



Annual Report

19/20

Our purpose is great fishing experiences
for all in the WA community forever



Chairman
Tim Bray

Recfishwest Staff

Chief Executive Officer
Dr Andrew Rowland

Operations Manager
Leyland Campbell

**Partnerships and Business
Development Manager**
Tim Grose

Business Support Manager
Vanessa Abbott

Operations Lead
Matt Gillett

Communications Lead
Ben Carlish

Research and Development Lead
James Florisson

Operations Team
Aaron Moses

Operations Team
Alanna Ellison

Operations Team
Sedin Hasanovic

Operations Team
Mike Minutillo

Communications Officer
Zach Relph

Research Team
Steph Watts

Research Team
Sam Bock

Business Support
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Santos

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Letter from the Minister

It has been an incredibly challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting almost every aspect of our lives, both economic and social. One of the most significant challenges created by the pandemic remains: job creation to support economic growth in Western Australia. Recfishing has a role to play in addressing this crucial issue.



What has been very helpful to myself as the Fisheries Minister, has been Recfishwest's strong advocacy and professional advice on behalf of its tens of thousands of members.

The organisation's willingness to seek solutions to the many issues affecting the recfishing sector, rather than simply articulate the problems, has contributed to a close working relationship that I greatly appreciate.

For example, the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) is the way we put recreational fishing licence fees to work to support the sector for the benefit of the wider community. Recreational fishing initiatives and programs funded through the RFIF help to protect, create and support jobs and businesses.

With Recfishwest's aid, the McGowan Government will continue to identify and implement more positive and innovative ways to ensure West Aussies have safe, accessible, sustainable and enjoyable fishing experiences. Recfishwest undertakes significant work to promote fishing safety across WA. Given the success of this strategy to date, and the importance of fishing safety to the community, the RFIF will fund the State-wide program for another four years.

Some of the initiatives implemented during my relatively brief time as Minister have been a series of watershed changes to the management of the crab fisheries in both the metropolitan and southern areas of WA. In relation to the outcomes of the South West crab review, the McGowan Government is in the process now of buying back the commercial licences for Cockburn Sound, Warnbro Sound and Mandurah to Bunbury fisheries, prior to their permanent closure. This is a significant and strategic initiative to strengthen and build the resilience and sustainability of our crab resource. Providing more protection for female breeding stock and securing a more resilient recreational crab fishery in South West WA means a better supply of bigger crabs and a better crabbing experience for everyone. The buy-back of four commercial fishing licences in the Peel-Harvey Estuary as a reallocation initiative has reduced the number of crabbing licences there from 10 to six and enables a reallocation of the crab resource to the recreational sector.

I also note Recfishwest has collaborated with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and



the commercial fishing sector to develop a recovery strategy for the oceanic pink snapper in Shark Bay. This involvement was instrumental in ensuring an effective recovery plan for this regionally important stock that is supported by both the recreational and commercial sectors.

In terms of freshwater fishing, the newly formed WA Inland Fisheries Research Advisory Committee established by the McGowan Government, and including Recfishwest CEO Dr Andrew Rowland, is keen to identify new initiatives to enhance freshwater fishing. Currently focusing on improvements to trout stocking and the recreational trout fishery, the committee will also look at marron, barramundi and other species to grow recreational fishing in rivers, lakes and artificial impoundments.

As I've become more familiar with the Fisheries portfolio, I have been amazed at how the pastime of recreational fishing captures the imagination of fishers, gets them out and about enjoying WA and seeing the flow-on benefits for both individuals and the community. Of particular interest was the launch of Recfishwest's Salmon

Economics Report, which highlighted the economic importance of the Recreational-fishing sector in WA. The recfishing sector – which is estimated to contribute \$2.4 billion to the State's economy annually – spends an incredible \$331 million each year just on activity associated with fishing for Australian salmon. Every time the salmon run, recreational fishers flock to their favourite fishing destinations and local economies soar with an influx of visitors needing bait, fuel, accommodation, fishing tackle, boat services – the list goes on. With Recfishwest's launch of its free app 'Salmon Slam', I am sure fishing for this great Australian fish will become more popular. And although the COVID-19 pandemic meant the 'Awesome Autumn of Salmon' initiative did not fully proceed this year, I am sure it will next year.

Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) have also had a positive impact with new FADs deployed in waters off the metropolitan area, Cape Naturaliste, Albany, Exmouth and Broome. In the near future, I hope to announce more locations – so happy fishing and stay safe.

Peter Tinley
Fisheries Minister

Board of Management

1.1 Chairman's Report



Welcome to the Recfishwest Annual Report for 2020 and on behalf of the Board, I am very pleased to present another strong report on the activities of your organisation.

Our 2020 report highlights the achievements of Recfishwest aligned with our strategic direction and driven by our clear, action-based purpose. Recfishwest continues to be motivated by our commitment to protect, promote and create sustainable, accessible, enjoyable and safe fishing experiences.

I would firstly like to thank all the team led by CEO Dr Andrew Rowland and my fellow directors for their tireless efforts throughout the year. I would also like to thank outgoing Fisheries Minister Dave Kelly for his work supporting Recfishwest, and I welcome Minister Peter Tinley to the role of leading WA's pursuit for greater fish abundances and enhanced fishing experiences.

Although this year threw some curveballs at people's opportunities to get out and about due to COVID-19, the team continued to push through with a determination to continue delivering great outcomes for our fishing community. Again, we saw more fish put in the water with barramundi, pink snapper, yellowtail kingfish and marron stocked in their thousands in iconic WA waterways.

FADs fever strikes

The team got our long-awaited State-wide FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices) trial program underway with great uptake and acceptance from the fishing community. There was a spotlight shone by the WA Government on the value of WA's salmon fishing experience in the South West, and Cockburn Sound's importance to our fishing sector has again been a topic receiving plenty of attention.

Working with the commercial fishing sector peak body the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), a number of outcomes have been achieved that benefit both fishing sectors and shows we are leading the nation when it comes to proactive fisheries co-management. These include changes to achieve a better blue swimmer crab fishery on the West Coast, greater protection of pink snapper in multiple regions and establishing a rock lobster trial for the fishing charter operators, meaning more West Aussies can experience the great cray fishing experience for which WA is known.



With our members helping to cement our purpose, we have continued to grow our membership base in the 2019/20 reporting period by more than nine per cent to nearly 12,000 members.

We've kept our members informed and engaged on leading issues and developments affecting their fishing, from new FADs deployments to providing a voice of reason and clear advice during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 shutdown. The support of our ever-growing membership base is extremely valued by the Recfishwest Board and the staff. Listening and acting on the members' behalf is what we're here to do and together we can achieve great things to make fishing better.

The economics of a southern icon

Is it possible to put a dollar figure value on the experience of catching the West Aussie salmon—one of the world's best sport fish from one of the world's best beaches? For many that experience is simply priceless and they might question why you'd want to put a price on it in the first place.

The reality is for Government and people in power who make decisions about managing our fisheries, dollars really do talk. And while traditionally the dollar value of commercial fisheries to the WA community has long been recorded and scrutinised by economists, this hasn't been the case for recreational fisheries.

Last year the Economic Dimensions of Recreational Fishing in Western Australia report determined that every year WA recfishers spend \$2.4billion on fishing prompting the Premier himself to announce the results of the study at a high-profile event in Fremantle. Having the State Premier, front and centre recognising the importance of recreational fishing gives us much more influence as a sector when advocating for your interests.

This is why the results of a similar study into the economic value of the recreational salmon fishery are so important to ensure the future of this awesome fishery is protected.

1.1 Chairman's Report *cont.*

And again, given the dollar value put on salmon recfishing, it was one of the main reasons why the Premier Mark McGowan and Fisheries Minister Peter Tinley felt it important enough to announce in Albany with Recfishwest and members of the local fishing community.

The study says \$331 million is spent by West Aussies on recreational salmon fishing every year. That's a significant amount particularly given most of it spent in WA's south and South West, providing a major boost for the WA regional economy. The study builds a picture of how the migrating schools of salmon bring with them a migration of recreational fishers. In fact, the study shows \$251 million is spent locally at fishing destinations with \$159 million of that spent on local accommodation alone each season by visiting salmon anglers.

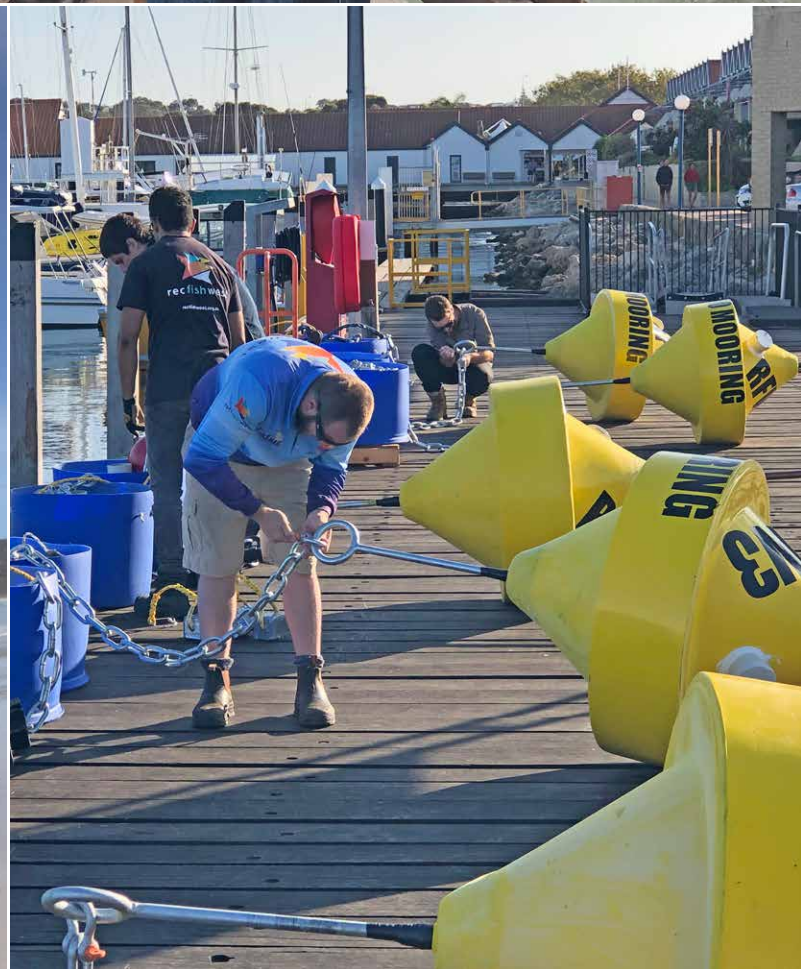
On a sad note, I would like to again send my sympathy and love to the family of one of our past, much-loved employees, Yvette Guy, who passed away this year. As our longest-serving employee and Office Manager, many of you would have had direct dealings with Yvette and, while I am sure you will share our grief, I also want you to remember just how special Yvette was. Whether with Recfishwest volunteers, members, Board members, clubs, associations or colleagues, Yvette's bright personality and professional can-do attitude instantly struck a chord with everyone she met and her passing is a great loss for recreational fishing in Western Australia.

I hope you enjoy the achievements of the recfishing community and the Recfishwest team in this year's report.

See you out there.

Tim Bray
Chairman





1.2 The Board

The Recfishwest Board is made up of eight directors, comprising five nominated directors elected by the Recfishwest membership and three appointed directors.

Board Structure



Committees

Recfishwest Committee meetings are generally held prior to Recfishwest Board meetings, allowing recommendations and outcomes of committee meetings to be tabled at the Board meeting.

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Governance Committee	Nomination & Remuneration Committee	Communications Committee
Geoff Ellis (Chair) Tim Bray Gary Thorniley Liam Surridge	Liam Surridge (Chair) Simon McLernon Dean Thorburn Kevin Gammage	Tim Bray (Chair) Geoff Ellis Kevin Gammage Dean Thorburn	Jeff Cooper (Chair) Simon McLernon Luke Doherty (Associate) Tania Douthwaite

Tania Douthwaite did not stand for re-election at the 2019 AGM

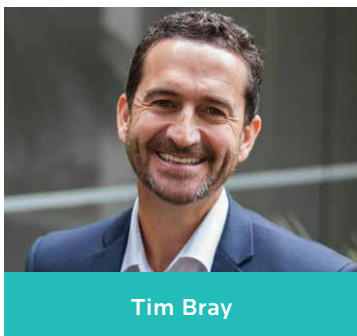
Liam Surridge was elected to the Board at the 2019 AGM

Gary Thorniley resigned for personal reasons in June 2020





Board Members



Tim Bray

Non-Executive Director, Chairman

Tim is an independent, non-executive Director and Chairman of Recfishwest. He is also Chair of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Tim has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2012. Tim worked as a fisheries scientist, fisheries manager and senior advisor to the Minister for Fisheries over a 14-year period before joining Western Power as Manager Corporate Affairs. Tim was also the General Manager of Corporate Communications with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for two years before joining Ecocentric Energy as its inaugural CEO. Tim is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.



Geoff Ellis

Non-Executive Director, Deputy Chair of the Board

Geoff is an independent, non-executive Director and Deputy Chairman of Recfishwest. Geoff is the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and member of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee. Geoff also represents Recfishwest on the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme. Geoff has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2011. Currently semi-retired, Geoff has been a Director of Supernova Motor Yachts trading as Offshore Marine for the past 25 years. He has also managed several retail boat and caravan sales businesses in WA. Geoff has held the following positions; President/ Finance Director of Boating Industry Association WA, member of Caravan Industry Association WA, member of the Motor Trade Association, licensed motor vehicle dealer and licensed second-hand dealer.



Board Members *cont.*



Kevin Gammage

Non-Executive Director, Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee

Kevin is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and member of the Corporate Governance Committee. Kevin has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2012. Kevin is a partner in the corporate law firm Nova Legal. Prior to being admitted to practice in Western Australia, Kevin worked in the corporate sector, spending 16 years at senior management level and CEO level in listed and unlisted companies. In these roles, Kevin led negotiations relating to business sales and acquisitions, supply agreements, intellectual property licensing, structuring of shareholder arrangements and capital raisings.



Jeff Cooper

Non-Executive Director, Chair of the Recfishwest Communications Committee

Jeff is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and Chair of the Communications Committee. Jeff has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2016. Jeff Cooper is the past President of the Broome Fishing Club and former Chair of Broome Boating Facility Community Reference Group. Jeff is also a former Board member for the Marine Park Reserves Authority and former representative of the International Game Fishing Association. Jeff is currently a Training Director at the North Regional TAFE. He is also a mentor for the Recfishwest Young Future Leaders programs. Jeff has been a major proponent for barramundi stock enhancement in the Kimberley and has been heavily involved with restocking Dampier Creek, as well as being a project leader for the Lake Kununurra restocking project. Jeff is highly enthusiastic about game fishing and has previously worked with Dr Julian Pepperell to tag sailfish with PSAT and SPOT tags to determine their movements and behaviours around Broome as part of a Woodside-funded program.

Board Members *cont.*



Gary Thorniley

Non-Executive Director

Gary was an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and member of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee. Gary was appointed to the Recfishwest Board in 2018 and resigned from the Board for personal reasons in June 2020. Gary has a career spanning agricultural research at CSIRO and Department of Agriculture (now DPIRD), technical and business advice, marketing, financial services and leadership. Gary is a Senior Private Client Advisor at Morgans Financial in West Perth, Chairman of Ecocentric Energy and was previously Director of a financial advisory firm. He is a member of the AICD, early adopter member of Conscious Capitalism Australia, Perth Angels and is a CFP member of the FPA. Gary has a particular interest in directly contributing to the success of businesses and organisations that have a strong value proposition, make a real impact and demonstrate a positive culture. Gary grew up boating and fishing at Port Gregory and still enjoys getting on the water when he can. Gary is a keen cyclist and supports charities through multiple fundraising events including riding in WA's iconic Hawaiian Ride For Youth.



Simon McLernon

Non-Executive Director, Governance Committee, Communications Committee

Simon is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and member of the Communications Committee and the Governance Committee. Simon has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2018. Simon brings a wealth of external experience from his work as an engineer from a variety of different industries over the past one and a half decades including shipbuilding and subsea engineering. Simon currently works as a subsea engineer specialising in rig-less well intervention at Jandakot-based Baker Hughes site. Simon has previously volunteered his engineering skills to design and manufacture the Bluewater Safety Float to help increase safety for divers and other boat users. Simon has a particular interest in shark behaviour and is currently working in partnership with Sharkbanz to design, test and launch an effective shark deterrent device for Australian line fishermen in the North West. Being an avid diver and fisher throughout his life, Simon has a strong interest in marine life behaviour and the sustainability of WA fisheries. Simon was the events coordinator for Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia for two-and-a-half years and was the Vice President for two years.



Dean Thorburn

Non-Executive Director, Governance Committee

Dean is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and member of the Governance Committee. Dean has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2011. Dean is a biologist with 15 years' professional experience in marine and aquatic studies and specialises in fish biology and ecological investigations of riverine and nearshore waters. Dean is the Director and Principal Scientist of an environmental consulting company and has occupied that role since 2006. In this current role, Dean continues to work on the biology of numerous bony and cartilaginous fish species and conducts environmental monitoring programs, impact assessments and aids with government approvals for various projects throughout northern Australia and South East Asia. Dean is also a member of the Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia.

Board Members *cont.*



Liam Surridge

Non-Executive Director, Chair of the Recfishwest Corporate Governance Committee

Liam is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and Chair of the Governance Committee. Liam has been a member of the Recfishwest Board since 2019. Liam is a passionate fresh and saltwater fisherman and an active member of the Saltwater Flyrodders of Western Australia of which he is the treasurer. He is also the treasurer and one of the founding members of the West Australian chapter of The Australian Trout Foundation and a member of the WA Trout and Freshwater Angling Association. When not fishing, he occupies a role in senior management (CFO and Company Secretary) in a commercial property development firm. Liam has a passion for recreational fishing, particularly fresh and saltwater fly-fishing and lure fishing. He is strongly committed to seeing this important recreational activity sustainably developed. As a qualified chartered accountant and member of various committees, Liam has strong financial and management expertise and experience with incorporated associations. He is also skilled at negotiating and reaching outcomes favourable to all stakeholders. He has a broad-based experience and a solid track record of involvement within the recreational fishing industry and is enthusiastic to further Recfishwest's goals.



Tania Douthwaite

Non-Executive Director (term finished Nov 2019)

Tania was a non-executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Communications Committee. Tania was a member of the Recfishwest Board from 2017–2019. Tania is a marine scientist and marine science communicator with professional experience in environmental consulting, commercial diving and recreational freediving industry. Tania was a former Recfishwest Young Future Leader and has been a keen freshwater and saltwater fisher for more than 20 years. Tania was the Vice Chairman of the West Australian Undersea Club Inc. serving on the committee for five years in the role of Safety and Education Officer. She has a particular passion for freediving spearfishing safety education and marine ecology. Tania currently works as a freediving instructor and marine artist. She is a dedicated and passionate individual who is interested in protecting the sustainability, enjoyment, accessibility and safety of WA recreational fishing.

1.3 CEO's Report

"It has been testimony to the tireless efforts of the team in the office, our amazing volunteers and the Board of Directors that Recfishwest has been able to power forward in our purpose of making fishing better for all West Aussies forever."

- Recfishwest CEO **Dr Andrew Rowland**



Welcome to another year's annual report showcasing our activities and achievements of 2019/20.

It has been a momentous year and despite the huge challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have stayed true to our core values of agility and wisdom, while being driven by a love of fishing.

It has been testimony to the tireless efforts of the team in the office, our amazing volunteers and the Board of Directors that Recfishwest has been able to power forward in our purpose of making fishing better for all West Aussies, forever. I sincerely thank each staff member, volunteer and Board Member for their contribution in what has been exceptionally challenging times.

I would also like to thank our members for your solid support – particularly through wide-ranging COVID-19 restrictions – which heavily impacted on fishing activity around the State. We are proud to have stood up and shown leadership during the State of Emergency in providing clear advice around fishing and minimising the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19. While this was the right and responsible thing to do, we felt further vindicated by our position through the support we received from large sections of our membership during this time.

Showing leadership during COVID-19 restrictions

The stance we took also put us in a strong position to work with Government to develop a multi-million-dollar recfishing recovery package. This culminated recently in a package being announced by Premier Mark McGowan encompassing a number of fishing enhancement initiatives, including a boost to fish stocking programs, three new artificial reefs over the next three years and launching new fishing trails and tools to better help fishers plan their next great fishing adventure within WA.

It was great to see the Premier recognising fishing's importance for our culture and our economy and the package will go a long way in assisting the recreational fishing sector get back on track with generating its \$2.4 billion annual spend, as well as seeing WA's 750,000 fishers play a role in helping get our great State back on its feet. The recovery package announcement was the third time in less than a year that the Premier has turned out to announce a recreational fishing initiative, showing that fishing matters to this Government and placing us in a stronger position to continue to secure wins that makes fishing better in WA.



The first of these events was at a community marron stocking event at Harvey Dam at which the Premier and the then-Fisheries Minister Dave Kelly announced an RFIF-supported trial stocking program that will see 300,000 marron released into South West dams in the next three years. This program has great potential for significantly ramping up the amount of marron stocked in the South West and could open up the distinct prospect of year-round marroning – imagine how good that would be!

A nearly Awesome Autumn of Salmon

In addition, the Premier and Fisheries Minister Peter Tinley joined Recfishwest and local fishers in Albany to announce the findings of our salmon fishing economics report that established every year West Aussies spend \$331 million on salmon fishing. It was great to see the Premier announce the launch of the Awesome Autumn of Salmon program, encompassing a number of activities celebrating this fantastic sportfish.

To have to pull the plug on our Awesome Autumn of Salmon due to COVID-19 was a big disappointment. We had a fantastic response from the tackle and boating industry in providing a huge range of

sponsorship prizes for the 2020 Salmon Slam and Albany Salmon Spectacular events. But just as it was beginning to gain real momentum, we had to cancel due to COVID-19. This setback has merely strengthened our resolve to ensure 2021's Awesome Autumn of Salmon will be bigger and better. Critically, though, the WA Premier recognised the value of salmon fishing to our lifestyle and regional economies and this will go a long way in ensuring the abundance of salmon that supports this world-class sportfishing will be secured for the future.

Fantastic FADs fire up

On the subject of sportfishing opportunities – the expansion of the metro FADs program and deployment of new FADs in the regions under a trial approach has been popular. FADs may well be a real game-changer for boat fishers providing fantastic new opportunities to target great pelagic sportfish species like dolphinfish, tuna and mackerel.

The program has even seen the emergence of a potentially brand-new fishery – a dolphinfish fishery off Albany! This is exactly the kind of thing RFIF money should be spent on – trailblazing programs to create new fishing opportunities –

1.3 CEO's Report *cont.*

with more FADs locations already being considered, it's going to be really interesting to see how this program develops over the next couple of years.

While we've been busy helping create new fishing opportunities, we've also been putting in the hard yards to protect and enhance existing ones. Significant reform announced last year will offer much more protection for the female crab breeding stock and secure a more resilient recreational crab fishery with more, bigger crabs and a better crabbing experience for everyone. Taking on board the views of nearly 4,000 recreational fishers who responded to our survey on the initial discussion paper, we put forward 10 proposed management changes to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). The package announced by the Fisheries Minister met eight out of 10 of our recommendations – a great result.

Protecting our pink snapper

On the back of significant concerns within the metro boat fishing community and the latest DPIRD research update, we rang some loud alarm bells over the pressure being placed on pink snapper stocks in Cockburn Sound. We were pleased to see a swift response from Government with the Fisheries Minister acting quickly to extend the Cockburn Sound pink snapper spawning closure to the beginning of September and an extension to the closure area to protect snapper in spawning condition outside of Garden and Carnac islands.

WA fishers have always recognised the importance of Cockburn Sound in supporting the largest known spawning schools of pink snapper in the West Coast Bioregion and fantastic fishing experiences on Perth's doorstep.



We've long fought to protect the Sound and have been publicly raising persistent and serious concerns over the course of the year how any Outer Harbour development in Cockburn Sound will impact on pink snapper stocks. We are bitterly disappointed that these concerns were repeatedly ignored by the Outer Harbour shortlisting process. We have called on the Government to provide assurances that the shortcomings of this flawed process will be rectified. Fishers deserve to know how any proposed development is likely to impact on our favourite fish and this information must be properly factored into any future decisions to proceed with a new port in the Sound.

Rest assured, we will continue to work hard to ensure this important fishery and many others are protected with a focus on securing healthy and abundant fish stocks rather than simply

'sustainable' fish stocks - that is the best way we can future-proof our fisheries and ensure great fishing experiences for everyone into the future.

In times of crisis and profound change the true strength and character of an organisation is often revealed – I am proud to say that the Recfishwest team have not just stood up to the unprecedented challenges of the last year, but have thrived on them and continued to deliver great outcomes for the recfishing community. But there is always more to be done and we are not resting for one minute as we size up and plan to take on the next big challenges ahead.

Dr Andrew Rowland
Chief Executive Officer



Vale Yvette Guy **Office Manager**

With great sadness we said goodbye to our much-loved colleague and friend, Yvette Guy who passed away earlier this year. As our longest-serving employee and Office Manager, Yvette was a special person who will always be fondly remembered for her dedication, kindness, loyalty, good humour and positive attitude. Whether with Recfishwest volunteers, members, Board members, clubs, associations or colleagues, Yvette's bright personality and professional can-do attitude instantly struck a chord with everyone she met and her passing is a great loss for recreational fishing in Western Australia.

Yvette was pivotal in establishing our SunSmart fishing clinic program with our partner, Healthway, making her responsible for introducing more than 40,000 West Aussie kids to fishing over the years. Yvette was also a champion for our Community Grants Program helping clubs apply for funds to undertake an amazing array of projects designed to benefit fishing. Yvette was a great ambassador for Recfishwest, a huge asset to the team, and she is already greatly missed and will always be fondly remembered.

Recfishwest Staff

Staff Members



Dr Andrew Rowland – Chief Executive Officer

"This year's highlight for me was the important progress made in WA's fish stocking space. It was great to see Government support for a dedicated multi-year marron stocking program in what I see as the first steps towards expanding the length of our iconic marron season. With a properly managed and resourced marron stocking program, this unique WA experience could one day become a year-round fishing option throughout the South West. Another highlight was to see yellowtail kingfish released this year into metro waters and, while only a relatively small amount of fish (5,000 at 25cm), it sets a great precedent for expanding into a dedicated program to enhance sportfishing opportunities on the lower west coast and providing a genuine alternative to pink snapper and dhufish which are under stock recovery."



Leyland Campbell – Operations Manager

"My highlight this year was seeing the way the recreational fishing community acted during COVID-19 restrictions. Victoria banned fishing imposing on the spot fines of up to \$1,652 and there was the very real possibility Western Australia could do the same. While many fishers including myself chose to forego their fishing activities during COVID-19 restrictions, those who deemed their fishing activity to be an essential activity acted largely in accordance with Government distancing guidelines demonstrating how fishing could be undertaken safely. COVID-19 also highlighted the important role fishing plays in mental wellbeing as well as in providing a feed for the family. Restrictions on many other activities meant many families reconnected with the simple joys of fishing so it was no wonder 'can I go fishing' was one of the most Googled questions during COVID-19 restrictions."

Staff Members *cont.*



Tim Grose – Partnerships and Business Development Manager

“As our Business Development Manager, it’s been great to see more partners join us in our vision to create better fishing for our community. By having partners (such as Shimano and Santos), who believe in what we do and throw their support behind our projects and initiatives, it allows us to continue developing and innovating new ways to move the business forward to enhance our fishing experiences.”



Vanessa Abbott – Business Support Manager

“This year has been a great year to be part of such a progressive and agile not-for-profit organisation. A major highlight has been the increased management accounting support required relevant to new projects. The importance of risk management relevant to finance, events, human resources and IT is ever increasing and I am proud that my team have met these challenges. I am also enjoying my role in HR as we welcome enthusiastic new talent to our existing passionate team.”



Matt Gillett – Operations Lead

“The most rewarding part of my role is continuing to deliver tangible benefits to our passionate fishing communities from Esperance to Kununurra. This year, the highlight of these benefits came in the form of our State-wide Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) program. Recfishwest managed to deploy FADs in Albany, Cape Naturaliste, Perth, Exmouth and Broome. This created fantastic pelagic fishing opportunities in all of these areas, but the Albany and Cape Naturaliste FADs have been the highlights, with many fishers reporting catches of dolphinfish in these locations where this great fishing experience was not possible in the past.”



Aaron Moses – Operations Team

“Being involved with the Salmon Slam 2020 event was a standout for me. While it came to an abrupt end due to the COVID-19 outbreak, seeing the great captures being entered into the competition for the month that it did run provided me with plenty of inspiration to go out and chase some salmon for myself. This competition also helped reaffirm the importance of abundant salmon stocks, as it is this abundance of fish which helps drive amazing fishing experiences and provide great benefits to regional communities as they pass through on their annual migration. I’m looking forward to being involved in the 2021 Salmon Slam and to help make it really flourish as a community event next year.”

Staff Members *cont.*



James Florisson – Research and Development Lead

“Over the last 12 months, I have been lucky enough to continue working on the development and expansion of the artificial reef network in WA to create more fishing opportunities. I have enjoyed working with fishers on the ground right through to government officials in Canberra. I have recently been exploring alternative ways of creating artificial reefs using man-made structures already in the water to decrease the costs of artificial reefs to our community and get even more structures in the water! It has been a busy and rewarding year completing State and Federal approvals for artificial reefs as well as researching the great benefits our current reefs have on fish communities. All of our reefs are continuing to deliver. Highlights include seeing Exmouth's King Reef with 90 different fish species now calling it home after only one year and Cooper Reef in Esperance showing some pretty epic species such as big Samson fish, nannygai and queen snapper. While it's been a productive and enjoyable 12 months, I can't wait for the coming year with plenty of amazing projects in the pipeline that will truly turn the dial for recreational fishing in WA.”



Steph Watts – Research Team

“This year we launched a new partnership with BHP for the Exmouth Reef Vision project which is focused on expanding the community monitoring program. We also presented at the National Recreational Fishing Conference held in Hobart on the Reef Vision projects around the State, showcasing the good work that our volunteers contribute and the positive results that our reefs provide to a national audience. Our volunteers devote so much of their time to the program to learn more and help us to design and deploy more effective reefs. I'm excited by the even bigger momentum that Recfishwest has gained over the past year and I'm already looking forward to making a positive contribution to our community and helping create exciting new fishing opportunities in the year ahead.”



Sam Bock – Research Team

“The last 12 months have been huge for me, marking my first year here at Recfishwest. I am fortunate enough to have been involved in many exciting projects and events in this time. One of many highlights for me was travelling to Onslow for consultation on a new artificial reef. This project is the first of its kind for Australia, repurposing steel tripod platforms to retain and enhance important fish habitat. It was so rewarding to be able to travel this unique part of our State and work with the local recfishing community towards making it a reality.”

Staff Members *cont.*



Ben Carlish – Communications Lead

"Where do I begin? My first year here at Recfishwest has been the best 12 months of my career by a country mile. Working with dedicated 'can-do' people, who are truly passionate about making recfishing better for our State's 750,000 anglers, has been exhilarating. It's been a privilege to help communicate some of the great outcomes achieved for the recfishing community – the roll-out of the State-wide trial FADs program, the launch of an extensive trial marron stocking program, bigger and better than ever Troutfest and Snapper Guardians community events, the Awesome Autumn of Salmon and standing up as an organisation and providing leadership for the recfishing community throughout the COVID-19 crisis – there really is never a dull moment working at Recfishwest. I can't wait to see what's in store for the next 12 months!"



Alanna Ellison – Operations Team

"Our face-to-face activities are always a highlight for me. I get a great deal of enjoyment from coordinating the State-wide SunSmart Fishing clinic program, working alongside our passionate fishing clinic instructors and providing opportunities for families to experience the joys of fishing. I also take great pride in implementing the Western Australian Fishing Safety Strategy by working with land managers, Government agencies, key partners and the fishing community to develop and promote initiatives that bring fishers home safe."



Nicholas Drummond – Operations Team (Left the team in January 2020)

"My highlight for the year was seeing all the young fishers having their first experience with catching or holding a trout at the 2019 Troutfest event. The way the children's faces lit up with excitement and awe at holding and releasing a fish or the look of a proud parent hooking up and handling the rod to their child will always resonate with me."



Sedin Hasanovic – Operations Team

"The biggest highlight for this year at Recfishwest was assisting with the preparation and planning of the Awesome Autumn of Salmon. Being able to set up web pages for the diverse range of prizes, media output and creating content for a \$331 million dollar industry was rewarding. Of course, COVID-19 sadly led to the premature wrapping up of the event. On the plus side, I've been able to help lay the groundwork for an even better upcoming Awesome Autumn of Salmon in 2021!"



Staff Members *cont.*



Mike Minutillo – Operations Team

"This year was full of highlights for me, but the standout would have to be graduating from university and landing a job with Recfishwest where I get to work on projects I'm passionate about in a field with which I'm obsessed. For as long as I can remember, I have listened to the Saturday morning ABC radio fishing report, so I was very excited and proud to be asked to present the report on behalf of Recfishwest and share my fishing knowledge with others."



Zach Relph – Communications Officer

"Since joining the Recfishwest team in June, I have enjoyed a quick-fire introduction to Recfishwest's important role as the State's leading recreational fishing body. In my role as a communications officer, helping share important safe fishing messages and keeping the State's fishing community up to speed with developments in the recfishing advocacy space has been rewarding. I have quickly learnt to appreciate the role we play to ensure enjoyable fishing experiences for everyone who wants to wet a line, drop a pot or spear a fish. My introduction to working at Recfishwest has been great so far and I look forward to the 12 months ahead."



Staff Members *cont.*



Ruth Sprague – Membership & Events Officer

"This past year I have enjoyed working closely with our members in helping them make fishing better and continuing to build a trusted community of supporters. Managing the office side of things, the need to maintain good partnerships with our suppliers and partners is as strong as ever. Ensuring all our team could work safely from home during the COVID-19 crisis was another highlight this past year for me. I look forward to what the coming months bring to our members."



Nadin Abougahl – Accounting Assistant

"The biggest highlight would definitely be joining Recfishwest as an Assistant Accountant. I have had the pleasure of working alongside a driven and fast-paced team, that are passionate about the recreational fishing sector. I have been able to combine my passion for fishing with my job, which has been an amazing experience. For the past seven months, I have been able to strive to make fishing better by preparing and examining financial records and by also supporting the Business Support Manager in ensuring the organisation is run efficiently. In doing so, I have been able to expand my knowledge in the accounting industry and have been able to become stronger at what I do. It is an absolute pleasure to be a part of such a dedicated, accomplished and passionate team!"

News & Highlights

3.1 Recfishwest's COVID-19 response

Stepping up and leading from the front

The WA recreational fishing community, charter and tackle industry faced many challenges due to the impacts of COVID-19, with Recfishwest playing a key leadership role during the declared State of Emergency, providing much-needed advice and support around fishing during the crisis.

“Can I go fishing?” was the second most searched question online during COVID-19 restrictions.





There was a notable vacuum of clear advice around whether or not fishing was allowed during COVID-19 and what anglers could do to minimise the risk of contracting and/or spreading infection. Recfishwest obtained clarification directly from the Premier's Office and was able to plug the information gap through our channels. The demand for our online frequently asked questions page was so high when we published, it crashed our website! Government agencies and the Minister for Fisheries shared Recfishwest's information and Recfishwest staff carried out multiple radio and newspaper interviews on fishing in COVID-19 restrictions during this phase.

As a result, recfishing was one of the first specified outdoor activities mentioned by the Premier with the gradual relaxation of restrictions, showing the Government's recognition of recfishing's economic importance and as an activity promoting good mental health and wellbeing.

Behind the scenes, we worked closely with Government to develop a recfishing economic recovery package aligning with our vision for recfishing and strategic plan to restore the \$2.4 billion recfishers spend on recfishing annually. This ultimately led to the Premier Mark McGowan and Fisheries Minister Peter Tinley joining Recfishwest Chairman Tim Bray and CEO Dr Andrew Rowland to announce a recfishing recovery stimulus package worth \$6 million (although this announcement fell out of the reporting period for this report). We also worked closely with the local tackle industry and charter industry offering support and helping promote a 'buy local campaign' through our website, e-newsletters and social media channels.

3.2 Representation & Consultation

Recfishwest effectively represents the views of the recreational fishing community by engaging with recreational fishers and stakeholders through regional consultation activities, surveys, meetings with clubs and individuals, correspondence, reference groups, association and industry working groups as well as representing and promoting recreational fishing interests on various committees and at selected workshops and events.

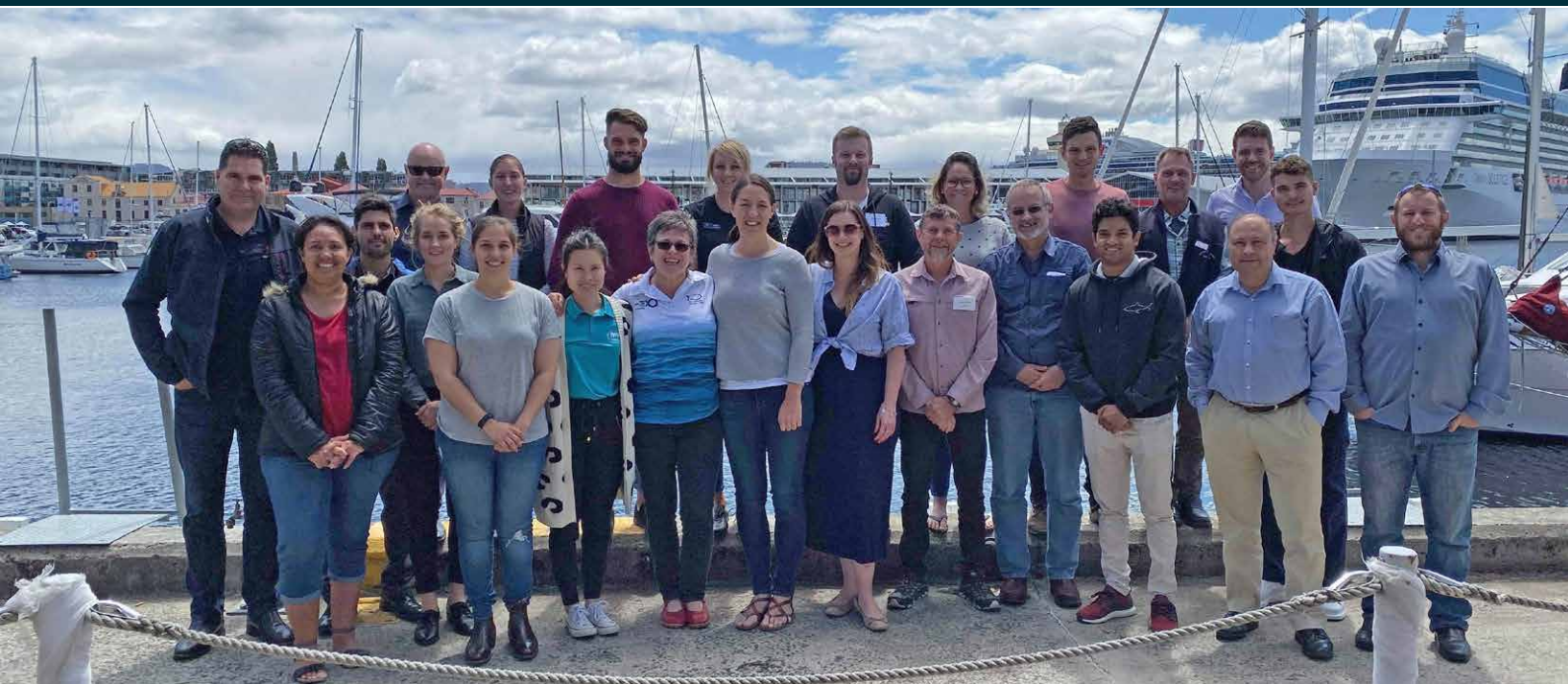
This engagement has allowed Recfishwest to provide the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Fisheries Minister Peter Tinley with qualified consolidated advice on a range of recreational fishing-related issues. At the same time it has allowed Recfishwest to communicate changes in fisheries management directly to stakeholders.

As part of this representation and advice, Recfishwest continues to:

- Promote the interests of the recreational fishing sector;
- Provide strategic leadership for the recreational fishing sector on matters of significance;
- Raise community awareness in respect of recreational fishing issues;
- Raise sector awareness on a variety of recreational fishing issues;
- Provide support for Recfishwest members;
- Provide co-ordinated sector advice and;
- Negotiate on behalf of the sector and provide a forum for negotiation/mediation.



Recfishwest use direct contact with our community to collectively gauge the attitudes, drivers, beliefs and aspirations of WA's estimated 750,000 recreational fishers.



3.2.1 | Putting a price on the West Aussie salmon fishing experience

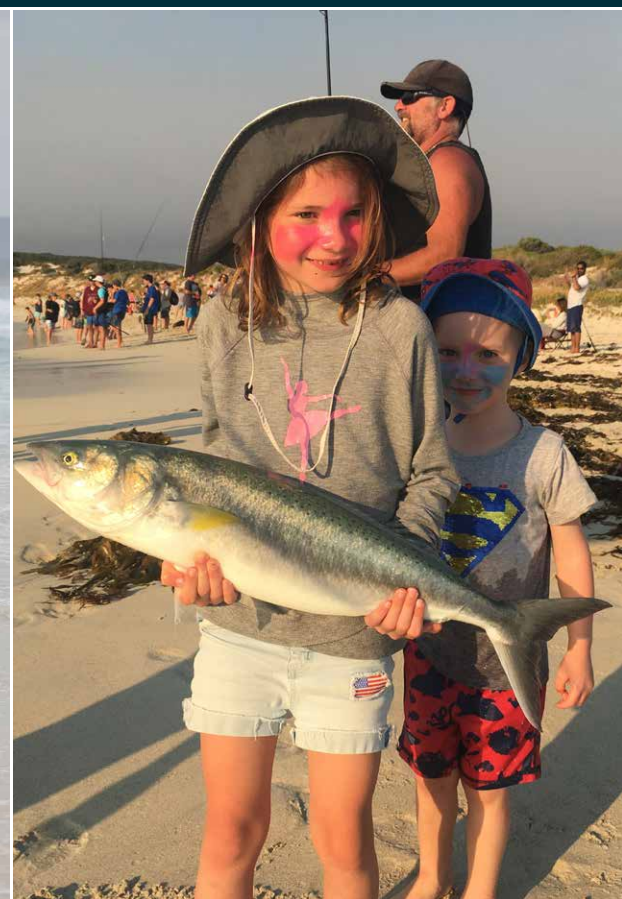
Building on the success of last year's Economic Dimensions report, which was announced by the Premier and revealed WA recfishers spend \$2.4billion on fishing every year, a similar study was carried out into the economic benefits of recreational salmon fishing in WA. Funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund, the report demonstrated West Aussies spend \$331 million on recreational salmon fishing every year.

Recfishwest CEO Dr Andrew Rowland and Chairman Tim Bray along with members of the local fishing community, including Western Angler editor and Sunday Times fishing columnist Scott Coghlan, were joined by the Premier and Fisheries Minister to announce the results of the report at a media event in Albany, as well as launching our Awesome Autumn of Salmon program of events.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the various events planned for the Awesome Autumn of Salmon including the Salmon Slam, the Albany Salmon Spectacular and our Great Southern Salmon Campout had to be cancelled for 2020. The program had already generated a significant amount of interest from the fishing community and support from the tackle industry before being cancelled – this has only strengthened Recfishwest's determination to deliver an even more Awesome Autumn of Salmon in 2021.

The salmon fishing economics report outlines how a large proportion of the \$331 million is spent in the Great Southern and South West, providing a major boost for the WA regional economy. The report goes on to build a picture of how the migrating schools of salmon bring with them a migration of anglers, who explore towns nestled along the coast spending money on fuel, bait, lures, fishing gear, food, drinks, accommodation, camping gear and clothing.

A further break-down of the spend shows \$251 million is spent locally at fishing destinations with \$159 mill spent on local accommodation alone each season by the visiting salmon fishers.





“The salmon season is a fantastic time of year – salmon are a complete package when it comes to a sportfish, they travel in big numbers, happily hit lures and are fun and easy to catch for all fishers.”

– Scott Coghlan, Owner of Western Angler Magazine





“Having the State Premier recognise the economic value that the annual salmon migration along the South West coast brings to regional WA every year is a great step forward in ensuring the abundance of these superb sportfish is protected.”

– Recfishwest CEO, Dr Andrew Rowland



Economic Value of Salmon

Amount spent locally
at fishing destinations

\$251 mil

\$331 mil

is spent annually on recreational
salmon fishing in WA

Average daily spend per person

by salmon beach-fisher

\$132

by salmon
boat-fisher

\$186

If recreational fishers made an additional 1,000
shore-based salmon fishing trips and 500 boat-
based salmon fishing trips annually, they'd spend
enough money in the regional economy to create

11 full-time jobs in
Augusta/Margaret River

7 full-time
jobs in Albany

\$460

Average fishing
trip spend by
salmon beach-fisher

3.5 days

Average length
of fishing trip by
salmon beach-fisher

Each season

75% of salmon caught
are then released by
recreational fishers

0 25 50 75 100

Visit recfishwest.org.au for more

3.2 Representation & Consultation *cont.*

3.2.2 | Support for the WA recfishing tackle and charter industries



The recfishing industry took a hard hit this year with COVID-19 affecting businesses, especially in regional areas.

Boosting regional and metro economies became a priority to help the struggling industry.

Various communications and representation activities were undertaken encouraging locals and travellers to get back out there post-COVID to wet a line and stimulate the economy.

3.2.3 | Recfishers' experiences with Shark bite-off



The shark bite-off issue continues to be the number one issue impacting recfishers' fishing experiences in the north of the State.

A new RFIF funded project is seeking to explore solutions to bite-offs with a focus on surveying the views of recfishers and charter boat operators announced by DPIRD.

Recfishwest continues to advocate for the issue to be addressed with good data and science.



Photo by: Ethan Yeo



Photo by: Josh Atkinson

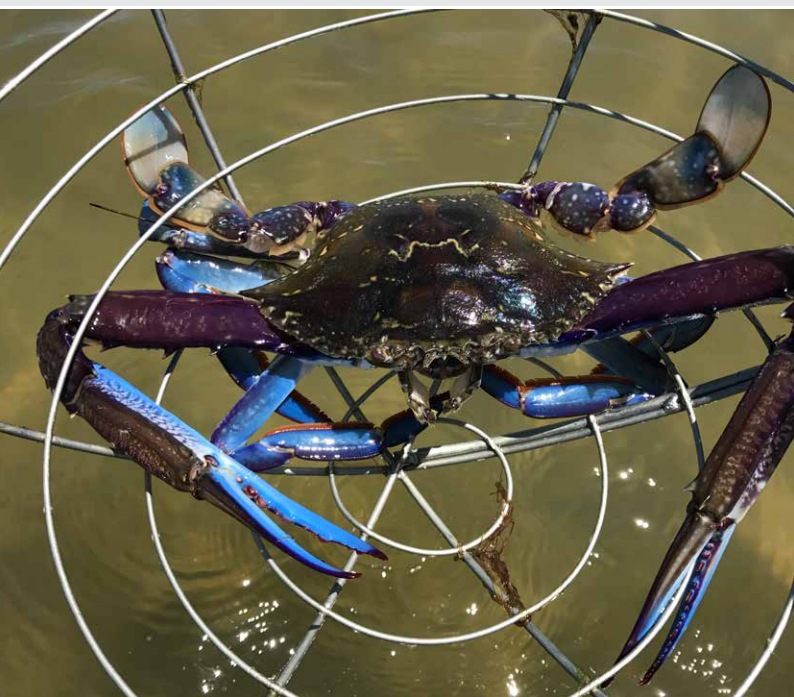
3.2.4 | A step towards bigger, better crabs in Perth and the South West

- Negotiation between Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC), Southern Seafood Producers WA (SSPWA) and Recfishwest led to positive management changes for the South West crab resource.
- The significant reform represented a watershed moment in the management of the crab fisheries in Perth and the South West.
- The changes are offering much more protection for the female crab breeding stock securing a more resilient recreational crab fishery with more, bigger crabs and a better crabbing experience for everyone.

Management changes overview

- Permanent removal of commercial fishing licences in Cockburn and Warnbro Sounds and from Mandurah to Bunbury through a buy-back scheme will ensure more protection for the female crab breeding stock and more crabs and bigger crabs to fish for.
- The buy-back of commercial fishing licences in Cockburn Sound opens the real possibility for recreational crab fishing in the Sound.
- Introduction of a three-month seasonal closure – 1 September to 30 November – in all waters from the Swan and Canning Rivers (inclusive) to 15km south of Bunbury.

Protecting a prized part of the WA lifestyle



What the blue swimmer crab changes in Perth and the South West mean for you

Swan/Canning River

- Bag limit of five crabs, boat limit stays the same at 20.
- Introduction of a seasonal closure – 1 September to 30 November.

Cockburn Sound

The buy-back of commercial fishing licences in Cockburn Sound opens the real possibility for recreational crab fishing in the Sound in the near future.

Peel/Harvey Estuary

- Bag limit of 10 crabs and boat limit of 20 stays the same.
- Seasonal closure extended by a month – now running from 1 September to 30 November.
- The closure extension will mean more quality crabs to fish for in December once they've had a chance to complete their spring moults.

Oceanic Waters

- Bag limit of 10 crabs and boat limit of 20 stays the same.
- Introduction of a seasonal closure – 1 September to 30 November.
- Buy-back of 15 commercial fishing licences will result in the permanent closure of commercial fishing in these oceanic waters and give more protection to the female crab breeding stock.

Leschenault Estuary

- Bag limit of 10 crabs, boat limit stays the same at 20.
- Introduction of a three-month seasonal closure – 1 September to 30 November.

Geographe Bay

- Bag limit stays the same at 10 crabs (but now with a maximum of five females) and boat limit stays the same.
- No seasonal closure.
- Introduction of a female crab limit will offer more protection to the female crab breeding stock resulting in more crabs, bigger crabs and better crabbing in the near future.



3.2.5 | Better protection for pink snapper in Cockburn Sound

- Cockburn Sound's pink snapper stocks are one of the most important fish stocks in WA – these waters are home to the largest spawning aggregations of this species on the West Coast.
- Recfishwest was pleased to play a leading role in management changes to increase protection for spawning snapper in and around Cockburn Sound.
- The extended closure period and area was well received by the majority of anglers.



3.2.6 | Taking the Westport Taskforce to task

- Recfishwest joined the Westport Taskforce's Reference Group and also secured a position on its environmental working group in 2017 due to our concerns on the potential impacts on snapper and crab populations as well as concerns about how any development will affect fishing access and safety.
- We continued to provide Westport with information about the social, economic, recreational and environmental values that Cockburn Sound, Fremantle and Bunbury provides for recreational fishing in order to help them make informed recommendations to Government.
- After several years of participating in the Westport process we wrote to Ports Minister Alannah MacTiernan expressing our concern about the Westport process advising the Minister of our disappointment that we cannot see how our input has been incorporated into the decision-making process of the Taskforce.
- We reiterated our concern the Westport Taskforce has prioritised economics over the environment and shown little transparency in their decision-making processes.





Photo by: Alex Ho

3.2.7 | West Coast Demersal Scalefish recovery mid-way point



DPIRD's latest research summary showed that there were some good signs of recovery but limited evidence of recovery of demersal scalefish stocks in the Mid West and Kalbarri areas.

Recfishwest promoted continued responsible stewardship of the resource urging anglers to ensure released fish go back as healthily as possible using release weights and to move on and target other non-demersal fish species once bag limits have been reached.

We also encouraged fishers to donate their fish frames or demersal fish heads to DPIRD's Send Us Your Skeletons program to ensure fisheries scientists have a solid sample set on which to base their next stock assessment.

3.2 Representation & Consultation *cont.*

3.2.8 | Environmental review for Subsea 7 – Learmonth Bundle Site Exmouth



The Exmouth Gulf is one of the State's few remaining accessible wilderness areas in Western Australia.

Its productive and biodiverse waters attract dedicated sportfishers from around the country and around the world.

Recfishwest is concerned the Subsea 7 proposal will reduce access to this area and adversely impact the highly valued wilderness experiences the area currently provides.

3.2.9 | South West trout stocking



Licence fee revenue is used to stock selected WA waterways with trout.

Stocked trout provide anglers a unique opportunity to chase prized fish amidst the spectacular scenery of the South West.

Recfishwest provided 2020 stocking recommendations to DPIRD in consultation with the freshwater fishing community and reference groups/committees.



3.2.10 | Three-year rock lobster charter trial

- Recfishwest worked with our Rock Lobster Reference Group and Marine Tourism WA to develop a proposal for a three-year trial allowing the charter sector to play a significant role in increasing the availability of western rock lobster to the WA public.
- Good news for those who don't have the means to catch a feed of crays, such as non-boat owners, young children, families, the elderly or people with disabilities.

3.2.11 | Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Resource (GDSR) Recovery Plan

- A stock assessment in 2017 indicated a risk to pink snapper numbers in the region – plotting out a recovery 'road map' became a focus for Recfishwest, DPIRD and the commercial fishing sector.
- Initial management changes which included a spawning closure north of Bernier Island was supported by 96 per cent of the community.

3.2.12 | Peel-Harvey Resource sharing

- As part of the McGowan Government's election commitment, former Fisheries Minister Dave Kelly announced a 'buy-back' scheme – known as a Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme (VFAS) – for commercial fishing licences in the Peel-Harvey Estuary.
- Reallocation of blue swimmer crabs and yellowfin whiting from the commercial to the recreational sector was welcomed and will go a long way to restoring the balance in this system.
- The VFAS scheme has led to a 40 per cent reduction of commercial fishing effort in the Peel-Harvey Estuary.



Photo by: Han Yeoh



3.2 Representation & Consultation *cont.*

3.2.13 | Town of Cottesloe proposal to ban wire trace



Proposals were put forward to the public to prohibit fishing with wire traces within its beach and beach reserves. Forty-two out of 50 community submissions opposed the proposed ban, including Recfishwest.

Recfishwest advocated that State-based Fisheries legislation is and should remain the overriding legislation governing fisheries in Western Australia with the introduction of bylaws like this unfairly impacting on anglers targeting tailor and mackerel who sometimes use wire traces.





3.3 Fishing Development

Recreational fishing in WA is enjoyed by an estimated 750,000 West Aussies each year – playing an important role in our metro and regional communities.

Our partnerships with community groups and organisations helps to make fishing better. Through these key partnerships, we are able to direct recreational fishing licence money back into community projects that significantly enhance recreational fishing experiences. Here are some of the 2019/20 projects making fishing better for the WA community.

3.3.1 | State-wide Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) trial program opens up new sportfishing options for WA

- Working in conjunction with local fishing clubs, such as the Perth Game Fishing Club, Recfishwest developed and deployed a network of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) off the coast of Perth and several WA regional centres as part of a three-year trial program.
- FADs have been used across Australia and off the coasts of places such as Costa Rica and Hawaii to great effect to enhance sportfishing opportunities for spectacular-fighting pelagic species such as dolphinfish, tuna, billfish and mackerel.
- Funded by recfishing licence fees through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF), this is exactly how RFIF funds should be spent – as seed money to test ground-breaking projects. These are projects that create great fishing opportunities and for which there is high demand and support within the recfishing community.



We're really excited to be able to deliver this trial program, build our understanding and expertise in this space and be in a stronger position to source future investment in FADs from recfishing licence money and, potentially, from industry sponsors.



Fabulous FADs open up a wealth of sportfishing opportunities

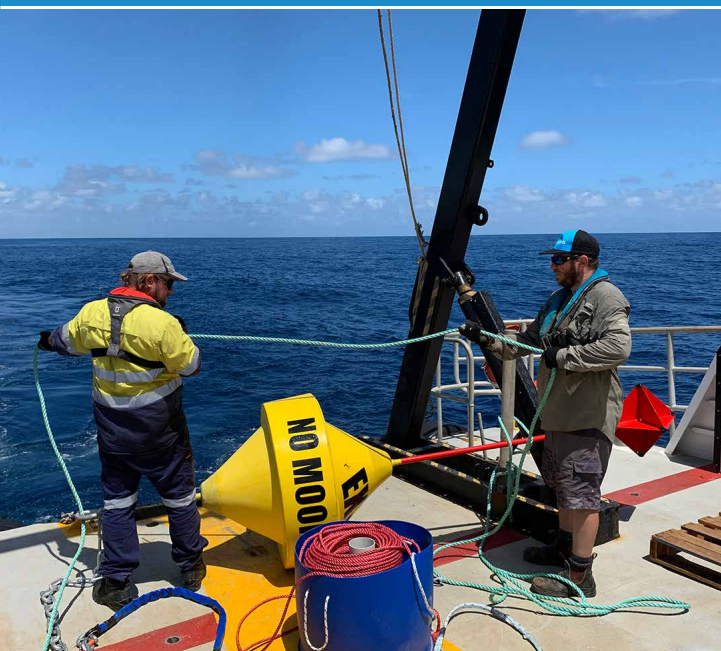


Photo by: Jade Suzanne



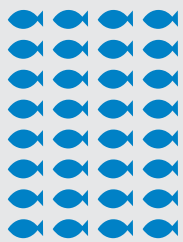
Photo by: Marco Frascetti

3.3 Fishing Development *cont.*

Recfishwest will continue to develop the trial program and strongly make the case for establishing a State-wide FADs program as a permanent part of the WA fishing landscape.

3.3.2 | A big step forward to year-round marroning

- A trial marron stocking program was announced by the Premier, Fisheries Minister and Recfishwest at a special community marron stocking event at Harvey Dam.
- 300,000 marron are set to be released into South West dams in the next three years.
- The program has great potential to future-proof the ever-popular South West fishery and provide more opportunities to fish.



300,000

**MARRON ARE SET TO BE
RELEASED INTO SOUTH
WEST DAMS IN THE NEXT
THREE YEARS.**

This is a step forward to making ours and the community's vision of year-round marroning become a reality.



3.3.3 | Lake Kununurra brimming over with barra



Ongoing barramundi stocking is creating amazing fishing experiences and benefiting the local community.

The lake is quickly establishing itself as a world-class barramundi fishing location.

Local anglers are reporting catches of fish averaging more than a metre.



A further 200,000 juveniles were released in 2019/20, bringing the total of barramundi stocked into Lake Kununurra since 2013 to 850,000.

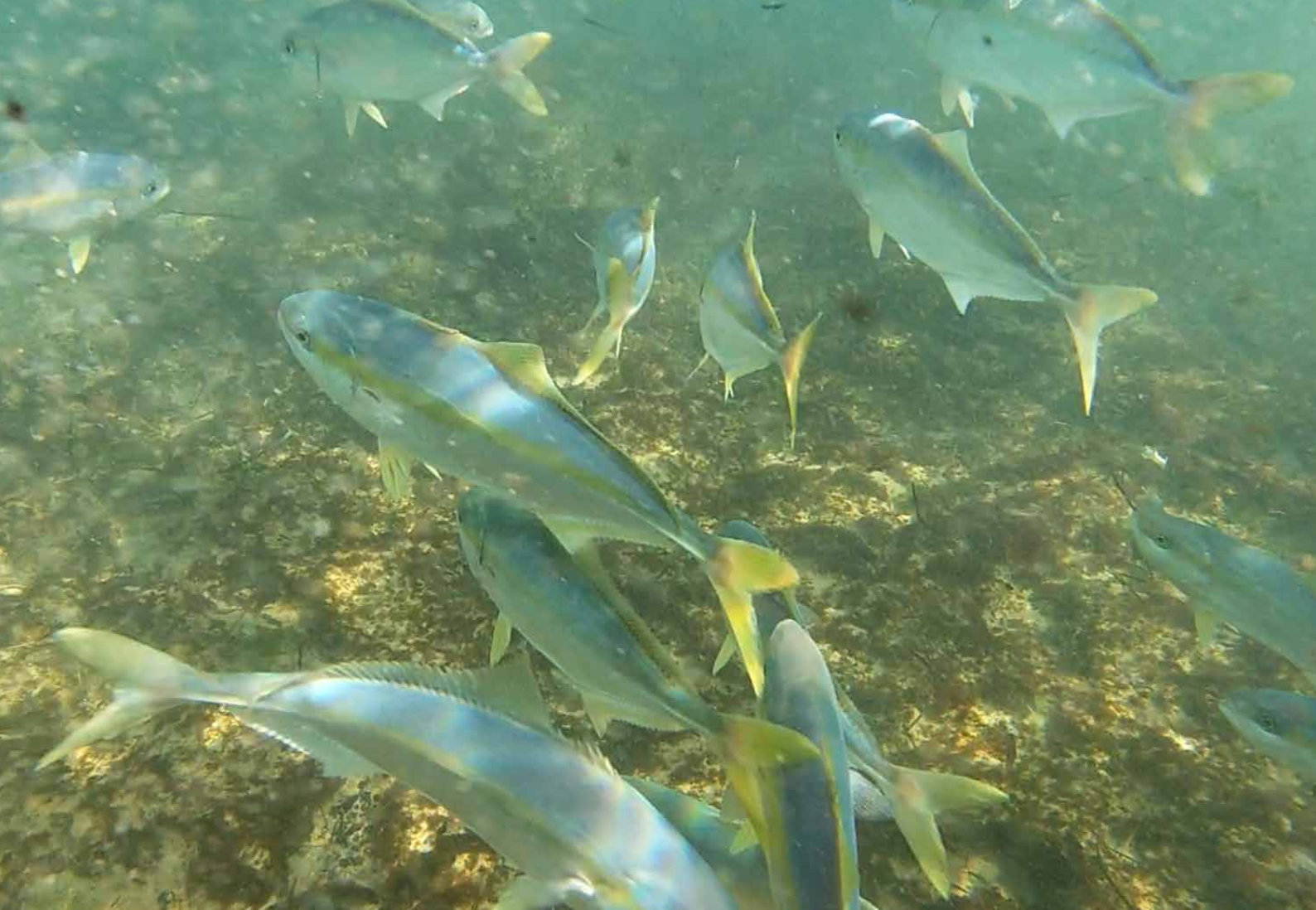
3.3.4 | State-of-the-art recreational fishing friendly jetty in Esperance

- This was a great win for local fishers with the Shire of Esperance announcing a tender to replace the old Esperance Tanker Jetty with a new state-of-the-art structure.
- Recfishwest recommendations were taken on board with recreational fishing accessibility and fishing experience-enhancing features added to the design.
- A safe and accessible fishing platform in Esperance will provide the community with a fishing hub; also important for tourism and the local economy.

3.3.5 | 5,000 steps forward in developing a yellowtail kingfish stocking program in a WA first

- Metropolitan recfishers' prospects of landing a powerful yellowtail kingfish have been boosted following the release of 5,000 juvenile kingfish from DPIRD's aquaculture facility in Fremantle.
- The release shows it is possible for different sectors to work together to achieve results that serve everyone's interests – and most importantly benefits the WA community as a whole.
- Creating abundant fish stocks is one of Recfishwest's primary focuses to ensure we can future-proof WA's fish stocks against future environmental and human pressures.

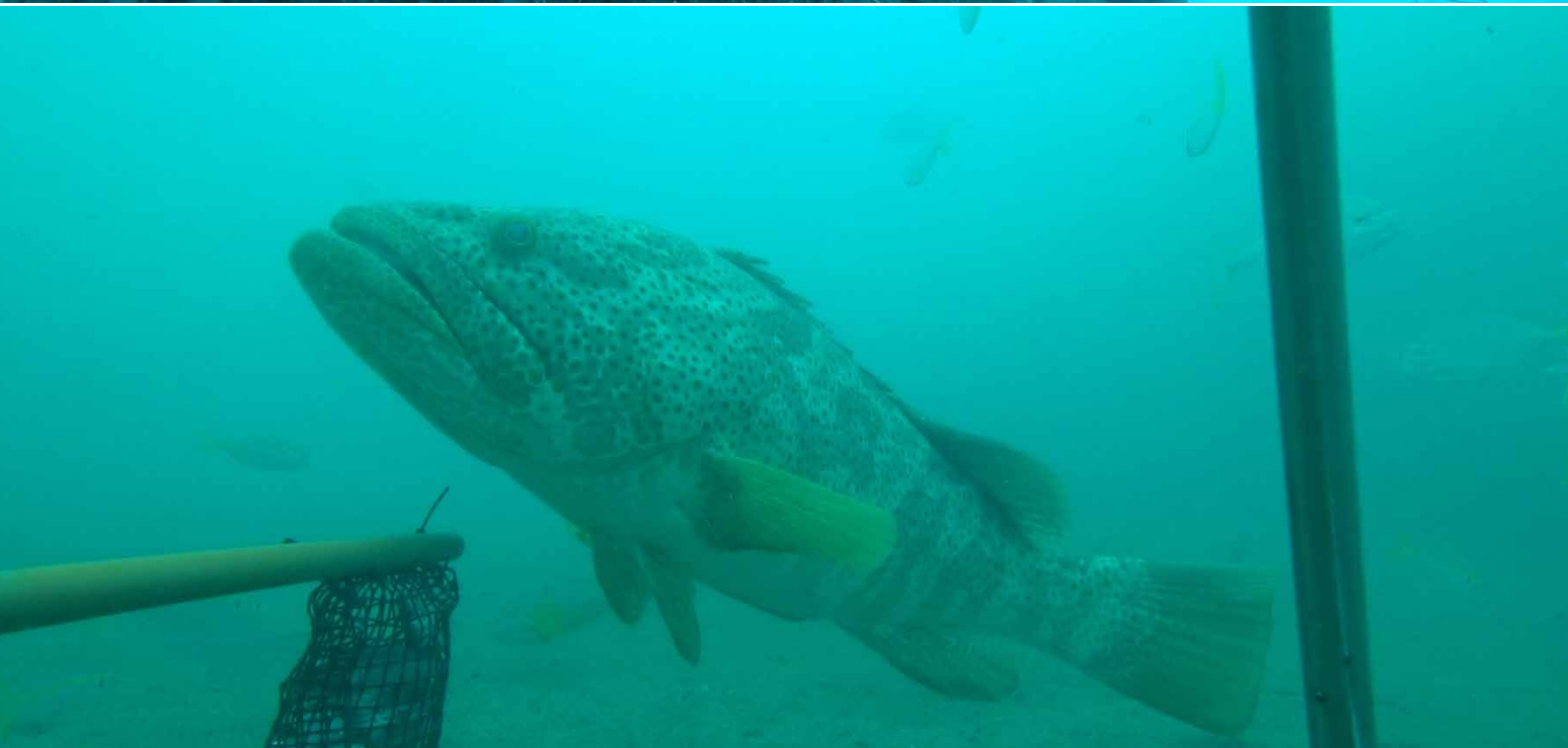




3.3 Fishing Development *cont.*

Recfishwest State-wide artificial reefs

Artificial reefs are rapidly enhancing parts of Western Australia's coastline with six reefs already deployed creating a highly productive habitat for a plethora of fish species. These reefs combined equate to 1,500 tonnes of underwater infrastructure and more than 140,000m² of fish habitat, which provide greater fishing opportunities for fishers. These reefs stretch from as far south as Esperance, right up to Exmouth! Our artificial reef experts, along with our trusted partners, have built extensive artificial reef capabilities and knowledge to ensure artificial reefs have a consolidated place in Western Australia's ongoing conservation of important aquatic habitats.





Bunbury Artificial Reef

Coordinates 33° 18.500'S 115° 35.900'E **Depth** 17 metres
Module Type 30 concrete fish boxes x 6 clusters, additional 90 mixed concrete reef modules



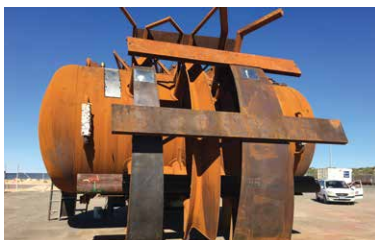
Dunsborough Artificial Reef

Coordinates 33° 33.962'S 115° 9.980'E **Depth** 27 metres
Module Type 30 concrete fish boxes x 6 clusters



Esperance Artificial Reef (Cooper Reef)

Coordinates 33°52.2638'S 121° 58.834'E **Depth** 31 metres
Module Type 128 mixed concrete reef modules x 6 clusters



Exmouth Artificial Reef (King Reef)

Coordinates 21°54.938'S 114° 11.235'E **Depth** 17 metres
Module Type Six steel reef towers, 49 mixed concrete reef modules



Mandurah Artificial Reef Site

Coordinates 32° 31.59'S 115° 34.98'E **Depth** 25 metres
Module Type 30 concrete fish boxes x 6 clusters



Perth Fish Towers

Tower 1 **Coordinates** 32°07.527'S 115° 27.013'E **Depth** 45 metres
Module Type Lattice Steel Structure x 2
Tower 2 **Coordinates** 32°07.461'S 115° 26.978'E **Depth** 45 metres
Module Type Lattice Steel Structure x 2

Artificial reefs provide more places to fish and more fish to catch.

3.3 Fishing Development *cont.*

A vision for artificial reefs opening up an ocean of opportunities for everyone.

3.3.6 | Carnarvon artificial reef takes a big step forward to becoming a reality



WA's newest artificial reef took a step closer following Recfishwest's consultation with Carnarvon's recfishers and community leaders.

The community provided their views on where they wanted the reef and what species they wanted on it.

The new reef, funded through a \$300,000 RFIF grant, will provide new and exciting fishing experiences in close proximity to town for families and tourists with small boats and is well supported by the Shire of Carnarvon and the Carnarvon Chamber Of Commerce and Industry.

3.3.7 | Exmouth's King Reef continues to flourish



The BHP community partnership with Exmouth Game Fishing Club and Recfishwest has led to a flourishing artificial reef, enhancing aquatic habitat and benefiting the WA fishing community.

The Exmouth Reef Vision program funded thanks to BHP creates opportunities for the local community to monitor the development and success of their own reef.

Partnerships like this are crucial to help make fishing better.

BHP





3.3.8 | New artificial reefs program partner – Santos

- Australian natural gas company Santos has become a supporting partner of our artificial reefs program.
- The new partnership is providing additional horsepower supporting our ability to explore new fishing developments and opportunities.
- It's another example of how the community and resources sector can work together to make fishing licence money go further.

Santos



3.4 Events and Community

Recfishwest attends and hosts numerous community events throughout the year. Whether it be stocking fish or introducing families to fishing, we're always striving to protect, promote and develop sustainable, accessible, enjoyable and safe fishing for the benefit of the community.

Thanks to Shimano who are supporting partners of Recfishwest's community events for 2019/20.

Here are some of the face-to-face engagement activities we have been involved in during 2019/20.

3.4.1 | Troutfest 2019 - Celebrating a great fishery



Community stocking event showcasing WA's trout and South West freshwater fishery.

Thousands of trout are released every year as part of a carefully managed stocking program providing flow-on benefits to the regional economy.

The launch of a WA Inland Fisheries Research Advisory Committee is paving the way to a brighter future for the WA trout and freshwater fishery.



SHIMANO





3.4 Events and Community *cont.*

3.4.2 | Snapper Guardians – The biggest and best yet



A proudly community-owned event.

It's an important community-driven initiative showing its support for the fantastic pink snapper fishery on Perth's doorstep.

Thanks to Santos for supporting the 2020 Snapper Guardians event.

Santos

3.4.3 | Recfishwest community awards



A recognition of unsung heroes in the recfishing community.

It reflects the dedicated, passionate and hard work of the thousands of people who give their time to help make fishing better in WA.





All photos by: WellStrategic



3.4.4 | National Recreational Fishing Conference 2020

- Citizen science, data collection and the importance of advocacy echoed in presentations over the two-day conference.
- Two Recfishwest staff members received a recfishing research bursary to give a presentation on the work Recfishwest is doing. Our King Reef project in Exmouth was shortlisted for the Project of the Year award.

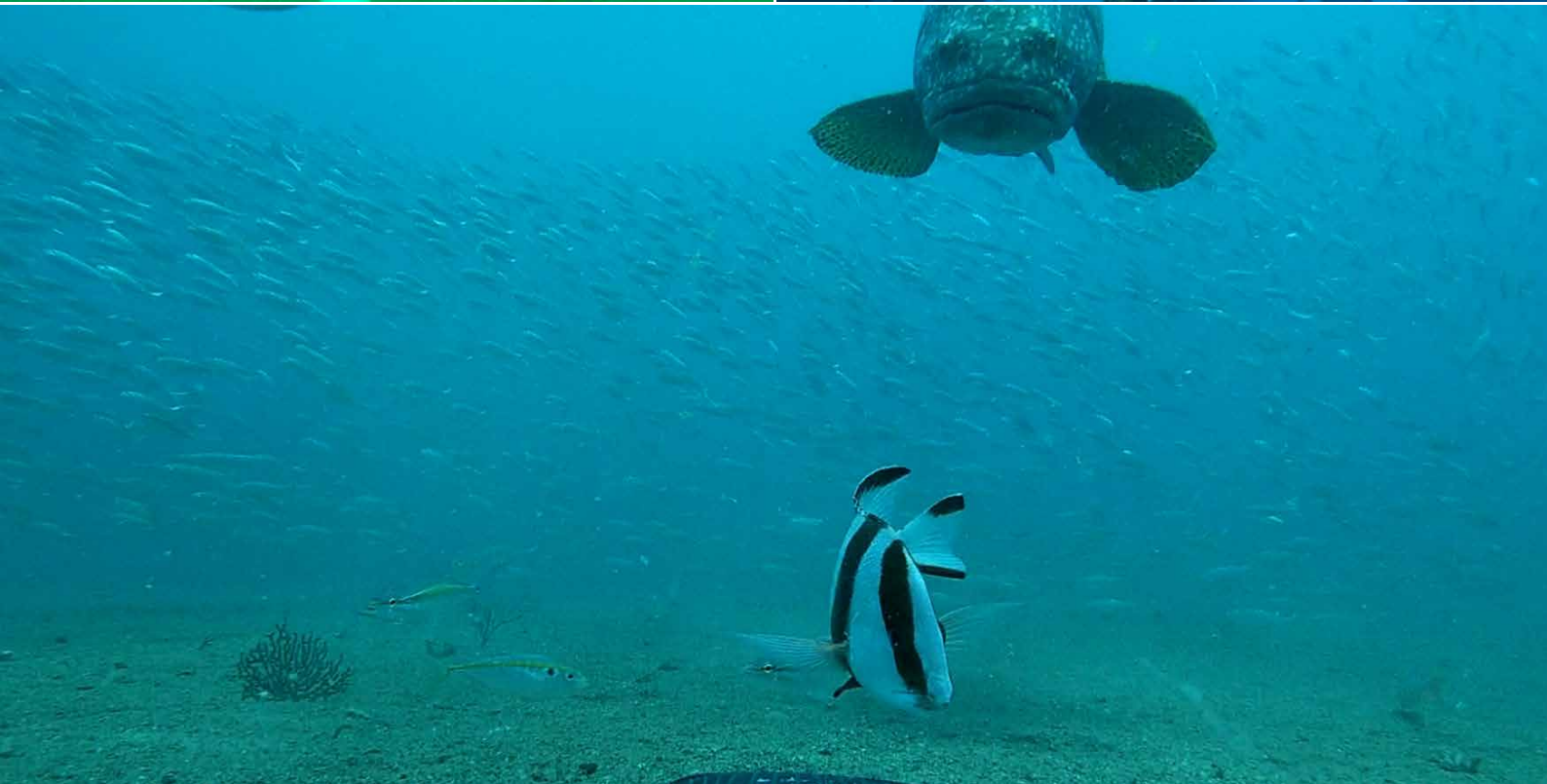
3.4.5 | Kids, community and fishing all winners in the Kalbarri Annual Whiting Competition

- Regional fishing event giving kids the opportunity to fish in a safe, accessible and fun environment, bringing benefits to the participants and local community.
- Running for more than 30 years, with funding support from the Recfishwest Community Grants program, the event captures a strong community spirit with volunteers and locals ever-eager to help out and donate time and prizes.

3.4.6 | State-wide Reef Vision Program

- Community-based citizen science program helping researchers monitor the effects and benefits of artificial reefs.
- More than 100 active recfishers provide data and video footage to the Reef Vision program.
- Thanks to industry and community partners for powering Reef Vision in these regions.





3.4 Events and Community *cont.*

3.4.7 | Awesome Autumn of Salmon



Premier Mark McGowan announced salmon recfishing is worth \$331 million to WA economy every year which kick-started a bonanza of Recfishwest salmon fishing events in celebration, including a free three-month long competition through a specially designed app, Salmon Spectacular event and the Great Southern Salmon Campout event.

The abundance of salmon underpins the fantastic recfishing experience and the social and economic value the species provides for the WA community.

“Fishing for one of the world’s best and most accessible sportfish – the mighty West Aussie salmon – off some of the world’s best beaches, is one of the truly iconic WA fishing experiences enjoyed by tens of thousands of WA fishing families every year.”

– Recfishwest CEO Dr Andrew Rowland.





3.4 Events and Community *cont.*

3.4.8 | Cockburn Sound seagrass restoration project



Project aimed to reseed seagrass beds which provide critical foraging and nursery grounds for pink snapper, whiting, garfish, squid and blue swimmer crabs.

Recfishers stepping up to look after the fish habitats that underpin great fishing experiences.

3.4.9 | Recfishers bag out with a difference in Mandurah



More than 200 volunteers proudly caring for our precious marine environment took part in Mandurah's Reel It In clean-up day.

Recfishers are strong advocates for healthy aquatic environments and care for the environment in which we fish.

3.4.10 | Recfishwest at Perth Boat Show



Face-to-face engagement providing opportunity to hear the views of fishers.

Hundreds of passionate fishers shared their concerns and thoughts on a wide variety of fishing-related topics and expressed their support for Recfishwest over the course of the event.



3.3 Events and Community *cont.*

3.4.11 | Lancelin Angling and Aquatic Club's boat safety day



Fishing club-initiated event helping fishers keep on top of trailer, boat and engine maintenance ahead of the summer fishing season.

Great community support from St John WA, Lancelin Volunteer Fire Brigade and Lancelin Volunteer Marine Rescue Team, as well as Recfishwest.

3.4.12 | The 'Striped Mauler' ready to stir up some salmon



Eight-year-old Abigail Meyza's Striped Mauler lure won our 'design your own lure' competition, resulting in Halco producing it as a Recfishwest exclusive members' limited edition Halco Laser Pro 120 lure.

As part of her prize, Abigail was given a private tour of Recfishwest's partner Halco's HQ in Fremantle.



SHIMANO



3.4 Events and Community *cont.*

3.4.13 | State-wide SunSmart Fishing Clinic Program

- This 21-year partnership with Healthway continues to deliver fishing clinics to families and community groups across WA.
- SunSmart messages and on-ground delivery approaches are an integral part of every session.
- Recfishing continues to enrich the lives of hundreds and thousands of West Aussies, getting people outdoors, enjoying sustainable and safe fishing sessions.



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries





3.5 Safe Fishing

Safe fishing continues to be a high priority for Recfishwest and a pillar of our strategic plan.

Recfishwest continues to work tirelessly to promote the need for safe fishing behaviour to be part of every fishing experience. We drive behaviour change towards safe fishing, model safe fishing experiences, provide high-quality safety equipment at a low cost to the recreational fishing community and invest in safety infrastructure across the State.

Unfortunately, not everyone returns home safe at the end of a day's fishing. Rocky coastline, hazardous conditions, slippery surfaces and poor decision-making all play a prevalent role in recreational fishing fatalities in Western Australia.





3.5 Safe Fishing *cont.*

In 2019/20 as part of our State-wide Safe Fishing Strategy funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund we:

- Installed new angel rings near Bremer Bay and Denmark bringing the total number of angel rings installed through our safety program to 76.
- Expanded the Fishing Safety Ambassador Program to connect with even more fishers.
- Undertook specific safety campaigns aimed at promoting fishing from the beach rather than from rocks, safe abalone fishing, freediving safety and our popular Snag It, Tag It program promoting safe fishing for lobster.
- Recfishwest has now provided 2,238 lifejackets to the community and assisted in trading old lifejackets in exchange for the new slimline range as part of the Department of Transport's Old4New lifejacket upgrade program.

Our heartfelt thanks to local communities, land managers, Government agencies and our ambassadors in their continued efforts and support of the State-wide Safe Fishing Strategy.

3.4 Safe Fishing *cont.*

Our Fishing Safety Ambassadors



Simon McLernon
f @SimonMcLernon
Perth



Brody Laroux
f @Blaroux
Perth



Chris & Aaron Dixon
f @Dixonbrothersfishing
Albany



Graham Cooper
Esperance



Scott Coghlan
f @Westernanglermagazine
Albany



Robbie Riches
f @perthfishingsafaris
Perth



Allan Bevan
f @pinksnapper
Fremantle



Li Chen
Perth



Juli-Ann and Vince Broze
f @BrozekMoseying
All over Australia



Fabio Varrone
f @FabFishing&Tours
Denmark



Peter Fullarton
f @TailoredTreks
Lancelin



Gideon Mettam
f @Gido'sLandBasedFishing
Adventures
Albany

3.4 Safe Fishing *cont.*



Recfishwest continues to promote and support the Free Lifejacket Loan Scheme in many tackle stores around the State, allowing recfishers to hire a free lifejacket before they head out fishing.

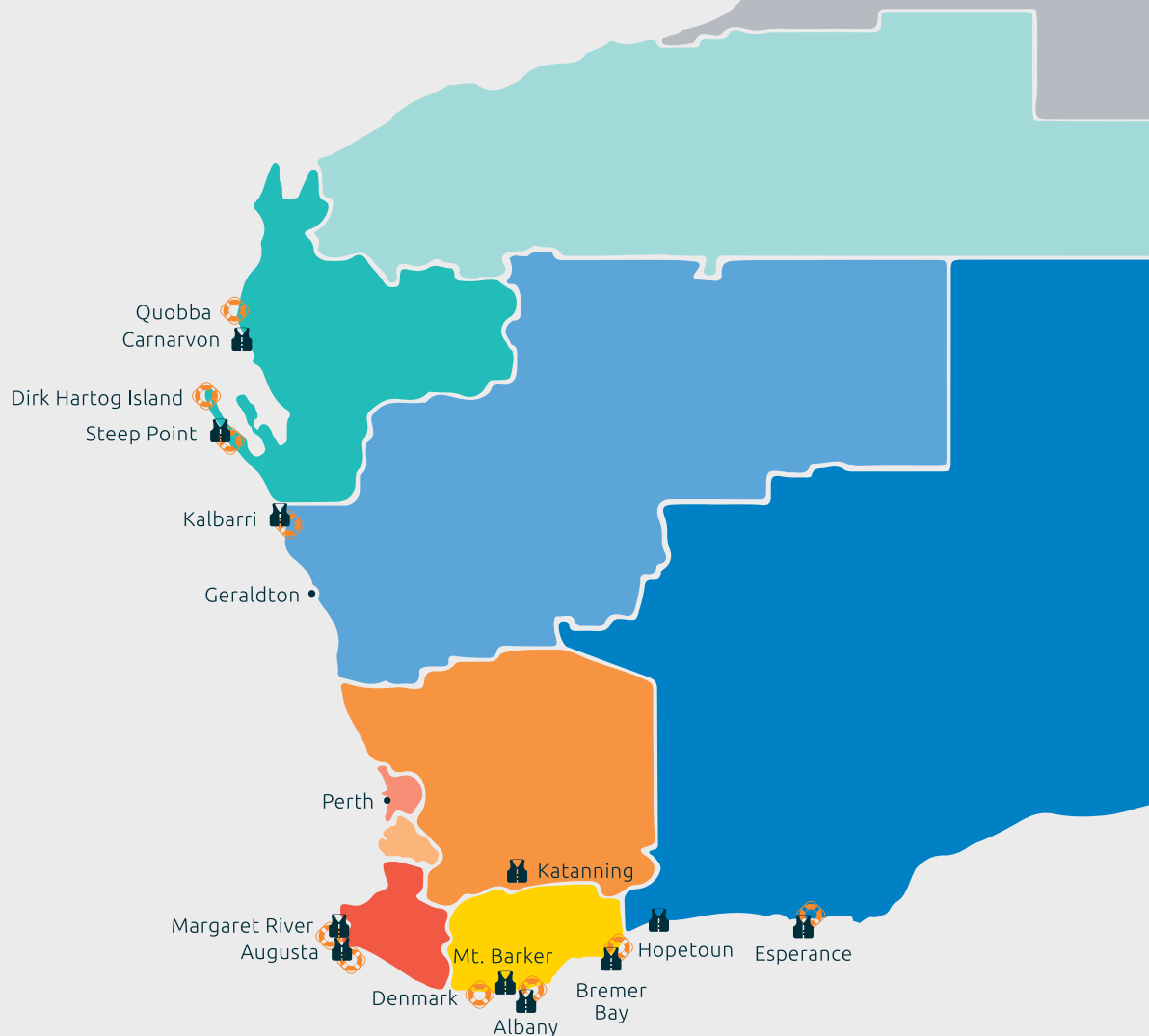
176 LIFEJACKETS

AVAILABLE AT
23 LOCATIONS ACROSS
THE STATE

76 ANGEL RINGS

INSTALLED ACROSS THE SOUTHERN
PARTS OF THE STATE BETWEEN
DUNSBOROUGH AND ESPERANCE

112 ROCK ANCHOR POINTS INSTALLED IN THE SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH COAST

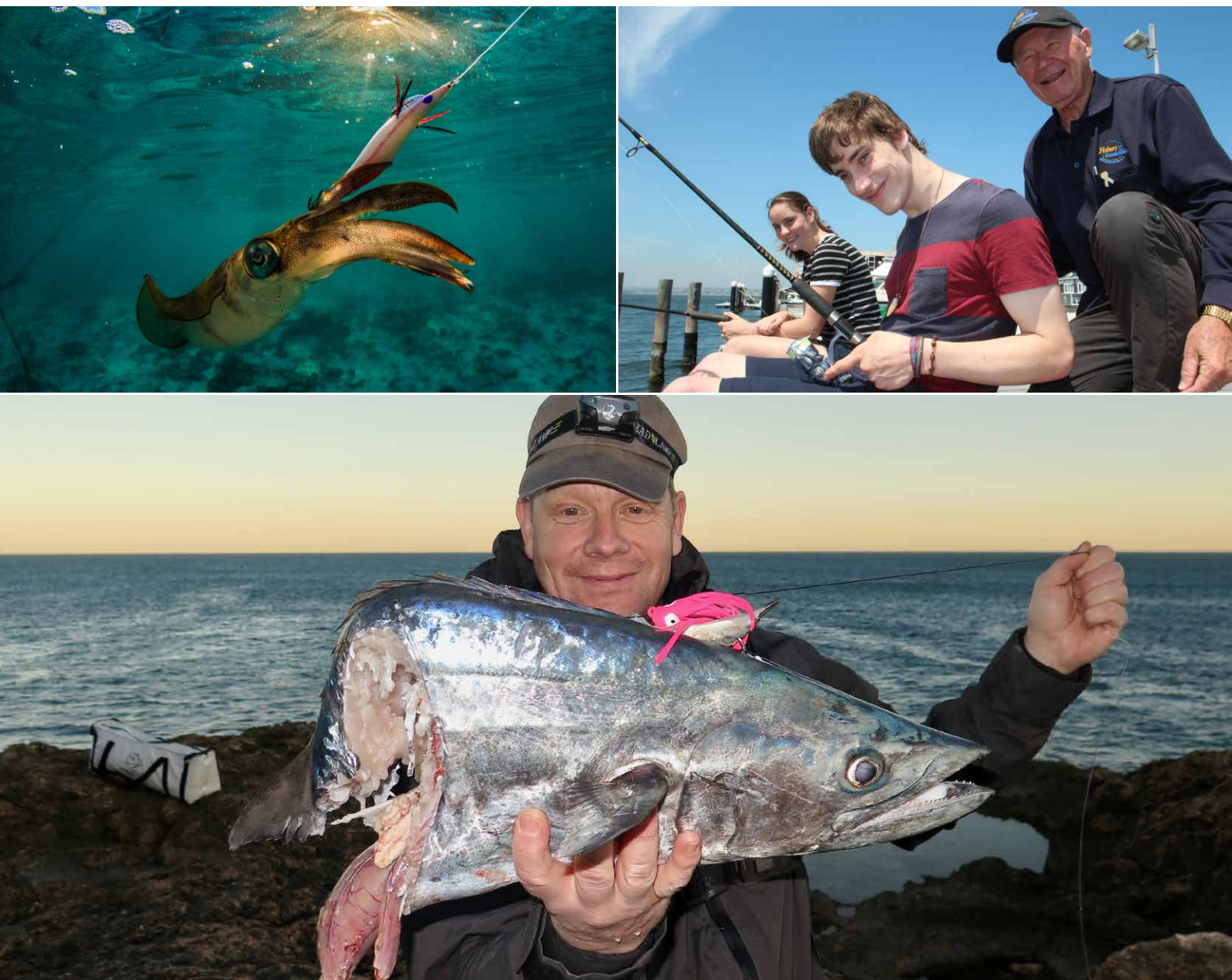


SECTION 4

Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF)

Every year, 25 per cent of recreational fishing licence revenue is allocated to the RFIF.

After a thorough application process which involves input from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, a prioritised list of projects is presented to the Recfishwest Board. The Board provides a recommended shortlist to the Fisheries Minister of those projects adjudged to bring optimum benefit to the recreational fishing community of Western Australia. These projects provide enhancement to WA's recreational fishing sector and are an example of recreational fishers working together with the State Government to ensure recreational fishing licence money provides benefits to the sector.



In Round 8 of the RFIF, the following projects were granted:

Project Title	Grantee
Enhancing the Western Australian marron fishery via strategic stocking and post-release monitoring	Solair Group
Carnarvon artificial reef	Shire of Carnarvon
Showcasing South West estuaries – a valuable community asset	Wells Strategic
Salmon spectacular – an awesome autumn celebration of Western Australian salmon	Recfishwest
School holiday suburban trout and barramundi stocking program	Indo-Pacific Environmental Pty Ltd
Advocacy, Inclusion and Access	Fishability
Determining the economic contribution the fishing charter sector provides to Western Australia	Marine Tourism Western Australia
Shark depredation project	Department of Primary industry and Regional Development – Division of Fisheries
Maximising trout stocking success	Recfishwest
Seeds for Snapper – foster community participation and stewardship	OzFish
Repurposing large woody debris into complex large woody habitat for marron	Ecotone Consulting
The next wave – future leadership in recreational fishing	Affectus
Reel It In - fishing line bin project	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions
Stock enhancement of recreationally important Roe's abalone in the Perth metropolitan fishery	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Enhancing habitat in Cockburn Sound to increase production of the squid	Murdoch University
Encouraging recreational boating safety through marine radio education and awareness in Geraldton, WA	Geraldton Volunteer Marine Rescue Group
Sustaining abalone fisher safety	Surf Life Saving WA

Community Grants

In addition to our role in the recreational fishing large grants process, Recfishwest also administer the Recfishwest Community Grant Program which makes RFIF funding available to community-driven projects that are aimed at enhancing recreational fishing in WA.

This program invests in community projects which deliver highly valued outputs and engender community support for fishing. Since 2011, the Recfishwest Community Grants Program has provided assistance to more than 85 community-based projects.







In 2019/20 the Recfishwest Community grant program funded 27 projects, however, due to COVID-19 halting progress, most of these initiatives will roll over to the next financial year.

Applicant	Project
AAA (WA Branch)	Snag It, Tag It Program continuation
AAA (WA Branch)	First Aid Training and Defibrillator
Ashburton Angler Inc	Junior fishing clinic
Australian Trout Foundation (WA Branch)	Preparation and printing of trout fishing guides: Harvey Waroona irrigation dams and Murray River District
Australian Trout Foundation	Repair of Nanga Brook fish ladder
Bank Angler Angling Club WA Inc (BAAC)	Increase participation project
Beachcombers Angling and Boating Club of WA Inc	Laptop computer for recording club info and digital voice recorder to record meetings for accurate minutes
Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia	Freedive spearfishing safety training
Broome North Fishing Club	Thready Kick Off Competition
Busselton Jetty Inc	Information and interpretive signage for recfishers at Busselton Jetty
Collie Cycle Club Inc	Fishing competition – Collie Labour Day Weekend Festival
Denmark Boating and Angling Club	Rainbow Coast Fishing Competition
Esperance Care Services Inc	Making Memories – ‘Let’s Go Fishing’
Exmouth Game Fishing Club	GAMEX 2020 community engagement package



Fremantle Sailing Club	Fishing gear and tackle to run FSC Kid's holiday clinics
Kalbarri Offshore and Angling Club	Kalbarri Kids Whiting Competition
Lancelin Angling and Aquatic Club	John Bray Classic
Lake Kununurra Barramundi Stocking Group Inc	LKBSG barramundi tags
Mandalay Holiday Resort Family Fishing Competition	Fishing clinic to be held followed by a competition with prize-giving ceremony
Mandurah Heritage and Environmental Group Inc	Black bream stocking program
Mangles Bay Fishing Club	Fish cleaning station
Ocean Park Aquarium	Clean up Steep Point
South East Coast Recreational Fishing Council	Esperance Police CommYouth Centre, Mallee Muster and Family Fishing Fun Day, rock fishing bolts and angel rings installation, service and camera monitoring of new artificial reef
Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA	Drone purchase for club and fishing use
Tackle World Miami	Instore RFW App and recreational licence portal
Volunteer Marine Rescue Service Port Hedland	Marine Rescue Port Hedland Training
West Australian Coarse Angling Club Inc (WACAC)	Development of Golden Ponds match lake

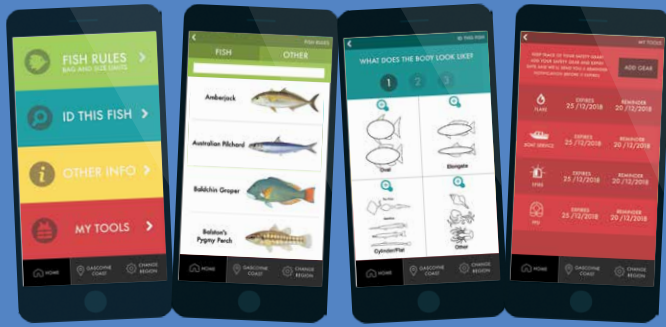
Communications

Reaching Our Community

Recfishwest works hard to help effectively represent the interests of WA's recreational fishers through strong engagement with our grassroots, development of informative and engaging content, regular stakeholder surveys, consistent and clear messaging, well-developed communication plans and strong relationships with various media outlets and stakeholders.



Recfishwest app



134,182+

DOWNLOADS (4.7 million screen views / yr)

10,434

**STATE-WIDE WEEKLY
FISHING REPORT
SUBSCRIBERS**

88,560

**MONTHLY BROADCAST
E-NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS**

Social media channels



22,816
followers

2.2 mil
reach

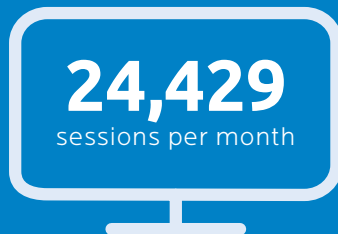


3,170
followers

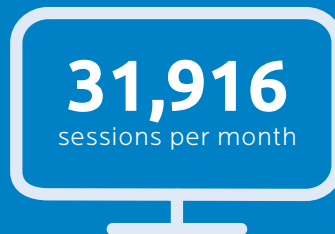


1,107
followers

Recfishwest website



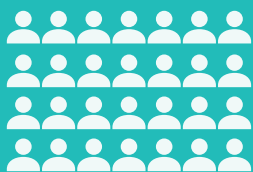
I Love Fishing website



Fish and Survive website



SunSmart Community Fishing Clinic Program



3,700+
PARTICIPANTS AND
SPECTATORS ATTENDED



39
COMMUNITY
CLINICS

15,000+

**LISTENERS TO ABC
RADIO PERTH WEEKLY
FISHING REPORTS
AND UPDATES**

145

REPRESENTATIONS IN THE MEDIA PER YEAR

Face-to-face engagement

10,000+

State-wide fishing tournaments,
community events, regional
activities, fishing club member
events, workshops

Association Reports

Boating Industry Association of Western Australia (BIAWA)

Since 2011, we have enjoyed a growing relationship with Recfishwest that has benefited our members by giving them access to up-to-date information about recreational fishing developments and the important work undertaken by Recfishwest.

We have been pleased to provide Recfishwest with use of our facilities at Burswood Water Sports for meetings and forums. BIAWA continues to work with Recfishwest to provide input on planning and developments to benefit the community, as well as boating and fishing industries.

The strength of Recfishwest and BIAWA's relationship will help progress the work

that still needs to be done on regional Commonwealth marine reserves management plans. In addition to these Commonwealth activities, BIAWA – along with Recfishwest – sits on the State committee which provides advice regarding marine parks. This year, Recfishwest has helped deliver commendable outcomes for WA boating and fishing activities as the State has emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. We would also like to applaud Recfishwest management and staff for their help with events to showcase recreational boating and fishing.

Sheryl Swarbrick
President, BIAWA





Photo by: @dread_or_alive

Western Australian Trout and Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA)

Although the year started off well, who could have predicted how it would slowly unravel due to the coronavirus outbreak? With overseas trips non-existent, many members have turned to local waters to fulfil their fishing itch.

The club is still working on raising its profile in the Pemberton and Manjimup area and will once again donate \$1,000 to the St John Ambulance Pemberton branch. This will take place during the club's competition being held in late September 2020.

The club also followed up on our original letter to the Minister about the lack of Summer Water Flows in our streams and rivers and their proposal to implement a metering system on farm dams. The answers we obtained were somewhat disappointing.

Once again, the club was involved with Recfishwest's Troutfest at Drakesbrook Weir. With the help of many WATFAA members, we were able to offer an insight into fly-casting, fly-tying, soft and hard-bodied lures and generally promote the club.

The day was a great success and we look forward to participating again and with a rearranged date for the first Saturday in October, we are in the process of putting a team together to help out again this year.

Due to COVID-19, the club has had to forgo running the Perch Bash and the Winter Wash competitions this year. The positive side was that restrictions coincided with the quiet time of the freshwater fishing calendar. We have been very lucky in maintaining access to our fishing, compared to some of the other states so let's hope it stays that way. I would like to finish by stating that although it is the club policy on club waters to return our fish, maybe the public fishers should also be encouraged to practice catch and release. It would also be nice to see some kind of policing of our fresh water systems/catchments.

Stewart King
WATFAA President



Australian Angling Association (AAA)

This will be the last time that I present the Annual Report for the Western Australian Division of the Australian Anglers Association. After some 35 years of involvement, it is time to step aside and hand over to a new crew. It has been an interesting time with many changes to the recreational fishing scene in WA. It has had some memorable highlights including the establishment of the WA Recreational Sport Fishing Council. This later changed its trading name to Recfishwest.

This year has been unique in that COVID-19 created a lot of issues for anglers and also caused a lot of concerns. Due to the impact of the virus on the community, scheduled meetings and competitions were cancelled. As a result, there will be no club and individual angling champions as there were not enough participants or competitions to make the program viable.

The AAA National Carnival and Angling Championships were due to be held in Queensland and these also have been postponed until August/September 2021.

Several changes to our competitions were put forward to member clubs earlier in the year including changing our competitions to be 'species-based' competition. These were not adopted, however with the heaviest bag remaining the winning criteria. Consideration was also given to a Catch and Release competition but, again, this was not adopted as several clubs opposed it.

On a positive note, the boating division which runs a 'species-based' competition is going well with planning for the postponed State Offshore Angling Championships. These are to be run in September out of Hillarys Yacht Club.

The State Rock and Beach event was planned for June long weekend at Port Gregory, but was cancelled, again due to COVID-19. The State Estuary Championships held at Walpole in November was deemed to be successful due to the numbers of participants and the quality of fish weighed in.

In keeping with elder demographic of the Association's membership, the State Drycasting Championships, held in October, saw greater numbers in the Veterans Division than any other, but it was encouraging to see that women and children are keen to participate in these events.

I urge more members to step up and lend a hand to ensure that these events continue to be successfully run and enjoyed by all. State and inter-club events don't just happen and if it wasn't for the efforts of a few, the many would not have any events to participate in at all.

In addition to recruitment, the Associations also need to look into personnel and skills development, particularly in the areas of event and risk management. Government departments and local government authorities have become increasingly risk-averse and so it is necessary to address their concerns with professional risk management plans and well-coordinated events. Again, these have to be planned, reviewed and amended to suit the specific requirements of the event.

The WA Division has been thrilled with the installation of artificial reefs for recreational anglers, the stocking of several iconic species such as black bream in rivers and streams of the South West, as well as barramundi in Lake Kununurra. With the efforts of the State Government, DPIRD and Recfishwest there has been a significant effort placed upon angling safety and these organisations are to be congratulated for their efforts in this field.

I firmly believe that with a renewed strategic direction, greater community engagement and a strong drive for change, the Australian Anglers Association can be a stand-out as a prominent community-based fishing organisation; providing avenues to participate in the fantastic, healthy outdoor activity that is recreational fishing.

John Curtis

President, Australian Anglers Association (WA Division)



Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA Western Australia)

This year has been and still is somewhat different to any other during my time as President of the association in WA.

A number of our members in the north at Nickol Bay were very active in the early part of the year with many claims for records successful, a large proportion of these were by juniors who kept their parents on the hop with detailing record paperwork for submission!

A total of 29 State and national records were claimed for the 2019/20 season before the shut-down at the end of March with COVID-19. Twenty-eight were line class claims and one length record.

Record claims granted went to:

- Wade Stenhouse – 1 (senior)
- Jordan Dremel – 1 (junior)
- Jessica Hornhardt – 4 (junior)
- Chloe Hornhardt – 1 (junior)
- Max Grasso – 18 (small fry) 2 (junior)
- Mia Grasso – 1 (small fry)
- One length record was for a Red Emperor to senior angler Ethan Moyle.

Westag is going forward with new developments within the Track My Fish app allowing members to follow their tagged fish, if and when recaptured. We can now also keep up-to-date on monthly data of tagged fish and recaptured fish along with species and quantities all via Periscope within the app. There are more options being added almost monthly, including the national fishing challenge running through the app. This activity is open to all ANSA WA and Westag members and fishing on a national basis with continual updates is fun!

Steve Wiseman

President, ANSA Western Australia



Photo by: Michael Tropiano

West Australian Undersea Club (WAUC)

Spearfishing and freediving in WA is booming in popularity. With more than 350 financial members for the year, we've never seen so many keen enthusiasts jumping out of perfectly good boats to see what's below the surface. Looking at the sport across the world makes it clear the driving force behind the rise in popularity is our unique position of having one of the world's best and well-managed fish resources on our doorstep.

Thanks to the efforts of our members, sponsors and supporters, we were able to run several competitions throughout the State, spanning as far south as Albany and

north to Dampier. We've also facilitated regular talks, presentations and training events to bring the spearo community together and share important knowledge on all things spearfishing and freediving.

The club is likely to keep growing over the next 12 months on the back of spearfishing and freediving's increasing popularity. We look forward to working closely with Recfishwest to drive safety initiatives and training to create more capable and safe divers, while continuing to grow this great sport in WA.

Rory MacLeod
WAUC Chairman



Photo by: Michael Tropiano

Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia (BFWA)

Bluewater Freedivers had a challenging year, as with everyone in the current situation.

We enjoyed our monthly meetings, with discussions of a social spearfishing sense and club issues such as past and upcoming events, environment and records. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we had to cancel three of the planned events.

Subsequently, the club has had a limited number of events this year with the stand-out highlight an event held in Hamelin Bay in December. This event was a weekend enjoyed by all divers and their families in which both boat and shore divers captured a nice range of species including abalone, crayfish, cuttlefish and King George whiting with diver Clint Strickland taking home the number one prize for the second year running.

These fish were then enjoyed by everyone who attended with a huge seafood BBQ and awards presentation.

The pelagic pairs event was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation.

The annual club awards night has been pushed back a bit. However, planning is in place for this to take part in September.

The club currently has 66 paid-up members and is always welcoming to those who would like to join.

Steve Mattaboni
BFWA Secretary



Reference Groups

Recfishwest Reference Groups are comprised of passionate and dedicated fishers who are interested in contributing to the management of fishing in WA by providing advice to the Recfishwest Board on issues associated with specific fisheries. Members apply through an expression of interest process and sit for a three-year term.

Positions on all of Recfishwest's Reference Groups are voluntary, and these members should be recognised and congratulated for giving their time to make fishing better.

Recfishwest's current reference groups and members below:

Freshwater Fisheries Reference Group	Advice on fish stocking locations Marron fishery management
Western Rock Lobster Reference Group	Eight recreational rock lobster licence holders' advice on all aspects of rock lobster management

Freshwater Reference Group



Ian Sewell (*Chair*)



Liam Surridge



Stewart King



Russell Hanley



Peter Fragomini



Glenn Edwards



Nick Davis



Dave McVeigh

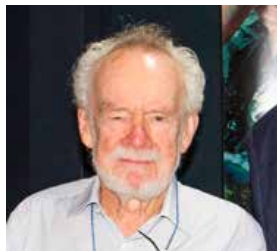


Photo by: Matt Barnes

Western Rock Lobster Reference Group



Bob Urquhart (*Chair*)



Norman Halse



Brian Snook



Michael Heslewood



Ross George



Brody Laroux



Rob Hoefhamer

SECTION 9

Financial Statements & Governance

9.1 Audited Financials



The Board of Directors of Recfishwest is committed to excellence in corporate governance and enhancing the interests of the association's members.





Income and Expenditure Statement

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2020

	NOTES	2020	2019
Income			
Fisheries Grants Received		1,327,316	1,257,300
Other Grants		1,483,145	817,386
Interest Income		8,560	14,155
Membership		23,523	26,010
Other Income		60,741	19,675
Sales		16,842	54,336
Total Income		2,920,127	2,188,863
Expenditure			
Depreciation		35,537	36,029
Motor Vehicles	2	16,570	17,272
Cost of Sales		12,150	38,764
Administration Expenses		302,801	255,546
Communications Expenses		208,976	241,007
Project Expenses		459,653	220,854
Salary and on cost Expenses		1,494,352	1,267,916
Total Expenditure		2,530,040	2,077,388
Current Year Surplus		390,087	111,475

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Balance Sheet

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council As at 30 June 2020

	NOTES	30 JUN 2020	30 JUN 2019
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,313,980	532,552
Trade and Other Receivables	3	291,472	358,114
Inventories		6,198	12,951
Total Current Assets		1,611,651	903,617
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment and Vehicles	4	79,209	96,310
Total Non-Current Assets		79,209	96,310
Total Assets		1,690,860	999,928
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	5	53,199	32,993
GST Payable		36,493	19,999
Payroll Liabilities	6	268,255	234,836
Total Current Liabilities		357,946	287,827
Other Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses		92,600	59,865
Contract Liability		421,080	208,089
Grants in Advance		-	15,000
Total Other Current Liabilities		513,680	282,954
Total Liabilities		871,626	570,781
Net Assets		819,234	429,147
Reserves			
Retained Surplus		819,234	429,147
Total Reserves		819,234	429,147

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Notes to the Financial Statements

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2020

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia 2015. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Income Tax

The Council is exempt from Income Tax.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

PPE is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Long service leave is calculated at current rates based upon 13 weeks leave after 10 years.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the Council is entitled to it and is stated net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Interest revenue is recognised on receipt.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Financial Report | WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid.

	2020	2019
2. Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Motor Vehicle Expenses - Fuel	11,153	11,464
Motor Vehicle Expenses - Registration & 3rd Party Insurance	1,845	1,959
Motor Vehicle Expenses - Repairs & Maintenance	3,573	3,849
Total Motor Vehicle Expenses	16,570	17,272
	2020	2019
3. Trade and Other Receivables		
Trade Receivables		
Trade Debtors	177,750	320,138
Total Trade Receivables	177,750	320,138
Other Receivables		
Sundry Debtors	88,396	-
Total Other Receivables	88,396	-
Prepayments		
Prepayments	25,326	37,976
Total Prepayments	25,326	37,976
Total Trade and Other Receivables	291,472	358,114
	2020	2019
4. Plant and Equipment, Motor Vehicles		
Plant and Equipment		
Plant and Equipment at Cost	105,755	107,511
Accumulated Depreciation of Plant and Equipment	(82,377)	(86,276)
Total Plant and Equipment	23,378	21,235
Motor Vehicles		
Motor Vehicles at Cost	112,974	112,974

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Accumulated Depreciation of Motor Vehicles	(57,143)	(37,898)
Total Motor Vehicles	55,831	75,076
Total Plant and Equipment, Motor Vehicles	79,209	96,310

2020 2019

5. Trade and Other Payables

Trade Payables

Trade Creditors	44,363	17,383
Total Trade Payables	44,363	17,383

Other Payables

Credit Card	8,836	15,610
Total Other Payables	8,836	15,610

Total Trade and Other Payables	53,199	32,993
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2020 2019

6. Payroll Liabilities

PAYGW Payable	24,688	20,922
Provision for Annual Leave	76,522	61,696
Provision for Long Service Leave	167,045	152,218
Total Payroll Liabilities	268,255	234,836

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Financial Report | WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council

Statement by Members of the Committee

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2020

Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position and Performance of the Association

The Board of WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council, certify that –

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2020.

Signed:



Dated:

2nd October 2020

Chairman

Signed:



Dated:

2nd October 2020

CEO



In Focus Accounting Pty Ltd

ABN: 16 009 252 019

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

DIRECTORS:
ANDREW LOWRY CA
LEONARD TEBBUTT CA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC A.B.N: 77922817608

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2020, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the statement by members of the Board.

Auditors' Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC as of 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia 2015.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia 2015. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of Western Australia and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC
A.B.N: 77922817608

Auditors' Responsibility

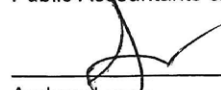
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Name of Firm: In Focus Accounting Pty Ltd
Public Accountants & Auditors

Name of Partner:


Andrew Lowry

Address: U9, 176 Main Street, Osborne Park, WA 6017

Dated this 23rd day of September 2020.



In Focus Accounting

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Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



9.2 Corporate Governance Information

The Board of Directors of Recfishwest is committed to excellence in corporate governance and enhancing the interests of the association's members. Each year the Board provides a Corporate Governance Statement which reflects both the 4th edition of the ASX Corporate Governance Council's *Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (ASX Principles and Recommendations)*, and the 2nd edition of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) *Not-For-Profit Governance Principles*.

Although applicable to listed entities, the ASX Principles and Recommendations provide a benchmark for corporate governance practices and Recfishwest is committed to reporting against them in so far as they are relevant to a non-listed entity.

The Board

The Board is responsible for the overall corporate governance of Recfishwest. Its powers are described in the Recfishwest Constitution. The objectives and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the Board Charter. The adoption of any proposed changes to the Constitution is subject to the approval of the membership at a general meeting. The Constitution and the Board Charter are available on the Recfishwest website – www.recfishwest.org.au

Board Committees

The Board has established a number of committees to assist it to discharge its responsibilities, particularly in relation to top-shelf governance. The objectives, responsibilities and composition of each committee are set out within individual committee charters available on the Recfishwest website. The Board approves the committee charters and reviews their membership annually.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee is charged with ensuring that Recfishwest, to the greatest extent possible, complies with the principles and recommendations espoused by the ASX and AICD.

The Recfishwest Governance Committee regularly reviews its corporate governance systems to ensure that Recfishwest continues its commitment to good corporate governance within a dynamic and changing operating environment.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reviews and monitors the risk management and compliance program and the financial systems operating within Recfishwest. The Committee reviews and monitors procedures to safeguard Recfishwest assets and interests, including accounting and financial reporting, compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards, and best practice guidelines.

Remuneration and Nomination Committee

The Remuneration and Nomination Committee assists the Board to fulfil its responsibilities on matters in relation to the remuneration policy for Recfishwest and the composition, skills and performance of the Board.

The committee is responsible for Board succession planning generally; Director induction and professional development; processes for recruitment, appointment and re-election of directors; and ensuring plans are in place to manage the succession of the CEO and senior executives.

Communications committee

The Communications Committee assists the Board in supervising the external communications of Recfishwest to all stakeholders. The committee oversees the Recfishwest Communication Strategy, the development and operation of effective and efficient communication policies and practices, and membership services.

The Recfishwest Corporate Governance Statement is publicly available on the Recfishwest website: www.recfishwest.org.au

Please refer to the Recfishwest website for further information on policies that have been approved and adopted by the Board.

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Department of
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