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Fisheries management paper

The Bag and Size Limit Review:
New Regulations and Summary of Submissions

by F B Prokop and J M Collins

Fisheries management paper No.73



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PREFACE:

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- Future Directions

The Fisheries Department of WA and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC), which advises the Minister for Fisheries on recreational fishing matters in WA, have been very pleased with the implementation of recommendations from the two year review of recreational fisheries. The Fisheries Department, the RFAC and the fishing community recognise that the two year review was the first step in a continually evolving process of improved management of recreational fisheries.

Since the new bag and size limits were introduced in December 1991, there have been many suggestions for refinement and improvement of these regulations. This paper includes the summary of submissions to Fisheries Management Paper No 52 - Review of Bag and Size Limit Proposals for Western Australian Recreational Fishers and details new regulations which will come into force on 1 July 1995. The long term sustainability of the resource and the needs and views of recreational fishers have been taken into account and endorsed by the Minister for Fisheries, Monty House.

The RFAC and the Fisheries Department are aware that the 1991 bag limits have been in force a short time and many fishers are only now adjusting to the changes which they must incorporate into their everyday fishing.

There is a real danger in changing regulations too frequently and without a sound basis. This is particularly true when dealing with the recreational fisheries user group in Western Australia with over 300,000 people who often travel long distances to go fishing and who may find complicated or rapidly changing regulations confusing. There is no benefit in changing the rules if average fishers cannot understand or follow the law. The cooperation and support of the general recreational fishing community is crucial for the success of management strategies designed to ensure quality fishing is available for the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, technology and fish numbers can change rapidly and there is a need to be able to react quickly to prevent over-exploitation. The bag and size limits will be reviewed every 3-5 years unless there is strong evidence that action must be taken sooner.

The coastline of Western Australia is vast and includes a wide variety of environments and aquatic species. There is scope in the future for regional solutions to address some recreational fisheries management problems. However, because it is difficult to educate the large number of recreational fishers about regulations which vary in different locations, the RFAC would like to adopt a cautious approach to the development of regional or local solutions.

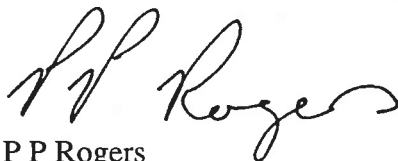
The recommendations from this review include a regional solution for King George Whiting. As the recreational fishing community becomes more aware of the current regulations and the need for a conservative approach to management, specific regional management will become more common. These initiatives reflect the general support by the recreational community for the direction which the Fisheries Department is taking in managing recreational fisheries.

The statewide regional recreational liaison committees have had an important role in disseminating information to the wider recreational fishing community and co-ordinating responses to the RFAC. Fisheries Management Paper 52 - Review of Bag and Size Limit Proposals for Western Australian Recreational fishers was developed in consultation with the regional recreational liaison committees.

The regional committees have performed very well to date and have taken responsibility for the involvement of the general public and seasonal fishers in the development of long term strategies. These committees have recently been restructured to ensure greater representation from the variety of fishing and geographical interests in each region. A Perth metropolitan committee has now been established so that the RFAC can concentrate on policy and long term strategic issues for recreational fisheries management.

Although only 50 submissions were received to the bag and size limits review, I am confident that the range of views of the recreational fishing community and the angling clubs are represented.

It is an exciting time to be involved in recreational fisheries management. I look forward to continued positive contributions from all those involved and your support for these management measures.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P P Rogers', with a stylized, flowing script.

P P Rogers
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REVIEW OF BAG AND SIZE LIMIT PROPOSALS FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL FISHERS

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The RFAC has given an undertaking to review bag and size limits which apply to recreational fishers in Western Australia every 3-5 years unless there is strong evidence that action should be undertaken sooner. Recreational fisheries management is a high profile issue which provokes a wide range of opinions among fishers and there is real benefit in assessing management initiatives over a longer period.

The 34 proposals which were contained in Fisheries Management Paper Number 52: A Review of Bag and Size Limit proposals for Western Australian recreational fishers have been the subject of a public consultation process. These proposals originally resulted from written submissions to the RFAC or the Minister, from the RFAC members themselves, the Fisheries Department, or have been put forward by the regional liaison committees. Informed comment and constructive suggestions from public submissions on these proposals was given full consideration in the preparation of final recommendations.

The Minister for Fisheries, the Fisheries Department and the RFAC favour the use of the regional recreational fishing liaison committees as the focus for regional and local debate about recreational fishing management initiatives. The regional committees can disseminate information to fishermen in their area and can co-ordinate feedback to the RFAC and ultimately the Minister. Another regional liaison committee is being established for the Perth metropolitan area to further improve the consultative process.

The RFAC therefore gave strong consideration to the regional liaison committees' recommendations before making a final submission to the Minister. The RFAC also gave the greatest emphasis to submissions from areas where the issue was most relevant. This meant that the submission from Esperance was given more consideration for the King George Whiting proposal than the comments from Kununurra.

Changes to management can always be undertaken more quickly when stock levels have significantly declined. Regulations for tailor and cobbler were brought in during 1994 due to concerns over the status of stocks of these species. The RFAC and the Minister are implementing these new changes to take effect as at 1 July, 1995. The Minister announced the changes in April 1995. This strategy will allow for the preparation of information and education material prior to these new recreational management regulations becoming law.

SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF NEW REGULATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:

1. The issues relating to the maximum size of cods, grey nurse sharks and giant baler shells and conch shells will be finalised at a later date after further consultation with the relevant user groups.
2. From 1 July 1995 a trip limit for the whole state will apply, other than the specific limit prescribed for the Ningaloo Marine Park and surrounds, of 20 kilograms of whole or processed fish plus one days bag limit of whole fish per person, outside that persons principle place of residence.
3. These specific recommendations will come into force on 1 July 1995:

Proposal 1	(All fillets at landing to retain skin and scales).
Proposal 2	(Creation of a new bag limit category with a limit of 8 - Key Angling and Sport fish category - Cobbler and tailor which have been previously approved will also be included in this category).
Proposal 3	(Prohibit shucking of intertidal invertebrates except oysters and for immediate use as bait).
Proposal 7	(Remove bag limit for Redfin perch, goldfish, carp and tilapia).
Proposal 9	(Mangrove jack and Fingermark bream to new Key Angling and Sport Fish Category with a bag limit of 8 for each species)
Proposal 10	(Chinaman cod to general cod bag limit)
Proposal 14	(Barramundi size 55 cm and 5 possession limit)
Proposal 15	(Spangled emperor size limit to 41 cm)
Proposal 16	(Mulloway size limit to 45 cm for all fish)
Proposal 17A	(Shark mackerel, Queensland school mackerel size to 50 cm)
Proposal 17B	(Broad and narrow barred spanish mackerel, wahoo size 75 cm)
Proposal 21	(King George whiting size limit to 28 cm east of Point D'Entrecasteaux)
Proposal 24	(Billfish to Prize fish with a mixed bag of 4).
Proposal 26	(Boat limit of 48 for Blue Manna crabs)
Proposal 32	(Total protection for whale sharks).
Proposal 35	(Queen snapper (Blue morwong) size limit to 41 cm.).
Proposal 38	(Trout bag limit to 4 - Prized fish category).
Proposal 39	(Threadfin salmon to new Key Angling and Sport Fish category);

4. The preferred option is for a three to five year period before the next major review of bag and size limits for recreational fishers except where a definitive reason for action is required.

Exceptions to this position would include where there is a stock problem such as with cobbler; where a commitment has been given to review a management proposal such as with tailor, salmon and herring; a licensed fishery where annual reviews are normally undertaken eg. marron or abalone; or where a genuine need can be demonstrated to RFAC and ultimately the Minister, eg. jewfish.

5. Media releases and this management paper will be widely circulated to publicise these recommendations.

SECTION 3: CHANGES TO OVERALL RULES AND CATEGORIES.

These decisions in Sections 3 to 7 relate to Proposals contained in Fisheries Management Paper No. 52.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 1: All fillets at landing must retain skin and scales.

EXISTING REGULATION: Filleting at sea is prohibited at the Ningaloo Marine Park and at Shark Bay. These regulations will continue to apply. It should be noted that a new requirement for landing whole fish on the western side of Exmouth Gulf now applies.

COMMENT: Anglers are currently able to land their catch as skinned fillets which makes it extremely difficult to enforce bag and size limits at the point of landing. This proposal recognises that the issue of filleting at sea is an emerging one that will be discussed further. This new regulation will allow for more efficient enforcement of bag limits and better enforcement of size limits.

Filleting at sea provided the skin and scales remain will continue to be permitted for the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 2: Creation of new bag limit category called Key Angling and Sport Fish with a limit of 8 for each species.

EXISTING REGULATION: The Prized fish category is currently 4 of each species with a mixed bag of 8. Reef fish have a mixed bag limit of 8. The Table fish bag limit is 20 of each species and Bread and Butter fish category limit is 40 of each species.

COMMENT: The creation of this category allows for more species specific management within the framework of existing categories. It also allows fine tuning which is not possible with the existing categories.

The creation of an intermediate category between the Prize Fish and Table Fish category will allow greater management flexibility in the future. It was not felt that the existing bag limit categories were sufficiently flexible to meet the evolving needs of the recreational fishing community. The announcement of a tailor and cobbler bag limit of 8 did not fit in the existing categories which were cumbersome in not having a control between 4 for Prized Fish and 20 for Table Fish. The creation of this category means that the reef fish category which was developed to meet a specific need, is not crammed with species not found in a reef environment.

The current Reef Fish category is appropriate for species which are included in it, but is not considered suitable for species such as threadfin salmon, mangrove jack, fingermark bream, tailor and cobbler which have been identified as requiring more intensive management.

The category name of Key Angling and Sportfish recognises the significance of these species to the recreational fishing community either in terms of their sporting characteristics, or the need for controls to reflect the importance of these species to recreational fishers.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 3: No shucking (removal from shell) of intertidal invertebrates within 200 m of high water mark except oysters and for immediate use as bait.

EXISTING REGULATION: Shucking, or removal of the shell of invertebrates is prohibited for recreational abalone fishers within 200 metres of high water mark.

COMMENT: There is a huge difference between a limit pertaining to whole molluscs and a limit of shucked animals. This measure can reduce the harvest of some intertidal species and will prevent the consumption of intertidal invertebrates adjacent to waters.

DECISION ON PROPOSALS 4, 5 & 6: No change to bag limits for Table Fish or Bread and Butter Fish categories.

EXISTING REGULATION: The Table fish bag limit is 20 of each species and Bread and Butter fish 40 of each species. There are no mixed bag limits for Table fish and Bread and Butter species.

COMMENT: This proposal was originally designed to designate a mixed fish limit (such as in place for the Prized fish category) on the number of fish which can be taken from the Table and Bread and Butter Fish categories. Changes to the administration of these categories was not considered necessary at this time.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 7: Remove bag limit for Redfin perch, goldfish, carp and tilapia.

EXISTING REGULATION: The Bread and Butter category covers all fish except those which are mentioned. Therefore there is currently a bag limit of 40 for these species.

COMMENT: The tendency of redfin to grow slower (stunting) through over-population means that there is no need for a bag limit and it would be of benefit to the remaining population if they were not returned.

Carp, goldfish and tilapia are undesirable species which should not be subject to a bag limit. Fishers should not return any of these species to the water. They should be disposed of humanely.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 8: The reef fish bag limit to remain at a mixed bag of 8 fish per fisher / day.

EXISTING REGULATION: The current reef fish bag limit is a mixed bag of 8 fish per day.

COMMENT: The current bag limit for these species, some of which are prone to over-fishing, is working well. There is no need to change current arrangements at this time.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 9: Mangrove jack and fingermark bream into new Key Angling and Sport Fish category.

EXISTING REGULATION: These species are currently in the Table fish category with a bag limit of 20. There is no size limit.

COMMENT: These are valued fish which are taken in a variety of locations including mangrove creeks. They are prized sports fish. It is for this reason that these species are not considered suitable for the reef fish category. They will therefore be placed into the new Key Angling and Sport Fish category, with a bag limit of 8 per person per day, for each species.

Size limits could be developed over time, as information becomes available.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 10: Chinaman cod to be included in cod bag limit (Prize fish - 4 cod in total).

EXISTING REGULATION: Cods are in the prize fish category with a bag limit of 4 of each species with a mixed bag limit of 8 for all prized species. Chinaman cod have a special bag limit of 8, instigated largely in response to special concerns at Ningaloo Marine Park.

COMMENT: There is a need to improve communication with recreational fishermen that the cod bag limit is for all cod species combined. There is no need for a special regulation for Chinaman Cod. It was agreed at the 1993 review of the Ningaloo Marine Park regulations that there should be no special limit for Chinaman cod in Ningaloo. This consistent regulation has been developed for the entire state.

A size limit should be introduced when more is known of the biology of these species. A research program should provide further information on the biology of cod species in 1996.

SECTION 4: SIZE LIMITS

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 11: Maximum size to remain at 1.2 metres for all cods (approximately 30 kilograms) pending further negotiation with the commercial fishing industry.

EXISTING REGULATION: Maximum size of 1.2 metres for cods of the genus *Epinephelus* (eg Estuary cod, Queensland groper).

COMMENT: This is designed to ensure that the larger cod are not taken and is seen as a more reasonable size. A one metre cod is still a large fish of approximately 20 kilograms. However, further negotiation is required with the commercial fishing industry before a final decision can be made on the maximum size of cod species.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 12: No new size limits for prize fish species

EXISTING REGULATION: There are currently no minimum sizes for a number of prize fish category species. Existing size limits for species in this category will continue to apply.

COMMENT: There is limited information upon which to base these size limits. Size limits could be introduced over time as research results allow appropriate limits to be set.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 13: No new size limits for bread and butter species.

EXISTING REGULATION: There are currently no size limits for recreational fishers for species in the Bread and Butter category. Size limits for several species were removed in July 1992.

COMMENT: There are two points of view in relation to this proposal. Those opposed to the size limit suggest that it is unfair and a waste of enforcement personnel to check the catches of children or holiday anglers on wharfs. They also maintain that they represent regulations for their own sake rather than with a sound biological basis. Those who support the size limits say that they reinforce respect for the resource and teach anglers to release very small specimens.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 14: Barramundi size limit of 55 cm and possession limit of 5.

EXISTING REGULATION: Prize fish with bag limit of 4. No size limit.

COMMENT: The 55 cm size limit is consistent with the existing regulation in the Northern Territory. The possession limit of 5 is a new initiative which is also consistent with the existing management in the Northern Territory. The possession means that fishers cannot have more than 5 barramundi per person in their possession outside their principle place of residence.

Barramundi are hermaphrodites (young males change into females). They generally mature as males at between 50-70 cm and 3-4 years old. They become females at about six years old and 85-95 cm. It is believed that the stocks of most rivers do not generally mix and this has genetic considerations for restocking and aquaculture ventures.

A barramundi tagging program currently being undertaken in the West Kimberley, will provide additional information on the movement of barramundi. An economic study on the values of the commercial and recreational barramundi fisheries in the Ord River, will also provide important information on this fishery.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 15: Spangled emperor (*Lethrinus nebulosa*) size limit 41 cm.

EXISTING REGULATION: Size limit of 28 cm for all species of the genus *Lethrinus*, including spangled emperor, which is also known as North-west snapper. This species is in the reef fish category.

COMMENT: The key to the success of this proposal is the ability to accurately identify spangled emperor. The size limit will remain at 28 cm for other species of the Genus *Lethrinus* such as red-throat and the other North-west snappers.

There is strong biological evidence that the current size limit of 28 cm is too small for spangled emperor.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 16: Mulloway size limit to 45 cm.

EXISTING REGULATION: Prize fish with bag limit of 4 with a 45 cm minimum size, only one of the four fish is permitted to be over 70 cm for mulloway and northern mulloway.

COMMENT: The slot size for mulloway was designed to reduce fishing pressure on larger fish. Northern mulloway are found from about Shark Bay north. There is a slight overlap of the two species. Northern mulloway are rarely taken below 70 cm so the slot limit effectively resulted in a bag limit of 1 for northern mulloway. This size limit still allows the take of immature mulloway.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 17a): Shark mackerel, Queensland school mackerel and Australian spotted mackerel size limit 50 cm.
17b): Wahoo and broad and narrow barred spanish mackerel size limit 75 cm.

EXISTING REGULATION: Shark mackerel, wahoo and spanish mackerel are all Prize fish with a bag limit of 4 per species and a mixed bag of 8 for this category. All these species have a size limit of 76 cm. Spotted mackerel are prize fish with a size limit of 50 cm.

COMMENT: There are two species of shark mackerel in Western Australian waters. These are the shark mackerel and Queensland school mackerel which are difficult to tell apart and with the Australian spotted mackerel should have the same appropriate size of 50cm. The smaller of the two shark mackerel species only reaches a maximum size of around 75 cm. However, this smaller species' distribution is limited to far northern waters and it is less common.

There are distinct advantages in having consistent size limits for larger barred mackerels and wahoo. A 75 cm size limit is far easier to remember and is not a major change.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 18: Maintain skipjack trevally size limit at 20 cm.

EXISTING REGULATION: Skipjack trevally of the genus *Pseudocaranx* include skippy and sand trevally. They are a Table Fish with a bag limit of 20 and a size limit of 20 cm.

COMMENT: There are two species of skipjack trevally - sand and the more highly prized skipjack. The sand trevally is a smaller species which is commonly caught at around 25cm in length.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 19: Tailor bag limit of 8 is included in the new Key Angling and Sport Fish category - effective since 1 November 1994.

PREVIOUS REGULATION: Tailor were a Table fish with a bag limit of 20 and a size limit of 25 cm.

COMMENT: Tailor are mainly a recreational species. There have been significant concerns over the status of tailor stocks, particularly in the metropolitan area. Following extensive consultation, a bag limit reduction to 8 came into force on 1 November 1994. The tailor fishery is being monitored with intensive effort by the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLO's) and the television campaign. The south-west creel survey is gathering some information on tailor catches and a specific program is examining the survival of juvenile tailor returned to the water by recreational fishers. Recreational fishers are also being asked not to use treble hooks on their bait rigs for tailor.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 20: Cobbler total length of 43 cm. Reduced bag limit of 8 for cobbler. Use of cobbler traps is prohibited. Closed season for recreational netting to protect spawning aggregations. Effective since 1 November 1994.

PREVIOUS REGULATION: Cobbler were a Table fish with a bag limit of 20. The size limit for cobbler was 23 cm which is measured from the front of the dorsal fin to the tip of the tail. This size is approximately equivalent to a whole measurement (snout to tip of tail) of 30 cm.

COMMENT: Cobbler stocks are in serious trouble in a number of areas and their low fecundity (egg production) means that recovery will be slow. Cobbler stocks appear genetically unique for many south west estuaries. This is the only species which was not measured from snout to tip of tail. This can be confusing for anglers who incidentally take cobbler.

The reduced bag limit reflects the increasing concern about the status of cobbler stocks. Cobbler are to be included in the new Key Angling and Sport Fish category.

All fish traps, including cobbler traps were prohibited from November 1994.

The closed season for recreational netters in August, September and October in the Peel-Harvey and Leschenault estuaries was made by the Recreational Netting Review Committee. All these regulations have been brought in during the course of 1994.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 21: King George Whiting size limit to 28 cm for waters east of Point D'Estrecasteaux. Size limit to remain 25 cm for other waters.

EXISTING REGULATION: King George Whiting are a Table fish with a bag limit of 20. The current size limit is 25 cm for the whole of Western Australia.

COMMENT: King George whiting move out of west and south coast estuaries and spend their adult lives in the open sea. They leave the west coast estuaries at a smaller size and this regulation recognises this fact. On the south coast however, fish above 28 cm can still be caught in the estuaries.

More information is needed on the movement and biology of west coast King George whiting. A research program has commenced and further management may result from the research findings.

SECTION 5: SPECIFIC BAG LIMITS

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 22: No change to bag limit of mud crabs.

EXISTING REGULATION: The current bag limit for green and brown mud crabs combined is 10. The size limit for green mud crabs is 15 cm and for brown mud crabs 12 cm.

COMMENT: The brown and green mud crabs are found in different areas, but there is no need to increase the bag limit. In fact, there is increasing concern about the level of harvest of mud crabs, especially in the southern part of their distribution.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 23: No change to bag limit for cephalopods (squid, cuttlefish, octopus).

EXISTING REGULATION: The current bag limit for cephalopods is 15 with boat limit of 30.

COMMENT: It was agreed that there was no need for a change to this regulation at this time.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 24: Billfish including marlin, sailfish and swordfish to Prize fish category with a mixed bag limit of 4.

EXISTING REGULATION: There is no size or bag limit for any billfish.

COMMENT: These are very large fish many of which are not prized as food fish. A bag limit of four is still very high and will not reduce harvest or pressure on these highly prized species. However, this change recognises the importance and value which recreational fishermen place on these species. Many fish have already been tagged and released by responsible anglers.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 25: Bag limit for sharks to remain at 4 (combined) for all species.

EXISTING REGULATION: Sharks are prized fish with a bag limit of 4 (combined) for all species.

COMMENT: Large dusky and bronze whalers in particular have suffered significant declines. There may be a need for further restrictions in the future.

There are some difficulties with potential overharvest of larger species with this proposal. Commercial shark fishers are being intensively managed with significant restrictions proposed.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 26: Boat limit of 48 for blue manna crabs.

EXISTING REGULATION: The current bag limit is 24 with a minimum size of 12.7 cm across the carapace.

COMMENT: The 1994/95 crab season is expected to be of a similar quality to the 1993/94 season, especially in the Peel-Harvey estuary. Concern was expressed about the large quantity of crabs which were taken by some boats which were subsequently wasted. This regulation is consistent with the current boat limit for rock lobster. Forty eight crabs per boat is still a large quantity. Note that during 1994 it became illegal to take crabs with soft mesh scoop nets.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 27: No change to regulations for Westralian jewfish.

EXISTING REGULATION: Jewfish are a Prized fish with a bag limit of 4 and 50 cm size limit.

COMMENT: The size limit is important. Fishers must be educated on how to avoid small fish and how to release them with the greatest chance of survival. This was raised in the autumn of 1994 issue of the Western Fisheries magazine.

This highly valued species has potential problems regarding its long term future, especially in regularly producing quality fish from inshore areas.

Factors such as GPS and commercial wetlining were raised by several regional committees. Concern was also expressed about high grading (throwing back smaller dead fish to keep larger fish while staying under the bag limit) and mortalities caused by taking these fish from deep water. Management of this species is likely to be reviewed in the future.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 28: No change to bag limit on black bream.

EXISTING REGULATION: Black bream and other bream species are categorised as Table fish with a bag limit of 20 and a size limit of 25 cm.

COMMENT: Further research is being undertaken by Mr Gavin Sarre of Murdoch University on black bream. Management may have to be reviewed in light of research findings. Black bream are an extremely important angling species.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 29: No change to flounder and flathead bag limit.

EXISTING REGULATION: Flounder and flathead are included in the Table fish category and have a combined bag limit of 20. All flathead have a size limit of 30 cm and all flounder have a size limit of 25 cm.

COMMENT: It is not considered necessary to change this regulation at this stage.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 30: No change to the bag limit for marron.

EXISTING REGULATION: Marron have a bag limit of 20 per day. For marron a fishing day runs from noon to noon. A licence is required and there is a closed season. There are a number of area specific regulations including snaring only waters.

COMMENT: The biology and fishing impact on marron are reasonably well understood. They have been overfished in the past with the result that there was a total closure for a few years. The reduction to 10 was not considered necessary at this time. It would only reduce the take by better fishers as the average harvest by each fisher is less than 10 per day. Catches will be closely monitored.

Management will have to re-assess the situation if catches continue to decline. It may be necessary to reduce the bag limit, reduce the length of the season or introduce total closures. The management for marron will increasingly move to snare-only regulations in suitable waters including impoundments. The Harvey Weir is now a permanent snare-only water which has been well supported by marron fishers.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 31: No change to bag limit for pink snapper in Cockburn Sound.

EXISTING REGULATION: Snapper are in the reef fish category with a combined bag limit of 8 fish. The size limit is 41 cm except for the Wilson Inlet where it is 28 cm.

COMMENT: Cockburn Sound is heavily fished when snapper move into the area in an apparent spawning aggregation in early summer. The situation will be monitored and action taken if necessary.

SECTION 6: ADDITIONAL OR TOTAL PROTECTION FOR SPECIES

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 32: Total protection for whale sharks.

EXISTING REGULATION: Whale sharks are protected under wildlife legislation.

COMMENT: Whale sharks are a species of shark and are not related in any way to whales. There is no need to take these fish. Numbers are limited. It is important to protect these fish under fisheries legislation.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 33: Further consultation required on proposed total protection for live giant baler and conch shells.

EXISTING REGULATION: These species currently come under the general mixed shellfish daily bag limit of 2 litres. Special regulations for intertidal harvesting apply in marine parks and to the collection of marine specimen shells. Specimen shell management arrangements are detailed in Fisheries Management Paper number 62.

COMMENT: These large animals can suffer depletions if subject to harvest pressure. If these shells are being over harvested, a case for protection could be made. However, there is a need for further consultation, particularly with commercial specimen shell collectors before a final recommendation is referred to the Minister. Further information on the management arrangements at any point in time can be obtained from the Fisheries Department.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 34: No change to regulations for blue groper.

EXISTING REGULATION: Western Blue groper are in the Special Conservation Category with a bag limit of 1 fish over 40 cm.

COMMENT: It is not considered necessary to provide total protection at this time for blue groper.

However, numbers of blue groper appear to have declined in some areas of the west coast. On the south coast, numbers appear stable, but the groper can be locally over exploited, particularly by spear fishing as they are extremely inquisitive. Action will be taken if groper numbers decline.

**SECTION 7: ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS DEVELOPED
SUBSEQUENT TO THE RELEASE OF
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PAPER 52.****DECISION ON PROPOSAL 35:** Queen snapper (Blue morwong) to 41 cm.

EXISTING REGULATION: Queen snapper are in the reef fish category with a current size limit of 30 cm.

COMMENT: A 30 cm queen snapper is considered a small fish. The increase in size limit to 41 cm will result in a more satisfying catch. It also means that the three important species in the reef fish category with a common name snapper (pink, north-west and queen) all have a size limit of 41 cm.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 36: Further discussion required on proposed total protection for grey nurse sharks.

EXISTING REGULATION: Grey nurse sharks are currently in the prize fish category with a bag limit of 4 (combined) for all shark species.

COMMENT: The grey nurse shark is listed as a threatened species by the International Union on the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Grey nurse sharks can be a residential species which can be locally depleted through recreational or commercial fishing activities. They are taken in fairly small numbers as part of the commercial shark fishery.

The commercial industry does not believe that there is a scientific basis to this proposal and the Minister for Fisheries has asked for further consultation with the commercial fishing sector before a final decision is made on this proposal.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 37: No change to breaksea cod size limit.

EXISTING REGULATION: Breaksea cod are in the Prized Fish category with a mixed bag of 4 for all cod species. There is no size limit.

COMMENT: There is a need to gather biological information on which to base a size limit for this species.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 38: Trout bag limit to 4 (Prized fish category).

EXISTING REGULATION: Trout is in the stocked fish category with a bag limit of 10.

COMMENT: Trout are a highly prized fish which are largely maintained through stocking to provide quality recreational fishing. The change in the bag limit reflects the importance of trout to recreational fishes in Western Australia and four fish still represents a good catch.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 39: Threadfin salmon bag limit to new Key Angling and Sport Fish category with a bag limit of 8.

EXISTING REGULATION: Threadfin salmon are combined with bluenose salmon with a bag limit of 20 in the Table Fish category. There is no size limit for these species. Note that the bag limit for bluenose salmon will remain at 20 in the Table Fish category.

COMMENT: The giant threadfin salmon (*Eleutheronema tetradactylum*) is a prized angling species which, in the view of the Committee, required additional protection. Conversely, the bluenose salmon are infrequently taken by line fishers and are generally smaller. There is no doubt that the threadfin salmon is a highly regarded sport and food fish where it is found.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 40: No change to category name for Reef Fish.

EXISTING REGULATION: The previous bag limit categories were Prized fish - 4 of each species with a mixed bag limit of 8; Reef Fish with a combined bag limit of 8; Table Fish with a bag limit of 20 for each species; and Bread and Butter Fish with a bag limit of 40 for each species.

COMMENT: There was some concern that if species such as threadfin salmon, mangrove jack and fingermark bream were to be included in this category, the Reef Fish name would have to be changed. The inclusion of these species in the newly created Key Angling and Sport Fish category (described in Proposal 2) means that there is no need to change this category name at this time.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 41: No change to Tarwhine size limit.

EXISTING REGULATION: Tarwhine are in the table fish category with a bag limit of 20 and a size limit of 23 cm.

COMMENT: It is not considered necessary to change the size limit on tarwhine at this stage but the situation will be monitored.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 42: No change to management of freshwater cobbler.

EXISTING REGULATION: Regulations do not specifically refer to this species but it is covered under the existing definition of the Bread and Butter category with a bag limit of 40.

COMMENT: The extent of the problem with freshwater cobbler was not able to be defined. A watching brief will be kept on this species and future management can be brought in if required in the future.

DECISION ON PROPOSAL 43: No change to the bag limit for garfish north of 26° south.

EXISTING REGULATION: Garfish are in the Bread and Butter category with a bag limit of 40. There is no size limit for recreational fishers.

COMMENT: Concern was expressed that the existing bag limit was too restrictive on garfish in the north of the state where they are commonly used as bait. After consideration, it was felt that there was no need to change the regulation at this time.

SECTION 8: THE TRIP LIMIT

Trip limits are one of a number of tools which can be used in recreational fisheries management. Trip limits are primarily used instead of, or in conjunction with, daily bag limits. Trip limits are designed to prevent over-exploitation by recreational fishermen, particularly in sensitive environments or where accumulation of catches over an extended stay are common practice.

During the development of the final trip limit regulation, all of the following strategies were considered by RFAC and the regional recreational liaison committees.

8.1 Limiting Catches

If the objective of a trip limit is to limit catches, it must be set at a level which reduces the catch of a reasonable number of fishers while still allowing a reasonable catch. The susceptibility of particular fish stocks to over-exploitation is an important consideration in determining how restrictive trip limits should be.

8.1.1 All Bag Limits are Trip Limits

The simplest form of control is to make all bag limits trip limits. This approach has been taken with marine bag limits in NSW and Queensland. From an enforcement perspective, bag limits which are also trip limits are simple and easy to enforce. The disadvantage of this is that it is seen to disadvantage travelling fishers on extended trips. However, Queensland has significant numbers of travelling fishers and has implemented these limits.

8.1.2 Trip Limits as a Simple Multiple of Daily Limits

The trip limit can be two or more times the daily bag limit. This has the advantage of keeping a control on catches at the point of landing while preventing unlimited days catches to be accumulated. In this case, the onus of proof for catches of greater than one day is defined by the trip limit. This is used for freshwater in NSW, selected species in South Australia and is being proposed for charter boats at Shark Bay.

8.1.3 Trip Limits which include Whole fish and Fillets

A possession limit under this category is currently used at Ningaloo, with a possession limit of 17 kgs of fillets or 10 kg of fillets plus 7 whole fish. This has been well received in the Ningaloo area. However, 17 kgs of fillets represents approximately 35 to 50 kilograms of whole fish. The seven whole fish could weigh anything from 14 to over 100 kilos if mackerel are taken. When taken per person for an average family, a large quantity of fish can still be taken.

8.2 THE TRIP LIMIT WHICH WILL APPLY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

There has been considerable debate within the recreational fishing community on the suitability of overall catch controls designed to prevent excessive catches by a minority of fishermen. RFAC and the regional recreational liaison committees have considered the matter a number of times in detail. It is noteworthy that the regional recreational liaison committees either favoured the original RFAC proposal or a more restrictive trip limit.

The original RFAC recommendation was:

A trip limit of two days bag limit of whole fish or 20 kilograms of fillets and 10 whole fish or parts thereof per person, to apply to all of Western Australia.

The final RFAC trip limit recommendation, which was suggested by the Geraldton Regional Recreational Liaison Committee and supported by the Minister for Fisheries is:

**20 kilograms of whole or processed fish PLUS one days
bag limit of whole fish per person.**

8.3 APPLICATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE TRIP LIMIT

This will come into force throughout Western Australia on 1 July 1995 except where the Ningaloo possession limit applies. This proposal will be enforced under the provisions for Powers of Fisheries Officers under the new Fisheries Act, ie Fisheries Officer will not be searching private homes without a search warrant which would not be granted for searching homes for trip limits. A trip will be defined as the fish in possession which are outside a persons' permanent residence.

It is felt that this proposal is quite simple and will address concerns from the south coast and metropolitan areas where fairly large numbers of smaller bread and butter species are taken. Under this proposal, a herring specialist can take 20 kilograms of whole or filleted herring plus 40 whole herring (daily bag limit) plus their daily bag limit of 20 whole skippy, 40 whole whiting and 20 whole black bream. This is a lot of fish per person.

SECTION 9: OTHER ISSUES

9.1 OTHER SPECIES CONSIDERED FOR REVIEW

The bag and size limit review has generated considerable discussion on many other issues both at a formal and informal level with regional recreational liaison committee members and the public at meetings. These discussions demonstrate the commitment which recreational fishermen have for their fishing futures.

There were concerns about the status of stocks of southern bluefin tuna and including other species of tuna in the prized fish category.

9.2 FUTURE REVIEWS OF RECREATIONAL BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

The management of recreational fisheries is rapidly evolving and there will no doubt be more suggestions for change in the future. The Fisheries Department appreciate the support for existing regulations and the numerous constructive suggestions which have been made. However, the next three or so years are basically a period of consolidation of existing and these new regulations.

The challenge for the Minister for Fisheries, the Fisheries Department and each and every recreational fisherman is to be responsible for fishing to the existing regulations. Initiatives such as the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLO's) are assisting in beach front education and the television campaign has been enormously successful in informing fishermen and the general public of the need for a conservative approach to recreational fisheries management. There is no magic solution to maintaining quality fishing, but if everyone does their bit it will go a long way towards solving at least some of the problems.

SECTION 10: CHAIRPERSONS OF REGIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEES DURING REVIEW

The Regional Liaison Committees provided the focus for debate for the bag and size limit review. Special thanks are due to these Chairpersons, many of whom have since stepped down from their positions, for their role in bringing these new initiatives to fruition.

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SECTION 11: SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PAPER No.52

Review of Bag and Size Limit Proposals for Western Australian Recreational Fishers.

A total of 50 submissions were received which are summarised in the following Table. A total of 21 submissions were from fishing clubs or angling organisations. 13 submissions were from regional liaison committees or sub-committees. The remaining 16 submissions were from individuals or small groups of anglers.

PROPOSAL as detailed in Paper 52	% of submissions which commented on proposal.	Number Support	% Support	Number Opposed	% Opposed	Supported by:	Opposed by:	Other Comments
1A Fillet to retain pectoral fin, skin, scales.	52	23	88	3	12	6 Regional Com 9 Fishing Clubs	Nil	Filleting should be ok at Shark Bay & Ningaloo. Whole fish only whole state. (2 submissions.) Except sharks.
1B No filleting at Abrolhos	38	10	53	9	47	4 Fishing Clubs	1 Regional Com 4 Fishing Clubs	Local regional committee opposed Abrolhos Island Management committee strong support.
2 Make categories more broad	52	10	38	16	62	3 Regional Com 3 Fishing Clubs	2 Regional Com 8 Fishing Clubs	Many said leave as is for time being
3 Prohibit shucking intertidal invertebrates.	40	19	95	1	5	5 Regional Com 6 Fishing Clubs	1 Fishing Club	
4, 5 & 6 Table fish mixed 30; Bread and butter mixed 50. Or 6 - Total mixed bag of 50.	68	4 & 5 - 11 6 8	32 24	15	44	Prop. 4 & 5 - 3 Regional Com 1 Fishing Club Prop. 6 - 3 Regional Com 3 Fishing Clubs.	Opposed proposals - 10 Fishing Clubs	Metropolitan fishing clubs strongly oppose Proposals. Regional committees support but split between 4 & 5 or 6.

PROPOSAL as detailed in Paper 52	% of submissions which commented on proposal.	Number Support	% Support	Number Opposed	% Opposed	Supported by:	Opposed by:	Other Comments
7 Redfin, goldfish, carp from 40 catch-all species limit	44	20	91	2	9	Most	1 Fishing Club	One objection to redfin being lumped with carp.
8 Reef fish to mixed bag of 20 per day per boat	52	5	19	21	81	2 Regional Com 1 Fishing Club	Most	Those who supported knew proposal was per BOAT. Those opposed did not want more liberal regulation.
9 Mangrove jack and fingermark bream into reef fish	32	8	50	8	50	2 Regional Com 2 Fishing Clubs	1 Regional Com 3 Fishing Clubs	Some said mangrove jack not really reef fish. Some felt table fish too high.
10 Cods to reef fish	52	12	46	14	54	2 Regional Com 4 Fishing Clubs	4 Regional Com 6 Fishing Clubs	Opposition increases as you go north - feel that reef fish is being packed up with species. Most opposed want to stay as is.
11 Maximum size of 1 metre for all cods	52	12	46	14	54	4 Regional Com - 2 Fishing Clubs	1 Regional Com 9 Fishing Clubs	Strong support from northern regional committees. Strong opposition from metropolitan angling clubs.
12 Size limit for prized species	50	15	60	10	40	4 Fishing Clubs others	2 Regional Com 2 Fishing Clubs	Those in favour want biological data. One suggestion for 60 cm all species. Those opposed did not want excessive regulation.

PROPOSAL as detailed in Paper 52	% of submissions which commented on proposal.	Number Support	% Support	Number Opposed	% Opposed	Supported by:	Opposed by:	Other Comments
13 Reconsider size for bread and butter species	64	17	53	15	47	2 Regional Com 1 Fishing Club	2 Regional Com 5 Fishing Clubs	8 wanted size limit specifically for whiting - 2 for 22 cm. 3 wanted whiting into Table fish 2 wanted 20 all species.
14 Barramundi - 50 cm with only one fish over 100 cm.	30	13	87	2	13	1 Regional Com 6 Fishing Clubs	1 Fishing Club	2 wanted NT regulation (55 cm) NT has asked for 55 cm minimum - Qld has asked for 55 (NT), 58 (current Qld) or 60 (proposed Qld)
15 Spangled emperor to 41 cm.	44	15	68	7	32	2 Regional Com 6 Fishing Clubs	3 Fishing Clubs	3 wanted rounding to 40 cm (also for snapper) 3 wanted 35 cm 1 wanted all <i>Lethrinus sp</i> to 41.
16 Mulloway to 4 over 45 cm	56	20	71	8	29	4 Regional Com 3 Fishing Clubs	1 Regional Com 3 Fishing Clubs	5 wanted increased size to 50 cm. 3 wanted size to 60 cm.
17A Reduce size on shark mackerel	38	9	47	10	53	1 Regional Com 1 Fishing Club	2 Regional Com	Many wanted more information. Several pointed out that current size was close to maximum size for species
17B Round to 75 cm for Spanish mackerel etc.	46	18	78	5	22	5 Regional Com 4 Fishing Clubs	1 Regional Com 1 Fishing Club	3 want Qld school mackerel to 50 cm with spotted mackerel.
18 Skipjack to stay at 20 cm.	52	21	81	5	19	5 Regional Com 5 Fishing Clubs	1 Fishing Club	2 want size to 22. 4 want size to 25. I.D of sand trevally key problem

PROPOSAL as detailed in Paper 52	% of submissions which commented on proposal.	Number Support	% Support	Number Opposed	% Opposed	Supported by:	Opposed by:	Other Comments
19 5 Tailor only over 60 cm	46	10	43	13	57	4 Fishing Clubs	3 Regional Com 6 Fishing Clubs	Kalbarri wanted only 2 over 60 cm.
20 Cobbler measured total length - size to 43 cm.	56	27	96	1	4	Most	Individual from Denmark	One suggestion - 2 year closure. Another for 35 cm
21 King George whiting to 28 cm.	44	13	59	9	41	3 Regional Com 3 Fishing Clubs	2 Regional Com 6 Fishing Clubs	4 suggested regional solution at Cape Leeuwin.
22 Change mud crab limit	26	2	15	13	85	1 Regional Com 1 Fishing Club	3 Regional Com 2 Fishing Clubs	2 wanted bag limit of 5 each brown and green mud crabs
23 Cephalopods to 10 per person - boat limit 20.	58	15	52	14	48	7 Regional Com	2 Regional Com 5 Fishing Clubs	Clubs more strongly opposed on lack of biological data.
24 Billfish to 1	52	11	42	15	58	1 Regional Com 1 Fishing Club	2 Regional Com 1 Fishing Club	5 wanted one of each species 4 wanted bag limit of 2 One wanted tag research Game fishermen strongly opposed
25 Sharks to remain at 4	58	21	72	8	28	4 Regional Com 6 Fishing Clubs	1 Regional Com 1 Fishing Club	All opposed wanted bag limit of 2.
26 Blue manna crabs to 20.	58	12	41	17	59	5 Regional Com 2 Fishing Clubs	8 Fishing Clubs	One suggested bag limit of 10. One suggestion for boat limits.
27 Jewfish stay as is	48	15	63	9	37	2 Regional Com 6 Fishing Clubs	Nil	5 wanted bag limit of 2. One wanted bag limit of three. 4 wanted boat limits.

PROPOSAL as detailed in Paper 52	% of submissions which commented on proposal.	Number Support	% Support	Number Opposed	% Opposed	Supported by:	Opposed by:	Other Comments
28 Black bream to 10	46	12	52	11	48	4 Regional Com 2 Fishing Clubs	1 Regional Com 5 Fishing Clubs	One suggested 15.
29 Flounder and flathead to have 10 each	50	8	32	17	68	2 Regional Com 3 Fishing Clubs	3 Regional Com 6 Fishing Clubs	
30 Marron to 10	42	8	38	13	62	3 Regional Com 1 Fishing Clubs	1 Regional Com 4 Fishing Clubs	3 wanted bag limit of 15 One wanted two drop nets Hutt R. One wanted shorter season
31 Pink snapper in Cockburn Sound 3 per person, 9 per boat	34	4	24	13	76	1 Regional Com 2 Fishing Clubs	4 Fishing Clubs	Research wanted 3 want closed season Enforcement difficulties
32 Total protection whale sharks	46	23	100	0	0	All	Nil	
33 Protection for live giant baler and conch	42	18	86	3	14	5 Regional Com 1 Fishing Clubs 4 Regional Com 7 Fishing Clubs	2 Fishing Clubs	8 wanted all balers protected
34 Blue groper to stay as is	54	24	89	3	11		Nil	4 want spear fishing banned 3 want size up to 60 cm 3 want air spearing banned One wants total protection

11.1 Submissions received from Fishing Clubs and other Major Associations

Offshore Angling Club
Geraldton Professional Fishermen's Association
Marmion Angling Club
Shoalwater Angling Club
South-West Recreational Diving and Fishing Association
Melville Angling Club
Australian Anglers Association
Perth Game Fishing Club
Offshore Angling Club - Beach Branch
Cockburn Power Boats
Marmion Angling Club Committee
Offshore Angling - South Coast
Exmouth Gentlemen's Angling Club
WATFAA - Western Australian Trout and Freshwater Angling Association
Cockburn Power Boats Sportfishing
Western Angler Magazine
Shenton Park Deep Sea Angling Club
WAFIC - Western Australian Fishing Industry Council
Exmouth Game Fishing Club
Fremantle Amateur Angling Club
Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club

11.2 Submissions received from Regional Recreational Liaison Committees and Sub - Committees

Esperance Regional Recreational Liaison Committee
Kalgoorlie Regional Recreational Liaison Sub Committee
Albany Regional Recreational Liaison Committee
Bunbury Regional Recreational Liaison Committee
Mandurah Regional Recreational Liaison Committee
Moora Regional Recreational Liaison Committee
Geraldton Regional Recreational Liaison Committee
Denham Regional Recreational Liaison Sub Committee
Exmouth Regional Recreational Liaison Sub Committee
Carnarvon Regional Recreational Liaison Committee
Karratha Regional Recreational Liaison Committee
Onslow Regional Recreational Liaison Sub Committee
Port Hedland Regional Recreational Liaison Sub Committee
Broome Regional Recreational Liaison Committee
Kununurra Regional Recreational Liaison Committee

Fisheries management papers

- No.1 The Report of the Southern Western Australian Shark Working Group. Chairman P. Millington (1986).
- No.2 The report of the Fish Farming Legislative Review Committee. Chairman P. Rogers (1986).
- No.3 Management Measures for the Shark Bay Snapper 1987 Season. P. Millington (1986)
- No.4 The Esperance Rock Lobster Working Group. Chairman A. Pallot (1986).
- No.5 The Windy Harbour - Augusta Rock Lobster Working Group. Interim Report by the Chairman A. Pallot (1986).
- No.6 The King George Sound Purse Seine Fishery Working Group. Chairman R. Brown (1986).
- No.7 Management Measures for the Cockburn Sound Mussel Fishery. H. Brayford (1986).
- No.8 Report of the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory meeting of 27 January 1987. Chairman B. Bowen (1987).
- No.9 Western Rock Lobster Industry Compensation Study. Arthur Young Services (1987).
- No.10 Further Options for Management of the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery. P. Millington (1987).
- No.11 The Shark Bay Scallop Fishery. L. Joll (1987).
- No.12 Report of the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee to the Hon Minister for Fisheries 24 September 1987. (1987)
- No.13 A Development Plan for the South Coast Inshore Trawl Fishery. (1987)
- No.14 Draft Management Plan for the Perth Metropolitan Purse Seine Fishery. P. Millington (1987).
- No.15 Draft management plan, Control of barramundi gillnet fishing in the Kimberley. R. S. Brown (1988).
- No.16 The South West Trawl Fishery Draft Management Plan. P. Millington (1988).
- No.17 The final report of the pearling industry review committee. F.J. Malone, D.A. Hancock, B. Jeffriess (1988).
- No.18 Policy for Freshwater Aquaculture in Western Australia. (1988)
- No.19 Sport Fishing for Marron in Western Australia - Management for the Future. (1988)
- No.20 The Offshore Constitutional Settlement, Western Australia 1988.
- No.21 Commercial fishing licensing in Western Australia. (1989)
- No.22 Economics and marketing of Western Australian pilchards. SCP Fisheries Consultants Pty Ltd (1988).
- No.23 Management of the south-west inshore trawl fishery. N. Moore (1989)
- No.24 Management of the Perth metropolitan purse-seine fishery. N. Moore (1989).
- No.25 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee report to the Minister for Fisheries November 1988. (1989)
- No.26 A report on marron fishing in Western Australia. Chairman Doug Wenn MLC (1989).
- No.27 A review of the Shark Bay pearling industry. Dr D.A. Hancock, (1989).
- No.28 Southern demersal gillnet and longline fishery. (1989)
- No.29 Distribution and marketing of Western Australian rock lobster. P. Monaghan (1989).
- No.30 Foreign investment in the rock lobster industry. (1989)
- No.31 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee report to the Hon Minister for Fisheries September 1989. (1989)
- No.32 Fishing Licences as security for loans. P. Rogers (1989)
- No.33 Guidelines for by-laws for those Abrolhos Islands set aside for fisheries purposes. N. Moore (1989).
- No.34 The future for recreational fishing - issues for community discussion. Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (1990).
- No.35 Future policy for charter fishing operations in Western Australia. P. Millington (1990).
- No.36 Long term management measures for the Cockburn Sound restricted entry fishery. P. Millington (1990).
- No.37 Western rock lobster industry marketing report 1989/90 season. MAREC Pty Ltd (1990).
- No.38 The economic impact of recreational fishing in Western Australia. R.K. Lindner, P.B. McLeod (1991).
- No.39 Establishment of a registry to record charges against fishing licences when used as security for loans. P. Rogers. (1991)
- No.40 The future for Recreational Fishing - Forum Proceedings. Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (1991)
- No.41 The future for Recreational Fishing - The Final Report of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee. Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (1991).
- No.42 Appendix to the final report of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee. (1991)
- No.43 A discussion of options for effort reduction. Southern Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery Management Advisory Committee (1991).
- No.44 A study into the feasibility of establishing a system for the buy-back of salmon fishing authorisations and related endorsements. (1991)

- No.45 Draft Management Plan, Kimberley Prawn Fishery. (1991)
- No.46 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee, Chairman's report to the Minister (1992)
- No.47 Long term management measures for the Cockburn Sound restricted entry fishery. Summary of submissions and final recommendations for management. P. Millington (1992).
- No.48 Pearl oyster fishery policy guidelines (Western Australian Pearling Act 1990). Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority (1992).
- No.49 Management plan, Kimberley prawn fishery. (1992)
- No.50 Draft management plan, South West beach seine fishery. D.A. Hall (1993).
- No.51 The west coast shark fishery, draft management plan. D.A. Hall (1993).
- No.52 Review of bag and size limit proposals for Western Australian recreational fishers. F.B. Prokop (May 1993).
- No.53 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee, Chairman's report to the Minister for Fisheries. (May 1993)
- No.54 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee, Management proposals for 1993/94 and 1994/95 western rock lobster season (July 1993).
- No.55 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee, Chairman's report to the Minister for Fisheries on management proposals for 1993/94 and 1994/95 western rock lobster seasons (September 1993).
- No.56 Review of recreational gill, haul and cast netting in Western Australia. F. B. Prokop (October 1993).
- No.57 Management arrangements for the southern demersal gillnet and demersal longline fishery 1994/95 season. (October 1993).
- No.58 The introduction and translocation of fish, crustaceans and molluscs in Western Australia. C. Lawrence (October 1993).
- No.59 Proceedings of the charter boat management workshop (held as part of the 1st National Fisheries Manager Conference). A. E. Magee & F. B. Prokop (November 1993).
- No.60 Bag and size limit information from around Australia (Regulations as at September 1993) F. B. Prokop (January 1993).
- No.61 Economic impact study. Commercial fishing in Western Australia Dr P McLeod & C McGinley (October 1994)
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