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NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INCORPORATED MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING – 21 NOVEMBER 2009 Rylstone – Kandos Anglers Club Cudgegong Road

Present:

Steve Samuels (President), Sonny Andrews (CAS), Chris Beale (SWAA) Jocelyn Beale (SWAA), Radge Diakiw (SFR) Shane Jasprizza, Don Salter (Lakeside), Karl Schaerf (CAS), Rodney Tonkin (OTAS) Betty Williams (CAS) and Tom Williams (CAS)

Invited Guests:

Ben Doolan (DII), Rodney Price (DII) and Brett Smith (DII).

1. Welcome and Commencement

Steve Samuels commenced the Meeting at 9.30am.

Apologies

Rob Bradley (MAS) Phillip Clarke (NETAS), Brian Dobbie (FFB), Peter Gibson (CTAA, RFS), Terry Flanagan (DL) Daryl Girling (SWAA), John Humphries (CCFC), Alan Izzard (BS), Ian Keightly (CTAA) Terry Maloney (SWAA), Laurie Muldoon (NETAS), Peter Kelly (SFRC), Alistair McBurnie (DII), Malcolm Poole (NSWRFA) Wayne Protheroe (SWAA), Wendy Protheroe (SWAA), Terry Rowling Bill Spiers (NSWRFS), John Vernon (SFR), Cameron Westaway (DII), Allan Wilcox (BK) and Steve Williamson (PFIGA)

2. Minutes

The following amendments were proposed to the Minutes of the General Meeting of 15 August 2009:

- **Agenda Item 3.6** Substitute **Peter Hughes** for **Dave Mudd** in the last sentence.
- **Agenda Item 3.7** In the first sentence, substitute the words: **had negotiated access via other reserves on the** for the words: **a reserve which provided access to the**
- **Agenda Item 3.8** At the third dot point insert the words **the Minister and** after the words **....Steve Samuels advise.....**
- **Agenda Item 4.9** Change the Agenda Item number to **4.7 Background Papers**

- **Agenda Item 6.8**Delete the words: **J Humphries showed the Council a shirt, a cap and patches that he had embroidered with the NSWCFCA logo to wear at the recent boat show where among other things he handed out NSWCFCA membership applications. He advised that costs were \$15 each for embroidered caps and bucket hats and \$10 each for patches**
- **Agenda Item 6.17**Substitute the heading: **Riverbank erosion – Macleay River** for the heading **Proposed sale of electricity assets in NSW**

The amendments were accepted and the amended minutes adopted (Diakiw/Salter)

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM 15 AUGUST 2009 MEETING

3.1 Proposed sale of electricity assets in NSW

The Council agreed to write to Premier as previous responses from ministers indicated that they were confused as to who had responsibility to respond to NSWCFCA concerns.

3.2 Fence Stiles Update

Ben Doolan advised that stiles were being installed, the Tumut was getting great use and Canobolas would be ready. There were however ongoing issues that needed resolution, in particular road authorities were not keen on road side stiles as they were potential road side hazards.

3.3 Freshwater Safety DVD update

Radge Diakiw advised that RFA NSW expected to provide the NSWCFCA with a preliminary clip of the Freshwater Safety video before Christmas, to review and edit.

3.4 Illegal Removal of Snags from Murray River

DII advised the Council that on 13 November, 4 had been charged in relation to removal of snags from the Murray River and the proceedings have been adjourned until 18 December. The Council looked forward to this matter being resolved as quickly as possible.

3.5 Tillegra Dam Update

The Council noted the NSWCFCA submission, and that the Minister for Water has confirmed the offsets agreed to in negotiations between Hunter Water and HNF/NSWCFCA. The Council also noted the recent media reports of the pressure being applied to Federal Minister for the Environment to stop the dam being built.

3.6 Dept of Lands Trust Management Plans – Experiences.

Steve Samuels advised the Council that he expected to have his guide on how to become trustees ready for publication before Christmas. He did

however emphasise that it would be based on the Department of Lands Guide which although voluminous was relatively easy to follow.

.3.7 Compliance Officers

K Schaerf advised that DII were comfortable with the NSWCFCA approach of having a dedicated person to liaise with the department on Compliance Officers and he looked forward to constructive interaction with the Department. The Council reiterated its position that it expected a fully staffed compliance area whether they were Department or Trust fund funded positions. Karl Schaerf advised that that a new compliance officer was currently in training. He also undertook to provide some information in the Freshwater Fisher.

3.8 Salt discharge into the Murray at Albury

The Council noted the efforts of SWAA and ,North East Angling Association (Vic) in challenging the proposed discharge containing among other things 1500 tonnes of salt per year from the Norske Skog paper manufacturing and recycling mill at Ettamogah near Albury. The Council agreed to write to the premier opposing the proposed discharge as questions put to the NSW parliament by Ian Cohen about the environmental implications of this discharge had not been answered. Of particular note was the refusal of Albury Council to use this effluent on their parks and gardens, the reluctance of Norske Skog to use this effluent to irrigate their nearby farmland and the apparent reluctance to the NSW Water Commissioner to respond to concerns raised by SWAA and, North East Angling Association. The Council also agreed to maintain a watching brief on this matter and to investigate other ways of limiting the adverse outcome of the proposed discharge. The members decided not to consider the approach of asking for environmental offsets in relation to this matter. The SWAA delegate was concerned that asking for off-sets would amount to tacit consent of the project.

3.9 Rivers & Red Gums at Deniliquin.

The Council noted the views of SWAA (C Beale) that the most degraded parts of the red gum forests were those that were “locked up in national parks etc and those that had been logged looked much healthier. The Council agreed that any change in the status of these red gum forests should not compromise access to the associated waterways.

4. Reports

4.1 RFA-NSW.

Radge Diakiw advised the Council that issues relating to RFA-NSW would be addressed in the Agenda.

4.2 Gaden Hatchery Update

The Council noted the media release from the Minister. Further to the Media Release Steve Samuels advised that an interview was held recently to appoint a guide on a 6 month contract to try and lift the profile of Gaden Hatchery in an attempt to get greater tourist income for the facility. It was possible that someone could be appointed within a month.

4.3 RFFTEC meeting

Karl Schaerf advised that he was constrained by confidentiality arrangements set for RFFTEC members. However, he was disappointed that replacement to REFFTEC had not yet been announced. The Council agreed with KS that this uncertainty compromised REFFTEC and its ability to provide independent advice to the minister. He also advised that he and other members of RFFTEC had expressed concern about the effectiveness of the subcommittee process used by RFFTEC to assess grant proposals.

4.4 Inter-club meet

The Council noted that preparations for the Interclub event at Black Gold Cabins at Wallerawang on 30 April to 2 May 2010 were progressing as usual.

4.5 Regional reports

Below are regional reports from Region 2 and Region 5. Issues from other regions are detailed in the general minutes.

4.5.1 Region 2

Parramatta River:

There was another carp "Fishout" held last weekend the 14th November and alas no carp were caught once again. On a positive note there were 2 Bass caught, one only 10 cm which makes us believe that there has to be some recruitment and we hope that when Council remove the baffles on the Charles St. weir things will only improve.

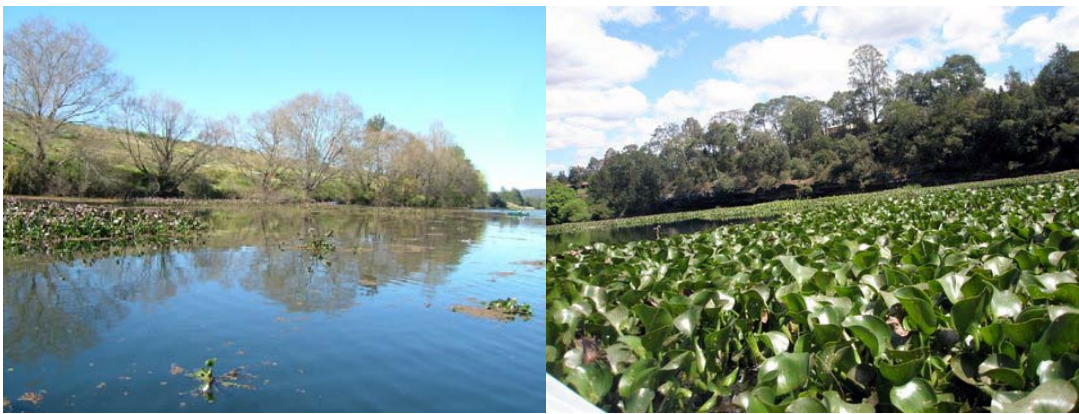
Hawkesbury /Nepean:

Bass Sydney held the first of this season's Bass Catch's last month and we had a record number of registrations. Unfortunately the inclement weather leading up to the weekend kept many from fishing. A pity really as everyone caught fish, the biggest (from the results received so far) was 410mm and the smallest 90mm, both caught by the same angler.

The work continues on the Penrith Weir and by all accounts will be finished in February, along, we hope, with all the other fishways.

Water Hyacinth seems to be spreading in the Devlins Lane pool, we mentioned it back in September and were told that it was being harvested. I have since learned that the only harvesting was carried out near the Rowing Club at Penrith, possibly something to do with the Masters games that were to be held around that time.

There were more photo's taken in October that showed that it had more than doubled and I received the same kind of answer. I will check again as soon as I am able to drive and will report further.



Alan Izzard

4.5.2 Region 5

- There was a very successful release of both brown and rainbow fry into CAS areas.
- As everybody is aware the lack of rain to fill impoundments is of major concern, not a lot we can do about that.
- Streams still flowing well.
- The report that the Lachlan River will stop flowing below Condobolin as of 1st November, reason being lack of water in Storage's, no environmental flow.
- Wyangala 5.2%, Burrandong 14.1%, Carcoar 7.8%, Windamere 21%.
- The ongoing problem of access is still of major concern with the lands dept, who want to allow the sale of roads, which allow access to streams and impoundments.
- There is still discussion about the project to build a new dam wall about 2 Km below the existing wall, to pump water to Orange via Cadia Mine, to allow for the enlargement of the mine – But not 1 word about the Environment.
- Golden Gully is still under discussion.

- The Get Hooked it's Fun to Fish program was held for 2 days in Dubbo at Sandy Beach and schools from the Dubbo area attended.
- The program then moved to Carcoar Dam, with Neville Mandurama - Carcoar Schools in attendance.

Tom Williams

4.6 Treasurers Report

4.6.1 FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer's report at Attachment 1 was endorsed (proposed R Tonkin, seconded C Beale).

4.6.2 Out of Pocket Expenses.

The Council endorsed the quarterly payment of out of pocket expenses of \$150 each to the Secretary and President plus insurance \$264, and the November newsletter \$468.83.

5. Correspondence

Significant items of correspondence included are referred to in the Agenda Items and Background Papers. Significant items of correspondence are referred to in the Agenda Items and Background Papers.

6. General Business

6.1 Developing Policy in the NSWCFCA (See Background Papers)

Steve Samuels proposed that the NSWCFCA devise an agreed approach to develop Policy within the NSWCFCA. He also noted that since circulating the background papers it had been brought to his attention that such a document existed although it did not address adequately, the development of policy on contentious matters where there could be significant disagreement between delegates. – for example a policy on redfin. The Council agreed that a subgroup comprising Chris Beale, Radge Diakiw and Rodney Tonkin to update the current policy for Council consideration, taking into account such factors as what sort of majority should be needed to make policy changes.

6.2 Fish Habitat Network Website

Steve Samuels advised the Council that following consultation, the NSWCFCA would be hosting a trial Fish Habitat Network website which would be funded by DII in an initiative to generate widespread informed discussion on fish habitat issues in NSW.

6.3 Grahamstown Dam (See Background Papers)

The Council noted that Port Stephens Shire Council and HNF at that time were given the responsibility of managing recreational use of the dam, have not been able to reach a satisfactory agreement on access to Grahamstown Dam. It appears now that Hunter Water will restrict access to the dam. The Council expressed its disappointment at this expected outcome and agreed to investigate alternative ways of gaining access and developing a recreational fishery at the dam.

6.4 Access Conference outcomes. (See Background Papers)

The Council expressed its appreciation to Rodney Tonkin for his efforts with Malcolm Poole of the RFA to organize such a very successful conference. The Council noted that a report on the outcomes of the Conference were presented to RFFSTEC recently and it looked forward to the outcome becoming more widely available.

6.5 Proposed Regional Fisheries Inquiry (See Background Papers)

The Council noted the Shooters Party proposal for the Title Inquiry and looked forward to the opportunity to make a submission should the Inquiry proceed.

6.6 NSWCFR website

Discussion deferred

6.7 Draft Redfin Policy.

Discussion deferred (See also 6.1)

6.8 Sales of crown land

The council noted changes to the State Government Ministry and that now, the Minister for Lands was also now responsible for fisheries. Since these areas were now under the one Minister, Minister Kelly, the Council looked forward to a better coordinated regime to ensure that angler access would not be compromised by crown land sales. The Council agreed that efforts be made to enable the NSWCFR to meet with the Minister on this and other matters.

6.9 Fisheries Management Amendment Bill.

Further to the concern expressed by the Council, that spawning sites of native fish had not protected, as proposed by NSWCFR, in Fisheries Management Amendment Bill. The Council noted that DII had advised that it proposed to protect spawning sites of native fish through regulations to the amended Bill rather than in the Bill itself.

The Council also noted that the Fisheries Management Strategy would soon have to be reviewed. Steve Samuels urged delegates to identify proposed changes to the FMS in preparation for the review.

6.10 Life Jacket Review.

Delegates were urged to put in submissions to the Life Jacket Review which was released for comment by NSW Maritime with a closing date of 8 Jan 2010. Delegates were also asked to provide their comments to the Secretary so that an NSWCFCA submission could be developed.

6.11 Access to Water Storages – Proposed meeting with Minister.

Steve Samuels advised the Council that he was to meet the Minister for Water, Minister Costa, in late November. The Council endorsed the approach proposed by Steve Samuels for him to focus on getting a review on recreational use of water storages in general, similar to the review undertaken in WA, rather than focus on specific waterways.

6.12 NSWCFCA 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Noting the preliminary announcement about the Anniversary Dinner in the background papers, the Council agreed that an invitation be sent to all delegates seeking a commitment to attend. The Anniversary dinner would be planned for Saturday 21 August 2010 (on the evening after the 2010 AGM) in Penrith. Invitees would include delegates and their partners, members of affiliated organisation as well as members of groups that have interacted with the NSWCFCA. A charge of \$80 to \$90 was anticipated.

6.13 Carp Control discussion paper.

Delegates noted the Carp Discussion Paper recently released by DII. Delegates acknowledged that the paper provided useful background about the impact and damage caused by carp in NSW. However, delegates considered there was little in the discussion paper which warranted it being called a plan. Delegates were asked to provide comments on the DII paper to enable NSWCFCA making a submission before the closing date of 29 Jan 2010.

6.14 Ministerial Reshuffle Implications for NSWCFCA.

The Council agreed that we should meet with the new Minister as soon as possible to discuss a range of issues and to ensure the Minister was aware of the work of the Council and significant issues such as committed funding for Gaden hatchery.

6.15 Wind up of AFWFA.

R Tonkin advised the Council that he had distributed residual monies of the Australian Fresh Water Fishermen's Assembly to the Red Cross and the Fish pump project in line with the wishes of the Assembly and

that the Assembly was now formally wound up. The Council thanked Rodney Tonkin for completing this tedious and at times very frustrating task.

6.16 Possible Extension of the Trout season

Ben Doolan advised that DII had sought informal comment on the merits of extending the trout season by starting it in early September (as is done in Victoria) rather than early October. Steve Samuels advised that a large majority of those groups he has sought opinions from were either opposed to the idea or wanted assurances that wild spawning in particular the Thredbo and Eucumbene systems would not be compromised. Noting this response, Ben Doolan suggested that DII would most probably not progress this matter further at this time.

6.17 Golden Gully

Tom Williams advised that CAS, the landholder and DII had reached an agreement in principle that enabled angler access to Golden Gully Reserve and that the details were being finalised. The Council congratulated Tom Williams and all others involved for their efforts to secure access in these protracted negotiations.

6.18 Future Guest Speakers.

The Council agreed to investigate the possibility of having:

- Simon Clulow (Trout Predation on Frogs); and or
- Ben Smith, South Australian Research Institute (Red Fin as guest speakers at future meetings.

7. Guest Speakers

Brett Smith, Fisheries Education Officer, DII, gave an overview of the Fisheries Education Unit and in particular the activities of the Fishcare volunteers and Rodney Price, Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation Unit gave an overview of the projects being undertaken to improve fish habitats on inland waterways. The Council thanked both Brett and Rodney for their excellent presentations and for their active participation in the meeting.

8. Close

Steve Samuels closed the meeting at 4.40 pm. Special thanks went to Doug Robbins, President of the Rylstone – Kandos Anglers Club, Graham Morcomb and club members for their hospitality and for hosting and catering the General Meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Albury, Saturday 20 November 2010.

Abbreviations

AAG	Anglers Action Group (North Sydney)
ACoRF	Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing
ACTFF	ACT Fly Fishers
BC	Barrington Club
BK	Bass Kempsey
BMNDAA	Blue Mountains and Nepean District Angling Association
BRBFFC	Big River Bass Fly Fishing Club
BS	Bass Sydney
CAA	Canberra Anglers Association
CAS	Central Acclimatisation Society
CCFR	Central Coast Fly Rodders
CFC	Canberra Fishermans Club
CSDAC	Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (Commonwealth)
DII	New South Wales Department of Industry and Investment
DWLC	Department of Land & Water Conservation
FFB	Fly Fish Bathurst
GFFC	Greenwells Fly Fishing Club
HNF	Hunter Native Fish
IFF	Illawarra Fly Fishers
LS	Lakeside Fly Fishing Club
MAS	Monaro Acclimatisation Society
MDBA	Murray Darling Basin Authority
MNCFR	Mid North Coast Fly Rodders
NCC	Nature Conservation Council
NETAS	New England Trout Acclimatisation Society
NSWCARC	NSW Coarse Anglers Research Club
NSWCFA	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers
NSWRFS	NSW Rod Fishers' Society
OTAS	Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society
PFIGA	Professional Fishing Instructors and Guides Association
RFA-NSW	Recreational Fishing Alliance
RFFTEC	Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee
SAC	Scone Amateur Fishing Club
SB	Southern Bass Fishing Club
SCAC	Sydney Coarse Angling Club
SFR	Sydney Fly Rodders' Club
SFFC	Singleton Fly Fishing Club
SH	Snowy Hydro
SWAA	South West Anglers Association
VFC	Viking Fishing Club

Attachment 1

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Financial Statements for the year 2009- 2010

Opening Bank Balance as at 31/7/2009		17317.74
Income for 1st quarter		
Bank interest	0.14	
Term Deposit interest	160.17	
Bank interest	0.15	
Sydney Fly Rodders	262.5	
Canberra Anglers	61.5	
Vikings Fishing	180	
Anglers Action Group	25	
Greenwells Fly Fishing	60	
Donation	116	
Term Deposit interest	523.05	
Bank interest	0.21	
Total Income to 3/11/2009		1388.72
Expenses for 1st quarter		
Account charge	13	
Orange Credit Union shares	10	
Newsletter - August	469.98	
Phone allowance	150	
Postage & Meeting expenses	151.15	
Dept of Fair Trading	47	
Inter Club Meet expenses	152.2	
AFWFA Trust to Dr J Harris	10764.73	
Account charge	10	
Postage & Stationary	27.8	
Phone allowance	150	
RFA-NSW subscription	200	
Cheque fee	10	
Account charge	10	
Newsletter - September	468	
Newsletter - October	468.57	
Total Expenditure to 3/11/2009		-13102.43
Bank Balance as at 3/11/2009		5604.03

AGENDA ITEM 3.6 SALT DISCHARGE INTO THE MURRAY RIVER

The Hon Peter Garrett
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts.
Parliament House
Canberra, 2600

PROPOSED DUMPING OF SALT AND OTHER TOXINS INTO THE MURRAY RIVER BY NORSKE SKOG PTY LTD

Dear Minister

Introduction

This submission is made on behalf of the New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSWCFA). NSWCFA is a voluntary organisation primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of freshwater fisheries in the State of New South Wales and among its more than 3,000 members are the major fishing clubs of New South Wales as well as representatives of the major Australian Capital Territory fishing organisations. The NSWCFA is recognised by the NSW Department of Industry and Investment as the peak representational body for freshwater anglers in NSW. The NSWCFA participates with NSW Fisheries in the stocking of fresh water lakes and rivers, maintenance of habitat, contribution to policy and legislation affecting freshwater in NSW.

Issue

The NSWCFA is extremely concerned with the proposal by Norske Skog Pty Ltd to dump 1,500 tonnes of salt and heavy metals into the Murray River at Albury NSW on an annual basis. Norske Skog is a paper processing mill in Albury NSW and as the NSWCFA understands it, Norske Skog has sought permission to dump the effluent, due its inability to dispose of it in any other fashion. Our understanding is that Norske Skog has been using the effluent to water pasture and tree plantations, but due to the toxicity of the effluent this has degraded the land to a point where vegetation will not grow. Our advice is that Norske Skog had sought to dump the effluent into the Albury sewerage system, but the effluent was too toxic for the sewerage system. As a result, Norske Skog has sought and gained permission to dump the effluent directly into the Murray River. Apparently there is a convoluted off-set process where Norske Skog will divert water into the Murray as compensation for the pollution.

The NSWCFA is totally opposed to this effluent being dumped into the Murray River. While some pro-dumping commentators have remarked that 1,500 tonnes of salt and heavy metals is a “drop in the ocean”, the NSWCFA wonders why government and business consider it acceptable to use a living river as an effluent drain.

The NSWCFCA notes that you have been keen to implement restrictions on the Coral Sea based on the advice of foreign green groups, so we hope that you will take the advice of the NSWCFCA on this matter of the Murray River.

The NSWCFCA notes that Norske Skog is an international organisation that makes substantial profits each year. The NSWCFCA believes that Norske Skog should be required to find a modern and responsible solution to its own pollution. Norske Skog have the resources and funding to treat the effluent to drinking water quality before returning it to the environment, but refuses to do so on the basis of cost. The NSWCFCA is adamant that polluters should not get a financial advantage by discarding their waste at the cost of the environment.

The NSWCFCA has some simple requests of you as the Federal Minister for the Environment, we ask that:

1. As Minister, you prohibit the dumping of untreated effluent into the environment by Norske Skog, Albury.
2. As Minister, you set a minimum standard for all effluent if it is to be dumped into Australian river systems.

While we understand that this is but one issue affecting an ailing Murray River we believe now is the time for us all to stand up for water quality rights. The NSWCFCA cannot accept this proposal to degrade further Australia's iconic Murray River. We ask that you, as the Federal Minister for the Environment, take a strong stance against effluent discharges, especially those made by organisations that can afford to be better environmental citizens.

The NSWCFCA would be pleased to meet with you or provide any addition information you may require in this instance.

Yours sincerely

Steve Samuels
President
New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers

20 January 2010

AGENDA ITEM 3.10 DEVELOPING POLICY IN NSWCFA

Below for discussion are proposed guidelines for developing policy within the NSWCFA. These draft guidelines were developed by Chris Beale, Radge Diakiw and Rodney Tonkin. They are based on a document originally prepared by Gary Colliton in 1991 (see below).

DEVELOPING POLICIES WITHIN THE NSWCFA - PROPOSAL

Why have policies?

NSWCFA Policies enable NSWCFA affiliates, stakeholders, the media, and the general public to know what we stand for. Such statements, among other things:

- Provide a written record of policy on a range of subjects, saving unnecessary discussion and redefinition, providing a quick reference to past decisions;
- Form the basis of consistent messages that can be distributed to members, to media outlets and attached to letters to politicians, bureaucrats, etc.
- Better allow the NSWCFA to be proactive on matters great concern to freshwater recreational anglers
- Better allow the NSWCFA to react to unexpected challenges faced by freshwater recreational anglers

What Policies should the NSWCFA have?

NSWCFA should develop policies on any issues it considers require a clear stance. Such issues could include:

- Recreational angling licences
- Anglers access to waterways
- Sand and gravel extraction from waterways
- Translocation of species
- Angling in National Parks
- Importation of fish meat
- Importation of aquarium species
- Angling on water storages
- Environmental stream flows
- Trout regulations
- Native fish regulations
- Protection of Bass fisheries.

Policy statements - General

Policy statements developed by the NSWCFA should, wherever practicable, have a state wide rather than a local focus.

Policy statements can be drafted by any member or group of members, but must be approved by resolution at a general meeting of the Council

Policy statements should be constructive, realistic & able to be implemented.

Policy statements should be dated & signed by the President.

Policy statements should contain some explanation or reference to how the policy was determined.

Policy statements should be distributed to members as soon as approved.

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping an accurate and accessible record of the Policy Statements.

Policy statements - Reviews

The NSWCFCA should reconfirm policy statements at least every 5 years or let them lapse.

Policy statements can be reviewed any time after they have been confirmed at the behest of the Executive or at a general meeting.

It is the responsibility of those wishing to review a policy to:

- alert the Council of their intentions
- provide the Council with a rationale for the proposed review
- seek comments from all delegates on their proposals
- Seek Council endorsement of the proposed changes after taking note of any comments and providing at least 21 days before a Council meeting for delegates to consider the proposed changes.

Policy statements on contentious issues

The Council has a responsibility to develop policy positions on topics which may impact significantly on freshwater recreational anglers even though groups of delegates within the NSWCFCA have divergent views. When such circumstances arise, the Council should make every effort to identify areas of agreement and areas of disagreement within the proposed policy. Ideally the goal should be a policy that is as comprehensive as possible and that all delegates can embrace. If such an outcome does not appear achievable, without compromising the integrity of the process it may be appropriate for any agreed policy to be mute on highly contentious issues or alternatively identify within the policy those issues that have yet to be resolved.

IFA POLICY STATEMENTS

*(Originated from Garry Colliton, Secretary IFA in 1991,
& adopted at an AGM.)*

The IFA policy statements should serve the following purposes:

- be a written record of policy on a range of subjects, saving unnecessary discussion and redefinition, providing a quick reference to past decisions;
- be a suitable statement to distribute to members, with press releases, attached to letters to politicians, bureaucrats, etc.

Procedures

As a starting point, a set of major issues should be selected as subjects that require a clear definition of policy. Policy statements will be prepared for these, and endorsed by resolution at the next AGM. In the future it may be resolved at general meetings that a policy statement is required for a particular subject. The policy would then be drafted for discussion or endorsed at the next general meeting.

Any interested individual or group could create a draft policy statement – its acceptance should only depend on meeting general practical guidelines and being endorsed by a general meeting.

The next AGM in August 1992 would be an appropriate time to present the first batch for approval. Considering the special need for general discussion and approval of the first policy statements, it would be best to have the drafts ready for distribution and written comment at the May meeting. It would not be practical to have a major discussion at that meeting on each and every policy statement. Indeed and protracted discussion is likely to bog down the process and discourage any enthusiasm for the process. Therefore, it may be more appropriate to distribute a set of typed drafts, requesting that anyone with suggestions or objections should send the Secretary written comments.

Suitable Subjects

Recreational angling licences
Anglers access to waterways
Sand and gravel extraction from waterways
Translocation of species
Angling in National Parks
Importation of fish meat
Importation of aquarium species
Angling on water storages
Environmental stream flows
Trout regulations

Native fish regulations
Protection of Bass fisheries.

-2-

General Guidelines

1. Policy statements should have a distinctive and consistent format.
2. Should be short – restricted to one page.
3. Should be dated, and signed by the President.
4. Should be approved by resolution of a general meeting.
5. Should be widely distributed amongst members as soon as approved.
6. Should be flexible and open to amendment as circumstances and current opinions change.
7. Should be general enough to apply as widely as possible (should avoid parochial issues) but specific enough to indicate a course of action for the IFA and members to follow.
8. Should be formed with a purpose, be positive and be realistic; i.e. able to be implemented.
9. Should be informative and identify the desired effects or benefits of the policy.
10. Should contain some background information or reference to how the IFA arrived at the policy.

Motion (passed) at the February Meeting (1991)

The IFA form a series of Policy Statements that constitute an approved, written, accessible, and constructive record of the Institute's policies on important issues.

General principles:

Policy Statements can be drafted by any member or group of members, but must be approved by resolution at a general meeting of the Institute

Policy Statements should be constructive, realistic & able to be implemented.

Policy statements should be dated & signed by the President.

Policy Statements documents should contain some explanation or reference to how the policy was determined.

Policy statements should be distributed to members as soon as approved.

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping an accurate and accessible record of the Policy Statements.

AGENDA ITEM 3.11 RECREATIONAL FISHERIES INQUIRY

Inquiry into recreational fishing

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That a select committee be appointed to inquire into and report on the benefits and opportunities that improved recreational fisheries may represent for fishing licence holders in New South Wales, and in particular:
 - (a) the current suite of existing regulatory, policy, and decision-making processes in relation to the management of recreational fisheries in New South Wales, including the process for the creation of Marine Protected Areas and Marine Parks and the efficacy of existing Marine Protected Areas and Marine Parks,
 - (b) the effectiveness and efficiency of the current representational system of trusts and advisory committees that advise government departments and statutory authorities,
 - (c) the value of recreational fisheries to the economy in New South Wales,
 - (d) the gaps in existing recreational fishery programs, including the number and location of Recreational Fishing Havens, and
 - (e) ecologically sustainable development issues related to improving recreational fisheries.
2. That the committee report by 25 November 2010.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Hon Robert Brown MLC (*Chair*) The Shooters Party
The Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC (*Deputy Chair*) Australian Labor Party
Mr Ian Cohen MLC The Greens
The Hon Rick Colless MLC The Nationals
The Hon Charlie Lynn MLC Liberal Party
The Hon Christine Robertson MLC Australian Labor Party
The Hon Mick Veitch MLC Australian Labor Party

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON RECREATIONAL FISHING

AGENDA ITEM 3.13 CARP CONTROL DISCUSSION PAPER

Aquatic Biosecurity Unit
Industry and Investment NSW
Nelson Bay NSW 2315

CARP CONTROL PLAN

This submission is made on behalf of the New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSWCFA). NSWCFA is a voluntary organisation primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of freshwater fisheries in the State of New South Wales and among its more than 3,000 members are the major fishing clubs of New South Wales as well as representatives of the major Australian Capital Territory fishing organisations. The NSWCFA is recognised by the NSW Department of Industry and Investment as the peak representational body for freshwater anglers in NSW. The NSWCFA participates with NSW Fisheries in the stocking of fresh water lakes and rivers, maintenance of habitat, contribution to policy and legislation affecting freshwater in NSW.

To put it mildly, the NSWCFA is not at all impressed with the content of the plan. While the document is a reasonable historical account of the introduction and spread of carp in NSW, it falls short in a number of significant areas. Those main areas are:

Lack of an aim

The plan does not identify a clear aim or mission. For plans to be effective they must have a goal end, even if it cannot be attained. A plan without an aim is like travel without a destination. The authors need to establish a clear and succinct aim as a priority.

Lack of objectives

It is our opinion that the plan does not have any identifiable of clear objectives. It is objectives that will lead to the attainment of the aim. While the plan outlines some past objectives that seemed to have either failed or are still being considered (such as daughterless carp) the document lacks a sense of overall direction.

Implementation Strategy

The plan does not have an implementation strategy, however, to be fair; this would be difficult as the plan has no aim or objectives. While having a plan is a reasonable thing, the plan is worthless unless it identifies who is responsible for its implementation. It is the implementation that breathes life into a plan and causes action on the ground. This plan is significantly defective due to its lack of an implementation strategy.

Resource Allocation

The plan does not identify any reasonable resource allocation to the plan. The NSWCFA cannot identify what resources will be utilised to control carp. The plan would be better served by identifying the physical, intellectual and financial resources devoted to set objectives.

Conclusion

Based on the defects identified, the NSWCFA cannot support this document as a carp control plan. There is nothing in the plan that suggests an element of carp control and as such should be reviewed.

The NSWCFA is also most disappointed that a carp control plan would be developed totally in house by NSW Fisheries. NSWCFA has a strong and valuable relationship with NSW Fisheries but time and again we see our relationship debased when it comes to policy regarding our fisheries. The NSWCFA has made it quite clear that we are prepared to work as partners with NSW Fisheries on issues of policy and legislation, but time and again we are omitted from the development phase.

The NSWCFA believes that this carp control plan would have been more meaningful if the NSWCFA had been invited to participate in the initial drafting stage. While scientists and bureaucrats have a role to play, they often lack the on-the-ground experience that anglers can provide. From our perspective it would have been more beneficial to have anglers involved earlier in the process.

The NSWCFA is also concerned that carp control may not be a serious issue within NSW Fisheries. This observation comes from the current environment where anglers are required to adhere to a strict and dogmatic regime when it comes to stocking desirable species such as trout, golden perch and cod. We note that anglers can no longer stock golden perch into Dunn's Swamp due to a strict interpretation of the FMS. Trout stocking is now subject to a host of administrative controls that frustrate our members. The NSWCFA would be more satisfied if this zealot behaviour was directed at carp.

The NSWCFA would be more than pleased to sit down with NSW Fisheries and develop an action oriented approach to carp control. We make this offer in good faith and hope that instead of being treated as a process, NSW anglers are actively engaged as partners with NSW Fisheries.

Yours sincerely

Steve Samuels
President
NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers
27 January 2010

AGENDA ITEM 3.16 PROPOSAL TO MEET WITH MINISTER

The Hon. Steve Whan MLA
Minister for Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs
Level 11, 52 Phillip Street
Sydney. 2000

Dear Minister

On behalf of the New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSWCFA) I congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister for Primary Industries, Emergency Services and Rural Affairs.

The NSWCFA asks that you meet with a small delegation from the NSWCFA within the next month or so to discuss issues including:

- Recreational angler access to NSW waterways
- The future of Gaden Hatchery
- The makeup, structure and operation of Recreational Fishing Advisory Committees
- Closer Ministerial interaction with recreational angling groups
- A better coordinated approach between the Department of Lands and DPI on sale of Crown lands which affect recreational anglers access
- The governments gradual withdrawal from funding fisheries conservation managers

I make this request because many freshwater anglers believe that the government is apathetic to their needs. I consider that you agreeing to meet with the NSWCFA in the near future will help dispel those beliefs, as well as provide you with a valuable insight into the views of recreational anglers on many important issues relating to your new portfolios.

In my opinion you and I cooperated well and productively in both our attempts to get the government to reverse its decision, of last year, to close Gaden Hatchery. I look forward to the opportunity of building on that level of cooperation and I believe an early meeting with you will help achieve that outcome. For this reason, I would appreciate your office arranging a meeting in the near future.

I can be contacted on email at: steve_samuels@bigpond.com or by telephone at (02) 6241 7957 and I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,
Steve Samuels
President
NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers
20 January 2010

AGENDA ITEM 4.1 RFA Report

RFA Report from NSWCFCA delegates:

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW annual general meeting (postponed from 2009) and general meeting, held in Sydney on 30 Jan 2010

RFA Annual General Meeting

Office bearers were elected:

- Malcolm Poole, President
- Max Castle, Vice President
- Stan Konstantaras, Vice President
- Treasurer position vacant
- NSWCFCA delegate Radge Diakiw was elected to the committee.

NSWCFCA needs to remember that after our own AGM each year we need to confirm our delegates to the RFA of NSW. Currently they are Radge Diakiw, Peter Gibson and John Humphries (alternate). We are entitled to have two delegates so between these three people we hopefully have someone present at all meetings.

RFA General Meeting

Items discussed in the general meeting:

- DII Conservation manager position at Batemans Bay was saved last year after protests by anglers.
- RFA is preparing a major submission to the NSW government enquiry into recreational fishing (subcommittee formed to do this includes Max Castle, Peter Gibson and Peter Saunders). Member organisations will be asked to contribute ideas and urged to undertake their own submissions.
- RFA is planning to approach political parties to get statements on policies and specific issues prior to 2012 NSW government elections and will distribute this information to anglers.
- Freshwater fishing safety DVD is still progressing and final editing will be undertaken in consultation with the NSWCFCA.
- Some concerns we had about the financial position of the RFA in 2009 have been resolved. Essentially this was not because of any mismanagement or lack of attention, but the RFA's bookkeeping and accounting had not kept pace with its increasingly complex finances from grants etc. This has been resolved by new, simplified accounting procedures and by careful allocation of small amount of each grant to give the organisation some operating revenue of its own. Overdue funding top-ups for some projects are imminent and these will also bring all project budgets back into the black and the RFA now has funds of about \$53,000

in bank mainly to cover projects underway, and including about \$4000 in bank for general operating expenses.

- The RFA's special purpose website www.safefishing.com.au is now being used as a central information point for government departments and Surf Life Saving Australia to promote rock fishing safety project and other aspects of fishing safety (including freshwater).
- The RFA's rock fishing safety project (DVDs, fishing safety clinics and fishing safety promotions in ethnic press and TV) in conjunction with I&I NSW, NSW Sport and Rec, ANSA, and Surf Life Saving Australia continues to go from strength to strength and is attracting increasing support from State as well as Federal bodies. The freshwater section will be added to this soon, as will boating. An underwater fishing DVD is being developed by NSW Underwater Skindiving and Fisherman's Association and this will probably be added to the information in due course.
- Membership of the RFA seems to be growing—a number of smaller clubs and individuals have joined the RFA directly in recent months.
- The President, Vice President and Secretary of the RFA have had meetings with opposition politicians over recent months to impress on them anglers' expectations on a number of issues.
- Documentation from the angling access conference held by the RFA and NSWCFCA in 2009 has still not been released, apparently because RFA is waiting for results on lobbying for government approval of some sensitive recommendations.

General comment from your delegates

There are a number of issues that the RFA is involved in that are not directly relevant to freshwater anglers, but by far the majority of issues are relevant. We are confident that the work being done by the RFA is significant and is increasingly recognised by government. We urge the NSWCFCA to continue to strongly support the RFA.

We also point out that individuals and clubs can also join the RFA directly for a very small cost, and that such support and financial contribution would be greatly appreciated. Membership forms are on the website www.rfansw.com.au.

Radge Diakiw, Peter Gibson, John Humphries.

AGENDA ITEM 4.5. Interclub Meet report

The 2010 NSW CFA Interclub Meet is progressing satisfactorily with registrations starting to come in. I have booked all of the self contained cottages, which is the usual practice I expect there will be the usual <50> registrants. We are getting the usual support from the regular donors of prizes.

John Humphries, Meet coordinator.

AGENDA ITEM 4.6 Region 5 Report

As this has been reported on television, newspapers, the State Government has given the go ahead for 2 projects in the Blayney Shire Area:

The Cadia East Underground Project.

The media reports that the life of the Mine could be 20 years or more. This project will take 60mg's of water per day above the requirement for running of it's Open Cut, Ridgeway ,and Ridgeway Deeps underground mines. The water will come from the Belubula River, Flyers Creek and bores that are placed within pumping distance of the mine site. The Orange City Council and ,Blayney Shire Council also supply recycled water to the project. When the Premier made the announcement, giving Cadia East Underground Project the approval to commence work, when it has been working on this project for the last 2 years or more. Nobody is against progress or employment opportunities, but there has been no mention of environmental flows in rivers and creeks in the surrounding area.

Orange City Council wants to pump water from Macquarie River, the estimated cost of the pipeline is \$40 million plus. Cabonne Shire Council has offered Orange City Council water from Boree Creek Dam at market value but Orange City Council seem reluctant to take up this offer. All the water storages in this area are still very low. All streams are very low or not running at all.

Redfin in farm dam adjacent to Great Western Highway, were reported to Fisheries.

Last report was 5/2/10, Fisheries Staff were in attendance. In a case like this is it possible to use the Fishcare Volunteers to help, as has happened in the past, [eg] the erection of Trout signage on the Macquarie River and tributaries also on the streams in the Orange Area. These volunteers have been trained by Education Officers in catch and release, boat handling and The Get Hooked its Fun to Fish Schools Program. The Acclimatisation Societies would be only too pleased to help if contacted. To try and stop this happening in the future, the answer may be if the farmers or the people in control of these farm dams could obtain native fish at no cost. A stocking permit should be a requirement to stock farm dams as is the case public waters. Then the people who like to catch redfin will be able to find out where they are stocked.

As reported at November Meeting, Golden Gully access is progressing well.

Tom Williams

AGENDA ITEM 4.8 TREASURERS REPORT

NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER
 ANGLERS INC.
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the period
 4/11/2009 to 31/1/2010

Opening Bank Balance as at 4/11/2009				\$5,604.03
INCOME for the 2nd quarter				
Bank interest			1.75	
Subscriptions -				
	Lakeside			
	Fly Fishing		96	
	South West			
	Anglers		300	
Total Income				397.75
EXPENDITURE for the 2nd quarter				
Viridia - November newsletter			468.83	
Radge Diakiw - allowance	150			
	lunch			
	refund	30	180	
Steve Samuels - allowance			150	
McKenzie Taylor & Bloomfield				
	insurance		264	
Viridia - Dec newsletter		469.05		
	mail	31.9	500.95	
Viridia - Jan newsletter			468.17	
Lakeside Restaurant -deposit			200	
Total Expenditure				2231.95
Bank Balance as at 31 January 2010				\$3,769.83
Cheque in hand - PFIGA subscription				27

AGENDA ITEM 6.1 SPREAD OF REDFIN

Below is a copy of an article that appeared in the Lithgow Mercury of 9 February 2010 as well as a selection of 2 emails from Karl Schaer which provide a context for the newspaper article.

'NOXIOUS' REDFIN POSE THREAT: Feral fish blitz

LEN ASHWORTH

09 Feb, 2010 09:09 AM

It was a combination of mission accomplished and perfect timing when a program to eradicate 'noxious' fish from a dam at Mt Lambie was carried out on Friday.

Targeted in the eradication were redfin that had been discovered recently in a dam on a grazing property.

The blitz involved the Fisheries division of the State Department of Industry and Investment and was initiated after the redfin were discovered by members of the Central Acclimatisation Society.

The redfin are an introduced species that are regarded as an invasive pest that destroys other marine life including trout.

They are also prolific breeders and, ominously, carry the marine virus EHN that could be passed on to other fish.

How the noxious fish came to be in the farm dam is unknown but authorities suspect that boys fishing there had brought them from Bathurst's Chifley Dam where they are a major infestation.

Concerns were amplified by the fact that the farm dam was close to a watercourse leading into the Coxs River catchment.

The dam has in the past apparently been a popular waterhole for the pursuit of yabbies.

Senior Scientist with the department, Dean Gilligan, said the Mt Lambie operation had been a success.

He said the dam had been completely drained and a large number of yabbies relocated to another dam.

Literally thousands of dead redfin were removed, most of them a fairly small example.

"It was good timing because we had no sooner finished the operation than it began to rain to start re-filling the dam," Mr Gilligan said.

He said survey teams had checked out Wallerawang's Lake Wallace and the Coxs River without finding any trace of redfin.

A follow up survey will be conducted in about two months.

Secretary of the Central Acclimatisation Society, Karl Schaerf, expressed satisfaction that the problem had been eliminated.

He said it was an extremely irresponsible action for anyone to introduce feral fish like redfin or European carp into either enclosed or open bodies of water.

It is also illegal.

Mr Schaerf said there was the potential during heavy downpours for the redfin to be washed from the Mt Lambie dam to finish up ultimately in the Coxs River and Warragamba Dam.

"There is also the potential loss of economic benefit to both Wallerawang and Lithgow if angler visitation to the area is lost," he said.

Mr Schaerf said an estimated \$500,000 worth of trout and Australian bass fingerlings had been placed in local waterways over the past 20 years.

He said that if the redfin entered the Coxs or Kowmung Rivers they had the potential to make the Macquarie perch species extinct.

Oberon Dam, like Chifley Dam, has already had its once famous trout fishing decimated by redfin.

"This emphasises the need to promptly report any sightings of undesirable species or the illegal stocking of any species, regardless of type," he said.



FISHERIES workers took to the water on Friday in the major campaign to eradicate dreaded redfin from an old farm dam.

Article link single page

<http://www.lithgowmercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/noxious-redfin-pose-threat-feral-fish-blitz/1745923.aspx?storypage=0#>

Excerpts of Karl Schaerf emails

5 FEB 2010

Subject: Re: REPORT OF REDFIN IN FARM DAM, ADJACENT MAIN WESTERN RAILWAY LINE, NEAR LIDSDALE STATE FOREST, WALLERAWANG.

Dear All,

Another up-date on the situation at Wallerawang; as I write (or, at least until an hour or so ago when I first intended writing, but had to quit the net due to a severe electrical storm here on the Central Coast), Dean Gilligan and others from Fisheries are at the dam, attempting to pump it dry in order to eradicate the redfin.

I understand that Dean and his team also electro-fished another dam, further downstream on the watercourse, but were unable to locate any redfin in that dam. One hopes they have been contained in the dam into which originally stocked, however, given that I understand the heavy rain last week (which I referred to in my first letter), overflowed the dam, it might well mean escapement has occurred, but only time will tell, of course.

Glenn also mentioned that many others from Fisheries have contributed to the eradication plans and implementation, and, of course, I duly acknowledge their support. Amongst those whose names I know are Ben Doolan, Bob Crease, Jane Francis, Dean Gilligan and Cameron Westaway. To them, Glenn and his team and any others who contributed, my sincere thanks on behalf of CAS and I trust that we can rely upon Fisheries to also devise and implement a plan to monitor the watercourses, downstream

of the illegally stocked dam. I can assure Fisheries that CAS will fully co-operate with any monitoring plans they develop and we will do everything in our power to ensure there is never a repeat of this act of folly, that has the potential to destroy one of the best freshwater recreational fisheries, nearest the largest urban population in Australia.

I also repeat my expressions of gratitude to Ben Lane, of Wallerawang Branch, CAS, who advised me of the problem, immediately he became aware of it. Ben has also provided regular up-dates of the situation at the dam and I greatly appreciate that, too.

Regards,

Karl H. Schaerf
Honorary Secretary
Central Acclimatisation Society.

On 3 February 2010 16:07,

Dear All,

I had a call from Glenn Tritton a short time ago and he told me that Fisheries undertook electro-fishing of the dam late on Monday (1st February, 2010), afternoon and confirmed there are redfin in the dam, in varying sizes. (I commented that, if that is the case, then they probably have already bred in the dam.)

Glenn also advised that senior Fisheries staff have discussed the matter and agreed (subject to acceptance by the owners of the land on which the dam is located), urgent remedial action is to be taken. The dam, because of its proximity to a watercourse and the risk that any poisons might also escape, via the watercourse into the Cox's river catchment - will be drained as quickly as can be arranged. Draining will be undertaken as a matter of urgency as the dam is already full and there is a distinct possibility of either/or both, storms and general rain on the Central Tablelands over the next few days. The plans for the draining include ensuring no escapement occurs during the process, that all redfin will be destroyed and any desirable species are properly relocated.

I told Glenn that, when all is resolved, we ought take the opportunity to make as much publicity of this matter as we possibly can, particularly as it is a salutary lesson to all of the folly of undertaking illegal stockings, regardless of whether or not it is a public waterway or a private one stocked with noxious, undesirable or introduced species. It also ought be publicised that thanks largely to the efforts of Glenn and his team

(Compliance Branch), a co-operative approach has been taken to promptly address this potentially disastrous situation.

Since speaking to Glenn, I've also spoken again to Ben Lane (who, thankfully, as soon as he became aware of the presence of the redfin in the dam), contacted me for assistance. Ben has (as I too have), grave concerns that the moron who stocked the dam, may have also stocked others in the vicinity and is endeavouring to ascertain if this is so.

Once again, this emphasises the need to promptly report any sightings of undesirable species, or the illegal stocking of any species, regardless of type.

I also have to say that, if Ben's and my concerns that escapement has already occurred (there was a large storm in the Lidsdale SF area last Thursday evening and the dam overflowed), are correct, then it won't be for a year or two before we know if there are redfin in Lakes Wallace and Lyell. I can't stress how serious this is; we have invested countless hours in arguing the case to stock both lakes with both trout and Australian bass over the past 20 years or so (and the case for stocking bass had to be argued, time and again, I might add), not to even estimate the value of the fish actually released. I estimate, conservatively, they are worth more than \$500k. One must also consider the potential loss in tourist dollars to the economies of both Wallerawang and Lithgow from the ever increasing numbers of recreational fishers visiting both dams, who, without doubt, don't go there to catch bloody redfin.

Finally, I cannot even begin to stress my concerns that if redfin, known carriers of the virus EHN and which is an extreme threat to, of all our fishes, Macquarie perch, of which there is an extant population in the lower Cox's and Kowmung Rivers, the potential for that population to become extinct if the redfin have entered the Cox's River, upstream of Lake Wallace.

Again, my sincere thanks to Ben Lane for letting me know as soon as he became aware of the problem and Glenn Tritton (and his team), who took our concerns seriously and initiated the investigation of the complaint with the degree of seriousness it warranted.

I also thank those who both wrote and rang me in support of my actions on behalf of CAS, the only, truly, responsible "Fishing Club" (in my opinion, but, of course, I'm extremely biased), on the Central Tablelands. We are more than "a pub club" and one can only wonder at the reactions of such organisations to issues like this... .

Regards,

Karl H. Schaerf
Honorary Secretary
Central Acclimatisation Society