

Submission
No 802

INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING

Name: Mr David Thomas Rhys John

Date received: 16/03/2010

The Chairman
Select Committee on Recreational Fishing
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Reference: Parliamentary Inquiry into Recreational Fishing – March 2010

Dear Sir,

I would like to make the following comments regarding the above inquiry:

a) The benefits and opportunities from recreational fisheries.

Improved fisheries should bring improved, more consistent (**but not necessarily larger**) catches and therefore a greater number of anglers. This in turn would lead to an increase, and therefore improvement, in facilities including camping/caravanning areas, boat ramps and fish cleaning facilities etc.

Benefits from Recreational Fishing Havens, Marine Parks and Marine Protection Zones also extend to towns and villages in the immediate areas.

b) Existing regulatory, policy and decision making re recreational fishery management.

ALL existing marine parks in NSW should be reviewed and their efficiency be evaluated, with no new marine parks or areas being created until this evaluation has been completed.

The current zoning policy should also be reviewed with a view to implementing a rotational system of seasonal closures to prevent the overfishing of non protected areas.

This has been considered as "normal land farming practise" for decades. Why not marine farming?

c) The effectiveness of current representational trusts and advisory committees.

An independent NSW advisory body should be formed which is both funded and is representative of the fishing "industry". This means it should be made up from both commercial and recreational fisheries representatives.

It should then form a part of a national body to ensure that fishery management and regulation is "**nationwide and not state peculiar**".

It should also have the power and mandate to manage all aspects of fisheries business.

d) The value of recreational fishing to the NSW economy.

An independent study needs to be carried out as a number of conflicting reports abound as to the economics in this regard.

The value is not accurately known (to the writer), but as a basis, could be calculated from the following:

Boat/motor/trailer:	\$15000 (capital outlay-2 nd hand, small estuary rig)
	\$ 550 (annual maintenance)
Licence	\$ 25 (fishing)
	\$ 45 (boat)
Rego	\$ 85 (boat & trailer)
Fuel	\$ 250
Marine Rescue NSW	\$ 35
Bait	\$ 100

This gives a minimum total of some \$1090 per boat angler per year (not including capital outlay). This would apply if they fished every two weeks, many fish more than this. This also doesn't take into account larger and more sophisticated boats, doesn't allow for the replacement of lures and the upgrading of fishing gear and doesn't take into account motor vehicle purchase or running costs. So as can be seen, even on a conservative basis, the input to the economy is high.

e) **Recreational Fishing Havens (RFH's).**

Access to Recreational Fishing Havens (RFH's) should not be restricted to water but should be open to all anglers, whether from a boat or shore. The number of RFH's could be increased but should not place more restrictions on recreational anglers. More commercial buyouts would enable the creation of more RFH's. The creation of more RFH's would see the need for more Fisheries Compliance Officers. This in turn would mean far better managed recreational and commercial fisheries with an improved outcome for all involved.

f) **Ecologically sustainable development.**

Independent studies of ecologically threatening processes such as **Desalination, Land Development** (domestic and commercial – both suburban and rural), **Run off** and **Habitat Degradation** should be carried out more frequently and be given a greater hearing in the public forum.

In conclusion, there should be far greater public consultation and a greater significance placed upon the needs and wishes of recreational anglers who (arguably) make up the largest participator sport/recreational group within Australia.

If there should be public hearings or meetings, I would like the opportunity to attend these.

Yours sincerely



David Thomas Rhys JOHN
Public Officer
Sea Bees Boating Club Inc.
ANSA NSW member