



## AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION, (WA DIVISION) INC. MINUTES OF DELEGATES' MEETING

**Held at WA Sports Association  
Stancliffe Street, Mt Lawley  
20 February 2007**

The meeting commenced at 7.45 pm. Pat Shinnick offered to chair the meeting. All Accepted.

### **PRESENT**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| George Holman (SCAC)                               | Joe Horvath (Offshore AC Beach)          |
| Jim Strong (Denmark Angling Club and State Patron) | Rick Cameron (Offshore AC South Coastal) |
| Terry Fuller (Surf Casting and Angling Club)       | Paul Frzop (AAAWA Treasurer)             |
| Don Cox (Melville Amateur AC)                      | Pat Shinnick (LAAC)                      |
|  | Diane McDonough (AAAWA Secretary)        |

Pat Shinnick welcomed Diane McDonough, the new Secretary and said that all delegates will offer as much assistance as possible. Hopefully we will move forward from now. Club contact lists will be sent to club secretaries and treasurers, but people's phone number will not be sent directly to anyone. Thanks to all for coming, Pat thought a few more might have come, daylight saving appears to be affecting the number of people who attend.

### **APOLOGIES**

Martin Humbert (OSAC Mt Barker), Nick Allsworth (NDAC)

### **NOTIFICATION OF PROXIES**

Nil.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS DELEGATES' MEETING**

The minutes were prepared by Pat Shinnick. One error in the Treasurer's Report regarding income received was pointed out: it should read AC South Coast Affiliation Fees \$60 (not State Estuary Fees). With this amendment, it was **moved** by Jim Strong and **seconded** by Don Cox that the January Minutes be accepted.

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Nil.

### **CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS**

| <b>By Post From</b>              | <b>Subject</b>                                  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Australia Post                   | PO Box renewal                                  |
| Iinet                            | Overdue invoice reminder                        |
| Recreation & Sport Network       | "Keeping Connected" February 07                 |
| Telstra                          | Changes to call diversion service (number only) |
| Westpac                          | Carnival Account Statement 03 Jan – 02 Feb 2007 |
| Westpac                          | General Account Statement 03 Jan – 02 Feb 2007  |
| Trophy Choice                    | Invoice   |
| Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club | Newsletter                                      |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Hillarys Yacht Club Newsletter | Newsletter   |
| Surfcasting and Angling Club   | Newsletter   |
| Esperance Surfcasters Club     | Invite to Fish Beach and Rock Fishing Classic<br>March 10th and 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| Member Manager                 | Paraphernalia  |
| Dept of Agriculture and Food   | Plants   |
| Ricoh                          | Returned Cheque  |
| Ricoh                          | Outstanding Account  |
| Telstra                        | Account  |
| Recfishwest                    | Annual Subscription  |
| Drifters Deep Sea Angling Club | Affiliation Fees   |

## OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

| To                  | Subject            |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Delegates and clubs | Minutes and Agenda |

**Moved** by George Holman, **seconded** by Joe Horvath that correspondence inwards and outwards be accepted.

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Delegates were asked to approve payments to Iinet (internet service provider) by direct debit from the bank account rather than by cheque, Credit card payments cause problems as different card holders and expiry dates on credit cards cause a problem. **Moved** George Holman **seconded** Jim Strong that Iinet accounts be paid by direct debit.

## TREASURERS REPORT

Paul Frzop gave the report.

### Accounts Previously Paid

| Pay to  | For                               | Amount \$ | Paid      |  |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Ricoh   | Returned Cheque incorrect address | \$175.00  | Re-posted |  |
| Telstra | Account                           | \$26.00   |           |  |

### Accounts for Payment

| Pay to            | For                               | Amount \$ | Paid       |       |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Ricoh             | Returned Cheque incorrect address | \$175.00  | See Above  |       |
| Ricoh             | Outstanding Account               | \$352.64  | Credit Due |       |
| Iinet             | Internet service provider         | \$40.00   | Chq#300257 | 09/02 |
| Telstra           | Account                           | \$25.87   | Chq#300258 | 20/02 |
| Recfishwest       | Annual Subscription               | \$275.00  | Chq#300259 | 20/02 |
| Australia Post    | Post Box – Annual Rental          | \$102.00  | Chq#300260 | 20/02 |
| Trophy Choice     | Drycasting – Trophies             | \$265.00  | Chq#300261 | 20/02 |
| Fleets for Tackle | Estuary – Trophies                | \$250.00  | Chq#300262 | 20/02 |

### Bank Account Balances

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| General Account Westpac Bank  | \$13,371.65 (Statement Amount \$14,444.42) |
| Carnival Account Westpac Bank | \$1,691.87 (Statement Amount \$1,691.87)   |

## **Business Arising from Treasurer's Report**

Nil.

**Moved** Joe Horvath, **seconded** Jim Strong that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

## **Estuary, Rock and Beach Report**

Don Cox: This years' State Rock and Beach Championships to be held 3-5th March. Had a meeting with Joe and John Ward. If not already booked in to the caravan park you won't get in. Changed briefings from 11.00-12.00 Saturday. 2 pm start fishing Sunday to try and get people to stay for BBQ. Boundary is Betty's Beach to Bremer jetty. Men \$12, Ladies \$7. Surfcasters are fishing in Bluff Creek, a lot of new people, we don't know yet. Bunbury club will not be going. Freo-Melville should have a good mob. Wont' get a huge turn up, around 50. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March (long weekend).

Next year 2007/8 State Rock and Beach Championship is at Port Gregory is 29-30 Oct 2007. Boundaries Port Gregory to Kalbarri.

**NOTE Noticed during the preparation of these minutes. This proposed weekend clashes with the normal date for the State Dry Casting Championships which is always the last Sunday in October, but also those dates are NOT Saturday and Sunday in October 2007, so there's a mistake..**

Next year 2007/8 State Estuary Championship is 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November 2007, Cockburn Sound plus river.

Mid year the size limit for pink snapper in Wilson Inlet will go up to 410 mm from 280 mm, about time.

Rick Cameron said that our members at South Coastal and Mt Barker had no idea that State Beach and Rock Fishing Competition is on. For the next one we need to make sure a brochure goes out in the minutes to advertise it. They only found out last weekend and can't get a crew together. Perhaps we have to add a flyer to minutes.

Terry advised that previous minutes have listed all dates and venues of coming State Championships.

George Holman suggested that if Don can advise the dates of coming events, it can go into the minutes. Perhaps a calendar at the back of each minutes with a calendar. Terry used to do coming events and this should be included. Diane should be advised when special notices should go out.

Esperance has a competition on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March. When the time comes for notices to go out, people should notify the Secretary. Coming events could be on a Calendar for the next 12 months, repeat until event completed. Four competitions on a monthly basis could be updated. A lot of us are slow on the uptake. Nomination forms can go in the minutes.

## **Boating Report**

Pat Shinnick asked for a laminated notice "Are You a State Champion Fisherpersion" to be circulated in tackle stores, etc. It may entice people to come along. Booklets will be finished

by 21/2/07. All going to plan, we haven't asked for money but will be asking Paul for some invoices to be sent out. All on track for 24<sup>th</sup> Boating Championships

Swan Fish also 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> February (this weekend). Hope it all goes well, well done to Don.

AAA Angler of the Year for 2005-2006 has not been awarded yet, when should it be? Who knows who won, etc? Terry Bell gave a report way back, and it should be in the Secretary's documents.

### **Dry Casting Report**

George Holman said the Association will need to book Yokine reserve for the last Sunday in October (28th) for the 2007/8 State Dry Casting Championships.

### **National Championships**

Regarding the group going away, some have left and are at Philip Island, the main group goes Sunday morning, a total of 18 from WA. The Victorian branch has a problem, numbers are dropping because NSW and Queensland members don't like Philip Island as a fishing location, and there are only 20 and 30 from NSW and Queensland respectively, numbers normally being in the 100's. George reminded delegates that Jim Strong, the Patron, has put up three trophies for Accuracy Events, Open, Ladies and Veterans. This will be the first year Jim hasn't attended. We might need to authorise someone to act as State President for WA. George Holman was nominated. The next event will be in South Australia at Kangaroo Island.

George Holman thanked those who gave their time and effort to go. Fares, buses and accommodation was \$1000 per person. The sponsorship paid for entry fees and t-shirts.

Terry Fuller commented that in previous years, the balance of the grant from MSR is distributed, after expenses are calculated. The grant from MSR should be divided up between the people who go.

Paul Frzop commented that has always been something left in the account.

Pat Shinnick said that money allocated to this from MSR has to be spent so the balance needs to be checked on so that it is spent by the end of the financial year. Paul needs to do a balance to find out what's left and the should be divided up between those who go.

### **Action: Paul will work out balance and advice on MSR funding**

Jim Strong gave his best wishes and good luck to the Dry Casting Team representing the WA Division of AAA visiting Philip Island.

Pat Shinnick commented that it's a pity more people cannot go, but costs make it difficult. Perhaps we could do fundraising to entice people to join in.

**Recfishwest Report** (Prepared by Terry Fuller, Recfishwest Board Member for Australian Anglers Association).

**Rottnest Island No Fishing Zones.** There have not been any more details released to the public. Until we find out more about what is actually proposed it is hard to comment on or question the details.

Recfishwest asked for a meeting with the Tourism Minister but she declined, saying this is an operational issue which should be discussed with the Rottnest Island Authority. RFW has received a positive response from representatives of the Authority.

**Release weights available again.** Release weights were not available in the tackle shops at the end of 2006 due to a stop in production. A new supplier, Sunset Sinker Supplies, Neerabup, (08) 9306 8889 has been arranged and the release weights are now back in production and should be going out to shops.

Please spread the news about this. If you are in a tackle shop and you can't see any release weights on the shelves, can you please let the staff know.

**Recfishwest Praises Minister for Wilson Inlet Pink Snapper Decision.** A RFW media release has praised the announcement by Minister for Fisheries, Jon Ford, for increasing the minimum legal size limit for pink snapper in Wilson Inlet from 280 mm to 410 mm to apply by mid 2007.

The recreational sector expressed its strong support (67%) for an increase to the Wilson Inlet minimum legal size of pink snapper in the 2005 South Coast Recreational Fishing Review, but it was not implemented.

Coordination of local support by Mr Robert Robinson and local member for Albany, Peter Watson has been an important consideration in getting this regulation changed at this time. Mr Robinson was responsible for collecting 1700 signatures of concerned local residents and visitors to outline the strong community support for the change.

This is another example of where recreational fishers have proactively endorsed tighter restrictions on a fishery to ensure its sustainability in the future, despite some impact on some fishers in the Wilson Inlet as a result of this change.

Recreational fishers have been the driving force behind a number of successful management measures for the protection of fish stocks such as the Cockburn Sound and Shark Bay pink snapper closures and proposals for protection of blue groper at Rottnest Island.

**ACMA Proposed Submarine Cable Protection Zone.** The Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA) proposal for a WA protection zone extends one nautical mile either side of the submarine cable (2nm wide), and encompasses what appears to be the area of highest concentration of recreational boat fishing usage in the metropolitan area.

Mark Pagano from Recfishwest has been working very hard getting available information and data about the cable to demonstrate that most recreational fishing usage is no risk or minimal risk to the cable. The information will be used by the ACMA Protection Zone Advisory Committee and in submissions which closed on 16 February 2007.

Unless the proposals are amended, anglers will be prevented from anchoring or using J-hooks above size 4/0 in a large area.

**Yellow Finned Bream Size Limit.** Yellow finned bream change from male to female at 350mm. The minimum size was increased to 350mm in the Gascoyne/Pilbara but this effectively stopped nearly all recreational take.

Recfishwest has proposed a slot limit that allows for a limited take of fish between 250 mm and 350 mm, and give protection to the males whilst still allowing recreational fishing to occur. The nature of the 'slot' should be designed to spread the catch over both genders and requires some catch size distribution data and further discussion.

Under the ethos of Integrated Fisheries Management, Recfishwest would expect similar catch controls on the take of the smaller male yellowfin bream to be applied in the commercial fishery.

**Abalone Integrated Fisheries Management.** Recfishwest has put in comments on the Abalone IFM paper. An extract: - “Recfishwest notes that none of the three proposed options for resource sharing put forward by IFAAC in Section 6.2 recognises the economic benefits in a shift toward the recreational sector in the metropolitan region or makes an allocation based upon the total mortality.

The 'best case' scenario for the recreational sector presented by IFAAC as a realistic solution fails to address its terms of reference and puts an enormous financial penalty on the recreational sector through a market mechanism in the short term to accommodate population growth.” Details are on the RFW website at <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubAbaloneFMP214.htm>

**Integrated Fisheries Management Issues.** Recfishwest recently met with the Integrated Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee (IFAAC) and the Department of Fisheries to discuss priorities for Integrated Fisheries Management as a 10 year plan. Prior to the meeting, a questionnaire was sent out to corresponding members asking for their top five priorities for IFM. Recfishwest's priorities were South West Salmon, West Coast Inshore, Demersal Gillnet and Longline Fisheries, Australian Herring and Mackerel.

Recfishwest has proposed a three tiered approach to future priorities which was well received by the members of IFAAC. The approach is:-

- Bioregional for demersal fisheries

- Species specific e.g. mackerel, blue swimmer crabs, mud crabs

- Inshore/estuary e.g. Peel/Harvey and south coast.

It now seems possible that the setting of the sustainable harvest levels by the CEO of Dept of Fisheries could change to a determination of a “maximum biologically sustainable limit” by the CEO, while the actual harvest level could be a matter for either or both of IFAAC and/or the particular fishery’s “management advisory committee”. If this were the case then there would be formal opportunity for stakeholders to make input into the process with a final decision by the Minister.

Any involvement by stakeholders such as Recfishwest needs an understanding of the fishing aspirations and preferences of the community and how those translate into setting the actual harvest levels to achieve those particular outcomes of management. A paper is being prepared with an explanation of the issues in a simplified form to encourage discussion and obtain the preferences of the recreational fishing community.

**Outcomes of the Commercial Wetline Fishing Review.** Comments on the proposals for the future management of the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial 'Wetline' fisheries close on Wednesday 28 February. A draft of Recfishwest’s submission is at <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubWetlineFMP221.htm>

**Halt the Salt Campaign.** The Halt the Salt campaign is a unique alliance of the Conservation Council, WA Fishing Industries Council, Kailis Bros, and Recfishwest with support from Federal level peak recreational and commercial fishing and conservation bodies to oppose the

world's largest salt mine from being established along the eastern edge of Exmouth Gulf. The mine will stretch an equivalent distance of coast as Rockingham to Yanchep.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has released Straits Salt's Environmental Review and Management Plan (ERMP) for a twelve week consultative period which ends 26 February 2007. The potential for this project to significantly impact on marine recruitment in the Exmouth Gulf should be reason enough to prompt concerned recreational fishers to support the campaign. Many details are available at [www.haltthesalt.org](http://www.haltthesalt.org)

**The Fishing Party.** The Fishing Party <http://www.thefishingparty.info/> is proposing to set up a WA Branch with the aim of getting political about fishing issues. The Party tried in 2004 with very limited response.

There has been some discussion on several fishing forums in early 2007, with posts by the Federal Chairman of the Party. Some comments from various people have included criticisms about a lack of political influence, the roles and achievements of Recfishwest, and allegations about RFW's attitude and "failure to support a dedicated political fishing party."

The messages sent and comments received have been quite mixed, however it was pleasing to see the level of support for RFW from local fishers.

RFW has not been approached about its attitude to a new WA political party. However, RFW has demonstrated an approach of working positively and constructively with all elected governments and political candidates of all political parties.

RFW will document its policy and approach to working with political parties and candidates in a comprehensive written policy, currently in draft, which will be made public on its website when ready.

It is likely to include paragraphs like:- *"RFW will not openly support any one political party or candidate over any other, and RFW will not recommend or advise people how they should or could vote or comment on political issues. RFW's public comments on policies and proposals affecting the interests of recreational fishing may be used by people, or ignored, as just one of many inputs to their own personal decisions on how to vote, who to vote for, or what comments to make."*

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM RFW REPORT**

### **Fishing Party**

George Holman commented on the Fishing Party, they are very strong in outlook, but not always logical, or balanced. Recfishwest should not get political with any party if representing fishers in all states. The Fishing Party didn't get off the ground here; they still use old style thinking on fisheries management and need to broaden their horizons. They need to look at their approach and we should stay out of it.

Terry Fuller commented that it's up to the individual which party he associates with.

### **Dhufish**

Pat Shinnick commented that he did a dhufish seminar years ago and was actively involved in the shot line method (release weight) of catching and releasing dhufish (over 200). They now are catching some tagged fish. The day will come when we have closed seasons on dhufish and bald chinned groper. They are breeding younger because the fish don't have the large, dominant fish to stop the small ones from breeding; also breeding has reduced from 3-4 years

to 2-3 years. They breed over the November-March period. Some species of fish breed in one hit, but Dhufish don't, they do it in lots, fertilise say 100,000 eggs at a time. During that period the fish are full of roe and eggs. We don't know when this might happen, some boating clubs, surprisingly, say a closed season is a good idea, though they would be negative.

Joe Horvath asked if a closed season applied to professionals also.

Pat advised that it would mean dramatic changes to commercial wet liners and crayfishermen,. There would be closed areas. In Perth waters you rarely see a 15 kg dhufish nowadays. They spawn in closer waters from 10 – 40 m which has areas of flat coral. He was impressed with the attitude of clubs, both older and younger members. Perhaps we should let Recfishwest know there is support amongst clubs. The research people realise that the shot line method works. Pat will give some brochures on shot line release method to George Homan to take east.

### **WARCO Report**

Nil

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Plaque & medallions**

Rick Cameron presented Terry Fuller a plaque for dedication to AAAWA. He also had medallions for the Dry Cast Competition.

### **Fishing Clinics**

George Holman advised that Fishing Clinics could be held the first three Mondays of July. We have to book venue and get lecturers. In the past these have been Terry Fuller, Pat Shinnick, George Holman, etc. Paul Willis would like to take a lesser role. Adam Eastman is in Geraldton now. We need to give some thought to this and get moving on it, book venue, decide how many nights to run it and how many lecturers we can get.

### **Old Secretary Records**

Terry Fuller advised he had in his possession 7x 50 litre plastic containers with secretary records and a 4 drawer filing cabinet containing documents which have rarely been looked at. Storage facilities are \$140 per month for a 7 cu m, with a waiting list, so looking for suggestions on how to store these. Some records are from 20 years ago, including records of competitions over the years. It was condensed in 2003 and some on A4 paper, but a lot is bound in covers. Discussion followed about the high cost and amount of time involved in scanning the documents. Terry will reduce the content to 3 boxes and Pat Shinnick agreed that he would store them. Paul Frzop will take filing cabinet. All agreed.

### **Banner**

The AAAWA banner is somewhere in a black bag and is needed for the Boating Championships. George Holman will look for it in his shed.

### **Constitution**

Pat Shinnick raised the matter of the Constitution. We need to organise a working party to go through this and make it more modern. People could take notes, take them home to examine and see can we do it better, remove irrelevant things, etc. This needs to be addressed so we

can move forward. People from clubs could come along and help. Not expecting this to happen immediately, but need suggestions.

Paul Frzop suggested that a copy of the current one go out to delegates with the Minutes, asking them for a response.

Terry Fuller advised that the Constitution is on AAAWA website and reminded delegates that the Constitution is old and a few changes won't do, it needs to be completely re-written.

George Homan felt that if it's sent out nothing will happen, two or three people need to sit with it, revise it and then send it out for comment.

Pat Shinnick advised that he re-wrote a constitution for Lancelin Aquatic Club and Sea Rescue, and was a big job.

Terry Fuller suggested that a sample should be obtained from DOCEP and used, because it might be easier to start with a basic Constitution and add AAAWA specific thing than to edit the current version.

George Holman said Ian Cook had offered to do the AAA Recorders job and suggested we need to collect the records from Adam Eastman and introduce Ian to Richard Suidak from the National Records Authority.

### **Credit Card**

Paul Frzop raised the possibility of applying for a Westpac AAAWA credit card, to make bill paying easier.

Terry Fuller suggested that using a credit card would cause issues with the auditor, also that the audit would then cost more; if something needs to be paid quickly; Paul could pay with his own money and get reimbursed.

Pat Shinnick agreed with Terry about the audit process. The IInet account is the only electronic invoice and direct debit has authorised for that. A credit card for a non for profit organisation is not appropriate.

Paul Frzop responded that 60 cheques are written per year and a credit card is a useful tool, and a matter of trust, however he accepts the comments made.

### **Emails**

Discussion about how emails should be handled (they currently go back to Aug 2006). Emails and attachments should be listed as correspondence inwards, delegates can ask for more information if they wish.

**The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.**

**Next Meeting Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007.**