

**AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION, (WA DIVISION) INC.  
DELEGATES' MEETING****To be Held at Sports Association WA,  
Stancliffe Street, Mt Lawley  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.30 pm****MINUTES****1. OPEN MEETING**

President John Curtis welcomed delegates.

**2. PRESENT**James Strong, Patron  
John Crompton, Proxy Esperance Surfcasters  
Pat McKeown, Proxy – Northampton  
Marcia Pekaar, Assistant Secretary  
Peter Pekaar, Proxy Geraldton Angling Club  
Don Cox, Melville  
Jason Pember, Melville  
Russell Bunce, FAAC  
Joe Horvath, OSAC Perth Beach  
Richard Siudak, Independent DelegateKevin Murphy, MAAC  
Darlene Shepherd, MAAC  
Malcolm Cruickshank, OSAC South Coastal  
George Holman, SCAC  
Terry Fuller, SCAC  
Paul Frzop, HYC  
John Curtis, President  
Martin Humbert, OSAC Mt Barker  
Pat Shinnick, LAAC  
Diane McDonough, Secretary/Treasurer**3. APOLOGIES**

Peter Stoeckel, Beachcombers

**4. VISITORS**

Nil

**5. NEW MEMBERS OR PROXIES**

Mark Hansen (Beachcombers)

**6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****7. ERRORS OR OMISSIONS FROM MINUTES**

Nil. It was moved by James Strong and seconded by Don Cox that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. Motion carried.

**8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Nil

**9. CORRESPONDENCE****INWARDS (BY MAIL)**

1. Recfishwest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have Your Say: a resourced-based management approach for recreational fishing in WA</li> <li>Fisheries Management Paper</li> </ul>
2. Hillarys Yacht Club	Compass March 2012
3. Fishers with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for fishers with disabilities, Volunteering, Donations</li> </ul>
4. Shire of Dandaragan	Approval of AAWA Rock & Beach Event

## OUTWARDS (BY MAIL)

1. All clubs	Minutes & Agendas
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## INWARDS (BY EMAIL)

To	From		Subject
AAAWA	terrymin1@bigpond.com		Re: AFFILIATION WITH AAAWA
'AAAWA'	Pat Shinnick		FW: AAAWA Event Insurance, and Updated Paid up clubs li...
aaawa@iinet.net.au	Medianet Operations		Simplifying WA's Fishing Rules to Meet Future Challenges
AAAWA	John Curtis		Re: LETTER TO C BENNIMAN
Australian Anglers Assn (WA)	Recfishwest		STOP PRESS - Proposal to Change WA's Recreational Fishin...
Australian Anglers Association WA	Terry Fuller		Links to Department of Fisheries proposals to change WA's ...
'AAAWA'	Pat Shinnick		State Boat Championships Date for 2013
Undisclosed-Recipient;;	AAAWA		Department of Fisheries proposals to change WA's recreati...
aaawa@iinet.net.au	iiNet Limited Billing Team		Low credit
Undisclosed-Recipient;;	L Bircahall		March copy of Fish Tales
Diane McDonough	Joachim Azzopardi		Local tender hooks barramundi project
AAAWA (aaawa@iinet.net.au); Ben Malton...	Con Costa		FW: Sportsview Alert - February 2012
AAAWA	John Curtis		Re: MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES MEETING 21ST FEB
Carmel LANGDON	Carmel LANGDON		February minutes Boating Sub Committee
Diane McDonough	Jenny Travis		AAA WA nominees for Recfishwest memberships
aaawa@iinet.net.au	Medianet Operations		Comment sought on rock lobster management arrangements
Diane McDonough	Joachim Azzopardi		Comment sought on rock lobster management arrangements
Qafca	Qafca		AA A newsletter No 2
aaawa@iinet.net.au'	Raymond Worrall		Fish identification
'Terry Fuller'	Pat Shinnick		Results
Adam Eastman; Andy Cass; Angus Horwoo...	Carmel LANGDON		review meeting for Jurien State Boats
AAAWA	John Curtis		Re: AAAWA FLAG
Terry Fuller	John Curtis		Alteration to State Record Claim Form
John Curtis	Terry Fuller		Re: Alteration to State Record Claim Form - info/motion fro...
'AAAWA'; John Curtis AAA	Pat Shinnick		Application
aaawa@iinet.net.au	Ian Potter		black bream research application: request for letter of supp...
Adam Eastman; Andy Cass; Angus Horwoo...	Carmel LANGDON		change of date State Boats review meeting
AAAWA	Jennie Stoeckel		Proxy
Diane McDonough	L Bircahall		Address Wanted
aaawa@iinet.net.au	shazzamatazz@virginbroad...		Melville listing
Sharon Smith	Terry Fuller		Re: Melville listing in AAAWA website
aaawa@iinet.net.au	iiNet Limited Billing Team		Payment confirmation
Undisclosed-Recipient;;	Murchison Boat Hire		Kalbarri Soprts Fishing Classic Report 2012.doc a-d
aaawa@iinet.net.au	Malcolm Cruickshank		FW: AAAWA DELEGATES MEETING 20TH MARCH 2012
	Cheryl Poustie		WASF Council Meeting
Undisclosed-Recipient;;	L Bircahall		Fish Tales

## OUTWARDS (BY EMAIL)

To		Subject
admin@cockburnpowerboats.c...		AFFILIATION WITH THE AAAWA
Anderson, Mignon		AFFILIATION WITH AAAWA
Swan Yacht Club		AFFILIATION FEES AAAWA
Pat Shinnick	0	Re: AAAWA Event Insurance, and Updated Paid up c...
Pat Shinnick	0	Re: AAAWA Event Insurance, and Updated Paid up c...
Curtis, John		LETTER TO C BENNIMAN
Pekaar, Peter Proxy GAC		CORRESPONDENCE
		Department of Fisheries proposals to change WA's re...
Recfishwest		RE 10 ANNUAL RECFISHWEST SUBSCRIPTIONS
Curtis, John	0	MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES MEETING 21ST FEB
Jenny Travis		Re: AAA WA nominees for Recfishwest memberships
Curtis, John	0	Fw: 2012 Sports Medicine Australia Courses - Registe...
John Curtis		Re: MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES MEETING 21ST FEB
Curtis, John	0	Fw: AA A newsletter No 2
Curtis, John	0	Fw: Fish identification
Curtis, John		AAAWA FLAG
Curtis, John	0	Fw: black bream research application: request for let...
		Fw: change of date State Boats review meeting
	0	AAAWA DELEGATES MEETING 20TH MARCH 2012
L Bircahall		Re: Address Wanted
shazzamatazz@virginbroadban...		Re: Melville listing

### BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

- John Curtis read out the letter from the **Shire of Dandaragan** re the Rock & Beach competition at Jurien
- **Re fish identification** - during the State Boat Championships a Fisheries Officer became involved to identify Sand Bass which some people thought were undersize Mulloway. Discussion followed and some delegates thought the increasing number of northern species were due to the Leeuwin current.
- Re **QAFCA Newsletter** & National titles at Caloundra in 2013: John Curtis urged delegates to encourage their clubs to participate. Charter boats will be available (Recreational Skippers Ticket required).
- The **AAAWA flag** has been located. The banner is still missing – last used at a Dry Casting Competition
- **Letter of request for research - Black Bream.** John Curtis believes this should be supported and Terry Fuller suggested that the terms of any support should be that the research findings are published.

**John Curtis will send out a letter to affiliate clubs**

It was moved by Peter Pekaar and seconded by Joe Horvath that the correspondence inwards and outwards be accepted. Motion carried.

### 10. TREASURERS REPORT

General Account Balance \$15,217.96

Carnival Account Balance \$807.20

Income for March 2012

Brendon Shinnick	Application for WA State Record Australian Tile Fish	10.00
OSAC South Coastal	Affiliation fees 2011-2012	50.00
DA Gray	Registration form – State Rock & Beach	10.00
MAAC	Rock & Beach Nomination fee	310.00
TOTAL		380.00

## Accounts for payment March 2012

Telstra	Telephone account	40.96
D McDonough	Secretariat	500.00
lInet	Internet	40.00
Blewater Tackle	Prizes for Rock & Beach event 2012	350.00
George Holman	Fittings for casting trailer (plug, jockey wheel & clamp)	57.94
TOTAL		988.90

It was moved by Joe Horvath and seconded by Don Cox that the Treasurer's report be accepted and the accounts passed for payment. Motion carried.

## 11. INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

### President's Report

John Curtis advised that the AAAWA faces potential future issues with funding from Recfishwest. Over the years AAAWA has had difficulty getting exact membership numbers from its 26 affiliate clubs and now RFW want comprehensive information on numbers involved in recreational fishing. Another issue is that funding is becoming very competitive. Whilst AAAWA applications to RFW have been successful to date, there is no guarantee of this in the future.

**John Curtis will write to affiliate clubs outlining the criteria they will need to provide in the future for affiliation.**

### Estuary, Rock and Beach Report

Jason Pember advised that registrations for the Rock & Beach event total 140, including 50 participants from two major boating clubs. Participants should print off the rules and species list from the website to ensure they are aware of these for the day. George Holman enquired as to asbestos being found on Jurien beach and Jason will follow-up on this.

### Boating Report

John congratulated Pat Shinnick on the excellent running of the boating event. Feedback from Pat and other attendees included::

- The event was very well organised
- Good etiquette was displayed at the boat ramp given the number of boats and local interest
- Volunteers including football club members were a great help
- There were 161 competitors, 147 of whom weighed in
- Jurien Bay Sea Rescue did a great job with cooking
- The PA system worked well and kept people interested
- Locals were supportive and camaraderie was great
- Many people helped with weighing procedures, although weigh-in was made difficult by its distance from the club venue
- Pat will consider using the AAAWA Dry Casting trailer in future
- Prizes were great and it was a fun day.
- Results are on the website.

The subject of charter boats being used at Boating Competitions was raised once again and a definition provided by Pat Shinnick. A **charter** boat must have its own skipper, who must either be a sponsor (cannot win prizes) or be a club member. A **hire boat** is operated by the hirer who must have a Recreational Skipper's Ticket. Charter boats have caused problems in the past where their knowledge of fishing grounds has given an advantage over other competitors

### Dry Casting Report

George Holman advised that the trailer is still being worked on advised delegates that the trailer is available for the use of all subcommittees. The next casting event is on 28<sup>th</sup> October and a meeting will be held at George's on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.

## **Recfishwest report for AAAWA Delegates Meeting 20 March 2012**

### **Proposed revised recreational fishing rules**

On 22 February, the Department of Fisheries released a 52 page draft strategy to help simplify and standardise Western Australia's recreational fishing rules. These are open for comment until 30 April 2012.

This is a simplified summary prepared by Terry Fuller for discussion at the AAAWA Delegates meeting. It is not a Recfishwest document. For full details, see Fisheries Management Paper No. 252 - "A Resourced-based Management Approach for Recreational Fishing in Western Australia 2012 - 2017" to be sure that your comments cover exactly what is contained in that document, and how it is presented there. It is available from tackle stores or Department of Fisheries or <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/mp/mp252/index.php?0706>

### **Reasons for the proposals**

Aim started as standardisation and simplification of fishing rules, and has now been presented as management for the next 5 years. These proposals are still not simple!!! But the topic **is very complex** and is really difficult to simplify.

Proposal 1 - Resource-based approach (leads to categories of fish in bag limits)

Proposal 2 - State-wide finfish possession limits

Proposal 3 - Unaccompanied fish. (Bans consignment of fish using commercial carriers)

Proposal 4 - Landing fish (from boats)

Proposal 5 - Bag limits and size limits for finfish

Proposal 6 - State-wide bag limits for crustaceans

Proposal 7 - State-wide bag limits for molluscs and other invertebrates

### **Do these proposals pass the "3 questions" test?**

Question 1. What exactly are the proposals trying to achieve?

Question 2. What will they actually achieve?

Question 3. If the answers to Q1 and Q2 are different, why are they being done?

### **Anglers' feedback sought on proposal to change WA's recreational fishing rules**

Recfishwest's Media release at [www.recfishwest.org.au/content/media-releases/](http://www.recfishwest.org.au/content/media-releases/) is urging each and every recreational fisher in Western Australia to submit feedback on a draft strategy developed by the Department of Fisheries which contains significant changes to bag and possession limits across the State.

The draft proposed strategy, released by the Department of Fisheries, contains sweeping reforms that will affect all recreational fishers.

At the forefront of the review is a proposal to reduce the state-wide fillet possession limit from 20kg to 10kg for all for all species other than "Large Pelagics".

Standardising the current highly complicated daily bag limits is another key objective of the draft strategy. In some cases individual species bag limits will increase and for others they will decrease.

Recfishwest acting chief executive officer Andrew Rowland said the review was aimed at standardising and simplifying the rules from a state-wide perspective. "As with all strategies, there will be support for some of the propositions and opposition to others," Dr Rowland said.

Dr Rowland urged recreational fishers to submit feedback during the two-month public comment period. Recfishwest has been assigned the task of facilitating the community consultation and collating feedback on the draft strategy by the Department.

This is the first time the Department of Fisheries has asked the peak body to conduct the community consultation for a major strategy. "It is crucial recreational fishers consider the proposed changes and submit their comments on the proposal," he said.

"The basis of support or opposition for the proposals is important in ensuring the Department implements the most soundly based strategy."

As reported in the West Australian:- *WA's recreational fishing lobby Recfishwest was cautious in its response to the review, saying it supported simplifying current arrangements but had reservations about some of the proposed restrictions. Recfishwest's acting chief executive Andrew Rowland hinted the group might seek to challenge some aspects of the plan, urging fishers to submit feedback during the review's two-month consultation period.*

## Proposal 5 - Bag limit proposals

Demersal Finfish & Sharks/Rays	
<b>High vulnerability</b> due to biological characteristics (e.g. long-lived, late maturing, large maximum size, sex change, limited distribution or small stock size, late maturing reproduction, etc).	
<b>Individual bag limits</b> All species have an individual bag limit of 2 fish per fisher (or licensed fisher, when taken from a boat) unless otherwise specified - note some species have a bag limit of 1 or 5.	
<b>South Coast, Gascoyne, North Coast Bioregions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed species daily bag limit - 5 per angler</li> </ul>	
<b>West Coast Bioregion (as per existing arrangements - to be separately reviewed in 2012)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed species daily bag limit - 2 per angler</li> <li>Boat limit of 2 Western Australian dhufish (6 on a charter boat)</li> <li>Closed season 15 October to 15 December for demersal finfish (excludes sharks and rays)</li> </ul>	
<b>SPECIES</b>	See Fisheries Management Paper for size limits and scientific names
Barramundi cod	
Boarfish	
Cods, all species (breaksea, estuary, harlequin, eightbar grouper, Chinaman, sea perch, etc)	
Coral trout and coronation trout <b>Bag limit of 1</b>	
Dhufish and Pearl perch <b>Bag limit of 1</b>	
Emperors and seabream (spangled emperor, grass emperor, Robinson's sea bream, etc)	
Foxfish and pigfish	
Baldchin groper <sup>#</sup> and tuskfish	
Hapuku, bass groper and trevalla	
Redfish (bight redfish, yellow-eyed red snapper, swallowtail, etc)	
Morwong (blue (queen snapper), jackass)	
Dory (John and mirror)	
Knifejaw	
Parrot fish	
Pink snapper <sup>#</sup>	
Pink snapper – inner gulfs of Shark Bay <sup>#</sup> <b>Bag limit of 1</b> additional rules apply in Freycinet Estuary	
Sharks and rays	
Sea sweep	
<del>Trevally, Golden and Giant</del> (Mistake in FMP - should not be listed as Demersal, see Large Pelagic)	
Tropical snappers and sea perch (red emperor, ruby snapper, job fish, fingermark, goldband, chinaman fish, stripey sea perch, etc.)	
Western blue devilfish	
Western blue groper <b>Bag limit of 1</b>	

# Means additional closed seasons apply.

Large Pelagic Finfish	
<b>Moderate/high vulnerability</b>	
<b>State-wide</b> Mixed species daily bag limit – 3 per fisher (or licensed fisher, when taken from a boat)	
<b>SPECIES</b>	See Fisheries Management Paper for size limits and scientific names
Barracuda	
Amberjack, Samson fish and yellowtail kingfish	
Marlin, sailfish, swordfish	
Cobia	
Dogtooth tuna	
Barracouta, gemfish	
Mahi Mahi	

Mackerel (grey/broad barred, school, shark, spotted, Spanish)
Wahoo
Trevally, giant and golden
Tuna (big eye, mackerel, northern bluefin, skipjack, southern bluefin, yellowfin)

**Nearshore/Estuarine Finfish**

**Moderate vulnerability**

**State-wide**

- Mixed species daily bag limit – 8 per fisher (or licensed fisher, when taken from a boat). Note some species in this category have a bag limit of 1 or 2

**SPECIES** See Fisheries Management Paper for size limits and scientific names

Barramundi **Bag limit of 1** **Barramundi possession limit of 2**

Bream (black, silver [tarwhine], Northwest black, pikey, yellowfin, etc)

Bonito and other tunas

Dart

Flathead

Flounder

Javelinfinch and sweetlips

Leatherjacket

Marine and estuarine catfish

Black jewfish (northern mulloay) **Bag limit of 2**

Mulloay **Bag limit of 2**

Mangrove Jack **Bag limit of 2**

Pike, long finned

Snook, seapike

Tailor

Trevally, queenfish and other species except needleskin queenfish and yellowtail scad

Giant threadfin **Bag limit of 2**

Threadfin – other species

Tripletail **Bag limit of 2**

Western Australian salmon

Whiting – King George

Wrasse and parrotfish (all species not specifically mentioned)

**All Other Species of Finfish**

**All other unlisted species of fish (except baitfish and feral fresh water species) Lower/moderate vulnerability**

**State-wide**

- Mixed species bag limit of 30, No size limits for species in this category
- Explanation: This category includes herring, garfish, mullet, whiting, etc, e.g. every species not specifically listed in earlier categories.

**Baitfish:** A combined daily bag limit of nine litres applies to baitfish of the sardine, anchovy and hardyhead families (Clupeidae, Engralidae and Atherinidae – mulies whitebait, scaly mackerel, anchovies, hardyheads).

**Discussion:- Implications of the bag limit proposals**

**Proposal 5.** These affect all Club fishermen.

For shored based fishermen, the proposed mixed species daily bag limit - only 8 per fisher of Nearshore/Estuarine Finfish, Mixed species bag limit of 30 for the "other", with limited opportunity to catch fish from the other categories. Currently 12 and 30 for Category 2 and 3 in West Coast, 16 and 40 for Category 2 and 3 elsewhere.

This FMP mentions that the proposed changes are partly based on "socially acceptable" criteria, not scientific or sustainability based criteria. The Fish Resources Management Act requires the Department of Fisheries to manage fisheries sustainably for current and future.

What is the definition of "sustainable"? I suggest this is "No or limited change in abundance and size and age distribution over time."

The FMP lacks any historical or projected allowable catch versus actual catch data, in support of the need for the amount of the proposed changes. Compare this with the detailed stock status and catch information supplied when the West Coast demersal changes were introduced in 2009 which clearly showed that drastic action was needed for sustainability reasons.

Where are "socially acceptable" limits defined? Socially acceptable criteria can change dramatically with misinformation and ideologically based pressure from conservation or non involved groups.

Should any socially acceptable limit be set by the numbers of fish or the weight of fish? These can vary by 10 times or more dependent on the species.

*"or licenced fisher, when taken from a boat"* is a reminder that a licence is required for fishing from a boat, however unlicensed people can keep fish if they share the bag limit of a licenced fisher on board.

### **Discussion:- Implications of the possession limit proposals on fishermen**

#### **Proposal 2. State-wide finfish possession limits**

- 10 kg of fillets\* or pieces of fish of any species (plus an additional 10kg of the 'Large Pelagic' category of fish<sup>^</sup>); or
- 7 kg of fillets or pieces of fish plus one day's bag limit of whole fish; or
- two days' bag limit of whole fish.

\* Fish heads, tails and 'wings' are not included in the fillet weight possession limit.

<sup>^</sup> Fillets of any 'Large Pelagic' fish (as defined in the bag limits) would need to have skin-on for identification purposes.

Reefishwest Board passed a resolution that it would not entertain any changes to current possession limits under the guise of "Standardisation and simplification of fishing rules" however Dept of Fisheries now presents this as *"management for the next 5 years"*

**Current limits and what is changed in this proposal.** 20kg of "fillets", or 10kg plus 1 day's bag limit, or 2 days' bag limit. Wings are counted.

Backbones or frames? No mention so it seems these are still counted as pieces/fillets.

Description of what are "whole" and "trunked" fish.

**Where's the justification for the reduction?** Largely using "socially acceptable" or anecdotal comments or data which is not put into any context, e.g. the volume of fish offal from a fish cleaning station over a 12-month period.

Despite being asked, the Department of Fisheries have not provided any estimates of how much effect this change will have on the total number or weight of fish which are caught and/or kept by recreational fishers, particularly the estimated proportions caught by people while away from home compared to those fishing from home.

That fails the "what will actually be achieved" question, means that no one will be able to measure if the change is giving the planned (or acceptable) reduction, and leads to the possibility of "there needs to be more restrictions" at some time in the future

See also Proposal 3 - Ban on sending unaccompanied fish by commercial transport, which I (personally) fully support, since that is clearly fixing a loophole in the intentions of having any possession limit.

Possession limit applies to place of permanent residence, but that's not enforced, since Fisheries have given an undertaking that this requires a warrant from a Magistrate to search, and that requires evidence from surveillance, etc.

This needs proper discussion and disclosure of the limitations on enforcement of this in places of permanent residence.

Some implications of the wording of the FMP are misleading and could influence people commenting on the proposals.

Lack of enforcement of this, and failure to link it to actually having caught the fish are two major reasons for problems and inequity between people travelling and people operating from home or permanent place of residence.

Possession limit is not linked to actually having fished and/or having caught any fish or being licenced. Full "possession limits" can be held by anyone in a family or group or residence.

Possession limits really affects people fishing while away from home, but has little impact on people fishing from home. There is a real danger when already having some fish in possession that you may go over the limits due to catching some more fish, well within the daily bag limits, and being checked.

Whole or trunked fish options do not cater for long fish which are difficult to store whole.

Turns honest people into law breakers, while the people who ignore the rules - or socially acceptable limits - can continue to ignore them, by catching up to a daily bag limit each day as often as they like to go fishing from home.

The additional 10kg of the 'Large Pelagic' category of fish fillets is not often available to most shore based fishermen.

### **Discussion:- "Landing fish" proposals effect on boat based fishermen**

#### **Proposal 4. Landing fish (applies to fishing from boats)**

Fish with a minimum size limit can be carried at sea and landed in the following forms:

- Filleted, skin and scale on; minimum fillet length of 30cm length;
- Trunked, (means a fish with its head and/or tail removed) skin and scale on; minimum trunk length of 30cm length; or
- Whole (can be gutted and gilled)



Fish with a maximum size limit must be carried at sea and landed whole, except shark.

Fish without a size limit can be carried at sea and landed in the following forms:

- Filleted, skin on; or
- Trunked, skin on; or
- Whole (can be gutted and gilled).

For the purpose of enforcing bag limits on day trips, the existing rule of two fillets equals one whole fish would continue to apply.

#### **Changes.**

1. Changed from using risk categories to using "fish with/without size limits"

2. Removed "*When legally staying overnight on islands, fillets of any length can be transported back to the mainland provided those fish have been landed on the island.*" Does this apply to bringing fish back on the ferry from Rottnest?

3. Whole or trunked fish options do not cater for long fish which are difficult to store whole.

This does not seem to have simplified this area of the rules very much. They are still complex and easily broken unintentionally. Some species need scales left on, some don't.

#### **Unaccompanied fish**

**Proposal 3.** Headed "Unaccompanied fish". Means a ban on sending (consigning) unaccompanied fish by commercial transport.

Under current rules, once consigned fish reach their destination, they are no longer considered to be "in the possession" of the person who consigned them, and there is nothing to stop that person accumulating another possession limit. I believe this proposal should be supported, since it is clearly fixing a loophole in the intentions of having any possession limit.

#### **Overall**

These proposed bag limit and possession changes will have a significant effect on all recreational fishermen, particularly shore based fishermen and holidaying or travelling fishermen. Ask yourself some questions such as:

"Has this Fisheries Paper convinced me that that these changes to bag and possession limits are **essential** to ensure sustainability and fish for the future?"

"Are they fair and equitable for all fishermen?"

"Will they have some undocumented and unwanted consequences?"

"Could they be still simpler?"

and then put in your comments.

#### **Opportunity for public comment and making a submission**

The release of this discussion paper for public comment provides an opportunity for you to express an opinion on how recreational fishing should be managed. It is equally important that you respond whether you agree or disagree with the various proposals.

A review panel comprising of representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Recfishwest will consider the submissions received to ensure all issues are taken into consideration.

Recfishwest, as the peak body representing recreational fishers, will be providing independent advice to the Minister for Fisheries, which takes into account the level of support and community views expressed on each of the proposals. The Minister will consider this advice, along with advice from the Department of Fisheries, before making decisions on the future management of recreational fishing.

When making your submission and to ensure your comments are as effective as possible, please:

- Clearly and briefly describe each separate subject you wish to address.
- Refer to the different proposals in the discussion paper.
- Tell us whether you agree/disagree with any or all of the proposals.
- Suggest alternative ways to resolve the issues raised in this paper or identified by you.

The closing date for submissions is 30 April 2012. Please send your submission along with your full name and address to: Recfishwest, PO Box 34, North Beach, Western Australia 6920 email: [recfish@recfishwest.org.au](mailto:recfish@recfishwest.org.au)

The FMP and "Have Your Say" document are available in booklet form from tackle stores. An online survey can be accessed from the RFW website Home page or directly at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/recfishwesthaveyoursay>

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@inet.net.au](mailto:terryfuller@inet.net.au) with any questions or comments.

## Business Arising from RFW Report

Feedback from delegates included:

- The arbitrary 10 kg of pelagic is a nonsense;
- Some of it doesn't make sense;
- Inconclusive summary and insufficient statistical data;

The Have your Say booklet provides a good opportunity for fisherperson to present their comments. John Curtis thanked Terry Fuller for his comprehensive work on this. He urged clubs and individuals to put in submissions by the 30<sup>th</sup> April deadline, indicating how many members are represented. John stressed:

**NUMBERS MATTER. DON'T WHINGE ABOUT IT IF YOU DON'T MAKE A SUBMISSION – IF WE DON'T TAKE ACTION, WE WILL DESERVE WHAT WE GET**

## Recording Officer Report

John circulated to delegates the record application for a Tile Fish from Brendon Shinnick, which will become a State and National record.

**It was moved by Joe Horvath and seconded by Mark Hansen that the application for state record be ratified. Motion Carried.**

In 2004 it was moved and seconded that State Record claims be split into boat based and beach based records. This separation of records was never actually done and John Curtis sees, no merit in changing it and recommended that the motion be rescinded.

**It was moved by George Holman and seconded by Richard Siudak that the 2004 motion to split state record claims be rescinded. Motion carried.**

## Competitions Officer Report

No report

## 12. GENERAL BUSINESS

Terry Fuller commented on the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of the AAAWA website. The website is continually used as a reference source and the most visited pages are: National and State Fishing Records, Five Fathom Bank Fishing, Marine Parks, Rock & Beach main page, Boating Main Page and Photos.

## 13. CLOSE MEETING

The next Delegates meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012.



## AAAWA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012-2015

2012	
August	• AAA National Convention mid-term meeting at Caloundra in Queensland
October	• State Dry Casting Championships - Yokine Reserve Yokine - 28 <sup>th</sup>
November	• State Estuary Event – Swan / Cockburn Sound
2013	
April	• State Boating Championships 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2013 to be held at Mindarie and hosted by the Quinn's Rock Fishing Club
June	• State Rock & Beach event – S Bend (long weekend)
August	• AAA 33 <sup>rd</sup> National Angling Championships & Convention Sunshine Coast, Qld
November	• State Estuary Event – Blackwood River Augusta
2014	
March	• State Boats Championships – TBA
May	• State Rock and Beach Event – Cape to Cape
November	• State Estuary Event – Walpole
2015	
March *	• State Boat Championships, hosted by Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club at Ocean Reef - long weekend
March *	• State Rock and Beach event – Cheynes Beach – long weekend

\* These dates need to be reviewed as they clash and also clash with the Kalbarri Classic.

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

Australian Anglers' Association (WA Division) Inc

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