

# **WAFIC INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**NO. 2/2007 – MAY/JUNE 2007**

**To: WAFIC MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

**This is the second Electronic Bulletin for 2007.**

## **CIRCULATION OF THIS BULLETIN**

This Bulletin is circulated to all WAFIC Members and Associate Members. The content is intended to provide a service to members on some of the specific and current issues with which WAFIC is involved. To ensure that the information is widely distributed, please circulate further within your Professional Fishermen's Association, Company or industry network.

## **WETLINE REVIEW**

The Minister for Fisheries' has made public his decision in relation to the future management of the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial "wetline" fisheries. The full details of this decision is available in Fisheries Management Paper No 224 "Outcomes of the Wet line Review" which is available from the Department of Fisheries web site at <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/mp/mp224/fmp224.pdf> or via a link from the WAFIC web site <http://www.wafic.com.au> in news.

The main points of the decision are

- Catch History relates to a (FBL) and the benchmark date 3rd November 1997 is important.
- Area of Fisheries in West Coast and Gascoyne bioregions will extend to the 200 nautical mile AFZ boundary. Waters outside 250m depth contour will constitute a separate zone (being the "offshore zone" in each fishery).
- Management Arrangements will apply for: 1 West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery, 2 Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery 3 West Coast Inshore net Fishery and 4 Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery.
- Reporting catch in new Managed Fisheries will apply and new logbooks are planned to commence at the time permits are issued for the New Managed Fisheries.
- Recreational fishing from a Licensed Fishing Boat with certain conditions and restrictions.
- Practical considerations regarding "fishing days" and debiting of entitlement will be monitored using a VMS fitted to each vessel.

WAFIC is pleased that the Wet line Review is being progressed and that a formal management plan will now be introduced for the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial “wet line” fisheries. WAFIC believes that to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks in the West Coast and Gascoyne, the recreation sector will need to have a high level of management applied to offset and reduce their growing numbers and sophistication. Currently their catches and numbers remain unmanaged and unreported.

It is expected that all (FBL) holders will be affected by these changes; however the detailed impact of these changes will need to be considered case by case. To those who gain entitlements in the new wet line managed fishery these changes could be of great benefit, however to the majority who do not gain entitlements under these new management arrangements then their situation will need to be considered carefully.

The State Government has allocated funds to an adjustment scheme to address those affected by these management changes, however WAFIC is yet to establish who will be eligible for this adjustment and until the full details are available and individual (FBL) holders have been able to establish the status of their entitlements, only then will stakeholders know their true position in relation to this adjustment scheme.

WAFIC is currently looking at case history and may take legal advice to establish where the current (FBL) holders stand in relation to these management changes.

The changes which allow a (FBL) holder to catch a recreational bag limit have merit however WAFIC will work with the Minister and the Department of Fisheries to establish how these changes can be introduced in a way which will be more practical in its application.

We at WAFIC understand these management changes will have differing impacts on different (FBL) holders so we encourage all (FBL) holders to review their situation very carefully and meet and discuss the impacts with their respective groups or associations and to contact WAFIC should they require further assistance with any particular issues that impact on them.

In the meantime WAFIC will be doing further analysis of how these New Management changes will affect each fishery in the West Coast and Gascoyne and will shortly issue further information on how each Fishery will be impacted.

Rick De San Miguel  
Chief Executive Officer