



AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (WA Division) Inc

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Minutes of Delegates' Meeting 16 May, 2006 at WA Sports Association, Stancliffe Street, Mt Lawley.

The Delegates' meeting was opened at 7:40 pm. Vice President Nick Allsworth chaired the meeting.

Present:

Nick Allsworth	Northern Districts AC	Terry Fuller	Surf Casting and Angling Club
Jim Strong	Denmark Angling Club	George Holman	Surf Casting and Angling Club
Kevin Hughes	Bunbury Angling Club	Russell Bunce	Fremantle Amateur Angling Club
Joe Horvath	OSAC Beach	Rick Cameron	OSAC South Coastal
Henry Boorgard	Quinns Rocks FC	Martin Humber	OSAC Mt Barker
Don Cox	Melville Amateur AC	Stuart Hyde	Fremantle Amateur Angling Club
Bob Kelly	Drifters Deep Sea AC	Paul Greenway	Melville Amateur AC
Adrian Boorgard	Visitor		

Apologies:

Adam Eastman, Pat Shinnick.

Notification of Proxies:

No new ones.

Visitors:

Adrian Boorgard.

Minutes of Previous Delegates' Meeting

Moved Jim Strong seconded Joe Horvath 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 May Executive Meeting had not been held due to lack of members for the executive.

Correspondence Inwards.

By Post	In From	Subject	Date	Action
Minister for Fisheries		Acknowledgement of AAA comments on Wetline Review	Apr	None
Westpac		Bank Account Statements for April	May	Treasurer
Hillarys Yacht Club		newsletter	Apr	Info
Marmion AAC		newsletter	May	Info
Stagg Boats		Payment half page advert State Boating booklet	May	Treasurer
Hon Kim Chance		Acknowledgement of letter on Rottnest	5 May	None
Hon Eric Ripper		Acknowledgement of letter on Rottnest	9 May	None
Hon John Kobelke		Acknowledgement of letter on Rottnest	11 May	None
Dept of Sport and Recreation		Fair Play – Strategic Framework for inclusive sport and recreation for people with disabilities	9 May	Info
Parliamentary Committee		Review of Fish Resources Management Act FMP208 call for comments.	9 May	Info
Premier Alan Carpenter		Acknowledgement of letter on Rottnest – referred for answer by Tourism Minister Sheila McHale	16 May	None
John Alexander Guest		State and National record application 8.380kg Baldchin Groper caught from boat at Rottnest (debunks claims of no big fish there)	16 May	Scans emailed, originals to be sent to Recorder
Hon Eric Ripper, Treasurer		WA State Budget overview	16 May	None
Seniors Recreation Council		Seniors booklet and "Have a Go Day" info	May	Info
Richard Siudak, National Records Authority		Minutes of National Records Authority meeting, etc for tabling at May Delegates meeting	16 May	Rec'd mid Afternoon 16/5.

Emails	In From:-	Subject	Date	Action
Various		Routine AAA Info	Various	None
Charm Vagg		Minutes of WARCO meeting	26 Apr	Too late
Mike Stempa		Tidelines NZACA Newsletter	28 April	Info
Alan Omond Marmion AAC		Draft of letters to people involved in fish incident at Jurien	10 May	Info
Bluewater Melville		Enquiry has invoice for their boating booklet ad been paid?	11 May	Replied - no
Swan River Trust		Swan River Forum 7-9:30pm Thursday University Club, UWA - Kelly Richmond Swan River Trust 9278 0900	10 May	Info
George Penny, Albany Angling Club		Comments on the Association and spending on dry casting	14 May	Discuss ##
David Wilson, Denmark Boating and Angling Club		Query on progress with Salmon record by Faye Bail	14 May	Discuss ##
Richard Lee Quinns Rocks FC		Update of QRFC website page	15 May	Done
Richard Siudak, National Records Authority		Minutes of National Records Authority meeting for tabling at May Delegates meeting	16 May	Copied.

Outgoing Correspondence.

Posted	Out To:-	Subject	Date	Action
Premier		Objections to Rottnest proposals	2 May	Copied
Ministers Ford, McHale, McGinty, McGowan, Ripper, Chance, Kobelke		Objections to Rottnest proposals	2 May	Copies sent with April minutes
AAA clubs, Delegates, etc		Minutes of April 2006 Delegates' meeting.	3 May	None
Emails	Out To	Subject	Date	Action
Various		Routine AAA Info and replies	Various	None
AAA clubs & members with email		Reminder of 16 May Delegates' meeting and invitation to attend special meeting about AAA future.	14 May	None
Richard Siudak, National Records Authority		Request for minutes of National Records Authority meeting for tabling at May Delegates meeting	8 May	Rec'd mid Afternoon 16/5.
David Wilson, Denmark Boating and Angling Club		Reply about progress with Salmon record by Faye Bail	16 May	None

Business Arising from Correspondence:-

The e-mail from David Wilson and reply was read out. Adam Eastman's work had taken him to Geraldton and he spends a considerable amount of time at sea or on the Abrolhos Islands. He does not seem to have processed this record application. There may have been ways this could have been handled without it being necessary for Adam to be present at the meetings in Perth.

The record application for the 8.380kg Baldchin Groper has been scanned and e-mailed to Adam Eastman and to Richard Siudak for the National record. Richard has replied that the application appears to be in order and has requested one of photographs be posted to him.

The e-mail from George Penny, Albany Angling Club, was read out. It was agreed that a reply should be prepared. Points should include that the National Conventions were for fishing as well as dry casting, as has been advertised. The individuals who have attended in recent years have gone mainly because of the dry casting, but some have also competed in the Estuary and Rock and Beach competitions. The individuals who went paid the great majority of the costs out of their own pockets, and that this would be likely to be in the range of a minimum of \$1000 each and much more likely to be close to \$1400, even after the relatively small help receive from the Department of Sport and Recreation funding. This funding was specifically requested for, and was usually specifically provided for attendance at the National Conventions or for the mid term meetings of all States which were involved with planning for the Conventions. It was agreed that the Association could and should do more public awareness, safety, fishing for the future and real fishing competitions, however all of these things require more workers and volunteers and that is one of the major shortages in the Association and the clubs. This will be discussed later in this Delegates meeting.

National records report. The report was received mid afternoon on the day of the Delegates meeting, and there had not been sufficient time to deal with questions, particularly the National Dry Casting records which were different to the list on the AAA Website as supplied by the drycasting group. Copies were provided to Delegates and will be attached to the minutes. Delegates are asked to read these and raise any questions at the June Delegates' meeting, or preferably before.

Moved Joe Horvath seconded Jim Strong 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 16 May 2006.

General Account Westpac Bank	\$	
Outstanding cheque	\$	
Amount held for banking	\$	
Accounts for payment from General account	\$	
Transfer from General Account to Carnival Account	\$	
Available in General account and in hand after accounts paid and transfer to Carnival Account	\$	See Note re DSR funding.
Carnival Account Westpac Bank 16 May 2006	\$	
Outstanding cheque	\$	
Transfer from General Account	\$	
Available in Carnival account after transfer	\$	
Budgeted future payments before 30 June 2006		estimated from details supplied
Budgeted balance Carnival Account at 30 June 2006		approximately

Note. Department Sport and Recreation funds received on 18 April in one cheque and deposited into General Account. Some Carnival payments have been made from General Account. Transfer to be arranged as shown to allocate to Carnival Account, minus payments (“loans”) already made from the General Account for Carnival mid term meeting costs.

Club Affiliations:- Total 26 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
Offshore Angling Club Boat	Mount Barker Offshore Angling Club	
Advised will not renew:-	Naturaliste Game & Sports Fishing Club	To be contacted.

Business Arising from Treasurer's Report.

Department of Sport and Recreation funding has been received via Recfishwest. This money should be spent in this financial year, that is before 30 June. Funding is in one lump sum and has not been allocated to the different activities as is usually done with such funding. A significant amount of this is for national competitions and for expenses related to the National event, such as clothing and entry fees, where payment can be made before 30 June. This has been discussed at the 8 May meeting of the entrants who will go to Victoria in 2007. The request for Department of Sport and Recreation funding for 2006/2007 will include a request for more funds which can be applied to the 2007 Convention.

Although the DSR funding received is for the 2005/2006 financial year, it was not received until 18 April due to one of the other Associations failing to provide the audited statements which were required before the Department of Sport and Recreation was prepared to release the funding. Despite this late receipt, the funds have to be spent before 30 June, or the unspent funding should be returned. Because all of the Associations events, clinics and State Championships for this year have already been run, there is little opportunity for extra expenditure before 30 June. In reality, as in all past years, the Association spends its own money in running these events on the assumption that DSR funding will arrive later.

This DSR funding also includes amount for coordination with country clubs, etc but as with many activities which could be done, this relies on the availability of volunteers to carry it out, and volunteers are in very short supply.

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

Secretary's Report. Plans for Secretary / Treasurer / Website Editor.

Secretary Terry Fuller had advised that he had been preparing for the handover of his three jobs, and looking at the things that need to be done before the August Annual General Meeting to allow this to happen. There is a significant amount to be done, plus similar activities for the three jobs he currently does for the Surf Casting and Angling Club.

There is no urgency to discuss this tonight. It is more for information, but this will become critical in the next two months.

As advised to the February Delegates Meeting, I will not be volunteering for and will not accept any nomination to do the above jobs at the next elections at the August Annual General Meeting.

I am prepared to be the Recfishwest Board Member representing and reporting to the Australian Anglers Association if the AAA Delegates want that. Whatever decision is made, I will continue to work actively with Recfishwest in some capacity, and I will devote more time to work being done by Recfishwest which is extremely important for the future of recreational fishing in Western Australia.

The Secretary / Treasurer / Website Editor jobs will be declared vacant from the start of the 15 August Annual General Meeting. These jobs will be available to anyone who wishes to nominate for any of those jobs, or to anyone the Delegates wish to elect or co-opt.

Due to a holiday at Exmouth planned quite some time ago, I will be leaving Perth on 10 or 11 August and will not be able to attend the August Annual General Meeting and will not return to Perth until the end of August.

Here are some details to let Delegates know what I will do between now and the August Annual General Meeting to allow the changeover to, and takeover by, the new people doing these jobs. I will update these details if anything changes significantly.

Association Records and Property. All Association records and property will be sorted and packed up well before the August Annual General Meeting. All computer files used by the Secretary/Treasurer will be copied to CD and included. If necessary or if the records and property are not collected by or delivered to someone after the August AGM, I will arrange to put them into storage rented in the Association's name.

Secretary. I will write, copy and post out the minutes of the Delegates Meetings up to and including July. I will prepare the correspondence list, reports etc for the August Delegates Meeting, although these will only cover up to the middle of the preceding week. Minutes of the August Delegates and Annual General Meetings will need to be prepared, copied and distributed by the new Secretary.

Treasurer. The Treasurer's financial records for 2005/6 will be finalised, balance sheets prepared and the reconciliation of the Dept of Sport and Recreation Funding should be completed very soon after the 30 June end of the financial year and all will be submitted to the Auditor. Hopefully, the Auditor's report will be available for the Annual General Meeting, but that depends on the Auditor's workload.

A financial spreadsheet for 2006/7 will be commenced and all transactions for July and up to a few days before I leave for Exmouth will be entered and balanced.

If necessary, and if enough notice is given, some regular accounts or expected amounts can be paid in advance, or cheques can be made out on the assumption payments will be approved by the Delegates. Other wise payments etc at the August Delegates meeting will need to be arranged by the incoming Treasurer.

Arrangements will need to be made by the incoming Treasurer for bank account signatories, and Internet banking access if required.

Association Mail and PO Box. I will check the Marmion Post Office box for the last time about two days before I leave for Exmouth. I will leave the key to the PO Box with the correspondence list and other materials for the Annual General / Delegates Meeting or for collection by a nominated person.

Association Emails. I have used the Association email address aaawa@inet.net.au for all Association emails but I occasionally get Association emails on my private email address. I will stop monitoring the Association email and replying before the date of the August AGM. Anyone else with internet access can start monitoring and using the Association's email at any time. I will include an electronic copy of previous Association emails on CD in the Club property.

Any Association email messages sent to my personal email address will be forwarded to the Association email address and I will ask the sender not to use my personal email address for Association business. Scam and spam emails will have to be managed/ignored/deleted by the new Secretary.

Association Website. The website will be at whatever stage it is at the changeover time. All contents of the website and the resources used will be copied to CD and included with the Association property. I will add a note to the site that future updates will be dependent on someone else. I will advise the person elected to take over the website how to access and update it.

Association internet and email Access. Monthly access charges have been paid in advance up until about December 2006. Basic charges for the website have been paid until February 2007. I have changed the contact details to "Secretary Treasurer AAawa" rather than me personally as was required at the time I set this service up.

Association Telephone Service. The Association's telephone number 9403 7383 is currently diverted to my private telephone number. This can be redirected to whatever other phone number the Association decides. This will require contact with Telstra who I understand still have John Curtis or Erin McDonald as the contact person. There is no point in changing this contact person to me at this late stage.

Any calls to my telephone will be referred to whoever the club nominates, or people who call will be advised to put their questions in a letter or email. Please note that my family will not be able to do anything else once I have left for Exmouth on 10 or 11 August.

Photocopier. The Association's leased photocopier will need to be removed by specialised movers nominated by Ricoh (Perth Office Systems). The new address needs to be advised to them. Moving to temporary storage will involve double charges. This photocopier is on a month by month lease and can be surrendered at any time without penalty.

Now that I have looked at everything I am committed to do during July, I repeat and I emphasise:-

The Association and Delegates have known since late February that I will not be doing any work for the Association in 2006/7. Tonight's May Delegates' meeting may decide future arrangements.

The time I will be able to give to any handovers will be **very limited** right through July and particularly after the July Delegates Meeting. This means a proper detailed handover may not be possible if it is left until late July or August.

If any new people come forward early, I will be able to tell them things they need to know before I leave for Exmouth in early August before the Annual General Meeting. Otherwise this will have to wait until some time in September, and I have plenty of other things to do in September too.

2005/6 AAA Secretary / Treasurer / Website Editor, Terry Fuller.

Trophy Officer's Report

No report.

Property Officer's Report

A Property Officer is still needed.

Records Officer's Report

See the report under Correspondence.

Competition Officer's Report

Not present

Boating Report.

No report .

Estuary, Rock and Beach Report

No report.

Dry Casting Report.

Nothing to report for State Dry Casting.

National Championships.

George Holman advised that currently 24 people, 2 junior, 5 ladies, 8 veterans and 9 seniors had indicated they would go to the National Championships March 2007 in Victoria.

A meeting had been held 8 May, accommodation has been booked, and arrangements are firming up.

Fishing Clinics.

Hillarys Yacht Club has been booked for the next North of the River clinics on Mondays 3, 10, 17 July 2006. Programs and arrangements similar to previous years would be used. George Holman has contacted sponsors and presenters, and it is expected that the programs will be available later this week. Final sponsorship arrangements for the middle night should be known later this week. Copies of the flyers will be sent to the clubs and tackle stores.

It was agreed that the clinic admission prices would be adjusted to:- Adults, All three nights, \$25, (up \$3) Per night \$12, (up \$1) Juniors (under 16), All three nights, \$12, (up \$1) Per night \$7 (up \$1)

The clinics promote fishing and place great emphasis on the benefits of belonging to a fishing club. They are an opportunity for clubs to promote themselves to the participants. All that is required is for the clubs to provide some handouts which can be placed in the bags given to everyone who attends. If clubs want to do more promotion by presentations or displays on the night, please contact George Holman and discuss.

Terry Fuller offered to do a limited amount of photocopying of club information for placement in the bags – contact for details, but please don't leave to the last minute.

Rick Cameron offered to help with the Clinics.

AAA Web Page

It was expected that a report and results for the March 2005/6 State Rock and Beach Championships would have been placed on the website, but no information about the results has yet been received by the web site editor. See notes in minutes of the April Delegates' Meeting.

WARCO Report.

A copy of the WARCO report by George Holman was distributed to Delegates and will be included with these minutes.

Notices of Motion.

None

Recfishwest Report.

These are some of the main points from the May 2006 Recfishwest Board Meeting, and some other recent activities.

Rottnest No Fishing Areas. The proposals for Rottnest had been released on 17 April. Recfishwest normally has advance knowledge of nearly all such proposals through the consultation which takes place with the peak body for recreational fishing.

However in this case the Rottnest Island Board refused to carry out proper consultation and no one from the recreational fishing community had any firm details of what was being proposed in the strategy or the details of the areas which would be closed to recreational fishing. Of course we had general ideas of what was being proposed, but no maps and no documentation, and as always, the devil is in the details.

Copies of the Rottnest Island Marine Management Strategy Plan were downloaded from the Rottnest Island website after their release on 17 April. Even a quick look raises many questions, and a great deal more has been realised about how these Rottnest proposals were developed and all the problems with the process

and the outcomes. The documentation has either been bungled by the Rottnest Island Authority or deliberately arranged to confuse and mislead. Comments close 15 July, so there is plenty of time.

The problems with these Rottnest proposals were outlined in information attached to the April Delegates minutes. The action I would recommend at this stage should be to get the government to understand just how bad the consultation, lack of real science, lack of real benefits, very poor documentation, and the very biased consultation being pushed by the Rottnest Island Board. These points have been made very strongly in recent newspaper articles and radio interviews by Recfishwest and fishing writers.

At a later time there will be more information and rebuttal of the specific proposals, the so-called science used, the misleading information provided, the misleading public consultation process, and so many other things that deserve to be opposed.

The AAA letter to the Premier and Minister attached to the April Delegates Meeting minutes covers all this in detail, and people can extract and copy and use whatever they like out of that to get this first message through to the Government. This message is the key to forcing the Rottnest Island Authority to properly consult with recreational anglers over Rottnest.

Recfishwest Constitution. Proposed changes have been approved by the Board and will be put to a special General Meeting on 5 July to be voted on by RFW members.

Review of Consultative Structures. A board meeting was held with Ross Winstanley, the consultant who is carrying out the review of consultative arrangements carried out by RFW and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees (RFAC). Ross is a very respected consultant with wide experience in many fisheries matters with a very good track record of investigations and successful and widely accepted recommendations.

Review of the Fish Resources Management Act. The Department of Fisheries has prepared a discussion paper to support the work of a Ministerial review committee, chaired by Hon Matt Benson MLC, which is inquiring into and reporting on the effectiveness of the Fish Resources Management Act.

The committee is reviewing how well the legislation meets its goals of conserving, developing and sharing the WA's fish resources; in protecting fish habitats and aquatic biodiversity; and reporting on any other related matters.

The document contains important proposals that reflect new management directions for the State's fisheries such as integrated fisheries management and customary fishing, including a series of proposed amendments to address issues which have developed over time, including the need to strengthen powers and penalties to address increasing organised crime within the fishing sector.

Wetline Fishing Management Proposals. RFW has written to the Minister asking when a decision will be made on the recommendations. It seems recreational anglers have the most to gain from these. These changes will impact heavily on some other groups. Many commercial fishermen's activities will be restricted, and the Department of Fisheries will have a lot of work to implement and manage the changes.

Marine Parks and Reserve Authority. Frank Prokop has been nominated by RFW to fill one of the vacancies on the Authority. Waiting for notification.

Capes Marine Park. It is understood the proposals for the Capes Marine Park and no fishing zones there are with the Ministers at present prior to the release for a public consultation period.

Ningaloo Studies. RFW will write and ask to be included, as the Peak Recreational Fishing body, in the design of the social and economic study of the impact of the Ningaloo Marine Park and no fishing zones.

Integrated Fisheries Management. RFW will verbally present its argument in support of the previous written submission on Western Rock Lobster allocations.

West Coast Recreational Creel Survey. The survey will end on 30 June. Early indications are that analysis could take 12 months. RFW will discuss earlier access. Let's hope it is not like the "12 month Survey of recreational fishing effort in the Pilbara" Fisheries Research Report Number 153 released in April which reports on data gathered during 1999 and 2000. More than 6 years to present results would be an absolute joke if it wasn't so serious.

Shark Fisheries. Following years of submissions from RFW on unsustainable commercial shark fishing, the Fisheries Minister announced 4 May some more changes to commercial shark fishing, including a two-month fishing closure and associated one-sixth effort reduction; the introduction of a vessel monitoring system; a prohibition on the take of sharks and rays by commercial fishers outside WA's four main shark fisheries; a ban on the use of wire traces in all commercial State-managed fisheries (except the northern shark fisheries); a 1.5m, State-wide maximum size limit for dusky sharks; the introduction of significant penalties for illegal possession of sharks and rays; and a shift in existing controls to fishing from monthly time gear units to days fished. This follows a management package for the northern shark fisheries announced last year. There is now no commercial shark fishing permitted from Shark Bay to Cape Leveque. The Minister

said he remained convinced that illegal foreign fishing was the greatest risk to the sustainability of our two northern shark fisheries.

No mention was made if the 1.5metre maximum size limit for dusky whalers applies to recreational anglers, but the term "State wide" implies it will.

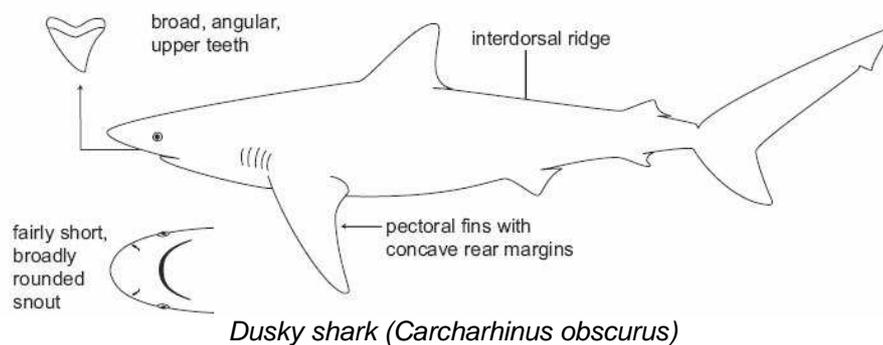
Terry Fuller, Recfishwest Board Member.

Business Arising from RFW Report.

None.

Identification of Dusky and Bronze Whalers The Department of Fisheries booklet "Field identification guide to Western Australian Sharks and Shark-like Rays" shows that the dusky whaler is very similar to the bronze whaler, and whereas the bronze whaler occurs only as far north as about Geraldton, the dusky whaler covers the entire Western Australian coastline.

The booklet is available from Fisheries printed on waterproof paper, or as a PDF file from the Fisheries web site at <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/res/broc/sharkguide/index.html>

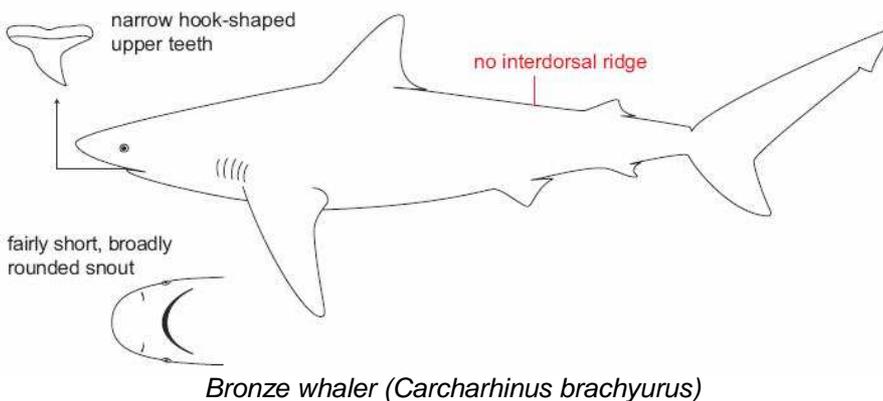


Dusky shark

Continental shelf; from surf zone to oceanic waters, up to 400m depth.

Bronze-grey to dark grey on dorsal surfaces, pale ventrally.

Dusky tips on most fins, particularly on lower lobe of tail and ventral surfaces of pectoral fins (darker in juveniles).



Bronze whaler

Similar to dusky whaler but **lacks the interdorsal ridge.**

Inshore to offshore distribution; surf zone to at least 100m depth.

Bronze to grey dorsal colour, ventral surfaces creamy white.

Pale stripe forward along flank.

Dusky tips on most fins.

General Business.

Terry Fuller gave out copies of a recent and very stupid media release by the Department of Fisheries and his comments on this. The reason for attacking this media release in this way is because it is just one of a series of recent media releases which have been either pro commercial fishing or anti recreational fishing in some significant ways and which gives inaccurate, unnecessary and gratuitous ammunition to the anti recreational fishing lobby or other groups which believe that recreational fishing is a threat to something or other. The Department of Fisheries is well aware of the problem and the reasons for the concerns.

This is an example of where an individual (TF) or an organisation like AAA can do and say things which reinforce what has been said a number of times by Recfishwest, but is being ignored for some reason. As a result of this publicity, contact has been made with Recfishwest by the media person mentioned at the foot of that media release (who was not the person who actually wrote it). She will meet with RFW to discuss improving the communications and protocols and the distribution of materials from the Department of Fisheries to build on the common objectives for publicity and media releases. Copies of the comments and the media release are attached to these minutes.

Martin Humbert and Rick Cameron told of seeing boxes of rubbish which had very obviously been dumped at sea from a commercial boat close to land at Lucky Bay. Without details there is little which can be done after the event, but with details of the boat registration and photographs of the rubbish or some samples collected Department of Fisheries will act. The commercial fishing peak body, WAFIC,

has rightly condemned some recreational fishermen for the rubbish which has been left around at some places, and realise that they also have a problem with some commercial operators. They want to deal with those people but they need the evidence. Recfishwest and Dept of Fisheries will pursue action if given the information. Details should first be reported to Fishwatch 1800 815 507 at the time if at all possible but always as soon as possible afterwards.

Future of AAA WA Division.

Vice President Nick Allsworth said he was pleased to see the extra people at this meeting to discuss this important topic, but it was still disappointing to realise how many metropolitan clubs were not represented, recognising that it is not possible for country clubs to come to a mid week meeting.

There was wide ranging discussion on what is needed to be done by the Association and the issues involved in doing this. The fundamental and critical problem is the lack of people willing or able to give time to carry out any of the ideas.

George Holman said that the work which had been done by Terry Fuller was outstanding and had put the Association in a very good position, for example financially and the relationship with Recfishwest. Terry had advised that he was prepared to continue to represent the Association as a Board member on Recfishwest, in which case a lot of the work would continue, and Terry would report to the association and take the association's views to Recfishwest. If he was not elected to represent the Association in Recfishwest, then there would be a need to find another volunteer to do that work, and Terry would separately nominate to be an independent recreational angler Board member on Recfishwest.

It might not be possible to get other volunteers to do the Association secretarial or treasury work at this level. So the requirements need to be kept basic and simple.

Paid helpers. It would be possible for some of the work, for example the Secretary and the Treasurer, to be done by paid people who are not fishermen and are not aware of the issues about fishing. The attempt in late 2002 early 2003 to hire someone had not been successful, but there must be many people out there who have the necessary skills and abilities to do secretarial and treasury work under direction.

Submissions and letters. Terry Fuller said that he had been given permission by the delegates to act with a great deal of autonomy in preparing submissions and letters. It would be unreasonable to expect that paid people without the detailed background information and the passion for fishing could do this.

Submissions and letters would need to be prepared using ideas from delegates and clubs, and the actual wording would need to be approved by the delegates. This would inevitably delay the preparation of submissions and involve significant extra coordination. An example of good ideas but poor wording leading to a result which is so very bad it completely destroys the intended message is in the attached Dept of Fisheries media release.

Organising events. Rick Cameron said both the three major sub groups, Estuary and Rock and Beach, Boating, and Dry casting could do most of the work in organising these events as is currently done.

Help with simple jobs. Kevin Hughes said he is flabbergasted at the difficulty in getting volunteers to do even simple jobs.

Nick Allsworth said that some of the things he had done were easy for him because they were the sort of things he does regularly, whereas other things that needed to be done would have been much harder for him because he is not familiar with them. He said that all that was being asked of people was for them to do things which they find reasonably easy for them to do with the skills and abilities and time that they could offer.

What needs to be done in the jobs. Russell Bunce asked if all of the activities were listed so that people could see what was involved in doing the jobs. Terry Fuller explained he had written this up for the committee positions in the Surf Casting and Angling Club but had been able to get comments from the people who actually been doing the jobs so that the listings were accurate. It is much more difficult for all of the AAA positions which have been vacant for some time because there is no one to check that what might be written accurately describes what needs to be done. Terry will look at the write-ups for SCAC positions and see how they might fit the Association's jobs, and distribute with the minutes if suitable.

What does AAA do for clubs? Bob Kelly said he had spoken with his club members and a common question was "what does the AAA do for us?" There has been no visit from AAA to the club to explain this. AAA must sell itself and what it does for the clubs and for the members of those clubs. He asked

if there was any simple explanation or description of what the Association is about so that club members can be advised. Terry Fuller said the home page on the AAA website and a two page A4 brochure about the Association had some of this information. Copies will be distributed.

Terry Fuller reminded delegates that we had asked for suggestions from the clubs and had received very little back. George Holman had started a program of visiting some clubs, but had then contracted a life-threatening infection following a minor operation which almost killed him, had him in hospital for seven weeks, followed by several months of recovery which severely affected his health, his fitness, his business and his home life, and left a great number of things to be caught up with. This prevented any further work on visiting the clubs. Since then there have been new elections and the Association now does not have a President. Nick Allsworth is a Vice President, but his work commitments and absences from the country make it impossible for him to do all of the things a president should do.

Information about AAA activities. This generated considerable discussion about the amount of information which is distributed with the minutes and how that could be used by the clubs. It is quite clear that many clubs are not using this information even though it might be very relevant to their interests, what they do and what they need. Some clubs whose delegates regularly attend the delegates' meetings have advised that they now extract stuff from the minutes which is of interest to their club and the members and publish it in their club newsletters and discuss it at club meetings, and now realise how much really important and relevant information is in there.

Terry Fuller pointed out that a lot of the information in and attached to the minutes is of interest to some groups but not to others, but it is up to the people who get the information and the leaders in the clubs to extract what is or is not of interest to the members of their club. Although we have a general idea, we do not really know exactly what individual members' and clubs' interests are. There have been examples where one delegate will pick up on one point, and another delegate will pick up on a completely different point from the same set of information

This shows that any attempt to edit and "tailor" the information sent out to a particular audience might be counterproductive. There would be considerable extra effort and complexity due to different sets of information, different copying and distribution lists and this cannot be justified at a time when there is a lack of volunteers to do the basic work. It is much easier for the receivers to skim through the information and select anything they are interested in. Electronic copies of the minutes are put on the AAA website with the links advised via email. These can be made available to anyone as soon as they are published which will make it easier to extract anything for use elsewhere.

This is a complaint that there is too much information each month, rather than the usual problem which some associations and clubs have of not enough information about activities.

The Real Question? Kevin Hughes said that as a result of a number of discussions over the years about where the AAA was going and what it should be doing, he suggested that the real question should be "what can you do with AAA?" with the clear understanding that, as with many things, people and clubs can get things out if they put things in.

Why is a strong Association needed? George Holman pointed out that one advantage of having a strong Association and strong clubs was the mutual support which can be given by and to Recfishwest, the Association and the clubs in the support of everyone's objectives of maintaining and if possible improving recreational fishing. The Association's main aim is to promote club angling as a sport and recreation for everyone, and the clubs could benefit from that.

Nothing is more certain than recreational fishing is under increasing attack from many other groups and in many places. Recreational fishing has been and will continue to be gradually but increasingly eroded so that it will be nothing like it should be and could be and used to be. Another reality is that once something has been lost it is impossible to get it back again no matter what is done or how hard people work.

Everyone understands that many people just want to enjoy their pastime, and many do not want to get involved with political or organizational things. But the reality is that unless recreational fishermen and the clubs do something about the threats, then recreational fishing will continue to decline.

Ignoring the threats will not make them go away, but will only make it easier for the people who want to increase restrictions to win what they want. Those people will use the wins in some areas to justify more restrictions in other areas, and will get the confidence from the fact that they can win these restrictions without getting much resistance from the average recreational anglers or the clubs.

Having a strong Association and strong clubs means that any submissions or comments put in have the weight of (currently) 26 clubs behind them. When these submissions and the submissions put in by Recfishwest agree and support each other, then that is a strong case that they should be listened to.

Without strong interest from recreational anglers and clubs, politicians can say "this is not an issue which we need to worry about" either politically or in terms of doing the right thing. "Just let it take its course because the vocal people seem to be in favour" - regardless of the merits. "Vocal" doesn't mean "majority" but will be used as though it did.

Conflict and perceptions. At times in the past there had been considerable conflict within the AAA and particularly between some people in AAA and Recfishwest. Terry Fuller said that when he took over the Secretary job and had access to past correspondence he was appalled at some of the things that had been written and done and the great damage that had done to the interests of recreational fishing. So much more could have been achieved if the energy had been put into positive things instead of all the infighting.

Terry said that anyone who thought that any of that sort of thing still went on was badly mistaken. George Holman had made it absolutely clear at the time he took over the AAA presidency some years ago that a positive approach and cooperation was the only possible way for club and recreational angling and the Association to go forward. The excellent relationship and cooperation and achievements with Recfishwest in recent years, a complete turnaround from the previous situation, show that this approach was correct and was paying off for recreational fishing.

The business handled at delegates meetings is positive and is handled as efficiently as possible as the minutes should show. So any excuses for not attending claiming waste of time on irrelevant issues is no longer correct.

Attached to these minutes are some posts made on the Western Angler Fishing Forum by Frank Prokop, executive director of Recfishwest, and by Terry Fuller in his private capacity as an individual recreational angler and contributor to that forum. These cover some of the difficulties in satisfying some people, and the issues involved in trying not to give free ammunition to the people who want to restrict recreational angling.

More Changes to recreational fishing rules. For people in the Perth Metro area who think that recreational anglers have been restricted enough by fisheries regulations in what they can catch and where they can catch it - be aware that tough extra fisheries management is needed for the entire greater Metro area. That area covers from Ledge Point to well south of Mandurah and out to the 200 metre isobath which is 30 nautical miles out.

Tougher management is required or else our children and grandchildren or us when we are older will not be able to experience anything like the fishing that we have seen up to now. Just look back at what it was like 20 or 30 years ago and where it is now and where it is heading, and it cannot and will not be allowed to go where it is heading.

Club anglers can either be part of these changes and have a chance of influencing them and making the best of what must be done, or they will have great changes forced on them. There is no other option. Any metro club that thinks it is big enough by itself to resist these changes is deluding itself. Any metro club thinking that it's members will not be affected by these changes is also deluding itself.

Tougher fisheries management in the Metro area is not a question of "if", it is a question of when and how much tougher. The answer is sooner rather than later, and much tougher.

The lack of support for and interest in the Association's submissions on the Commercial Wetline fishing review cannot be understood when it is realised how absolutely critical this is for the future of much of the boat fishing done in the metro area and areas near launching facilities. There may be a very high price to pay for this lack of interest.

Marine Parks and other closed areas. The proposals for Rottnest are an example of the pressures to close areas to recreational fishing without any clear objectives and effectively blaming recreational fishing for all the perceived problems.

It is understood the proposals for the Capes Marine Park and no fishing zones there are with the Ministers at present prior to the release for a public consultation period, so another issue needing strong cooperation is coming very soon.

Fishing Competitions. Paul Greenway, Melville said that competition angling is almost dead and if not already dead it soon will be. More emphasis needs to be placed on catch and release.

There was some discussion on the acceptability of catch and release competitions when people still want to be able to take some fish home for a feed. Terry Fuller said the people must clearly understand that people can always catch and keep fish up to the limits as allowed by Fisheries regulations. There is no intention that people in AAA events would ever be prevented from catching and keeping fish.

The only issue is how many of those fish would be presented for weighing in, or what other form of recognition of catch, such as recognition of fish which had been caught and released, would be used

in the scoring for any competition which was run by AAA or the clubs. The boat angling competition has been run for some years on weighing in only one fish of each species.

Proposals for catch and release type competitions or any other variations to a competition for the way a fishing events was run, would need to set out all of the proposed arrangements so that everyone can see how it would work in practice. Obviously, catch and release events have been run in other places in the world and there is a lot of experience out there about what works and what does not work, what is easy to do and what is much harder to do.

Timing of events. A suggestion was made to hold all four events in the same location over consecutive days, eg a mini convention. There was general agreement that this had some positives and could be supported if the issues could be worked out. One such issue is the fact that this would require several days which would mean that some people would need to take time off work, rather than attend on weekends as currently.

There was some discussion about the different fishing interests of the different groups, however it was pointed out that we are all recreational anglers and we need to support each other in angling. The alternative is a divide and conquer approach from the people who want to restrict recreational angling, and we all know who would lose most if that was allowed.

Volunteers. A number of delegates spoke on the problems that clubs have with getting enough volunteers to do the work that has to be done within their clubs, and there is simply not enough volunteer time left over to do very much outside the club. It is difficult to generate any interest in things outside the club such as those things done by AAA.

Summing up. Nick Allsworth said that the discussions had been very useful. But the fundamental and critical problem is the lack of people willing or able to give time to carry out any of the ideas. These are very serious limits on doing many if not most of the things which have been discussed.

Meeting closed at 9:45 pm.

Notice of Future AAA Meetings.

Next Executive Meeting	To be advised of the month	Usually held on the first Tuesday
Next Delegates' Meeting	7:30pm Tuesday 20 June 2006, Sportsman's Association Clubhouse, Stancliffe Street, Mt. Lawley.	Usually held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Coming AAA Events.

State Dry Casting Championships	2006/7, Yokine Reserve, Sunday 29 October 2006
State Estuary Championships	2006/7, Swan River, Saturday and Sunday 25/26 November 2006.
State Boating Championships	2006/7, Date to be advised in March 2007 at Whitfords.
State Rock & Beach Championships	2006/7, HQ Cheynes Beach, Reef Beach to Betty's Beach, Saturday and Sunday 3/4 March 2007.

AAA Fishing Clinics.

North of the River	Hillarys (has been booked)	Mondays 3, 10, 17 July 2006
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Club and AAA Publicity.

AAA has a web site 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 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

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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2005/6 AAA State Boat Angling Championships sponsored by All Boat Business. <http://www.allboatbusiness.com.au/>

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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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Mako Tackle

Providers of all your tackle product needs.

Supported the 2005 Fishing Clinics.

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

Magic Nissan

supported the 2005/6 State Dry Casting Championships.

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Yallingup Beach Holiday Park

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

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