

Hon Corey Wingard MP



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of South Australia

Minister for Infrastructure
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Minister for Recreation,
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Mr Mick Wilson
Chair
RecFish SA

By email: ed@recfishsa.org.au

Dear Mr Wilson

Mick

Thank you for your correspondence received on 5 October 2021 regarding the recognition of recreational fishing as a sport/active recreation activity.

After receiving your correspondence, I asked the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) for advice about this matter.

I appreciate you drawing my attention to the current National Recreational Fishing Survey and subsequent study being conducted by researchers to understand the value of recreational fishing from an economic, social, health and wellbeing perspective.

ORSR has reviewed the content listed on the National Recreational Fishing Survey website and agree with the direction of the survey and study, noting that the website acknowledges that there is little evidence on the health and wellbeing aspects of recreational fishing.

As a result of this information, ORSR maintains its position on recreational fishing as per the previous correspondence dated 25 August 2021. However, should the outcomes of the National Recreational Fishing Survey and study clearly demonstrate that recreational fishing achieves the definition of sport or active recreation, ORSR is willing to re-visit the matter.

In light of some of your other concerns articulated, I can provide the following:

- Whilst the perception exists that darts is not highly physically exertive, it still meets the definition of sport due to the high level of physical skill required, along with its competitive nature associated with state, national and world championships.
- Canoeing, kayaking and hiking are all forms of active recreation and are supported by ORSR, however, these are not the primary activities associated with fishing, rather a mechanism to get to a fishing location. As a result, these are not considered when assessing fishing against the definitions of sport and active recreation.

- The Grants Review undertook a comprehensive and coordinated statewide engagement process to gather the views of local communities, sport and recreation providers, councils and anyone else who had a view on sport and active recreation. While recreational fishing wasn't considered a target audience, the review was set up to enable anyone to provide written feedback, including the Department for Environment and Water.
- Opening up the reservoirs has been a fantastic initiative and I appreciate RecFish SA lobbying for this outcome over a considerable period of time. ORSR will continue to champion for the active recreation outcomes that reservoirs can provide in regards to canoeing, paddling, and shared trail use for running, walking and cycling. Whilst reservoir fishing provides a recreational and potential tourism opportunity it is not a strategic priority for ORSR.

Whilst I appreciate that you will continue to lobby on behalf of your members, at this point in time no further information can be communicated outside of what has already been provided to RecFish SA.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Hon Corey Wingard MP
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing

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