



Seachange Newsletter

Issue #5

Spearfishing, Safe, Sustainable, Selective, Seafood

Happy XMAS- and welcome to the 5th issue of Seachange - the electronic newsletter for skindivers in Australia.

The people who contribute are what makes the AUF the organisation it is today. A huge thank you to all the volunteers of national, state and club positions. I know it is hard to give up your precious time but if we don't do that our future is bleak. We always have major challenges to our future with more protected areas, protected species, complex laws and lack of resources.

It is always challenging to name people who have done the most for our sport (and I will surely miss out on some key people and I have an east coast bias based on my interactions) – but I want to start to give credit and recognise some who are and continue to make major contribution to the future of our sport. So this is my way, on behalf of the AUF National Spearfishing Commission, of saying a very public thank you to the State chairs- Dave Welch from Qld, John Schuller and Peter Saunders from NSW, Dr Matt Koopman from Vic and Simon Longbottom from WA. Thank you to all of those club presidents, assistants or vocal campaigners and particularly Sue Dockar, John Featherstone, Greg and Anthea Pickering and Michael and Cassie Rupnik. Thank you to authors/editors such as Barry Andrewartha, John Featherstone and Rob Torelli; and manufacturers and dive shops such as Tim Nielson

from Adrenalin, Ted Lougher from Extreme and Tony Heugh from Edge. And there are also those who are generous with their time and knowledge such as Ian Puckeridge, Dr Marcus Lincoln Smith, Alastair MacNeill and Brett Vercoe. At the National AGM I was re-elected for another two year period.

2008 has been one of the best years for the AUF with a great win in the Interpacific and great support for the Great Australian Shark Count. The Great Australian Shark Count is a tremendous initiative which has been very successful in education and monitoring and providing benefits such as GASC wetsuits to divers and positive media. I feel we are moving rapidly into a new area where Spearfishing and our logo of "Safe, Sustainable, Selective, Seafood" will be recognised as good rather than bad reputation.

The GASC was a finalist in the United Nationals 2008 awards for "Excellence in Marine and Coastal Management" and won "Project of the Year" at the Recfish Australian Annual Conference in October 2008. The AUF NSW (USFA) won the award for Excellence in Recreational Fishing Communication for the Guide to Spearfishing in NSW.

We also attended several conferences on recreational fishing and sharks and presented talks. There were lots of positive media articles on TV, newspaper, magazines and radio - particularly about the Great Australian Shark Count. Congratulations to the NSW USFA who published the skindivers handbook.



Please encourage your friends to join the AUF (especially as a social member – see form in this issue) and also if you can please also consider a donation to the AUF to help with major campaigns and projects such as the Battle for the Coral Sea and the Great Australian Shark Count.

Safe and happy diving over the holiday period

Regards

Dr Adam Smith

National Chair (AUF Spearfishing)

Battle of the Coral Sea

The PEW environment group have recently announced a campaign to create a 1 million square kilometre sanctuary in the Coral Sea- yes that me no take.

This campaign is a major threat to the selective nature of blue water spearfishing for prized gamefish such as dogtooth tuna and wahoo.

The AUF needs your help (particularly financial) if we are to be organised and provide relevant information to negotiate with Government and groups such as PEW on our activities in the Coral Sea.

Contact Adam on 0418726584 if you can assist

Sydney, Australia - 09/10/2008 - An international coalition today presented a proposal to the government of Australia to create the world's largest no-take marine park in the Coral Sea, an area that is important to the world's marine environment and significant in its deep historical and cultural ties to the region.

“Our oceans are in trouble. What we once thought of as an inexhaustible resource is rapidly deteriorating due to human activities like overfishing, pollution and global warming,” said Joshua Reichert, managing director of the Pew Environment Group, which is helping to lead the coalition’s effort as part of its Global Ocean Legacy project. “It will take bold initiatives like this one – protecting large, contiguous regions of the sea and involving a broad and diverse group of stakeholders – to begin allowing many of the world’s fisheries and ocean ecosystems to recover.”

The campaign partners, who include Australia’s leading tropical marine scientists, former Chiefs of the Navy, members of the Battle for Australia Commemoration National Council, and Australian and international environmental organizations, are calling for one million square kilometres of the Coral Sea to be protected from extractive industries. The proposed park – which encompasses a

key World War II maritime battle – lies immediately to the east of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and would be three times larger, extending to Australia’s maritime boundary with Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and New Caledonia.

“Protecting the Coral Sea would preserve one of the planet’s richest and most diverse ocean environments and would serve as an invaluable conservation model for every country, culture and community that relies on healthy oceans for subsistence, jobs and important economic revenue, tourism, recreation and protection from natural disasters,” Reichert said.

The image is a promotional poster for the Coral Sea Sanctuary campaign. At the top, it features the PEW Environment Group logo and the text 'PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP www.pewtrusts.org'. Below this, the title 'Coral Sea Sanctuary' is prominently displayed in a large, serif font. The central part of the poster is a photograph of a white nautilus shell resting on a vibrant red coral reef. Underneath the photo, there is a caption: 'Australia's essential and biologically rich Coral Sea ocean zone one million square kilometres immediately east of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.' The bottom section of the poster contains several columns of text under the heading 'CONSERVING THE SPECIAL PLACES IN THE SEA.' The text discusses the historical significance of the Coral Sea, the impact of climate change, and the need for a sanctuary. At the very bottom, there is contact information for the PEW Environment Group, including a phone number (617 336-3600), a website (www.pewtrusts.org), and a list of partner organizations like the Blue Ocean Program, the Blue Foundation, and the Wildlife Society.

Membership and benefits

The spearfishing commission is continuing to grow and the latest numbers (from Sue Dockar in September 2008) are 670 spearfishers.

NSW:	340
QLD:	186
WA:	96
VIC:	39
SA:	7
TAS:	2

One of the main questions I get from people is what does the AUF National body do for me. Each AUF member pays \$10 towards the national body (except Juniors who are free).

1. Peak body representing spearfishing. About 500-1,000 volunteer hours working on spearfishing issues and co-ordination. Employed Michael Rupnik as a part-time Executive Officer for 1 day a week from grant money for 2008.
2. Financial - Legendary Skindiving Equipment- *10% discount for members for 2007-8*
3. Representation- AUF National spearfishing commission pays our associate membership fee for Recfish Australia (\$550 pa) and is also represented on the Board. This group represents all recreational fishers and has full time staff and has contacts with the Federal Minister.
4. Planning- National Strategic Planning template, national competition rules and Bylaws
5. Communication- At least one conference per year (6 AUF members attended Recfish conference in Canberra and I presented- talk)
6. Communication- I send several hundred emails and letters and also write regular articles for ISFN and Spearfishing Downunder magazine. Also other important events such as radio and TV appearances and media releases and articles
7. People Development - Next Generation of Leaders (first course in Darwin Nov 07)
8. Legal - AAT court case on GNS (and also \$2200 towards costs)
9. Competitions- List of all competitions so as to reduce overlaps. Seed money of \$2000 to help clubs run national competitions
10. International Competitions - Money to support international and world teams
11. Best Practise- Tournament accreditation - NEATFish
12. Sponsors - I have worked with my contacts and Sue to get spearfishing industry to sponsor the back of the AUF cards (Edge in 2005, Adrenalin in 2006, Picasso in 2007, Picasso and GASC in 2008). Also I work with other sponsors for national titles or other teams (eg Paspaley).
13. Professional presentation - business cards and t-shirts are organised for state executive.
14. Apply for grants and manage grants. In 2007-8 we were successful with \$73,000 for the GASC. But we have not been able to source other funds despite extensive efforts.



Australian Underwater Federation Inc

Susan Dockar
 A.U.F. Memberships
 P.O. Box 195
 Menai Central N.S.W. 2234
 Ph/Fax: (02) 9543-4907
 Email: SoozieD@bigpond.com

Representing all Freedivers, Spearfishers and underwater sports enthusiasts

Full Name: (print).....

(Surname) Given Names

AUF Membership No..... **New**..... **Renewal**

Spearfishing and/or Freediving Club.....

Address: (No. & Street).....

Suburb:.....**State:**.....**Post Code:**.....

Phone: (.....).....**Mobile:**.....

Fax: (.....).....**email:**.....

Occupation:**Date of Birth:**...../...../.....

Male: **Female:**

NOTE: A.U.F. m/ship + National and State Spearfishing Commission memberships due 1st July and expires 30th June each year.

SPEARFISHING Membership Fee Schedule (Junior Under 18 years)		
	Junior	Others
(a)	AUF (\$ go to CMAS/administration/membership card/Govt. representation) \$8.00	\$10.00
(b)	National Spearfishing Commission (\$ go to National team/National communication) \$-	\$10.00
(c)	State Spearfishing Commission (\$ go to State issues/representation/communication) \$8.00	\$10.00

	TOTAL ALL OTHER STATES	\$16.00
	\$30.00	

Please find enclosed Cheque/Money Order for \$.....**Note: Cheques payable to: AUF Membership Account**

Forward to: AUF Memberships – P.O. Box 195, Menai Central, N.S.W. 2234

[AUF Mission: Bring Sport, Conservation and Awareness to the Underwater World](#)

26TH WORLD SPEARFISHING TITLES, VENEZUELA, OCTOBER 2008**By Tony Heugh, Manager Worlds**

Much effort went into raising funds to send a team representing Australia and the AUF to this event. Thanks to our sponsors, in alphabetical order:

**AUF****DiveR,****ISF&N,****Legendary Skindiving,****Superfrog Enterprises**

Also indirectly the South Coast Barracudas for money they raised during the 3 Way State Championships, the organisers of the Glyn Dromey Memorial Competition in WA, the Coffs Harbour Freedivers and the BWC, the Mackay Downunder Skindivers and the Cloughy Challenge and the Townsville Skindivers through the Qld. State Titles.

The team, Paul Roso, Drew Fenney, Paul Cristie, Joe Hyzdal and manager Tony Heugh, left Sydney for a journey which was to last 55 hours in transit to Margarita Island off Venezuela on the opposite side of the globe and just 11 degrees off the Equator in the northern hemisphere.

Eventually we made it to our first temporary residence, Los Mangos Motel, on Margarita Island at 1am on the morning of the 16th. Our host Tracy was a bubble of joy and we found ourselves sharing the premises and happy times with the Kiwis and the Portuguese, for the next 4 days.

Next day we took things easy. As manager I took a walk down to the harbour to investigate options for hiring a boat. On the 18th we hired a local Venezuelan, Alec and his boat and he took us to the competition areas, which were about 12 Nm offshore, and encompassing a group of small islands and bommies. The fish life was disappointing after having heard that there were plenty of big fish from other teams who had been scouting for months in the lead up.

Next day we hired a different boat and crew and headed about 70 Nm offshore to a small group of islands, outside of the competition area, where we could spear some fish and nut out our gear. We had great fun and speared some nice fish including Pargo, Snappers, Barracuda and large Parrotfish. The boats were all of wooden construction and rode the sea without too much bumping and jarring – however the boats were not suited to standing whilst travelling and were decked out with wooden bench seats. After 3 hours either way to this reef, we all had sore backsides.

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On the 20th we moved to the official competition residence, the Porta Vino Hotel – this we shared mainly with the 20 other teams although the Spanish had elected to stay on at a different hotel. The food was reasonable and we were covered for our drinks – apparently the hotel staff could not be trusted with money and therefore the price for accommodation included food and drink. There was an opening ceremony on the evening of 20th at the local sports field.

On the 21st we went scouting with Alec and again on the 22nd. Prior to scouting on the 22nd we went for a dive on an isolated pinnacle some 30nm offshore, where we were allowed to spear some fish. Here we speared some Barracuda, a Wahoo and Mutton Snapper. On the way over the wooden bench seat, which Roso and I were perched upon, broke and one of my legs happened to cushion the fall. My lower calf is painful as I write.



We rested on the 23rd, the day before the competition. There was also a captain's meeting, where finer points regarding the rules were fathomed out and boat allocations made.

On the 24th we started early after breakfast and departed by bus for the boat harbour – basically boats were launched from the beach behind a breakwater – outboards were carried to the wooden boats, fixed with clamps and secured with rope. The boats had high prows and were stable and heavy. They were tiller operated and the boat driver restricted in his view to one side of the boat and ahead. There were no lifejackets, no radios, no fire extinguishers to be seen, no EPIRBs, no floatation other than the wooden construction. The fuel tanks were plastic drums previously used for herbicides and the like. Drainage was by wooden bungs in the hull and a bucket. The boats were all colourfully painted. Some had 2 outboards; none carried oars and/or mast and sail. The tool set consisted of a rusty lat and Phillips screwdriver – one of each, and a spark plug spanner – also rusty. The outboards

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were mostly 40 hp versions as this is the limit these guys could hoist upon their shoulders each day as they lugged them down to the beach. No outboards were left overnight on the boats. The boats were for the most part not trailer able and the locals used green logs as rollers/slides to move the boats into the water.

After launching and travelling the 12 Nm crossing, we gathered in the centre of the first day competition area. There we waited a considerable time for the organiser to arrive and start the competition. Once underway, 60 boats darted for the relatively isolated fishy spots and there was pandemonium as divers baled overboard amidst boat traffic and float lines. The continual buss of outboards and the sudden arrival of dozens of divers frightened whatever fish here may have been around into holes and caves and very little was speared in the early stages of the competition.

I was on Paul Roso's boat. He tried his best spot for Barracuda but there was too much noise and commotion from other divers and no fish was going to risk hanging around there, so we went to a deeper spot, only to find it too inundated with divers and no fish hanging around to be taken. Back to the first spot where the divers had thinned out and the fish had settled somewhat. Paul was successful in landing a good-sized Barracuda of around 7 kg.



Thereafter we headed to the inside of the big island to a spot where we had seen a few small cod during scouting. The terrain was flat and between 25 and 27 meters deep. Paul worked the area hard for about an hour before surfacing after a dive in discomfort. He was working hard with a turnaround time of between 3 and 4 minutes between dives – too hard for this depth and he probably had a bubble on his brain. 15 minutes before the end of the comp Paul had to retire.

Drew had not had a happy first day either – he told me he was worried about the size of the Barracuda he had speared and that it may be a penalty fish. Paul Christie had 2 weighers in a Black Margo and a Pargo. Paul also reported that the Chileans had protested against his use of flashers. I had visions of Portugal when we had had a bad fist day. Things were not looking good but at least I had been advised that Paul was only given a warning and not to be disqualified. I was surprised at the ruling re the flashers as I had seen other divers using them and nearly everyone had a torch, which could be used as a flasher. Some of the other teams later told me they had used flashers throughout the competition with no repercussions – so much for a level playing field! Antonio Pacheco, one of the zone commissioners, later told me, that as flashers were not on the list of allowable equipment, they were not allowed. I noted that Sputnicks and numerous other items not on the list of allowable equipment were also being used. Also an inconsistency in that there was a list of fish, which were off the list, yet no list of equipment which was off the list – for equipment it was the other way around!

Back at the weigh in at the sports ground, Drew was the first to have his fish weighed – the organisers were doing it alphabetically. Drew's fish was a penalty fish but the organisers assured me that he would not receive the negative score we had expected. This was a nice surprise – I queried it, as previously divers had received negative scores. I was assured that negative points would only be deducted from those with weighers and then no less than zero would be applied. As Drew's was the first fish weighed in the competition this should have been the precedent for the remainder of the weigh in.

Next day we were surprised when a few divers had received negative points. Drew had the heaviest penalty as his was for a 5kg category fish and they deducted 3200 points for the 3.2kg fish and another 1000 points for the penalty weigher. The total deduction of 4200 points translated to a massive 11% penalty for day 1. Not surprisingly there were very few penalty fish weighed in on day 2.



The top diver for day 1, Joseba Kerejeta from Spain, had speared 8 fish, mostly small fish but some reasonable Trevally and Pargo (red fish similar to a Mangrove Jack).

There was a protest against South African diver, Jaco Blignaut. He had speared 8 big Black Margo (Rubber lip) in a cave inside the big island – his technique to surface inside an air pocket and therefore avoiding a long swim to and from the entrance. Two Chilean divers claimed they saw him using a body stringer on his way out of the cave, lodged a signed protest and it was upheld.

We started earlier on day 2 and I decided to stay at base rather than to expose myself to the sun and a rough ride on a wooden plank. We had our strategies worked out and there were clearly not going to be many fish weighed in.

After breakfast I decided to run down to the harbour, some 8 kilometres along the beach. There I found the boats had not yet left for the competition area. The guys had left the hotel at 6.30am, yet here they were still at the harbour at 9.30am. I looked for my the other Aussies and found Roso – he told me that he had decided not to dive as the Spanish Doctor had advised him not to risk diving with his condition. Our reserve diver, Joe, was still at the hotel and the boats were about to launch, so after quickly clearing things with the organisers, I jumped onto Roso's boat with Roso's gear and headed out to sea.

On the way I noticed Drew's boat having outboard trouble. We towed his boat for a time, whilst the boat handlers worked out that the single outboard had a dead sparkplug. After replacing the spark plug we were once again under way and arrived in the competition area at around 10.15 am. Things dragged on until the organisers arrived and asked the boats to move to a new gathering point closer to the second day's competition area. Due to the instruction given only in Spanish, some of the divers and their commissioners thought the competition had started and proceeded to their dive spots.

It took 30 minutes to get these divers back to the start where the organiser promptly announced that those who had started early were to be disqualified. After some negotiation 11 divers were penalised by not being allowed to start for 1 hour after the rest.

Day two of the competition eventually started at 11h45. Once again there was a rush to the few spots holding fish and once again there was boat traffic and noise from divers to scatter the fish. Once again few fish were speared and once again Joceba and Jaco came out tops – interestingly Jaco had another 8 heavy Black Margo, even though this time he was not accused of any foul play by the Chileans. Jaco had managed little sleep after his first day debacle, so it was to his credit that he showed the stuff he is made of and did so brilliantly again on the second day.

We fared a little better on the second day, although this was not due to any contribution on my part. I did not weigh in a fish, Paul Christie had two, which were under and Drew had a good score with a big Barracuda of 11 kg and a Pargo of over 2 kg.

Between ourselves we had speared 5 weighers and had one penalty over 2 days of diving and this was enough to land us in 14th position, slightly ahead of the Kiwis.

Upon reflection this was not one of our best performances – in Portugal 2 years ago we were 9th and we had a team, which on paper was much the same – in talent. The Portuguese Titles were in my opinion fair and well organised from the outset – a job well done on behalf of the organisers.

Recent Media Statements

11 November 2008

Award winning project counts almost 10,000 sharks

The Australian Underwater Federation won a major award at the Recfish Australian conference for project of the year. This is a huge recognition for excellent initiatives and could not have been possible without the support of the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program. "The winners were worthy recipients and deserved to be recognised as there have been thousands of hours dedicated to the project", said Bruce Schumacher, Chair of Recfish Australia.

The Great Australian Shark Count is the largest community shark monitoring project in the world and has recorded 9,843 shark sightings. The most common sightings of sharks are: Port Jackson (1773), Wobbegong (1526), White Tip Reef (1318) and the endangered Grey Nurse Shark (1098). Only twenty (20) Great White Sharks have been sighted by divers and fishers.

"The Great Australian Shark Count is a fantastic example of a community engagement marine monitoring program", Recfishwest, Acting Executive Director, Mr Kane Moyle said. "Enlisting the help of recreational fishers and divers in data collection makes perfect sense as they are the people that spend the most time on the water", Mr Moyle said.

Recent social research by Dr Stephen Sutton from James Cook University found that 93% of people surveyed were concerned about the future of shark populations and 90% believed we need more information on shark populations. The major threats to sharks were perceived to be commercial fishing (87%), habitat loss (55%), and marine pollution (51%); minor threats were attributed to recreational line fishing (73%); and no threat to sharks was attributed to spearfishing (68%) and SCUBA diving (62%). Only 18% (or 1 in 5) people believe that current management of shark populations is adequate to ensure their sustainability.

The AUF are holding their 4th dedicated shark counting weekend on November 15-16. "We are hoping for hundreds of keen skin and SCUBA divers and fishers to be involved by logging shark sightings on the programs website (www.auf.com.au)", Dr Smith said. All major participants become eligible for some fantastic incentives such as posters, stickers, sunglasses, t-shirts and wetsuits. There will also be a WA launch for the project held at AQWA – The Aquarium of Western Australia from 7-9pm on Friday 14th, with guest speakers and exciting award winning shark footage, cocktail food and giveaways. To report a shark sighting please go to <http://www.auf.com.au>.

If you require more information or wish to be involved in counting sharks please contact Michael Rupnik, Executive Officer on shark@auf.com.au or on 0400 367 424.



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AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER FEDERATION

The Australian Underwater Federation (A.U.F.) is the governing body for

underwater sports and amateur diving in Australia.

November 2008

National insurance Policy

After the recent AGM the AUF Federal Board is pleased to announce that we have negotiated a public liability insurance policy to cover all of our members in the various underwater sports. This policy will cover members, coaches, employees, clubs and volunteers through all the various levels of our federation. It will also include a personal accident policy at no extra cost.

This will mean that a cheaper insurance will be available, and our separate sports will no longer be burdened with the sometimes arduous task of finding insurance and finding the money to pay for it.

Along with the insurance the AUF federal office will be implementing a centralised online membership payment service, this will mean that membership fees will be the same across all of our sports, and individuals will be able to quickly update their details and pay their membership fees.

This initiative will save our state volunteers the time consuming efforts associated with collecting membership fees and compiling the data. It will mean that there may be a slight increase in fees in some states but there will be a significant decrease in fees in others. It has been decided to set the membership fee at \$55.00 to join 1 commission, the cost of joining other commissions will be an additional \$10.00 each per commission, remembering that this is the only fee for membership that you will pay.

The insurance will be effective from July next year and the online memberships will be rolled out over the next 12 months and be commensurate with our next financial year. On another note we are pleased to announce that Mr Dave Welch, chairperson of the Queensland Spearfishing Commission has won the Beau Bear award. The award is recognition of outstanding achievement in advancing the aims and objectives of the federation in an administrative capacity, so congratulations to David who is certainly a worthy winner. Recognition of David's award will be placed on the web site shortly.

Graham Henderson

Federal President
Graham Henderson
2 Warwick Street
North Melbourne
Australia 3051
(PH) +61 418151787
(FAX) +61 3 97533915
Email president@auf-inc.com.au
www.auf.com.au

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PO Box 187 Grange Qld 4051
Phone/fax 07 3356 1111
Email ceo@recfish.com.au
ABN 87 547 561 663
www.recfish.com.au

12 December 2008

A new board for recreational fishing's peak body

Recfish Australia, the peak representative body for recreational fishers at a national level announced today the appointment of Bruce Schumacher (NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing) as Chair of the board of directors. Bruce returns for his third term and **Dr Adam Smith** (Australian Underwater Federation – Spearfishing) has been nominated as ViceChair.

In a return to a representative board structure whereby each full member may nominate a board member, the board members for 200809 are: Chris Makepeace (Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory), John Burgess (Australian National Sportfishing Association), Des Wood (Recfishwest – Western Australia), Franz Grasser (VRFish – Victoria) and Tasmania (TARFish) are yet to nominate a representative.

Len Olyott, CEO of Recfish Australia said that he welcomed back existing board members and looked forward to working with the new members. Retiring board members, Malcolm Poole (NSW ACoRF) and John Cleary (TARFish) were thanked for the service that they provided Recfish Australia especially in the areas of policy development and financial administration.

On the subject of financial security, Mr Schumacher had this to say: "Recreational fishers need a united voice at the national level to have their concerns heard and their rights respected. The Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Industry Confederation (Recfish Australia) has been serving recreational anglers for the past 25 years but to continue providing a professional level of service, we require an ongoing commitment to funding. The federal government has a moral obligation to ensure that the 3.5 million Australians that go recreational fishing each year have a voice. The most cost effective and proven way to do this is through direct financial support of Recfish Australia."

Previous funding agreements with the Australian government saw \$100,000 a year allocated to Recfish Australia to employ a full time Executive Officer and part time office and project manager.

With these funds, Recfish Australia was able to contribute to government consultation processes through membership of 13 national committees and delivered well over a million dollars of project outcomes to the benefit of recreational fishers throughout the country.

Our mission – One voice promoting sustainable fishing and representing recreational fishers at a national level

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What's happening around the country?

Queensland

The Queensland AUFQ Spearfishing Commission now has a new structure and with it a host of committee members to assist with Qld matters on all things spearfishing. The committee positions and members are:

Chairperson	David Welch (TSC). Contact: 0414 897 490
Stakeholder Liaison Officer	Anthony Morrison (TSC)
Records Officer	Mick McDade (UAC)
Membership Officer	vacant
Communication & Education Officer	Chad Lunow (CUA)
Competition Officer	Craig Barnett (MDUC)
Development Officer	Shane Morrison (MDUC)

IN OTHER NEWS:

The Moreton Bay Marine Park was recently announced with the new re-zoning. As part of these changes the EPA are creating artificial reefs for which work has already begun.

COMPETITION SCENE:

QUEENSLAND STATE SPEARFISHING TITLES 2008

BY Tony Humphreys

Host – Townsville Skindiving Club 4th and 5th of October 2008.

Location – Day 1: Backnumbers Reef, Day 2: Lodestone Reef. Great Barrier Reef, Queensland.

Clubs attending – Tweed Gold Coast Freedivers, Underwater Adventurers Club Brisbane, Mackay Down Under Skindivers Club, Townsville Skindiving Club, Cairns Underwater Association.

Each year in Queensland one of several Australian Underwater Federation Queensland Clubs hosts the prestigious Queensland State Spearfishing Titles. Since 1998 the host clubs have predominantly been either Mackay, Townsville or Cairns due to the Northern clubs strong member base, availability of fantastic dive locations like the Great Barrier Reef and a long tradition of history, passion and champion spearfishers. This year was to be no different with divers as far as the Tweed Coast, Brisbane, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns converging on Townsville to compete on the Great Barrier Reef for the title of Champion Queensland Spearfishers. The competition also consists of 4 man teams in the Nemrod Cup, a nominated 4 man team on day 2 and a pair's challenge. The attendance register was looking like being a hard fought competition with past Queensland Champions Adam Smith, Ray Powell and Tony Heugh signing on as well as previous Interpacific members Jake Boyd and John Rewald. Past and present club champions from every club, Cloughy Challenge winner

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Craig Barnett and the highly experienced masters from Cairns Kevin Ranger and Sid Caswell, these blokes are always handing out lessons to the younger generation and hard to beat. This year also saw the welcomed addition of two female competitors of Adriana Djurasevich, Tweed Gold Coast and Cleo Richards from Townsville. Unfortunately with the high costs of chartering vessels and the associated logistics we did not have any juniors attend and can hopefully remedy this situation in the future.

A week out from competition and the weather gods weren't looking too kind with 20 to 30 knots of wind hammering the coast. Thursday the outlook looked a little better with winds predicted to abate over the two days so with everything else in place the competition was given the green flag. Our vessel for the weekend was Adrenalin Dive Charters and 5.30 am saw 22 divers heading to the Backnumbers reef 90 kilometers NE of Townsville. This was to prove a big run for the competitors in a strong 15 to 20 knot SE overcast windy sky. The run out was that rough many competitors missed breakfast and after the competitors showed the skipper how to find the reef and fix the anchor '*cant plan for everything*' the competition was on. Over the past several years Queensland Clubs and more importantly members have reduced the eligible species on the scoresheet and this competition saw the further removal of surgeon fish by the organizing committee. All AUFQ members competing in the titles should be commended for achieving a further restricted score sheet and shows Queensland clubs are putting into practice our motto of selective, sustainable spearfishing methods and not just preaching them. After day 1 of competition the average catch by competitors was 4.36 fish per diver for a 5 hour competition 90 kilometers from land.

Top spearo for the day was 'Townsville's' Adam Smith with 13 species, second was 'Mackay's' Shane Morrison with 9 species and third Tony Heugh from Tweed Gold Coast. Adriana Djurasevich was leading the ladies with 3 species. The Townsville Skindivers team won the Nemrod Cup Final for two years in a row. Team members were Adam Smith, Jake Boyd, Matt Ludbrooke and Dave Williams. Second was Mackay Downunder team of Shane Morrison, Craig Barnett, Danny Wisely and Mick Saunders Jnr. Third was the Cairns team of Sid Caswell, Kevin Ranger, Keith Seekee and Christopher Ray.

After a 5.00am start and a 5.30pm finish the platform was set for day 2 of competition. Sunday morning dawned with lighter winds and clear sky's, Saturdays short falls ironed out and plenty of weary divers. Day 2 was also nomination of 4 man club teams and the pair's competition as well as continuing the individual comp. To fit everything in for the day Lodestone Reef was selected approximately 70 kms NE of Townsville. Many divers took the chance for partial sleep or some well earned breky. The crew onboard Adrenalin for day 2 was exceptional and the great weather made an enjoyable run out to the reef. During the run many divers were noticed planning there dives and teams for the day. It was going to be hard to catch former Queensland Champ Adam Smith after putting in a strong performance from day 1 but the Great Barrier Reef can produce some great underwater cocktails of fish. The boat placed the competitors in the middle of the reef with some big deep water bommies behind us with the competitors able to go either way along the hard edge or straight over the lagoon. With neap tides and little run competitors were soon up to 2 kilometers away from the boat. This is achievable by custom made floats to protect fish from the ever present reef sharks. Observing from the safety boat the champion divers for the day covered a lot of ground to build their totals. Competitors only take 1 fish per specie at 100 points each and 10 points per kilo. As the seas almost glassed out half way through the comp many divers went in search for that elusive specie up into the lagoon before the big swim back to the boat. Some divers had already dropped their catch off and spent time drifting the deeper

bommies for pelagics like mackerel and trevally's. At competitions end all divers were back and the weigh in began. The average take on day 2 of competition was 5.2 fish per competitor.

After tallying scores on the return trip to Townsville while divers ate lunch and compared stories of the ones that got away it was time for the presentation. Open Spearfishing Champion and winner of the veteran category was Adam Smith, second and senior category winner was Ray Powell and third and Masters winner was Tony Heugh. Open Ladies Champion was Adriana Djurasevich. The pairs was won by Ray Powell and Tony Heugh, Runners up were Adam Smith and Jake Boyd. The 4 person team's event was won by TSC members Adam Smith, Jake Boyd, Matt Ludbrooke and Dave Williams.

Competitions such as the Queensland Titles depend on the kind and generous support of sponsors to award divers with a prize as divers entry fees are swallowed by higher charter costs. This year we had fantastic support from sponsors and I ask of all AUF members nationally to support the companies that support our competitions because without them you wouldn't have a competition scene or a format to build membership on to help grow the sport of freediving and spearfishing and help fight against uninformed change. Every competing diver received a prize. In no particular order I would like to thank International Freediving and Spearfishing News, Barry Andrewartha, Omer, Mountain Ocean and Travel Publications, Australian Underwater Federation and the Great Australian Shark Count, Pelagic Spearfishing Supplies, Undersee Spearguns, DiveR Fins, Rising Sun Marine Townsville, Pelaj, Aqua Sports and Dive NQ, Rylands Mitre 10 Townsville, Dave Williams, Shane Morrison Marine Mackay, Radiator wetsuits, Triple X wetsuits, Anaconda Townsville, Spear and Dive Cairns, Tropical Ice, Partec Composites Training Centre.

Thanks also to the organizing committee from TSC and especially John Picard for running the event Saturday and to those divers who opened their homes and time for visiting divers. Over the two days Tony Heugh worked tirelessly to sell the AUF shirts to help raise funds for the Aussie spearfishing team and raffled off a Superfrog gun. I would like to say I have been absent from the Queensland competition scene for 6 six years out of 13 and when I started in the comps it was not unusual for the winning Queensland divers to spear up to 20 fish for the day on an eligible score sheet and still abide by fisheries laws with the average take more akin to 10 fish per day. The results from this competition saw divers average 9.5 fish over two days '10 hours of competition' which is just under a fish an hour. Our comps have come a long way and I strongly believe there is still room for improvement. Once again thank you to everyone involved in the Queensland State Spearfishing Titles 2008.

	Name	Score 1	Score 2	Club
1.	Adam Smith	1585	1260	TSC
2.	Ray Powell	1090	1315	TGCFD
3.	Tony Heugh	975	1210	TGCFD
4.	Jake Boyd	885	985	TSC
5.	Dave Williams	695	910	TSC
6.	Shane Morrison	1090	480	MDUSC
7.	Kevin Ranger	700	810	CUA
8.	Matt Ludbrooke	855	610	TSC
9.	Mik Saunders Jnr	380	990	MDUSC
10.	Sid Caswell	715	590	CUA
11.	Chris Ray	390	840	CUA
12.	Craig Barnett	635	580	MDUSC
13.	Keith Seekee	360	680	CUA
14.	Danny Wiseman	590	340	MDUSC
15.	Mick Mcdade	495	350	UAC
16.	Mik Saunders Snr	240	350	MDUSC
17.	Adriana Djurasevich	350	235	TGCFD
18.	Tony Morrison	295	270	TSC
19.	Ryan Ellery	0	550	TSC
20.	John Rewald	0	280	TSC
21.	Alan Banister	0	240	TSC
22.	Cleo Richards	0	121	TSC



1st place – Adam Smith



2nd place – Ray Powell



3rd place – Tony Heugh

Cairns Nemrod, 1 November, 2008

It was a choppy rugged bash across the cow paddock to Arlington Reef on Saturday morning. The great local boats made available by Bruce Mortley, Sid Caswell, Barry Wilson, Keith Seekee and Gerry Hill made the rough going a pleasure. More so for the fourteen Townsville participants who won the day. The team of Dave Welch, Craig Buckingham, Andreas Severati and Ryan Ellery managed 3505 points to out score the Cairns locals Sid Caswell, Marc Richards, Kevin Ranger and Keith Seekee by just 180 points.

The milky green water was productive for some with people typically landing a common coral trout and black spot tuskfish for the day among others. Several quality black spot tuskfish up to 7.5 kg were landed and crayfish to 3.5 kgs. In total 18 species were landed including a passionfruit trout, red emperor and a black wrasse. Sid Caswell took out the meritorious fish award with his 7 kg mangrove jack. Great work Sid and congratulations!

Dave Welch from Townsville took out the honours on the day being a clear leader with 11 species and 1340 points. Next closest was Sid Caswell with 1040 and 8 species using his local knowledge to his advantage as did Marc Richards scoring third place. Larnie Linton took out the female division with 265 points. The complete table of points shown below. Well done to everyone who competed and thanks to Aaron for acting as safety diver/driver for the day.

Place	Name	Score	# Species	Club
1 st	David Welch	1340	11	TSC
2 nd	Sid Caswell	1040	8	CUA
3 rd	Marc Richards	990	8	CUA
4 th	Craig Buckingham	840	7	TSC
5 th	Andreas Severati	720	6	TSC
6 th	Kevin Ranger	690	6	CUA
7 th	Ryan Ellery	605	5	TSC
7 th	Keith Seekee	605	5	CUA
8 th	Matt Anscomb	595	5	TSC
9 th	David Williams	580	5	TSC
10 th	Warren Faithfull	500	4	CUA
10 th	Bruce Mortley	500	4	CUA
11 th	Barry Wilson	480	4	CUA

12 th	Chris Ray	470	4	CUA
13 th	Brendan Meale	415	3	TSC
14 th	Gerry Hill	400	4	CUA
15 th	Danny Boas	365	3	CUA
16 th	Paul Liotis	355	3	TSC
17 th	Larnie Linton	265	2	CUA
18 th	Mick Keeping	250	2	TSC
19 th	Warren Hughes	242	2	CUA
20 th	Scott Heilbronn	240	2	TSC
20 th	Chad Lunow	240	2	CUA
21 st	Jason Coe	235	2	TSC
22 nd	Hugh Shepherd	230	2	CUA
23 rd	Stephan Mezies	120	1	TSC
24 th	Daniel Tarasivk			TSC

* Aaron Odell from Spearanddive acted as Safety Diver. * TSC = Townsville Skindiving Club (www.skindiving.org) * CUA = Cairns Underwater Association

Around \$2000 worth of prizes were up for grabs and some great awards were won including many gift vouchers from local companies such as Spear and Dive "Spearfishing specialists" and Airsure as well as Aquasports & Dive Townsville. Marc Richards donated a Great Australian Shark Count Torelli soft cell wet suit worth \$465. A \$150.00 Spear and Dive gift certificate was donated generously by Viridian glass who has been a regular supporter of the Cairns Nemrod for many years. A further thank you goes to Bransfords Discount Tackle for their contribution and a much appreciated thanks to the AUFQ Spearfishing Commission for their generous donation of a \$100.00 gift certificate.

A big thank you to all the participants for making the day such a success. To Marc Richards, Aaron Odell, Keith Seekee, Barry Wilson and all the others for organising the event. Thanks also to the boat owners that made the day possible and to Sid for the use of his beautiful house for the weigh in and presentation. Thanks to all those who filleted and donated their fish to the meals on wheels. Looking forward to seeing you all again next year!!



Sid Caswell with 7.5kg tuskfish and most meritorious 7kg mangrove jack.



Ladies winner – Larnie Linton.



Overall winner: Dave Welch – 7.5kg tuskfish and coronation trout.

Written by Aaron Odell www.spearanddive.com.au "Spearfishing Specialists", and

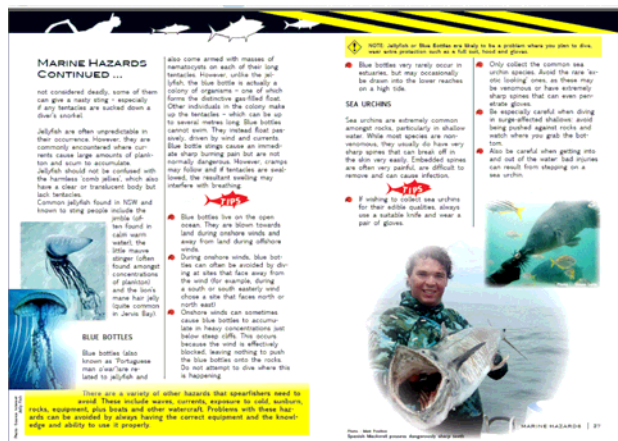
Chad Lunow - "Cairns Underwater Association" and "Communication and Education Officer" for the AUFQ spearfishing commission.

The Cairns Underwater Association can be contacted through the president Marc Richards (0438552293) or sporting Chairman Kevin Ranger (0419188308) or drop in and see Aaron at spearanddive.

USFA NSW

Well firstly let me give a great big thanks to the committee for backing my position of the president of the USFA. I haven't taken this position lightly and asked that positions taken on by the exec not to be taken unless the job is to be done. What a great executive the USFA has with everyone pitching in and work being done!

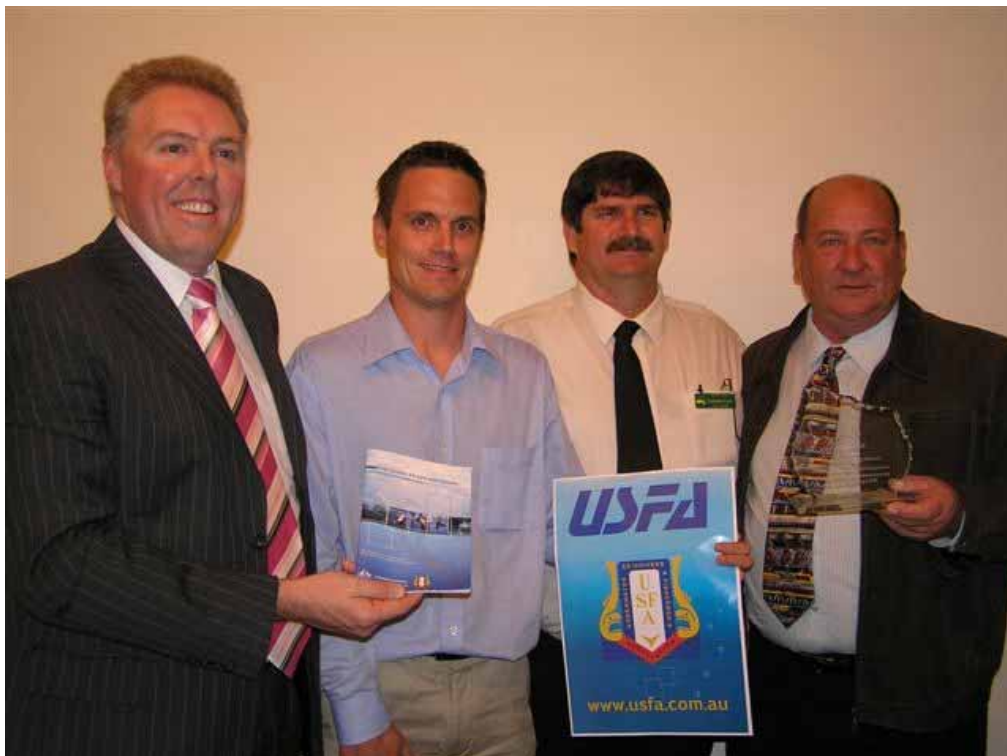
This can be seen firstly by the work done in the new USFA SPEARFISHING HANDBOOK. I'm sure everybody can appreciate a huge job undertaken by Darren Higgins to put the handbook together, not only did Darren put the handbook together but worked at his day job and also attend to his university studies! Darren I don't know how you do it but from all of us as members a big thankyou!



Launch night for the handbook



With all hard work there comes rewards and the booklet won an award at the latest REC FISH Convention for excellence in communication. What an achievement to win in the company of so many other nominations, well done. What members probably don't realize is the credibility this has given to the USFA, and with the fights to come this can only be all good for the members.



Recfish Awards 2008

Darren Higgins, Bryan Van der Walt, Malcolm Poole and Adrian Wayne

[AUF Mission: Bring Sport, Conservation and Awareness to the Underwater World](#)

Other things that have happened are the USFA now has a proper constitution approved and passed by consumer affairs, hopefully something everybody can understand and abide by.

Secondly Oliver Wady, in his role as state Sports Sec, has formalized the role of sport sec. We now have competitions run under the state banner organized and a set of rules put forward by Oliver overseen by the committee dates and rules approved. With this Oliver was able to go over all results by divers for the previous year and will shortly be able to announce the State USFA NSW TEAM .This team will be awarded with jackets and shirts which I'm sure will be the envy of every other diver in the USFA. I can see some very fierce competition in the years to come and hopefully a lot of USFA pride. Thankyou OLY.

Another mention goes to SASCHA SCHULTZ. Sascha has been organizing the shark count and putting all the information together. Just lately he has been collecting all past and present competition data and putting it together to be stored on a medium for the future. Surely a mammoth job, anyone who can give Sascha help would be welcomed and also any old score sheets or information would be appreciated. Thanks for your effort Sascha.

I would at this time like to thank John Schulter, Lee Daley, Simon Trippe and other members of the committee for their input, knowledge and experience. Even though we still haven't a secretary I think the communication is unbelievable and I am pleasantly surprised how everyone will step up to the plate. The job of secretary is still open if you want to take it on give me a call.

Lastly I would like to thank Mel and Adrian as their knowledge, experience and time is unsurpassed, thankyou.

On a more serious note the state government is trying to implement more of those marine parks. Hopefully we can get more people to do more work than what has happened previously. I think only six of us attending the last protest at government house. If you want to keep diving get off your asses. Our future goals will be accreditation so that hopefully we can dive in marine parks. More social members with functions they will be able to attend. Competitions are about to kick off again check the USFA web site. Don't forget that this year is the 50th year of PACIFIC COAST at Nelson Bay so book early, it will be huge!

Well that's about all, have a great xmas and new year, shoot straight, hopefully some great fish will be bought home.

Regards

Peter Saunders

Victoria

Victorian Great Australian Shark Count Launch

The Victorian launch of the GASC was held in Mordialloc on 5th September in conjunction with a fundraiser for Drew Fenney's assault on the World Spearfishing Championships. Over 80 people turned up including quite a few bubblyies, all in the running for two GASC Saumarez wetsuits, Mako sunnies, -t-shirts, Pelaj knives and beanies as well as heaps of other stuff. Dave Welch presented a talk on the background and preliminary results of the GASC and Graham Henderson officially launched the project. We were then treated to a half hour shark film by Rob Torelli.



Graham Henderson officially launching the GASC.



Dave Welch presenting GASC results.



Drew Fenney with Robbie Milar



Peter, happy winner of a GASC Saumarez wetty.

Peter from Ocean Wetsuits took out the wetsuit while Louie Papas snagged a lovely pair of ladies Mako sunnies that suit him perfectly. Brett Illingworth won the second Saumarez wetsuit, draw out of people that logged shark sightings that weekend. Drew's fundraiser raised the enough to help him on his way to Venezuela and congrats to him for doing so well.

[AUF Mission: Bring Sport, Conservation and Awareness to the Underwater World](#)

Thanks to Rob Torelli for organising the posters and flyers and for putting together the shark film, and to Leigh Elliot and Jack Monkiewicz for helping organise the night and other Southern Freedivers who helped to promote the event.

Xmas Party

Continuing on with huge turn-outs, about 80 divers and their families came to the 2008 Southern Freedivers Xmas party. It began with a boat dive around southern Port Phillip Bay where squid was the main target, then back to Sorrento foreshore for a BBQ.

Again, Leigh put in a huge effort organizing the day and giving up his dive to make sure the BBQ was firing and the beers were cold.



Who else? Brett Illingworth.



The BBQ.



A typical Port Phillip Bay calamari



Another good Bay species, rock flathead.

Abalone open days

2008/09 abalone open days for central Victorian waters have been released. Central Victorian waters extend east of the mouth of the Aire River to the most north-western part of Arch Rock (near Cape Liptrap), including Port Phillip Bay.

The 60 nominated days for central Victorian waters for 2008/09 are:

- 15 and 16 November 2008 inclusive (2 days)
- 22 and 23 November 2008 inclusive (2 days)
- 29 and 30 November 2008 inclusive (2 days)
- 6 and 7 December 2008 inclusive (2 days)
- 13 and 14 December 2008 inclusive (2 days)
- 19 December 2008 to 4 January 2009 (17days)
- 10 and 11 January 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 17 and 18 January 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 24 to 26 January 2009 inclusive (3 days)
- 31 January and 1 February 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 7 and 8 February 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 14 and 15 February 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 21 and 22 February 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 28 February and 1 March 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 7 to 9 March 2009 inclusive (3 days)
- 14 and 15 March 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 21 and 22 March 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 10 to 13 April 2009 inclusive (4 days)
- 25 to 27 April 2009 inclusive (3 days)
- 9 and 10 May 2009 inclusive (2 days)

The 60 nominated open days in central waters are outlined on a water-resistant pocket card to help recreational abalone divers better plan their diving activities. These can be obtained by ringing the Department of Primary Industries Customer Service Centre on 136 186.



Abalone biosecurity

The following Media release regarding abalone was issued by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries on Friday 12 December 2008.

WASH, REMOVE AND DISPOSE TO HELP PROTECT ABALONE THIS SUMMER

To reduce the risk of spreading the abalone disease this summer recreational anglers and divers are being encouraged to observe the closed area at Port Fairy and follow the biosecurity guidelines, executive Director Fisheries Victoria, Peter Appleford said today.

“People must not take abalone, shellfish or sea urchins from the closed area, which stretches from the high water mark west of The Craggs car park to Killarney Beach car park,” Dr Appleford said.

Outside this area divers may take abalone, but should:

- **Wash** vessels, wetsuits, dive equipment and their hands with soapy freshwater,
- **Remove** all marine organic matter (weed) from vessels and equipment, and
- **Dispose** of abalone shell, meat and gut with their household waste.



Healthy abalone (Photo: Mike Heasman)



Diseased abalone displaying an AVG symptom- curling of the foot

(Photo: DPI Victoria)

“We want to minimise the risk of fishers inadvertently spreading the disease and request anglers do not use abalone meat or gut as fishing bait,” Dr Appleford said.

Like last year, Fisheries Victoria is working to raise awareness of the closure and the biosecurity guidelines so that visitors and residents are informed and can do the right thing.

Dr Appleford said foreshore signage had been expanded along the coastline including east of Port Phillip Bay.

“Although the abalone disease has not been detected in the east we want to make sure divers and anglers visiting the east over summer are aware of the biosecurity protocols. The protocols are a common sense approach and should always be used when diving.

Collectively, we hope to reach visiting divers and anglers who may have previously been unaware of the abalone disease. We want them to know what steps they should take so they can help protect Victoria's valuable abalone resource."

Southwest abalone fishers are also reminded that the interim increase in legal minimum length for blacklip abalone of 13cm remains in place from the mouth of the Hopkins River west to the South Australian border.

For more information about the abalone disease ring the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/abalonedisease.

Club calendar

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Dandenong Show Grounds Cricket Club rooms @ 8.00pm Bennett Street, Dandenong, Vic.
Mailing Address: PO Box 213, Brunswick, Vic, 3156.

Club fees due June 30: \$70 inc AUF for Adult.
\$30 inc AUF for Junior.

2008 - 2009 Calendar of Events



www.southernfreedivers.org.au

Divng Convenor: Drew Fenney - Mobile: 0418 996 545
Email: drew@legendary.com.au

Southern Freedivers Activities Calendar 2008 - 2009					
Jul 2008 2nd Meeting 6th Spare 13th Spare 20th Spare 27th Spare	Aug 2008 3rd Spare 6th Meeting 10th Spare 17th Spare 24th Spare 31st Spare	Sep 2008 3rd Meeting 7th Spare 14th 1st Comp > Blowhole <i>Start: VIC Challenge</i> 21st Spare 28th Spare	Oct 2008 1st Meeting 5th 2nd Comp > Newhaven Boat 12th Spare 19th Spare 26th Spare	Nov 2008 2nd Spare (Cup Weekend) 5th Meeting 9th 3rd Comp > Midwest Coast 16th Spare 23rd Spare 30th Spare	Dec 2008 3rd Meeting 7th 4th Comp > Sorrento Boat 14th Spare 21st Spare 28th Spare
Jan 2009 4th Spare 11th Spare 18th Spare 24-26th 5th Comp > Western Districts	Feb 2009 1st Nationals WA 4th Meeting 8th Spare 15th Spare 22nd 6th Comp > Harmer's Haven	Mar 2009 1st Spare 4th Meeting 7-9th 7th Comp > Vic Titles Peninsula 15th Spare 22nd Spare 29th Valdes Pairs Comp	Apr 2009 1st Meeting 5th 8th Comp > Phillip Island <i>Finish: Vic Challenge</i> 10-13th Easter 19th Spare 26th Novice Comp	May 2009 3rd Spare 6th Meeting 10th Spare 17th Spare Comp day 24th Spare 31st Spare	Jun 2009 3rd Meeting, AGM 6-8th Eden 3 Way 14th Spare 21st Spare 27th Presentation Night

Western Australia

Changes at recreational fishing rules

Well after several decisions being made, changed, remade, and then the government getting thrown out, its been very hard to keep up with what we can and can't do. At the end of the day spearfishing got the same deal as all other recreational line fishing (nice to see for a change). I won't go into detail here as most WA divers must be sick of my emails about it! The new West Coast rules can be read or downloaded at

http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/WestLimits/westcoast_rules_2008.pdf

The most important point to note are bag limits apply to the zone you (and the fish you caught) are currently in **NOT** the zone the fish were caught in (don't even get me started on this!)

In other changes, the recreational bag limit of Rock Lobster in the west coast zone has been reduced from 8 to 6 with a boat limit of 12. A possession limit of 24 per person applies statewide. More details and reasons why at:

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/FishingRockLobsters/FishingforRockLobster2008-Dec.pdf>

57th National Underwater Championships – February 2009

By now you all know that WA is hosting the next national championships. The 57th Australian Championships will be held in the picturesque "Cape to Cape" region of south west Western Australia. Dunsborough will be the base for the competition which will run from February 15th – 21st 2009.

The southwest capes region is dominated by granite headlands interspersed with limestone cliffs and white sandy beaches. The exposed western side is dominated by huge swell during winter and as a result there is a wealth of marine life in the many offshore reefs. The warm Leeuwin current brings tropical species such as spanish mackerel from the north from February to May to mingle with the most southern species like red snapper (nannygai). Rock Lobster and Abalone are particularly common.

For the non-diver onshore activities are endless. Numerous guided tours of underground caves, canoeing, horse riding, picturesque walking trails, the underwater observatory at Busselton jetty to name just a few. Of course plenty of time can be wasted at the Margaret River Chocolate Factory, or just relaxing with a glass of famous Margaret River wine at one of the many wineries.



Cape Leeuwin



Red Snapper in the cape to cape area

Photo: Ashley Walsh



Queen Snapper are particularly common

Photo: Ashley Walsh

PRELIMINARY AGENDA OF EVENTS

Please note that events or locations may change due to weather and/or other unforeseen events, the location of each day's event will be confirmed at the closing of the preceding event.

Venues for Spearfishing Events

six possible sites include: Cape Leeuwin, Hamelin Bay, Wyadup Bay, Moses Rock, Sugarloaf Rock, , Eagle bay

DAY	EVENT	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Day 1 Sunday 15 th Feb	Registration & Information Session 6:30pm –9:30 pm Basic gear will be available to purchase Any specific needs to be available on the night Contact: Damo Lane 08 97567222	Location: Dunsborough Outdoor Sportz Shop5 / Dunsborough Park Shopping Center Neat casual attire, visitors must sign in, juniors need to be accompanied by an adult Nibbles and refreshments provided. Power-point presentation, opportunity to socialise
Day 2 Monday 16 th Feb	Individual Spearfishing Event Heat 1 6:30am for a 7am –1pm comp	Weigh-in on site immediately after the event Scores will be posted for heat 1 in Dunsborough Outdoor Sportz when they are calculated.
Day 3 Tuesday 17 th Feb	Film fishing event 7:30 for 8am –10am comp <hr/> Fin Swim 10:30 for 11am comp	
Day 4 Wednesday 18 th Feb	Individual Spearfishing Event Heat 2 6:30 am for a 7:am –1pm comp	Weigh-in on site immediately after the event Progressive scores will be posted for heat 1 and 2 in Dunsborough Outdoor Sportz when they are calculated.

Day 5 Thursday 19 th Feb	Individual Spearfishing Event Heat 3 6:30 am for a 7:am –1pm comp	Weigh-in on site immediately after the event
Day 6 Friday 20 th Feb	National Pairs Spearfishing Event 8am –1pm Open to only the top 10 divers in the competition or a diver within the top 20 at their request to make up a pair	Weigh-in on site immediately after the event
Day 7 Saturday 21 st Feb	Free day to unwind- social diving or visit the local wineries Presentation Dinner 6.30pm	Rivendell Winery, three course meal provided, bar will be open, presentation of awards Opportunity to socialise & share in the highs and lows of the past 7 days.

We have had a great response from east coast divers and hopefully the WA boys will show the same enthusiasm to make this event something to remember

For more information contact either myself s.longbottom@curtin.edu.au or Joe Petrovich redgreen@inet.net.au

West Australian Great Australian Shark Count Launch



November 14th saw around 70 divers gather at AQWA (Aquarium of Western Australia) for the WA launch of the GASC. It was great to see the diversity in the turnout, from AUF spearos though SCUBA

divers, line fishermen (and women) and interested environmental groups.

Dr Mark Meekan gave a very informative talk on whale sharks and Dr Adam Smith followed up presenting GASC data gathered so far. Rob Torelli, Greg Pickering, Brett Vercoe and Chris Wood generously donated some fantastic footage.

The following day Adam and myself filmed a segment with "A Current Affair" which aired on TV the following week. This was great publicity for us and not too sensationalized, although I am now referred to as "the shark man" by my daughter's pre-school friends. Thanks must go to Luke from Image Dive who donated his boat, time and unsuspecting clients to allow this filming to happen in what was "less than ideal" weather conditions.

State Spearfishing Records

State records can be viewed on line at:

<http://www.bluewaterfreediversofwa.com/files/WAspearfishingrecords.htm>

Rules and Application forms are available for download at:

<http://www.bluewaterfreediversofwa.com/files/documents/CLAIMINGAWESTAUSTRALIANSPEARFISHINGRECORD.pdf>

Regards

Simon Longbottom

West Australian Spearfishing Commission

NEW BUSINESS CARS AND CONTACT DETAILS



Australian Underwater Federation
SPEARFISHING
Bringing sport, conservation and awareness to the underwater world
Dr Adam Smith BSc(Hons), MBA, PhD
mobile: (0418) 724 584
email: spearfishing@auf.com.au
web: www.auf-spearfishing.com.au
NATIONAL CHAIR
14 Cleveland Terrace, Townsville, QLD, Australia 4810



Australian Underwater Federation
SPEARFISHING
Bringing sport, conservation and awareness to the underwater world
Michael Rupnik
phone: 0400 347 424
email: rhare@aol.com.au
web: www.auf-spearfishing.com.au
Executive Officer
38 Midway Avenue, WOLLONGBAR NSW 2477



Australian Underwater Federation
SPEARFISHING
Bringing sport, conservation and awareness to the underwater world
Peter Saunders
mobile: 0418 249161
email: petersaunders29optusnet.com.au
web: www.auf-spearfishing.com.au
NSW Chair - USFA President
VP - John Schuller - 0412 246101 | VP - Adrian Wayne - 0418 282494



Australian Underwater Federation
SPEARFISHING
Bringing sport, conservation and awareness to the underwater world
Simon Longbottom WA Chair 0401 103 864
Jodi MacNeill WA Secretary 0418 744 249
Joe Petrovich Reelishwest Liaison Officer 0415 956 345
WA - Spearfishing
4 Woolner Green, Willetton WA 6155



Australian Underwater Federation
SPEARFISHING
Bringing sport, conservation and awareness to the underwater world
Alastair MacNeill
phone: 08 93073386
email: blue-water@mbx.com.au
web: www.auf-spearfishing.com.au
Team Manager (Interpacific)
6b Mullion St, Mullalo WA 6027



Australian Underwater Federation
SPEARFISHING
Bringing sport, conservation and awareness to the underwater world
Greg and Anthea Pickering
mobile: 0419 952199
email: anthea@inet.net.au
web: www.auf-spearfishing.com.au
National Records (Spearfishing)
PO Box 78, Greenwood WA 6024

Back page- Diving Jokes

One day a diver was enjoying the aquatic world 20 ft below sea level. He noticed a guy at the same depth he was, but he had on no scuba gear whatsoever.

The diver went below another 20 ft, but the guy joined him a few minutes later. The diver went below 25 ft, but minutes later, the same guy joined him. This confused the diver, so he took out a waterproof chalk-and-board set, and wrote, "How are you able to stay under this deep without equipment?"

The guy took the board and chalk, erased what the diver had written, and wrote, "I'M DROWNING, YOU MORON!!!"

Two free divers go spear fishing. They shoot a lot of fish and return to the shore. The first one says, "I hope you remember the spot where we caught all those fish."

The other answers, "Yes, I made an 'X' on the side of the boat to mark the spot."

"You idiot!" cries the first, "How do you know we will get the same boat tomorrow?"

Sharks

Two sports divers were kitting when one noticed the other putting vaseline on his hair and patting it down,

"What are you doing that for" said the other diver, "There's bleedin' sharks in there, I need all the speed I can get" came the reply, "Don't be daft, you can't out swim a shark! True.... just as long as I can out swim you!"

Who's put on weight?

You know you need to lose weight when remoras start hanging around you. You know you need to lose a lot of weight when you can't complete a shore dive because the "Save The Whale Foundation" folks keep pushing you back in the water.

Prawns

Far away in the tropical waters of the Caribbean, two prawns were swimming around in the sea. One called Justin and the other called Christian.

The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that inhabited the area. Finally one day Justin said to Christian, "I'm fed up with being a prawn; I wish I was a shark, and then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten." A large mysterious cod appeared and said, "Your wish is granted" Lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark. Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate. Time passed (as it does) and Justin found life as a shark boring and lonely. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin didn't realize that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight.

While swimming alone one day he saw the mysterious cod again and he thought perhaps the mysterious fish could change him back into a prawn. He approached the cod and begged to be changed back, and, lo and behold, he found himself turned back into a prawn. With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail. (The punch line does not involve a prawn cocktail - it's much worse).

Looking around the gathering at the reef he realised he couldn't see his old pal. "Where's Christian?" he asked. "He's at home, still distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy & became a shark", came the reply.

Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian's abode. As he opened the coral gate, memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, "It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again." Christian replied, "No way man, you'll eat me. You're now a shark, the enemy, and I'll not be tricked into being your dinner." Justin cried back "No, I'm not. That was the old me.

I've changed."..... (You're going to love this...)

"I've found Cod. I'm a Prawn again Christian".