

Draft

Western Australian Fishing Industry Council Comment:

Wetline Review: Final Management Framework for the West Coast and Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Resource.

The WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) is pleased that the long awaited Wetline Review is now finalised and that a formal management system will now be introduced to the Wetline fishery, bringing it in line with our other major fisheries like rock lobster, prawns and abalone.

“Broadly the new management guidelines will reduce the overall catch in the wetline fishery from 1,200 tonnes to 750 tonnes and reduce the number of fishing boat licence holders to around 60, “said Mr Leyland, WAFIC Executive Officer.

“For the consumer this could mean some reduction in the availability of species like Dhufish, snapper, baldchin groper and goldband snapper and an increase in the price. It is important that consumers see any price increase in the context of the sustainability of the fishery – it’s the price of eating sustainable seafood”, said Mr Leyland.

“Ultimately this rationalisation of the industry will ensure the best utilisation of the resource, and provide for a profitable and sustainable future by the formation of a smaller, but more viable professional wetline fleet that will continue to supply the community with fresh local seafood.

“The future has been set for the professional wetline fleet and will be constantly monitored, it is now crucial that a similar management plan be introduced for the recreational sector,” said Mr Leyland.

It is estimated that around 140 fishing boat licences will no longer be eligible to participate in the fishery. The Government has allocated funds to an adjustment scheme to address those affected by this process, and WAFIC has called on the government to act swiftly to allocate these funds to eligible fishermen.

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