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NSW 2101

2nd April, 2004

The Honourable Ian MacDonald, MLA
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
Level 30 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney, NSW, 2000

Dear Minister,

Our group has received several comments attributed to various delegates of Recfish Australia who have expressed concerns that a Ministerial appointed body such as ACoRF claims to represent recreational anglers of the State of NSW at the National level. Recreational anglers feel they are not democratically represented Nationally, and that their interests and issues are not adequately conveyed. Many anglers have also expressed similar views of angler representation at the State level.

As ACoRF was established in 1994 to be an advisory body to the Minister of Fisheries on matters pertaining to recreational fishing, and its members being appointed by the Minister, it seems both odd and out of ACoRF's initial terms of reference that ACoRF be the State's peak body representing recreational anglers of NSW at the National level. NSW is the only State where recreational anglers are represented by a delegate from a Ministerially appointed advisory body.

In view of that fact that Peak bodies for recreational anglers in all other States are not Ministerially appointed advisory bodies we ask the following questions:

- Would the NSW Government and the NSW Fisheries Department recognise and deal with another body as the Peak fishing body for NSW recreational anglers? If so, would the Government or NSW consider funding such a body?

- If not, then could an account of the reasons be given as to why neither the Government nor NSW Fisheries consider a non-Ministerially appointed body is not needed nor required to represent the recreational anglers of NSW?

Yours Sincerely

Phillip Ingram
President
Anglers Action Group (Sydney Northside) Inc