



2007-08 SA RECREATIONAL FISHING SURVEY

Update 4

November 2008

Welcome to the fourth newsletter covering the July to October quarter of the recreational fishing survey.

Where are we at with the survey?

We are now nearing the completion of the data-collection component of the survey. At the end of September 2008, we completed the fourth and final quarter (July – September) of the on-site and log book parts of the survey.

Despite the very windy weather during much of this quarter, our more avid recreational fishers still put to sea, whilst many others confined their activities to coastal or river fishing.

Our PIRSA Recfish Recorders managed to collect valuable data on the size compositions for many of our key species. Below is a summary of some of the data gathered by our survey staff and avid anglers who filled out log books:

Marine on-site surveys at key boat ramps, jetties and beach fishing sites

- A total of 2,135 fishing events were surveyed by our PIRSA Recfish recorders.
- A very low figure of 3.1% of the fishing parties who were approached refused to participate in the survey.
- A total of 27,821 retained fish were measured, with a further 34.3% of the total catch released.
- A total of 202 interstate fishing parties were interviewed (9.5% of all the interviewed fishing events).
- Throughout the year, the fishing activities of some 840 fishing events were reported by a total of 51 marine fishers.
- Just over 61% of the marine fishers who were invited to participate in the log book program reported on their fishing activities during the year.



- These fishers recorded the lengths of more than 12,600 of their retained fish or shellfish, and a further 2,000 measurements were taken for released fish.
- The measurements from these fish will provide the basis for estimating the average harvested weight of key fish caught in each season and marine region of the state.
- These species include King George whiting, snapper, garfish, calamari, rock lobster, blue crabs, mullet and Goolwa pipis.

Freshwater fishers on-site survey results

- A total of 281 fishing events were reported by 23 freshwater fishers, with the majority of them fishing in the River Murray.
- Just above 35% of the freshwater fishers who were invited to participate in the log book program reported on their fishing activities.
- These avid freshwater fishers measured almost 1,300 retained fish of all species, along with a further 795 released fish.
- For species such as golden perch, more than 55% of their reported catch was released.
- Similar to the marine log book and on-site surveys, the sizes of retained fish measured by the fishers in inland waters will be used to estimate average harvest weights of key native species, including golden perch, Murray cod and yabbies.
- Valuable data has also been collected on the sizes of released protected species such as silver perch and freshwater catfish.



Phone/diary and wash-up surveys

October 2008 has been the last month of the phone-diary survey for our 1,300 randomly chosen recreational fishing households, who have been regularly contacted by our trained phone interviewers.

This part of the survey will be immediately followed by a final, very short “wash-up” survey of these households. This part of the survey is seeking information on their attitudes to recreational fishing in this State.

Also, a sample of the households not intending to go fishing in this past year will be re-interviewed to determine the proportion who actually did go fishing. Similar to the marine onsite surveys, the refusal rates in the screening survey to initially select the recreational fishing households has been exceptionally low (1.8 % full refusals and 3.8 % partial refusals).



Thanks

Finally, our thanks go out to all the recreational fishers in this state who have voluntarily assisted in the various components of the survey, as well as the many staff who have undertaken the interviews, either at boat ramps, jetties or on the phones.

Our next survey update will provide information on the progress with all phases of the analysis, and the expansion of the data to the 2007 Census of the South Australian population.

