



# Recreational Fishing Alliance Of NSW Inc

Meeting Minutes  
25<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Held at South Sydney AFA Clubrooms

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## 1. OPENING

The Chairman, Malcolm Poole welcomed those present and thanked all who had traveled down to Sydney and opened the meeting at 9.47am.

Mal gave a brief overview of what is written in his Chair report **See attached**

## 2. ATTENDANCE

Those in attendance where:

Malcolm Poole, Stan Konstantaras, Paul Cooper, Max Castle, Joe Garufi

Visitors

nil.

## 3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:

Peter Gibson

Michael Hirst

## 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes read and moved that they be accepted by Stan, seconded Joe.

## 5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Most items moved to general business and a brief discussion occurred on the following topics

- Future Leaders dates confirmed as 17-22 Feb 2009
- Access Forum will be held in May 2009, RFA to coordinate.
- New updated brochure for comment
- New constitution to go on website ( Stan to send to Joe)
- Professional Guides Ass has joined NSWCFCA, but keen to join RFA of NSW. Join RFA brochure to be sent to Steve Williamson when complete. Mal liaising on this.
- Shooters Party Fishing Policy now on website.

## 6. TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurers Report- **See attached**

Bank Balance is \$68,674.00

Paul also presented profit and loss, balance sheets and reconciliation reports to the committee.

RFA banked Ethnic Media Project funding (\$6728.40 ) and we are expecting \$9580.00 for the

Access Forum project once contracts signed and possibly \$10,000 matching funding from FRDC.

There has been little activity on the accounts thus far this financial year as we await projects to commence.

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## **BUSINESS ARISING from Treasurers Report**

- Paul to resend expense claim forms electronically.

### **7. DELEGATES REPORTS**

The delegates present were asked to provide an update/overview on their group's activities as a way of updating the other delegates and as a way to further gather support for issues if needed.

ANSA NSW-

Port Expansion a real worry for rec anglers **See attached**

Angel Rings are going OK, with the 81<sup>st</sup> installed in Moruya last week, 4 new ones for Tathra in December and ANSA NSW have an invite to NZ to kick off a trial in Auckland. Coffs installation to be resolved by Feb 2009 as the projects gets closer to 110 installations.

ANSA NSW to seek RFA NSW help via the Rec Vessel Advice Committee for proposed boom gate and inadequate break wall in new Botany Bay ramp.

NSWCFA –

Peter G provided some personal observations that were tabled inc. lateness of minutes, agendas and ad hoc meeting dates. Noted that the RFA needed to be more professional. Committee agreed. Comments well received.

NSWFCA-

Paul requested that the RFA of NSW help the member clubs with a direct mail out. Spoke about the pending (Mar 2009) mail out under the Fishing Safety Project and that we should ask the members for a single A4 size insert into the mail out.

Motion moved by Paul, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mal, passed unanimously.

NSWUSFA –

No report.

Book launch went well and USFA won awards at annual Recfish Awards Night.

### **8. AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **8a) Project Updates**

##### **Fishing Safety**

New draft of resource folder distributed for comment

Script rewrite number 4 completed and Stan shopping it to industry for support.

Letter to AFTA for assistance from industry has been sent and well received.

Michael from Afterglow set to start prelim filming on Freshwater DVD in mid November.

Rockfishing DVD in K-Mart attached to Shimano packs.

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WWW.SAFEFISHING.COM.AU Website Update provided by Peter G as follows:

I have nothing to report on the website content...still waiting for all the information Stan and I discussed...but please pass on whatever gets approved at the meeting and I'll add to the website where appropriate. That includes latest illustrations etc.

Some general information on the website:

Traffic has been very low to start with but is growing steadily:

August 32 visitors

September 75 visitors

October 73 visitors in first 3 weeks.

So, slowly increasing, better than going backwards.

The site has been indexed by Google and Yahoo. This will lead to more visits.

The most popular pages (apart from the entry page) in order are:

Rock safety tips

Freshwater safety tips

About the RFA

Fishing safety news

The most popular search phrases that people are using to find the site are:

rock fishing tips 10 %

fishing news 10 %

freshwater fishing 5 %

fishing NSW fresh water 5 %

NSW fisherman training 5 %

rock fishing NSW 5 %

president RFA 5 %

rock fishing safety gear 5 %

anglers groups NSW 5 %

[www.safefishing.com.au](http://www.safefishing.com.au)

One notable point is that people are finding the site when looking for general fishing info, not when looking for safety info. Personally I think this is a very good thing. The most popular sites that people are being linked from are:

Direct address / Bookmarks 54.7% (ie people putting in the exact URL address)

Links from an Internet Search Engine:

- Google 18%

- Yahoo! 2%

- Windows Live 1%

[www.fishraider.com.au/Invision/index.php](http://www.fishraider.com.au/Invision/index.php) 19%

[www.flylife.com.au/phpbb3/viewtopic.php](http://www.flylife.com.au/phpbb3/viewtopic.php) 1%

[www.waterways.nsw.gov.au/other.html](http://www.waterways.nsw.gov.au/other.html) 1%

[www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/other.html](http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/other.html) 1%

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### **Future Leaders**

A Letter asking for support on this project has gone to AFTA asking for help in seeking participants - Press Release and EOI are on RFA website and will go on NSW DPI website.

<http://www.rfansw.com.au/hottopics.html>

Dates confirmed 17-22<sup>nd</sup> February

5 mentors 15 Participants

RFA will have some member involvement.

ANSA NSW asked if opportunity for Angel Ring Trailer to be used during Future Leaders, Mal to confirm.

### **Ethnic Media**

Ethnic Media Funding has been banked. Decided on early December media buy. Stan will try to get matching funding in the next couple of weeks to increase roll out.

### **Shimano DVD**

DAFF has given support to spend the unused project funds on more DVDs. Project was approved for \$24,000 to reproduce 25,000 DVDs for Shimano, we received 32,500 for \$19,800 and completed project. DAFF has come back and asked us to spend surplus funds within project scope. Stan to complete.

### **VIVA Tackle**

Request received for 1000 unbranded DVDs for VIVA Tackle to distribute with their rock fishing boots. Scope under Shimano surplus for this to occur.

### **General Business re: Projects:**

New application for DVD Distribution to be completed and submitted by Joe and Stan

Paul to put together wish list to send to Prime Minister re: projects

Joe has applied for \$4900 under Volunteer Grants for RFA DVD Distribution Project

### **8b) RECFISH, ACoRF and Trust Funds**

Mal, Max and John H attended Recfishing Conference and enjoyed themselves.

See Mals Notes attached.

Mal spoke on future of Recfish and the need for permanent funding which is being diminished.

RFA of NSW need to be in there helping them sort out State Representation.

Mal moved motion that RFA of NSW joins Recfish as Associate Member. 2nd Max, All in favor, passed unanimously. Paul to complete application, paperwork from Mal.

Spoke about the new Advisory Council DAFF had set up; Mal encouraged RFA members to apply. Max C observation was that a key point was that rec fishers were disorganised, sloppy and not professional.

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### **8c) ACCESS**

RFA Forum to include terrestrial, aquatic and resource access on the agenda.

Tony Kelly to be speaking at Forum which will attempt to set agreeable statement to go into legislation that will consolidate access rights into the Act. RFA may be using Deacons as intermediary during this. RFA needs to consider environmental and climate change stance, e.g. 4 strokes instead of 2 strokes etc, rubbish etc.

There is a new MOU between NSW DPI and NP up for comment that will hopefully resolve some of the conflict between agencies.

RFA made a submission to the GBRMP. See attached

RFA received a Booderee clarification letter but Mal was still chasing up NP obligations under the Act. RFA Document to Shooters Party still being drafted. Max, Stan and Mal to complete before taking it via SP to Environment Minister

RFA to ask NSW CFA for quick update on progress of establishment of lands trust for access and state model. RFA will ask NSW CFA if they need RFA input. Looks like being a very worthwhile project the NSW CFA is working on.

Max C gave quick RVAC report. See attached written report.

### **8d) AGM.**

Agenda sent out, set for 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008. Invite to all members will be sent out.

Spoke about some of the positions and that both Joe and Stan need some help.

Stan's biggest problem is timely manner of minutes and Joe was that the mail out was getting to big.

There may be scope for a minute's secretary to help Stan and RFA application for paid media officer to handle mail outs and media extension.

### **8e) Peak Body**

Meetings had taken place with NSW DPI to discuss this and were progressing well.

We spoke about the Strategic Plan; Stan noted that Peter wanted input. All agreed. Mal, Paul and Peter are to work on this and then we can shop it around to Gov agencies like Sport and Rec.

Mal had worked on a paper that focused on Peak Bodies and a structured approach to representation. Potential to adopt and implement strategy

### **8f) Website and promotions.**

Final version of Join RFA brochure to be emailed for comment. Looks very professional and a few changes were suggested. Joe to fix with Peter and get printed. 5000 initial print run at this stage.

Future Leaders info online and a PR launch to the magazines have been completed. Joe to follow up.

### **General Business**

#### **1. Meeting Dates**

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RFA Meeting

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2009 dates selected. OK with ANSA and FCA events. CFA to confirm.

It was also agreed that the Executive meet more often outside the official meetings to keep that ball rolling on things like Strategic Plans and Peak Body. All agreed.

Meeting dates and minutes on website ASAP.

Saturday, 22 November 2008 RFA AGM  
Saturday, 31 January 2009 RFA meeting  
Saturday, 9 May 2009 RFA meeting  
Saturday, 8 August 2009 RFA meeting  
Saturday, 14 November 2009 RFA meeting - AGM

2. BOA

Resolved that RFA to reciprocate relationship based on flow of information.

Open invitation to attend our meetings.

Max to respond to BOA on behalf of NSW RFA regarding membership.

3. Contact List

Update contact list to include useful contacts and Presidents of Association etc.

Joe and Stan to handle.

4. Prospect Reservoir

RFA of NSW to seek independent from microbiologist re: risk management of anglers using PR and risk to public health.

Stan to chase up Professor he has been using in Desal discussions as he is giardia and crypto expert.

5. Desalination

Desalination research funding up to \$75,000 is available, ANSA NSW to ask RFA to apply for funding for monitoring and testing project.

6. TSP

Stan asked for an update regarding the formation of TSP Fishing Branch, Membership form and Press release. He advised he had a number of shooters/fishers who were keen to join and are waiting on the membership form that indicates the option of joining the Fishing Branch.

MC advised that a Fishing Branch was approved at the recent SP AGM. A revised membership form was currently being resolved and could be expected on TSP web site soon. Perhaps a press release will then be issued.

With no more general meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 1.58 pm.

Stan Konstantaras - RFA of NSW Secretary

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# Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

## October 2008 report

### NSW Future Leaders for Recreational Fishing Project 17<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> February 09

The project was launched at the Recfish Australia conference on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

I have already forwarded the PR and EOI forms for participants and mentors have been forwarded to all and sundry and I hope they are being circulated widely by our members.

This is available from the DPI and RFA's web sites as well as being posted in a number of Fishing chat rooms. We have also requested assistance from AFTA to get it out to all their tackle outlets.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW is seeking interested recreational fishers, including women and indigenous fishers to participate in the NSW Future Leaders program. Selected participants will ideally be between 20 – 45 years old and will be mentored by a group of recognised leaders in recreational fishing advocacy and fisheries management. The program will provide the opportunity for participants to be exposed to 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. A 5 day workshop will be held in Coffs Harbour in February 2009 and NSW DPI will be contributing some expertise to the workshop.

Interested in participating? Complete the expression of interest form below.

- [Expression of Interest Application](#)  163.0 kb
- [Expression of Interest Application](#)  106.3 kb

The format of the workshop and schedule is being finalised now, it will be posted up for all to review and comment, along with the case studies, participant and mentor guides too.

### NSW Access Forum – May 09

Planning is underway, the first meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October in Sydney with NSW DPI and the working group, a number of actions and ideas were put in place with a date, place, funding budget, and forum schedule of topics and actions to be agreed upon very soon.

We are seeking additional funding assistance from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) as we have doubled the forums/workshop participants from 25 to 55. This has meant including other state agencies and recreational fishers to ensure we gather all the issues and potential threats that our preferred recreation faces relating to access.

More to come on this.

### Fishing Safely in NSW Project

Discussions with AFTA and several main members has occur over the past few months with a formal request being sent and addressed at their October 08 meeting. RFA would appreciate continuing our past award winning partnership on the Rock Fishing Safety Project with 'ET' looking at if AFTA could co-opt some of their other well know talent associated with various manufactures to head up some of the segments in the Fishing Safely Project.

It has been suggested that an expert in each main area could present the various segments/parts as well as an overlay presenter to give helpful hints and if 'ET' could do the tie up of all parts into a group intro for the one DVD would be great. The Freshwater script #4 was provided giving the basis for the freshwater part noting it was a guide and still in draft with comments or suggestions were welcomed.

### Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) May & Sept 08 Meetings

Two interesting meetings these have been.



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**May 08** – this was the annual budget meeting where both the Fresh and Saltwater committee hear project outcomes and talk over jointly funded projects, unfortunately this did not happen left a number of funded projects having different opinions from each committee and if they should continue or alter.

The Saltwater Trust committee members worked overtime proceeding the meeting working through some 4 inches (68 projects in total) of paperwork relating to a number of proposals in the seven platform areas following the draft working document provided for the meeting 'NSWDPI Recreational Fishing Planning Strategy 2008-13'. This document also received a number of comments indicating that the original request was not followed by DPI and this was their position and may not reflect all committee members positions or direction, discussion ensued with the DPI position on project culling and longevity under question with little to no ability to change or halt such projects when underway on a 5yr funding arrangement, verse the current 3yr review strategy the Trust Funds had.

In all it was meeting that was orderly to start with and concern at the end, this was due to the method of accepting/rejecting projects from front to back of the proposals and not based on merit in each area. The culling process at the end evolved into a rabble, when the trust funds bank account was over expend left a lot to be desired with relevant issues and merit unable to be discussed due to time constraints. In the end with a 5 year projection the Trust went into the red around 2010 by \$150k which then grew to 2012 to \$1.5m. DPI funded projects (the only ones who knew about the 5 year funding plan) generally escaped up front as shorter term outside projects were lost due to the support of longer term projects where core DPI funding should be used on a \$ for \$ basis for Education and Awareness, Compliance, and some Research areas.

The draft minutes for RFSTEC 26 posted on the NSWDPI web site under the Rec Fishing area, draw some major concerns in quality and transparency to the public of the projects and description as well as the overall budget process, this was addressed at the Sept 08 meeting.

**Sept – 08** the issue relating to the quality of minutes was raised for the past meeting and it was suggested by more than one member that there needs to be an accurate record of all outcomes and changes to decisions. It was noted that the standard of minutes also changes for each other committee, a standardise and consistent format must be used for transparency and public understanding. It was agreed that there will be more details captured and the original budget agenda type table along with add discussion comments and support/not as well as votes should progress upwards through each committee to ACoRF and the Minister, retaining an accurate record for all committee members.

Two overdue report form DPI were updated with DPI providing one report on Luderick and the Black Fin Bream being completed for next meeting. These are only 2-3 years overdue and action form the last meeting has drawn some positive results.

There were 10 more projects submitted for consideration or revisited with 7 being approved for those that need the full information then this is available, otherwise the minutes from RFSTEC 27 will cover the basic angle of each project with the voting and discussion.

The 'Plastic Licence' for over the phone and on line purchases is now a reality with the introduction of the Government Licencing System (GLS) with further improvements coming as each stage is released and other departments come on board. The Compliance sector provided a broad overview of how the recent restructure was taking shape, in particular the change to Trust Funded officers and like funded mobile squads in three areas now, it appears that some strategies are working with over all 400 odd prosecutions being issued and a high success rate.

There were also presentation on The Greater Sydney Region RFS and how this is progressing, FAD's program update with several deep water FAD's to be deployed in 08/09, Get Hooked It's Fun to Fish is now being piloted in 42 NSW schools during term 3 and 4 improving awareness of fishing issues with a greatly improved education kit and trained Fishcare Volunteers.

A request was made to look back over an audit two major projects internally following on form a Freshwater Audit to ensure there were not similar concerns in the Saltwater areas, Fishcare Volunteer Program and the Recreational Fisheries Mobile Squad were selected from 07/08.

## **NSWDPI Update and changes**

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The Wild Harvest Fisheries Branch within DPI was recently restructured to looking at the delivery of services specific to each user group. A number of changes occurred with Anthony Hurst Wild Harvest Fisheries Manager and John Diplock Manager, Recreational Fisheries, taking severance packages and leaving NSW DPI in Aug – Sept. This along with some other internal changes in establishing a working group required to look at the Commercial Fishing Sector Industry Restructure, being the final stage of share managed fisheries has created some holes in resources and services which will need close attention.

A new Fisheries Operations Branch has been created with Peter Turnell as Acting Director of the Branch, positions that report to him are the Manager, Commercial Fisheries and Manager, Recreational Fisheries. Mr Murray Spicer has also been slotted in as the acting Manager, Recreational Fisheries until such time as this unit is relooked at. The positions for Manger, Recreational Access Saltwater and Fisheries Manager, Recreational Schools Program positions were recently appointed allowing these Trust Funded staff to start and established the direction of both these projects.

### **Recfish Australia**

Len Olyott, as the new CEO of Recfish Australia (RA) has certainly hit the ground running in the new job since June 08. He has to contend with several major issues internally, attempting to get to know current members, coaxing back old members, the Strategic Revenues Options (SRO) paper so widely despised at the last election, and with major external changes like the Government, DAFF and AFAM as well as a bleak funding future. The board also continues to rumble along, as of the AGM meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> October I will no longer be a Board member, this is after another strategic direction change away from the expertise based board established 3 years ago moving back to a representative board. This is again all odds to a recent report commissioned by RA seeking to consolidate RA's direction. I also launched a challenge to determine the context of a 'members member' and ensure that we are following due process when it was noted that the Chair of NSW ACoRF is not a member of that appointed committee, and that I have been removed by default in lieu of self preservation by another. Recfish projects funded mainly from the Recreational Fishing Community Grants (RFCG) will all be completed in the near future and will remove a big part of the Office and Project Managers (OPM) work. After the RA conference to be held on the 17-18<sup>th</sup>, the AGM on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the Recfishing Research workshop on the 20<sup>th</sup> which will involve finalising all the proceedings and minutes then the work load should drop off.

At present RA has enough consolidated funding to run until around July 09, or if the AGM decides otherwise to wind things up at the bank balance when board management was instigated, approx \$70k. RA has committed to and run several very worthwhile exercises in the past 18 months with its limited capacity, and resources, credit must be given where it is due. RA's future will be in the hands of the new board, the new CEO and OPM, as well as the Commonwealth Government.

Communications continue to improve with mail outs and web site content being updated, regular newsletters and articles in fishing magazines, anglers are hopefully starting to see the name and getting to know there is a National Body.

**AGM update** – the constitutional changes were accepted by the members after some heated debate over the proposed changes, there were no challenges raised to the validity of 'member members' or board nominations, with Tarfish still to appoint a board member.

ETBF issue is at stalemate, thus no changes in commercial fishing practices, this still needs to be progressed once AFAM and DAFF become convinced that a change is needed seeking a balance and fair access to all stakeholders and not a 'one hit wonder monopoly' which is currently the status. Solution to get all stakeholders back to the table and looking at an agreed way forward, RA should be leading this looking and looking at securing funding for adjustment research and possible industry compensation.

The Commonwealths MPA East Coast Planning process due to start in September 08 has been further delayed, just as the South West and North are heading out for public comment. If you wish to get involved or read all about each of then follow the links

<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/index.html> . However there is a small hurdle that Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) relating to commercial and recreational fishing activities and the EPBC Regulations Division 12 sections as below and the applications of such regulations in all commonwealth parks.

This review and submissions of the EPBC Act and Regulations will take some time and is due mid 2009.

<p><b>12.34 Commercial fishing</b></p> <p>(1) A person may carry out commercial fishing in a Commonwealth reserve only if the person is authorised by:</p> <p>(a) a law of the Commonwealth, a State or self-governing Territory; or</p> <p>(b) a permit issued by the Director.</p> <p>Penalty: 50 penalty units.</p> <p>(2) A person who is authorised by a law of the Commonwealth, a State or self-governing Territory or a permit issued by the Director to carry out commercial fishing in a Commonwealth reserve, or in a part of a reserve, must comply with any determination for the reserve, or the part, made by the Director under subregulation (3).</p> <p>Penalty: 50 penalty units.</p> <p>(3) For subregulation (2), the Director may determine, for a Commonwealth reserve or a part of a reserve, that:</p> <p>(a) specified kinds of fishing gear cannot be carried or used; and</p> <p>(b) specified kinds of fishing gear are required to be carried or used by a person who is fishing or intending to fish; and</p> <p>(c) specified practices in commercial fishing are prohibited; and</p> <p>(d) specified practices in commercial fishing are to be followed.</p> <p>(4) The Director may determine that a prohibition or requirement mentioned in subregulation (3) is to apply at all times, at specified times or during a specified period.</p> <p>(5) Notice of a determination under subregulation (4) must be published.</p>	<p><b>12.35 Fishing other than commercial fishing</b></p> <p>(1) This regulation applies to fishing other than commercial fishing.</p> <p>(2) A person must not fish in a Commonwealth reserve in contravention of a determination made by the Director under subregulation (3).</p> <p>Penalty: 30 penalty units.</p> <p>(3) For subregulation (2), the Director may determine in writing:</p> <p>(a) that an area of water is an area where fishing is prohibited at all times, at specified times or during a specified period; and</p> <p>(b) for an area of water where fishing is allowed:</p> <p>(i) that specified kinds of fishing gear cannot be carried or used; and</p> <p>(ii) that specified kinds of fishing gear are required to be carried or used by a person who is fishing or intending to fish; and</p> <p>(iii) the kind of fish that a person may take or must not take; and</p> <p>(iv) the maximum number of fish, or maximum number of a species of fish, that a person may take in a day; and</p> <p>(v) the minimum or maximum size of fish that a person may take; and</p> <p>(vi) the maximum size of fillets of fish that a person may have in the reserve; and</p> <p>(vii) that if a person stores any fish in a freezer, the fish must be stored in bags clearly marked with the name of the person who owns the fish; and</p> <p>(viii) that tethering of fish (whether or not alongside a boat) is prohibited.</p> <p>(4) A person who is fishing in an area of water must not:</p> <p>(a) use equipment that allows the person to breathe under the surface of the water; or</p> <p>(b) attract or take fish using, or install, equipment other than:</p> <p>(i) a rod and line to which a single hook or fishing lure is attached; or</p> <p>(ii) a hand-held line to which a single hook or fishing lure is attached; or</p> <p>(iii) a hand-held net designed to land a fish caught on a hook or fishing lure to which a line is attached; or</p> <p>(c) use a hand-held net to take a fish that has not been caught on a hook or fishing lure attached to a line.</p> <p>Penalty: 30 penalty units.</p> <p>(5) A person must not, in a Commonwealth reserve:</p> <p>(a) use a live animal as bait for fishing; or</p> <p>(b) use a member of a native species, other than a species of fish, as bait for fishing; or</p> <p>(c) fish by leaving a fishing line unattended; or</p> <p>(d) clean fish taken under this regulation, within 50 metres of a freshwater stream, watercourse or lake, except at a facility provided by the Director for that purpose; or</p> <p>(e) clean or fillet fish within a marine area.</p> <p>Penalty: 15 penalty units.</p> <p>(6) Notice of a determination under subregulation (3) must be published, unless the determination is made to deal with an emergency that may endanger public safety.</p>
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The other important issue facing Recfish is an ongoing funding stream, hopefully without any to many strings attached, be it from the government or another source, it seems that these funding streams

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occur elsewhere around the world but are difficult to get up here, which may mean the recreational fishing sector needs to become either more professional or more political in its attitude.

The Strategic Revenue Options (SRO) paper which was funded under the RFCG programme is completed and was given some airing and was being assessed by the old board, whilst it looked at number of options it seems that a State or Commonwealth based licence/fee system appeared to be the only fair way forward, as we need to strike a balance that all users paid for the benefits and not just some. It also looked at many other options, some good, some bad, such as Government based levies on fuel or tackle versus industry based and operated levies such as the Boating Industry one recently put in place on outboard horse power.

Obviously more will follow on this in the future as RA looks to secure a funding base for the future.

RA also addressed the need to expand its membership base and looking for new members at a state or national (or reasonably) representational level. Concerns by some states seen this as a threat to their roles and may not be effective.

### **ASFB Conference 15-18<sup>th</sup> September 08 Sydney**

The conference was well attended with some 200-300 members and interested parties attending and presenting some interesting and thought provoking subjects.

The first day set the scene that Recreational Fishing Sector was an important group to consider and was growing annually, research at all levels needed to keep up with the changing pace looking at, and providing, suitable management recommendations for a sustainable fishing future. This followed with 2 days using three forums where papers were presented by various researchers and the like, I have the abstracts in this if anyone wish to get more info.

Some of the most interesting papers I found related when I attended on day 2 were the research papers into Club-based Anglers, Age-class fish populations, Glenbawn Dam stock, Australian Bass, Chemical markers, Murray Cod, Macquarie Perch, Estuary Perch, and the post survival of Black Jewfish and Snapper.

There will be a conference proceedings paper made available later in 2009 of the all the papers presented and the ASFB web site [www.asfb.org.au](http://www.asfb.org.au) holds a full list of the abstracts.

**Bondi Marine Discovery Centre** - I also found sometime late in the afternoon to visit the centre across the way and see how the assistance \$100k+ from the Saltwater Trust Fund 02/03 was/had being used. I was met by the staff and walked through the facility seeing the transformation that have been happening and how each stage operated with the confines of the Bondi Beach Pavilion (southern end). Several representation of the various productions were viewed, the tanks with some fish settling in, and the printed material with key messages were discussed. The planned opening was still some weeks away but it was hopeful to be operational with all approvals in place for early October 2008.

Some concerns which evolved were with capacity, ability to meet to the original project objectives, the pay to see plan (developed into a commercial venture I feel now), the redirection of a schools based support program for the sustainable fisheries and environment message withdrawing from the interactive show and do skill sample, the lack of an educational sit-learn-and do area as well as promised access for Fishcare Volunteer and DPI access was restricted as it is open for all day Public Paying Access.

### **Recfishing Research Workshop 20<sup>th</sup> October 08 Canberra**

Again a small but dedicated group of 60 odd fishers and government agencies stayed on for this workshop which took on the main issue of looking at a Recfishing Research's (RR) Research and

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Development plan for Recreational Fishing covering the next 5 years and how it relates to other policies and strategies.

Bill Sawynok and Ross Winstanley lead the charge to cover off on what was discussed at the 2 day RA conference and develop these ideas into action items for the R&D plan.

Several emerging issues were added such as Climate Change, Reducing Recreational Fishings Carbon Footprint, and Fishing Access was drawn into three main headings being - Aquatic, Terrestrial and Resource.

There were many other important issues which will be covered in a workshop proceedings document will be completed late December 2009 once Bill S is back from his world study trip looking at and attending a number of various recreational fishing and stakeholder conferences on their issues and how they address existing and common issues whilst looking towards the future. The proceedings will be posted on the new RR web <http://www.recfishingresearch.org>.

### **HMAS Adelaide scuttling and dive site off Avoca Beach Central Coast**

The planning continues for the scuttling of the HMAS Adelaide off Avoca Beach in late 2009 settling it in about 35m of water near Terrigal. The impact to the local fishing community for recreational, commercial and charterboat fishers will see a potential area of around a 1sqkm being removed from fishing access off Avoca Beach which is a well known flathead drifting spot on the sand and has some close and productive reef fishing throughout the year.

A goal for fishers along the coast is to see if fishing can be allowed in some forms under a heritage order or historical right, as fishing did occur at time off the decks of the Adelaide during its travels around the world. This will certainly be a challenge as all other similar dive sites do not allow any forms off fishing and have varying 'no go' restrictions from 250-500m with no fishing zones in place.

If successful fishing maybe allowed in a selective form like trolling, or floating baits only, or after hours access using un-weighted methods with no anchoring, thus providing a safety barrier to divers who visit the sunken ship generally during daylight hours.

What ever there must be a bare minimum safety standard applied allowing all the public to gain access and use of the vessel and not seen to be for the exclusive use of diving.

Several public forums are planned for the future looking at the 'On Water' Department of Lands management and 'On Land' Gosford City Council management.

### **Botany Bay Port Expansion – Sydney**

This continues to be an issue which demands excessive time from a limited number of volunteering resources, South Sydney AFC is doing an excellent job along with a number of other people attempting to secure fishers rights to the Bay from the northern approach. The impacts on access change and the ability of Ministers, Sydney Ports or other Agencies to acknowledge or agree that recreational fishing is being impacted continues to grow in size and loss of amenity with little or no improved benefits coming back to assist or enhance fishing opportunities which are being lost and may never be handed back.

Rec fishing is suffering from the reduced access, safety standards that are minimal and flawed awaiting an incident to happen, with the resource and environment under pressure from combined developments in the Bay could see things turn pear shape taking a long time to recover.

Compensatory measures towards recreational fishing have been represented to NSW ACoRF with little result since 2004, as recreational fishing rights are not encompassed in legislation as is commercial

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fishing where loss of income derived from fishing a publicly owned resource has the ability to a claim of compensation.

Representations have been made to Ministers noting examples of other terrestrial compensation being set aside or underway, however an increase in size, improved safe access and accessibility for the new boat ramp is not on, and now we may need to contend with boom gate operation which could attract a charge in future is questionable. More to come.

### **Estuary Prawn Trawl**

There has been no meetings since November 07, this there is little to report except that we have been noting our concerns that the fishery is being managed as per the FMS.

There is still a focus on the newly created Share Managed Fishery and finalising the Management Plans for each Fishery.

The fishery did achieve its 'right to export licence' back under the EPT FMS. Research outcomes and the observer program are slowly progressing with some parts on hold and were not able to be delivered due to DPI staff shortage. Very little else of importance is being discussed, however the sector continues on fishing within its existing boundaries. An issue which has changed is the proposed regulation to allow fish species with no size limit which previously were allowed to be taken in the EPT to continue providing they meet the new size limit.

The Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in the Hawkesbury continues on its way to becoming fully operational and there should be a follow up meeting on the monitoring group in the very near future as the water flow starts to increase into the Hawkesbury and the monitoring is settles down.

### **Estuary General**

As above, the Estuary General is in the same situation as the EPT and all other commercial MAC's.

Note: NSW DPI are working on meeting dates but this is dependent on a Seafood Industry Advisory Council (SIAC) meeting to be held soon to discuss the Steven's Report and Commercial Fishing Sector Restructure. This will be after the mini budget which will hopefully contain some dollars to reduce or remove from the sector the majority of latent/unused licences and endorsements.

Kind regards and tight lines to all

Malcolm Poole  
Chairman  
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Treasures Report:

**Recreational Fishing Alliance of  
NSW Inc**  
*PO Box 328  
Matrville NSW 2036*

**Profit & Loss [With  
Year to Date]**  
July 2008 through October 2008

	Selected Period	% of Sales	Year to Date	% of YTD Sales
Income				
Sales				
Membership fees	\$700.00	5.90%	\$700.00	5.90%
NSW Government Grants	\$4,805.68	40.30%	\$4,805.68	40.30%
Safety - Asian Angler Awareness	\$6,428.40	53.90%	\$6,428.40	53.90%
Total Income	\$11,934.08	100.00%	\$11,934.08	100.00%
Cost of Sales				
Gross Profit	\$11,934.08	100.00%	\$11,934.08	100.00%
Expenses				
Computing costs	\$325.00	2.70%	\$325.00	2.70%
Meeting Expenses				
Delegate Amenities	\$76.00	0.60%	\$76.00	0.60%
Total Meeting Expenses	\$76.00	0.60%	\$76.00	0.60%
Projects				
Fishing Safety - Freshwater	\$12,923.01	108.30%	\$12,923.01	108.30%
Total Expenses	\$13,324.01	111.60%	\$13,324.01	111.60%
Operating Profit	(\$1,389.93)	-11.60%	(\$1,389.93)	-11.60%
Other Income				
Interest Income	\$6.10	0.10%	\$6.10	0.10%
Total Other Income	\$6.10	0.10%	\$6.10	0.10%

Other Expenses				
Bank fees	\$10.00	0.10%	\$10.00	0.10%
Total Other Expenses	\$10.00	0.10%	\$10.00	0.10%
Net Profit / (Loss)	<b>(\$1,393.83)</b>	-11.70%	<b>(\$1,393.83)</b>	-11.70%

**Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW Inc**

*PO Box 328*

*Matraville NSW 2036*

**Balance Sheet**

**As of 30/10/2008**

<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	
Cash On Hand	
Cheque Acct - 06 2017 10117466	\$67,873.49
Total Cash On Hand	\$67,873.49
Trade Debtors	\$4,700.00
Total Current Assets	\$72,573.49
Total Assets	\$72,573.49
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	
GST Liabilities	
GST Collected	\$381.82
Total GST Liabilities	\$381.82
Total Current Liabilities	\$381.82
Total Liabilities	\$381.82
Net Assets	\$72,191.67
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings	\$71,619.74
Current Year Earnings	<b>(\$1,393.83)</b>
Historical Balancing	\$1,965.76
Total Equity	\$72,191.67





## Australian National Sportfishing Association N.S.W. Branch

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PO BOX 2019 GATESHEAD DC NSW 2290

Graeme Dunlavia  
NSW Maritime - Botany Bay/ Port Hacking Area Manager  
24<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
via email [Graeme.Dunlavia@maritime.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Graeme.Dunlavia@maritime.nsw.gov.au)

### Re: Botany Bay Transit Zone

Dear Graeme,  
Thank you for facilitating yesterday's meeting, and although heated it allowed both parties to present their arguments for and against the proposed zone.

Firstly I would like to clarify two things; one being that our argument is not with NSW Maritime but with Sydney Ports Corporation and the continued contempt it shows the community. John and I have battled hard over the past 6 years to get a fair and equitable outcome for the recreational boating and fishing community of NSW and your remark that both John and I do not have the safety interests of recreational anglers as a priority was way off mark and long removed from the truth. While not personally offended I would like to this chance to inform you of the work that I do in the interests of recreational angler safety at a local, state, national and international level.

For the past few years I have volunteered my time to coordinate and implement angler safety education programs in NSW and Australia. I work on a daily basis with state and federal government agencies. I coordinate the Angel Ring program which has installed 81 life buoys at dangerous rock fishing spots in NSW. I have coordinated the installation of these rings into Victoria; I am working on Tasmania and have been invited to NZ in December after we coordinated their trial in Auckland. I have 28 documented lives saved under this project alone. The operational cost of this project is nearing \$150,000. I have also focused on educating the non-english speaking anglers of NSW, conducting workshops for Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese anglers. I have also project managed the highly successful Rockfishing Safety DVD, which has distributed close to 300,000 free DVDs into the community. My non-english speaking projects total close to \$150,000. I have coordinated and funded the placement of Angel Rings into NSW police cars to assist the Police as a first response to any incident that occurs near the water. This project was possible due to the support of the NSW Coroner. We have participated in an international water safety conference in Portugal and last week our resource material was on its way to the USA with one of my committee members for another conference. The associations I represent are multiple award winners in the NSW Sports Safety Awards for outstanding implementation or adoption of safe sport practices. I also have many commendations to my name, including Australia Day Awards specifically relating to anglers safety. As late as last week I was short listed into the top 3 nominations for Volunteer of the Year at the National Recfish Awards, primarily for my safety work with recreational anglers. I also sit on the Australian Water Safety Council. Finally I am currently project managing another 3 safety DVDs for free distribution within the community, including boating safety. I personally liaise with my representatives on the Recreational Vessel Advisory Group to ensure we get the right message out. This project has been funded to the tune of \$100,000. I do this as a volunteer to ensure the anglers of NSW and Australia are safe when they fish.

John's CV would be even more impressive than mine so using the tired old argument that you are implementing a tough line for our own safety tends to wash a bit thin with us.

Moving on, John and I are not convinced that the safety of the anglers who fish in and around the shipping channel is the real reason why SPC wants a transit (exclusion) zone. By definition a transit zone means that an angler must not stop or drift in this area. The following image shows the proposed transit zone marked in red, marked in yellow is the future transit zone that SPC will need to implement after the Port Expansion is completed. Based on the SPC figures quoted at the meeting, currently there are less than 8 ships a day using the Port even on a busy day. On most days you are lucky to see 5 ships docked in the port. The time spent traveling within the shipping channel would be less than 10 minutes per shipping movement. Effectively this translates into no ships using the channel 22.5 hours per day. SPC keeps telling us that there will be more and larger ships once the Port is expanded and they will need more room to maneuver. Given the prevailing decline in the national and world economy has SPC revised those figures? We and many other people have continually doubted what SPC has been spinning to the people of NSW to justify the port expansion. Today it is even more relevant. We can understand the need for a transit zone in the Harbour, high traffic 24 / 7. Let's not forget there are no ferries, Jet cats or River cats on Botany Bay. Effectively once the new Port is built we will be denied the use of approx 300 ha of Botany Bay which is a declared fishing haven (paid for by fishers out of NSW fishing licence funds) and for the present have been offered no compensation for this loss



**Proposed Transit Zone Future Transit Zone**

Current regulation says we cannot anchor in a shipping lane and it's up to Maritime to enforce this. Apart from that I cannot see the need for an exclusion zone under the guise of a transit zone. Marking a dedicating shipping channel when the new Port is built and enforcing this will not be an issue, that is common sense and acceptable. What is not acceptable is losing another slice of our recreational fishing haven and we will not relinquish this without a fight.

Yesterday we also discussed the issue of anchoring inside the shipping lane adjacent to Molineax Point and the fact that SPC Pilots and Tug Captains are constantly reporting boats that are anchored only a few meters inside the shipping lane, either under the influence of the tide or prevailing NE winds in summer. John went on to say that these boats pose no threat and that the ships usually travel southwards of the middle channel. Have a look at the following images and explain to me how these anchored boats in the yellow circles are in danger of being hit by the ship exiting the Bay. Drifting the proposed transit zone, down rigging, chasing pelagic fish and many other recreational fishing activities will be stopped and the constant harassment we see by SPC staff will increase, even when no ships are present for 90% of the day and night. Let's not forget the most recent incident I had to personally diffuse caused by SPC staff that literally had no idea what they were talking about when trying to move my anglers out of the recreational access channel. I was amused it took them 2 days, countless phone calls and three threatening visits to my anglers to realise they were wrong. This is same culture that is exacerbated on the rest of Botany Bay. SPC want all anglers removed from the entire side of the Bay they operate on, make no mistake. I intend to document all these instances of swamping and contempt over summer, since they occur often.





The red line indicates the line of sight between the channel markers. The anchored boats relationship to the ship is not precarious as SPC makes out. There is no pressing danger.

I also made reference to the dangerous practice of some tug and pilot vessel skippers that go out of there way to harass and swamp smaller boats who are in the Molineax Point area. This is clearly evident by the light blue line that indicates this tug boat's course. If you need more evidence I am happy to take additional footage and images of this dangerous behavior. We also spoke about the reciprocal unfriendly relationship between the boat captains and the anglers who fish the line, the reasons why are clearly evident.

We have all witnessed boats anchored in the middle of the channel and Maritime currently has the tools at its disposal to deal with these offenders. We totally support Maritime in its efforts to warn and educate these people of the inherent danger and we wholly support full enforcement of the regulations for those who chose to flout the regulation and ignore Maritime directions. However the introduction of an enforcement regime where there is no latitude and regard for those fishers who only marginally encroach the now to be proclaimed transit zone is akin to using a sledge hammer to crack open a walnut.

Whilst it was noble to hear the SPC had the safety of anglers in mind, having been dealing with SPC over the years this is clearly not the case. I will reluctantly recall our latest incident, when after months of John and I pushing the case for more marker buoys to define the new recreational boating channel, it took an angler colliding with a submerged object to get a positive response from SPC. After SPC keeping the incident under wraps and details from us we actually located the angler and took photos of the boat involved - this angler is certainly lucky to be alive. It then only took a couple of days for SPC to give us what we wanted months ago – a guarantee of more buoys to define the channel. I have put the proposition to SPC that it should release these photos in conjunction with the media to serve as a warning to other boat users but almost a month has passed and still nothing has happened. My argument is that these photos could be used to better educate and create awareness amongst boat users and increase their safety. I believe that releasing these images now constitutes a huge embarrassment for SPC and the Minister at the expense of boating safety. True to our word we have not released the photos or generated further embarrassment for SPC or the Minister but it could be construed that boating safety is not high on SPC's priority list.

We have maintained an excellent working relationship with our Botany Bay Maritime staff, Trevor Newman was a constant fixture at our club and the same courtesy will be extended to Michelle and any other Maritime staff, yet we will do what ever it takes to oppose this proposed transit zone in Botany Bay. The safety of all the anglers of NSW is number one on our list followed by the continued fair and equitable access to the waterway and resource.

We are, as always willing to meet and try resolving these issues with you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Konstantaras".

Stan Konstantaras  
ANSA NSW President  
South Sydney AFA President  
ANSA National Safety Officer

RFA Meeting

**RVAG Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday 21 October 2008, 5pm**  
**Quarterdeck Room, NSW Maritime, Rozelle**

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**PRESENT**

Brett Moore	NSW Maritime (Chair)
Ed Kwanten	NSW Maritime
Sonia McKay	NSW Maritime (Minutes)
Peter Hunter	PWC Representative
Rob Loneragan	Seaplane Pilots Association Australia
David Lyall	Boat Owners' Association of NSW Inc (BOA)
Glenn Finnis	NSW Police (Marine Area Command)
Jan Thurgar	NSW Waterski Association
Greg Blackburne	Scuba Club's Association of NSW
Max Castle	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA)
Mike Stringer	Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (RVCP)
John Restuccis	Surf Life Saving NSW
Murray Clarke	NSW Rowing Association
Geoff Duvall	Australian Power Boat Association (APBA)
Michael Jarvin	Boating Industry Association NSW Ltd (BIA)

**APOLOGIES**

Frank Robards	AVCGA – Volunteer Marine Rescue Council of NSW
Phil Dulhunty	Seaplane Pilots Association of NSW

- 
- Meeting commenced at 5.00pm.
  - Brett Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting including Chief Executive, Steve Dunn and Mr Robert Innes.

**1. Presentation by Mr Robert Innes**

Robert Innes the father of Morgan Innes attended the meeting as a guest to provide comments on “making things better” in terms of boating on Sydney Harbour and to reduce the likelihood of future incidents and any subsequent deaths.

**The key points that Mr Innes raised include:**

- Everyone has a duty of care, particularly regular users
- RVAG is an important part of his process
- Does not support further regulations
- Views Sydney Harbour as a workplace
- A strategic safety plan for Sydney Harbour is necessary

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- Analyse technological options for use on commercial vessels including the Sydney Ferries trial, thermal imaging and AIS.
  - Consideration given to the emotional impact on the victim's families which is an important part of the process.
  - On 5 January 2007, a vessel incident occurred under Sydney Harbour Bridge and it appears that no action was taken following this incident. Months later the Pam Burrige and Merinda incident occurred in which Morgan, Simone, Jamie and Allan died.
  - Reactions need to be faster as the investigation process is fragmented and drawn out. The investigation process includes reports from OTSI, Police and the Coroner.
  - In the workplace, action and a risk assessment is taken immediately following an incident.
- 
- Steve Dunn commented that Robert has been fair to all those involved and aims to achieve a positive outcome. Such as preventing any future incidents of this nature and a change in the culture of commercial operators on Sydney Harbour.
  - Steve pointed out that there have been regulatory changes introduced following major incidents.
  - Robert Innes has problems with the enforcement of the Sydney Cove rule and understands that this area is one of the most dangerous in Sydney Harbour.
  - Robert doesn't want to blame people however he wants the process of analysing incidents to improve operations on Sydney Harbour.
  - Robert has tried to personalise this incident so that his daughter, Morgan just isn't a statistic.
  - Could we answer honestly answer looking at a timeline of Morgan's death "have we done enough to prevent further deaths?"
  - Brett commented that NSW Maritime is constantly looking at ways to improve boating safety.
  - Robert thanked members for their time. Together with Steve left the meeting.

### **RVAG members' comments on the presentation**

Members discussed what action RVAG was going to take in relation to Mr Innes' comments. In the past NSW Maritime developed the Sydney Harbour Boating Plan that attempted to address a lot of the concerns raised by Mr Innes' and members however, the Plan was never released. Generally the group believed that there were ways to improve boating on Sydney Harbour.

### **Action:**

- Ed will prepare a summary of initiatives implemented on Sydney Harbour.
- Prior to the next meeting members can forward their suggestions of ways to improve boating on Sydney Harbour to Ed. Ed will forward a consolidated list to members who will rate the suggestions. The consolidated list will be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- NSW Maritime will research the Sydney Harbour Plan for the next meeting.

Initiatives already introduced on Sydney Harbour:

- Increased night patrols
- Cameras installed in strategic locations
- Sydney Harbour Bridge Transit Zone and 15 knot speed limit
- Negotiations underway to expand patrol operations
- Code of Conduct for Rowing

## **2. Apologies**

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- The above apologies were tendered to the meeting and accepted.

### **3. Previous minutes**

- The previous minutes were accepted.

#### **Business Arising – Reimbursement of fuel costs to members**

- Finalisation of the reimbursement of fuel costs to non agency members

#### **Business Arising – New EPIRB Requirements**

- From 1 July 2008, owners of recreational vessels over 8 metres, operating 2nm off the coast, are required to upgrade their 121.5 MHz to a 406 MHz EPIRB. Reports indicate that the upgrade is progressing well.
- An education campaign is in place until February 2009, unless a second offence is committed during this time.

**Action:** Mike Stringer will send a link to enable people to register their 406 MHz EPIRBs.

#### **Business Arising – Boating Handbook Changes**

- Changes to the Boating Handbook are pending the finalisation of the new regulations. Limited copies will be printed for the interim.

#### **Business Arising – Aquatic Licences**

- Action pending for NSW Maritime to meet with Jan Thurgar to discuss aquatic licences.

**Action:** Ed to arrange a meeting with Jan and Brett to discuss aquatic licences.

#### **Business Arising – Disposal of Flares**

- NSW Maritime has held talks with DECC and the Department of Fair Trading. However the matter requires ongoing discussion on secure methods for the disposal of flares.

### **4. Boating Incident Reports – August and September 2008**

- The boating incident reports were distributed and discussed.
- There have been 2 fatalities recorded for 2008-09.

### **5. Special Commission of Inquiry into Sydney Ferries - Bret Walker Enquiry Update**

- A copy of the Premier's release on Sydney Ferry Services was handed to members for information.

### **6. Marine Safety Regulations Update**

- The public consultation closed 19 September 2008 and 35 responses received. Nine of these were from RVAG members and 14 were from PWC operators.
- Parliamentary Counsel will make the necessary changes with the introduction of the new regulations by the end of November 2008.

### **7. Practical Boating Experience**

- A separate logbook, to record practical boating experience will replace the initial proposal that included the logbook in the Boating Handbook.
- Implementation date has changed from 1 February 2009 to a date to be confirmed.

- 
- Assessment will be based on competencies rather than a set number of hours as previously stated.
  - An updated licence test will be forwarded to external licence testers once the new regulations are gazetted.
  - Jan questioned the rules relating to operators who hold international licences participating in aquatic events.

**Action:** Jan to forward a letter to NSW Maritime including the names of international licence holders involved in future aquatic events.

### **8. Volunteer Amalgamation**

- The Minister has appointed Diane Beamer as chair of the committee tasked with reviewing the amalgamation of the volunteer rescue services.
- Kay Cottee will sit on the committee as well.
- The Minister's office will arrange a meeting with Diane Beamer and all participants in the coming weeks.

### **9. State-wide Compliance Campaign**

- During Operation Boatsafe held over the long weekend there were 1467 vessels checked; 73 infringements issued mainly for lifejacket related offences; and 46 formal warnings for safety equipment related offences.
- Glenn proposed joint compliance campaigns between the Water Police and Maritime.
- Operation Tow Safe, an education campaign will be conducted with Marine Safety Victoria in January 2009 on the Murray River.

### **10. Draft Shoalhaven Estuary Management Plan**

- A copy of the draft Shoalhaven Estuary Management Plan was handed to members who are encouraged to make comment.

### **11. General Business**

- Another stakeholder forum will be held in November 2008.
- David Lyall asked for a review of the Better Boating Program to consider 100% funding for projects outside of Sydney Harbour.
- Jan commented that the Maritime Festival held recently on Newcastle Harbour was a success and acknowledged Phil Howe for his contribution;
- The MOU for Forster/Tuncurry is a great result with areas identified specifically for wakeboarding. Jan noted that all agencies are working together to achieve a good result.
- There are delays with the proposed new water ski site on the Hawkesbury River due to a recreational fishing complainant.
- Max advised that NSW Fisheries will write to NSW Maritime requesting the development of a MOU relating to infrastructure and a joint approach to working with National Parks.
- Geoff warned people about boating on Port Botany with the de-sal pipe line project underway. More information can be obtained from the Sydney Ports Authority web site. Geoff also noted that access to the boatramp has changed.
- Michael Jarvin requested a new agenda item to include updates from regional user groups. This would inform members on issues outside of Sydney. Michael also requested a review of statistics shown on the NSW Maritime web site to include current number of boat licensees, vessel registrations and vessel length categories.

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- Greg Blackburne: congratulated MIP project work at Kiama.

**Action:** Brett will follow up the Better Boating Program and call David Lyall to discuss.

**Action:** To review statistics available on the NSW Maritime web site.

## **12. Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be held on 9 December 2008.

Meeting closed at 1925 hours.