

NATIONAL Recreational Fishing CONFERENCE

FRDC PROJECT
2011/502

W SAWYNOK
R CONWAY
A HANSARD



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Australian Government
Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation



CASTING TOWARDS TOMORROW - KEEPING AUSTRALIA FISHING



National Recreational Fishing Conference 2012

W Sawynok¹, R Conway² and A Hansard³

¹ Recfishing Research, PO Box 9793, Frenchville, Queensland 4701

² Recfish Australia VRFish Marine House Ground Floor 24 York Street Melbourne Vic 3025

³ Australian Fishing Trade Association POB ox 118 Deacon West ACT 2600



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In 2011 the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry released the document "Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy: 2011 and beyond". The strategy identified and provided funding for 10 projects as part of the implementation of the strategy. This included a national recreational fishing conference.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation provided initial funding for the conference. A number of organisations also provided sponsorship for the conference. Sponsors were:

- ✦ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (conference partner level 1)
- ✦ Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (conference partner level 1)
- ✦ Fish Habitat Network (conference partner level 2)
- ✦ Australian Communications and Media Authority (conference support sponsor)
- ✦ Australian Fishing Trade Association (bronze sponsor)
- ✦ Murray-Darling Basin Authority (bronze sponsor)
- ✦ Primary Industries Research South Australia (lectern signage)
- ✦ Southern Cross Austereo (media sponsor)

The development of the conference was overseen by a steering committee whose members were:

- ✦ Bill Sawynok, Principal Investigator (Recfishing Research)
- ✦ Russell Conway (Recfish Australia)
- ✦ Allan Hansard/Doug Joyner (Australian Fishing Trade Association)
- ✦ Peter Horvat/Crispian Ashby (Fisheries Research and Development Corporation)
- ✦ Lorraine Hitch/Melanie Buckley (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)
- ✦ Matt Barwick (Recfishing Research)
- ✦ Kerrie Wise (Destination Conference and Incentive)

Destination Conference and Incentive (DCI) were contracted to manage the conference in conjunction with the steering committee. The work of the DCI staff that helped make the conference a success is acknowledged. A list of staff involved is in Appendix 2.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



Australian Government
**Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation**



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**



**New South Wales
Recreational
Fishing Trusts**



Australian Government



**Australian
Communications
and Media Authority**



Australian Government



**Government
of South Australia**

**Primary Industries
and Regions SA**

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Australian National Fishing Conference 2012
FRDC Project 2011/502

Principal Investigator

Bill Sawynok

Recfishing Research
PO Box 9793
Frenchville, Queensland, Australia 4701

Phone: 07-4928-6133
Email: bill@info-fish.net

Fax: 07-4926-3335

Objectives

The objectives of this project were:

- 1 Survey key industry stakeholders and potential attendees to contribute to the input and expectations for a National Recreational Fishing Conference. Use the results of that to assist in the design of the 2012 National Conference
- 2 Hold a world-class National Recreational Fishing Conference in 2012
- 3 Engage with participants at the National Conference to identify at least three key national projects to be developed and implemented following the conference
- 4 Presentation of Recreational Fishing Awards
- 5 Publication of proceedings of the conference

Non-technical Summary

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

A world-class conference attended by 160 delegates that addressed contemporary issues identified through a pre-conference survey.

An excellent mix of delegates covering industry, government, managers, researchers, fishing media and recreational fishers both old and young were exposed to a wide range of good news and challenging projects from around Australia.

Feedback from delegates at the conference indicated that they rated most aspects of the conference as being excellent or very good.

A number of strategic actions were identified to be progressed following the conference.

The achievements of recreational fishers in a number of categories were recognised through the Recreational Fishing Awards.

Holding a national conference was identified as a priority project by the Federal Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) and developed as part of "Recreational fishing in Australia - 2011 and beyond: a national industry development strategy".

The conference was held on 17-19 August 2012 at the Gold Coast Convention and Entertainment Centre (GCCEC). The conference was a joint program of Recfish Australia and Australian Fishing Trade Association with the support of Recfishing Research.

The conference commenced with an ABT Pro-Am Fishing Tournament on 17 August and was followed by the AFTA Tackle Trade Show on 20-22 August. The conference was attended by 160 delegates and formal and informal feedback indicated delegates thought that the conference was very successful.

An online survey completed by 350 people in early 2012 was used to assist in determining the location, timing, duration, cost and themes for the conference. The overall theme for the conference was "Casting Towards Tomorrow - Keep Australia Fishing". The session themes were:

- ✦ Engaging and influencing decision makers
- ✦ Understanding the importance of recreational fishing to Australian society
- ✦ Responsible fishing practices
- ✦ More habitat - more fish

There were 5 keynote addresses:

- ✦ Meeting international challenges for recreational fishing - Martin Salter
- ✦ Meeting the challenges of leadership transition - Karen Schmidt
- ✦ The challenges from young fisher's perspective - Nathan Johnston and Matt Gillett
- ✦ Meeting the challenge of restoring our fisheries - Chris Hunt and Simon Evans

There were then 36 presentations that addressed the conference themes. The presentations covered a broad range of issues faced by recreational fishing and included perspectives from government, fisheries agencies, recreational fishers and researchers. There were many good news stories told of recreational fishers doing great things at the coal face, particularly in education, habitat restoration, fishing practices and safety.

A number of sponsorships were secured for the conference from:

- ✦ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Conference partner
- ✦ Fisheries Research and Development Corporation - Conference partner
- ✦ Fish Habitat Network
- ✦ NSW Recreational Fishing Trust
- ✦ Australian Communications and Marketing Authority
- ✦ Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
- ✦ Murray Darling Basin Authority
- ✦ ABT Fishing Tournament
- ✦ Australian Fishing Tackle Association
- ✦ Southern Cross Ten

There was a dinner held during the conference where a number of Recfishing Awards, hosted by Recfish Australia, were presented. There were eight award categories and the winners were:

- ✦ Excellence in innovation and leadership - no nominees
- ✦ Excellence in support of research outcomes - John Kirk
- ✦ Excellence in recreational fishing communications - Steve Starling
- ✦ Project of the year - Ryan Piak
- ✦ Volunteer of the year - Stan Konstantaras
- ✦ Best project or initiative encouraging women and/or young people's participation in fishing - Recfishwest
- ✦ Most successful future leader graduate - Jason Stanfield
- ✦ Mal Ramsay Lifetime Achievement Award - Robert Loats

A plenary session at the end of the conference identified a number of Strategic Actions to be pursued post the conference. A draft was circulated to all delegates for their input and a final document produced.

Four strategic actions were identified along with the most appropriate organisation to take the issue forward. These were:

- ✦ Fishing Charter - Australian Recreational Fishing Federation
- ✦ Economic and social importance of recreational fishing - Recfishing Research
- ✦ Leadership development - Recfish Australia
- ✦ National Fish Habitat strategy - Fish Habitat Network

Progress on these actions will be reported on at the next conference proposed for 2014.

A wrap up teleconference of the Steering Committee was held following the conference. It was agreed that the steering committee would continue to commence the planning for a conference in 2014.

Keywords

National Recreational Fishing Conference
Recfish Australia
Australian Fishing Trade Association
Recfishing Awards
Strategic Actions

2. BACKGROUND

This project was identified as a priority project by the Federal Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) and developed as part of the Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy (RFIDS). This forms part of a suite of projects developed under the strategy following extensive consultation with recreational fishing groups and individuals by the RFAC in all states.

A pre-proposal was developed and submitted to the FRDC in response to the call for proposals issued by the FRDC on 30/11/2010. The applications was submitted for consideration at the February board meeting. The board provided provisional approval for the development of a full application.

3. NEED

The last national recreational fishing conference was held in 2008. It is recognised within the fishing industry and supported by FRDC that industry sectors need to hold a conference every 2 years to allow the sectors to showcase their achievements and provide a high level forum for issues affecting the industry. By 2012 it will be 4 years since the last recreational fishing conference. Key industry bodies Recfish Australia (RA) and Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA) have recognised the need for another national conference for some time. The Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee, as part of the Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy, has also recognised the need for a national conference.

For the conference to be world-class there is a need for the conference scope to be broadened to encompass parts of the industry that have not been previously involved (eg boating) and to include agencies whose decisions impact on recreational fishers (eg marine park agencies). The conference will focus on the future of recreational fishing in Australia and addressing issues related to that in a practical and innovative manner.

There is also a need to develop the leadership skills of the next generation of recreational fishers by exposing them to issues and areas of concern that may require future management action. The concept of succession planning is of paramount importance to the future management of the industry. This conference will allow future leaders to address key strategies to improve the engagement of recreational fishers.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project were:

- 1 Survey key industry stakeholders and potential attendees to contribute to the input and expectations for a National Recreational Fishing Conference. Use the results of that to assist in the design of the 2012 National Conference
- 2 Hold a world-class National Recreational Fishing Conference in 2012
- 3 Engage with participants at the National Conference to identify at least three key national projects to be developed and implemented following the conference
- 4 Presentation of Recreational Fishing Awards
- 5 Publication of proceedings of the conference

5. METHODS

5.1. Pre-conference survey

1. An online survey of the recreational fishing community was conducted during Feb-Mar 2012 to gain input to the location, timing, duration, cost and key issues for a national conference.
2. The survey was developed by the steering committee in conjunction with One Pixel. The survey was located at recfishingresearch.org/survey.
3. The results of the survey were used to assist in the development of the conference program.

5.2. A world-class national conference

1. A steering committee was appointed to oversee the development of the conference program.
2. A professional conference organising company was employed to assist with the management of the conference.
3. A venue that provided the greatest opportunity for stakeholders from around Australia to attend was selected.
4. The steering committee developed the conference program through regular meetings (primarily by teleconference) leading up to the conference.
5. Keynote speakers were selected to set the scene for the conference addressing key issues for recreational fishing.
6. Additional sponsorships were sought to assist with the costs of the conference.
7. Exhibitors and poster presentations were included in the conference program.
8. The conference was promoted through the following:
 - ✦ Conference website www.recfishing2012.com.au
 - ✦ Sponsorship Prospectus
 - ✦ Facebook page
 - ✦ Email mailing list (weekly news bulletin in lead up to conference)
 - ✦ Conference flyer for Canberra Parliamentary breakfast and other functions
 - ✦ Conference registration
 - ✦ Conference television advertisements on Network 10 and digital channel 11
 - ✦ Initial media release issue
9. An evaluation of the delegates views of the conference were obtained at the end of the conference.

5.3. Strategic Actions post the conference

1. A plenary session was held at the end of the conference to determine at least three key projects/actions that were considered a priority.

5.4. Recreational Fishing Awards

1. A dinner was held in conjunction with the conference where Recreational Fishing Awards for achievements in a number of categories were announced.

5.5. Conference Proceeding

1. The steering committee determined that the production of a strategic actions document would replace a proceedings document.

6. RESULTS

6.1. Pre-conference survey

At the completion of the survey there were a total of 350 respondents. A summary of the survey results is contained in Appendix 3.

As an incentive for people to complete the survey there were 5 free registrations for the conference offered. While 5 registrations were offered only 1 was taken up.

The key recommendation of the survey was for a 2 day conference, hosted in Brisbane/Gold Coast or Sydney from July-Sep at a cost of \$250. There was strong support for the conference to be linked to trade or public shows and for a conference dinner.

The preferred themes for the conference were the social and economic importance of recreational fishing and influencing fisheries and conservation management. The next closest issues raised were government and community engagement, best fishing practices and leadership in the recreational fishing industry though a large number of additional suggestions were presented.

6.2. A world-class national conference

The conference was held on 17-19 August 2012 at the Gold Coast Convention and Entertainment Centre (GCCEC). The conference was a joint program of Recfish Australia and Australian Fishing Trade Association with the support of Recfishing Research.

The conference commenced with an ABT Pro-Am Fishing Tournament on 17 August and was followed by the AFTA Tackle Trade Show on 20-22 August. The conference was attended by 160 delegates.

The survey was used to determine the themes for the conference. The theme for the conference was "Casting Towards Tomorrow - Keep Australia Fishing". The session themes were:

- ✦ Engaging and influencing decision makers
- ✦ Understanding the importance of recreational fishing to Australian society
- ✦ Responsible fishing practices
- ✦ More habitat - more fish

There were 5 keynote addresses:

- ✦ Meeting international challenges for recreational fishing - Martin Salter
- ✦ Meeting the challenges of leadership transition - Karen Schmidt
- ✦ The challenges from young fisher's perspective - Nathan Johnston and Matt Gillett
- ✦ Meeting the challenge of restoring our fisheries - Chris Hunt and Simon Evans



Figure 1: Keynote speakers set the scene for the conference

There were then 36 presentations that addressed the conference themes. The presentations covered a broad range of issues faced by recreational fishing and included perspectives from government, fisheries agencies, recreational fishers and researchers. There were many good stories told of recreational fishers doing great things at the coal face, particularly in education, habitat, fishing practices and safety.

A number of sponsorships were secured for the conference from:

- ✦ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Conference partner
- ✦ Fisheries Research and Development Corporation - Conference partner
- ✦ Fish Habitat Network
- ✦ NSW Recreational Fishing Trust
- ✦ Australian Communications and Marketing Authority
- ✦ Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
- ✦ Murray Darling Basin Authority
- ✦ ABT Fishing Tournament
- ✦ Australian Fishing Trade Association
- ✦ Southern Cross Austereo

There were a number of exhibitors and a small number of poster displays. Exhibitors were:

- ✦ Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- ✦ Recfish Australia and Recfishing Research
- ✦ Australian Fishing Trade Association
- ✦ Infofish Australia
- ✦ Fish Habitat Network
- ✦ NSW Department of Primary Industries
- ✦ Australian Communications and Marketing Authority
- ✦ Primary Industries and Resources South Australia
- ✦ Murray-Darling Basin Authority
- ✦ Redmap
- ✦ Sunfish Queensland

The following were used to promote the conference:

- ✦ Conference website www.recfishing2012.com.au
- ✦ Sponsorship Prospectus
- ✦ Facebook page
- ✦ Email mailing list (weekly news bulletin in lead up to conference)
- ✦ Conference flyer for Canberra Parliamentary breakfast and other functions
- ✦ Conference registration
- ✦ Conference handbook
- ✦ Conference television advertisements on Network 10 and digital channel 11
- ✦ Initial media release issued

Feedback from delegates, both formal and informal suggested that the conference was very successful. Towards the end of the conference delegates were asked to complete an evaluation form and rate the conference. A total of 81 responses were received. Their overall ratings of various aspects of the conference were as shown in the accompanying graph.

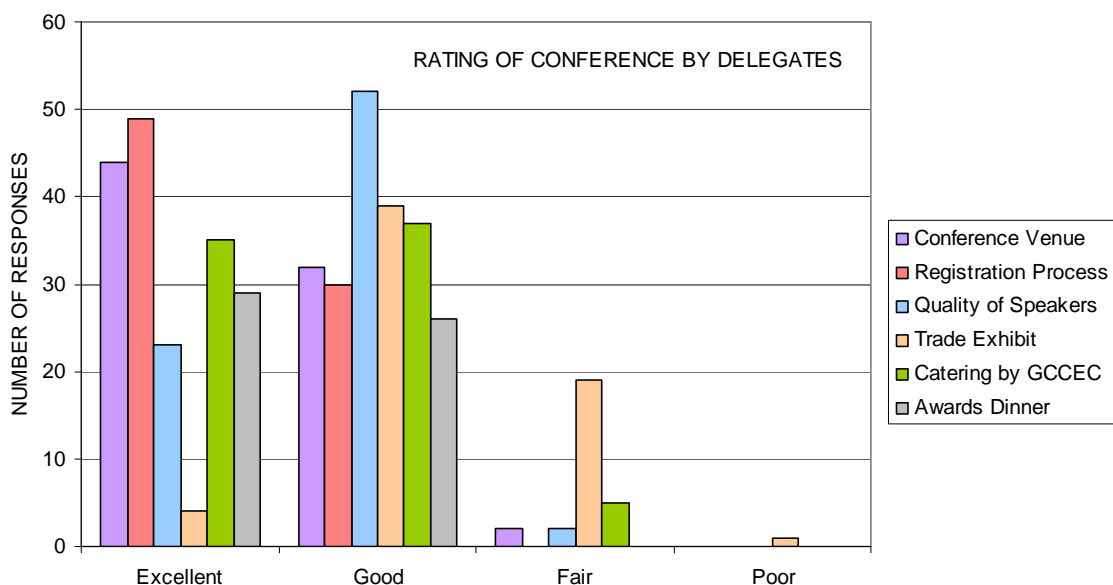


Figure 2: Summary of delegates rating of conference

Some comments from delegates were:

- ✦ Fantastic platform that can lead to great things
- ✦ Excellent! Great discussion of key focus areas for immediate attention
- ✦ Insightful for the younger newbies. Good exposure for them.
- ✦ Engaging and influencing decision makers: Key to creating a better future - major importance
- ✦ Understanding the importance of recreational fishing to Australian society: Great presentations that Government should heed
- ✦ Responsible fishing practices: Topics demonstrated how responsible we are as recfishers and the effort put in to protect and understand our resource
- ✦ More habitat - more fish: Excellent, an absolute perfect topic and presentations

6.3. Strategic actions post the conference

A plenary session at the end of the conference identified a number of Strategic Actions to be pursued post the conference. A draft was circulated to all delegates for their input and a final document produced. The final version of the Strategic Actions document is contained in Appendix 6.

Four strategic actions were identified along with the most appropriate organisation to take the issue forward. These were:

- ✦ Fishing Charter - Australian Recreational Fishing Federation
- ✦ Economic and social importance of recreational fishing - Recfishing Research
- ✦ Leadership development - Recfish Australia
- ✦ National Fish Habitat strategy - Fish Habitat Network

Progress on these actions will be reported on at the next conference proposed for 2014.

6.4. Recreational Fishing Awards

The Recreational Fishing Awards were introduced by Recfish Australia to recognise the contribution made by the many people who dedicate thousands of hours to their respective causes within recreational fishing.

A panel of 5 persons comprising members of the Recfish Australia Board, including the Chair, and independent members assessed the nominations for the award and determined the winners. The Recfishing awards were presented at the conference dinner.

The award categories were:

- ✦ Excellence in innovation and leadership
- ✦ Excellence in support of research outcomes
- ✦ Excellence in recreational fishing communications
- ✦ Project of the year
- ✦ Volunteer of the year
- ✦ Best project or initiative encouraging women and/or young people's participation in fishing
- ✦ Most successful future leader graduate
- ✦ Mal Ramsay Lifetime Achievement Award

Winners of the eight categories were:

Category 1: Excellence in innovation and leadership

There were no nominations in this category.

Category 2: Excellence in support of research outcomes

Winner John Kirk – Victorian Angler Diary Program

John Kirk has been a keen angler for more than 70 years. He has been fishing for Bream in East Gippsland since the 1940's and has kept his own detailed diary of every fish caught in the estuary from the 1960's to the present day. Fisheries Victoria became aware of John's diary in the early 1990's and recognised the value of the information collected for the management of small recreational fisheries. John's diary became the prototype for the Angler Diary Program and John was the program's first recruit. Over the past 15 years, several hundred volunteer angler diarists have followed John's lead and made important contributions to the assessment of Victorian recreational fish stocks.

Category 3: Excellence in recreational fishing communications

Winner Steve Starling

Steve Starling has a 36 year history in recreational fishing communications. Driven by a genuine passion to preserve our sport for future generations, Steve has devoted his mastery of English, gentle charisma and encyclopaedic depth of knowledge to entertaining, informing and inspiring anglers for more than half his life. His sharing of information goes against the "secret squirrel" thoughts of some, but Steve believes that educating anglers – on sustainability, responsibility, techniques, tackle, interpreting waterways or cooking the catch – is critical to our industry's future. Steve's objectives are simple – to share knowledge and promote the enjoyment of fishing, while encouraging sustainable use of aquatic resources.

Category 4: Project of the year

Winner Ryan Paik – Moreton Bay Artificial Reef

The rezoning of the Moreton Bay Marine Park resulted in the loss of significant quality recreational areas. The aim of the project was to provide new, high quality iconic fishing sites in the Moreton Bay Marine Park. This was the first time that artificial reefs have been used as offsets to compensate recreational fishers for loss of access. Two different styles of reef structure module were designed and deployed by Haejoo P/L. The modules have produced three iconic new fishing locations in and around Moreton Bay.

Category 5: Volunteer of the year

Winner Stan Konstantaras

Stan has been an active member of South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association since 1989 and has since 1994 held a variety of Committee positions including the role of President from 2000 until now. Stan has also been an active member of ANSA and became a member of the ANSA NSW Branch Executive Committee in 1995 with a major focus on the development and expansion of fishing safety initiatives across NSW and ultimately across the nation. Stan has also served on a multitude of state and national committees dealing with water safety issues and general fishing issues such as tagging, capture and release, fishing access and marine park implementation and review.

Stan has been the ANSA NSW Branch President since 2006 and is also a founding member of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW and has held executive positions on that body since inception in 2000. Complementary to his role with ANSA and Angel Rings Stan has been a driving force behind the development and success of the rock fishing awareness program. The Angel Ring project has been attributed with the documented saving of 48 lives since its inception. Stan has also been a driving force behind the development of the rock fishing awareness program which has seen the development and distribution of some 300,000 bi-lingual rock fishing safety DVD's and 80,000 multi-lingual rock safety brochures. There is no doubt that Stan has achieved much in his time as a volunteer and will continue to remain committed to and provide inspiration for these worthy causes.

Category 6: Best project or initiative encouraging women and/or young people's participation in fishing

Winner Recfishwest – Fishing Clinic Program

The Recfishwest fishing clinic program has been running for 14 years and with additional funding has been able to take a number of initiatives to many regional centres. Over 3,000 children have participated in the program “Addicted to Fishing not Drugs” program. In addition to teaching angling to children and youth, this program combines mentoring and positive life skills with conservation and education in a powerful and adaptable package. Most recently Recfishwest has partnered with Woodside Energy Ltd to promote the Northern Tour Fishing Clinic program. The clinics aim to provide information on fishing technique but also to encourage fun, healthy outdoor activities with families.

Category 7: Most successful future leader graduate

Winner Jason Stanfield

This individual has demonstrated strong commitment to the future of recreational fishing evidenced through his many and varied volunteer efforts. Following his involvement in a future leaders workshop, he emerged with a refined skill set and a renewed vigour to make a difference for recreational fishing.

This future leader is tireless in his efforts to promote and advance recreational fishing and has taken on leadership roles in a range of fishing organisations. He recently coordinated a take a kid fishing clinic with 20 youngsters. He has a passion for recreational fishing and a strong motivation to “make a difference” in respect to the future of the recreational fishing sector. He is always eager to seek advice and is a very consultative person by nature.

Category 8: Mal Ramsay Lifetime Achievement Award

Winner Robert Loats

The “Mal Ramsay” lifetime achievement award recognises outstanding contribution by an individual Australian to the development and/or administration of recreational fishing over a substantial period of time.

Recipients of the Award must have set excellent examples for others involved in recreational fishing administration and development. They will have demonstrated a high level of dedication and made a substantial contribution as did the namesake for this award.

Mal Ramsay was a stalwart supporter of recreational and sport fishing in Australia. Mal dedicated thousands of hours over many years to help further the interests of recreational fishers.

He was a passionate fisher and a fervent supporter of and advocate for Recfish Australia. He was actively involved with Recfish from its inception in 1983 until he retired as President in 1996 having served seven years in that position. He was also a Past- President of the Game Fishing Association of Australia and was a life member of that organisation.

Since Recfish began awarding the Mal Ramsay Lifetime Achievement Award, it has lauded individuals whose contributions are obvious, long serving and bring real benefits to all in our industry. It's important that the sector takes pride in those individuals whose tireless and steadfast work is an integral part of the industry's overall success.

For this award, the awards committee decided to reward just such a devoted worker. This individual is the embodiment of a true recreational fishing evangelist. His dedication to recreational fishing comes through in his every action, from the many hours he devotes to his work on a wide range of Committees and working groups, to his enthusiastic coaching of future leaders.

Robert Loats has had more than 30 years experience within fisheries management. He has been involved in a variety of challenges within the sector and been involved in Clubs, Associations, advisory councils and committees at local, state and federal government levels. He is also a keen recreational fisher who enjoys wetting a line when he has an opportunity.

He is passionate about promoting the benefits of fishing and building participation. He is also committed to building capacity within the recreational fishing industry and planning for its future and has mentored many young people within the sector.

His can-do attitude has been the driving force behind many an outstanding project, which he oversees from start to finish with an eye on perfection.

His quiet confidence in times of crisis frequently has a calming effect on even his most stressed-out companions.

In today's often impersonal work world, Robert always makes sure he is accessible. Government departments and decision makers often ask for him by name and his steadfast attitude never fails in setting them at ease.

Woody Allen once remarked that 80 percent of success is showing up. This person has shown that not to be true. It's not just showing up that makes him such an inspiration — although he has maintained a stellar attendance record throughout his years in the recreational fishing arena — it's the dedication and energy he brings with him into this environment that have made it a little easier for all of us to find success in our endeavours.

As a tribute to Mal, Recfish confers this lifetime achievement award in recognition of exceptional contributions in the field of recreational fishing administration and development in Australia.

6.5. Conference proceedings

Presentations at the conference were made available from the website and selected videoed presentations were made available through You Tube and extension through proprietary channels. The Steering Committee considered that provided sufficient access to presentations and that there was greater value in the development of the Strategic Actions document.

7. DISCUSSION

As with all events there are things that worked particularly well and other things that could have been done better or differently. The following observations are made that can be used to assist in the planning of the next conference.

The pre-conference survey was particularly useful in helping to determine the location, timing, duration and cost of the conference. It was also used to determine the themes for the conference.

Having a fishing competition as part of the conference was strongly supported by those that took part in the ABT event. Feedback from participants was that this should be a component of future competitions. It was particularly attractive to younger delegates.

Having the conference associated with the tackle trade show was seen as an important attractant for some delegates who wanted to see the latest developments in tackle and influenced some delegates to attend the conference. However this also limited the ability of people in tackle industry to take part in the conference or to assist with sponsorships. Some consideration should be made to have the next conference separated in time from the tackle show.

The use of social media to promote the conference had limited success however its use in a different way could overcome the issue of making the conference attractive and accessible to younger fishers. One of the key issues was the cost of attending the conference by recreational fishers. The use of social media would allow participation at no cost. The concept of a conference having a dual audience - delegates attending the conference and an audience following the conference through social media should be further explored.

Informal feedback was canvassed from as many delegates as possible on producing conference proceedings. There was unanimous support for a Strategic Actions document in preference to a set of proceedings. This was seen to be an ongoing legacy of the conference.

8. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Actions that were identified in the Strategic Actions document have been passed on to organisations that have agreed to progress the issues. Progress on these actions will be reported on at the next conference and through Recfishing Research.

The Steering Committee will continue as the planning body for the next conference which is proposed to be held in 2014.

9. CONCLUSIONS

By all measures the conference was a success. Feedback was that there was an ongoing need for a recreational fishing conference to deal with contemporary issues, share information on the good work by people within the industry and to recognise the achievements of individuals.

10. APPENDIX 1 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

There is no intellectual property created as a result of this project.

11. APPENDIX 2 – PROJECT STAFF

There was a Steering Committee for the project. Members of the Steering Committee were:

- ✦ Bill Sawynok, Principal Investigator (Recfishing Research)
- ✦ Russell Conway (Recfish Australia)
- ✦ Allan Hansard/Doug Joyner (Australian Fishing Trade Association)
- ✦ Peter Horvat/Crispian Ashby (Fisheries Research and Development Corporation)
- ✦ Lorraine Hitch/Melanie Buckley (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)
- ✦ Matt Barwick (Recfishing Research)
- ✦ Kerrie Wise (Destination Conference and Incentive)

Destination Conference and Incentive was contracted to assist with the management of the conference. Staff from DCI that assisted with the conference were:

- ✦ Kerrie Wise
- ✦ Karen Revell
- ✦ Sandra Mitchell
- ✦ Kristy Frew

12. APPENDIX 3 – PRE-CONFERENCE SURVEY RESULTS

PRE-CONFERENCE SURVEY RESULTS

SUMMARY

The Recfishing Research Questionnaire was conducted in the months of June and July via an online survey at (web address) and promoted by a number of means including forums and email bulletins. There were 337 respondents to the survey.

The key recommendation of the survey was for a 2 day conference, hosted in Brisbane/Gold Coast or Sydney from July-Sep at a cost of \$250. There was strong support for the conference to be linked to trade or public shows and for a conference dinner.

The preferred themes for the conference were the social and economic importance of recreational fishing and influencing fisheries and conservation management. The next closest issues raised were government and community engagement, best fishing practices and leadership in the recreational fishing industry though a large number of additional suggestions were presented.

There were around 35% of respondents undecided on whether to attend, of those 50% were from NSW.

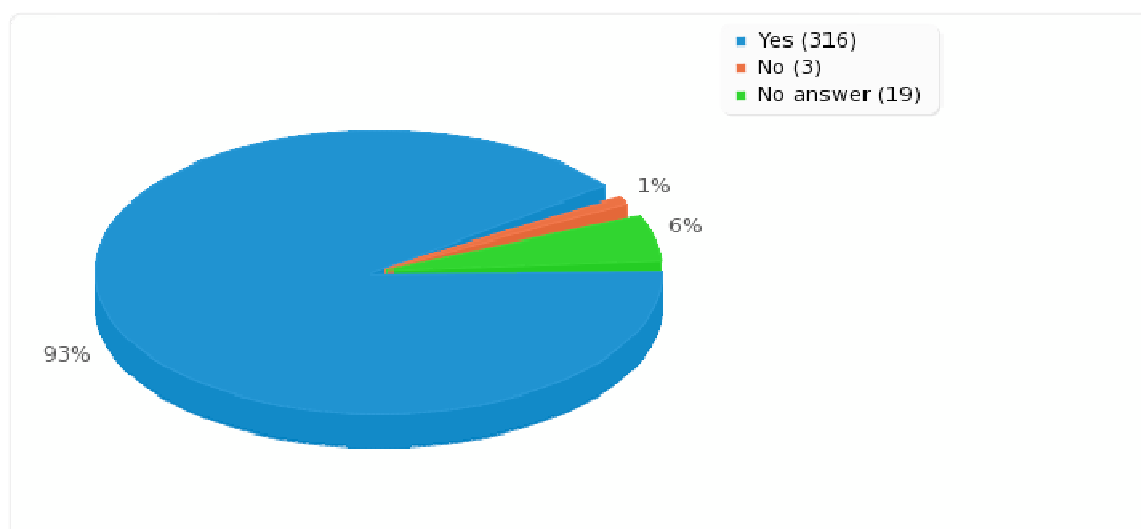
The most popular method of updating people on the conference was email and conference website.

Eighty-Five percent of respondents were male.

QUESTION 1

Do you think a conference about the future of recreational fishing in Australia would be of benefit?

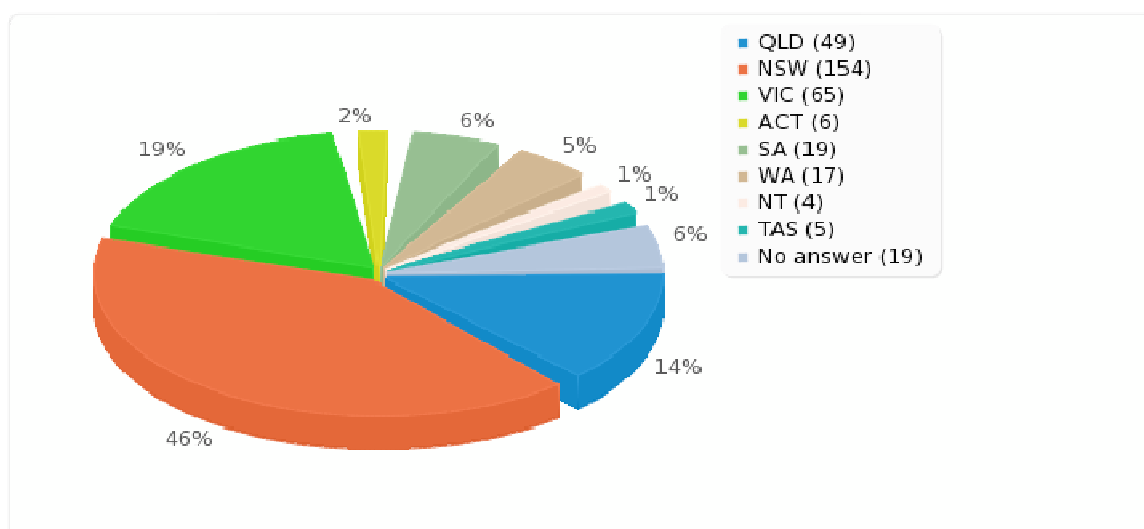
Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (1)	316	93.49%
No (2)	3	0.89%
No answer	19	5.62%



QUESTION 2

Which State/Territory do you reside in?

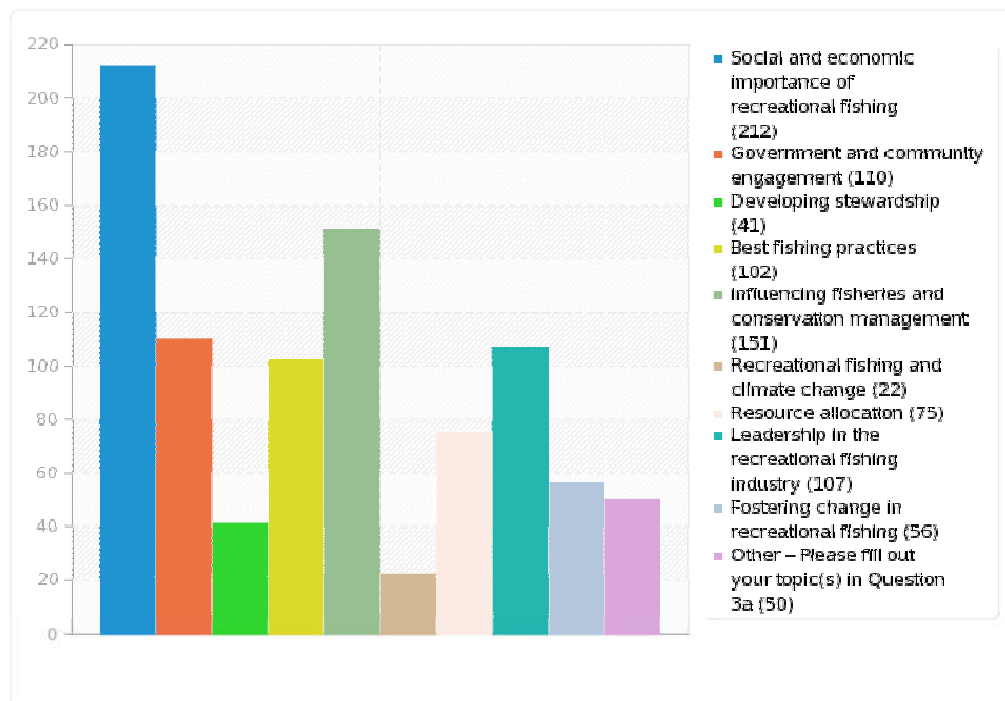
Answer	Count	Percentage
QLD (1)	49	14.20%
NSW (2)	157	45.51%
VIC (3)	66	19.13%
ACT (4)	6	1.74%
SA (5)	19	5.51%
WA (6)	17	4.93%
NT (7)	4	1.16%
TAS (8)	5	1.45%
No answer	22	6.38%



QUESTION 3

What would be your choice of the top 3 themes for the conference - if not on the list then select other and put in your topics?

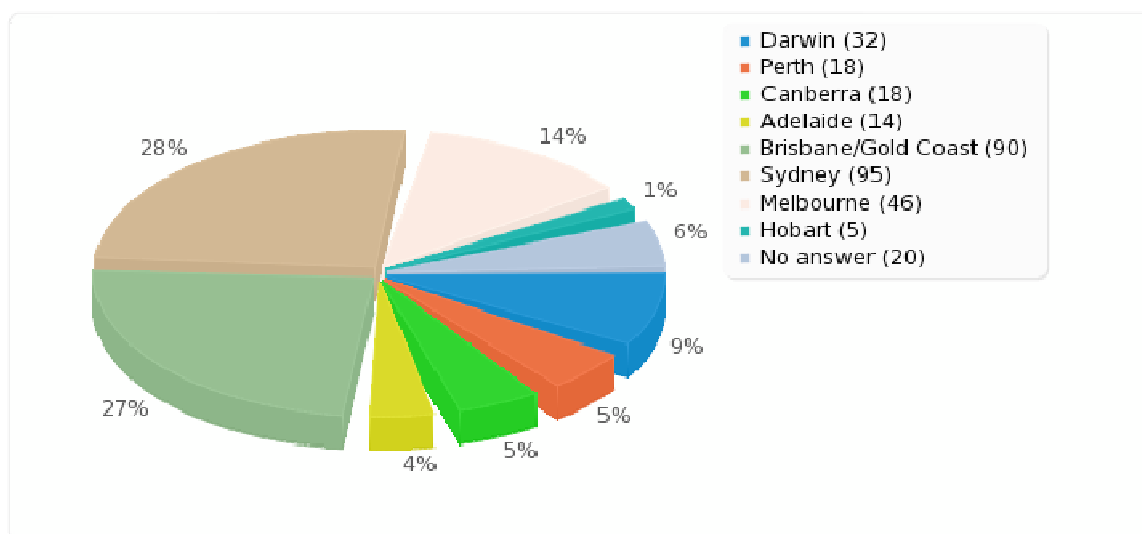
Answer	Count	Percentage
Social and economic importance of recreational fishing (1)	216	62.61%
<i>Government and community engagement (2)</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>32.17%</i>
Developing stewardship (3)	41	11.88%
Best fishing practices (4)	104	30.14%
Influencing fisheries and conservation management (5)	154	44.64%
Recreational fishing and climate change (6)	23	6.67%
Resource allocation (7)	77	22.32%
<i>Leadership in the recreational fishing industry (8)</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>31.01%</i>
Fostering change in recreational fishing (9)	56	16.23%



QUESTION 4

From the list below, please select where you would like the Conference to be held.

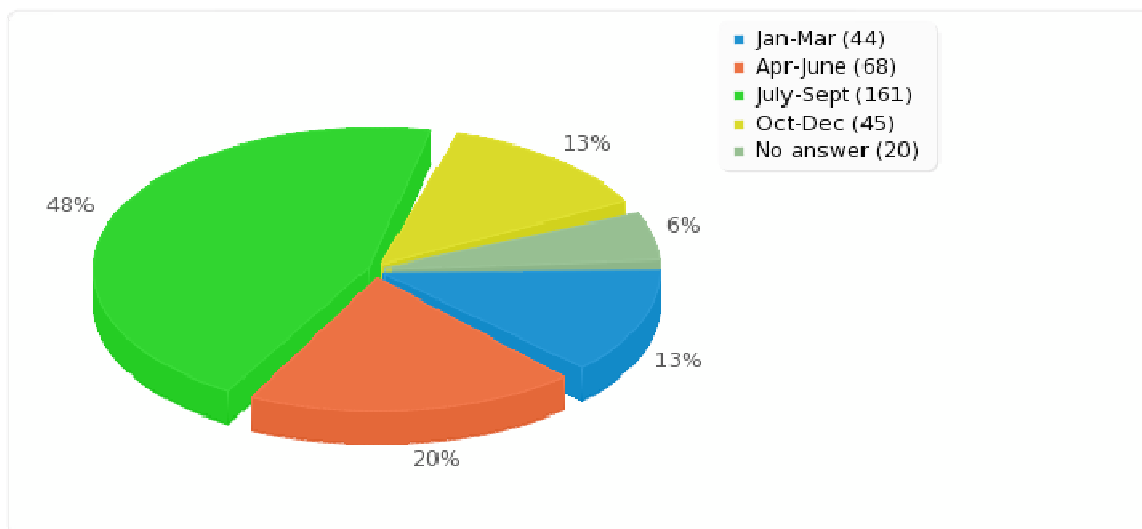
Answer	Count	Percentage
Darwin (1)	32	9.28%
Perth (2)	18	5.22%
Canberra (3)	18	5.22%
Adelaide (4)	14	4.06%
Brisbane/Gold Coast (5)	91	26.38%
Sydney (6)	97	28.12%
Melbourne (7)	47	13.62%
Hobart (8)	5	1.45%
No answer	23	6.67%



QUESTION 5

From the list below, please select your preferred timing for the conference.

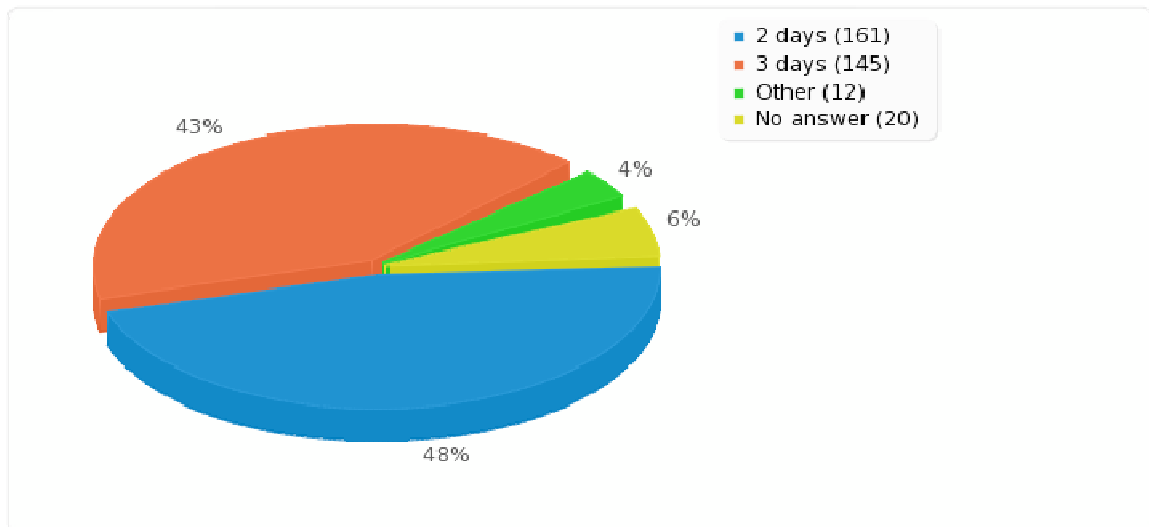
Answer	Count	Percentage
Jan-Mar (1)	45	13.04%
Apr-June (2)	68	19.71%
July-Sept (3)	163	47.25%
Oct-Dec (4)	46	13.33%
No answer	23	6.67%



QUESTION 6

From the list below, please select how long you think the conference should run.

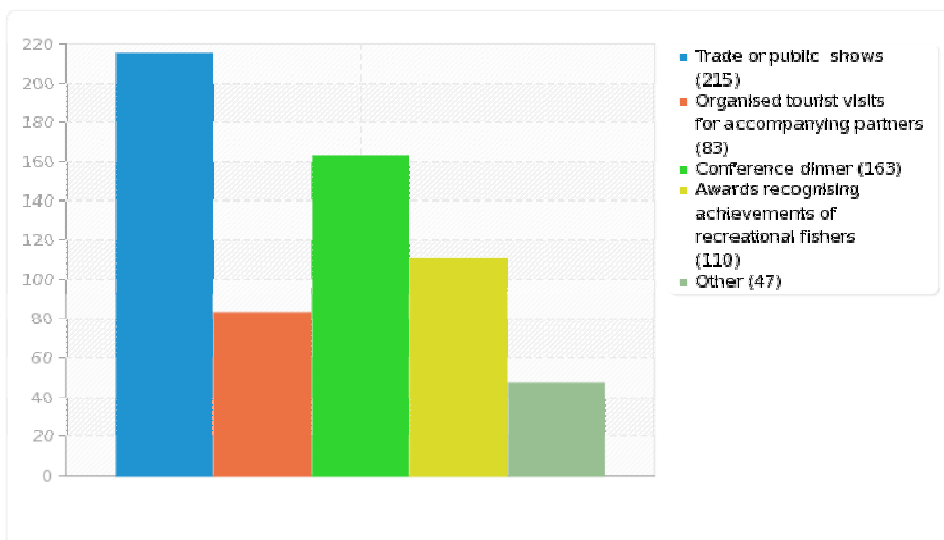
Answer	Count	Percentage
2 days (1)	162	46.96%
3 days (2)	148	42.90%
Other	12	3.48%
No answer	23	6.67%



QUESTION 7

It is expected that there will be a number of associated social and other activities to attract participants to the conference. From the list below, please indicate other activities that you would like to see associated with the conference.

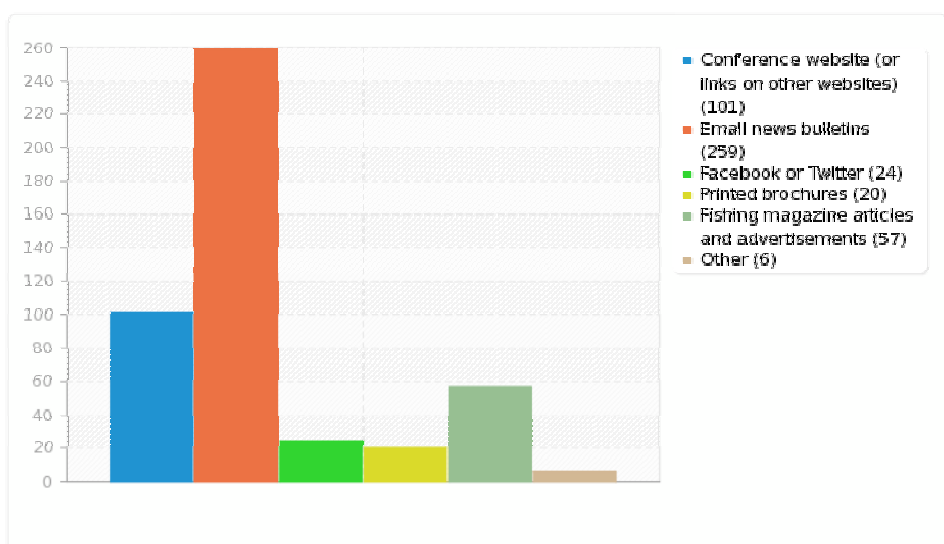
Answer	Count	Percentage
Trade or public shows (1)	217	62.90%
Organised tourist visits for accompanying partners (2)	85	24.64%
Conference dinner (3)	164	47.54%
Awards recognising achievements of recreational fishers (4)	111	32.17%
Other	47	13.62%



QUESTION 8

From the list below, what is your preferred method of receiving information in the lead up to the conference?

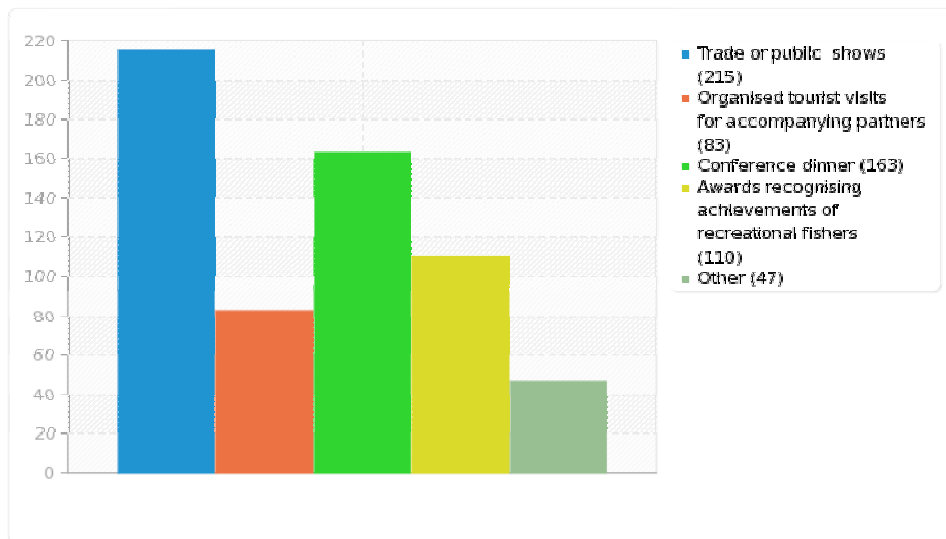
Answer	Count	Percentage
Conference website (or links on other websites) (1)	102	29.57%
Email news bulletins (2)	262	75.94%
Facebook or Twitter (3)	25	7.25%
Printed brochures (4)	20	5.80%
Fishing magazine articles and advertisements (5)	58	16.81%
Other	6	1.74%



QUESTION 9

It is expected that there will be a number of associated social and other activities to attract participants to the conference. From the list below, please indicate other activities that you would like to see associated with the conference.

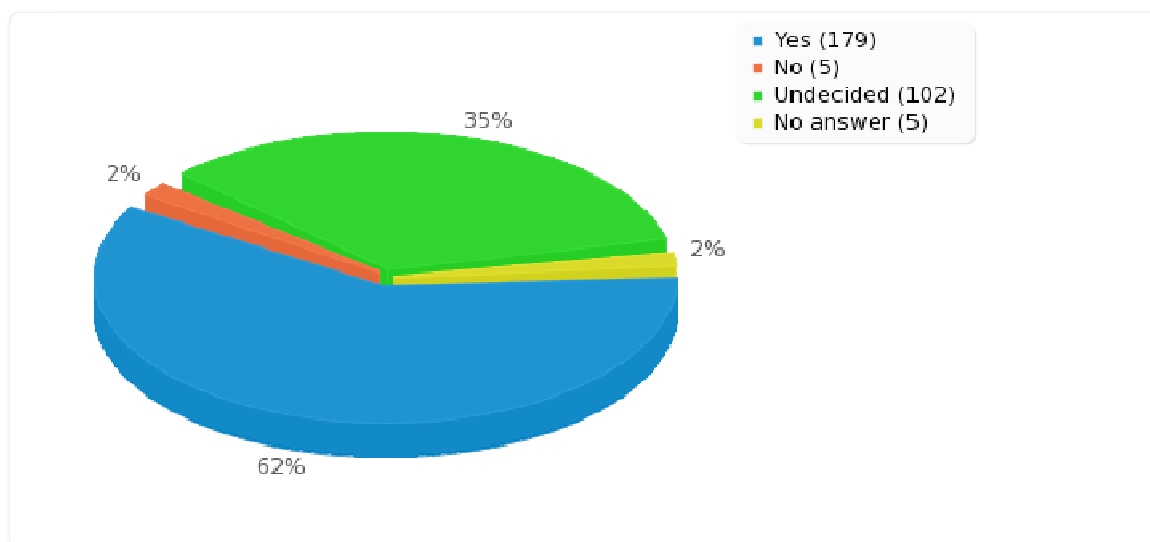
Answer	Count	Percentage
Trade or public shows (1)	217	62.90%
Organised tourist visits for accompanying partners (2)	85	24.64%
Conference dinner (3)	164	47.54%
Awards recognising achievements of recreational fishers (4)	111	32.17%
Other	47	13.62%



QUESTION 10

Based on the proposed outline of the conference are you considering attending the 2012 conference?

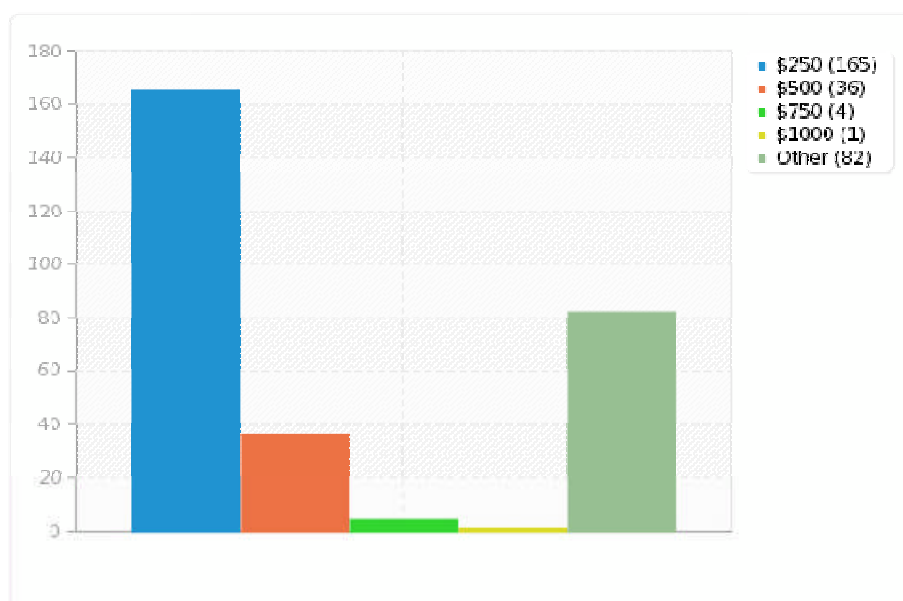
Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (1)	179	61.59%
No (2)	5	1.73%
Undecided (3)	102	34.95%
No answer	5	1.73%



QUESTION 11

Based on the proposed outline of the conference what would you consider paying in registration fees to attend?

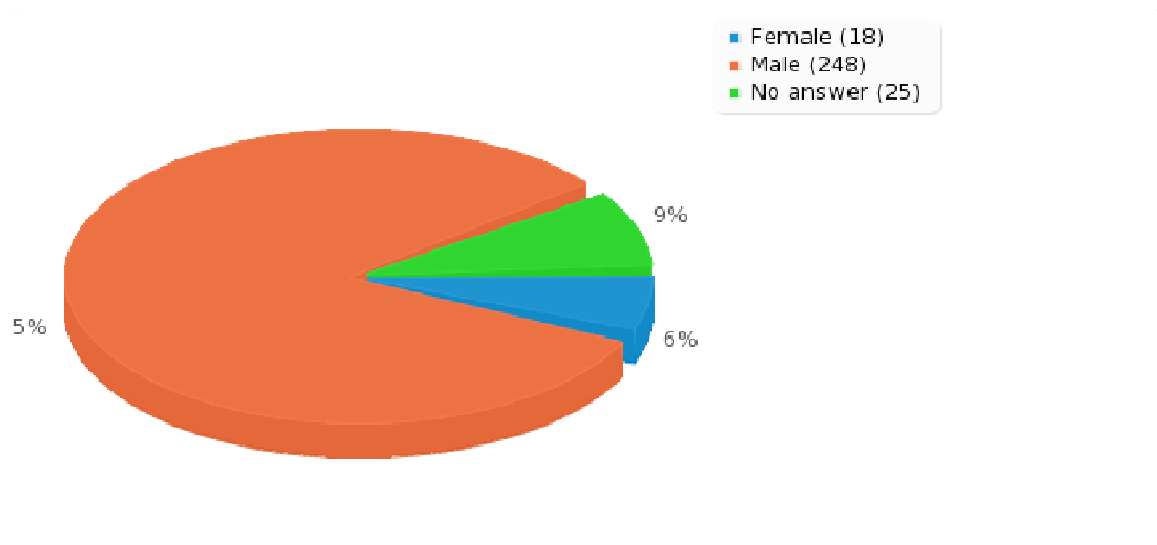
Answer	Count	Percentage
\$250 (1)	166	48.12%
\$500 (2)	37	10.72%
\$750 (3)	4	1.16%
\$1000 (4)	1	0.29%
Other	83	24.06%



QUESTION 14

Gender

Answer	Count	Percentage
Female (F)	18	6.23%
Male (M)	246	85.12%
No answer	25	8.65%



Other Issues for the Conference

- ✦ Sustainable fisheries
- ✦ National Angling License
- ✦ A National Fishing Licence for Funding National Recreational Fishing Representation
- ✦ Federal government investing funds to improve opportunities for recreational fishing
- ✦ fight against the increasing green influence on recreational fishing
- ✦ Health and wellbeing benefits of recreational fishing
- ✦ Bag limits increased
- ✦ Habitat rehabilitation for healthy fisheries
- ✦ promoting fishing to young kids
- ✦ Opening of Dammed Water Ways to Shore Lure Only Based Fishing
- ✦ Fish Habitat
- ✦ Habitat restoration
- ✦ Habitat restoration
- ✦ Habitat restoration
- ✦ Habitat Restoration
- ✦ Habitat Restoration
- ✦ Stop to Marine Park Creation
- ✦ A national approach to recreational fishing licensing
- ✦ Habitat Restoration
- ✦ marine parks... no take zones

- ✦ Habitat Restoration
- ✦ Focus on the similarities, not the differences - working with the conservationists
- ✦ Maintaining/developing/reclaiming fish breeding habitat - mangroves
- ✦ habitat restoration
- ✦ Habitat restoration
- ✦ Recreational fishing and health
- ✦ Angler Access
- ✦ A peak body for recreational fishers
- ✦ Ban beach netting of spawning fish! WHY hasn't this been banned already?
- ✦ Angler access NSW
- ✦ sustainable freshwater fishing
- ✦ Fish habitat rehabilitation - the role of recreation fishers.
- ✦ Angler access to waterways in particular river, streams etc.
- ✦ Recreational Fishing: The Protecting the Rights of the Public to Fish
- ✦ Education of ethnic minorities re dangers of fishing no take invertebrates in littoral and estuarine zones
- ✦ Marine No take zones
- ✦ Funding and manning of Coastal Patrols/ Coast Guard/ VMR
- ✦ NSW Marine Parks ... management of gain
- ✦ Relationships between healthy habitat and healthy fish communities
- ✦ The role of Marine Parks - Experiences from around Australia
- ✦ Fixing fish habitat, especially nurseries and recruitment habitats
- ✦ Development of fish grounds (artificial reefs etc) creating a fishery marine waters and inland waters
- ✦ Recreational fishing in marine parks
- ✦ National fishing license
- ✦ take the politics out of sanctuary zones
- ✦ education
- ✦ closure of beach netting to commercial fishing
- ✦ Education
- ✦ Influencing Australian Government funding to support recreational fishing development
- ✦ Fisheries science
- ✦ Healthy Habitats - Healthy Fish
- ✦ plan ahead for the fight against the closure of recreational fishing areas
- ✦ Fishing safety (boating, rockfishing)
- ✦ boat ramp upgrades
- ✦ restoring degraded waterways
- ✦ Bringing the next generation into areas of influence to provide continued representation
- ✦ Habitat Restoration
- ✦ Address land based angler access to Jervis Bay Marine Park
- ✦ Water flows
- ✦ The future of trout in Australia
- ✦ How to break down the barriers between rec fishers and commercial fishers
- ✦ Mandatory barbless hooks>
- ✦ national fishing rules
- ✦ Environmental flows for both inland and coastal rivers
- ✦ Maintenance of Launching Facility

- ✦ more openness on marine research
- ✦ closure of estuaries and lakes to commercial netting
- ✦ plan to show governments the importance of recreational fishing
- ✦ Increasing recreational fishing participation
- ✦ relook at fees what are we paying for?
- ✦ the changing of conventional pathways to community engagement
- ✦ Habitat Restoration
- ✦ Impacts of pollution and sediments in waterways
- ✦ Engaging other users/groups for a joint positive outcome re use of waterways
- ✦ Rock fishing safety
- ✦ Circle hooks mandatory with bait.
- ✦ eradication of pest species { weeds and fish}
- ✦ capture -release mortality rates influence of barbless hooks
- ✦ NGIHANP

Other Length for the Conference

- ✦ 4 days and limit number of concurrent sessions
- ✦ 2 days - Friday and Saturday
- ✦ 2 days with optional 3rd day "field trip"
- ✦ day or evening
- ✦ until we get our way
- ✦ Day on each subject
- ✦ 1
- ✦ as long as it takes
- ✦ Each state should have a 2 day conference
- ✦ 3-4 days, mid-week
- ✦ 1 day
- ✦ enough time to cover all issues

Other Activities for the Conference

- ✦ fishing trip showing how other operators work
- ✦ Fishing trips
- ✦ a choice of 3 guided fishing trips for the participants. 1 off shore game fishing Port Arthur area. 2 estuary fishing for bream in Derwent estuary. 3 fly fishing for trout in central highlands
- ✦ Presenting fishing innovations
- ✦ Recreational fishing trips for participants
- ✦ Visit to NSW Fisheries
- ✦ There for business - not pleasure
- ✦ Scientific assessment of the state of the Fishery State by state
- ✦ Field Trips or Demonstrations
- ✦ Some hands on fishing experience
- ✦ information showing the benefits of recreational fishing and how healthy our waters really are
- ✦ A structured direction to involve an audience outside of existing circles
- ✦ Fishing

- ✦ presentation by government on fishing policies
- ✦ Bream tournament like at the Sydney International boat show, and product showing and sales/specials
- ✦ Guest expert speakers - OS? or others ports
- ✦ Fishing Opportunities for delegates
- ✦ speakers on habitat
- ✦ Fishing trips
- ✦ visit a success story
- ✦ Actual charter
- ✦ Research Presentations
- ✦ Fishers For Fish habitat
- ✦ Joint with AFTA show
- ✦ Papers of each state & Federal government policies
- ✦ Recognising Positive partnerships with Educational institutions as we can better educate our youth to care for and take responsibility of our fisheries - We can facilitate and encourage ownership as today's youth will become tomorrow's leaders.
- ✦ visits to areas associated with fishing
- ✦ workshops on subjects of critical importance
- ✦ Protest At Parliament House
- ✦ Must limit outside activities as no attends the presentations.
- ✦ science eg biology / lifecycles / symbiotic relationships of fish/ cephalopods/annelids/shellfish. food chains-marine, estuary, freshwater
- ✦ educational field trips
- ✦ guest speakers
- ✦ in conjunctions with tackle and tinny expo.
- ✦ 'Social Drinkies' with drink-entitlement vouchers for delegates to enable meeting and interaction of delegates and officials - without too much booze!!
- ✦ visits to local fisheries research centres and positives examples of community rec fishing projects or initiatives.
- ✦ How-to type workshops focussed on habitat restoration
- ✦ fishing trips in Darwin harbour - practical side to the conference
- ✦ Awards for Habitat Improvement to encourage others to get involved.
- ✦ talks from marine scientists who are currently doing research into fish habitat
- ✦ seminars on various recreational fishing
- ✦ State & Fed Govt Feedback
- ✦ visit industry facility
- ✦ practical excursion of local fishing establishment spots inc commercial indigenous recreational
- ✦ Access to DAFF key decision makers
- ✦ community activity days held at different cities

Other Methods for keeping up with the Conference

- ✦ spearfishing magazines as well such as spearfishing down under
- ✦ local and rural radio and tv networks
- ✦ presentations on research projects done on species of rec fishing interest
- ✦ Notifications to fishing clubs
- ✦ email feedback link

Things that will change Undecided's

- ✦ Will depend on topics covered and cost
- ✦ I can't afford it
- ✦ Discount air fare would be appreciated
- ✦ Excellent keynotes or presentations that would entice me in.
- ✦ More information on what will be discussed and who the speakers will be
- ✦ Seminars focusing on both sides of issues. Greeny point of view as well as Rec fisherman's point of view. Moderated seminars to generate discussion and disperse knowledge.
- ✦ Depends on time and date as we travel overseas for work
- ✦ Weekend
- ✦ cost
- ✦ location of conference
- ✦ Price - I'm not having a great year financially. Would be happy to miss out on the dinner etc.
- ✦ Ability to have input in discussions
- ✦ Attendance is subject to management approval
- ✦ I would love to attend but how do we no as fisher persons that it is going to get fair dinkum
- ✦ There has been a distinct lack of support from the Fed Govt in recent years in regard to recreational fishing. I am keen to see positive outcomes from the roundtable meetings and the Minister speak at the conference to explain what is being done to support recreational fishing considering the significant economic and financial benefits back to Govt.
- ✦ Someone qualified to talk on the [no bull] side of marine parks and the future that they will have on rec fishing in Australia. Consideration of a minimum standard qualification for fishing guides throughout Australia eg PFIGA . There are no winners with a low standard in Fishing Guides
- ✦ yeah more information never been invited before
- ✦ Development of an outcomes paper with identified outputs and resources to deliver the agreed outputs, or at least a discussion paper on the positions outlined
- ✦ Listing agenda items in order of preference and importance
- ✦ Topics and time Frame
- ✦ Depends on venue. If in Sydney would probably go.
- ✦ Not at this stage
- ✦ I am on disability pension
- ✦ Time and money
- ✦ The location in which it is being held due to travel expenses.
- ✦ Difficult due to amount of travel required - need to assess.
- ✦ Location would be a large factor as well as cost
- ✦ Presentation of current funded research. I think this practice would provide confidence for recreational fishers in knowing that their fees are benefiting the recreational fishing community.
- ✦ weekend would be my only chance to attend
- ✦ Depends on time of year and programme chosen.
- ✦ To make sure the conference would be worthwhile. Need government leaders to attend to hear the recreational fishermen.
- ✦ The agenda topics being detailed early , prior to registration

- ✦ As I am Geelong based - if there was specific discussion regarding the management of commercial fishing practises in our bay I would attend with out question.
- ✦ I live on the NSW Central Coast therefore it would life much easier if the conference was in Sydney. But I would still make the effort if it was Brisbane or Melbourne (more difficult and expensive, wife four kids and mortgage, Ha Ha.
- ✦ Yes, coverage of the issues I mentioned at the beginning
- ✦ AFTA should organise levy on wholesale of fishing gear. The proceeds to support political parties able to effectively represent the interests of anglers. This would exclude The Fishing Party in NSW which diverted 50,000 votes away from the Shooters and Fishers Party which does get members actually elected into parliament. By doing that the Fishing Party became an friend of The Greens. What a disgraceful waste of precious votes!
- ✦ Fishing opportunity
- ✦ Have a meeting in the regional fresh water fishing center possibly on the Murray River
- ✦ subject to location; I am now retired & involved as a volunteer in habitat restoration work, as a Fishcare Volunteer, & in recreation fishing administration serving as President of the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc.
- ✦ It comes down to what is on the conference agenda and what outcomes are achievable from the conference
- ✦ just too busy/conference rego too expensive
- ✦ free registration would convince my wife to allow me to attend
- ✦ No. The decision whether to attend is my Employment 'leave' based, not the Conference based.
- ✦ Trade Shows
- ✦ The quality of the keynote Speakers (primary reason). The cost of the conference. Cost of accommodation and airfares. Availability of leave.
- ✦ funding and cost to attend
- ✦ Dates of conference.
- ✦ Location, Location, Location. Have it on the Gold Coast & I'm there. I was at a conference there last week and the accommodation is both beautiful and downright cheap, lots of good & inexpensive restaurants, plenty of entertainment options, good beaches, and fishing!
- ✦ Location and cost will be deciding factor
- ✦ how well my small business is going as to whether I can afford time off to go
- ✦ Depends on what is included in the registration fee, like morning/afternoon tea, lunch and dinner at the award night
- ✦ Cost is the major consideration. I do not like travelling to Sydney but as the bulk of the population is in the eastern states this is probably the most convenient location for most people.
- ✦ transport and accommodation provided
- ✦ Less talk more hands on and teaching activities aimed at rec fishing.
- ✦ Would need to be on a weekend as I am fulltime employed.
- ✦ I would need to know who the keynote speakers would be and what their topics (generally) would be. I would not be interested if it looked like the meeting would fit the stereotype of rec fishing activism (everyone else is wrong)
- ✦ dependent on money and work schedule.

Alternate Price Point

- ✦ Free to non profit community NGO reps
- ✦ less than \$150
- ✦ \$100 there should be finance sought from sponsors etc to bring costs don for the average Joe
- ✦ \$75
- ✦ 100
- ✦ 180
- ✦ \$100
- ✦ \$100 -150
- ✦ free
- ✦ \$100
- ✦ Minimum - it doesn't have to be an extravaganza!
- ✦ \$100
- ✦ \$50
- ✦ More information please
- ✦ 20
- ✦ 0
- ✦ The dollars are not an issue providing it is not bias
- ✦ I would consider attending as a peak body representative or perhaps as ACoRF rep.
- ✦ \$50
- ✦ 50
- ✦ 100.00
- ✦ 100, make it accessible!!!
- ✦ 20
- ✦ No fees
- ✦ \$50
- ✦ tba
- ✦ \$50.00
- ✦ 100
- ✦ Free
- ✦ 20
- ✦ 0
- ✦ \$100
- ✦ should be minimised
- ✦ depends on how many days
- ✦ \$0
- ✦ \$100
- ✦ depends on location and associated events
- ✦ 100
- ✦ Less than \$100
- ✦ would depend on the actual outline of the conference
- ✦ Or less
- ✦ \$100
- ✦ Free - for my time
- ✦ Government sponsorship

- ✦ \$50.00
- ✦ The government should chip in, although if awards or a conference dinner is arranged, then usual fee of approx \$100-\$150 i would assume
- ✦ \$10
- ✦ less
- ✦ \$150
- ✦ 100
- ✦ should be free or only government funded people will attend as it comes out of their expenditures and thus is not a real cross section of the community or parties concerned.
- ✦ 100
- ✦ nil
- ✦ 200
- ✦ \$50.00
- ✦ Sliding scale based on capacity - pensioners and students should have concessional rate at the lower end of the scale, corporate members should be at the upper end of the scale
- ✦ zero
- ✦ 0
- ✦ 50.00
- ✦ 100
- ✦ \$0
- ✦ 100
- ✦ depend on who/what/where it was.
- ✦ 50
- ✦ should be nil charge
- ✦ 0
- ✦ \$50
- ✦ However if the agenda was of significance, I would find the money in order to attend.
- ✦ 000000
- ✦ 400
- ✦ A price that is obtainable to all rec fishos
- ✦ Would depend on the final outline but any of the options
- ✦ \$100
- ✦ \$200
- ✦ 50.00
- ✦ \$100.00
- ✦ as little as is economically viable
- ✦ ??????
- ✦ as a pensioner limited funds are available
- ✦ \$ 50
- ✦ nil
- ✦ \$100
- ✦ 100

Other Comments on Conference

- ✦ We need to organise to balance against the organised minorities.
- ✦ A proposed agenda would be useful at an early stage
- ✦ As a past member of Recfish and no longer involved due to our national organisation folding, I would like to renew my association. I am still actively involved with two fishing clubs & various organisations.
- ✦ I think that this is a very timely initiative and would be valuable for Australia and the rec fishing community, researchers and managers.
- ✦ I see this as a unique networking opportunity and a chance to learn via discussion & case studies ways to ensure the industry continues to grow & thrive.
- ✦ This is a great idea! Hopefully it can incorporate a strong feedback to governments at state and national levels on the BENEFITS of recreational fishing, in monetary and social terms. I feel the question of fees to be a little off putting, as it's hard to say how much when we don't have any idea of what will be available.
- ✦ A conference is needed but what isn't needed are a bunch of folk blowing their own trumpets. All aspects of the industry need a voice and representation.
- ✦ It is well over due a huge think tank is needed to resolve alot of issues regarding our sport
- ✦ Re presentation from all fishing industries
- ✦ Fishos listen to fishos not some air bag politician that gets their facts from unsubstantiated sources.
- ✦ A line up of respected presenters state, national and international with expertise and peer reviewed relevant topics
- ✦ Conferences provide a wonderful opportunity for people to learn in a formal setting as well as through social chit chat.
- ✦ I think it is a great idea, spearfisher people are very keen to be a part of the voice that supports our right to fish recreationally in Australia. I think it is important all parts of the rec fish community work together, one voice that is louder. We are practice selective and sustainable fishing practices these days and we want to work with the larger rec fish numbers to gain common goals.
- ✦ Keep it inexpensive. Anything over \$75 for registration (plus extras for optional dinners, other activities, etc) will make it elitist and alienate grass-roots fishers, the very ones whose full support are needed in implementing what comes out of the conference.
- ✦ The conference needs to empower rec fishing representatives by arming them with current scientific knowledge, engendering stewardship of resources and driving the development of community based management systems which are responsible, accountable and sustainable.
- ✦ No
- ✦ I welcome the idea and just hope that it is open to ALL - not just the select few.
- ✦ There appears to be a need to put into the public arena that recreational fishing and conservation are compatible and that a lot of rec-fishers are also environmentalists and care about the marine environment so I think a think tank needs to be established as part of a public relations exercise.
- ✦ as long as you get the right persons to attend I think it will be a big win for the conference and for the fishing fraternity
- ✦ Get some exceptionally good national and overseas key note speakers to stretch

our thinking Great if you could focus on resource sharing, potential sector leadership responsibility and role in decision making, and building effective sector-government engagement. Also recommend getting some perspective on the fishing preferences and experience of our multicultural community - we've got lots to learn Great initiative team

- ✦ it must focus totally on sustainable recreational fish for the future.
- ✦ There is little benefit holding a conference to talk about the soft issue - recreational fishing needs to address the issues covered recently in Martin Salter's report - lets get those issue addressed then the other issues will be a lot easier to resolve.
- ✦ Please don't turn it into a social get together for LIKE MINDED PEOPLE Try to educate the fence sitters by having good qualified speakers with a vision for recreational fishing into the future
- ✦ yeah our attention should be focused on conservation and on combating the green. starting with P.R.
- ✦ I think the conference should start by providing an international context - looking at what are the current issues being dealt with in other countries, to provide a comparative context
- ✦ Actively seek to push the direction of the conference outside traditional topics to inspire creative solutions into the future. Make sure to have highly competent chairpersons to maintain the focus of general discussion.
- ✦ An excellent opportunity to have many areas of the recreational fishing management, industry and everyday fisher learn from each other as well as celebrate all the achievements made and designed to improve and protect Australian aquatic resources.
- ✦ The major challenge is to identify and prioritise the key note topics that are of widespread interest and concern amongst recreational fishers and to have the right mix of speakers to deliver comment and spark debate on these issues. This survey is a good start to that process.
- ✦ Air fares would kill participation by regional recreational anglers
- ✦ The conference is about Recreational Fishers, encouragement of general public should be made to attend some, if not all of the elements. Do not rely on Peak Bodies to provide all of the feedback
- ✦ Nil
- ✦ It should be turned into a giant trade show, like the AFTA trade show, but made public so EVERYONE can come look at the new gear, pick up trade show sales and specials etc, not some elitist locked off event that regular anglers once again have NO voice at it shouldn't be some snobby \$1000 a head boring conference, but something that is open to all anglers to come check out things pick up some specials on gear, and have their input, because this conference is about rec fishing and the problem so far is nobody listens to the regular fishermen we are always a silent voice and charging hundreds and making it just a stuffy old presentation conference is NOT the answer
- ✦ long overdue, time to get pro-active
- ✦ If it can encourage attendance by the fishing general public to see what effort is being made on their behalf.
- ✦ Keep the cost down - and minimize catering and prestige of location to maximize attendance
- ✦ I believe that as most recreational fishers attending the conference would do so as volunteers, the cost for attending should be zero. Many conferences operate this way by getting sponsors and/or industry grants to cover delegate costs.

Otherwise the risk is that only those with a fiscal interest in rec fishing will attend, leading to unbalanced representation.

- ✦ Attention drawn to habit and the rehabilitation of fishing/fish habitat
- ✦ I would enthusiastically support the initiative
- ✦ This conference needs to be focused on recognising sustainable fishing practices and how these practices should not be destroyed by massive marine park lockouts. Fishers need to be well represented and recognised nationally for their contribution to the marine and coastal environment as well as the regional communities we help support through spending.
- ✦ It's one thing to talk about issues; but I feel that it is important to take things to the next step and look at implementing proposals to improve the outcomes for all stakeholders
- ✦ Please have the program include habitation for native fish (river bank restoration) and river access for kayak users
- ✦ The price needs to be low enough and the location easy enough to get to so that there is a true cross section of the fishing community attending. If the location is exotic and expensive to get to or stay at then there will not be enough people attend. Don't let cost stop people from going! Also, it's a national issue so put it in the national capital - Canberra! Also, Canberra is where the Green groups go to have their conferences. Finally, have two days of conference and then a third day of fishing - people could go to the lakes and mountain streams and to the coast. None of these fishing locations is far from Canberra.
- ✦ It should possibly include a few other associations, like 4 wheel drive and shooters. Could help reduce costs and also spread costs across a few associations and better work together for mutual gains, including Elections
- ✦ A Great and Inspiring Initiative to create a Recreational Fishing Industry Development Plan. As it been calling out for a great deal of time and needed now for Future Generations, I support this Concept completely, and by working in the Fishcare Volunteer Program & the Get Hooked Program with Children I understand there needs and aspirations for the Future of the Industry and Fish Habitat Thank You, Kind Regards:):):)
- ✦ Any move towards improving recreational angling & working towards information that will allow the government to understand the true worth of recreational angling both socially & economically is a great thing to pursue.
- ✦ Is of paramount importance that one of the objectives should be to establish a united fishing stance. Today the fishers of Australia (particularly true in NSW) are fragmented and have little political clout. Of next most importance is a solution towards the crazy marine park/sanctuary zone lockdown situation.
- ✦ Need the outcomes of the conference to be implemented,
- ✦ It would be good to have a cross representation of presenters such as pros(guides tournament fishos etc), government bodies such as research and policy makers. A overseas speaker should be included to give another perspective of what initiatives and rec fishing models are working. To hear from a keen angler committed to leading the way in best fishing practises in his community.
- ✦ No
- ✦ Having been in the recreation and commercial fishing industries for over 30 years I think a conference would be beneficial to the industry.
- ✦ Quality scientific speakers, Fisheries Dept input
- ✦ I believe that the united voice of recreational anglers is extremely strong, and it is uplifting to know there is a forum where we can express our concerns over the

future of recreational fishing.

- ✦ Should be held each 2-3 years
- ✦ I believe that it is a brilliant initiative. Personally I have developed a great relationship and partnership with NSW fisheries (oops, Industry & Investment) Partnerships and positive relationships are the most important factors and are critical if we are really serious about positive change. That means all sectors, Gov, Industry, Publishers, Commercial and Recreational fisho's listening to each other and learning. Looking at the problems currently faced by all and working together so that solutions can be found which cater for individuals, preserve and enhance our Fisheries. Its not rocket science, just common sense. Can't wait and yes would love a Free ticket!
- ✦ I would be interested to see a workshop on consultation techniques as most people don't have a clue about how to do it properly. Also, the issue of representation is big in NSW and we don't have a peak body that represents all rec fishers. There are so many groups and they don't seem to want to work together for better outcomes for rec fishers.
- ✦ We need these kind of events to promote and foster the sport and the fish we need to maintain the fisheries
- ✦ The registration fee could include accommodation and breakfast, then I would consider paying up to \$500, but since this event is already being funded, I think \$250 is as much as I would pay simply as a registration fee. I have always thought that most conferences are overpriced, but many are of course run as a profit-making venture, whereas this should not be.
- ✦ Concentration on administration for a better voice in Government is an important issue, along with a concentration on habitat restoration.
- ✦ Not quite clear on who is the intended audience - average people in the street or members of existing organisations
- ✦ who are you trying to attract? a fee of \$250 will not attract regular recreational fishermen to attend
- ✦ Fishing Associations like the S.W.A.A should be represented and / or small clubs.
- ✦ A mid conference fishing trip and a fish dinner of course.
- ✦ There should be an opportunity for the recreational fishing community to provide submissions prior to the conference and given the opportunity to present a discussion paper or similar to their peers - abstract submissions initially with full papers due prior to the commencement of the conference to ensure sufficient time for review by the conference committee. I also think there should be emphasis on ensuring a credible turnout with commitment of delegates (both in principal and financial) sought from industry representatives prior. Finally, if the media or government are engaged (and government should be encouraged), then we need to ensure that the delegates being sent are well aware that this event is for the advancement of recreational fishing on all fronts and that and significant campaign which may cast aspersions on recreational fishing will not be tolerated.
- ✦ I think an aim of the conference should be to investigate how to form a NATIONAL recreational fishing body funded by a NATIONAL fishing licence with licence holders forming the voting members of the body. This could replace the current State based fishing licences and fragmented recreational fishing organisations. Only a single, large and well funded body can take recreational fishing into the future to tackle the enormous challenges that recreational fishing in Australia faces.
- ✦ Developing a framework for ensuring sustainable fisheries. Reducing NSW bag

limits and making mullock and bream recreational species only. Banning of all estuarine and inshore netting.

- ✦ It needs to promote better leadership and communication within and among angling groups, as well as knowledge exchange with research and government.
- ✦ It must have a representative from the two major federal parties on hand.
- ✦ My experience says that lunches with finger-food allow interaction of delegates etc..... Budget to include lunches, morning/afternoon tea.
- ✦ Federal & state ministers (or Dept Reps need to be lobbied to attend). NT reps should be considered for selection as K/note speakers as their example of fisheries Management is exceptional by Aust standards.
- ✦ Recreational fishing and politics, giving anglers a united voice.
- ✦ If including trade and fishing Practical involve the general public to create a positive aspect to fishing
- ✦ No
- ✦ Come away with a framework and a timeline for the formation of a single national umbrella organisation representing rec fishers, with branches in each state.
- ✦ Make it affordable so you can get strong interest and involvement. Use the opportunity to get some of the key messages out about sustainable fishing practices, habitat development and preservation, future projections, etc.
- ✦ If it is as good as the Habitat Forums it will be a must attend
- ✦ was very good and definitely should be more of them
- ✦ I believe it is important to have an independent body/representative for recreational fishers.
- ✦ I have attended Clubs NSW conferences at the Gold Coast. The events were held in the Gold Coast Entertainment Centre at Broadbeach. I would recommend that site as it is easy to get to and there is plenty of accommodation in the area.
- ✦ The high cost of these conferences for the average person precludes a true representation from the masses of recreational fishers. A venue outside of a capital city (which was not offered as an option), may be more economically viable.
- ✦ No
- ✦ more education for kid and for more details on fish sizes
- ✦ Why would there be a cost to attend a conference unless a dinner was provided
- ✦ There needs to be more interaction with the general public so that they are aware of our ethical practises and the strict rules and guidelines we fish under as a member of a recreational game fishing club.
- ✦ We should be able to come up with a unified approach to feed essential information to Marine Parks and Government Legislation Makers to enable them to make more informed decisions rather than the "Knee Jerk Reactions" now prevalent.
- ✦ no
- ✦ I would not be interested if it looked like the meeting would fit the stereotype of rec fishing activism (everyone else is wrong)
- ✦ If possible, a discount for pensioners and low income earners would be a big help.
- ✦ a balanced representation
- ✦ More community awareness and education by far. Also focus on safe boating practise with swimmers and other users of waterways

13. APPENDIX 4 – CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Gold Coast
Convention &
Exhibition Centre
17 – 19 August
2012

RECREATIONAL FISHING 2012 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Time	Session / Speaker	
Friday 17 August 2012		
06:00am-11:00am	ABT Fishing Tournament	
11:00am-5:30pm	National Recreational Fishing workshop	
3:30pm-5:30pm	Delegate Registration - Registration area GCCEC	
4:00pm-5:00pm	Senator The Hon. Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry Roundtable Meeting	
5:30pm-7:00pm	Welcome Cocktail Function held in the Trade Exhibition at GCCEC	
Saturday 18 August 2012		
8:00am-8:30am	Delegate registration held at GCCEC Registration area GCCEC	
8.30am-8:35am	Welcome address by the Conference Chair & Housekeeping - Russell Conway, Recfish Australia	
8:35am-8:55am	Sponsors Address: Ian Thompson, First Assistant Secretary, Sustainable Resource Management, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry Hon. Harry Woods, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	
8:55am-9:15am	Opening Address by Senator The Hon. Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry	
9:15am-10:00am	Keynote 1: Martin Salter - Angling Trust (UK) Meeting international challenges for recreational fishing	
10:00am-10:45am	Keynote 2: Karen Schmidt Meeting the challenges of leadership transition	
10.45am-11:15am	Morning Tea held in the Trade Exhibition	
11:15am-12:00pm	Keynote 3: Nathan Johnston & Matt Gillett The challenges from young fisher’s perspective	
12:00pm-1:00pm	More Habitat - More Fish Keynote 4: Chris Hunt (USA) and Simon Evans (UK) Meeting the challenge of restoring our fisheries	
1.00pm-1:15pm	Wrap up - Outcome & Challenges	
1:15pm-2:15pm	Lunch held in the Trade Exhibition	
	THEME 1 Engaging and Influencing Decision Makers	THEME 2 Understanding the Importance of Recreational Fishing to Australian Society
2:15pm-2:35pm	Theme address: Allan Hansard	Theme address: Jim Harnwell

	AFTA (& session facilitator)	(& session facilitator)
2:35pm-2:55pm	You've got to be in it to win it - the art and politics of influencing Australian Governments in favour of recreational fishing Graham Pike - Co-founder, Recfish Australia	The importance of recreational fishers having an understanding of the economic contribution that recreational fishing makes to the economy Christopher Collins - VRFish
2:55pm-3:15pm	Recreational fishers as key decision makers for the future of recreational fishing Dr Liz Baker - NSW DPI	Identifying the health and well-being benefits of recreational fishing Professor Alexandra McManus - Centre of Excellence Science Seafood & Health (CESSH)
3.15pm-3:45pm	Afternoon Tea held in the Trade Exhibition	
3.45pm-4.05pm	Young recreational future leaders: Western Australia's recreational fishing future in good hands Matt Gillett & Frank Prokop - Recfishwest	Recreational fishing tourism and indigenous business development on Cape York Dave Donald - BarraDave
4.05pm-4:25pm	Recreational fishers stepping up to the challenge in New Zealand Geoff Rowling – NZ Recreational Fishing Council	Understanding the importance of recreational fishing to Australian society Tony Steiner - ANSA NSW
4:25pm-4:45pm	Climate change and recreational fishing in South East Australia Paper by Dallas D'Silva DPI Vic	A socio-economic evaluation of three eastern game fishing regions Dr Peter Ward - DAFF ACT
4:45pm-5:00pm	Summary of the day	
7:00pm-11:00pm	Awards Dinner - with entertainment	
Sunday 19 August 2012		
8:00am-8:30am	Delegate Registration Pre function area GCCEC	
8:30am-8:35am	Housekeeping - Conference Chair	
8:35am-8:40am	Set the Scene	
	THEME 1 Engaging and Influencing Decision Makers	THEME 2 Understanding the Importance of Recreational Fishing to Australian Society
8:40am-9:00am	Understanding the importance of recreational fishing to Australian society – A true and accurate account from the coal face Melanie Young – Young Guns Adventures	The Native Fish Strategy and Recreational Fishers: Common Ground on the Riverside Fern Hames - MDBA's Native Fish Strategy
9:00am-9:20am	Why effective leadership will be required to advance recreational fishing in Australia Kim Martin - ANSA Qld	Demographics of recreational fishing participation - understanding the past and looking to the future Jeremy Lyle - UTAS
9:20am-9:40am	Cooperation the key to	Who benefits from recreational

	better fishing outcomes Matt Barwick - Recfishing Research	fishing (why and how)? Dr Jacki Shirmer - University of Canberra
9:40am-10:00pm	Fishery co-management trials in North Queensland and a review of Snapper Fishery Management in South Queensland Judy Lynne & Barry Pollock - Sunfish Queensland	Profiling the characteristics of recreational fishers in Queensland Stephen Taylor - DAFF
10:00am-10:20am	Victoria's Recreational Fishing Initiative - connecting with young fishers Alyce Parker - Vic DPI	Fish for the future: how do we catch our young fishers - Tim Hoile - Marine Discovery Centre SA
10:20am-11:10am	Morning Tea held in the Trade Exhibition	
	THEME 3 Responsible Fishing Practices	THEME 4 More Habitat - More Fish
11:10am-11:30am	The next 'WOW' in Fishing Tackle David Green – Fishing Journalist	Where to with repairing fisheries habitat Colin Creighton - FRDC
11:30am-11:50pm	Being a responsible fisher - what I know now that I wish I had known earlier Alan Izzard - Bass Sydney Fishing Club	New fishing opportunities through artificial reefs Heath Folpp – NSW Fisheries
11:50pm-12:10pm	Angel Rings reduce the number of angels Stan Konstantaras - ANSA	Habitat makes fish happen Craig Copeland - DPI NSW
12:10pm-12:30pm	Media and Fish Welfare Dr Ben Diggles - Digsfish Services Qld	Wilderness Conservation Areas: Recreational fishers working to protect the ecological and social values associated with wilderness Andrew Rowland - Recfishwest
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch held in the Trade Exhibition	
1:30pm-1:50pm	Catch and release: identifying and promoting responsible fishing practices Bill Sawynok - Infofish	Where is the wood? Assessing instream woody habitat in Victorian rivers Zeb Tonkin - Arthur Rylah Institute Vic
1:50pm-2:10pm	The study of an icon: A successful example of community driven cooperative fishery monitoring Peter Kind - DAFF	Redmap: recreational fishers detecting change in species distribution Keith Rowling - PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture
2:10pm-2:30pm	Fishcare Programs around Australia Dee McElligott – NSW DPI	Habitat enhancement for improved angling experience Andrew Norris - DAFF
2:30pm-3:30pm	Plenary Session: Identify 3 National Projects to be taken forward post the Conference	
3:30pm-4:00pm	CLOSING ADDRESS by Patrick Hone (FRDC)	

14. APPENDIX 5 – CONFERENCE EVALUATION

RECREATIONAL FISHING 2012 CONFERENCE EVALUATION DATA

In the final conference session delegates were invited to provide an evaluation of the conference. The following details their responses.

	Full Delegate	Day Delegate		
How did you register to attend the conference?	77	4		
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
How would you rate the conference venue?	44	32	2	
How would you rate the registration process?	49	30		
How would you rate the overall quality of speakers?	23	52	2	
How would you rate the trade exhibition?	4	39	19	1
How would you rate the catering provided by GCCEC?	35	37	5	
How would you rate the Gala Awards Dinner?	29	26		
If you attended the ABT, how would you rate it?	16			
	Low	Reasonable	High	
How would you rate the registration and dinner costs?		41	31	
How would you rate the length of the Conference?	Just Right	Too Short	Too Long	
	77	3	1	
Did the conference meet your expectations?	Yes	No		
	69	7		

How would you comment on the overall program and topics?

Plenary:

- ✦ Huge range of interesting topics, but overlapping in content.
- ✦ Program punctuality achieved at the expense of incomplete/hasty deliveries. Resulted in less comprehension by delegates.
- ✦ Very engaging and interesting from an outsiders perspective.
- ✦ Good. Interesting introduction. Passionate.
- ✦ Informative, diverse range of vital current topics.
- ✦ Sponsors address showed fundamental lack of understanding of group.
- ✦ Karen Schmidt not right for this conference.
- ✦ Excellent scene and theme setter.
- ✦ Too long with political speeches.

- ✦ Excellent key note speakers.
- ✦ A little disjointed and difficult to put together themes in project.
- ✦ A touch more strategic in directions but the 'where to' session at end is great.
- ✦ International speaker great to set scene.
- ✦ Excellent but some material less relevant in Australian context.
- ✦ Karen's talk too generic and not applicable to all delegates.
- ✦ Very good mix.
- ✦ Disgusted with Allan Hansards attempt to politicise the conference by calling for a vote on a resolution on the super trawler.
- ✦ Insightful for the younger newbies. Good exposure for them.
- ✦ Fantastic platform that can lead to great things.
- ✦ Good but as always most vocal are heard. Do a survey over lunch on 2nd day to gather general opinion.
- ✦ Set a positive theme. Great to see positive results from projects.
- ✦ Karen Schmidt inappropriate for this audience. Nathan Johnston & Matt Gillett were enthusiastic. Martin Salter had provocative content.
- ✦ Good keynote speakers from UK & US. Could do a little less dramatizing of issues.
- ✦ Adequate but not engaging.
- ✦ Very good ideas came out; let's hope they lead to successful results.
- ✦ Martin preached to the converted. Karen didn't know who she was preaching to- thought we were all clubbies. Chris & Simon – we wish!
- ✦ International perspective was invaluable- 'we have so much catching up to do on an environmental side'
- ✦ Great floor input, key national issues identified.
- ✦ Very good start and the speech by Martin Salter was a ripper and so was Karen Schmidt's.
- ✦ Excellent! Great discussion of key focus areas for immediate attention.
- ✦ Russell did an excellent job but we needed a few minutes extra to really better synthesise themes, learning's and discussions. Perhaps an alternate person respected by all could be called upon to do this instead of Russell or theme leader.
- ✦ Chris Hunt and Simon Evans were terrific, engaging, inspiring and demonstrating great practice.

Theme 1 - Engaging and Influencing Decision Makers:

- ✦ Can only hope Governments listen to those who know the facts.
- ✦ Great ideas and food for thought. Will be taking some ideas to my fishing club and other groups.
- ✦ A lot of varying ideas and concepts that need to be gelled.
- ✦ Failed to demonstrate unified position on National issues.
- ✦ Allan Hansard and Graham Pike did fishing a disservice. Trying to pass resolution on super trawler was inappropriate.
- ✦ Needed to show more outcomes and applicable examples.
- ✦ Key to creating a better future. Major importance.
- ✦ Too much, although recognise need. Needed a directional commitment – leads to daily plenary.
- ✦ Important messages for advisory council members.
- ✦ Some talks too theoretical and repetitious with keynotes.
- ✦ Something we should band together and push our points.
- ✦ A concise view of how and where this can be done.
- ✦ Needed to be more focussed and pragmatic.
- ✦ Lack of real information on how this could be achieved.

- ✦ Highlighted the need for structured improvement.
- ✦ Stick to time limit. A little hard to follow at first, then it all came together.
- ✦ Enthusiasm is good to see.
- ✦ Graham Pike off topic.
- ✦ Saturday wind up off topic. Matt Barwick – useful and key for this conference.
- ✦ Necessary for moving forward and an important inclusion.
- ✦ Would have been good to hear from a government official on the other side and discuss how they see this relationship of engagement.
- ✦ Showed that those that get involved can get project money and expand knowledge of the industry.
- ✦ Pike presentation passionate but not on topic.
- ✦ Many sessions went off track. Theme two long (2 days).
- ✦ Most speakers topics didn't really seem to fit this topic, however most were quite interesting (1st day in particular). Very poor presentation by session facilitator (Allan Hansard), both in attitude to potential allies in rec fishery improvement and selfish use of time. Talked for than double the allotted time. This should have been stopped by organisers/chair.
- ✦ Tough Topic to deliver on. Presentations were good in theory and academic points/suggestions were interesting but not necessarily practical.
- ✦ Good. Disappointed by some negativity, but mostly constructive and very positive.
- ✦ Great talk by Liz Parker. Allan Hansard and Graham Pike were off topic and inappropriate.
- ✦ Interesting overview from Allan concentrating on adversarial sides. Liz smashed them- big on facts and passion.
- ✦ Still needs the development of a toolbox for Australian Anglers to us and skill building. (Leads to leaders).
- ✦ Some good do's but not enough on the don'ts.
- ✦ Good but did find some conflict/dispute between Recfish and AFTA – needs to be harmonic.
- ✦ I stayed with Theme 1 sessions as I found these of interest to me.
- ✦ Good, but would it possible to hear from the decision makers themselves?
- ✦ Apart from the total lack of vision and innovativeness demonstrated by the theme address (AFTA) at the beginning I thought this session was good.
- ✦ Part 1: very patchy in terms of quality of presentations. Didn't explore the theme to a satisfying degree- possibly not speakers fault as themes likely developed separately. Mr Pike should have spoken on what was advertised in the program. Didn't see Matt Barwick but reports from others suggest he presented a talk I would have really enjoyed and found highly relevant and useful.

Theme 2 – Understanding the Importance of Recreational Fishing to Australian Society:

- ✦ Great Presentations that Government should heed.
- ✦ Very Good. Good theme. Appropriate speakers.
- ✦ Important area to demonstrate the value of fishing to fishers and Government.
- ✦ Great info that now needs to be disseminated to the fishing public.
- ✦ More work to be done. Needs to be better promoted and communicated.
- ✦ Need more visionary and innovative talks.
- ✦ Important basic for improving profile of rec fishing.
- ✦ Need handout of figures to digest more.
- ✦ Highlighted importance of data collection.
- ✦ Interesting, many aspects I did not know of.
- ✦ Hopefully next conference will bring more information.

- ✦ It is well understood here but so many others need to understand importance.
- ✦ Very good programs and inspiring topics. Focus needed on how to communicate this to the public and stakeholders.
- ✦ Tony Steiner's talk was inspirational.
- ✦ Matt Barwick and Alyce Parkers were great.
- ✦ Very useful to understand socio-economic impacts.
- ✦ Proves how much of a good impact rec fishing has on our society.
- ✦ A wide range of possibilities here where data can play an important role in funding.
- ✦ Need to do more to sell socio economic values.
- ✦ Good info. Shows the need for a coordinated national survey approach, however remember local strengths.
- ✦ Demographics information from Fern and Jacki spot on – we now know more about us.
- ✦ Recfishing in Australia needs to champion 'Good news stories more' e.g.: Young guns, Sunfish and ANSA.
- ✦ Need to sell this message to the public/environmental lobby.
- ✦ Only attended Part 2, generally patchy but good.

Theme 3 – Responsible Fishing Practices:

- ✦ Education is required in early years.
- ✦ Very Good.
- ✦ Great info that now needs to be disseminated to the fishing public.
- ✦ Progressing. A focus on how to communicate or expand this topic into the future.
- ✦ Very informative/ best part. Gave an understanding on how to handle upcoming issues with fish pain.
- ✦ Useful for reinforcing best practice.
- ✦ Can't ignore the fisher who wants to take a feed responsibility.
- ✦ Good points raised, something we should promote.
- ✦ Spot on, message needs to be spread.
- ✦ Good update and revision.
- ✦ Could have been better.
- ✦ Enjoyed Dave Green, Stan, Ben. Really good sessions and topics.
- ✦ Free advertising. Give it a miss!
- ✦ Good ideas of how to get people involved.
- ✦ A must if we are going to uphold integrity and work successfully with conservation groups.
- ✦ Stan's presentation was very good and deals with a real people issue.
- ✦ Topics demonstrated how responsible we are as recs and the effort put in to protect and understand our resource.
- ✦ Well addressed but this is an issue that will be a challenge for us in the short term (animal cruelty lobby).
- ✦ What about discussion re: animal rights lobby and proactive strategy.
- ✦ The key to keeping out the ENGO's and improving public perceptions of fishers.
- ✦ David Green, Ben Diggles, Stan Konstantaras and Alan Izzard are the ones making the difference.
- ✦ No brainer, but need to expand the message to reach the mainstream.
- ✦ Particular concern regarding what has happened overseas and likely to come to Australia – animal liberationist- need to prepare.
- ✦ Good, but the message needs to go to rec fishers not us.

Theme 4 – More Habitat-More Fish

- ✦ Essential for fish to thrive.
- ✦ Great to see same message from different points of view with people from different department.
- ✦ Look after the food chain and the end of the food chain almost looks after itself.
- ✦ Good snapshot of projects with soul. Great outcomes.
- ✦ Need for education and involvement.
- ✦ Progressing-More science. National approach needed.
- ✦ Case studies provide insight and ideas on where and how to focus activities.
- ✦ Chris Hunt and Simon Evans gave great examples of the importance of habitat recovery.
- ✦ Fantastic. Really enjoyed national and international examples.
- ✦ Definitely the way to fish for our future.
- ✦ Excellent, an absolute perfect topic and demonstration.
- ✦ Repetitive.
- ✦ Good but did connect fresh and salt water habitats.
- ✦ Requires significant resources towards rehabilitation.
- ✦ Excellent – these projects require more publicity and highlight fish welfare benefits as well via National Communications Strategy.
- ✦ Favourite session- very engaging topic that reflected well the presentations from Chris Hunt and Simon Evans. Key message is co-operation.
- ✦ Why were future leaders walking out? They should be leading those sessions.
- ✦ Great to see- has real potential to provide solutions to issues when working in conjunction with zone options and allocation of the fishery.
- ✦ Interesting and commendable the amount of projects being undertaken.
- ✦ Progress shown is good for morale.
- ✦ We must do this right or there will be no fishing or waterways to enjoy.
- ✦ No habitat no fish – fishing rule 101!
- ✦ Good range of topics, some good ideas, programs and opportunities presented. This is the way forward to 'grow the pie' of the resource that rec fishers must share and will give so much kudos to counter knockers of the industry. I.e: as presented in OS examples.
- ✦ Well addressed but it is very obvious that more resources (funding/manpower) are needed to extend habitat restoration /maintenance projects?
- ✦ Message getting through to delegates – can we go to all anglers?
- ✦ Agree- more needs to be done. How do we engage fishers to step up, more engagement and proof needs to be shared with our communities and regions.
- ✦ A no brainer! But where do we find more money?
- ✦ More support/ projects needed across Australia in both marine and freshwater environments, need govt support. Redmap very interesting.
- ✦ The need for more funding and information on how to fill out the forms required - we don't know government speak.
- ✦ Informative to say the least.

Please rate your top three favourite speakers/sessions:

<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
Christopher Collins	2
Jeremy Lyle	6
Stephen Taylor	2

Mel Young	10
Martin Salter	41
Matt Barwick	6
Simon Evans	24
Fern Hames	5
Tony Steiner	15
Peter Ward	2
Alyce Parker	13
Matt Gillett	8
Kim Martin	5
Andrew Rowland	2
Chris Hunt	19
Nathan Johnston	3
Liz Baker	6
Stan Konstantaras	7
Dee McElligott	3
Heath Folpp	4
Allan Izzard	1
Alexandra McManus	1
Jim HArnwell	1
Graham Pike	5
Ben Diggles	11
Peter Kind	4
Andrew Norris	1
Dallas D'Silva	2
David Green	3
Jacki Shirmer	7
Karen Schmidt	9
Colin Creighton	1
Allan Hansard	2
Harry Woods	1
Bill Sawynok	1
Craig Copeland	7

Tony Steiner - heart-warming presentation with inspirational outcomes. Top stuff. Moving, inspiring.

Simon Evans – good account of what can be achieved. Great examples of anglers being the environmentalists.

Peter Ward – Well thought out and documented project.

Craig Copeland – Set a great vision for habitat.

Martin Salter – practical, outcome based. Inspiring.

Alyce Parker – spoke amazingly well

Liz Baker – well-structured and eye opening for some.

Karen Schmidt – needed to be heard by rec. fishers due to aging population and was well said.

Stan Konstantaras – Great saving lives.

Ben Diggles – forward thinking!

✦ What did you find most useful at the conference?

✦ Great to interact with Aussie anglers and people I'd never met before.

- ✦ Networking and highlighting issues. Sharing wins and losses.
- ✦ Socio-economic discussion on the impacts of rec fishing across various parts of industry and regions.
- ✦ Interaction and Idea sharing. Information outstanding, especially habitat and demographic stats.
- ✦ Young future leaders. Young speakers enthusiastic and optimistic.
- ✦ Recfishing leaders all at one place to discuss common interests.
- ✦ Opportunity for everyone to come together and hear what others are doing.
- ✦ Diversity of delegates and the chance to communicate with them.
- ✦ Meeting with people with similar experience and interests.
- ✦ Ben Diggles – Iki Jime
- ✦ Addressing challenges and new ideas worth pursuing.
- ✦ Networking with people/experts whom I have only heard of before.
- ✦ Fish habitat issues and remedies.
- ✦ Representation of the different groups.
- ✦ Gala Dinner – awards event.
- ✦ Habitat degradation issue is important.
- ✦ Variety of subjects. Cross section of speakers.
- ✦ Insights into angler trends, expenditure and demographics.
- ✦ Refreshing, hopeful and passionate.
- ✦ The attendance of representatives from a range of government departments and the liaisons between all groups.
- ✦ Being able to support the habitat savvy members of the rec. community.
- ✦ Finding out what other states/bodies are up to.
- ✦ Networking and helping me to see who is involved and what they do in their respective organisations.
- ✦ National aspect that we could compare similar programs or learn about ones not currently run in our state.
- ✦ A wake up on how far we need to go to achieve a single voice. Ie: not mixed messages.
- ✦ Martin Salters presentation – new ideas with a different approach.
- ✦ Networking. Got a couple of different refs which leads to new work.
- ✦ The diverse info and efforts recreational fishers have and place on conservation and safety.
- ✦ Opportunity to listen to and understand issues/answers/challenges- across all states. Face to face contact with persons with common interest.
- ✦ Demographical information. Pleased to see the habitat issue is finally becoming acknowledged as critical.
- ✦ Engaging in discussion re: directional issues facing rec fishing.
- ✦ International experiences.
- ✦ Simply the fact that peak bodies and key industry members being brought together- should happen more often.
- ✦ The overall fishing experience spoken about by all presenters.
- ✦ Getting a holistic view of rec fishing status.
- ✦ Networking with persons I hadn't seen in a long time. Pleasing to meet new leaders in recreational fishing community with forward thinking ideas.
- ✦ Conversations with others, Opportunities to meet key others, program planning for forward actions.

- ✦ What issues or matters would you like to see included at the future conferences?
- ✦ Funding
- ✦ Communications.
- ✦ Approaches of Ministers.
- ✦ Development on current ideas.
- ✦ Working with water managers, CMA's etc.
- ✦ Access to riverbanks for rec fishers, the legalities.
- ✦ Consistency of regulations.
- ✦ Animal welfare.
- ✦ Conservation.
- ✦ Social and economic benefits.
- ✦ Effective volunteering/ Collaboration
- ✦ Need QLD rec fishing licence.
- ✦ More actual fishers in attendance. They need to know how important they are.
- ✦ Better interaction with fundamental groups.
- ✦ Unity of aspirations and outcomes must continue to be a major issue now and in years to come.
- ✦ Need to address future directions to assist governments / industry to plot the right course forward.
- ✦ Enhancement of fisheries.
- ✦ A return to fisheries management with a focus on recovering and improving quality of fisheries.
- ✦ Collaboration examples / themes.
- ✦ Time needed at the end of each speaker to answer 4-5 questions from audience.
- ✦ Fisheries rules- why do we need them?
- ✦ Current important topics to do with all fishing aspects.
- ✦ More on cohesive actions – we are all converted!
- ✦ Less cost – more anglers.
- ✦ Linking freshwater and saltwater fisheries and know how we all benefit from projects linking source to sea.
- ✦ Gap in rec fishing policy and policy development.
- ✦ Dealing and discussing with current issues of national importance.
- ✦ Generally a more positive tone. Looking for opportunities rather than identifying problems/ commercial and environmental bashing.
- ✦ Invite NGO's/ environmental groups to work closer to rec fishers. I.e.: common ground= habitat
- ✦ Methods for alleviating conflict between communication and rec fishers.
- ✦ Split between freshwater and salt.
- ✦ Case studies in management processes – recreational and commercial. (Many people even at this level aren't aware of what's involved).
- ✦ Education projects.
- ✦ Quantifying rec fishers impact on fisheries resources and challenging the notion that it is benign. Ways to advance allocation arrangements with commercial fishers.
- ✦ More presentations from grass roots programmes and some smaller fishing clubs.
- ✦ National Communications Strategy – needs development (including fish welfare component) including ability to react to adverse media.
- ✦ Extension – best practice.
- ✦ Media Influence on rec fishing beliefs.

- ✦ NSW fishing fee and how trust fund monies have been used to benefit a range of matters of importance to rec fishers.
- ✦ Leadership transition challenges having greater focus.
- ✦ How to get volunteers/ more people involved? What outlets were used to get people involved?
- ✦ New initiatives and progress to date.
- ✦ A greater recommendation on how to implement succession plans.
- ✦ Follow one specific project over several years that shows the positive change.
- ✦ More trade show.
- ✦ Keynote sessions in day 2. Less split sessions. More focused themes and presentations.
- ✦ Move forward to a national peak body to administer rec fishing. (Not government)
- ✦ Invite or get speakers from other resource stakeholders ie: greens/commercial fishers etc. to let them hear rec fish point of view and hear theirs. Begin better relations with both.
- ✦ Marine habitat conservation efforts.
- ✦ Communicating to white hat non fishers. Empowering / capacity building the fisher to contribute to the discussion. Funding Strategy (can't rely on gov.)
- ✦ Where were the average fishers? Include a engage them at meetings such as this by having a free session (or \$10), or lose out.
- ✦ Investigate interactive learning segment fishing, we all want to improve ourselves. ABT was excellent, only 'x' were allowed to join in, it should be 'y'.
- ✦ Responding to animal welfare issues, learning from overseas. Anglers becoming the environmental force.
- ✦ Funding-those states who have totally inadequate funding available, how can Recfish Aus./AFTA/ARFF assist or perhaps a national rec fishing licence strategy.
- ✦ Surveillance and monitoring of rec fishers (anglers).
- ✦ Sessions on charter/guiding issues.
- ✦ Its hard but need higher percentages of rec fishers present, also more female rec fishers and cultural mix.
- ✦ Suggest a session whereby fisheries/Marine Park managers & ENGO's would be willing to provide their views/visions/future direction on recreational fisheries and explore common ground and views.
- ✦ Would like to see Greens rep or ENGO rep present and demonstrate that there is common ground. They're not demons.
- ✦ Someone from FRDC to talk about funding opportunities.
- ✦ General comments:
 - ✦ Excellent conference at all times.
 - ✦ Food not 100% health conscious.
 - ✦ Conference plagued by conference centre AV problems that really detracted from the overall conference. Must be fixed, fool proof and have back up system.
 - ✦ Important opportunity to tune into Rec Fishing across Australia and abroad.
 - ✦ Great networking opportunity.
 - ✦ Don't forget about 40-50 year olds leadership opportunities. (Social research indicates this is one of the largest groups and includes families).
 - ✦ Cost restricted grass roots anglers except those supported by agencies.
 - ✦ AV management was poor. Often distorted or speaker did not use microphone properly. Many speakers cut short due to technological problems.

- ✦ Perhaps more attention to timing of speakers to allow timely movement between the arenas.
- ✦ Fewer speakers with vested interest.
- ✦ Not enough networking- state groups need to be mixed up.
- ✦ Well done Russell for a great conference.
- ✦ Australian keynotes needed zing.
- ✦ Minister's presentation confirmed lack of understanding of rec fishing and needs.
- ✦ 2nd day better, with less emphasis on the need for representation and more on fishing.
- ✦ Overall very interesting and chair provided great leadership.
- ✦ In general there were presentations to encourage general anglers to join clubs but no real identification of how to deal with the general angler representation. Re: their issues of concern.
- ✦ Would have been nice to finish with a 'happy half hour'.
- ✦ Good delegate list and speakers.
- ✦ Really enjoyed conference and awards dinner. Especially recognition given to volunteers/projects.
- ✦ Excellent forum, pleased to attend. Dinner costs too high.
- ✦ Conference should be at least biennial – important for maintaining interest in representation and coordination of industry.
- ✦ Can't wait for next one!
- ✦ All in fishing approach needed- commercial, recreational and indigenous need to speak as one voice! Divided we continue to fall and lose!
- ✦ Well organised – congratulations on the team.
- ✦ Did not seem to reach basic fisho's. Preaching to the converted!
- ✦ Sessions were based around communication, involvement and getting rec fishers involved, however the conference attracted very few of those.
- ✦ Perhaps allow a couple of questions after each presentation – 15mins talk + 5 mins questions?
- ✦ Well run conference.
- ✦ Looking forward to future conferences. Important to continue a dialogue to maintain enthusiasm and commitment.
- ✦ Trade exhibition should start on Sunday to allow delegates opportunity to participate.
- ✦ Suggest registration cost to be heavily discounted for rec fishers. Should be able to attract more than 170 delegates to a national conference with more than 4 million fishers.
- ✦ To some extent, the commercial/ rec debate is disappointing considering some comms supply bait for rec fishers.
- ✦ Must have morning coffee! Helpful if more balance in keynote speakers.
- ✦ Very good content. Must be promoted more through fishing association and earlier. Look at cheaper costs to promote participation by angler representative groups.
- ✦ Excellent experience, quality speakers, great networking, great ABT, great young leaders. Include education speakers.
- ✦ Great event. Want more talk time from some workshop sessions.
- ✦ Martin, Chris and Simon were a hard act to follow.
- ✦ How about a less academic structure and less bureaucratic language? Use innovative, engaged sessions – open soapbox rooms, enable feedback and practical sessions. How to approach politicians/ senior managers and how to develop strategy to address emerging issues. More reports from the hands on eg: Examples of collaboration, what worked, what didn't. Opportunities for people to

learn from each other. Less grandstanding and less obsessing about the immediate issue. More on how to be better able to address/be proactive on issues next month/year/5 years? Independent facilitation on last session.

- ✦ This conference has undoubtedly had an impact and similar conferences need to continue. Exceeded my expectations.
- ✦ Keep politics out. Using conference is counterproductive. eg: super trawler. I expected to network with national leaders in rec. fishing, learn more about management and take ideas away to apply to my area.
- ✦ Very beneficial as a young future leader.
- ✦ I thought it would be better attended and include a better representation of fishing trade sectors and the general public. Topics were great and relevant, however aligning talks with the programs was poorly applied.
- ✦ I am a definite starter for your next conference. Apart from usual technology problems it was very well run. Time keeping good.
- ✦ Very well organised. Very well chaired. More useful than I expected.
- ✦ Seating low for high screen. Days too long and start times too early, should link with trade show. Tiring after 3 days and 8.30 starts on weekend to early. Put dinner on last night. DCI did a great job organising.
- ✦ Better to make it cheaper so more rec fishers can attend, only achievable through sponsorship or through work related sources. Even if it means venue and catering downgrades.
- ✦ Don't let conference be hijacked as a 'soapbox' for particular issues as it was by some on the Saturday- positioning of banners on stage, monopolisation of discussions etc. Overall good though especially for 1st attempt, well done. International speakers are really inspirational, hope we can do similar things to them in the future. Young leaders need to be brought up to speed on benefits of habitat improvement – of all attendees they seemed to grasp this the least (well many of them anyway!) Good work organisers.
- ✦ Too many good topics to pick only 3 top speakers. Many were on par. Very inspiring and informative. An eye opener!
- ✦ Range and diversity of subjects and presentations were excellent. Unfortunately it was not possible to attend all sessions due to time conflicts with competitive sessions. Equipment used by presenters needs to be improved (video prompts, power point presentations etc.).
- ✦ Shorter breaks, longer post conference plenary session.
- ✦ Appeared that some speakers were in the wrong session or there was not a session to be in. Organising committee were awesome – well most of them. Some technological issues that also happened at seafood event at same venue.
- ✦ Would be good to have next conference set e.g.: every 2 years. Some of us were confused about the role of the conference, seemed to be a bit political and bias. Really need to keep in mind rec fishers are very diverse and have a range of views. The bias may get people off side. Present your positive info, be strategic.
- ✦ Politics has a place. Should not be part of the conference agenda. Need to have a separate part. Too much antagonistic messages?
- ✦ Appalling let down in tech support for speakers. Location good, like tables vs rows – encouraged discussions. Technology terrible. I understand separate, but education workshop announcements were very late and poorly thought through.
- ✦ Need to push messages, projects and activities as well as learning re: need more fisher related segment sessions. The National Conference should be the parade of Rec Fishing in Australia; each state/territory should be engaged in dissemination and food book programs in the lead up to the conference.

- ✦ Not enough variety in lunch/morning/afternoon teas, prefer different menu each day. Would have preferred shorter breaks and 5 mins more for each speaker.
- ✦ Conference very well run/presented and very organised- terrific job done. All states need to work collaboratively together, having regular meetings/conferences such as this provides great opportunity for discussion, ideas and general interaction.
- ✦ A good workshop, needs to continue each year. Really enjoyed meeting people I have heard of.
- ✦ While the conference was mainly made up of 'movers and shakers' in the industry- how do you encourage more general fishers to attend? The absence of AFTA members was disappointing. If possible it would be great to see it annually or bi-annually.
- ✦ Very positive and cooperative attitude of all attendees. Great to see all states represented. Was expecting to see more direct attendance/participation by tackle and boating industry.
- ✦ As fisheries budgets are being cut rec fishers and volunteers are being given increased responsibility.
- ✦ Like every conference I attend anywhere in the world, there is never smooth operation of audio visual equipment. Why can't conference organiser's trial systems well ahead of time?
- ✦ A bit much ill informed, opinionated soap boxing. Recfishers continue to present as angry victims too much (e.g.: theme 1 session). Technology glitches with PowerPoint etc. were distracting, disrupted timing and diminished the capacity of speakers to properly deliver their messages and were very disappointing. Embarrassing and unprofessional. Ps, workshop on Friday was extremely disappointing- no clear questions, no logical structure, social media surveys shabby and inadequate listening to range of views/inputs. Didn't attend dinner due to cost.

* Based on average of feedback

15. APPENDIX 6 – CONFERENCE STRATEGIC ACTIONS



NATIONAL RECREATIONAL FISHING CONFERENCE 2012 STRATEGIC ACTIONS POST THE CONFERENCE

The National Recreational Fishing Conference 2012 was held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre from 17-19 August. The overall theme for the conference was *“Casting Towards Tomorrow – Keeping Australia Fishing”*.

Prior to the conference there was an on line survey conducted to determine the preferred timing, location, duration and themes for the conference. There were 350 respondents to the survey and the program was built around those responses. The conference resulted in 160 delegates attending.

Four key themes were evident in the survey responses:

1. Engaging and influencing decision makers
2. Understanding the importance of recreational fishing to Australian society
3. Responsible fishing practices
4. More habitat – more fish

This resulted in keynote addresses that addressed the following:

1. Meeting the international challenges of recreational fishing
2. Meeting the challenges of leadership transition
3. The challenges from young fishers’ perspective
4. Meeting the challenges of restoring our fisheries

Presentations were then grouped under these themes.

IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM THE CONFERENCE

A quote by one of the conference presenters which provides an underlying principle for strategic actions arising from the conference was:

“If you want SOMETHING TO CHANGE then first you need to CHANGE SOMETHING”

Recfishers are doing great things and many GOOD NEWS stories were presented in the areas of helping disabled fishers, fishing safety, education and responsible fishing practices.

Key messages delivered through presentations and discussions were:

CONSULTATION needs to become COLLABORATION. There was a strong view expressed that the relationship between recreational fishers and government decision makers needs to move from consultation to collaboration when dealing with fisheries issues.

LEADERSHIP is just as important as MANAGEMENT. Leadership, especially at the national level, was needed to improve the capacity of recreational fishers to speak with a single voice and deliver simple and consistent messages.

Responsibility for the sectors' future needs to move from GOVERNMENT to INDUSTRY. The sector needs to take more responsibility for many of the services provided by Government in areas such as education, habitat, promoting responsible fishing practices and the funding of its peak industry bodies.

DEPOSITS should exceed WITHDRAWALS. In relation to habitats and fish this means that there is a need to contribute back to the fish and their habitat more than is taken out.

The proceedings will not be combined into a final output for circulation. Powerpoint presentations are available from the conference website www.recfishing2012.com.au and videoed presentations will be available through YouTube.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

It was agreed that the conference should identify a number of key priorities or projects for action as outcomes of the conference. A plenary session was held at the end of the conference to provide some direction for the future.

The priority areas included the need to:

1. develop and implement a national charter for recreational fishing
2. deliver, clearly and succinctly, messages on the national social (health and well-being benefits) and economic importance (\$GVP, flow on economic contribution and the number of jobs) of recreational fishing to the Australian government and the community
3. provide for ongoing leadership development
4. develop and implement a national strategy on fish habitat to improve recreational fishing opportunities

Underpinning these priorities was the need for improved communications with government and the community. The need for simple messages that could be used throughout the sector in all communications was emphasized. The need to understand and improve the use of social media was also paramount.

Fundamental to progressing these priorities was the need for funding.

PROGRESSING STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Just identifying the priorities is not enough. There will need to be organisations/ groups that will take on the challenge of progressing these issues. Fundamentally the industry should play a leadership role in moving these issues forward and securing funding to bring them to fruition.

As part of the development of this document the conference Steering Committee will undertake to negotiate with the most relevant organisations to obtain a commitment to progress these issues and to identify potential funding sources.

It is important to recognize that we are not starting with a clean slate in relation to these issues. There are already projects or actions in progress, and organisations/groups playing a leading role in their delivery. It will be important to build on existing results and capacity and not duplicate.

NATIONAL CHARTER OF RECREATIONAL FISHING

The new national peak body Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation is working on the development of a national charter and this will be presented to all political parties prior to the next federal election. Martin Salter will provide a copy of the UK charter to assist in the development of an Australian charter.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF RECREATIONAL FISHING

A FRDC-DAFF project was recently completed as part of the Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy that provided a summary of research and available information on the health and well-being benefits of recreational fishing. A further application is being submitted to the 2013 FRDC open call round by Alexandra McManus of Curtin University titled "Recreational Fishing, Health and Well-Being".

Another FRDC project is currently working on the development of a GVP equivalent for recreational fishing. The project is being undertaken by Ewan Colquhoun of Ridge Partners and is titled "Measuring the economic value of recreational fishing at the national level".

The ABARES Fishery Status report records that there are 90,000 jobs in Australia related to recreational fishing however there is no clear breakdown of this figure.

There is considerable work needed in this area before a succinct statement can be made to the Australian government and the community about the social and economic importance of recreational fishing.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

There is a current FRDC-DAFF project under the Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy that has provided level 1 leadership development workshops in two regions being WA/NT, NSW/Qld and a third one planned for the Vic/Tas/SA. There is also a framework being developed for ongoing leadership development as part of that project however there is no follow on project for further basic leadership development or funding at this stage.

The FRDC has also supported leadership development and opportunities through its leadership development program to the recreational sector that has included cross sectoral exposure.

There is a need to continue current activities, promote recreational leadership programs, promote cross sector/cross discipline engagement and interaction.

NATIONAL APPROACH TO FISH HABITAT

There is a need for a national approach on fish habitat. This is an area where the recreational fishing sector needs to take greater responsibility. The creation of a national approach that allows recreational fishers to partner with government through programs such as Caring for our Country, natural resources management groups, mining companies, local authorities etc is essential.

There have already been many projects dealing with fish passage, repairing instream and riparian habitat, seagrass reseeding, demonstration reaches etc and this work needs to be extended.

The approach should promote the role of fish habitat in supporting fisheries and the creation of recreational fishing opportunities. The focus should be on protective management of habitat, catchment water quality and estuary and wetland repair. Recreational fishers need to work with FRDC on a Business Case to the Biodiversity Fund for repair of habitat.

A working group should be formed to develop a strategy with the Fish Habitat Network providing advice on the development of the strategy.

KEEPING EVERYONE INFORMED

It is intended that a National Recreational Fishing Conference be a biennial event with the next one to be held in 2014. Progress on these priorities will be reported back through that forum.

The conference website www.recfishing2012.com.au will continue for some time and will be used to keep everyone informed. Also over the next two years Recfishing Research will keep everyone informed of progress through its extension program.

Bill Sawynok
Recfishing Research
September 2012