

09/03/2018

Executive Director Danny Simpson

RecFish SA

6 Mary Street

Hindmarsh SA 5007

SA-BEST RESPONSE TO RECFISH SA PROPOSAL

Thank you for giving SA-BEST an opportunity to offer input regarding your organisation's election priorities.

SA-BEST is and will continue to be an assiduous champion of sustainable fisheries for South Australians while working with both the recreational and commercial sectors toward common ground principles and best outcomes.

We recognise that recreational and commercial fishers share this sustainability vision and that their needs do both overlap and diverge at times. SA-BEST believes that environmental interests should not be balanced against fisheries but balanced together with sustainable fisheries.

SA-BEST also recognises that there are a great number of stakeholders in South Australian marine resources, and multiple demands upon those resources, and we seek to optimise the benefit that can be sustainably enjoyed by all South Australians.

Better Fisheries for All

SA-BEST supports an extensive fisheries review (both commercial and recreational), but only if it genuinely seeks to provide, as much as is possible, long-term certainty to all elements of the fisheries sector. This should include investigating and clearly defining the statutory framework for managing marine interests where they overlap or coincide. SA-BEST believes that no one interest in our marine resources should automatically be given preferential treatment; resolving competing interests, where they genuinely occur, should be done on the strength of the merit of the claim as it relates to the public interest.

Many of the issues you have raised regarding the sanctuary zones will be given full and proper consideration. SA-BEST supports sanctuary zones based on clear, thorough and evidence-based process and not political interference.

We do support greater funding for research by and with PIRSA into bycatch reduction and other areas that would promote better sustainability for all interested parties and we are equally committed to the continued monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of re-stocking levels (survival rates / impact etc).

Havens for Recreational Fishing / More Great Places to Fish

SA-BEST supports the development of an enhanced network of recreational fishing havens across South Australia, and the opening of many reservoirs for recreational fishing and with support for restocking. SA-BEST supports the development of urban fisheries in areas where there is significant community support.

SA-BEST also supports the continuation of competitive grants for boat ramps and recreational marine facilities, and greater funding for oyster reefs and other fishing reefs.

Recreational Fishers Working for the Environment

SA-BEST supports Murray Cod restocking efforts in the River Murray and the scientific evidence behind impact studies relevant to the carp virus. This would extend to fish habitat and flow restoration projects where there is landholder and community support.

An Investment in SA / Recreational Fishing Grant Program

SA-BEST would envisage that a comprehensive survey of recreational fishing would occur as part of the extensive fisheries review (as discussed above), the results upon which significant additional funding would be predicated.

In recognising RecFish SA as the peak body for recreational fishing in South Australia, SA-BEST acknowledges the critical need for recurrent funding to maintain its capacity and role in the sector. We are willing to support you in your present re-current funding arrangement of \$129,000 with the Government. RecFish SA will also maintain access to the additional pipeline of grant funding including the Recreational Fishing Grants Program or a variation of that program.

As a result of our discussions, we would also support RecFish SA in utilising available technologies to develop a high-end fishing app to provide the recreational sector with a means to monitor their own resource. Subject to proper auditing, we would provide a single \$50,000 funding boost to your organisation to develop a high-end smart-phone app. This should begin to address concerns in the lack of survey from the recreational sector. We envisage such an app will become an important tool in feeding data back to enhance species and regional data to improve PIRSA's knowledge base on fishing stocks and movements .

We would also envisage that such an app could also be used to help the recreational fishers protect its own resource by providing a pathway to enforcement so that photographic evidence of law breaking can begin to deter unlawful activities.

Making South Australia a Great Place to Fish

The fishes within this state's various fisheries are an important public resource and we owe it to all South Australians to monitor it with a view to ensuring it meets the SA-BEST core value of achieving transparent outcomes through accountability.

SA-BEST wants South Australia to be a great place to fish!

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Madeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'M'.

Andrea Madeley

Upper House Candidate