

RECFISH
AUSTRALIA

Annual Report 2007-08

Our Mission

One voice promoting sustainable fishing and representing recreational fishers at a national level



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RECFISH AUSTRALIA

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Inc

Our Mission

Recfish Australia's mission – One voice promoting sustainable fishing and representing recreational fishers at a national level

Our Vision

Key Result Area 1: One voice

Recfish Australia is recognised and respected as one voice representing recreational fishers at a national level through partnerships with stakeholders and the community

Key Result Area 2: Sustainability

The Australian community recognise recreational fishing as legitimate, sustainable and valuable

Key Result Area 3: Communication & Promotion

Key stakeholders are aware and supportive of the role and function of Recfish Australia and of the benefits delivered.

Key Result Area 4: Policy Development

Influential & consistent messages delivered through clear policies that guide and influence decisions and actions

Key Result Area 5: Recreational fishing development

Participation rates and sustainability levels are achieved through alliances and partnerships that are supported by a stream of motivated and capable people.

Key Result Area 6: Resources & Administration

An appropriately resourced team operating professionally, working strategically, respected and valued by its stakeholders for its contribution

Our Values

Recfish Australia's values are based on our commitment to:

provide leadership, planning and advice and respond with representations and submissions on policies and programs relating to recreational fishing;

foster, facilitate and promote recreational and sport fishing related communication, education and co-operation between and with our members, stakeholders and the wider Australian community;

grow the knowledge base by supporting, encouraging and facilitating research, development and extension for recreational fishing.

collect and disseminate relevant information on recreational fishing, fish and their supporting natural resources and systems;

encourage, promote and assist in the collection, preparation and analysis of new information;

represent our constituents at meetings, advisory groups, conferences seminars and other fora;

report to our members and stakeholders on the results of our efforts and the subsequent outcomes; and

listen, accept and incorporate feedback from members and stakeholders on our performance.

This strategic plan will help us to represent the interests of recreational fishing with **one voice** on the future challenges we will undoubtedly face.

Our Objects

The main **Objects** of the Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Inc. is to encourage and promote the sport of recreational fishing, and to:

- a) Represent Australia's recreational fishers at a national level to ensure high quality fishing experience;
- b) Actively and effectively represent and advocate the interests of members and recreational fishers to the Australian Government, Federal departments and agencies, non-government organisations, and scientific institutions and allied organisations;
- c) Advise governments, government departments and agencies, and non-government organisations on policies and programs relating to recreational fishing and management of natural resources and systems supporting recreational fishing;
- d) Assist the members to make submissions and representations on matters of national and international importance to recreational fishing;
- e) Make representations and submissions on behalf of members on issues of national consequence in the furtherance of these objects and for the benefit of recreational fishing;
- f) Foster and promote legal, and ecologically sustainable recreational fishing in all its forms;
- g) Facilitate, encourage and promote recreational and sport fishing-related communication, education and co-operation among all members and the Australian recreational fishing community and the wider Australian community;
- h) Encourage and promote the study of recreational fishing, the scientific study for the conservation and management of fish, their environment and ecology;
- i) Collect and disseminate information and knowledge of scientific work on recreational fishing, fish and their supporting natural resources and systems to members, governments and scientific bodies;
- j) Promote and assist in the collection, preparation and analysis of any information relevant to recreational and sport fishing at a national level;
- k) Represent, in Australia and overseas, its members at meetings, conferences or seminars relating to fishing as a sport or recreation or relating to the utilisation and management of fish species and their supporting natural resources and systems;
- l) Encourage members to participate, where appropriate, in programs or scientific projects related to recreational fishing and fisheries;
- m) Commission, contract and make grants to organisations or individuals for the purpose of research and education in matters relevant to recreational fishing and to fish, their conservation, environment and management;
- n) Receive gifts, grants and subscriptions for the functioning or furtherance of these objects;
- o) To assist members, as far as possible, for the furtherance of these objects, and
- p) Do all such things and acts which may be deemed necessary to achieve the foregoing objects

RECFISH AUSTRALIA BOARD

The constitution provides for up to 8 board members. Board members are appointed for a period of 2 years. Membership during the reporting period is shown below.

Board Member	Position Held	Period of Board membership	Subcommittee
Bruce Schumacher	Chair	2005-2008	Audit & Finance
John Cleary	Deputy Chair	2006-2008	Communication
Chris Makepeace	Board Member	2005-2008	Communication
Adam Smith	Board Member	2006-2008	Audit & Finance
Malcolm Poole	Board Member	2005-2008	Audit & Finance
Des Wood	Board Member	2006-2008	Communication

Board meetings attended by Board Members

At 30 June 2008 there were 6 board members of Recfish Australia.

The following is a record of attendance by board members at board meetings. A total of 7 meetings were held during the 2007-08 financial year including one being conducted by teleconference and 2 held at the time of the AGM in September 2007.

Board Member	Maximum Attendance	Actual Attendance
Bruce Schumacher (Chair)	7	7
John Cleary (Deputy Chair)	7	5
Chris Makepeace	7	7
Adam Smith	7	6
Malcolm Poole	7	7
Des Wood	7	7



Adam Smith



Malcolm Poole



John Cleary (Deputy)



Chris Makepeace



Des Wood



Bruce Schumacher (Chair)

Past Board Members

Board Member	Position Held	Period
Bill Sawynok	Board member	2005-2007
Brett Cleary	Deputy Chair	2005-2006
David Hall	Board Member	2005-2006
Frank Prokop	Board Member	2005-2006
Bruce Alvey	Board Member	2005-2006

Honour Board

Past Executive of Recfish Australia

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer	Year
Graham Pike	Barrie de Flon	Did Gadsby	Did Gadsby	1983
Graham Pike	Mal Ramsay	Did Gadsby	Mal Ramsay	1984
Graham Pike	Mal Ramsay	Did Gadsby	Baden Hopgood	1985
Graham Pike	Mal Ramsay	Did Gadsby	Baden Hopgood	1986
Graham Pike	Mal Ramsay	Did Gadsby	Baden Hopgood	1987
Graham Pike	Mal Ramsay	Did Gadsby	Baden Hopgood	1988
Mal Ramsay	John O'Sullivan	Did Gadsby	David Bateman	1989
Mal Ramsay	John O'Sullivan	Did Gadsby	David Bateman	1990
Mal Ramsay	John O'Sullivan	Les Hawkins	David Bateman	1991
Mal Ramsay	David Bateman	Les Hawkins	Graham Pike	1992
Mal Ramsay	David Bateman	Les Hawkins	Graham Pike	1993
Mal Ramsay	David Bateman	Les Hawkins	Graham Pike	1994
Mal Ramsay	David Bateman	Les Hawkins	Grahame Williams	1995
Mal Ramsay	David Bateman	Les Hawkins	Patrick Hunter	1996
Angus Horwood	David Bateman	Les Hawkins	Patrick Hunter	1997
Angus Horwood	Graham Pike	Les Hawkins	Patrick Hunter	1998
Angus Horwood	Graham Pike	Les Hawkins	Patrick Hunter	1999
Angus Horwood	Graham Pike	Les Hawkins	Patrick Hunter	2000
John Harrison	Graham Pike	David Bateman	Graeme Creed/Geoff Hawkins	2001
John Harrison	Frank Prokop	David Bateman	Geoff Hawkins/David Bateman	2002
Frank Prokop	Bruce Schumacher	Gavin Bedford	David Bateman	2003
Frank Prokop	Bruce Schumacher	David Bateman	Malcolm Poole	2004
Frank Prokop	Bruce Schumacher	Malcolm Poole	Malcolm Poole	2005

RECFISH AUSTRALIA PERSONNEL

Chief Executive Officer

John Harrison 1 July 2007 – 11 January 2008

Bruce Schumacher 12 January 2008 – 22 June 2008 (Honorary)

Len Olyott 23 June – 30 June 2008

Office & Projects Manager

Rhonda Farlow

Public Officer

Geoff Mazengarb

Auditor

Bevin Schafferius

Contractors

Contractor	Company	Project
Julian Pepperell	Pepperell Research & Consulting	Review of the National Code of Practice
Julian Pepperell	Pepperell Research & Consulting	Safety Scoping Project
Jude Nettleingham	Motomoda	Qualifications Pathway
Bill Sawynok	Infofish Services	Recfishing Research
Bill Sawynok	Infofish Services	Tournament Accreditation
Ben Diggles	DigsFish Services	Tournament Accreditation
Marsden Jacob Associates	Marsden Jacob Associates	Strategic Revenue Options

MEMBERS

2007 - 2008 MEMBER ORGANISATIONS & DELEGATES

Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT (AFANT)

Chris Makepeace

Col Cordingley

Australian National Sportfishing Association Ltd (ANSA)

Bill Sawynok

John Burgess

Australian Underwater Federation (Spearfishing)

Adam Smith

John Featherstone

NSW ACORF

Malcolm Poole

John Drew

Recfishwest

Frank Prokop

Des Wood

TARFish

Anne Purtill/Mark Nikolai

Brett Cleary

VRFish

Christopher Collins

Franz Grasser

BOARD REPORTS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD REPORT - Bruce Schumacher



It is amazing what can happen in the space of 12 months and as I look back on 07/08, a great many changes have affected Recfish Australia (Recfish).

Australia went to the polls in late 2007 and we emerged with a Labour federal government and a new fisheries minister, Tony Burke. The new government seems to have a different view about where recreational fishing fits and funding a national representative body doesn't seem to be on the cards. Neither is a national recreational fishing grants program.

Instead, the minister has inherited a Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy worth \$2 million over four years. Ten months down the track and we still do not know what the strategy will be and how it will work remains to be seen but Recfish has been assured that it will have a place at the table. Who else will be sitting at the table is unknown at this stage but Recfish is supportive of any process that will provide benefit to recreational fishers. It is also worth noting that to date, we have not been able to secure a meeting with the minister to voice our concerns and present our case for a strong, national representative body for recreational fishing.

John Harrison resigned as Recfish CEO in early 2008 to pursue a career in the commercial fishing industry close to his home base on the Clarence. His efforts in guiding Recfish during the transition from executive committee management to board management with the associated policies and protocols were crucial to the further development of Recfish. My sincere thanks to John.

We were fortunate in securing the appointment of Len Olyott as our current CEO. Len's background in fisheries science and the bureaucratic processes will be invaluable. Since his appointment he has had a busy schedule of meetings representing the interests of Recfish and networking with agencies and people we need to influence.

One of the projects, which Recfish commissioned, looked at Strategic Revenue Options for the recreational fishing sector. While this created some angst ahead of the last election, the final report has been presented to the board. All options have been considered and assessed. Not all options will suit all members but this document is intended to promote discussion.

In 2007-2008, Recfish delivered a large number of projects with substantial benefits to all recreational fishers. Details of these can be found in this annual report but two that I would like to mention are: Recfishing Research and the National Environmental Management and Accreditation System for recreational fishing competitions (NEATFish). Both of these projects provide a substantial service to the recreational fishing community and are absolutely vital components in the future of our fishing. The need for prioritised research, development and investment in our sector is more important now than ever before – we need reliable facts and figures and we need to invest in the capacity of our sector to manage ourselves. Social and economic impacts of fisheries regulations and closures need to be quantified and we need to have some idea of what to expect from global warming and associated climate change.

Another worthwhile project firmly focused on the future is our Next Generation of Leaders program. Recfish ran a successful leadership program for 19 young men and women from around Australia. These leaders in their field will shape the future of recreational fishing in this country and it is vital to invest in them. A state level program was run in Western Australia and I will leave it up to Frank Prokop to talk about how successful that was. New South Wales is also planning a similar program to be run in early 2009.

My thanks to Rhonda Farlow Office and Projects Manager who continues to service the vast amount of administration, accounting and project reporting much of which goes un-noticed and un-appreciated by the general membership. Rhonda carries out her role in a very professional manner.

In closing, I would like to spare a few words to thank my fellow board members for their commitment and dedication to Recfish. With the range of issues and opportunities facing recreational fishing, it is not always easy to remain focused on our mission. As a board, we sometimes struggle to identify exactly what the one voice should be saying but in the end, I believe that we all have the interests of recreational fishers at heart and so long as we remain focused on that, we will succeed.

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES

The Board has two standing sub-committees elected by board members to advise the board on their respective areas of expertise:

Finance and Audit Sub-Committee

Membership of this Committee for 2007-08 is three Board members: Bruce Schumacher, Adam Smith and Malcolm Poole.

The Finance and Audit Committee reports that the annual audit has been completed for the year and in the opinion of the Board the financial statements are a true and fair view of the results of the Confederation for the year ended 30 June 2008. These statements can be found at the end of this booklet.

The new accounting software introduced at 1 July 2006 has been updated and continues to provide more comprehensive reports for the board.

Communication Sub-Committee

Membership of this Committee for 2007-08 is three board members & the CEO: Chris Makepeace, Des Wood, John Cleary and John Harrison/Len Olyott.

The Communications Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of the Communications plan. It is the responsibility of this Committee to review its objectives and activities each year and recommend to the board for approval any changes it believes will enhance the value or effectiveness of its activities.

Communication as always was a priority topic for the committee and board generally. The Communication Plan was reviewed in 2007 and an interim plan agreed for 2008. The main purpose of this plan is to continue the implementation and development of a framework for internal and external communications for Recfish Australia.

The Objectives of the plan are to:

- have in place suitable protocols and communications tools to ensure effective internal communications within Recfish Australia.

- have in place suitable protocols and communications tools to ensure effective communications with external bodies of importance to Recfish Australia.

- maintain protocols for media releases by Recfish Australia.

- have in place a suitable communications program to communicate with recreational fishers and the broader community

The Communiqué was introduced in 2006 as the organisations major communication tool along with the website. The Communiqué covers many topics from sourcing funding opportunities, training opportunities, media releases, project updates and important events. Requests to be added to the distribution list for the Communiqué continue to arrive.

The website continues to be updated to include the latest Recfish Australia information. The website can be accessed at www.recfish.com.au.

Support from the fishing and other media in 2007-08 has been greatly appreciated.

The challenge we face for next year is to maintain the level of communication and continue to raise the profile of Recfish Australia while facing decreasing funds. This is seen as a key challenge for the Sub-Committee and the Board.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT - Len Olyott

I feel a bit like a thief in writing this report as most of the good work was completed by my predecessor, John Harrison and also Bruce Schumacher who juggled both CEO and Chair of the Board for several months.

It has been said that you can't know a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes, John wore pretty big shoes in the recreational fishing game so I am not about to step into them. Instead, I will try to make my own path. It may be a slightly different path to what the Recfish Australia team is used to and I am sure that there will be some wrong turns along the way. I am also fairly confident that at the end of an overgrown path, there is often a fantastic fishing location so that will be my inspiration.

Just what might this fishing nirvana look like? That will be the topic of conversation at our upcoming National Recreational Fishing Conference when we ask recreational fishers and fisheries managers alike to reveal their vision for the future of recreational fishing in Australia. I am hoping that there is something in there about sustainable use that values the environment just as much as the economic and social wellbeing of recreational fishers. Something that says that we as recreational fishers, can be just as passionate about conservation as anyone else. Some serious consideration about what climate change will mean for recreational fishing. A realisation that its time to find a new crop of passionate and capable men and women to work for our cause and finally a serious discussion about how we can fund the management of our sector.

So much for the future, what of the past and present? In 2007-08, Recfish Australia was involved with no fewer than 16 major projects as well as providing letters of support for several others. We had 13 policies in development or completed and we represented recreational fishers on 13 national committees. All of this work was undertaken by one full time CEO and a part time office and project manager from cramped office quarters in Brisbane. A large amount of volunteer time and effort was also involved through board member and delegate activities. To suggest that the organisation was over extended is an understatement in the extreme. That we are able to deliver a high standard of work and continue to complete all our tasks is testament to the dedication of the organisation.

I mention these facts, not to brag and boast about our achievements but to demonstrate that the considerable service provided by Recfish Australia and all its member organisations is greatly undervalued by government and the recreational fishing community that we represent.

If statistics are correct, approximately 20 – 25% of Australians go fishing at least once a year. This equates to between four and five million men, women and children. Simple arithmetic suggests that if each contributed \$1 a year, there would be \$4 – 5 million available for the representation of the recreational fishing sector.

This doesn't sound like a lot of money but who should pay and how the money should be collected are topics that at times are too hot to handle. The Strategic Revenue Options report and will be released in late 2008, it is hoped that the contents of the report will generate further discussion about an appropriate model for funding the recreational fishing sector.

In this report, you will find details of the projects that Recfish Australia has worked on and I am not going to summarise these projects here. Instead I am going to speak about how the changing political climate can play havoc with our long term plans.

In the 2006-07 annual report, John Harrison reported on the success of the recreational fishing liaison project between Recfish Australia and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. He mentioned that the rollout of further Commonwealth marine parks was being delayed. This meant that Recfish Australia was unable to fulfil the obligations of its contract. This contract came to an end in September 2007 and despite repeated requests to discuss the project and how to spend the remaining money, we have had virtually no response from DEWHA. Only recently, the department has agreed to a meeting but frustratingly, the officers that we are dealing with don't have knowledge of the original workplan.

Dealing with other federal management agencies is no less difficult and despite several requests to meet with the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, we have yet to get a chance to present our case for a strong, national recreational fishing representative group. The closest we have come is a meeting with his advisor who clearly has no idea of the work we do and the services that we provide the recreational fishing community and government. Somewhere along the line, we have neglected to promote ourselves and let the world know what we do. This has provided an opportunity for the government to promise its own peak advisory body for recreational fishing. With \$2 million committed to the Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy, several dot points were published before the election which now forms the basis of this strategy. We have assurances that we will be included in the consultation and development of this strategy but it is an uneasy period as we wait to see what RFIDS will look like, nearly 12 months after it was announced.

If we are to grow as an organisation, we need to focus on promoting ourselves. We need to develop a professional prospectus of what we do and what we can offer partners who are willing to join with us. With no promise of any government funding in any form, we need to look for other options for funding. This brings me to the subject of membership.

In the 2007-08 period, we were unable to grow our member base and past members did not return to the organisation. Last year in a bid to attract more members and acknowledge the contributions made by current members we lowered our membership fees for 2008-09 but with financial viability being of grave concern the organisation will need to rethink this position for 2009-10.

The current constitution relies completely on the strength of member organisations. This means that the key to Recfish Australia's strength and position as "**the**" peak representative body depends on the ability of member organisations to promote and support Recfish Australia. By joining Recfish Australia, organisations identify with our vision and provide input and support for our policies and strategic plan. I believe that with this membership comes responsibility – the responsibility to communicate with the groups and recreational fishers that these organisations represent.

Until such time as we are able to prove that we truly represent all recreational fishers, we will struggle to engage government as the **only** voice for all recreational fishers at a national level. This applies to both the Australian government as well as state/territory governments.

So what can we as Recfish Australia do smarter and better? We have a good strategic plan in place with measurable and quantifiable deliverables. Everything that we as an organisation do will need to be measured against this Plan. Any policies that we develop will need to align with our Strategic Plan. The Plan will need to be reviewed annually and adapt to our ever changing situation. What may be a priority one year, will not necessarily be the same the next year.

We will strive to be more professional in our dealings and our image – we are after all, in the business of recreational fishing. A key component of the Plan is the ability to measure our ability to govern and operate as the peak national representative body. This will include surveys of members as well as individual anglers to gauge our performance.

We will engage more directly with delegates and member organisations and make ourselves available for meetings. I would like to see regular meetings of the executive officers of member organisations where we can get together to exchange ideas.

Above all, we will continue to do what we do best and that is provide a national voice for **all** recreational fishers. As CEO, I will continue to strive to fulfil that mission, whatever it takes. I don't believe that we are staring down the tunnel at an oncoming train but rather, we have been presented with the opportunity to diversify and expand. I believe that we can draw inspiration from the Apple Company. Starting out as the world leaders in computing, enjoying a meteoric rise to market dominance and a similarly spectacular decline, Apple has emerged from the ashes and captured a whole new generation of computer and mobile phone users.

We can do the same provided we remain focused and positive.

PROJECTS



Project 2007/227	Recfishing Research (RR2)	Oct 07 – June 2010	FRDC
<p>Aim:</p> <p>Through extensive and ongoing consultation with the recreational sector, develop and maintain a list of current national-level recreational fishing RDE priorities.</p> <p>Work with recreational fishing stakeholders and researchers at all levels to facilitate the development of RDE projects to meet identified priorities.</p> <p>Develop an extension network that will promote the adoption of new knowledge generated by recreational fishing related R&D by decision makers, recreational fishers, and the wider community.</p> <p>Assess the adoption of new knowledge by decision makers, recreational fishers, and the wider community, and identify constraints and barriers to the adoption of new knowledge by these groups.</p>			
<p>Progress: Recfishing Research is a joint initiative of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) and Recfish Australia. The delivery of Recfishing Research has been sub-contracted by Recfish Australia to Bill Sawynok of Infofish Services. This project was due to commence on 1 July 2007 however there was a delay in getting the project underway with contractual arrangements not finalised and contracts signed until late October 2007. This delayed the start of a number of activities.</p> <p>A new Steering Committee was appointed in October and has held 2 meetings since then, one in Hobart in December 2007 and another in Adelaide in March 2008.</p> <p>In late 2007 presentations on Recfishing Research were made to state fisheries agencies, recreational fishing groups, research bodies and others around Australia. This was to advise groups of what Recfishing Research was about and to obtain feedback on national research priorities. Presentations were also proposed to other groups but did not eventuate due to inability to find a suitable time or from a lack of response.</p> <p>A fortnightly briefing was reintroduced in January 2008 after a break from August 2007. This briefing keeps those interested up to date with what is happening in Recfishing Research. The briefing goes to key people in industry and government groups with an interesting in research in recreational fishing.</p> <p>A new service was introduced in August 2007 to distribute new research papers and technical reports on recreational fishing issues to interested groups and researchers. Since that time around 25 papers and reports have been circulated.</p> <p>Input into the 2008/09 round of recreational fishing applications to FRDC was not as good as it could have been. Due to the delay in finalising the contract arrangements the Steering Committee did not see most of the applications until the full applications were submitted to FRDC. Feedback on these applications was provided to FRDC however this could have been better managed.</p> <p>Input into the 2009/10 round of applications is currently underway and the Steering Committee has seen many applications at the pre-proposal stage and has provided constructive feedback to the project proponents. The effectiveness of the Recfishing Research input will be known when the full applications are submitted to FRDC later in the year.</p> <p>Recfishing Research has also plays a significant role in the development of some projects including</p>			

one on Longtail Tuna and the further development of NEATFish. Recfishing Research also managed to secure cash contributions totalling \$13,500 from industry groups for the Longtail Tuna project.

Recfishing Research has developed a list of all recreational projects being funded by a wide range of funding bodies with projects identified to be monitored by Recfishing Research.

The Recfishing Research website is currently being developed with the structure of the website being finalised before documents are added. A URL has been secured and the website will be at www.recfishingresearch.org. It is anticipated that the website will go live at the end of August 2008.

A number of conferences/seminars/ workshops were attended by Ross Winstanley and/or myself where we represented Recfishing Research. These were:

- ✚ Victorian Catch Estimates workshop in November 2007 in Geelong
- ✚ Climate Change workshop in May 2008 in Canberra
- ✚ FRDC FRAB workshop in May 2008 in Canberra
- ✚ Geelong Revisited: ESD to EBFM workshop in May 2008 in Melbourne (Ross Winstanley presentation on future directions for fisheries management)
- ✚ Steering Committee progress review of Jeremy Lyle's FRDC project "Developing an analytical model for large scale recreational fishery data based on phone diary survey methodology in June 2008

Bill Sawynok

Recfishing Research

Development of a national environmental management and accreditation system for business/public recreational fishing competitions




<p>Project 2006/057</p>	<p>Tournament Accreditation II</p>	<p>April 06 – March 08</p>	<p>FRDC</p>
<p>Aim: Development of a national environmental management and accreditation system for business/public recreational fishing competitions.</p> <p>Develop a National Fishing Competition Accreditation system that is supported by competition organisers and sponsors, fishing industry groups, government fisheries agencies and other relevant entities. Develop an ISO 14001 environmental standard for fishing competitions. Negotiate with Insurance companies over insurance for accredited competitions. Trial the accreditation system in at least one high profile fishing competition in each State and trial the ISO standard in at least 1 high ranking competition. Obtain endorsement of the accreditation system from key environmental groups.</p> <p>A copy of the National Environmental Assessment of Tournament Fishing (NEATFish) standard is available at www.recfish.com.au. See the report following</p> <p>Outcome: NEATFish stands for <u>N</u>ational <u>E</u>nvironmental <u>A</u>ssessment of <u>T</u>ournament <u>F</u>ishing and has been developed to allow fishing competitions to assess their performance and receive a rating of from 1-5 stars. The standard is based on ISO/IEC Standard 17050-1:2004 with a pathway to certification under ISO 14001.</p> <p>The standard is based on a questionnaire which assesses the environmental, social and economic performance of a competition as well as the management of risk. Each question receives a score with 100 points available (excluding bonus points). A score of over 90 is required to receive the highest 5 star rating.</p> <p>NEATFish is a self-assessment system that is reasonably simple to complete although it may appear a bit daunting at first. The standard is available from the Recfish Australia website www.recfish.com.au.</p> <p>During 2007/08 development of the questionnaire continued and 16 tournaments were assessed with ratings between 3-5 stars. This project was completed in March 2008. Towards the completion of the project feedback on NEATFish was sought from state recreational fishing peak bodies, national fishing organisations and fisheries agencies. The feedback received was mostly positive and supported the further development of NEATFish.</p> <p>Digsfish Services Pty Ltd is working with Recfish Australia on a follow on FRDC application for the further development of NEATFish. This will include a website that will allow the questionnaire to be completed online, further promotion of NEATFish and discussions with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on the use of NEATFish by competition in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.</p> <p>Bill Sawynok Principal Investigator</p>			

<p>Project 2006/312</p>	<p>Independent Board Review</p>	<p>April 07 - September 07</p>	<p>FRDC</p>
<p>Aim:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. provide recommendations for induction processes and materials for new members 2. identifying skills and knowledge gaps on the board to assist the Board appointment of the 8th member and recommend a process for appointment of the 8th member 3. reviewing the effectiveness of board process (including conflict of interest provisions) 4. assessing the performance of the board as whole and identifying areas for board improvement 5. identifying what changes directors believe would assist them improving their performance 			
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>The 2007 Recfish Australia Board Performance Review is an indication of the board's self directed commitment to good governance.</p> <p>There were a number of key outcomes of this process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. directors reflected on their own practices and processes 2. the <u>independent</u> review process facilitated: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a greater openness by directors about the importance of good governance, working as a team with Recfish Australia as the focus b. time for the board to reflect on board processes and systems and to examine their strategic responsibilities, their decision-making processes and stakeholder relationships c. self evaluation of their effectiveness as a working group. 3. openness with key stakeholders about the effectiveness of the body promoted improved confidence in the governance process and the board among key external players. 4. strong support for the board's succession planning process, skill gaps identified and the need for professional development and/or changes in membership. 5. a conduit for 'management' to contribute to the process of board improvement in a 'safe' environment. 6. benchmarking against which future board performance reviews can be set. 7. benchmarking performance against other boards similarly reviewed. 8. the development of performance improvement targets, objectives and action plans to focus the board's internal attention. 			

Project	Recreational Fishing Liaison	May 06 - Nov 07	DEW
<p>Aim: Recfish Australia will engage the recreational fishing sector (excluding the charter fishing industry) during Regional Marine Planning and subsequent Marine Protected Area (MPA) Development process being undertaken by the department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) in Commonwealth Waters.</p> <p>Recfish Australia will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a two-way flow of information between the recreational fishing sector and the Australian Government regarding planning and policy issues of relevance to the recreational sector in Commonwealth waters. • Assist the Australian Government to develop and update information packages for delivery to the recreational fishing sector. <p>Provide 'quantitative' feedback from the sector regarding potential displacement and impacts of proposed MPAs and proposed management arrangements that may affect recreational fishing in Commonwealth waters</p>			
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>A meeting held with DEH on 11 January 2007 formalised the agreed protocols for Recfish Australia and DEH working together under the Recreational Fishing Liaison project on MPAs.</p> <p>The workplan was based on a 4 stage process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Release of profile which involved Recfish Australia communicating with member organisations, raising awareness of information & process, seeking feedback on the profile (internal process). 2 Development of a Draft plan after DEH meet with regional "reps" who then communicate to stakeholders in their region (Meetings between DEH and Recfish regional representatives to provide guidance and information on priorities, measures and impacts for consideration in the development of the draft plan) 3 Release of Draft Plan – potential public meetings where necessary, mailouts, survey/questionnaire, followed by a formal response to DEH 4 Release of final plan (formal phase) - Ensure sector is aware of statutory consultation process and timeframes. <p>The funding agreement with (formerly) DEH expired September 2007. Negotiating a new agreement with DEWHA is a priority for the Board and CEO</p>			

Pink Fly Fisher Clinics

Project R2020	Pink Fly Fishers	May 06 to November 07	RFCGP
<p>Aim: A trial of fly fishing clinics to ascertain the level of interest and demand for and from women recovering from breast cancer surgery/treatment. Three clinics will be held specifically for women particularly those recovering from surgery associated with breast cancer. A clinic will be held in QLD, TAS, and NT. The clinics will be conducted by professional instructors and hosted by a local fly fishing club that will undertake the on-ground coordination for the event in their location. A maximum of 15 places will be available in each clinic to ensure an appropriate trainer / trainee ratio. The clinics will provide the opportunity for fellowship/networking with other women with similar circumstances and we will be looking to provide female instructors. For further information visit www.recfish.com.au.</p>			
<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>Outcome: The Pink Fly Fishers Clinics were an initiative of Recfish Australia and funded through the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme and supported by the National Breast Cancer Foundation. This project was a pilot of three fly fishing clinics specifically for women and in particular those who are recovering from breast cancer. Participant numbers per clinic were limited to ensure an appropriate instructor/participant ratio. The clinics provided a new type of exercise and an opportunity for fellowship/networking with other women with similar circumstances.</p> <p>A framed “Pink Thing” tied by Graham White was presented to one lucky participant at each clinic.</p> <p>Local fly fishing clubs were invaluable in providing the on-ground coordination for each event in their location. Community businesses and individuals also gave time and resources to make this project a success. There has been considerable interest from individuals and groups wishing to continue this great initiative.</p> <p>Darwin</p> <p>The Darwin clinic was held late June on Lake Alexander and proved to be a great experience for participants. Dorothee Williams of Insight Fly Fishing, a local fly fishing coach and multiple fly fishing tournament winner, was engaged to conduct the free clinic. The Darwin Flyrodders Inc hosted the clinic.</p> <p>Gold Coast – Mermaid Waters</p> <p>A very successful clinic was held at Mermaid Waters on the Gold Coast at the Vets Tennis Centre Pizzey Park. This was an excellent venue with a lake within a few yards for “wet’ casting but for obvious reasons no hooks were used. The South East Queensland Fly Fishing Club (SEQFFC) was very helpful in making this clinic happen. Each Gold Coast participant was presented with a DVD of the day with the compliments of the SEQFFC.</p> <p>Tasmania</p> <p>The Pink Fly Fishers clinic held at the Salmon Ponds, Plenty in Tasmania was again voted a success by all involved. Jan Spencer provided expert tuition assisted by the local fly fishing club “The Tasmanian Fly Tyers Club”. Jan Spencer has been the only woman to represent Australia in the world fly fishing team twice. Jan has fly fished extensively and has been quoted as saying “my passion for fly fishing is probably more an obsession than passion. It’s just something in there that drives me all the time.”</p> <p>Due to the overwhelming response from the women of Tasmania and the expertise of the local fly fishing club we included fly tying in the Tassie program.</p> </div> </div>			

Project	A revised and reinvigorated National Code of Practice	June 06 to February 2009	RFCGP
<p>Aim: This project will revise the national code of practice (COP) and update the content to reflect the knowledge gains and changes since it was written in 1995. The revised code will incorporate the new best practises that have been developed in recent years including the use of circle hooks, knotless landing nets, fish handling techniques. Best methods for releasing various species; animal welfare advice as per the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, safety issues like boating, rock fishing, dangerous/poisonous fish etc.</p>			
<p>Progress:</p> <p>An initial draft has been developed and circulated to key stakeholders and a broader distribution list as well as placed on the Recfish Australia website to canvass the wider public for input and comment. Extensive feedback was received which has now been considered and incorporated into the COP.</p> <p>A copy of the final draft will be provided to AAWS for endorsement.</p> <p>A communication strategy is currently being developed which will inform the “products” needed to be developed for this project.</p> <p>The final COP will be placed on the recfish Australia website for downloading and products made available.</p> <p>This project has been extended to February 2009.</p>			

Project	Recreational Fishing and Safety Scoping Paper	January 07 to June 08	RFCGP
<p>Aim: This project will address the following issues in a scoping paper to ascertain the best methods of communicating with the recreational fishing community to improve the safety for their well being, and that of others. The paper will provide a range of recommendations to cover what outputs need to be developed and what communications tools will best deliver the messages and make a difference. The scoping paper will also identify costs associated with developing these tools, products and the associated distributions costs.</p> <p>The paper will be developed through a series of a consultations with fishing organisations, rescue units, emergency services, life saving, water transport authorities, boating associations, state coroner's offices, and other groups who have experience or knowledge of the accidents and dangers associated with recreational fishing. The study will identify how to benchmark the current state of knowledge and understanding surrounding safety. The paper will also articulate how subsequent benchmarking should occur if any products, services or programs resulting from recommendations of the paper are undertaken. The paper will also report on current initiatives such as 'angel rings' & provide advice & recommendations on how a communications strategy & associated products & services, for safety generally, can compliment this & other like projects. Visit www.recfish.com.au for a copy of the final report</p>			
<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and analyse all existing data on fishing-related injuries and fatalities. Request actual data from the injury surveillance units listed in this report and extract and analyse specific fishing-related information. 2. Review and analyse all existing data on fishing-related injuries and fatalities. Request actual data from the injury surveillance units listed in this report and extract and analyse specific fishing-related information. 3. Review, and where necessary, suggest changes to injury reporting forms to collect more specific data related to recreational fishing 4. Investigate possible data sources on fishing-related injuries other than those identified in this paper. These might include data recorded by first aid personnel, voluntary marine rescue units, ambulance officers, and similar agencies. Data routinely recorded by general practitioners should also be explored. Determine access to such data 5. Conduct surveys of angler's personal fishing history to: determine the incidence of non-reported fishing-related injuries of all kinds among the fishing population and determine the incidence of 'near misses' with respect to serious accidents or potential fatalities 6. Develop advisory material on dangerous marine animals, especially fish which sting. This should include identification guides to poisonous fish, how to handle them if caught and what to do if stung 7. Collate and review all advisory information currently available which relates to safety aspects of recreational fishing. Condense such information into more concise, uniform messages, if necessary, targeting different at-risk groups 8. With new information derived from the above recommendations, produce a comprehensive document on all aspects of recreation fishing-related injuries and fatalities in Australia. Based on this document, formulate the best communication tools or products for an education campaign aimed at reducing injuries and fatalities. Follow up to assess the penetration of messages amongst the angling public. Maintain dissemination of messages 			

Project	Strategic Revenue Options Scoping Paper	June 2007 to December 2008	RFCGP & FRDC
<p>Aim: The consultant(s) will work with Recfish Australia to develop and conduct a process to explore issues that need to be addressed when considering strategic revenue options to resource the recreational fishing sector. The planned outcome of this proposal is identification of a model to provide a secure, reliable and independent income stream to the sector, to promote growth, participation, research and development and extension, infrastructure, habitat restoration, succession planning, capacity building, communications, etc. The project will also identify appropriate pathways to implementation of the strategic revenue options identified should they be progressed. The project will provide a comprehensive analysis of the benefits/detriments of options and the processes that need to be addressed if introduction is to be further considered. This project will identify additional or alternative options not previously considered. We are seeking innovative and new ideas for strategic revenue options under this project. Identifying alternatives will be researched congruently with stakeholder interviews and a preliminary assessment of their practicality provided to determine the value of further investigation.</p>			
<p>Progress:</p> <p>This project is currently ongoing and due for completion in December 2008.</p> <p>Tasks completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of spending patterns in the recreational fishing sector • Review of Strategic Revenue Options in other states and countries including interstate: NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia (SA, NT and ACT do not have revenue instruments for recreational fishing); the US, UK, Canada, NZ, Europe: esp. Portugal and the Netherlands • Stakeholders interviewed • Research into other countries approaches to revenue for recreational fishing, included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – US Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration program – UK’s proposed marine licence – revenue instruments utilized in Europe (freshwater licences in France, the Netherlands and Ireland, and general licences in Portugal), Canada and New Zealand – tax-based instruments such as increases in GST revenue or earmarking of existing GST revenue (US states) – Other revenue instruments, such as wildlife licence plates, lotteries, income tax form check-offs (used by US states) • Review of literature and information relating to recreational fishing revenue instruments in Australia, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – General licences (e.g., NSW and Victoria) – Freshwater licences (e.g. Tasmania and Queensland’s Stocked Impoundment Permits for dams) – High value marine species licences (e.g., WA and Tasmania) – Levies – e.g. private pleasure vessel levy, GBR environmental management charge, DAFF guidelines for levies • Development of the Interjurisdictional Policy Review of Strategic Revenue Options for Recreational Fishing & Issues Paper • Strategic Revenue Options Stakeholder Workshops were held between 31 March and 7 April in five major centres (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth) for key stakeholders. 			

- Desktop research and feedback from the consultation workshops was incorporated into the Two-Stage Analysis, modules 5 & 6, and the Draft Report by Marsden Jacob Associates.
 - Research showed a high degree of variability in the current approach to the funding of recreational fishing
 - The Two-Stage Analysis assesses a full range of potential options and provides a short list of options
 - The objective was to focus on workable options / practical solutions
- Marsden Jacob Associates are currently finalising the final report to Recfish Australia

Project	Qualifications Pathway	To June 2008	RFCGP
<p>Aim: This project will lead to the development of a national qualification pathway for recreational fishing community representatives and leaders based upon existing competencies which will form an appropriate Certificate IV or higher qualification.</p> <p>The qualification will be directed principally and initially at present and future recreational fishing community representatives, leaders and industry managers. It is anticipated that the qualification will attract a range of relevant stakeholders: Recreational fishing industry managers; Commonwealth, State and local government agencies with a recreational fishing interface; natural resource managers (indigenous, coastcare, rivercare); SeaNet officers; Recreational fishing service industry managers; People wanting official recognition of their lifelong recreational fishing skills and knowledge.</p> <p>Nationally endorsed units of competency which will deliver the tools necessary to equip participants with high level leadership and management skills will be identified. These competencies will be customised as necessary to make them relevant to the recreational fishing industry.</p> <p>Other industry-specific competencies will be identified, particularly after an audit of key recreational fishing industry office bearers is completed. These competencies will then be incorporated into the qualifications stream.</p>			
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Our research and consultations for recreational fishing leadership training showed that the skills required can be adequately covered by the proposed new Diploma in Outdoor Recreation or by the various certificates and diplomas of business from the Business Services Training Package. Furthermore, it was found that delivering a national training qualification, while plausible, is more problematic than first thought given the varying arrangements within the training sector and the varying influences in each state. While the Diploma of Outdoor Recreation or Diploma of Business could be delivered nationally by a number of registered training organisations, such as TAFE Tasmania, Challenger TAFE, Response Learning and so on, only limited demand could be identified within the recreational fishing industry for such an arrangement.</p> <p>In addition, demand is likely to be influenced by the availability of financial support. Most of the target group are volunteers and are employed in non-recreational fishing industry roles or jobs for which leadership development is not a component. Because government funding is generally restricted to training programs where there is an 'occupational outcome', it will be difficult to obtain funding through the training system in every state and territory to undertake a leadership development training program.</p> <p>As a consequence, the project team investigated a broad range of training and development options that could assist people develop their leadership potential. Not all of these programs are linked to competency standards and fewer still are formally assessed. However, there is considerable value in undertaking such programs, as they can be used not only to develop competency but also as a means of gaining experience and gathering evidence that can be used for recognition of prior learning. It also fills the need identified by current leaders to provide short, intense training/courses for time poor volunteers. It was found that the largest impediment to training of future leaders is not the availability of competency based training programs but rather the availability of time to juggle work, volunteering, family etc combined with a lack of funding to provide appropriately 'structured' training suited to the needs of this group. This structure is more than likely programs such as the Next Generation of leaders and other weekend short courses which may or may not be accredited training</p> <p>The report recommends access to short concise training courses mapped to units of competency rather than the development of more accredited (leadership) training.</p>			

Project	“From Hook to Cook and not getting Crook”	2006 to 2007	Fishy Business
<p>Aim: Recfish Australia also has an interest in the RFCGP project “From Hook to Cook and not getting Crook” by FishyBusiness. This project will provide information via the Recfish Australia website to inform recreational fishers about issues relating to handling fish/seafood with an emphasis on food safety matters. The aim is to make recreational fishers aware of best handling, storing, quality and food safety issues.</p>			
<p>Outcome: From Hook to Cook and not getting Crook fact sheets provide information via the Recfish Australia website which informs recreational fishers about issues relating to handling fish/seafood with an emphasis on food safety matters. Pertinent and relevant food safety issues are presented to recreational fishers in an easy to read format, free from technical jargon, so that they can be certain that they are not jeopardising food safety. Each fact sheet is accompanied by a cartoon that helps with the delivery of the message in a light hearted manner. The cartoons were created by Paul Lennon.</p> <p>The aim is to make recreational fishers aware of best handling, storing, quality and food safety issues to maximise their investment in time and energy and to minimise potential food safety problems in the community.</p> <p>This project was funded through the Recreational Fishing Community Grants programme and carried out by a team of well qualified and experienced people from the commercial industry that have dealt with these issues from that sector and in partnership with Recfish Australia.</p> <p>Visit www.recfish.com.au to view the fact sheets.</p>			

Project	Grey Nurse Sharks and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW appeal to the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT)	2007	Recfish Australia
<p>On 27 July 2006 the Australian Government, through the Minister for the Environment (Minister), declared operations for harvesting of specimens that are, or derived from fish or invertebrates, taken in the NSW Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTLF) to be an approved Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) for the purposes of export under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) act.</p> <p>The Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW lodged an appeal to the AAT claiming that the decision by the Minister did not satisfactorily take into account the fishing methods of the OTLF and the impact these have on the population of grey nurse sharks (GNS). The cornerstone of the appeal was based on the population stocks and the supposed negative population growth that was reported in a paper following a tag and resighting project completed by NSW DPI scientists. This paper puts the stocks of GNS at somewhere between 300 (worst) and 800 (best) along the NSW coastline.</p> <p>The exclusion they were seeking was for all forms of fishing including recreational (both line and spear). This was the reason that many groups sought to be joined as a party to the case including Recfish Australia. On making the decision to apply to be joined Recfish Australia engaged Deacons as our legal team and in turn Counsel as well. This was believed to be the best approach if we were to have any chance of getting party status to the case.</p> <p>To influence the outcome of the hearing Dr Marcus Lincoln-Smith and Dr Julian Pepperell were engaged by Recfish Australia to provide expert scientific evidence and critique the paper submitted by Dr Nic Otway.</p> <p>Both Lincoln-Smith and Pepperell did a remarkable job considering the limited time (less than a week) they had to research, read and compile statements that were sufficient to raise questions over the veracity of the Otway report and paper.</p> <p>Our experts proffered very good cases that the data used to support the extinction theory is flawed. The assumptions made in the reports, in the main, could not be upheld as they were written and the accompanying reported data did not conclusively support the assumptions.</p> <p>Whilst the outcome was welcomed the cost associated with defending the interests of recreational fishing took a heavy toll on our very limited resources. Recfish Australia was supported by many recreational fishing groups and others who had an interest in the proceedings and that support is recognised and appreciated. Without this support representing recreational fishers would not have been possible in this case. Our application to the Commonwealth's Attorney Generals Department for financial assistance for the case was rejected.</p> <p>Outcome: Administrative Appeal Tribunal handed down the decision to dismiss the appeal by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) in relation to the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery involving grey nurse sharks</p> <p><u>Some comments by NSW fishing club contributors include:</u></p> <p>"Club members who attended the hearing reported that without the challenge being made by Recfish Australia, it is likely that a large area of fishing grounds would have been excluded to fishermen"</p> <p>"Congratulations on the work that you and your committee are doing we are a very small group but hope that our contribution will help"</p> <p>"Congratulations on your recent court success! We are a small fishing club with keen fresh and saltwater fishermen (and women) and are thankful that there is an organisation to represent our small voice"</p> <p>"We are a small club so it is our pleasure to support an organisation that is willing to represent us</p>			

and put some sanity back into recreational fishing”

“Thank you for your efforts in keeping fishing sites available to the recreational fisher”

“Keep up the good work and know you have the backing of fellow fisho's”

...” we are only a small club with very limited funds but I guess every little bit helps. We really appreciate the efforts of Recfish and wish you the best in your endeavours in protecting our sport”

“While we are only a small club we appreciate the effort you have made on behalf of NSW recreational fishing”

“Best of luck to you all. Our little fishing club has forty members who fish regularly. We applaud your court victory..... A bit of support from a lot of fishing clubs would be a good thing. Hope you get it”

“With our sincerest thanks for agreeing to take on this matter and for standing up for our fishing access rights”

“Please accept this small donation to your organisation to help with legal costs. We are a small anglers club with about 20 active members..... Keep up the fight for recreational anglers!”

“Even though we are not directly affected by this claimwe are happy to be in a position to contribute”

“On behalf of recreational fishers who live in or visit this area, thank you for your efforts”

“Thanks from all our members for looking after our recreational fishing future”

...”is a small club and of course, being located very far inland, mainly concerned with the freshwater recreational fishing scenario, we do appreciate the effort and funds you expended to obtain a favourable decision in this case and congratulate you on your efforts. We therefore trust that this donation may help and wish you every success in the years ahead in keeping the Australian recreational angling scene vibrant and healthy.”

And other groups:

“This is a good example of the many occasions when recreational and commercial fishing interests are common”“members appreciate the work by Recfish Australia ...”

MEMBER ORGANISATION REPORTS

AMATEUR FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE NT (AFANT)

Executive Officer's Report — Chris Makepeace



In some ways 2007 was a frustrating year for Territory recreational fishing and AFANT. Issues such as the Blue Mud Bay Case, our inability to achieve progress with a range of fishing access and infrastructure issues and increasing concerns about barramundi fishing in various areas have been particular challenges.

On the plus side of the ledger, our **Your Eyes on the Water** and **Fish Smart** projects have gone well and they are promoting more responsible approaches by fishers as well as helping to increase the already considerable profile of recreational fishing in the Territory. Progress has also been made in the licence buy back area with nine of the 14 Coastal Net licences taken out and Darwin Harbour and Shoal Bay closed to that fishery. We understand that the NT Government will now move to consider the buy back of barramundi licences in 2008 and that will be very welcome.

A highlight during the year was the sinking of the *Medkhanun 3* as an artificial reef in Darwin Harbour. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority, AQIS, the NT Government, Darwin Harbourmaster Bruce Wilson, NT Fisheries and ConocoPhillips (who provided AFANT with a considerable donation to prepare the boat for sinking) all made major contributions. These artificial reefs are a real benefit for recreational fishers and we are extremely grateful for the support and cooperation.

Recreational Fishing and Economic Development in the Northern Territory

AFANT reported to Government on this issue in 2007. We pointed out that recreational fishing is a major Northern Territory industry that has enjoyed considerable growth in the past six or seven years. Based on a recent employment survey conducted by AFANT we now know that the industry directly employs more than 320 people with considerably more in associated industries and services. We believe these employment figures indicate a direct turnover in excess of \$90 million per year with the potential for even more growth if it is effectively managed and supported.

The Blue Mud Bay Case

The decision of the full bench of the Federal Court of Australia on the Blue Mud Bay appeal has far-reaching implications for all fishing in the NT. It generated strong reaction among recreational fishers and it certainly presented some very stormy seas for AFANT to navigate. Even though it was always intended to test the decision in the High Court, just working through the issues of what to do until a final decision was handed down was difficult and often controversial. AFANT opposed the system of temporary individual permits put in place by the land councils for recreational fishers to access and fish affected areas as we believed (and still believe) that other legal avenues were open to provide such access. We also continue to have strong concerns that, as the NT Fisheries Act does not apply in these waters, there is no truly effective compliance and enforcement mechanism available to deal with commercial and other fishers breaching fisheries regulations. The NT and Commonwealth Governments (and AFANT) disagree with the Federal Court decision and are hoping it will be overturned by the High Court which heard an appeal in the matter late in the year. At the time of writing this report, the High Court had not handed down a decision.

Recreational Fishing Access

There have been challenges and successes in the area of fishing access during 2007. A range of infrastructure projects that will benefit recreational fishers such as the East Arm Boat Ramp and Dynah Beach Boat Ramp Pontoon are progressing and the Recreational Fishing Access Working Group is establishing a specialist sub-committee to try and find a way to reduce the negative impact of public liability insurance issues on fishing access. Ironically, at the same time as the NT Government is working to improve and increase recreational fishing access, a process is in place to develop **Marine Protected Areas** in our waters which, if some groups within and outside Government get their way, will include extensive recreational fishing no-go-no-take zones. We are not opposed to MPAs or scientifically-justified marine conservation measures but we will not support processes which restrict recreational fishing without very strong reasons to do so and we see few of

these in our relatively lightly-fished and pristine waters. Access to the coast at **Point Stuart** became available during the year and, although there are very limited tidal windows for launching and retrieving, the facilities are good and it will be a benefit to the more adventurous fishers. On the other hand, there have been continued delays in completing launching facilities at **Channel Point** and yet another year has passed without this long-term NT Government commitment being met. Tenders for a full reinforced concrete ramp were advertised late in the year so surely it will be up and running in 2008.

Buy-back of Coastal Net and Barramundi Fishing Licences

There was good news late in 2007 when NT Fisheries Minister Chris Natt announced that Government had bought back nine of the 14 licences in the Coastal Net Fishery and that Darwin Harbour and Shoal Bay would be closed to this fishery. Because such a substantial portion of the fishery has been bought out, we asked the Minister to also consider closing Bynoe Harbour and the Finniss River to coastal net fishing and he has agreed to seek advice from NT Fisheries on this option. Our focus, and hopefully that of the Minister and Government, will now turn to the situation with our Barramundi Fishery. There is still an outstanding commitment to buy back three commercial barra licences and to consider the closure of Bynoe Harbour and the Finniss River to commercial barra netting. There are also increasing concerns that we are seeing a significant reduction in the quality of recreational barra fishing in the Daly River. Local businesses there have demonstrated the level of their concern by recommending to the Minister that pot fishing for cherabin be banned on the river. They see this as a way to protect what they believe to be overexploitation of cherabin stocks and to limit the impact of cherabin bait fishing on the river's barramundi stocks. We share the concerns of these businesses and we also believe that increased recreational activity coupled with continued netting of barramundi by commercial fishers at the river mouth is putting too much pressure on the river's barramundi. We have told the Minister of our concerns and he has agreed to look at the situation in 2008.

The Mount Todd Mine Site.

AFANT has continued to monitor the situation at the site through our membership of the Mount Todd Reference Group. Resource company Vista Gold now has management responsibility for the site and major improvements in pumping and water management equipment and processes has significantly reduced (but unfortunately not completely eliminated) uncontrolled run-off from the site. Vista Gold is implementing additional programs in 2008 aimed at further improving water management on the site.

While there is still plenty of work to be done to ensure that recreational fishing in the Territory continues to prosper, we did make some real progress in 2007 and we are heading into 2008 with a real sense that we will see some major achievements for our sector of the fishery during the year.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION LTD (ANSA)

Executive Officer Report – John Burgess



This has been an extremely busy and challenging year for ANSA at both a Branch and National level. One of the major challenges confronting ANSA has been the need to radically bring the ANSA Rule Book into the 21st century to reflect the changing needs of our membership base and to recognise the change in fishing styles and technologies that have occurred over the past decade. Also to be consistent with ANSA's strong and positive conservation ethos it was timely that we introduced a new suite of rules and regulations to encourage competitions with greater emphasis on capture and release and the use of fishing tackle in a manner that will minimise environmental impact. A special mention of thanks is extended to those individual members and Branches across Australia who played a vital part in developing and refining the many changes that were finally agreed upon at the ANSA National Board and Branch Delegates meeting held in June 2008. By all accounts feedback on the new rule changes has been very positive and there is certainly future scope for expansion of the length only records and masters competitions if members want this. The Board we will keep these options under review having regard to member participation and feedback. The next full review of the rule book is scheduled for 2012

Another of the more challenging and pleasing outcomes was the successful outcome of the Grey Nurse Shark case before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. A special mention of thanks is due to Recfish Australia which took up the defence against the spurious claims by the Nature Conservation Council that the GNS population was doomed for extinction unless all forms of fishing were banned along much of the Australian east coast. I attended the Tribunal hearings during their entirety and it was a touch and go battle between the legal teams for both sides. Fortunately it was a victory for common sense at conclusion of the proceedings when the Tribunal ruled against the Nature Conservation Council. None the less a very convincing case was made that the GNS population is very small in number and under extreme threat from a wide range of activities (not just fishing) and it was essential that extensive research be undertaken to gain a better and informed understanding of the grey nurse shark dilemma.

One positive aspect arising from the Tribunal outcome was a commitment by the Commonwealth to fund ongoing research into GNS population and mortality issues. I recently attended the first of these research workshops and was encouraged by the spirit of cooperation between all parties to engage in new forms of research technology such as photo identification and DNA analysis to get a more realistic and scientifically robust estimate of GNS numbers than has been the case in the past. While it is fair to say that the often quoted east coast GNS population number of 300 -500 has been debunked by these new sciences, the consensus of scientific opinion remains that the population is in fact small and under ongoing threat. ANSA will continue to engage in the GNS research and conservation debate.

It deserves mention that Recfish Australia incurred considerable expense in defending the GNS case. Legal costs associated with the defence were in the vicinity of \$130000 of which about \$55000 was covered by donations from various supporters including ANSA, ANSA QLD and NSW, ANSA clubs and individual ANSA members. Again a special note of thanks is extended to all who dug into their pockets to support Recfish Australia with this financial burden – which I might emphasise could have been ANSA's burden had we chosen to take up the defence in our own right.

While on the topic of Recfish Australia it is pleasing to see that Len Olyott has taken on the role of CEO following the decision by John Harrison to stand down and pursue other interests. John did a commendable job under difficult circumstances and the road ahead for Len and Recfish Australia will not be any easier with the Commonwealth declining to provide a commitment for ongoing long term financial support of Recfish Australia and also curtailing the Recreational Fishing Community Grants programme. It is somewhat ironic that while the Government's policy is to recognise Recfish Australia as the only legitimate peak recreational fishing body it is not prepared to see it properly funded to do the job required of it. Hopefully the Government will have a change of heart as it settles into office and recognises the importance of having a vibrant and well resourced body such as Recfish Australia effectively pursuing a representative role for all recreational fishers. I will be attending the Recfish

Australia AGM in October and a major topic for discussion will be the securing of future funding and the need for constitutional change to encourage a broader membership base.

The Commonwealth's decision to cut back its financial commitment to recreational fishing will also impact negatively upon ANSA and its various projects especially its highly acclaimed Angel Ring and Rock Fishing Safety projects. These projects are not cheap to run and rely substantially on Government patronage at National and State levels. It is our hope that the Government continues to recognise the valuable work these projects achieve in saving lives and the need for these projects to be expanded and rolled out across the Nation. You can do your bit to assist by raising your concerns with your local MP.

Another casualty of the Government cut back on expenditure has been the agreement reached between the commercial and recreational sectors (ANSA, GFAA, AFTA & Recfish Australia) for a resource sharing arrangement which would have seen longliners restricted from shooting their lines inside the 400 metre isobath and mandatory for all lines to be retrieved before they drifted into the 200 meter isobath. This agreement which has been the subject of intense negotiation over many years would have applied across the entire ETBF zone (SE QLD down to Southern NSW) and would have been of enormous benefit to our marlin and tuna fisheries. Unfortunately the commercial sector has now withdrawn from the agreement citing the Commonwealth's decision to withdraw a \$750000 funding package that was earmarked for compensation and research initiatives which were integral to the agreement. This is a frustrating setback for everybody and we will continue to do what we can to convince the Government to change its position and resume early dialogue with the commercial sector.

From a financial and membership perspective ANSA is travelling well. Our membership numbers continue to regrow and our financial position remains healthy, the latter being very much due to astute fiscal management and constraint by the Board who voluntarily give up a lot more than just their time to keep ANSA buoyant, highly profiled and relevant to the needs of members and the broader fishing public. Membership fees have been again contained at the 2004 level when the current Board took the decision to reduce membership fees as well as eliminating all fees for the processing of National Records and Masters Awards. This past year we were also fortunate enough to be able to subsidise the cost of Branch Delegate travel to attend the AGM and National Conference held in Sydney over November 2007 and the Special Meeting convened in June 2008 to address the rule changes. Commonwealth funding of \$6250 via the RFCG programme was of great assistance in covering these costs. Ideally we would like to convene a National Conference at least once every 4 years funds permitting.

Two of our members, Shane Jasprizza and Mark Holland were fortunate to have been selected to participate in the 2007 Next Generation of Leaders programme sponsored by Recfish Australia and held in Darwin last October. This was a great initiative to develop and mentor a new generation of leaders for the future of ANSA and other like recreational fishing bodies. Hopefully there will be future opportunity for up and coming young leaders within ANSA to participate and benefit from programmes such as this. I am pleased to say that Shane has now joined the ANSA Board in the capacity of Business Director.

Member communication remains a major priority for the Board and the quarterly publication of the ANSA News Bulletin and regular updates from Recfish Australia and other Fisheries agencies etc give members across Australia the opportunity to keep abreast of what's happening on the fishing and political scene nationally and globally. The ANSA National website www.ansa.com.au is a major source of member and potential member communication receiving more than 1000 hits per month.

It is becoming apparent that the coming year will present a whole new range of challenges for ANSA at a National and State level and we will be as busy as ever. There will continue to be ongoing issues over the adequacy and availability of boat ramps and boating facilities generally and the contentious issue of restricted fishing access to our favoured locations as a consequence of ongoing pressure by the National / Marine Park Authorities, other Government agencies and the growing number of conservation groups that have little time for recreational fishing. We need to maintain a united and influential front to combat these challenges.

Thanks to all of those on the National Executive and State Branch Committees for the hard work that has been put in over the past year and be prepared for another tumultuous year ahead.

AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER FEDERATION – SPEARFISHING (AUF)

National Chair Report (Spearfishing) - Dr Adam Smith



The Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) has developed a strong working relationship with Recfish Australia and sees great value in working together in the future. It has also been a challenging year with change and political decisions that impact our sport, and important issues requiring extensive consultation.

We thank John Harrison for his great work as CEO and wish him all the best in the future, and we welcome Len Olyott as new CEO.

Highlights for AUF and Recfish Australia in 2007-8 were:

- that the AUF become a full members of Recfish Australia and continued as a Board member
- that Recfish Australia developed a vision and invested in strategic planning
- Great Australian Shark Count project funded by DAFF \$73,000
- Successful outcome for AAT Grey Nurse Shark
- Extensive positive media

Our major concern is:

- Lack of ongoing Government funding for Recfish Australia
- Lack of federal and state Ministerial engagement with Recfish Australia and AUF
- Lack of support by some peak recreational bodies of Recfish Australia

The key items of interest are discussed below:

1. Strategic Planning

The National AUF Strategic Plan was updated and several new initiatives were completed or are close to completion.

2. People

The AUF Chair, Dr Adam Smith continued on the Recfish Australia Board and has taken an active role. In particular Adam has led items on policy, leadership, strategic planning and vision, national fish names, communication, threatened species, grey nurse sharks and marine protected areas.

Several AUF members participated in the Next Generation of Leaders program- Dr Matt Koopman (Vic), Craig Shepherd (NSW) and Chad Lunow (QLD).

Dr Adam Smith was funded by FRDC to participate in the Australian Rural Leadership Program Course 15.

3. Communication

The communication between Recfish Australian and spearfishers has been greater than ever before. The AUF has several websites, specialist publications (*International Freediving and Spearfishing News* and *Spearfishing Downunder*), DVD and video and trade displays and I believe that this has led to a significant increase in knowledge transfer and our membership in the past year.

The AUF spearfishing website -<http://www.auf-spearfishing.com.au> is fantastic and contains campaigns, media, contacts, competitions, records and much, much more.

A new electronic magazine *Seachange* was initiated with quarterly editions.

Highlights of particular importance to Recfish Australia were

- 4 joint AUF-DAFF-Recfish Australia media releases associated with Great Australian Shark Count
- *Fantastic Fish Calendar (2008)* included Recfish Australia, Sunfish, AUF logos

4. Competitions

The Australian Championships were held in January 2008 in Bellambi, NSW waters with 52 competitors. The event was focussed on spearfishing but also held film fishing and fin swimming events.

Australia competed at the Interpacific Championships in Hawaii against 5 countries – and the Australian team won the event.

The Blue Water Classic (Woolgoolga, NSW) is a pelagic species only competition and was accredited as four stars in March 2007 under the NEATFish program developed by Recfish Australia. In 2008, we ran a dedicated shark counting weekend in the Solitary Islands Marine Park and 131 sharks (mostly Grey Nurse) were counted. This was well received by SIMP scientists, managers and the community.

5. Politics and management of fisheries

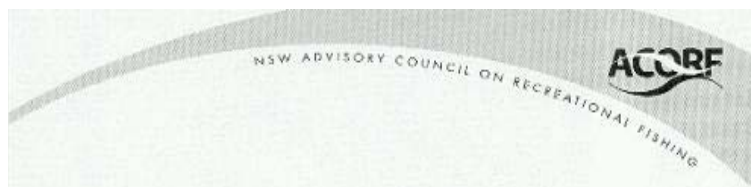
Spearfishers continue to be under pressures for changes to our activity from Federal and State government and the conservation groups, and there has been major issues associated with marine protected areas, protected species and fisheries management. We need to be more proactive with meetings with politicians, mail outs, media releases

6. Finance and support

AUF is full member of Recfish Australia (\$550). A significant amount of in-kind support such as expertise, contacts, letters and time was also provided

NSW ADVISORY COUNCIL OF RECREATIONAL FISHING (ACoRF)

Chair Report – Bruce Schumacher



The New South Wales member to Recfish Australia, the NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing, has had a busy and productive year.

The income generated from the NSW all waters recreational fishing licence amounted to \$10.8 million for the last financial year. That money has been fully committed to projects that will enhance recreational fishing in both freshwater and saltwater. For further details of how the funds are spent: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational.

Some particular projects are worth comment.

The artificial reef program is about to be extended offshore. The estuarine reef systems in Lake Macquarie, Botany Bay and the Georges Basin have proven successful in colonizing fish aggregations and they are to be extended in size and further reefs are planned for Sydney Harbour and Pittwater. Survey work is currently underway for our first offshore reef. Much work has already been done overseas on the optimum construction and placement of reefs and we will benefit from that experience.

The FAD program continues and is appreciated by the small boat brigade. It will be expanded with more FADS deployed along the coast this summer season.

Stocking of marine species such as mulloway and king prawns has also proven a boon to fishers and further stockings of these species are currently underway. Other species are also under investigation as possible candidates.

One of the major issues that will require our attention over the coming year is access. In the inland we have the possible privatization of some of the paper roads and travelling stock routes reducing our access to rivers and streams. The Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay marine parks are now currently under review and with the NCC and their cohorts pushing for more sanctuary zones we have a job ahead of us. The Botany Bay Recreational Fishing Area will be impacted by the Port Botany expansion with areas (that the recreational fishing sector basically paid for with the commercial fishing licence buy-back) being excluded. We will be seeking compensation, probably in the form of increased facilities, such as more boat ramps.

NSW DPI is currently going through the process of restructuring the commercial fishing industry and we will need to monitor and address any possible impacts on the recreational fishing sector.

WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC - RECFISHWEST

Executive Director's Report - Frank Prokop



The 2007-2008 year has been interesting and extremely dynamic. Some of the most important decisions in the last twenty years affecting recreational fishing have been made. Many of these decisions have benefited the recreational fishing sector. It was also very much a case of looking at whether the glass was half full or half empty.

Most of last year and the first part of this year was taken up with Recfishwest seeking to increase its membership levels to be able to satisfy the claim that we have a wider mandate on recreational fisheries.

I am extremely proud of the way that Recfishwest has been able to meet this challenge with over 1100 members at the end of the financial year. The support from the wider recreational fishing community and many of the tackle stores was exceptional. The Mandurah boat show provided many new members.

The Halco special edition Laser Pro 45 member incentive, the inclusion of family and pensioner discounts certainly helped to increase membership numbers. It was also extremely pleasing to be able to offer such wonderful prizes as an Engel fridge/freezer, return flights to Exmouth and many other prizes to help increase our membership. Our Chairman Craig Leatt-Hayter did an exceptional job in helping to arrange the prizes.

While having 1100 members is fantastic, it also comes at a cost. Membership acknowledgements, mailout of the lure, annual general meeting information and nomination forms for the board all need to be collated and sent out. Much of this effort fell onto Yvette Guy, in addition to her work in organising the fishing clinics which had around 3500 participants throughout Western Australia last year.

Special mention must also go to the completely indefatigable Terry Fuller. The *Casting around the Internet* newsletter that Terry puts together is highly prized throughout Australia and contains exceptional information.

Recfishwest faced a number of challenges on the funding and staffing front. The loss of Mark Pagano's experience and an additional policy position has had an impact on the issues which Recfishwest has been able to engage. Following from Recfishwest meeting its membership target, we were also able to secure some additional funding for 2008/2009.

Many fantastic things happened for the organisation. Recfishwest was able to run fishing clinics for nearly 3,500 people throughout the state. These included clinics for remote aboriginal communities, grandparent and child clinics and our first Pink Fly Fishers for women suffering from breast cancer. Our dedicated group of clinics presenters should feel extremely proud of these accomplishments. In addition, Recfishwest was a finalist in the Department of Community Services awards for our fishing clinics projects, a remarkable result for recognition of the benefits of our work in this area.

Kane Moyle was successful in winning the Peter Dundas-Smith Scholarship from the FRDC and is looking to journey to Canada to make a presentation on the work being conducted around Australia on reducing the impact of barotrauma.

This trip will follow the release of the 'Using the Release Weight DVD' which we produced with funds from the Commonwealth Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme. Using the skills of a variety of volunteers and the organisational ability of Con Costa, a fantastic product has been produced. Special thanks go to the Australian Fishing Network for production assistance and Sunset Sinkers for ongoing support for the release weight production.

The change of government at the federal level will have implications for Recfishwest. The Commonwealth Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme had been a wonderful blessing for us – allowing us to run the Addicted to Fishing not Drugs program (twice), the Release Weight DVD and the Young Future Leaders Program at the Abrolhos Islands. We will also be undertaking a

habitat improvement project with the Water Corporation at Drakesbrook Dam, as soon as draining is undertaken for dam maintenance.

All of these projects have been spectacularly successful! The new federal government has made a small commitment to community funding, but no decisions have yet been made on how the money will be spent.

Recfishwest would dearly love to be able to run more regional fishing clinics. While they are expensive, they are extremely well received and do make a difference in regional areas.

The Young Future Leaders Program has far exceeded our wildest dreams. The standard of applicants and the support from the angling media and the Department of Fisheries has been spectacular! We cannot praise enough the Department of Fisheries staff who assisted with the preparation for, and execution of the project. Greg Finlay and Dave Griffiths from Geraldton, Mark Pagano, Clinton Syers and Kristy Saville from head office and David Fairclough from research were also phenomenal.

The Young Leaders themselves and their mentors continue to impress people all around Australia. Michael Sawyer for example, has been accepted as the first ever recreational representative on the Seafood Industry leaders program. Lisa Sharp (Hill) now sits on RFAC and each and every participant has accomplished something of which they, and Recfishwest can be extremely proud.

Much of the year was taken up with negotiations on the West Coast demersal wetfish management arrangements. Two reports were released that indicated significant problems for dhufish stocks (which Recfishwest had strongly raised as part of the dhufish workshop but with little result) and concerns with snapper.

As part of the management reforms, Jon Ford announced that the area from White Hills to Two Rocks effectively becoming a recreational fishing area. While a few hand liners could continue in Cockburn Sound, the contentious long line entitlement was removed and a compensation package developed.

One of the major impacts of the change to commercial wetline management was that the cash or black market was significantly reduced. With only a few commercial fishers able to legally sell finfish, it became harder for illegal sales to avoid detection. This was seen by Recfishwest as a significant benefit of management and also decreased the mortality as much of this catch was unreported in commercial returns or undetected if by 'recreational' fishers.

Recfishwest was disappointed in the level of reporting by researchers on recreational catches with almost impossible changes in data sets being used yet there was no attempt to update the tagging information that Recfishwest and recreational fishers had worked so hard to collect.

What was extremely pleasing was that throughout the process, recreational fishers universally accepted that there was a need for significant management reforms for dhufish. The only debate was how quickly and for how long the management controls would apply.

Recfishwest believed that a two month closure would set the direction for future management as it had done for Cockburn Sound snapper with ongoing reviews as quality information from well designed and cooperative research programs was received. It is a delicate balancing act between interpreting fairly rough research data and not doing enough to ensure a quality fishery remains.

The issue remains volatile and Recfishwest is working on the myriad of management considerations with enormous energy.

During the year Minister for Fisheries Jon Ford continued to have regular meetings with our new Chairman Craig Leatt-Hayter and I. The Minister has made a number of informal approaches on policy issues and we thank the Minister and his advisers for making themselves available.

I continued as a Director to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, which is a real honour. The FRDC Board met with the Recfishwest Board and received a presentation from the Young Future Leaders which was extremely well received.

Kane Moyle continues to excel in many areas and continues on the Fisheries Research Advisory Body (FRAB) that advises FRDC on Western Australian research priorities. Western Australia has some challenges to meet in developing quality research applications, especially with Integrated Fisheries

Management information needs not qualifying for many external funding programs and the start up of the new Western Australian Marine Science Institute (WAMSI) with CSIRO also competing for time of the researchers. Kane has now joined the Recfishing Research team administered by Bill Sawynok.

Recfishwest has continued to have a high profile with Recfish Australia. Des Wood is a member of the Board during the year and worked hard to ensure that the politics of fishing at the national level didn't become too difficult. Recfish Australia has made enormous progress during the year but has also suffered through the dedicated efforts of a few individuals to try and bring our national peak body to its knees. Ultimately, continual distractions took their toll and my friend John Harrison resigned as CEO to take up a position with the commercial fishing industry in the Clarence region of northern NSW.

It is ironic that last year I flagged to Recfish and through this report that I would not be here in 12 months, yet I continue while John has moved on. It is frustrating that ongoing sniping happens so often in fishing. It is a challenge that new CEO Len Olyott is addressing as he finds his feet. The situation with Recfish Australia would be greatly helped with better understanding and support from DAFF and DEHWA, the two main government departments in Canberra.

The list of the vast range of committees and working groups in which Recfishwest participates demonstrates the regard with which our views are held. We add value not only to all of the program initiatives of the Department of Fisheries, but across a huge spectrum of government and non-government issues. We have given and earned respect from the commercial fishing industry, mainstream conservation groups, local government, state government departments and their Ministers and the Australian government. We should all feel proud that we ensure that the views of recreational fishing are considered. We may not win everything and there are times when it feels that the mountain to climb is extremely high, but it is better to have tried and failed than not to have tried at all.

The presence of Recfishwest, the Conservation Council, MG Kailis group, WAFIC and Aquaculture Council on the Halt the Salt project, and the wonderful win we had in getting the project rejected, is a testimony to the capacity of these groups to work together.

During the year, I am sad to report that our relationship with the Department of Fisheries suffered a number of testing times. In particular, our relationship with the Research Division deteriorated as communication dried up and we were unable to learn about projects and results. Recfishwest raised significant concerns about Cockburn Sound crabs modelling, recreational catch calculations and addressing management of the Roe's abalone fishery with no positive outcomes. When the Research Committee invited the Department to help develop research priorities, we were told that this had already been done and that we should look at their priorities.

Within head office, many good people have left. The loss of Heather Brayford last year, Ian Curnow and Tim Bray and the likely loss of Kristy Saville has greatly impacted on progress of management issues. These experienced and quality staff were also most likely to have meaningful engagement with Recfishwest.

In a number of areas we have seen the only tangible outcome of a move towards Integrated Fisheries Management being the dissolution of a dedicated recreational program. In spite of this, Recfishwest remains strongly committed to the IFM model and hope that efforts are made to make it work.

We have spent the entire year trying to make progress on changes to consultative structures which would cause Recfishwest to examine its Board composition and servicing of regional issues. There has been no progress.

It is also extremely important to point out the enormous contribution of our volunteer based Board. The Executive Committee including Craig Leatt-Hayter, Des Wood, Steven Gill, Norman Halse and Terry Fuller work many hours a week on Recfishwest issues.

We have been continuing to ensure that the needs of recreational fishermen are given full consideration in the development of management strategies by local, state and federal government and by other interest groups such as commercial fishing, conservation and many others.

Our funding will again be closely examined during the year, particularly with a looming election, to ensure that our funding is assured for the medium term.

While we can get money for running fishing clinics and research projects, it is the daily grind of management negotiations, the heartbreakingly mundane series of meetings that may never lead to an outcome which is where we are having trouble getting core funding. It is for this reason that we invested so heavily in terms of time in developing the young future leaders to take a greater role into the future.

Recfish Australia is faced with similar problems and the peak national body for commercial fishing ASIC folded due to lack of funding and support. WAFIC and the rock lobster industry are also facing many challenges and it is essential that all recreational fishers understand how important it is to have a strong, professional and viable peak body for both commercial and recreational fishing in Western Australia.

Last year I was feeling very frazzled. I have since had another recurrence of my medical issues requiring further surgery in late June. The Minister has placed significant challenges before Recfishwest, some of which have required considerable commitment to issues not directly related to fisheries management. However, with all these things, I believe that we have come out the other side.

We have gained the respect of the Minister for continued good faith negotiations, and my doctors are confident that they have gotten all of my tumours.

My absence has seen the blossoming of Kane Moyle as a fisheries manager. He has taken the challenge of acting as ED of Recfishwest while I have been away in his stride. He will make a significant mark in Australian fisheries management.

I am much more confident of the future of Recfishwest as an organisation and the activity as an integral part of the lifestyle of Western Australia. I can therefore seek to move on when the right opportunity arises and know that others can build on a solid foundation.

I would like to offer special thanks to our new Chairman, Craig Leatt-Hayter, whose enthusiasm and dedication has been greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Board members Dr Howard Gill, Al Bevan and Mark Morris who have faced significant family medical issues this year. Also to Stephen Gilders who has faced similar issues, but who is likely to remain on the Board. They have served the organisation very well, including Howard on the executive Committee and we hope that all will continue to keep in touch.

The efforts of all Board members and other volunteers who give so freely of their time on behalf of recreational fishing are often under recognised. It has been a bittersweet pleasure to work on the variety of issues during the past year with such enthusiastic and dedicated people.

Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc (TARFISH)

Executive Officer Report – Mark Nikolai

Representation on Committees and Groups:

- Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee - Representative Lynden Chipman
- Tasmanian Fisheries Research Advisory Board - John Cleary
- Abalone Working Group - Tony Burton
- Abalone Biosecurity Reference Group – Mark Nikolai.
- Small Pelagic Fishery Management Advisory Committee - Brett Cleary and Jon Bryan
- Tasmanian Aquaculture & Fisheries Institute - Crustacean Research Advisory Group
- Recreational Fishing Research Advisory Group - Mark Nikolai & Lynden Chipman.
- Tasmanian Marine Police compliance committee - Brett Cleary
- Centrostephanus (Long Spined Sea Urchin) Steering Committee – Mark Nikolai

Tasmanian Marine Protected Areas Strategy.

As part of the strategy the Tasmanian coastal waters have been divided into 8 regions. The Bruny Bio-Region has been the first of the 8 regions to be considered for classification as an MPA. TARFish have been actively involved since the commencement of the process and have provided comment and feedback on the initial call for public submissions, the draft Recommendations Report and the Final Recommendations Report which was provided in April. Decisions on the outcomes of the process are currently with the Tasmanian Government and we are waiting to see how the government have balanced the views and requirements of the broad stakeholder groups.

Barway Access at Georges Bay, St Helens

We have participated in working group discussions representing recreational fishers and provided stakeholder support and lobbied government. The state government announced on the 12th June an extra \$2 million will be spent over the next four years to dredge the barway to improve access to St Helens which is a very pleasing outcome for all stakeholders.

Antibiotic Use in Marine Farming Operations

TARFish have discussed this issue with the Minister for Primary Industries and Water and the Marine Farming Branch in the Department of Primary Industries and Water and conveyed our areas of concern. The minister provided TARFish with a copy of the FSANZ Report (Independent Risk Assessment Report) into the issue which has been posted onto the TARFish website. The FSANZ Report indicates the use of antibiotics does not pose any risk to human health. TARFish have also held discussions with Tasmania's largest marine farmer & processor, Tassal on the use of Antibiotics.

Legislative Council Select Committee Inquiry Recreational Marine Fishing

A Legislative Council inquiry was appointed to inquire into recreational marine fishing in Tasmania in January. Public Submissions to the committee closed at the end of February and the Inquiry commenced hearing verbal evidence in early April. TARFish prepared an extensive submission to the inquiry addressing all areas of the terms of reference. The inquiry is broad reaching in its scope and includes input from Research Authorities, Government Marine agencies, Commercial and Recreational fishing sector groups, associations and individuals. The Legislative Council Select Committee has advised that their recommendations will be released in late 2008.

Quarterly Bulletin

TARFish published the first quarterly TARFish Bulletin in January. The objective of the bulletin is to keep recreational fishers informed of issues, relevant research, upcoming events and educating on responsible fishing practices. The first edition was also included in an AFTA publication titled Fishing is Fun – Give it a Go. This publication was posted to over 135,000 Tasmanian households in February. The second quarterly bulletin was released in April and has been well received. A cost

effective distribution network has been established through the tackle and marine reseller network throughout Tasmania with around 7,000 copies being distributed each quarter. 90% of all Tasmanian recreational fishing outlets are distributing the bulletin.

TARFish Website

The website was updated in early January with current content and information relevant to recreational fishers. The website had not been updated for a couple of years and was ineffective as a communication channel. A professional design update occurred in February and the website is now updated on a continuous basis and has become a cost effective channel in communicating and disseminating information to interested recreational fishers. The website also has the ability for on-line subscription functionality for our regular quarterly bulletins and a secure, password protected area for TARFish Committee information. Copies of the Associations Rules, Strategic Plan, Members & Delegates Charter and the Representatives Handbook have been included for download on the website.

Tasmanian Code of Practice

10,000 copies were printed and distributed in June. The content was derived from the Recfish Australia code and was supplemented by topical cartoon drawings that related to the message content on each page. The code has been very well received and a further 5,000 copies had to be printed due to demand. The code has also been included on the website for download.

Branding

The CEO's Stabicraft 6 metre Hardtop has been renamed with the **TARFish** brand. The boat has been taken to all fishing competitions promoting TARFish. The boat has been well received with many people taking the opportunity to find out about TARFish and its activities.

Public Meetings

TARFish organised a public meeting on the West Coast in April at Zeehan to introduce the new CEO and discuss recreational fishing issues relevant to the West Coast. The meeting was well attended by around 25 people and the local recreational fishing community were appreciative of the meeting being held to hear their views. TARFish were invited back in July to follow on discussions with the local community.

TARFish was invited by the Stanley Chamber of Commerce as the guest speaker at a public meeting held in June resulting from the closure of the Stanley Breakwater Finger Pier. About 60 locals attended the meeting to vent their frustrations at the closure of this very popular recreational fishing facility. TARFish have been invited by the Chamber to assist the local community in resolving this issue. TARFish have held discussions with TasPorts, pier owner, and lobbied the government and will continue its involvement in negotiating an acceptable solution for Stanley residents.

Marine Structures

With the closure of the Stanley Finger Pier Wharf and issues with the King Island, Triabunna, Smithton and St Helens wharf structures it became apparent that there was no coordinated strategic approach being undertaken in relation to ensuring public access was maintained. Ownership of these structures rests with a combination of state government departments, councils, rotary clubs and private owners. Very little ongoing maintenance funding is provided and these structures are allowed to degenerate into a state of disrepair and then closed due to public safety concerns. This situation is extremely disappointing for recreational fishers and TARFish have commenced an ongoing project to monitor, lobby and improve public access.

VICTORIA'S RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY (VRFISH)

Executive Officer's Report – Christopher Collins



The 2007-2008 Business Plan was the first year of the 2007-2012 Strategic Business Plan. VRFish made a commitment to develop an annual Business Plan, accompanied by a yearly budget to define the direction of VRFish, outlining key tasks and activities to assist in achieving the five year Strategic Business Plan.

VRFish focuses its activities on five key areas:

1. Proactively managing fisheries by ecosystem based fisheries management
2. Improve and maintain recreational fishing access and infrastructure
3. Environment sustainability (climate change) water conservation and fish habitat improvement
4. Coordination and communication between key fishing stakeholders (public relations) – educational and promotional programs
5. Security of VRFish funding arrangements

Key Area 1 - Assist in the introduction of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management to Victorian Fisheries by developing requirements for what will constitute a healthy fishery.

- Advocate availability of fish resources through resource management and stocking programs. VRFish arranged participants to attend all five regional Consultation (CONS) Meetings. Outcomes from CONS have not been received to date. VRFish has also participated in the Fisheries Victoria review of the Translocation Guidelines, it is anticipated that the review will be completed by the end of 2008.
- Advocate environmental flows of Victoria's waterways to maintain healthy habitat. VRFish has assisted Fisheries Victoria to develop its 'Responding to the impacts of drought and its consequences on inland recreational fisheries - Policy Statement', which is now finalised and published. VRFish unfortunately did not get to comment on the 'Fish stocking for recreational purposes - Policy Statement' or its 'Stocking Priority Table'. VRFish has also nominated participants to assist in the development of several Stream Flow Management Plans and other Water Management Plans; however DSE has not yet commenced the development of any plans.
- Evaluate the impact of diverted water i.e. pipelines, on fish resources. VRFish has participated on the steering committee for the Wimmera/Mallee Pipeline and has secured water for several popular recreational fisheries in the Wimmera/Mallee.
- Promote that "iconic" fisheries are managed on an EBFM basis. Through our involvement in the development of the fishery management plans, VRFish has been a key contributor in the drafting of the Abalone (Review), Rock Lobster (Review), Corangamite, Port Phillip and Western Port, including the finalisation and declaration of the West Gippsland Fishery Management Plan.

Key Area 2.1 - Participate in the roll-out of the Government's Recreational Fishing and Boating Policy by working with Government agencies on identified policies.

- VRFish is working with Fisheries Victoria in identifying locations for fish cleaning tables. 2008/09 will see the program in full swing, refer to fish cleaning table article for further details.
- VRFish is participating in the Parks Victoria Devilbend Reserve Management Plan Advisory Group in developing the draft management plan; this is anticipated to be released in late 2008. Fisheries Victoria and Native Fish Australia are working through the issues within the Trout Cod recovery plan, with the aim of achieving the identified target of developing a recreational fishery. Trout cod numbers are extremely strong in many locations around Victoria. VRFish are participating on a steering committee to develop an estuary perch fishery at Lake Bolac. Fisheries Victoria is in the process of undertaking the appropriate risk assessments.
- Meeting the demand for boat launching facilities. VRFish has been unsuccessful in gaining the necessary funding to publish its boat ramp report. VRFish has evaluated Western Port's boat

ramps and have promoted necessary works to Marine Safety Victoria. No projects have been forthcoming to date.

- A preliminary draft has been developed for the classification of Victoria's rivers and streams, a series of consultation meetings occurred in the North East, target for finalising the model is 2009.

Key Area 2.2 - Implement actions defined in the Access for Recreational Fishing Policy Paper

- VRFish has been unsuccessful in achieving the necessary funding to commence its 'Access with Obligations' education campaign. VRFish will revise the program and reattempt sourcing funding.
- VRFish has continued its strong advocacy efforts by representing recreational fishers through steering committees and providing submissions to key strategies to maintain the autonomy of access for recreational fishers. Full listings of VRFish submissions are available on the VRFish website www.vrfish.com.au.

Key Area 3 - Deliver proactive policy directions which improve recreational fishing by developing a broad range of up-to-date recreational fishing policies.

- Participate in the review of the Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations, this has been a two stage process, in the first quarter of 2007/08, VRFish submitted comments on the Fisheries Regulation discussion paper. Then in the last quarter, the Regulatory Impact Statement was released. The public consultation process did not conclude until the 2008/09 financial year. It is anticipated the new regulations will be released in 2009.
- To evaluate the proposed initiatives of government/industry etc responding to climate change and its effects on recreational fishing, VRFish provided submissions to the 'Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy' and the 'Land and Biodiversity at a time of Climate Change Green Paper'. These documents are policy directives of 'Our Environment Our Future' and 'Our Water Our Future'.
- VRFish has commenced an audit of its policies and preparation a renewal program. In December 2007, VRFish held a workshop to commence the review of its Trout Policy. A draft was presented to the July 2008 State Council Meeting, anticipated finalisation in the first quarter of 2008/09. A redfin policy was also developed and adopted. The VRFish's remuneration policy was updated and adopted.

Key Area 4.1 - An active well informed membership drawn from diverse experiences by building an increased, active and better informed membership base.

- VRFish is aiming to develop and promote partnerships with kindred organisations and stakeholders. VRFish has commenced talks with Parks Victoria on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding; this is anticipated to be completed during 2008/09.
- To develop skills of its Members by strengthening the operation of regional representatives, the first step has been to audit members' skill sets this will let to providing ongoing personal development programs.
- During 2007/08 VRFish filled all unaffiliated member positions.
- VRFish has successfully finalised and published Governance Guidelines, this was included in a Manual, along with the Constitution, Workplace Policy, Operational Procedure and Strategic and Business Plan. The Governance Guidelines are a progressive document that will constantly undergo review and improvement.
- VRFish's Executive Officer committed to attend fifteen meetings to strengthen relations with fishing associations and clubs. This target was overachieved.

Key Area 4.2 – Implement actions identified in Fishery Management Plans.

- Reference Committees have been established for the Anderson Inlet Fisheries Reserve Management Plan and the Glenelg Hopkins Fishery Management Plan. VRFish participates in these Reference Groups; their role is to coordinate activities and projects in support of each plan's actions, strategies and objectives.

- VRFish made a commitment to distribute the Victorian Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct through outlets in the regions via the Recreational Fishing Guide, 300,000 copies are produced annually, to identify and encourage responsible recreational fishing behaviour.

Key Area 4.3 – Strengthen the operation of Research and Development Committee.

- VRFish conducted a workshop in March to develop its priorities for a Research and Development Plan for recreational fisheries. A draft has been produced, anticipated to be finalised in 2008/09.
- VRFish is in the process of seeking funding to undertake the development of a model to establish the true economic value of recreational fishing in Victoria. Funding announcement due in the first quarter of 2008/09. This will assist in using analysis and research to support advocacy efforts.

Key Area 4.4 - Implement actions defined in the Communications Plan

- VRFish has made major improvements to its website. It has been identified that more improvements are needed to meet user demands and improve communication capabilities. VRFish has rearranged its email database into key groups to improve its communication. VRFish has published two editions of the Fishing Lines Magazine, October 2007 and April 2008. Over 15,000 copies have been circulated. Included in the October 2007 Fishing Lines Magazine was the 2006/07 Annual Report.

Key Area 5 - A well resourced Peak Body capable of service delivery

- As a lead up to the biennial review of the recreational fishing representation model in 2009, the Fisheries Consultative Review has allowed VRFish to reflect on its organisational structure to determine its value to the community and the government.

Through rigorous fiscal management over the 2006/07 and 2007/08 financial years, VRFish has been able to achieve its goal and have self funded the employment of a Grants/Project Officer. VRFish has diversified its funding source, through advertising sales for the Fishing Lines Magazine; this ensured that VRFish was able to produce an additional edition of Fishing Lines. VRFish was also successful in gaining a grant to install floating pontoons at Eildon Pondage; this project is anticipated to be completed in 2008/09

FINANCIAL REPORTS

**THE AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL AND
SPORT FISHING INDUSTRY CONFEDERATION INCORPORATED**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

**Bevin R Schafferius
P.O. Box 10098 Adelaide Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000**

**Telephone: (07) 3221 2899
Facsimile: (07) 3220 0996**

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated**Contents**

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The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated
Board's Report

Your board members submit the financial accounts of the Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

Board Members

The names of board members at the date of this report are:

Bruce Schumacher

John Cleary

Chris Makepeace

Des Wood

Adam Smith

Malcolm Poole

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were representing the interests of recreational and sport fishing at a national level.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The profit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

	Year ended 30 June 2008	Year ended PrevYearEnd
	\$	\$
	64,175	14,660

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board on _____ day of _____ 2008:

Chairman

Board Member

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Income		
Grants - Projects	406,876	195,671
Memberships and contributions	124,088	71,411
Interest received	17,532	10,087
Grant - administration	108,631	107,668
Fees	83,852	58,895
Total income	740,979	443,732
Expenses		
Expenditure - Projects		
Board Review	27,559	41
DEW MPA Liaison	104	33,413
Recfishing Research	74,728	58,982
Stock Enhancement Workshop	0	4,864
Tournament Accreditation	33,855	30,961
MPA Seminars (participants)	0	12,800
Sponsorship	4,395	900
Next Generation Leaders	67,700	3,664
Pink Fly Fishers	10,330	4,438
Qualification Pathways	46,452	29,698
Revised COP	26,551	9,545
Strategic Revenue Options Scoping Paper	104,699	0
Safety Scoping Paper	16,524	6,364
Total expenditure - Projects	412,987	195,670
Association Expenses		
Administration	14,492	17,702
Conference & Meetings	2,669	2,572
Employment and contractors	130,800	157,739
Professional fees	3,636	2,280
Travel expenses	26,846	13,706
Total Association expenses	178,443	193,999
AAT Grey Nurse Shark Case	85,464	39,403
Total expenses	676,804	429,072

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Income Statement. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax	64,175	14,660
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities	0	0
Net profit attributable to the association	<u>64,175</u>	<u>14,660</u>
Total changes in equity of the association		
Opening retained profits	91,954	77,294
Net profit attributable to the association	64,175	14,660
Closing retained profits	<u>156,129</u>	<u>91,954</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Income Statement. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
Current Assets			
Cash assets	3	383,165	481,887
Receivables	4	5,420	91,600
Current tax asset	7	3,904	
Total Current Assets		392,489	573,487
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	332	332
Total Non-Current Assets		332	332
Total Assets		392,821	573,819
Current Liabilities			
Payables	6	227,883	425,239
Current tax liabilities	7	3,780	21,176
Income in advance	8	0	23,163
Provisions - annual leave		5,029	12,287
Total Current Liabilities		236,692	481,865
Total Liabilities		236,692	481,865
Net Assets		156,129	91,954
Members' Funds			
Retained profits		156,129	91,954
Total Members' Funds		156,129	91,954

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Income Statement. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from members and grants	805,723	342,045
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(921,977)	(156,789)
Interest received	17,532	10,087
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	(98,722)	195,343
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(98,722)	195,343
Cash at the beginning of the year	481,887	286,544
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	383,165	481,887

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Income Statement. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
<hr/>		
Note 1. Reconciliation Of Cash		
For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.		
Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
CBA Cheque Account	130,576	58,801
CBA Term Deposit	0	26,912
CBA Grant Account	38,785	16,943
CBA Project Account	6,465	121,778
CBA Investment Account	207,339	257,453
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	383,165	481,887
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Note 2. Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities To Net Profit

Operating profit (loss) after tax	66,199	14,660
Depreciation expense	0	0
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade and term debtors	86,180	(91,600)
Increase (decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	25,231	(22,813)
Increase (decrease) in other creditors	(222,587)	287,191
Increase (decrease) in employee entitlements	(7,258)	8,572
Increase (decrease) in sundry provisions	(44,463)	(667)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(96,698)	195,343
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Income Statement. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached auditors report

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2008

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act. The board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112:	Income Taxes
AASB 1031:	Materiality
AASB 110:	Events after the Balance Sheet Date

No other Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

(a) Income Tax

The association is a tax exempt entity and is therefore not liable for income tax.

(b) Fixed Assets

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

(c) Segment Reporting

The association operates solely in the recreational and sports fishing industry within Australia.

(d) Auditors remuneration

The auditors remuneration relates solely to the audit of the financial statements

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Note 2: Revenue		
Grant - Projects:		
Depreciation expense		0
Grants - Projects	207,642	397,144
Add Unexpended 1 July 2006	372,693	157,283
Add Member Contributions	26,648	13,937
Less Unexpended 30 June 2007	(200,107)	(372,693)
Net Grants	406,876	195,671
Memberships and contributions:		
Memberships and contributions	124,088	94,574
Less memberships in advance	0	(15,365)
Less Unexpended Grey Nurse Case	0	(7,798)
Net Memberships and contributions	124,088	71,411
Note 3: Cash assets		
Bank accounts:		
CBA Cheque Account	130,576	58,801
CBA Term Deposit	0	26,912
CBA Grant Account	38,785	16,943
CBA Project Account	6,465	121,778
CBA Investment Account	207,339	257,453
	<u>383,165</u>	<u>481,887</u>
Note 4: Receivables		
Current		
Trade debtors	5,420	91,600
	<u>5,420</u>	<u>91,600</u>

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
Note 5: Property Plant and Equipment		
Plant and equipment:		
- At cost	1,599	1,599
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,267)	(1,267)
	<u>332</u>	<u>332</u>
Note 6: Payables		
Unsecured:		
Trade creditors	27,776	1,070
Creditors and accruals		1,475
Superannuation payable	0	0
Unexpended Grants		
DEW MPA Liaison	47,692	47,796
Hook to Cook	3,500	4,031
Recfishing Research	0	2,030
Stock Enhancement Workshop	0	0
Tournament Accreditation	40,068	45,159
Revised COP	36,629	63,182
DAFF Grant	0	50,000
Board Review	0	20,359
Strategic Revenue Options	27,119	90,909
Next Generation Leaders	0	38,300
Pink Fly Fishers	0	8,853
Qualifications Pathways	0	38,711
Safety Scoping Paper	1,767	13,364
2008 Conference (RFCGP)	22,727	0
SRO (FRDC)	20,605	0
Total unexpended grants	<u>200,107</u>	<u>422,694</u>
	<u>227,883</u>	<u>425,239</u>

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
<hr/>		
Note 7: Tax Liabilities		
Current		
GST payable control account	(3,904)	13,940
Amounts withheld from salary and wages	3,780	7,236
	(124)	21,176

Note 8: Other Liabilities

Current

Income in advance - AAT Case	0	7,798
Income in advance - Memberships	0	15,365
	0	23,163

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated
Auditor's Independence Declaration

To the board members of the Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2008 there have been:

- (i) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the Audit; and
- (ii) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Signed at Brisbane on this day of 2008.

Bevin R Schafferius
Registered Company Auditor

Bevin R Schafferius
Level 5, 99 Creek Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4000
Brisbane:

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated
Statement by Members of the Board
For the year ended 30 June 2008

The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated as at 30 June 2008 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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

Chair

Board Member

Date: _____

The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated

Independent Audit Report to the members

Scope

We have audited the attached financial report, being a special purpose financial report comprising the Statement by Members of the Board, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2007 of The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated. The Board is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (ACT) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (ACT). We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of The Australian Recreational and Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Incorporated as at 30 June 2008 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Signed on

Bevin R Schafferius, Registered Company Auditor

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