

Submission
No 877

INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING

Name: Mr Maxwell Howard Frost

Date received: 18/03/2010

18/03/10
The Director,
Select Committee on Recreational Fishing
Parliament House
Macquaire Street
Sydney NSW 2000

To whom it may concern,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I offer this submission on behalf of myself, local clubs and recreational anglers that I have represented, on previously appointed State Government committees, for the area of the NSW Mid North Coast.

The Marine industry is a vital part of the NSW State Governments income and responsibility. For too many years, the management of State Fisheries has been prioritised by party policy, primarily because most of the electorates are within National party seats. This has lead to a bleeding of fish stocks, primarily for revenue.

The end result and prime reason for this enquiry, is that fish stocks have become depleted, there is more pressure from the general angling public, combined with a growing concern by the green movement for control.

The coast of NSW is also under the natural stress of siltation. This is leading to lower velocity in the waterways navigation channels, leading to lower nutrient in the lakes, rivers and estuaries. Combined with urbanisation and industry growth, our waterways are in desperate need of proper management.

Locking it up, for political gain, or a green cause, without science based research could lead to an explosion of ferrel pests, which there are plenty of examples.

The answer that would best serve the voting public of NSW, the greens, even though they may not see it straight away, anglers and boaters, is very basic.

Areas under heavy siltation need basic maintenance dredging. If an area has endangered species, including sea grass beds, scientifically based, restrict anchoring, netting and pollution.

Boating and angling are basic rights the NSW State Government has been empowered to protect. We live in a society with rules. Enforce those rules instead of creating more. If a person commits a crime, punish them.

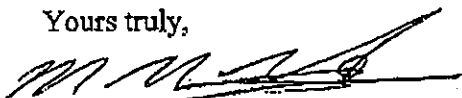
If managed properly as the United States has done to many of there fisheries, fish population will flourish, the environment will prosper and all concerned will benefit.

Commercial fishing closures and restrictions have proven their worth. Look at Sydney harbour itself; restocking and reduced pollution has increased both angling and boating. This inturn creates a much happier public and environment. Lake Macquarie is another prime example.

Commercial efforts need to be turned to aquaculture, to best provide the quantities and quality of fish to market. The existing practises are archaic and draconian. Their industry needs bringing into the 21st century. CSIRO science and research exists, use it.

In closing, I believe the inquiry has a great responsibility to the people of this state. All of the statements above have already been discussed at government levels. Let us hope that the outcome of the inquiry will bring an end to division and provide a unified approach to saving the future of both our fish stocks and waterways.

Yours truly,



Maxwell Howard Frost.

reational fishing councils, state level.
waterways committee, local government.
Marine Parks committee, Port Stephens, Great Lakes.