

# National Recreational Fishing Conference

17 – 18 October 2008, Rydges Capital Hill, Canberra  
*Recreational Fishing 2020 – a shared vision*

Dear Participant

## **2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Recreational Fishing and the Recfishing Research Workshop**

The purpose of Recfish Australia's National Recreational Fishing Conference on 17 & 18 October is to examine the challenges facing recreational fishing and the future recreational fishers want to see for their fishing. The results of the conference will be vital to the success of the workshop on 20 October where national R&D priorities for recreational fisheries will be reviewed.

The purpose of this letter is to help you prepare for the conference and workshop by looking at some of the challenges that recreational fishing will face over the next decade. Issues including sustainability, fishers' rights, access, rising costs, resource allocation, economic value of fishing, leadership, capacity building and changing community attitudes will all be raised and discussed.

If the conference and workshop are to be successful it's important that all participants come prepared with a realistic picture of the challenges and constructive thoughts to share on how these can be addressed. By doing so, all participants will help in the development of Recfish Australia's vision for recreational fishing and the identification of the key national R&D needs that must be met to help achieve that vision.

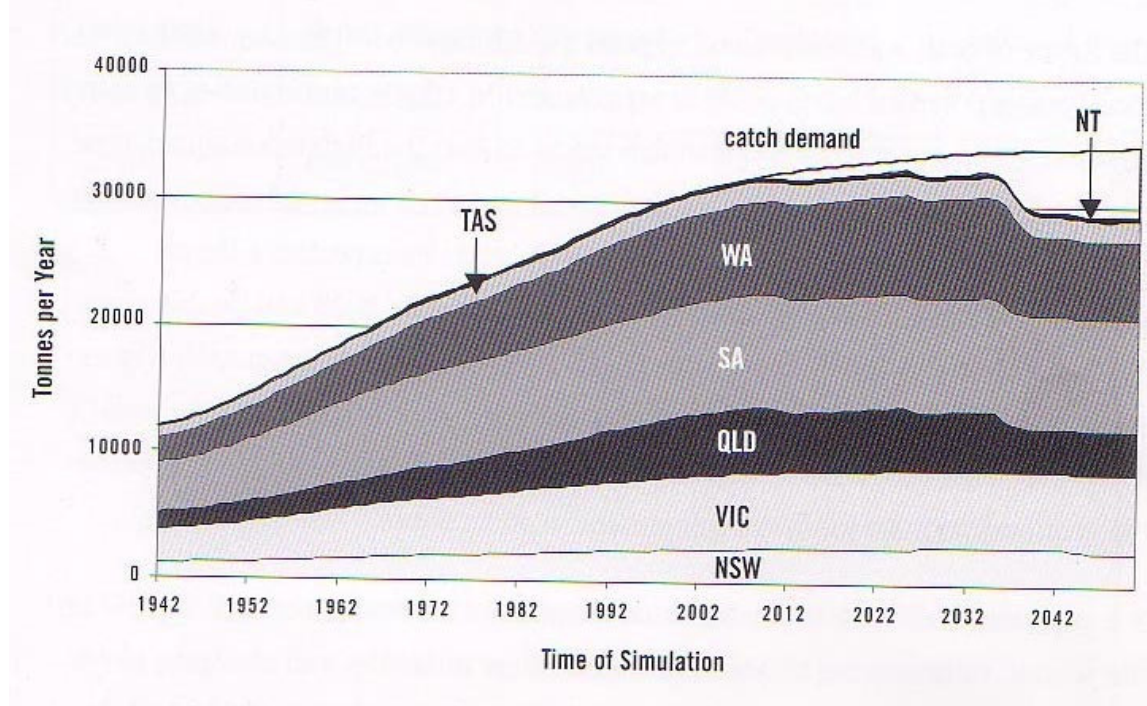
Taking a big-picture view of these challenges, the attached figure shows projections of the total demand for recreational catch (from wild stocks) for Australia along with what's likely to be actually available in the period to 2050. These projections take into account participation levels, plateauing demand, fully or over-exploited stocks, increasing competition from marine mammals, climate change and the impacts of declining habitats on fish stocks. There are several important implications, for example:

- Recreational fishers' expectations will have to change;
- Competition among recreational fishers and between them and commercial fishers and seafood consumers will intensify;
- Demands for reallocation to the recreational sector will increase at the same time as the demand from seafood consumers grows;
- Effective monitoring, assessing and managing recreational fishing will be even more critical.

Your contribution on where you want recreational fishing to be and what you want it to look like in the future should take account of these scenarios.

Ross Winstanley  
Chair, Recfishing Research Steering Committee  
6 October 2008

## Simulated historical and future recreational catch for the period 1942 to 2050 for the state jurisdictions.



Source: R Kearney, B Foran, F Poldy and D Lowe 2003. *Modelling Australia's fisheries to 2050: policy and management implications*. Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Canberra.

### Suggested Reading

Documents which will be used to help guide the discussion will be available on the Recfish Australia website [www.recfish.com.au](http://www.recfish.com.au), these include:

**The National Recreational Fishing Policy 1994**  
**Recfishing Research Business Plan Edition 2**

#### Contact Details:

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