

# The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

“Promoting Sustainable Fishing”

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## Anglers defend credentials of marine scientist

NSW anglers have defended the credentials and professionalism of Professor Bob Kearney, the marine scientist appointed to review the National Parks Association's pro-marine parks 'Torn Blue Fringe' document released in December 2008.

The recreational fishers of New South Wales, using their licence funds, sought out the services of an expert in fisheries and environmental sciences, to critique the NPA's document. One of the two stated objectives of that document was to critique commercial and recreational fisheries management in NSW. The other objective was to 'document the state of marine conservation in NSW', stated the Chairman of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, Mr Malcolm Poole.

Malcolm Poole goes on to say, "Professor Bob Kearney's credentials are unquestionable, he has two doctorates in marine science, his professional positions include being the Director of Research at NSW Fisheries for nine years, Professor of Environmental Sciences and Head of the School of Resource Environmental and Heritage Sciences at the University of Canberra and Chairman of the Board of the WorldFish Center. He has also been awarded the Order of Australia for services to Australian and international fisheries research and management".

Professor Kearney's review was only completed on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 4pm, after being peer reviewed by several top scientists, including Australia's pre-eminent expert on Marine Protected Areas, and has not been publicly released as yet." It is indicative of the fear that the National Parks Association holds for serious review of their statements that they release a completely unjustified personal attack on the author of a report they have not even seen. This is totally unprofessional behaviour.

The two main reasons why recreational fishers have taken the action to commission Professor Kearney to provide a review, are;

1. to obtain authoritative comment on the critique of NSW recreational fisheries management provided by the National Parks Association
2. to obtain assessment of the science that has been claimed to support the exclusion of recreational fishers from great areas of NSW coastal waters

Recreational fishers will provide additional comment on the critically important conservation of NSW coastal ecosystems and the sustainable management of recreational fishing after they have had a chance to see Professor Kearney's report.

**Contacts: Chairman Malcolm Poole 0403 125 766 or Secretary Stan Konstantaras 0407 131 714.**

Once the report is made public, it will be available for download from the front page of our web site at [www.rfansw.com.au](http://www.rfansw.com.au) .