

**RECFISH
AUSTRALIA**



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Media release

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Inaugural Board to set strategic direction.

At its 22nd annual general meeting Recfish Australia, representing Australia's 3.5 million fishers, has moved into a new era with the establishment of a Board of Directors to strategically progress the multitude of issues facing the recreational fishing sector at the national level.

"It was a very important step in the evolution of this organisation and one that the Delegates saw as the best way to move forward. Changing from a representative Executive Committee to an elected Board was a giant step towards ensuring that we get an expertise based Board that can deliver on the objectives of the organisation by calling on their skills, knowledge and contacts within and outside the sector." Mr Bruce Schumacher, inaugural Chairman of the Board said today.

The new Board has seven elected members and the Board will select an 8th person based on a skill and needs analysis to identify gaps within the expertise base.

The Australian Recreational & Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Inc.

Our mission – to represent and advocate the interests of recreational and sport fishers at a national level to ensure high-quality, enjoyable and ecologically sustainable fishing.

The seven new Board members are:

Bruce Schumacher Chairman from NSW

Brett Cleary Deputy Chairman from Tasmania

Frank Prokop from Western Australia

Bruce Alvey from Queensland

Chris Makepeace from Northern Territory

Bill Sawynok from Queensland

Malcolm Poole from NSW

“I am excited about the prospect of Chairing this new Board and I look forward to contributing with them to the strategic direction of Recfish Australia, its business plan, research & development and extension plan and to deliver real change and benefits to the recreational fishers of Australia” Mr Schumacher said.

We have many challenges in our industry including the vexing question of marine protected areas, improving our knowledge on catch and release, environmental management systems for fishing tournaments, developing further best practices, community engagement in management of resources, capacity building and succession planning to name a few” Mr Schumacher concluded.

End

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