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Fish licence ↑

Fish licence comes into effect

NEW recreational fishing boat licences came into effect this week with the Department of Fisheries urging local fishers they would need the new licence if they planned to fish from a powered vessel.

The RFBL costs \$30 annually and will apply to anyone fishing from a powered vessel including line fishing, crabbing, spear fishing, dip-netting and any activity where fish, crabs or shellfish are taken where a boat is used to reach the fishing location.

Fishers using non-motorised boats

including kayaks are exempt from the licence while fishing on charter boats and fishing within the bag limit of a licensed fisher will not require a licence.

The *Broome Advertiser's* fishing columnist Sara Hennessy attended a recent meeting between Fisheries officers and local fishermen and said local fishers weren't necessarily opposed to the licence but they weren't happy with paying for more.

"The fishers know that the money is going to be used to benefit the fisheries

but no one likes to pay more," she said.

Fisheries principal management officer Nathan Harrison said the licence would provide the department with a way to estimate the catch of recreational fishers throughout the State.

Ms Hennessy said she believed the licence didn't go far enough and it should be a blanket licence for all fishers to provide adequate information to the department. Licences can be obtained from Australia Post outlets, Fisheries offices and online from the Department of Fisheries website.