



For immediate release

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New Snapper rules “unfair” for recreational fishers.

RecFish SA, SA’s peak community based recreational fishing organisation, is calling on the State government to open up recreational Snapper fishing in the South-East, following a secret decision to allow commercial fishers to fish for Snapper during the traditional annual closed season running from 1 November to 31 January.

The Minister provided the approval to the commercial sector as a “red tape reduction measure”, based on scientific evidence that Snapper do not breed in South-East waters and that the fishery now operates on a quota system.

The decision to allow commercial fishing was made back in March of this year but neither Minister Basham nor PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture have made it public.

The matter was also referred to the government run Ministers Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC), which recommended that recreational fishing be opened up.

Quotes attributable to Mick Wilson, RecFish SA Chair.

“We’re outraged that such an unfair decision has been made and we’re calling on Minister Basham to immediately fix it. If its ok for the commercials, then it is ok for the recreational sector as well.”

“If there is clear scientific evidence that Snapper don’t breed in the South-East and the stocks are sustainable, then scrap the closed season for everyone.”

“This is an important issue to many South Australians and its incredible that the government believes they can treat the public with such a total lack of respect. They’ve known this day has been coming for several months and have said nothing.”

“Several weeks ago, the MRFAC advised Minister Basham to open up the recreational fishery and here we are a couple of days away from season and the Minister still hasn’t made a decision.”

“The governments management of SA’s once famous Snapper fishery has been abysmal and biased decisions like this only make it worse.”

Contact

Mick Wilson
Chair, RecFish SA