



Annual Report 21/22

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



Chairman

Liam Surridge

RECFISHWEST STAFF

Chief Executive Officer

Dr Andrew Rowland

Operations Manager

Leyland Campbell

Partnerships & Business Development Manager

Tim Grose

Business Support Manager

Vanessa Abbott

Operations Lead

Matt Gillett

Communications Lead

Ben Carlish

Programs Manager

James Florisson

Communications Coordinator

Jarrad Lawford

Digital & Systems Coordinator

Sedin Hasanovic

Operations

Sam Russell

John Dempsey

Research & Development

Sam Bock

Danielle Hartshorn

Eligh Quigley

Mitch Reid

Business Support

Ruth Sprague

Sarah Craig

Sarah Zaugg

Elizabeth Haugg

Auditor

In Focus Accounting

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Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



Department of
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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Recfishwest acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and sea, and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and future. We recognise the strength, resilience, and capacity of traditional custodians in managing and caring for the land and sea. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to life in Western Australia.



LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Western Australia is one of the best places in the world to be a recreational fisher. With so many great table and sport species, idyllic beaches and waterways and unrivalled weather, the State is an angler's dream.

Generating a significant economic contribution for WA each year, and providing countless other social benefits, it's vital that we protect the aquatic resources the recreational fishing industry relies on.

My focus is on sustainably managing our State's prized fisheries, so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the fishing trips and days out on the boat that we are so lucky to enjoy now.

I want to strike the right balance between managing our fish stocks and maximising fisher experience.

The recent decision to increase the herring bag limit from 12 to 20 is a great example of this balance. Decisive action to recover the herring stock with a 50 per cent reduction in catch in 2015 meant we were able to recover stocks and safeguard their future. Herring is a real 'bread and butter' fish – one that's caught by families up and down the coast. Those families can now take home a great feed. Recreational fishers should be proud, having played a big role in this success story.

The McGowan Government is working to make WA's recreational fishing experience even better. Recently we hit an important milestone – with 75,000 yellowtail kingfish released into metro waters. Working with Recfishwest over the past two years, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Aquaculture R&D team has capitalised on their extensive knowledge and experience with the species.

Recfishwest's Snapper Guardians program continues to be a great success, with more than 200,000 fingerlings released into Cockburn Sound since 2015. Funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund, the program also promotes research into this prized fish.

We're also investing in stocking freshwater waterways. Harvey Dam will soon be home to 100,000 more marron. With support from Recfishwest, broodstock have already been sourced from the dam and it is expected the juveniles will be released before the end of 2023. The Government has also committed more than \$300,000 to undertake an economic analysis of the freshwater recreational fishing sector and develop a business case to upgrade the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre to boost trout restocking programs and tourism across the South-West.

The social and economic benefits of recreational fishing were also recognised in the State's Covid-19 recovery plan. Under the plan, \$3 million was allocated to build artificial reefs in regional areas. DPIRD are currently working with Recfishwest to put in place reefs off Kalbarri, Albany and Broome, which will be a major tourism drawcard into the future.

Prior to the 2021 election, the Premier committed to the creation of a recreational fishing development plan for WA. The plan will help to drive innovation, maximise tourism potential and lead recreational fishing investments. With support from DPIRD, Recfishwest has been working on fulfilling this important commitment and it is fantastic to see the Fishing Development Plan come to fruition.

I'd also like to thank Recfishwest for their input on west coast demersal scalefish management. Their insight into the sector is invaluable and the feedback and recommendations they provided will all be incorporated into the final management arrangements. This is a complex issue and I am committed to safeguarding the future of these fish species for future generations.

By working together, we can protect and promote the WA fishing experience for decades to come. Happy fishing!

HON. DON PUNCH | Fisheries Minister



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the Recfishwest Annual Report for 2021/22, and on behalf of the Board I am delighted to present another packed report reflecting a big year for Recfishwest and WA fishing.

In my first report as Chairman, I must acknowledge outgoing Chairman Tim Bray's huge contribution to Recfishwest over nine years of service on the Board with seven years in the Chair. Tim was critical in evolving Recfishwest's strategic direction and setting our culture, while ensuring the organisation has become a highly professional and highly regarded organisation at the top level.

This has seen Recfishwest's influence shift from being a sidebar in the decision-making process to being right at its heart, driving the agenda for change to attain the best outcomes possible for our community.

I also acknowledge the continued efforts and commitment of my fellow Board members and the highly capable Recfishwest staff whose continued expertise, strategic input, outputs and effort ensures Recfishwest's solid reputation as a trustworthy, professional organisation with whom all stakeholders can work is maintained.

Tim's are big shoes to step into indeed, but I am relishing the challenge of stepping up to the plate in what is already shaping up to be a very interesting and challenging era of this organisation's and WA's history. It is an era in which increasing pressures of modern life underscores just how important the recreation and well-being that fishing provides is for hundreds of thousands of West Aussies.

This was evidenced by the record response we had to our survey on the future of the west coast demersal scalefish fishery with nearly 6,000 West Aussie fishers giving their time freely to provide input into the first phase of the consultation process. This shows just how much recreational fishers care about the future of the fish that underpins the recreational fishing experiences they deeply value.

Tellingly, two of the main reasons the survey respondents gave as to why they value fishing for these species was because of the positive impact on their mental health and well-being and the time with family and friends it afforded them on the water. All of this points to an even greater imperative to ensure that publicly-owned fisheries should be sustainably managed in a way that provides the best social and economic return to WA – to put it simply, the biggest benefit to the biggest number of people.

To achieve this though, a fine balance needs to be struck that meets the increasing challenges of a growing population, social and environmental change, improved technology and the interests of other stakeholders.

Over the reporting period, we have been working hard behind the scenes to take fishing in a direction that meets these challenges by developing a shared vision for the future of WA recreational fishing with the State Government. This is why we welcome the Minister's endorsement of the Fishing Development Plan, an election commitment of this Government and evidence of their understanding of the importance that fishing plays in our community and economy.

The plan sets out a roadmap for creating more places to fish, more fish to catch and a management approach that maximises enjoyment, all within the boundaries of sustainable management.

The plan will give us a clear pathway ahead to the future but its success will depend on the extent our Government and non-government partners come to the party. The strength of the relationships and levels of trust we have built up with our partners should serve us well in this regard and we will ensure Recfishwest does everything to facilitate tangible outcomes to meet our shared vision.

Trust of course is very much a two-way street that must be earned and maintained and with this in mind we are keen to see how the Government's recently announced \$13.5 million science plan will address the questions and concerns we and the community have about the planned port development in Cockburn Sound.

Following the Recfishwest Board meeting with the then Fisheries and Ports ministers, we welcomed the announcement of the science plan and also the Government's commitment to enhance the Snapper Guardians and Seeds for Snapper programs.

However, if the community's trust and acceptance of the final plans for the port are to be won, long overdue responses to key questions will need to be addressed by the plan and the Westport Taskforce around the impacts of the development on the Sound's seagrass beds, critical spawning habitat for a host of fish species and recreational fishing access and safety.

As the peak sector body, we will continue to hold decision-makers to account on these critically important questions. As ever, our capacity to advocate for what's important for our community like Cockburn Sound has been greatly strengthened by more supporters, more members and more partners joining us. It truly has been great to see and thanks to all of you who are helping build a fishing movement.

Rest assured, Recfishwest will continue to fly the flag for fishing, taking our responsibility at the seat of the table with the utmost seriousness and highest level of commitment. This is because we remain passionately committed to ensure we can continue to do what we love today and into the future.

LIAM SURRIDGE | Chairman

THE BOARD

The Recfishwest Board contains 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 monthly Board meetings, allowing recommendations and outcomes of committee meetings to be tabled at each Board meeting.

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Governance Committee	Communications Committee	Nomination & Remuneration Committee
Geoff Ellis <i>(Chair)</i> Liam Surridge Dean Thorburn Christine Lovitt	Ian Sampson <i>(Chair)</i> Liam Surridge Simon McLernon Dean Thorburn	Jeff Cooper <i>(Chair)</i> Simon McLernon Emma George	Liam Surridge <i>(Chair)</i> Geoff Ellis Emma George

- Tim Bray retired from the Board
- Geoff Ellis elected for a two-year term
- Liam Surridge elected for a two-year term
- Liam Surridge appointed as Chair of the Board
- Christine Lovitt appointed as non-executive director from Feb 2022

BOARD MEMBERS



Liam Surridge

Non-Executive Director, Chairman, Chair of Nomination & Remuneration Committee, Finance Audit & Risk Committee, Governance Committee

An active member and treasurer of the Saltwater Flyrodders of Western Australia, Liam is the treasurer of the WA chapter of the Australian Trout Foundation and a member of the WA Trout and Freshwater Angling Association. A qualified chartered accountant and member of various committees, Liam has strong financial management and negotiation expertise.



Geoff Ellis

Non-Executive Director, Deputy Chair, Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, Nominations & Remuneration Committee member

Geoff represents Recfishwest on the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme. Currently semi-retired, Geoff has been a Director of Supernova Motor Yacht trading as Offshore Marine for the past 25-years and has managed several retail boat and caravan sales businesses in WA, as well as being President and Finance Director of the Boating Industry Association.



Jeff Cooper

Non-Executive Director, Chair of Communications Committee

Jeff is the former President of the Broome Fishing Club and Chair of the Broome Boating Facility Community Reference Group, a former board member for the Marine Park Reserves Authority and former representative of the International Game Fishing Association. Currently a Portfolio Manager at the North Regional TAFE, Jeff mentors the Recfishwest Young Future Leaders programs.



Ian Sampson

Non-Executive Director, Chair of Governance Committee

Ian Sampson is a Non-Executive Director of Recfishwest and Chair of the Governance Committee. A sailmaker by trade, Ian's tertiary qualifications include Master of Business Management (MBA), Post Graduate Certificate of Investigation of Commercial Crime and Juris Doctor (JD). He is also a qualified arbitrator and mediator and practises law at Roundhouse Legal.

BOARD MEMBERS



Simon McLernon

Non-Executive Director, Communications Committee & Governance Committee

Simon is Recfishwest's Non-Executive Director and a member of the Governance and Communications committees. With 15-years of engineering experience, Simon currently works as a subsea engineer and is a co-founder of technology company, Underwater Focus. Simon was the events coordinator and Vice President for Bluewater Freedivers of WA for over two years.



Dean Thorburn

Non-Executive Director, Governance Committee, Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Dean is Non-Executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Governance Committee. A Recfishwest Board member since 2011, Dean has 15-years of marine and aquatic studies experience, specialising in fish biology and ecological waterway investigations. Dean has been Director and Principal Scientist of an environmental consulting company since 2006 and is a member of the Bluewater Freedivers of WA.



Emma George

Non-Executive Director, Communications Committee, Nomination & Remuneration Committee

Emma is a Non-Executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Communications and Nomination and Remuneration Committees. A former Olympic and Commonwealth Games pole vault gold medallist and world record holder, Emma also holds a Graduate Diploma in Communications (Journalism) and a Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing) and Arts (Language). An avid fisher, Emma is currently a freelance journalist and has worked across multiple media platforms.



Christine Lovitt

Non-Executive Director, Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Christine is an experienced mining lawyer specialising in the native title and Aboriginal heritage aspects of project development in WA. Christine has an honours degree in law, and a Bachelor of Law (BA Mod and LLB). She has climbed the WA legal ranks and joined Hewett and Lovitt as special counsel in 2014, managing her own native title practice. She is a member of the Law Society of WA.



CEO'S REPORT

The past year has been both successful and frustrating for Recfishwest and the fishing community of WA. We have had some good wins, yet our sector continues to face challenges.

I'd like to thank our new Chair Liam Surridge for all his efforts in his first year of chairing Recfishwest. With his strong finance background and passion for fishing, Liam's jumped straight into the role, with his professionalism and attention to detail keeping the Recfishwest boat heading in the right direction.

Our Recfishwest team continues to go above and beyond in their efforts to make fishing better in WA. We all love fishing and are passionate about protecting the fishing community's rights and interests. Our culture and focus are as strong as ever and our team continues to develop in their roles in delivering meaningful work.

Our wins

Recfishwest's win highlights this year include:

- The continued recovery of herring stocks saw an increased bag limit from 12 to 20. Herring are the lifeblood of WA and a prized family fish and its recovery should be celebrated.
- Lake Kununurra's barramundi stocking program passed over one million fish stocked into the lake – a huge milestone. This has become a great barra fishery and the Kununurra Barramundi Stocking Group and the North West Regional TAFE deserve a round of applause.
- 50,000 yellowtail kingfish' and 100,000 pink snapper were released into Perth waters to build resilience in local fish stocks.
- 177,500 marron were also released through our Peel and South-West regions to enhance freshwater fishing.
- A study funded by the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund highlighted that the charter sector generates \$110 million for WA's economy every year, proving an important role in WA's tourism sector.

- The last year of the State-wide FADs trial ended with great community feedback as we look to expand the program.
- In a WA first, Fisheries Minister, Don Punch, launched the Fishing Development Plan for Western Australia, creating a roadmap for delivering bold actions to enhance fishing.
- A recfishing licence-funded project exploring shark deterrent technology to address the mounting shark issue in WA's North delivered positive results. The deterrent results are encouraging, but better science, emerging technology, behaviour change and adaptive management are still required to solve this complex issue.

Our challenges

Some serious challenges also came our way that went against our core values and those of the 700,000 WA recfishers who we represent. The majority of these came from poor management, bad processes and lack of transparency, marginalising the community with minimal regard for their opinion.

- New proposed marine park developments were announced for the south coast and west coast, while we battled away for a better outcome for Kimberley fishers in the proposed Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks. The first draft of the new marine parks in the Kimberley were poorly communicated, had below par consultation and didn't acknowledge all users. While we believe this process has now been fixed for future Marine Park engagements, some faith was lost in Government's implementation of future marine parks.
- The WA Environment Minister refused to restore vehicle access to the Hooley Road entrance to Boranup's South Beach after abruptly being blockaded by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) in March 2021, despite no environmental or conservation justifications for its closure. Here is another example of a unilateral decision to simply ban an activity which has been undertaken for generations and is an important part of what makes WA great.
- The Ocean Reef marina development removed 12ha of prime abalone habitat from the metro coast. As a result, the almost 20,000 abalone fishers were dealt a 20 per cent reduction in the length of the annual fishing season. We continue to push for an effective resolution of this issue through measures such as an abalone habitat replacement and restocking program.
- The recovery of the west coast demersal scalefish fishery has been a strong focus for Recfishwest since the release of the 2021 stock assessment. While yet to be resolved at the time of writing this report, there is a better way to speed up the recovery of these important fish stocks without the damage a large-scale ban will cause to our way of life and the economy. We will continue to fight for this result on the behalf of all the WA fishing community.

Thanks for your support

I'd like to thank all our volunteers who selflessly contribute to our programs, working groups and reference groups. Your expertise and efforts are critical to supporting sustainable, accessible, enjoyable and safe fishing for the WA community.

To our members, business supporters and project partners - thank you for supporting Recfishwest and the work we do to make fishing better for all West Aussies. Your backing means a lot and drives our small team forward every day. Our strength-in-numbers approach allows us to pursue new opportunities and advocate for better outcomes. We look forward to your continual support into next year and always welcome new members, supporters and partners to help us achieve our vision.

DR ANDREW ROWLAND | Recfishwest CEO

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



PHOTO: MARCO FRASCHETTI

REPRESENTATION & CONSULTATION

To represent the views, rights and interests of recreational fishers, Recfishwest consults broadly with the fishing community throughout Western Australia.

We engage with recreational fishers and stakeholders through surveys, meetings, regional consultation activities, correspondence, reference groups, association and industry working groups along with selected workshops and events.

We use this direct contact to collectively gauge the attitudes, drivers, beliefs and aspirations of WA's estimated 700,000+ recreational fishers.

This engagement allows Recfishwest to provide the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the Fisheries Minister (along with other decision-makers) with qualified, consolidated advice on a range of recreational fishing-related issues.

As part of this representation and advice Recfishwest continues to:

- Promote and support the interests of the recreational fishing sector and keep them informed;
- Provide strategic leadership for the recreational fishing sector on matters of significance;
- Raise community and sector awareness and advice on a variety of recreational fishing issues;
- Negotiate on behalf of the sector and provide a forum for negotiation/mediation.



PHOTO: COLBY JAMES

**WEST COAST DEMERSALS - PROTECTING THE FISH
AND THE FISHING EXPERIENCES THEY SUPPORT**

Recfishwest developed a package of recommendations informed by an expert working group comprising business owners, charter fishers, fishing clubs, scientists and keen recreational fishers.

Our well-balanced package protects the sustainability and spawning of the fish while delivering the best social and economic benefits, fishing rules, education enhancements and research.

The package was also informed by feedback from Recfishwest's west coast demersal community survey – the biggest response to a survey of this kind in WA's history, some 6,000 respondents strong.

Recfishwest communicated with thousands of fishers concerned about the impact a nine-month closure will have on them and their families, as well as regional caravan park owners, charter operators and tackle shop owners who hold very real concerns about the future of their businesses.

At the time of writing, Recfishwest was working hard to persuade the Government to adopt a sensible approach that protects these highly valued fish without devastating fishing experiences.

PROTECTING OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENTS AND OUR ACCESS TO FISH THEM

Recfishwest worked closely with the Derby and Broome fishing communities along with the Bardi, Jawi, Mayala and Dambimangari Traditional Owners to ensure a better outcome for fishing in the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks.

The original marine park plans in the remote Kimberley archipelago would have seen fishers locked out of 95 per cent of the most valuable fishing waters in the area. Following serious concerns from the local community, Traditional Owners met with local fishing representatives in October, 2021 and along with the community's and Recfishwest's submissions, a better outcome was achieved.

Recfishwest called on the Government for better marine park planning processes and to involve fishers from the start. This appears to have been taken on board with the proposed South Coast and Marmion Marine Park extension planning processes. Both proposed marine parks cover vast areas that are highly important for fishing.

By engaging extensively with both South Coast and North Metro fishing communities on the proposals, our values mapping surveys will help decision-makers better understand areas of importance to fishers in the proposed parks thanks to hundreds of survey submissions.

Recfishwest also welcomed the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) August 2021 report on the cumulative impacts of industrial activities and developments proposed for Exmouth Gulf, which recognised the amenity, recreational values and key values that must be protected.

This followed Recfishwest's submission to the EPA that wilderness values strongly underpin the prized fishing that the Gulf has to offer and that industrialising it would compromise that value.

We expressed the fishing community's bitter disappointment at the Environment Minister Reece Whitby's decision to close vehicle access to the Hooley Road entrance to Boranup's South Beach - a popular fishing spot for anglers targeting multiple prized fish species.

Recfishwest raised the closure with the Director General of DBCA along with Environment Ministers Dawson, Sanderson and Whitby and with Fisheries Minister Punch, criticising their unilateral disregard of the area's immense value to the community.





PHOTO: CRAIG BIBRA

HERRING BAG LIMIT INCREASE AND A STRONG FUTURE FOR 'THE PEOPLE'S FISH'

In a great outcome for WA anglers, the Fisheries Minister followed Recfishwest's recommendation and agreed to increasing the herring bag limit from 12 to 20 from 1 October, 2022.

The recommendation foundations came from 4,000 responses to our herring bag limit survey, showing the community care about 'the people's fish' while the science showed herring have made a strong enough recovery to allow for the bag limit increase and for the stocks to keep growing.

Future management decisions on herring will be guided by future stock assessments, community sentiment and the outcomes of a herring working group, which includes Recfishwest.

PROTECTING COCKBURN SOUND IN THE FACE OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Recfishwest cautiously welcomed Ports Minister Rita Saffioti's announcement of the State Government's \$13.5 million, multi-year marine science research program focusing on Cockburn Sound.

The announcement followed Recfishwest's meeting with the Fisheries Ministers in December of 2020 seeking answers to serious questions around the impacts of a new port on fish stocks, fish habitats and experiences.

Recfishwest will continue to hold the Government to account and answer questions we have been asking since the Westport process started in 2017 while highlighting the Sound's critical importance to the Perth fishing community.

CALLING FOR TRADITIONAL OWNERS TO BE GIVEN GREATER LEADERSHIP ROLES IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

As part of NAIDOC week's theme of "get up, stand up and show up" Recfishwest called for Traditional Owners to be given a greater opportunity to take a leadership role when it comes to the management of WA's aquatic habitats and fisheries.

Through working with Esperance's Tjaltraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, Recfishwest recognises Traditional Owners' strong knowledge of sea country and aquatic environments should allow their management in protecting sea country and healthy fish populations. We look forward to strengthening our relationships with Traditional Owners in our coastal communities of WA.

HIGHLIGHTING THE VALUE OF THE FISHING TOURISM SECTOR TO THE WA ECONOMY

Recfishwest CEO Dr Andrew Rowland joined the Fisheries Minister and Marine Tourism WA President Matt Howard to announce RFIF-funded research results showing the fishing tourism sector is worth \$110.9 million each year to WA's economy, with charter fishing tours supporting 830 jobs.

The report demonstrates the significant social and economic value charter fishing provides our community from a very small proportion of available fish.

FISHING DEVELOPMENT

Recreational fishing in WA is enjoyed by 700,000+ West Aussies each year and our partnerships with community groups and organisations helps us to direct recreational fishing licence money back into community projects that significantly enhance recreational fishing experiences.

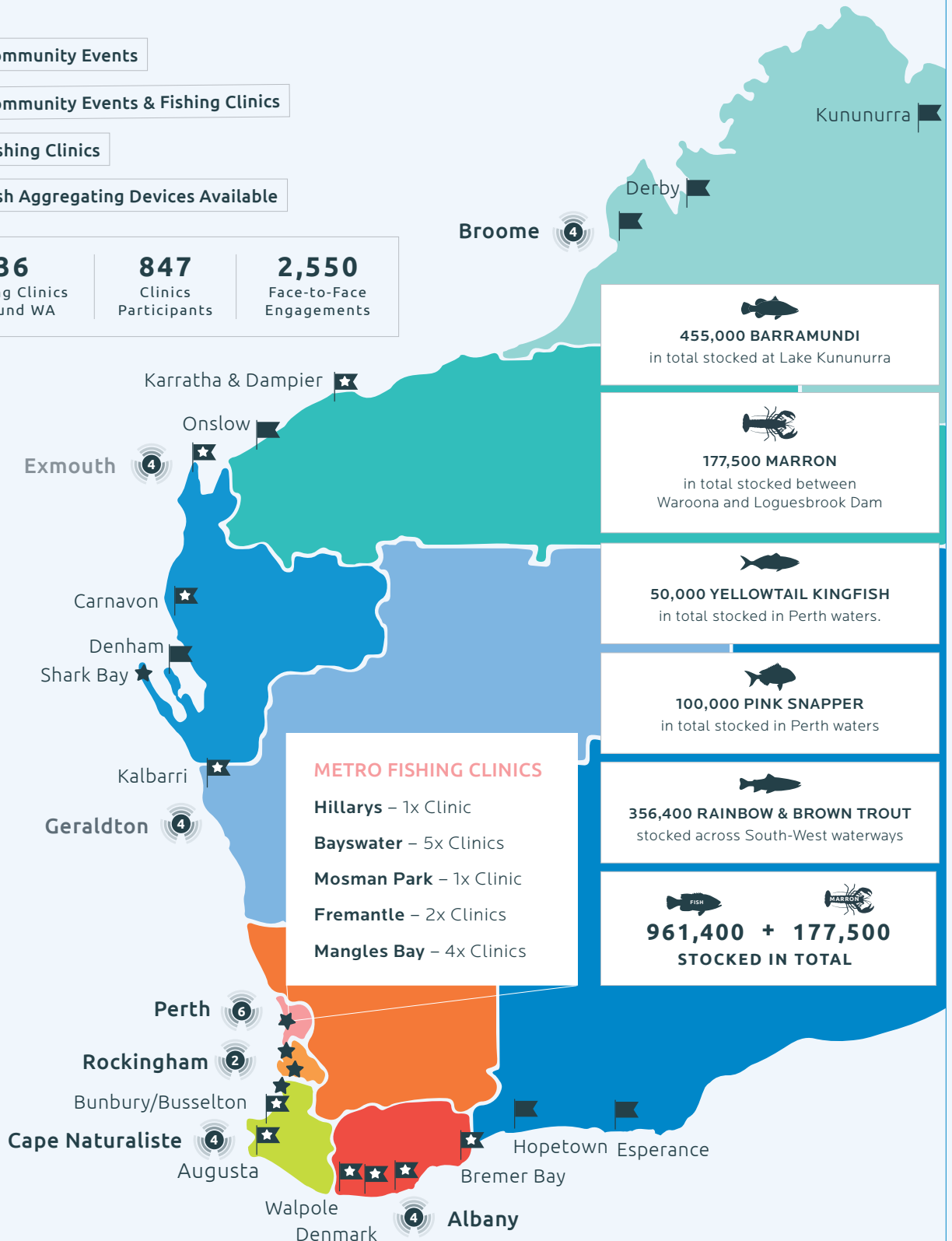
Here are some of the 2021/22 projects making fishing better for the WA community:

-  **Community Events**
-  **Community Events & Fishing Clinics**
-  **Fishing Clinics**
-  **Fish Aggregating Devices Available**

36
Fishing Clinics
Around WA

847
Clinics
Participants

2,550
Face-to-Face
Engagements





WA Recreational Fishing

2022-2025

THREE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

LANDMARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN SETS FUTURE AGENDA FOR FISHING IN WA

Recfishwest has developed a comprehensive plan to deliver a set of bold initiatives and actions to help shape and improve WA's fishing future, after the Premier committed to supporting the plan prior to the 2021 election.

The landmark WA Recreational Fishing Development Plan targets better fishing access, less restrictions and places a higher focus on positive fishing experiences, such as through more artificial reefs, FADs and development of freshwater fisheries. It also looks at developing better fishing data and communications.

The plan will guide investments that maximise fishing enjoyment within the boundaries of sustainability, with a key focus on:

- Better understanding, capturing and promoting all the benefits recreational fishing provides;
- Maintaining and improving fishing access for both land and boat-based fishers;
- Stewardship and leadership of recreational fishing; and
- Utilising digital technology in an everchanging world.

The Fisheries Minister stated – “Our recfishing agenda is going to be guided by the recfishing plan that Recfishwest is working on and will really guide the priorities for how we support recfishing into the future.”

MORE FISH TO CATCH

Recfishwest continues to drive WA's fish stocking programs by helping to improve fish abundance, stocks and fishing experiences in a changing environment, run in partnership with DPIRD's aquaculture centres and thanks to RFIF funding and support from our community fish stocking partner, Daiwa.

The past year saw over 1.13 million fish and marron stocked around WA's waterways in total, including:

- **100,000 juvenile pink snapper** were released into metro waters over four days in February at Cockburn Power Boats Club and Fremantle Sailing Club, with help from club members. This continues the ongoing legacy of Snapper Guardians and has now seen hundreds of thousands of juvenile pink snapper released into the Sound.
- **50,000 juvenile yellowtail kingfish** were released in the same club locations as our pink snapper stocks in July and August. As with pink snapper, these yellowtail kingfish also had their otoliths (ear bones) stained, allowing them to be identified when caught for future analysis. We continue to test the efficacy of boosting metro stocks of these fast-growing species.
- **177,500 marron** were released into popular south-west dams, thanks to RFIF funding. This great milestone was dampened by DPIRD's last-minute decision to block stocking of marron into Harvey Dam, seemingly based on outdated data. Nevertheless, this was the first time a large-scale marron stocking program was successfully undertaken and we will continue to advocate for initiatives like this to result in year-round marroning.
- **More than 350,000 brown and rainbow trout** of varying sizes were stocked, thanks to Recfishwest's Freshwater Reference Group and DPIRD's Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre – which celebrated its 50-year milestone of the hatchery being run and operated by the State Government. This fishery brings huge enjoyment to WA's 10,000 licensed freshwater fishers who inject more than \$20 million annually into the regional economy. We continue to work closely with DPIRD to recommend stocking values and locations and there is massive potential for expanding the trout stocking program and fishery in the future.
- **455,000 juvenile barramundi** were stocked into Lake Kununurra in the East Kimberley, helping further develop a world-class sport fishery where huge 1.3m barra are regularly caught. This year also saw the community celebrate the millionth barra being stocked since the program – a partnership between Recfishwest, the Lake Kununurra Community Stocking Group, North Regional TAFE aquaculture centre and DPIRD – was launched in 2013.





PHOTO: VIOLETA J. BROSIG

HELPING CREATE BETTER PLACES TO FISH

Our three-year pilot FADs program concluding in 2022 was an overwhelming success, providing new opportunities for thousands of anglers from Albany to Broome to target exciting pelagic species like dolphinfish, tuna, Spanish mackerel and cobia.

At the time of writing, Recfishwest was waiting to hear a decision from the State Government on our funding proposal to secure the future of the program State-wide and evolve it further.

Plans were recently unveiled for a new Ammo Jetty in Cockburn Sound – a truly iconic and historical land-based fishing platform for metro fishers chasing herring, skippy, whiting, salmon and even Spanish mackerel. The state-of-the-art design includes a 50-metre long, three-metre-wide T-head and access to 10m deep water, which is in line with feedback from the fishing community and our recommendations made to the jetty design working group.

Recfishwest and our partner organisation Fishability also saw the launch of the MV Fishability in Mandurah, a specially adapted boat to accommodate fishers in wheelchairs. Built by Bouvard Marine and funded with assistance of recreational fishing licence fees through RFIF, this fantastic vessel allows even more people in the Peel region to wet a line and enjoy what fishing has to offer.

Recfishwest welcomed the announcement that fishing access is set to be restored for fishers to the Leschenault Estuary's jetty located south of Bunbury, after the State Government revealed it was committing \$3 million to help rebuild the important land-based fishing spot for locals since its closure in January of 2021.

Stunning pictures taken by underwater photographer Violeta J. Brosig of Blue Media Exmouth shows how much Exmouth's King Reef has flourished into a thriving, healthy marine oasis. Since its deployment less than four years ago, King Reef has become the fastest developing artificial reef in Australia, hosting more than 100 fish species. It highlights the importance and role of repurposed structures for boosting fish habitats while providing additional social, economic and environmental benefits for local communities.

Recfishwest continues to enhance WA's marine habitats with a number of artificial reefs for fishing under development. Although no new reefs hit the sea floor this year, we're targeting numerous Commonwealth and State Government approvals for new reefs in Carnarvon, Albany, Broome, Onslow, Dampier and Kalbarri to add to the seven reefs currently thriving in WA waters.

We also have projects looking to repurpose offshore steel infrastructure and turn them into fishing reefs in the State's North-West, through partnerships with the resources sector and local fishing communities. As leaders in the artificial reef field, we're investigating how to retain these structures through the best environmental practices to create new fishing opportunities for our community around the State. Watch this space in 2023!

The past year saw Lake Kununurra make huge strides forward in becoming Australia's premier world-class barramundi sport fishery in a safe, saltwater croc-free, accessible and stunning setting, working closely in partnership with the Lake Kununurra Barramundi Stocking Group (LKBSG), North Regional TAFE, DPIRD and DBCA.

As part of a RFIF funding initiative, Recfishwest has worked with the LKBSG to launch a new website to help promote the fishery, along with our suite of promotional media activities to help put Lake Kununurra on the State and national fishing map.



SHARK BITE-OFF - GETTING OUR TEETH INTO A WICKED PROBLEM

The impact of sharks biting off hooked fish continues to be the number one issue for the WA fishing community located north of Geraldton.

While this is a highly complex issue with no one silver bullet solution – some headway has been made in testing the efficacy of emerging shark deterrent devices through DPIRD's RFIF-funded study that found shark depredation can decrease by as much as 65 per cent when a deterrent is used. Recfishwest continues to look at a range of other shark deterrent devices that are being developed or have already entered the market.

We are promoting practical approaches and tips that can be adopted by fishers to reduce instances of bite-off, such as a video with Miami Tackle World's Ashley Ramm showing fishers how to rig anti-shark bite-off gear most effectively. We're also advocating for better understanding of shark populations and behaviour while improving fisher education to address the issue and protect the social and economic benefits fishing provides.



“He lives and breathes fishing and has put his heart and soul into his dedicated service to WA fishing, onya, Sewelly – and our heartfelt thanks for all that you have done and continue to do.”

—— Recfishwest CEO Dr Andrew Rowland

IAN SEWELL - AN UNSUNG FISHING COMMUNITY HERO RECEIVES LIFELONG RECFISHWEST MEMBERSHIP

Sharing knowledge, teaching the fishers of tomorrow, showcasing what WA fishing has to offer and standing up for fishers' rights – Ian Sewell has long been one of Recfishwest's and WA fishing's quiet achievers and somewhat of an unsung hero.

At the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the Recfishwest Board bestowed Life Membership on 'Sewelly' in recognition of his tireless voluntary work, commitment, leadership and passion for Recfishwest over a number of years in many different capacities.

Sewelly was a member of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee when he was 19 years old and first joined the Recfishwest Board in 1999. He has since held multiple positions across four different terms as a Director and on multiple Board sub-committees. He continues to represent fishers' interests through his role as Chair of the Recfishwest Freshwater Fishing Reference Group.

Ian has represented WA at a national fly-fishing tournament level, as well as helping establish bream fishing tournaments in WA. He was also the co-founder and editor of the highly-regarded Western Australian Fishing Magazine.

“He lives and breathes fishing and has put his heart and soul into his dedicated service to WA fishing,” said Recfishwest CEO Dr Andrew Rowland.

“Onya, Sewelly – and our heartfelt thanks for all that you have done and continue to do.”

EVENTS & COMMUNITY

Recfishwest attended and hosted 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.

Here are some of the face-to-face fishing engagement activities we have been involved in during 2021/22:



We once again ran our Awesome Autumn of Salmon celebration with more than 2,500 anglers participating in our app-driven, three-month long Salmon Slam 2022 event supported this year by Shimano and Western Angler as well as a host of other sponsors from the fishing tackle and outdoors industry. This event continues to highlight the importance and broad appeal of this southern fishing icon that sees fishers inject \$331 million into the regional economy every year.

Despite gloomy weather conditions, more than 200 people attended the 2021 Troutfest event at Drakesbrook Weir and helped release more than a thousand brown and rainbow trout into the dam. This much-loved community event run in partnership with the Shire of Waroona and Alcoa is a celebration of the South-West's fantastic freshwater fishery stocked by DPIRD in close consultation with Recfishwest's Freshwater Reference Group.

The 2021 Fish in the 'Burbs event saw four free fishing clinics targeting rainbow trout near Mandurah completely booked out. More than 100 youngsters took part in the clinics held in partnership with the Shire of Murray, which was a huge hit with the locals and provided them with great opportunities to catch this magnificent species not far from their homes.

Our Fishing for Science program run in partnership with Woodside Energy continues to be well supported by local fishers who handed Recfishwest staff their captured fish to allow scientific data to be collected at several regional fishing tournaments including GAMEX and the Dampier Classic.



While COVID restrictions sadly prevented us once again from running our Snapper Guardians community pink snapper release event, we were able to hold family-friendly snapper and yellowtail kingfish releases at Cockburn Power Boats Club and Fremantle Sailing Club. We presented these events through 'Facebook live' allowing people to 'tune into' the event in real time on social media or watch it afterwards at their leisure.

SAFE FISHING

Safe fishing remains a top 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, 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.

In 2021/22 as part of our State-wide Safe Fishing Strategy, funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund, Recfishwest:

Partnered with the Bureau of Meteorology to develop and trial a “HEADS UP” alert for dangerous fishing conditions. In collaboration with BoM and Royal Life Saving Western Australia, alerts were issued via social media to warn fishers of hazardous conditions in advance, as forecasted by the BoM.

Undertook an extensive salmon season safety campaign through our own communication channels and through media in partnership with Western Angler, DPIRD and DBCA promoting 'keeping the sand between your toes' and fishing from the beach instead of the rocks.

Extended the reach of messages to CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Groups) through increased multilingual advertising in collaboration with Chinese newspaper Perth Epoch Times.

Ran a safe abalone fishing campaign in association with Surf Life Saving WA.

Explored innovative new rock fishing safety technology developed by Carnegie Energy.

Undertook numerous communications and media interviews with Channel Seven, Nine, the ABC, 6PR and others around promoting boat and rock fishing safety.

Recfishwest, along with community partners and tackle shops, continued to provide the State's recfishers with free loan lifejackets across WA. There are 176 loan lifejackets available between Quobba and Esperance.

Recfishwest alongside community partners continued to monitor and maintain our State-wide Angel Ring program, providing replacement rings to numerous high risk rock fishing locations statewide.

Worked alongside Royal Life Saving Western Australia helping to deliver their 'make the right call' safety campaign, promoting safe fishing practices.

Recfishwest and Western Rock Lobster continued the 'Snag It, Tag It' safety initiative to combat the dangers of snagged fishing gear on rock lobster pots, distributing Snag It, Tag It tags at more than 50 tackle shops across the State.

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.





SUNSMART FISHING CLINICS

This financial year, 36 fishing clinics were held across WA from Bremer Bay to Dampier. COVID-19 presented challenges and multiple clinics were rescheduled or cancelled, however, more clinics and events were held than the previous financial year and the success of the clinics is a testament of our volunteers and fishing clinic instructors' hard-work.



36
fishing
clinics



850+
participants

FISHING CLINIC PARTNERS



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



To our volunteers and instructors who kindly donated their time
to help conduct this year's fishing clinics – thank you!



PARTNERS

Recfishwest recognises our official business supporters.
Together we are making fishing better.

SHIMANO

Get Hooked
Sun-safe Outdoor Adventure Wear.

Subcon
BLUE SOLUTIONS

HALCO

Complete Angler
Nedlands
Pro Tackle

RIGHTER LURES

WESTERN ANGLER

Mandalay
HOLIDAY RESORT & TOURIST PARK

LATERAL ASPECT
the creative agency

Taylor Marine
SPECIALIST MARINE SUPPLIES

WellStrategic
creative solutions

AFW
ANGLERS FISHING WORLD

KINGSCOPE
LANDSCAPING
& MAINTENANCE

SHOREWATER MARINE PT LTD.
Specialist Boat Maintenance & Repairs

CHALLENGE MARINE
BOAT SALES

ScanTech Offshore

MIDWAY MARINE
It's a lifestyle!
www.midwaymarine.net.au

Whitey's
TACKLE & CAMPING

Augusta X-treme Outdoor Sports
Unit 3/58 Blackwood Ave Augusta
97000000

Contact Recfishwest to find out how your logo could be here!

**Recfishwest recognises the following contributions from
our official supporting partners.**



**Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

Supporting our delivery of
representative peak body
advice to government
on behalf of 750,000
recfishers in WA.



Supporting our
State-wide SunSmart
Community Fishing
Clinic Program.



**Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**

Supporting our work to
enhance recreational
fishing participation as a
peak body organisation.



Supporting recreational
fishing priorities and
guidance for the
recfishing sector.



Supporting
our Fishing for
Science Program
in Dampier/
Karratha.

Santos

Supporting research and
development to enhance
our marine habitats
and community fishing
experiences throughout WA.

SHIMANO

Supporting sustainable fishing
in WA through our smartphone
fishing rules app. Shimano is
also supporting our fishing
community through our weekly
fishing reports publication.

BHP

Supporting the
monitoring and
promotion of King
Reef, Exmouth.



Supporting our
State-wide SunSmart
Community Fishing
Clinic Program.



Supporting our
Troutfest community
fish stocking event.



Supporting
our State-wide
Community Fishing
Clinic Program.

INPEX

Supporting research and
development to enhance
our marine habitats
and community fishing
experiences throughout WA.

Thanks for the ongoing support from our fishing association partners:



Recfishwest would like to acknowledge the ongoing support we
receive from our members, project partners, business supporters,
fishing clubs, volunteers and the WA fishing community.



COMMUNITY GRANTS

Recfishwest also administers the Recfishwest Community Grant Program, which makes RFIF funding available to community-driven projects aimed at enhancing recreational fishing in WA. This program invests into community projects which deliver highly valuable outputs and engender community support for fishing. Since 2011, the Recfishwest Community Grant Program has helped create more than 200 community grant projects.

In 2021/22 the Recfishwest Community grant program funded 23 projects, including:

Applicant	Project Summary
Ashburton Angler Inc	Ashburton Anglers Catch & Release Competition
Australian Trout Foundation Inc WA State Branch	Preparation and printing of trout fishing guide Warren Angler Access Stiles
Bank Angler Angling Club WA Inc (BAAC)	Ladies and Juniors fishing clinic Stocking of fish
Bank Anglers Club of WA	Stocking and fishing clinics
Exmouth Game Fishing Club	GAMEX 2022 Community Engagement Package
Fremantle Recreational Fishing Club Inc	Recreational Fishing Club promotion, fix letter re GST On-water safety, fix letter re GST
Fremantle Sailing Club Angling Section	Kids Clinic Life Jackets
Kids Cancer Support Group	Kayak Fishing Classic
King Bay Game Fishing Club	Shack permanent shade
Lancelin Angling & Aquatic Club	John Bray Junior Fishing Classic
Life's Short, Stay Moist	Women in Spearfishing Series & Charter
Mandalay Holiday Resort	Mandalay Holiday Resort Family Fishing Competition
Mary Island Fishing Club – Sponsoring the Kimberley Women's Fishing Group	Kimberley Women's Fishing Group – start up cost
Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club	Children's Fishing Event
Ozfish Unlimited	Birak in the Bay – Fishing Competition
Perth Game Fishing Club Inc	Marlin Cup Education & Instruction – Perth Game Fishing Junior Fishing promotion – Perth Game Fishing Club
The Western Australian Game Fishing Association	North West Tournament Support
West Australian Coarse Angling Club Inc	Stock and maintaining Golden Pond Fishery, Open Day Match

COMMUNICATIONS

RECFISHWEST APP

260,000
DOWNLOADS

11,400

STATE-WIDE WEEKLY FISHING
REPORTS SUBSCRIBERS

139,000

MONTHLY BROADCAST
E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



25,000+
likes

2.6 mil
people reached / yr



6,800+
followers



1,100+
followers

Recfishwest website

33,000

sessions per month

I Love Fishing website

15,000

sessions per month

Fish and Survive website

2,000

sessions per month

4,000+

PEOPLE ENGAGED EVERY YEAR* THROUGH
OUR SUNSMART FISHING CLINIC PROGRAM

* On average

15,000+

LISTENERS TO
ABC RADIO PERTH
WEEKLY FISHING
REPORTS AND
UPDATES

200

REPRESENTATIONS IN THE MEDIA PER YEAR

10,000+

People engaged through State-wide
fishing tournaments, community events,
regional activities, fishing club member
events and industry workshops

We would like to thank Shimano in supporting our smartphone Fishing Rules App
and our Weekly Members Fishing Reports.



PARTNERING ASSOCIATIONS

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION WA

ansa.com.au

The Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) is considered the peak body of sportfishing in Australia, encompassing the needs of beginner to experienced anglers.

They represent the recreational fishing industry and recreational sportfisher through various branches and affiliated clubs across Australia.

STEVE WISEMAN, ANSA WA President



PHOTO: ANSA

BLUEWATER FREEDIVERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

bluewaterfreediversofwa.com.au

The Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia is a spearfishing club made up of amateur divers through to competitive spearfisherman across Western Australia.

STEVE MATTABONI, BFWA Secretary



PHOTO: MATT BARNES

BOATING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF WA

biawa.asn.au

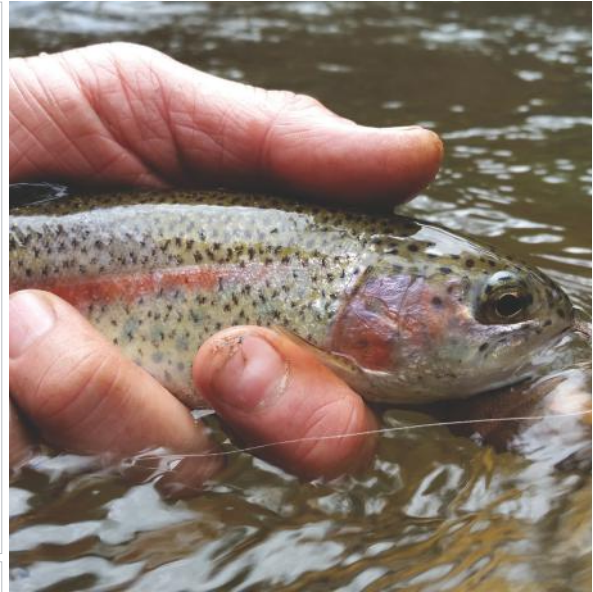
First formed in 1971, the Boating Industry Association of WA (BIAWA) is an incorporated industry group that is the voice of the West Australian recreational boating industry. Their main purpose is to increase recreational boat ownership and use in WA through the development of the marine industry and the promotion of recreational boating

SHERYL SWARBRICK, BIAWA President

MARINE TOURISM WA

marinetourismwa.com.au

The Marine Tourism WA (MTWA) is a non-for-profit member-based association made up of charter industry owners and operators aiming to assist individual members and the industry to be more profitable, safer and able to provide quality experiences for clients. MTWA is the only recognised charter industry association in WA with peak body status representing the charter sector to all relevant government departments.



WA GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION

gfaa.asn.au/western-australia

The WA Game Fishing Association (WAGFA) is a membership of the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA), the longest established national fishing association in the world. WAGFA helps promote the voices and representation of game-fishers across 10 Western Australian affiliated clubs, from Broome up north to Busselton in the South-West.

RHYSS WHITTRED, WAGFA President

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TROUT AND FRESHWATER ANGLING ASSOCIATION

watfaa.org.au

The Western Australian Trout and Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA) was founded in 1928 in a concerted effort to establish trout in the Pemberton area. Since then, they have spearheaded the propagation of trout in the South-West region in collaboration with various Government bodies and are an association dedicated to the pastime of freshwater angling in all its wonderful forms.

STEWART KING, WATFAA President



PHOTO: MATT BARNES

WEST AUSTRALIAN UNDERSEA CLUB

waundersea.com

The West Australian Undersea Club (WAUC) is the oldest spearfishing club based in Perth, with a rich history dating back to 1964. Their current member demographics range from young novice divers in their teens, through to highly experienced veterans. WAUC is Australia's biggest spearfishing club, with 300+ financial members.

RORY MACLEOD, WAUC Chairman

REFERENCE GROUPS

Recfishwest Reference Groups are comprised of passionate and dedicated fishers who are interested in contributing to the management of fishing in WA. The Reference Groups provide 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 Recfishwest's Reference Groups are voluntary, and these members should be recognised and congratulated for giving their time to make fishing better.

In addition to our Reference Groups, Recfishwest also coordinates working groups to deal with important issues on an ongoing or ad-hoc basis. For 2021-2022 we acknowledge the significant contributions made by the:

- **West Coast Demersal Expert Working Group** - provided crucial input into the Government's west coast demersal consultation process; and
- **Spearfishing Equity Working Group** - removing impediments to ensuring equitable management arrangements for spearfishers in areas such as marine parks.

Recfishwest thanks the members of these groups for their commitment and input into ensuring fishers' interests are protected in relation to these issues.

Recfishwest's current reference groups and members below:

FRESHWATER REFERENCE GROUP

Advice on fish stocking locations and Marron fishery management.



Ian Sewell (*Chair*)



Liam Surridge



Stewart King



Russell Hanley



Peter Fragomeni



Glenn Edwards



Nick Davis



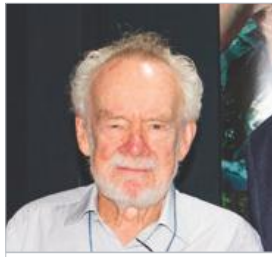
Dave Mcveigh

WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER REFERENCE GROUP

Eight recreational rock lobster licence holders advice on all aspects of rock lobster management.



Bob Urquhart (*Chair*)



Norman Halse



Brian Snook



Michael Heslewood



Ross George



Brody Laroux

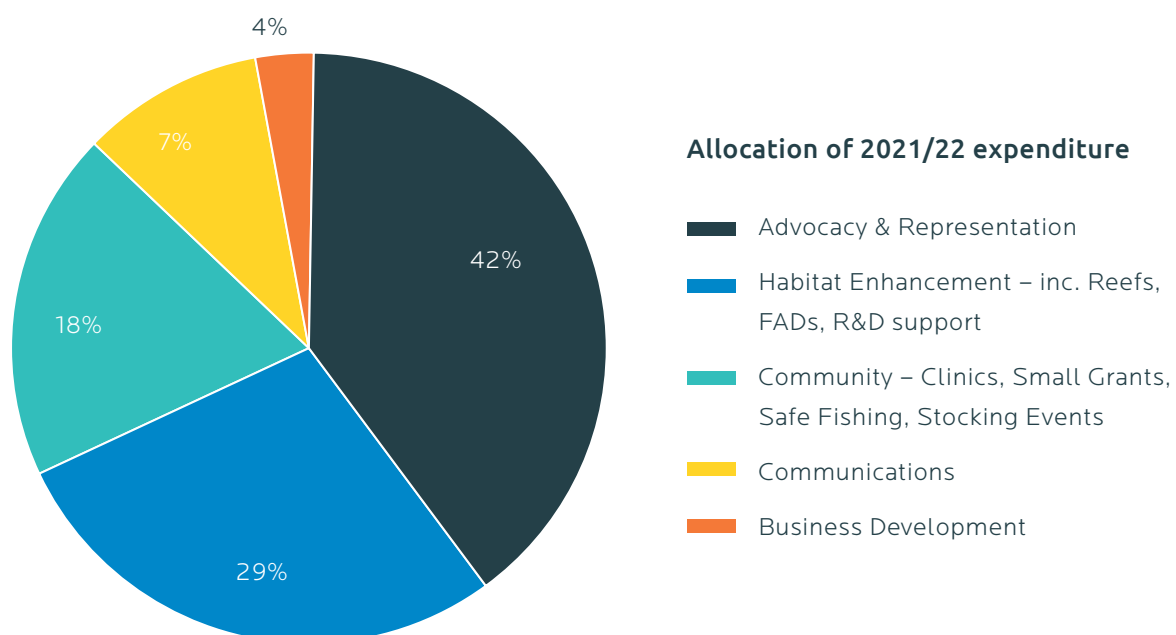


FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & GOVERNANCE

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

The Recfishwest Board, supported by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, sets and monitors annual expenditure to ensure organisational resources are deployed to best meet the needs of our members, our constitutional purpose, our strategy as well as obligations to our partners across a range of program areas.

The Recfishwest Board maintains a strong focus on financial security and long-term sustainability of our organisation in delivering against our purpose. This includes maintaining an operating reserve equivalent to six months of average operating costs which is intended to provide an internal source of funds for situations such as a sudden increase in expenses, one-time unbudgeted expenses, unanticipated loss in funding, or uninsured losses.



AUDITED FINANCIALS



Financial Report

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council
ABN 77 922 817 608
For the year ended 30 June 2022

Prepared by In focus Accounting Pty Ltd



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

Tel: (08) 9444 9711
Unit 9, 176 Main Street Osborne Park WA 6017 – PO Box 250, Osborne Park WA 6917
Email: adl@infocusaccounting.com.au
Website: www.infocusaccounting.com.au
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



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4	Balance Sheet
5	Notes to the Financial Statements
8	Movements in Reserves
9	Statement by Members of the Board
10	Auditor's Report

Income and Expenditure Statement

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2022

	NOTES	2022	2021
Income			
Fisheries Grants Received		1,389,974	1,306,000
Other Grants		1,444,582	1,485,217
Interest Income		423	893
Membership		5,951	23,621
Other Income		13,761	73,721
Sales		8,649	22,005
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets		36,951	-
Total Income		2,900,291	2,911,457
Expenditure			
Depreciation		35,224	38,217
Motor Vehicles	2	21,345	18,733
Cost of Sales		6,887	11,431
Administration Expenses		331,562	336,924
Communications Expenses		253,098	250,717
Project Expenses		417,870	336,124
Salary and on cost Expenses		1,808,681	1,662,809
Total Expenditure		2,874,667	2,654,955
Current Year Surplus		25,624	256,502

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council As at 30 June 2022

	NOTES	30 JUN 2022	30 JUN 2021
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,536,818	1,461,663
Trade and Other Receivables	3	949,111	363,197
Inventories		16,386	10,918
Other Current Assets		14,176	-
Total Current Assets		2,516,491	1,835,778
Non-Current Assets			
Plant, Equipment and Vehicles	4	171,313	64,441
Total Non-Current Assets		171,313	64,441
Total Assets		2,687,804	1,900,219
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	5	39,664	37,782
GST Payable		94,111	13,766
Payroll Liabilities	6	316,885	317,257
Total Current Liabilities		450,660	368,805
Other Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses		59,943	46,485
Contract Liability		380,841	409,193
Grants in Advance		695,000	-
Total Other Current Liabilities		1,135,784	455,678
Total Liabilities		1,586,444	824,483
Net Assets		1,101,360	1,075,736
Reserves			
Retained Surplus		1,101,360	1,075,736
Total Reserves		1,101,360	1,075,736

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2022

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia 2015. The Board have 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.

Trade and Other Receivables

Trade receivables and other receivables are recognised at the nominal transaction value without taking into account the time value of money. If required a provision for doubtful debts has been created.

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.

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.

	2022	2021
2. Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Motor Vehicle Expenses - Fuel	14,349	13,399
Motor Vehicle Expenses - Registration & 3rd Party Insurance	325	1,218
Motor Vehicle Expenses - Repairs & Maintenance	6,671	4,116
Total Motor Vehicle Expenses	21,345	18,733

	2022	2021
3. Trade and Other Receivables		
Trade Receivables		
Trade Debtors	900,644	324,862
Total Trade Receivables	900,644	324,862
Other Receivables		
Sundry Debtors	551	-
Total Other Receivables	551	-
Prepayments		
Prepayments	47,916	38,335
Total Prepayments	47,916	38,335
Total Trade and Other Receivables	949,111	363,197

Trade Debtors above includes \$764,500 regarding Fisheries grants billed in advance, which is also reflected as a current liability in Grants in Advance (\$695,000 net of GST).

	2022	2021
4. Plant, Equipment and Vehicles		
Plant and Equipment		
Plant and Equipment at Cost	139,876	129,204
Accumulated Depreciation of Plant and Equipment	(119,078)	(101,349)
Total Plant and Equipment	20,798	27,855
Motor Vehicles		
Motor Vehicles at Cost	178,950	112,974
Accumulated Depreciation of Motor Vehicles	(28,435)	(76,388)
Total Motor Vehicles	150,515	36,586
Total Plant, Equipment and Vehicles	171,313	64,441
	2022	2021
5. Trade and Other Payables		
Trade Payables		
Trade Creditors	21,149	23,504
Total Trade Payables	21,149	23,504
Other Payables		
Credit Cards	13,969	14,278
Income Received in Advance	4,546	-
Total Other Payables	18,515	14,278
Total Trade and Other Payables	39,664	37,782
	2022	2021
6. Payroll Liabilities		
PAYGW Payable	45,266	40,698
Provision for Annual Leave	58,976	81,494
Provision for Long Service Leave	212,643	195,065
Total Payroll Liabilities	316,885	317,257

Movements in Reserves

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
Retained Reserves		
Retained Earnings	1,075,736	819,234
Current Year Earnings	25,624	256,502
Total Retained Reserves	1,101,360	1,075,736

Statement by Members of the Board

WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council For the year ended 30 June 2022

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 2022.

Signed:



Dated:

15 October 2022

Chairman

Signed:



Dated:

15/10/2022

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 of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2022, 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 2022 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.

J

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

Auditors' Responsibility

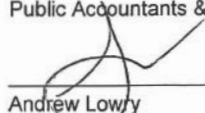
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. 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 28th day of September 2022.



In Focus Accounting

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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 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.

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.

FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reviews and monitors the risk management, compliance program and financial systems within Recfishwest. The committee coordinates procedures to safeguard Recfishwest assets and interests, including accounting, financials, compliance, regulations, standards and best practice guidelines.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee assists the Board in supervising the external communications of Recfishwest to all stakeholders. The committee oversees the Recfishwest Communication & Engagement 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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