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MEDIA RELEASE

Marine Protected Areas to be focus of recreational fishers at Seminar.

Recreational fishers, fisheries managers, fisheries scientists, government officers and a range of other interested stakeholders will attend a 2 day seminar on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to be held in Brisbane on 4 and 5 November.

“With an increasing realisation by the recreational fishing industry that MPAs are and will have a major impact on their sport and recreation we are getting strong interest in the 2 day event” John Harrison CEO Recfish Australia said today.

The seminar is an initiative of Recfish Australia and is being supported by the Australian Government’s Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

The Seminar will be opened by Senator the Hon Eric Abetz Fisheries Minister and a group of specialists will present papers on range of topics including the socio-economic impact of MPAs on the recreational sector, the knowledge gaps and the best way of consulting or engaging with the recreational sector.

“The keynote address will see Professor Colin Buxton give an overview of the current status of MPAs, both Commonwealth and State, and the likely future implications for the recreational fishing industry as the thrust to introduce more MPAs proceeds. His presentation will be followed by Donna Petrachenko from the Australian Government’s Department of Environment and Heritage to address the question of why governments are going down the MPA path.”

“This is a real opportunity for the recreational fishing industry to forge a way forward with MPAs. Registration form and the draft program are available from the Recfish Australia web site www.recfish.com.au”

“Participants will have a genuine opportunity to have input to the processes and to develop solutions that will minimise the impact on fishing. About 40% of the two days will be dedicated to direct contribution from the participants” Mr Harrison concluded.

End

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