

## Media Release

# Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW Launches NSW Future Leaders in Recreational Fishing program

RFANSW today announced the launch of the NSW Future Leaders in Recreational Fishing Program to be run at Coffs Harbour in February 2009.

“One of the key challenges for recreational groups, such as the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFANSW) is to ensure that more recreational fishers are able to make a lasting contribution towards improving the quality and enjoyment of any future fishing experience in New South Wales,” declared the Chairman Mr Malcolm Poole.

The '**New South Wales Future Leaders in Recreational Fishing**' project will bring together at Coffs Harbour, recreational fishers who want to, or are making a real difference. The selected participants will ideally be between 20 – 45 years old; who will be educated and mentored by a group of recognised leaders in recreational fishing advocacy and fisheries management over the 12 month project duration.

This project would not happen without the support and cooperation which it has received from the Commonwealth Government who provided the funds under the Recreational Fishing Community Grants and the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts, as well as support coming from the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries, and the general recreational fishing community.

It will provide the opportunity to cover a raft of current state fisheries issues in fresh and saltwater, to see how fisheries management and compliance operates, and to spend time viewing one of Australia's pristine marine environments. While there will be time to wet a line, this course is about selecting the best 15 future leaders, and their 5 mentors from throughout the state. The course will provide a platform for these future leaders to have input into the future management of recreational fishing in New South Wales as individuals or through memberships with community groups, advisory committees, recreational fishing advocacy groups or Government departments.”

Participants are being sought from a broad range of interested recreational fishers, including women and indigenous fishers. Future leaders programs will help insure industry is well represented by informed and responsible people. Government departments such as NSW DPI are placing more emphasis on responsibility and stewardship in the recreational fishing community these days, consulting and seeking their input into the State's future management decisions.

An application form is available on the following webs sites - RFANSW [www.rfansw.com.au](http://www.rfansw.com.au) or NSW DPI [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational). Applications close on **5<sup>th</sup> December 2008** and will be assessed by a selection panel. Participants must be able to travel to Coffs Harbour for the start of the **5 day** long course on the **17<sup>th</sup> February 2008**, concluding on the **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008**. All costs for the workshop, other than some minor incidentals costs, will be covered by the funds provided.

So if this is what you believe in and you feel that you can make a difference, then, what are you waiting for, get your application in today.

**ENDS**

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*More information [www.rfansw.com.au](http://www.rfansw.com.au) or check out other successful future leaders projects at; Recfish Australia's 'Next Generation of Leaders' at [www.recfish.com.au](http://www.recfish.com.au) . Recfishwest 'Young Future Leaders program' in Western Australia at [www.recfishwest.org.au](http://www.recfishwest.org.au) .*