



RECFISHWEST



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ANNUAL REPORT

2003/2004



RECFISHWEST

Representing the interests of the 643,000 recreational fishers in Western Australia

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CHAIRMAN

Des Wood

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Executive Director:

Frank B Prokop

Policy Officer:

Martin Holtz / Mark Pagano

Administrative Officer:

Con Costa

Tagging Facilitator:

Andrew Rowland

PUBLIC OFFICERS

Frank Prokop

Des Wood

AUDITOR

John C Bingham



Contents

Board of Management2

PART 1 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Chairman's Report3
Executive Director's Report5

PART 2 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee9
Policy Development Committee10
Sport Development Committee11

PART 3 ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Australian National Sportfishing Association (WA)12
Australian Underwater Federation13
Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association Inc15
Western Australian Game Fishing Association16
Australian Anglers Association (WA Div)17

PART 4 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Income and Expenditure Statement21
Balance Sheet23
Notes on Financial Statements24
Statement by members of the Board of Management26
Independent Audit Report to Recfishwest27
Projected Budget to 200628
Assets Register29

APPENDICES

Appendix I Committees of which Recfishwest is a member30
Appendix II Summary of Key Recfishwest stakeholders32
Appendix III Board Meeting Attendance34



CURRENT BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Des Wood	Chair of Board; Chair-Executive Committee
Keith Tocas	Deputy Chair
John Baas	Public Board Member; Chair-Policy Development C'tee
Norman Halse	Public Board Member
Craig Bibra	Public Board Member, Chair-Communications Committee
Scott Coghlan	Public Board Member
Allan Bevan	Public Board Member
John Webber	General Board Member (WAGFA); Chair-Sport Dev C'tee
Harry Vosper	General Board Member (WATFAA)
Stephen Gilders	General Board Member (ANSA)
Terry Fuller	General Board Member (AAA)
Graham Anderton	General Board Member (AUF)



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2004, as in previous years, has been one which has seen many challenges faced by Recfishwest in its unceasing efforts through direct representation and discussion with Government Ministers, their Departments, Local Government and many other Authorities to ensure that the rights of recreational fishers are protected.

Recfishwest's Executive Director Mr. Frank Prokop will outline in his report the major issues dealt with during the year most of which have resulted in positive outcomes for the recreational fishing sector.

However, such has not been the case with Marine Parks planning where submissions on planning proposals including Jurien Bay, Ningaloo, Cape Leeuwin to Cape Naturaliste and Dampier Archipelago have invariably met with a high degree of intransigence from the Marine parks Planning Authority and the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Many hours of Recfishwest's time are spent in researching and formulating detailed and well reasoned submissions on marine parks, including logical alternatives to any proposed areas that potentially have deleterious outcomes for recreational fishing. All submissions are mindful of the principles of ecological sustainability yet these submissions are largely treated with contempt. The courtesy of reasoned comment on our proposals has not been forthcoming.

Ignoring of Recreational fisher's rights of access to areas of marine parks without compelling reason is unacceptable and the issue will be pursued with even greater vigor in the months ahead.

Integrated Fisheries Management is now imminent with the Minister for Fisheries Mr. Kim Chance announcing in early October the formulation of the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee which will investigate resource allocation issues and make recommendations on optimal resource use to the Minister. The committee comprises Mr. Murray Jorgens OAM (Chairman), Mr. Norman Halse OAM and Professor George Kailis. All members of the Committee bring with them excellent credentials to undertake this most important task and Recfishwest congratulates all members on their appointment. Special congratulations of course to Norman Halse who is the immediate past Chairman of Recfishwest and current Recfishwest Board Member.

Recfishwest resolutely continues to seek ways to enhance its consultative processes for recreational fishing in Western Australia through interaction with the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee, Regional RFAC's and the Executive Director and staff of Fisheries Department. Additionally Recfishwest's Corresponding Members database has been significantly enhanced in an endeavour to gain greater "grass roots" input on issues confronting recreational fishing. The efforts of the Communications Sub-committee chaired by Craig Bibra and the assistance of Recfishwest's office staff in enlarging and maintaining the member's data base is very much appreciated.



Very early in the coming year all Board Members and staff will meet to review and revise our Strategic Plan and to consider organizational changes to deal with the ever increasing pressure being put upon Recreational fishing in Western Australia.

The demands placed on Board members this year have been heavy; but each Board Member has responded magnificently to the challenges presented in 2004. To the Board, thank you for your dedication to the interests of Recreational Fishers and your willing and invaluable contributions in resolving the issues placed before the Board.

The Executive Committee, comprising Board Members John Baas, Craig Bibra, Stephen Gilders 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.

I would like to thank our Executive Director, Frank Prokop for his assistance in what has been a challenging year. I would also like to thank Con Costa who keeps the day to day operations of Recfishwest running smoothly. Mark Pagano has grown quickly and very competently into the position of policy officer after replacing Martin Holtz. Mark has also acted as Executive Director with distinction while Frank has been on medical leave.

The tagging program and the increased adoption of the survivor reviver by recreational fishers has been one of the great success stories for the past year. Andrew Rowland has been operating as tagging facilitator, working closely with ANSA and the Department of Fisheries to make significant progress with tag information for dhufish, snapper and breaksea cod. Mark Pagano also deserves significant praise for organising and running the dhufish workshop that was described by Executive Director of Fisheries Peter Rogers as one of the most informative days which he has ever attended.

During the year we continued to meet with Peter Rogers and numerous Ministers. We even gained an audience with the Premier who was very sympathetic to the needs of recreational fishers. There were many challenges, particularly with the Minister for the Environment, but Recfishwest has been able to maintain a good working relationship and hopefully will see more sympathetic decisions in the coming year.

As usual a year of many challenges well met and a coming year of many more which I look forward to.

Des Wood

Chairman



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is now seven years that I have been at the helm of Recfishwest and much to benefit recreational fishers has happened since that time.

Recreational fishing has become more popular, the profile within the community has continued to increase dramatically, and recreational fishers are leading the debates on integrated management, access, facilities provision, marine park management and conservation based fisheries management.

However, this year we had a larger number of significant conflicts. This is likely to be a sign that after seven years, Recfishwest has a clear understanding of our strengths and the capacity to choose issues that we have a good chance of achieving a successful outcome. After seven years, many of the issues that have not gone away or where repeated attempts at reasonable and responsible debate have failed have required a more public and less conciliatory approach.

The most significant increasing frustration has been with the CALM and Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) over marine park planning processes. Recfishwest has attempted to work within the consultative frameworks implemented by government, even though they have clearly disadvantaged recreational fishing interests to no avail. During the last year, Recfishwest spent well over half of its time on marine park management issues. Recfishwest does not receive a single cent from the government for this task, with CALM preferring to spend its budget on posters of seals, dolphins and whales which it claims can be saved by removing recreational fishing from huge areas of the coast.

The matter has been somewhat complicated by the push by the Premier's Department towards bioregional management. While in itself commendable, there is a real fear amongst recreational fishers that the personal philosophy of some is to use this initiative to push for 30-50% sanctuary zones. Recfishwest has been extremely prominent in this debate and will continue to do so during the next 12 months.

I wrote a column in the *Fishing WA* newspaper, although this has ceased at the end of the financial year with other alternatives being investigated. The monthly release and wider distribution of *Fishing WA* was useful in allowing Recfishwest to spread its message to a new audience. Recfishwest will also receive payment for this column.

I also had an increased profile on the 6PR Fishing Show with Karl Langdon as host, appearing on air on a number of occasions.

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 progressing of the wetfish review and working hard on getting adequate funding for recreational fishing. Norman Halse has done an excellent and frequently difficult job in negotiating an equitable outcome for recreational fishers from the wetfish review. The discussion on the wetfish review and finally the commencement of integrated fisheries management will provide an important focus during 2004/2005.



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.

Although we have a fairly small staff of three, Recfishwest has an enviable record across government of providing carefully considered and professional submissions. During the year, Martin Holtz resigned from Recfishwest to take up a position with the Department of Fisheries. Martin's contributions will be missed by the organisation, but his recreational fisheries experiences will be of great value as Martin furthers his personal career. All in Recfishwest wish Martin all the very best for the future.

Martin was replaced by Mark Pagano who brought scientific and business training to Recfishwest. Mark has quickly established himself as valuable member of the Recfishwest team. Towards the end of the financial year, I went to Sydney for further surgery which necessitated an absence of around 7 weeks. Mark Pagano and Con Costa were towers of strength in keeping the organisation running smoothly during my time away. They were ably assisted by Board members who chipped in and kept the submissions and issues progressing. It was a stressful time for all concerned and I would like to extend a personal thanks to all Board members and the office staff for their thoughts, prayers and best wishes. I am confident that my experiments with chemotherapy are over!

Mark's perspective is always interesting and well considered and he brings a wealth of talent to this organisation. Mark has handled the pressure of acting Executive Director extremely well and shows enormous potential for further growth within Recfishwest. 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. We welcomed Des Wood as the fourth Recfishwest Chairman. Des has continued the tradition of dedicated and highly productive Chairs of the organisation. Following the Constitutional Amendments at the last AGM, the Executive Committee has expanded to five members, at least one of whom must be a general and one must be a public Board member. The Executive Committee including John Baas, Des Wood, Craig Bibra and Stephen Gilders work many hours a week on Recfishwest issues. The Board itself has also significantly lifted its workload during the year.

During the year we consolidated a close working relationship with Fisheries Minister, Kim Chance and his staff. The Minister has met with Recfishwest at a breakfast meeting and had a number of meetings with members of the executive.

Recfishwest has developed a close working relationship with the Minister for the Environment, Dr Judy Edwards. This has been severely tested in recent times with ongoing problems with the MPRA and CALM consultative process, but the Minister has been able to maintain a good working relationship.



Recfishwest had some fairly robust discussion with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. Pastoral access, the demise of the State Boating Council, the priority for a Rous Head facility and the administration of the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme were prominent issues. Recfishwest surveyed its members on compulsory boat handling and found that members supported the need for competency training but were concerned about revenue raising and recognition of past experience. These views were conveyed to the Minister and demonstrated the important role that our members and corresponding members play in the formulation of Recfishwest policy.

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.

The Gascoyne and West Coast reviews were finally implemented during the year. There were several major problems associated with the implementation, particularly in relation to the application of the ban on filleting at sea. After many months and numerous exchanges of correspondence and the strong support of AAA, the matter has yet to be adequately resolved. The ongoing concern that recreational reforms continue to be progressed while commercial management of wetfish is still years away has caused great concern to many. Like the marine parks debate, there appears to be a lack of equity.

Recfishwest was successful in gaining increased ongoing sponsorship from Healthway to promote the SunSmart message. We have used our custom-made fishing tackle trailer and fishing gear to conduct our highly successful fishing clinics with a far greater emphasis on country based clinics. This year we ran clinics at Karratha, Bremer Bay, Denmark, Bunbury and Mandurah. I also made presentations at Mandurah and the Wagin Woolorama.

We urge all anglers to wear a hat, regularly apply a high SPF sunscreen and to wear polarised sunglasses. We are also proud of the fact that the school children at these clinics regularly practice catch and release and are highly aware of the need to fish for the future.

Recfishwest has had a much higher profile with Recfish Australia and I am now the national President. Recfishwest successfully hosted the National Annual General Meeting in November 2003 and shared a joint dinner with RFAC.

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.

I did not renominate for the Board of Management of the Western Australian Sports Federation after having been on the Board for four years. It has been important to get a perspective on issues affecting the sport (and recreation) industries in Western Australia.



As there are many issues which relate to management, governance and funding of sport, this is an extremely worthwhile Board on which to be a member.

Recfishwest has really made a difference in many different areas. If an issue affects recreational fishing, there will be a Recfishwest finger somewhere in the pie. That finger may not always be obvious, but we're not afraid to have a dig around even if it touches a few raw nerves.

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. I am confident that this solid foundation will continue to be further consolidated during the coming year.

Our funding situation has improved during the year, with the staff and board to be commended on a very conservative approach towards expenditure. During the year we have applied for supplementary funding to cope with the huge additional workload which integrated fisheries management will bring.

We are also extremely fortunate to have the strong support of Peter Rogers from the Department of Fisheries for our activities. The increasing tension around marine park planning in WA will prove another considerable challenge to our somewhat shaky relationship with CALM, especially as 2004/2005 should see a real shift to 'election mode' for the government. To this end Recfishwest has prepared a comprehensive election policy to ensure that all political parties are clearly aware of the needs of recreational fishers prior to the polls.

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



Communications Committee Report

Fishing Clinics

Recfishwest's FishSmart Clinics have again been sponsored by Healthway to help promote the SunSmart message to school children.

This year we held nineteen clinics with over 800 participants from all over the state. We held five country clinics this year including areas such as Bunbury, Bremer Bay and Denmark. Fishing Clinics are instrumental in assisting the raising of awareness in young people of the vital role that they will play in shaping the future of fishing in Western Australia.

These clinics would not be possible without the sponsorship of Healthway and the support of the Cancer Foundation of WA. Their assistance is very much appreciated. This year we asked for interested members that would like to help out with our FishSmart clinics. We had a wonderful response and I would like to thank Frank Prokop, Con Costa, Martin Holtz, Des Wood, Ray Benetti, Darryl Nielsen, Cassie Nielsen, Steve Austin, Mark Pagano, Allan Bevan, Kim Burton and Melanie Tozer for their assistance in running these clinics.

Promotional Activities

Recfishwest mounted displays at the following events during the 2003 - 2004 financial year:

Mandurah Boating and Fishing Show: Mandurah
Geraldton Offshore District Fishing Expo: Geraldton
Seniors Council "Have a go Day": Burswood
Four Wheel Drive and Adventure Show: McCallum Park
Swanfish: McCallum Park
Wagin Woolorama: Wagin

All displays continued to be well patronised with many favourable comments being received, not only on the displays themselves but also on the work Recfishwest is undertaking in the recreational fishing sector. I would like to thank all Recfishwest Members that gave up their valuable time in order to help man our displays. If it wasn't for these dedicated members our job would be that much harder. Thanks again.

Recfishwest's purpose built "Sunscreen Trailer" which is used at outdoor venues for the dispensing of 35+ sunscreen was not only on location during Recfishwest's own promotions but was also loaned to other organisations on occasions throughout the year. The trailer with its emblazoned logos is of great assistance in promoting the "SunSmart" message.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all board members that have attended Communications Committee meetings throughout the year and look forward to your continued involvement in the future. Also a big thank you to the Recfishwest Staff, Frank Prokop, Martin Holtz, Con Costa, Mark Pagano and Andrew Rowland, for all your help and guidance throughout the year.

Craig Bibra
Chairperson



POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

2003/4 was a relatively quiet year for the Policy Committee. I think this may signify that, after seven years, a significant proportion of policy development work now lies behind us. Nevertheless the Committee met seven times, with an average attendance per meeting of five non-staff members participating.

The usual miscellany of issues including preparation of draft policies, submissions and papers was dealt with as efficiently as ever, with the most prominent being:

- The Recfishwest Election Policy
- Recfishwest Jetties and Wharves Policy
- Kalbarri Blue Holes FFHPA Proposal
- Metro Area Snapper Spawning Aggregations - Development of Recfishwest Position
- Submission to CALM Policy Statement on Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services
- ROUS Head Boating Ramps and Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme Issues
- Recfishwest Strategy for Marine Protected Areas
- Access to Pastoral Leases
- Compulsory Boat Safety Training
- Carnarvon Prawning Jetty Demolition Threat
- Department of Fisheries Gascoyne Snapper Catch Limits Reduction Proposal
- Abrolhos Islands Tuna Feedlot Proposal
- Wetfish Review – 1997 Benchmark Issue
- Cottesloe Abalone Closure Proposal
- Submission to the Department of Fisheries Aboriginal Fishing Strategy

Finally and again as usual, special thanks are due to Norman Halse for his strong contributions and thought provoking papers and to new Policy Officer Mark Pagano for his efficient organisation of issues and his bringing to the table of his academic insights.

John Baas
Chairperson
Policy Development Committee



Sport Development Committee Report

The Sport Development Committee met twice during the 2003/2004 year. The Committee as usual concentrated on the allocation and administration of the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) funding.

Funding has remained unchanged for 2003-2004, and as always, some compromises have had to be made, but this was done with a spirit of co-operation.

This funding is of great benefit to all of the Associations who would not be able to maintain and achieve their numerous projects without this assistance. The scope and professionalism with which the Associations apply and direct their funding is continuing to improve. I thank them all for their efforts. The recreational fishers of this state can be proud of the individuals who represent the various faculties of fishing, in such a professional manner.

Finally I should like to thank all the Committee members for their support during the year. Special thanks must go to Frank, Con, Mark and Martin for their efforts in progressing the many issues that have come before Recfishwest during the year; again recreational fishing is the winner with such strong representation.

John Webber
Chairperson
Sport Development Committee Report



Australian National Sportfishing Association Report

2004 sees my 8 years as ANSA WA President come to a close. I will however try to concentrate on the year and not stray to previous years , apart to point out that the past couple of years have shown where the growth of ANSA WA lies .

This past year it has become more apparent with the growth in membership in the northern clubs. Kalbarri and Nickol Bay have led the way in this area. This growth rate has, I'm sure had a bearing on the decisions to increase research into northern recreational species evidenced by the programs with mangrove jack , threadfin salmon, cods and black jewfish to name a few . That ANSA WA has been able to have an input into these programs has been very rewarding. In the Metro area amazing things have been happening with tagging and research into the spawning aggregations of Samson fish. Westag, the tagging arm of ANSA WA is still, and I hope for a long time to come will be, leading the way.

The Northern areas have also lead the way this year, with ANSA endorsed competitions. Both the Kalbarri Sportfish, and the Kalbarri Classic attracted a large turn out, and Nickol Bay's Finacol and Billfish Shootout had extraordinary results with great attendance.

It would be remiss, at this point, not to congratulate Mark Cotrell on his performance in the State Tagging Competition over the May/June long weekend.

The 2003/04 year has again been quieter on the record claims front, a further indication of the change in attitude to the fishing experience. During my tenure as president Peter Grasso has held the position of State Recorder and I extend my thanks to Peter for a superb job and my best wishes as Peter is also retiring this year.

ANSA WA has continued also to have a strong voice on Recfishwest, the State's peak body representing recreational fishers. It is vital we maintain our relationship with the peak body to ensure our rights are recognized and not put in jeopardy. Many items including right of access are still to be finalized.

In closing a very brief report I extend my heartfelt thanks to the following persons who have given me great support and help during my term as President. Steve Wiseman, Richard Howell, John Stevens, Neil Daws and Garry Lilley. I wish the incoming President and the new committee as a rewarding time as I have had.

Stephen G Gilders
President Australian National Sportfishing Association WA Branch



WA Spearfishing Commission – Branch of the Australian Underwater Federation.

On Saturday the 6th of December, the Living Water skindiving Club hosted the annual Indian Coast Spearfishing Championship from the Mangles Bay Fishing club at Rockingham. This was once again a very successful competition with some 25 competitors from all over the metropolitan area and some even from the Eastern States. The fish proceeds went towards helping the Salvation Army, through Floodbank for the needy around Perth.

The overall winner was Barry Paxman with 15 fish, with son Scott in second place with 14 fish and myself in third position, also with 14 fish.

The National Championships were held from Woodman's Point from Sunday the 14th to Saturday the 20th of December. Around 40 competitors from all around Australia competed in the event. It was pleasing to see several juniors from Dunsborough in the event. Australian teams were selected to go to South America and for the Indio-Pacific competition in New Caledonia. Greg Pickering and Barry Paxman, sons Scott and Lee were also chosen.

At the start of the championship diver lifesaving classes were conducted at the venue with all competitors required to participate. Also this year the pairs event was held with divers having to swim as pairs together rather than as separate divers and then adding scores together later.

The overall Open Australian Champion was Arnold Picolli (WA Undersea Club), with Lee Paxman in second place (Blue Water Free Divers) from WA and Mike Greinke from Queensland in third place.

Justin Small from the Living Water Club and an ex student from South Fremantle Senior High who went through the Marine program won the National Junior Title.

Both myself and Aaron Grey attended a parliamentary meeting with Mr Fran Logan the Minister for Fisheries' Secretary and a Kevin Donohue policy advisor for the Fisheries Minister regarding the inequity of access and over many other issues relating to access to spearfishing. We made our point and were assured over a number of issues including being able to assemble equipment and spearfish from the shore in National Parks.

Following the Championships I had resigned as Chairman and Secretary of the WA Spearfishing Commission due to work pressures and family commitments. The Commission has only recently had the committee reconstituted with Joe Petrovick elected as the new Chairman, Peter Barbra as Treasurer and Greg Pickering as the Competition Organiser. Other committee members include Shawn Harrison (Living Water), Barry Paxman (Blue Water Free Divers) and Ray Hill (WAUC).

A Sector Reference Group consisting of Damian Lane (Dunsborough), Mark Lee from Margaret River and myself have been actively representing spearfishing with the formation of the Cape-to-Cape Marine Park. We are disappointed like Recfishwest with the process and would have liked more direct representation.



A recent submission has been put forward to CALM by Greg Pickering opposing the extension of the Ningaloo Marine Park.

A major issue still remains with insurance. This still, has not been finalised and is a major problem before events can go ahead.

At present there are four clubs affiliated with the commission. These include the Blue water Free Divers, Dunsborough Angling and Water Sports, Living Water Skindiving Club and the WA Undersea Club. Albany Free Divers have lapsed their membership while a group from Bunbury is considering joining the association. There are some members of the AUF that join directly to our national body and don't belong to one of our clubs.

Graham Anderton
Australian Underwater Federation representative



The Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association Inc.

I am very pleased to announce that the Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association Inc. is in excellent shape, both financially and in membership.

Once again our Honorable Sec/Treasurer Wally Mackowiak has done a sterling job, and I would thank him for his efforts. Together with the Council, Wally has ensured that the past twelve months have gone smoothly.

The past year has been a steady one and there has been no major controversy or upheaval that has caused our Council to lose sleep. We have not, thank goodness, as the Chinese curse goes "Lived in Interesting Times"

We are attracting new members of a very high quality almost on a daily basis and as many of these are referrals from existing members, we anticipate that they arrive with only good habits. Our member base is spreading and the Association has members that now meet in country areas such as Bunbury, Busselton/Dunsborough, Manjimup/Pemberton, Albany/Mt.Barker/Denmark and the Walpole area. We have had expressions of interest from Kalgoorlie and the Wheat Belt.

I would thank Recfishwest for the strong presence it has once again displayed and would compliment Executive Director Frank Prokop and his staff for the hard work and effort, which has resulted in another good year for all. We were dismayed to hear of the reoccurrence of Frank's health problems and are very pleased to see him "hale and hearty" once again. Let us all hope that the strain and pressure that Frank and his family have endured, never occurs again.

Due to the excellent rains this season, the State Trout Stocking Committee had an easier job this year. Trout have been stocked in several waters open to the public with heavy concentration on Waroona and Harvey Dams. These two Dams are of prime importance for family outings as they are relatively close to Perth and have easy water access. The high water levels in both dams have resulted in the trout becoming acclimatized quickly and able to find plenty to eat. Both Dams are fishing very well and the Department of Fisheries must be congratulated on their efforts to create prime and active fisheries so close to Perth. We would also thank Department of Fisheries for the policing efforts in the weeks running up to the opening of the new season and request that this continue during the season.

Many rivers such as Collie, Donnelly, Warren, Blackwood and Lefroy together with several public dams have been stocked. It is essential that this be continued to create a source of tourism and income for the South West.

The most exciting news on the freshwater scene has been the creation of Recreational Freshwater Fisheries Stakeholder Sub-committee (RFFSS). This committee has been given the responsibility of not only creating a management plan but to ensure that it happens. This is to cover all freshwater fishing activities.

It looks as if we may 'live in interesting times' after all. WATFAA will be represented on the RFFSS.

Harry Vosper
President WA Trout and Freshwater Angling Association



West Australian Game Fishing Association

Without doubt the main issue for our Association in Western Australia right now is the potential loss of access to some of Australia's greatest game fishing locations; Ningaloo, Rowley Shoals, Dampier Archipelago, Monte Bello Islands and the between the Capes. Members of the WAGFA State Executive have spent literally hundreds of hours trying to deal with this issue and we very much appreciate the ongoing support from Recfishwest.

As the Board would be aware we have provided significant input, at various levels, into this tedious marine park process. Currently we are considering a range of options to try and avoid the huge closures being proposed. We have submitted that some of the more remote game fishing locations, where extensive no-take areas are being proposed, could be declared as Fish Protection Areas that would still permit catch and release.

WAGFA has also enlisted the support of the Game Fishing Association of Australia, and will be approaching the international Game Fishing Association for their support too. Many of the areas that CALM propose to close are icon game fisheries and our Association will be considering all options available to us including legal action against this government to protect our historical fishing access.

We are very concerned that exclusionists, masquerading under the guise of being conservationists, continue to have the ear of the State Government, which blatantly courts the support of the Greens at the expense of recreational anglers. WAGFA believes the only responsible course of action is to continue to work to convince the State Government that they are discriminating unfairly against our members who have over 50 years of fisheries conservation experience, which is more than this Government can claim!

WAGFA has also continued to try and broker resource sharing arrangements in the Commonwealth's Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery. The longline operators have been less than co-operative, and we have been forced to put forward revised spatial management options for consideration as a result of this.

Shark finning continues to be of great concern to WAGFA and non-compliance in this area remains very high. WAGFA also has concerns that the Department of Fisheries is considering giving longliners increased access to offshore shark species under an OCS. These sharks are all vulnerable to the longlines of many nations and stock status is unknown. We see this potential decision as very high risk. Although sharks remain genuine game fishing species just about all clubs practise tag and release of sharks these days.

Unfortunately the Federal election has put Canberra into "caretaker" mode and things are now on hold until after the election.

We have seen one of the Port Hedland game fishing clubs fall by the wayside this year and it is hoped that members from this club will join the remaining game fishing club in town. On the other side of the ledger we have seen the emergence of a game fishing section within Hillarys Yacht Club, which looks to now have some potential.

Recreational fishing reviews are currently out for public comment and we will again be making submissions on behalf of West Australian clubs and their members. Indeed, submissions and meetings are consuming more and more of our time these days.

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
WA Game Fishing Association



Australian Anglers Association (W A Division)

The 2003/4 year has seen a lot of time and effort put into the new fishing regulations, marine park issues, and we are also dealing with South coast regional recreational management, all of which are having a large effect on our clubs and their activities.

Marine Parks. The most important of these is the Cape to Cape Marine Park proposal which will have a big impact on our southern country clubs but also affects our Metro clubs as well, as we all fish in this area. The management outcome of this must be complementary to the recreational fisher as it will set the pattern for all the other proposed marine parks, and let me assure you there are a good number planned.

We are fortunate to have competent representation in our secretary, Terry Fuller and the two good locals on the Advisory Committee in Ray Walker and Graeme Walker who are looking after our interests.

Time and submissions have gone in on the Capes Marine Park, Busselton Jetty, Exmouth area / Ningaloo Reef, Walpole Nornalup Inlets Marine Park and Jurien Marine Park along with a lot of other issues.

Recfishwest. Our policy of establishing a positive working relationship with our peak body Recfishwest and also with the Department of Fisheries and any groups involved in management of recreational fishing has paid off. We are now recognised by all groups because of our positive policy and our thoughts and ideas are sought after which means we can and do represent our clubs in a very positive way, and we have had a real influence on the results to our benefit.

The person who has done much of the upfront work under the guidance of all of the members of the executive, is Terry Fuller, our Secretary/Treasurer. He has helped the Recfishwest Communications and Policy Development committees and has rewritten the Recfish website and made it easy for them to update this.

Frank Prokop from Recfishwest is currently recovering from major surgery and our best wishes are with him. He is a great worker on behalf of all recreational anglers.

Fishing Rules. Terry has assisted by positive comments on proposals, policies and submissions on all the important recreational fishing activities.

He has also helped put together a submission on the Fisheries Wet Line review on finfish. We seek an early result on this because of the current imbalance, with the emphasis on our dhufish stock, salmon and any other recreational priority species. With Terry's expertise, we have achieved some 14 amendments to the 1 October recreational fisheries rules and another positive result on fish filleting at sea.

Club Affiliations. During 2003/4, 27 clubs were affiliated with AAA, which is an increase on recent years.

Terry and I went down to Denmark late last year for the opening of Denmark club's new premises, and they are very impressive. We were able to touch base with three of the clubs in the area and learnt a lot. Country clubs should remember we are as close as a phone and are always willing to help.



Web Site. Terry has also kept our web site up to date to the point where many other bodies involved in recreational fishing used it as a reference. The other main point of our web site, other than the Association issues, is to promote our clubs and it is up to the clubs to give us the relevant information so it may be included for the benefit of us all.

Boating. One Boating Division priority has been the dhufish issue and Pat Shinnick, with assistance from Terry Fuller, has been the spearhead in looking after this issue. Recently Recfishwest conducted a dhufish seminar inviting all interested parties to have presenters put their points of view so others could understand the interests and their aims. There were approximately 125 people present which is indicative of the vast interest in this issue. Pat put his name down as a presenter to give the views of a recreational angler and his presentation drew very favourable comment from all present.

Peter Rogers, CEO Department of Fisheries, personally complimented Pat and said Fisheries would be taking on board a number of the points he had raised. This is just reward for Pat's efforts and even though he was a little disenchanted before because of the perception that we kept hitting a brick wall, I am now sure he will be personally consulted by Fisheries and others on this and other issues. From me Pat, on behalf of the Association, thank you and congratulations on a great effort.

Our State boating championships were held at Mandurah this year and the facilities provided by the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing club were excellent. A successful event resulted after a few hiccups and congratulations to all particularly the winners of the events.

Fishing Clinics. I have had a health hiding of late, spent seven weeks in hospital, and as a result I've missed out of a number of events which I was really looking forward to.

I could not do the final work on the northern fishing clinics run at Hillarys Yacht Club over the first three Monday night in July. Bob Henderson, Pat Shinnick and our worthy secretary Terry Fuller took over the reins and with able assistance of the members from a number of clubs, ran a very successful event.

This has now become one of the calendar events in recreational fishing circles and benefits a lot of people. To all our lecturers, Paul Willis, Doug Clegg, Pat Shinnick, Terry Fuller, John Curtis and others - thank you.

We have a new sponsor this year in Halco, organised by Paul Duggan from Benbow and Co, to complement our two other sponsors, Ozflex Australia and Mako Tackle. We would like to extend our special thanks to them and their presentations, products and information was beneficial to all who attended.

We are currently looking at running a clinic or two in the country.

AAA National Events. The other event I had planned to be involved in was the AAA mid term meeting at Yeppoon in Queensland to put our case towards the National championships to be held there next year. I was to go with Bob Henderson and as a result of my illness, Bob shouldered all the work and we will have a report from him soon. One of the main points was to get information and do accommodation bookings for our team members who will be attending next year.

This time last year the 2003 National Championships were concluding and those were held at Yamba in New South Wales. To get our team over there took a lot of organising



and again Bob Henderson was at the forefront in this. We had a contingent of 16 attend and they did a great job representing WA particularly in the casting events.

We had a junior champion in Rhys Jones, and open champion in Joe Pullella, a champion open team, and a lot of personal bests. One which comes to mind was our lady representative in Vix Alexander who already has her name down for Yeppoon.

We also wish to acknowledge the sponsorship from Recfishwest and the Department of Sport and Recreation. Thank you from us all.

Beach, Rock and Estuary. The Association senior vice president Kevin Hughes took the chair of our Beach and Estuary Division and has an active group to help him, but it would be nice to see a few more club's representatives involved.

The State Beach event was held at Port Gregory over the long weekend in September. There was a fair bit of weed around after some heavy weather but there were some excellent fish caught. The attendance was on the light side. Fishing locations for these events is the hardest thing to choose. More input from clubs and attendance would certainly be appreciated.

The State Estuary championship was held on 17/18 April 2004 at Bunbury / Leschenault Estuary and saw a very light attendance. Date selection seems to be a contributing factor as it was held between the long weekend and Easter. Still a lot of effort was put into running the event and the headquarters at the Bunbury Power Boat Club was great which was appreciated by all those participating.

Dry Casting. There is an open invitation to all clubs and the members to participate in the Surfcasters dry casting mornings, usually on the first Sunday of each month, with the aim to promote casting and to tutor anyone who attends. They can try some of the different rods which are being used. The aim is to get more clubs and casters present at our State casting championships.

The State event was cast on the last Sunday in October 2003 and some excellent casting resulted, but like the other divisions, attendance was on the light side. Thanks to our sponsors Magic Nissan and Joe Pullella for the trophies which were appreciated by the recipients.

Casting is more than a competition, it is a great chance for fraternisation among the various club members because everyone is together for the whole day. I would like to see more people involved.

Country clubs who wish for some help with casting, please contact our secretary and if need be we might be able to have a few casters travel to their town for tuition.

To all the winners in each of the four championships and the overall State and club winners goes my personal congratulations. You attended, you participated and you achieved, something anyone can do.

Losses. On a sad note, the Association and one of our member clubs Melville lost one of our long standing workers in the interests of recreational angling in Norm Greenway. Norm is known as "Mr Swanfish", and has had a big influence on the success of the Melville club. We are all the lesser for his passing and to his family goes condolences from us all.



Acknowledgments. Rather than single out any one of my Executive members or people who have helped the Association during the year, I would like it to go on record my sincere appreciation of their support and my heartfelt thanks.

Also to all of our sponsors over the past twelve months goes very special thank you.

To Recfishwest and Fisheries thank you for your support, positive communication and help the last 12 months and we look forward to it continuing.

The Future. The next 12 months we will continue to keep an eye on the various management issues which have a bearing on the interests and activities of all members of the Association.

Our major effort will be to try to get more involvement in State events and promote club activities. I am willing where possible, to come to club meetings to hear members' views and to answer questions to the best of my ability.

Thank you for a great year and I look forward to more participation and fraternisation this coming year.

George Holman

President Australian Anglers Association (W A Division)

**Western Australian Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc****RECFISHWEST
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
for the year ended 30 June 2004**

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
INCOME			
Fisheries Grant		235,000	210,000
Fisheries Grant			34,800
		235,000	244,800
Fisheries Grant - Tagging Facilitator	4	43,271	0
Deduct program expenditure		27,783	0
		15,488	0
Department of Sport & Recreation Support gross		36,000	36,000
Deduct: Grant disbursements			
AAA		7,500	6,000
ANSA		3,000	3,500
WAGFA		8,800	9,300
WATFAA		700	1,200
Total grant disbursement		20,000	20,000
DSR Support net		16,000	16,000
Healthway Sponsorship	3	43,334	33,333
Lotteries Grant - Gordon Reid Foundation		18,647	0
Total grant disbursement		18,647	0
		0	0
Membership:			
Associations		1,500	1,500
Public		2,188	1,860
Total membership		3,688	3,360
Retail sales		197	727
Interest		8,605	4,167
Columns/Presentations		905	0
Committee fees		2,500	0
Disposal of assets		235	0
Donations		0	1,255
Total of other income		12,442	6,149
Total membership and other income		16,130	9,509
TOTAL INCOME		325,952	303,642

**Western Australian Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc****REC FISH WEST
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
for the year ended 30 June 2004**

	Note	2004	2003
		\$	\$
EXPENDITURE			
Accounting & audit		2,400	2,500
Computer expenses		0	648
Advertising & Promotions		238	187
Brochures & Publications		238	174
Bank charges		1,307	1,147
Board meetings		3,396	1,829
Consumables		602	531
Healthway expenditure	3	26,615	18,254
Key stakeholder liaison		2,209	2,006
Printing, stationery		4,074	4,540
Photocopies		196	549
Telephone & fax		7,023	6,426
Internet		1,684	1,815
Repairs & maintenance		710	61
Insurance		8,933	8,059
Legal fees		0	10
Travel & Accommodation		10,806	8,409
Training, Research & Liaison		0	27
Rent		6,829	6,523
Postage		2,688	2,465
Healthway Education Officer	3	4,580	8,516
Wages & Salaries		172,560	168,447
Superannuation		21,248	20,106
Annual leave provision		(4,637)	(7,309)
Long service leave provision		379	4,744
Vehicle expenses		7,467	7,335
Fringe benefits tax		2,550	2,389
Depreciation – equipment		7,352	5,638
– motor vehicle		6,138	4,920
Equipment written off		0	0
Subscriptions		2,443	2,477
Other Expenses		0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		300,028	283,423
NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	4	25,924	20,219
Accumulated surplus at beginning of year		40,584	20,365
Accumulated surplus at end of year		66,508	40,584



Western Australian Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc

**REC FISH WEST
BALANCE SHEET
30th June 2004**

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank			
Fisheries Grant account		28,334	8,646
DSR Grant account		21	21
High Interest account		60,449	50,439
Total Cash at bank		<u>88,804</u>	<u>59,106</u>
Debtors		6,613	990
Cash on hand		40	127
Prepayments		0	3,084
Total of other current assets		<u>6,653</u>	<u>4,201</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>95,457</u>	<u>63,307</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Fixed Assets	2	<u>43,487</u>	<u>30,678</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>43,487</u>	<u>30,678</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>138,944</u>	<u>93,985</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors & Accruals		12,479	3,206
Provision for annual leave		9,973	14,610
BAS liability		2,626	4,751
Total Current Liabilities		<u>25,078</u>	<u>22,567</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for long service leave		17,879	17,500
Grants in advance (Healthway)		15,000	13,334
Grants in advance (Tagging Program)		14,479	0
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>47,358</u>	<u>30,834</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>72,436</u>	<u>53,401</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>66,508</u>	<u>40,584</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<u>66,508</u>	<u>40,584</u>



NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 30 June 2004

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 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 are 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.



NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 30 June 2004

NOTE 2	2004	2003
FIXED ASSETS		
Equipment at cost	60,481	50,271
Accumulated depreciation	<u>40,001</u>	<u>36,547</u>
	<u>20,480</u>	<u>13,724</u>
Motor vehicle & trailer at cost	31,222	35,808
Accumulated depreciation	<u>8,215</u>	<u>18,854</u>
	<u>23,007</u>	<u>16,954</u>
	<u>43,487</u>	<u>30,678</u>
NOTE 3		
Healthway Sponsorship	<u>43,334</u>	<u>33,333</u>
Deduct: Healthway program Expenditure	26,615	18,254
Healthway Education Officer	4,580	8,516
Recfishwest administration support	<u>12,139</u>	<u>6,563</u>
	<u>43,334</u>	<u>33,333</u>
NOTE 4		
Net surplus for the year	<u>25,924</u>	<u>20,219</u>
Net surplus for the year provides for the following expenditure commitments;		
Tagging Facilitator expenditure	<u>15,488</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>10,436</u>	<u>20,219</u>

NOTE 5**RELATED PARTIES**

During the year members of the Board of Management were paid the following amounts for conducting fishing clinics:

D Wood	\$1,300.00
S Austin	\$1,200.00
C Bibra	\$182.00



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 2004 and the results of the Council for the year ended on that date.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Detail of expenditure carried out in accordance with grant contracts with funding bodies including:
 - Department of Fisheries
 - Department of Sport and Recreation
 - Healthway

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

Chairman.....

DESLEY WOOD

Executive Director.....

FRANK PROKOP

Dated this..... 28th..... day of..... SEPTEMBER.....2004



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO REC FISH WEST

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 2004. 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 2004 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

JOHN C BINGHAM
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

28 September 2004

Date



PROJECTED BUDGET TO 2005/2006

	2004/2005	2005/2006
Income		
Membership - Associations	1,500	1,500
Membership - Public	2,000	2,000
Fisheries Grant	235,000	235,000
Fisheries Grant-Tagging Facilitator	48,288	13,456
DSR support - Recfishwest	36,000	36,000 ¹
Sponsorship - Healthway	45,000	45,000 ¹
Retail Sales	400	400
Donations (undirected)	2,500	2,500
Interest	10,000	10,000
	380,688	345,856
Expenses		
Promotion Expenses	600	600
Auditor	3600	3600
Bank Charges	1500	1560
Board Meeting costs	2,500	2,500
Consumable Expenses	600	600
Fringe Benefits Tax	3,000	3,000
Healthway Expenditure	31,000	31,000
Insurance	10,000	11,000
Internet	1,760	1,760
Key Stakeholder Liaison	3,000	3,000
Newsletter	1,350	0
Postage	4,000	4,000
Consultancy	500	500
Rent	8,000	8,000
Repairs & Maintenance	1,000	1,000
Software/computer expenses	1,500	1,500
Stationery	5,000	5,000
Subscriptions/Membership	2,500	2,500
Superannuation	22,000	22,156
Telephone & Fax	7,500	7,500
Training	500	500
Travel & Accommodation	12,000	12,000
Vehicle expenses		
Fuel & Parking	4,500	4,500
Repairs & Maintenance	2,000	2,000
Licensing	600	600
Travel allowance - km staff	1,000	1,000
Healthway Education Officer	10,000	10,000
Wages & Salaries	173,800	176,343
Other Expenses		
Annual Leave Accrual	1238	1238
Long Service Leave Accrual	4743	5304
Depreciation-Equipment	6234	5766
Depreciation-Motor Vehicle	5172	4012
Tagging Facilitator	44,666	11,000
DSR Grant disbursements	20,000	20,000
Total Cost of Services	397,363	365,039
Net Cash (outflow)/inflow	(16,675)	(19,183)
Plus Cash in hand c/fwd	47,488	24,427
CASH IN HAND	30,813	5,244



Assets Register at 30th June 2004

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 FP
Fax machine Brother 920 JB
Fax machine Brother 920 NH
Digital Camera DC290
Epson Stylus 1160 printer
Table and draws FP
Computer/server
ED computer & monitor
PO computer & monitor
Admin computer & monitor
Set of shelves
Coffee percolator
Brother fax 930 DW
Portable radio
Fishing gear & tackle
Fishing rod & reel carry boxes (3)
Engel 40ltr Fridge/freezer
Computer programs
Cabinet - Ikea
Telephone answering machine – Panasonic
White Board (on wheels)
Admin Computer PenIV
Hyundai Santa Fe AWD Wagon
Trailer equipped with fishing gear
Sunscreen dispensing trailer
Telephone answering machine
Panasonic 3010 digital printer/copier
Sony Laptop
DVD recorder (Admin comp)
Camera Sony DSCF828



Appendix I Committees and Working Groups of which Recfishwest is a member

Committee	Member	Meetings/Comments
6PR fishing show	Frank Prokop	3 shows
Abalone MAC	Des Wood	4 meetings
Aboriginal fishing strategy Working Group	John Baas	1 meetings
Aboriginal Native Title Tribunal Fishing Interests Group	John Baas	1 meeting
AFMA/Recfish Australia meetings	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
Animal Welfare committee	Martin Holtz	1 meeting
Cape to Capes Marine Park Advisory Committee	Terry Fuller Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	2 meetings 6 meetings 3 meetings
Challenger TAFE Stakeholder Consultation Group	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Charter Boat Reference Group	John Webber	2 meeting
Cockburn Sound Crab Management Council	Mark Pagano	1 meetings
Cockburn Sound Management Council	Norm Halse	15 meetings
Communicators Working Group (WAFIC & Dept of Fisheries)	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Cottesloe FHPA	Keith Tocas	1 meeting
Department of Fisheries (DoF) Customer Service Council	Martin Holtz	1 meetings
Developing Fisheries Advisory Committee	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Groups	Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	1 meeting 1 meeting
Fish and Habitat Protection Program Reference Group	Norman Halse Mark Pagano	2 meetings 1 meeting
FishCare WA	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Fisheries Research Advisory Body	Frank Prokop	4 meetings
Gascoyne Muster	Norman Halse	1 meeting
Geographe Bay Crab resource sharing committee	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Integrated Fisheries Management - Toohey Committee reference group	Frank Prokop	1 meetings
Joint Recreational/Commercial Rock Lobster Committee	Des Wood Frank Prokop	2 meeting
Pastoral Access Working Group	Norman Halse	3 meetings
Recfish Australia	Frank Prokop Des Wood	3 meetings 1 meeting
Recreational Boating Facilities Working Group	John Baas	2 meetings
Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee	Norman Halse – Member Frank Prokop (Observer)	15 meetings
Recreational fishing consultative structures working group	Frank Prokop Norman Halse	2 meetings



Recreational Fishing Research Priorities	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
Research strategic directions FRDC	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
RFAC & RRFAC Planning Day	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
RFAC Education and Compliance Committee	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
RFAC Finance committee	Frank Prokop	2 meetings
Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC)	Des Wood	11 meetings, including sub-committee meetings, plus Coastal tour.
Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) Research and Development Committee	Norman Halse	1 meeting
Rockingham Boating Advisory Committee	Graham Anderton	6 meetings
Rottneest Island Marine Strategy Working Group	Norman Halse	7 meetings
Shark Bay joint trawl MAC	Keith Tocas	1 meeting
Shark Bay snapper management	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
Shark Resource Sharing C'ttee	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Snapper/Trawl Interactions Working Group, Denham Sound	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Sponsorship Innovation in Servicing – Healthway Sponsorship Advisory Service	Frank Prokop	1 presentation
State Boating Council (DPI)	John Baas	4 meetings
Trout Stocking Committee	Harry Vosper Frank Prokop	2 meetings 1 meeting
WA Demersal Net and Hook Fisheries MAC	John Baas	3 meetings
WA Sports Federation Board	Frank Prokop	10 meetings.
Walpole/Nornalup Marine Conservation Reserve Focus Grp	Terry Fuller Mark Pagano	1 meeting 5 meetings
West Coast Purse Seine Fishery	Ian Stagles	1 meeting
West Coast Trawl Association	Keith Tocas	1 meeting
Wet Fish Review Committee	Norman Halse Frank Prokop (observer)	8 meetings 5 meetings



APPENDIX II SUMMARY OF KEY RECFISHWEST STAKEHOLDERS

STAKE HOLDER	CURRENT STATUS
Aboriginal Communities	Recfishwest providing input into Fisheries WA development of aboriginal fishing strategy.
AQWA	Peak aquaculture group. Regular contact..
Australian Marine Society Australia	Working well on alliance for Cockburn Sound
BIA	Great improvement with presence at 2004 Boat Show.
Boating Western Australia	New boating industry group. Excellent relationship established.
Cabinet Ministers	Strong positive contact through numerous projects. Recfishwest highly regarded.
CALM	Relationship greatly deteriorated due to lack of accountability or transparency.
Challenger TAFE	Excellent relationship with Aquaculture section on many projects.
Charter Operators Association	Contact with Rick Reid of industry body. Will build on in coming years. Several meetings during year.
Conservation Council	Regular contact. Relationship needs to be strengthened following departure of Rachel Siewert.
CSIRO	Contact through future research needs for Western Australia initiative. Relationship developing. Concerns about objectiveness of some researchers.
Department of Agriculture	Contact through Board member.
Department of Environment (River & Water Commission)	Now primary response agency for fish kills through lobbying of Recfishwest. Good relationship but new structure perhaps a threat.
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	Improving with Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme. State Boating Council disbanded which presents challenges. Very slow response times.
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Meeting with Premier and meetings with senior staff. Concerns about some marine parks planning processes.
Dive Clubs	Need to increase contact through AUF.
Education Department	Contact through Communications committee, Sports Federation board and Healthway sponsorship.
EPA & DEP	Strong positive contact. Concern about pollution protocols. Developing environmental criteria.
Ethnic Communities Council	Contact through Australia Day Council.
Fisheries WA	Regular correspondence and increasing presence of Recfishwest on senior committees.
Fishing Clubs & Associations	Improvements during year through general board members. Improvement through corresponding members initiative. Dhufish workshop and Westag initiatives highly regarded.
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. Norm Halse also prominent role in organisation.
Greenpeace	Limited contact.
Healthway; Cancer Foundation	Very good relationship through sponsorship. Recfishwest actively promoting SunSmart message. Funding increase for 2004.
Local Government	Highly variable relationship with different councils excellent Exmouth, Karratha – poor Cottesloe.
Main Roads	Relationship established through meetings on coastal road to Steep Point.
Ministry of Fisheries	Good relationship and regular correspondence.



Ministry of Sport	Regular contact. Recfishwest highly regarded.
MPRA	Extremely poor relationship due to unaccountable practices.
National Native Title	Contact through aboriginal fishing working group and integrated management initiative.
Political parties (Greens, Democrats, National, Liberal)	Close relationship established with all parties through election policy for 2005 state election.
Port Authority	Need strategic contact with respect to access and facilities. Good responses from Broome Port Authority.
Regional Development Authorities	Need strategic contact from planning and service perspective. Good relationship Gascoyne Development Commission.
RFAC	Member on committee. Working on improved strategic consultative processes.
Rottneest Island Authority	Significantly increased challenges through past year due to poor consultation.
Royal Lifesaving Association	Relationship strong due to cooperative work on drowning prevention.
RRFAC	Meeting with several Chairs. Will work with closely during consultative processes review.
Sea Search & Rescue	Contact increasing due to safety concerns in industry.
Swan River Trust	Significant contact through Bream Survival Revival. Very good relationship.
Tackle Trade	AFTA now associate member. Relationship strengthening.
Tourism Commission	Relationship poor but Minister Kucera working for greater recognition of recreational fishing.
WA Museum	Contact deteriorated due to resignation of Fred Wells and narrow view towards marine parks planning.
WA Sports Federation	Frank Prokop has been Board member for previous 4 years.
WAFIC	Regular correspondence. Relationship stabilised in past year due to marine parks related issues.
WWF	Increased contact through the NRM and Bioregional Planning Processes

**APPENDIX III****BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE**

The Recfishwest Board of Management held twelve meetings during the year. Details of Board member's attendance at Recfishwest Board meetings are set out below.

Board Member	Number of Board Meetings attended
Des Wood	12
Norman Halse	12
Harry Vosper (WATFAA)	11
John Baas	10
Keith Tocas	10
Stephen Gilders (ANSA)	10
Angus Horwood (AAA)	8
Craig Bibra	8
John Webber (WAGFA)	8
Graham Anderton (AUF)	6
Allan Bevan**	5
Terry Fuller (AAA Proxy)	5
Jack Toms*	4
Scott Coghlan**	2
Steve Austin*	1

* Board members whose terms expired on 31 October 2003.

** Board members who were elected to the Board on 31 October 2003.