

# New Zealand Angling & Casting Association



JUNE/JULY  
2011

## Secretarial Jottings

Notices, notes, items of interest, things of importance  
and general rambling's from the Secretaries desk.



Greetings from the National Office

Well winter is now upon us and for some that means less fishing but for others the attraction to go out despite the elements to catch that elusive fish is still strong. Some clubs use this time to hold their club casting days and enter the Postal Casting competition. We strongly encourage to give this a go if you are not already a competing club. Help is available – you only need to ask and the rewards are numerous even for novice casters. Our new Casting is John Stowers (09 813 2360) and a big thank you to Janine who has carried this portfolio to date.

We wish the ten members who are heading off across the ditch to the holiday village of South West Rocks on the mid north NSW Coast to compete in the **Australian Nationals** every success. They will have a great time at this 18 day event and it looks promising for some good fishing.

The Executive had their meeting recently and the Minutes are available to those who wish to know more about discussions held. One of the outcomes from this meeting has been a Press Statement as to where this Association stands in regard to the discussions and publicity, which has been on-going in relation to a Statutory Body. The NZSFC and their colleagues in the Option 4 group have come out strongly against such a proposal whilst others have given it their support and it has attracted much comment by feature writers to fishing publications etc.

This Association has looked at all the options and arguments on both sides of the debate and have now come out and said it is supporting the move towards a statutory body providing it is managed and controlled by the recreational fishers themselves. We believe unless we move in this direction eventually Government will be imposing upon us things that we would not be happy with. We need to control our own destiny for the betterment of recreational fishers and the fishery as a whole. This is not going to happen overnight and will be a long drawn out process to ensure it is done right. The Association in this aspect has endorsed the "Strategic Plan" put out by the NZ Recreational Fishing Council where it will form itself into a group that will oversee and assist the transition from a voluntary based advocacy group to one that which has greater legal standing and rights enshrined in legislation.

You will be hearing more over time on these matters and we urge you to keep up with the debate especially as it is reported in the fishing publications. These publications differ from each other on this matter and make for interesting reading. We are grateful for the support given by all the major mags' to the NZACA and we encourage you to ensure you to obtain copies for your own or club use.

Another decision to come from the last Executive Meeting was that to hold a major **retreat/conference** to discuss the future with regard to the Association, our aims & objects and our activities to ensure we are meeting the needs and best serving the interests of those fishers whom we represent.

This will be a very important gathering and the first major review of the Association since its formation 54 years ago.

Those with experience and knowledge will be invited to participate along with Delegates from our Member Clubs. The program is yet to be put together but is likely to comprise of workshops to discuss the various topics and combined sessions to formulate resolutions to take back to the greater membership.

The likely dates are the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> December at a location in Rotorua.

Look out for more information about this.

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The Executive are also looking into the possibility of holding a “Postal Fishing Competition” towards the end of the year. Exactly how this will be run and the format of it is still being discussed but it will be a “cash prize” competition covering selected species probably in shore and water craft divisions. Entry fees will be at a level that will make this competition attractive to all and may not be limited to just NZACA Members. More to come on this so keep an eye out and ensure your club members are kept up with the information.

Catch Recognition – Not many applications have been received to date but there are heaps of vacant NZ Records in some divisions and species out there to be picked up. Don’t forget Merit Awards and Pins are also up for grabs. Remember also it is through “catch recognition applications” that our many Annual Trophies are awarded each year. You can’t be considered unless you submit an application.

Current pin weights are as follows :-

Hapuku	22kg	Kahawai	3.5kg	Kingfish	33.97kg
Moki	5kg	Salmon	6kg	Snapper	12.19kg
Trevally	6.35kg	Brown Trout	4.5kg	Rainbow Trout	3.5kg

*An acknowledgement and thanks is recorded here to the work Allan Dodd (New Plymouth) is doing to upgrade our Nationals Computer Program so as to help ensure some of the difficulties and errors that have occurred in the past are less likely to happen again. For those who know anything about computer programming this has entailed countless hours of work and if done commercially would be costing hundreds of dollars. So a big thank you to you Allan – we much appreciate your efforts.*

NZ Recreational Fishing Council Conference was held just recently in New Plymouth and the NZACA was represented there. This conference/AGM made some very major decisions regarding the future both for it and rec’ fishing in this country and we are going to hear and see a lot more about this in the months ahead. The NZACA is a well respected and listened to member of the Council and it is great that Derrick Paull is on the Board. As a National Organisation we are entitled also to an ex-officio person there as well. We recently confirmed our support for the Council by endorsing their strategic plan for the future and coming out in making a statement (*copy of Press Release available if wanted or see it in fishing publications*) regarding our backing for the formation of a “Statutory Body” on the condition it is fully controlled by recreational fishers themselves. This may mean some form of licence but that is not the only form of financing for such a body.

It was interesting to hear that whilst a recent survey of NZ Fishing News readers most were against a fishing licence as such, they did say if a licence was introduced 80% said they would accept such providing every NZ’er was involved no matter colour of skin etc.; 82% said they would pay if such a body enhanced fish stocks and 70% stated that it had to be by the fishers for the fishers. All of these criteria got the tick from the discussions at the Council Conference.

Naturally the Politicians from all the major Parties were present and it is very evident that recreational fishing has not been well served by our present Minister – some calling him the “Minister of Commercial Fishing”. With an election coming up you are urged to find the opinions on your local candidates and the Party they belong to. There were some strong views expressed at the conference and I believe closer to the election you will be hearing more about maybe which Party you should be giving your “party vote”.

The next step in the process towards something new will probably be the bringing together of all stakeholders in recreational fishing including the Ministry, Maori, all national organisations and “uncle Tom Cobly and all” to sit around the table in full discussion until there is unity and decision.

There is a full report available for those who would like to know more (*just ask for a copy*) and it is hoped there will be available in very near future extracts from a video which was taken of the proceedings, especially the addresses given by two overseas speakers which were of excellent value and very informative.

I attach as part of this Newsletter (*pdf for those who receive this electronically*) the editorial that appeared in the Taranaki Daily News on the Saturday of the Conference. This puts things in a good perspective and written by someone who is not involved in the Council or fishing.

*In conclusion I hope all Clubs have returned their inputs of the survey being run by Bill Cronin on the matter of the Nationals. Remember affiliations are due and need those Club Details forms completed along with members contact lists so we can update our data base.*

*Yours in the best interests of Rec’ fishing*

*Graeme Dawber*

YOUR Association Secretary