

ESPERANCE ARCHIPELAGO OFFSHORE ANGLING CLASSIC

Statement by Member for Roe

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.50 pm]: Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club's thirtieth Esperance Archipelago Offshore Angling Classic took place in next to perfect autumn conditions on Sunday, 12 March 2023. The inaugural Esperance fishing classic took place in March 1993 and has now grown to be the biggest fishing event on the south coast of WA. Over time the event has grown in popularity among the fishing fraternity, attracting participants from the goldfields, wheatbelt, great southern and south west as well as opportunistic eastern states visitors. In terms of the number of competitors, the Esperance classic rivals the state's biggest fishing competition, Exmouth's GAMEX. The thirtieth Esperance fishing classic saw 85 recreational fishing boats carrying 285 fishers take to the water before dawn in their bid to catch a winner. By the day's end, around 750 family, friends, supporters and fishing enthusiasts attended the weigh-in.

Club president, Corrina Worth, was well supported by a strong committee that helped organise the thirtieth anniversary event over the course of the last 12 months. Murray Johnson, Nigel Worth, Justine McDonald, John McCrea, Matt McCrea, John King, Gary Varcoe, Brett Paxton, Brett Thorp, Mike Spencer and Oli Stevenson all helped. The classic is a big day on the Esperance community's calendar. This year alone the Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club grossed \$140 000 from the event. Well done to the Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club.