



# Annual Report 2015-2016



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Front Cover: RFSA Director Ian Fitzgerald releasing native fish into the Bundaleer reservoir. Image; Peter Nicholls

# RECFISH SA

The peak body for recreational fishing in South Australia.

- ❖ Advocating for 277,000 South Australian Recreational Fishers
- ❖ Developing recreational fishing opportunities
- ❖ Managing SA's Reservoir fisheries
- ❖ Engaging fishers in fish habitat issues
- ❖ Promoting best practice fishing

## What a year!

Welcome to the RecFish SA 2015/16 annual report. It has been a time of unprecedented success at RecFish SA. Our membership and the reach of our community network continues to grow, as does our organisational capacity and ability to deliver benefits for South Australian recreational fishers.

Standout achievements include our largest ever community consultation campaign, the stocking of thousands of fish into two reservoirs and assisting with Murray cod stocking and research. We are also pleased to announce the development of a new fish habitat partnership with OzFish Unlimited and the appointment of our own Fish Habitat Officer.

Over the past year RecFish SA's projects have also lead to the production of a sustainable fishing videos program and the development of a comprehensive fishing venues map. Our team has attended community events and has enjoyed teaching many South Australian kids how to fish.

As our search for the right candidate to serve as Independent Chair continues, it is our pleasure to share the many achievements and challenges of the past 12 months with you.

-RecFish SA Board of Directors



# OUR BOARD



**David Ciaravolo** - Executive Director

David was first elected to the Executive/Board in 2013, and served as Communications Manager. He was appointed as an Executive Director in early 2016. David is passionate about RecFish SA's growth as a modern, communicative and open organisation and has been focused on stakeholder engagement, policy & governance development.

David is actively involved in the federally funded FRDC Future Leaders Program, which aims to build capacity in the Australian recreational fishing sector.

David has run a number of programs over the past two years to engage future leaders at RecFish SA. A keen fisher in both salt and freshwater, David has a decade of experience in the fishing tackle retail industry and has been a long time columnist for a premier SA fishing magazine. With a background in political studies, David is passionate about stakeholder engagement and developing new opportunities for fishers.



**Ian Fitzgerald** - Director

Ian is the former secretary and deputy-chairperson of RecFish SA and has had long involvement in recreational fishing representation. Leading the Metro RFC for many years, Ian has a knowledge base that covers many varied recreational fishing issues.

Ian heads up the RecFish SA Freshwater Group and he successfully launched the first RecFish SA Family Fishing Day in 2014.

Ian has worked tirelessly on improving freshwater fishing opportunities for South Australian recreational fishers. He was instrumental in forging a memorandum of understanding with various stakeholders to open SA reservoirs to recreational fishing. This led to the state government announcement that up to five reservoirs are scheduled to be opened for recreational fishing access. Ian & RecFish SA are now working on improving recreational fishing experiences on offer at reservoirs.



**Paul Davies** - Director

Paul is also a member of the Kangaroo Island Marine Action Group (IMAG) on the North Coast of Kangaroo Island, where he fishes. His interest in recreational fishing advocacy was recently inspired by the Marine Parks process.

Paul's executive career has been in stockbroking, investment management and financial advice. He graduated from the Company Directors Course at the Australian Institute of Company Directors in 2010. Since October 2014, Paul has served as national President of Parkinson's Australia and has multiple Board experiences,

including strategic, business and governance reviews, sub-committee Chair and Board treasurer.



**Brenton Schahinger**, Director - Treasurer

A member of RecFish SA for 17 years, Brenton served as Chairperson for four years and was instrumental to the introduction of a new, more open constitution in 2010. A keen recreational fisher from a very young age, Brenton is passionate about the sustainable management of South Australian fisheries. He fishes mostly on Yorke Peninsula and is a regular visitor to Kangaroo Island and Eyre Peninsula.

Brenton is a representative on the Boating Facilities Advisory Committee and is a former member of the Fisheries Council, Marine Scale Fisheries Management Committee, and Boating Industry Association. Brenton has a background in engineering and management, and is a qualified marine engineer and wine-maker.

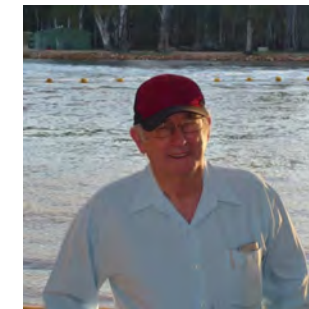


**Danny Simpson** - Director (Stocking & Project Manager)

Danny was formerly the Manager of Recreational Fisheries for the South Australian government, a role he fulfilled for five years. He has 28 years of experience as a professional natural resources manager of aquatic ecology, wetlands and environmental flow management.

Danny has managed South Australian water and environment operations for international consulting firms, and is currently a Director of Pulse Consulting.

Danny has supported RecFish SA in implementing its new constitution and organisational structure. His project management experience has significantly contributed to the organising, structuring and delivering of RecFish SA's projects and developing a framework to ensure financial sustainability.



**Peter Teakle** - Director

Peter has a keen interest in freshwater fishing and is a passionate and skilled advocate for the River Murray. For many years, he has been working on bringing greater recognition to species such as Murray cod and catfish. Peter has a wealth of knowledge and much experience representing fishers from the Riverland and across South Australia.

He has served as the South Australian Representative on the Murray Darling Basin Native Fish Strategy (Community Stakeholder Task Force).

Peter is presently a serving member of the Murray Darling Basin's Murray Cod Fishery Management Group, including RFSA representative on the newly Murray Cod Enhancement Working Group for South Australia and the Australian Fisheries Management Forum (AFHA). In 2011 he was awarded the SARFAC 'GOLD AWARD of EXCELLENCE' for outstanding and unwavering commitment to the Murray River environment and its iconic species.



**Cherylee Harris** - Director (Appointed)

Cherylee was appointed as a Director to the RecFish SA Board in 2016. Cherylee operates a marketing media and PR consulting business, organising television and radio campaigns.

Cherylee holds a Degree in Marketing and completed her MBA Program at the Adelaide University in 2008, where she also served on the Adelaide University Alumni board for a period of three years.

Cherylee worked for Channel 7 as a weather presenter and reported on the travel show Discover for over 13 years. She was also a presenter on Channel 7's Fishing and Boating (FAB) show for a number of years.

Personally, Cherylee has always been passionate about recreational fishing and boating, including both ocean and river fishing.



**Dr Michael Sierp** - Director (Appointed)

Michael has previous experience as a senior government biosecurity manager in natural resources, with a focus on maritime and the environment. He is now Managing Director of a private consulting company,

Michael has management experience of freshwater and marine issues, as a technical expert and director. Michael has held senior positions in government, universities and private business.

Michael has a unique knowledge of aquatic ecosystems and their stakeholders, around Australia, through his committee, recreational and research experience.

Prior to joining the Board, Michael served as an Expert Technical Assistant to RecFish SA, having obtained his PhD in aquatic ecology, fisheries, aquaculture and limnology in 2008. Recently, Michael's experience in ecology and biosecurity have greatly benefited RecFish SA's reservoir stocking programs.





## Retired Director - Ian Janzow

Ian was elected to the Board at the 2015 AGM. Having previously served on the RecFish SA Executive in 2013 & 14, he has been a strong contributor and supporter of efforts to transition RecFish SA to become increasingly accessible, functional and communicative.

A positive and collaborative type, Ian has been committed to working with others in the sector to secure sustainable funding, and to restore and improve access to fresh and salt water fisheries.

Before serving at RecFish SA, Ian was already highly active in recreational fishing advocacy. He was instrumental in the formation of the Yorke Peninsula Representative Group (YPRG), and assisted in it being formalised as the Marine Parks Reference Group (MPRG) of Yorke Peninsula Council. In 2012, Ian was a founding member of the Metropolitan Fishers Alliance and in 2013, he assisted in transitioning this group to become the DRFC.

Ian resigned from the RecFish SA Board in May 2016. He remains an active and valued member of RecFish SA. The Board wish to thank Ian for many years of outstanding and selfless service, to RecFish SA and the broader South Australian recreational fishing community.

# Organisation Strategy

The RecFish SA Board is responsible for setting strategies to guide the operations of the organisation. Success is regularly measured against the stated objectives and values. The organisation strategy is reviewed annually.



# EXEC. DIRECTOR'S REPORT



It has been a productive year at RecFish SA, with many first-time achievements being cause for celebration.

South Australian fishers enjoyed a bumper summer blue crab season, especially in metropolitan waters and there have been some encouraging reports of improved garfish size and numbers coming from both gulfs too. The positive trends in the Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery, again saw fishers having a ball in the waters off the three peninsulas, while the south-east region, produced some truly memorable catches. In the Murray River, good numbers of golden perch, which were spawned during 2010/11 floods, continued to offer great fishing.

Some excellent Murray Cod were also caught and released in the clear water conditions of late summer and autumn. With good winter rains and elevated flows in the basin, fishers are hoping to again see a bounce in the Coorong mullet fishery, as occurred following the last big flush.

The last 12 months has been an extremely productive period for our organisation, as we continue to build on the new foundations laid in 2015. Over the past year, RecFish SA has been stocking fish and developing reservoir fisheries. We have promoted sustainability through developing best practice campaigns and have built a valuable digital resource to help fishers find productive fishing spots. Our work improving communications and feedback channels continues, and we have embarked on an exciting partnership with OzFish Unlimited to encourage fisher participation in fish habitat issues. To top all this off, we have been actively contributing to research programs and have conducted the largest stakeholder consultation in our organisations' history.

In addition to achieving a number of unprecedented milestones, RecFish SA have also had challenging fisheries issues to contend with. None more so, than the PIRSA Fisheries review of recreational fishing regulations. Proposed changes to size, bag and boat limits drew lots of attention, and raised concerns, among the fishing community. As is often the case with 277,000 diverse stakeholders, the views in the community were not always uniform. This was especially relevant to the proposals that were most likely to result in localised, or regional impacts. We endeavoured as much as possible, to capture the views of a balanced cross-section of the fishing community, to inform our response to government.

The volume of feedback to our community consultation was the largest of any RecFish SA campaign to date, with over 1500 responses to our online survey received. Detailed submissions from RecFish SA Committees, fishing clubs, associations and individuals from around the state were also encouraged and received. Generally speaking, most fishers indicated support for well informed sustainable fisheries management, however, it was clear that some of the proposals had widespread community opposition. Our final submissions to government drew upon the diverse feedback we had received, coupled with analysis of the key data presented by Fisheries. I wish to thank all of the fishers and organisations who took the time to consider the proposals and to provide their valuable feedback.

It has been a pleasure to work with the 2015-16 Board, which is well represented in experience and expertise. To have Directors skilled in natural resource management, ecology, finance, governance, marketing and community representation, is an asset to RecFish SA and by extension, to the South Australian recreational fishing community. I would also like to specifically thank our office Administrator Wendy Begg.

It is always a challenge to balance finite resources in the pursuit of multiple objectives, however I am proud that we have been able to simultaneously deliver our largest projects and broadest consultations.

For RecFish SA, securing adequate core funding remains an unmet challenge. While we continue to make the case for long-term, sustainable funding, we have also successfully identified and pursued opportunities to address financial strain. I am pleased to report that the upshot of this has been the delivery of projects and services which have provided tangible benefits for the South Australian recreational fishing community, at the same time as bolstering our organisational capacity.

RecFish SA's role representing South Australia's 277,000 recreational fishers remains as much a privilege, as it is a challenge. I am confident that our achievements over the past 12 months has set the scene for a bright and exciting 2017.

David Ciaravolo



# OUR SUCCESSES: REPRESENTATION

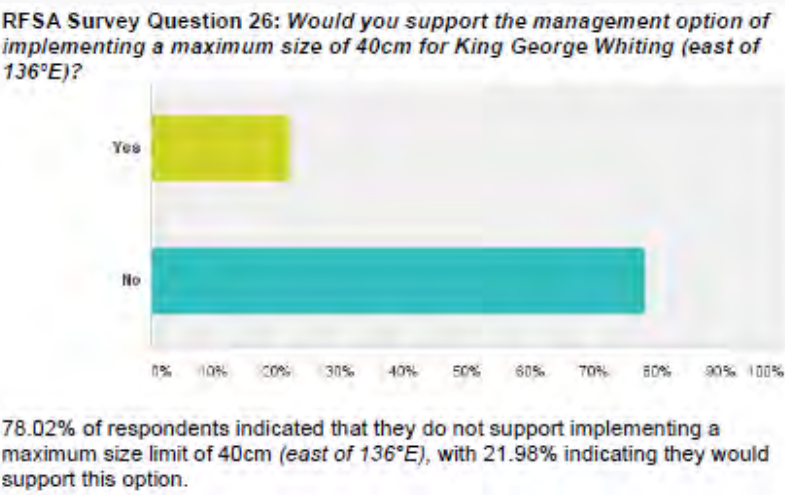
## Recreational Fishing Review Submissions

In January 2016, Minister for Fisheries, the Hon. Leon Bignell, announced a review of South Australian recreational fishing regulations. This included a range of proposals from PIRSA Fisheries including size, bag and boat limit changes for many key species. RecFish SA's staff, directors and regional representatives attended a number of community meetings hosted by PIRSA Fisheries, which were attended by fishers from around SA.



RecFish SA ran a consultation process, which sought the views of recreational fishers through an online Survey. **Responses were received from 1,500 individual recreational fishers, this included 1,100 written comments.** Detailed feedback from the recreational fishing public was also welcomed, with written submissions received from individuals, groups and business.

RecFish SA's member organisations and Recreational Fisheries Committees (RFCs) were encouraged to provide feedback, with submissions, information and advice provided by: the Development RFC, West Coast RFC, Port Lincoln RFC, Upper Spencer Gulf RFC, South Australian Recreational Fishers Association - Upper South East Branch, and by the South Australian Game Fishing Association, on behalf of the Adelaide Game Fishing Club.



RecFish SA collated the feedback that was received and undertook further research and analysis to produce an official submission to PIRSA Fisheries. Additional feedback on proposals, and the Recreational Fishing Management Plan, were covered through separate submissions, participation at a public hearing and direct meetings with fisheries staff.

**The feedback received indicated both high levels of opposition and concerns about some proposals, as well as significant levels of support for others.**

A number of broader issues were also raised in the feedback received. Some of these concerns relate to the quality of the recreational fishing data presented as informing the review process.

RecFish SA recognises and supports the principle that the management of fisheries should be based on the best, most recent, information available; therefore we have raised with PIRSA, a number of concerns which emerged about the data underpinning certain parts of the review. This included questions relating to some of the methodologies used for the 2013 / 14 South Australian Recreational Fishing Survey (SARFS), as well as the suitability of the sample size. We suggested that the accuracy of recreational catch estimates, for a number of species, was not satisfactory and, in some cases, was not the best information available. This has led to persisting concerns, in the fishing community, about the reliability of some of the data used to inform important management decisions.

A number of issues raised by the fishing community relate to the historically insufficient resourcing of the recreational fishing sector in South Australia. RecFish SA concurs with this, and therefore raised the need for further investment in our response. **RecFish SA firmly believes that resourcing cannot be decoupled from management considerations. The community's desire for increased investment into research, compliance efforts and the development of fishing opportunities, is symptomatic of the long term resourcing situation.**



### Changes announced:

On November 2, 2016, the Fisheries Minister announced changes to recreational catch limits for 26 species of fish. Key changes include reduced bag/boat limits for Garfish, Australian herring (Tommy Ruff), Blue Swimmer crabs and King George whiting. As well as, increased size limits for Bream, Mulloway and King George whiting. A spawning closure for KGW, during the month of May, will take place offshore from the lower Yoke Peninsula.

RecFish SA were pleased that the strong community opposition to a proposed 40cm maximum size for KGW, was taken heed of. As were the socio-economic concerns regarding proposed closures over Easter holidays. However, we have publicly highlighted issues regarding some of the changes that will impact KGW fishing. RecFish SA have taken to radio, print and television media to discuss the potential impacts of the increased legal minimum length of KGW to northern gulf areas, where they are typically smaller in size. In addition, we have expressed disappointment that the announced spawning closure is significantly larger than the area proposed during public consultation. Furthermore, we have questioned whether there is sufficient justification to cut the bag limit. We remain disappointed that there has been no word on the proposal to introduce catch quotas on commercial fishers.



# Productivity Commission Review Submission

The Productivity Commission launched, this year, it's inquiry into Australia's aquaculture industry, and commercial and recreational fisheries. RecFish SA were pleased to have the opportunity to contribute a detailed submission. Our submission covered a range of important issues, with a particular emphasis on the need for data collection on the economic and social value of recreational fishing. We highlighted a socio-economic survey as a top priority for future research and explained that regular data collection, using a standard methodology, is essential. Such information is critical if we wish to be able to measure the success of management decisions, as well as to being able to make results comparable over time and across state borders.

## The main points addressed in our submission:

- The need for regular collection of social and economic data to inform management decisions and assessments
- Recreational fishers are concerned that the information used to set and evaluate size, bag and boat limits, should be accurate, reliable and supported by scientific research, preferably fishery independent
- Clear and simple rules regarding recreational fishing activity are favoured, to reduce the burden of compliance
- Recreational fishers need to be recognised as stakeholders in Commonwealth fisheries legislation
- The management of commercial fisheries needs to take into account the potential impacts of the sector on important recreational fishing species, locations and, where applicable, impacts should be managed or avoided
- Research funding that relates to recreational fishing should be increased at State and Commonwealth levels
- Future stock management and allocation needs to consider the role of long-term declining productivity and its link to the ecosystems that support them. This is required in order to ensure a viable and sustainable fishing sector, both now and into the future.

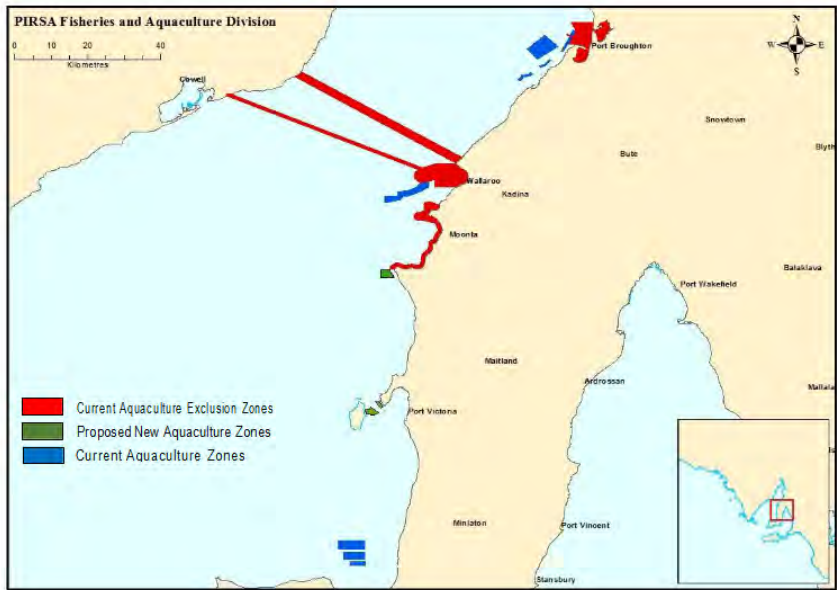


The Commission is expected to hand down its findings to the Federal Government in late 2016 / early 2017.

# Spencer Gulf Aquaculture

In September 2016, PIRSA opened consultation on proposed changes to aquaculture zones in eastern Spencer Gulf. Of particular interest was the proposal to introduce finfish farming at Wallaroo, as well as changes to aquaculture types and new zones at Harwicke Bay, Pt Hughes and Pt Broughton. Each of these locations are important recreational fishing areas, with up to 37% of all South Australian recreational fishing effort occurring in the Spencer Gulf.

RecFish SA were contacted by anglers who were interested in the proposals and we invited further comments through our E-news and webpage. We also drew upon in-house aquaculture and biosecurity expertise, which greatly assisted with the preparation of our response.



In our submission, we highlighted that **the towns of Wallaroo, Moonta, Port Hughes and Port Victoria benefit substantially from recreational fishing visitation**, includes travel, accommodation and hospitality expenditure, amounting to major components of recreational fisher and associated tourism spending.

RecFish SA want to ensure that any changes to aquaculture zoning does not compromise the social benefits experienced by fishers, or the economic benefits of related expenditure in regional communities.

RecFish SA further raised concerns that baseline studies of the benthic habitat, were not presented as part of the policy amendment. We argued that no zone changes should be implemented until a full technical study has been performed on the resident ecology in the areas earmarked for change.

We also **raised our opposition to the introduction of fin-fish farming at Wallaroo**. We raised particular concern that SARDI's 2015 modelling did not directly address waste byproduct of 2000 tonne of fin-fish, nor the differences in waste generation between potentially farmed species. Although, the report did indicate that local seagrass is susceptible to damage by nutrients released from fin-fish farming, in the local area.

The potential for aquaculture activities to damage fish breeding and nursery habitat, was voiced as an additional concern. The lack of seafloor investigation/oceanographic modelling relating to Cape Elizabeth, Point Pearce or Tickera, was also raised. Our submission suggests that the approval of any changes must be coupled with a suitable environmental monitoring regime and compliance operations, so as to ensure no damage occurs post introduction.

The proposal to establish an aquaculture zone in the Cape Elizabeth area, close to the MPA Sanctuary Zone, was a final point of contention. Specifically, there is strong concern about the possible additional loss of access to the productive fishing grounds in this important recreational fishing region. RecFish SA cannot support any changes resulting in further restrictions to recreational fishing in this vicinity.



# Commonwealth Fisheries & National Issues

## The Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation

RecFish SA are financial members of the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF), with our Executive Director, David Ciaravolo, currently serving on the ARFF Board of Directors. Through our membership of ARFF, RecFish SA are engaged and active in national issues and Commonwealth managed fisheries, including: the recognition of recreational fishing in Commonwealth fisheries legislation, the small pelagic fishery (Geelong Star), Southern Bluefin Tuna, Commonwealth Marine Parks, National Gone Fishing Day, a new national Code of Practice for Recreational Fishers and the Carp Herpes Virus - just to name a few.

RecFish SA travel to Canberra periodically to engage in ARFF Policy Forums, to attend Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Forums and to meet with federal fisheries, environment departments and politicians. We also participate in fortnightly phone conferences to discuss national issues and to inform ARFF policy and direction.

## Key ARFF developments to which RecFish SA has contributed:

### Senate Inquiry on Supertrawlers Submission

Formal talks between ARFF and the operators of the Geelong Star failed at securing exclusion zones around important recreational fishing areas. Following this, the Australian Senate announced an inquiry into 'Supertrawlers'. ARFF's submission argued that an immediate moratorium must be placed on fishing key recreational 'areas of concern', within the small pelagic fishery (SPF), until a comprehensive assessment has been conducted to determine if industrial scale fishing of the SPF is the highest and best use of the fishery.

ARFF also called for an economic assessment into the impacts of the Geelong Star's operations on iconic and popular recreational fishing spots. They proposed a need for further analysis to inform whether Supertrawlers fishing the SPF is in the national interest and, whether, the small pelagic fishery should be commercially fished at all.



### Carp Herpes virus

European carp make up to 90% of the fish biomass in many parts of the Murray Darling Basin. While carp alone cannot be blamed for all of the declines in native fish and river degradation, their abundance and persistence in the system is a huge problem. Carp activity impacts water quality and native fish populations. Carp are estimated to cost the Australian economy hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Following eight years of testing, the CSIRO has confirmed that the virus cannot infect native fish, birds and mammals. The CSIRO have presented the Carp Herpes virus as a once in a generation opportunity to tackle the problems created by this highly invasive species.

In January 2016, ARFF joined the Invasive Species Council, National Irrigation Council, Australian Conservation Foundation and the National Farmers Federation, to call upon the Australian Government to take action on Carp. The Federal Government responded on May 1, with the announcement of \$15m investment into the related planning and research required, with the proposed release of the Carp Virus after 2018. RecFish SA Directors, Peter Teakle and Dr Michael Sierp, joined Federal Science Minister, Christopher Pyne, and Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Anne Ruston, on the banks of the Murray for the announcement.



Minister Anne Ruston, Minister Christopher Pyne, RFSA Director Dr Michael Sierp, RFSA Director Peter Teakle.

## Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network

The review of Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network (CMRN) has been an ongoing issue. In 2015, RecFish SA wrote to the Review, advocating for recreational fishing to be considered as a permitted activity in IUCN II (Green zones) of the CMRN. We noted that **recreational fishing has not been identified as a threat to any key ecological features or conservation value within the South-west CMRN**. RecFish SA argued that, unless there is sound scientific reasons identifying risks to the conservation objectives of a particular marine reserve, recreational fishers should not be excluded.

We further argued that the guidelines of IUCN Category II can be legitimately interpreted to include recreational fishing as a permitted activity. We highlighted that there is precedent for this in Australia, with recreational fishing allowed in the Ningaloo Marine National Park (IUCN II), for over 20 years. **RecFish SA also pointed to the decision by the United States Government to allow recreational fishing in the, recently established, largest marine reserve in the world.** The Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation has been engaged with state-based stakeholders and national organisations (including the Game Fishing Association of Australia, the Australian National Sportsfishing Association and the Australian Underwater Federation) to inform its comprehensive submissions and engagements throughout the review process.

RecFish SA continues to support ARFF, as they continue to seek the best possible outcome for the Australian recreational fishing community, by remaining actively engaged with federal departments, Ministers and politicians.



# OUR SUCCESSES: DEVELOPMENT

*"RecFish SA understands that, in order to secure a bright and exciting future for recreational fishing in our state, we need to be actively engaged in developing high quality recreational fishing experiences and services for our community".*

## Reservoir Fishing

RecFish SA's long campaign to establish reservoir fisheries in South Australia took a huge leap forward, over the past 12 months, with the stocking of 24,000 native fish and over 3,000 trout into the Warren and Bundaleer Reservoirs. In total, 8,000 Murray cod; 11,000 Golden perch and 5,000 Silver perch have been stocked into the two dams. Additionally, 3,000 rainbow trout have been released into the Bundaleer reservoir. RecFish SA received grants through the South Australian Recreational Fishing Grants program Round 1 to fund the stocking.

RecFish SA Director and Reservoir Working Group convener, Ian Fitzgerald, began the push for recreational fishing in South Australian reservoirs 20 years ago. The developments of the past year are something of a dream come true. *"We've been working towards this goal for a very long time, so finally be stocking fish, is a truly momentous development"* Ian said.

The stocking projects were managed by Director Danny Simpson, with fellow director Dr Micheal Sierp providing additional technical and biosecurity expertise. RecFish SA was the first applicant to successfully acquire permission to stock fish, through PIRSA Fisheries' new Trans-location of Aquatic Organisms Policy.



Many hands make light work..Big thanks to our stocking volunteers! Pic: Peter Nicholls

Murray cod and Golden perch topped the list of fish species that fishers wanted to see stocked into reservoirs, according to a RecFish SA survey of 500 keen reservoir fishers in 2015. The bulk of the fish were sourced from interstate accredited hatcheries. The stocking was conducted in late February, with volunteers assistance.

Warren Reservoir stocks were boosted with an additional 1,200 silver perch, grown by aquaculture students at TAFE SA, and released at a media event in April. This exciting development was broadcast on the six o'clock news and brought unprecedented coverage to the RecFish SA reservoir fishing initiative.

In November, more history was made with approval granted to stock trout into the Bundaleer Reservoir. The first proliferation of 3,000 rainbows was made possible by the South Australian Fly Fishers Association, who hatched the fish. Work to establish recreational facilities in The Bundaleer Reservoir are now underway with the Northern Areas Council receiving funding of \$72,600, from the SA Government's Reservoir Fishing Access Project, and an additional \$20,000, from the Australian Government's Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Programme. The reservoir is expected to open for recreational fishing in January 2017.

Land based fishing access has been available at the *Warren reservoir since 2011. Access has, thus far, been limited to a section of shoreline. However, this is set to be expanded in early 2017, with additional shoreline access as well as the roll out of kayak and canoe fishing*, as a result of the Barossa Council's secured \$335,000 in State and Federal government funding for their Warren Reservoir Master Plan.

Facilities at the Warren Reservoir are set to include new car parks, access roads, toilets, kayak launching areas and a fishing platform. RecFish SA will be working with the council to plan a special launch, which is hoped to coincide with the next round of stocking in February 2017.



Silver perch from TAFE SA



The Warren Stocking made the evening news, with the Seven News story replayed over 55,000 times on Facebook.

There is more good news on the way, with RecFish SA receiving in-principle support for SA Recreational Fishing Grant funding, totaling \$80,000, to continue our stocking program into 2017. Our first applications have been lodged and we hope to be stocking greater numbers of Murray cod, golden perch, silver perch and Tandanus catfish, in early 2017. Trout stocking will take place later in the year.

On November 1, 2016, Minister for Water & Environment, Ian Hunter, confirmed that the Tod reservoir, near Port Lincoln, is expected to be open for recreational fishing by late 2017. This follows a planned safety upgrade that has altered the level of the dam. RecFish SA are currently investigating suitable species for stocking, with Estuary perch and Australian Bass being just two of the options for the more saline waters of the Tod.

## Reservoir Permits

Fishing access to reservoirs is managed through the RecFish SA Reservoir Fishing Permit System. Permits are available for purchase online at [www.recfishsa.org.au](http://www.recfishsa.org.au) . Thanks to SA Recreational Fishing Grant funding, we have been able to build a new automated permit system, where fishers can instantly purchase an Annual or short term permit. The permit will be sent instantly to their smart phone. This system will save fishers' and RecFish SA's valuable time and is set to roll out on December 1st. RecFish SA will continue to apply permit revenue to fish stocking and maintaining reservoir access.





# Murray Cod Stocking

RecFish SA Directors, Peter Teakle and Danny Simpson, have long been active proponents for stocking Murray cod into South Australia's section of the River Murray; to boost stocks and address poor recruitment in the fishery. Following many years of advocacy, it was fitting that RecFish SA were tasked with coordinating volunteers for the first South Australian Murray cod stocking events, at Kingston on Murray and Swan Reach, on February 2, 2016. The South Australian Government purchased 100,000 fingerlings from Fisheries Victoria, to stock at the two locations. RecFish SA was involved during the planning process, through the Murray Cod Working Group. We were responsible to ensure volunteers were on hand to successfully release the fish into suitable habitats along the selected stretches of river.



At Kingston, members of the Riverland Fishing Club and Murray Cod Interest Group supplied boats and volunteers. They were joined by eager helpers from the Kingston Primary School. An hour or so later, the second liberation team met the hatchery truck at Swan Reach. The Lower Murray Lure Fishing Club and RecFish SA had boats launched and waiting, eager to deliver the long anticipated fingerlings into locations that were carefully selected to have dense cover, for the fish to hide in and hunt.

There was much excitement at the arrival of the Snobs Creek hatchery truck, with the fingerlings in excellent condition. The liberation teams reported that the fish were quick to swim away and seek cover among snags and vegetation.



LMLFC President Lucas Weaver, Secretary Mick Wilson and volunteers



RecFish SA Director Peter Teakle and local MP Tim Whetstone rally the troops

## Only the beginning....

RecFish SA is pleased that the South Australian Government and PIRSA have invested in Murray cod stocking. It is great to see South Australia back the strategy that has worked so well across the border, in NSW and Vic. We know that, in order for stocking to have a serious impact on Cod numbers and recreational fishing opportunities, it will be necessary to have an ongoing stocking program. RecFish SA has been engaged by the Renmark & Paringa Council to carry out further Cod stocking, after they secured \$50,000 in SA Recreational Fishing Grant Funding. We are also working on developing further stocking opportunities, so watch this space...

# SA Recreational Fishing Grants Assistance

The South Australian Recreational Fishing Grants Programme (SARFGP) has already proved to be a huge success, funding many projects from fish stocking, jetty shelters, fish cleaning tables and breakwall upgrades, to kids fishing clinics and family fun days. New projects, designed and backed by local communities to benefit recreational fishers, are popping up right around the state.

Building upon the role RecFish SA played in Round 1, we were contracted to have an active role in assisting potential grant applicants with their project ideas and applications for Round 2. We specifically encourage projects that align with the objectives of the South Australian Recreational Fishing Strategic Plan, and have provided letters of support for project ideas that really hit the mark.

RecFish SA takes seriously our commitment to ensuring that the project ideas of grassroots recreational fishers, are connected with potential applicants, especially local councils. A key way we facilitate this is through the RecFish SA Fund Your Idea portal.

The portal is hosted on our webpage and is promoted on our front page, E-news and, most critically, through our social media channels, where it is seen by tens of thousands of recreational fishers. Councils are also provided with a link to the portal and a banner, which many place on their webpages.

Following the announcement of SARFGP Round 2, in late 2015, over 130 submissions were received through our portal. We collated these and communicated the ideas to 18 relevant councils, for their further consideration. RecFish SA also sent letters offering support to each South Australian council and followed up with phone calls to offer assistance. RecFish SA also offered assistance to all other potential applicants, including fishing clubs, associations and businesses.

RecFish SA's grant assistance service aims to ensure that the projects put forward, are genuinely designed to benefit recreational fishers. Once this is established, we can help to ensure that applicant queries are satisfied and that their application presents the required information. The SARFGP received 70 applications worth \$2.66M in Round 2, of these 23 projects totalling \$358,469 were approved with a further 14 projects totalling \$371,360 receiving in-principle funding support, pending additional Government approvals.

***"It's satisfying to know that we can help local fishers, turn their ideas into successfully funded projects, sure to benefit their communities"*** - Director, Danny Simpson

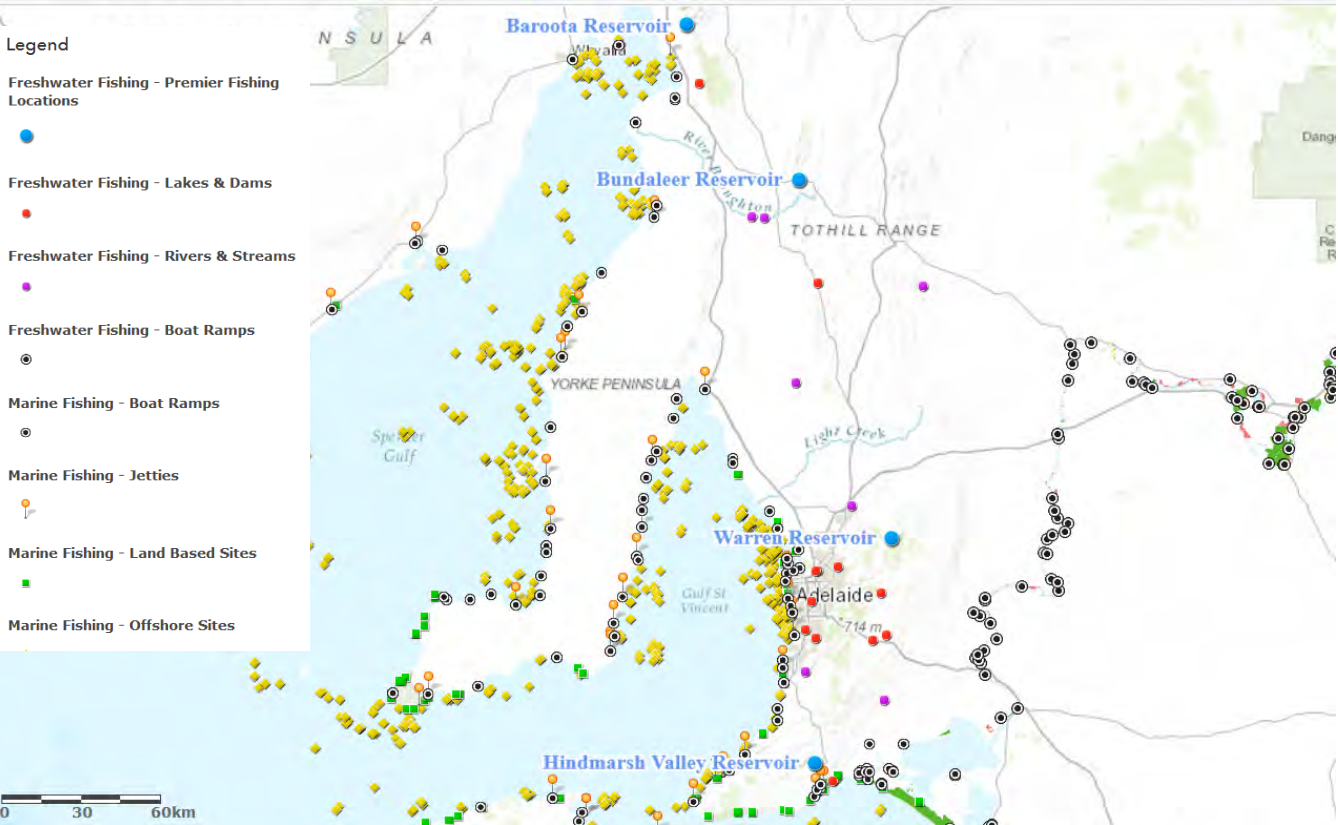
The third round of South Australian Recreational Fishing Grants was announced on November 15. RecFish SA has once again launched the "Fund Your Ideas Portal", and have begun engagement with each South Australian Council. We look forward to helping many more great ideas to become a reality!





OUR SUCCESSES: **DEVELOPMENT** Continued...

# Fishing Locations Map



The RecFish SA Fishing Locations Map is all about connecting South Aussie recreational fishers with great fishing opportunities. This project, which received funding through the SARFGP round one, has for the first time, analysed all of the freshwater bodies on SA public land and has investigated whether fishing is allowed. RecFish SA has also been looking into the potential for future development through infrastructure and stocking.

Not content to stop at freshwater locations, we have added additional functionality to our interactive map, so it can show fishers the location of all the jetties and boat ramps around the state. We have also integrated land-based fishing information and there is a boat fishing layer with a huge range of GPS marks for many favorite recreational fishing species!

The map is now complete and set for public launch on our web page during December 2016. RecFish SA will continue to update the map with even more great fishing spots into the future, ensuring that whatever the target fish, we have the spots for you!



# OUR SUCCESSES: **COMMUNITY**

## Kids Fishing Clinics

During 2015/16, RecFish SA has had the pleasure of partnering with community organisations running kids fishing clinics and family "come and try" days. These have been supported by SA Recreational Fishing Grants funding. Our role has been to provide expert, hands-on fishing tuition. Clinics have been held in the metropolitan area and regions, with jetty and estuary fishing, as well as squidding, and crabbing being the focus. Our fishing clinic team is made up of Ryan Roberts (RFSA Member and Future Leadership participant), Executive Director David Ciaravolo and Director Danny Simpson. RecFish SA have also provided advice to our partners on procurement, programme design, have tied hundreds of rigs and of course un-picked a few tangles too!

### Natureplay SA - Family Fishing and Come 'n Try Days

It has been wonderful to partner with our good friends at Natureplay SA to encourage kids and families to get outdoors, and to give fishing a go, often for the first time. It has been incredible to see how quickly the young participants become proficient at casting and even baiting their own hooks! The kids have caught crabs, bream, tommies, salmon trout and squid, putting smiles on faces all round.

The free clinics which are advertised on [natureplaysa.org.au](http://natureplaysa.org.au) and on the RecFish SA Facebook page, have consistently been fully booked out in advance, demonstrating the community demand for fishing clinics. RecFish SA has been thrilled at how many parents respond to the clinics by inquiring about what rods, reels and other equipment to buy, so that they can continue fishing as a family. We thank Natureplay SA for getting involved with recreational fishing as they encourage young South Aussies to get away from screens, and active in the great outdoors! A special thanks goes to Toni Manning and her Fishcare Volunteers for their invaluable contributions. We look forward to more clinics with Natureplay SA in 2017!



### Edmund Rice Camps SA

RecFish SA are proud to continue our partnership with Edmund Rice Camps. This involves providing fishing tuition at a number of great events throughout the year. The clinics introduce young people to the joys of casting a line and soaking up the fishing environment. It has been wonderful to help offer fishing days to children and families who would not normally get the chance to experience the thrill of casting a line or bringing up a pot of crabs. We can't wait for the next round of clinics planned for 2017!



OUR SUCCESSES: **COMMUNITY** Continued...

Community Events

Out and about at popular events, sharing news and talking to fishers about the important issues..

The Adelaide Boat Show

June 30 - July 3

The Boating Industry Association's 'Adelaide Boat Show' is an annual highlight for many South Aussie fishers. It's a great event, showcasing the latest boats and marine electronics. You can also pick up some great tackle discounts! For RecFish SA, there is no better way to spend the weekend and catch up with SA recreational fishers. We were thrilled to have a chance to speak with countless fishers about a range of hot topics, including fish stocking and reservoirs access for recreational fishing, as well as fish habitat and the proposed changes to size, bag and boat limits. To stay in the loop about recreational fishing news in South Australia, over 100 fishers signed up for our free membership,



On Water Boat Show & National

Gone Fishing Day

On October 15 the banks of the Port River, at Largs North, inundated with fishers with fishers attending another great boating and fishing event. The first day of the event was busy for RecFish SA, with so many fishers keen to find out more about a range of issues, while join up as Affiliate Members. Our Habitat Officer, Dr. Travis Howson, was on hand to discuss fish habitat issues and sign up fishers for upcoming habitat restoration projects.

The next day, was the inaugural National Gone Fishing Day and we were ready to add to the excitement with kid's casting competitions and the launch of the new National Recreational Fishing Code of Practice. Unfortunately, gale-force winds and rain made the outdoor activities less than welcoming! Bad weather conditions didn't stop us from taking to the airwaves and talking about the many social and economic benefits of recreational fishing with ABC listeners. While it was too windy for casting comps, we gave away a bunch of kids fishing kits, to be enjoyed when the sun came out again!

OUR SUCCESSES: **COMMUNITY** Continued...

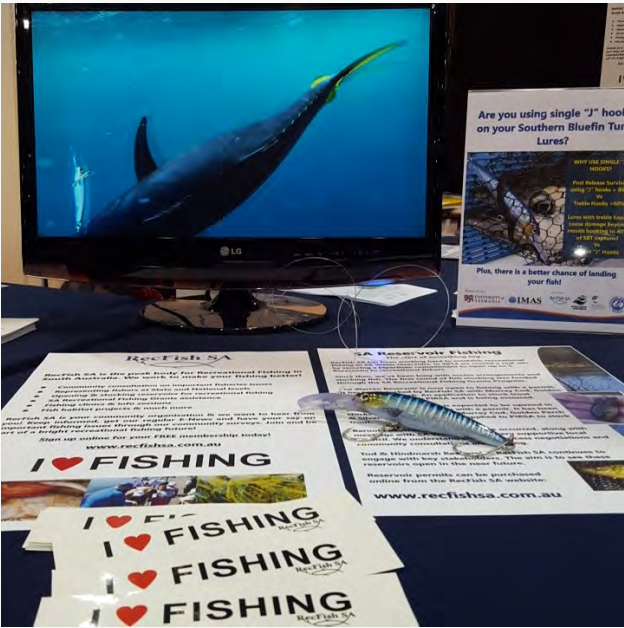
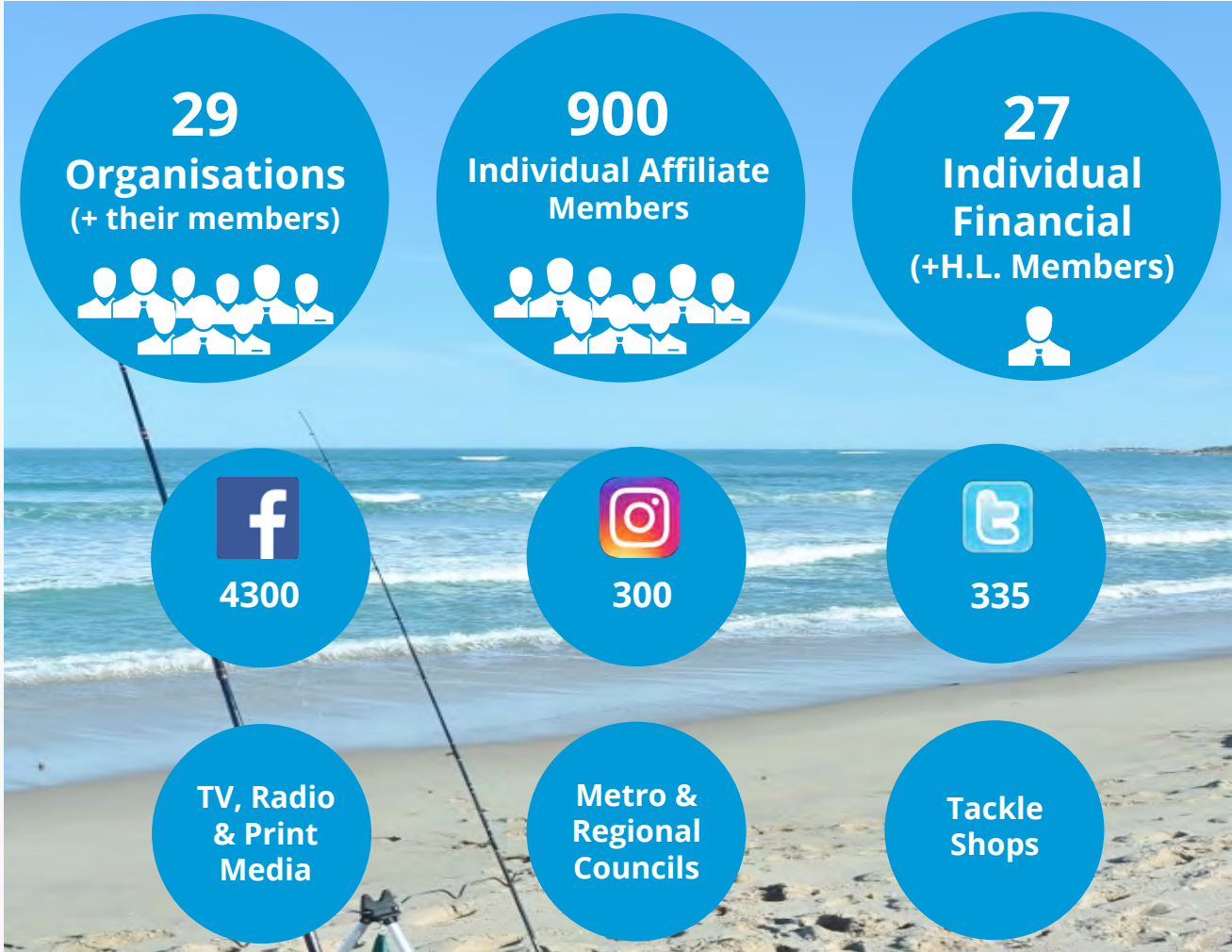
Membership & Networks

RecFish SA's growing extended network is made up of member clubs, associations, organisations, Recreational Fisheries Committees and individuals; as well as tackle stores, councils, departments and followers on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

**Membership:**  
The introduction of our new Constitution, on March 30, 2015, paved the way for low cost and free membership options. Since the introduction of these new categories, RecFish SA membership has seen a 26 fold increase, from a total of 35 official members, in March 2015, to 956 official members at present. We also feel privileged to be engaging with extended member groups, who are affiliated with our 29 Organisation Members, including our Recreational Fisheries Committee network.

**Reach & engagement:**  
By harnessing the power of electronic and social communication channels, RecFish SA are able to reach out and engage with the diverse recreational fishing community. In addition to our member database, we also maintain a key stakeholder database, which includes regional councils and tackle stores. Adding to this are our 4300 Facebook, 335 Twitter and 300 Instagram followers. By effectively utilizing such communication channels, RecFish SA are able to regularly reach thousands of South Australians and keep them updated on our news, campaigns and consultations.

**Media:**  
With almost 1 in 5 South Australians casting a line each year, public interest in recreational fishing is very high. RecFish SA cultivates working relationships with State, Regional and National Media outlets. Our big developments regularly make the evening news, on commercial and ABC TV. We also frequently engage with listeners on Adelaide, regional and statewide ABC radio channels, as well as making sure that the voice of recreational fishers reaches the State and regional newspapers.



RecFish SA were also proud to offer a sneak peak at our four new sustainable fishing videos. The videos focus on the use of circle hooks, humane dispatching, barotrauma, and the new Code of Practice for Southern Bluefin Tuna. We are pleased to say that our videos generated a lot of interest! A big thanks to BIA for putting on such a great show and we look forward to next year!



# OUR SUCCESSES: SUSTAINABILITY

*RecFish SA believes that a bright recreational fishing future must be environmentally, socially, culturally and economically sustainable. We work actively towards promoting these objectives.*

## Research Participation:

### SARDI & Lower Murray Lure Fishing Club Murray Cod Sampling

When the South Australian Research and Development Corporation, and The FRDC's Recfishing Research, sought our advice on potential partners for the national Murray Cod Sampling Program, we knew just the right people for the job! RFSA Member - the Lower Murray Lure Fishing Club (LMLFC)- run by a great bunch of fishers who are organised and effective. The stellar work that the club did on previous catfish sampling with RecFish SA, made them stand out as the perfect candidate. RecFish SA is pleased to have played a supporting, coordinating and logistical role in the Murray Cod Sampling Program.

The Lower Murray Lure Fishing Club's President Lucas Weaver, Secretary Mick Wilson, along with committee members, organised and ran two Murray cod sampling events in 2016. To successfully execute the event, the club partnered with SARDI researchers, Associate Professor Qifeng Ye and Luciana Bucater. The first event was held at Swan Reach in June, with the second event taking place at Cadell in July, just days after higher winter flows reached SA.

*"Between the Club, SARDI and RecFish SA, we have brought different things to the table, it has been great to see that we can come together to create an excellent team that has a common objectives at its core - a better population of Murray Cod in the lower Murray River"- LMLFC Secretary Mick Wilson on collaborating with SARDI and RecFish SA*



LMLFC President Lucas Weaver, Luciana Bucater & Associate Professor Qifeng Ye at Swan Reach



A tagged Murray Cod being released

The two day sampling event required teams of two anglers to persistently fish allocated sections of the river, for eight hours a day. Any fish caught were tagged and released, with the location recorded. After the weekend, SARDI used electro-fishing technology to sample the area. The aim of the event was to see if structured recreational fishing can be validated as a sampling technique for Murray cod, and to see how the results compare along the whole river.

The commitment and diligence shown by the LMLFC has been impressive. Their knowledge and passion for the river is only rivaled by their own willingness to get stuck in and make the events a success. The program is set to continue in 2017 with additional, newly mapped, sampling locations prepared by the Club and SARDI.

## King George Whiting Research

King George whiting are one of South Australia's all-time favourite fish! They are fun to catch and taste great. RecFish SA's commitment to sustainable fish stocks, lead us to supporting a \$600k SARDI funding application to the FRDC, to improve the science based knowledge of gulf whiting stocks. With the grant now approved, SARDI is preparing to undertake water column sampling for King George Whiting eggs, in April 2017. The study will employ fishery independent techniques to identify key spawning and nursery locations, as well as inform spawning biomass estimates.

Although the independent testing will be able to locate spawning hot spots, SARDI will need help from recreational fishers to understand the proportion of whiting contributing to the spawning, by sending in their fish frames. RecFish SA hopes this research will lead to better informed management into the future. We are, therefore, on board to facilitate angler registration and share info about the project. Keep an eye out for more news in early 2017.



## A New National Code of Practice for Recreational Fishing in Australia

During 2016 RecFish SA have been involved in the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) project to develop a new Code of Practice (COP) for recreational fishing in Australia. This project was funded by the Australian Federal Government and RecFish SA attended workshops in Canberra with recreational fishing representatives and policy makers from around Australia.

The COP has been designed to empower recreational fishers to make responsible decisions in the pursuit of their passion. The Foundation Document was launched on National Gone Fishing Day - October 16.

The code has an emphasis on respect, responsibility and sustainability. This emphasis and the key principles are reflected in the following themes:

Fishing  
Interaction  
Stewardship  
Habitats

Under these themes, are a range of best practices that can be adopted by all Australian fishers. Interested clubs, associations and fishers can find out more at our webpage & at [recreationalfishing.com.au](http://recreationalfishing.com.au)

**F.I.S.H.**  
A code of practice for recreational fishers...

When going for a fish on Gone Fishing Day or any other day, all fishers can follow the F.I.S.H. Code Of Practice.

**FISHING**  
When I'm out fishing I will always respect and appreciate the fish that I catch and keep or release.

**INTERACTIONS**  
Fishing is a privilege that can be shared by each and every Aussie angler, so I will respect fellow fishers and other members of the community, and obey the rules.

**STEWARDSHIP**  
Every day that I fish, I will demonstrate care for all fish and the environment through my actions.

**HABITATS**  
Without our beautiful country and its waterways, I would not be able to go fishing, so I will actively respect, protect and restore our unique riverine and marine habitats.

Scan this QR Code for more information and to view the full code.  
Or visit: <http://recreationalfishing.com.au/index.php/national-recreational-fishing-code-of-practice>

Developed with & supported by: **RecFish SA**



OUR SUCCESSES: **SUSTAINABILITY** Continued...

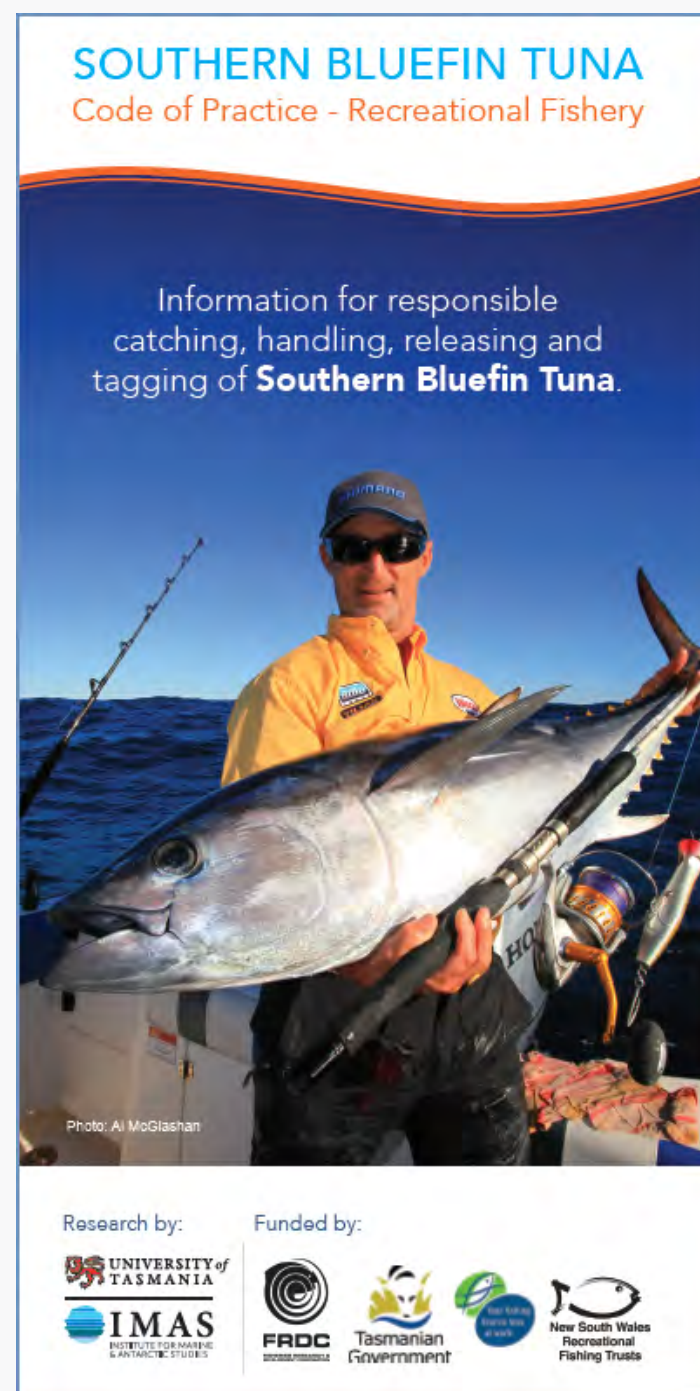
## Endorsing the Southern Bluefin Tuna Code of Practice

Recreational Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) catches have improved significantly over recent years, in both SA and other parts of southern Australia. While this is very welcoming news, it is also important to remember that SBT stocks are still recovering from a very low base line, due to historic commercial overfishing and international illegal fishing. With this in mind, it is especially important for recreational fishers to adopt best practice techniques while enjoying the great SBT fishing that South Australia has to offer.

Many South Australian fishers are already adopting practices which maximise the benefits of each retained fish, as well as giving released fish the best chance of survival. Research undertaken at the University of Tasmania, shows that by making simple and affordable changes to fishing tackle, the post survival release rate of SBT can be improved to up 86% (from 60%). Assuming careful fish handling is being practiced, all that anglers need to do is swap treble hooks for singles, and "octopus" style bait hooks for circles.

Researchers at University of Tasmania have developed a Code of Practice for Southern Bluefin Tuna fishing, to help recreational fishers get the most out their tuna fishing, while maximising sustainability. Recreational fishing groups were included in the development of the code, which has been endorsed by bodies like the Game Fishing Association of Australia and RecFish SA.

To help share these important messages, RecFish SA has developed a video explaining the key elements of the code. It is available on our Youtube channel.



## Sustainable Fishing Videos

RecFish SA has developed sustainable fishing videos aimed at raising community awareness about important issues and delivering handy tips, helping fishers get the most out of our shared fish resources.

The four videos were each designed to tackle environmental and social sustainability aspects of recreational fishing activities. The topics covered included minimising the impacts of barotrauma when deep water fishing, using circle hooks to reduce by-catch and gut hooking, ikijime (brain spiking) for quick fish dispatch and optimum eating quality, as well as the SBT Code of Practice.

The videos were filmed on location in SA waters, off of the Yorke Peninsula, during 2016 and are being released in time for the 2016/17 summer fishing season. RecFish SA would like to acknowledge SARGP funding and thank our SA production crew from 57 Films.

The videos are available on the RecFish SA Youtube Channel





OUR SUCCESSES: **SUSTAINABILITY** Continued...

# Future Leadership

RecFish SA is passionate about promoting opportunities for leadership development in the recreational fishing sector. RecFish SA's partnership with the FRDC's Recfishing Research and interstate peak bodies such as VrFish, Tarfish and the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, has given young leaders from SA the opportunity to attend the World Recreational Fishing Conference in Sao Paulo 2015, the National Recreational Fishing Conference in Brisbane 2015, and The South East Recreational Future Leaders courses in Port Fairy in 2013 and 2016.

The South East Future Leaders Course was held in Port Fairy, Victoria, this year. Following an advertised application process, Ryan Roberts was selected to attend the week long intensive course along with other future leaders from Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.



Ryan Roberts (SA) & Jo Howes (Vic) from local media coverage

The program was led by VRFish and assisted by RecFish SA, RFA NSW and TarFish. Participants engaged with a wide range of presentations and had the opportunity to network with many top fisheries managers, scientists, policy makers and community leaders from south eastern Australia. There was also the opportunity to fish with angling legend Scott Grey and experience life on one of Fisheries Victoria's fastest compliance vessels.

In addition to learning about fisheries management, leadership, community advocacy, governance, media and team building, participants forged strong interstate networks. These will surely benefit the fishing communities in all states, for many years to come. RecFish SA remains committed to developing leaders. We will, therefore, continue to seek out opportunities to help ensure that our sectors' future is in capable hands.



# OUR SUCCESSES: **FISH HABITAT**

## Fish Habitat Officer's Report

**Dr. Travis Howson**

It is a pleasure to report on fish habitat developments following my appointment as RecFish SA's Fish Habitat Officer, new position funded through a partnership with OzFish Unlimited (and FRDC). Such an alliance is timely, as recreational fishers become increasingly familiar with the importance of habitat in fishery sustainability.



This year, RecFish SA has been actively involved in a number of fish habitat projects. The announcement of the new artificial reef, on the north western shores of the Gulf of St Vincent, is probably the biggest and most well-known development. RecFish SA has played a critical role in successfully convincing the government to invest in a new artificial reef, and provided a letter of support for the Nature Conservancy's successful application for an additional \$1 million of Commonwealth government funding towards the project. RecFish SA and OzFish Unlimited continues to build strong working relationships with The Nature Conservancy, Primary Industries Resources SA and Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on further habitat issues.

In working with OzFish Unlimited, RecFish SA has been actively involved in a project aiming to improve fish habitat in the Onkaparinga River estuary. Significant changes to estuary habitat, particularly relating to bank degradation and deposition of sediment cover over the bed, has arisen in response to anthropological activities, following colonisation.

OzFish Unlimited was the recipient of the SA Recreational Fishing Grant, to encourage recreational fishers to be involved in fish habitat restoration. Ongoing discussions with environmental managers has resulted in the advancement of the project. A conceptual plan of proposed actions has been developed and restoration work sites have been identified. However, the substantial amount of rain and associated flooding, that we have experienced over spring, has brought a temporary delay to on ground works.



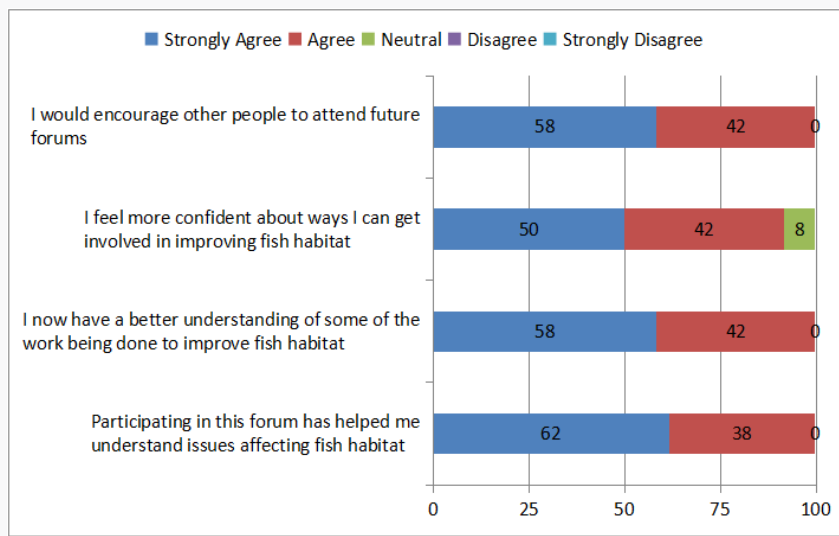


OUR SUCCESSES: FISH HABITAT Continued...

RecFish SA has also partnered with the City of Charles-Sturt on a project aimed at enhancing the fisheries of West lakes, by using artificial reef substrates. This project encompasses a new concept involving the installation of suspended ‘reef tiles’, some of which will be seeded with spat from the native flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*). It is anticipated that these floating reef structures, with native flat oysters, will attract a range of fish species, including Black bream and Mulloway, along with a range of other marine life.

The habitat enhancement projects of West Lakes and Onkaparinga River, provide unique opportunities for recreational fishers to be ‘hands-on’ in improvement these environments. To assist recreational fishers in understanding the role of fish habitat, a factsheet was produced outlining the importance of habitat restoration for recreational species. This factsheet was made available to the public, during the Adelaide Boat Show.

RecFish SA and OzFish Unlimited hosted the ‘Fishers for Fish Habitat Forum’. This was a chance for fishers to learn more about fish habitat and restoration activities. Recreational fishers had the opportunity to hear from fisheries managers and scientists, about a number of habitat restoration projects and types. This was followed by a field trip along the Onkaparinga River, which enabled participants to see, first-hand, the various issues that face fish habitat health, while working to identify future improvements and project opportunities.



Forum participant feedback

Participant feedback was positive, highlighting the need for more engaging Fishers for Fish Habitat forums into the future. Another forum is planned for February 2017.

In conjunction with the Executive Director, my role as Habitat Officer has focused on exploring and identifying numerous opportunities for recreational fishery habitat education and restoration projects in SA. It is, therefore, welcome news that RecFish SA were able to successfully push for a increase to \$100,000, the maximum funding available for habitat restoration projects through the SA Recreational Fishing Grants programme. This should provide a further incentive for great fish habitat restoration ideas in the near future. I look forward to the exciting times ahead!



\$1 M boost for GSV's new reef!

The \$600,000 recreational fishing reef long sought by RecFish SA and announced by the SA Government in 2014, is now set to get a whole lot larger. In October 2016, the Nature Conservancy Australia and the Federal Government announced the allocation of an additional \$990,000 towards the National Stronger Regions Fund, to help keep the Yorke Peninsula a top destination for recreational fishers. The expansion is a partnership between The Nature Conservancy Australia, the SA Government and Yorke Peninsula Council. RecFish SA were please to provide an official letter in support of the funding application.

Earlier in the year, the SA Government announced that the proposed artificial reef would take the form of a multi-substrate oyster reef, between Ardrossan and Black Point, on the Yorke Peninsula. Given that the commitment comes from the National Stronger Regions Fund, the new funding sets a unique precedent in Australia. This decision recognises the productive potential of reef restoration and the role that reefs play as natural infrastructure, providing social, economic and environmental benefits.

*“This is a great example of how investing in natural infrastructure can also support the local economy by creating jobs and supporting businesses benefiting from the services provided by nature, such as recreational fishing” - Dr Chris Gillies, TNC Australia.*



The Yorke Peninsula Council advocated strongly for the reef to be located in their area and for it to be expanded. With the council itself announcing a contribution of \$100,000 to the project, and CEO Andrew Cameron noting that that the project will bring many benefits. “Tourism is crucial to our local economy and the flow through benefits to our region will be significant, creating jobs in the construction and operational phases as well as through increased international and national tourists. The reef will also be extremely attractive to local and state recreational fishers with excellent access from several boat ramps” said Mr Cameron.

RecFish SA will continue to monitor progress, participate in planning activities and will seek to ensure that the surrounding infrastructure is ready to handle forecast increases in visitation. We are liaising with our members on the Yorke Peninsula and supporting them to achieve optimal outcomes for their community. RecFish SA are also working constructively with the Nature Conservancy, to pursue our aim of securing meaningful opportunities for fishers to be actively involved as the project unfolds.



RFSA Habitat Officer Travis Howson, Nature Conservancy US Associate Director of Coastal Restoration & reef construction expert Mark Dumesnil and RFSA Exec. Director David Ciaravolo talk reefs while sharing their passion for fishing in the Adelaide hills.



**Audited Annual Financial Report**  
**SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council SA Inc.**  
**(Trading As RecFishSA)**  
**30 June 2016**

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## SARFAC - Balance Sheet

### Balance Sheet RecFishSA As at 30 June 2016

	30 Jun 2016	30 Jun 2015
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
ANZ - Cheque Account	96,532	63,146
ANZ – Online Saver	913	1,033
PayPal Permit Fees	6,891	3,355
PayPal Membership Fees	317	-
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>104,653</b>	<b>67,534</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Projects Work in Progress	36,996	-
Accounts Receivable	17,510	1,135
GST Receivable	1,105	878
Petty Cash	105	200
Pre-paid Visa card	721	116
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>56,437</b>	<b>2,329</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Office Equipment	14,749	14,749
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	(14,577)	(14,001)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>748</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>161,262</b>	<b>70,611</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Unearned Income	96,700	-
Accounts Payable	478	-
Wages Payable	(14)	-
Provision for Employee Entitlements	1,982	852
PAYG Withholding Payable	5,698	3,441
Superannuation Payable	2,392	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>107,236</b>	<b>4,293</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>107,236</b>	<b>4,293</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>54,026</b>	<b>66,318</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	(12,293)	33,987
Retained Earnings	66,319	32,332
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>54,026</b>	<b>66,319</b>

## SARFAC - Profit & Loss

### Profit & Loss Statement RecFishSA 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

	30 Jun 16	30 Jun 15
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees	1,500	3,116
Permits	6,233	4,369
PIRSA Grant Income	120,000	120,000
Sundry Income	2,200	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,933</b>	<b>127,485</b>
Project Grants & Professional Services	82,258	65,942
Less		
Direct Project Costs	(76,346)	(39,940)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,912</b>	<b>26,002</b>
<b>Gross Surplus</b>	<b>135,845</b>	<b>153,487</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>		
Accounting	4,640	7,178
Administration Expenses	27,658	24,440
Auditing	5,500	5,500
Advertising	3,837	326
Consultants	1,500	-
Depreciation	576	2,756
Insurance	2,040	1,668
Legal Expenses	2,500	580
Motor Vehicle Expenses	455	1,968
Travel & Accommodation	11,149	5,463
Wages & Employer On Costs	88,283	69,621
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>148,138</b>	<b>119,500</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(12,293)</b>	<b>33,987</b>



## Notes to the Financial Report

RecFishSA  
For the year ended 30 June 2016

### 1. Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of the Board, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (1985) and Regulations.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Income Tax

The council is not directly subject to income tax.

#### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings and capitalised leased assets, but excluding freehold land, are depreciated on the diminishing value basis over their estimated useful lives to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. An asset's carry amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the assets carry amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carry amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense.

### Inventories and Works in Progress

Inventories and Works In Progress, including Projects, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

### Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

#### Sale of Goods

Revenue is recognised on transfer of goods to the customer as this is deemed to be the point in time when risks and rewards are transferred and there is no longer any ownership or effective control over the goods.

#### Interest Revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

#### Rendering of Services

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period.

If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.



### Grant Revenue - General

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating. Grants relating to assets are credited to deferred income at fair value and are credited to income over the expected useful life of the asset on a straight line basis.

### Grant Revenue - Projects

Grants provided for specific projects (and the direct costs relating to those grants) are recognised at fair value but only to the extent that the conditions of those grants have been met or, in the case of progress payments, the conditions of those progress payments have been met.

Where grants and related costs have not been recognised, grants received are accounted for as a liability, Unearned Project Income, until conditions of completion have been met while the related costs are likewise accounted for as an asset, Projects Works in Progress.

This is a departure from previous years' accounting policies having the effect of reducing 2016 profits by \$59,704 being a reduction of \$96,700 grants revenue transferred to unearned project income liability and a reduction of direct project expenditure of \$36,996 transferred to the asset, Projects Works in Progress.

### Board's Statement

Your Treasurer, Brenton Schahinger, submits the Annual Financial Report of the SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council Inc. (RecFish SA) for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:-

- Representing the interests of recreational fishers in South Australia.
- Being the primary venue of consultation between recreational fishers and PIRSA.
- Providing support for management and research programs relevant to recreational fisheries.
- Coordinating and providing extension services to Recreational Fisheries Committees (RFCs) and conducting other forms of effective & efficient statewide engagement.
- Providing input and facilitating community involvement in fisheries' enhancement projects
- To undertake, participate and manage projects to enhance recreational fishing experiences in South Australia

### Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

### Operating Result

The Loss for the year ended 30 June 2016 amounted to \$12,293. The association is not subject to Income Tax.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board.



Brenton Schahinger  
Treasurer

Dated: 15/09/2016



Mr. David Ciaravolo  
Executive Director

Dated: 15/09/2016



Independent Auditor's Report  
To the Members of  
SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council Inc.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying Financial Report, being a special purpose financial report, of SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council Inc, which comprises the Balance Sheet for the year ended 30th June 2016, the Profit and Loss Statement, and Notes to the Financial Report comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Board's Statement.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board of SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a fair and true view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Act (1985) and Regulations and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In Note 1, the board also states, in accordance with Accounting Standards AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independent Auditor's Report  
To the Members of  
SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council Inc.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council Inc. presents fairly in all material respects the financial position of SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council Inc. as of 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Association Incorporation Act(1985) and Regulations.

**NUMBERSPLUS BUSINESS AND TAXATION SERVICES PTY LTD**  
242 Glen Osmond Road  
FULLARTON SA 5063



Frank Jongewaard FCA  
Director  
15<sup>th</sup> September, 2016



NOTES:

NOTES:





## RecFish SA

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**Tel : 8340 0777**

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