



ANSA NEWS BULLETIN

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ANSA Board
PO Box 328
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NEWS FROM ANSA NATIONAL

NATIONAL FEES

The ANSA board recently reviewed its fee structure for the coming 2013/14 financial year and decided to reduce some of its fee categories. Senior fee will be reduced from \$10 to \$8 and juniors will now be free (currently \$2). These fee reduction have been made achievable due to the lower cost of running the National administration through increased use of modern technology to reduce travel costs associated with face to face meetings and communication with members. Family and Student memberships will remain at \$14 and \$3 respectively. These fee reductions will give branches the option to retain a larger share of member fee revenue or to promote cheaper membership rates

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ANSA FACEBOOK PAGE

ANSA has recently set up a member face book page which can be accessed at www.facebook.com/ANSA.National . Joe Garufi, ANSA Membership Director, is the administrator of the site and keeps the page moving with current issues and interesting articles. A new ANSA National website is currently under construction and will be going live very soon. The new site will have “on line” ANSA Ware shopping and electronic payment capability. A new ANSA APP is currently in the pipeline and should be available to members shortly.

ANSA PROMOTIONAL BROCHURES / RULE BOOKS

ANSA has recently produced a revamped high quality ANSA promotional brochure. These brochures are an ideal tool for ANSA branches and clubs to promote ANSA and recruit new members. Supplies of the brochures are available free to branches and clubs. You can place orders with Joe Garufi, Membership Director at jgred@bigpond.com . You can view the brochures on the ANSA website <http://www.ansa.com.au/> . Additional bulk orders of the 2012 ANSA Rule Book can also be ordered at no cost via Joe.

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MARINE PARKS

Minister Burke and DSEWPAC are now into the final stage of the rollout of the national network of commonwealth marine reserves. The size, location and zonings of the marine reserves have been finalised and the proposed management plans for the reserves are now set to get the final nod of approval by the Senate. Despite a very successful phone campaign by recreational fishers to win independent's Windsor and Oakeshott support for a disallowance motion bought on by the Coalition to reject the proposed management plan instrument, Labor with support from the Greens and the two independents secured passage of the management plan in the lower house with a narrow margin of one vote. ANSA in conjunction with other ARFF (Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation) peak body members will continue to have dialogue with Minister Burke and DSEWPAC officials in a final bid to secure a better outcome for recreational fishers, in terms of access, before the Federal election. We have specifically requested an immediate independent scientific review of the commonwealth marine reserve process to examine specifically what underpins the government's decision to lock recreational fishers out of marine national park zones yet arguably allows environmentally destructive activities to still occur at these locations. We have also requested a revision of the interpretation of IUCN 11 which is the zone classification applied to marine park zones and classifies recreational fishing as an extractive activity and therefore a non allowable activity. Under the international definition of IUCN 11 and the Australian Government's previous interpretation of IUCN11, recreational fishing was not a disallowable activity.

CALTEX PLANS FOR KURNELL

ANSA has formally requested Minister Burke to intervene in the proposal by Caltex to dredge and expand its berthing facilities at Kurnell and to dispose of the dredged sediment by dumping it at sea. Caltex proposes to dump some 147000cubic metres of spoil about 10km south east of Sydney heads (in about 100/130 metres of water) and a further 6000 cubic metres within Botany Bay. Quite apart from the environmental concerns of more dredging activity within Botany Bay (a declared recreational fishing haven paid for out of recreational fishing licence funds) and a further loss of fishing access due to the increased size of the berthing facilities and associated security zones, the spoil to be dredged is heavily contaminated with Tributyltin (TBT) a very toxic substance formerly associated with anti fouling practices. The contaminated spoil cannot be legally used for normal landfill but there are other options available to Caltex for disposal such as decontamination and or disposal at an approved land based contaminated disposal site. Dumping at sea might be the most cost efficient means of disposal but is not an acceptable option given the potential environmental and health impacts. The final decision to dump at sea rests with Minister Burke so let's hope he is on our side this time. The issue of compensatory offsets for loss of fishing access to Botany Bay have been canvassed with Caltex management.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

As we move closer to the Federal elections all political parties will be requested to articulate their policies in respect of recreational fishing and marine parks etc. These will be made available to members to evaluate in due course and weigh up who has most to offer. Plans are afoot to relaunch the very subtle "I fish I vote" stickers that ANSA introduced many years ago.

OPPOSITION TO QUEENSLAND PORT PROJECTS

There are currently 3 known coal and gas ports proposed for the northern Queensland Coast. It beggars belief that these new port projects will be located within or adjacent to established marine reserves but what is even more unbelievable is the intention to dump all dredged soil from these new port projects on the door step of the Great Barrier Reef and other pristine marine locations. The implications for our reef systems and marine bio diversity generally from such acts of environmental vandalism are just too extensive to digest. The need for an active campaign to stop these developments was raised by ANSA at a recent meeting of member bodies of ARFF. There was overwhelming agreement that we need to mount a united campaign to stop these developments before irreparable damage is done to our Queensland coast. Given the Labor governments penchant for marine reserves and marine parks and restrictions placed on recreational fishing it is sheer hypocrisy for these developments to be allowed to proceed.

RECREATIONAL FISHING CHARTER

ANSA in conjunction with ARFF members has just about finalised a discussion paper which will go to the government and all political parties making the case for the establishment of a recreational fishing charter. This was a topic discussed at the 2012 Recreational Fishing Conference and recognised as a must have for recreational fishers. Given the size and importance of the recreational fishing sector it is vital that decision makers recognise the significant and valuable contribution recreational fishing generates for the national economy and the social good of the nation. The proposed charter will provide a framework to facilitate future effective government/ private sector/ community partnerships covering key areas such as engagement with government, enhancing education awareness, research for recreational fishers and the enhancement and protection of our marine habitat. Issues such as long term sustainable funding for recreational fishing peak bodies, recognition of recreational fishing as a sport, appointment of a Parliamentary Minister for recreational fishing and the establishment of a National Recreational Fishing Council are just some of the suggested recommendations. The final version of the discussion paper will be released for general comment very soon.

SUPER TRAWLER

The saga with Gerry Geen and his company Seafish Tasmania will move to a new dimension later this week when the company has its day in the Federal Court seeking to have a lifting of Minister Burke's ban on the licensing of the super trawler Abel Tasman(nee Margiris) to fish for small pelagic in our southern fisheries. Let's hope that the Court does not do an about face on the licensing ban and our bait fish are left to fulfil their vital role in the wild fishery food chain.

REVIEW OF COMMONWEALTH FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

One of the issues that arose out of the campaign to stop the licensing of the super trawler Margiris to fish in our small pelagic fishery was the establishment of the Borthwick review into the effectiveness of how our Commonwealth fisheries are managed by various agencies such as AFMA and DAFF etc. ANSA did contribute to the Borthwick review which was released for public comment in March 2013. You can access the Borthwick review document on the DAFF website www.daff.gov.au. One of the clear messages coming out of the Borthwick review was the need for greater transparency, consultation and engagement with stakeholders, including recreational fishers and that management plans, compliance and enforcement provisions need to reflect community expectations. The review also recognised the need to address co-management and resource sharing to ensure that fish stocks are shared between commercial and recreational fishers and that recreational fishers want secure access to the resource and proper recognition of their contribution to the economy and social welfare. ANSA and other recreational peak body representatives recently met with AFMA and DAFF management in Canberra in the first of what will hopefully be regular meetings to work through the Borthwick recommendations. Some of the key requirements sought by recreational peak bodies in attendance were increased recreational fisher representation on Commonwealth MAC's and RAG's and specific inclusion of recreational fishing in various Commonwealth acts such as the Fisheries Management / Fisheries Administration Acts and the charters for AFMA and DAFF. Early days yet but a positive start to a new and collaborative relationship between recreational fishers and the powers that regulate and manage our Commonwealth fisheries.

REDMAP (RANGE EXTENSION DATABASE AND MAPPING PROJECT)

Redmap is a project which encourages recreational fishers to spot and log marine species that they do not usually see in their marine backyard. With ocean temperatures rising and our seasons changing it is becoming increasingly apparent that we are now seeing fish from warmer climates now occupying what traditionally have been cooler climate areas. Scientists are very keen to collect data on these anomalies to assist with the sustainable management of our fisheries. ANSA members are encouraged to get behind the Redmap project. Each state and territory has its own regional website portal which can be accessed via www.redmap.org.au. Register your sightings and sign up for the quarterly Redmap newsletter.

SOUTHERN BLUE FIN TUNA

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural economics and Sciences (ABARES) is currently collecting data on the recreational catch of Southern Bluefin Tuna and is seeking support from ANSA. What ABARES is seeking is details of any SBT captures made by ANSA members over the 2011 and 2012 calendar years which were great seasons for SBT. If you were fortunate to catch SBT over this period could you please drop me a line advising how many you caught, when and where caught, any size or weight details or if released. My email contact is John Burgess c/o abtrap@yahoo.com.au

THE NATIONAL ANGEL RING PROJECT

Currently ANSA is seeking approval for 9 new Angel Ring locations in WA – this is being done in conjunction with Recfishwest and ANSA WA. Additional ring installation locations have also been recently approved in NSW which are just waiting to be installed. Once these projects have progressed we will be moving to further roll out the Angel Ring project into QLD, VIC, SA and TAS. Running parallel with the National Angel Ring project is the national challenge of educating recreational fishers who fish the rocks to think “safety” even before they leave home. It is encouraging to see that the “Don't put your life on the line” message is gaining traction with recreational fishers and that we are making inroads into the challenge of reducing the number of rock fishing related deaths. ANSA members who fish the rocks should be mindful of the following safety rules.

Fish in a group within sight of each other. If someone is washed in, one person can stay and help while the other alerts emergency services (dial 000). Always let friends or family know where you are going and when you'll be back. Light clothing such as shorts and a spray jacket will let you swim easily. If you are washed in, jumpers may be heavy and difficult to take off. Cleats, sandals and sandshoes with non slip soles suit different surfaces. Use the appropriate shoes for the conditions. Wear a life jacket or buoyancy vest. Also bring something buoyant that can be easily thrown and held onto, to help you stay afloat.

Carry ropes, a float and torches. Make sure you are aware of local weather, swell and tidal conditions before going fishing. Listen to weather forecasts or call the weather information line on 1900 937 107. Be aware that conditions may change dramatically in a short period of time. Spend some time (at least 30 minutes) watching your intended spot before fishing to get an idea of the conditions over a full swell/wave cycle. Wave conditions can get worse as the tide changes - you should know whether the tides are high or low and coming in or going out. Stay calm - if you are washed in, swim away from the rocks and look for a safe place to come ashore or stay afloat and wait for help to arrive. Don't ever turn your back on the sea - if the waves, weather or swell threaten your fishing spot then leave immediately.

Regards,



John Burgess
Executive Officer / Director
ANSA National Ltd
