

Mr Clinton Syers
Aquatic Charter Management Officer – Strategic Fisheries Policy
Department of Fisheries
3rd Floor, The Atrium
168 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Clinton

RE Proposed Fishing Tour Operators Licence Fee for 2010/11

Thank you for your letter, 24 March 2010, requesting comment from Recfishwest regarding the proposed fishing tour operator fees for 2010/11.

Recfishwest along with representatives of the Charter Boat Owners and Operators Association (CBOOA) has received a brief from the Department of Fisheries regarding these proposed changes.

Recfishwest supports the proposed licence fee structure incorporating the additional fee to generate approximately \$450,000 revenue in exchange for passengers requiring a Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL).

We believe this proposal will be a far simpler and effective system than requiring charter operators to ensure all passengers had purchased a RFBL before the commencement of each fishing tour. An upfront fee in proportion to passenger capacity should result in significant compliance and administrative savings for the revenue collected.

Recfishwest believes it is important that the system provides a level of equity between smaller and larger passenger operators. Recfishwest recognises attempts has been made for separate fees for Fishing Tour Operator Licences (FTOLs) licensed to carry more than 10 passengers and FTOLs licensed to carry between zero and 10 passengers. It is Recfishwest's preference that the CBOOA provide advice to the Department of Fisheries if this system adequately addresses the equity issue. Recfishwest would consider amendments to this structure to deliver greater equity between small and larger operators provided it still meets the target revenue of \$450,000.

Should you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me on (08) 9246 3366.

Yours sincerely

Kane Moyle
Principal Policy Officer

14 April 2010