



**recfishwest**

annual report 2010



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## CHAIRMAN

**Andrew Matthews**

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Executive Director  
**Frank B Prokop**

Principal Policy Officer  
**Kane Moyle**

Regional Policy Officer  
**Andrew Rowland**

## AUDITOR

Chartered Accountants  
**Anderson Munro & Wylie**

Administrative Manager  
**Con Costa**

Administrative Officer/Fishing  
Clinic Coordinator  
**Yvette Guy**

Administrative Assistant  
**Jenny Travis**



## Chairman's Report

Welcome to the Recfishwest 2009/10 Annual Report. I would firstly like to thank the Board members for generously donating their time to serving Recfishwest during 2009-2010, particularly regional Board members for travelling locally and to Perth representing views to the Board from their respective communities.

This year has proved a very dynamic period for recreational fishing and Recfishwest, with significant increases in responsibilities and productivity. Formalisation of consultation processes between fisheries peak bodies, managers and government has improved engagement between stakeholder groups significantly, as well as added additional demands and challenges on Recfishwest staff and resources.

Mid-year in 2009, Recfishwest was finally granted responsibility by the Minister for Fisheries, Norman Moore for coordination of regional consultation and advice on all recreational fisheries management issues. This culminated in a new partnership agreement between Recfishwest and the Department of Fisheries, which I believe is well earned recognition by government and marine managers that our organisation offers a unique opportunity in proactively promoting regional dialogue with communities on local management issues, while spreading the educational message of responsible and sustainable fishing.

This new role included additional financial funding under a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Fisheries, which has helped secure the medium-term viability of this organisation.

At the October 2009 Recfishwest Annual General Meeting a new Constitution was introduced and an expanded Board elected, including regional representatives from the four bio-regional areas, South Coast, West Coast, Gascoyne and Pilbara/Kimberley. This new Board member structure has brought refreshing new perspectives and ideas to the table, with robust discussions guaranteeing well considered positions on recreational fishery issues.

The state-wide Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence implementation, Peel-Harvey crab resource sharing, commercial demersal gill netting and recreational fishing resource sharing issues on both the West Coast and South Coast, as well as reduced possession limits and area closures for West Coast demersal scalefish have all been such issues which encouraged vigorous discussion in the community as well as our Board. More recently the Board has had to consider the recommendations from the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee on the West Coast demersal IFM sectoral allocations, after Recfishwest hosted an extensive series of well received community consultation meetings.

## Chairman's Report (continued)

With the new consultation role and responsibilities this organisation has adopted, the need to develop a new short to medium term Strategic Plan was recognised. A priority action from this was to develop a communication strategy with the aim to increase Recfishwest profile amongst the recreational fishing community with particular focus on regional centres. This has included a re-branding of Recfishwest; including our company logo which the Board believes better represents the work Recfishwest undertakes on behalf of the Western Australian recreational fishing community.

Supported by Regional Policy Officer Dr Andrew Rowland, over the last twelve months Recfishwest have very effectively engaged with the general angling public on a range of locally important issues as well as state wide topics. We have also progressed appropriate education and extension strategies in partnership with the Department of Fisheries to better communicate important management matters as well as new rules and regulations.

Highlights of this year have been many including the collecting Barramundi brood-stock for eventual restocking into Lake Kununurra, Broome Sailfish Tagging Program, new Recfishwest website and progress identifying and nominating the first Wilderness Fishing Areas in Western Australia. There has also been a new partnership formed with Woodside Energy Ltd to promote the "Community Fishing Clinic Program" to North West children, including the Shire of Ashburton's highly successful Onslow Youth Outreach Program which Recfishwest and the Shire of Ashburton have facilitated since 2007 giving enthusiastic participants the opportunity to try their hand at fishing. I would like to thank these partners as well as Healthway for their generous support promoting healthy participation in recreational fishing to the general community.

2011 will bring further exciting challenges for recreational fishing, such as the formalisation of recreational fishing licence revenue account management, definition of recreational property rights for the administration of the recreational catch allocations, simplification and standardisation of fishing rules and ongoing debate concerning Marine Park Planning processes. These and no doubt many other significant issues will keep Recfishwest Board and staff occupied over the next six to twelve months.

I would like to lastly thank and congratulate the Recfishwest staff Yvette Guy, Jenny Travis, Con Costa, Dr Andrew Rowland, Kane Moyle and Executive Director Frank Prokop for their diligence, dedication and achievements during the last twelve months. Their unwavering support and advice provided to the Board, Executive and Committees has been greatly appreciated. We are very proud of their professionalism and ongoing successes representing Western Australia's recreational angler's interests.

Thank you all for your contributions this past year, I'm sure the Staff and Board including the newly elected members will warmly welcome your continuing support.



**Andrew Matthews**  
Chairman



## 1.2 The Board

The Recfishwest Board is elected from the Recfishwest membership at the Annual General Meeting. A strategic planning session held by the Board in May 2009 recommended a restructure to the Recfishwest Board. This restructure was endorsed at a Special General Meeting held in August 2009.

The new structure involved the creation of four bioregional Board member positions as well as five positions for Recfishwest association members that are elected from the Recfishwest membership. The new Recfishwest Board contains 15 members comprising of six (6) public, five (5) association and four (4) bioregional members (See Figure 1.1). The Board has a non-voting Chairman elected by the Board of Management.

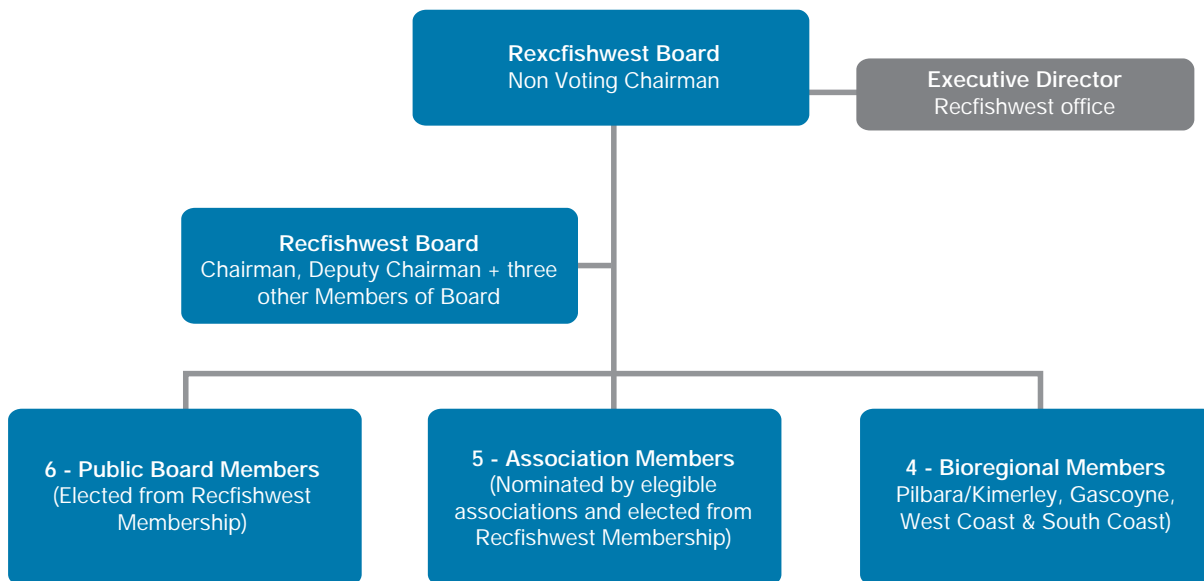


Figure 1.1: Recfishwest Board Structure



### Mr Andrew Matthews

Chairman – Public Member

Andrew is a very keen recreational fisher with wide ranging fishing experience throughout Western Australia on a broad range of species. Andrew has been widely published in a number of fishing magazines and writes regular columns for Snagged magazine. Andrew Matthews has professional training in the area of botany and plant ecology. He therefore has a good understanding of ecological processes and ecosystem management.

Andrew was re-elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009 for a 2 year term. Andrew was elected Chairman of Recfishwest for 2009/10 at the November 2009 Board Meeting.

## 1.2 The Board (continued)



### **Mr Fraser Hocks**

Deputy Chairman – Public Member

Fraser is an active member of Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club (MAAC) and Western Australian Trout and Freshwater Fishing Association (WATFFA) and has fished in New Zealand, UK, Tasmania and throughout Western Australia. Fraser has also been an active recreational diver for over 14 years and was involved in the Samson Science project throughout its life and was the organiser of the ASI groyne cleanup.

Fraser was elected to the Recfishwest Board for a 1 year term as backfill for the Chairman position following voting at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009. Fraser was elected Deputy Chairman of Recfishwest at the November 2009 Board meeting.



### **Mr Craig Leatt-Hayter**

Public Member – Chair of the Sports Development Committee

Aside from occupying a senior position within the WA Department of Health Craig's other interests include Post Graduate studies at Curtin University; sitting on the Council of the Australian College of Health Service Executives (WA Branch) and putting together a series of Team orientated bream fishing competitions as part of the ABT Swan Classics. Craig has represented Western Australia in the 2006 Australian finals of the ABT Bream Fishing competition held in Ballina NSW.

Craig has been a Board member since 2006 and has been Chairman for 2 years. Craig was re-elected to the Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2008 for a 2 year term. He was elected Chair of the Sports Development Committee for 2009/10 at the November 2009 Board Meeting.



### **Mr Norman Halse**

Public Member – Chair of the Policy Development Committee

Norm Halse is an agricultural scientist by training and worked for forty years with the Western Australian Department of Agriculture, finishing his career as Director General. Norm has been a member of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Chairman of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. Norm has served in a number of government committees including as Recfishwest's representative on the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee (RFAC) and member of the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC).

Norman has been Chairman of the Policy Development Committee for three years, Deputy Chairman of Recfishwest for two years and Chairman for two years. He is Chairman of the Policy Development Committee for 2009/10. Norman has been a Board member of Recfishwest for twelve years. He was re-elected at the Annual General Meeting in October 2008 for a 2 year term.



**Mr Jamie Chester**  
Public Member

Jamie Chester holds a Bachelor of Science from UWA where he majored in marine biology and zoology. He has written over 50 articles for Western Angler magazine as well as national fishing magazines. Many of these articles have focussed on the biology and politics behind fisheries management in Western Australia. Jamie brings scientific understanding, passion and a fresh approach representing the next generation on the Board of Recfishwest.

Jamie was re-elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009 for a 2 year term.



**Mr Steven Gill**  
Public Member

Steven has extensive experience in the fishing industry in a range of different roles. The majority of Steven's working life has been spent working with the fishing industry in research roles. More recently, he has had industry advocate roles as the Executive Officer of the NSW Seafood Industry Council and the Master Fish Merchants Association of Australia.

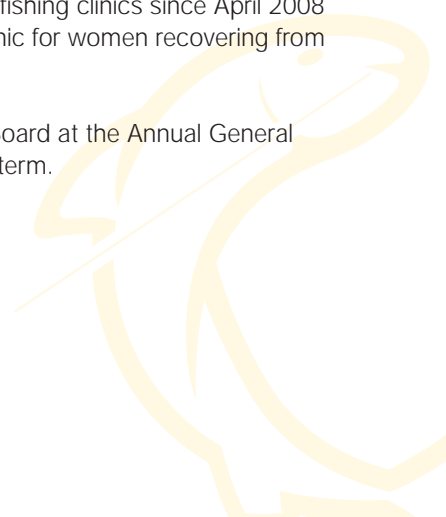
Steven was re-elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2008 for a 2 year term.



**Miss Lisa Hill**  
Public Member

Lisa is a graduate of the Recfishwest Young Future Leader's course who has made remarkable progress in recreational fisheries management. Lisa has a Bachelor of Education and is a columnist and TV presenter for Fishing WA. She is also a past member of the WA Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) and also a member of the National RFAC established in Canberra. Lisa has been an instructor at the Recfishwest fishing clinics since April 2008 and organised the Pink Fly Fishing Clinic for women recovering from breast cancer in December 2008.

Lisa was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009 for a 2 year term.



## 1.2 The Board (continued)



### **Mr Terry Fuller**

Association Member (Australian Anglers Association) - Chair of the Communications Committee

Terry has a keen interest in the planning for Marine Parks in both State and Commonwealth waters. Terry challenges the “just close it off” ideologies, with particular emphasis on the justification for and location of no take sanctuary zones, to keep the planners informed about and focussed on using proper assessments of the risks and realities of recreational fishing. Terry is also a member of the Jurien Bay Marine Park Community Advisory Committee. Terry has a technical background, training and work experience as an Engineer.

Terry is a member of the Recfishwest Executive, the Finance Committee, has chaired the Policy Development Committee for two years and the Communications and Membership Committee for two years.

Terry was re-elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009 for a 2 year term. He was elected Chairman of the Communications Committee for 2009/10 at the November 2009 Board Meeting.



### **Mr John Webber**

Association Member (West Australian Game Fishing Association)

John has been a member of Perth Game Fishing Club since 1976 and was created a life member in 2000 for his services to the club and has been a committee member and the weigh master for nearly 25 years. John who was also on the original Recreational Fishing Council doesn't mind acknowledging that he's fished all over the world and believes that Western Australia has some of the best and unique fishing available anywhere.

John was re-elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009 for a 2 year term.



### **Mr Tim Carter**

Association Member (Australian Fishing Tackle Association)

Tim has been the Marketing Manager of Halco Tackle Company for the past four years and deals with members of the community and the fishing tackle industry both on a domestic and international basis and is well versed with the issues facing the recreational sectors from both an industry and anglers perspective. Tim has been an enthusiastic fisherman all his life and a current member of the Perth Game Fishing Club. He joined the Perth Game Fishing Club in 1986 and won the clubs Champion Angler and was also the Champion Angler in the WA Open Gamefishing for that same year.

Tim was re-elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009 for a 2 year term.



**Mr Joe Petrovich**

Association Member - Spearfishing Commission (WA) of Australian Underwater Federation

Joe Petrovich has been recreational line and spearfishing for the last 40 years. Joe has visited and fished in most of Western Australian waters. Joe has worked extremely hard on issues such as access, equity in management and the display of divers flags by snorkelers. Joe has been representing spearfishing interests on the Board of Recfishwest for the last 3 years.

Joe was re-elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009 for a 1 year term as one of five Association Board Members of Recfishwest.



**Mr Matthew Howard**

Association Member – Charter Boat Owners and Operators Association

Matt Howard has owned and run a charter business Apache Charters since 1999. Matt has fished in the West Coast, Gascoyne and Pilbara regions since that time. Matt is a past member of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee representing charter fishing interests. Matt has been actively involved in recreational fishing interests on behalf of the CBOOA, including representing them on the stakeholder summit on west coast demersal fisheries management.

Matt was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009 for a 1 year term.



**Mr Michael Heslewood**

Bioregional Member – West Coast

Michael has a strong desire to play a part in the long-term sustainability of the current fisheries within WA so they continue to provide the same level of enjoyment to many future generations to come. His personal philosophy is that fishing is about getting a feed as well providing an experience and sociability to many families while doing it. He has also had experience in the commercial fishing industry including wetline fishing as well as beach seine netting for salmon, whiting, herring, mullet, whitebait and other species.

Michael was elected unopposed to the Recfishwest Board in October 2009 as the West Coast Bioregional Board member for a 2 year term.

## 1.2 The Board (continued)



### **Mr Jay Wheelock**

Bioregional Member – Pilbara/Kimberley

Jay Wheelock has been living in Dampier for the past ten years. In that time he has been a committee member of the Nickol Bay Sport Fishing Club for the past 8 years and has been the club's Tagging Coordinator for the past four years. He has also been a key organiser of the Dampier Billfish Shoot-out.

Jay was elected unopposed to the Recfishwest Board in October 2009 as the Pilbara/Kimberley Bioregional Board member for a 2 year term.



### **Mr Brian Deering**

Bioregional Member - Gascoyne

Brian Deering has lived in Exmouth for the past 29 years. He is a lifetime member of Exmouth Volunteer Marine Rescue, the assistant Weigh Master of the Exmouth Game Fishing Club and a member of the Saltwater Flyrodders of WA. Brian is a past member Exmouth Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee where he served for ten years. He has experience in many kinds of fishing in both salt and fresh water.

Brian was elected unopposed to the Recfishwest Board in October 2009 as the Gascoyne Bioregional Board member for a 2 year term.



### **Mr Mark Halse**

Bioregional Member – South Coast

Mark Halse is a professional fishing guide along the South Coast of WA. He has an intimate knowledge of the region's waters and maintains close contact with the fishers who use them. Mark keeps constantly aware of issues and strategies that face recreational anglers. Mark is a persistent campaigner for the improved management of fisheries in the estuaries and rivers of the South Coast. Mark's passion for fishing saw him represent WA in the 2005 Australian Bream Fishing Tournament Grand Final. Mark also writes for Western Angler magazine and has appeared on numerous TV and DVD fishing shows.

Mark was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2009 as the South Coast Bioregional Board member for a 2 year term.

## 1.3 Board Member Attendance at Board Meetings

### Attendance of Board Members at Board Meetings (Total 11 meetings July 09 – June 10)

Mr Andrew Matthews (Chair Nov 09 – June 10)	10
Mr Craig Leatt-Hayter (Chair July 09 – Oct 09)	10
Mr Joe Petrovich	11
Mr Norman Halse	10
Mr Terry Fuller	9
Mr Jamie Chester	8
Mr Tim Carter	8
Mr Steven Gill	7
Mr John Webber	6

### New Board Members elected at the October AGM (7 meetings between Nov 09 – June 10)

Miss Lisa Hill	6
Mr Fraser Hocks	5
Mr Matthew Howard	2

### Bioregional Board Members elected at the October AGM (3 bioregional meetings between Nov 09 – June 10)

Mr Michael Heslewood	6
Mr Mark Halse	4
Mr Brian Deering	3
Mr Jay Wheelock	1

### Board Members not re-elected at October AGM (4 meetings between July 09 – Oct 09)

Mr Des Wood	4
Dr Andrew Rowland	3
Mr Harry Vosper	3
Mr Matt Gillett	1



# Executive Director's Report



Reflecting on the past year's business and achievements should clearly signify a change in direction for Recfishwest. We have undergone a significant restructure to our Board and corporate image, taken increased responsibility for recreational fishing consultation in Western Australia and expanded our professional resources in welcoming two new staff members to our hard working team.

You may have noticed that the 2009/10 Annual Report has undergone a similar revamp aimed at improving the way we communicate our achievements and business for the year. In reading you should notice the past year has seen some significant achievements, some of which Recfishwest has been working on for nearly a decade.

It is important that we celebrate these achievements, but at the same time continue to seek out the next challenge to improve recreational fisheries in Western Australia.

Recfishwest has put a greater focus on identifying our major strategic issues and opportunities facing our recreational fisheries to help guide our business. Our latest Strategic Plan has set out a clear blue print for the next two years and ultimately our success as an organisation should be based on our ability to deliver against these. As always the day to day operational issues will continue to arise and should not be ignored, but it is important that we don't lose sight of these bigger issues.

While any change always brings some level of uncertainty, Recfishwest has approached it with confidence and optimism that we have an important role to play in fisheries management in Western Australia. I believe our ability to contribute and influence fisheries management for the better has never been stronger. However, with that ability to influence comes a great responsibility in ensuring that we deliver a quality recreational fishing experience for WA recreational fishers.

I must thank the Minister for Fisheries for his strong support for Recfishwest and the role we have to play in recreational fisheries management in WA. The Department of Fisheries has similarly put their support behind the role of Recfishwest and early in the year signed a service level agreement with Recfishwest to deliver consultation for recreational fishing.

It has also been encouraging to see a changing of direction within the Department of Fisheries towards habitat and stock enhancement. In May 2010 we saw the release of barramundi juveniles into Dampier Creek and the commencement of broodstock collection for the potential stocking of Lake Kununurra with barramundi. While still small in scale, these projects indicate a willingness to objectively assess stock enhancement projects on their merit. Recfishwest views these as major priorities for future recreational licence revenue expenditure.

The introduction of the Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence and restructure of the recreational fishing licence system in 2010 has resulted in an increased revenue base for recreational fisheries management in Western Australia. This will provide opportunities for future funding for priorities identified by recreational fishers; but is not an infinite amount of money. Successful projects resulting from this increased licence revenue will hopefully provide wider support for the value of recreational fishing licenses.

Recfishwest's relationship with the WA Fishing Industry Council continues to be strong. New CEO, Anna Cronin, has been a welcome fresh face to the industry. Changes to Fisheries consultative arrangements have seen a number of direct negotiations between Recfishwest and WAFIC on issues of conflict between recreational and commercial fisheries. These are so far providing some encouraging negotiated outcomes and will continue to be a focus in the future.



Internally Recfishwest faces a number of challenges in the coming year. Recfishwest recently received the terrible news that Frank Prokop has been forced to undergo his fourth bout of surgery to remove cancerous tumours. It is that reason that I see myself in the position of writing this year's Executive Director's report in the capacity of 'acting'.

I am amazed at the positive attitude that Frank takes into this significant challenge and the Board and staff look forward to him returning fit and healthy soon. Whilst this unfortunate circumstance may not have been planned, Frank has been preparing and mentoring me to fill this role over the past 12 months as he has planned to take long service leave for a period of 6 months beginning in November 2010.

Frank's misfortune has fast tracked my preparation for this stint in the Executive Director's chair. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead and will continue to strive to do my best in leading an excellent team.

Recfishwest has been fortunate to welcome Dr Andrew Rowland to the role of Regional Policy Officer late in 2009. Andrew has well and truly hit the ground running in this position and achieving great success in the fisheries bio-regions. His approachable nature and strong communications skills have been a valuable acquisition to this important role. Andrew has also been selected to take part in the FRDC national seafood industry leadership program and will complete the course in late 2010.

The organisation has also welcomed to our team Jenny Travis in the role of Administration Assistant. Jenny has provided valuable assistance to Con Costa in the day to day running of Recfishwest. Con is vitally important to the running of this organisation and his assiduous approach to his work ensures the organisation runs smoothly.

Our Fishing Clinics program continues to grow in popularity

through the guidance of Fishing Clinic Coordinator, Yvette Guy. In 2010, Recfishwest welcomed Woodside Energy as a partner of our Northern Tour. This partnership has strong synergies in the similar messages both organisations promote through the sustainable use of natural resources. Recfishwest looks forward to continuing this partnership into the future.

Finally I would like to thank the Board of Recfishwest for their contribution to the recreational fishing sector. The Board have embraced the many challenges encountered in the past 12 months and should be commended in the way they objectively assess issues. The recreational fishing sector is well served by their representation.

**Kane Moyle**

Acting Executive Director



## Section 2: Report of Operations

# The significant issues, challenges and achievements



### 2.1 West Coast Demersal Scalefish Management

In September 2009, the Minister for Fisheries announced a raft of new management arrangements for recreational fishing of demersal scalefish in the West Coast bioregion (Kalbarri to Augusta). These included;

- A mixed bag limit of two “high risk” demersal scalefish species, of which only one may be a dhufish, will apply in the West Coast Bioregion (Kalbarri to Augusta);
- A boat limit of two dhufish applying in the West Coast Bioregion (six for charter boats);
- A “release weight” required when fishing from a boat in the West Coast Bioregion;
- A two-month seasonal closure (for boat and shore fishing) on the take of “high risk” demersal scalefish by recreational fishers in the West Coast Bioregion applying from 15 October to 15 December inclusive; and
- A state-wide Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL) introduced with an annual fee of \$30;

These arrangements were based around meeting a biological target of at least a 50 per cent reduction in catch from 2005/06 levels in this fishery. Whilst Recfishwest had some objections to the prescribed rate of reductions we clearly recognised that some action had to be made to ensure the sustainability of key species like dhufish and pink snapper.

This decision marked the culmination of nearly 18 months of consultation on how the recreational fishery should be managed in meeting the required reduction. This has been a significant issue that has taken a considerable amount of Recfishwest’s resources in reaching a finalised position.

While the final arrangements resulted in significant reductions in the recreational fishery there were some important achievements. Recfishwest strongly advocated for the carriage of a release weight to be compulsory for anyone who landed a west coast demersal species. Research has proven that the release weight dramatically improves survival of dhufish.

The Minister has made a commitment to review the success of these management arrangements after 12 months. Recfishwest is expecting the outcomes from this review in October 2010.



**Figure 2.1:** A juvenile dhufish ready for release via a release weight. It is now compulsory that a release weight be carried on a boat fishing for demersal scalefish in the West Coast region.

## 2.2 Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence

On 2 March 2010 the \$30 Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence was implemented together with a restructure to the other recreational licensed fisheries. Rock Lobster, Abalone, Freshwater Fishing, Netting, Marron were standardised to a fee \$40 and the previous umbrella licence was removed.

The implementation of this new licence has been projected to increase the amount of revenue collected from licensed fisheries to approximately \$4.9 million (See Figure 2.2).

This diagram outlines the two revenue streams of the Recreational Fishing Account (RFA), namely the tax payer funded Consolidated Account (~ \$13m) and the recreational fishing licence funded Recreational Fishing Fund (~ \$4.9m). Towards the later part of 2010, the Department of Fisheries and Recfishwest have begun cooperatively developing a consultation model for the future management of the RFA.

The Minister for Fisheries has indicated that he would like to receive advice on expenditure against the Recreational Fishing Fund from Recfishwest. A focus for Recfishwest in 2010/11 will be developing the consultation arrangements for how this advice will be developed independent to the Recfishwest Board.

### 2.2.1 Recfishwest priorities for Recreational Fishing Fund expenditure

Recfishwest has already identified the following priorities for expenditure against recreational licence revenue.

#### 1. Habitat enhancement – artificial reefs

Increased fishing opportunities while maintaining biodiversity and/or providing offsets to recreational fishing restrictions and closed areas. Priorities will be assessed on their return of benefits to the recreational fishery and regional economy.

#### 2. Stock enhancement

The stocking of important marine and freshwater recreational fishing species. Priorities include barramundi, snapper, mullet, bream, marron and eventually dhufish and King George whiting.

#### 3. New & novel techniques to quantify recreational catch

A research tool that utilises recreational fishers to supply a consistent stream of catch data to complement other fisheries dependent and independent sampling. This may include expanding the existing Research Angler Program (RAP).

### Recreational Fishing Account (Total ~ \$17.9m)

■ Recreational Fishing Consolidated Account (CA) ■ Recreational Fishing Fund (RFF)

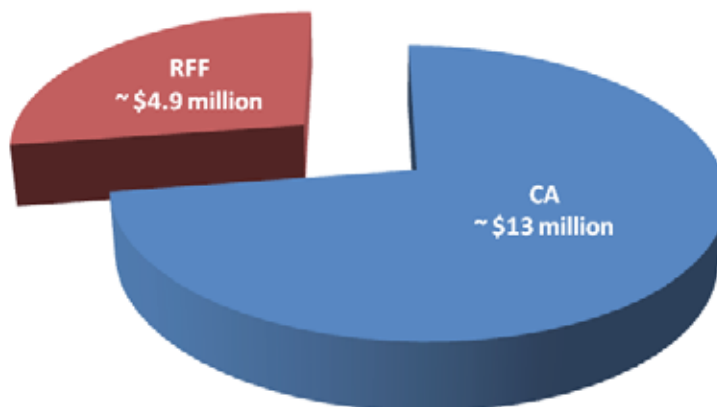


Figure 2.2: Distribution of funding in the Recreational Fishing Account 2009/10.

## Section 2: Report of Operations (continued)

### 4. Social and Economic Research

Recfishwest believes that stock assessments are a core function of the Department of Fisheries, but social and socio-economic research, including behavioural responses to fisheries management is needed to better employ adaptive management of our allocated share of the resource.

### 5. Community education projects

Projects such as the revitalisation of the VFLO program is essential to build upon recreational fishing community good will.

### 6. Fish tagging - Enhanced recreational engagement

Recreational tagging in a planned and considered manner can provide valuable information for fisheries research and management at the same time providing significant additional stewardship for the resource.

### 7. Small grants for regional projects

Small allocations of funding to enhance recreational fishing experiences and infrastructure in regional areas, examples include educative signage and fishing safety initiatives. This is viewed as essential by our regional constituents.

## 2.3 Habitat and Stock Enhancement

### 2.3.1 Dampier Creek Barramundi

Due to the nature of fingerling production, from time to time the Broome Aquaculture Centre (Kimberley TAFE) is left with barramundi fingerlings surplus to industry orders and teaching needs.

In early 2010, Recfishwest and the Broome Aquaculture Centre approached the Department of Fisheries for permission to release approximately 750 surplus juvenile Barramundi into Dampier Creek which borders the Broome Township. Dampier Creek is a very popular fishing spot and the location where the parents of these fish had been collected over the past few years.

In a small win for Broome recreational fishers and a big win for those juvenile individuals of this iconic species, Department of Fisheries granted a green light for release. The historic release took place at on Saturday, 1 May 2010 in Dampier Creek and launched by Member for Mining and Pastoral Region, Hon. Ken Baston, MLC.

Recfishwest has welcomed the Department of Fisheries objective assessment of the risk posed by releasing these fish into the wild. Setting these fish free has marked the first ever sanctioned release of barramundi into WA waters.

Broome locals have commended this superb initiative which will enhance the fishing quality in Dampier Creek and the community ownership of the highly prized barramundi resource.



**Figure 2.3:** Frank Prokop and Jeff Cooper inspect a juvenile barramundi before release

### 2.3.2 Lake Kununurra Broodstock Collection

The establishment of a recreational barramundi fishery at Lake Kununurra has long been an aspiration of the East Kimberley recreational fishing community and an outcome strongly supported by the former East Kimberley RRFAC. Indeed, it was this vision that compelled the formation of the community based Lake Kununurra Fish Stock Enhancement Committee over 10 years ago.

Recfishwest believes that it is time for Western Australia to follow the lead of Queensland where barramundi have been successfully stocked into over 50 impoundments and waterways demonstrating a multitude of community benefits. Recfishwest has been a proponent for the stock enhancement of Lake Kununurra for many years.

The first stage in commencing a breeding program for the purpose of fish stocking is the acquisition and acclimatisation of genetically compatible broodstock. In the early part of this year Recfishwest approached the Department of Fisheries for a small allocation of funds to enable the collection of barramundi broodstock from the Ord River catchment.

In May 2010 Recfishwest's Frank Prokop and Andrew Rowland joined the Broome Aquaculture Centre (Kimberley TAFE) and recreational fishers of the East Kimberley in an operation to collect adult barramundi. In total 19 fish were captured from the lower reaches of the Ord River and transported over 1000km to the specialist facilities in

Broome. All fish survived the journey well and are currently acclimatising to captivity. Spawning of these fish will be attempted within the next 12 months.

A detailed proposal regarding the stocking of barramundi into Lake Kununurra is currently being developed by the West Australian Fish Foundation (Inc) with support from Recfishwest.



**Figure 2.4:** Ord River Barramundi loaded for transport to Broome.

## 2.4 Resource Sharing Negotiations

During the past 12 months Recfishwest has held numerous meetings to discuss resource sharing issues that have arisen in various fisheries in WA. Recfishwest, together with the WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC), have coordinated these meetings to provide a forum to discuss issues between stakeholders face to face. This process allows greater stakeholder involvement and shows considerable promise as a way of resolving disputes over fisheries resources and catch sharing issues. Face to face discussions break down perceptions, improve understanding of differing viewpoints, allow local people to resolve issues locally and create opportunities to find common ground and reach agreement on solutions. Whilst Recfishwest acknowledges that some disputes will not be resolved through this process, we believe that face to face discussions should be the first step and should not be discounted altogether.

### 2.4.1 Demersal Gill Netting and Longline Fishery

Recently Recfishwest has received many concerns from recreational fishers about the way in which the Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fishery (commonly called the Shark Fishery) functions along certain parts of the coast. Particular concern has been expressed about gillnets being set in areas close to shore and recreational access points. The use of demersal gillnets in close proximity to important recreational fishing spots is creating conflict.

Recfishwest has been negotiating with the commercial sector to find solutions which will lessen this conflict. Recfishwest and WAFIC have held meetings in Bunbury and Manjimup with recreational and commercial fishing representatives to discuss issues of concern.

Recfishwest has recently provided the commercial fishing sector with specific areas where we would like to see netting discontinued. These negotiations are continuing and Recfishwest is confident that together with the commercial sector, a suitable solution will be found.



## Section 2: Report of Operations (continued)

### 2.4.2 Peel/Harvey Estuary

In late 2009, Recfishwest and WAFIC wrote jointly to the Minister for Fisheries seeking his support to initiate a process to develop a set of recommendations for the sustainable and equitable use of fish and crab resources in the Peel/Harvey Estuary. As a result, the Minister advised his support for this process going ahead with the view to providing advice back to him for the 2010/11 season.

Recfishwest and WAFIC enlisted the expertise of a group of prominent local recreational fishers and members of the Mandurah Licensed Fisherman's Association to be involved in these negotiations.

At the time of writing Recfishwest and WAFIC were finalising this resources sharing agreement. Recfishwest believes that that co-management of fisheries resources in the Peel-Harvey has the potential to be highly successful. Both the recreational and commercial sectors would like to maintain a healthy, strong and viable estuarine fishery near Mandurah. Recfishwest believes that a co-management arrangement will allow fishing sectors to work together effectively on common threats and challenges to the estuary such as new canal developments, pollution and catchment management issues.

### 2.4.3 South Coast Estuaries

Recfishwest has identified south coast estuaries as a priority area for fisheries management reform.

In recent years the recreational value of south coast estuarine waterways has increased considerably. With the increased use and status of these estuaries has come increased competition between sectors for space, particularly in estuaries close to major regional centres. Recently conflicts between the recreational and commercial fishing sectors have flared in Oyster Harbour (Albany). In May 2010 Recfishwest met with recreational and commercial fishing representatives to discuss resource sharing issues in Oyster Harbour. One of the major outcomes of this meeting was a decision to take a holistic approach to management changes and consider all south coast estuaries at the same time. As a result, Recfishwest and WAFIC met with the Department of Fisheries in June to discuss a strategic approach to the future management of these important community assets.



Figure 2.5: An article from the Mandurah Mail 20 May 2010



## 2.5 Marine Parks



### 2.5.1 Commonwealth Bioregional Marine Planning

Commonwealth Bioregional Marine Planning is an issue with the potential to affect recreational fishers on a state-wide basis. At this stage the Commonwealth Department of Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) has identified some board areas of interest termed Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) for the South-west and North-west regions. Recfishwest has provided advice and feedback to DEWHA regarding these AFAs which has hopefully been taken into account during the development of the draft Marine Bioregional Plans for each of these regions.

These draft plans are well over due and have been delayed even further due to the recent federal election being called. However, when released, stakeholders will be given a statutory consultation period at least 60 days to provide comments and submissions. During this period, Recfishwest will be undertaking extensive consultation to discuss any potential benefits or impediment of these Marine Parks to the recreational sector.

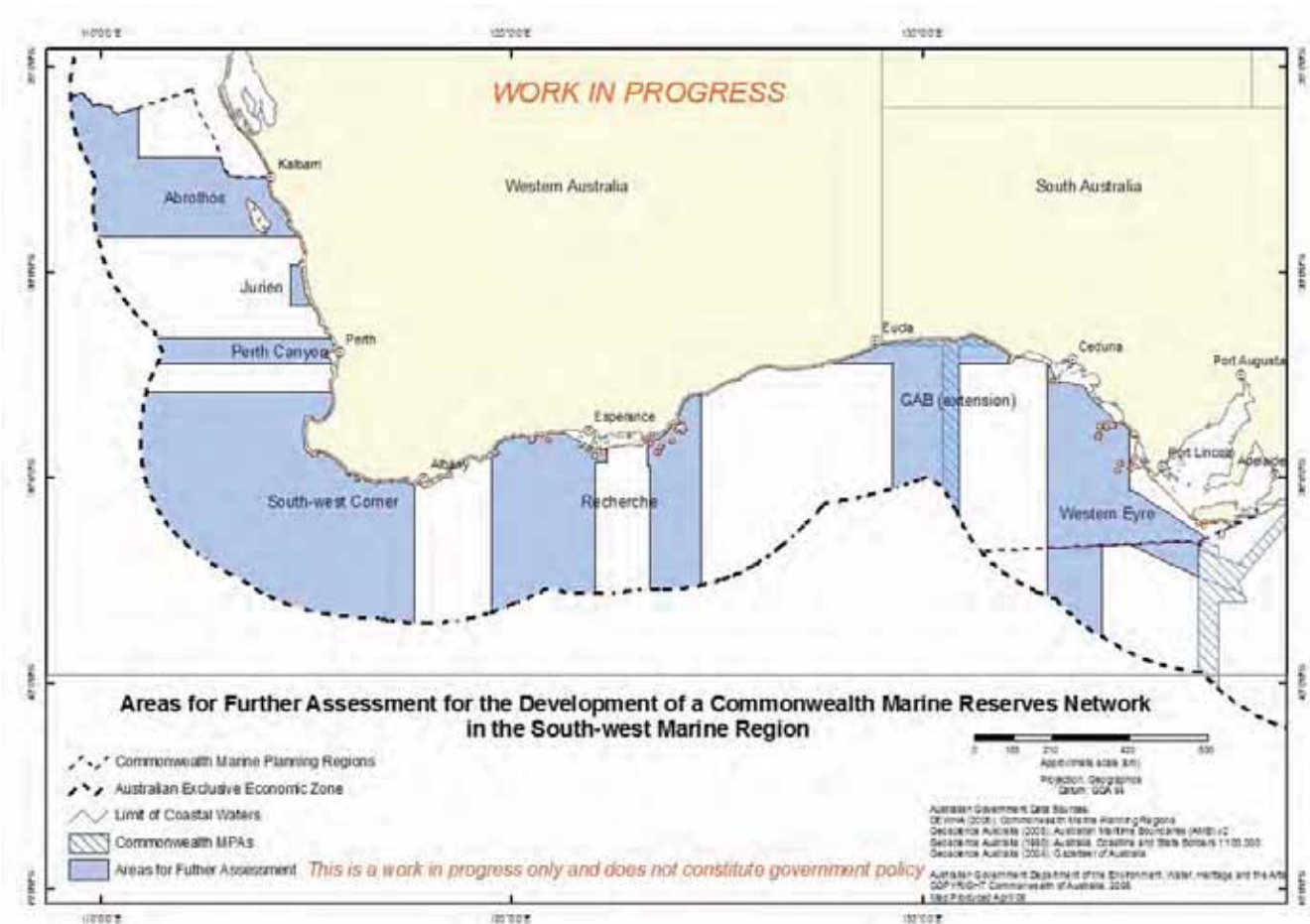
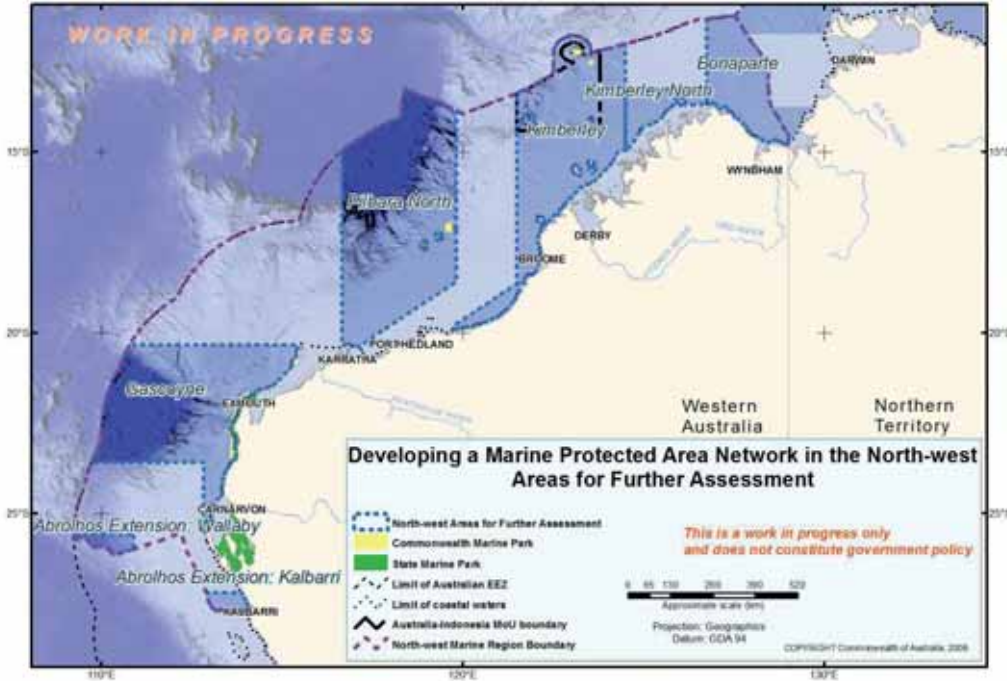


Figure 2.6: Areas for Further Assessment identified of the South-west region in the Commonwealth Bioregional Marine Planning process.

## Section 2: Report of Operations (continued)



**Figure 2.7:** Areas for Further Assessment identified of the North-west region in the Commonwealth Bioregional Marine Planning process.

### 2.5.2 State Marine Parks

There has been little development in State based Marine Park Planning during the past 12 months. In October 2009, Premier Colin Barnett and Environment Minister Donna Faragher announced that the State would establish a marine park in the Camden Sound area in the Kimberley region. A draft management plan is currently being prepared. When released this draft will incur a three-month public comment period, at which time Recfishwest will be undertaking consultation to provide comment on behalf of the recreational fishing sector.

### 2.5.3 Wilderness Fishing

Recfishwest has supported for a long time the establishment of some of Western Australia's coastal areas or rivers as wilderness or low impact fishing areas. Our Strategic Plan has identified the northern regions of the state as the priority area for identifying and implementing the first Wilderness Fishing Area in Western Australia.

Recfishwest's definition of a Wilderness Fishing Area is an area in which fishing regulations prevent the accumulation of fish and their removal from that area. Fishing should be only for 'catch and release', where careful release of fish is possible, or for consumption in the area.

In recent years interest has been shown towards establishing a Wilderness Fishing Areas in the Gascoyne region. Recfishwest often receives reports of increasing fishing pressure in highly valued recreational fishing locations, once thought of as being remote. Recfishwest is currently exploring some potential options for the creation and management of such an area on the eastern side of Exmouth Gulf. The process of implementation of this type of marine spatial management will be a long and complex. Any decisions regarding the creation of a WFA need to consider numerous characteristic such as, cost, community acceptance, level of compliance, simple rules and likelihood of government agreement.

Recfishwest believes that Wilderness Fishing Areas have a high potential to fit within Marine Park frameworks and be seen as an alternative to marine sanctuaries whilst still being attractive to people interested in catch and release fishing.

## 2.6 Improving our Communications

### 2.6.1 Communications Strategy 2010-2012

In the past, Recfishwest communications have focussed primarily on our membership base and not the wider recreational fishing public. As the government recognised peak body for recreational fishing, Recfishwest has a responsibility to provide wider communications amongst our stakeholders. The Board of Recfishwest has raised concern that Recfishwest's role is still poorly understood amongst the recreational fishing public.

Recfishwest has recently taken over responsibility from the Department of Fisheries for regional consultation on recreational fisheries management issues. This new role has come with additional financial resources under a service level agreement with the Department of Fisheries. Recfishwest views effective communications as being particularly important in ensuring improved regional consultation.

The development of an effective communications strategy is essential for ensuring that coordinated, informative and cost effective information is disseminated amongst our stakeholders. An effective strategy should also provide avenues for communication of information from recreational fishers to Recfishwest.



### Key strategies to come out of the review include;

#### Expand and enhance electronic communications

- Expand the use of email which provides the most cost effective direct communication channel with the most of the Recfishwest membership base and other stakeholders.
- "Casting around the Internet with Recfishwest" provides a popular and effective news information tool. Review visual appeal and distribution.
- More regular news articles specific to Recfishwest issues and activities should be sent to stakeholders via email.
- Investigate the use of electronic communications for Annual and Special General Meeting notices and voting.
- Ensure members without email or internet access receive some regular information.

#### Redesign and increase capabilities of website

- Invest in the redesign of the Recfishwest website to improve presentation, content and ease of use.
- Increase capabilities of the website to poll opinions of recreational fishers and provide complete online membership and payment.
- Investigate what information appeals to grass roots and occasional recreational anglers to increase access to the website and dissemination of information.
- Maintain regular and updated content for the website.

#### Review Recfishwest's membership structure

- Explore avenues to increase membership and review structure to increase communication with recreational fishers.
- Provide incentives for recreational fishers to become members.
- Increase recognition and understanding of Recfishwest amongst recreational fishers
- Review Recfishwest branding to increase recognition of Recfishwest and a better understanding of Recfishwest's role and value.
- Apply branding consistently in all Recfishwest printed and electronic publications and communications as the opportunities arise.

## Section 2: Report of Operations (continued)

### Build on the Recfishwest fishing clinic program

- Continue to recognise and promote this as a valuable communication and education tool for recreational fishing youth.
- Review and update educational messages conveyed through the fishing clinic program to ensure they are relevant and suitable.
- Increase clinics with regional communities and utilise as a vehicle for delivery of regional consultation with recreational fishers.

### Enhance relationships and partnerships with fishing media and tackle stores

- Use these as an important communication medium for recreational fishers.
- Provide regular Recfishwest content for publishing in fishing media.
- Regularly meet with representatives of the fishing media, tackle and other industries to inform of important recreational fisheries management issues.

### 2.6.2 New Recfishwest Logo

For a bit over ten years our logo has featured an illustration of a tailor (previous to that it was a tuna) against an oval background, coloured yellow and blue. Yellow representing sunny skies and blue, representing the ocean and waterways of Western Australia.

Whilst the logo has served us well over the years, the feeling amongst our members has been that it does not readily identify with recreational fishing in Western Australia.

It was clear that the Recfishwest logo had to better reflect who and what Recfishwest is about. So a generic image of a fish covering ocean, estuarine and freshwater on the end of a line, along with the map of WA unmistakably represents recreational fishing in Western Australia. We feel that this new logo will serve us well into the future and meaningfully reflect Recfishwest's objective of representing the interests of recreational fishers in Western Australia.



Old Recfishwest logo



The new Recfishwest logo

## Section 3: Regional Consultation



### 3.1 Regional Policy Officer's Report

Twelve months in the new role as Regional Policy Officer for Recfishwest has been exciting, challenging and rewarding. Although the issues facing recreational fishing vary considerably throughout W.A., the strong desire to ensure resource sustainability and high quality recreational fishing experiences is consistent.

By far the most common issue of concern to recreational fishers on a state-wide basis is lack of Fisheries and Marine Officers to enforce fishing rules. Some of this concern has recently been addressed by the Department when they introduced 13 new recreational only Fisheries Officers in July this year. This announcement included a Fisheries Officer posting in Kununurra, an area which in the past has been patrolled by officers from Broome over 1000km away. The fact that this is the number one issue in WA demonstrates that the recreational fishers are highly mindful of resource sustainability and ensuring an excellent quality fishing future.

In the northern portion of the state, many have concerns over the ever increasing recreational fishing effort due to the mining driven population increase and the lack of fisheries resources available to deal with this increase. Numerous companies, for example, are promoting working in the Pilbara for the fantastic fishing opportunities the region provides. Whenever possible, we consult with these companies to discuss the environmental and social implications of developments in marine areas in to an effort to alleviate impacts and provide benefits to recreational fishers. For example, this year Woodside funded a sailfish tracking study in Broome in conjunction with the local fishing club due to concerns about the proximity of the James Price Point development to prime sailfish grounds. This project, the first of its kind in the Indian Ocean, will greatly enhance our understanding of sailfish in WA and will link in with

monitoring programs focussed on gas developments in the region.

Commonwealth Bioregional Marine Planning is another issue with the potential to affect recreational fishers on a state-wide basis (see section 2.5.1). Recfishwest has been involved in collecting information on areas used by recreational fishers which fall within the large areas under consideration for marine planning. Recfishwest has been constantly providing updates to DEWHA regarding areas important to recreational fishers in an effort to have these fishing activities considered during the planning process. We believe that in many instances certain types of recreational fishing can be compatible with marine conservation zoning. For example, trolling for highly migratory pelagic species such as marlin is compatible with benthic habitat protection zones, particularly when quite often water depth in areas of interest exceeds 500m. Recreational fishers around the state are keen to have involvement in the marine planning process but are often frustrated by a system which limits opportunities for input during the planning stages.

In addition to Bioregional Marine Planning, recreational fishing issues in the southern half of the state have been dominated by the sharing of fisheries resources between the commercial and recreational sectors and the management of demersal scalefish. These issues are detailed in previous sections of the Annual Report.

This year Recfishwest introduced four new regional board members. Each one of these members represents one of the bioregions used by the Department of Fisheries for management purposes, i.e. Pilbara/Kimberley, Gascoyne, West Coast and South Coast. Each of our regional board members has a strong knowledge issues affecting recreational fishing in their part of W.A. Over the past 12 months they have provided valuable input and assistance in addressing many of the issue that Recfishwest has dealt with. Recfishwest will be looking build on some of our regional successes over the next 12 months and these board members will play a pivotal role in this expansion.

**Andrew Rowland**  
Regional Policy Officer



## Section 3: Regional Consultation (continued)

### 3.2 New Regional Consultation Structure

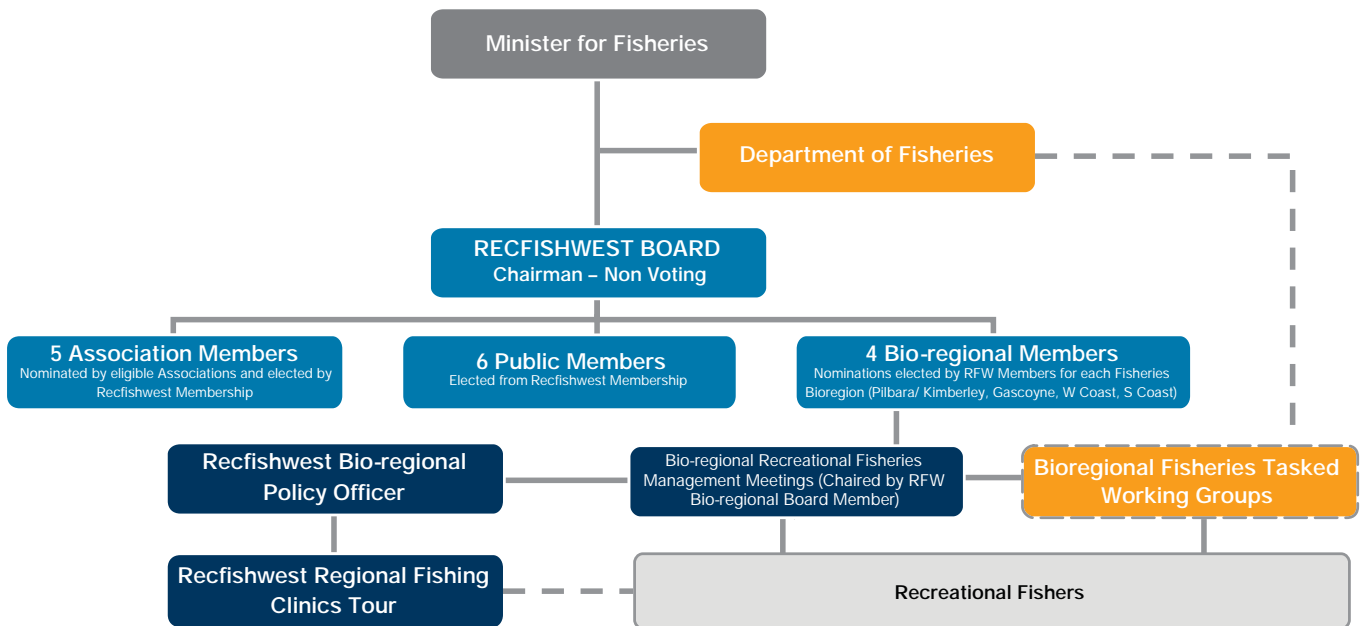
In 2009 Recfishwest implemented a new model to deliver improved recreational fisheries consultation in regional Western Australia. A driver for this structure has been the Department of Fisheries reform to consultative structures to improve their efficiency, cost effectiveness and flexibility to deal with fisheries management issues.

Recfishwest's Board has endorsed a regional consultation model that required a restructure of its office and Board to better service regional recreational fisheries management issues (Figure 3.1). A restructure of Recfishwest's Board in conjunction with servicing of regional areas through a Regional Policy Officer should ensure a responsive and accountable system for fisheries management consultation.

A key driver for this change has been to engage at a regional, regional centre and local angler level. The Board strives to promote quality ideas for improved fisheries management through a transparent process.

Recfishwest has been trying to extend its presence in regional areas for some time and the changes to consultative structures recently announced gives it the challenge to extend its advocacy and representational roles for recreational fishers to all of Western Australia. Recfishwest has a record of timely and professional response to issues and this extended role gives it the opportunity to demonstrate this in regional areas.

The process clearly separates the role of the Department as steward of the resource from the advocacy and representation roles that Recfishwest fulfils. Recfishwest is happy to be held accountable against the performance criteria in this document and further negotiation will be needed during the operational phase of this three year plan to ensure that Recfishwest is adequately resourced to deliver the agreed outcomes.



### 3.3 Delivery of Regional Consultation Services

Since the signing of the Service Level Agreement for Recreational Fishing Consultation between Recfishwest and the Department of Fisheries in October 2009 the following has been delivered;

- Employment of a Regional Policy Officer and Administrative Officer.
- A commitment to delivering a minimum of 2 meetings per major regional centre per year. This milestone has been exceeded in the 9 months since October 2009 (See Figure 3.2).
- Development and documentation of a list of bioregional priority issues as part of this consultative process. This

has been completed along with a 6 month review of progress against these priorities (appendix 1).

- Recfishwest has held 28 meetings on regional recreational fishing issues and had direct contact with ~ 1000 recreational fishers in regional areas.
- Cross sectoral issues between Recfishwest and WAFIC have been addressed through the entry of cooperative resource sharing negotiations e.g. Demersal Gill Netting, Peel/Harvey Estuary & South Coast Estuaries.
- Recfishwest had additional contact with regional centres through the Northern Fishing Clinic Tour during April and May 2010. This program was externally funded through Woodside and Healthway. Recfishwest has planned a Sothern Fishing Clinic Tour for October and November this year.



LOCATION	NO. OF MEETINGS
Kununurra	2
Broome	3
Dampier/Karratha	2
Exmouth	2
Carnarvon	2
Geraldton	3
Jurien Bay	1
Bunbury	2
Busselton	2
Manjimup/Walpole	4
Albany	3
Esperance	2

**Figure 3.2:** Recfishwest meetings in major regional centres on recreational fisheries issues.

# Section 4: Fishing Clinics Program



## 4.1 Fishing Clinic Co-ordinator's Report

Recfishwest conducted a total of 58 clinics with over 1,600 participants during 2009/2010.

During this past year, Recfishwest is very pleased to welcome new sponsor, Woodside Energy Ltd, joining long standing partner Healthway as it embarked on visiting regional centres with the Northern Community Fishing Clinics program from Carnarvon to One Arm Point during April and May 2010.

Woodside recognised the important role they play in north-west communities and are fostering the sustainable fishing message in partnership with Recfishwest. Through the Recfishwest / Woodside Community Fishing program, smaller communities such as Warralong and One Arm Point also received fishing clinics.

The fishing program included 21 clinics and over 650 participants. Townships visited included Carnarvon, Exmouth, Onslow, Karratha/Dampier, Port Hedland, Broome and Derby as well as the remote communities of Warralong and One Arm Point. Acknowledgement must go to all our presenters on the tour.

The fishing clinic program once again visited the South-West township of Bremer Bay during the January 2010 school holidays with two clinics and a total of 60 participants. "Carnarfin" fishing clinic was also held in Carnarvon in June 2010 with a total of 100 participants and co-ordinated by Wally Dale with support from Recfishwest of tackle boxes, hats and water bottles.

Once again Recfishwest held a Pink Fly Fishing clinic in late October 2009 with 30 women from the Dragon Boat Ladies Club. This event was the third Pink Fly Fishing clinic – "Fish and Fly" that Recfishwest has conducted with fly fishing being an

excellent form of recovery exercise for breast cancer surgery.

Craigie Leisure Centre and their "Golden Oldies", those participants aged over 50, enjoyed their fishing clinic at Woodman Point. These clinics prove to be very popular with this group as it is time spent socialising with friends and also for some, a new activity they haven't tried before.

As always, Metropolitan schools are very enthusiastic about the Recfishwest fishing clinics and many of these schools return each year with a new class of students. There were 20 clinics and a total of 421 participants with clinics held at the AQWA Jetty, Woodman Point, Pt Walter and Rottneest Island.

2009/2010 has been a very successful year for the Fishing Clinic Program. Relationships with major sponsor Woodside Energy and Healthway continue to be strong. It is proposed that a Southern Tour will take place during the latter part of 2010 visiting regional towns from Mandurah to Esperance.

Without the continued support and excellent work of our presenters Kim Burton, Paul Willis, Lisa Hill, Alan Guthrie and Terry Fuller, Recfishwest are able to continue to offer these successful fishing clinics to the children of Western Australia.

**Yvette Guy**  
Fishing Clinic Coordinator



Launch of the Woodside/Recfishwest Northern Tour 2010 at the Swan Brewery

## 4.2 Fishing Clinics 2009/2010

Date/Time	Location	School/Group	No. Of Participants
<b>14 Sept 09</b>	Lake Kununurra	Kununurra Community Clinic	100
<b>16 Sept 09</b> 3.15 – 5pm	Woodman Point	Hamilton SHS Cadets	20
<b>17 Sept 09</b> 9.30 – 11.30am	Pinaroo Point	Craigie Leisure Centre Over 50's	30
<b>25 Oct 09</b> 10 – 2pm	Maylands Sport & Rec Club	Dragon Boat Ladies	30
<b>27 Oct 09 - 2 clinics</b> 12.30 – 2pm 2.30 – 4pm	Pt Walter	Wesley College	44
<b>28 Oct 09</b> 8.30 – 3pm	Burswood	Have A Go Day	100
<b>29 Oct 09 - 2 clinics</b> 8.30 – 10am 10.15 – 11.45	Pt Walter	Wesley College	30
<b>4 Nov 09 - 2 clinics</b> 1 – 2pm 2 – 3pm	Rottnest Army Jetty	Hillcrest Primary School	35
<b>10 Nov 09</b> 9.30 – 11.30am	AQWA Jetty	Beechboro Primary School	31
<b>17 Nov 09</b> 10.30 – 12.30pm	Woodman Point	Clontarf Aboriginal College	20
<b>20 Nov 09</b> 10 – 12 noon	Woodman Point	Craigie Leisure Centre Over 50's	18
<b>18 Jan 10</b> 10.30 – 12 1.30 – 3pm	Bremer Bay	Bremer Bay Telecentre	60
<b>21 Jan 10</b> 10 – 12 noon	Rottnest Army Jetty	Rottnest Island Authority	16
<b>28 Jan 10</b> 9 – 11am	Rottnest Army Jetty	Rottnest Island Authority	16
<b>26 Feb 10</b> 9 – 11am	Pt Denison Marina	Dongara District School	30
<b>11 Mar 10 - 3 clinics</b> 9 – 10.30am 11 – 12.30pm 1.30 – 3pm	Rottnest Army Jetty	St Peters Wood	66
<b>16 Mar 10</b> 3 – 5pm	Woodman Point	Hamilton SHS Cadets	20
<b>30 Mar 10 - 3 clinics</b> 9 – 10.30 11 – 12.30pm 1.30 – 3pm	Rottnest Army Jetty	Penrhos College	62

## 4.2 Fishing Clinics 2009/2010 (continued)

Date/Time	Location	School/Group	No. Of Participants
<b>31 Mar 10 - 3 clinics</b> 9 – 10.30am 11 – 12.30pm 1.30 – 3pm	Rottnest Army Jetty	Penrhos College	62
<b>10 Apr 10</b>	Denmark	Willo Cup	20
<b>21 Apr 10 - 2 clinics</b> 9 – 11am 12 – 2pm	The T Jetty	East Carnarvon Primary	58
<b>22 Apr 10 - 2 clinics</b> 9 – 11am 12 – 2pm	The T Jetty	Carnarvon Primary School	28
<b>24 Apr 10</b> 8.30 – 11.30am	Exmouth Beach	Exmouth Game Fishing Club – Community Clinic	18
<b>28 Apr 10 - 2 clinics</b> 8.30 – 10.30am 11 – 1pm	Back Beach	Onslow Primary School	70
<b>30 Apr 10</b> 10 – 12noon 12.30 – 2pm	Dampier Beach	Millars Well Primary  Pegs Creek Primary	30  28
<b>1 May 10</b> 9.30 – 12.30pm	Dampier Beach	King Bay Fishing Club – Community Clinic	26
<b>2 May 10</b> 9.30 – 12.30pm	Dampier Beach	Nickol Bay Sports Fishing Club – Community Clinic	40
<b>3 May 10</b> 9.30 – 11.30am	Millars Well Primary School	Millars Well Primary	70 In house session
<b>4 May 10</b> 9.30 – 11.30am 12 – 2pm	Dampier Beach	Millars Well Primary  Pegs Creek Primary	30  30
<b>6 May 10</b> 9 – 11am	Spoilbank	Baler Primary School	28
<b>7 May 10</b> 11 – 1pm	Warralong Community	Warralong Community School	20 In house session

Date/Time	Location	School/Group	No. Of Participants
<b>9 May 10</b> 9.30 – 12.30pm	Broome Beach	Broome Fishing Club	15
<b>17 May 10 - 2 dry clinics</b> 10.30 – 12.30pm 1 – 3pm	One Arm Point School grounds	One Arm Point	27
<b>19 May 10 - 2 clinics</b> 8.30 – 10.30am 11 – 1pm	Broome Jetty	Broome Primary School	48
<b>20 May 10</b> 8.30 – 10.30am 11.30 – 1.30pm	Derby Jetty	Holy Rosary School Derby District High	27 30
<b>20 May 10</b> 9.30 – 11.30am	AQWA Jetty	Wesley College	25
<b>20 May 10</b>	Denmark Primary	Denmark Primary	30
<b>5 June 10</b>	Carnarvon Foreshore	Carnarfin	100
<b>17 June 10</b> 9.30 – 11.30am	Pt Walter	Mosman Park Primary	26
<b>29 June 10</b> 3 info sessions	Denmark High School	Denmark High School	116

Type of Clinic	No. of clinics	No. of participants
Metropolitan Schools	20	421
Community Clinics	17	556
Regional centres	21	623
Indirect contact		In excess of 6,600



# Appendix I: Recfishwest Strategic Plan 2010 – 2012

## Our Vision

To promote recreational fishing as a rewarding experience.

## Our Mission

Recfishwest to be the effective voice, in all forums, to promote the best interests of recreational fishers in Western Australia.

## Beliefs and values

- We recognise fisheries as a resource which must be managed in a sustainable way.
- We believe that recreational fishing is an acceptable, enjoyable and rewarding activity.
- We seek an equitable allocation of fishery resources for future generations that recognises, and allows for, natural growth of the Western Australian community.
- We believe that recreational fishing is an activity of economic, social and sporting value.
- We prioritise and communicate our activities and functions.
- We believe that fish in Western Australia are a community resource to be shared equitably.
- We provide comment on issues which have implications for the management of, or enjoyment of, recreational fishing. Where we do not agree with a proposal we provide alternatives and negotiate in good faith to achieve the best possible outcome for the resource and our constituents.

## Key Issues for Recfishwest 2010-2012

Recfishwest has recently taken over responsibility from the Department of Fisheries for regional consultation on recreational fisheries management issues. This new role has come with additional financial resources under a service level agreement with the Department of Fisheries. This funding will be up for review for the 2011/2012 financial year. Recfishwest sees the following issues as particularly important in ensuring improved regional consultation.

- Maintain a strong financial membership base with a particular focus on increasing regional membership.
- Allocation of Recfishwest resources and effort between supporting sustainability in fisheries management and pursuing recreational fishing development and enhancement opportunities.
- Create and maintain adequate links with the recreational fishing community of over 600,000 people.
- Maintenance of effective linkages with appropriate government agencies and peak bodies.
- Development of strategic linkages with other bodies for joint activities, sponsorship or other support.
- Definition of role and responsibilities of Recfishwest vis-a-vis Department of Fisheries in respect to activities such as regional servicing.
- Ensuring recognition of the social and community benefits of recreational fishing including as a compatible activity in marine parks and conservation estates.



## Priority Actions in Fisheries Bioregions

### Pilbara/Kimberley

- Commence stocking of Barramundi into Lake Kununurra with the longer term vision of establishing a world class impoundment sports fishery in Western Australia.
- Ensure recreational fishing interests are adequately considered in future mining developments and assist local fishing community groups in receiving adequate offsets relative to impacts.
- Represent recreational fishing interests in north-west commonwealth bioregional marine planning and future state based Marine Park planning in the Kimberley.

### Gascoyne

- Provide management advice on scalefish management and implementation of an Integrated Fisheries Management framework for relevant fisheries, including Spanish mackerel and demersal species.
- Progress towards identifying and implementing the first Wilderness Fishing Area in Western Australia.
- Ensure World Heritage listing for Ningaloo recognises recreational fishing interests.

### South Coast

- A review of commercial and recreational netting in south coast estuaries.
- Progress spatial/temporal separation of commercial demersal gill netting and recreational fishing interests.
- Progress Australian salmon and Australian herring resource sharing and in doing so recognising their significant importance to recreational fishers.

### West Coast

- Provide continued management advice on demersal scalefish management and review progress of dhufish and pink snapper management implemented in 2009. Monitor and advise on management of important recreational inshore species.
- Improve community awareness of environmental impact on recreational fishing.
- Identify and progress opportunities for enhancement of recreational fishing experience through stocking and/or artificial reefs.

### State Wide

- Simplification and standardising of recreational fishing rules and develop appropriate education and extension strategies in partnership with the Department of Fisheries.
- Formalisation of recreational fishing licence revenue trust fund management.
- Formalisation of consultation process and fisheries peak bodies engagement in the Aquatic Advisory Committee.
- Definition of recreational property rights for the administration of the recreational catch allocation.
- Improve two-way communication between recreational fishers and Recfishwest.
- Increase profile of Recfishwest with particular focus on regional centres. Develop a communication plan for Recfishwest in first instance.
- Promote responsible fishing practices through our Fishing Clinic Program.
- Continue to develop next generation of leaders in recreational fishing.
- Ensure development of quality research proposals that meet biological, social and economic needs. Ensure extension and adoption of relevant results.

## Recfishwest Strategic Plan 2010-2012 - Progress Update June 2010

Region	Progress Y/N	Update
<b>Pilbara/Kimberley</b>		
Commence stocking of Barramundi into Lake Kununurra with the longer term vision of establishing a world class impoundment sports fishery in Western Australia.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval for brood stock collection 21-25 June.</li> <li>Positive discussions with Minister's Office for future stocking of Lake Kununurra.</li> <li>WAFF (with support from Recfishwest) are developing formal proposal for future stocking of Lake Kununurra</li> </ul>
Ensure recreational fishing interests are adequately considered in future mining developments and assist local fishing community groups in receiving adequate offsets relative to impacts.	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishing Clinic funding received from Woodside for 2010.</li> <li>Sailfish tagging project for Broome Fishing Club being developed as a recreational fishing offset for the LNG Hub development at James Price Pt.</li> </ul>
Represent recreational fishing interests in north-west commonwealth bioregional marine planning and future state based Marine Park planning in the Kimberley.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recfishwest involved in discussions regarding Camden Sound Marine Park and proposed Kimberley Marine Park.</li> <li>Andrew Rowland has met with regional communities regarding commonwealth bioregional marine planning and important recreational fishing areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Gascoyne</b>		
Provide management advice on scalefish management and implementation of an Integrated Fisheries Management framework for relevant fisheries, including Spanish mackerel and demersal species.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recfishwest has received the Gascoyne and West Coast demersal scalefish IFM Allocation Report. Comment is due July 2010.</li> <li>Frank Prokop and Kane Moyle met with IFAAC in April to discuss implementation of demersal scalefish IFM.</li> </ul>
Progress towards identifying and implementing the first Wilderness Fishing Area in Western Australia.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board has identified the eastern side of Exmouth Gulf as the priority area to implement a Wilderness Fishing Area. A discussion document will be tabled at the July Board Meeting.</li> <li>Recfishwest still needs to consult with local recreational fishers about the proposal and implementation options with DoF and DEC.</li> <li>Recfishwest has signed an MOU with DEC that should help this process.</li> </ul>
Ensure World Heritage listing for Ningaloo recognises recreational fishing interests.	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No progress on this issue yet.</li> </ul>

Region	Progress Y/N	Update
<b>South Coast</b>		
A review of commercial and recreational netting in south coast estuaries.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Coast Estuaries Forum scheduled for 20 July with DoF and WAFIC.</li> </ul>
Progress spatial/temporal separation of commercial demersal gill netting and recreational fishing interests.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting held between recreational and commercial fishers in Bunbury to discuss resource sharing issues.</li> <li>• Recfishwest developing a resource separation proposal around important recreational fishing ports for consideration of WAFIC.</li> <li>• FRDC TRF submitted to quantify scalefish drop-out in demersal gill net fishery.</li> </ul>
Progress Australian salmon and Australian herring resource sharing and in doing so recognising their significant importance to recreational fishers.	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary discussions with DoF regarding this issue.</li> </ul>
<b>West Coast</b>		
Provide continued management advice on demersal scalefish management and review progress of dhufish and pink snapper management implemented in 2009. Monitor and advise on management of important recreational inshore species.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with DoF and Murdoch regarding inshore species research.</li> <li>• Review of West Coast demersal scalefish management not expected until late 2010.</li> </ul>
Improve community awareness of environmental impact on recreational fishing.	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new project or initiative developed, however, continue to push this message through Fishing Clinic program and in all media opportunities.</li> </ul>
Identify and progress opportunities for enhancement of recreational fishing experience through stocking and/or artificial reefs.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with DoF and Minister's staff regarding marine stocking and artificial reef opportunities in west coast bioregion.</li> <li>• Potential for licence funding to be leveraged with royalties for regions money.</li> <li>• Recfishwest has organised John Diplock to provide a guest lecture about artificial reefs to Woodside and Minister.</li> </ul>

Region	Progress Y/N	Update
<b>State Wide</b>		
Simplification and standardising of recreational fishing rules and develop appropriate education and extension strategies in partnership with the Department of Fisheries.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions held with DoF.</li> </ul>
Formalisation of recreational fishing licence revenue trust fund management.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalisation of financial structure of the Recreational Fishing Account (RFA).</li> <li>Formalisation of consultative structure for the Recreational Fishing Fund component of the RFA.</li> <li>Strong support from DoF for Recfishwest's proposed model.</li> </ul>
Formalisation of consultation process and fisheries peak bodies engagement in the Aquatic Advisory Committee.	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craig Leatt-Hayter represented on the Aquatic Advisory Committee.</li> <li>Aquatic Advisory Committee to be dealing with specific issues directed by the Minister.</li> </ul>
Definition of recreational property rights for the administration of the recreational catch allocation.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FRDC TRF submitted for a recreational property rights workshop in Melbourne. Recfishwest to be a co-investigator on this project.</li> </ul>
Improve two-way communication between recreational fishers and Recfishwest.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New website currently under construction. To include Polls and more interactive extension of Recfishwest business.</li> <li>Recfishwest Reel News developed</li> </ul>
Increase profile of Recfishwest with particular focus on regional centres. Develop a communication plan for Recfishwest in first instance.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recfishwest Communications Plan endorsed at March Board meeting.</li> <li>New Recfishwest logo completed.</li> <li>Progress being made on Recfishwest gaining access to licensed recreational fishers</li> </ul>
Promote responsible fishing practices through our Fishing Clinic Program.	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthway and Woodside sponsorship secured for 2010/11.</li> <li>Northern Tour 2010 completed. Southern Tour scheduled for 2010</li> </ul>
Continue to develop next generation of leaders in recreational fishing.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2008 Graduates continue to develop profile amongst the recreational fishing community.</li> <li>Plan to develop a proposal for 2nd Young Future Leaders program in early 2011.</li> </ul>
Ensure development of quality research proposals that meet biological, social and economic needs. Ensure extension and adoption of relevant results.	Progressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging discussions with WAMSI to develop a separate node focussing on social and economic research on recreational fishing</li> </ul>



**recfishwest**

FISH TODAY FOR TOMORROW

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)  
[www.recfishwest.org.au](http://www.recfishwest.org.au)

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