



RFA Update- Projects, Consultation and Representation in NSW

The Recreational Fishing Alliance has been working tirelessly on a series of projects, consulting with the states anglers and lobbying state and federal ministers to ensure that anglers within NSW are not unfairly denied access to our waters.

Below is a brief snapshot of what the RFA has been progressing over the last few months;

PROJECTS

- **Interactive DVD-ROM.** The RFA is working on the final stage of its highly successful and renowned rockfishing safety project. As part of the work that included rockfishing safety seminars, resource material, DVD with Andrew “ET” Ettingshausen the RFA is producing an interactive DVD-ROM jam-packed with features for all those new to the rockfishing game.
- **Distribution of DVD.** The RFA is still distributing its highly successful rockfishing safety DVD via the www.rfansw.com.au website, direct mailout and downloads. NSW DPI Fishcare Volunteers and DPI Fisheries are also handing out free copies of the DVD. A joint project with SHIMANO is being undertaken to distribute the DVD via SHIMANO rod / reel combos for sale in all the major department stores.
- **Join a Fishing Club Campaign.** The RFA is working on getting a statewide join a fishing club campaign up and running for its member associations. The major fishing magazines are getting behind the project.

CONSULTATION

- **Jervis Bay Dive Site.** The RFA is seeking clarification on a federal plan to sink the HMAS Canberra in JB as a dive site. We have written to the state and federal governments requesting recreational access to the site to ensure that no additional loss of access occurs in Jervis Bay. ACoRF has tabled the matter for its next meeting at our request.
- **Port Botany Expansion.** The RFA has been invited to sit on the committee for the final design of the new boat ramp facilities associated with the Port Expansion. The RFA will also be seeking a compensatory plan for the 50 ha of Botany Bay we are being asked to give up in the State Significant Development. We have asked for access to a \$3m fund to build 3 piers in Botany Bay for recreational fishing and additional parking at Foreshore Rd.
- **Port Stephens and Batemans Bay Marine Park Submissions.** The RFA is seeking follow up meetings with Minister Debus and MacDonald to further discuss the draft zoning plans and the RFA of NSW recommendations.

Recreation Fishing Alliance of NSW

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The full submission can be seen at www.rfansw.com.au

- **Australian Communication and Media Authority.** The RFA has made recommendations to the committee that is preparing the public consultation paper that will discuss possible fishing and anchoring restriction on and around the 2 undersea communications cables of Sydney. Full details in the archive section of at www.rfansw.com.au
- **RECFISH.** The RFA is the 2nd NSW representative to RECFISH along with ACoRF. It is currently assisting with a new future leadership course for potential young leaders in the recreational fishing industry.
- **DPI Fisheries.** The RFA is working with DPI Fisheries on new communication material for recreational anglers in NSW. The RFA is also progressing the concept of an independent, paid representative to work with the RFA in NSW. Discussions have been ongoing with the DPI Director and Minister. The RFA is presenting a business plan to support the concept.

REPRESENTATION

The RFA of NSW is represented by its committee members at various State and Federal committee levels, including

- RECFISH- 2nd NSW representative
- NSW DPI Saltwater Licence Expenditure Committee – trust fund committee
- NSW Sport and Recreation – fishing safety
- Federal Recreational Fishing Community Grants - review committee
- Sydney Ports Authority- Port Botany Expansion – boat ramp committee
- Australian Communication and Media Authority- advisory role
- The committee members also bring a wealth of knowledge to the RFA due to their involvement with the ANSA National and NSW, NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers and the NSW Fishing Clubs Association.

Joe Garufi
Publicity Officer
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

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