



**Legislative Council  
Select Committee on Recreational Fishing**

**INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

The Chair of the Select Committee on Recreational Fishing, the Hon Robert Brown MLC, today tabled the report of the Inquiry into recreational fishing in New South Wales.

Mr Brown said, "It has been estimated that there are approximately one million recreational fishers in the State. This inquiry conducted a thorough investigation of the recreational fishery in New South Wales."

"The State's recreational and commercial fisheries have historically been highly regulated and well managed. The report considers the known threats to marine biodiversity, and the current status of New South Wales fish stocks. The report investigates the impact of recreational fishing on marine biodiversity. However, there is currently a lack of adequate data to accurately estimate the recreational fishing catch in this State"

"In recent times the implementation of Marine Parks in New South Wales has caused concern among recreational fishers. This was made abundantly clear during the Inquiry, with a number of participants debating the need for these areas."

"The Committee considered the report of the Independent Review of Marine Park Science in NSW, which called for a review and change in emphasis of the strategic framework and research plan guiding the development and management of marine parks. The report recommends that sufficient funding be provided to ensure that all the recommendations made by the Independent Review are effectively implemented."

"Importantly, the report recommends that the NSW Government not create any new marine parks until the next five-year marine park research plan is completed."

"The Committee examined the effectiveness and efficiency of the current representational system of trusts and advisory committees that advise government departments, and found there was a need for a review of the current structure. There was a strong call from some inquiry participants for the establishment of a new independent representative body able to advocate on behalf of the recreational fishing sector, which is examined in the report."

"There was also discussion during the Inquiry about fishery programs, as well as the regulation and management of recreational fishing, including the need for more compliance officers and concerns about loss of access to traditional fishing locations."

"The Committee had the opportunity to explore the needs of particular fishing groups, including Indigenous fishers, spearfishers and rock fishers. These groups all had individual concerns that they were keen to impress upon the Committee.

"The Committee thanks the submission authors, witnesses and round table discussion participants for their important contribution to the Inquiry."

To obtain a copy of the report either visit the NSW Parliament website at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/fishing](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/fishing) inquiry, or contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 9230 3504 or email [fishinginquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fishinginquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

*For further comment please contact the Hon Robert Brown MLC, Committee Chair, on 0429 303 250 or 9230 2573*