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fish today for tomorrow



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**AUDITOR**  
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1.1 chairman's report



We've seen new techniques  
and technologies,  
and quantum leaps in the  
ethics and values of the  
everyday fisher.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I have great pleasure in presenting the 2013 Annual Report to the members of Recfishwest. It's been a fantastic year of achievements for our organisation and the West Australian recreational fishing community who care about our aquatic environment.

Like the evolution of recreational fishing over the past five to ten years, Recfishwest has moved and evolved with it. There have been many significant moments during this time. We've seen new techniques and technologies, and quantum leaps in the ethics and values of the everyday fisher. Recfishwest has reinvented itself to become more relevant, not only for our 1900 members, but also for the occasional fisher who makes up the 740,000 West Australian's who wet a line.

Over the past 12 months, the Recfishwest board has continued the task of meeting strategic targets set out in the 2012 Organisational Review, including improvement to professional corporate governance. This has reinforced the credibility and important role we play in aquatic policy development in WA, with improved relationships with the state Minister for Fisheries, Director General of fisheries and staff at the Department of Fisheries. Recfishwest has been able to move toward improving the multitude of issues facing recreational fishing, resulting in many significant achievements.

Earlier in 2013 the Honourable Norman Moore MLC retired after 36 years in parliament, a distinguished achievement in itself. Recfishwest would not be where it is today had it not been for Mr Moore's foresight and commitment to recognising representative stakeholder groups for the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.

When he first took on the Fisheries portfolio there was angst around the introduction of the Recreational Boat Fishing Licence. It is thanks to these licences, that each year recreational fishers now have \$1 million being put toward community driven projects and tangible benefits for the recreational sector. On behalf of the board and our members, I would like to thank Mr Moore and his staff for their unwavering support during his time as Fisheries Minister and wish him and his family best wishes in retirement.

The recreational fishing community is extremely lucky to now have another pillar in policy taking the reins of the Fisheries portfolio; the Honourable Troy Buswell, Minister for Fisheries. Being an enthusiastic fisher himself, it has been a very smooth transition introducing the Minister to the recreational sector. We have had some great discussions and put some exciting new ideas on the table which we look forward to progressing over the next few years.

It's also very satisfying to see that this year, after extensive lobbying by Recfishwest, the State Government has provided funding for a Rock Fishing Safety Initiative, with \$300,000 set aside for education and installation of safety devices around the state.

The Premier also gave an election promise of an additional \$2.4 million dollars toward fish stocking, which will see an unprecedented increase in fish enhancement projects over the next four years. These announcements substantiate the social importance that recreational fishing has in the Western Australian community.

This year Recfishwest Reference Groups, which are made up of members and the general public, have contributed to an improved level of community participation in fishery management decisions. Recommendations from these groups are extremely important in guiding the board's subsequent advice to aquatic managers, while also helping to identify concerns and issues which may affect the sustainability or enjoyment of recreational fishing.

It is through the advice of these groups that the Recfishwest board is able to determine strategic goals for the expenditure of the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund. Current priorities identified include habitat and stock enhancement, installation of WA's third purpose built artificial reef near Mandurah, potential state-wide Fish Aggregating Device deployments, and increase in research on recreationally important species including Southern Calamari, Blue Swimmer Crabs, Black Bream and Billfish.

## 1.1 chairman's report continued

Later this year Recfishwest will be surveying the recreational fishing public to help identify future projects worthy of funding from the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund. Any academic institution, community, government, or non-government organisation can apply for these grants.

Recfishwest Reference Groups provide an extremely important function in consultation with the community and I would like to thank the dedicated participants for volunteering their time and expertise in providing their advice to the Board of Directors.

I would also like to thank the Recfishwest staff for their continuing enthusiasm, diligence and determination in representing the best interests of recreational fishing in Western Australia, whilst promoting responsible recreational fishing to the community.

Lastly I would like to particularly thank the directors of Recfishwest for their generous contributions to the recreational fishing community. Their hard work over the past twelve months will resonate for years to come as Recfishwest continues to competently represent all West Australians and the fishers who enjoy our aquatic environment.



**Andrew Matthews**  
Chairman



## 1.2 the board

The Recfishwest Board of Directors was elected from the Recfishwest membership at the 2012 Annual General Meeting, held on 4 October 2012.

The board contains eight (8) directors comprising of five (5) nominated directors and three (3) appointed directors (Figure 1). The board has a non-voting Chairman elected by the Board of Directors.

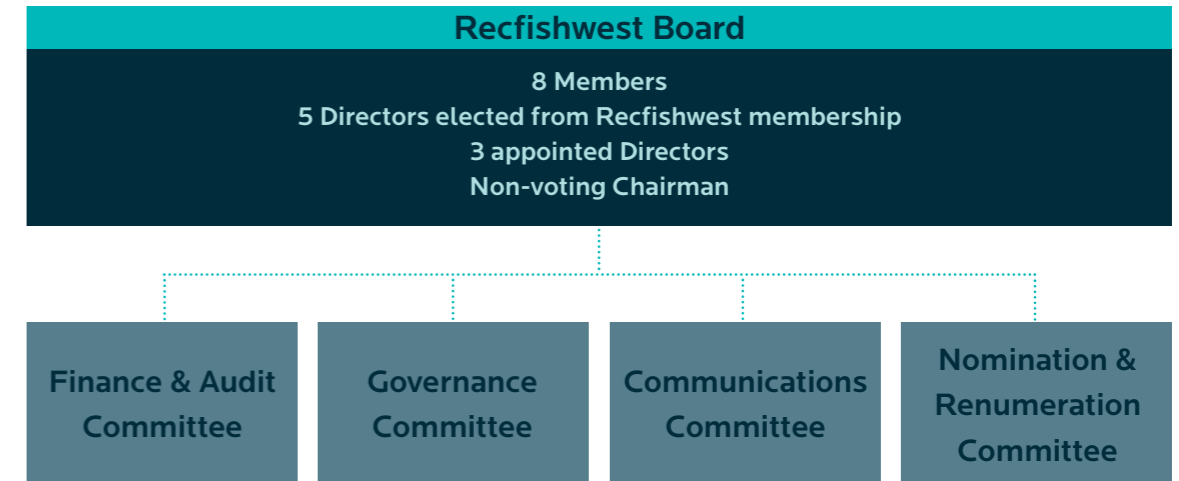


Figure 1 Recfishwest Board Structure



**Andrew Matthews** Chairman - Director

Andrew is an experienced recreational fisher who has explored many remote fishing locations throughout Western Australia over many years. Known as a passionate and innovative angler, he hopes to bring this perspective to the development of sensible recreational fisheries management.

After working in both the chartered and the commercial pilchard fishery, Andrew has a great affinity with the ocean and the creatures that rely on it. Describing himself as a conservationist, he believes there is a need for balance between the sustainable harvesting of fresh seafood and managing our aquatic resources for future generations.

Over the years Andrew has been widely published in a number of fishing magazines and still occasionally writes for adventure, travel and sports fishing magazines.

With a professional background in botany and plant ecology, he has an advanced understanding of ecological processes and ecosystem management. Driven by fair and equitable utilisation of our community aquatic resources, Andrew has spent many hours researching and advocating for better recognition of recreational fishing, as an important part of the social and economic fabric of regional Western Australia.

As a board director since 2008, Andrew was re-elected to the Recfishwest board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2012 for another 2 year term. He was also re-elected Chairman of Recfishwest for 2012/2013 and is a member of the Communications, Finance & Audit Committee, Governance Committee and Chairman of Nomination & Remuneration Committee.



**Ian Sewell** Deputy Chair - Director

Ian has been the Editor/Director of The WA Fishing Magazine for the past seven years. Prior to this and since, Ian has run and owned tackle stores around the Perth Metropolitan area gaining a lot of contact with recreational anglers over the years. As a result he has been privy to their experiences and concerns regarding the state of fisheries. He has been around tackle shops for approximately 18 years, with a few trips around the world and the country on charter boats.

Ian has also worked in the commercial fishing industry. He earned his skipper's ticket by the age of 19 and has been witness to the workings of a variety of commercial fisheries along the way.

Ian's love of fishing has also seen him competing and representing the state and Australia on many different occasions in fly fishing and bream tournaments. These tournaments have taken him to many waterways around Australia and New Zealand.

Ian was elected to the Recfishwest board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2012 for a 2 year term. He was re-elected as Deputy Chair for 2012/2013 and is a member of the Finance & Audit Committee, Nomination & Remuneration Committee and Communications Committee.



It's been a fantastic  
year of achievements for  
our organisation.

## 1.2 the board continued



**Geoff Ellis** Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee - Director

Geoff is the past President / Treasurer of the Boating Industry Association (WA) and has been Company Director of Offshore Marine for 22 years. He has been actively involved in the state fisheries regulation changes over the past few years and has been involved in the Commonwealth bioregional planning process in the South West and North West regions.

Geoff has been a recreational fisher since his early teens. From Esperance in the south to Kununurra in the north over a period of more than 40 years, he has participated in most forms of fishing including trolling for pelagic fish, demersal fish, and crabbing for blue manna, Crayfish, Prawn and Marron.

Geoff was re-elected to the Recfishwest board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2012 for a 1 year term. He was also elected as Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee. He has also represented Recfishwest on the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme Board.



**Ian Stagles** Director

Ian played a pivotal role during the establishment and early days of Recfishwest and was the inaugural chair. He has been the Managing Editor of Western Angler Magazine and has been involved in recreational fishing over a 25 year period in both State and Federal jurisdictions. More recently he has chaired and participated in various Fisheries Management Committees including the Aquaculture Bill Task Force for the previous Western Australian Fisheries Minister.

Ian has been advocating for the rights of recreational fishers since well before Recfishwest was established and now with more time available, and an undiminished enthusiasm, he wishes to again contribute to the ongoing development of Recfishwest.

He has always believed that restocking is a useful tool to rebuild depleted fish stocks, rather than simply removing or minimising exploitation levels and subsequently founded the West Australian Fish Foundation in 2004 to undertake this work.

Ian was elected to the Recfishwest board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2012 for a 1 year term. Ian is a member of the Communications Committee and Governance Committee.



**Dean Thorburn** Director

Dean has a great understanding and respect for the environment and is passionate about ensuring recreational fishing remains accessible and affordable to Western Australians. He wishes to ensure this is achieved in a manner that respects the resource, and proves sustainable for generations to come.

Dean enjoys all facets of recreational fishing in freshwater, estuary and marine environments and has fished and dived throughout Australia and overseas. In addition to line fishing in local waters, Dean has spent a great deal of time working and holidaying in the South West of WA, catching Redfin and Trout in freshwater and marroning by snare in rivers running through the karri forest. Dean equally enjoys crabbing in the Swan, Canning and Mandurah estuaries throughout summer and has spent many hours in northern Australia fishing for Barramundi but also enjoys lure fishing for Sooty Grunter.

Dean has also spearfished throughout the state in numerous remote locations and shared several of his experiences through written articles. He has been a member of both the WA Undersea Club and Bluewater Freedivers of WA.

Dean was elected to the Recfishwest board at the Annual General Meeting in October 2012 for a 2 year term. He is a member of the Communications Committee and Governance Committee.

## 1.2 the board continued



**Tim Bray** Chairman of the Communications Committee - Appointed Director

Tim graduated from university with a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and went on to work for the Department of Fisheries to develop and implement policy and regulatory frameworks for sustainable fisheries management.

He spent five years at the helm of the commercial rock lobster fishing industry advisory committee before becoming a senior adviser to the Minister for Fisheries.

Tim then moved into a new role as a strategic policy adviser at Western Power. While in this position he recognised a significant gap in the corporate affairs and external relations area and so designed and implemented a new business model for Western Power with responsibility for promoting and protecting their corporate reputation.

In October 2012 Tim accepted an offer to become the General Manager Corporate Communications with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he is responsible for government and media relations, marketing and internal communications.

A renowned sportsman, a gold medallist and world record holder in the 4x100m freestyle relay from the 1998 Paralympic World Swimming Championships, Tim's life is immersed in water. He regularly surfs, paddles, dives, fishes and swims off the coast of WA.

Tim was appointed by the Recfishwest board in October 2012 for a 1 year term. Tim is Chair of the Communications Committee, member of the Finance & Audit Committee and was previously a member of the Recreational Fishing Account Advisory Body.



**Simon Longbottom** Appointed Director

Simon has a degree in Aquaculture and Resource Management (Honours) and achieved Vice Chancellor's list status (top 1% of university students) in both semesters of his final year. He has five years commercial aquaculture experience with the Broome Pearling Industry Co-operative Hatchery.

He has since spent eight years as Senior Technician for the Curtin Aquatic Research Laboratory. This research driven environment has enabled him to perform captive and ecosystem based research on a variety of species which include Dhufish, Snapper, Mulloway, Barramundi, Murray Cod, Redfin, Marron, King Prawns and Abalone.

Simon also has more than 25 years' diving experience along the West Australian Coast and specialises in freedive photography and spearfishing. He served as chair of the West Australian Spearfishing Commission from 2007 to 2010 and is a member of the Australian Underwater Federation.

He is a firm believer in maintaining recreational fishing access and thinks that regulation should be based on sound scientific data that enhances the resource. Simon feels this is the only way to ensure future generations will be able to experience the WA aquatic environment as people do today.

Simon was appointed by the Recfishwest board in October 2012 for a 1 year term. Simon is a member of the Governance Committee.

## 1.2 the board continued



**Kevin Gammage** Chairman of the Governance Committee - Appointed Director

Kevin has been an enthusiastic recreational fisher for most of his life. Like so many other young people in metropolitan Perth in the 1970s, Kevin's passion for fishing had its beginnings on the uneven and sometimes perilous rocks of the North Mole.

Since these early days, Kevin's fishing interests have grown to include all aspects of fishing, including freshwater fishing and in more recent years, boat fishing. Added to this are regular forays into crabbing, crayfishing and snorkelling for Abalone.

Over the years Kevin and his family have had the opportunity to fish in many locations both within Australia and overseas. But catching Herring and Gardies with his children at the North Mole, forty years after he first fished there, is still number one on his list of most enjoyable fishing moments.

Kevin's professional career initially began as an adviser with the State Department of Agriculture and later as an agricultural researcher in the private sector. His focus moved to business management in the early nineties from where he went on to hold senior management and CEO positions in listed and unlisted companies, primarily in the agribusiness sector. Kevin is currently working as solicitor in the area of corporate law and civil litigation.

Kevin was appointed by the Recfishwest board in October 2012 for a 2 year term. Kevin is Chair of the Governance Committee.

## 1.3 board member attendance at board meetings

Elected Director	Number of meetings attended
Andrew Matthews (Chair)	11
Ian Sewell	11
Ian Stagles	9
Dean Thorburn (elected October AGM)	10
Geoff Ellis (elected October AGM)	10
Appointed Director	
Tim Bray	7
Simon Longbottom	8
Kevin Gammage	7
12 meetings held between 2012 AGM and 2013 AGM	





## 1.4 chief executive officer's report



It has been a remarkable year for recreational fishing in WA.

Recfishwest has emerged from last year's organisational review with a new found direction and approach to achieving positive outcomes for recreational fishing in Western Australia. Our strategic plan is outlined in the appendix of this report along with our vision, mission, values and core business areas. Our values outlined in the plan are particularly noteworthy, as it is these beliefs that underpin Recfishwest's goals and aspirations for recreational fishing in WA.

You will no doubt notice the new Recfishwest logo that was launched with our Family Fun Day on the WA Day long weekend in June. The new logo was designed to be lively, colourful and fun, and represent both young and old. Its aim to impress upon the WA recreational fishing community that Recfishwest represents all recreational fishers. Building strong recognition in the community and broader appeal will facilitate the communication of our key initiatives, and in doing so, will provide better outcomes and benefits for all members.

This year saw the deployment of the State's first purpose-built artificial reefs in the South West. This development was supported by the release of a dedicated government policy on Habitat Enhancement Structures. This policy provides support and guidance to the recreational sector and government in all future developments in this new and exciting area. The Department of Fisheries must be congratulated on the relatively short timeframe in deploying two reefs in the South West. This achievement was significant given the plethora of State and Commonwealth approvals and other complex administrative and legislative factors that were overcome.

This policy shift is very exciting and has created a need to gain a better understanding of what technology exists in this space and how it might be best applied in WA. Habitat enhancement has a potentially vast application in WA that can provide significant benefits to recreational fishing such as environmental restoration, improved recruitment outcomes, new fishing experiences, upgraded amenity and social benefits, tourism opportunities and offsetting fishing pressures.

We are looking forward to improving our understanding of how this technology might benefit our rivers, estuaries and oceans, and working on getting more in the water to provide better fishing off WA.

This year also saw momentous progress in the area of fish stock enhancement initiatives with the first releases of tens of thousands Barramundi fingerlings into Lake Kununurra in the East Kimberley and juvenile Mulloway into waters along the lower west coast. In a similar manner to habitat enhancement, all future stock enhancement activities in WA are now also supported by a detailed government Stock Enhancement Policy.



Recfishwest was very pleased to see a series of notable Liberal Party Commitments focused on recreational fishing, leading into the March 2013 state election. These included a \$300,000 commitment to improving rock fishing safety, a \$2.4 million commitment to expand fish stock enhancement, a guarantee that license money be reinvested into recreational fishing projects, support for expanding artificial reefs programs and recognition of Recfishwest as the peak body for recreational fishing in WA. We are now looking forward to working with the State Government in providing support to implement these initiatives over the next few years.

## 1.4 chief executive officer's report continued

We are particularly pleased to be leading the recently funded state-wide Rock Fishing Safety Strategy, working closely with all major agencies and most importantly the fishing community. Since 2007, there have been 16 rock fishing related fatalities. In addition to fatalities, evidence from a Recfishwest rock fishing safety survey completed in 2013, has pointed to very high rates of rock fishing injuries and incidents. Despite these risks, rock fishing is a popular activity in Western Australia.

This strategy is focused on increasing awareness about the dangers of rock fishing and improving the uptake and use of safety equipment such as lifejackets, rock anchor points and angle rings. Numerous community champions such as Graeme Drew in Albany, Rev Walker in Busselton and Graham Cooper in Esperance, have been long-time advocates for improved safety and have certainly paved the way forward in achieving this commitment from the State Government.

Recfishwest is extremely proud of the work we have done in securing a slice of the fishing license revenue to be utilised on projects to benefit recreational fishing. Some of these projects are detailed throughout the Annual Report. We now see close to \$1.5 million put aside each year into the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund that is then allocated to projects focused on improving our knowledge about important recreational fishing species, enhancing fishing experiences, building capacity in our sector and overall making recreational fishing in WA better.

A defined priority setting process of the expenditure of the Recreational Fishing Initiative Fund is also about to be put in place. This process will see the large-scale engagement of WA fishing community, so please start thinking boldly on how you would like to see your license fees invested to benefit and enhance recreational fishing in WA.

The Recfishwest team in the office continues to amaze me in their ability to generate outputs of such high standards. We are lucky to have such passionate and dedicated people working for Recfishwest, who all love fishing and are more than willing to go above and beyond to ensure positive outcomes for the community that share their passion.

I would like to thank Recfishwest's volunteers, in particular our fishing clinic instructors Kim Burton, Craig Bibra, Alan Guthrie, Adam Vegvary and Ian Sewell. Recfishwest greatly appreciates the ongoing support of our fishing clinic sponsors Woodside and Healthway who aid us in teaching sustainable fishing directly to over 1000 kids each year.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Recfishwest directors for their dedication and support throughout this year, particularly our chairman for his passion, vision and commitment.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the members for their continued support, encouragement and inspiration.



**Dr. Andrew Rowland**  
Chief Executive Officer



## 2.1 fisheries policy and management



### 2.1.1 government policy

In March 2013, Recfishwest released a state election position statement which listed key priorities for recreational fishing in Western Australia 2013-2016.

These key priorities included secure funding for the operation and function of Recfishwest, increased investment of fishing licence money into projects to benefit recreational fishing, stock and habitat enhancement initiatives, as well as securing access rights for fishers and promotion of the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing.

This position statement was made available to all political parties.

Since March 2013 the government of Western Australia has:

- guaranteed Recfishwest 15 per cent of the total recreational fishing licence revenue for community education and consultation;
- increased funding of the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (administered by Recfishwest) to 25 per cent of recreational licence revenue;
- provided funding of \$300,000 over three years to help minimise the risk of rock fishing deaths;
- committed to providing \$2.4 million over four years to expand the current restocking programs;
- further developed a draft Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2013, which will enshrine the rights of recreational fishers in legislation;

Recfishwest also prepared a position statement for the Federal election 2013 focusing on Commonwealth responsibilities related to recreational fishing and is asked parties for a commitment towards:

- a review of management plans for the Commonwealth Marine Reverses Network;
- streamlining of artificial reef approval processes;
- improved telecommunication signals at high risk rock fishing locations;
- recognition of the recreational sector's work to promote aquatic animal welfare;
- support of a charter for recreational fishing.

Recfishwest hopes to have as much success with the Federal Government as it has had with the current State Government in advocating for the rights of the recreational fishing sector.





It has been a remarkable year for recreational fishing in WA.

## 2.1.2 state-wide recreational fishing guide

From 1 February, 2013 new recreational fishing rules were applied across the whole of Western Australia. A newly reviewed and refreshed recreational fishing guide was also developed and implemented. The state-wide guide is a vastly improved and easy to follow document, in comparison to the four regional guides that previously existed, covering complicated rules that split the state into four bioregions and some 16 different bag limit categories.

Recfishwest was enlisted to take on the task of completing consultation with recreational fishers around the state in order to provide accurate and succinct information back to the Department of Fisheries on the proposed changes. Consultation included visiting regional locations for one-on-one discussions, as well as developing an online survey to determine the level of support and glean recommended changes recreational fishers felt were necessary. Recfishwest placed the highest level of importance on effectively representing the views and opinions of the recreational fishing community.

Almost 1000 responses from the consultation process were analysed, and while there are still some outstanding issues, overall the new recreational fishing rules have been very well received. Recfishwest plans to again review the new regulations once they have been in place for 12 months, and will request comments from recreational fishers to determine where the regulations can be further improved.

## 2.1.3 new fisheries act (access rights)

The Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA 1994) is now more than 18 years old, and has had only relatively minor amendments since it came into effect. In that time there have been significant changes in recreational fishing participation rates, practices and equipment, as well as increased pressures on our aquatic environment and fisheries from many other sources.

The Department of Fisheries has drafted the Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2013 (ARMB 2013) which will replace the FRMA 1994 as the primary legislation for the management of Western Australia's fisheries and aquatic biological resources. Recfishwest has had input into the creation of the new Bill and is supportive of its introduction.

The move away from fisheries based management to resource based management will afford the recreational sector greater input into the development of Aquatic Resource Management Strategies (ARMS) and Aquatic Resource Use Plans (ARUPs). The ARMB 2013 will define a transparent process, timeline and level of consultation needed for the development of management strategies. This will ensure timely fisheries management that better reflects input from all stakeholders of the resource.

The most satisfying part of the new Bill is the provision of statutory fishing rights for the recreational sector. This is the first time in Australian history that legislation has defined the recreational sector's right to access a resource and Recfishwest is confident other states will soon follow Western Australia's example.

The new Bill establishes for the first time a formal structure for fishing access rights for each sector, and provides a mechanism for the formal reallocation of harvest rights between sectors, through a defined process determined by Ministerial approval.

Recfishwest has long championed the potential that recreational fishing catch information has as a tool in fisheries management, and is pleased that monitoring the usage of recreational fishing's total allowable catch will become legislated under this Bill.

We are anticipating bipartisan support for this Bill when it is introduced into Parliament.

## 2.2 recreational fishing initiatives fund

### 2.2.1 key projects

The Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) was established in early 2012 with the objective of investing recreational fishing licence funds back into projects, aimed at benefitting the recreational fishing sector. In the first round, nine projects were funded, these projects were as follows.

- Recreational Crabbing: Recfishwest along with the Department of Fisheries have begun community engagement on the project as well as seeking volunteers for a log book program.
- Determining the Dynamics of WA Squid Populations.
- Black Bream Data Collection and consolidation.
- Restocking the Swan/Canning river with school prawns.
- Restocking Mulloway along the lower west coast.
- YouTube Videos promoting recreational fishing.
- Investigate effects of Blackwood River Bream restocking.
- Investment into nextwave of recreational fishing leaders.
- Industry Research Partnerships to facilitate linkages between recreational fishers and research.

#### Funding breakdown:

Project	Cost	Duration (years)
Biology of Black Bream	\$477,315	3
Squid Population Dynamics	\$377,573	3
Industry Research	\$345,000	3
Growing Prawns	\$330,000	3
Recreational Crabbing	\$297,560	3
Restocking Mulloway	\$280,150	3
Young Future Leaders	\$118,000	2
You Tube Videos	\$110,000	2
Blackwood River Bream	\$48,850	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,384,448</b>	



## 2.2 recreational fishing initiatives fund continued

The 2013/14 round of projects for Fisheries for funding through the RFIF are as follows.

- Artificial Reefs in Mandurah: The first non-government deployment of an oceanic artificial reef in WA, paving the way for other companies to do the same.
- Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Deployment: Purchase of ten purpose built FADs for deployment in Perth metropolitan waters.
- Fishing Safety Officer: Co-ordination of consistent fishing safety messages across WA.
- Artificial Reef Data Collection: Can recreational fishers provide a cost effective means of monitoring artificial reefs?
- Biological Research on Billfish, Tuna, Sharks and other game fish: Monitoring and research on landed and released fish during game fishing tournaments and activities in Western Australia.
- Post Graduate Scholarship Program: Support for Western Australian postgraduate studies focused on recreational fishing projects.
- Mapping Fishing Locations for the Disabled: Identify, map, classify and publicise current sites that are suitable for disabled people to conduct recreational fishing activities in WA.
- Health and Wellbeing: Investigate the health and wellbeing impacts of recreational fishing.

### 2.2.2 small community grants

Small community grants see \$50,000 of licence money multiplied through community based projects. The grants are available to a maximum of \$8,000 with preference given to projects less than \$5,000.

Incorporated fishing clubs and community groups were encouraged to submit an application for funding through the small grants scheme. Successful first and second rounds resulted in a number of outstanding projects that will benefit recreational fishing in WA.

The third round of funding has been granted for the following projects:

Applicant	Project	Budget
Quinns Rocks Fishing Club	Certified scales	\$900
Bluewater Freedivers of WA Inc	Safety training	\$4,400
West Australian Undersea Club Inc	Safety training	\$5,000
West Australian Undersea Club Inc	Metro-area shallow water FADs	\$7,500
Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club	Certified scales and garage cabinet	\$1,710
Beachcombers Angling and Boating Club of WA Inc	Drycasting measuring equipment	\$1,050
Volunteer Marine Rescue - Shark Bay	Replacement vessel launch vehicle	\$4,000
Kalbarri Offshore & Angling Club	Kids Whiting Competition	\$1,000
Kimberley Training Institute	Barramundi stock enhancement Willie Creek	\$7,980
Busselton Jetty Environment and Conservation	Manufacture of permanent metal fish rulers Association and Blue swimmer crab gauges.	\$6,000
Perth Game Fishing Club	Collation and analysis of fish abundance data	\$3,000
WA Fish Foundation	Wellington Dam stocking considerations	\$4,905
Swan River Trust	Clean Up Australia Day event	\$4,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$51,445</b>

## 2.3 rock fishing safety

### 2.3.1 rock fishing safety strategy

In March 2013, Premier Colin Barnett made an election commitment of \$300,000 toward a rock fishing safety and awareness campaign. Recfishwest was nominated by the State Government as the lead agency best positioned to carry out the campaign, and signed a service level agreement with the Department of Fisheries.

Since then Recfishwest has convened a Project Steering Committee comprising of representatives from the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Sport and Recreation, Surf Life Saving Western Australia, Royal Life Saving and the Department of Fisheries.

This Steering Committee has approved nine key rock fishing safety messages to be promoted for the duration of this strategy, ensuring consistent messages are sent out by all agencies. In addition to this, Recfishwest has met with the NSW branch of the safety officer of the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) and has organised the sharing of rock fishing safety materials, and the incorporation of WA into the rollout of a nationwide Angel Ring trial.

Recfishwest has also identified several locations for the implementation of rock fishing safety initiatives and launched a multilingual campaign to promote rock fishing safety. A state-wide free life jacket loan scheme is underway in high risk regions including; Albany, Augusta, Carnarvon, Esperance, Margaret River and Quobba. Life jacket giveaway promotions have resulted in nearly 330 fishers responding to our rock fishing safety survey.

Recfishwest continues to work with local governments around the installation of 'on the ground' safety provisions, designed to improve awareness and safety at certain high-risk locations.



## Rock Fishing Safety

Free loan  
life jacket,  
no deposit  
required.

Ask inside for details.



Don't put your  
life on the line.

Proudly supported by the Nathan Drew Memorial Trust & Recfishwest



## 2.4 habitat and stock enhancement

### 2.4.1 artificial reefs

The South West Artificial Reef Trial, funded by Royalties for Regions and half a million dollars from the Recreational Fishing Account, was initiated in March 2012. An initial consultation with a select passionate group of local fishers and council members of the South West was conducted at this time to determine the most appropriate locations for the Reefs to be deployed.

The artificial reefs are purpose built reinforced concrete structures, aimed at creating complex spaces and habitats with differences in light, shade and water flow to encourage further colonisation of marine organisms. The reefs will also produce an up-welling effect within the water column, diverting more nutrient-rich colder water from the seabed up through the water column. This creates food for plankton, which attracts small fish, which in turn attracts larger fish.

After an enormous effort to gain environmental approvals, from both the State and Commonwealth Governments, the reefs were successfully deployed off Dunsborough and Bunbury in March 2013. Thirty reef modules, in clusters of five were placed across four hectares at each site. Within days of the Dunsborough reef deployment, Samson Fish began schooling and smaller reef fish species took up residency.

Recfishwest believes that these reefs will not only enhance the fishing experience, but also generate a productive fish habitat that will feed back into the environment. The reefs will also contribute social and economic benefits to the local communities of Geographe Bay.

### 2.4.2 department of fisheries restocking and stock enhancement policy

The Western Australian Government has recently published a policy on restocking and stock enhancement in Western Australia (Fisheries Management Paper No. 261). This policy is further proof that the Department of Fisheries supports enhancement activities as a legitimate tool for fisheries management.

In 2013 there have been several stock enhancement activities approved by the Department of Fisheries. These include Barramundi in Lake Kununurra and Willie Creek as well as river prawns in the Swan River and Mulloway along the lower West Coast.

This policy provides clear guidelines for proponents wanting to undertake restocking or stock enhancement in Western Australian waters. Recfishwest has had input into this policy and is satisfied that it contains the flexibility needed to recognise the wide variety of benefits that stock enhancement can bring.

The development of this policy will aid the Government of Western Australia in developing plans for the \$2.4 million over four years, for restocking activities that was committed to at the state election in March 2013.

### 2.4.3 lake kununurra barramundi

Lake Kununurra is a 56km stretch of flooded river channel, created by the construction of the Diversion Dam as part of the Ord River Irrigation Scheme. The dam prevents Barramundi from migrating upstream as part of their life cycle. Given that Barramundi require saltwater to spawn, Lake Kununurra has gradually lost its population of this iconic Australian species.

As part of the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy, the Department of Fisheries, with the support of Recfishwest awarded a \$700,000 tender to the Broome Aquaculture Centre to restock Barramundi into the pristine environment of Lake Kununurra.

Restocking will help re-establish Barramundi in Lake Kununurra and has the potential to create a world-class 'trophy' Barramundi fishery, which will become a tremendous recreational fishing asset for the Kimberley and a major drawcard for tourists.

Recfishwest attended the release of 30,000 Barramundi, fittingly on the Australia Day long weekend in 2013, which was the first of 560,000 Barramundi to be released into the Lake over the next four years. The logistics required to get the baby Barramundi to Kununurra from Broome was incredibly difficult, however the release was successful.

The breeding and monitoring associated with the project will provide data to help Recfishwest and other agencies with conservation and sustainable fish programs throughout the state.



## 2.4 habitat and stock enhancement continued

### 2.4.4 school prawn restocking

The project, run by the WA Fish Foundation, will see the production and release of Western School Prawns into the Swan Canning Riverpark over a three year period to enhance community values of the recreational prawn fishery. The community will be engaged through the prawn releases and a monitoring program of the recreational fishery entitled "Prawn Watch".

The culture of Western School Prawns will be a world first. Already the collection of broodstock has begun and a purpose-built incubation room has been constructed at Fremantle Challenger Institute for the development of hatchery techniques. Gravid female prawns have been collected from areas including the Raffles, Canning Bridge, Applecross and Point Walter. The challenge now lies in rearing juvenile prawns, in large quantities and at a high quality.

Prawn Watch is a citizen science research project, led by the Swan River Trust and Recfishwest, which will aid investigating the factors that limit the natural evolution and survival of the Western School Prawn. It is hoped that community volunteers will report prawn sightings, catches and locations to help inform Murdoch University's formal research program into the elusive river prawns.

### 2.4.5 mulloway restocking

In a collaborative partnership between the WA Fish Foundation, Challenger Institute of Technology, the Swan River Trust and Recfishwest, funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund, Mulloway have been restocked into waters of the lower West Coast.

The project focuses on restoring Mulloway stocks in the Perth metropolitan region and throughout the lower West Coast of WA, and provides an opportunity to better understand the species' movement patterns in our river systems.

Over 20,000 tagged Mulloway have been restocked at locations including Dongara, Mandurah and the Swan River. Part of the project also involves collecting Mulloway fin clip samples from around the state to determine the genetic distribution of the species. This may then lead to a more wide-spread restocking strategy in the future.

### 2.4.6 fish aggregation devices

In March 2013, delegates from Japan's Okabe Co. visited Perth to promote their purpose-built Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs), presenting innovative designs, that have been refined over many years of trials in Japanese waters.

Okabe Co. is a civil engineering company, pioneering Japanese markets for their specialisation in earthquake relief structures. After realising a broader commercial interest in FADs and their potential to increase fishing productivity, Okabe Co. engineers are set to design an effective structure utilising recycled plastic materials.

Japan now has more than 270 FADs in their waters, which have significantly increased the productivity of their commercial fisheries, though other advantages of FADs have also since been realised;

- FADs establish new fishing grounds
- FADs provide recreational fishing grounds
- FADs allow sustainable fish production and consumption
- FADs serve as a nursery for juvenile fish
- FADs relieve fishing pressure from coastal areas

In an effort to expand their enterprise, Okabe Co. is interested in how their FAD design will work in Australian waters, in particular Western Australia. Okabe Co. presented Recfishwest and PGFC with an offer of two FADs, valued at \$20,000 each, in exchange for performance information and marine monitoring data.

It is anticipated that the Japanese-designed FADs will be trialled off the coast of Perth late in 2013. If these trials are successful, Recfishwest will seek support to roll out a state-wide FADs deployment program.

## 2.5 marine parks

### 2.5.1 commonwealth bioregional marine reserves network

Recfishwest and the recreational fishing sector have spent considerable time, effort and resources in feeding information into the Commonwealth marine planning process. We believe this has been very important to ensure the Government recognises the importance of recreational fishing, at the same time as protecting the many marine assets identified as integral to effective resource management.

After more than six years of consultation, with considerable input from the recreational fishing sector, a Commonwealth Marine Network Proposal was released in May 2011 which met clearly set-out conservation objectives. On the 17th November 2012 the final Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network (CMRN) was announced and included many changes which were not in the original proposal.

Draft management plans for this network were then released in January 2013. This means that thousands of submissions on the final CMRN were assessed (over a Christmas break) and draft management plans developed in only two months. This is an efficiency record rarely seen in the history of any government department. These Draft management plans then allowed just 30 days for public comment to assess and respond to two 100 page documents.

Recfishwest has concerns that the speed at which management plans were developed for the CMRN, did not allow analysis of all submissions, and that the final CMRN is not reflective of the years of discussions that preceded it.

Recfishwest are now seeking a review of the management plans for the CMRN and a review of zoning and permitted activities within each zone.

The current management plans have failed to provide a valid scientific reason as to why recreational fishers should be excluded from IUCN Category II Zones. This discriminates against user groups and isolates recreational fishers while activities such as diving, defence training, container and bulk carrier services including the discharge of ballast water, are still allowed in these zones.

Recfishwest's position is that recreational fishers should not be excluded from any marine park zones unless there is clearly demonstrated scientific proof that recreational fishing will adversely impact on the ecosystem, habitat and biodiversity.

If Government chooses to exclude recreational fishers from vast areas of the ocean, the loss of fishing area should be adequately offset by mechanisms which improve recreational fishing experiences, such as habitat enhancement structures, artificial reefs and FADs.

Recfishwest has always sought a common sense approach to marine network management planning. We urged all political parties for a commitment to review the current management plan for the CMRN, and not to close large sections of the ocean to the Australian community without clear, measurable science-based conservation objectives.

Marine protected areas should employ simple, practical management plans based on decisions that are risk based, transparent, informed and timely, and with sufficient resources for implementation and future management.

## 2.5 marine parks continued

### 2.5.2 state marine parks

Recfishwest believes that open and transparent consultation, combined with extensive science-based information is imperative to the creation of marine parks which appease environmental concerns, without the unjustified exclusion of particular industries.

Recfishwest is pleased to see a recent change in process; with the government undertaking a dedicated research program to collect data and information in the greater Kimberley region before the gazettal of any marine parks in the area.

We will continue to monitor the progress of marine parks around the state, and ensure the recreational sector's voice is heard when these important decisions are being made. Current status of recently announced marine parks are as follows.

#### Capes Marine Park

- The Management Plan has been approved and released for public consultation.
- Zones are to be classified under the CALM Act. Likely to occur at the end of 2013.
- Once the classification notice is made, the Department of Fisheries will draft the orders to introduce any fishing restrictions. This is expected to occur by mid-2014.

#### Camden Sound Marine Park

- The management plan is currently being progressed and is expected to be approved in the coming months.
- Once the management plan has been finalised and the inter-tidal area reserved, the zones will then be classified under the CALM Act. The Department of Fisheries will draft orders to introduce any fishing restrictions.

#### Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park

- The Department of Parks and Wildlife is currently finalising the management plan. The timeframe for this is by the end of 2013.
- Once the management plan has been finalised and the inter-tidal area reserved, the zones will then need to be classified under the CALM Act. This is still some time away and will be dependent on progression with traditional owners.

## 2.6 capacity building in the recreational sector

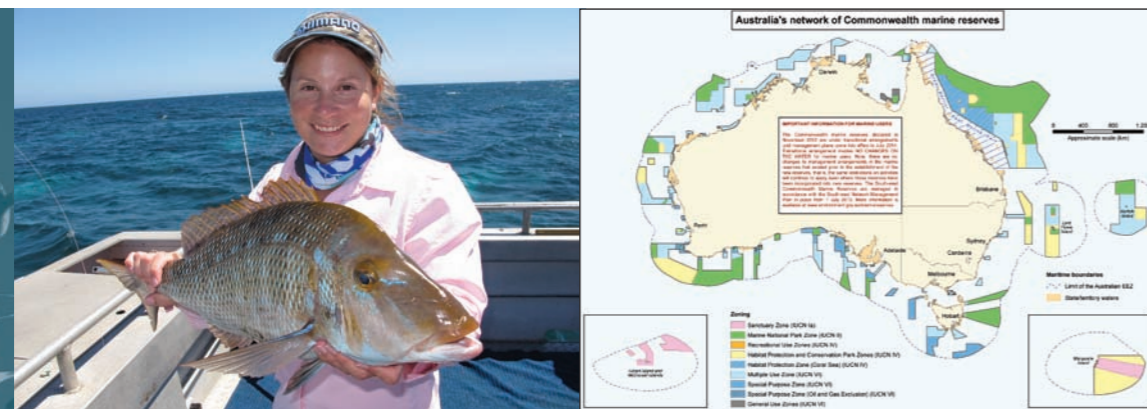
### 2.6.1 national seafood industry leadership program

The National Seafood Industry Leadership Program is the only national industry-specific leadership program run in Australia. The program is designed for people wishing to take up leadership roles within the seafood industry.

This year Recfishwest Policy Officer Matt Gillett is taking part in the program, which included 16 participants from all areas of the seafood sector throughout Australia. The program is centred on three residential workshops throughout the year where participants hone their skills in areas such as; effective ways of handling conflict, improved communication techniques, the management of efficient meetings, high performance team building, change management and media training.

Graduates have gone on to apply their skills to a wide variety of areas including regional network development, regional and state industry association boards, and reference committees, and effective business management.

A core part of the program is the implementation of a vision and mission for the seafood community. This year's participants decided on a project aimed at connecting the seafood community, which included undertaking surveys, and creating advertising material promoting the Australian seafood community. The final residential takes place in Canberra in November 2013, where the project details are presented to dignitaries at Parliament House.



## 2.6 capacity building in the recreational sector continued

### 2.6.2 emergency procedures, occupational health and safety

As part of the Work Health and Safety Act, Hayley Gebbie and Yvette Guy completed workplace first aid training to comply with the Act by having at least one first aid officer in the work place. In addition to personnel training as part of the Act, record keeping of incidents in the workplace is statutory and will be reviewed annually. The office and fishing clinic trailer now have a well-stocked first aid kit, which will be inventoried and checked quarterly.

Ellen Smith is the nominated fire warden for Recfishwest and attends quarterly fire warden meetings with the surrounding businesses at 45 Northside Drive, Hillarys.

Recfishwest's Risk Management Plan was reviewed in May 2013 and updated to incorporate a comprehensive outline for the office, fishing clinics and other external activities. The Risk Management Plan will be reassessed on an annual basis.

### 2.6.3 nextwave



Following on from two previous successful Young Future Leaders courses, Recfishwest this year launched a brand new leadership development program. The NextWave program is aimed at developing a new generation of leaders in the recreational fishing sector by empowering young people with fisheries management and leadership skills.

Eleven participants aged between 20 and 30 took part in this year's program. This included two separate workshops, focusing on fisheries management, communication, negotiation and leadership.

For the first time in the programs history, and as an Australian first, all participants who complete the program will be awarded a Diploma of Fisheries Compliance (Fisheries Management), from the Kimberley Training Institute. The program is run over two years and includes participants taking part in community events and representing the recreational fishing sector.

The group will receive ongoing mentoring from experts in the fisheries management field, and ongoing professional and personal development opportunities.

The NextWave team will be called upon to support Recfishwest in its role as the peak body representing the interests of recreational fishers in WA.

## 2.7 recfishwest communications

### 2.7.1 events

The past 12 months has seen Recfishwest attend, and host a record number of events in order to promote recreational fishing.

The 2012 Mandurah Boat Show saw more than 20,000 people pass through the gate. For the first time in its history of participating in this show, Recfishwest acquired a booth in the main marquee, rather than displaying the trailer outside. The model artificial reefs on display proved a hit, with many fishers showing interest in this project. Many attendees signed up for memberships and e-news subscriptions while at the booth.

The 2013 Hillarys Boat Show proved to be a similar success, only this time Recfishwest displayed a real-life artificial reef module, which received excellent response from the public. It also ran a membership drive for the affiliate member category by offering a return trip for two to Eco Beach Resort, near Broome. This was popular with the public, with over 2500 entries received during the promotion.

Recfishwest also broke new ground this year, launching its new logo with an inaugural Family Fishing Fun Day on WA Day. Over 300 mums, dads and kids flocked to Hillarys Boat Harbour to take part in the event which included face painting, casting competitions, paint your own lures and fishing clinics. The day was an overwhelming success, which we plan to hold again in the summer of 2014.



### 2.7 recfishwest communications continued

#### 2.7.2 e-news

Recfishwest's e-newsletter this year reached more readers thanks to the inclusion of a subscription check box on the Department of Fisheries licencing webpage. This resulted in thousands of new subscribers who gratefully receive the e-news at the beginning of every month. The current subscription rate stands at approximately 18,000 and is growing steadily at an average of 1000 new subscriptions per month.

The newsletter continues to cover topical issues such as recreational fishing policy, current events, updates on recreational fishing grants and research, as well as general interest stories. It also contains important and informative links to recreational fishing information such as tides, weather, fishing reports, recreational fishing rules and licencing. It has become an excellent channel for the promotion of responsible, sustainable recreational fishing in Western Australia.

Due to its popularity, Recfishwest is about to introduce a new format for the e-news, named 'Broad Cast', which will include more interactive content and a fresh new look. The first edition is due for publication in November 2013.

3.1 regional policy officer's report

Much of this year's regional travel has been governed by rock fishing safety consultation. In March 2013, Recfishwest was identified by the State Government as the lead agency to tackle issues surrounding rock fishing safety and address mounting fatalities and incidences with a solid education and awareness campaign.

Recfishwest feels a vital component to any strategy is to have the community on board, not just for the promotion of messages, but to utilise their local knowledge on high-risk areas, visiting tourists and where campaign material might be best placed. As identified in the Premier's election commitment announcement, Salmon Holes is one of the hot spots for rock fishing related fatalities. However, numerous other locations equally worthy of attention have also been identified. These include the South Coast around Esperance, the West Coast in the Leeuwin-Naturalist region, Steep Point and Dirk Hartog Island of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, and Quobba north of Carnarvon.

Upon visiting these locations, I was met with passion and determination from local communities. Much of this passion was driven by concerns for the safety of those who are required to search and rescue for the fishers who have ended up in the ocean. Communities are frustrated by the continuing need to rescue people who choose to ignore the dangers and abandon all common sense for the chance to catch a fish.

A common trend emerging from these communities is an emphasis on education and changing the behaviours of fishers. Teaching people to identify swell patterns, tides, wave periods, and to take appropriate safety precautions when on site, are all necessary to reduce incidences. Unfortunately behavioural change is not something that happens overnight, and a consistent, long term campaign will be required. Recfishwest is well supported by a large number of agencies and personnel who are on board and happy to assist in delivering the same key messages, in an attempt to curb current trends.

In addition to consultation for rock fishing safety, I also visited numerous towns across the state to partake in some fantastic community events. These included the Kalbarri Sportfishing Classic, which had a great turn out and was a well-run competition with fantastic participation across all fishing methods and levels of expertise. Kalbarri is a fantastic example of what a huge influence recreational fishing has on a small town, and the way in which it can bring communities together. One of the more significant issues raised over the weekend was the size limit for Mulloway. Many in the community felt the size limit of 500mm is far too small, given they don't reach sexual maturity until around 750mm. Suggestions were to increase the minimum size limit from anywhere between 750mm to 1000mm.

The inaugural restocking of Barramundi in Lake Kununurra, was a huge success, thanks to the all-in efforts of local government groups including the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Miriuwung Gajerrong Rangers, Department of Fisheries, Department of Transport and the Kimberley Training Institute.

Local issues included the need for mud crab measuring gauges and improved boating facilities and access to the Lower Ord River.

Exmouth GAMEX was again a huge success, with the tag and release sections producing 246 tagged Billfish for the event. The Exmouth Game Fishing Club goes to great efforts to promote the additional benefits of fishing, with celebrity chef seafood luncheons, and an aqua tank with Salmon, Whiting, Queenfish, Trevally, Mackerel and a Shovel Nosed Shark swimming inside for all to see. Children were also able to get involved with fishing classes and casting lessons run by Steve Starling.

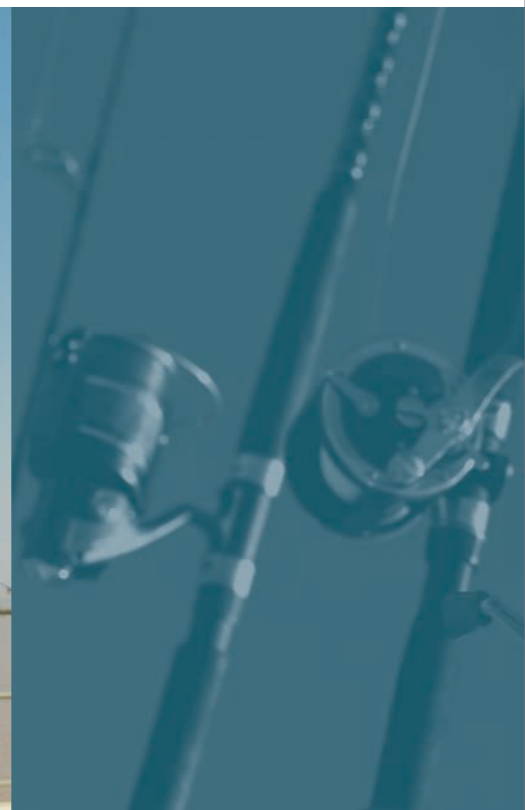




### 3.2 delivery of regional consultation services

Recfishwest meetings on recreational fishing issues in major regional centres

Bioregion	Location	Number of meetings
<b>South Coast</b>	Albany	3
	Esperance	2
<b>West Coast</b>	Bunbury	2
	Busselton	2
	Geraldton	1
	Kalbarri	1
<b>Gascoyne</b>	Carnarvon	1
	Denham	1
	Exmouth	2
<b>North Coast</b>	Broome	3
	Kununurra	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>



### 3.3 regional priorities

Region	Issue	Action
<b>State- wide</b>	Size limit review	Numerous comments from constituents with regard to altering size limits to better reflect age of maturity and pressures on fish stocks. Species identified include Nannygai, Mulloway, Whiting and Herring.
	FADs	Strong support in regional communities for a state-wide FADs program. This includes the towns of Esperance, Albany, Geraldton and Exmouth. Recfishwest has been successful in applying for Recreational Fishing Initiatives Funding to trial Japanese FADs designs.
	Oil and gas	Oil and gas proposals need assessment and consultation with relevant recreational fishing groups. Development of guidelines and position statements are in progress.
<b>South Coast</b>	Netting	Recfishwest is pushing for a review and simplification of netting regulations in Western Australia.
	Wet line	Open access wet line operators, requires set management arrangements.
<b>West Coast</b>	Herring stock assessment	Assessment of Herring management measures.
	Aquaculture precincts	State Government has funded the creation of an aquaculture precinct in the Mid West, Recfishwest to monitor progress and review.
<b>Gascoyne</b>	Game fish research	Exmouth Game Fishing Club is seeking to better utilise the catch of Marlin and sharks in their competitions by utilising the expertise of marine biologist Julian Pepperell. Recfishwest is seeking to facilitate this initiative, to ensure better education and understanding around the movement and biology of these game fish species.
	Shark Bay Crabs	Recommendations have been put forward to the Department of Fisheries on spatial separation from commercial and recreational fishers out of Carnarvon; increasing the commercial prohibition zone and reduce user conflicts.
<b>North Coast</b>	Access through pastoral leases	De Gray Station has recently shut its gates to recreational patrons wishing to access the coast through the leased land. The Town of Port Headland has started a Coastal Foreshore Working Group to help address the issues. Recfishwest has a representative on the group. Meetings continue with Senior Project Managers at the Department of Planning.
	Dampier fishing jetty	Development of a fishing jetty similar to that in Wyndham. Funding avenues are being investigated.
	Barramundi restocking	Continue to support the stocking efforts by the Kimberley Training Institute to fulfil the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy's target for Lake Kununurra.
	Shark predation	Predation of line caught fish by sharks is a significant concern in the North Coast and Gascoyne. Recfishwest is investigating solutions.

## 4.1 fishing clinic report

Recfishwest conducted a total of 80 clinics with more than 1,800 participants during 2012/2013. A total of 23 metropolitan clinics, 27 community clinics and 30 regional fishing clinics were conducted.

Community fishing clinics and events for 2012/2013 included the following:

**Recfishwest Fishing Family Fun Day:** A family fun day for Recfishwest members celebrating the rebranding of Recfishwest. A family fishing clinic and plenty of entertainment was provided.

**Bremer Bay:** An annual event with local children from Jerramungup and Wellstead coordinated in conjunction with the Bremer Bay Resource Centre during the January school holidays

**Carnarvon:** A family fishing clinic for children and their parents held in Carnarvon.

**Rottnest Island Authority:** School holiday fishing clinics with Recfishwest for school aged children. This has proven to be a very popular activity during the holiday season with families.

**Pink Fly Fishing:** A successful clinic at Point Walter attended by 10 breast cancer survivors who participated in learning how to fly fish. The movement of fly fishing helps in the recovery process after surgery.

**AquaSpectacular:** Family fishing clinics held in Bunbury with the assistance of the Dolphin Discovery Centre.

### Woodside/Recfishwest Northern Tour

Further funding from Woodside Energy Ltd for 2013 enabled Recfishwest to tour the North West of Western Australian during May and June. Regional towns visited in 2013 were Carnarvon, Exmouth, Karratha, Wickham, Port Hedland, Broome, Derby, as well the Dampier Peninsula community of Beagle Bay. The Northern Tour fishing program included 723 participants and 32 clinics.

### Metropolitan Schools

As always, metropolitan schools are very enthusiastic about the Recfishwest fishing clinics and many of these schools return each year with a new class of students. There were 23 clinics and a total of 476 participants with locations of clinics at the AQWA Jetty, Woodman Point, Point Walter, Point Peron and Rottnest Island.

Another very successful year for the Fishing Clinic Program and relationships with major sponsors Woodside Energy Ltd and Healthway continue to be strong.

Instructors Kim Burton, Craig Bibra, Paul Willis, Ian Sewell, Alan Guthrie, Adam Vegvary, Lisa Hill, and Recfishwest staff did a great job helping out with the clinics during the year. Their help enables Recfishwest to continue to offer these successful fishing clinics to the children of Western Australia.



## 4.2 fishing clinics 2012/13

### 4.2 Fishing Clinics 2012/2013

Date/Time	Location	School/Group	No. of Participants
12 July 2012 9.30 – 11.30am	Rottnest Island (C)	Rottnest Island Authority	20
19 July 2012 9.30 – 11.30am	Rottnest Island (C)	Rottnest Island Authority	20
8 August 2012 9 – 11am	Woodman Point (M)	PEAC Group	22
12 Sept 2012 11 – 12 noon	Greenwood Primary class incursion (M)	Greenwood Primary	30
18 Sept 2012 9.30 – 11am	Hillarys Marina (M)	Clontarf Academy	12
20 Sept 2012 8.45 – 10.45am & 11 – 12.30	Point Walter (M)	Perth College	52
21 Sept 2012 10.40 – 12.40pm	Point Walter (M)	Mosman Park Primary	29
22 Sept 2012 8.30 – 12 noon	Lake Kununurra (C)	Kununurra Community	50
23 Sept 2012 8 – 12 noon	Wyndham, Anthon's Landing (C)	Wyndham Community	30
4 October 2012 9 – 11am	Rottnest Island (C)	Rottnest Island Authority	16
11 October 2012 9 – 11am	Rottnest Island (C)	Rottnest Island Authority	16
31 October 2012 1.30 – 3.30pm	Rottnest Island (M)	Helena College	27
2 Nov 2012 9 – 11am	Rottnest Island (M)	Glendale Primary	23
12 Nov 2012 3.45 – 5.30pm	Woodman Point (M)	Hamilton SHS Cadets	15
13 Nov 2012 9.30 – 11am & 11.30 – 1pm	Hillarys Marina (M)	Beechboro Primary	64
20 Nov 2012 1 – 2.30pm	Woodman Point (M)	Clontarf Academy	8
21 Nov 2012 10 – 12 noon	Woodman Point (C)	Craigie Leisure Centre, Over 50's	25

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## 4.2 metropolitan and regional fishing clinics report continued

4.2 Fishing Clinics 2012/2013 continued

Date/Time	Location	School/Group	No. of Participants
4 Dec 2012 2 – 3.30pm	Rottnest Island (M)	South Thornlie Primary	20
6 Dec 2012 10 – 12pm	Woodman Point (M)	Lesmurdie High	20
10 Dec 2012 6 – 7.30pm	Point Peron (M)	Hamilton SHS Cadets	16
13 Dec 2012 9.30 – 12.30pm	Point Walter (C)	Pink Fly Fishing	10
9 January 2013 11 – 12.30pm & 1 – 2.30pm	Point Walter (C)	Mercy YMCA	39
10 January 2013 11.30 – 1.30pm	Point Walter (C)	RPH YMCA	25
14 January 2013 10 – 12 noon & 1 – 3pm	Bremer Bay Marina (C)	Bremer Bay Tele Centre	60
17 Feb 2013 11 – 3pm	Leeuwin Barracks (C)	Defence Force	600
23 & 24 Feb 2013 9 – 5pm	Swan River (C)	Swanfish	500
1 March 2013 9 – 5pm	Kalbarri River (C)	Kalbarri Angling & Offshore Club	200
2 March 2013 9 – 5pm	Kalbarri River (C)	Kalbarri Angling & Offshore Club	200
2 March 2013 2 – 4pm	Bunbury (C)	Aquaspectacular	20
3 March 2013 9 – 5pm	Kalbarri River (C)	Kalbarri Angling & Offshore Club	200
3 March 2013 10 – 12pm	Bunbury (C)	Aquaspectacular	20
3 April 2013 9.30 – 11am	Hillarys Marina (M)	Clontarf Academy	25
8 April 2013 9 – 11am & 11.40 – 1.40pm	Hillarys Marina (M)	Seton Catholic College	40
22, 23 & 24 April 9 – 11am	Mandurah (C)	Mandurah Offshore Fishing Club	90

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## 4.2 metropolitan and regional fishing clinics report continued

4.2 Fishing Clinics 2012/2013 continued

Date/Time	Location	School/Group	No. of Participants
28 April 2013 12 – 2pm	North Beach (C)	North Beach Jetty Rally	6
28 April 2013 9 – 12 noon	Bandy Creek (C)	Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club	41
29 April 2013 11 – 12.30pm & 1 – 2.30pm	Woodman Point (C)	Warnbro YMCA	39
30 April 2013 9 – 12noon	Swan Brewery Jetty (M)	Recfishwest/Woodside Launch	30
1 May 2013 11 – 12.30pm & 1 – 2.30pm	Hillarys Marina (C)	Currambine YMCA	39
3 May 2013 11 – 12.30pm 1 – 2.30pm	Ron Courtney Island (C)	RPH YMCA	45
7 May 2013 9 – 11am	Hillarys Marina (M)	PEAC Fremantle	18
18 May 2013 9 – 11am	Rottnest Island (M)	Ocean Reef High School	25
28 May 2013 9 – 11am & 12 – 2pm	Carnarvon (R)	East Carnarvon Primary	50
29 May 2013 9 -11am	Carnarvon (R)	Carnarvon Primary	23
29 May 2013 11.30 – 1.30pm	Carnarvon (R)	Clontarf Academy	12
31 May 2013 9 – 11am & 12 – 2pm	Exmouth (R)	Exmouth District High	48
1 June 2013 9.30 – 12.30pm	Exmouth (C)	Exmouth Game Fishing Club	30
3 June 2013 12 – 3pm	Hillarys (C)	Recfishwest Fishing Family Fun Day	60
5 June 2013 9 – 11am	Dampier (R)	Dampier Primary School	30
5 June 2013 11.30 – 1.30pm	Dampier (R)	Karratha Primary School	28

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## 4.2 metropolitan and regional fishing clinics report continued

4.2 Fishing Clinics 2012/2013 continued

Date/Time	Location	School/Group	No. of Participants
6 June 2013 9 – 11am	Dampier (R)	Clontarf Academy	6
6 June 2013 11.30 – 12.30pm	Dampier (R)	Millars Well Primary	25
7 June 2013 9 – 11am & 11.30 – 1.30pm	Point Samson (R)	Wickham Primary	42
8 June 2013 9.30 – 12.30pm	Dampier (C)	King Bay Game Fishing Club	8
9 June 2013 9.30 – 12.30pm	Dampier (C)	Nickol Bay Sportfishing Club	25
10 June 2013 9 – 11am	Dampier (R)	Pegs Creek Primary	26
10 June 2013 11.30 – 1.30pm	Dampier (R)	Tambrey Primary	19
11 June 2013 9 – 11am	Dampier (R)	Pegs Creek Primary	26
11 June 2013 11.30 – 1.30pm	Dampier (R)	Tambrey Primary	20
13 June 2013 9 – 11am & 11.30 – 1.30pm	Spoilbank, Port Hedland (R)	Baler Primary	60
14 June 2013 9 – 11am	Spoilbank, Port Hedland (R)	South Hedland Primary	30
14 June 2013 11.30 – 1.30pm	Spoilbank, Port Hedland (R)	Port Hedland High	30
15 June 2013 9.30 – 12.30pm	Spoilbank, Port Hedland (R)	Port Hedland Game Fishing Club	10
17 June 2013 9 – 11am	Derby Jetty (R)	Holy Rosary	23
17 June 2013 11.30 – 1.30pm	Derby Jetty (R)	Derby District High	17
20 June 2013 9 – 11am & 11.30 – 1.30pm	Middle Lagoon (R)	Sacred Heart School	37
23 June 2013 9 – 12noon	Entrance Point (C)	Broome Fishing Club	25

## 4.2 metropolitan and regional fishing clinics report continued

4.2 Fishing Clinics 2012/2013 continued

Date/Time	Location	School/Group	No. of Participants
24 June 2014 8.15 – 10.15am	Gantheaume Point (R)	Broome Primary	35
25 June 2013 9 – 11am	Gantheaume Point (R)	Clontarf Academy	10
25 June 2013 11.30 – 1.30pm	Gantheaume Point (R)	Cable Beach Primary	28





### 4.3 woodside/recfishwest northern tour project

The Northern Tour Project was proudly supported again this year by Woodside Energy Ltd and was a resounding success. Recfishwest conducted clinics from Carnarvon to Derby including the remote community of Beagle Bay as part of the Community Fishing Clinic Program with local schools and community groups.

In addition to teaching the basics of safe and ethical angling to children and youth, this program combines mentoring and positive life skills with conservation and education in a powerful and adaptable package.

The objectives of the program are to:

- encourage fishing as a family outdoor activity;
- promote the importance of sustainability of natural resources;
- promote good health and environmental practices within the fishing community;
- promote the enjoyment of the recreational fishing experience and good fishing practices;
- to increase the use of sun protection measures used by recreational and sport fishers for the prevention of skin cancer in adults;
- promote fishing as an activity in which youths can excel to better self-esteem.

	No. of Clinics	No. of Participants
School clinics, including Indigenous communities participating	27	625
Community clinics	5	98

Eight regional towns were visited with attendance of approximately 723 children through school, community and public fishing clinics. Recfishwest's 'Fish Today for Tomorrow' and Healthway's SunSmart message were presented, as well as general promotion for the care and respect of marine and coastal environments and proper fish handling.

Woodside has recognised the important role it plays in North West communities and will be fostering the sustainable fishing messages by again partnering with Recfishwest in 2013/2014.

### Western Australian Game Fishing Association

The highlight of the past year for the Association as a whole has been the strong growth in membership for almost all clubs with an increase to an aggregate of 1136 members, an increase of 8 per cent over the past year and covering all membership categories including juniors. This was in part a result of clubs holding and promoting more events – in Broome, Exmouth, Geraldton and Perth - which also increased participation rates. The other contributing factor was that southern clubs have been blessed by a stronger Leeuwin Current and better fishing conditions.

The Association has been successful in further promoting the tag and release effort with visible results from the Great Marlin Race tagging program, with many thousands of fish tagged during the year. Sharks are now a tag only species in all but a few competitions.

Sponsorship has been forthcoming for those clubs that have actively sought it with most in good financial positions. Club sponsors are demanding better returns on their investment.

Many challenges faced in the past year remain. For example, filleting at sea rules in many cases defy logic and are irrelevant to game fishers who are generally not fridge fillers. Sanctuary areas present a spectre of uncertainty, and similar to the conflict with divers, are still unresolved. Expected progress on facilities - club rooms, launching ramps and other amenities – are still reliant on government for authority or funding.

Governance, in the organisation, communication and compliance with the Association's procedures, has been a mixed bag, as the constant rotation of administrators in the clubs requires frequent input. Most clubs are also suffering from a lack of volunteers resulting in a high workload and a shortage of skills at committee and competition level. There is an opportunity to take hold of this latter issue and get it resolved, but it needs time and commitment.

The aspirations of the member clubs vary, but consistent areas of concern include, restrictions on access to fishing areas and decisions made for apparently political purposes. There is also a desire for development of club events and profiles including creating events with wider integration with community activities. All clubs are working to improve membership levels and participation.

Events held in the past year include the GAMEX competition at Exmouth, whose club also runs another six major events during the year. Broome's long running Billfish Tournament raised over 900 Sailfish in six days. Concurrently Broome Fishing Club hosted the prestigious GFAA Australian International Billfish Tournament. The King Bay club ran the well patronised Dampier Classic and the Estuary Challenge. Geraldton's Offshore Club had a resurgent effort with their Abrolhos tournament. Perth held the Marlin Cup in Jurien Bay, the WA Open out of Rottneest and introduced a new monthly competition. Fremantle Sailing Club's Game Fishing Section had a successful Blue Marlin Classic. Around 20 record fish have been caught through the year, mostly by Exmouth and King Bay Game Fishing Club's members.

Even with a crowded calendar, there are many who were prepared to tow or motor their boats and organise crews to travel long distances to enter organised events. This has been a flow on effect of the individual clubs working together.



## Australian Underwater Federation

The Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) is the governing body for underwater sports and amateur diving in Australia and is an accredited member of the ASC (Australian Sports Commission).

The AUF is the umbrella organisation for the following sports and recreations: Fin Swimming, SCUBA, Apnoea/Freediving, Snorkel, Coaching/Training, Spearfishing, Underwater Hockey.

Spearfishing and freediving are growing in popularity in Australia due to clear water, large fish, healthy outdoor exercise, superb seafood and education. The AUF is a volunteer organisation and plays a significant co-ordinating role in this exciting sport.

As a national not-for-profit organisation, AUF relies on the support from marine enthusiasts across Australia. With the financial and moral contribution from individuals and institutions around Australia and the world, AUF has the financial capacity and public mandate to advocate for the sustainable use of our marine environment.

The AUF promotes spearfishing as being SAFE SUSTAINABLE SELECTIVE SEAFOOD. Within Western Australia the primary affiliated spearfishing club is the Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia. Below is an introduction to the club and a report from the last 12 months:

Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia is a club comprising of Australian and State Spearfishing champions, social spearfishers, as well as new divers intent on improving their skills.

The main objectives of the club are to provide a point of contact for like-minded divers, keep divers informed of relevant fisheries and environmental changes, and to help create a culture of safer divers through education all whilst appreciating the marine environment, keeping fit and collecting a feed.

### Key achievements 2012/2013

2012/2013 was an exciting year. The club attracted many new members and has been privileged to be able to introduce a lot of new and curious free divers to this rewarding sport. During this time the club has also attracted several new female members who have been diving well and actively securing multiple state records showing every one that this sport is not just for 'the boys'!

Over the past 12 months some of the more adventurous members have spent time traveling far and wide across the globe in search of some of the more elusive species to WA divers. These trips have resulted in some amazing captures, but perhaps more importantly has built connections with other international clubs and divers allowing other members to take advantage of these linkages in the future.

### Challenges 2012/2013

Some of the main challenges faced over the last 12 months have been restricted access to some sites due to marine park zoning, and as always trying to ensure freedive spearfishing has the same access to target species and zones as other forms of recreational fishing unless scientifically sound data proves otherwise. The club feels that this is a particularly important issue and we are looking forward to working with Recfishwest to help ensure our concerns are addressed

### Hopes for future of the club

As the popularity of this sport continues to rapidly increase more importance needs to be put on educating divers on safety. The club is proactive in promoting diver safety awareness and hopes to be able to encourage more divers to complete freedive training courses.

Moving forward the club aims to continue building international linkages so members can find that 'fish of a lifetime' but also learn from some of the mistakes and successes of spearfishing access and policy decisions overseas.

However, our biggest hope of all is to be able to continue to introduce people to this healthy and exciting pastime and educate the wider public that we 'dive for the future'

### Club events and Competitions

Bluewater Freedivers holds a member's only pelagic pairs comp every April. This competition has a restricted score sheet and is limited to only six fish per pair. We also hold a 'biggest cray' comp at the start of each season and have a social club weekend away somewhere in the state in March. There is also a species comp, the Glynn Dromey memorial which is also held in April. This comp is open to all freedive spear fishers and members are encouraged to enter.



Some of the more memorable shots from the year that was.

## Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association Inc.

Again the new year finds our Association in a good state both financially and socially due to the diligent effort of the WATFAA Council and general members.

As a result of current and past council and general membership, what is considered the jewel in the crown of WATFAA, The Graham Whitehouse Rose Cottage in Pemberton, has been completed. It is fully paid for and is being well occupied by members who want to fish the areas of the South West of WA.

Membership numbers are stable, with many prospective members making enquiries about WATFAA and most subsequently joining.

Club competitions and social events have been very successful and fully attended. This past year had an additional competition/social event being added to the calendar based on the level of interest and ongoing participation. This being a redfin perch competition, which was held around the period of spawning congregations and aims to reduce the number of these fish in our waterways, as they are considered a feral species by the Department of Fisheries and environmental agencies.

The Winter Wash, Fish-a-Fest and Redfin Perch Competition, are the three major events designed to enable new or visiting members to get a feel for the club, assisting them equip themselves to fish in WA's unique freshwater fishery, orientate their way around WATFAA dams and get advice on their chosen form of fishing. For established members it is a great way of catching up with each other and for them to meet new and current members alike. We endeavour to continue to provide and indeed expand the very things that attracted the individuals to the club in the first place.

Translocation of Trout in aquaculture, private and public water, has not been an issue this year with the enactment of the new Trout Management Plan. Getting approvals to translocate fish is far more streamlined and lead times decreased significantly.

The major issue for freshwater anglers in WA and Australia in general is the slowly diminishing quality of water namely, fresh flowing streams and rivers.

WATFAA, like other interested parties must face the challenge of protecting those waters which are available both at present and into the future. In this and many other matters our club is grateful for the support and assistance given by both Recfishwest and the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

To this end we have received a Small Community Grant through Recfishwest to repair a section of Treen Brook that impedes Trout and native species migration through the system. Works are due to be complete late in the year when the brook is at its lowest flow rate.

We are also looking to eradicate some areas of Blackberry that used to serve both the general public and our members with a better and more fulfilling opportunity to fish public waterways.

It is pleasing to note however, that the Department of Fisheries, through the Freshwater Fisheries Reference Group, has once again been very active in stocking streams, rivers and dams of the South West. Of particular importance are the fisheries within easy reach of Perth which have been well stocked.

### Australian Anglers Association (WA Division)

The 2012 / 2013 year has been a busy year for members of the Association in Western Australia. Being a National Carnival and Convention year, several members recently travelled to Caloundra in Queensland to participate in the 33rd National Convention and Angling Championships.

The WA team represented itself well with George Holman winning the Veteran Male Individual Casting competition. Other members of the team also did well with some excellent performances from the Ladies Casting Team. The Men's Casting Team also did well with Rhys Jones coming third and Rob Pekaar seventh in a very strong field.

The WA team did not win many trophies, though they did win a lot of respect from other competitors for their attitude and approach to this event. I thank you all for the way you carried yourselves as representatives from Western Australia.

Administratively Western Australia is no different to many other organisations in that many people seem to believe that it will all just happen. There are too few willing workers for the amount of work required to be done. State, divisional and inter-club events don't just happen and if it wasn't for the efforts of a few, the many would not have any events to participate in. Thanks to all of the people who have given their time performing often onerous tasks as well as those sponsors without whom our events would not take place.

We have had a very good year on the State Championship front with all divisions reporting good numbers of participants. Angling competitions in particular have produced excellent results with some very good bags being presented at all three venues. Also the State Dry Casting Championships produced some excellent results.

I would like to specifically thank all subcommittees for their dedication and commitment over the past year.

Over a number of years members of the WA Division have noted that many structures and fishing platforms have been either dismantled, had access restricted or permanently lost. Much of this has been due to local government authorities and the State Government departments restricting access because of the risk of being sued for negligence or as a result of injuries resulting from access to these structures. The Association prepared a report on the number of structures that have been lost, or where access has been limited. This report was sent to Recfishwest for further discussion with the appropriate authorities.

On a similar note the division also supported a campaign to reinstate the North Beach Jetty. This historic structure was originally built in the late 1880's and has been extended and since destroyed by a cyclone. Following a bequest left to a local shire it was rebuilt, albeit far shorter than the previous structure. The shire has indicated that it has not and will not allocate funds for this project. As a historical structure it deserves to be rebuilt and the division supports this aim.

The Western Australian Division has been working closely with Recfishwest, on both fronts so that anglers can achieve a workable situation that provides all parties involved with a win-win situation.

The association has also been ably assisted in its activities during the past year by Recfishwest, and we wish to express our gratitude to the staff and Board of Directors for their support and guidance.

### Australian National Sportfishing Association

Our year started well with the usual children's catch and release comp held over two weekends in the October holidays along the Kalbarri foreshore. The event has now become a ritual for families from far and wide with all fish being released back to the river in the best possible condition.

Member numbers have remained static with people now gleaning a lot of the information they require from online. Clubs all over Australia are in the same situation and our aim is to recreate the old style club activities.

The Westag tagging program is going well. With the number of taggers now at 960, we will soon reach the 1000. New WANTED Fish tag brochures will be under way for distribution at tackle shops and boat shows. Fishers are reminded to check any fish they catch to see if it has a tag in its side.

This coming year's projects include the launch of Angel Rings in WA. ANSA National has been working with Recfishwest to form a Memorandum of Understanding to get things moving, and we will need the help of local clubs in the South West to help monitor the rings after installation.

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WA RECREATIONAL & SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

(RECFISHWEST)

(ABN 77 922 817 608)

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SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2013

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AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

The Board have determined that the Council is not a reporting entity.

The Board have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

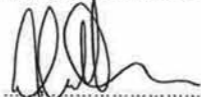
In the opinion of the Board the financial statements:

- a) Present fairly the financial position of Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc, as at 30 June 2013 and the results of the Council for the year ended on that date.
- b) Details of expenditure carried out in accordance with grants contracts with funding bodies including:
  - Department of Fisheries
  - Department of Sport and Recreation
  - Healthway
  - Australian Government
  - Woodside

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council Inc. 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:

Chairman



ANDREW MATTHEWS

Chief Executive Officer



ANDREW ROWLAND

Dated this 11 day of Sept 2013

**WA RECREATIONAL & SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.****INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WA RECREATIONAL & SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc., which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2013, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

*Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The committee of WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act WA and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc. as at 30 June 2013 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act WA.

*Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist WA Recreational & Sportfishing Council Inc. to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act WA. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Ray Woolley Pty Ltd  
 Raymond Woolley  
 Registered Company Auditor No 16396  
 17 Russley Grove  
 Yanchep WA 6035  
 Dated this 2 day of September 2013



**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL  
AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2013**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Fisheries Grant	992,000	817,000
Fisheries Grant - Kimberley Code of Conduct	9,955	14,932
Recreation Fishing	-	25,000
FRDC Grant 2012 *	-	96,600
FRDC Grant - Governance Scholarship	6,000	20,000
RFIF Grant - Research Partnership/Officer *	96,545	-
RFIF Grant - Young Future Leaders	72,000	-
<b>Total Grant Income</b>	<b>1,176,500</b>	<b>973,532</b>
Department of Sport & Recreation (DSR) Support Gross	60,000	60,000
<i>Deduct program expenditure</i>	<i>(19,773)</i>	<i>(20,000)</i>
DSR Support Net	<b>40,227</b>	<b>40,000</b>
Shire of Ashburton Funding	-	2,081
Healthway Grant	50,000	45,000
Woodside Energy Sponsorship	65,000	65,000
	<b>115,000</b>	<b>112,081</b>
<i>Membership:</i>		
Associations	2,577	2,000
Public	6,959	10,482
Total Membership	<b>9,536</b>	<b>12,482</b>
Interest	16,520	19,654
Disposal of Asset	-	5,716
Donations/Refunds	1,222	873
Columns/Presentations	-	1,500
Recoups	-	1,062
Sundry Income	3,404	-
	<b>21,146</b>	<b>28,805</b>
<b>Total membership and other income</b>	<b>30,682</b>	<b>41,287</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,362,409</b>	<b>1,166,900</b>

\*FRDC: Fisheries Research & Development Corporation

\*RFIF: Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL  
AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2013**

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Accounting & Payroll Fees	17,045	-
Administration Expenses	38,472	14,585
Annual Leave Provision	12,957	(8,410)
Audit	6,195	4,422
Board Honorariums	34,645	-
Board Meeting Cost Metro	-	65,600
Catering/Venue Hire	3,830	-
Communications/Advertising/Promotion	140,786	13,962
Consultants/Legal & Governance	28,641	17,500
Co-Ordinators Uniform	2,767	-
Course Facilitator	14,547	-
Depreciation Expenses	26,414	19,862
Financial Expenses	2,451	2,347
Fringe Benefits Tax	9,786	9,691
General Operations	19,864	29,228
Healthway Education Officers	4929	12,463
Healthway Expenditure	-	28,548
Insurance	12,203	16,436
Key Stakeholder Liaison	6,790	7,933
Kimberley Code of Conduct	-	813
Legal Costs	8,208	-
LSL Provision	11,947	(17,484)
Mileage Claims	300	1,200
Motor Vehicle Expenses	31,169	29,037
Project Catering	2,778	-
Project Consultants Expense	8,000	-
Promotional Items - Projects	16,879	302
Rec Fishing Initiatives	90	-
Recruitment and Training	10,872	12,331
Rent	44,463	30,547
RFW Annual Report	3,180	-
Rock Bolt Project Expenditure	-	2,065
Salaries & Wages	494,947	496,577
Sitting Fees	2,064	-
Small Grants	48,986	30,155
Sunscreen Stations	1,321	-
Superannuation	41,891	41,190
Tackle	14,615	-
Temporary Staff	26,380	-
Transport Costs	2,397	-
Travel & Accommodation	66,373	27,921
Utilities	10,841	-
Variable Outgoings	10,125	-
Western Climate Change	-	12,000
Woodside Expenditure	-	50,435
Woodside Fishing Clinic Instructors	4,000	-
Workers Compensation	5,275	-
Write off on Fixed Assets	634	-
YFL Boat Hire	8,727	-
Young Future Leaders Program	-	57,074
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,258,784</b>	<b>1,008,330</b>
<b>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS</b>	<b>103,625</b>	<b>158,570</b>
Accumulated surplus/deficit at beginning of year	195,268	36,698
Accumulated surplus/deficit at end of year	<b>298,893</b>	<b>195,268</b>

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC. (REC FISHWEST)

BALANCE SHEET  
As at 30 June 2013

	NOTES	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Westpac 467636		35,670	15
Westpac Cash Reserve 467644		257,498	-
CBA -Nulsen ITF Recfish		91,513	-
Fisheries Grant account		100	57,942
Business Online Saver		100	138,015
Total Cash at Bank		384,881	195,972
Debtors		13,860	22,548
Cash on hand		373	500
GST Input Tax		18,025	-
Prepayments		-	17,402
Total of other current assets		32,258	40,450
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>417,139</b>	<b>236,422</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Fixed Assets	2	52,209	61,745
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>52,209</b>	<b>61,745</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>469,348</b>	<b>298,166</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors & Accruals		7,335	29,868
Grants Received in Advance		45,455	-
Payroll liabilities		20,818	14,951
GST Tax Receipts		10,216	-
Provision for annual leave		34,555	21,598
Provision for long service leave		-	22,817
Provision for small grant payments		-	-
ANZ Business One credit card		-	4,583
Westpac Credit card clearing		8,232	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>126,610</b>	<b>93,817</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provision for long service leave		43,846	9,082
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>43,846</b>	<b>9,082</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>170,456</b>	<b>102,899</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>298,893</b>	<b>195,268</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		<b>298,893</b>	<b>195,268</b>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached notes

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC. (REC FISHWEST)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
For The Year Ended 30 June 2013

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act. The Board of Management has determined that the council is not a reporting entity the council is not a reporting entity

The Statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act and the following Australian Accounting Standards.

AASB 1031 Materiality.

No Other Australian Accounting Standards or other mandatory professional reporting requirements have been applied.

These financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis. They are based on historic costs and do not take into accounting changing money values, or except where specifically stated, correct valuations on 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 these financial statements.

- a) **Fixed Assets**  
The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over the useful lives of assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.
- b) **Income Tax**  
The Council's income is not subject to income tax.

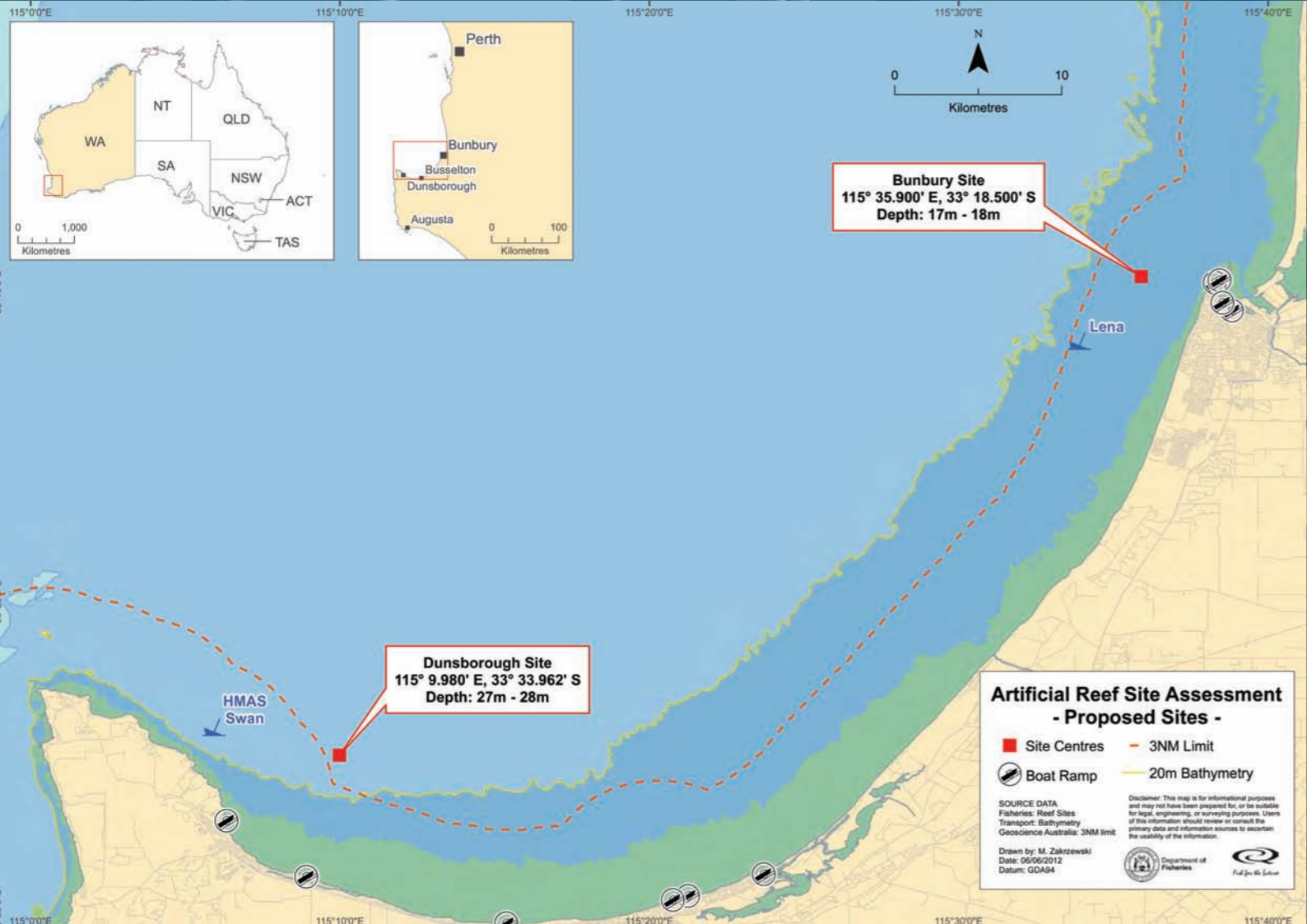
NOTE 2: FIXED ASSETS - DEPRECIATION

	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Equipment at cost	63,854	129,102
Accumulated depreciation	(32,382)	(96,302)
	31,473	32,800
Motor vehicle & trailer at cost	42,865	42,866
Accumulated Depreciation	(22,129)	(13,921)
	20,736	28,945
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>52,209</b>	<b>61,745</b>

NOTE 3: RELATED PARTIES

During the year the following Recfishwest Board of Management members were paid fees for conducting fishing clinics:

- Ian Sewell \$400



**reelishwest**

**International Experts**  
 In eco-sustainable artificial reefs

Designed and constructed by leading artificial reefs firm Haejoo Group

- 10 year lifespan
- It is designed to influence water currents, create upwellings and improve ocean productivity
- 3 x 3m - 12 tonnes
- A reef would consist of 30 modules over 4 hectares area of water!
- Australian Made in Australia at MJM Industries
- Where would you like them to go?
- Potential to:
- Create new habitat and nursery areas
- Increase productivity in local waters
- Provide enhanced fishing opportunities

**reelishwest**  
[www.reelishwest.org.au](http://www.reelishwest.org.au)

## Strategic Plan 2013 - 2017

### Our Vision

"To ensure sustainable recreational fishing resources"

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### Our Mission

"To advocate and promote the values of recreational fishers in Western Australia"

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### Our Values

We believe fisheries are a public resource that must be managed to ensure its sustainability.

We believe recreational fishing is an enjoyable and rewarding activity with far reaching social, cultural and health benefits.

We believe in the equitable allocation of fisheries resources for future generations that recognises, and allows for, natural growth of the Western Australian community.

We believe that recreational fishing is an activity of great social and economic importance to Western Australia.

We believe education and communication are key activities to effectively implement strategies and maintain the function of Recfishwest.

We will provide comment on issues which have implications for the management of recreational fishing and negotiate for the best possible outcome for the resource and our constituents.

We believe in fostering a strong partnership with fisheries managers and researchers to further the knowledge of Western Australian fisheries to ensure appropriate management strategies can be implemented for the effective conservation of the resource.

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### Our Core Business Areas

Fish and Aquatic Resource Sustainability and Management

Communication, Education, Relationships and Partnerships

Fisheries Access and Resource Sharing

Stocking, Restocking, Habitat and Stock Enhancement

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## Business Goals 2013 - 2017

Effectively **Advocate** for the rights of Western Australians to **access** local, publically owned fisheries

Maintain strong recognition of Recfishwest and increase **membership** base.

Build effective **relationships** and partnerships with appropriate government agencies, corporates, peak bodies and other community stakeholder groups for joint activities, research, sponsorship or other support.

Increase the community's **recognition** of the social and community benefits of recreational fishing and the conservation values of the sector.

Provide ongoing **advice and representation** to the Minister and other government departments on recreational fishing and management of license revenue.

Supporting **sustainability** in fisheries management and pursuing recreational fishing development and enhancement opportunities.

## Strategic Goals 2013 - 2017

### 2013-2014

Provide support and receive advice from Recfishwest Reference Groups.

Identify and understand the needs and wants of recreational fishers.

Continue to promote fishing clinics as a key educational tool.

Promote fishing safety.

Maintain Governments contribution to the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and the community small grants scheme.

Identify and progress the benefits and opportunities of artificial reefs, fish aggregation devices and other fishing enhancement structures.

Represent recreational fishing interests in future State and Federal marine park planning activities.

Pursue recreational access rights for the administration of recreational catch allocation in Western Australia.

Pursue development of quality research proposals that meet biological, social and economic needs.

Continue to develop the next generation of leaders in recreational fishing.

Establish a strategy on fish welfare issues.

Provide continued advice on the management of demersal scalefish and review recovery of dhufish and pink snapper stocks on the west coast. Monitor and advise on the management of important recreational inshore species on the west coast.

Ensure recreational fishing interests are adequately considered in future mining and resource developments to ensure recreational fishers receive adequate offsets relative to impacts.

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### 2014-2015

Identify and progress opportunities for enhancement of recreational fishing experiences through fish stocking and rehabilitation of habitat.

Maintain and develop the recreational value of the freshwater and marron fisheries.

Investigate and work with government towards the establishment of statutory recreational resource share in new fisheries regulations.

Provide continued advice on the management of demersal scalefish, inshore species and western rock lobster to deliver optimal community returns.

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### 2016-2017

Develop and implement formal management arrangements for the south coast demersal scalefish resource.

Implement Trading under the Integrated Fisheries Management process.

Establish a world class impoundment sports fishery in Western Australia.

To be Australia's Biggest Fishing Club.

## Introduction

The Board of Directors of Recfishwest is committed to excellence in corporate governance and enhancing the interests of the association's members. In order to achieve these objectives, the Board has adopted the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations as amended in 2010 (ASX Principles and Recommendations). These principles have been modified slightly, so as to properly reflect the fact that Recfishwest is an incorporated association rather than an ASX reporting entity.

## Purpose

The Corporate Governance Committee is charged with ensuring that Recfishwest, to the greatest extent possible, complies with the principles and recommendations espoused below. To this extent, the Corporate Governance Committee maintains a compliance report which is included in the annual report of the association and which records the association's compliance with each of these principles and recommendations in the preceding twelve months.

The Corporate Governance Committee regularly reviews its corporate governance systems with the aim of ensuring that Recfishwest continues its commitment to good corporate governance, by having regard to all relevant developments in its operating environment.

ASX Principles and Recommendations	
<b>Principle 1</b>	<b>Lay solid foundations for management and oversight</b>
1.1	Establish the functions reserved for the Board and those delegated to senior executives and disclose those functions.
1.2	Disclose the process for evaluating the performance of senior executives.
1.3	Provide the information indicated in Guide to reporting on Principle 1.
<b>Principle 2</b>	<b>Structure the Board to add value</b>
2.1	A majority of the Board should be independent directors.
2.2	The chair should be an independent director.
2.3	The roles of the chair and chief executive office should not be exercised by the same individual
2.4	The Board should establish a nomination committee.
2.5	Disclose the process for evaluating the performance of the Board, its committees and individual directors.
2.6	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting on Principle 2.
<b>Principle 3</b>	<b>Promote ethical and responsible decision making</b>
3.1	Establish a code of conduct and disclose the code or a summary of the code as to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1.1 the practices necessary to maintain confidence in the Company's integrity</li> <li>3.1.2 the practices necessary to take into account their legal obligations and the reasonable expectations of their stakeholders</li> <li>3.1.3 the responsibility and accountability of individuals for reporting and investigating reports of unethical practices</li> </ul>
3.2	Companies should establish a policy concerning diversity and disclose the policy or a summary of that policy. The policy should include requirements for the Board to establish measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity for the board to assess annually both the objectives and progress in achieving them.

3.3	Companies should disclose in each annual report the measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity set by the Board in accordance with the diversity policy and progress towards achieving them.
3.4	Companies should disclose in each annual report the proportion of women employees in the whole organisation, women in senior executive positions and women on the Board.
3.5	Provide the information indicated in Guide to reporting on Principle 3.
<b>Principle 4</b>	<b>Safeguard integrity in financial reporting</b>
4.1	The Board should establish an audit committee
4.2	Structure the audit committee so that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consists only of non-executive directors</li> <li>• Consists of a majority of independent directors</li> <li>• Is chaired by an independent chair, who is not chair of the Board</li> <li>• Has at least three members</li> </ul>
4.3	The audit committee should have a formal charter.
4.4	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting on Principle 4.
<b>Principle 5</b>	<b>Make timely and balanced disclosure</b>
5.1	Establish written policies designed to ensure compliance with the company's disclosure requirements and to ensure accountability at a senior executive level for that compliance and disclose those policies or a summary of those policies.
5.2	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting on Principle 5.
<b>Principle 6</b>	<b>Respect the rights of shareholders</b>
6.1	Design a communications policy for promoting effective communication with shareholders and encouraging their participation at general meetings and disclose their policy or a summary of that policy
6.2	Provide the information indicated in Guide to reporting on Principle 6.
<b>Principle 7</b>	<b>Recognise and manage risk</b>
7.1	Establish policies for the oversight and management of material business risks and disclose a summary of those policies.
7.2	The Board should require management to design and implement the risk management and internal control system to manage the Company's material business risks and report to it on whether those risks are being managed effectively. The Board should disclose that management has reported to it as to the effectiveness of the Company's management of its material business risks
7.3	The Board should disclose whether it has received assurance from the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer (or equivalent) that the declarations provided in accordance with section 295A of the Corporations Act is founded on a sound system or risk management and internal control and that the system is operating effectively in all material respects in relation to financial reporting risks.
7.4	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting in Principle 7.
<b>Principle 8</b>	<b>Remunerate fairly and responsibly</b>
8.1	Establish a remuneration committee
8.2	Structure the remuneration committee so that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consists of a majority of independent directors</li> <li>• Is chaired by an independent chair</li> <li>• Has at least three members</li> </ul>
8.3	Clearly distinguish the structure of non-executive directors' remuneration from that of executive directors and senior directors
8.4	Provide the information indicated in Guide to Reporting on Principle 8.

