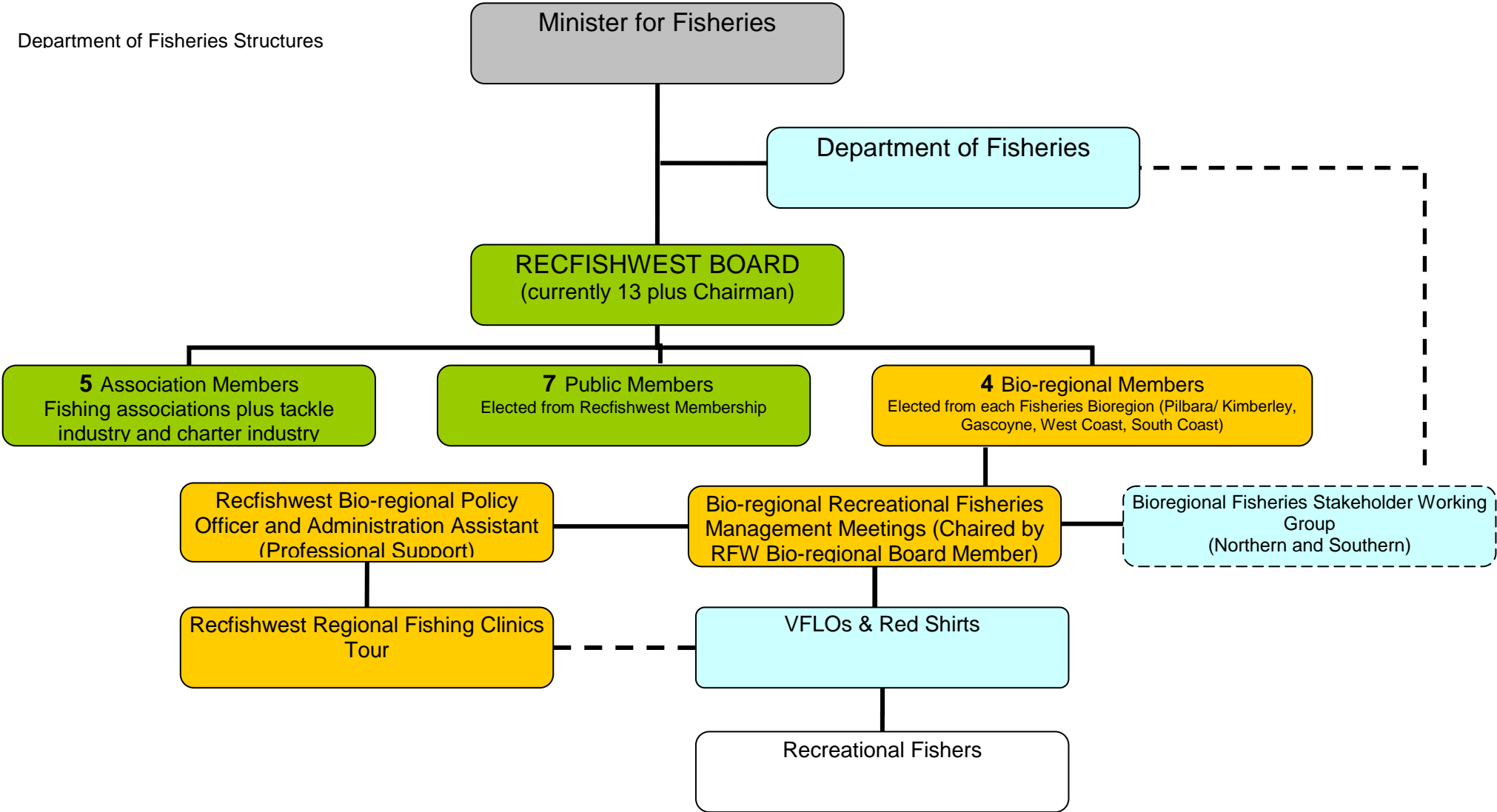


Recfishwest Proposed Consultative Structure Framework

- Recfishwest Existing Structures
- Recfishwest Proposed New Structures
- Department of Fisheries Structures



Recfishwest Consultative Structure Review

The Department of Fisheries is currently reviewing its consultative structures to improve their efficiency, cost effectiveness and flexibility to deal with fisheries management issues. Regional consultative arrangements have been a weakness of the current model and are an area that the Department is looking to improve. The Minister has advised the Department that he would like clearer lines of consultation and be receiving a majority of his consultation through the peak association bodies and the Department of Fisheries.

In meeting these needs Recfishwest will –

- Change its Board structure and Constitution to include bio-regional representation.
- Meet 4 times a year in each bioregion to address recreational fisheries management issues in the region.
- Meet twice a year in each major regional centre within each bioregion.
- Employ a bio-regional policy officer and part time administrative assistant to deliver these meetings.
- Formalise an MOU with the Department of Fisheries to ensure that VFLO and red-shirt programs are able to be meet the needs of Recfishwest for grass roots communication without compromising existing Departmental activities.
- Deliver a northern and southern fishing clinics tour to major centres in regional Western Australia which will include engagement on management issues.
- Contribute to the (proposed) northern and southern bioregional coordinating processes to ensure that recreational management proposals are consistent with the needs of other user groups.
- Contribute to the state based co-management group to ensure that strategic directions for bio-regional management are able to be consistently applied.
- Co-ordinate regional involvement in tasked working groups and other regional committees as required.
- Act as a conduit for regional priorities and ensure that responses and actions on matters of regional importance are progressed.
- Ensure that the level of engagement between regional and existing Recfishwest structures promote innovative and appropriate management strategies and are assessed in an objective manner.
- Continue to work with the Minister and Department of Fisheries on strategic and operational fisheries management matters.

Recfishwest Proposed New Structures and Functions

Recfishwest Board Restructure

In developing a Board structure that encompasses a greater bio-regional representation Recfishwest has considered two potential options. Essentially these options are bringing representatives from the regions to Recfishwest or bringing the Recfishwest Board meetings to the regions. Considering the substantial costs involved with sending 13 Board Members plus executive support to regional centres for quarterly meetings and the perception that Recfishwest would still be metropolitan focussed, it is deemed to be far more cost effective to bring 4 bio-regional members to Recfishwest for quarterly meetings (See budget breakdown for new Board Meeting costs).

Under this model the Recfishwest Board will change from meeting monthly to a full Board meeting quarterly. The Executive Committee will still meet monthly. If an issue requires a meeting outside this quarterly schedule, teleconferences will be used in preference to additional costs of flying regional members to Perth.

If regional members of the community will be taking time out of their day jobs to attend quarterly Recfishwest Board meetings there will be an expectation of some financial remuneration for their time. All travel costs are proposed to be picked up by Recfishwest as well as a sitting fee of \$100 for Recfishwest Board meetings. Sitting fees have not been historically paid to Recfishwest Board Members, however, are paid to the WAFIC Board Members as well as many government advisory committees e.g. RFAC.

The bio-regional Board Members, with the support of the Bio-regional Policy Officer, will be responsible for reporting recreational fisheries management issues to the Board and Executive for consideration. Their communication will also be two-way, reporting back to the regions outcomes of Recfishwest Board Meetings. They will be paid a sitting fee for coordinating quarterly (but offset) meetings in their bio-regions.

A restructure to the Recfishwest Board will require amendments to the Constitution and changes to how Board Members are elected. Association membership of the Board will be elected from the seven Associations that are Members of Recfishwest. The process as to how the Associations as well as the Bio-regional Members are elected to the Recfishwest Board will need to be discussed as part of a strategic planning exercise.

The issue of incorporation of the Charter Boat industry needs additional consideration.

Deliverables

2009/10 & 2010/2011

- Restructure Recfishwest Constitution to include Bio-regional representation.
- Election of Bioregional representative and new Board Members at the 2009 Annual General Meeting
- Recfishwest Board to change from meeting monthly to meeting quarterly with Bio-regional Board Members travelling to Perth for meetings.
- Recreational Fisheries Management Meeting to become the next tier below the Recfishwest Board and be held between each Board meeting. Chaired by the Bio-regional Board representative and meeting 4 times a year.

- Executive Meeting to meet monthly.
- Board Members to be paid a sitting fee of \$100/meeting.

Bio-regional Recreational Fisheries Management Meetings

These meetings are the next tier below Recfishwest Board meetings and will be an important forum for discussion and debate of recreational fisheries management issues. The bio-regional Recfishwest Board member will be responsible for calling and chairing these meetings and reporting outcomes back to the Recfishwest Board. It is expected that around four meetings/year will be held at the bioregional level with two meetings/year for the main centres in each bioregion. One will be part of a bioregional meeting and one will coincide with the Recfishwest Regional Fishing Clinics Tour.

The Bio-regional Policy Officer will attend these regional meetings and this will require a significant increase to the current travel budget (see budget). Previously, Recfishwest has relied on Department of Fisheries financial assistance to attend any regional fisheries management meetings. Under this proposed new structure and funding arrangements Recfishwest will have the financial resources for professional staff to attend regional meetings.

Recfishwest Bio-regional Policy Officer & Administration Support

Recfishwest proposes the establishment of a Bio-regional Policy Officer to provide support to the new regional consultation structure. This position will be responsible for coordinating meetings and advice on recreational fisheries management, marine parks and natural resource management from the bio-regions. This position will be based in the Recfishwest offices, however, will spend a significant amount of time travelling to regional meetings. The option of basing this position in the region has been considered, but given the infrastructure already exists in Perth and the logistically challenging nature of travel that would still be required for the other 3 bio-regions, it was decided that it would be best based in Perth. This position will report directly to the Principal Policy Officer.

Recfishwest has budgeted 0.25FTE for administrative support for this position. Support will be required in organising meetings, preparing agendas, taking minutes, ensuring actions are progressing and organising travel arrangements for Board and regional meetings.

Deliverables

2009/2010

- Recruit and employ a suitable person to the position of Regional Policy Officer.
- Recruit and employ a 0.5 FTE Administrative Officer to support Regional Policy Officer and Principal Policy Officer in delivery of Regional Consultation Model.
- Regional Policy Officer in conjunction with Executive Director canvasses potential Bio-regional Recfishwest Board Members for election at 2009 Annual General Meeting.
- Regional Policy Officer and elected Bioregional Board Members hold first Bioregional Recreational Fisheries Management Meeting in each Bioregion.

2010/2011

- Regional Policy Officer and elected Bioregional Board Member meet 4 times a year in each bioregion to address recreational fisheries management issues in the region.
- Regional Policy Officer co-ordinate regional involvement in Tasked Working Groups and other regional committees as required.
- Regional Policy Officer acts as a conduit for regional priorities and ensures that responses and actions on matters of regional importance are progressed.
- Regional Policy Officer develop a contact network of recreational fishers in each major regional centre within each bioregion.
- Regional Policy Officer work on developing an MOU with the Department of Fisheries to ensure that VFLO and Red Shirt programs are able to meet the needs of Recfishwest for grass roots communication.

2011/2012

- Continue to meet 4 times a year in each bioregion to address recreational fisheries management issues in the region.
- Formalise MOU with Department of Fisheries to engage with VFLO and red shirt program.
- Review engagement between regional consultative structures and the Recfishwest Board to ensure appropriate and innovative management strategies are assessed in an objective manner

Recfishwest Regional Fishing Clinics Tour

Recfishwest has run regional fishing clinic tours with the support of project funding from *Healthway* and the commonwealth government. These regional tours are important for building the profile of Recfishwest in regional areas along with promoting educational messages about sustainable recreational fishing practices.

These tours are dependent on annual project funding. With Recfishwest developing an increased regional consultation responsibility these regional tours become more important. The regional tours provide an existing structure for convening public meetings about regional fisheries management issues and could deliver both on regional consultation and education/extension priorities for Recfishwest and the Department of Fisheries. Recfishwest believes it would be far more cost effective to be funded to deliver both these services concurrently rather than doubling up travel expenses for regional visits. The capital cost for the coming year is for a vehicle that is able to transport the fishing clinics trailer. The current Recfishwest vehicle is not suitable for this purpose and has experienced mechanical difficulties when towing the trailer to places like Bremer Bay or Esperance.

Deliverables

2009/10, 2010/2011 & 2011/2012

- Conduct an annual Northern and Southern Regional Fishing Clinics Tour.
- Increase youth participation in fishing as a leisure activity, visiting at least 30 regional and rural communities annually with particular emphasis on remote and disadvantaged communities.
- Utilise the Regional Fishing Clinics Tour to conduct public fisheries consultation meetings in major regional centres.
- Continue promoting fishing as an alternative to drugs through our “Addicted to Fishing Not Drugs” message.

- Utilise the electronic and written media in both metropolitan and regional areas, delivering the “Fish for the Future”, “SunSmart” and other health messages.
- Ensure that at least five clinics are held targeting disadvantaged or Aboriginal persons per year.
- Provide written evidence of meeting these goals and objectives including provision of testimonials.

Department of Fisheries

- **VFLOs & Red Shirts**
Recfishwest believes that these programs are an important interface between grass roots anglers and their peak body. Recfishwest’s consultation process has highlighted a pathway for engaging with members of these programs so that issues can progress through the system to Recfishwest and then either the Department of Fisheries or Minister. It is important that a memorandum of understanding be developed so that these volunteers can provide management information to Recfishwest without compromising their duties in Departmental run programs. However, in many small centres, it is essential that Recfishwest be able to utilise these people who are already committed to sustainable fisheries management.
- **Bioregional Fisheries Stakeholder Working Group**
Recfishwest’s proposed structure has included a Bioregional Fisheries Stakeholder Working Group as we believe this is an important inclusion in the Department of Fisheries proposed structure. It is important that a forum exists where various industry stakeholders can discuss and debate fisheries management issues in the same room. Recfishwest suggests the establishment of a Northern and Southern Working Group, consistent with the Integrated Fisheries Management program of the Department of Fisheries. If such a forum is not present, then existing silo approaches between particularly commercial and recreational sectors will not be able to be transparently resolved.