respect ↩ Reply ↗ Share  Report
-
- **Norm S** 1 week ago
Any advice from the CHO?
- 👍 Respect ↩ Reply ↗ Share  Report
-
- **James R** 1 week ago
In Queensland they have many green zones and also close the reef for 2 one week periods for fin fish spawning, during the new moon .
- 👍 Respect ↩ Reply ↗ Share  Report
-
- **Gail L** 1 week ago
Commercial fishing bring in tons of fish every day for domestic and export markets. Yet, WA recreational fishing is the group that is being blamed for the demise of fish off WA coast. Come on, Mark, this is not mushroom farming.
- 👍 Respect 8 ↩ Reply ↗ Share  Report
-
- **Graeme W** 1 week ago
Breed fish and release them
- 👍 Respect 5 ↩ Reply ↗ Share  Report
-

– **Vicki J** 1 week ago

Wrong - he will be adding to the list of people not voting for him at next election

👍 Respect 10 ↩ Reply ↪ Share

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– **Andre S** 1 week ago

You use words like "follow the science" when your main objective is to screw the public

👍 Respect 13 ↩ Reply ↪ Share

🚩 Report

– **John D** 1 week ago

↩ In reply to **Andre S**

Follow the science, we've heard that before smewhere.

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– **Guy E** 1 week ago

Science has been wrong more than right over the last 50 years as proven.

👍 Respect 11 ↩ Reply ↪ Share

🚩 Report

– **Chris O** 1 week ago

↩ In reply to **Guy E**

Really

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– **Bryan T** 1 week ago

↩ In reply to **Chris O**

Yes really.

👍 Respect 2 ↩ Reply ↪ Share

🚩 Report

– **Robert D** 1 week ago

↩ In reply to **Bryan T**

No, not really.

👍 Respect 2 ↩ Reply ↪ Share

🚩 Report

– **Chris O** 1 week ago

↩ In reply to **Bryan T**

When

👍 Respect 1 ↩ Reply ↪ Share

🚩 Report

– **Bill H** 1 week ago

↩ In reply to **Guy E**

Detail the 'wrongs' einstein!

👍 Respect 1 ↩ Reply ↪ Share

🚩 Report

– **Les N** 1 week ago

Great to see if these rules are implemented, however a closer look is overdue in Dehham as they are going to be inundated with Perth boats now.

During the holidays sometimes the offal from the fillet tables at the ramp exceed 2 tonnes a day

Please have a good look at it.