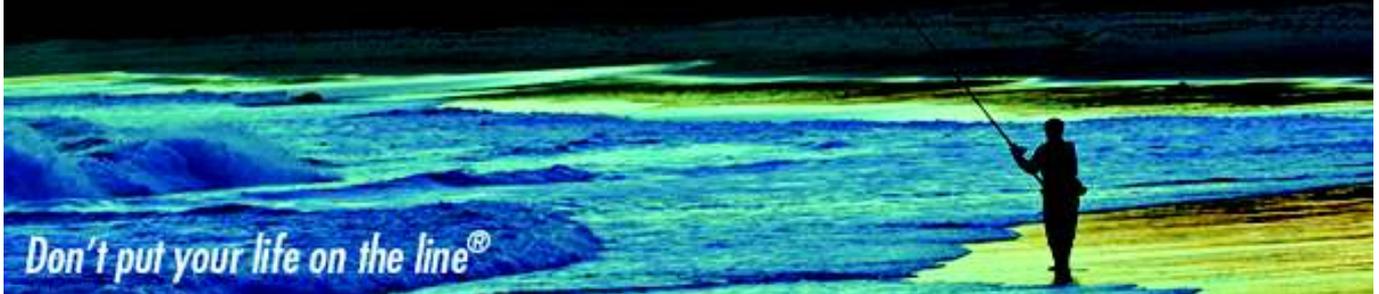


# NSW RecFisher

from the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW



## Concerns about MEMA's mismanagement of Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion consultation

The RFA of NSW has written to the Hon. Niall Blair, MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Lands and Water expressing concerns about the way the Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) is mismanaging the Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion consultative process.

RFA members have tried navigating the online submission process but going backwards and forwards on the [interactive map/portal](#) is frustrating and time consuming.

The setup of the consultation website leaves a lot to be desired especially for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) anglers who it seems are being ignored by the NSW Government. CALD anglers make up a huge percentage of land based anglers that rely on places like Sydney Harbour to eat fresh fish but it seems MEMA has not considered a CALD community engagement strategy.

### What's at stake?

The consultation process proposes possible further exclusions of recreational anglers from Clifton Gardens, Manly Cove and other sites without any background information or science on why they were chosen.

MEMA has included Chowder Bay and a North Harbour Extension to Manly Cove and Wharf as part of a group of "community suggested sites". Currently anglers are faced with the continued push to ban fishing in the North Harbour Aquatic Reserve, a completely unfounded ban on the taking of squid

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NSW RecFisher is for all anglers in NSW. Subscription is free ([click here](#)). Please forward it to your angling mates and whoever produces your fishing club newsletter, they can use any news items they wish from this newsletter or from our Facebook page.

### Fishing clubs

You can link to this email in your own newsletter. To get the link, go to the top of this email and click on 'View it in your browser'. The URL of the newsletter should then appear in the address bar of your internet browser. Cut and

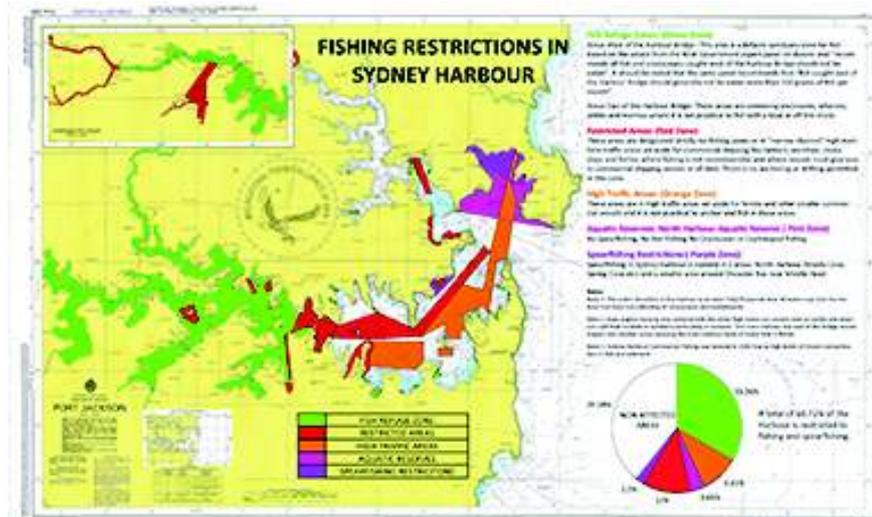
and a myriad of other exclusions on the Harbour for boat and land based anglers.

The NSW Government conducted the last major assessment of recreational fishing in Sydney Harbour in 2008. An estimated 62% of fishing was conducted from land and 38% by boat. This is different to other estuaries in NSW, which are dominated by boat-based fishing.

Any perceived pressures that are attributed to recreational fishing are already being balanced by lockouts and no-go areas in Sydney Harbour. There are large aquatic reserves/sanctuary zones under the Harbour Bridge, around Barangaroo, Circular Quay, around and under Woolloomooloo, Darling Harbour, the Opera House, the Botanical Gardens, ferry lanes and shipping channels and the myriad of places we have lost access to as boat and land-based fishers. We are losing more of our land based fishing spots towards Balmain as well, and dietary advice might make fishing even further off-limits west of the Bridge.

The idea of having Chowder Bay and Manly Cove as potential new small reserves is flawed and insulting to the states' recreational anglers. More loss of access should not even be considered.

Clifton Gardens and Many Cove are safe and popular fishing spots, easy to access and not as polluted as other parts of the Harbour, so it is disappointing that they have been included in the discussion being driven by MEMA.



Click the map to open a detailed map of existing Sydney Harbour lockouts and restricted fishing zones.

### What we've asked for

The RFA has called on the Minister to provide:

paste that complete address as a link to paste into your newsletter, Facebook page, etc.

## Members of the RFA of NSW

Australian National Sportfishing Association (NSW Branch), Australian Underwater Federation, Canberra Fishing Club, Central Coast Association of Angling Clubs, Club Narooma Bowlo Fishing Club, New South Wales Council of Freshwater Anglers, New South Wales Fishing Clubs Association, New South Wales Underwater Skindivers and Fishermen's Association, Professional Fishing Instructors and Guides Association and South West Anglers Association.

Fishing clubs can join the RFA of NSW for just \$55 per year. Membership for individual anglers costs just \$22 per year. If you would like to join please download the [membership form](#).

- A way to email responses to the process (apart from the web portal) that can be included as part of the consultation.
- An extension of time, perhaps 8-12 weeks to deliver CALD engagement, a consultative paper process through fishing clubs and tackle shops and a face to face element via workshops.

For RFA President Stan Konstantaras' [article in \*Fishing World\*](#), [see this link](#).

## NEWTAG Mulloway Tagging Update.



A few updates are coming in from the NEWTAG Mulloway Tagging Project. Some of the great recaptures this past few weeks are:

Tagged 23/10/14. Hawkesbury River. 610 mm.  
 Recaptured 28/8/15. Hunter River. 725 mm.  
 In 8 months, we had 115 mm growth and it traveled about 90 km.

Tagged 9/5/15 . Parramatta River. 680 mm  
 Recaptured 31/7/15. Parramatta River. 680 mm  
 This fish did not move at all and showed almost zero growth.

Tagged 8/3/15. Botany Bay. 1030 mm  
 Recaptured 9/8/15. Wollongong. 1100 mm  
 This fish did move and reinforces what we know about these

# SPACE FOR SALE

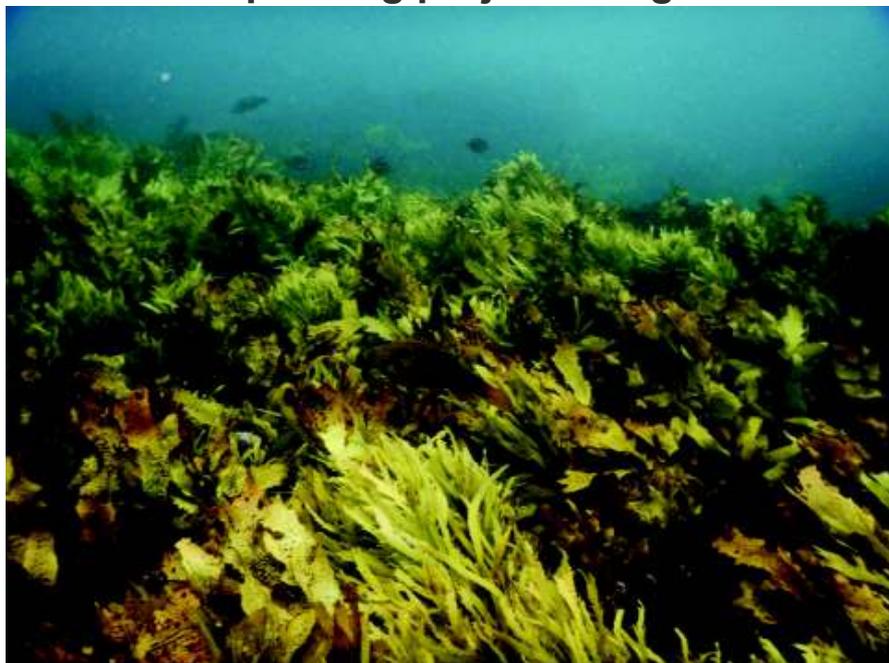
We need a couple of advertisers to take space in this newsletter and help defray our costs. The newsletter goes to about 3,000 people every month, and growing. Space available in this column or across bottom of the editorial column. Hyperlinks to your websites etc available.

Call Peter Gibson on 0425 211 313 for details.

bigger fish, they do travel and a "home" estuary is not important. As they get bigger they are wider ranging and this is backed up with the stocking we did in Botany Bay, the stocking in the Bay has seeded other areas in NSW. On this I have asked the mulloway researchers at DPI to organise an update on the stocking we did in Botany Bay, the results are in so stay tuned for this.

What is great now is that we have two big fish from Botany Bay, one heading north to Newcastle and one heading south to Wollongong, and it shows how important we get the big picture right when it comes to the management of the marine estate and the Hawkesbury Bioregion.

### **Seaweed re-planting project a huge success**



Marine scientists have been working to restore crayweed, a kelp-like seaweed species that once thrived along Sydney's coastline before sewage pollution resulted in its demise sometime in the 1980s. Researchers have been transplanting 'crayweed' (*Phyllospora comosa*), into two rocky reefs (Long Bay and Little Bay) in the Sydney metropolitan region, covering an area of around 50 m x 50 m.

This has resulted in successful growth at the transplanted area and up to 100 m away and is positive news as effective restoration depends on the crayweed recruiting beyond the transplanted patches. Crayweed is known to be fantastic habitat for rock lobster, abalone and a variety of recreational fish species. The experiment has shown that the variety of organisms supported by crayweed is unique compared to other habitat-forming seaweeds still present in the Sydney region,

and that most organisms are able to re-colonise transplanted crayweed, increasing the local biodiversity. The fish species recorded at the newly restored sites have been found to match those in other regional reference sites with natural crayweed populations.

This project was run using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trust and involved scientists from the University of NSW and DPI, as well as volunteers.

## **Fishing 4 Therapy in Sydney's Centennial Park**



Tony Steiner from ANSA NSW recently ran a carp/fishing display at the Science Week Kids' fun day held in Centennial Park. He set up two therapy tanks and filled them with fish. The idea was to allow the kids and their families hands on experience as well as learn about how the fish interact within nature. It also allowed him to promote F4T and our programmes, with more enquiries than he could handle. Tony had four volunteers helping him from 11 am to 3 pm. At times the crowd was 10 deep with the team having to carry fish through the crowd so people weren't pushing. An incredible day that saw a head count (confirmed by the Park management) of over 8000 attendees.

Take a look at the face of Mr Blue Hoodie on the right!

## **Chelsea Rutstein, ANSA champion**



What an amazing up-and-coming angler!

This is South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association angler Chelsea Rutstein with her achievements from last week's annual club presentations. Her awards were for:

- Ladies Open Board biggest - European Carp, Bream, Salmon, Kingfish, Mahi Mahi, Snapper and Pike
- Junior Board biggest - Salmon, European Carp, Luderick, Surgeon Fish, Flathead, Striped Tuna and Sweep
- ANSA Sportfisherman of the year...
- Highest scoring ANSA Sportfishing Ladies
- Highest scoring ANSA Sportfishing
- Largest capture by a Junior angler
- Highest scoring ANSA overall
- Ladies Champion, Junior champion, Club Champion and Club Member of the Year

**Register your EPIRB**

If you own an EPIRB or distress beacon, you will know you can improve your chances of being found and optimise the search by emergency services when you register your personal details and description of your boat.

From 15 September, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority will be mobile-optimising beacon registration - making it possible from a mobile or tablet via SMS or email.

The new system gives beacon owners more options to save their registration information on their mobile phone through an SMS or email.

Existing beacon registration stickers will continue to be recognised until they expire or need replacing, then proof of registration will be issued through the new methods.

Beacon registration renewal will continue to be free and take place every two years.

Please register your distress beacon with AMSA at <http://www.amsa.gov.au/beacons> or by phoning 1800 406 406.

**Eat the fish, just don't drink the water...?**



On 25 August, after floods affected the Shoalhaven area, Shoalhaven Council urged local residents to avoid unnecessary contact with stormwater and waterways.

Their online statement said *"It is extremely important that local residents do not swim or play in stormwater, floodwater or potentially polluted waterways given the associated risks. Council is aware of a number of low lying septic tanks and other sewerage infrastructures throughout the City that have*



*been inundated with stormwater and floodwater as a result of the recent heavy rain. While residents may be aware of the obvious physical dangers floodwater can present, people may not be aware that by contacting floodwaters you may inadvertently be exposing yourself to diluted sewage, bacteria or other pollutants that may be present. Contact with contaminated water may cause illness, including ear infections, eye infections, fever and diarrhoea."*

The RFA was asked to pursue this on behalf of the locals at St Georges Basin (a recreational fishing haven), Sussex Inlet and Jervis Bay Marine Park. There was visible sewerage floating around, especially in the Basin. With school holidays coming up this is an important area for recreational anglers. There appears to have been a significant failing of local infrastructure.

Apparently locals were told by the EPA that it will take a few weeks for the St Georges Basin to recover and it's not advisable to swim or drink the water but you can still eat the fish!

The RFA contacted DPI and the EPA about effects on fish stocks and the anglers who might eat them in the coming weeks. At this stage we still haven't had any answers.

**Councils getting ready to clout boat trailer parking**



New regulations are now allowing councils to impound boat trailers parked on suburban streets in NSW if they are left in the same place for more than three months. Previously, a boat trailer could be parked indefinitely in areas without parking restrictions unless it was considered abandoned or unattended.

Councils have been dealing with a growing number of complaints about boat trailers being parked in residential areas.

The new regulations do not mention caravans, box-trailers and mobile billboards.

Randwick Council in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs is already sticking notices on parked boats...a large number of the stickers shown above have just appeared in the area.

## From tip to tail - using ALL the fish

Having been trapped at work whilst Sydney's brief Bluefin Bonanza happened and having to weigh fish for club members after work, including a brace of fish between 60 kg – 120 kg, I had the pleasure of "taxing" less desirable cuts of SBT. First cab off the rank was



the belly flaps. These I smoked and are probably the most tasty pieces of smoked fish I have ever eaten. I froze a bunch of them and every few weeks I take a slab out and smoke it. Try snapper or mullet wings next time on the BBQ for a gastronomic delight. Snapper head soup anyone?

Next I grabbed some smaller frame sections and hung these off the rocks to start one of the most effective berley trails for my humble bream. Pick the blood lines out for bait, a small bobby cork, No 4 Suicide hook and a feed of bream is guaranteed. Last week I managed 5 fish in less than 2 hours and there is nothing more than I enjoy than a feed of bream on the old Snyder/Alvey combo.



Next time, take your frames home and recycle them on your next trip.

So whilst all the hipsters tell us about their new snout-to-tail theory and how good they are, I say to them grab a number and join the queue, smart anglers have been doing it for years and wasting nothing.

*Stan Konstantaras*

## **How well do you know the language of fish and seafood?**



Try the Oxford Dictionaries quiz [at this link](#).

## **La La the penguin**



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## Safe fishing news

Shock signage for danger locations



RFA Safety Officer Malcolm Poole recently attended a meeting at Randwick City Council - they are investigating installing shock signage along tracks into popular rock platforms in the eastern suburbs of Sydney.

The signage will be installed along the eastern Sydney coastline. The move follows a coronial inquiry into rock fishing deaths in NSW which recommended trialling shock signage at rock blackspots in an attempt to save lives. Seven people have died in the Randwick City area from Clovelly to La Perouse over the past five years making this stretch of coastline the most dangerous in the country.

The RFA is very keen to work with Randwick Council to assess the effectiveness of these signs and test if people are actually “stopping to think” about the conditions as they head out to the rocks to fish or sightsee.

Currently 10 sites are being considered in the area.

## Another rock fishing death

Just as we are preparing this latest newsletter we get the terrible news that another fisher has drowned after being swept off the rocks on Sunday at Dark Beach, South Durras.

He was not wearing a life jacket.

The fisherman was apparently in his 50s. His body was located by the Westpac Rescue helicopter but despite the efforts of paramedics, the man was not able to be revived. At the time of preparing this newsletter he has yet to be formally identified.

## More DVDs available

We are currently producing another run of our 'Don't Put Your Life on the Line' fishing safety DVD. They will be ready at the start of September. This edition of the DVD has the upgraded rock fishing video with numerous translations into every language we could think of, it also has the freshwater, underwater safe fishing videos and the safe boat fishing video!



We are keen to get this DVD out to fishing clubs, community groups and school classes, and can provide multiple copies.

The DVD is FREE and we deliver it at no charge. If you would like copies, get in touch with us at [info@fansw.com.au](mailto:info@fansw.com.au).



The DVD production costs were funded by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts.

## Bravery award for Marine Rescue Ballina crew



Marine Rescue NSW has congratulated three members of Marine Rescue Ballina, who have been honoured with a Group Bravery Citation for their efforts during a 2013 rescue operation in dark and dangerous conditions.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos said the Citation was well-deserved recognition for Tony Handcock, Rodney Guest and David Nockolds, whose rescue vessel capsized when hit by a large swell during the operation to save two men on a stricken motor cruiser on the Ballina bar.

“Our three members demonstrated selfless courage in going to the rescue of the men on the broken down cruiser in the pitch dark, with a large swell on the notorious Richmond River bar,” he said.

The three men responded on board Ballina 30 (pictured above) when the motor cruiser’s crew called for help just after midnight on April 15, 2013, navigating through turbulent conditions on the outgoing tide to reach the pair.

As BA 30 attempted to tow the cruiser off the breakwall, one of the cruiser’s crew was thrown overboard and the other leapt into the water. The BA 30 crew retrieved one man but before they could reach the second, the rescue vessel was swamped and capsized.

David and Rodney fought their way out of the cabin to cling to the upturned hull but Tony and the rescued man were trapped inside as BA 30 washed over the bar and out to sea, before eventually struggling free. The other boater was in the water nearby.

Commissioner Tannos again thanked the crew members of the Ballina Jet rescue service who sped to the men's aid, plucking them all from the water and, with conditions on the bar too rough for a second crossing, beaching on nearby Shelley Beach so the five could be transferred to hospital. The Westpac Rescue Helicopter also responded.

"We owe the members of all three rescue services a debt of gratitude for their skill and dedication," Commissioner Tannos said.

## **Marine Rescue Ulladulla re-opens after fire**



Marine Rescue Ulladulla recently opened their new \$1.4 million base after the original base was destroyed by fire on the October long weekend in 2013, only four months after the opening of its new \$132,000 training facilities.

Marine Rescue Commissioner Stacey Tannos said the new base had been purpose-designed and built, providing panoramic views over the water, a high-tech Search and Rescue Coordination Centre, dedicated training space, amenities and equipment storage.

"The destruction of the unit's base was really tough for the volunteers but to their great credit, they didn't allow it to disrupt their safety operations, relocating their radio service first to the rescue vessel on the harbour and then to alternative premises," he said.

"I thank them for their dedication to serving their community and for their resilience in staying the course, working in small demountable accommodation while the planning and building work was under way.

The new unit is fitted out with electronics equipment to improve the clarity and efficiency of its radio communications, including an enhanced radio system for monitoring VHF and 27MHz marine radio transmissions, a voice recording system and integrated computer-based radio operator consoles.

Unit Commander Ken Lambert said the opening of the building marked a new start for the unit's 110 volunteers.

“Our members have been fantastic throughout the two years since the fire. They have continued to provide their essential services to the boating community, attend training and enthusiastically fundraise, despite our less-than-optimal conditions,” he said.

“This facility is a huge boost to our morale, as well as providing our community with a valuable and attractive new asset here on the harbourfront.

“Thanks must go, too, to Bendigo Bank for a very welcome grant, Coates Hire, Telstra and Super Cheap Auto, who helped get us up and running in the fire's aftermath, and the Ulladulla Game Fishing Club, which allowed us to use its rooms.”

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# 131 Angel Rings, 62 lives saved



**Know of a location that needs an Angel Ring, or need to report damage or vandalism? Contact the Angel Ring Project at [www.angelrings.com.au](http://www.angelrings.com.au)**

## Feedback

"Just writing to say what a valuable resource your newsletter is and in particular the latest August edition. It is much appreciated. I hope you don't mind if I copy some of the stuff to the monthly news sheet that we send out to our club members.

"Congratulations to Tony Steiner on the award; it's great to see someone working with disabled people getting recognised.

"Regards  
Andre Baillon  
Fishing Secretary  
St George & Sutherland Shire Anglers' Club"

Thanks Andre. Any fishing club can feel free to use material from our newsletter. You can also share the newsletter by clicking the 'View it in your browser' link at the top right corner of the newsletter and then clicking the 'share' button...that should give you a short URL in the top right corner that you can

paste into any email or website or Facebook page.

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## Reminders

### **Crown road closure applications now ONLY online and in local papers**

In August 2012 the NSW government started to clear a backlog of applications to convert Crown roads to freehold. This includes many 'paper roads' that could provide important fishing access to the public. Initially NSW DPI was monitoring the flow of applications and notifying angling groups including the RFA of any applications that could lead to loss of fishing access. However the number of applications has now increased dramatically and NSW DPI has stopped notifying angling groups due to lack of resources to cope with the avalanche.

The NSW government launched an online service showing the applications at [www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/crown\\_lands/roads](http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/crown_lands/roads)

The roads notices are searchable by date, locality and local government area. The information will remain online for the full 28 day submission period for each proposed road closure. The maps contain information to clearly identify which roads are being offered for sale and closure, without revealing the identity of landholders or applicants.

Anglers must monitor the website and their local newspapers (the only place the government is obliged to advertise proposed closures) so they find out about closures in their area. If you don't watch this situation and quickly lodge objections when necessary you could lose valuable access to your favourite places.

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### **Free "Don't put your life on the line" DVDs**



We once again have stocks of our updated 'Don't Put Your Life on the Line' fishing safety DVD. This edition of the DVD has an upgraded rock fishing video with numerous translations into every language we could think of, it also has the freshwater and underwater safe fishing videos AND the brand new safe boat fishing video!

We are keen to get this DVD out to fishing clubs, community groups and school classes, and can provide multiple copies.

The DVD is FREE and we deliver it at no charge. If you would like copies, get in touch with us at [info@rfansw.com.au](mailto:info@rfansw.com.au).



The DVD production costs were funded by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts.

## **Do you know of a local fishing club or community fishing event?**

If you have a local fishing competition or a charity or community fishing event, we are always happy to give it some publicity in this newsletter.

The newsletter goes out around the 25th day of every month of the year, to over 4,000 subscribers. You don't have to be a member of the RFA of NSW. About 100-200 words is OK,

however roughly written, and we always like a picture.

## Sign up for free weather alerts for coastal and inland waters

You can sign up for alerts for NSW coast and inland waters direct from Maritime at <http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/alerts/alert.html> and you can set your own alert trigger conditions and choose which locations you want covered. Alerts are sent daily when wind conditions exceed the trigger points you specify. Easy, useful and free.

## Who represents anglers?

We regularly get comments from anglers that they don't know who is on the advisory committees to the NSW government and that they don't know what issues are considered and decided by those committees. The information is on the web, but not always easy to find, so here are the links:



Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing members

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/trusts/acorf/about-acorf>

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing minutes

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/trusts/acorf>

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee members

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/trusts/rfftec/about-rfftec>

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee minutes

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/trusts/rfftec>

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee members

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/trusts/rfstec/about-rfstec>

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee minutes

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/trusts/rfstec>

In between editions of their monthly newsletters the RFA of NSW and the NSW CFA also post news on the Facebook pages...

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/RFANSW](http://www.facebook.com/RFANSW)

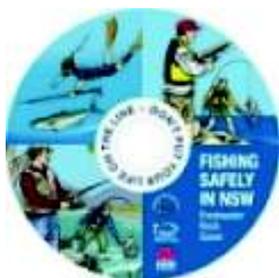
NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/NSWCFA>

## RFA videos now on YouTube channel



- The RFA of NSW now has a YouTube channel where all our safe fishing videos can be viewed. Go to [www.youtube.com/safefishing](http://www.youtube.com/safefishing) to see the channel.



'Don't put your life on the line' safe fishing DVDs



The new edition of our fishing safety DVD has an upgraded rock fishing video with numerous translations into every language



### About the Recreational Fishing Alliance

The RFA is the peak recreational fishing body in NSW. It is a not-for-profit, volunteer organisation supported by recreational fishing clubs, associations and individual anglers.

Its aims are:

we could think of, it also has the freshwater and underwater safe fishing videos AND the brand new safe boat fishing video! We are keen to get this DVD out to fishing clubs, community groups and school classes, and can provide multiple copies.

The DVD is FREE and we deliver it at no charge. If you would like copies, get in touch with us at [info@rfansw.com.au](mailto:info@rfansw.com.au).

The DVD production costs were funded by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts.

• To represent the interests of the recreational anglers of NSW and to gain equitable representation in the management of the State's recreational fisheries.

• To promote sustainable fishing practices throughout NSW.

• To encourage the participation of children in recreational fishing.

• To pursue and secure the rights of recreational anglers to fishing access in NSW waters.

• To encourage recreational anglers to become involved in the well-being of the fishery.

• To promote consultation and communication between government bodies and anglers.

• To promote fishing safety.



Like

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