



CLUB
MARIN
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**AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION, (WA DIVISION) INC.
DELEGATES' MEETING**
Held at Sports Association WA, Stancliffe Street, Mt Lawley
Tuesday 17th March 2009 at 7.30 pm



MINUTES

1. OPEN MEETING

Vice President George Holman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees

2. PRESENT

James Strong, Denmark AC & Patron
George Holman, SCAC and Vice President
Terry Fuller, SCAC
Don Cox, Melville Amateur AC
Russell Bunce, FAAC
Jason Pember, Melville Amateur AC

Joe Horvath, OSAC Perth Beach Branch
Rick Cameron, OSAC South Coastal Branch
Peter Pekaar, Geraldton Angling Club
Marcia Pekaar, Northampton Angling Club
Diane McDonough, Secretary/Treasurer

3. APOLOGIES

Robert Craigie, Pat Shinnick, Ian Cook, Chas Riegert, Martin Humbert

4. VISITORS

John Crompton, SCAC

5. NEW MEMBERS OR PROXIES

New member club: Kalbarri Offshore & Angling Club. Current affiliates are:

1. Cockburn Power Boats Association
2. Denmark Boating & Angling Club
3. Drifters Deep Sea Angling Club
4. Esperance Surfcasters
5. Fremantle Amateur Angling Club
6. Fremantle Sailing Club
7. Geraldton Angling Club
8. Hillarys Yacht Club
9. Kalbarri Offshore Angling Club
10. Lancelin Angling & Aquatic Club
11. Mandurah Breaming Association
12. Mandurah Offshore Fishing & Sailing Club
13. Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club
14. Melville Amateur Angling Club
15. Northampton Districts Angling Club
16. Northern Districts Angling Club
17. Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club
18. Offshore Angling Club, Beach
19. Offshore Angling Club, South Coast
20. Offshore Angling Club, Boating Branch
21. Offshore Angling Club, Mount Barker
22. Quinns Rocks Fishing Club
23. Rockingham Offshore Fishing Club
24. Surf Casting and Angling Club
25. Swan Yacht Club

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

In the last minutes it was noted "Joe Horvath believed that 10% of recreational fishermen are against licences and that they get nothing in return for their licence money. This should be altered to read "Joe Horvath believed that **a number of** recreational fishermen"

7. ERRORS OR OMISSIONS FROM MINUTES

With the above alteration, it was proposed by Don Cox and seconded by Joe Horvath that the minutes be accepted.

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Delegates discussed the benefits of membership of the WA Sports Federation and renewal of annual fee (\$148.50). George outlined that the AAAWA has in the past nominated an Angler of the Year recipient to The ANZ Sports Star of the Year Awards, which maintained AAAWA's profile and representation. Proposed Joe Horvath and seconded James Strong that the membership be maintained and the renewal paid.

9. CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS

Equal Opportunity Commission	Survey (Delegates moved Terry Fuller to respond, response required by 20 March
Surf Casting & Angling Club	Reel Talk March 2009
Recfishwest	RFW funding agreement with AAAWA – signed and returned to RFW

10. CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARDS

DOCEP	Constitution changes
Recfishwest	\$5500 grant documents

11. CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS (BY EMAIL)

1. Ian Cook	Update to WA fish records
2. Carmel LANGDON	reminder meeting this week Thursday
3. MediaNet Operations	Protection Stepped Up for Whaler Sharks
4. Yvette Guy	Whaler Sharks Protected with exception
5. Pat Shinnick	Meeting
6. Cheryl Poustie	WA Sports Federation - Sportsview Alert
7. John Crompton	Updated Surf Casters Club detail!
8. Con Costa	RE: MEMBERSHIP
9. Pat Shinnick	RE: SPONSORSHIP
10. Pat Shinnick	Rule Change
11. Yvette Guy	Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest
12. Yvette Guy	Casting Around the Internet with Recfishwest
13. Carmel LANGDON	February minutes attached
14. Cheryl Poustie	Sport View Alert - Issue 8
15. Terry Bell	RE: Meeting
16. Ian Cook	Recorders Report
17. Carmel LANGDON	March minutes

12. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

With respect to the 10 free memberships offered to AAAWA by Recfishwest, nine clubs have been offered membership. The 10th membership was offered to the AAAWA Secretary/Treasurer, however she will relinquish this in favour of the Offshore Angling Club (Beach Branch) who now wish to have one of the free memberships, and advise Recfishwest. Membership is at least a \$50 saving for clubs and Terry Fuller hoped that clubs would utilise their free membership well by passing on Recfishwest information to their members.

Joe Horvath noted that he doesn't get his AAAWA minutes in the mail until after his club has met. (This is an administrative matter and minute distribution cannot be scheduled to coincide with club meetings). Joe also raised the subject of Whaler Sharks (email No 4) – see Recfishwest report.

It was moved by Joe Horvath and seconded by James Strong that the correspondence be accepted

13. TREASURERS REPORT

General Account Balance \$15,228.23

Carnival Account Balance \$1219.14

Income

Kalbarri Offshore Angling Club	Affiliation	\$200.00
Hillarys Yacht Club	State Boating Competition Sponsorship	\$200.00
Marmion Angling & Aquatic Club	State Boating Competition Sponsorship	\$1000.00

Accounts for payment

Australia Post	Stamps	\$55.00
Australia Post	Copy paper	\$6.50
Diane McDonough	Secretariat	\$500.00
Telstra	Telephone Account	\$38.37
HeLead Alltoner Supply	Toner cartridge replacement	\$46.00
Australia Post	PO Box renewal	\$117.00
WA Sports Federation	Renewal	\$148.50
Total		\$911.37

It was moved by Terry Fuller and seconded by James Strong that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

14. INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

President's Report

- George read out Pat Shinnick's emailed report. Pat stressed the importance of working on funding for the 2009-2010 budget and asked that any feedback of suggestions would be welcomed. George commented that fundraising was of ongoing concern with respect to funding and suggested that working with Recfishwest could be considered. Fishing clinics are an option, but someone needs to come forward to run them.
- Pat congratulated Don Cox on his participation and contribution in Swanfish. He hoped that new rules for fishing competitions when applied to all fishing clubs would have a successful outcome.

Estuary, Rock and Beach Report

Don Cox reported that Swanfish went off well, however both numbers and sponsors were down, a sign of the times. George congratulated Don for a job well done.

Jason Pember reported the Beach/Rock and Estuary subcommittee meeting held 19/2/09:

- Estuary event 28th/29th November 2009 at the Swan/Canning Rivers upstream from the Fremantle Traffic Bridge. Briefing 11am -12 noon; lines in at 1.00 pm; weigh in at 11 am (29th). Briefing and weigh-in at Troy Park to be confirmed.
- Beach and Rock event 27/28th March 2010 Jurien Bay, Greenhead Jetty to Cervantes Jetty. Times to be advised
- Beach and Rock event for 2010/11 fishing year will be in March 2011 at Cheynes Beach Caravan Park, boundaries Bremer Bay river mouth to Albany Harbour Jetty.
- Beach and Rock event for 2011/12 fishing year will be October 2011 at Port Gregory. Boundaries Kalbarri to Bowes River Mouth.
- Estuary events for 2010/11 fishing year will be 27th / 28th November 2010 at Swan River/Cockburn Sound.
- Estuary Event for 2011/12 fishing year will be Walpole/Nornalup Estuary. Date TBA.
- In future clubs attending state events will have to provide their own bag tags and be responsible for those tags. This will save time at competitions and relieve pressure from organising committees. Clubs field day officers should have responsibility for tags.
- In future no money will be collected at state events! Clubs or individuals will have to provide a cheque before or after the event.
- Further to ongoing discussion regarding species limits following on from Mt Barker and other groups, the subcommittee has decided not to remove any species or to make them ineligible. They could consider putting them in another category from competition to competition and information should be provided early enough for the subcommittee to comment on.

George suggested that a program should be worked out in advance with fish lists, etc publicised. Hopefully then the attendance will improve. If it goes to various clubs in newsletters, the information can be spread. Russell Bunce suggested circulating the species list to the clubs for comment; Terry Fuller pointed out that the species list is available on the AAAWA website. He further commented that there is always the argument that some people will eat types of fish that others would not eat.

Terry commented that questions raised at Swanfish about topics which had been in AAA minutes seemed to show that AAAWA sends some information to clubs, but some clubs do not pass this information on to the members.

Boating Report

- The State Boating Championships were scheduled for 21st March. A rule change in the competition was made to encourage smaller boats to fish inshore waters only. Pat invited delegates to weigh in.

Dry Casting Report

- Yokine oval is booked for this year.

- A group of 20 is going to SA to represent the state, some last minute changes include a couple of people withdrawing and a veteran joining the team. CBs and laser measuring device will be taken with the team. A 28 seater bus is organised, rods are transported.
- George will suggest a Certificate of Honour be awarded to Richard Siudak

George wished the group all the best. Also the patron James Strong wished the team all the best in their competition.

Recfishwest report for AAA Delegates Meeting 17 March 2009

1. Closure of Swan and Canning rivers to commercial fishing

Fisheries Minister Norman Moore has announced he will finalise the ban on commercial fishing in the Swan and Canning rivers and will soon commence negotiations to buy out the last commercial operator. This is potentially a great outcome for recreational fishing and crabbing.

Unfortunately, because of reporting restrictions under the Fish Resources Management Act for the limited number of commercial fishers, no information is publicly available about what amount and species of fish and crabs are caught. However in the past Recfishwest has been concerned about the high percentage of crabs caught commercially and the effect of netting on other recreational fish species such as mulloway.

You may have seen some newspaper articles about this closure "*stopping people's access to buying Swan River blue manna crabs.*" The total commercial catch of blue swimmer crabs taken in Western Australian waters during 2005/06 was 896 tonnes, including 72 tonnes from the Peel/Harvey estuary. There are some concerns the Mandurah area commercial catch has increased in recent years.

2. Maximum size limit for Whaler Sharks

The West and South Coast fishing guides have not been updated yet but a new 2 page brochure is available from <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/WhalerSharkLimit/index.php?0102>

Recfishwest has backed the new laws, but believe recreational anglers are "paying a bigger price" than commercial fishers for depleted stocks, and are not convinced the law would actually benefit shark numbers.

There are three particular species that are at risk and it's the commercial fishing sector which is responsible for the over-exploitation of those. We're not sure why the recreational sector has to be prohibited from taking 17 species when we didn't have any impact. We understand the principle but we think it would have been better done through an education process.

The Dept of Fisheries Research people have responded saying "*the few commercial fishers exempt from the bans fished from among the most sustainable shark fisheries in the world.*"

It is fascinating they claim we now have the best managed shark fisheries on earth, with no mention of the poor management in the past, and only a few years after the Department finally acknowledged sharks were being seriously overfished by commercial fishermen and were forced to drastically cut the commercial catch. If the "State of the Fisheries" report was actually released with up to date information, the public would be able to check some of these claims.

Also fascinating that they believe recreational fishermen are too stupid to tell the difference between species of sharks, but are smart enough to know which species are covered and learn a completely new way to measure sharks.

Some research I have done shows just how badly the Department of Fisheries has handled the publicity about this.

That brochure says "The new rules introduce a maximum size limit for whaler sharks (Family Carcharhinidae)" This uses 2 terms, "*whaler sharks*", some species of which are well known to recreational anglers, and "*Family Carcharhinidae*" the meaning of which would be known to only a few anglers at best.

How many anglers would realise that some species without "whaler" in their common name are also covered by the rule?. How is an average recreational fisher meant to know which shark species are in Family Carcharhinidae and are covered by the regulations?

I have done some internet searches to see what's available about Family Carcharhinidae. It's not easy and all very confusing, and would not give a list of the WA sharks from the family.

But it gets worse. The Department of Fisheries published a booklet in 2001 "Field identification guide to Western Australian Sharks and Shark-like Rays." I challenge anyone to find a link to that publication on any of the recreational or commercial fishing pages or "Shark" pages on the Fisheries website. The only place it is listed (as far as I can see) is right down the bottom in "Fisheries Occasional Publications" <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/op/index.php?00>

And that publication says on page 13:- "WHALER SHARKS (family Carcharhinidae) Sharks from this large family (27 species in WA) are relatively common in WA waters....."

And that publication says on page 13:- "WHALER SHARKS (family Carcharhinidae) Sharks from this large family (27 species in WA) are relatively common in WA waters....."

So 27 species are limited to this maximum size limit, but this publication only lists 17 whaler species. What are the other 10 whaler species covered by the regulations? Even if a person knew about or had a copy of this publication they still would not have the complete list of all the species. So the opportunity to educate and promote by giving the link to this Field identification guide has been missed in the publicity about the changes. Why doesn't the Dept of Fisheries produce and publicise a list of the WA species covered by the regulation, so that recreational anglers have a chance of complying? This Whaler size change has been on the go since September 2007, so there has been plenty of opportunity to do a proper job. This is yet ANOTHER example where the Dept's refusal to involve outside people to review and comment on such documents before committing to publication and printing has left it exposed to real criticisms of the ineffectiveness and unsuitability of the products.

3. Big marine sanctuaries urged for WA.

A new collaboration of Australian and very well funded international conservation groups has urged the Federal Government to establish marine sanctuaries covering at least 20 to 30 per cent of each marine habitat in big expanses of the ocean off WA, including nominating some areas of great importance to fishing, such as the Rottneest trench game fishing area. This has been without any consultation with WA recreational or commercial fishing sectors.

The full "Big Blue Backyard report" has some enormous emotive images (some cuddly, some not cuddly at all) and is a very clever, sophisticated campaign with a model relying on the gloss and quasi-science that sounds plausible but may not all be relevant or deliverable. Be prepared for a creeping campaign designed to capture the general public, on a "*that sounds fair enough*" basis. TV advertisements are already running on this. Then could come the political lobbying, threats of legal action under "international covenants," "endangered species" and the like. See <http://www.saveourmarinelife.org.au/file.php?file=/findoutmore.html>

The Commonwealth's Marine Bioregional Planning process has defined consultation processes which includes all stakeholders and recognises the importance of all ocean users and coastal communities and actively engage them in the marine bioregional planning process, but this campaign is part of the political lobbying attempting to influence the outcome outside that process.

4. Rous Head reclamation and the North Mole

Recfishwest has given its in principle support for Fremantle Ports proposed re-development works on the proviso that they considers the following aspects to provide access for recreational fishers;

- Continued access by recreational fishers to the outer wall of the harbour. This area is a highly valued shore based fishing location allowing people to fish in deeper water.
- Designated fishing platforms in several places, for disabled people, children and people who are not physically able to clamber over rocks.
- Adequate car parking and lighting also at fishing platforms.
- "fisherman-friendly" and safe rock walls where the rocks are carefully placed to give enough flat and accessible spots to stand and fish.

5. Cockburn Sound Crabs

Recfishwest will be involved with deciding the fishing arrangements for Cockburn Sound Crabs later in 2009. The Department of Fisheries has now acknowledged that commercial crabbing under the previous commercial management rules is unsustainable in Cockburn Sound.

6. Recfishwest Membership

Recfishwest is the peak body representing the interests of recreational fishers in Western Australia. Last year when the organization was under threat, recreational fishers supported Recfishwest, but **we need you to continue that support.** Decisions to be made in 2009 will affect future fishing opportunities for your children and grandchildren. Recfishwest intends meeting these challenges and assures you that we will be the most effective vehicle for getting your views heard in this crucial year.

Recfishwest is **your** public voice whenever decisions which affect our fisheries, or access to them, are being made. We want you to become a member of Recfishwest or to renew your membership. Membership costs only \$20 a year per person, \$40 for families and \$10 for seniors. Please contact the office on (08) 9246 3366, email to recfish@recfishwest.org.au or apply at the Recfishwest website, <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/MembershipDet.htm> Together we can make a difference!!

This report has been prepared by Terry Fuller, your Recfishwest Board Member for the Australian Anglers Association working voluntarily on your behalf. Contact Terry on 9447 4545 or email terryfuller@iinet.net.au with any questions or comments

Business Arising from RFW Report

Terry Fuller’s research found a statement by the Minister for Fisheries to Parliament that there are 88 Fisheries Management Officers in the state and 6 Compliance Managers, a total of 94. Russell Bunce commented that over two separate visits to Hamelin Bay, he didn’t see one Fisheries Officer.

WARCO Report

Nil

Recording Officer Report

The Recording Officer emailed a list of State Fish Capture Records. The Recording Officer should bring his recommendations, together with the application forms for state record capture and photographs, to a delegates meeting in order to get final approval from delegates.

15 . GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

16. CLOSE MEETING. The meeting closed at 8.40 pm. **NEXT MEETING** 21st April 2009 at 7.30 pm



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009-2012

2009	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th October 2009 – Dry Casting Championships at Yokine Reserve
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuary event 28th/29th at the Swan/Canning Rivers upstream from the Fremantle Traffic Bridge. Briefing 11 am -12 noon; lines in at 1.00 pm; weigh in at 11 am (29th). Briefing and weigh-in at Troy Park to be confirmed.
2010	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Boating Championships hosted by Mandurah Offshore Fishing Club (to be confirmed). (28th March backup date) • Beach and Rock event 27/28th Jurien Bay, Greenhead Jetty to Cervantes Jetty. Times to be advised
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
March	Beach and Rock event at Cheynes Beach Caravan Park, boundaries Bremer Bay river mouth to Albany Harbour Jetty.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuary event 27th / 28th at Swan River/Cockburn Sound.
2011	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach and Rock event at Port Gregory. Boundaries Kalbarri to Bowes River Mouth. Dates TBA

Events can be added to this Calender by contacting the Secretary:

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