

Who's Who in Recreational Fishing in NSW

The following is a list of organisations and people that are active in various aspects such as politics, lobbying, protest etc, of recreational fishing. It is not a list of fishing clubs, though some clubs and organisations are active in the lobbying area. The list may not be complete as there are likely many groups for which I am not aware.

Although individual names may be mentioned, for privacy issues contact details have been omitted. These may possibly be obtained from the web site for the relevant organisation, or by contacting the relevant organisation.

Please send any alterations, additions or deletions to: aag@sponge.org

Phil Ingram

NATIONAL BODIES

RecFish Australia: The body recognized by the Federal Government as being the national peak body for recreational anglers in Australia. CEO is John Harrison. It has recently established a Board of Directors – as follows:

Bruce Schumacher Chairman from NSW; Brett Cleary Deputy Chairman from Tasmania; Frank Prokop from Western Australia; Bruce Alvey from Queensland; Chris Makepeace from Northern Territory; Bill Sawynok from Queensland and Malcolm Poole from NSW.

Member bodies are: ACoRF (NSW), VRFish (Victoria), RecFishWest (WA), SunFish (Queensland), AFANT (NT), TARFish (Tasmania), Australian Underwater Federation (AUF), ANSA, Native Fish Australia and Australian Fishing Tackle Association (AFTA) (GFAA resigned from RecFish in Nov 2005).

Web page: www.recfish.com.au

Australian Fishing Tackle Association (AFTA): Represents the interests of Australian based wholesale/retail/manufacturing of recreational fishing tackle. Bill Heaton and Doug Joyner are the main lobbyists involved with many issues at Federal and State levels.

Native Fish Australia: A national organisation dedicated to the well being of Australia's native freshwater fish and rivers. Branches include Bass Sydney, Hunter Native Fish, NFA East Gippsland, NFA Far North Coast, NFA South Australia and NFA Victoria. Affiliated clubs include Southern Bass, Far West Anglers Association and Australia and New Guinea Fish Association.

Web page: www.nativefish.asn.au

Australian Underwater Federation (AUF):

Is the governing body for underwater sports and recreation in Australia. Graham Henderson is the current Federal President. Merv Sheehan is the NSW state contact.

Web page: www.auf.com.au

Australian National Sportsfishing Association (ANSA):

Governing body for sportsfishing in Australia.

Chairman: Geoff Hawkins

Executive Officer/Business Director: John Burgess

ANSA Branches:

ANSA NSW (www.ansansw.com.au)

ANSA NT

ANSA Queensland: (www.ansaql.com.au)

ANSA South Australia: (www.wicked.com.au/ansa-sa)

ANSA Tasmania

ANSA Victoria

ANSA Western Australia (members.iinet.net.au/~ansawa)

Web page: www.ansa.com.au

InfoFish Services:

An independent, small family business aimed at providing information (eg tagging programs, fish hook studies) to the recreational fishing industry. Has a strong partnership arrangement with ANSA. Bill Sawynok is the Manager

Web page: www.info-fish.net

FEDERAL GOVT ORGANISATIONS

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC):

The FRDC is a Federal research and development corporation co-funded from the Commonwealth Government, its stakeholders (eg NSW Fisheries and the recreational fishing trusts) and the seafood industry.

Web page: www.frdc.com.au

Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA):

Established in 1992, manages the resources of Australia's Commonwealth fisheries. Along the NSW coast this is the commercial fisheries past 3nm. As there are no OCS between NSW and Commonwealth, the State manages the recreational fisheries out to 200nm.

Web page: www.afma.gov.au

STATE BODIES (NSW)

ACoRF: Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing is an advisory body to the Minister on matters pertaining to recreational fishing. Members are appointed by the Minister, possibly on the recommendation of DPI Fisheries staff. The current chair is Bruce Schumacher. Members can be found at:

[http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational/committees/acorf -
listening to anglers](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational/committees/acorf-_listening_to_anglers)

Under ACoRF are the two recreational fishing trust fund expenditure committees – one for saltwater and one for freshwater.

Current saltwater members at:

[www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational/committees/rfstec - summary](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational/committees/rfstec_-_summary)

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW:

Recreational Fishing Alliance of New South Wales was formally established on March 12th, 2000 following a meeting of recreational fishing organisation delegates from around the state at the South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association rooms at Chifley, NSW. The NSW Branch of the Australian Sportfishing Association, the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers, the NSW Branch of Australian Underwater Federation, the Anglers Action Group- Northside and the Australian Fishing Tackle Association were present at that initial meeting. The NSW Fishing Clubs Association were invited to attend subsequent meetings.

Is undergoing constitution changes. Is perhaps the best bet to be the "peak body" for recreational anglers in NSW but needs to be recognised by NSW DPI. Is currently pushing for a paid secretariat to be funded from the recreational fishing trusts.

Committee members include Malcolm Poole, Stan Konstantaras (ANSA NSW), Joe Gafuri (ANSA NSW), Bob Smith (FCA, Fishing Party), Paul Cooper (FCA), Radge Diakiw (Sydney Flyrodders, NSW CFA)

Web page: www.rfansw.com.au

NSW Fishing Clubs Association Inc: (NSW FCA) Consisting of 210 affiliated clubs and with about 4000 members, NSW FCA is perhaps the biggest group of competition based fishers in NSW. President is Rob Smith, Vice President is Alan Cannon, Secretary/Public Officer is Margaret Riddell and Treasurer is Merv McFie. Committee members are Mark Aston, Rod Burston and Lindsay Walsh.

Web page: www.nswfca.com.au

ECOFishers: Although formed from a subcommittee of NSW FCA to be the voice of the FCA in the marine parks debate, there is now no connection between ECOFishers

and NSW FCA. Instigated by Rod Burston, it is now an incorporated body separate from NSW FCA, and heads an umbrella like structure of local groups formed along the coast. Currently has 8 local groups and more on the drawing boards.

Note that neither The Fishing Party and Bob Smith, ORP and John Jenkins, have any involvement with EcoFishers.

Web page: www.ecofishers.com

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers:

The NSW CFA is the main umbrella group for freshwater fishing organisations in NSW and enjoys a productive relationship with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and other agencies and recreational fishing organisations.

Affiliated bodies: Anglers Action Group (Sydney Northside); Bass Kempsey; Bass Sydney; Canberra Anglers' Association; Central Acclimatisation Society; Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs; Fly Fish Bathurst; Hawkesbury Nepean Bass Association; Hunter Native Fish; Illawarra Fly Fishers; Lakeside Fly Fishing Club; Mid North Coast Flyrodders; Monaro Acclimatisation Society; New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society; Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society; Southern Bass Fishing Club; Sydney Fly Rodders; South West Anglers Association; Wingham Anglers.

Web page: www.freshwateranglers.com.au

ANSA NSW: Australian National Sportsfishing Association NSW branch. Often not political, but members are present on various committees, and tied in with RFA NSW for rock fishing safety. President: Les Waldock; Vice President/Treasurer: John Burgess. John Burgess is active on many committees and representations.

Web page: www.ansansw.com.au

Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA): Reps are Graham Williams (President) and Bill Edwards (on Recfish) - former on various national and international committees. State groups such as GFAA NSW, GFAA Vic, GFAA WA etc, then the various game fishing clubs.

Web page:

Australian Underwater Federation (AUF): NSW branch headed by Mel Brown. Other politically active members include Adrian Wayne and Oliver Waddy (latter is on the Abalone MAC). Mel sits on many committees, has done good work in the past with regard to various issues (plus research). Mel and others often make representation to the Minister and DPI staff.

Concerned Anglers: Located on Lake Macquarie and the Swansea area. Either has undergone several name changes, or is one of several related groups. Not quite certain what their agenda is. Contact Lionel Jones.

Richmond Valley AAG: Formed as a result of the Byron Bay Marine Park, but other issues include Shaw Bay mullet shot, bass stocking etc. President is Lindsay Doust. Secretary Bruce Mahoney, formerly on the RFSTEC for 4 years for Region 1.

Coffs Harbour AAG: Formed as the SIMP was being discussed, now largely defunct.

Tuross Heads AAG: Been around for several years, concerned mainly with local issues. Contact Warren Buchan.

Anglers Action Group (Sydney Northside) Inc (AAG): Established in 1994 on local issues, is now more broadly based and quite active in issues such as marine parks, grey nurse shark, fisheries management and various other matters concerning recreational fishing in NSW, especially the saltwater scene. Attempts to take a factual and reasoned approach to issues. Produces a quality newsletter (The Anglers' Action) and uses directed email lists to target particular groups with information dissemination. Phil Ingram president, and Warwick Gibson vice-president.

Web page: www.sponge.org/~aag

The Marine Parks Association of NSW

A group formed on the Mid North Coast in response to the Port Stephens / Great Lakes Marine Park, and believes that the existing approach taken by government is in need of a major overhaul with a return to proven scientific based decisions essential. Max Frost is the initial contact. Grant Moss, Bruce Robinson and Lloyd Campbell develop the group's policy.

Web Page: <http://marineparksassociation.com.au/>

Coastal Rights Association

Formed to fight the Batemans Bay marine park. Located in Bega. Instigator is K=Jack Tait

Web Page: <http://www.communi-gate.net/>

Narooma Ports Committee

This consists of representatives of recreational fishers, commercial fishers, charter boat operators, fishing tackle store owners and other marine businesses. Phil Creagh is the chairman, founder is John Moore.

OTHER STATES – Peak Bodies

Sunfish Queensland: Formed in 1993 from the Queensland Sport and Recreational Fishing Council and is the recognised peak body for Queensland. Bill Turner is the current Chairman

Sub-branches include Sunfish Sunshine Coast, Sunfish FNQ, Sunfish Tablelands, Sunfish North Queensland, Sunfish Moreton, Sunfish South Moreton, Sunfish Mackay, Capricorn Sunfish, Sunfish Fraser Coast.

Member bodies include ANSA Queensland, Australian Underwater Federation Queensland (AUFQ), Queensland Amateur Fishing Clubs Association (QAFCA), Queensland Gamefishing Association (QGFA), Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Association of Queensland (FFSAQ), and Blue Fins Fishing Club).

Web page: [http://www.sunfishqld.com.au/\(thsgb1m51aq5ij55jzqj4v45\)/Default.aspx](http://www.sunfishqld.com.au/(thsgb1m51aq5ij55jzqj4v45)/Default.aspx)

RecFish West: Representative body for recreational anglers in WA at State and Federal level, independent of the Government.

Executive Director is Frank Prokop

Des Wood is the current Chairman. Has both public and general board members, with the general board members coming from: WA Game Fishing Association, ANSA WA, AUF, WA Trout and Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA) and the Australian Anglers Association.

Partially funded from the Government plus seeks its own funds from other sources.

Web Page: www.recfishwest.org.au

VRFish: The peak body for Victoria's recreational fishers.

The governing Body of members comprises two members nominated by major recreational fishing organisations in Victoria, plus non-Club member representatives. These members represent those recreational fishers who do not belong to a club, they also represent the five areas of the State of Victoria, ie Port Phillip, North West, North East, South West and Gippsland. Bob Pearce is the current chairman

Web page: www.vrfish.com.au

TARFish: Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing Inc - a fully independent peak body representing the interests of recreational fishers in Tasmania, and is funded from the recreational fishing license fees.

Inaugural members include ANSA Tasmania, AFTA, AUF, Tasmanian Gamefishing Association, Sea Charter Boat Operators of Tasmania.

Web page: www.tarfish.org

Amateur Fisherman's Association of the NT Inc (AFANT):

Formed in 1980, AFANT is recognised by the NT Government as being the peak body for the recreational anglers of NT.

Executive Officer was formerly John Harrison, now with RecFish Australia. Warren de With is the current President.

Consists of about 30 affiliated fishing clubs.

Web page: www.afant.com.au

OTHER STATES – Major Organisations

Australian Anglers Association (WA Division):

About 30 angling clubs

Web Page: aaawa.iinet.net.au

Australian Anglers Association (SA Division)

Consists of about 20 angling clubs.

Web page: users.senet.com.au/~anglersa/

Australian Anglers Association (Victorian Division)

46 affiliated angling clubs

Web page: www.aaavic.org

AUF (Victoria Branch)

POLITICAL PARTIES

The Fishing Party:

A Federally registered political party. Chairman is Robert Smith.

Web page: www.thefishingparty.info

The Fishing Party Queensland:

Is the State branch of the Federally registered Fishing Party. Formed as a result of the GBRMP process and with the intent of standing candidates for Senate seats in the 2004 Federal election.

Chairman: Kevin Collins

Web page: www.fishingparty.com.au/

The Fishing Party Victoria:

The Victorian branch of the Federally registered Fishing Party.

John Willis is current Chairman

The Outdoor Recreation Party:

Jon Jenkins is a Member for the Legislative Council. Formerly an adjunct professor at Bond University, area of expertise is computers and multimedia. Replaced Malcolm

Jones who was elected to the Legislative Council in 1999 (due to preferences – only got 0.2% of primary vote), but was forced to resign in 2003. His term ends in 2007.

Web page: www.trac.org.au

PEOPLE in NSW

Bruce Schumacher: Hi-Tide presenter, chair of ACoRF, RFSTEC, and sits on a number of committees

Malcolm Poole: Chairman of RFA NSW, delegate to RecFish Australia

Rodney Tonkin: President of NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

Bill Spiers: Secretary, NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

Alan Izzard: Publicity Officer, NSW CFA, Bass Sydney

Radge Diakaw: FCA, RFA

John Humphries: FCA, RFA

Stan Konstantaras: Secretary RFA NSW, ANSA angel ring project

Joe Garufi: Publicity Officer RFA of NSW

Yanko Serifi: ANSA NSW

Bruce Tozer: ANSA NSW

Rod Burston: Chairman of ECOFishers

Maurie Britten: Ecofishers Kempsey/Nambucca

Chris Blanch: Ecofishers Pt Macquarie

Brett Schultz: Ecofishers Great Lakes

Peter Sanderson: Ecofishers Newcastle

Peter Hughes: Ecofishers Newcastle, Native Fish Australia

Geoff Ruse: Ecofishers Newcastle

Ken Thurlow: Chairman Northern Rivers Fishing Conference (now subgroup of ECOFishers)

Bruce Mackay: Ecofishers Pt Stephens

Rowan Phelps: Ecofishers Pt Stephens

Phil Ingram: President AAG

Warwick Gibson: Vice President AAG

Mel Brown: AUF, member of ACoRF, RFA of NSW etc

Adrian Wayne: AUF, NSW RFA

Oliver Waddy: LobMac, active in other areas

Geoff Hawkins: Chairman ANSA National

John Burgess: Executive Officer/Business Director ANSA National

Vice President/Treasurer ANSA NSW, NSW RFA

Les Waldock: President ANSA NSW

Robert Smith: President of NSW FCA.

Margaret Riddel: Secretary NSW FCA

Bruce Mahony: Secretary Richmond Valley AAG, formerly RFSTEC member for Region 1

Lindsay Doust: President, RVAAG

Max Castle: Sea Bees Boating Club, Rec Fishing Alliance of NSW

Lionel Jones: Concerned Anglers Group

Doug Joyner: AFTA

Max Frost: Marine Parks Association of NSW

Jack Tait: Coastal Rights Association

Phil Creagh: Chairman - Narooma Ports Committee

John Moore: Founder – Narooma Ports Committee

Other States

Frank Prokop: CEO RecFishWest. Formerly of NSW Fisheries

Ian Stagles: GFA of WA

Terry Fuller: AAA of WA

Kevin Collins: Chairman Fishing Party Queensland

Bill Sawynok: Manager, Info-Fish Services. On board of RecFish Australia

Federal

John Harrison: CEO of RecFish Australia

Craig Ingram: Native Fish Australia

Graham Creed: Native Fish Australia

NSW DPI Fisheries Staff

Former Directors of NSW Fisheries – Steve Dunn, John Glaister

John Diplock: Manager Recreational Fisheries

(Cameron Westway: Formerly Manager, Inland Fisheries now with MPA Batemans Bay)

Nick Ottway: Research Scientist – grey nurse sharks

Phil Dalton: Recreational Fishing, Cronulla

Fishing Media

Kieran Reekie:	HiTide 2KY
Michael Semmler: network)	The Travelling Fisherman (Country NSW radio)
Lisa Howard:	ABC Broken Hill
Elloise Farrow-Smith:	ABC Mid north coast
Ben Sandman:	Australian Fishing Network (AFN)
Jim Harmon:	AFN
Ron Collins:	Bush and Beach Fishing
Jim Harnwell:	Fishing World Magazine
Daniel Tillack:	Modern Fishing
David Harris:	fishnet.com.au
Neil Ryan:	sportsfish.com.au
James Hill:	Trailerboat Fishing
Neville Coleman:	Underwater Geographic
Tony Zann:	NSW Fishing Monthly
Eddie Taylor:	Illawarra Mercury
John Newbery:	Environment Editor – Fishing World
Gil Schott:	Saltwater Fishing Australia
Glenn Onysko (Esky)	The Fishing Fellows - Central Coast
John (Stinker) Clark	NBN3, radio 2SM

Professional Fishers and Bodies

OceanWatch: Environmental arm of the seafood industry in NSW. Founded in 1989 by restaurateur Peter Doyle. Funded from a levy of each plastic crate auctioned at the Sydney Fish Markets. Anissa Lawrence and Monique Needham are the two staff that rec anglers mainly deal with.

Web page: www.oceanwatch.org.au

Graeme Hillyard: ProFish spokesman

Gary Howard: Hawkesbury Prawn Trawl Association