

Sustainability key to salmon study

BROOME Fishing Club hosted the Recfishwest community information session on Wednesday night.

This year Dr Steve Newman from the Fisheries Department again presented the latest results of the studies into the threadfin salmon stocks in the Kimberley, and the new information that has been discovered is very interesting.

The crux of the findings is that threadfin salmon (bluenose and giant), have very localised genetic populations.

That means they live, eat and breed their whole life in quite a small geographical area.



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Roebuck Bay threadies are Roebuck Bay threadies and Eighty Mile Beach are Eighty Mile Beach threadies: they do not mix.

These findings highlight the vulnerability of threadfin salmon to over-fishing, whole genetic populations could very well be wiped out if too many breeding-sized fish are taken from a population.

It will be very interesting to see how fisheries management of this species evolves in the future

in light of these findings, because it is more often than not extremely hard for a recreational fisher to catch one of these prize fish.

A representative from the Department of Premier and Cabinet was there fielding questions about marine parks as were the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Fisheries Department.

The evening was very interesting and a fantastic opportunity for the general public to learn more about fisheries management processes and current fisheries issues as well as a great chance for these government or-

ganisations to understand the real concerns of the community.

On another note, I would like to congratulate Jeff Cooper, president of the Broome Fishing Club, for being invited to join the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) committee.

This is a huge honour and recognises his dedication to game fishing in our area, his drive to instigate the world's first sailfish tagging project in the Indian Ocean last year and his ongoing involvement in promoting restocking projects in the Kimberley to ensure we have productive and sustainable fisheries far into the future.

Cherabbin are still worth targeting on the Fitzroy River and surrounding tributaries, just be careful to screen your catch properly as there are a lot of berried females in the mix and these must go back to help ensure the sustainability of the species.

Lastly, I would like to make a big call out to anyone who is enjoying a bit of wet season angling to send in a few pics of your fish, our stockpile of photos is getting a bit low, if you know what I mean.

So get out there, catch a few fish, email me the photos and you may even win a prize.

Tight lines until next time...



There was a big crowd to listen to Dr Steve Newman of the Fisheries Department conduct his presentation on threadfin salmon at the Recfishwest community information session recently.

Picture: Amy Williams

Fish of the week