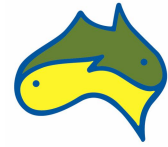


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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **ABC story on stainless steel hooks stains their reputation**

“I am extremely disappointed over the factual inaccuracies reported by the ABC on 19 March in relation to stainless steel hooks used by anglers in Australia” John Harrison CEO of Recfish Australia said today.

To allow figures to be quoted that are outrageously incorrect defies logic and is a blight on the ABC. There is very little use of stainless steel hooks by the recreational fishing sector. In fact one national tackle buying group consisting of 44 tackle stores shows the sale of stainless steel hooks comprises just 0.001 percent of hook sales.

For the ABC to allow comment that there are 40 million stainless steel hooks lost to the environment each year is nothing short of absurd. They should have checked their facts.

In addition to the careless use of facts the footage that was aired of a shark swimming shows a trace attached to the shark with a clip on the end of the trace – clips that are used by the commercial fishing sector – not the recreational sector.

“In the past 6 years some \$7.2m has been spent on a recreational fishing sector initiated program of research projects known as ‘Released Fish Survival’ which has been researching the best methods of releasing fish to maximise survivability. This has included the use of circle hooks, barbless hooks, knotless landing nets and best techniques to handle fish when releasing.”

“This has included an extension component to provide advice to the angling community on the best practices to use. We have been doing our research perhaps the ABC should do theirs” Mr Harrison concluded.

End

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