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# Push for dragons to be protected

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Conservationists fear the weedy sea dragon is being exploited for use in traditional medicine and want the creature given the same protection in WA that it enjoys in the rest of Australia.

While the sea dragon is protected in every other State, recreational fishers in WA can each take up to 30 a day.

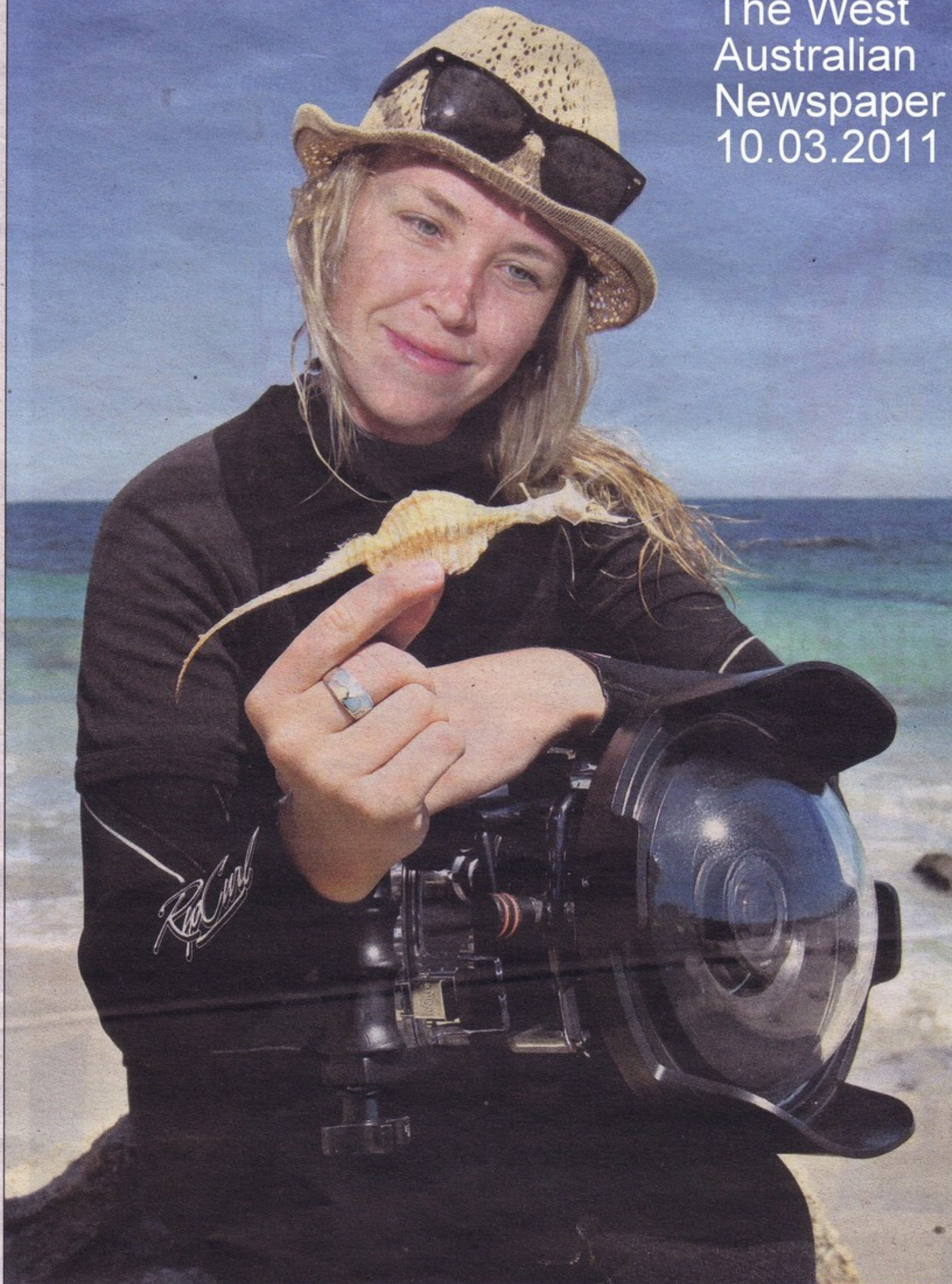
The plight of the seahorse-like fish will be highlighted at a Snorkel for Sanctuaries event at Cottesloe on Saturday organised by the Wilderness Society and the Cottesloe Coastcare Association.

CCA spokeswoman Robyn Benken said she had anecdotal evidence of bucket loads of weedy sea dragons being pulled from waters around Perth.

Marine biologist and community campaigner for the Wilderness Society Jenita Enevoldsen called for the creature to be given comprehensive protection.

"The bag limit is 30 but the Government doesn't have any data on how many (weedys) are out there," she said.

A spokesman for the Department of Fisheries said there was no documented evidence of recreational fishing for weedy sea dragons and nothing to suggest any captures.



Campaigner: Marine biologist Jenita Enevoldsen wants protection for the weedy sea dragon. Picture: Bill Hatto