



# RECFISHWEST



Sponsored by



# ANNUAL REPORT

2004/2005





## CONTENTS

Board of Management.....	III
--------------------------	-----

### **PART 1 EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

Chairman's Report.....	1
Executive Director's Report .....	3
Policy Officer's Report.....	8

### **PART 2 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Communications Committee .....	9
Policy Development Committee .....	11
Sport Development Committee.....	12

### **PART 3 ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Australian National Sportfishing Association - WA (ANSA).....	13
Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) .....	14
Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association Inc. (WATFAA)..	16
Western Australian Game Fishing Association (WAGFA).....	18
Australian Anglers Association - WA Division (AAA) .....	19

### **PART 4 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Income and Expenditure Statement .....	21
Balance Sheet.....	23
Notes on Financial Statements.....	24
Statement by Members of the Board of Management .....	26
Independent Audit Report to Recfishwest .....	27
Assets Register.....	28

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix I: Committees of which Recfishwest is a Member .....	29
Appendix II: Summary of Key Recfishwest Stakeholders .....	31
Appendix III: Board Meeting Attendance .....	33
Appendix IV: Final Report to Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation.....	34



# REC-FISHWEST

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

**PO Box 34, North Beach 6920  
Watermans Bay Marine Centre  
West Coast Drive  
Waterman WA 6020**

**Tel: 9246 3366**

**Fax: 9246 5955**

**Email: [recfish@recfishwest.org.au](mailto:recfish@recfishwest.org.au)**

**Website: <http://www.recfishwest.org.au>**

## CHAIR

**Des Wood**

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**Executive Director:**

**Frank B Prokop**

**Policy Officer:**

**Mark Pagano**

**Administrative Officer:**

**Con Costa**

**Administrative Assistant:**

**Janet Paterson**

**Tagging Facilitator:**

**Andrew Rowland**

**Fishing Clinic Coordinator:**

**Melanie Tozer**

## PUBLIC OFFICERS

**Frank Prokop**

**Des Wood**

## AUDITOR

**John C Bingham**



## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Des Wood	Chair of Board <i>Chair of Executive Committee</i>
Keith Tocas	Deputy Chair
John Baas	Public Board Member
Norman Halse	Public Board Member
Craig Bibra	Public Board Member <i>Chair of Communications Committee</i>
Dr Howard Gill	Public Board Member
Allan Bevan	Public Board Member
John Webber	General Board Member (WAGFA) <i>Chair of Sport Development Committee</i>
Harry Vosper	General Board Member (WATFAA)
Stephen Gilders	General Board Member (ANSA)
Terry Fuller	General Board Member (AAA) <i>Chair of Policy Development Committee</i>
Graham Anderton	General Board Member (AUF)



## **PART 1: EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

2005 has been a year in which Recfishwest has seen a significant increase in the number of issues with which we have been involved. 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 has been helped to some extent in servicing the ever-increasing demands of the recreational fishing sector by having a small increase in staff numbers. Nevertheless, Recfishwest's workload remains extremely heavy.

At the 2004 AGM I highlighted the difficulties confronting Recfishwest in its endeavours to bring some rationality to the Government's stance on Marine Parks. As you would be aware Recfishwest was not able to achieve all the outcomes for which we had hoped, particularly in regard to Ningaloo Marine Park.

Recfishwest is unceasing in its efforts to seek changes to the current thinking by Government on Marine Park issues so that the legitimate rights of recreational fishers are given the appropriate level of consideration.

It is pleasing to report that over the past months, lobbying and general interaction with both the Minister for Fisheries (Jon Ford) and the Minister for the Environment (Dr Judy Edwards) has been extremely positive. Regular meetings have been arranged with both Ministers throughout the year. Additionally Recfishwest has nominated for representation on the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority as well as the Swan Catchment Council.

The Integrated Fisheries Management process is now well under way with the proposals for Rock Lobster allocation being with the Minister for his determination. The Integrated Fisheries Management Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) has commenced an examination of the Abalone Fishery. Recreational fishers eagerly await the commencement on the allocation process for wetfish, and especially dhufish. The contribution of Mr Norman Halse, Recfishwest Board Member and past Recfishwest Chairman, who is an independent member of the IFAAC, is acknowledged.

The demands placed on Board Members have been heavy and ever increasing as Recfishwest's involvement with recreational fishing issues expands. Each Board Member has responded magnificently to the challenges presented in 2005. 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 Craig Bibra, Terry Fuller, 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 Chairmen of the Policy Committee and the Communications Committee, Terry Fuller and Craig Bibra respectively are also acknowledged for their work on these committees.

I would like to give my thanks and express my deep appreciation to our Executive Director; Frank Prokop for his sterling performance in what has been a year full of new challenges and rapid change. Frank has been irreplaceable.

Thank you also to Mark Pagano, who will commence in the new financial year as Principal Policy Officer, and has made an outstanding contribution to Recfishwest. Mark has also acted as Executive Director with distinction while Frank has been on leave. Kane Moyle who has recently been recruited as a Policy Officer is expected to make a difference and will allow the office staff to deal with a wider range of issues. Kane comes well qualified with a background in Marine Science having worked previously in Lobster Research with Department of Fisheries. He recently completed his first class Honours at the University of Western Australia.

I would also like to thank Janet Paterson and Con Costa who keep the day to day administrative operations of Recfishwest running smoothly. Con had the onerous task of coordinating the change of premises from the Sports Lotteries House to our new location at the old WA Marine Laboratories at Waterman. A job well done.

Melanie Tozer has also recently joined Recfishwest as “Fishing Clinic Coordinator”. Melanie has ensured that our Fishing Clinics, including the massive organization of 22 clinics in the north of the state, have been outstanding successes. Thank you Melanie.

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 has been extremely positive.

Overall, a year of many challenges well met and I look forward to a coming year of many more.

**Des Wood**  
**Chairman**



## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

It is now eight years that I have been at the helm of Recfishwest. It has been another year of success and moving forward mixed with the agony of defeat and frustration in a number of areas.

During the year we welcomed our third Minister for Fisheries Jon Ford to the helm and made plans to leave Sports Lotteries House as we continued to grow and finally required more space.

Recreational fishing continues to 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.

The year has seen a number of major initiatives. In the lead up to the state election, a grant of \$100,000 was made to Recfishwest over several years to expand and enhance our fishing clinics initiative. We have already had a longstanding and successful relationship with Healthway and the Cancer Council of WA and we have been able to make additional inroads into regional fishing clinics both with schools and the community. Recfishwest was able to purchase a new state-of-the-art trailer for transporting fishing tackle to regional areas. The new trailer was officially launched by the Minister for Fisheries Jon Ford at the new Hillarys Research Centre and was widely applauded. We have also been able to employ Melanie Tozer on a part-time basis to coordinate the clinics.

The first major clinics were run in July 2005 and included 22 clinics from Carnarvon to Derby. These clinics were extremely well received and special thanks go to Melanie and Colin Tozer, Kim Burton and Mark Pagano who assisted with the clinics.

During the year additional funding was received to enable Recfishwest to have a better engagement in the integrated fisheries management process. The recruitment process was commenced during the financial year which saw Kane Moyle, a first class Honours graduate from the University of Western Australia join Recfishwest early in the new financial year as Policy Officer.

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 has been successful in winning a scholarship to undertake a PhD through Murdoch University on Samson fish biology and management. Last year over 2700 Samson fish were tagged by highly supportive recreational anglers. There have been many fascinating findings, including that a number of fish



have migrated more than 900 kilometres from Rottneest to the South Coast after having been tagged. This finding has led to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) expanding the project to include Geographe Bay and the South Coast.

Andrew Rowland's funding will finish at the end of 2005 but we will endeavour to keep Andrew involved with the tagging program and the good relationship will no doubt continue.

By the end of the financial year, Recfishwest had a total of seven staff employed directly or on contract. The recognition of the role we play is increasingly recognised throughout the world.

With the support of the Department of Fisheries and the Minister for Fisheries, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Fourth World Recreational Fishing Conference in Norway. A couple of things were apparent. Firstly was the high regard for Australia in terms of overall management and especially the management of released fish survival. Australia (and the Lilley release weight) was frequently referred to as world's best practice. The science that is being done and supported by recreational fishers is also regarded around the world. Frequently, Australia feels that it is a follower but there was evidence that we lead the world. There is also a significant divergence in approaches to management. Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States in particular are promoting catch and release and the multiple use of recreationally caught fish. The European Union, and especially Germany, actually makes it an offence to release a fish which is of a legal size. We learned that one person who took a photo of himself releasing a trophy European carp was fined 4000 Euros for the stress caused to the fish. In England, these big carp are caught and released several times a season for more than a decade and attract pet names among specialist (high expenditure where a carp pole can cost 1200 pounds!) anglers.

It was an honour to attend this conference and to see that Australia is very advanced in many ways in terms of responsible fisheries management. The opportunity to catch a 9 kilogram Atlantic cod and a zander in Finland were also personal highlights. Thanks to the Board, Minister and Department of Fisheries for the opportunity.

Recfishwest made significant progress in many other areas. There has been progress with marron rules, with Frank Prokop and Board member Harry Vosper on the committee. The south coast and Pilbara/Kimberley reviews have come to fruition, although we continue to wait for the grossly overdue commercial wetline review.

Recfishwest had a high profile in the lead up to the state election. The Recfishwest election policy was well received by both sides of politics (with the exception of the marine parks debate) and many of the issues which we put forward made the formal policy positions.

The successful Labor party has pledged to make the Swan River and Cockburn Sound snapper fisheries recreational only which is a big win. Ironically WAFIC put out an extremely ill-advised press statement attacking the Labor policy on the Swan River, saying that they were unaware of the proposal. This is in spite of the fact that Labor had claimed it as their position when the Liberals pushed it as an issue several weeks before.

It appears at long last that the equity in management, especially for inshore finfish species, that Recfishwest has been lobbying for over many years is starting to pay dividends.



The most significant increasing frustration has been with the CALM and Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) over marine park planning processes. To say that some proposals were rammed through in the lead up to the election would be an understatement.

Common sense recommendations and submissions from a large number of recreational fishing groups were blatantly ignored. This led to downright anger and the formation of the 'Recreational alliance' group which produced the "Wake up Geoff" bumper stickers.

Recfishwest was not a part of this group but did share many of the frustrations with the system of marine park reserve consultation that led to the formation of the group.

The increase in sanctuary zones from 28 to 34% without consultation and the dismissal of the southern extension wilderness proposals without discussion of its merits as part of the Ningaloo implementation were particularly badly received. However, this was largely a political decision and it is now a part of history.

From the Recfishwest perspective, the failure to consider wider options for the Rowley Shoals was the most disappointing. Having a no take away rule (wilderness fishing) would have had far greater conservation benefits than numerous lines on the water 130 miles from the coast yet they did not receive serious consideration.

I had an increased profile on the 6PR Boat, Dive and Fishing Show with Karl Langdon as host, appearing regularly on air and hosting the show on several 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 seemingly never ending wetfish review 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 Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory 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.

Mark Pagano has been appointed as Principal Policy Officer and is a valuable member of the Recfishwest team. Mark has applied for the Australian Rural Leadership program and should make a significant contribution to future management.

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. Because Con was basically cheerfully doing the



job of two or three people, a top priority was to find additional administrative assistance in the office. Ms Janet Paterson has been appointed as a part-time administrative assistant and has made an enormous difference to the running of the organisation.

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, Craig Bibra, Keith Tocas, Norman Halse and Terry Fuller work many hours a week on Recfishwest issues.

During the year we enjoyed a close working relationship with Fisheries Minister, Kim Chance and his staff. We wish Kim all the best in his current portfolio.

Recfishwest has developed a close working relationship with the Minister for the Environment, Dr Judy Edwards. This has been tested with ongoing problems with the marine parks consultative process, but the Minister has been able to maintain a good working relationship.

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 was successful in gaining 2 year ongoing sponsorship from Healthway to promote the SunSmart message. We have purchased a new and updated custom-made fishing tackle trailer to conduct our highly successful fishing clinics with a far greater emphasis on country based clinics.

A clinic was run in Kununurra as part of the Fishways workshop. Even though it was Mothers Day, more than 100 kids turned up and national fishing identity Steve Starling and local businesses combined to make it 'one of the biggest events even in Kununurra' as many locals proclaimed.

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 was once again elected as national President. This proved extremely challenging as Recfish Australia moved from a part-time organisation to a full-time and professional outfit. Several people with a long history with the organisation resisted change and have now stepped aside. My 2 ½ years as National President have been challenging and quite testing and I now feel that it is time for some new blood to take over the running of the organisation.

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. 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 conservative approach towards expenditure. During the year we were successful in gaining 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 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**



## **POLICY OFFICER'S REPORT**

The 2004/05 year commenced with a significant increment in my responsibilities and work load. This was due in part to Frank Prokop's extended leave on medical grounds and the seemingly augmented thrust to implement several Marine Parks throughout Western Australia. Thankfully Frank recovered exceptionally well from his ordeal, unfortunately we didn't fair so well on the Marine Parks front.

My role as Acting Executive Director of Recfishwest continued for four months during a hectic period for Recfishwest that saw the release of the changes and extensions to the Ningaloo Marine Park, the release for comment of the proposed Rowley Shoals, Monte Bellos/Barrow Island and the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston Marine Parks as well as ongoing input into the proposed Capes to Capes and Walpole/Nornalup Marine Parks.

During this period the Natural Resource Management (NRM) process also commenced in Western Australia to many hiccups. Disappointingly, significant NRM Marine and Coastal Plans had been drafted before Recfishwest was invited to comment. Our ability to adequately engage the six regional groups responsible for developing priorities and strategies and securing resources in their regions was hampered by our lack of resources to deal with the many issues raised and the belatedness of our awareness of the program.

While State Strategic NRM Marine Facilitators have made a considerable and genuine effort to ensure our ongoing involvement in the NRM process, we were unsuccessful in gaining funds to provide more informed input to a process that was already well underway.

During my stint as Acting Executive Director several Board members provided outstanding support and encouragement. Personally I would like to acknowledge and thank both Norman Halse and Terry Fuller for their tireless effort drafting responses and providing comment on a range of issues that appeared to swamp the office all at once. Thanks also to our Chair, Des Wood and Deputy Chair, Keith Tocas for providing guidance and support during this hectic period. Our Administration Officer, Con Costa, also provided significant help that enabled the office to run particularly smoothly during Frank's absence.

Since joining Recfishwest I have been amazed by the tireless contribution of our volunteer Board members. They have spent many hours on numerous important issues helping Recfishwest better represent the interests of Western Australian recreational fishers. Working with enthusiastic Board members has been an enlightening and most satisfying experience.

We have faced many challenges over the past 12 months. The recent growth of Recfishwest will go a long way to help tackle the many more challenges that lay ahead. Thank you to Frank for your vision and direction over the past year and to all Recfishwest staff, Con Costa, Andrew Rowland, Kane Moyle, Janet Paterson and Melanie Tozer for their diligent efforts.

**Mark Pagano**  
**Policy Officer**



## **PART 2: COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

#### **Fishing Clinics**

Recfishwest's FishSmart SunSmart Fishing Clinic Program has again been sponsored by Healthway to promote the Cancer Council Western Australia's SunSmart message to children and adults. This year we were also fortunate enough to receive a substantial grant from the Minister for Fisheries to increase the number of clinics held in the metropolitan area and to expand the Recfishwest Fishing Clinic Program in regional areas along the northern and southern parts of the state. The funding was of great benefit allowing us to purchase new fishing tackle and to custom design and build a new trailer to store all the gear.

With the Minister's funding Melanie Tozer was contracted as Fishing Clinic Coordinator. Melanie has done a great job coordinating the clinics and has completed the first of numerous regional clinics during a northern tour which included locations such as Carnarvon, Coral Bay, Exmouth, Karratha, Dampier, Port Hedland, Broome and Derby. With over 20 clinics and 560 participants the tour was a great success.

The Fishing Clinic Program in the metropolitan area, has been growing in popularity and demand is higher than ever. We are always in need of people available during weekdays to assist in running our clinics. If you can spare a few hours please feel free to contact Melanie for more information. This year we increased the local clinics to 36 and had over 1200 participants. Country areas have not missed out with clinics held in Wellstead and Bremer Bay.

Fishing Clinics are instrumental in educating our youth about the benefits of fishing and how to look after this valuable resource. These clinics would not be possible without sponsorship from Healthway, the Cancer Council WA and the Minister for Fisheries. Their assistance is very much appreciated.

This year we had numerous interested members help out with the FishSmart SunSmart Fishing Clinic Program. I would like to thank Frank Prokop, Con Costa, Mark Pagano, Des Wood, Kim Burton, Colin Tozer and Melanie Tozer for their efforts in running these clinics.

#### **Promotional Activities**

Recfishwest mounted displays at the following events during the 2004 - 2005 financial year;

- Club Marine Mandurah Ocean Marina Boat and Fishing Show, Mandurah
- Geraldton Offshore District Fishing Expo, Geraldton
- Seniors Recreation Council "Have a go Day", Burswood
- 4WD and Adventure Show, McCallum Park
- Perth International Boat Show, Fremantle
- Broomehill Aquafest and Boat Show, Broomehill
- "Sports Mania" City of Wanneroo Community event
- Swanfish, McCallum Park



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 on behalf of 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.

The new Recfishwest Fishing Clinic Trailer has been designed as dual purpose with one side allocated to be used as a static display at shows and festivals. The display with new content and information should be completed very soon.

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. Due to other personal commitments I will not be re-nominating for Communications Committee Chair and wish the new Chair all the best for the future. I cannot forget a big thank you to the Recfishwest Staff, Frank Prokop, Con Costa, Mark Pagano, Kane Moyle, Janet Paterson, Melanie Tozer and Andrew Rowland, for all your help and guidance throughout the year.

**Craig Bibra**  
**Chair of Communications Committee**



## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Seven meetings have been held since I became Chair of the Policy Development Committee following the last Recfishwest elections. Attendance at the meetings ranged from three to five Board members plus one of the Recfishwest staff.

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

- Wilderness and Low Impact Fishing Areas.
- Working with Children to comply with the WA Act.
- Recreational Netting.
- Recreational Rock Lobster Fishing.
- General Saltwater Finfish Licenses.
- Wetline Fishery Management.
- Possession Limits.
- Boat Limits.
- Recreational Fishing Sustainability Management Measures.
- The "GeoBay for the Future" proposal from Geographe Bay recreational anglers.
- Management Needs for Recreational Fishing Quality.
- Competency Based Boat Training.
- Fisheries Management Paper 184 "Management of the Proposed South West Beach Seine Fishery."
- Media Release on fish kills in the Swan and other south west rivers.
- Proposal to government from the recreational fishing community for some alternative approaches for some of the areas within Marine Parks which had been announced but not yet finalised.
- A presentation on the process and responsibilities for marine management in WA.
- Fisheries Management Paper 197 Sea Lion Exclusion Devices.
- Spear fishing issues in the Review of Fisheries Management Paper 117, Management Plan for the Abrolhos.
- RFW actions and comments on State of Fisheries Report 2003/4.
- Recfishwest priorities for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes.
- Consideration of a proposed Catch and Release policy.
- Consideration of the proposed "Zone 5" metropolitan management paper by Recfishwest members Garry Lilley and Wally Parkin.

Special thanks are due to Board members Norman Halse for his contributions and willingness to draft thought provoking papers, Des Wood, Keith Tocas and John Baas for their assistance with reviews and comments, and to Principal Policy Officer Mark Pagano for help with the organisation of issues.

**Terry Fuller**  
**Chair of Policy Development Committee**



## **SPORT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Sports Development Committee met twice during the 2004/2005 year.

The Committee as usual concentrated on the allocation and administration of the Department of Sport and Recreation funding. The funding level remained unchanged for 2004-2005.

Support from the Department of Sport and Recreation 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, and Mark 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**  
**Chair of Sport Development Committee Report**



## **PART 3: ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION - WA (ANSA)**

This past 12 months has been a disappointing period, both Association wise and personally. Club input has been down, communication low, meeting attendance almost non-existent and outside commitment the dominant factor. I could go onto the state of society to-day and the affects it has on the good old club interactivity but society is what we live in and contend with. Personally a good old social lifestyle has stated to leave its` mark and one eventually has to slow down.

We are in the throws of negotiating some very contentious issues with reduced access to our favourite pastime, reduced allowable returns to the time spent on our favourite pastime, a very anti sportfishing sector of the community and a very aggressive front by the commercial sector with regard to the Integrated Fisheries Management Review

ANSA has coped very well with most of the restrictions imposed. Catch and release has become more the norm and tag and release has become very important to fish species management. The success of the two major programs in WA has had far reaching effects throughout Australia and sent ripples around the globe. The Release device has gained recognition in scientific circles in Australia and as far away as Canada, South Africa and several island communities to our north. Record claims have been conspicuous by their absence.

Metropolitan Clubs have felt the impact of the current lifestyle more than our Clubs to the north. Smaller clubs have become obsolete and the larger clubs are experiencing dwindling Membership. Nickol Bay and Kalbarri are increasing membership and the future looks bright in these areas, although hard work is ahead for the committees of both these clubs. It is vitally important that the State gives these clubs support and it is more important that these clubs ask for support. Unless a request is made support cannot be granted

I would like to thank my committee for their endeavours over the past year and I would like to thank the many friends I have made over the past years of my time as President of ANSA and I wish the incoming President and the committee all the best for the future . I still believe there is a great role for ANSA to play in the future of fishing in W.A

**Stephen G Gilders**

**President Australian National Sportfishing Association (WA Branch)**



## AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER FEDERATION (AUF)

The past two years has seen an increasing amount of territory denied to the recreational freedive spearfisher in the form of Marine Protection Areas. Although public comment and feedback are sought, the relevant government departments at times behave as though this is not important. Swayed by the fallacious use of statistics from use-denial groups and scientific research which is neither valid nor relevant, these departments propose restrictions on the recreational user backed up with a grab bag of warm fuzzy statements about protecting the environment whilst ignoring the impact of professional groups. Transposing data from other parts of the world ignores the fact that our coastline is very sparsely populated.

We all fish in the same ocean. All users need to be considered when determining a sustainable level of exploitation, backed up by scientific research on the area in question. I applaud Recfishwest's efforts in correcting some of the politically driven single minded media statements put out by groups who appear hell bent on locking up as much of the Indian Ocean as possible.

As a small section of the recreational users group, freedive spearfishers have at times been treated differently. There is a perception in some quarters that a spearfisher is somehow capable of denuding the ocean of its species.

These opinions fail to acknowledge:

1. The relatively small number of participants.
2. The selectivity of method of capture. There is no bycatch suffering possible barotrauma. Only species of interest are targeted.
3. Freediving's inherent limitations with regard to depth, ocean conditions and personal fitness.

Spearfishers typically take pride that their sport is ecologically sound and includes a high degree of sportsmanship. They refer to it as being the most selective form of fishing since they visually assess fish before catching them rather than after. They also claim theirs is a clean fishery because no gear is left in the water such as occurs with hook and line fishing. Compared to other forms of fishing, there is a much smaller chance for gear, handling, and regulatory mortality and bycatch since fish can be identified and sized before take rather than after.

An obvious anomaly in the restricted use zones has been the denial of spearfishers the right to pursue the same blue water species that line fisherman are permitted to capture. The Department of Conservation and Land Management differentiates between these two groups yet we are still governed by the same species size and bag limits. Paul McKeown is our representative at Recfishwest meetings. In conjunction with the board, he is doing a fine job in redressing this imbalance. We are part of the wider recreational user group and seek similarly fair treatment when new restrictions are considered.

There are currently five active freedive Spearfishing clubs in Western Australia:

- Bluewater Freedivers (Perth and Geraldton)
- Dunsborough Spearfishing club
- Living Water
- West Australian Undersea Club.



The last 12 months has seen a rise in membership numbers as interest in the sport continues to grow. Many of these people have not speared before and benefit tremendously from a club environment.

Spearfishing competitions in the past were very competitive and often characterized by the wasteful practice of carelessly disposing of the unwanted fish. These days there are more social in nature with a considered and progressive attitude to the conservation of stocks for the future.

Two local competitions were held in the last 10 months with innovations of shooting only those species normally targeted and gutting and gilling the catch to enhance its eating qualities. There is also a scoring system in the pipeline which rewards the participant with a points score commensurate with the maximum size limit of each species rather than for total kilos. This is in acknowledgement that a large silver trevally is as difficult to spear as a large Spanish mackerel. It is through these clubs that discussions can be held and information disseminated

The national Spearfishing Commission is now a paid up Associate member of Recfish Australia. This ensures we are part of the wider community and have a voice in all matters marine. After an absence of eight years, Dr Adam Smith and the National Executive decided to renew their participation. He is leading the evolving of ethos in the sport, away from the excesses of the past when fish were plentiful towards focusing on the whole freediving experience: to encourage safe and selective freedive spearfishing.

The times are changing and so the sport of freedive spearfishing changes with them. Conservation is a major consideration as we witness worldwide the depletion of fish stocks due to the laissez faire approach (oxymoronic as it is). There is an increasing awareness of fish stock limitations and the best way of ensuring a fair harvest for years to come. There is now more kudos in capturing a large fish than large quantities. Senior members of the sport encourage newer adherents to be selective on species and size; advocating minimums much higher than legally required.

**Joe Petrovich**  
**Chair Australian Underwater Federation (WA Branch)**



## **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TROUT & FRESHWATER ANGLING ASSOCIATION INC. (WATFAA)**

I am writing this as the newly elected WATFAA President having taken over from Harry Vosper this year. Harry was in the Chair for the past three years and I would like to thank him for his efforts and congratulate him on a job well done over that time. Harry not only held the position of President but also was the editor of our bimonthly magazine, Freshwater. Harry has also passed on the “reins” as editor to Member and Councillor, David Gellatly.

Although newly appointed to the job I can report that once again the new year finds our Association in a good financial position with membership numbers showing a steady increase. In this regard many thanks must go also to our Honorary Sec/Treasurer Wally Mackowiak who, being ably assisted by the Council, has once again done an outstanding job.

The challenge now for WATFAA as with many other Clubs and Associations, is to continue to provide and indeed expand the very things that attracted the individuals to it in the first place. In some ways WATFAA is fortunate in that freshwater anglers, and indeed anglers in general, are a passionate lot and in most cases only need a suitable place to “wet a line”. I think someone has already said “there is always a river somewhere”. The major issue for freshwater anglers in W.A and Australia in general of course is the slowly diminishing access to quality water. The concentration of the population within the ever expanding Perth and greater suburban area is placing increasing demands on what can be considered a dwindling resource. Namely, fresh flowing streams and rivers. This together with a general drying of the climate and other factors has meant that several fishing locations known to the “old timers” of our Association have now either been lost for recreational purposes or have become somewhat less suitable for fish stocking purposes. It appears that more river systems are under “threat” of being lost to recreational angling all the time.

WATFAA, like other interested parties must face the challenge of protecting those waters which are available both at present and into the future. In this and many other matters our Association is grateful for the support and assistance given by both Recfishwest and the relatively new body, the Recreational Freshwater Fisheries Stakeholder Sub-committee (RFFSS).

It is pleasing to note however that the Department of Fisheries, through the State Trout Stocking Committee, has once again been very active in stocking streams, rivers and dams of the South West with fry, yearlings and brood stock trout. The combined thanks of our Association and freshwater fishers in general, goes out to them. Of particular importance are the fisheries within easy reach of Perth which have been well stocked.

In terms of the climatic conditions, this trout season has started with a bang. Excellent rains are continuing to fall and September has been wetter than for some time. All this means that we will have a great spring and early summer of fishing and has also meant that the survival rate of those fish that were stocked will be somewhat better that it may have been in drier years.

Traditionally, WATFAA has held our main club events, both competition based, on the long weekends of June and September/October. Also in years gone by we have held a season opening day coinciding with the first Saturday in September. It is pleasing to note that all these activities occurred again over the last 12 months were well attended. Some impressive trout catch figures



were recorded. It is very much hoped that rapidly increasing fuel costs do not deter members from making the trip southwards. If this or other factors were to stop individuals from travelling to the South West to fish, the local communities would miss those vital tourism dollars.

In closing I would like to add that WATFAA encourages a policy of catch & release for trout on both public and private waters. It is very pleasing to note that this is also encouraged by others. It is quite common to see television anglers releasing fish now. In fact it is the norm. I urge all angling clubs and associations to do whatever is within their means to protect our waterways and the environment that surrounds them.

**Jim Boardman**  
**President WA Trout and Freshwater Angling Association**



## **WEST AUSTRALIAN GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION (WAGFA)**

The main issue for our Association in Western Australia remains the potential loss of access to Rowley Shoals, Monte Bello Islands and the between the Capes. It is also apparent that some conservationists also want more than 7.5% of the Dampier Archipelago proposed closed to fishing too.

We remain disgusted at both the process and outcome for Ningaloo Marine Park and will continue to campaign for future changes of this clearly manipulated outcome.

The WAGFA State Executive very much appreciates the ongoing support from Recfishwest on this issue and in particular Recfishwest's revised submission for the Monte Bellos. We continue to get mixed messages from the State government about what it is prepared to reconsider at the Montes and Rowleys, but we continue to put our case. Our Association believes that the catch & release study area proposal, as discussed with Ian Stagles, has great potential. The use of this zoning classification in lieu of huge no-take zones offers a good way forward on this issue. I understand that Fisheries Research Branch also supports this concept in principle given that it can also.

Should any seed funding, or recreational fishers' 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 & Development Fund.

As a consequence in part of the last election it would happily appear that the State government now wishes to modify its approach to Marine Park planning, but little has been seen of this change so far. We would advise that we have supported the nomination of Ben Patrick to the marine park stakeholder group, as did the RFA.

We have had a spate of resource sharing meetings of late, some of which Recfishwest have attended. At time of writing Ian Stagles and Neil Patrick are due to leave for Canberra to meet the Federal Minister to discuss resource sharing arrangements in the Commonwealth's Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery. We will naturally keep Recfishwest informed of any developments in this area. It would appear we are getting very close to crunch time after nearly ten years of meetings...

Shark mortalities also continue to be of great concern to WAGFA and we have been encouraged by the State Fisheries Ministers stance on this issue. We understand that the recent closures in the northern zone are merely the beginning of drastic changes to the shark fishery. Although sharks remain genuine game fishing species just about all clubs practise tag and release of sharks these days, and we would anticipate no problems with formalising this conservation approach.

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**  
**WA Game Fishing Association**



## **AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (WA DIVISION) (AAA)**

This is my third President's report and I wish to state it is my final one. After three years it is time for a change and fresh blood at the helm. The last year has been a torrid one for me. Mid last year I was in hospital for seven weeks with a very serious infection in my knee, which kept me on the strongest possible antibiotics for a very long time. As a result my health and fitness suffered badly, and I was unable to work for quite some time. Many things I would have liked to have done simply could not be done, and it took me a long time to catch up with personal, work and volunteer activities such as Association work. The program for this last year was to sort out State and National Records and promote AAA State events.

### **Records**

The role of the AAA National Records Authority needed to be 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 had a very positive meeting with the Records Authority group and sorted out a program of working together to promote records.

We have since put all the fishing and dry casting records on our AAAWA web site, made a new records application form to cater for State and National records and sent both lists and forms to local tackle shops and to other States. We look forward to benefits from this positive approach of cooperation and promotion.

### **State AAA Events**

State AAA events took up a lot of our time. The first was the Dry Casting in October 2004. 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 refine the rules and regulations and organise both events. They prepared a promotional booklet which I thought was a very positive step and was well received. Both events, the Estuary on the Swan River and the Rock and Beach Cape to Cape, ran smoothly. Thank you to Kevin and all those who supported him.

The AAA State Boating Championship was held from the Hillarys Yacht Club. Pat Shinnick was the captain steering the ship and had a crew who certainly showed how to organise and run this event. The large attendance and positive results showed what can be achieved by good organisation, professionalism and the support of club members. Hillarys Yacht Club facilities and cooperation 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 over all champions, both individual and teams in all our State events go congratulations from all clubs and their members.

### **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 and Adam Eastman. Recfishwest's Andrew Rowland and 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 has gone into preparing and sending a WA State team to Yeppoon Queensland in September this year. The support of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation via Recfishwest has helped to make this possible and as a result we have a team of 19 travelling across Australia to represent us.

There is certainly a large personal cost to these individuals, but they are a committed lot and are working together to achieve on Western Australia's behalf. Dry Casting is the main event they are targeting, but they will be involved in all other fishing events where possible. We wish them well. Fisheries Management and Access. Over the past year there has been a lot of time spent dealing with fisheries management and Marine Parks. 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. We would have been a lot worse off if it was not for the work we have put in, and our Recfishwest Board Member Terry Fuller and our alternative Board Member Pat Shinnick have put in the hard yards for our benefit. Terry has worked above and beyond in looking after Club and Association interests and to him a very special thank you.

I have watched with interest the way that Recfishwest represents us as recreational fishers, and to say they are doing a great job would be an understatement. Government and other organisations continue to recognise them in a very responsible and positive way. Despite some ups and downs and difficulties in getting the messages out to everyone, the recreational fishing fraternity has never seemed more united and positive in looking after recreational fishing interests than it is at present. Let's work together to make sure this will continue to improve.

### **Summary**

A lot of work has been done by the usual few to look after our interests. The "hub of the wheel" in the Association has been our secretary Terry Fuller. I can assure you without his expertise and commitment and huge amount of work he has put in we would not have an Association, let alone be recognised by all we are involved with in such a positive manner. I know more restrictions on fishing, access, environmental management and increasing fuel prices and camping restrictions make life difficult for clubs and members, but you have to be in there putting in a positive manner for us to enjoy our activities into the future. The comradery of our activities is our future and must be maintained along with helping one another to maintain or improve recreational fishing for the future.

**George Holman**

**President Australian Anglers Association (WA Division)**

**PART 4: FINANCIAL REPORTS****INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
for the year ended 30 June 2005**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2005</b> \$	<b>2004</b> \$
Fisheries Grant		235,000	235,000
Fisheries Grant - Integrated Fisheries		37,500	0
Fisheries Grant - Fishers with Disabilities Assn		5,000	0
Fisheries Grant - Fishing Clinic Initiative		43,550	0
		<b>321,050</b>	<b>235,000</b>
Fisheries Grant - Tagging Facilitator		44,958	43,271
Deduct program expenditure		38,155	27,783
		<b>6,803</b>	<b>15,488</b>
Department of Sport & Recreation Support gross		36,000	36,000
Deduct: Grant disbursements			
AAA		6,500	7,500
ANSA		3,300	3,000
WAGFA		9,000	8,800
WATFAA		0	700
Total grant disbursement		18,800	20,000
DSR Support net		<b>17,200</b>	<b>16,000</b>
Healthway Sponsorship	<b>3</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>43,334</b>
Lotteries Grant - Gordon Reid Foundation		23,001	18,647
Total grant disbursement - Curtin University		23,001	18,647
		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Membership:			
Associations		1,500	1,500
Public		1,940	2,188
Total membership		3,440	3,688
Retail sales		335	197
Interest		11,317	8,605
Columns/Presentations		960	905
Committee fees		1,935	2,500
Disposal of assets		0	235
Donations		50	0
Total of other income		14,597	12,442
Total membership and other income		<b>18,037</b>	<b>16,130</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>408,090</b>	<b>325,952</b>



**INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2005**

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2005</b> \$	<b>2004</b> \$
Advertising & Promotions		688	238
Promotion expenses		558	0
Accounting & audit		3,600	2,400
Bank charges		1,813	1,307
Board meetings		2,360	3,396
Brochures & Publications		0	238
Consumables		581	602
Fringe benefits tax		2,537	2,550
Healthway expenditure	<b>3</b>	31,434	26,615
Insurance		9,576	8,933
Internet		1,081	1,684
Key stakeholder liaison		3,116	2,209
Photocopies		0	196
Postage		2,626	2,688
Rent		7,277	6,829
Repairs & maintenance		730	710
Restocking & Research		1,500	0
Computer expenses		4,072	0
Printing, stationery		4,634	4,074
Subscriptions		2,498	2,443
Superannuation		25,738	21,248
Telephone & fax		8,934	7,023
Training, Research & Liaison		0	0
Travel & Accommodation		12,058	10,806
Vehicle expenses		6,507	7,467
Wages & Salaries		195,218	172,560
Healthway Education Officer	<b>3</b>	10,671	4,580
Fishing Clinic Initiative expenses		15,453	0
Long service leave provision		6,799	379
Annual leave provision		2,911	(4,637)
Depreciation – equipment		7,734	7,352
– motor vehicle		5,178	6,138
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>377,882</b>	<b>300,028</b>
<b>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30,208</b>	<b>25,924</b>
<b>Accumulated surplus at beginning of year</b>		<b>66,508</b>	<b>40,584</b>
<b>Accumulated surplus at end of year</b>		<b>96,716</b>	<b>66,508</b>

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**30th June 2005**

	Note	2005	2004
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			\$
Cash at bank			
Fisheries Grant account		16,875	28,334
DSR Grant account		0	21
High Interest account		164,005	60,449
Total Cash at bank		<u>180,880</u>	<u>88,804</u>
Debtors		29,347	6,613
Cash on hand		36	40
Accrued income		0	0
Total of other current assets		<u>29,383</u>	<u>6,653</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>210,263</u>	<u>95,457</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Fixed Assets	2	<u>49,354</u>	<u>43,487</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>49,354</u>	<u>43,487</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><b>259,617</b></u>	<u><b>138,944</b></u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Grants in advance (Healthway)		15,000	15,000
Grants in advance (Tagging Program)		21,771	14,479
Grants in advance (Fishing Clinic Initiative)		56,450	0
Grants in advance (Fishers with Disabilities)		5,000	0
Creditors & Accruals		13,108	12,479
Provision for annual leave		12,885	9,973
BAS liability		14,009	2,626
Total Current Liabilities		<u>138,223</u>	<u>54,557</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provision for long service leave		<u>24,678</u>	<u>17,879</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>24,678</u>	<u>17,879</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u><b>162,901</b></u>	<u><b>72,436</b></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>96,716</b></u>	<u><b>66,508</b></u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		<u><b>96,716</b></u>	<u><b>66,508</b></u>



## **NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 30 June 2005**

### **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 <i>Reporting Date</i>

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 2005**

<b>NOTE 2</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Equipment at cost	67,895	60,481
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(47,735)</u>	<u>(40,001)</u>
	<u>20,160</u>	<u>20,480</u>
Motor vehicle & trailer at cost	42,585	31,222
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(13,391)</u>	<u>8,215</u>
	<u>29,194</u>	<u>23,007</u>
	<b><u>49,354</u></b>	<b><u>43,487</u></b>
<b>NOTE 3</b>		
Healthway Sponsorship	<u>45,000</u>	<u>43,334</u>
Deduct: Healthway program Expenditure	31,434	26,615
Healthway Education Officer	10,671	4,580
Recfishwest administration support	<u>2,895</u>	<u>12,139</u>
	<b><u>45,000</u></b>	<b><u>43,334</u></b>
<b>NOTE 4</b>		
Net surplus for the year	<u>30,208</u>	<u>25,924</u>
Net surplus for the year provides for the following expenditure commitments;		
Tagging Facilitator expenditure	6,803	15,488
Fishing Clinic Initiative	<u>16,734</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>23,537</u>	<u>15,488</u>
	<b><u>6,671</u></b>	<b><u>10,436</u></b>

**NOTE 5****RELATED PARTIES**

During the year Craig Bibra, who is a member of the Board of Management, was paid an amount of \$4,490.00 for conducting fishing clinics.



## 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:

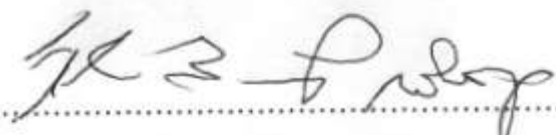
- (a) Present fairly the financial position of Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc., as at 30 June 2005 and the results of the Council for the year ended on that date.
- (b) Detail of expenditure carried out in accordance with grant contracts with funding bodies including:
  - Department of Fisheries
  - Department of Sport and Recreation
  - Healthway

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:

Chairman.....

DESLEY WOOD

Executive Director.....

FRANK PROKOP

Dated this.....*TWELFTH*.....day of.....*SEPTEMBER*.....2005



## 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 2005. 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 2005 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

JOHN C BINGHAM  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Date



## ASSETS REGISTER AT 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005

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 (5)  
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



## APPENDIX I: Committees/Working Groups of which Recfishwest is a member

Committee	Member	Meetings
6PR fishing show	Frank Prokop	5 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	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Animal Welfare Committee	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Barramundi Accord	Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	1 meeting 1 meeting
Bioregional Marine Planning Presentation to Minister for Environment and Minister for Fisheries	Mark Pagano Terry Fuller	1 meeting 1 meeting
Bioregional Marine Planning Workshop	Mark Pagano Terry Fuller	1 meeting 1 meeting
Cape Peron Tourist Precinct Project Stakeholder Reference Group	Graham Anderton	2 meetings
Cape to Cape Marine Park Advisory Committee	Terry Fuller (observer) Mark Pagano (observer)	1 meeting 1 meeting
Charter Boat Reference Group	John Webber	2 meetings
Cockburn Sound Crab Management Council	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Cockburn Sound Management Council	Norm Halse Keith Tocas	5 meetings 6 meetings
Cockburn Sound Management Council Sub-Committee on Seagrass	Graham Anderton	1 meeting
Communicators Working Group (WAFIC & DoF)	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Department of Fisheries Marine Park Planning Committee	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Dhufish and Snapper Research Reference Group	Norman Halse	1 meeting
Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Groups	Mark Pagano Frank Prokop	1 meeting 1 meeting
Fish and Fish Habitat Reference Committee	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
FishCare WA	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
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	8 meetings
Fisheries Working Group SoE Report	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Geographe Bay Crab Resource Sharing Committee	Frank Prokop	1 meeting
Joint Recreational/Commercial Rock Lobster Committee	Des Wood Frank Prokop	1 meeting 1 meeting
Leighton Oceanside Parklands Community Stakeholder Reference Group	Craig Bibra	1 meeting
Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (independent member)	Norman Halse	9 meetings
Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee	Frank Prokop Des Wood	1 meeting 1 meeting
Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee – Rock Lobster	Frank Prokop Des Wood	1 meeting 1 meeting
Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee – Abalone	Frank Prokop Des Wood	1 meeting 1 meeting
Marine Aquarium Managed Fishery Coral Workshop	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority Key Stakeholder Consultation Capes Presentation	Mark Pagano Terry Fuller	1 presentation 1 meeting
National Released Fish Working Group	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
National Research Priorities Workshop	Frank Prokop Des Wood	1 meeting 1 meeting



Natural Resource Management	Mark Pagano	3 meetings
Pilbara/Kimberley Regional Recreational Fishing Review Committee	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
Pink Snapper Recreational Exemption Evaluation Working Group	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Property Rights Working Group	Frank Prokop	2 meetings
Recfish Australia	Frank Prokop Des Wood	3 meetings 1 meeting
Recreational Boating Facilities Working Group	John Baas	2 meetings
Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) and Subcommittees	Norman Halse (Member) Frank Prokop (Observer) Mark Pagano (Observer)	8 meetings 7 meetings 2 presentations
Recreational Fishing Consultative Structures Working Group	Frank Prokop Norman Halse Des Wood	2 meetings 3 meetings 1 meeting
Recreational Fishing Research Priorities	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
Regional RFAC Exmouth	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Rockingham Boating Advisory Committee	Graham Anderton	6 meetings
Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC) including sub-committee meetings, and Coastal Tour	Des Wood	14 meetings
RLIAC Research and Development Committee	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Rottneest Island Marine Governance Working Group	Norman Halse	2 meetings
Rottneest Island Marine Strategy Working Group	Norman Halse	3 meetings
Royal Life Saving Society Australia Drowning Prevention Forum	Mark Pagano	1 presentation 1 meeting
Samson Fish Research Reference Group	Frank Prokop	2 meetings
Shark Bay Joint Trawl MAC	Keith Tocas	1 meeting
Shark Bay Snapper Management	Mark Pagano	2 meetings
Snapper/Trawl Interactions Working Group, Denham Sound	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
South Coast Regional Recreational Fishing Review Committee	Frank Prokop	3 meetings
Sponsorship Innovation in Servicing – Healthway Sponsorship Advisory Service	Frank Prokop	1 presentation
State Boating Council (DPI)	John Baas	4 meetings
State of Environment Fisheries Sector Working Group	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Straits Salt Campaign Group	Mark Pagano Terry Fuller Craig Bibra	3 meetings 1 meeting 1 meeting
Straits Salt Stakeholder Reference Group	Mark Pagano	1 meeting
Recreational Freshwater Fishing Stakeholder Sub-Committee (RFAC)	Harry Vosper Frank Prokop	4 meetings 4 meetings
Walpole/Nornalup Marine Conservation Reserve Community Focus Group	Mark Pagano	2 meetings
West Coast Purse Seine Fishery	Ian Stagles	1 meeting
West Coast Trawl Association	Keith Tocas	1 meeting
Western Australian Demersal Net and Hook Fisheries MAC	John Baas	2 meetings
Wet Fish Review Committee	Norman Halse Frank Prokop (observer) Mark Pagano (observer)	3 meetings 2 meetings 1 meeting



## APPENDIX II: Summary of Key RECFISHWEST Stakeholders

STAKE HOLDER	CURRENT STATUS
AQWA	Peak aquaculture group. Regular contact.
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 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.
Conservation Council	Regular contact.
CSIRO	Contact through future research needs for Western Australia initiative. Relationship developing. Concerns about objectiveness of some researchers.
Curtin University	Increased interaction through the Cockburn Sound pink snapper project, and lecturing opportunities
Department of Agriculture	Contact through Board member.
Department of Environment (River & Water Commission)	Now primary response agency for fish kills through lobbying of Recfishwest.
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	Improving with Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme. State Boating Council disbanded which presents challenges.
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.
Department of Fisheries	Regular correspondence and increasing presence of Recfishwest on senior Committees.
Fishing Clubs & Associations	Improvements during year through General Board members. Improvement through corresponding member's initiative. 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; The Cancer Council WA	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.
Natural Resource Management	Relationship began on shaky grounds but has improved
Ministry for Fisheries	Good relationship and regular correspondence.
Ministry for Sport	Regular contact. Recfishwest highly regarded.
MPRA	Extremely poor relationship due to unaccountable practices.
Murdoch University	Good relationship with the Centre for Fish & Fisheries Research
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 and updated Recfishwest Fishing Safety Brochure
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	Good relationship.
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 2004/2005 year. Details of Board member's attendance at Recfishwest Board meetings are set out below.

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Number of Board Meetings attended</b>
Des Wood	12
Keith Tocas	12
Norman Halse	12
Craig Bibra	11
Harry Vosper (WATFAA)	11
John Webber (WAGFA)	11
John Baas	10
Stephen Gilders (ANSA)	9
Graham Anderton (AUF)	9
Terry Fuller (AAA)	9
Allan Bevan	8
Howard Gill	3
Paul McKeown (AUF Proxy)	2
Pat Shinnick	2
Scott Coghlan	1



**APPENDIX IV: Conservation of the Cockburn Sound Pink Snapper Population**  
Ref 7687 / 20030296

# **FINAL REPORT**

**TO THE GORDON REID FOUNDATION FOR CONSERVATION**

**PROJECT CONDUCTED BY**  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC**  
**CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**



Juvenile pink snapper, *Pagrus auratus*

**SEPTEMBER 2004**



## CONSERVATION OF THE COCKBURN SOUND PINK SNAPPER POPULATION

### Background to the Project

The sheltered waters of Cockburn Sound are currently the most intensively used marine embayment in Western Australia. It is also the second most recreationally fished area in the state, with predicted fishing pressure increasing continuously. Based on previous experience from the Shark Bay, pink snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) fishery, populations can collapse without prior indication of over-exploitation. This knowledge as well as political pressure resulted in a part seasonal closure for both recreational and commercial fishing within Cockburn Sound from 2000 till present. This closure, however, was a precautionary measure with no scientific evidence of reduced snapper abundance.

It is known that each year, pink snapper aggregate in Cockburn Sound from September to December to perform spawning activities, during which time the fish are highly vulnerable to overexploitation. Pink snapper being a keystone predator (i.e. a predator regulating the abundance of its preys by exerting an intense predation), the collapse of Cockburn Sound population would have severe repercussions in the ecological equilibrium of Cockburn Sound, and adversely affect biodiversity.

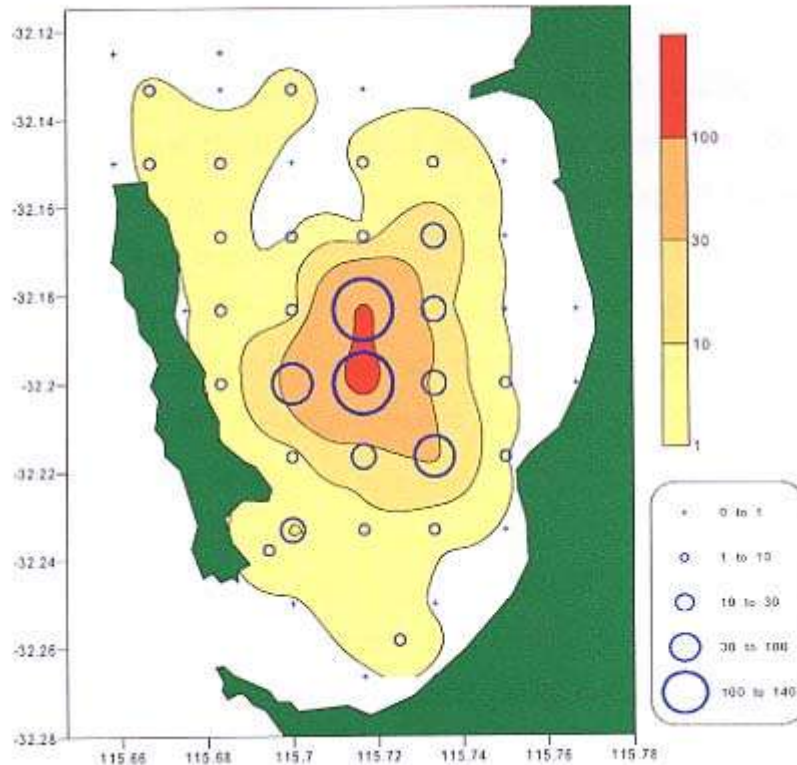
The aim of this project was to generate knowledge on the Cockburn Sound pink snapper in order to conduct a proper management and preserve the viability of this fish stock. Specifically, the project pursued the following objectives:

1. *To determine if the part seasonal closure is effective in protecting the spawning aggregations;*
2. *To determine population biology parameters: age at first reproduction; growth rates; fecundity; size (numbers of adult fish) of the Cockburn Sound population;*
3. *To assess if exposure to the contaminated waters of Cockburn Sound reduces the viability of the egg or reduces larvae survival;*
4. *To determine if the history of the fish is embedded in the fish's ear bones using otolith microchemistry.*

### Results Obtained

*Objective 1: To determine if the part seasonal closure is effective in protecting the Cockburn Sound spawning aggregation.*

The location of the spawning sites of snapper in Cockburn Sound has shown little interannular variation. Figure 1 shows the location of the major spawning site, which appeared to be the same in years 2002 and 2003.



**Figure 1.** Preferred spawning areas for pink snapper. White represents low spawning, red is an intense spawning area (from Wakefield 2002).

This spawning area is one of the deepest parts of Cockburn Sound, demonstrating that pink snapper's preferred spawning location is in profound waters with minimal disturbances. Similarly to the spawning location, the spawning rhythm has shown only slight temporal interannual variation. At the peak of the spawning season, the daily spawning activity is correlated to environmental cues, predominantly lunar phases, tides and water temperature.

In this regard, the 2002 and 2003 peak spawning activities occurred *after* the termination of the closing season, i.e. after the re-opening of fishing to recreational anglers. This result is significant as it demonstrates that the part seasonal closure occurs too early in the season. A part-seasonal closure later in the season would more effectively protect the spawning aggregation. This significant result was submitted to Fisheries Western Australia who is responsible for the management of this fish stock.

**Objective 2:** *To determine population biology parameters: age at first reproduction; growth rates; fecundity; size of the Cockburn Sound pink snapper population (work performed by Corey Wakefield).*

Sampling of a large number of sites for collection of eggs was performed from a boat. Several sampling trips have been conducted in Cockburn Sound during the 2002 and 2003 spawning seasons. Pink snapper eggs were collected from the boat the Spadidae, kindly provided and operated by the Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLO) from the Department of Fisheries Western Australia.



**Figure 2.** The Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers' boat, the Sparidae, was used for sampling pink snapper eggs in Cockburn Sound.

The population biology parameters of a fish population require a large number of individuals to be collected and analysed. This part of the study is still underway (by Corey Wakefield). Fish frames were sought from recreational fishermen during reproductive season to assess size at maturity, fecundity (batch and total), and spawning times (moon phase, time of day). The Lottery Commission and the Gordon Reid Foundation were acknowledged at every contact with recreational fishermen. This information provided by recreational anglers represents a vital prerequisite to estimation of breeding stock size by the daily egg production method. This exercise which includes gonad histology is still underway as a large number of fish is required to obtain confidence in the results.

Preliminary results indicate that:

- a) The Cockburn Sound Pink snapper reaches first reproduction at 3 or 4 years in average (compared to 4 to 5 years old for the Shark Bay pink snapper population).
- b) Water temperature has a significant effect on the growth rate, meaning that Cockburn Sound fish could be smaller at a specific age, than their cousins from Shark Bay.
- c) A 4-year old female pink snapper produces about 150 000 eggs in one spawning season. However, larger females produce much larger number of eggs, sometimes over 1 000 000 eggs.
- d) The size, or number of individuals, in the Cockburn Sound pink snapper population is still being assessed. To do so, the egg density is estimated in the water column. Knowing approximately how many eggs are spawned per female, the number of female fish can be extrapolated. Figure 3 shows the eggs being collected from the water column.



**Figure 3.** Sampling pink snapper eggs with plankton nets.

**Objective 3:** *To assess if exposure to the contaminated waters of Cockburn Sound reduces the viability of the egg or reduces larvae survival.*

To do so, freshly spawned eggs were obtained from Fremantle TAFE hatchery. Developing embryos were exposed to 1, 10 and 100  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  of the following contaminants commonly found in Cockburn Sound:

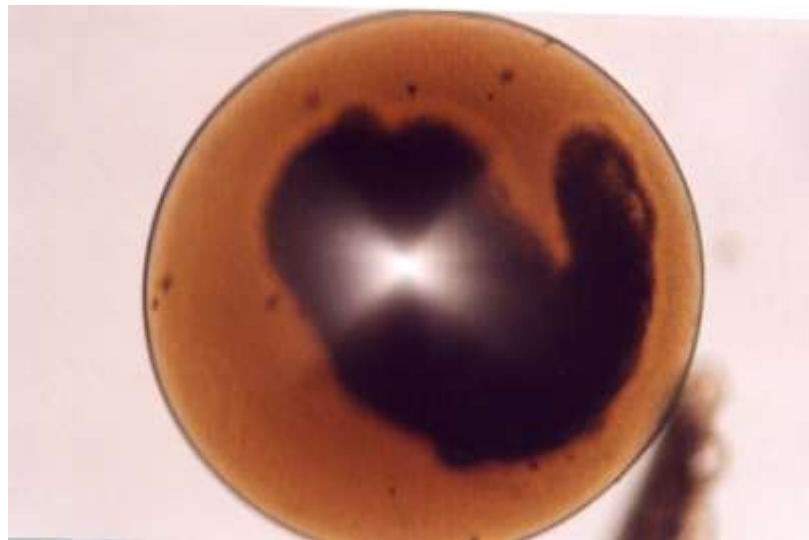
- Tributyltin (TBT, antifouling biocide)
- Diuron (agricultural pesticide)
- Sea-Nine 211 (4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, potential replacement for TBT in antifouling paints)

Realistic concentrations would be close to, or lower than 10  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and only exceptionally would environmental concentrations reach 100  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . The 19 development stages of pink snapper eggs were previously determined (Norriss and Jackson, 2002) and formed the basis for this specific part of the project. Freshly spawned eggs were exposed during their embryonic development to individual contaminants, and observations on survival, anomalies and deformities were made under microscope.

Preliminary results indicate that even at the lowest concentrations of TBT and Diuron, abnormalities are observed. The occurrence of anomalies is still under investigation, however the most common anomalies observed are curvature of the vertebral column and liquefaction of the egg.



**Figure 4.** Normally developing pink snapper embryo (left); pink snapper embryo exposed to  $1 \text{ ug L}^{-1}$  TBT, showing curvature of the vertebral column and atrophy of the yolk (right).

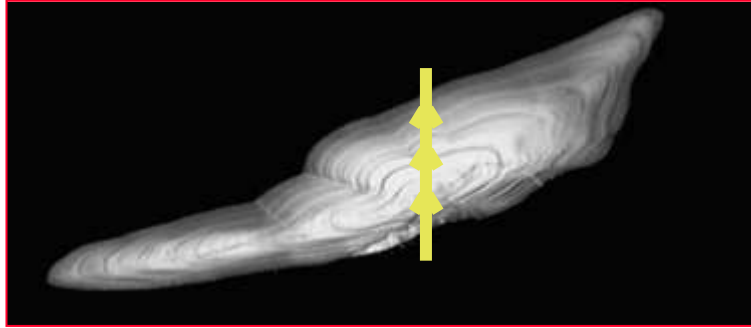


**Figure 5.** Pink snapper embryo exposed to  $10 \text{ ug L}^{-1}$  of Diuron, showing death of the embryo and liquefying of the egg.

Further investigation on the adverse effects of contaminants on the developing pink snapper egg is underway, including determination of the precise occurrence of deformities induced by the contaminant at each concentrations. Additional funding has been provided by Curtin University to complete this part of the project.

**Objective 4.** *To determine if the history of the fish is embedded in the fish's ear bones using otolith microchemistry (work performed by Melinda Ranaldi)*

Otolith (ear bones) were collected from frames obtained from commercial fishing industry (Kailis, Fremantle) and from recreational fishermen. This work is being performed by Melinda Ranaldi. Preliminary results indicated that while elements such as Barium and Selenium seem to be under physiological control, Manganese and Magnesium are potential markers of chronic contamination to which the Cockburn Sound pink snapper is exposed.



**Figure 6.** Pink snapper otolith. The otolith is sectioned by laser ablation, and the vapour created is analysed for microtraces of heavy metals.

Following the preliminary results, additional experiments were undertaken and are still ongoing. These experiments expose live juvenile pink snapper to various heavy metals in an attempt to determine the reliability of various metals for use as long-term indicators of past exposure of fish to contamination. Additional funding has been provided by Curtin University to conduct these experiments.

### Summary

Overall, the project was successful at generating new knowledge on the Cockburn Sound pink snapper population. The major conclusions resulting of this project are:

1. Presently, the part seasonal closure occurs before the peak spawning activities. It is believed that delaying or extending the part seasonal closure could further protect the spawning aggregations. This possibility is being considered by fisheries management authorities.
2. The spawning locations and spawning times show little inter-annual variations
3. Population biology parameters are still being assessed. Preliminary results indicate that fish spawn at 3 to 4 years old, and each female produces at least 150 000 eggs per spawning season.
4. Manganese and magnesium are potential markers of past exposure of pink snapper. Otolith can be used as archives of exposure to contamination. Further studies are underway.
5. Pink snapper developing embryos and larvae are very sensitive to contamination by TBT, Diuron or Sea-Nine which cause deformities and death.

The identification of peak spawning times versus the part seasonal closure is a major point of this study, and will significantly contribute to the protection of the Cockburn Sound Pink snapper population.

### References

Norriss J.V., Jackson, G. 2002. Identifying the developmental stages of preserved eggs of snapper, *Pagrus auratus*, from Shark Bay, Western Australia, Fisheries Research Report No. 142, Department of Fisheries, Western Australia, 29p.

Wakefield C., 2002. The spatial and temporal spawning behaviour of snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) in Cockburn Sound, Western Australia. Honours thesis, Department of Environmental Biology, Curtin University, Western Australia, 71p.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the Gordon Reid Foundation and Lottery West for their support. The financial assistance provided allowed to generate new knowledge useful in protecting the Cockburn Sound pink snapper. The contribution was acknowledged during every contact with recreational fishermen (collecting fish frames). We also acknowledge the significant participation of the VFLOs (Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers) who provided the boat *Sparidae* as well as a huge man-power necessary for the project.

The project funded by the Lottery Commission, Gordon Reid Foundation formed the basis to additional projects investigating further the health of the Cockburn Sound pink snapper. We expect to publish our results in local newspapers as well as in scientific journals. The Lottery Commission WA and the Gordon Reid Foundation will be acknowledged in each communication.



(The West Australian, December 10, 2002)

The sustainable exploitation of the Cockburn Sound pink snapper population is of economical, social and ecological relevance. Pink snapper is a long-lived fish (up to 20 years) with very slow growth.