

FRDC PROJECT 2000/313
Recfish Australia R&D plan
BACKGROUND SUMMARY

This project was conceived by Recfish Australia's Vice-president and acting honorary National Executive Director, Graham Pike, who also became the Principal Investigator.

The Objectives and project development details are contained in the attached Non-technical Summary.

The broad purpose and thrust of the project is summarised in the copy of the letter to Recfish Australia Executive members and delegates, attached.

Acknowledgements are contained in the final report of the Project which comprises *The national research and development plan for the recreational sector of the Australian Fishing Industry*, as provided in hard copy to the FRDC and in electronic form on the Recfish Australia Web site at: www.recfishoz.com.

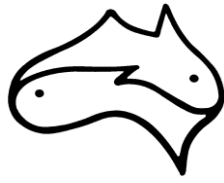
Further Development: At its annual general meeting and conference on 24 November 2001, Recfish Australia formally resolved to include, as a mandatory item in each AGM agenda, 'Review and Revision of the Recreational Sector R and D Plan'.

This will keep the R and D Plan before members and their delegates and most importantly, will maintain the Plan's currency and keep it consistent with changing initiatives and developments in fisheries R and D generally.

An increasing number of applicants for FRDC funding are citing the Recreational Sector R and D Plan in their applications and seeking Recfish Australia endorsement of their project applications.

Also on 24 November, Recfish Australia reconstituted itself, resulting in a much strengthened and fully unified peak national recreational fishing body with a truly national representative base inclusive of every State and Territory peak body as well as existing national fishing organizations.

This developments all attest to the fact that the Project Objectives have not only been fulfilled but considerably exceeded within a few months of the Project's completion.



REC FISH AUSTRALIA

Dear Recfish Executive Members and Member Delegates

It is a pleasure to be able to invite you to participate in Recfish Australia's history-making Workshop on 1, 2 and 3 November 2000 to:

- (i) formulate the first Research and Development Plan for the Recreational Sector of the Australian Fishing Industry, and
- (ii) review Recfish Australia's organisational structure and if necessary, modify its current structure and recommend changes to optimise Recfish's functionality and representativeness in funding, delivering and coordinating the Research and Development Plan and Recfish's continuing role as the peak national body representing and working for all Australian anglers to improve their quality of fishing.

The Recfish Workshop, funded by a grant from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) of which Recfish is a formal Representative Organisation under the Federal Government's *Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act 1989*, will be held **at the FRDC Conference Room, 25 Geils Court, in the Canberra suburb of Deakin.**

The Workshop runs from 2pm to 5.30pm on Wednesday 1 November, 9am to 5pm on Thursday 2 November and 9am to 12.30pm on Friday 3 November.

Morning and afternoon teas and a light lunch on the Thursday will be provided.

Travel and Accommodation

Recfish will pay return travel and two nights' accommodation for one delegate from each Recfish member organisation to attend the Workshop provided **all** travel and accommodation is arranged by our Office Manager, Carol Wind (02 – 6257 1997). All you have to do is give Carol your preferred travel times and the two nights you will need accommodation and she will make and confirm the bookings with our preferred airlines and accommodation venue.

We will also reimburse fuel costs on the presentation of receipts for those who may wish to travel by car.

Workshop participants are encouraged to take advantage of the Wednesday afternoon start of the Workshop to travel to Canberra on the Wednesday morning. Accommodation will then cover the two nights of the Workshop.

Of course, we would expect Recfish member delegates attending the Workshop to stay on to attend the Recfish Executive meeting on the afternoon of Friday 3 November and/or the Recfish Annual Conference and Meeting on Saturday and Sunday 4 and 5 November (see “After the Workshop” below.)

**RSVP – if eligible for Recfish air travel and accommodation - by 12.30pm,
Tuesday 10 October,
otherwise - by 12.30pm Tuesday 17 October.**

Pre-Workshop Reading

The Workshop will be facilitated by Clive Huggan of Pacific Project Management Pty Ltd. Clive is an accomplished project manager, strategic planner and coordinator with a strong track record in fisheries and natural resource management related fields.

Clive and Recfish are working together to produce an advance background and discussion document which it will be essential for all participants to read fully in preparation for the Workshop.

We expect to mail this document on Friday 20 October to all who have indicated they will be attending,

(Signed)

Angus Horwood
President
Recfish Australia

8 October 2000

2000/313 Recfish Australia R&D plan

Non-Technical Summary

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop a mechanism for the implementation of the Recfish Australia R&D plan.
2. To formulate optimal representative structure for Recfish Australia for steering of this plan.
3. To develop a national R&D plan for the recreational fishing sector of the Australian fishing industry.

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

The outputs of this project are directed towards achievement of four planned outcomes, mainly as a result of the structure that the Recfish Australia R&D plan now provides for directing R&D towards the outcomes.

The planned outcomes were developed within a two-program structure, as follows:

Natural Resources Sustainability Program:

- Australian marine and freshwater resources and habitats are managed sustainably to produce abundant, diverse, high-quality fishing experiences for recreational and sport fishers.

Recreational Sector Development Program:

- The recreational sector of the fishing industry develops in ways that maximise social, environmental and economic benefits to recreational and sport fishers, associated businesses and the Australian community.
- The skills of people in the recreational sector are developed and used to achieve sustainable fishing practices, to enable fishers and their organisations to participate effectively in sustainable fisheries management, and to enhance the recreational sector's development.
- Partnerships are developed between governments, the recreational fishing community and associated industries to enhance the values of recreational fisheries throughout Australia.

[The first two of the four planned outcomes are identical to, and the third is very similar to, Recfish Australia's previously promulgated planned outcomes for R&D, which were published in the FRDC's R&D plan. The fourth planned outcome was developed during the course of this project.]

The outcomes will generate public and private benefits.

OUTPUTS CONTRIBUTING TO ABOVE OUTCOMES

The outputs of this project were the knowledge incorporated in the R&D plan by representatives of the recreational sector, the FRDC, fisheries management agencies and research providers at a planning workshop, and by the project managers; and the processes for R&D planning stipulated in the plan.

STAKEHOLDER RESPONSE

Through this R&D plan, the basis for conducting national recreational fisheries R&D is now accessible to all and clear priorities for R&D strategies are now established.

Members of the recreational sector have responded enthusiastically to the plan and are proposing R&D projects in keeping with its strategies. Other stakeholders, including FRAB members, research providers and FRDC staff, are likely to welcome the plan because of the structure it contributes to prioritising R&D related to the recreational sector.

Mechanism for implementation of the R&D plan

The implementation mechanism was as follows:

- The project managers, Graham Pike of Recfish Australia and Clive Huggan of The Strategists / Pacific Project Management Pty Ltd, researched and prepared introductory material and a description of the recreational sector's business environment. Their work included a strategic assessment of the recreational sector's R&D needs that was consistent with strategic assessments of a growing number of R&D plans covering other elements of the fishing industry.
- A wide range of expert views was then gathered, most notably through a workshop held on 1–3 November 2000. These views were for the most part applied to determining the strategies of the plan.
- The project managers then resolved outstanding issues in the plan, including incorporation into the strategies of the primary goals of the Commonwealth Government's 1994 National Policy on recreational fishing. The resulting draft was posted on the Recfish Australia website for comment.
- The plan was launched on 31 May 2001 with 100 hard-copy versions, the main means of dissemination being via the Internet. The availability of the plan has been very widely publicised throughout the recreational sector. R&D projects will be progressed through existing processes for planning, funding and managing R&D.

Representative structure for Recfish Australia for steering of the plan

The planning workshop comprised 47 representatives of Australia-wide member bodies of Recfish Australia and senior members of the fisheries research community, government agencies and the commercial sector. These representatives, and office-holders in the recreational sector who had not attended the workshop, contributed to further development of the plan.

Summary of the R&D plan

The title of the plan is *Investing in a sustainable fishing future: the national research and development plan for the recreational sector of the Australian fishing industry, edition 2001*. ISBN 0-959006-33-8. A downloadable electronic version of this publication is available from <http://www.recfishoz.com>

This strategic plan is the first to give a national focus to R&D related to the recreational sector of the Australian fishing industry.

The plan describes the R&D activities that Recfish Australia considers will produce the best environmental, social and economic outcomes for the recreational sector of the Australian fishing industry. It has been prepared for members of Recfish Australia; other recreational and sport fishers; the Commonwealth, state and territory governments; other sectors of the fishing industry (commercial and traditional); the research and development community; and

other people who are interested in Australia's fisheries resources and the fishing industry.

The plan first outlines the background to the plan and the organisation of Recfish Australia as the peak national body for the recreational sector of the fishing industry. Recfish Australia's mission is to represent the interests of recreational and sport fishers at a national level to ensure quality fishing.

In the chapter titled 'The recreational sector's business environment', the plan outlines various contexts: national and state/territory, fishing industry, R&D organisation, environment, socio-political, economic, policy and legislative, and extension.

The chapter titled 'Strategic elements of R&D in support of recreational fishing' discusses the reasons for the plan's focus on outcomes (the results, impacts or consequences of R&D activities on the fishing industry and Australia's economic, environmental and social resources), and the mechanisms for priority-setting for recreational fishing R&D. There follows a description of the planned outcomes (see page 1 of this non-technical summary), strategies and performance indicators of the two R&D programs.

The nine strategies of the Natural Resources Sustainability Program are as follows:

- To increase and apply knowledge of the biology of fish and their ecosystems.
- To increase and apply knowledge of interactions between fish and their ecosystems.
- To increase and apply knowledge of the effects of fishing activities on fish and their ecosystems.
- To increase and apply knowledge of the effects of non-fishing activities, pests and pollution on fish and their ecosystems (includes effects of aquaculture on ecosystems).
- To increase and apply knowledge of the health of fish and their ecosystems.
- To increase and apply knowledge of rehabilitation and enhancement of fisheries and their ecosystems.
- To increase and apply knowledge of legislative, institutional, compliance and policy arrangements and their impacts.
- To increase and apply knowledge of stock assessment methods (excludes routine assessments that are the core responsibility of other agencies).
- To increase and apply knowledge of fisheries and ecosystem management systems and their evaluation.

The eight strategies of the Recreational Sector Development Program are as follows:

- To increase and apply knowledge of economic and social values of the recreational sector and its impacts.
- To increase and apply knowledge of fishing and non-fishing activities affecting access to fisheries resources.
- To increase and apply knowledge of health and safety associated with recreational fishing activities.
- To increase and apply knowledge of catch care, food safety and the health benefits of seafood consumption.
- To develop leadership among people in, and supporting, the recreational sector.
- To develop the skills of people in, and supporting, the recreational sector.
- To develop knowledge in the community about fisheries resources and the recreational

sector.

- To involve the community in ways that will benefit Australia's fisheries resources and the recreational sector.

Indicative examples of projects accompany each strategy.

The plan concludes with appendices covering the goals and principles of the National Policy for Recreational Fishing, Recfish Australia's objects, and legislation and policies affecting Recfish Australia's stakeholders.

KEYWORDS: R&D plan, research and development, recreational sector, fishing industry, Recfish Australia, strategies, natural resources sustainability, industry development, human capital development; ESD; recreational fishing resource allocation; R&D funding; recreational fishing goals and objectives; national recreational fishing policy;