



ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006



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CHAIR

Des Wood

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Executive Director:

Frank B Prokop

Principal Policy Officer:

Mark Pagano

Policy Officer:

Kane Moyle

Administrative Officer:

Con Costa

Administrative Assistant:

Yvette Guy

Tagging Facilitator:

Andrew Rowland

Fishing Clinic Coordinator:

Michelle Jennings

PUBLIC OFFICERS

Frank Prokop

Des Wood

AUDITOR

John C Bingham



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Des Wood	Chair of Board, Chair of Executive and the Finance & Audit Committees
Keith Tocas	Deputy Chair
Norman Halse	Public Board Member
Craig Bibra	Public Board Member
Allan Bevan	Public Board Member
Dr Howard Gill	Public Board Member
Craig Leatt-Hayter	Public Board Member
John Webber	General Board Member (WAGFA), Chair of Sport Development Committee
Harry Vosper	General Board Member (WATFAA), Chair of Communications Committee
Stephen Gilders	General Board Member (ANSA)
Terry Fuller	General Board Member (AAA), Chair of Policy Development Committee
Paul McKeown	General Board Member (AUF)



PART 1: EXECUTIVE REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2006 has again been a year in which Recfishwest has represented our constituents in an ever-increasing number of issues relating to recreational angling including access to and sustainability of the resource. Recfishwest's Executive Director Mr. Frank Prokop will detail in his report the major issues dealt with during the year most of which have resulted in positive outcomes for the recreational fishing sector.

Recfishwest remains unceasing in its efforts to ensure that we have input to the ongoing political thrust towards expanding areas of existing Marine Parks and the creation of additional closed areas in the future. In all instances Recfishwest has made comprehensive submissions on each Marine Park proposal and has intensively lobbied the relevant Ministers and Shire Councils as well as other interested parties to ensure that our submissions are given due recognition.

The Integrated Fisheries Management process is proceeding with the Integrated Fisheries Management Draft Allocation Report "Roe's Abalone – Perth Metropolitan Region", now in the public domain. Submissions on the report should be made prior to 29th December 2006. The contribution of Mr. Norman Halse, Recfishwest Board Member and past Recfishwest Chairman, who is currently an independent member of the IFAAC, is acknowledged.

Demands placed on Board Members continue to increase as Recfishwest's involvement in recreation fishing issues continues to grow. Each Board Member's response to the challenges presented has been outstanding. To the Board, thank you for your dedication to the interests of Recreational Fishers and your willing and invaluable contributions in resolving the matters placed before the Board.

The Executive Committee, comprising Board Members Terry Fuller, Howard Gill, Norman Halse and Keith Tocas has had the additional responsibility of ensuring that the strategic direction of Recfishwest has remained on track. Gentlemen, thank you sincerely for your outstanding performance on this Committee.

The Chairman of the Policy Committee Terry Fuller and the Communications Committee Chairman Harry Vosper are also acknowledged for their work on their respective Committees.

I would like to give my thanks and express my deep appreciation to our Executive Director, Frank Prokop for his exceptional performance in what has been a particularly challenging year.

Thank you also to Mark Pagano, Principal Policy Officer and our Policy Officer, Kane Moyle both of whom, with their knowledge and dedication to the tasks at hand, have made a significant difference.

I would also like to thank Yvette Guy and Con Costa whose efficiency and enthusiasm continues to ensure the smooth running of the day to day administrative operations of Recfishwest.



Michelle Jennings, who also recently joined Recfishwest as “Fishing Clinic Coordinator” is carrying on the excellent work of her predecessor, Melanie Tozer. Michelle has ensured that our Fishing Clinics, (a massive 73 clinics throughout the State in the past 12 months) have continued to be outstanding successes. Thank you Michelle; thank you Melanie. Thank you also to Craig Bibra and Kim Burton for their invaluable assistance in running the Clinics.

Recfishwest continues to seek ways to enhance its consultative processes for recreational fishing in Western Australia through interaction with the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC), Regional RFAC’s and the Executive Director and staff of the Department of Fisheries.

Interaction with metropolitan-based groups has been positive. However, so that we may better represent the views of “grassroots’ anglers there is a pressing and significant need for Recfishwest to firmly establish consultative representation throughout regional areas of Western Australia. This will be an immediate priority and action is in train now to achieve this as quickly as possible.

Overall, a year of many challenges well met. There are many more challenges ahead. The Board, Recfishwest staff and I, look forward to the successful resolution of these.

Des Wood
Chairman



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recfishwest is looking to celebrate ten years of existence during the coming year. This period has seen remarkable growth and acceptance of recreational fishing advocacy. Recfishwest is widely recognised as one of the leaders in recreational fishing servicing as evidenced by another nomination for the Healthway Awards for Excellence for Innovation and Community Involvement.

During the year we ran a total of 73 fishing clinics across the state and were successful in gaining funding from the Commonwealth Recreational Fishing Community Grants Scheme. We continued to receive support from the State government and Healthway for these important clinics where more than 2000 students have been able to participate from Esperance to Kununurra.

During the year Minister for Fisheries Jon Ford attended a breakfast meeting with the Board and continued to have regular meetings with our Chairman Des Wood and I. The Minister has made a number of informal approaches on policy issues and we thank the Minister and his advisers for making themselves available.

Recfishwest got a change of view during the year – moving into the old research labs on West Coast Drive. The building is now called the Waterman's Bay Marine Centre. The move was facilitated by strong cooperation between Recfishwest and the Department of Fisheries. Phil Bruce and Leanne Adams were instrumental and were nominated for a services award by Recfishwest.

Recfishwest also nominated Clinton Syers for his work on the freshwater review and South Coast review. Clinton was successful in winning the award. Equally auspicious was that Board member Norman Halse was successful in winning an award for services to recreational fishing. Not only has Norman been a longstanding Board member of Recfishwest, he has also been an RFAC member and member of the Wetfish Review Committee and outside of his Recfishwest duties, is a member of the important Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC).

The end of the financial year brings an expectation of the resolution of the wetfish review process. This is an extremely important issue for recreational fishers and one into which Recfishwest put enormous effort.

The IFAAC process put out papers on the future management of the Western rock lobster fisheries and engaging recreational fishers proved to be a challenge both for Recfishwest and IFAAC. Even a media release suggesting a \$140 recreational licence fee for rock lobster fishing got little interest, mainly as it appeared to be too far into the future to really worry about. Recfishwest does not have the luxury of being able to ignore important issues such as integrated management and prepared significant submissions that were widely praised.

The profile of recreational fishing continues to increase dramatically, and recreational fishers are leading the debates on integrated management, access, facilities provision, marine park management and conservation based fisheries management.

Recfishwest had a very high profile on management issues associated with the estuaries and particularly the Swan River. Recfishwest has pushed for management reforms for cobbler, tailor and bream in the metropolitan area and a review of size limits for pink snapper in Wilson Inlet.



While Recfishwest has been a strong conservation advocate in the estuaries, we have continued to fare much worse in the marine environment. One of the most important issues was the resurrection of the Rottnest Island protection proposals, which had been effectively killed off by former Premier Geoff Gallop.

The proposed sanctuary zones at Rottnest Island were extremely topical and hotly debated in Cabinet, on talkback radio and in the newspapers. Recfishwest met with many Cabinet Ministers to try and get some balance in the proposals and to address critical issues such as trolling for pelagic species, anchoring management plans and management proposals for blue groper. Indeed, Recfishwest has supported making blue groper totally protected in all Rottnest waters.

We are hopeful that the final plan will accommodate the vast majority of our suggestions which still provide strong protection for such an important place as Rottnest Island.

Recfishwest continued its high level involvement with research planning and management. Andrew Rowland continued in his role servicing recreational fishing needs with the dhufish, snapper and breaksea cod project which has continued to provide pleasing results and has strong support from the recreational fishing community.

The results have clearly indicated that barotrauma or the impact of capture at depth is a significant factor for dhufish, although fish have been recaptured from greater than 60 metres of depth. It is apparent that the depth release device, developed by Garry Lilley and promoted by Recfishwest and ANSA greatly improved survival. Another fascinating finding from the studies is that after more than 100 recaptures, not a single dhufish has moved further than the constraints of a GPS coordinates. This has important considerations for management. Conversely, pink snapper are much less susceptible to barotrauma and recaptures from greater than 100 metres have been recorded.

In addition to the great work on dhufish and other demersal species, Andrew Rowland and Mike Mackie have continued the excellent work on Samson fish as Andrew progresses work towards his PhD through Murdoch University. There have been many fascinating recaptures, including one fish from South Australia that was tagged near Rottnest Island.

Recfishwest, with additional support from ANSA, were able to keep Andrew Rowland funded until the end of the 2005/06 with the tagging program. Recfishwest has made an application to the Minister for Fisheries for funding for the tagging facilitator but have not yet heard the results. In addition, Recfishwest will be applying through Andrew Rowland and the Department of Fisheries for a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) grant for tagging and the extension of research results.

At the end of the financial year, Recfishwest had a total of seven staff employed directly or on contract. During the year, fishing clinics coordinator Melanie Tozer and her husband Colin moved to Mandurah. Melanie was replaced by Michelle Jennings. Janet Patterson also resigned due to family commitments and we welcomed Yvette Guy to the position of Administrative Assistant. All staff have continued to perform at an exceptional level.

Mark Pagano has been appointed as Principal Policy Officer and is a valuable member of the Recfishwest team. Mark was successful in gaining selection for the Australian Rural Leadership



Program which is a big honour and has commenced this prestigious training program and should make a significant contribution to future management.

The recognition of the role we play is increasingly recognised throughout the world. I was invited to attend the conference of the peak recreational fishing body in New Zealand as a keynote speaker. They were particularly interested in our close relationship with research programs such as the Samson Science program and the use of tail clipping as a management tool for recreational rock lobster catches. I also made two presentations to the International Sharing the Fish Conference in Fremantle.

Recfishwest undertook strategic planning exercises and proposed changes to the constitution to allow one public Board member who is also a member of a fishing club. It was also proposed to allow one of the Charter Boat Owners Association of WA or the Australian Fishing Tackle Association (WA) to become a Board member with the other group to be a member of the policy development committee or other part of the Recfishwest process.

The matter was voted on at a Special General Meeting on 5 July, and although not technically part of the year of this report, I am happy to announce that the proposals were passed by an overwhelming majority to take effect from the 2006 Annual General Meeting.

Recfishwest was part of a governance review of peak bodies governance and management and we were given an excellent assessment.

Overall, this has been quite a challenging year for Recfishwest as we continue to make our presence felt on many issues throughout Western Australia. The major developments, other than marine planning issues were the seemingly never ending wetfish review and the commencement of the Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) process. Norman Halse has done an excellent job with the wetfish review and also as an independent representative on the IFM committee which has started with the rock lobster fishery. The implementation of the wetfish review integrated fisheries management will provide an important focus during 2005/2006.

Recfishwest has reinforced a high level of credibility on behalf of the 643,000 recreational fishers in this state. There are very few major issues which directly or indirectly impact on recreational fishing that we haven't had significant input into and in many cases been able to change proposals or implement changes which benefit recreational fishing.

Con Costa has continued to impress all associated with the organisation. Con has overseen the financials and web page for some time and has serviced our sponsors and funding bodies in an exemplary manner. Con has also ensured that the highly successful fishing clinics and public functions like the boat shows have run smoothly.

It is also extremely important to point out the enormous contribution of our volunteer based Board. Des Wood continued his hard work as the fourth Recfishwest Chairman. Des has continued the tradition of dedicated and highly productive Chairs of the organisation. The Executive Committee including Des Wood, Howard Gill, Keith Tocas, Norman Halse and Terry Fuller work many hours a week on Recfishwest issues.



We have been continuing to ensure that the needs of recreational fishermen are given full consideration in the development of management strategies by local, state and federal government and by other interest groups such as commercial fishing, conservation and many others.

Recfishwest has continued to have a high profile with Recfish Australia. I stood down as President and Bruce Schumacher from NSW was elected as Chairman. I was successful in being elected to the inaugural Board of Management. Recfish Australia has made enormous progress on many issues during the year and has been of assistance to Recfishwest on many issues. Unfortunately, the decisions on Western Tuna and Billfish did not include appropriate consideration of recreational issues and the result is a major disappointment.

I was able to represent Western Australia and Recfish Australia on the National Oceans Advisory Group (NOAG). This is an important committee to provide advice on Australian Government marine parks and oceans planning. The fast tracking of Western Australian bioregional marine planning by the Commonwealth will provide many new challenges.

I have continued on a working group on developing a national released fish working group, representing recreational fishing interests. This FRDC funded project has been given further funding and recognises the increasing number of recreational fishers who release fish, either because they are undersized or above the bag limits but more frequently because they just want to let the fish go. Increasing the survival of released fish is an increasingly important issue and the program has developed a national advertising campaign.

The list of the vast range of committees and working groups in which Recfishwest participates demonstrates the enormous regard with which our views are held. We add value not only to all of the program initiatives of the Department of Fisheries, but across a huge spectrum of government and non-government issues. We have given and earned respect from the commercial fishing industry, mainstream conservation groups, local government, State Government departments and their Ministers and the Australian Government. We should all feel proud that we ensure that the views of recreational fishing are considered. We may not win everything and there are times when it feels that the mountain to climb is extremely high, but it is better to have tried and failed than not to have tried at all.

Our funding situation must be closely examined during the year, particularly to ensure that our funding is assured for the medium term. The coming year provides some challenges as we need to shore up our funding base in what is an increasingly competitive funding environment. We are currently running a deficit budget and this will be addressed during the coming year.

We are extremely fortunate to have the strong support of Peter Rogers and many staff from the Department of Fisheries for our activities.

Special thanks go to our Chairman, Des Wood, whose enthusiasm and dedication has been greatly appreciated. The efforts of all Board members who give so freely of their time on behalf of recreational fishing are often under recognised. It has been a pleasure to work on the variety of issues during the past year with such enthusiastic and dedicated people.

Frank Prokop
Executive Director



PRINCIPAL POLICY OFFICER'S REPORT

The increasing complexity in which we operate is not unique to our organisation or our industry; rather it is indicative of life in 2006. The challenges facing recreational fishing grow each year as we take responsibility for and represent the interests of our recreation and its impact on the wider environment and community.

Kane Moyle joined Recfishwest in August 2005 as our new Policy Officer and has since become an integral part of our team. Kane's background is in Marine Biology and Zoology with honours in rock lobster aquaculture from University of Western Australia, he is also a keen fisher and diver. Kane established immediately that he was more than able to share the considerable workload within the office. Kane is Recfishwest's representative on the Swan Catchment Council's Coastal and Marine Reference Group which allows Recfishwest the ability to engage in the development of priorities and strategies for Natural Resource Management in the metropolitan region.

During 2005/06 I was successful in applying to the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP). My position is funded via a recurrent Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Scholarship. The ARLP is recognised as Australia's premier leadership development program designed to provide intensive study of leadership theories and practices coupled with innovative and personally challenging leadership building programs, designed to give participants real experience and practical application.

Good working relationships continued through 2005/06 with various stakeholders. Nathan Harrison in his capacity as the Recreational Fishing Program Manager continues to proactively engage with Recfishwest. This has resulted in an improved working relationship with the Departments Recreational Fishing Program.

The past year also saw a continued good working relationship with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) through Felicity Horn and Guy Leyland. Through WAFIC support I was able to attend the first International Marine Protected Areas Congress held in Geelong during November 2005; Recfishwest was the only recreational fishing delegate of the estimated 700 participants.

Through the coordination of past Recfishwest Board member John Baas I have worked closely with Stephen Hood from Kailis and Nic Dunlop from the Conservation Council as part of the Halt the Salt Alliance. The Alliance was established to combat a proposal for one of the world's largest solar salt mines to be established along the eastern edge of Exmouth Gulf.

I am continually amazed by people who give their time so freely on behalf of recreational fishing in Western Australia and who more often than not go unrecognised. I worked with several of these people in a regional and metropolitan capacity on a variety of concerns during the past year. I would particularly like to thank Board members Norman Halse, Terry Fuller and Craig Bibra for their continued support and contribution to committees, workshops and submissions through out the year. Chairman Des Wood and Deputy Chair Keith Tocas, Howard Gill and Ian Stagles also provided considered input into the many issues.



I would also like to acknowledge the regional support we have received, in particular from Scott Goodson in the East Kimberley, Sarah Hennessey from Broome, Len Vertigan and Dennis Bryan-Smith from Karratha, Jenny Lerch and Mathew Gates from Exmouth, Rusty Ellis from Busselton, Damian Lane from Dunsborough and Mark Halse from Walpole. All contributed to matters important to recreational fishing in WA.

During the year Recfishwest continued its involvement in cooperative community based research partnerships collecting recreational fishing specific information and we welcome further opportunities for sharing this information to grass roots anglers.

As the Department of Fisheries progresses toward an Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) structure we will ultimately be left without a dedicated recreational fishing program within the agency. In light of this, the role of Recfishwest becomes increasingly significant, we must be proactive to ensure that adequate engagement and recognition is afforded the recreational sector in the spirit of common resource management as the agency evolves toward a complete IFM arrangement.

The growth of Recfishwest during 2005/06 will go a long way to help tackle the challenges that lay ahead. Thank you to Frank Prokop for his vision and direction over the past year and to all Recfishwest staff, Con Costa, Andrew Rowland, Kane Moyle, Yvette Guy (commenced February) and Janet Paterson (resigned February) and Melanie Tozer for their diligent efforts and welcome to Michele Jennings who recently replaced Melanie as our Fishing Clinic Coordinator.

Mark Pagano
Principal Policy Officer



PART 2: COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The year 2005/2006 has been a good one for the Communications Committee. The new Recfishwest fishing clinic and display trailer has been displayed throughout the State and has attracted attention where ever it has appeared.

The Communications Committee met on five occasions and produced two Newsletters which have been placed on the Recfishwest website and also distributed to corresponding members.

The media exposure by way of television, newspapers and magazines has been particularly pleasing and a tribute to Frank Prokop and the office staff who have been most successful in spreading the word that Recfishwest is alive and well and is on top of the current issues through the release of media statements. Media releases have been sent via email to our membership base.

Fishing Clinics

Once again this was the main forum used to generate publicity about Recfishwest. Throughout the period 73 Recfishwest fishing clinics were held across Western Australia and 2193 participants enjoyed learning how to fish, conservation and safety. As these participants were young people and it is hoped that the information conveyed will result in more responsible adults in future years.

A breakdown of the number of fishing clinics and the regions they were held is; Metropolitan – 31; Northern tour – 24; Southern tour – 18.

The Recfishwest fishing clinic trailer was used at all the clinics. I would like to thank the various partners that have supported the clinics, the staff and Board members who participated as instructors and presenters at the clinics and all the teachers and community members who helped out. I hope that the regional fishing clinics will become an annual event.

Shows and Events

Recfishwest attended the Club Marine Boat and Fishing Show, the Perth 4WD and Fishing Show, the Seniors Recreation Councils Have a Go Day and the SwanFish Event. At all of the above events, the Recfishwest Fishing Clinic and Display trailer was exhibited and manned. Many of the public viewed the displays, took pamphlets and received information on all matters concerning recreational fishing. Thanks to all who manned the trailer.

Recfishwest Website

Many thanks to Terry Fuller and Con Costa for keeping our web site current and interesting.

In closing, I would like to thank Craig Bibra the out going Chairman, for all that he has done and continues to do and a very big thank you to all the Staff at Recfishwest for support that this Committee has received.

Harry Vosper

Chair of Communications Committee



POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Seven meetings have been held during 2005/2006. Attendance at the meetings ranged from four to seven Board members plus Recfishwest staff.

The work and issues included the revision of existing policies, the preparation of draft policies, submissions and papers covering a range of topics, including:-

- Catch and Release Policy
- Metro fisheries management (the "Zone 5" paper)
- Review of the Caravan and Camping Act
- Artificial Reefs and Habitat Enhancement Policy.
- Taking Fish by Free Diving Policy.
- Review of Marine Park Management Plans for Montebellos/Barrow Islands, Rowley Shoals, Dampier Archipelago.
- Review and comments on the Rottnest Marine Management Strategy.
- Spear fishing issues in the Review of Fisheries Management Paper 117, Management Plan for the Abrolhos.
- Wetline Fishery Management.
- Possible exclusion zones for rock lobster potting close to groynes and breakwaters.

This year has been exceptionally busy for me, due to commitments for the Australian Anglers Association and the Surf Casting and Angling Club which have limited the time I could give to the Recfishwest work at some times.

I will not have those commitments in the coming year and look forward to doing more of the very important work for Recfishwest in whatever capacity I can help.

Thanks to Board members for their assistance with reviews and comments, and to Principal Policy Officer Mark Pagano and Policy Officer Kane Moyle for help with comments and the organisation of issues.

Terry Fuller
Chair of Policy Development Committee



SPORT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Sports Development Committee met twice during the 2005/2006 year.

As always the Committee concentrated on the allocations and administration of the available Department of Sport and Recreation funding. This funding has remained unchanged in the last few years.

The Committee now basically operates very smoothly as all of the associations liaise with each other to obtain the best results possible, taking into account any special projects that may be planned for the year.

As always my thanks to all concerned for their efforts on behalf of all associations.

John Webber
Chair of Sport Development Committee Report



PART 3: ASSOCIATION REPORTS

AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION)

State AAA Events

State AAA events took up a lot of our time. The first was the State Dry Casting in October 2005. The quality of the casting was excellent. Kevin Hughes has been the driver on the AAA State Estuary, Rock and Beach group and with a small band of workers has conducted meetings to organise both events. They prepared promotional booklets for these two events which were a very positive step and well received. Both events, the Estuary on the Peel Inlet at Mandurah and the Rock and Beach at Jurien Bay, ran smoothly. Thank you to Kevin and all those who supported him. Kevin has since moved back to Bunbury and will be sorely missed.

The AAA State Boating Championship was held at Jurien Bay with headquarters at the Jurien Recreation Centre. Pat Shinnick had a crew who certainly showed how to organise and run this event. The attendance and positive results showed what can be achieved by good organisation, professionalism and the support of club members. Jurien Bay Fishing Club provided assistance and facilities and cooperation which certainly contributed to the success of the event.

Good weather was enjoyed and some excellent catches were achieved. The competition is run allowing only one fish of each species from an eligible species list. The top angler weighed in 11 species of fish. To Pat and his crew a big thank you from all of us for the great effort.

To all the various winners and overall champions, both individual and teams in all our State events go congratulations from all clubs and their members. All results are detailed on the AAAWA website <http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/>

Fishing Clinics

July 2005 saw our three Fishing clinics held at Hillarys Yacht Club on the first three Monday nights. We had an attendance of 120 people per night. The continuing support of our sponsors for these clinics, and the Hillarys Yacht Club for the venue, were major contributors to the successful events.

The lecturers excelled themselves, in particular Paul Willis, Adam Eastman, George Holman and Terry Fuller from the Association's clubs. Recfishwest's Mark Pagano gave an interesting talk on tagging and recaptures. A lot of very favourable comment was made and has continued weeks later. We invited contributions from clubs and tackle shops to promote themselves through the handout bags we give to all participants. Those who took up the offer are still smiling from the great response to their involvement!

National AAA Convention

A lot of work went into preparing and sending a WA State team to Yeppoon Queensland in September 2005. The support of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation via Recfishwest has helped to make this possible and as a result we had a team of 19 travel across Australia to represent us. There is certainly a large personal cost to these individuals, but they are a committed lot and work together to achieve on Western Australia's behalf. Dry Casting is the main event they target at these conventions, but they get involved in all other fishing events where possible. Since then, the focus has shifted to planning for the 2007 convention to be held at Phillip Island, Victoria in March 2007.



Fisheries Management and Access

As in recent years there has been a lot of time spent dealing with many fisheries management and Marine Park issues. Our policy of working in a positive manner with Recfishwest and the Department of Fisheries and any other group involved in fisheries management and Marine Parks has certainly borne fruit, although Marine Parks have been particularly difficult.

Records

The role of the AAA National Records Authority has been clarified. At each National AAA convention since 1985 WA has been given the job of National records, and Richard Siudak and his team have been keeping the records and doing a good job.

We have since put all the fishing and drycasting records on our AAAWA web site. Several new records have been achieved in the last 12 months.

Terry Fuller

For Vice President, Australian Anglers Association, WA Division.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION - WA BRANCH

Where to begin for this years report? I think the place to start is with the discussions held at last years Annual General Meeting and the question of why does the communication always fall down? Is it the lifestyle we lead? Is it because there are fewer members involved in Committee positions and they are over worked? Or it so easy to get in touch with people these days that we keep saying "I'll speak to him tomorrow" and we all know tomorrow never comes. I think it could be a little bit all the above. Today's lifestyle runs at a pretty quick pace with many things to fit into a few hours of leisure. This restricts the time people can spend doing duties on the overworked Committee, and, because there are so few doing it today some one is always on the phone when one wants to speak to them.

We (the Committee and therefore the Associations contacts) have been with out a secretary for the whole year and the secretaries' position is one of first points of contact. But nobody can or should make excuses. We really must address the problem and fix it.

Over the past several years the Wetline review has been in progress, and we believe we have communication problems, seven years for a review and we are still not to the public comment stage. ANSA as an Association has made considerable input with Recfishwest in to the process. With a bit of luck clubs will receive a copy of the draft before Christmas. It is vitally important responses are received from clubs. The outcomes of the Wetline Review will have a momentous effect on recreational fishing. Your input is imperative. The Review will affect the Integrated Fisheries Management program like no other review in the past. The Gascoyne region is one of the most vulnerable areas. The commercial and recreational fishing interests overlap more in this area than elsewhere in the state. It seems there is nothing that is unimportant happening at the moment. It's called lifestyle.

On a much brighter side I can report the results of the Westag program have been fantastic. The interest expressed from overseas in the release weight and the National push with the *Gently Does It* program endorse the work of ANSA.

For those who just want to catch fish the facilities are still there for you to use. I don't believe the drop in record claims endorses the belief ... there are fewer fish available to be caught.

Stephen G Gilders

President, Australian National Sportfishing Association W. A. Branch (Inc.)



AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER FEDERATION

The last financial year (05/06) has seen an escalation in government activity on the fisheries management front. Various reviews are being conducted by both the Department of Fisheries (W.A.) and the Department of Conservation and Land Management. We have had one on rock lobster which has a draft option of reducing the quota for recreational fishers to maintain sustainability: a proposal which was treated with derision by amateurs who see the professional sector not bearing a concomitant burden. To date there is no word from the Minister for Fisheries on a ruling with regards to the commercial wetline industry. A review completed over 8 months ago. Current reviews include: Shoalwater Islands/ Point Peron, Rottnest Island and Cape to Cape. On the fisheries side we are waiting for or are in the early stages of decisions on: West Australian Dhufish, Western Rock Lobster, Abalone and Pink Snapper.

All this adds up to a blitzkrieg approach to fisheries management. If all decisions are announced within a short time of each other no one review will get the attention required enabling the government to more easily diffuse criticism by highlighting from a wider range of 'positives'; an approach which would inevitably disadvantage the recreational freedive spearfisher.

The main obstacle facing freedive Spearfishing is an acknowledgement that it is a legitimate form of recreational fishing and should be considered when drafting up Marine Protected Areas. Paul Mckeown is the representative for freedive Spearfishing on the Board of Recfishwest. He has been instrumental in clarifying inconsistencies between the law and its application; in particular on the Rottnest Island draft proposal where freedive Spearfishing was to be completely banned and the removal of signs in the Denmark area which prohibited speargun use in Williams Bay. Representation on the Board of Recfishwest has given freedive Spearfishing access to research and an effective voice in the community, a relationship we have Paul to thank for the many hours he devotes.

Interest in the sport is growing amongst young men. More Women are showing interest however unless they have supportive parents, juniors find it difficult to walk, ride or catch public transport to their favourite dive site in the Perth metropolitan area due to restrictions on Spearfishing activity in more accessible areas. Damien Lane in Dunsborough is supporting the sport through his store and the Dunsborough Angling and Aquatic Club with regular competitions in the South West of Western Australia. Daryn Rigg through Coastal Water Dive in Bunbury is another who is promoting freedive Spearfishing. Barry Paxman has a chapter of the Bluewater Freedivers in Geraldton with Paul Barnes as a contact. There have been enquiries on club formation from Karratha and Exmouth. The sport is growing.

On the competition front the West Australian Undersea Club used a proportional point scoring system which reflected the merits of individual species with the record weight used as a guide and with minimum weights well in excess of legal requirements. Weights were entered into an excel spreadsheet with built-in formulas and results printed as each bag was weighed. Coupled with gutting and gilling (the fish 'kept' better and were an attractive giveaway) and shooting only table fish, the sport is being promoted not as a kilo gathering exercise but as a test of skill.

The way ahead is to maintain our relationship with Recfishwest, assist juniors through supervised club outings and look for innovative ways to maintain a positive profile for the sport amongst the general community.

Joseph Petrovich
Chair, West Australian Spearfishing Commission



WEST AUSTRALIAN GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION

The concern for our Association remains the potential loss of access to large areas of the Rowley Shoals, Monte Bello Islands and the between the Capes. It also remains apparent that conservationists also want more than 7.5% of the Dampier Archipelago proposed closed to fishing too.

We remain concerned that the stakeholder review group, on which Ben Patrick has been given a seat, is still to meet to discuss the ongoing development of marine parks.

The West Australian Game Fishing Association (WAGFA) State Executive continues to appreciate the ongoing support from Recfishwest on these issues. Our Association believes that the catch & release study area proposal, as discussed at a meeting at Fisheries Research Branch earlier in the year, has great potential. The use of this zoning classification in lieu of huge no-take zones offers a good way forward on this issue. This Association believes that this research project should be pursued with both diligence and urgency.

Should any seed funding, or recreational fisher's involvement, be required for this work please let me know as we may well be able to assist in both areas through the GFAA Research and Development Fund.

Club membership remains at similar levels to the previous year although the continuance of a weak Leeuwin Current is not helping our catch rates in the southern half of the State, and this will probably start to tell on club participation as will the horrendous cost of fuel!

Again it has been a pleasure working with the staff and Board of Management at Recfishwest, and we thank them for their diligence and support on a multitude of issues.

John Webber
WAGFA Board Member



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TROUT & FRESHWATER ANGLING ASSOCIATION INC.

Having recently taken over once again as President of Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA), I would like to take this opportunity to thank Past President Jim Boardman for all the effort he put in during his year in office. Due to an increase in pressure at work, Jim was not able to continue as President but has graciously agreed to remain on Council as 2nd Vice President. Jim also remains the Chairman of the Streams and Dams Committee.

I would thank our hardworking Secretary Wally Mackowiak for the way that he has continued to advise and encourage the WATFAA Council. Without his sterling and tireless work driving the “engine”, WATFAA would not be the force it is today.

We have always prided ourselves on having a strong management team and this season is no exception. It most pleasing to note the influx of new members who have joined the Council. This is most encouraging and insures a vibrant future for WATFAA. In particular I would welcome and thank Vice President Monty Moy (a Past President) for joining Council once again, bringing vast experience with him.

WATFAA is alive and well and growing steadily. The number of new members who have joined exceeds last year’s figures and the participation at activity nights and competitions is most gratifying. It is also pleasing to note that there has been an increase in Record Cards kept and that catch and release is now the norm.

The past year has been a good one for WATFAA. The water levels in all dams, both public and private dams and most streams and rivers, are higher than at the same time last year, all indications also point to a “wetter than normal” spring. There has been however huge and constant pressure on the fresh water fishery in the South West.

Due to the shortage of drinking water in the State and the increasing urban growth, the Department of Water are looking to increase their supply of drinking water dams. Unfortunately, their thinking is based on Risk Avoidance rather than Risk Management and we must be constantly vigilant to prevent further dams being lost to the freshwater fishery.

With this in mind, and I would like to thank Recfishwest for the strong presence it has displayed and I would like to compliment Executive Director Frank Prokop and his staff for the hard work and effort that they have contributed to assist WATFAA in advocating for freshwater fishing in Western Australia. I refer to the attempted closure of Logue Brook Dam and the Capel, Brunswick and Margaret River and Lefroy Brook Consultation processes currently being undertaken by consultants for the Department of Water.

Together with the Recreational Freshwater Fisheries Stakeholders Sub-Committee, on which WATFAA is also represented, I am sure we will be successful in ensuring that the freshwater fishing remains strong in Western Australia.

Harry Vosper
President, Western Australian Trout and Freshwater Angling Association



PART 4: FINANCIAL REPORTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT for the year ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006	2005
INCOME		\$	\$

Included in the printed copies provided to members of Recfishwest.



INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
for the year ended 30 June 2006

	Note	2006	2005
EXPENDITURE		\$	\$

Included in the printed copies provided to members of Recfishwest.



BALANCE SHEET
30th June 2006

Included in the printed copies provided to members of Recfishwest.



NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 30 June 2006

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act. The Board of Management has determined that the council is not a reporting entity.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act and the following Australian Accounting Standards.

AAS 1 Profit and Loss or Other Operating Statements.

AAS 5 Materiality.

AAS 8 Events Occurring After *Reporting Date*.

No other Australian Accounting Standards or other mandatory professional reporting requirements have been applied.

These financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations on non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) **Fixed Assets**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(b) **Income Tax**

The Council's income is not subject to income tax.



STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board have determined that the Council is not a reporting entity.

The Board have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

In the opinion of the Board the financial statements as set out on pages 1 to 5

- (a) Present fairly the financial position of Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc., as at 30 June 2006 and the results of the Council for the year ended on that date.
- (b) Detail of expenditure carried out in accordance with grant contracts with funding bodies including:
 - Department of Fisheries
 - Department of Sport and Recreation
 - Healthway
 - Australian Government

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO RECFISHWEST

Scope

I have audited the financial statements, being a special purpose financial report comprising the Statement by Members of the Board, Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet and Notes to and forming part of the Accounts of Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2006. The Board is responsible for the financial statements and has determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the Associations Incorporation Act and the needs of the Council members. I have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the Council. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements. These policies do not require the application of all Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements the financial position of Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc., as at 30 June 2006 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



ASSETS REGISTER AT 30TH JUNE 2006

Kangourou display system
Overhead projector and Projector screen
Flip chart
Office furniture
HP6L printer
Pentium desktop computer
Panafax UF-560
Rods and Reels
Fax machine Brother 920 (3)
Brother fax 930 DW
Epson Stylus 1160 printer
Computer/server
Computers & monitors (6)
Sony Laptop computer
LG Laptop computer
Computer programs
Coffee percolator
Portable radio
Fishing gear & tackle
Fishing rod & reel carry boxes (3)
Engel 40 ltr Fridge/freezer
Telephone answering machine – Panasonic
White Board (on wheels)
Hyundai Santa Fe AWD Wagon
Trailer equipped with fishing gear
Sunscreen dispensing trailer
Panasonic 3010 digital printer/copier
DVD recorder (Admin computer)
Camera Sony digital (2)
Scanner HP
Fuji Xerox Laser Printer
Precision Stationary Cabinets (2)
Albany Tub Chairs (5)
Westinghouse Bar Fridge 120L



APPENDIX I: Committees/Working Groups of Which Recfishwest is a Member

Committee	Member	Meetings
6PR fishing show	Frank Prokop	4 shows
Abalone MAC	Des Wood	4 meetings
AFMA/Recfish Australia	Frank Prokop	2 meetings
Australian Angling Association (WA) Fishing Clinics	Mark Pagano Andrew Rowland	2 presentations 1 presentation
Australian Fishing Tackle Association Executive Meeting	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Barramundi and Threadfin Accord	Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	1 meeting 1 meeting
Bennett Brook Taskforce	Mark Pagano	2 meetings
Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Bill Stakeholder Group	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project Stakeholder Reference Group	Allan Bevan	1 meeting
Cockburn Sound Crab Voluntary Resource Sharing Committee	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Cockburn Sound Management Council - Full Council	Keith Tocas	4 meetings
Cockburn Sound Management Council - Executive Council	Keith Tocas	5 meetings
Commonwealth Harvest Strategies Management Working Group	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Commonwealth Recreational Fishing Community Grants Committee	Frank Prokop	1 presentation
Curtin University - Aquatic Science Division	Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	2 presentations 1 presentation
Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Groups	Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	1 meeting 2 meetings
Fisheries Research Advisory Body (WA)	Frank Prokop	5 meetings
Fisheries Research Development Corporation Research Strategic Directions	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Fishers with Disabilities Board	Frank Prokop Con Costa Yvette Guy	8 meetings 3 meetings 6 meetings
Fisheries Working Group State of Environment Report	Mark Pagano Kane Moyle	1 meeting 1 meeting
Fishing Safety Round Table	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Halt the Salt Alliance	Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	10 meetings 1 meeting
Healthway Sponsorship Coordination Committee	Frank Prokop	2 meetings
Kimberley Plan Towards 2015 Stakeholder Workshops	Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	2 meetings 1 meeting
Logue Brook Dam Future Access Forum - Harvey	Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	1 presentation 2 meetings
Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (independent member)	Norman Halse	16 meetings
Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee	Frank Prokop Des Wood	2 meetings 1 meeting
Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee – Rock Lobster	Frank Prokop Des Wood	3 meetings 3 meetings
Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee – Abalone	Frank Prokop Des Wood	2 meetings 1 meeting
The First International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC1)	Mark Pagano	delegate
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority	Mark Pagano Des Wood	1 presentation 1 presentation
National Fish Stocking Workshop	Frank Prokop	1 presentation
National Oceans Advisory Group	Frank Prokop	2 meetings
National Released Fish Working Group	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
National Research Priorities Workshop	Frank Prokop Des Wood	1 meeting 1 meeting
National Social and Economic Research needs Working Group	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Natural Resource Management	Mark Pagano	3 meetings
New Zealand National Recreational Fishing Conference	Frank Prokop	1 keynote presentation
Owen Anchorage Sub Committee	Keith Tocas	4 meetings



Committees/Working Groups of Which Recfishwest is a Member (Continued)

Committee	Member	Meetings
Peak Bodies Governance Review Process	Frank Prokop Mark Pagano	2 meetings 1 meeting
Property Rights Working Group	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Proposed Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston Marine Conservation Reserves Advisory Committee	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Recfish Australia	Frank Prokop Des Wood	4 meetings 1 meeting
Recfishing Services Working Group	Frank Prokop	2 meetings
Recfishwest Strategic Planning Committee	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
Recreational Boating Facilities Working Group	John Baas Craig Leatt-Hayter	1 meeting 1 meeting
Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) and Subcommittees	Norman Halse (Member) Frank Prokop (Observer) Craig Bibra (Presenter) Kane Moyle (Observer) Mark Pagano (Observer)	12 meetings 4 meetings 1 presentation 1 meeting 2 presentations
Recreational Fishing Consultative Structures Working Group	Frank Prokop Norman Halse	3 meetings 3 meetings
Recreational Fishing Research Priorities	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
Recreational Freshwater Fishing Stakeholder Subcommittee (RFFSS)	Frank Prokop Harry Vosper (WATFAA)	4 meetings 4 meetings
RFAC Planning Day	Craig Bibra Kane Moyle Terry Fuller Frank Prokop Des Wood	1 meeting 1 meeting 1 meeting 1 meeting 1 meeting
Regional RFAC Exmouth (independent member)	Craig Bibra	4 meetings
Regional RFAC Metropolitan (independent member)	Mark Pagano	3 meetings
Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC), Subcommittees and Coastal Tour	Des Wood	18 meetings
Reward and Recognition Assessment Committee	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
RLIAC Research and Development Committee	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Rottneest Island Marine Strategy Working Group	Norman Halse	2 meetings
Royal Life Saving Society Australia Drowning Prevention Forum	Mark Pagano	1 presentation
SamsonScience/Release Fish Survival/Tagging Workshops	Andrew Rowland	8 meetings
Samson Fish Research Reference Group	Frank Prokop	2 meetings
Sepia Depression Ocean Outlet Stakeholder Liaison Group	Kane Moyle	2 meetings
Service Clubs	Frank Prokop	2 presentations
Sharing the Fish Conference 2006	Frank Prokop Mark Pagano	1 presentation 1 rapporteur presentation
Sharing the Fish Recreational Fisheries Workshop	Frank Prokop	1 presentation
Sharing the Fish Recreational Fisheries Workshop Organising Committee	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
Shark Bay Joint Trawl MAC	Keith Tocas	1 meeting
Shoalwater MPA Focus Group	Norman Halse Mark Pagano	1 meeting 1 meeting
State Biodiversity Conservation Peak Bodies Working Group	Frank Prokop	(appointed) no meeting
State Reference Committee - Commonwealth Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
State Water Forum	Frank Prokop	2 meetings
Swan Catchment Council – Coastal & Marine Working Group	Kane Moyle	7 meetings
3rd WA State Coastal Conference	Frank Prokop Mark Pagano	1 presentation 1 meeting
WA Marine Science Institute (WAMSI) Strategic Planning Committee	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Western Rock Lobster Council Joint Meetings	Des Wood	6 meetings



APPENDIX II: Summary of Key RECFISHWEST Stakeholders

STAKE HOLDER	CURRENT STATUS
Abalone Divers Association	Strained during IFM process and management arrangements for fishery
AIMS	Improving through WAMSI
AFMA	Problems with lack of recognition of recreational fishing interests
AQWA	Peak aquaculture group, regular contact
Australian Fishing Tackle Association	Improvement with Constitutional amendments
Australian Marine Society Australia	Working well on alliance for Cockburn Sound
Boating Industry Association	Great improvement with presence at 2005 Boat Show
Boating Western Australia	Good ongoing relationship established
Cabinet Ministers	Strong positive contact
Challenger TAFE	Excellent relationship with Aquaculture section on many projects
Charter Operators Association	Improvement with Constitutional amendments
Cockburn Sound Management Council	Good ongoing relationship established
Conservation Council	Regular contact, good relationship on matters of mutual interest
CSIRO	Contact through future research needs for Western Australia initiative
Curtin University	Lecturing opportunities – fisheries management
Department of Agriculture	Contact through Board member
Department of Agriculture Fisheries Forestry	Working well on Community Grants Scheme, problems with WTBF strategies
Department of Environment and Conservation	New consultative pathways being explored, some challenges remain
Department of Environment and Heritage	Frank Prokop on NOAG, need to work closely on bioregional marine planning
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	Improving with Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Need greater presence. Concerns about some marine parks planning processes
Department of Sport and Recreation	Good relationship but still need increased recognition of fishing
Department of Water	Now primary response agency for fish kills through lobbying of Recfishwest
Dive Clubs	Need to increase contact through AUF
Education Department	Contact through Communications Committee, Sports Federation Board
EPA & DEP	Strong positive contact, concern about pollution protocols
Ethnic Communities Council	Contact through Australia Day Council
Department of Fisheries	Regular correspondence and increasing presence of Recfishwest
Department of Fisheries - Regional	Variable relationship, Metropolitan good
Fishing Clubs & Associations	Improvements during year through General Board members
Fishers with Disabilities	Recfishwest ED is a Board Member, Recfishwest supplied executive support
FRDC	Extremely highly regarded due to Samson fish research and Andrew Rowland



Summary of Key RECFISHWEST Stakeholders (Continued)

STAKE HOLDER	CURRENT STATUS
Funding Bodies	Recfishwest highly regarded, many funding applications now made
Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation	Strong contact through funding of joint project with Murdoch University
Greenpeace	Limited contact but positive interaction at Albany fishing clinic
Healthway; The Cancer Council WA	Very good relationship through sponsorship - promoting SunSmart message
Local Government	Highly variable relationship with different councils, but improving overall
Ministry for Fisheries	Good relationship and regular correspondence
Ministry for Sport	Regular contact, Recfishwest highly regarded
MPRA	Relationship strained but concerted effort for more equitable outcomes
Murdoch University	Good relationship with the Centre for Fish & Fisheries Research
Natural Resource Management	Relationship began on shaky grounds but has improved
Pearling Industry Advisory Council	Good relationship with CEO and improving
Political parties	Close relationship established through election policy for 2005 State Election
Port Authority	Need strategic contact with respect to access and facilities
Regional Development Authorities	Need strategic contact from planning and service perspective
RFAC	Member on committee - working on strategic consultative processes
Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Council	Variable, need greater recognition of recreational fishers
Rottneest Island Authority	Increased challenges through past year due to poor consultation
Royal Lifesaving Association	Relationship strong due to cooperative work on drowning prevention
RRFAC Regional	Variable relationship, depending in part due to formal Recfishwest presence
Sea Search & Rescue	Contact increasing due to safety concerns in Industry
Swan River Trust	Good relationship
Tourism Commission	Relationship poor - working for greater recognition of recreational fishing
University of Western Australia	Variable, looking to develop closer ties through WAMSI
VFLO	Variable, dependent on individual support and recognition with DoF
WA Museum	Contact deteriorated due to resignation of Fred Wells
Water Corporation	Issues with access and pollution still need to be addressed
WA Sports Federation	Frank Prokop has been Board member in the past for 4 years
WAFIC	Regular correspondence, relationship stabilised due to marine parks issues
WAMSI	Now recognised as a key stakeholder and relationship is improving
Western Rock Lobster Council	Variable, good with common interest issues
WWF	Increased contact through the NRM and Bioregional Planning Processes



APPENDIX III: Board Meeting Attendance

The Recfishwest Board of Management held twelve Board meetings and one Special General meeting during the 2005/2006 year. Details of Board member's attendance are set out below.

Board Member	Board Meetings	Special General Meeting
Harry Vosper (WATFAA)	12	1
Des Wood (Chair)	11	0
Norman Halse	11	1
Terry Fuller (AAA)	11	1
Keith Tocas (Deputy-Chair)	10	1
Craig Bibra	10	1
Howard Gill	10	1
John Webber (WAGFA)	10	1
Allan Bevan	9	1
Stephen Gilders (ANSA)	6	1
Pat Shinnick (AAA - Proxy)	1	0
Paul McKeown (AUF)	6*	0
Craig Leatt-Hayter	5**	1
John Baas	4 [#]	0
Graham Anderton (AUF)	1 ^{##}	0

* Commenced Term August 2005

** Commenced Term January 2006

Term Completed October 2005

Term Completed July 2005



APPENDIX IV: Tagging Facilitator Report

The tagging of reef fish for the post release survival project has been going along well over the past year. The story revealed by recaptures has not altered significantly either.

The release weight is still the most successful method for releasing undersize dhufish that show signs of barotrauma. Numerous dhufish recaptures have been reported for fish released at depths of greater than 50 metres.

John Stevens from ANSA(WA) has done a great job recently in taking over more of the tagging administration load as the Tagging Facilitator position has come to an end. In Fact, this research project that has been supported by Recfishwest for the past three years is also coming to an end very soon. This should see the Department of Fisheries lending support and fully endorsing the release weight to maximize its uptake by offshore fishers.

Recfishwest and ANSA have also been very active in the recent Samson Science project focused on the survival of released Samson Fish. This project has also been considered a very successful partnership between WA recreational fishers and researchers and has collected high quality data and other interesting information. For instance, one Samson Fish tagged near Rottnest Island was recapture 215 days later near Kangaroo Island in South Australia more than 2300 km away. Although this project still has a year to run, at this stage the post release survival of Samson Fish appears high.

Where to from here? Recfishwest is constantly pushing for more fisher-research partnerships in the future to carry on the cooperative approached to gathering data. Furthermore, we are continually searching for ways to address the challenge of turning all this fantastic information about important fish species into knowledge and action.

Andrew Rowland
Tagging Facilitator



APPENDIX IV: Metropolitan and Regional Fishing Clinics Report

In June 2006 I was appointed as the new Recfishwest Fishing Clinic Coordinator to carry on the good work of Melanie Tozer who resigned due to her relocation to Mandurah. My background is in environmental education for CALM, where I promoted and implemented new programs in conservation and education for marine, wetland and bush environments.

My initial responsibility for Recfishwest included the organisation/coordination of the 2006 Northern Fishing Clinic tour run during August and September 2006. Due to the resounding success of the previous year's Northern Tour, Recfishwest received inquiries from several more regional townships wishing to be included in the 2006 tour.

Recfishwest's Fishing Clinic Program was very well received during 2005-06 with all schools and community groups indicating their wish for the tour to be repeated. The Program carried out in excess of 30 metropolitan clinics and included over 1200 participants. The Northern and Southern regional tours were coordinated by Melanie Tozer during the 2005-06 year. The Northern Fishing Clinics Tour was run in July 2005 and included more than 20 clinics with over 560 participants. The Southern Tour was conducted during March 2006 covering 7 clinics with a total of 175 participants.

The Recfishwest Fishing Clinic Program continued to receive funding from Healthway to promote the SunSmart message and was recently supplemented by funding from the Federal Government under the Commonwealth Community Grants Scheme for Recfishwest's 'Addicted to Fishing Not Drugs' initiative. Through this initiative we hope to send a fun message for fishing, promoting fishing to be a healthy lifestyle alternative with the opportunity of spending quality time with friends and family whilst enjoying the outdoors.

Michelle Jennings
Fishing Clinic Coordinator