



17 April 2007

Department of Health gives Esperance fish the all clear

The Department of Health has given the all clear to fishing near the Port of Esperance following lead tests on more than 40 fish recently caught in the area.

Director of Environmental Health Jim Dodds said the fish, collected with the assistance of the Department of Fisheries and local volunteers, included herring, trevally, skipjack, goatfish, moonlighters, wrasse and leatherjackets.

“The Department of Fisheries has advised that this is a representative sample of fish caught recreationally in the area and we are confident that eating the fish does not pose a risk to human health,” he said.

“The testing is now complete and the fish generally showed lead levels well below the recommended levels.

“One herring had a lead level of 2.1 mg/kg which is four times above the recommended limit of 0.5 mg/kg, however, this appears to be an isolated result.

“We are not concerned about this one-off result because of the amount of fish the average person eats.”

Mr Dodds said Fisheries Department officers confirmed that commercial fishing grounds were situated well outside Esperance Bay and would not be affected by the lead contamination.

The Department of Health is advising people not to eat crustaceans or other shellfish taken from around the area until further testing has been done.

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