

'Worms' baffle anglers

WHYALLA

FISHERMEN have been baffled by an increase in strange worm-like creatures appearing inside fish caught in the Spencer Gulf in recent weeks.

Recreational fishermen have been discovering the worm-shaped parasites in one in every five fish, and are having to take extra care when cleaning their catch. Lecturer in parasitology Dr Kate Hutson, who examined some samples of southern garfish on behalf of Primary Industries and Resources SA, said the parasites were not harmful to humans.

Dr Hutson said the "worms" were actually a parasitic crustacean known as a copepod, and occurred naturally in many varieties of fish.