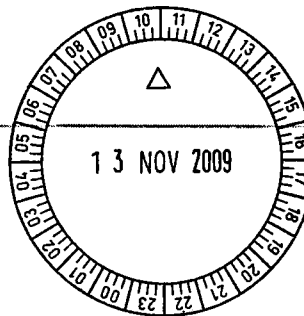


**Stephenson, Cassandra**

**From:** Stephen Roberts  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 November 2009 12:07 PM  
**To:** Stephenson, Cassandra  
**Subject:** fresh water fishing current practices

To:- the standing committee on public administration  
 From:- Steve Roberts

**PUBLIC****Regarding the Terms of Reference:**

That the Standing Committee on Public Administration investigate:

1. The social, economic and environmental values and costs of recreation access, where possible, to Perth hills and south west drinking water catchments, including the costs and benefits to public health, water quality, recreation, Indigenous culture and management options.
2. State, interstate and international legislation, policy and practice for recreation within public drinking water source areas, including information relating to population health benefits and impacts.
3. The range of community views on the value of water and recreation in public drinking water source areas.
4. The costs and benefits of alternative water quality management strategies and treatment for water catchments containing recreation.
5. Possible recreation sites or opportunities available outside the Perth hills and south west drinking water catchments.

**Submissions:****1. A total ban on bait fishing in waters known to contain native fish**

Background Support:- I would like to use this opportunity to provide a little history of South West country practices on freshwater fishing, this has been gleaned from my own experience while living in the Collie region for 3 years.

(a) preferred organic baits in order of preference for fishing for perch or trout are:

shallows of rivers)

Galaxias minnows (usually netted in

netting leaf littered areas)

Pygmy perch (easily obtained by

species (especially for large redfin)

All the freshwater crayfish

and trout)

Earthworms and maggots (perch

in swampy areas)

Sweet corn (mainly for trout)

Small frogs, when present (netted

is a last resort minnow when Galaxias or pygmy perch cannot be found)

(b) Organic baits least preferred in the South West include:

Gambezia (it is claimed that this

Fresh water mussels.

(c) Lures include 6 barbed hard plastics and metal spinners

## 2. A "pay as you enter" system for people to be allowed to fish water supply dams

Background support:-

All people entering the dam's region will be monitored. An advantage of this is that the likelihood of a terrorist poisoning incident will be made more difficult.

Not allowing bait or power boats will limit pollution.

### Summary

I don't condemn the country practice of minnow catching as it has long been part of the culture and there has been very little education or policing for people to do otherwise. As far as they are concerned this is all natural and it is very common for bait fishermen to pay children for minnows that they catch, as long as they are not Gambezia. Allot of the bait fisherman are aware of, and respect the crayfish as bait ban.

Please note that the country freshwater fishing practices I refer to, does not include the poachers (of which there are many), but normal country people that need some educating on this area of native fish conservation. They like eating Perch above trout because it tastes better.

In addition, I find it hard to understand the money that has been put into the effects of trout on native species when there is so much common knowledge about the devastating effects of Red fin Perch and the use of native minnows and crustaceans as bait.

Please remember that unlike perch, trout are not successful self propagators in WA.

Thanyou for your considerations

Steve Roberts