

New CFA Freshwater Fisher email

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NSW COUNCIL OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INCORPORATED COUNCIL MEETING SATURDAY 20 August 2011 HELD AT THE PENRITH REGATTA CENTRE, PENRITH MINUTES

1 OPENING

Following on from the recently completed AGM, the President, Rodney Tonkin, opened the meeting at 10.35 am, again welcoming delegates and invited guests.

Present

Rodney Tonkin (President), Radge Diakiw (SFR), Brian Dobbie (FFB) Terry Flanagan (BRB), John Humphries (CCFC), Alan Izzard (BS), Laurie Muldoon (NETAS), John Robb (CCFC), Terry Rowling (CAS), Don Salter (Lakeside), Hock - sook Tham (BS) and Tom Williams (CAS)

Invited Guests:

Mitchell Isaacs (Minister Hodgkinson's Office), Malcolm Poole (RFA) Peter Turnell (DPI) Cameron Westaway (DPI).

2 APOLOGIES

Clive Brabham, Josh Burns, Ron Butler, Rod Dillon, Peter Gibson, Colin Henderson, Steve Newman, Ben Nieuwerth Christopher Robertson, Steve Samuels, David Screen Les Simshauser, Betty Williams, Steve Williamson and Dave Wilson.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the General Meeting of 21 May 2011 were adopted. (Diakiw/Humphries)

4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM 21 MAY 2011 MEETING

4.1 Angler Access Project update.

Malcolm Poole presented a report on behalf of Christopher Robertson. The report reflected the contents of the report on the TSR Conference which was provided to delegates in the background papers for Agenda Item 7.6. Please note, the Background Papers wrongly attributed this report by Christopher Robertson to Rodney Tonkin. The Council noted that there could be benefits in NSW CFA liaising with National Parks Association on areas of mutual interest. The Council did however note that the current NPA Policy rejected recreational angling however there were some indications at the meeting that the NPA was willing to revisit this

policy. The Council agreed that NSWCFCA write to the NPA thanking them for opportunity to participate.

Action: Rodney Tonkin

4.2 Finance Committee update.

Since there was no update the Council agreed that this matter be removed from the Agenda.

4.3 MDB Plan

The Council noted advice from Mitchell Isaacs that a revised draft of the Murray Darling Basin Plan was planned for release in November after which there would be a 20 week public comment period. The Council also noted the formation of the Murray Darling Basin Fishing Council arising out of the teleconference on the Murray Darling Basin referred to at Agenda Item 3.5 of the May 2011 Council Minutes. More details about the Murray Darling Basin Fishing Council are presented at Agenda Item 7.1 of these minutes.

4.4 Salmonid Impacts on Natives

The Council agreed to seek release, from the Commonwealth, of the report on the Impact of Salmonids on Native Fish undertaken by Wayne Fulton and if necessary seek to obtain a copy of the report by way of Freedom of Information.

Action: Radge Diakiw

4.5 NSWCFCA draft bow hunting fish policy

The Council noted that Rodney Tonkin had written to the Minister advising of the NSWCFCA's objection to bow hunting for fish. Mitchell Isaacs of the Ministers office advised that there would be a reply to this letter shortly. The draft of Rodney Tonkin's letter to the Minister is at **Attachment 1**.

The Council was also advised that the Fisheries Act set down accepted methods of taking fish and that the Act would have to be amended to allow bow hunting. However, issues related to safety and by-catch associated with bow hunting for fish would not necessarily be addressed in the Act and might have to be addressed elsewhere. The Game Council presentation to ACoRF is to be sought so that NSWCFCA will have a better understanding of the Game Council proposal particularly as the recent Fishing Inquiry report also contained a reference to a proposal to allow bow hunting for carp.

4.6 NSWCFCA draft policy statement on NSW Fishing Licenses

The Council noted Rodney Tonkin's letter (**Attachment 2**) to the Minister seeking amendments to the licencing regime particularly in relation to:

- getting all who fish to become licence holders; and
- getting insurance cover for licence holders

Again, Mitchell Isaacs advised that a response would soon be sent. The range of views expressed at the Council meeting indicated that progressing both issues would not be straightforward but the Council agreed that efforts should continue and that any further progress would depend on the Ministers response.

In relation to getting all who fish to be licence holders, the Council acknowledged that setting a minimum age for licencees would be difficult as would deciding licence fees, if any, for those groups who are currently exempt. The Council appreciated that there would be additional costs in administering a more comprehensive licencing regime but that these costs could be outweighed by the government and the community as a whole having a better understanding of who fishes and how fishers contribute to society economically and socially.

In relation to insurance cover, appreciated that there were a whole range of insurance options including public liability only to a more comprehensive regime which would cover the angler for injuries they sustained and that cost benefit studies would be needed to identify viable options. The Council agreed that Radge Diakiw contact the PFGIA about the applicability of their insurance policy.

Action: Radge Diakiw

4.7 Effective Control and Deterrent on Illegal Fishing

The Council noted Rodney Tonkin's letter to the Minister at **Attachment 3** and advice from Mitchell Isaacs that a response was imminent. The Council acknowledged that previous efforts to get the government to name and shame offenders had not been successful, but that efforts should continue particularly as other parts of the Minister's portfolio had name and shame policies in place.

The Council also considered that penalties for some offences might not be enough to deter offenders. For example the Council was advised that until fines for illegal fishing for abalone were increased markedly the fines did little in deterring illegal abalone fishers. Furthermore the Council also noted there was a need to ensure that those issuing fines were fully aware of the adverse impacts of the illegal activity so that fines were set at appropriate levels.

5 REPORTS

5.1 NSWCFR Executive

The Council acknowledged the minutes of the 13 July 2011 Executive Meeting (See Background Papers) and noted that most of the issues had been referred to this Council meeting. In relation to Agenda Item 8 of the Executive Minutes, Radge Diakiw apologised for not having attached a

letter from CAS outlining its concerns with NSWCFR. This letter is now at **Attachment 4**
(Allan Izzard / Laurie Muldoon)

5.2 ACoRF and RFFTEC

Malcolm Poole advised the Council that there had been no trust fund meetings since April as new appointees to the trust funds were yet to be approved by the Minister. Appointments had been pending since January but the previous Minister decided that appointments be made after the election.

The Minister had however signed off on all the projects approved by ACoRF and the trust funds. The Council noted that it had taken 8 weeks to sign off on the projects but also noted that there had been a change of government.

The Council agreed that the current situation was not satisfactory and that Rodney Tonkin ask the Minister to allow ACoRF and the trust funds to meet as soon as practicable.

Action: Rodney Tonkin

5.2 RFA-NSW.

Malcolm Poole provided an outline of RFA recent initiatives included:

- The Future Leaders Program to be conducted in November 2011 on North Keppel Island from 16 to 21 November in conjunction with Sunfish Qld and funding from Fisheries Research Development Corporation. Participation costs other than time will be minimal. He expressed disappointment that to date there were only 3 applicants from NSW and none were from the freshwater sector. He advised that the age group targeted was from 18 to 35 but others would be considered and he encouraged applications.
- RFA met with Duncan Gay and Robert Brown on aspects of Fishing Safety in mid-August. The RFA is awaiting a report to be released soon by the Royal Life Saving which provides data on fishing related deaths over the last 10 years and hopes that it will help in identifying ways to reduce such deaths into the future. A new format for the Fishing DVD where Rock fishing Freshwater Fishing and spear fishing are all on the one DVD are now being distributed. To date the rock fishing DVD has been translated into a number of languages. No decision has yet been made to translate the freshwater Safety DVD and RFA is seeking advice from NSWCFR on the merits of such action.
- Seeking to establish a statement on fishing rights which recognises that anglers, through paying licence fees invest in NSW as well as

make a major contribution to the fishery. For this reason anglers should have greater involvement in fisheries management and somehow get assurances about their future security for the significant investment they have, and continue to make.

- Investigating value adding to the licence for licence holders. For this activity to be effective anglers need to know who fishes, what are the profiles of those who fish, what contribution should the government make towards the trust funds for those it has exempted from paying licence fees. See also Agenda Item 4.6
- Seeking to obtain from DPI a breakdown of the details of resources, from all sources, utilised for fisheries activities in NSW.
- Recreational boating money funds most of NSW Maritime with only a small amount coming from commercial and port activities but with the reorganisation of NSW Maritime there is no guarantee that the money that recreational boaters (many of whom are anglers) provide will be used for activities relevant to recreational boaters. There has however been an initiative where Marine Rescue NSW is investigating support services in inland waters, particularly alpine areas, initially throughout the winter period.
- Monitor the debate overseas relating to catch and release fishing.
- Consultations with the marine teachers association to promote habitat related issues in their teaching and getting school students involved. As well it is important to encourage NSWCFA affiliates and other angling groups to get actively involved in improving fish habitats.

5.3 Regional Reports

Further to the written Reports Regional reports Radge Diakiw advised the Council that there were reports from Regions 3, 5, 8 in the background papers and Region 2 in the supplementary Background papers.

Further to the written reports:

Terry Flanagan (Region 1) advised that:

- A major concern of recreational anglers on the Clarence River was the large number of commercial fishers (river trawlers) on this river whereas commercial fishing in many other rivers had been stopped. Most recreational anglers consider that this sort of fishing is not sustainable at its present level and in particular it harms the Australian Bass fishery. Even though commercial fishers are obliged to return bass during their spawning season the survival rate of bass released from the nets is minimal.

The Council agreed to seek a moratorium on commercial operations during the bass breeding season

Terry Flanagan / John Humphries

Action: Terry Flanagan / Radge Diakiw

- An initiative of the Department of Lands to improve access was to encourage Canoe Fishing Trails. On the Clarence River, the Clarence Council has established some trails on the Clarence River. Such trails will hopefully encourage tourism activities including recreational angling and feed into the economy of the district.

Further to his written report Laurie Muldoon noted that NETAS members were strongly opposed to the option from Fisheries to Acclimatisation Societies that the trout season start a month earlier in the northern area of the state. He also advised that NETAS is reasonably comfortable with the other options put forward by Fisheries.

The Council agreed that NSWCFCA in consultation with NETAS write to DPI advising them that Acclimatisation Societies are against moving the start of the trout season forward by a month.

Action: Radge Diakiw / Laurie Muldoon.

5.4 CFA Interclub Meeting

John Humphries that plans for holding the 2012 Interclub Meet at Wallerawang on 9 to 11 March were progressing in line with the previous report to the Council.

5.5 Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee

John Humphries advised that the Gaden Trout has not met since the last meeting. ACoRF has asked the Minister for the State Government to pick up the costs for running the Hatchery and are awaiting a decision from the Government. John Humphries also advised that there were 336 tourist visits for May, 137 for June and 404 for July and income from the visits was \$7043. The tourism guide is proactive and has visited the Dutton Hatchery to exchange experiences, and also attended the Kosciuszko Alpine Way Tourism Meeting. More footage on the promotional DVD for the hatchery has also been produced. John Humphries noted that the appointment of a tourism guide for the hatchery enabled the remainder of the hatchery staff to concentrate more on the core activity of producing fish.

5.6 Treasurers Report

Don Salter advised that a written report for the first few weeks of this financial year was not prepared. He advised that 30 affiliation renewals

had been distributed in July and 13 had responded to date. Income to date is \$1778 expenses of \$1289. One of the term deposits had been rolled over. Of the \$5500 proceeds \$1500 had been transferred to the current account and the remainder reinvested at 5.6%. Other term deposits are at 6%. Don Salter noted that interest rates had dropped slightly recently.

The Council discussed the timing of renewal notices. It noted that affiliated groups ideally needed up to 2 months, depending upon when they held their meetings, to respond to renewal notices. However, Don Salter advised that sending out renewal notices too early has caused confusion in the past because some groups had responded to general reminders by paying affiliation fees even though they had paid earlier.

The Council approved the following accounts for payment

- \$150 each: Rodney Tonkin and Radge Diakiw - quarterly expenses.
- \$49: NSW Fair Trading
- \$131: Hire of the Penrith Regatta Centre
- Lunch cost for invited guests.

Don Salter/John Humphries

6 CORRESPONDENCE

The Council noted the correspondence referred to in the background papers was addressed in the following Agenda Items:

- 4.5 NSWCFCA draft bow hunting fish policy
- 4.6 NSWCFCA draft policy statement on NSW Fishing Licenses
- 4.7 Effective Control and Deterrent on Illegal Fishing

Mitchell Isaacs also advised that the Minister had recently responded to the letter from Peter Gibson and that responses to the communications listed above were being prepared for the Minister and that they would be sent out in the near future.

Other items are referred to in the Agenda Items

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Murray Darling Basin Fishing Council

Rodney Tonkin gave an overview of recent developments relating to the formation of the Murray Darling Basin Fishing Council (MDBFC), further to that in his Presidents Report to the AGM. Rodney Tonkin advised that the MDBFC comprises representatives of recreational angling groups from NSW, Vic, SA, Qld, Recfish Australia as well as the Australian Fishing Trade Association. The terms of Reference have been drawn up for the MDBFC and the aim of this group is to push for recreational angling to be properly considered in the development of the Murray Darling Basin Plan. A major advantage of this approach is that it provides the opportunity for

anglers to put forward a properly considered unified position. The Council endorsed participation in the MDBFC (Flanagan/ Muldoon)

The Council noted that the MDBFC was developing a communication document. Rodney Tonkin had developed a draft for consideration by the MDBFC. As Rodney Tonkin was unable to advise the Council when the communication document developed by the MDBFC would be forwarded to the MDBA, The Council agreed that the Rodney Tonkin draft be circulated to delegates so that delegates could comment directly to Rodney Tonkin. The draft is at **Attachment 5**

The Council endorsed the approach taken by Rodney Tonkin to gain a grant of \$4500 through the trust fund. It is proposed that this funding will be used to further the work of the MDBFC to develop a communications strategy with the assistance of the consultant, Len Olyott. And at a later stage make a submission when the plan is released. Further funding is also being sought for developing for the final submission.

Endorse the actions for a grant Endorsement to continue with a grant application to RFFTEC tabled application for funding

7.2 DPI Activities

Cameron Westaway welcomed ongoing input from the Council and advised that:

- The Snowy Hydro water licences have been changed so that releases from impoundments can be adjusted to take into account current weather conditions and water holdings. So now, a repetition of recent water releases at time of major flooding in the Murray River system would be avoided.
- A Murray Cod Fisheries Management Group had been formed and will start operating soon. This group includes fisheries managers from each jurisdiction, recreational fishing representatives (Kevin McKinnon from NSW) and MDBA researchers. It has the endorsement of the Australian Fisheries Management Forum (this group includes all Fisheries CEO's across Australia). The Murray Cod Fisheries Management Group will focus management of Murray Cod in the waters of the Murray Darling Basin. The group has some funding from the MDBA.
- The Bureau of Meteorology in consultation with Fisheries has improved website forecasts making it more relevant to anglers

- Maritime is investigating rescue support services for inland waters particularly alpine lakes
- Operation Icebreaker, a program where, this winter, Maritime investigated how well boats on alpine lakes were fitted out. The Council applauded this initiative and noted it was about time that something was done for boat owners who used boats on inland waters and paid owner registrations like other boat owners.
- In response to Council concerns about farm dams, Cameron Westaway advised jurisdiction on farm dams need to be clarified, particularly Fisheries involvement in ensuring appropriate stocking. The Council noted that the appearance of exotic fish in farm dams may not necessarily be due to human activities. However, there was still a need for better management to ensure releases from farm dams do not compromise inland fisheries. Don Barton suggested that suggested that the regime which allows rights of entry to control noxious weeds and plants may be a useful model to adapt for the control of exotic fish in farm dams.
- DPI continues to consult with Buddhist groups in an effort to stop illegal releases of fish into NSW waterways.
- DPI was concerned about the possible spread of exotic species into the MDB particularly from the north west following major flooding events in Queensland of particular concern was the possibility that Tilapia might enter the MDB.

7.3 Keep Australia Fishing

Malcolm Poole advised the Council that Martin Salter is developing a roadmap/strategy to progress issues in the Keep Australia Fishing Report for AFTA and Recfish Australia. Malcolm Poole expected that this document would then be released to stakeholders for further input. Noting these developments the Council endorsed the report by Rodney Tonkin which was circulated to members in the supplementary Background papers and agreed that the recommendations be considered in more detail when the response to the Keep Australia Fishing report is made available.

Radge Diakiw/Don Barton

7.4 Central West Compliance Officers

Tom Williams reiterated CAS's ongoing complaints about the lack of sufficient Compliance Officers in the region and emphasised that the CAS complaints related to the inadequate staffing levels and not the commitment and quality of the officers in that region.

Rodney Tonkin advised that he had discussed the matter with Jason Baldwin of Fisheries and he advised that Compliance Officers would respond as quickly as possible and that contacting them through their mobile numbers was more effective than through the 1800 number. However, the Council noted that Compliance Officers' responses to information from the public could easily be compromised because in many cases officers could not respond alone.

The Council agreed that Radge Diakiw, in consultation with Tom Williams write to the Minister seeking more Compliance Officers. The Council also agreed to encourage members of the public to provide details of noncompliance to Compliance Officers and include where possible car/boat registrations and photos to assist officers in their enquiries.
Action: Radge Diakiw / Tom Williams

7.5 Proposals to Update Fisheries Act

The Council noted the advice provided by Cameron Westaway that proposed changes to the Fisheries Act would not diminish the legislative standing of the Trout Acclimatisation Societies. The Council did however ask that a copy of the draft be made available to enable the Council to review the wording of the amended Act.

Action: Radge Diakiw

7.6 TSR Conference

This item was discussed at Agenda Item 4.7

7.7 The Adaminaby Big Trout - request for donations

The Council noted the request for funds to renovate Adaminaby's Big Trout. The Council agreed to alert all its affiliated groups to the request for funds.

Action: Radge Diakiw

7.8 Powered Watercraft on Pejar Dam.

Radge Diakiw advised the Council that in response to an urgent request from Malcolm Poole he made a submission in support of a submission made by the RFA to the Goulburn City Council seeking to allow electric powered watercraft on Pejar Dam. Because of the tight deadline Radge Diakiw consulted only with Josh Burns of SDAC before forwarding the NSWCFCA submission to Goulburn City Council. A copy of the NSWCFCA submission is at **Attachment 6**.

The background to this submission is that Goulburn City Council had called for comments on its management plan for Pejar Dam and it was not until just before the closing date for submissions that RFA and then NSWCFCA became aware. However there had been a petition circulating

in Goulburn asking that electric powered craft be allowed onto Pejar Dam. Whilst the Council supported the initiative to allow electric powered craft onto Pejar Dam it noted concerns that Pejar was a small impoundment and that letting too many watercraft onto the dam could put too much stress on the fishery.

Malcolm Poole also noted that both the RFA and the NSWCFCA have tried to improve angler access to town water impoundments and that while there was effort being put into access to Pejar Dam in particular, it was also necessary to campaign for access to such waterways as a general principle rather than the more time consuming process of seeking access on a case by case basis

7.9 Fish Habitat Initiatives.

John Humphries advised the Council that just prior to this meeting he had received correspondence (forwarded to Radge Diakiw) from Craig Copeland on ideas for fish habitat project which could involve the NSWCFCA and its affiliates. The Council agreed that this correspondence be forwarded to all delegates and be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

7.10 Pest management Strategies for National Parks.

Don Barton advised the Council that just prior to this meeting he had received correspondence (forwarded to Radge Diakiw) from National Parks relating to the review of pest management strategies for different national parks. He considered that it was a good idea for anglers to attend for national parks in their area as pest management activities can impact on the fishery in some parks, eg roads, wild goats may cause siltation of waterways. It appears that there are generic plans of management which have not been tailored to the National Parks under review and that recreational angler expertise could help in improving the fishery by making the Pest Management plans more relevant to the specific parks. It may be that National Parks Staff are so overworked that they can do no more than put out these rather superficial plans for comment.

The Council agreed that this correspondence be forwarded to all delegates and that they be encouraged to attend wherever possible.

Action: Radge Diakiw

7.11 Macquarie River Pipeline

Further to an email from Karl Schaefer, Terry Rowlings reflected the concerns of Bathurst residents about the possible effects on the Macquarie River, of a pipeline to take water from the Macquarie River to Orange. He noted that the proposal was to take water only in emergency situations and only when the river was at high flow levels. Terry Rowlings advised that at this stage there was no need to involve the NSWCFCA but

should there be any change in the water extraction arrangements NSWCFR may be asked to get involved.

7.12 Glenbawn Dam Convention

Radge Diakiw alerted Council members to the upcoming Glenbawn Dam Convention to be hosted by the Newcastle Sportfishing Club and circulated information and registration form to those present at the meeting.

On a more general issue, the Council noted views that there had been an increase in the number fishing competitions and discussed the merit of competitions without resolution.

8 GUEST SPEAKER: Peter Turnell

Peter Turnell, Director, Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries advised the Council that the priorities of the newly elected government in relation to recreational angling were:

- Recognition of importance and value of recreational fishing
- Improved communication with recreational fishers
 - development of communication strategy
- Promoting fisher access
- Promoting fisher safety

The government was working towards the following reviews / audits etc

- A response to the Upper House Inquiry into recreational fishing report by 26 September 2011
- An audit of management of Recreational Fishing Trusts
- A commercial fisheries management review
- A bag and size limit review to commence later this year
- An independent scientific audit of marine parks

Peter Turnell advised that priority issues that were being addressed included:

- ACoRF – appointments pending
- Commitment to create a joint recreational & commercial fisheries consultative committee
- Increased use of specialist Working Groups e.g. Pipis resource planning group, Australian salmon working group, bag & size review technical panel
- Victoria continually expressed interest for reciprocal fishing licence arrangements between NSW & Victoria
- The implications of for a dual-state licence i.e. 1 licence recognised in both states at combined or discounted price of both licences.

- Implementation of recommendations from 2 Coronial Inquiries into 14 rock fishing deaths
- Repeal of Fisheries Act 1935 & recognition of Acclimatisation Societies and their role in Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Improved liaison with NPWS, LHPA & other key agencies regarding access, plans of management etc
- Proposal from Game Council NSW for restricted bow hunting opportunities for carp in some inland waterways (bag & size review)
- Inland commercial fishing (26 operators)

The Council thanked Peter Turnell for his very informative presentation and Rodney Tonkin, on behalf of the Council, extended an invitation for Peter Turnell attend future Council meetings

9 NEXT MEETING

The Council agreed that subject to consultation with Greenwells that the next meeting be held in the Albury area on Saturday 19 November 2011.

CLOSE

Rodney Tonkin thanked delegates and invited guests and closed the meeting 15.25

ATTACHMENT 1

18th July 2011

The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP

NSW Minister for Primary Industries

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Regarding NSWCFCA Objection to Bow Hunting Fish in NSW Fresh Waterways:
For the Attention: Mr Mitchell Isaacs, Minister's Advisor on Recreational Fishing

The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc. (NSWCFA) has had a long standing objection to the practice of bow hunting for fish. This is consistent with the current NSW Regulation which states that the use of bows and arrows is a prohibited fishing method in in-land waters.

The NSWCFA is aware that the Shooters and Fishers Party is seeking to have bow hunting introduced in NSW fresh water-ways, with particular reference to hunting noxious Carp. Now rumour has it that a public discussion paper is currently being prepared for release. It is because of this that the NSWCFA desires that the reasons for our objection to this practice are clearly understood and fully taken into consideration in any such release.

The reasons for the NSWCFA's objection to bow hunting for fish are as follows:-

1. Identification of particular fish species, such as noxious carp, in freshwaters is not an easy matter at all times and in all circumstances. Consequently, there is a real risk of other species including threatened species being subjected to being arrowed in the process of bow hunting.
2. There is also the issue of the humane killing of fish recommended by the NSWCFCA. Fish trailing an arrow through its body is not a practice that will necessarily ensure a reasonable quick and acceptable kill.
3. As is also the concern over shooting in or around fished waterways, there is also the matter of public safety. Waterways present unstable footing and often unclear sighting of targets, which with free projectile type activities presents a risk to one and all frequenting the area involved.

Whilst spear fishing is practiced in salt water, this is undertaken only with clear activity markings for a singular fishing involvement and not undertaken in the vicinity of line fishing. The legal practice of salt water spear fishing, NSWCFCA believes, does not provide for a sound basis for allowing any form of bow hunting on fresh waterways. The NSWCFCA recommends that the practice of bow hunting not be introduced and included in any form for fishing in-land waterways in NSW.

Yours sincerely,
Rodney Tonkin,
President NSWCFCA

ATTACHMENT 2

18th July 2011
The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP
NSW Minister for Primary Industries
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Dear Minister

Regarding NSWCFCA Objection to Bow Hunting Fish in NSW Fresh Waterways:
For the Attention: Mr Mitchell Isaacs, Minister's Advisor on Recreational Fishing

The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc. (NSWCFCA) has had a long standing objection to the practice of bow hunting for fish. This is consistent with the current NSW Regulation which states that the use of bows and arrows is a prohibited fishing method in in-land waters.

The NSWCFCA is aware that the Shooters and Fishers Party is seeking to have bow hunting introduced in NSW fresh water-ways, with particular reference to hunting noxious Carp. Now rumour has it that a public discussion paper is currently being prepared for release. It is because of this that the NSWCFCA desires that the reasons for

our objection to this practice are clearly understood and fully taken into consideration in any such release.

The reasons for the NSWCFAs objection to bow hunting for fish are as follows:-

1. Identification of particular fish species, such as noxious carp, in freshwaters is not an easy matter at all times and in all circumstances. Consequently, there is a real risk of other species including threatened species being subjected to being arrowed in the process of bow hunting.
2. There is also the issue of the humane killing of fish recommended by the NSWCFAs. Fish trailing an arrow through its body is not a practice that will necessarily ensure a reasonable quick and acceptable kill.
3. As is also the concern over shooting in or around fished waterways, there is also the matter of public safety. Waterways present unstable footing and often unclear sighting of targets, which with free projectile type activities presents a risk to one and all frequenting the area involved.

Whilst spear fishing is practiced in salt water, this is undertaken only with clear activity markings for a singular fishing involvement and not undertaken in the vicinity of line fishing. The legal practice of salt water spear fishing, NSWCFAs believes, does not provide for a sound basis for allowing any form of bow hunting on fresh waterways. The NSWCFAs recommends that the practice of bow hunting not be introduced and included in any form for fishing in-land waterways in NSW.

Yours sincerely,
Rodney Tonkin,
President NSWCFAs

ATTACHMENT 3

14th July 2011-07-14

The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP
NSW Minister for Primary Industries
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

Regarding a Request for Amendments to the Recreational Fishing Licence Fee

The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc. (NSWCFAs) respectfully requests that consideration be given to the following recommendation for amendments to the NSW Recreational Fishing Licence fee to accommodate two important requirements outlined below. The NSWCFAs is recognised as the peak recreational freshwater fishing body in NSW consisting of approximately 6000 members. Representing the interests of freshwater anglers, the NSWCFAs focuses on fisheries management, conservation and regulatory matters, angler access, angling ethics, and animal welfare.

Introduction:

Fishing Licences were introduced for both NSW freshwater and salt water fishing in 2001. The funds so derived are held in a Trust Fund for the purpose of being applied for the benefit of improving the NSW recreational fishery and fishing. Currently the fees are established for a 3 day, 1 month, 1 year and 3 year licence. The rates are revised according to the CPI creep every five years. Exemptions exist for all persons under the age of 18, indigenous people, and holders of a pensioner's or veterans' affairs card.
Proposal for Changes:

Recent developments, such as the MDB Plan, have brought about the need to consider and support recommendations for changes to the current licensing requirements. These needs are two fold and relate to the following circumstances.

- Introduction of a token licence fee for exempt fishers: and
- Introduction of a fee to cover a third party insurance scheme to cover landholders' allowing waterway access by recreational fishers.

Background for the Changes:

1. Token License Fee for Exempt Fishers -

There is an ongoing need for the number of NSW recreational fishers to be stated in the numerous submissions presented annually to substantiate the significance of NSW recreational fishing to government and other bodies. The socio-economic significance of recreational fishing and its dependant commercial entities is often not taken into consideration because the number of fishers is unknown due to those exempt being uncounted. Establishing the number of participants in this recreational activity is a first step in providing this important information and is only possible by the creation of a register of all participants.

As a secondary factor, the requirement for all fishers to hold a license would also help to instil in those involved a sense of care and responsibility for our NSW fishery asset. The imposition of this fee should be nominal, sufficient to cover the costs associated with the issuing of a participatory licence for all those currently exempted.

2. Third Party Insurance Fee –

The NSW Recreational Angler Access Forum (2009) put forward a recommendation that the existence of a third party insurance policy would be a major factor in helping to overcome the resistance by property owners and occupiers to anglers gaining access to waterways. To be effective this cost should be included in the overall licence fee for recreational anglers.

Recommendation:

NSWCFA requests that changes be made to the NSW recreational fishing license fee to incorporate

a) a notional fee that only covers the cost to register all currently exempt recreational fishers; and

b) a third party insurance cover scheme for the protection of land owners/occupiers providing fishing access.

This request is made for a responsible outcome to the management of our fishery and improvement of recreational fishing opportunities in NSW.

Sincerely
Rodney Tonkin
NSWCFA President.

ATTACHMENT 4

1/199 Gertrude
Street
GOSFORD
2250

13 July 2011

Radge Diakiw
Secretary
New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers
PO Box 537
Paddington NSW 2021

Dear Radge,

Central Acclimatisation Society Inc (CAS) – Affiliation with New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers

I am writing to advise that the Central Acclimatisation Society Inc (CAS), has decided not to disaffiliate with the New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSW CFA), for the time being.

The future of the Society's affiliation with NSW CFA will very much depend on the conduct of meetings of NSW CFA; in particular whether the presiding Chairman promptly calls to order any individual in attendance at any meeting of the NSW CFA who seeks to personalise issues and/or attempts to make offensive or derogatory remarks against any other individual present.

In making this observation, the Society does not intend to cast any aspersions upon the Chairman, but rather, and with some regret, notes that there appears to be an unusual need for the Chairman to be very firm in insisting upon the maintenance of due propriety at meetings of the Council, at least as currently constituted.

Yours sincerely,

Karl H. Schaerf
Honorary Secretary.

ATTACHMENT 5

RE-DRAFT No3 SUBMISSION ON THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN to the MURRAY DARLING BASIN FISHING COUNCIL

(submitted for consideration by Rodney Tonkin)

The Murray Darling Basin Fishing Council (MDBFC)¹, comprised of peak recreational fishing bodies from South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, and representing the interests of an estimated 10,950 employment jobs plus the many recreational fishers, makes the following submission to the Murray Darling Basin Authority for consideration in the proposed plan.

The primary purpose of this submission is to ensure the interests of fish and recreational fishers are taken into account in the preparation of the Plan such as to ensure the health and welfare of the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) river system.

The MDB recreational fishing industry is entirely dependant on the MDB river system. It is estimated to contribute \$1,352 million in direct expenditure and \$403 million in Gross Domestic Product to the Australian economy². Whilst not associated with export income, our industry nevertheless impacts on the welfare and livelihood of Australian people living in regional communities who are involved in providing accommodation, food, fuel, fishing gear and many related services. There are many small communities entirely dependant on this industry and recreational fishing is a key component of the social wellbeing on the MDB communities.

As with the consideration for bird life and River Red Gums, the Plan needs to include the following significant matters for the river system to adequately support our native iconic aquatic wildlife. Many of our native fish species, such as Murray and Trout Cod, Golden and Silver Perch, and Freshwater Catfish, are unique to the MDB and their conservation and restoration is entirely dependant on appropriate provisions for the management of this waterway, as well as being of considerable biodiversity and world heritage value. There is a general concern amongst both recreational fishers and those employed in the various State Fisheries that recreational fishing has not received

adequate consideration in the development of the Plan. This includes the lack of scientific input regarding the impact of water management on fish. It should not be simply assumed that more water is always good for fish and other aquatic life. For without scientific input flows can lead to negligible biological responses in fish communities or even significant negative consequences.

In summary these particular matters include:-

- Ensuring that releases of water from storages for whatever purpose, including environmental flows, are managed to take into account the interests of fish and do not result in black-water fish kills.
- That steps are taken to reduce the negative impacts of water management and irrigation infrastructure, including offtakes and weirs. Negative impacts include direct mortality from undershot weirs, loss of fish through uptake into irrigation systems, and cold water pollution.
- Providing river flows that are timed to provide appropriate breeding of aquatic life and improve fish habitat.
- Restoring fish passage to facilitate essential natural fish recruitment.
- Providing fish separation facilities to prevent the recruitment and dispersal of pest fish such as European carp.
- Recognise that recreational fishers are both custodians of the river system and are integral members of the communities which will be impacted by the outcome of the MBB Plan.
- Recognise and taken into consideration the recommendations of the MDB Native Fish Strategy Action Plan²¹.

Recreational fishers consider they are the custodians of and one of the most important stakeholders involved in the MDB, wherein habitat rehabilitation, improved fisheries compliance, research and education have and are being funded. Investment in the MDB by both State Government fisheries departments and recreational fishers over the years amounts to countless millions of dollars. This work not only provides for the preservation of the fishery but also acts to ensure a healthy river system.

The MDBFC recognises the Plan as a once in a lifetime opportunity to have installed a management plan that accommodates the requirements not only of agriculture and the related industries, but also the other stakeholders, such as fishers and the associated community interests. It is imperative that the Plan accommodates all aspects of human involvement, for not to do so is ignoring the rights and welfare of some in the community. It is not sufficient to omit critical management considerations on the basis that they are part of some other strategic documentation.

The MDB fishery is an iconic asset that requires full consideration of and inclusion in the Basin Plan.

- (1) MDBFC membership comprises representatives of Recfish Australia, VRFish, NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers, South West Anglers Assn., Freshwater Fishing & Stocking Assn. Queensland, Field & Game Federation of Australia,

South Australian Fishing Advisory Council, and the Australian Fishing Trade Assn.

- (2) Economic Contribution of Recreational Fishing in the Murray Darling Basin, Ernst & Young, commissioned by the Victorian Dept. of Primary Industries, July 2011.

ATTACHMENT 6

The Councillors and Council Officers
Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Locked Bag 22
Goulburn NSW 2580
Email to: council@goulburn.nsw.gov.au

Pejar Dam - the use of electric motors

The New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSWCFA) thanks you for the opportunity to comments on aspects of the management of Pejar Dam.

The NSWCFA is the largest and most active freshwater fishing organisation in Australia. Since 1958 NSWCFA has been the recognised representative body for the State's freshwater anglers, focusing on fisheries management, conservation and regulatory matters, angler access, angling ethics, animal welfare and politics. The NSWCFA harnesses the energy and local knowledge of regional groups and represents the freshwater angling interests to the government and to the public. For more information about the NSWCFA please visit our website at: www.freshwateranglers.com.au

The NSWCFA is affiliated with the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFA) and supports the submission made by RFA on this issue particularly in relation to allowing electric motor powered craft onto Pejar Dam. The RFA submission is also supported by the Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs (an affiliate of the NSWCFA), which is based in the Goulburn area.

The NSWCFA shares the concerns expressed by RFA about the lack of opportunity to comment on the proposal. However, as indicated above, the NSWCFA supports the use of electric motor powered craft on Pejar Dam. Further the NSWCFA, with the Council of Southern Districts Angling

Clubs looks forward to the opportunity to expand on the benefits of such a proposal with the Goulburn Mulwaree Council in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Radge Diakiw

Secretary

12 August 2011