

Submission
No 96

INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING

Organisation: Advanced Marina Management
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Director
Select Committee on Recreational Fishing
Parliament House
Macquarie House
Sydney 2000
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Parliamentary Inquiry into Recreational Fishing – March 2010

Dear Director,

The Boating Owners Association wishes to make the following comments in regard to the above Inquiry.

1. The proposal (Blue Torn Fringe) by the National Parks Assoc to introduce more Marine Parks should not proceed unless there is specific scientific evidence available to support such a proposal and that there is a cost benefit analysis prepared indicating the financial impact to industry and the community particularly rural and coastal NSW.

The Marine Parks permit system is a mess and it is clear a further fee for access is proposed. Recreational fishers currently pay an access fee through the recreational fishing licence and further double dipping is unwarranted.

The Marine Parks review process needs to be revisited. The current process is about providing research grants to develop proposals as to why more areas should be closed. This is not ecologically sustainable fishing management and largely reflects the views of the Greens and the NCC position of significantly reducing or eliminating fishing.

There has been no report card provided relating to the benefits of the introduction of existing Marine Parks and the Marine Protected Areas. What is this costing the community? The funding being provided to Marine Parks and NPWS is disproportionate to other Agencies and some balance is needed as there are more important infrastructure projects needed in NSW rather than more Marine Parks.

2. The introduction of the recreational fishing licence has worked and the projects undertaken have not received sufficient recognition by Government as a whole. However there is a significant proportion of that income supporting core business Fisheries activities which should be funded by NSW Fisheries. Fisheries have been demoted into a super Agency and have lost their previous identity with the community and industry this needs to be addressed.



The current structure of Advisory Council of Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) and the Salt and Freshwater Trust Funds has been in place for many years and needs to be explored to determine if this is still the most efficient management method.

There has been considerable criticism about the lack of a Peak Recreational Fishing Body as ACoRF is an advisory body only and the transparency is often clouded. NSW requires a Peak Fishing Body funded accordingly by NSW Government. Fishing (and boating) contribute millions of dollars to the Government each year and the portion being returned is insignificant and really shameful.

Serious consideration should be given to exploring alternative management arrangements methods which are more transparent and cost effective. The funding should not disappear into Treasury coffers and perhaps a model similar to the NSW Game Council should be investigated.

3. Recreational fishing represents a considerable proportion of market share to industry and represents a significant value to the NSW economy. Approximately 70% of vessels are manufactured and sold as recreational fishing vessels. Considering the wealth of water in and around Australia this provides industry with a significant opportunity to grow and develop producing employment opportunities. For this to occur access must be available. The industry support sustainable fishing which does not mean closing areas down.

4. The number of State Agencies controlling fishing related issues is a concern. There is confusion within the community. The Agencies may understand their role however with NSW Fisheries, Marine Parks Authority, Catchment Authorities, NPWS, Councils and Shires fishing is no longer a simple activity and the responsibilities are confusing. Fishing should be controlled by one Agency.

Yours truly,

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Managing Director

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