



Surf Casting & Angling Club of W.A. (Inc.)

P.O. Box 1718, Melville South WA 6956
<http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/>

Club Committee for the Year 2006/2007

President

POSITION VACANT

Vice President

POSITION VACANT

Immediate Past President

Bob Henderson

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Secretary

Scott Maloney

Treasurer

Sandra Wessels

Assistant Drycasting Officer

Bob Henderson

Field Day Officer

Malcolm Harris

Property Officer

Vix Alexander

Recorder

Ian Cook

Reel Talk Editor

Marcia Pekaar

Dry Casting Officer

Scott Maloney

Assistant Field Day Officer

Ian Cook

Social Organiser

Josh Lucocq

Website Co-ordinator

Andrew Stoeckel

Committee Person

George Holman

Committee Person

Peter Stoeckel

Committee Person

John Crompton

Mobile:

A.A.A. Delegates

George Holman

Terry Fuller

Life Members of the Club

Doug Edward, Ric Parker, Jim Strong, Bob Klein, George Holman, Ian Cook.

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Minutes of General Meeting, 13 December 2006

Venue: Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room.

Date: 13 December 2006

Time: 8.20PM

Present: 21 members

Apologies: Vix and Malcolm, Melvin Wee, Ian Cook

Visitors: Nil

Previous Minutes: As Published in November Reel Talk
Moved Peter Stoeckel **Seconded** George Holman

Inwards Correspondence:

Department of Planning and Infrastructure - Licence for trailer. Receipt and Registration Sticker

Synergy Account

Kalbarri Lawn Mowing Account

Membership Non Renewals

JJ and ML Yeates

Department of Water

Development Plan of Stokes Inlet Estuary Management Plan

City of Stirling

Review of Policy for line marking on City Reserves

Winter Dates required for booking of Stirling Reserve

Outwards Correspondence: Nil
Moved Alan Jones **Seconded** Jim Strong

Property Report: Nil

Secretary's Report: Nil

Field Day Report: Malcolm was fishing in Kalbarri so Scott Maloney gave out the awards. Andrew Pekaar 6.5 kg largest non-species Buff Bream; Peter Osborne Best Bag Scale Fish 6.010 kg; Geoff Raftis Largest Scale fish 1kg Tailor.

Dry Casting: Winners on the Day: Seniors Malcolm Harris and Eric Parker 215; Veterans Garry Gildersleeves 246; Ladies Vix Alexander 143; Juniors Andrew Pekaar 131. Notable Performances Peter Pekaar Longest Cast of the Year 164m (112 g); Gary Gildersleeves 140m (56 g) also longest for the year Double Handed Accuracy Eric Parker 144 points

Open Competition Winner: George Holman 177.40m. Well done George.

Real Talk Editor: Marcia gave her report. Asked for all correspondence to be to her by Monday so she could get the Reel Talk to the printers and out before Christmas.

Recorder: Not present, no report.

AAA Report: Nil to report

Social Organiser: Josh talked about the Christmas Party and night casting at George's and said there was a good turn out which everybody enjoyed also the drinks for tonight are on the club.

Treasurer's Report As per Treasures Listings
Moved Peter Stoeckel **Second** Mark Hansen

General Business: Mal Head wants better protection for the markers on Distance casting as he was almost hit at the last Dry Casting day.

Terry Fuller talked about the meeting at Recfish West details to be published in the Reel Talk

Instruction Period: Nil

Meeting Closed: 9.15pm

WANTED TO BUY

Tino Baiardo wants to buy a deep spool Alvey.

Calendar for Next Three Months

Here's a calendar showing the dates we will use for Dry Casting, General and Committee Meetings, and Field Days in the next three months.

<u>29</u>	AAA Event																			
<u>8</u>	Dry Casting				<u>11</u>	General Meeting				<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	Field Day				<u>18</u>	Committee Meeting			
January 2007							February 2007							March 2007						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	<u>7</u>				1	2	3	<u>4</u>				1	2	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
8	9	<u>10</u>	11	12	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	<u>5</u>	6	7	8	9	10	<u>11</u>
15	16	<u>17</u>	18	19	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	12	13	<u>14</u>	15	16	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	12	13	<u>14</u>	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	<u>21</u>	22	23	24	25	19	20	<u>21</u>	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28					26	27	28				

2006/2007 Field Day Dates, Venues and Boundaries

The following is the list of Field Day dates, venues and boundaries.

Dates	Venue	Boundaries and more details
13/14 Jan 2007	Swan/Canning Rivers	Upstream of Fremantle Railway Bridge.
17/18 Feb 2007	Cervantes to Hill River	Southern boundary of Cervantes townsite to 1 km north of the Hill River.
3/4/5 March 2007 Long weekend	Bluff Creek	Reef Beach to Betty's Beach. AAA Rock and Beach Championships are on Saturday and Sunday of this long weekend.
14/15 April 2007	Capes (North)	Busselton jetty to Margaret River.

AAA Championships During Our 2006/7 Competition Year

Rock and Beach Championships, HQ Cheynes Beach, Reef Beach to Betty's Beach, Sat/Sun 3/4 March 2007 – Note weigh in Sunday.

Boat Angling Championships, date to be advised in March 2007 at Whitfords

2007 Dry Casting Dates. All are at Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, starting 8:30am.

Sunday 7 January 2007	Sunday 11 March 2007, (changed for Field Day)
Sunday 4 February 2007	Sunday 1 April 2007

2007 General Meeting Dates. All at Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, start 8:00pm.

Wednesday 10 January 2007	Wednesday 14 March 2007
Wednesday 14 February 2007	Wednesday 11 April 2007

COMING CLUB EVENTS

January Dry Casting

When: Sunday, 7 January 2007
Where: Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue
Events: Double handed accuracy, single handed accuracy, 56g distance, artificial bate distance, 112g distance

January General Meeting

When: Wednesday, 10 January 2007
Where: Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room, off Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, about 200 metres south-east of the Yokine Bowling Club.
Sign in: Please remember to tick your name of the attendance sheet which is on the table near the door. And while you are there, what about buying some of the raffle tickets?

January Field Day, Local

When: 13 & 14 January 2007
Sign On: At the General Meeting or phone the FDO.
Lines Down: Saturday 13 January, 1.00pm
Where: The venue will be Swan and Canning Rivers.
Weigh In: Sunday 14 January at George Holman's house. Scales will be available on his back patio. An adult member must witness weights. Field Day money to be left with the scales in an envelope with your name and details written in the carbon copy Field Day book. No Money = no points. Results to be phoned to Field Day Officer by 8:00 pm that night.
Boundaries: Upstream of the Railway Bridge in Fremantle.

<u>Moon</u>	Sat 13 Jan	Above 5.45am	Below 6.07pm
	Sun 14 Jan	Above 6.30am	Below 6.55pm

ESKYS FOR SALE AT FLEET TACKLE WALTER ROAD, MORLEY

155 Litre	\$250
100 Litre	\$210
70 Litre	\$180
40 Litre	\$155

*15% Discount To Club Members Excluding Bait
Just identify yourself as a Surf Casting and Angling Club member.
Contact: Brian Abbott*

Dry Casting Results, 3 December 2006

Results for the day		56 gram			Artificial Bait			112 gram			Double Handed Accuracy								Single Handed Accuracy				Day	Attendance		Total		
		Cast	Cast		Cast	Cast		Cast	Cast		Target Number								Target distance					Total	DC		GM	Points
Seniors	1 (m)	2 (m)	Points	1 (m)	2 (m)	Points	1 (m)	2 (m)	Points	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Points	L	S	S	S	Points	Total	DC	GM	Points	
Malcolm Harris	128	120	25	107	116	22	0	151	15	21	13	19	17	4	19	16	14	123	5	6			9	20	205	10	0	215
Eric Parker	99	104	20	0	94	9	112	0	11	20	16	15	20	15	20	23	15	144	0	9			6	21	205	10	0	215
Mark Hansen	0	115	12	0	108	11	139	146	29	0	0	17	3	0	13	19	24	76	0	2			10	12	140	10	0	150
Peter Pekaar	122	106	23	121	0	12	0	164	16	0	0	21	19	0	0	2	15	57	0	7			7	14	122	10	0	132
Scott Maloney	72	104	18	110	0	11	132	142	27	0	5	8	13	0	0	0	20	46	0	3			0	3	105	10	0	115
Veterans																												
Gary Gildersleeves	140	132	27	112	116	23	135	144	28	9	6	18	23	11	14	20	24	125	8	9			8	33	236	10	0	246
George Holman	0	136	14	133	130	26	0	158	16	21	20	25	17	3	20	13	21	140	5	7			8	20	216	10	0	226
Allan Jones	121	121	24	106	101	21	121	124	25	22	18	22	17	10	6	6	15	116	9	4			7	29	215	10	0	225
Malcolm Head	118	113	23	111	111	22	0	128	13	15	15	20	21	12	24	15	11	133	0	5			5	14	205	10	0	215
Bob Henderson	122	124	25	112	110	22	125	129	25	6	13	18	15	17	3	19	17	108	0	4			8	18	198	10	0	208
Terry Fuller	93	95	19	90	93	18	99	99	20	14	15	18	0	9	13	13	5	87	8	0			0	17	161	10	0	171
Trevor Stam	42	65	11	71	59	13	93	95	19	0	23	9	17	0	14	20	19	102	0	2			3	5	150	10	0	160
Ian Cook	0	103	10	100	92	19	123	116	24	11	0	10	14	15	0	2	24	76	0	5			4	12	141	10	0	151
Geoff Raftis	109	108	22	87	101	19	108	123	23	0	4	0	9	7	5	21	20	66	0	1			0	10	140	10	0	150
Jim Strong	0	67	7	70	78	15	80	89	17	10	2	9	11	0	15	21	16	84	6	4			1	13	136	10	0	146
Ladies																												
Vix Alexander	0	92	9	78	81	16	102	99	20	0	19	5	5	0	15	14	18	76	0	5			7	12	133	10	0	143
Marcia Pekaar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	10	0	10
Juniors																												
Andrew Pekaar	105	98	20	87	91	18	110	87	20	14	2	0	10	0	4	0	23	53	0	8			2	10	121	10	0	131
Mini Juniors																												
Stephen Pekaar	77	70	15	57	55	11	75	59	13	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	5	0	15	0	0	0	2	2	56	10	0	66

Dry Casting Top Ten

Total scores up to and including December casting – not including December General Meeting attendance. Only the best 11 months out of 12 count at the end of the year.

1	Bob Henderson	1878	6	Malcolm Harris	1307
2	George Holman	1818	7	Terry Fuller	1159
3	Allan Jones	1631	8	Jim Strong	1053
4	Malcolm Head	1503	9	Mark Hansen	1041
5	Gary Gildersleeves	1355	10	Trevor Stam	1041

Dry Casting Winners for 3 December 2006

Event	Seniors Winner		Veterans Winner	
56 gram Score	25	Malcolm Harris	27	Gary Gildersleeves
56 gram Distance	128	Malcolm Harris	140	Gary Gildersleeves
Artificial Bait Score	22	Malcolm Harris	26	George Holman
Artificial Bait Distance	121	Peter Pekaar	133	George Holman
112 gram Score	29	Mark Hansen	28	Gary Gildersleeves
112 gram Distance	164	Peter Pekaar	158	George Holman
Double Handed Acc.	144	Eric Parker	140	George Holman
Single Handed Acc.	21	Eric Parker	33	Gary Gildersleeves
Section Highest Points	215	Malcolm Harris, Eric Parker	246	Gary Gildersleeves

Event	Ladies Winner		Juniors Winner	
56 gram Score	9	Vix Alexander	20	Andrew Pekaar
56 gram Distance	92	Vix Alexander	105	Andrew Pekaar
Artificial Bait Score	16	Vix Alexander	18	Andrew Pekaar
Artificial Bait Distance	81	Vix Alexander	91	Andrew Pekaar
112 gram Score	20	Vix Alexander	20	Andrew Pekaar
112 gram Distance	102	Vix Alexander	110	Andrew Pekaar
Double Handed Acc.	76	Vix Alexander	53	Andrew Pekaar
Single Handed Acc.	12	Vix Alexander	10	Andrew Pekaar
Section Highest Points	143	Vix Alexander	131	Andrew Pekaar

Event	Overall Winner		Year's best up to December 2006	
56 gram Score	27	Gary Gildersleeves	27	Gary Gildersleeves
56 gram Distance	140	Gary Gildersleeves	140	Gary Gildersleeves
Artificial Bait Score	26	George Holman	27	George Holman
Artificial Bait Distance	133	George Holman	136	George Holman
112 gram Score	29	Mark Hansen	32	George Holman, Malcolm Harris
112 gram Distance	164	Peter Pekaar	164	Peter Pekaar
Double Handed Acc.	144	Eric Parker	162	George Holman, Gary Gildersleeves
Single Handed Acc.	33	Gary Gildersleeves	34	George Holman
Day's High Points	246	Gary Gildersleeves	269	Bob Henderson

DECEMBER DRY CASTING REPORT

This getting up before the rooster starts to crow has knobs on it. This daylight saving has some good and bad points but so many tell me I need more beauty sleep I guess getting there a little late showed the results. Still a great sunny yet cool morning had the group ready to go with only "one couple" not arriving due to the "forgot to set the alarm clock" excuse. The sly grin on the bloke's face said it all.

The Vets hit the accuracy event with Mal Head showing us all how it's done. With the sun in our eyes we had to squint to sight the target and the direction of our sinkers but Mal just keeps one eye closed ! Gee see how the "Cookie" crumbles when the pressure is on. The markers George and AJ then had their turn with George well on target, collecting a bull's-eye and being top Vet.

The single handed event was just like a comedy hour with some in the group having "senior's moments". The call went out for some to "extract the digit. "Jovial Geoff" popped a clanger and gave one and all a huge cheesy grin. Gazza was determined to achieve some success and cast smoothly to win the event.

Over in the seniors "Magic Mal" was on song to get some good distance casts down in the 56g and a/bait. "Private Pete" was not far behind and achieved the longest cast in the 112g event. "Barefoot Boy" actually won the 112g event but I reckon the wind had dropped when he cast. The grin on his dial when he collected a clanger in the single handed event was well earned. The overall winner of the double handed event was "Tall Timber Ric", showing us all that he can still produce the results when on song but fluffed a few in the distance casts.

Considering the fluctuating wind (although slight) Vix put down a few good ones, young "Sampson" is still learning to get them in and "Little Stevie" just grins and chucks. "Marvel Marcia" is going through the learning experience but will give results in the near future. The distance is great but the direction.....

We congratulate the section winners, especially Gazza for being the top dog for the day.

The National Convention in Victoria is getting closer and many of our Club members will again venture over to give their best for the State Team. They deserve your support so give a pat on the back and wish them well.

A.D.C.O. Bob Hendo

Wanted - Aluminium Cans

Wanted - Aluminium cans. Please bring them along to the General Meeting or to Mal Head's home, but not to Dry Casting. Mal saves them up and takes them to the recyclers when he has enough, and the price is right, and donates all the proceeds to the Club.

Mal Head

112G OPEN COMPETITION

Mark Hansen	147.30	154.92	148.09	155.30	153.30
Ian Cook	136.48	130.54	122.61	113.79	64.61
Greg Walker	134.54		134.70	133.11	140.80
Scott Maloney	145.07	141.02	140.39	147.12	141.90
Vix Alexander	84.29	98.00	101.70	91.96	114.30
Peter Pekaar	150.63	167.19	159.38	164.29	165.07
Andrew Pekaar	114.68	112.18	119.65	113.43	123.35
Malcolm Harris	158.15	151.54	160.14	164.74	180.24
George Holman	170.43	161.59	177.40		171.27
Stevie Pekaar	93.91	79.82	80.68		

NIGHT CAST

A good turn up had everyone sitting around together for a social chat before the Barbie was fired up. A delicious aroma of marinated meat was in the air mixed in with "Stokes" usual burnt offering. The evening meal was a delight as every one placed their offerings together for all to share.

Down on the oval the targets were set up as the sun sank below the horizon. The full moon reared its head to cast a slight glow over the park as the "Tossers" assembled to have a go. The group looked like a bunch of disturbed Xmas lights from where I stood.

First up was a short cast but the efforts could only be described as "useless" as many couldn't gage the distance, many going too far or very short. Only "Ol Trev" scored a bulls eye to brighten up their ideas. Moving to a longer cast many actually scored some points. Back to a short one again their efforts improved. Another longer one but only the "lucky ones" got a score over 5. Paul and I gave pity to them and offered another short one to get a decent score sheet to add up at the end of the night.

The "Tossers Tarmac" at the end was the only other time any one got close to me. Josh nearly crowned the family jewels, Mal Harris tested the hardness of my head and Mark tickled my tootsies.

Rewards were presented at the end of the casting with Wendy coming last; Tina for achieving the middle and "Private Pete" winning the event with 35 points and a close second was Terry Fuller with 33 points. Many thanks to Ric Parker of Barron Lures for providing some lures as prizes.

A special mention to Josh for ensuring we all had a cold drink.

Another great night had by everyone so a big thanks to Kaye and George Holman for their hospitality.

HENDO

Field Day Sections up to and including December

Section		Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best Scale Fish (1st Six Months)	George Holman	Mulloway	6.915
1B	Best Scale Fish (2nd Six Months)	Geoff Raftis	Tailor	1.046
2	Most Meritous Fish	0	0	0.000
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	Malcolm Harris	Shark	8.150
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)	George Holman	Mulloway	6.915
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Ian Cook	Tailor	2.900
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	Vix Alexander	Salmon	4.150
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Tony D'Alonzo	Trevally, Skipjack	0.834
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)	0	0	0.000
9	Best Scale Fish (Other than above)	Peter Osborne	Yellowtail Kingfish	2.490
10	Best Bag Of Scale Fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	12.742
11	Best Bag Of Mulloway (2 Fish Min)	Ian Cook	Mulloway	5.000
12	Best Bag Of Tailor (2 Fish Min)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	8.180
13	Best Fish On S/H Rod 4kg b/s line (max)	0	0	0.000
14	Best Fish Caught on Fly Rod	0	0	0.000

Sportsperson Of The Year Sections for December

Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best Scale Fish	Peet Wessels	Salmon	0.500
Best Bag of Scale fish	John Crompton	Mixed Bag	1.500
Best Shark			
Best Bag Including Sharks			

Field Day Prizes for December

Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best Scale Fish	Peet Wessels	Salmon	0.500
Best Bag of Scale fish	John Crompton	Mixed Bag	1.500
Best Shark			
Best Bag Including Sharks			

Local catch Results for December 2006 Field Day

Name	Total Weight	No. of Species	No. of Fish	F.D. Total Points
John Crompton	1.500	1	7	75
Peet Wessels	0.900	2	2	79
Sandra Wessels	0.000	0	0	50
Vix Alexander	0.000	0	0	40
Malcolm Harris	0.250	1	1	53

Top Ten up to December		
Rank	Angler	Total Points
1	Malcolm Harris	1335.7
2	Peter Osborne	983.3
3	Vix Alexander	657.7
4	George Holman	509.8
5	Tony D'Alonzo	453.4
6	Melvin Wee	397.8
7	Mark Hansen	375.3
8	John Crompton	321.1
9	Peet Wessels	316.6
10	Sandra Wessels	260.0

Local Field Day December 2006

Vix and I left the Swanborne car park about 5.30pm on Saturday and started the long walk up the beach to what we hoped would be a good afternoon and night fishing. As we came over the sand hill and onto the beach, we could see only two other people already fishing the reef section that was our destination. Twenty minutes later, we drew level with the other fishers only to recognize the familiar faces of fellow club members Peet and Sandra Wessels. They had fished Woodman's Point earlier in the day and had only just settled into their current spot. Their catch so far was a Salmon, Trout and a Wrasse and were hoping to expand their bag with some good beach fishing.

Our first casts into some good looking water were greeted by the unmistakable tap-tap of small Whiting and that's the way it stayed for the next three hours. "Fish for what is there" is some very good advice I received not long after joining the club, so down went the hook sizes to cater for the small mouths of the Whiting. Even on small hooks, they proved to be a hand full, stripping the bait in quick time. Eventually, a couple of their number were brought ashore and proved to be only slightly bigger than the bait we were using.

After about three hours, Peet and Sandra had had enough and decided to put their efforts into the next morning's fishing - very wise as it turned out.

Vix and I stubbornly stayed on, hoping for a change of activity as the light faded. Vix got a strike a little later and I managed to land a Tailor which we thought was the start of the much awaited run. If it was, then they ran somewhere else because that was it for the next few hours.

A little further up the beach a couple of blokes had been getting a few fish every now and then so when they left around mid-night, I took up their position and was immediately into the Tailor. Unfortunately they were all about a couple of centimeters undersize so back they all went.

Undaunted, I decided to put out a large bait in the hope of something different which was not long coming. A scorching run of about fifty metres and a dogged pump and wind back along the shore towards a certain capture. When things are not going your way for some time they tend to stay that way, I got the fish to the back of the wash and then that dreaded feeling that all fishers experience at sometime, the weight of the fish was gone. You know it's true but part of your brain refuses to acknowledge the fact the fish has won its freedom. All you can do is learn from the experience and try again; I guess that's why it's called "fishing" and not "catching".

The weigh in the next morning was a very quick affair with only three fish to weigh between the four of us. However, **John Crompton** had weighed in earlier with a good bag of seven Tailor from the Floreat drain which earned him the best bag of scale fish prize. Well done to John whose fishing has improved greatly in the last couple of outings.

The heaviest scale fish section went to **Peet Wessels** with his Salmon. Well done to both on a very lean field day.

The next field day is the Swan/Canning Rivers on 13/14 January, so all you fishers who know of a secret spot on the river, now is your chance to show how it's done.

Hope to see you there next time.

Malcolm Harris
Field Day Officer

Field Day and Dry Casting Fees

Field Day Fees: \$7 for an individual; \$9 for families

Dry Casting Fees: \$6 for an individual; \$8 for families

Barron Lure Competition

Heaviest Tailor	1.6 kg	Dave Maxted
Heaviest Salmon		
Heaviest Scale fish		

Species for the Species Badge are not automatically recorded from the FD results. You need to give the recorder a written list of the species and which FD you caught them on. Species caught outside of a field day need to be submitted on the standard application form.

I am sure there are a number of members who will have captured the required species for the species badge but which are not recorded.

***Tight Lines
Cookie***

FROM THE EDITOR

I've not got a lot to report this month, apart from offering my sincere apologies to Mal Head; thank goodness for the marking board!!

Thank you to Mal Harri and Scotty for getting their reports to me quite early, and of course Terry who is always prompt with the Dry Casting results.

I'd also like to congratulate Jimmy Strong on his speech at the December General Meeting. His comments about members giving serious consideration to taking up the vacant committee roles were valid and whilst the days of old when there were 200-odd members are gone, those of us who do make up the club still need leadership.

***Marcia Pekaar
Reel Talk Editor***

RECFISHWEST REPORT FOR AAA DELEGATES MEETING NOVEMBER 2006

Recfishwest AGM

The Recfishwest Annual General Meeting and election of Board members was held in late October. A new Board member from the Fishing Tackle Association, Ben Patrick, was elected to Recfishwest. The Charter Boat Owners Association representative, Bruce Lockett, has been invited to the Recfishwest Policy Development committee and will help with the development of Recfishwest policies.

Seminar on Marine Protected Areas

A two day Seminar was run by Recfish Australia in Brisbane. Recfish Australia and Recfishwest are two separate organisations but they are linked. That was attended by over 80 people from all around Australia. The States have very different MPA systems for State waters, and some are much more advanced than others. With only a couple of exceptions (eg NSW who feel they have been really done over by the MPA's in that State) everyone agreed that::

- MPAs will happen;
- They give benefits;
- They are for biodiversity conservations not for fisheries management;
- They are a complement to but are not a replacement for proper Fisheries Management - which is essential;
- Recreational fishermen must continue to be involved in the decisions;
- Conservation objectives can be obtained, and good recreational fishing access can remain if the process is done properly with the right information;
- Some MPA planning has not considered the social and economic impact.....

and lots more agreement about on working on MPA designs - not opposing as some people think is all that Recreational Peak Bodies ever do. In particular, the Commonwealth representatives made it VERY CLEAR that:-

"Government welcomes and actively supports the participation of the recreational fishing sector at key steps in the planning process, including through the formal statutory consultation on each draft plan. While establishing MPAs will have implications for recreational fishing access it need not be a negative relationship and significant opportunities exist for recreational fishing and MPAs to be mutually supportive."

There was lots of info provided at that seminar, and lots came out of the discussions. All proceedings and presentations will be put onto the Recfish Australia website <http://www.recfish.com.au/> as it is collated, starting with the presentations.

Informing Recreational Anglers about Commonwealth MPAs. Obviously, one of the topics covered in some detail was how to inform and involve recreational anglers about and in Marine Protected Area issues.

The sad fact is that most recreational anglers are not interested in getting informed and involved in things such as Fisheries Management and Marine Protected areas, and one challenge is how to get more of them involved and to present the information in several ways so that people can choose the amount of detail they want to absorb. Not surprisingly, lots more \$\$\$\$ and people (volunteers or employed) are required.

Recfish Australia has an agreement with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage to facilitate the engagement of the fishing public on consultation for proposed MPAs in Commonwealth waters. This agreement runs to September 2007 and was drawn up to focus on the North and the South West regions.

A meeting was held 5 November during the Recfish Australia MPA Seminar between representatives of DEH, Recfish Australia and nominated liaison people from the States to discuss some of the details.

Although many details of how the activities will be resourced and carried out still have to be decided and documented and will need advice from the recreational fishing representatives, the principles of the proposals are generally acceptable. One principle strongly stated is DEH's intention to introduce the MPAs with least social and economic cost, so it needs to know what areas to avoid. Any issues from local State MPA activities should be kept separate from these Commonwealth activities.

New recreational limit on whaler sharks

The WA Dept of Fisheries issued a Media Release on 16 November 2006 <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=406> covering some restrictions on commercial shark fishing. Included was:- "...also noted that this maximum size limit would soon apply to recreational fishers for all whaler shark species taken south of Steep Point. The new recreational size limit is expected to be in place in early 2007. It will equate to a bronze whaler of about 1.5 metres in length."

The media release indicates that commercial fishermen will have a maximum size limit only for dusky whaler sharks (commonly called Bronze whalers) whereas recreational fishermen will have a maximum size limit on all whaler sharks.

Information available to Recfishwest is that very few large sharks are caught and/or kept by recreational anglers, so a recreational ban will have little positive effect on the stocks. Recfishwest has previously written to the Minister for Fisheries with the opinion that the shark sustainability problem is completely the result of the commercial fisheries and the failure of the Department of Fisheries to change the management despite the sustainability concerns being expressed by many different organisations.

Recfish Australia recreational fishing awards

Western Australia received two of the five awards, and had several finalists.

Category 2: best recreational enhancement project was won 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.

Category 3: Best project or initiative encouraging women & young people's participation in fishing was won by the 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.

Resignation of the Executive Director, Department of Fisheries. Peter Rogers has resigned from the Department of Fisheries on 15 November. Peter had a close association with Recfishwest and influenced many decisions which were favourable to recreational anglers.

Mackerel Management. Commercial mackerel fisheries were supposed to have tighter management from the beginning of January 2005. The changes were not introduced until January 2006. A number of commercial fishermen who formerly caught mackerel did not get licences and have appealed. The Department of Fisheries has been instructed to advertise and consider applications for additional licenses.

Recfishwest has concerns about the sustainability of the mackerel fishery and the equity and sharing of the catch with recreational anglers. Recfishwest has sought an urgent meeting with the Department of Fisheries for a briefing on how the Department intends to allocate and manage the commercial catch.

Shoalwater Islands Marine Park

Recfishwest has put in its comments on the proposed changes to this Marine Park. See <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubShoalwaterOct2006.htm>

Capes Marine Park

Submissions on the draft plan close 15 December. Recfishwest will have a draft of its comments in the near future. It is very important for recreational fishermen to say what they think about the proposals, particularly if they agree with them, or do not have any particular problems with them, because it is certain that some groups will demand that significantly larger areas are closed to fishing. Such demands need to be balanced by the usual silent majority who accept that the proposals are a balance between social impact and conservation outcomes.

Walpole Nornalup Marine Park and bream captures

The draft Walpole Nornalup marine park plan gave some information for the catches of bream in the inlets. Mark Halse who was on the community advisory committee objected to the publication of these figures, and the apparent excessive estimate, because no figures had ever been provided to or discussed by the committee. Recfishwest checked with the Department of Fisheries researchers who provided a reduced catch estimate, however Recfishwest still has significant concerns about this because of the apparent large average weight used.

Unfortunately the figure is published in the management plan which has gone out for public comment, but there is no mention of the recent change in the recreational bag limit from 20 down to 8, or the State wide possession limit which will restrict the take of bream, so Recfishwest will be approaching the Department of Environment and Conservation to ensure that any public comments based on those figures are properly interpreted.

Submarine cable fishing exclusion zone

Recfishwest is a member of the group working on the details of the exclusion zone around the optic fibre submarine cable which goes northwest from City Beach, then about 5 km offshore parallel to the coast to Mullaloo, then west. Recreational fishers targeting bottom-dwelling fish cannot anchor or use wire mainline or J-hooks above size 4/0 in waters beyond 500 metres from shore 1 nautical mile each side of the cable route.

Recreational Consultative Structures Report

Ross Winstanley's report into recreational consultative structures has been finalised and passed to the Minister for Fisheries. This reviews the structures and activities of both Recfishwest and the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee including how well they consult with recreational anglers in Western Australia and recommends how that should be carried out in future. This review was part of the election policy of the State labour government.

Jurien Bay Marine Park Community Advisory Committee

As a personal appointment, (nothing to do with Recfishwest,) I have been appointed to that committee and have attended the first two meetings. The role of the committee is to advise Department of Environment and Conservation about ongoing management of the Jurien Bay Marine Park.

Topics covered so far have included signage, research, fish kills in the Jurien Marina which although not part of the Marine Park, is the gateway to the Marine Park, the AAA State boating championships in March this year, zoning and compliance issues, education of recreational anglers, website publicity about all these, etc.

Report prepared by Terry Fuller Recfishwest Board Member for AAA

Recfishwest Report for AAA Delegates Meeting December 2006

Here are some notes about recent activities by Recfishwest

Capes Marine Park. Submissions on the draft plan closed on 15 December. See <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubCapesDraftForCommentDec2006.htm> for a draft of Recfishwest's comments on the plan.

Close examination of the draft management plan showed some errors which will cause real problems for the public consultation. Considering the time this plan has been in preparation, and the number of people who have considered and approved this draft for release for public comment, the presence of those errors show a disturbing lack of attention to detail and fuzzy thinking about the risks and social values of those activities and areas.

The two options for the Busselton jetty were mixed up, with option 1 in the diagram being described under the heading option 2 in the text, and vice versa. These mistakes fatally damage the public consultation. It means that any indicated preference which merely states 'option 1' or 'option 2' can not be relied upon, and must not be used in any summary or analysis of preferences unless the submission clearly indicates which actual option, the current FHPA or the entire end of the jetty, is preferred. DEC must ensure that this approach is used and seen to be used.

Cape Naturaliste Sanctuary Zone Option 2 was the primary choice developed through the Advisory Committee process and RFW have concerns that it has been presented in the Management Plan only as an alternative option to that described in the main chart, giving the perception that it is actually the 2nd option. This is disappointing, because the more suitable option 2 was actually developed through extensive discussion by the Advisory Committee.

Several inconsistencies appear in the permitted usages table on page 20. This shows fuzzy thinking about the purposes of shorebased fishing zones and what activities should not be allowed there.

There is no text justification provided in the Management Plan for the proposed Central Geopraphe Bay Sanctuary Zone.

There is confusion regarding the Lefthanders Special Purpose (surfing) Zone and what it actually refers to. Is this the Ellensbrook Zone? It seems the name was changed during the process but this was not done throughout the document.

Swan and Canning River Plans. Recfishwest has written a letter congratulating Environment Minister Mark McGowan on additional funding for the Swan and Canning River initiatives and environmental programs announced on 4 December. See <http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au/healthyivers>

It was particularly pleasing to see a large number of the issues which RFW have raised with the Minister and the Swan River Trust being directly addressed as part of this new funding. Work on cobbler, Western school prawns and a River Guardians program are especially commendable.

Recfishwest has been working closely with the Department of Fisheries and Murdoch University on ecological issues associated with the Swan and Canning Rivers and will continue to assist them and the Swan River Trust wherever possible.

Recfishwest said it finds it somewhat ironic that the TV media outlets were not interested in a public statement from RFW on the announcement when we made it clear that RFW would be praising these initiatives. "Somewhat ironic"? Far too kind. The TV media seemed only interested in controversy, either real or trumped up, so positive stuff didn't get reported.

Submarine cable fishing exclusion zone. Recfishwest is a member of the group working on the details of the exclusion zone around the optic fibre submarine cable which goes northwest from City Beach. There has been a lot of work done gathering information in opposition to the proposal to declare a one nautical mile exclusion zone each side of the cable route.

Federal Fisheries Minister Senator Abetz has written to the Federal Communications Minister on behalf of both recreational and commercial fishermen, and asked for proper risk assessment before deciding on exclusions. Details see http://www.acma.gov.au/ACMAINTER.1638528:STANDARD::pc=PC_100876

Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery Closure. The Cockburn Sound blue swimmer crab fishery has been closed to both commercial and recreational fishermen for one year from 15 December. The Department of Fisheries and the Minister have strongly stated that the cause is environmental changes or conditions leading to poor recruitment. See <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/CockburnCrabClosure/index.php?0000>

The State of the Fisheries report clearly shows that the changeover from nets to crab pots in the mid-1990s led to large increase in the commercial catch to 347 tonnes at the peak, and also allowed catches over a much longer period. The commercial catch has crashed to a mere 40 tonnes in 2006. Recfishwest concern is that (mainly commercial) catches of female crabs before they have had a chance to spawn is also a factor in the poor recruitment. Recreational catches average only around 18 tonnes a year, and between **94% and 98.7%** of the recreational crab catches taken in Cockburn Sound are **male**.

Recfishwest has written to the Department of Fisheries and has received a briefing. Recfishwest has proposed considerable changes in management when the fishery reopens. There is also concern that the situation in Cockburn Sound has lessons for the Mandurah crab fishery, and that changes and required there urgently. RFW letter is at http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubC_SoundCrabClosureLetter.htm

Exmouth Gulf Salt Works. Western Australians have been urged to oppose plans to build one of the world's largest artificial salt mines in an environmentally sensitive area of the State's North-West.

Public comment is being formally sought on a mining company's plan to build one of the World's largest salt mines along the Exmouth Gulf. The huge salt project would cover a massive area across the entire environmentally sensitive Yannarie wetland system on the eastern side of the Exmouth Gulf.

The company, Straits Resources Pty Ltd, was instructed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to develop an Environmental Review Management Plan (ERMP). The document was released for a limited 12-week public comment period after which the EPA will make its final recommendations to the State Government.

The Conservation Council of Western Australia has joined forces for the first time in a unique alliance with peak commercial and recreational fishing groups to oppose the project. "The impacts of the proposal, which is of a size previously unheard of in Western Australia, represents a change on an ecosystem scale and would be environmentally catastrophic," CCW's Mr Tallentire said.

The Halt the Salt Alliance www.haltthesalt.org.au will be making a detailed submission to the EPA along with many other community and industry based organisations that share its concerns about the potential impact of the mine on the environment.

The Conservation Council's concerns have been backed by the MG Kailis Group, one of the largest commercial fishing operations and employers in the Exmouth region, and Recfishwest, the State's peak body representing the interests of recreational fishers.

Meeting with the Fishing Media. Recfishwest held a breakfast meeting on 6 December at which media people associated with fishing publications were briefed on current activities by Recfishwest and issues with recreational fishing, supported by handouts of documentation. Comments from the media people were positive.

Review of the Fish Resources Management Act. Fisheries Minister Jon Ford has announced that a ministerial review committee will hold meetings across Western Australia to seek feedback on its draft report of proposed amendments to the Fish Resources Management Act (FRMA). Some meetings have already been held in the country. The committee would hold further meetings in Karratha, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Bunbury, and Perth in January, but the dates have not yet been announced. For more details see <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=415>

There were 35 submissions to the initial Department of Fisheries discussion paper, which have been considered and used in the development of the committee's draft report. An initial look at the draft report shows that many of Recfishwest's points made in its submission to that earlier stage, on the Recfishwest website at <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubAmendmtsFRMA1994Jul02006.htm>, have been included in the draft.

Wilson Inlet Pink Snapper Size Limit. The size limit for pink snapper state-wide is 41cm, except in Wilson Inlet where it is 28cm. During the South Coast recreational fishing review, there was strong support to change this to 41cm, however the Minister would not allow the change. Commercial interests were a factor, as shown by the article on page 20 of the Pro West magazine, November/December 2005, which reported as follows:-

Quote *"The State Government has recently released Fisheries Management Paper 194, 'A Five-Year Management Strategy for Recreational Fishing on the South Coast of WA'. As a result of this paper some size limit changes have been introduced which apply to the commercial sector as well as the recreational sector.*

*WAFIC made a submission to the Department of Fisheries on the proposed limits in 2004 based on comments received from South Coast commercial fishermen. **In response to that submission, the Minister for Fisheries has agreed not to increase size limits for pink snapper (Wilson Inlet), mulloway and blue groper because of the impact it would have on commercial net fisheries.**"* End quote

Recently a community group on the South Coast collected about 1500 signatures on a petition calling for the minimum size for pink snapper to be uniform State wide to avoid the confusion and compliance problems caused by different size limits in different places, and as a conservation measure. Despite this significant community support, the Minister has indicated that this petition is not in the format which can be presented to Parliament and has declined to act on the petition.

Report prepared by Terry Fuller, Recfishwest Board Member for Australian Anglers Association.

CLUB T SHIRTS

The Club has ordered a number of short-sleeved Club T Shirts priced at \$35 each.

BUDDY REGISTER

This is a register of people interested in buddying up and/or being contacted to arrange private fishing excursions or share general information.

NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Peter & Marcia Pekaar	
Morris & Elana Kolman	
John Crompton	
Melvin Wee	

Please contact Marcia Pekaar to add or remove your details.

***As an alternative to Hendo's accommodation at Phillip Island,
we are seeking an indication of interest in this hotel:***

