

MAKING SA A GREAT PLACE TO FISH AGAIN.

RecFish SA is the peak body representing South Australia's 277- thousand recreational anglers and has a proud track record of working with the community and government to deliver a better future for recreational fishing.

Our combined success in identifying and enacting initiatives that drive real benefits should provide the impetus for continued positive change for the sector and the State.

The following achievements create a foundation on which to build:

-  Opening reservoirs for fishing
-  Murray cod stocking program, River Murray
-  Recreational Fishing Grants Program
-  King George Whiting Research Partnership, SARDI
-  Online Recreational Fishing Map
-  Sustainable Fishing education initiatives
-  Fish Habitat Restoration Project, Onkaparinga River
-  Establishment of Windara Reef, Rogues Point

A recent survey of these anglers, together with reference panel workshops, has identified the following key issues, opportunities and priorities, ahead of the March 2018 State Election.

RecFish SA is calling on the major parties to support a properly funded program of investment to ensure recreational fishing is developed in such a way that it enhances the social, economic and well-being fabric of the community.



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ISSUES

Stock assessments show that many key species of

RECREATIONALLY IMPORTANT FISH STOCKS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

to the extent of being overfished, leading to a lack of equitable access to declining fish stocks.

Ultimately this is causing conflict between the recreational and commercial fishing sectors and increasing

UNREALISED VALUE IN REGIONAL TOURISM, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS.

A RESTRUCTURE OF THE MARINE SCALE AND LAKES AND COORONG FISHERIES IS URGENTLY NEEDED

to ensure that stock of key species are returned to healthy levels. This position is supported by both the recreational and commercial sectors.

ACTIONS

IN THE ABSENCE OF QUOTA MANAGEMENT IN THESE FISHERIES, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS MUST BE PRIORITISED:

Net Free GSV - Remove the use of all nets in Gulf St Vincent to restore stocks of KG Whiting and Garfish and improve recreational fishing opportunities.

Remove netting from Area A of the Coorong and introduce line fishing only for Mulloway, Bream and other recreationally important species.

Remove the use of long lines from the snapper fishery particularly in breeding areas in the northern gulfs.

Zone commercial fishing licenses to promote responsible fishing practices and discourage FIFO commercial and lease operators.

Reduce the number of commercial operators in both fisheries.
Restoration of the recreational fishing grants program.

Maintain a strong well-funded peak body to work with Govt on enacting initiatives that drive real benefits.

The establishment of a **network of priority recreational fishing havens** that are managed primarily for recreational fishing and have well developed facilities.

Opening and stocking **more reservoirs**.
Establish a properly resourced **Murray cod stocking** program for the River Murray.

Expansion of **native oyster reefs** and other habitat enhancement projects.
Accurate and reliable **recreational fish surveys** that measure the catch and value of the fishery.

OUTCOME

BETTER FISHERIES FOR ALL

Healthy fish stocks promote high-quality recreational fishing opportunities, particularly in regional SA while providing certainty and security for commercial fishers.