



2007-08 SA RECREATIONAL FISHING SURVEY

Update 1

February 2008

Recreational Fishing Survey Well Underway

The PIRSA Fisheries-managed SA Recreational Fishing Survey for 2007/08, kicked off in September 2007. The aim of the survey is to estimate the annual catch and effort by SA residents who fish either in marine or freshwater parts of the State. The survey, using the same methodology as a similar one undertaken in 2000/01 will be able to evaluate how some of the key recreationally fished stocks and recreational fishing activities have changed since the previous survey.

The survey began with a screening phone survey of over 7,000 randomly chosen SA households, regionally distributed throughout the state.

Interviewees were asked how many recreational fishers were in the household, their age and gender and whether they intended to fish in the coming 12 months.

Those intending to fish were then invited to participate in the next phase of the survey – a phone diary survey, which commenced in November 2007. This phone diary survey is tracking the fishing activities of over 1,300 recreational fishing households, through a monthly contact by four well trained phone interviewers.

Of these, 354 households have come from the Adelaide metropolitan area, and the remainder are distributed throughout all other regional areas of the State.

By the end of October 2008, the survey will have obtained an estimate of the numbers of fish caught (retained or released) and the time taken to catch them, using different types of fishing gear, platform and region by that statistically representative group of SA recreational fishers.

To estimate the total numbers caught, the data will be expanded to the SA recreational fishing population, based on the SA 2007 census figures.



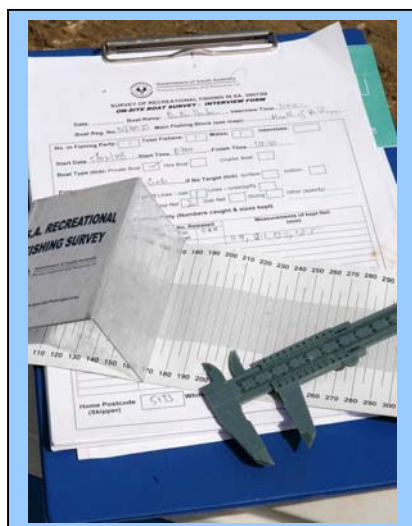
Other components of the overall survey commenced at about the same time as the phone/diary survey.

Firstly, on-site interviews of recreational fishers began at key boat ramps, jetties and beach fishing areas and will continue until September 2008.

These are aimed at providing representative information on the average size of retained key species, including King George whiting, snapper, garfish, calamary, mulloway, pipis (Goolwa cockles), blue crabs, abalone and rock lobster.

This aspect of the survey covers most of the SA marine waters and takes into account the seasonality of the fish sizes in each marine region of the state.

By knowing the average size of the fish being retained, and combining these results with those from the phone/diary survey, it will be possible to estimate annual harvest weights for these species.



For some of these species, the on-site surveys are not a cost effective way to collect such information, and so, up to 110 avid fishers have volunteered to report on their own fishing activities, and measure the fish they catch. Many of these fishers were first contacted at the SA Boat Show, held in August 2007.

PIRSA Fisheries have provided these anglers with a Recreational Fishing Log Book, a graduated flexible ruler for measuring fish species, and a set of callipers for measuring crustacea and molluscs.

This survey method has been especially useful in obtaining information on key species caught in the River Murray, including golden perch (callop) and

Murray cod, and some marine species, such as mulloway and night caught snapper.

During the first quarter of the on-site surveys (October – Dec 2007), a total of 620 interviews have been undertaken by up to 18 trained PIRSA Recfish Recorders, usually working in pairs at the key boat ramps and jetties throughout the State. As in all parts of the survey, the cooperation by recreational fishers who have been contacted randomly either by phone or at a boat ramp/jetty or beach fishing site or through the log book program has been exceptionally good.

By the end of this survey the quality of the information collected from all these fishers will reflect this excellent cooperation.

