



# AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (WA Division) Inc

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## Minutes of Delegates' Meeting 17 January, 2006 at WA Sports Association, Stancliffe Street, Mt Lawley.

The Delegates' meeting was opened at 7:35 pm. Vice President Nick Allsworth chaired the meeting.

**Present:**

Jim Strong	Denmark Angling Club	Terry Fuller	Surf Casting and Angling Club
Rick Cameron	OSAC South Coast	George Holman	Surf Casting and Angling Club
Joe Horvath	OSAC Beach	Pat Shinnick	Boating sub committee
Don Cox	Melville Amateur AC	Nick Allsworth	Northern Districts AC

### Apologies:

Martin Humbert

### Notification of Proxies:

No new ones.

### Visitor:

None.

### Minutes of Previous Delegates' Meeting

Moved Jim Strong seconded Rick Cameron that the minutes of the previous month's Delegates' meeting are true and are an accurate record. Carried.

### Business Arising from Minutes.

None.

### Minutes of Executive Meeting

The January Executive Meeting had not been held due to lack of members for the executive.

### Correspondence Inwards.

By Post	In From	Subject	Date	Action
Westpac		Bank Account Statements for December	Jan	Treasurer
Lancelin Angling and Aquatic Club		2005/6 Affiliation Fees and donation for 2005/6 State Boat Championships	11 Jan	Treasurer
Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club		Donation for 2005/6 State Boat Championships	3 Jan	Treasurer
Offshore Angling Club Sth Coastal		2005/6 Affiliation Fees	6 Jan	Treasurer
Drifters Deep Sea Angling Club		2005/6 Affiliation Fees	17 Jan	Treasurer
Grahame Garrie		Missing fish record application	Late Dec	To reply
Recfishwest		Corridor display offer	Jan	<b>Discuss ##</b>
Recfishwest		Annual subscription account	Jan	Treasurer
Emails	In From:-	Subject	Date	Action
Various		Routine AAA Info	Various	None
Kevin Hughes		No longer Rock and Beach and Estuary sub committee Chairman – someone else needs to pick this role up	17 Jan	<b>Discuss ##</b>
Esperance Surfcasters		Copy of flyer for Beach and Rock Classic Fishing Comp	16 Jan	With minutes

### Outgoing Correspondence.

Posted	Out To:-	Subject	Date	Action
AAA clubs, Delegates, etc		Minutes of December 2005 Delegates' meeting.	25 Nov	None
Max Law		Reply to his letter about readdressing AAA mail and phone calls	30 Dec	None
Emails	Out To	Subject	Date	Action
Various		Routine AAA Info	Various	None
AAA members with email		Reminder of 17 Jan Delegates' meeting	16 Jan	None

### Business Arising from Correspondence:-

The previous Rock and Beach sub committee chairman's email advising he had stepped down was discussed. Don Cox to check with John Ward. Terry Fuller said he was ready to do all the preparation, printing, copying and posting of the nomination forms, rules, booklet etc as soon as the final details were provided to him. Recfishwest has offered space in their premises for a display of

material about AAA and its clubs. Clubs with any material they would like displayed should contact Terry Fuller to arrange the display. **Moved** Jim Strong seconded Joe Horvath that inwards and outwards correspondence be accepted - carried.

**Treasurers Report.** Accounts for payment are:-

Pay to	From General account, for	Date Received	Amount	Date Due	Action

**Bank Account Balances at 17 January 2006.**

General Account Westpac Bank	\$
Outstanding cheques	\$
Accounts for payment from General account	\$
Available in General account and in hand after accounts paid	\$
Carnival Account Westpac Bank	\$

**Club Affiliation fee invoices for 2005/2006 were sent out on 14 August 2005. Reminders were sent out 25 November. Up to 17 January 2006. Total 24 clubs have paid 2005/6 affiliation fees, 1 club advised will not renew.**

**Paid:-**

Esperance Surfcasters	Mandurah Offshore Fishing & Sailing Club	Geraldton Angling Club
Surf Casting and Angling Club	Cockburn Power Boat Association	Northampton Districts Angling Club
Quinns Rock Fishing Club	Fremantle Sailing Club	Fremantle Amateur Angling Club
Bunbury Angling Club	Offshore Angling (Club Beach)	Denmark Boating and Angling Club
Hillarys Yacht Club	Albany Angling Club	Geraldton Districts Offshore Fishing Club
Swan Yacht Club	Melville Amateur Angling Club	Northern Districts Angling Club
Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club	Rockingham Offshore Fishing Club	Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club
Lancelin Angling and Aquatic Club	Offshore Angling Club South Coast	Drifters Deepsea Angling Club

**Advised will not renew:-**

Naturaliste Game & Sports Fishing Club	To be contacted.
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**Up to 17 January 2006, the following clubs have not paid 2005/6 affiliation fees.**

Offshore Angling Club Boat	Mount Barker Offshore Angling Club
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**Business Arising from Treasurer's Report.**

**Moved** Jim Strong seconded Joe Horvath that Treasurer's report be accepted and accounts passed for payment - carried.

**Secretary's Report.**

Nothing to report other than covered elsewhere.

**Trophy Officer's Report**

No report.

**Property Officer's Report**

A Property Officer is still needed.

**Records Officer's Report**

Not present

**Competition Officer's Report**

Not present

**Boating Report.**

Pat Shinnick reported. The next AAA State Boating championship will be at Jurien Bay on the long weekend 4 March 2006. Community centre has been booked in Jurien Bay. Sponsorship has been arranged with Club Marine and the boating business centre in Hocking Road. A good core of people are now helping with the arrangements for the championships. The booklet is ready to go to print. Details are on the AAA web site at [www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/BoatingMain.html](http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/BoatingMain.html)

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

See notes under correspondence.

Since the Delegates' meeting, all paperwork for the Rock and Beach championships on 25/26 March at Jurien has been prepared and copied. Booklets with all of the information about the event, sign on location, weigh in location, etc and the general rules under which the Championship will operate have been sent to clubs for distribution to the members. Each booklet has an Individual Registration form for people to use.

A complete set of information including Team Nomination and Individual Registration forms is on the AAA website at <http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/RockBeachMain.html> A copy of the booklet is at <http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/RockAndBeachBooklet2006.pdf> Additional printed copies can be obtained from the AAA Secretary.

## **Dry Casting Report.**

Nothing to report.

## **National Championships.**

A meeting will be held at George Holman's, 8pm Monday 6 February for anyone interested in the 2007 convention.

The 2007 championships will be held at Phillip Island, Victoria in March 2007. Information about Phillip Island is available.

## **Fishing Clinics.**

Due to lack of workers, there are no current plans for any more Fishing clinics until the next North of the River clinic in July 2006. Hillarys Yacht Club should be booked for the North Clinic in July 2006

## **AAA Web Page**

Just routine updates to the website. Information about the State Boating Championships and the State Rock and Beach championships have been placed on the website since the Delegates' meeting. See [www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/BoatingMain.html](http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/BoatingMain.html) and [www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/RockBeachMain.html](http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/RockBeachMain.html)

## **WARCO Report.**

Nothing new.

## **Notices of Motion.**

None.

## **Recfishwest Report.**

Terry Fuller reported on some of the main points from the January 2006 Recfishwest Board Meeting, and other recent activities.

Recfishwest has written to the Minister for Fisheries asking for commercial Salmon fishing from Cape Leeuwin to Tims Thicket to be suspended over Easter and April school holidays.

A Ministerial review of the Fish Resources Management Act is under way. Recfishwest has written to the Minister asking for a recreational fishing representative on the review panel.

The Western rock lobster Integrated Fisheries Management process has still had only a few submissions from the public, and it appears the recreational fishing public is very apathetic and does not realise the importance of this in setting precedents which will be used in deciding shares for other fish species. Recfishwest is preparing a follow-up submission on Western rock lobster.

CALM has, surprisingly, advised Recfishwest that it agrees completely with RFW's submission and position on the proposed Logue Brook Dam closure to recreational activities including fishing. That is CALM disagrees with the intransigent position of the Water Corporation.

Recfishwest has been approached to provide advice on disabled fishing platforms for the proposed Port Coogee Marina.

The commercial Wetline Fishing review is with the Minister. The Department of Fisheries submission will be finalised shortly. It is expected to be a couple of months before the Minister's position is released for public comment.

CALM has approached Recfishwest for discussions on the ongoing Biodiversity planning strategies.

The Minister has asked for an investigation of wilderness fishing areas or Fish Habitat Protection Areas in the Kimberleys aimed at getting protected areas with the full support of the community, which will achieve most of the Government's conservation objectives without the angst generated by the Marine Parks process used recently by CALM.

Recfishwest has a representative on the focus group reviewing the Shoalwater Marine Park, south of Rockingham. People with knowledge of the area are requested to contact Recfishwest so that they can be consulted about proposals. It goes without saying that the conservation groups are expected to want significant percentages of this area completely closed to recreational fishing.

Recreational anglers have been dismayed to see commercial fishermen off Garden Island catching lots of large pink snapper as these leave Cockburn Sound after being protected for 2½ months while spawning. Negotiations are proceeding to implement the Labour policy to protect Cockburn Sound snapper from commercial fishing.

**Changes to the Recfishwest Board and impact on AAA.** The Recfishwest Board is considering how to adapt the membership and the structure of the Board to changing circumstances. In particular it wants to handle the changes in the Associations which provide five members to the Recfishwest Board, and open membership to other associations and organisations which are currently not directly represented on the board. Also the need for better communications with the public to counter the extreme apathy among recreational anglers which is apparent and which will have serious impact on allocation and sharing decisions.

The outcome of this is that declining Associations may find their place taken by other organisations, either temporarily or permanently. With the current severe lack of volunteers and lack of delegates attending meetings of the Australian Anglers Association, and the lack of any people to take over important positions such as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Rock, Beach and Estuary subcommittee chairman and Boating subcommittee chairman when the current people step down or burn out, this proposal has significant ramifications for AAA in the future.

AAA has a very good working relationship with Recfishwest at present, and despite the severe lack of interest, feedback and involvement of AAA clubs in the management of fishing, AAA club member's interests are, as far as they can be guessed, covered to some degree in Recfishwest's submissions and activities. Without the involvement of AAA in Recfishwest there is no guarantee that club members' interests will be considered unless there are other avenues found to get their opinions through to Recfishwest.

A meeting was held between the Recfishwest board, Executive Director of Fisheries, Peter Rogers, his deputy Peter Millington, and the Recreational Fisheries Manager, Nathan Harrison at which some of the above points were discussed in more detail.

It is understood the Department of Fisheries had planned to amend the definition of Designated Fishing Zones on the South and South West Coast to give priority to commercial salmon fishermen. Terry Fuller asked the Executive Director of Fisheries, Peter Rogers how giving commercial fishermen the right to take a school of salmon from in front of a group of recreational fishermen could possibly fit the assurance on the Fisheries website that designated fishing zones were not designed to give any one group an unfair advantage over others.

**Declining Recreational Angler Numbers.** Peter Rogers appears to understand the severe conflict in the Department's Annual Report to Parliament for 2004/5 in the way recreational angler numbers are used in this report.

Page 14 says "Additional pressure is being placed on inshore fish stocks as a result of continuing population growth, coastal development, improved access and fishing technology and a growing recreational fishing sector. "

Page 30 says:- "Recreational fishing is not only a favourite pastime for nearly 540,000 Western Australians every year (about one third of the population).....Increasing pressure on WA's fisheries by the recreational sector can be attributed to population and tourism growth, coastal development, improved fishing technology and easier access to many remote areas."

Page 109-110 of the Annual report says "The survey was conducted by telephone during April 2005. The telephone numbers were randomly selected from the DTMS white pages on CD-ROM. Respondents were males and females older than 17 years residing in Western Australia. The total sample of 700 interviews comprised 422 metropolitan interviews and 278 regional interviews."

The figure of "nearly 540,000 recreational anglers" is actually 538,000 and compares to the figure of 643,000 which has been used before - a big 105,000 or 16.4% reduction.

We have increasing population, yet decreasing number of participants - down 105,000 since the June 2001 survey - but the number is very conveniently not covered in any of the graphs or the write ups.

Previous Fisheries Annual Reports show the participation figures are:- May 2000 survey 614,510, June 2001 survey 642,549, May 2002 survey 585,000, May 2003 survey 600,000, May 2004 survey 533,000, April 2005 survey 538,000. It has dropped 62,000 or over 10% just in the last 2 years alone, and 16% since the peak.

The number participating is only one way of measuring. Even more obvious, when you do a comparison, is the decline in the number of days fished by each of these participants. Previously that led to the "10,000,000 recreational fishing days" figure and that figure was used for such things as justification for Ningaloo and Jurien Bay closed areas, and need to review the recreational fishing rules.

The report comments: "For earlier years, the results were influenced by extreme outliers which increased the estimate of the mean number of days fished" and "These results can be affected due to the inability of respondents to accurately recall all past fishing trips over a 12 month period" This shows there are statistical problems with the surveys.

Again missing from this 2005 report is any mention of a figure for total fishing effort. What is the number of "angler fishing days" this year. How many percent has it dropped? It may have dropped much more than the 10% drop in numbers fishing. The graphs of numbers of days fished - 1 to 5 fishing days used to be 40%, it is now 70%. 1-10 fishing days used to be 65%, it is now 85%. Which means fewer total fishing trips. Yet the write up says "Increasing pressure on WA's fisheries by the recreational sector..." Is this selective use of statistics.?

No one should have any argument with the need for proper management of recreational (and all other) fishing effort everywhere and particularly in heavily fished areas around population centres, and should support proposals such as the Zone 5 Metro Management proposal. Reports to Parliament should have better analysis and not ignore important changes.

The proposals for the Capes Marine Park are expected to be released for public comment shortly although no definite date is available.

Peter spoke of the challenges for getting accurate data which is essential to properly share fish stocks. There is not sufficient funding to do all the work that needs to be done, and in particular recreational fishing research is under funded. Without financial power which comes from access to sufficient money and freedom to say how that money should be spent, as for example the money raised by recreational fishing licences and the experience of New South Wales and Victoria, research and data gathering is always restricted by the Government budget process and competing demands.

Information costs money, and the government wants to see a political benefit from spending money which is aimed at providing social benefits from shifting the catch from commercial to recreational or reducing the real or perceived conflicts between these two groups. Changes in the management of the Metro and near metro areas are a clear winner, because of the sheer numbers of people affected. Changes in management of country areas are less clearly beneficial and some need to be aligned with the tourism and economic benefits from recreational fishing in country areas.

**Dhufish management** is a particularly difficult subject. Most demersal finfish on the West Coast are under excess pressure. The sheer number of people who want to access this species makes management extremely difficult, but a way it must be found to manage the catch. The current creel surveys based on boat ramp checks appears to be grossly underestimating the recreational catch and has serious implications both for management and for allocation decisions under integrated fisheries management.

In Peter's opinion, it is inevitable that the day will come when much tighter controls will need to be placed on the catch of Dhufish, for example by the introduction of a **tag system** as used for Shark Bay pink snapper. This will give both precise control of the catch and some money for essential work.

Foreign fishing in northern waters has been an enormous drain on both the Department's and the Minister's resources in recent months and has caused friction between the Federal Fisheries Minister and the States.

There was discussion about the promised recreational fishing compliance effort compared to do the actual amount delivered. In some cases there is a considerable shortfall. A common, repeated complaint by recreational anglers is the lack of any visible Fisheries compliance presence in the face of repeated, obvious and blatant lack of compliance by some people. The integration of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure marine branch inspections and Dept of Fisheries inspections appears not to be working well, with recreational anglers complaining that marine branch inspectors are looking at safety items but are not taking any interest in fish catches or fisheries compliance.

Most of the Regional Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committees are not working very well. After five years of RFW pushing unsuccessfully for better interaction between the RRFAC and Recfishwest, Peter Rogers advised that Nathan Harrison is now working on this and hopefully it will be finished by the middle of the year. Recfishwest is represented on two of the RRFACs, and these appear to be working better. Even the chairman of RRFAC is concerned about the lack of information from some his own groups.

Marine Park planning has had any difficulties in the past. For example in the Jurien Bay Marine Park, quite a lot of decisions were put off for the future, with some of the biggest difficulties left for "negotiation". Spatial separation was not dealt with. All this needs to be much clearer for people to be able to properly comment on them in the public consultation process. Remember this for the Capes Marine Park public comment period when it comes.

Recfishwest has asked the government to deliver a single marine resources portfolio in the new State Cabinet following the resignation of the Environment Minister, Judy Edwards. Recfishwest believes that an enhanced marine resources portfolio centred around the Department of Fisheries will deliver a more transparent process and higher quality outcomes for Western Australia.

It will remove the system of confrontation and unfounded attacks by CALM and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, and the dogma that found it easier to ban fishing than address fundamental environmental problems and a more rational zoning strategy for Western Australia. Importantly, it will save tax payers money and simplify an extremely complex system.

In response to the increasing number of rock and boat fishing fatalities in the last few years, the Royal Life Saving Society (WA Branch) and SunSmart have joined Recfishwest in producing the SunSmart FishSmart Fishing Safety brochure which will be available from tackle shops. The Fishing Safety brochure has been developed for all recreational anglers and covers the necessary precautions to ensure safety while fishing. The Western Australian coastline or boating conditions can be extremely dangerous to the inexperienced and responsible planning and assessment of conditions is vital for the safety of all fishers.

A roundtable discussion included people from Recfishwest, Royal Life Saving Society, Department of Fisheries, Conservation and Land Management Busselton, Dept of Planning and Infrastructure Marine, Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee, Fremantle and Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue, Healthway, WA Sports Federation to discuss new strategies to reduce the incidence of fishing related deaths in Western Australia.

### **Business Arising from RFW Report**

Just discussions on some details.

### **General Business.**

Nick Allsworth will write a President's letter for the State Boating booklet. Terry Fuller to send Nick a copy of the previous version.

### **Angler of the Year Presentations.**

Presentations for the 2004/5 Australian Anglers Association Angler of the Year will be held starting at 7:30pm on Tuesday 21 February, Sportsman's Association Clubhouse, Stancliffe Street, Mt. Lawley.

Officials and members of club are invited to attend the presentations and enjoy drinks and light refreshments after the presentations.

The February AAA Delegates' meeting will be held after the Angler of the Year presentations, and club members are welcome to stay and observe the meeting.

Winners and full results of the Angler of the Year competition are on the AAA Website at <http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/AnglerOfYear.html>

**Meeting closed** at 9:00 pm.

## **PLEASE DON'T FORGET**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Angler of the Year Presentations</b>     | 7:30pm <b>Tuesday 21 February</b> , Sportsman's Association Clubhouse, Stancliffe Street, Mt. Lawley. Everyone is welcome. See the AAA website <a href="http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/AnglerOfYear.html">http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/AnglerOfYear.html</a> |
| <b>State Boating Championships</b>          | 2005/6, Jurien, <b>Saturday 4 March 2006</b> , Long Weekend. Check the booklet or the AAA website <a href="http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/BoatingMain.html">www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/BoatingMain.html</a>   |
| <b>State Rock &amp; Beach Championships</b> | 2005/6, Jurien, <b>Saturday/Sunday 25/26 March, 2006</b> . Check the booklet or the AAA website <a href="http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/RockBeachMain.html">www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/RockBeachMain.html</a>   |

## Notice of Future AAA Meetings.

**Next Executive Meeting** To be advised Usually held on the first Tuesday of the month.

**Next Delegates' Meeting** 7:30pm Tuesday 21 February 2006, Sportsman's Association Clubhouse, Stancliffe Street, Mt. Lawley. Usually held on the third Tuesday of the month

## Coming AAA Events.

**Angler of the Year Presentations.** Presentations for the 2004/5 Australian Anglers Association Angler of the Year will be held starting at 7:30pm on Tuesday 21 February, Sportsman's Association Clubhouse, Stancliffe Street, Mt. Lawley.

**State Boating Championships** 2005/6, Jurien Bay, Saturday 4 March 2006, Long Weekend.  
2006/7, Date to be advised in March 2007 at Whitfords.

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### 2005-2006 State Boat Angling Championships Jurien, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2006

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**State Rock & Beach Championships** 2005/6, Jurien, Saturday and Sunday 25/26 March, 2006  
2006/7, HQ Cheynes Beach, Reef Beach to Betty's Beach, date TBA.

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### 2005-2006 State Rock & Beach Championships Jurien, 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> March, 2006

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**State Estuary Championships** 2006/7, Swan River, Saturday and Sunday 25/26 November 2006.

**State Dry Casting Championships** 2006/7, Yokine Reserve, Sunday 29 October 2006

## AAA Fishing Clinics.

**North of the River** Hillarys (to be confirmed) Mondays 3, 10, 17 July, 2006

## Club and AAA Publicity.

AAA has a web site [www.aaawa.iinet.net.au](http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au) Member Clubs can have their news published on the website. Check out the information about the other clubs. Use the web pages to give prospective new members and people information about your Club - meeting dates- field days - membership fees - phone numbers - Club news - field days results - photos of great catches - invitation day dates - social events - ANYTHING of interest to anglers and web surfers.

It costs you nothing to tell prospective members about your Club - nothing but a little time to prepare and send the information. Email material to AAA Secretary Terry Fuller at [aaawa@iinet.net.au](mailto:aaawa@iinet.net.au) or post to PO Box 2200, Marmion, 6020. AAA phone number is 9403 7383 for any enquiries.

## Email.

Email makes it so quick and easy to distribute information like all the above to clubs and members. Clubs and Delegates please give the Secretary email addresses for people who wish to receive information. All emails will be sent so that the email address is not visible to anyone else on the address list, and will keep the email addresses private. AAA email is [aaawa@iinet.net.au](mailto:aaawa@iinet.net.au)

Sponsors of AAA.

## **Club Marine**

Club Marine is the major sponsor of the Australian Anglers Association and the 2005/6 AAA State Boat Angling Championships.

<http://www.clubmarine.com.au>

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## **Mako Tackle**

Providers of all your tackle product needs.

Supported the 2005 Fishing Clinics.

<http://www.makotackle.com.au/>

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## **Yallingup Beach Holiday Park**

Are Principal Sponsors of the 2005/6 AAA State Rock and Beach Championships.

<http://www.yallingupbeach.com.au>

## **Ozflex Australia.**

Suppliers of Ozflex rods and tackle, Superflex line, Jinkai leader, Schneider line, Ande line, Classic and Bomber Lures, Neptune Tackle, and Angler Advantage Rods.

Supports the 2005 Fishing Clinics.

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## **Magic Nissan**

supported the 2005/6 State Dry Casting Championships.

<http://www.magicnissan.com.au>