

## The West Australian

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



■ Peter Law



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

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 dermersal 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

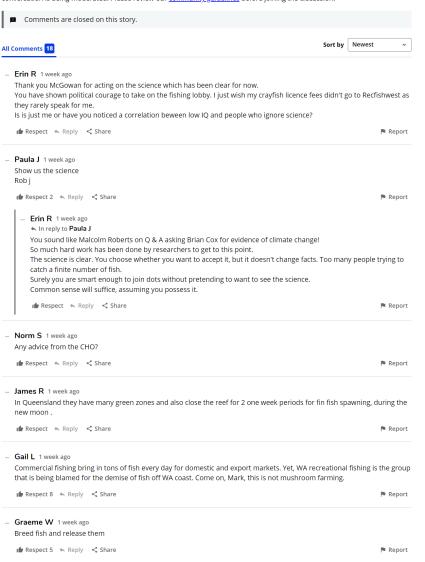
Steve Butler

"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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- 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
</p>
                                                                                                               Report
Andre S 1 week ago
  You use words like" follow the science" when your main objective is to screw the public
   i Respect 13 ← Reply < Share
                                                                                                               Report

    John D 1 week ago

       ♠ In reply to Andre S
       Follow the science, we've heard that before smewhere.
        i Respect 2 ← Reply < Share
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- Guy E 1 week ago
  Science has been wrong more than right over the last 50 years as proven.
   i Respect 11 ← Reply < Share
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    - Chris O 1 week ago
       ♠ In reply to Guy E
       Really
        i Respect 2 ← Reply < Share
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      - Bryan T 1 week ago
         \spadesuit In reply to Chris O
         Yes really.
         ♠ Respect 2 ♠ Reply 	< Share</p>
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    Robert D 1 week ago

           ♠ In reply to Bryan T
          No, not really.
           i Respect 2 ← Reply < Share
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        Chris O 1 week ago
           ♠ In reply to Bryan T
          When
           i Respect 1 ← Reply < Share
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    - Bill H 1 week ago
       ♠ In reply to Guy E
       Detail the 'wrongs' einstein!
        Respect 1 Reply Share
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## 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.