

**For immediate circulation
To ANSA NSW Members**

INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS REQUIRED



**ANSA NSW
Tightlines
EXTRA
Issue 27
6th March 10**

E-news from ANSA NSW President

NSW FISHING INQUIRY

There is only one issue on our agenda this month and that is the Fishing Inquiry. **Submissions close on the 19th of March** and whilst the ANSA NSW Executive is aware that a few clubs have taken the initiative and are preparing submissions, all clubs need to take the time and put pen to paper and encourage their members to do the same.

The NSW Legislative Council has established a select committee to examine recreational fishing in NSW for both coastal and inland fisheries. The inquiry has commenced and the Committee is inviting interested people and organisations to make a submission.

Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Brown MLC said, "This parliamentary inquiry will take a thorough look at recreational fishing, for both coastal and inland fisheries, and the way it is managed in this state. There are over half a million recreational fishing licence holders in NSW and this inquiry will examine the benefits and opportunities that improved recreational fisheries may represent for licence holders."

"This important inquiry will look at the current regulatory, policy and decision making processes that control recreational fishing. It will also examine the current representational system of trusts and advisory committees that advise government departments and statutory authorities about recreational fishing", said Mr Brown.

Mr Brown said, "The inquiry will examine the effectiveness of existing Marine Protected Areas and Marine Parks and look at the gaps in existing recreational fishery programs, including the number and location of Recreational Fishing Havens."

"This inquiry will also consider the value of recreational fisheries to the economy of NSW, as well as ecologically sustainable development issues related to improving recreational fisheries," Mr Brown added.

"We are inviting submissions addressing the terms of reference, due by **Friday 19 March 2010** and we will hold public hearings in Sydney and in coastal and inland regional areas during April to June next year."

Submissions can be submitted via email to: fishinginquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au or faxed to (02) 9230 3416 or mailed to: The Director, Select Committee on Recreational Fishing, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000. The terms of reference for the inquiry and information about making a submission can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on (02) 9230 3544 or via the Committee's website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/fishinginquiry.

A special committee headed by the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) has been chartered and ANSA NSW holds a key position on this committee. The committee will be undertaking a detailed review of the terms of reference for recreational fishing in NSW and will submit a unified response for the recreational fishing sector in NSW. In addition we need individual submissions (especially from ANSA members) and ANSA fishing clubs.

This is where we need to act.

The key issues affecting anglers include:

1. Current representative system
2. Access to aquatic areas
3. The value of recreational fishing in NSW to the State economy
4. Management of the fishery
5. Funding
6. Policy and Regulation
7. Comments on existing and proposed Recreational Fishing Havens.

In addition to your submissions ANSA NSW will be seeking strong support from clubs and therefore request members to attend public hearings as the inquiry is carried out. A strong presence at these public hearings means a clear voice from anglers and this will be mission critical to our fishing future. I will advise clubs and members as these meetings are announced and anticipate your full support, attendance and participation.

It's vitally important that if your club, or even you as an individual wish to attend and appear at these hearings to let the Committee know in your initial submission.

If your club has certain issues that are relevant to the inquiry, now is the best opportunity to make some time to appear and present your case.

If you as an individual feel strongly about a certain issue relevant to your sport then ask to be present to make your case.

There will be public hearings in Sydney and in coastal and inland regional areas during April to June 2010.

This coming week (8-14th of March) expect to see a whole lot more information coming out to the clubs from ANSA NSW. It is critical that this information gets to your members.

1. An ANSA NSW Submission will be made available this week and will fall into line with what the RFA select committee is drafting. ANSA NSW has had input into this and as stated previously it is important we all present a united front in our submissions. The NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers, The Underwater Skindivers and Fisherman's Association, The NSW Fishing Clubs Association has been asked for input and / or are working with the RFA of NSW on a submission on behalf of the recreational anglers of NSW.

Make sure your club gets its submission in.

2. An online submission is being prepared to distribute to counteract some of the extreme green groups out there who are conducting a similar campaign.

Make sure your members participate and submit individual responses

3. Attached is a draft sample for your members to consider on how to construct a simple response back to the committee. They should feel free to also add in their own comments and suggestions. They could talk about bag limits, access issues in your local area, compliance issues etc. It's also important not to cut and paste my response, but write your own. It will take 10 minutes of your time.

Make sure your members put a submission in and this information gets to them.

Finally, having seen the draft of the Newcastle Sportfishing Clubs response, I want to include what they have written in their introduction to highlight why your club needs to act as well.

"Recreational fishing has become the most regulated of any sport in NSW. Anglers have to contend with size limits, bag limits, possession limits, species restrictions, number of rods in use, limits on number of hooks, closed seasons, seasonally closed areas, no fishing zones, fly fishing only areas, and recently rods in unrigged state, rods stowed and code of conduct for competitions. Anglers can only wonder at this proliferation of controls to what is supposed to be a peaceful and relaxing activity. Governments have continued to exert ever increasing influence over recreational fishing either as a revenue raising activity or bowing to political pressure exerted by minority groups opposed to fishing"

Reason enough?

Tightlines

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Select Committee on Recreational Fishing
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000
(Fax 02 9230 3416)

Parliamentary Inquiry into Recreational Fishing – March 2010

Dear Director,

I wish to make the following comments in regard to the above Inquiry.

1. Marine Parks

I would like to see a review of all current marine parks in NSW and the NSW Government provide us with a report card on how successful marine park management and zoning policy has been in relation to biodiversity both pre and post implementation. I would like to see a review of the current sanctuary zones science to consider rotating sanctuary zones and seasonal closures of areas to protect spawning fish aggregations and considerations are given to all land based anglers to remove overcrowding in marine parks.

2. Independent Peak Body

I would like to see the formation of an independent peak body within NSW that is

- a) Funded
- b) Has the ability to manage non-core fisheries business
- c) Independent and representative
- d) Part of a national Peak Body

3. Economic Value of Recreational Fishing In NSW

I would like to see a study done now on the value of recreational fishing to the NSW economy.

4. Recreational Fishing Havens (RFH)

I would like to see recreational anglers retain ownership of the sea floor in RFH in areas that do not include Maritime interests. I would like to see continued shore based access to all of our RFH and compensation for loss of access and loss of habitat in all RFH, including the impacts of state significant developments in NSW. I would like to see the NSW Government prioritise localised and smaller commercial effort buyouts in our bioregions around the Shoalhaven and Sydney Harbour.

5. Enforcement

I would like to see more enforcement via more fisheries compliance officers and this to be undertaken as core business.

6. Key Threatening Processes

I would like to see more independent, recreational angler approved and driven studies undertaken to look at key threatening processes like desalination, seagrass degradation, run off, habitat destruction and on land developments.

I would like to attend the public hearings.



Signed

Date : 2nd March 2010

Phone number (optional) 0407 131 714

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Date :

Phone number (optional)