



Surf Casting & Angling Club of W.A. (Inc.)

P.O. Box 2032, Marmion W.A. 6020 <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/>

Club Committee for the Year 2004/2005

President / Dry Casting Officer

Bob Henderson

Vice President

George Holman

Immediate Past President

Ross Kember

Mobile:-

Email:- Computer is packed away....

Secretary/Reel Talk Editor/Web Page

Terry Fuller

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Field Day Officer

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Assistant Treasurer

John Romano

Property Officer

Vix Alexander

Recorder

Ian Cook

Assistant Field Day Officer

Peter Stoeckel

Assistant Drycasting Officer

Terry Willison

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Social Coordinator

Chas Riegert

Committee Person

Andrew Aubrey

A.A.A. Delegates

George Holman

Chas Riegert

Terry Fuller

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Minutes of General Meeting, 10 November 2004

- Venue:-** Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room
Time 8:00 pm. President Bob Henderson presiding.
- Present:-** 24 members, 2 visitors.
- Apologies:-** Trevor Stam, Grant Taggart, Ian Taggart, Paul Thompson, Dave Maxted, Morris Kolman, Matt Henderson, Fiona Callender, Malcolm Harris.
- Visitors:-** Harold Murray, Russell Kitching
- New Member:-** None.
- Previous Minutes:-** As published in the Reel Talk. Moved Jim Strong, seconded Terry Willison, these are a true record. Carried.
- Previous Committee:-** Bob Henderson reported on concerns with the Seniors Have A Go Day. He had five phone calls asking where the Surfcasters were. Chas Riegert gave some advice on what action the club could take if the former Treasurer does not pay the amount ordered by the court. Bob Henderson outlined actions from the previous Committee meeting. No business arising.
- Correspondence In:-**
- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Challenge Bank | Bank statement for October. |
| Ray White Kalbarri | Account for new mattresses and pillows \$589.75. |
| Ray White Kalbarri | Suggestion for new mattress and pillow protectors |
| AAA | Minutes of October AAA Delegates' Meeting. |
| Robert Mitchell | \$50 cheque plus request for response from the club. |
| Alan Grover | Cheque for \$345 for Kalbarri 6-14 Nov |
| Ray White Kalbarri | Cheque for \$208.35 = \$450 less costs. |
- Correspondence Out:-**
- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Grant Taggart | Acceptance of membership application. |
| Rob Mitchell | Receipt of cheque and response to his offer to pay \$50 fortnightly. |
| Shire of Dandaragan | Info about other people's actions on the last Cervantes Field Day. |
| Michael Burniston | Information about the club. |
- Treasurer's Report:-** Paul Thompson has given an apology.
- Secretary's Report.** Nothing else to report other than covered by correspondence or in general business.
- Property Officer:-** Vix Alexander:- Booked now to middle of January and later. New mattresses have been bought. Mal Head has done a lot of work at the house, clearing and taking away leaves, replaced shower head, fixed the fence. Cleaning is now working well. Some discussion on proposals from the Shire of Northampton for Kalbarri to be a separate Shire, and the effect that would have on costs and services. If members are discarding anything contact the club to see if it can be used at Kalbarri. Chas Riegert has a washing machine which can be used.
- Field Day Officer:-** Peter Stoeckel reported briefly on the coming November Field day as in Reel Talk. Peter reported on the arrangements for the coming AAA State Estuary Championship is on 27/28 November. Rules will be handed out on the day. A few helpers are wanted.
- Dry Casting Officer:-** Bob Henderson reported on the November dry casting as in Reel Talk. Winds were difficult. Congratulations to all members who competed in the State Dry Casting Championships. The Surfcasters did well. Special mention and thanks to Terry Willison, Geoff Raftis and Jim Yeates for the help on the day.
- A night cast will be held at George's place after the December Field Day.
- Bob Henderson is leaving in January. Helpers are need to take over the sausage sizzle. Peter Stoeckel offered to do the drinks.
- AAA Report:-** Thanks to the helpers and competitors at the State Dry Casting and congratulations to the winners.
- Meeting was held on Monday about the National Championships at Yeppoon. Another senior member is needed.
- State events to be promoted more this year and clubs are to be encouraged to participate. AAA State Estuary Championship is on 27/28 November - would like to see Surfcasters teams and individuals.
- AAA Planning to issue a Year Book with lots of information about the AAA, it's events, rules, details about clubs as provided by the clubs.
- "Angler of the Year" presentations will be held on 16 November before the Delegates' meeting at the Sportsman's Club, Stancliffe Street, Mt Lawley.
- Visitors are welcome to come to the AAA Delegates' meeting.
- Recfishwest report to come - as published in the Reel Talk. Planning for Marine Parks is still a big issue.
- George reported on AAA work by Terry Fuller on Marine Parks particularly Ningaloo and Capes and the achievements to stop proposals for closures for shore based fishing.
- Bob Henderson pointed out the AAA comments on the recreational fishing review for the South Coast as published in the Reel Talk.
- Social Organiser:-** December night cast after the December field day weigh in. See the Reel Talk.
18 June has been booked for the Annual Presentation night.

Car rally to be organised April or later.

Recorder:- Nothing to report.

Reel Talk Editor:- Not present at this time. Bob Henderson asked members to write something about their experiences fishing. Even if you don't want to write it yourself, contact Bob or Terry and something can be worked out to get your story into print.

Suspension of Standing Orders:- Moved Chas Riegert, seconded George Holman so that Abra DeKlerk's talk could be presented. Carried.

Instruction Period:- Abra DeKlerk gave a very interesting talk and demonstration on an alternative approach to fishing.

Suspension of Standing Orders:- Moved Chas Riegert, seconded George Holman. Carried.

Notices of Motion:- Proposed Ian Cook. Change to eligible species in the Species Competition. That a new species (Black or Yellow Fin Bream) be included to the listing.
Proposed Ian Cook. Change to eligible species in the Open Competition. That a new species (Black or Yellow Fin Bream) be included to the Open Competition with a minimum weight of 0.6 kilogram.

General Business:- Chas Riegert reported on fines of \$200 for driving on the beach at Pippidiny. He will research this and report back.
Terry Fuller reported on some items from the Recfishwest meeting. See the more detailed report in the Reel Talk.

Meeting closed:- 9:50 pm

Coming Club Events.

December Dry Casting.

When:- Sunday 5 December 2004, casting starts at 8:30am.
Where:- Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue.
Events:- Double handed accuracy, Single handed accuracy, 112 gram distance, Artificial bait distance, 56 gram distance. **PLUS** Single Handed Open.

December General Meeting.

When:- Wednesday 8 December 2004, 8:00 pm.
Where:- Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room, off Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, about 200 metres south east of the Yokine Bowling Club.

Instruction Period:- Christmas get together.

December 2004 Field Day – Local, Penguin Island to Two Rocks.

When:- Saturday/Sunday 11/12 December 2004.
Sign On:- At the General Meeting or to the FDO by 18:00 Friday.
Lines Down:- Saturday 12:00 noon
Weigh in:- Sunday 6:00 pm at G Holman's house, followed by the Christmas get together, night cast and barbecue.
Boundaries:- Penguin Island to north wall of the Two Rocks Marina, including the Swan River and both the North and South Moles.

Tides for Fremantle	Saturday 11 Dec	0.29m at 5:35 am	1.15m at 8:29 pm	Sunrise:-	About 5:05 am
	Sunday 12 Dec	0.23m at 6:24 am	New Moon	Sunset:-	About 7:20 pm

December Night Cast.

Don't forget it is on after the club Field Day weigh in at George's place. Bring your own food, we supply a few drinks. Enjoy each other's company. Some reel tosses are in action. Proudly sponsored by the "who?" group. This will be my last hullabaloo for the year Hendo.

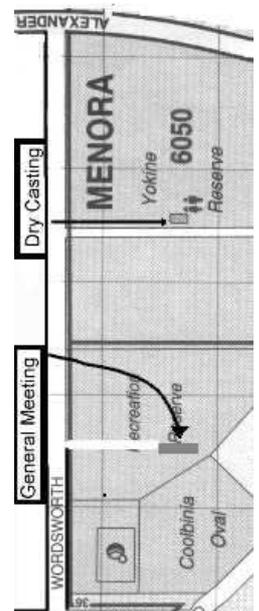
January 2005 Field Day - Golden Bay to Myalup.

When:- Saturday/Sunday 15/16 January 2005.
Sign On:- Saturday see January Reel Talk.
Lines Down:- Saturday see January Reel Talk.
Weigh in:- Sunday see January Reel Talk.
Boundaries:- see January Reel Talk.

Tides for Mandurah	Saturday 15 Jan	0.61m at 8:53 am	0.78m at 9:07 pm	Sunrise:-	About 5:25 am
	Sunday 16 Jan	0.60m at 6:52 am	0.79m at 8:08 pm	Sunset:-	About 7:25 pm
Moon	Saturday 15 Jan	Moonrise:-	About 10:30 am	Moonset:-	About 11:00 pm
	Sunday 16 Jan	Moonrise:-	About 11:30 am	First Quarter-	Jan 17

Local Field Day for January 2005.

When:- Saturday/Sunday 15/16 January 2005.
Sign On:- At the General Meeting or to the FDO by 18:00 Friday.
Lines Down:- Saturday (see January Reel Talk)



Weigh in:- Sunday (see January Reel Talk) at G Holman's house, Scales will be available on his back patio. An adult member must witness weights. Field Day money to be left with the scales in an envelope with your name and details written in the carbon copy Field Day book. No Money = no points. Results to be phoned to Field Day Officer by 8:00 pm that night.

Boundaries:- Penguin Island to north wall of the Two Rocks Marina, including the Swan River and both the North and South Moles.

<u>Tides for</u>	Saturday 15 Jan	0.51m at 8:09 am	0.77m at 9:00 pm
<u>Fremantle</u>	Sunday 16 Jan	0.53m at 6:47 am	0.77m at 4:59 pm

Field Day and Dry Casting Fees.

Field Day Fees:- \$7 for an individual, \$9 for families. Dry Casting Fees:- \$6 for an individual, \$8 for families.

2004/2005 Field Day Dates and Venues.

This list was voted in by the members at the April General Meeting.

Saturday/Sunday 27/28 November 2004	AAA State Estuary Championships.
Saturday/Sunday 11/12 December 2004	Local only, Two Rocks to Penguin Island.
Saturday/Sunday 15/16 January 2005	Golden Bay to Myalup
Saturday/Sunday 12/13 February 2005	Open.
Saturday/Sun/Mon 5/6/7 March 2005 LWE	Bremer Bay. Point Charles to Reef Beach.
Saturday/Sunday 23/24/25 April 2005 Anzac Day LWE	Port Gregory to Kalbarri. Boundaries Hutt River to as far as you can walk north of the Murchison River mouth.

2004/2005 General Meetings.

All at Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, starting at 8:00pm.

Wednesday 8 December 2004	Wednesday 9 February 2005
Wednesday 12 January 2005	Wednesday 9 March 2005
	Wednesday 13 April 2005

2004/2005 Dry Casting Dates.

All are at Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, starting at 8:30am.

Sunday 5 December 2004	Sunday 6 February 2005
Sunday 2 January 2005	Sunday 13 March 2005, (changed for Field Day)
	Sunday 3 April 2005

AAA State Estuary Championships

Date: 27/28 November, 2004.
Boundaries: Upstream from the Fremantle traffic bridge (the old wooden one). Includes fishing from the bridge itself. Fishing is prohibited from any areas that are not open to public access eg private yacht club jetties.
Registration: Troy Park, Burke Drive, Attadale from 11am-12 noon Saturday, 27 November.
Weigh in: Troy Park, Burke Drive, Attadale at 11am sharp Sunday 28 November.
Presentation: Troy Park about 12 noon.
Lines Down: 2pm Saturday.

AAA Rock and Beach State Championships

2004/2005	Location	Cape to Cape
	Date	Saturday and Sunday 28/29 May 2005 (that's in our 2005/6 competition year)

Club Competition Rules and Constitution.

Printed copies of the Club's current Fishing and Dry Casting Competition Rules and Club Constitution are available. Contact the Secretary or see the club's web site <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au> for the online versions.

Calendar for Next Three Months.

Here's a calendar showing the dates we will use for Dry Casting, General and Committee Meetings, and Field Days in the next three months. AAA event dates are marked, too.

27	AAA Event																			
1	Dry Casting				11	General Meeting				14	15	Field Day				18	Committee Meeting			
December 2004							January 2005							February 2005						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5	31					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28						

Happy Birthday to:-

A lot of members haven't told us their birth date, so there may be more birthdays. Dob them in!

Tom Lund, 13 December

Brad Zaknich, 25 December

Wanted - Aluminium Cans.

Wanted - Aluminium cans. Please bring them along to the General Meeting or to Mal Head's home, but not to Dry Casting. Mal saves them up and takes them to the recyclers when he has enough, and the price is right, and donates all the proceeds to the Club.

New Member Acceptances.

The following application for membership has been accepted, and will be invited to the next General Meeting to be welcomed into the Club. None

New Member Application.

Applications for membership have been received and will come before the November Committee meeting. If any member has any reason why any of the applications should not be accepted, please contact a Committee Member and state the reason. None

Membership Changes.

The following members have resigned or contacted the club about their non renewal of membership:- John Hall, Tim Tran, Martin and Lesley Johannesen, Dave Moir and Tracey Richards.

The following members have not responded to a number of letters or emails about their membership fees, and have had their membership cancelled at the October Committee meeting:- John and Luke Agnello, Ian Blamey and Adrienne Dinn, Damian D'Mello, Mark Holdsworth, Niko Moshos, Terry Ring, Tony Slate, Paul Terpkos.

Club Polo Shirts, Jackets and Caps.

We now have some stocks of short and long sleeved Club Polo shirts, long sleeved Club Jackets and baseball style caps with a club logo for sale to members. These are in the club colours of Gold (Yellow) and Black, and help to identify you as a "Surfcaster" member. Contact Andrew Aubrey.

Kalbarri House For Rent.

The Club has a house in Kalbarri. The house is situated close to the river, beaches and town. It has two bedrooms and will sleep up to eight (max) in 1 double bed and 3 bunks, has reverse cycle air conditioning and ceiling fans to keep you cool in the summer months. Users need to bring their own linen, blankets and towels, tea towels, etc.

It has a radio and television, stove with oven, microwave oven, crockery and cutlery and all cooking utensils, fridge and freezer. It does not have a washing machine, but there is a laundromat in town. Outside has a fish cleaning facility and a full width verandah. Rates are:-

Public:- Off season \$250 per week, On season \$390 per week } all plus \$50
 Club Members:- Off season \$160 per week, On Season \$210 per week } deposit / bond.
 Club Members:- Short term \$45 for one night, \$40 per night for two or more nights } plus \$55.00 cleaning

Bookings taken for the school holidays go from Saturday to Saturday (leaving by 10am). Outside of school holidays it does not matter. The club has decided that cleaning will need to be paid for and is \$55.00 extra on the rates above for future new bookings. The club is now being charged GST on the cleaning.

Contact Property Officer Vix Alexander for more details and for bookings.

Check in time is 1pm. Check out time is 10am. Keys can be picked up from Ray White, Shop 1, Kalbarri Arcade. If people arrive after hours, they leave a note on the door of their office with a map of how to get to the house and telling them where the key will be.

If any work needs to be done in, on or around the house, please contact the Property Officer for approval. Members who are staying in the house are not allowed to authorise any repairs or services on the house without authority from the Property Officer, Treasurer or President.

Wanted - Back Copies of Reel Talk.

We are looking for donations of old Reel Talks, or can copy yours if you want to keep them. A few copies, eg all of what we have for the early months of 1982 are not in good condition, so we would take any better copies if they were offered. See the list in the February 2002 Reel Talk.

Life Members of the Club.

Doug Edward, Ric Parker, Jim Strong, Bob Klein, George Holman, Ian Cook.

Member's Stories, Photos, Tips, etc.

Does anyone have any new stories, photos, tips, news items, etc, etc, to share? Please send them in to the Reel Talk Editor. Thanks to Bob Henderson for the articles in this Reel Talk.

Dry Casting Sausage Sizzle.

We usually hold a sausage sizzle on every Sunday after the dry casting. Gives everyone a chance to talk over the morning's casting, gear to use, what's coming up, fishing, the state of the world or whatever, over some lunch.

But the sausage sizzle is not free, much as we would like it to be. It has to be paid for somehow, and the prices are quite reasonable compared to what you would pay elsewhere. **Don't forget to put the money in, please.**

Everything is one dollar each. You can get:-

1 drink plus 1 sausage in bread for \$2.00 Extra drink for \$1.00 Extra sausage in bread for \$1.00

Wanted - Sausage Sizzle Organiser.

Dry casting day is a morning where club members get together to compete against each other with friendly rivalry. Comradery and a good time are compulsory, personal bests are attained and training assist our endeavours in state and national events.

To cap off the morning I introduced a sausage sizzle and cold drinks at a minimum price for all to partake. With my departure to sunny days and distant locations, **WE NEED** someone to take on this role to provide for the snag burn.

A simple task of purchasing some snags, bread and drinks and a bit of ice. Bring the barbecue, light it, chuck on the snags, burn them and let the mob help themselves to your offerings and cover it in sauce. Grab a dollar off them, add up your takings, take your costs out and donate what is left to the club.

A time to sit and ponder on how good or bad you performed that day, some social chitchat and a few laughs. Head home fed and watered and content with your day.

"Wanna ave a go?"

Hendo

Ham Drive

Contact John Romano for your Christmas ham order. Approximately \$7 per kilogram (price to be confirmed.)

November 2004 Recfishwest Board Meeting Report.

The November 2004 Annual General Meeting was attended by Terry Fuller and George Holman who have personal RFW memberships. The public board members elected were Des Wood, Norman Halse, Alan Bevan, Keith Tocas, with Howard Gill as a reserve. A copy of the Recfishwest annual report is available.

Items covered at the November 2004 Recfishwest Board Meeting are:-

The Minister's office has been contacted seeking a reply to questions on commercial fishing in South Coast estuaries.

A number of meetings have been held about research priorities for Integrated Fisheries Management.

A separate meeting will be held shortly to work on future strategic directions for Recfishwest.

People complaining about poor service from the Fishwatch number have been urged to contact Peter Rogers. There are moves in the Department of Fisheries to change the structure to an information gathering service not an enforcement service.

The first meeting of the Integrated Fisheries Management Allocation Committee was held recently. A sustainable fishery is high priority rather than better or larger allocations. The committee is anxious to move forward and get ahead of the timetable as set out which would be disappointing to recreational anglers.

A letter received from the Shire of Broome about access to the Broome Jetty has revealed that the Department of Fisheries is using terrorism laws and the access restrictions that they impose as a means of managing recreational anglers' access to barramundi at times when they are breeding in the area. RFW to take up with the regional RFAC and the Department of Fisheries.

The meeting was held with the Marine Parks Reserve Authority which was reported as a complete waste of time because Recfishwest's points of view were not recognised.

A report was received that Marine safety checks and fisheries checks had increased recently in the Metro areas, but had acknowledged that there had been significant reductions in contacts during the training period when Transport and Fisheries officers were being taught and certified for the other activities. It is also reported that there is no effective cross authorisation outside of the Metro area at present.

Recfishwest had been surprised to hear reports that Rod Lenanton a researcher from the Department of Fisheries had spoken to RFAC about concerns he has about the status of tailor and herring on the West Coast. Commercial herring catches had reduced by 60 percent but the effect of markets on that catch was not clear. It was reported that the juvenile replacement of tailor was just not happening. Recfishwest will make an urgent request for a Fisheries management and research review.

RFW will push crab and herring and encourage the Minister to advance the overall IFM process, by getting Fisheries to put up a business case on how to deal with it, covering the resources available and the resources which would be needed.

Recfishwest will write to the Shire of Wyndham opposing a proposal to transfer a stock route along the Pentecost River to the El Questro pastoral lease which could then be used as an exclusive access area for clients at the resort, and take away public access to this part of the river.

Norman Halse is Recfishwest's representative on the Rottneest Marine Strategy working group. There are some problems with processes within the group including proposals being put forward at very short notice and without much time for discussion and without being discussed by the group.

Mark Pagano and Terry Fuller reported on the meeting with the Environment Minister and the Fisheries Minister about bioregional Marine planning. Frank Prokop is to attempt to arrange a media "head to head" with the chairman of the Marine Parks Reserves Authority, Barry Wilson.

Keith Tocas reported on Fish Reduction Device as used in the Exmouth and Shark Bay prawn trawl fishing. A report will be available before the end of the month. The pressure is to get American import licences which are not available unless the fishery is sustainable.

There are ongoing discussions about commercial fishermen who are licensed in one fishery, for example prawns, but not licensed commercially for some other species being able to take fish as though they were recreational fishermen. It is critical that this catch is recorded and managed because these fishermen are out on the water so much and have access to such sophisticated equipment. Proposals are that this catch should be deducted from the commercial allocation for any particular species.

The reclosure of Cockburn Sound to fishing for pink snapper to protect spawning aggregations up until the end of November was discussed. Contact had been made with Ian Curnow about the lack of fish husbanding by charter boat operators, some of whom have no fisheries skills. Recfishwest to prepare comments on Fisheries Management Paper 187 covering proposals for pink snapper spawning aggregations and closures in this area.

Des Wood attended some of the commercial rock lobster coastal tour. Commercial fishermen are complaining about recreational catches and there is some evidence of a bias by the chairman of the rock lobster advisory committee.

It was obvious at the opening of the Metro abalone season that the VFLO's had change from an educating role to a catch data gathering role. This change in role makes it difficult to do a comparison of information between different years because it was gathered in different ways.

A meeting has been held with Department of Fisheries Ian Curnow and Nathan Harrison going through the draft South Coast recreational fisheries paper. Final comments from Recfishwest will go in shortly. There is also a meeting with Fisheries staff and other people where both the Pilbara/Kimberley and South Coast recreational fishing reviews were discussed. There was lots of transparency and everything submitted was discussed and debated.

Frank Prokop has been re-elected as president of Recfish Australia. Northern bluefin tuna have been made a recreational only species by the Commonwealth.

The Capes surfing/rock lobster working group meeting lost its direction when the commercial rock lobster fishermen tried to introduce recreational rock lobster fishing as part of a problem which it never was. More to happen on this.

Des Wood and Frank Prokop attended a one hour meeting with the Minister of the Environment, Judy Edwards and were extremely disappointed. The Minister did not appear to have been briefed about any of Recfishwest's and other people's alternative proposals for the Ningaloo Marine Park, but instead put forward the original proposals from CALM. The Minister said several times that recreational anglers should

deal with the Minister for Fisheries, despite it clearly being her responsibility. It is not clear which way the government is going to go on the Ningaloo. Des Wood has not seen this attitude from the Minister during three or four previous meetings. Recfishwest has not received a reply from the Premier's office to their letter.

It is reported that 5600 submissions were received about Ningaloo Marine Park. Submissions closed Friday and the summary went forward on the following Tuesday. It is understood that all suggested changes were rejected. Recfishwest and other organisations are investigating taking legal action to prevent the proclamation of the Park.

Dampier Peninsula Marine Park. Minister Judy Edwards is keen to get something. If the MPRA was conciliatory this Park could get the okay in half an hour.

Rowley Shoals Marine Park. A shambles. The justification for some of the closed areas does not stand up when it is recognised that Department of Fisheries have already protected many of the species which CALM claim to be at risk in this area. CALM wants to ban trolling for fish yet is prepared to allow anchoring because they do not want the costs involved in installing environmentally acceptable moorings.

The outcomes of proposals on management of commercial temperate shark fishing is very much like proposed in the management paper.

The Recreational Facilities Boating Scheme has been oversubscribed with a requested amount of \$1.9 million under the new rules recently introduced. Recfishwest is to write to the transport Minister congratulating her on the changes in asking for an increase in funding to meet the demand.

Snapper Fishing in Cockburn Sound

Fisheries Management Paper number 187 titled "Proposals for Community Discussion on the Future Management of Pink Snapper Fishing in Cockburn Sound and Surrounding Waters" has been put out for public comment just this week. It is out for public comment until January 2005.

You may recall that the current recreational fishing rules close Cockburn Sound to fishing for pink snapper from mid September to the end of October, which also stops people from catching snapper from the shore in this time. The closure is meant to cover spawning periods, however it is found that it is too early and so the paper proposes shifting the closure time.

The paper proposes changes to the closure times to 1 October to 30 November, and makes some changes to size of fish allowed to be in possession in this period to protect the larger pink snapper which aggregate in Cockburn Sound for spawning. These changes were made to allow people who fish outside Cockburn Sound and catch certain sized snapper to return to a boat ramp within Cockburn Sound without being in breach of the regulations.

It had been expected that some concessions would be made to allow fishing from the shore for pink snapper, but these are not in the paper. After all it is very different fishing from a boat to fishing from the shore. Boat fishermen have the opportunity to go wherever the fish might be or are, but shore based fishermen can only pick good spots and hope the fish will come to them.

There are confirmed reports that some recreational fishermen and some charter boats are targeting the aggregations of pink snapper in early November and catching heaps of large fish to the point where some fisheries researchers believe that some schools have been fished out.

As a result of requests from a number of concerned recreational anglers to the Minister for Fisheries, and strong support from Fisheries Research people, the Minister has extended the closure to 30 November 2004

The Minister for Fisheries has announced that the closure to protect pink snapper spawning aggregations in Cockburn Sound will be extended to 30 November this year.

The closure will apply from Friday 12 November and is a precautionary measure to protect highly vulnerable breeding fish, that gather to spawn in the Sound in spring and early summer each year, from the rapid depletion that may occur at this time.

The extended closure makes fishing for pink snapper in the Sound illegal. Fishers with snapper caught outside Cockburn Sound may only land these fish within the area of the closure if they can demonstrate to Fisheries Officers that any snapper in their possession were not taken within the Sound.

The timing of snapper spawning aggregations and their abundance in Cockburn Sound appears to be heavily influenced by environmental conditions such as water temperature and is highly variable from year-to-year. This year snapper have appeared in significant numbers and appear to have started spawning earlier and remained later than in recent years.

Pink snapper are long-lived, slow growing fish, which may reach more than 30 years of age. Most of the pink snapper caught in Cockburn Sound are large mature fish over 70cm in length, which are likely to be a key part of the breeding stock of snapper on the West Coast.

Experience in Shark Bay has shown that excessive take of fish from breeding aggregations may lead to reduced reproduction and pose a threat to long-term sustainability - particularly for long-lived species.

Sponsorship by Yallingup Beach Holiday Park

As you can see by the inside front cover, we have a new sponsor for 12 months. The Yallingup Beach Holiday Park has provided the club with an accommodation voucher to the value of \$250 for two adults for two nights in one of their Malibu ensuite cabins.

The club can use this for fund raising, or a prize or a raffle, etc. The voucher is not redeemable during peak periods including long weekends or holidays.

The park has a waterfront location with spectacular views over Yallingup Bay. Opposite is a safe swimming lagoon and an excellent fishing beach plus the world famous Yallingup surf break.

On site accommodation includes ensuite cabins and standard cabins (for the budget conscious) plus plenty of well grassed van and tent sites.

This is an ideal base from which to visit the numerous nearby wineries, go whale watching, take scenic drives and walk trails and visit the spectacular Yallingup Ngilgi Cave, or of course, go fishing!.

Check the website at <http://www.yallingupbeach.com.au/>

December Night Cast.

Following the December Field day weigh in held at George Holman's house, we will hold a BYO barbecue and the club supplies the drinks. On dark, we venture out onto the adjacent oval and run a night cast for those who think they can cast a sinker accurately.

The use of a flick rod, a small sinker and a glow stick supplies many laughs and giggles and a lot of "could haves", and "would haves". With such huge trophies and prizes available, the competition is hot!

So simple, so easy and yet so many excuses. A lot of fun, friendly rivalry and a great night. Finishes by 9:00pm so come and join us. The challenge is out, the drinks will be cold, the rewards will be huge, the comradery is great, and the honour of being champ will stay with you for the next 12 months. Hendo

November Dry Casting Report.

Getting up "Oh So early" because it is so far to travel from Burns Beach to Yokine, I misjudged the time and arrived to find nobody at the Oval. Even the joggers and dog walkers had stayed in bed. I put it down to nobody wanting to deal with the wind as it was blowing very hard from the southeast. My natural good looks took a battering and I looked disheveled when Willo turned up.

Jovial Jim arrived a short time later and took four attempts to go from the car onto the Oval. The wind had him sidestepping, back stepping and forward with head down and backside up. Chas arrived and the wind decided to go around him.

The veterans hit the distance events first and any cast that went high could be seen pulling up and the line could be seen with the huge bow in it. Any decent distance was a fluke, the low and the flat cast got you in. The same can be said for the seniors and their distances were a credit to their endurance.

When it came to the accuracy, the wind had dropped just a little bit but decided to swirl all over the place. I saw Trevor get pushed back a couple of times as he tried to cast and the wobbles had him all over the place. Someone should put a dozen four ounces sinkers into his pockets. To obtain the longest distance tested everyone and a clanger by Gary was a just reward for his perseverance.

TT2, Roy the boy and "Yo Yo Yeates" were rewarded with clangers during the single-handed event, but it was not enough to beat "Happy Harris" (this bloke will be a future champion). The wind put our Vix on edge and who kept disappearing behind the brick building for relief? Queen Filomena had trouble keeping a tight line on her reel and suffered a few loopy problems. Alphonse was on fire, Mal was trying to "de spark" him and Willo gave up after losing so many sinkers. Our junior newcomer "Gloss Black" showed future potential.

Thank you to those who assisted in the scoring and bringing in the gear at the end of the day. All winners are grinners. Thanks to Chas for entering the scores into the spreadsheet. Hendo.

November results.

Event:	Seniors Winner		Veterans Winner		Ladies Winner	
112 gram Distance	Chas & George	27	Bob Henderson	23	Filomena D'Alonzo	18
56 gram Distance	Chas Riegert	26	Bob Henderson	20	Filomena D'Alonzo	16
Artificial Bait	Chas Riegert	21	Bob Henderson	19	Filomena D'Alonzo	14
Double Handed Acc.	Gary Gildersleeves	131	Tony D'Alonzo	140	Vix Alexander	112
Single Handed Acc	Mal Harris	33	Tony & Terry	28	Vix Alexander	17
Days High Points	Gary Gildersleeves	218				

Dry Casting Results, 7 November 2004.

Results for the day Seniors.	112 gram			56 gram			Artificial Bait			Double Handed Accuracy									Single Handed Accuracy					Day Total	
	Cast 1 (m)	Cast 2 (m)	Points	Cast 1 (m)	Cast 2 (m)	Points	Cast 1 (m)	Cast 2 (m)	Points	Target Number									Target distance						
										3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Points	L	S	L	S	Points		
Gary Gildersleeves	117	119	24	110	107	22	99	95	19	9	8	21	25	9	20	23	16	131	9	6	3	4	22	218	
Chas Riegert	136	134	27	127	132	26	109	104	21	11	18	16	14	13	8	1	0	81	6	3	4	10	23	178	
Mal Harris	129	135	26	0	116	12	103	98	20	0	13	20	23	0	7	13	10	86	8	8	8	9	33	177	
Andrew Aubrey	0	116	12	0	90	9	89	0	9	18	17	13	24	18	15	0	0	105	8	4	0	4	16	151	
George Holman	131	134	27	121	0	12	105	0	11	14	3	12	14	2	0	11	20	76	8	3	4	5	20	146	
Ric Parker	113	0	11	0	94	9	89	87	18	13	7	9	5	0	8	0	21	63	0	7	2	8	17	118	
Terry Willison	0	0	0	0	114	11	0	0	0	14	1	9	0	3	0	18	5	50	1	6	1	3	11	72	
Richard Mrowka (V)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	13	0	19	0	0	7	3	10	29	
Veterans																									
Tony D'Alonzo	94	105	20	0	98	10	87	89	18	14	21	17	20	9	21	16	22	140	8	6	6	8	28	216	
Roy Killick	0	90	9	88	82	17	74	72	15	13	21	10	21	13	19	23	19	139	7	4	4	10	25	205	
Mal Head	100	94	19	0	96	10	88	89	18	17	19	23	23	7	16	18	16	139	7	0	2	6	15	201	
Bob Henderson	115	113	23	93	105	20	94	93	19	11	21	20	22	10	0	8	21	113	5	7	5	3	20	195	
Terry Fuller	85	84	17	81	90	17	0	0	0	4	18	7	9	5	0	14	21	78	8	6	9	5	28	140	
Trevor Stam	0	72	7	73	64	14	70	62	13	16	18	1	23	0	0	16	4	78	8	8	2	0	18	130	
Geoff Raftis	0	114	11	0	0	0	79	0	8	5	12	23	23	9	0	12	7	91	4	1	4	8	17	127	
Jimmy Strong	75	77	15	0	35	4	70	65	14	0	17	20	17	1	12	0	2	69	7	6	0	5	18	120	
Jim Yeates	63	62	13	82	0	8	0	48	5	0	0	19	0	10	5	2	0	36	0	10	1	9	20	82	
Ladies																									
Vix Alexander	71	76	15	64	76	14	47	0	5	20	7	10	19	10	19	7	20	112	0	0	8	9	17	163	
Filomena D'Alonzo	83	92	18	83	80	16	66	70	14	0	2	22	19	0	1	0	17	61	1	4	5	5	15	124	
Juniors																									
Matt Black (Vis)	0	0	0	73	67	14	59	58	12	0	0	0	21	0	4	22	23	70	0	0	1	0	1	97	

Club Competition Rules and Constitution.

Printed copies of the Club's current Fishing and Dry Casting Competition Rules and Club Constitution are available. Contact the Secretary or see the club's web site <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au> for the online versions.

December Night Cast.

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The Computer's Swallowed Grandma.

The computer's swallowed Grandma
Yes, honestly it's true!
She pressed 'Control' and 'Enter'
And disappeared from view.

I've searched the 'Recycle Bin'
And 'Files' of every kind
I've even used the 'Internet'
But nothing did I find.

It's devoured her completely
The thought just makes me squirm
Maybe she caught a 'Virus'
Or eaten by a 'Worm'.

So if inside your 'In Box'
My Grandma you should see
Please 'Highlight', 'Copy' and 'Paste'
And mail her back to me.

Thanks to Roy Killick.

Notices of Motion - Changes to Fishing Competition.

Notice of Motion 1, Proposer Ian Cook

Change to eligible species in the Species Competition.

That a new species (Black or Yellow Fin Bream) be included to the listing.

Notice of Motion 2, Proposer Ian Cook

Change to eligible species in the Open Competition.

That a new species (Black or Yellow Fin Bream) be included to the Open Competition with a minimum weight of 0.6 kilogram.

AAA Comments on Ningaloo Marine Park Extensions

Comments on Draft Management Plan for Ningaloo Marine Park and Proposed Extensions.

The following comments on the draft Management Plan have been prepared on behalf of the Australian Anglers Association by Secretary Terry Fuller.

The Association places great importance on the future of recreational fishing, the habitats and the fish resource it depends on, and equitable access to areas for fishing. These are all very high priority in the Association's objectives.

The Association fully supports and actively promotes conservation and responsible fishing, and will not argue with any changes which are proven to be really necessary and will be effective for the preservation of the environment and/or conservation of fish stocks. There is a place for sanctuary zones to protect habitat and vulnerable stocks but fish need to be managed by Fisheries regulations.

We ask that the process of deciding those changes be supported by data which shows that these are needed and will be effective, equitable and will share the effort and impact among all parties which are involved in affecting the abundance of fish or affecting the environment.

We ask for recognition that the objectives should be "sustainability" and not "no impact" and that sustainable practices may leave some observable changes. This follows one of the Strategic Objectives as set out in the framework Paper namely "To facilitate and manage recreational activities in the Park within an equitable and ecologically sustainable framework."

We ask for recognition that these changes may be more noticeable in some high use areas, and that removal of these changes may involve a large social cost which the community should not be asked to pay where the current practices are sustainable.

Marine Conservation in Western Australia

The Association is dissatisfied with the current process for planning marine conservation reserves in Western Australia which lead to this Draft Plan.

The Environmental Policy Unit in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is currently drafting a paper on Bioregional Marine Planning which states "Many people in the community agree that a more integrated, ecosystem based approach to planning and management of our marine and coastal environments is needed and there is general agreement with the need to adopt a bioregional marine planning approach."

This initiative, which we welcome, acknowledges that the current process has weaknesses. Proposals made under the current process also have weaknesses, which means no proposals made under the current system should be implemented until the Bioregional Marine Planning approach is finalised and proposals checked against that process.

At a meeting on 25 October chaired by the Ministers for Fisheries and the Environment, there was universal agreement that the current planning process is flawed. Even the Chairman of the MPRA, Barry Wilson, stated that the current stand alone system is not viable unless embedded in "whole of coast" management. The planning process for Ningaloo was stand alone and is therefore flawed.

There was almost universal acceptance that the roles and activities of CALM and Department of Fisheries need to be coordinated much better and all data needs to be made publicly available.

It is essential that planning for marine parks include adequate involvement of recreational fishers for the parks to get community support.

Fisheries Management and Marine Parks.

A principal issue with the Draft Plan is the failure of the Western Australian government system to integrate the responsibilities and contributions of the two departments involved in Marine management, CALM and the Department of Fisheries.

CALM and MPRA have up to now steadfastly refused to acknowledge the role and the work of the Department of Fisheries in managing fish stocks as part of the management of biodiversity.

The Fisheries Department manages fish stocks and fish captures State and region wide, with additional special controls in some particular regions or areas.

Responsible recreational anglers and recreational fishing organisations and peak bodies actively promote the introduction of special fisheries management controls where these will help protect spawning and nursery areas or reduce overfishing in specific areas or at specific times.

CALM appears to wish to overlay no take zones and area controls and effectively use "the need to manage the take of fish" as a justification for these zones, when fish are already managed on a wider scale.

Far larger impacts occurs from large scale extraction of finfish species in the region or nearby areas or during their migration to or around the area, and proper fisheries management everywhere has greater potential for improvement in fish abundance than banning fishing for them in some areas.

If CALM has reservations about the effectiveness of fisheries management by the Department of Fisheries, those issues need to be resolved, but not by duplication or additional closed area restrictions introduced by CALM.

Marine Conservation by No Take Closures based on targets for areas and percentages.

The Association believes there is an over concentration on No Take Zones as the principal and it appears the only method used in the marine conservation effort by CALM in Marine Parks.

The draft Management Plan seems to rely on a general area based objective for No Take Zones to justify the increase in the no take sanctuary zones in the Ningaloo Marine Park.

CALM and MPRA have high percentage targets for closed areas based on what is claimed to be necessary in other parts of the world many of which have unsustainable, damaging and destructive practices and uncontrolled fishing. There is no evidence that these requirements apply to the totally different situation in Western Australia with our excellent environmental and fisheries management.

The scientific criteria developed for the Representative Areas Program (RAP) for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area of 30-50% of the total area of a bioregion as recommended by the Townsville Declaration on Coral Reef Research and Management has been used without any attempt to justify or explain if or how this translates to the Ningaloo Marine Park.

The Great Barrier Reef is subject to different pressures from the level of exploitation and use and heavy run off of silt, fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides from very large areas of intensive farming in an area of high rainfall.

Some tropical reefs in other parts of the world are subjected to massive overfishing with inappropriate and damaging fishing methods which do not occur in Western Australia, yet the needs and experience in these parts of the world are used as "justification" for large closures in the Ningaloo Marine Park.

CALM uses reports of the success of some closed no take areas in some other parts of the world to justify the need for closed areas in WA. But some of those areas were VERY heavily fished and fish stocks were in VERY serious decline and thus closing areas DID have a big effect. That experience does not necessarily translate to WA where fish stocks are generally not under such pressure.

Potential Dangers of No Take Areas.

One potential danger of closing extra areas where existing fishing is claimed to be detrimental, is that it will simply transfer and put more fishing pressure on the adjacent areas and other areas which remain open. That will cause those areas to be affected even more, (assuming local fishing is actually the major impact), which will lead for pressure to close those areas, as has already been used as justification for the proposed extra closures in Ningaloo.

CALM and MPRA have no answer to the question "if significant percentages of some areas are closed to recreational and commercial fishing, how do they propose to address the fact that the pressure on the areas which are not closed will be increased and lead to more degradation if their claim of overfishing is true?"

Failure to answer this question shows the extreme lack of science and practicality in their approach of relying on no take zones as the sole means of preserving biodiversity.

CALM are required to manage the WHOLE park, not just the closed sanctuary areas, and simply transferring the fishing effort is not a responsible action nor an effective response to a perceived problem.

Fisheries Management Options and Alternatives.

We object to proposals to close areas to fishing if fishing has nothing to do with other things which might really need to be protected or managed in those areas, or if there is no evidence that fishing is affecting biodiversity in these areas.

Control for any increased fishing pressure along the coast must be for the whole of the park and whole of the region and if that needs tighter region wide restrictions, that's the right way to go. Sanctuary areas must not be used in an attempt to compensate for any failure in any other fisheries or environmental management.

It appears to the Association that the opinions of a limited group, including the CCPAC, have been used in lieu of good scientific information. This is particularly apparent in Section 3.9 of the Framework for the Review where it says "Whether this regional (recreational fishing rules) approach is, in itself, adequate to manage the greater pressure on targeted fish stocks in the Park, compared to other parts of the region, requires careful consideration."

We note the MPRA position in the Framework for the Review of Ningaloo Marine Park Management Plan was that "current management arrangements for recreational fishing in NMP be reviewed, including the option of seasonal closures during spawning periods for selected species". Despite this statement, there is no indication that this has occurred other than to push for increases in the number and sizes of no-take areas.

If one part of the problem is simply that too many fish are being caught, and if that is supported by real research data, then that should be handled by catch limits, and not simply by closing areas without any other action.

We believe that targeted seasonal closures with the specific purpose of handling any seasonal issues such as protecting fish spawning aggregations would receive significant public support from recreational anglers. These need to be supported by the data which shows they are necessary, and targeted seasonal closures will be much more acceptable than complete spatial closures.

The Association accepts the possibility that the current Gascoyne recreational Fishing rules may not all be suitable for the Ningaloo Marine Park, and believes that there should be a separate Marine Park Fisheries Management group to examine and assess fishery management issues for the marine park.

Even in Section 7.2.8 where the Plan does discuss the impact of Recreational Fishing Regulations, we believe some of the discussion is flawed and deficient.

This completely ignores the large catch and release component and the significant change in attitudes by many recreational anglers, where the fishing experience is much more important than the retained catch.

Impact of Recreational Catches.

Justification for extra closed areas includes an assumption explained in "Recent research in NMP by Westera (2003) showed evidence of trophic cascades in the recreation zone adjacent to the Mandu sanctuary zone that are likely to have resulted from the removal of 'top-end' predators targeted by recreational fishermen".

Two other studies which did NOT show such evidence have been ignored, showing the selective use of data to support a preconceived outcome.

The study does not provide any evidence of "overfishing" in terms of recruitment overfishing. There is no evidence to suggest that current levels of fishing are causing adult stocks to be reduced to the extent that recruits produced are insufficient to maintain the current populations.

We note that there is no evidence offered that the catch by recreational anglers is solely responsible for this effect. We question what impact professional fishing activities including the finfish bycatch and mortality due to Prawn trawling in Exmouth Gulf has on the stocks of mature fish in the northern part of the Marine Park.

The assumption implies that recreational catches are solely responsible, since the "cure" includes increased no take zones which only or mainly affect recreational anglers. This reinforces the view that recreational

fishermen are the "soft target" where "something" can be done, but not necessarily what really needs to be done to solve the problems.

Where is the action on total catches in the region, including those by professional fishermen? We submit that an alternative "cure" for the impacts seen could well be different management of fishing activities in other parts of the region including outside of the Marine Park boundaries.

Recreational anglers have had tighter catch limits imposed on them, but there have not yet been corresponding changes to the management of professional fishing. Recreational anglers want Department of Fisheries to move forward with outcomes from the wetline review and integrated management. CALM and the Committee should use its influence to push for the Department of Fisheries to implement an Integrated Fishery management that ensures an Ecologically Sustainable Managed Fishery, because we believe this has the potential for much greater improvement in fish stocks than sanctuary zones.

Impact of Removal of Pelagic Species.

The Association questions the impact of catching the common pelagic species in the numbers taken from some of these areas, compared to the total number taken in the region.

We understand that MPRA / CALM want to be able to adjust management to suit the circumstances, but these only ever seem to result in increased restrictions. We submit that flexibility needs to be a two-way process, and must include restrictions being removed or relaxed if they are later found not to be necessary.

Would we be given a guarantee in the management plan that if no research is done, or if the research can't address that issue, or if the research shows that any change in the ecosystem from removal of the pelagic species is ecologically sustainable and insufficient to justify the ban on recreational line fishing from certain areas, that those areas will be reopened to that sort of fishing in the next review in 10 years time?.

Proper management of fish can include timed closures, area closures, species bans, limits on the gear used, or combinations of these for spawning or nursery areas, areas/species under too much pressure, areas set aside for special purposes, etc. but these must all be justified by research and data which shows that these are right and necessary and will actually be effective.

Choice and Justification of Areas for No Take Zones.

A limitation in the review process which resulted in these proposals is the notable absence of scientific data as a base for any alterations to current zoning and management. The changes proposed in the draft management plan are certainly not supported by adequate, demonstrated and publicly available scientific information.

The Ningaloo Marine Park Management Plan 1989-1999 emphasised the need for research and monitoring as a basis for proper management of the Park, yet not enough has been done.

The documentation fails to adequately establish the links between what is to be protected and the threats from the activities which are to be prohibited.

The justification for the expansion of current sanctuary zones seaward based solely on one paper by Westera & Hyndes (2001) in order to create the "potential" to protect a single genus of demersal fish by closing an area that may represent habitats "often" associated with spawning sites is weak and unscientific.

Many of the species actually caught are pelagic, and they are not residential fishes. They are transitory and inhabit a different section of the water column than Lethrinids. It is not valid to ban all recreational fishing in these areas simply to potentially protect Lethrinids, even if that was justified and necessary.

Misrepresentation about the extent of the increased areas of no take zones.

The Association objects to the selective but incomplete use of data about the extent of the increase in no take areas. The plan states that it proposes increasing the size of the sanctuary zones where fishing is banned from 10 percent to 28 percent.

The proposal does not mention is that it also increases the overall size of the park. In fact the sanctuary zones have increased from 21,875 hectares to 73,243 hectares, a total of over 330 percent. The important inner reef habitats are represented by much greater than 28 percent, disproportionately affecting those with small boats.

Activities allowed/prohibited in Zones.

It is unfair to place the majority of restrictions in Ningaloo on recreational fishers considering there is no evidence to show any threat to fish stocks or biodiversity by fishing in the marine park.

It is completely unacceptable that activities such as trolling for pelagic fish outside the reef should be banned in the sanctuary areas. There is no justification for preventing trolling because it would not have any significant impact on anything that might need to be protected in sanctuary zones.

CALM and MPRA continue to push for allowing no impact at all under the guise of "preserving biodiversity". They will not acknowledge sustainable practices but insist that areas must be closed completely.

We submit that all activities should be allowed in all zones unless those activities are proven to be incompatible with the declared purpose for the existence of the zone.

In addition, we submit that really damaging activities such as anchoring must be controlled and managed, and that this lack is a major weakness in the draft management plan for most of the proposed areas.

It is believed CALM has concerns about compliance, and has concerns about the difficulties of checking activities if some things are allowed in the sanctuary zones. We do not accept complete closures simply to make it easy for someone to check compliance, particularly in the current environment of little effective compliance checking anyway.

Shore based fishing zones should allow recreational line fishing for finfish from the shore or by wading, standing on rocks, reefs, etc. in at least a 200 metre strip from the shore line. We object to the designation of the landward boundaries as 100 metre from the high water mark as defined in the legend on the map, because that will mean that no fishing will be possible in some shallow areas at low to mid tides.

Composition of Coral Coast Parks Advisory Committee (CCPAC).

The MPRA and CALM appear to have opted for a process in which they use local supporters of a proposed park, with strong philosophical support for the CALM process, and do not engage in general consultation on the wider issues which arise when there is formal stakeholder representation. The recreational fishing sector will be impacted upon by these proposals to the greatest extent, yet the peak recreational fishing body has been excluded from the formal process.

As previously elsewhere, it appears to the Association that the opinions of a limited group, including the CCPAC, have been used in lieu of good scientific information.

While the Association recognises the need for significant local community involvement, the Marine Park is a resource for the entire community and the importance of a strategic, State-wide outlook must not be overlooked especially when visitor interests are extremely important as at Ningaloo.

Previous Limited Public Consultation.

After reading the "Overview of Public Submissions" and the "Draft Summary of Public Submissions to the Proposed Zoning Scheme for Ningaloo Marine Park" we have serious concerns that some previous submission on this subject have been taken out of context.

In some summaries, only the parts of the submission in support of sanctuary zones were entered into the summary. The fact that some of that support was conditional on other factors was not summarised or made known to the committee.

Where this occurred, it is a gross misrepresentation, and makes this management plan suspect.

It is unacceptable that the group evaluating submissions (CCPAC) were given only a summary of submissions and were not given access to the full submissions which would give the correct view of the opinions expressed.

Without this transparency, we and many other recreational fishermen do not have any confidence that existing CALM management and MPRA are able to carry out Marine Planning to the point where citizens understand and endorse the outcomes as necessary, equitable, fair and reasonable.

Reviews of Submissions.

A particular concern follows from this 3 month public submission period. We are concerned at what is missing in this process, based on the experience with the equivalent part of the consultation process over the Jurien Bay Marine Park which was misrepresented to many people.

The review of the public submissions is closed and within CALM / MPRA and therefore liable to claims of bias and selective interpretation of the submissions. We do not believe this process delivers what it appears to promise. Without the process being open, it is not acceptable to many people.

The Indicative management plan can be changed considerably and offered to the Ministers without any opportunity for the public to know if or how their submissions were used. It is claimed that a summary of submissions is also made available to the public. We agree this should happen, but it has still not been completed for Jurien Bay even though the Park was dedicated nearly 14 months ago.

The process needs to be changed to require the release of the final proposed version for public information before any version is locked in by gazettal.

We expect that the residents of W.A. will know what is proposed before it is submitted to Parliament and applied. That is real transparency, and it is as expressed in CALM's Public Participation Policy http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/calm_public_participation.html , which says:-

4. The participatory process will be objective, open, fair and carried out in a responsible and accountable manner.
5. Public participation processes will emphasise the sharing of information, joint learning and understanding.
6. Data and information used in the decision making process will be available to stakeholders, and
10. Participants will be informed as to how their involvement affected the Department's or Government's decisions.

Littering.

Section 7.2.8 mentions "associated impacts on ecological values through littering..."

The Association does not agree that littering is any justification or supporting reasons for sanctuary zones. Some litter may be the result of accidentally dropping items while fishing, and some may be due to wind blowing items into the water.

Recreational anglers are not the only source of litter, although it is obvious and agreed they are likely to be the main source of litter at places where they are the main users. Littering is a social problem whenever some people do not respect the environment and do not follow common courtesy of respecting community property.

The fact that there will always be some small percentage of people who will litter, despite all the publicity and education and laws, should never be used as an excuse to limit use and access by the majority of people who will act responsibly, and who will treat the environment very well.

Banning an activity as a means of controlling a social problem is taking the easy way out, but is not equitable and is not always effective.

The Association believes a combination of education and enforcement of existing laws should be used so that those that do litter and are caught will pay a price, preferably high enough so that it makes them do the right thing in future.

Responses to Suggested General Questions about the Draft Management Plan.

The Association agrees in principle with the vision statement for the future of the Ningaloo area .

We disagree with the apparent belief that the creation of sanctuary zones is necessary and sufficient and is the best way to achieve these objectives.

Recreational fishing is a major attraction to Ningaloo and CALM's own statistics have shown that 84% of visitors go to the area to go fishing. Placing the majority of the restrictions on recreational anglers is not going to help areas of the reef that suffer from anchor damage or damage from divers. Recreational fishing in Ningaloo has had tighter restrictions than anywhere else in the state.

There is no evidence that any fish stocks are under threat. The only research done on finfish (Westera & Hyndes) did nothing to prove that sanctuary zones can help in the protection of fish stocks. We believe that CALM should concentrate their efforts in the protection of habitat and leave the protection and management of marine fauna to the Department of Fisheries. With a suite of management tools they are better placed to ensure marine biodiversity throughout the State.

For the Marine park to be considered to be an important ecological and social asset by the local, national and international community, CALM must take notice of the community's views and ensure that they are given full consideration in the final management plan.

Specific responses to proposed zoning changes and additions

Proposed Sunday Island Conservation Area. The Association strongly objects to the proposed Sunday Island Conservation Area. This area is used by local and visiting recreational anglers. This practice has been going on for many years and there is no indication that fishing in the immediate area has suffered. It is also noted that other extractive activities are permitted whilst again targeting recreational fishers.

Proposed North Muiron Conservation Area. The Association strongly objects to the proposed North Muiron Conservation Area. This area is used by local and visiting recreational anglers. This practice has been going on for many years and there is no indication that fishing in the immediate area has suffered. It is also noted that other extractive activities are permitted whilst again targeting recreational fishers.

Proposed South Muiron Conservation Area. The Association disagrees with the proposed South Muiron Conservation Area and believes that the existing marine protection area on the north western shore of South Muiron Island is adequate. A no anchoring policy must be included in this area and moorings put in place to protect fragile corals.

Bundegi. The Association supports a small extension. To further protect this sanctuary, no anchoring should be allowed in this area and an adequate mooring system should be installed for commercial operators and recreational boaters to allow minimal impact to reef systems. New boundaries must be designated in a manner easily identified by users.

Point Murat. Protection of filter feeding communities is claimed as the main purpose of this proposed sanctuary area, so the actions should involve the banning of all anchoring in this area and should not include a ban on recreational fishing for pelagic species in the area outside the Naval exclusion zone.

Lighthouse Bay. The proposal to establish a sanctuary zone of the size proposed in Lighthouse Bay is strongly opposed. This would have a high social cost as there are a variety of users of this area. It is popular for shore-based fishing due to the proximity to a major caravan park patronised by many Western Australian, interstate and overseas visitors. It also provides a safe fishing area for small boats during the frequent periods of strong winds. The sanctuary zone locks up a large percentage of the good boat fishing areas within Lighthouse Bay, because the western half of the bay is quite different.

The Association would support a smaller zone with the western boundary moved to the east, so that the zone boundaries were the same distance each side of North West Cape.

If this sanctuary zone is confirmed, a no anchoring policy would benefit this area and must include moorings put in place to protect fragile corals in this area. With numerous dive and fishing charters using this area and anchoring daily, frequent damage is occurring to fragile corals.

Jurabi. This proposal is opposed. It is an area of the park which is close to visitor accommodation and a boat ramp and has high amenity value for recreational fishers.

Tantabiddi. The Association is opposed to this proposal. It is extremely close to the boat ramp at which quite small boats are launched to fish in the safe area near the boat ramp. There does not seem to be any logic in proposing this area as a sanctuary zone, particularly in the absence of any scientific justification, indeed it only appears to be a reservation for nature appreciation, recreation and nature-based tourism.

Proposed Extension to Mangrove Bay Sanctuary Zone. The Association disagrees with the proposed extension of Mangrove Bay. A limited extension may be supported with the condition that the boundary of the extension is only to the eastern edge of the reef platform and not into deeper water. The westward side of the Ningaloo reef in this area is a highly prized recreational fishing ground for boats which do not anchor but approach the reef and fish the reef edge. A no anchoring policy may benefit this area.

Proposed Extension to Mandu Sanctuary Zone. The Association disagrees with the proposed extension of Mandu. There is a lack of evidence to suggest that such an extension to this sanctuary zone is required. The seaward area adjacent to the Mandu region makes up part of a prime sport and game fishing area that is frequented not only by local recreational anglers, but fishers from all over Australia that come to the region to experience the world class fishing the area has to offer. In particular the abundant pelagic species are often targeted on a catch and release basis only. See our earlier comments,

Proposed Extension to Osprey Sanctuary Zone. The Association disagrees with the proposed extension of Osprey. There is no evidence presented to suggest that such an extension seaward is required and the same argument applies as per the proposed extension to Mandu Sanctuary Zone.

Proposed Extension to Cloates Sanctuary Zone. The Association disagrees with the proposed extension of Cloates. There is no evidence presented to suggest that such an extension seaward is required and the same argument applies as for the proposed extension to Mandu Sanctuary Zone. The extension of the sanctuary zone inside the reef to the eastern side of the reef platform is considered acceptable. We do not support the extension of the sanctuary south to Point Cloates as acceptable. The beach fishing zoning as suggested is supported.

Proposed Extension to Dugong Sanctuary Zone. The Association disagrees. There is no evidence presented to suggest that such an extension seaward is required and the same argument applies as for the proposed extension to Mandu Sanctuary Zone.

Proposed Bateman Sanctuary Zone. The Association disagrees. We are concerned about the bland statement that the "Proposed Bateman Sanctuary Zone is proposed to protect a representative example of lagoonal Porites coral communities and areas close to the shore that are popular for snorkeling".

Again the only basis for this sanctuary zone is to prohibit recreational fishing. There is no evidence to show that recreational fishing is detrimental to biodiversity in this area.

Southward Extension of the Marine Park. The Association is in favour of the southern extension to Ningaloo Marine Park but see no benefit in the establishment of the proposed sanctuary zones in this area. We believe that these zones would transfer and increase the pressure on to areas outside the new Park and Zone boundaries, and particularly south of Red Bluff.

The fact that CALM has no scientific evidence that sanctuary zones provide any benefit only reinforces this view. If CALM are serious about biodiversity they should have been conducting ongoing research along Ningaloo Reef since the inception of the Marine Park years ago.

Proposed Pelican, Cape Farquhar, 3 Mile, and Turtles Sanctuary Zones. The Association disagrees with the proposal for these four sanctuary zones, as outlined above.

Overview of Association's response to the proposed plan.

- The CALM planning process continues to ignore fisheries management as the correct tool to maintain ecological sustainability of fish catches.
- There is a critical need to establish an understanding and active cooperation between the Department of Fisheries and CALM regarding marine parks in general and Ningaloo in particular.
- It is imperative that fisheries management be involved as an important component in the planning and management process for Marine Parks.
- The Townsville Declaration on Coral Reef Research and Management must be put into context as being largely concerned with addressing problems associated with subsistence fishing in underdeveloped islands of the Indo/Pacific region that are predominantly void of any realistic recreational and/or commercial fishery management, and may not apply to Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Zoning by itself is not the solution. There is a need to recognise that zoning is only one of the management tools available for natural resource management and that other fisheries management tools have been successful and strongly supported by recreational anglers where there has been meaningful input into their development.

- Zone changes have been proposed in the absence of scientific data to support those extensions. Information from the few scientific papers referred to have largely been taken out of context and in particular do not justify the seaward extensions of sanctuary zones into deeper waters.
- Even fourteen years after the establishment of the Park, a precautionary approach has been adopted without any significant use of the experience gained over that period.
- There is urgent need for strategically planned and ongoing scientific evaluation to become part of the process.
- CALM and MPRA must understand the importance of developing a zoning scheme that is appropriate, practically feasible and socially acceptable to users of area and supported by the wider community. This follows one of the Strategic Objectives as set out in the framework Paper namely "To facilitate and manage recreational activities in the Park within an equitable and ecologically sustainable framework."

Conclusion.

The Association is not satisfied with the planning process which has excluded adequate recreational fishing representation, has ignored and misrepresented some previous submissions and has not adequately justified the proposals, but instead relied on a target of a high percentage of No Take areas.

This review of Ningaloo Marine Park appears to have ignored the proper role of fisheries management to the objectives of the Park. Although current fisheries management may not be all it should be, closing more areas is not the solution.

It is essential that CALM and the Department of Fisheries must cooperate to come up with an integrated marine management plan based on the principles currently being developed for Bioregional Marine planning.

The Association believes the Government must ensure that such an integrated approach is used.

Please contact me for any further information or clarification about these comments.

Yours sincerely, Terry Fuller, Secretary, Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) Inc.

Another View of Ningaloo

Here is one view of how recreational anglers are portrayed and comments on research from one research group's submission on Ningaloo. This shows the confusion about the role of Marine Parks in managing fisheries. Some points in this are very realistic, some are very emotive, eg

quote "...'extractive' approach (i.e. 'fill the freezer')" end quote. There's no recognition of any other type of extraction such as a few fish for a meal.

and quote "There is certainly still a vocal group of recreational fishers who argue that it is their right to 'fill the freezer'". end quote. Seems that they are lumping together many recreational anglers who are objecting to the process as just "freezer fillers".

Full quote of the paragraphs is *"A comment on recreational fishing. As one of the key human pressures on the Ningaloo reef system, some additional comments about fishing pressure and the reduction in the mean size of target species are warranted. We acknowledge that there has been a marked change in the recreational focus of visitors to NMP in the last 10-15 years, from one that was dominated by an 'extractive' approach (i.e. 'fill the freezer'), to one of appreciation of the NMP's aesthetic values. There is certainly still a vocal group of recreational fishers who argue that it is their right to 'fill the freezer'. There has also been an increase in the number of visitors over the past 10-15 years, as the region has been opened up and facilities improved. At this stage it is not clear to what extent fishing pressure - or spatial patterns of fishing pressure - on the NMP have changed over the years. It may be possible that some of the effects being observed are a legacy of past practices, rather than the present level of use. That doesn't negate the need for urgent action in areas where there is a problem, but there may be the hope of quicker recovery than first anticipated (provided the right action is taken now).*

As to management of recreational fishing, education will help, but (as all research on changing people's attitude/behaviour has ever shown) it will never be as effective as education plus penalties for transgressors. And penalties are no good unless enforced. There will have to be an increase in the number of inspectors during peak holiday times - and that's equally applicable to other aspects of NMP management. While the Draft Management Plan might be brilliant, it will make no difference if there aren't enough people to implement it. Intensive recreational use requires an intensive management presence, which means more money for on-the-ground rangers and fishing inspectors."

and

"Research. A significant issue when identifying management priorities and allocating targets, is the level of baseline knowledge on which such decisions are made. For many species and ecosystems within the NMP it is widely acknowledged that we have only a limited understanding at best of the factors that influence their functioning, and even presence or absence. It is therefore difficult to determine the natural baseline of the Ningaloo system, and extremely difficult to make informed management decisions. A key priority for management should therefore be to identify the baseline natural conditions of the Ningaloo system, bearing

in mind that specific human activities have already had a significant impact on some aspects of the NMP. Major research gaps include aspects of the biodiversity and an understanding of ecological interactions between organisms, and ecological implications of human activities in the marine park. Natural disasters and events are poorly understood in this area, and it is difficult therefore to separate human impacts from natural ones. Many aspects of potential human impacts on the reef system are also poorly understood, and have significant implications for sustainable use of the natural resources of the region in the future. Without targeted strategic research, increasing population and tourist numbers may erode the very qualities valued in the NMP, and the significant tourism industry being developed in the area may be at risk.".....

and

"7.1.12 One of the key results of the heavy fishing pressure observed in parts of the NMP is a reduction in the mean size of target species. The role of these high-end predators on the functioning of the NMP ecosystem is significant, and removal can result in phenomena such as trophic cascades, as has been reported in some areas within the NMP. As such, the management strategies presented in the Draft Management Plan are wholly inadequate, and fail to address the key aspects of finfish management for the area. There are clear ambiguities in the management strategies, particularly with regard to sanctuary zones; shoreline fishing should not be permitted within such zones. There is already considerable evidence that the finfish stocks of the NMP have been significantly affected by decades of poorly controlled fishing activity. The key fishing pressure for the inshore areas of the NMP is recreational fishing; while the mentality of "filling up the freezer" is permitted to persist, it will be difficult to adequately manage finfish in the Marine Park. Some hard decisions need to be made to sustainably manage finfish in the area, and this must be backed up by a comprehensive education programme. This is a key area within the Draft Management Plan that requires considerable additional work.

It should also be noted that localised fish feeding in sanctuary zones may result in artificially high numbers of fish, leading to inaccuracies when comparing sanctuary and general/recreational zones; examples include Coral Bay and Mandu. Again, this highlights the lack of baseline information for the NMP."

Note that **Mandu** is the area used to justify expansions of the no take zones based on Westera's comments on the effect of removing predators such as spangled emperor. See http://cem.ecu.edu.au/marine-estuarine/m_westera_thesis.pdf which shows variable results in the three areas surveyed.

Westera's paper does not demonstrate that top end predators (spangled emperor, not Spanish mackerel which is what recreational fishers think of when they hear top end predator) are depleted and there is no direct evidence that fishing is responsible for these declines.

The scientists' talk about 'baseline' studies which is effectively a nonsense when you compare the impact of Cyclone Vance against the impacts of man and fishing - unless the baselines are re-established after each decent cyclone which is an enormous, (impossible?) job and would make the analysis of any results very, very subjective.

Reminisce.

Way back in November 1989 I was fishing off the reef at the Yanchep lagoon. A bloke in a yellow T-shirt wandered up close and asked how I was going. As usual I told him a fishing lie ("nuffin") and he then introduced himself.

Hi, I am "Derry Marba" – (well the wind was blowing through my ears, and that is what I thought he said,) we shook hands and then shared conversation on fishing. He mentioned that he belonged to a fishing club and spoke of the benefits of being a member. He invited me along to a meeting at the church in Tuart Hill area on a Wednesday night.

Next week I turned up but no other bugger turned up - I had the wrong night. Found the phone number in the book and rang up and got the correct night to attend.

Turned up on the correct night, walked in and the first person I was introduced to was the "Cookie monster" had my head filled with hope and wonderment, and I still value his friendship. Met many a new face and started a journey that has given me so many good times, many truly valued friends and mates, so few fish.

A bloke called George casually mentioned that I can get what I want out of Club and its members and move on if I want to, but put something back and you will get more than you thought. How true.

Nearly 15 years later, I am about to take a break from the club for at least 12 months. There is no way I will cancel my membership and I hope to stay in touch. Maybe I can send in a few lines of where I am and what I am up to. Anyway I will catch up with some of you at Yeppoon in Queensland in August 2005.

I could continue to waffle on for a few more pages on how would the club has been for me. But I have only one message to my fellow club members, (except the golden oldies) **Read what George said.**

so, until I bless you all with my presence again, may you all stay in good health, keep a quid in your pocket and catch a good fish one day.

Hendo

The Teacher.

Over the years I have had a very special friendship with the oldest club participant, James Strong. I have fished, eaten and traveled with this gentleman on numerous occasions and in this time I have learnt a hell of a lot about the club and its past and present members.

If you ever want a real education on past fishing ventures, what it used to be like, club protocol and history and share quality time with one of life's true gentleman then may I suggest an hour or two with this bloke.

I hope the Reel Talk editor continues to bring his escapades back into print.

Thank you Jim

Hendo.

Garden Island Field Day 16/17 September 1961

Weather conditions etc - southerly winds heavy ocean swell North end heavily weeded making fishing conditions difficult 38 members and seven juniors made a very good attendance figure for the venue.

It was pleasing to see our good friend Berty along again and I am hoping that next time you will be able to get a better bag of fish - with no weed.

Ken Wiggins celebrated his return to the Field Day with a good haul of salmon which he was justifiably proud of Bob Tucker Terry Fuller and Ken Wiggins went down to the South end and young Terry not to be outdone really turned it on and returned an excellent bag of 19 3/4 lbs of fish.

George Greenham one of our new members returned with a mighty fine salmon though he remarked that it was rough fishing over the rocks which was certainly evidenced by the judicious applications of flavine to various parts of quite a few members. Don't forget chaps our "First Aid" outfit goes with us on all Field Days and is always available.

Ted Savage was most unfortunate to drop his only good catch for the Field Day a tailor of approximately 5 lbs wouldn't it! as he got it up on the rocks it threw the hooks and even though he made a grab at it - it was gone back over the ledge and to safety.

Junior Bill Newton had a close call with a 4lb Tailor for as he attempted to grasp it - it took a liking for one of his fingers. With a 4lb tailor on the end of a digit it would make anyone fidget. Bill was lucky he got out of it as light as he did.

It was pleasing to see another new member in R Phillips on the Field Day and as he weighed in some nice tailor I bet that he will be along again. He was being looked after by Bob Lilly who is to be commended on the help he gives to new members and I hope other members take note and assist wherever possible to new members. Though how he managed to get one fish let alone several while fishing next to "Lucky Luciano" Lilly I don't know.

It might be pertinent to remark on the fact that two snakes were killed on the Island last Field day and with the hot weather coming on and the snakes making their presences known keep a lookout when walking along tracks and going through the bracken. We do not want a snake bite casualty on our hands.

Frank Vanzalen and Stephan Knezey were observed battling the weed on the back beach, and their fire was welcomed by the anglers. Mrs. Pearl Payne was sitting as close to it as she could for the breeze was piping in from the South. Burt had dug quite a dugout and I failed to see him as I walked past, though on a second glance I noticed his moving and then Mrs. Payne assured me that Burt was well and truly hidden underneath.

G. Griffith was too ashamed to weigh in his fish and Ron Shirley bought them up when he weighed his catch. If he only knew that there were many of us who had missed out and had no fish to weigh in at all "If you've got them, weigh them"

The salmon trout came around the Naval Jetty in the morning and some of the lads managed to knock a few off. Doug Savage got seven and Ian McLennan five. These fish weighed 1 lb each and they are mighty good sport on the single-handed rod

Allan Bunnett and Alan Milne fished the rifle range bay. Allan Bunnett returned with a good bag of tailor and mentioned that he had been bitten off several times. Alan Milne weighed in an excellent tailor of 5 lbs which incidentally is the heaviest tailor caught on a Field day this year. Good work Alan!

Most of the boys went over to the beach in the morning though the results were poor I did notice a few of the lads catching fish up north, however Norm Giles and myself tried all the known tricks to no avail (If I had not gone over to the beach in the morning - I would have been like you Jim - fishless (Editor).

Bob and Rick Jensen were observed during a tour of the Island. Rather a change to see Bob up north, however he told me the sad news that his hot spot was fully occupied by club members and others who by the way told me later that the bay is only hot when Bob and Rick fish it. I did ask Bob to fish nearby and assist in the de weeding process but when he noticed the large clumps of weed running clear down to the sinker he just smiled and pushed on up north further, and as he disappeared into the dusk I reckon I should have too, but I was too worn out to move.

As an early boat was returning to the mainland in the morning at 8:30 a.m. there was a rush to be aboard, though about 16 also of us remained and caught the later boat. We had a most enjoyable trip back, for as an escort we had about a dozen or more porpoises. The show that they put on was really good. The sea was flat and mirrored all their actions.

My heartiest congratulations go to the award winners, they certainly earned them. I hope I see you all again next month at Garden Island which will be our last time for a few months over there.

With the warm weather coming on do not forget to wear sunglasses, take a water bottle, there is no fresh water on the back beach, where a hat with a brim and do not forget to wear your club badges in a conspicuous place. A tube of sunburn cream will not be out of place at the bottom of your bag either.

As there has been complaints of the huts being left dirty and untidy please sweep through before leaving. The complaints made have not been directed to our club though, because Jim Hawkins has been quite satisfied in the manner in which we have left them, so let us keep it that way. It only takes a little effort to sweep through.

To any new member going to the Island for the first time, contact myself or Bob Lilly and we will endeavour to hand out any information required.

Jim Strong, Field Day Organiser. (1961)

Observations on the September 1961 Field Day.

Ken Wiggins made a comeback on the weekend by catching two salmon (so he says). But I say who was the club member who struck the salmon thick and took pity on poor Ken.?

Nelson Smith waits for the fish to come to him. Late on Saturday night after retrieving a well soaked bait from the briny he discovered a small flathead had caught himself and then had been partly devoured by a Wobbygong. Not a bad effort, two in one.

Doug Newton's boy came off second-best when tussling with a 4 pound tailor. The tailor latched onto his finger, but soon let go when thumped.

When fishing from the rocks on Saturday afternoon, Doug Newton killed a small tiger snake. The snake was de headed and thrown to the fish. Next morning Doug caught a 2 pound Gurnard, which upon inspection had devoured the tiger snake.

Bob Lilly scooped the pool with a nice bag of tailor, but to members fishing alongside him had only four results. How about bringing that secret weapon along the next gadgets night, Bob?

Under the prevailing conditions a lot of members fished in Bob Jensen's spot and when Bob arrived the beach was like Fremantle wharf on Sunday afternoon, so this law-abiding member (25 yard rule) sadly moved on. Doug Savage.

Garden Island Boycott.

In company with a club mate and his father in law I made an offbeat visit to Garden Island during the closing stages of August 1961. We were there for two complete fishing days, two evenings and two mornings. Not being a weekend, we harboured somewhat selfish hope that, having the Island more or less to ourselves, we would participate in a spectacular killing. Such delightful musings were nourished and fortified by stories of big bags of tailor, and almost incredible hauls of salmon taking during the previous weekend, 48 hours prior to our coming on the scene.

These tales, begun by Capt Lethby on the trip over, were corroborated by Jim Hawkins on our arrival and later confirmed by that incorrigible optimist George Marshall. I am beginning to suspect these guys, it savours of a conspiracy to get you in and keep you interested. It reminds me of Tom Swarbrick's routine at Walpole which goes something like this:- "good day, Mr Swarbrick, any fish about?" "Yes, any amount." "What sort?" "All sorts" "Where?" "Everywhere."

With flogged the beaches from "Bunnett's bunker", near the rifle range, to "Crouch's Camp", past the end of the reef north of the track, and had our trouble for our pains. My legs had pains for days after I got home. Father in law said "this ain't no ruddy pleasure trip, this is an endurance test". Rather pity he took that view because I fear he will not come again and he was handy at cooking, boiling the billy and producing a cuppa on the spot.

On our final morning we trudged off to the south end grimly determined to get a feed of something to take home. My companion was particularly desperate because he has a family of growing boys, all enthusiastic fishermen and consistently more successful than the old man. Dad had been somewhat gleeful over stealing a march on the kids, who had perforce to go to school, and naturally the last thing he wanted was to stand in too bad a light when he got home again and had to face the music.

Having had no success at "The Plank" the previous morning, we decide to try "Tucker's Trap", a little cove where Bob threw his gear in, in a fit of petulance on a previous Field Day and subsequently relented, which may perhaps explain the sudden appearance of the insurance "joker" at the last general meeting.

For some unaccountable reason the salmon this day put an "whammy" on us and declared us "black". No sooner had we berleyed in a nice little school of herring and got them into an accommodating mood, and shop stewards of the "Amalgamated Society of Sadistic Salmon" appeared in ones and twos and put a picket between ourselves and our quarry.

While reeling in a herring I was amazed to see a dark, sinister shape make a pass at it. Thinking it was a shark, I retrieve like mad. The herring sped to the surface hotly pursued by the would-be assassin which, with mouth agape, and not more than five yards away I then identified as a salmon. Only one however would have a go at a bait. He made a flying tackle at my blob and knocked it right out of the water in an attempt to swallow it,

simultaneously I hooked a doubleheader of herring and then the game was on. What Swans did to Subi was nothing to what that salmon and I did to those unfortunate herring. I eventually got one, and suppose I was lucky

We decided we would have to get rid of the pest, and having only light rod and lines the prospect was attractive. After having a couple of goes at the pair of us my companion eventually got fastened into him. I have never seen a largish fish get such a wallop on light tackle. He was floating belly up, with a surprised look on his face in next to no time. Having no gaff we hauled him up on the line.

Well, after all that "schmozzle" there was not a herring within 20 miles of the place and all the patience and berley in the world would not induce them to return. With nothing but stony ignore in the water around us we made a move to the Plank.

We soon had a nice oil slick moving out and plenty of berley precipitating itself to the bottom, and we could actually see the gardies coming in to investigate, when suddenly the pickets turned up again. And short intervals in they came in ones and twos and swam leisurely in circles right below our feet. They just about had to brush our baits out of their way to get past.

Around about noon, with feelings hard to describe and certainly not for printing, we tipped into the water the best part of nine dozen mulies, two cray tails, a packet of whitebait and half a dozen mullet and solemnly and unanimously declaring the joint a disaster area, trudged back to the camp. Our combined efforts had netted us one salmon, two flathead, some where near a dozen herring, maybe eight gardies, a small sand whiting and a couple of small rock cod which my companion had no hesitation in popping into his bag to boost his shattered ego.

In mitigation it might be said that the water was extremely low. When we arrived at the jetty the launch was practically on the bottom. On the back beach the reefs stood clear of the water like tables on the kitchen floor, and stayed that way throughout our sojourn. Indeed, pinnacles of rock could be seen above the surface far out to sea where reefs are not usually even sighted. This however does not explain why visitors during the previous weekend could measure their tailor by the dozen, and their salmon by the bran bag full.

By A. C. Gull.

November 2004 Field Day.

Results for the November 2004 Field Day:- See next Reel Talk.....

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points

Field Day prizes for November 2004.

Best Scale Fish			
Best Bag of Scale fish		Mixed Bag	kg

Sportsperson of the Year Sections for November 2004.

Best Scale Fish			
Best Bag of Scale fish		Mixed Bag	kg

Field Day Top Ten for 2004/2005 up to October 2004.

	Angler	Total Points		Angler	Total Points
1	Tony D'Alonzo	1643.0	6	George Holman	288.0
2	Filomena D'Alonzo	463.5	7	Joe Pullella	274.0
3	Malcolm Harris	427.0	8	Mark Farnay	251.5
4	Vix Alexander	278.0	9	Grant Taggart	246.0
5	Spencer King	315.0	10	Ian Taggart	233.0

Field Day Sections for 2004/2005 up to October 2004.

1A	Best Scale Fish (1st Six Months)	Tony D'Alonzo	Mulloway	10.05 kg
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	Joe Pullella	Shark	16.85 kg
5	Best Tailor	Malcolm Harris	Tailor	1.70 kg
6	Best Salmon	George Holman	Salmon	3.65 kg
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Tony D'Alonzo	Skipjack Trevally	1.15 kg
9	Best Scale Fish (Other than above)	Tony D'Alonzo	Snook	2.0 kg
10	Best Bag Of Scale Fish	Tony D'Alonzo	Mixed Bag	24.575 kg
11	Best Bag Of Mulloway (2 Fish Min)	Tony D'Alonzo	Mulloway	19.85 kg
12	Best Bag Of Tailor (2 Fish Min)	Malcolm Harris	Tailor	5.55 kg