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AUSTRALIA



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Media release

Recfishing awards recognise excellence and contribution.

“The inaugural **Recfishing** awards recognising the contributions and excellence to recreational fishing were well received at a dinner over the weekend and I was delighted that the Minister for Fisheries Senator the Hon Eric Abetz could attend the dinner and present the awards” Recfish Australia’s Chair Bruce Schumacher said today.

“The winners were all worthy recipients and indeed the finalists and all nominees deserved to be recognised as there has been thousands of hours dedicated to their respective causes within recreational fishing. Whilst there can only be one winner of the awards there will continue to be many winners, particularly the angling public, from the efforts of all who contribute.”

“It is timely that these awards have commenced as there has been hundreds of people who should be recognised for their contributions. We plan to hold the awards every two years and we look forward to a growing interest level in the awards.”

“We wish to acknowledge the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) and the Recreational Fishing Community Grant Program for the support and sponsorship to hold these awards.

End

Media enquiries to Bruce Schumacher 0418 499322

The award categories and winners are listed below. High resolution photos of all but one of the winners receiving their award from the Minister are available on request to admin@recfish.com.au

Category 1: best research project with recreational outcomes

“The ecology of Mulloway” by Matt Taylor

Matt Taylor’s project “The ecology of Mulloway” *Argyrosomus japonicus* that provided the essential information for a generic model of the environmental impact of restocking NSW estuaries with juvenile (fingerling) mulloway. This numerical model is simple, providing a guide to the appropriate density of any fingerlings that should be released taking into account likely survival and growth rates, the area of preferred habitat, their diet and consumption rate.

Category 2: best recreational enhancement project

“Restocking the Blackwood River Estuary (WA)” by Greg Jenkins

Project - “Restocking the Blackwood River Estuary (WA)” with black bream through a stock assessment of black bream in the estuary. Recreational fishers were closely involved in the project. The project undertook an assessment of black bream in the estuary and determined that they were highly depleted. 220,000 juvenile bream were cultured using over 100 brood stock captured from the Blackwood River.

Category 3: best project or initiative encouraging women & young people’s participation in fishing

Recfishwest Sunsmart Fishing Clinic Program

These Recfishwest initiated clinics have reached over 3,000 children in metropolitan and regional WA and have become an annual event. The clinic program encourages messages of sustainable fishing, respect for the marine environment and principles of catch and release. The clinics have been well received by the many local communities visited and have become a festival of fishing for many families.

Category 4: volunteer of the year

Bob Audsley – *photo not available*

Bob is a volunteer with the NSW Fishcare Volunteer program and Botany Bay leader. Among other things Bob has been instrumental in implementing the Endeavour High senior school fishing for sport volunteer mentor program and instilling sport fishing goals and aims in teenage anglers. He undertakes training himself annually assists and trains new volunteers. He is a tireless volunteer totally committed to ensuring kids get out from behind the computer and go fishing

Category 5: non government administrator of the year

John Harrison

John has a wealth of experience in advocacy and representational roles within the recreational fishing industry. John was the National Executive Director of Recfish Australia, then the Executive Officer of the recreational fishing peak body in NT, and is currently the CEO of Recfish Australia. John was instrumental in having Recfish Australia recognised as a representative body of FRDC.

Category 6: Leadership

John Harrison

John was instrumental in Australia hosting the 3rd Recreational Fishing World Conference in Darwin. John was President of Recfish Australia prior to becoming a director of the FRDC Board, is a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Currently as CEO he continues to look to the future and has sourced funding for programs and initiatives that will develop and support the continuation of advocates and qualified people in the Recfishing industry

