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National Code of Practice – comments sought on a review

Mr Bruce Schumacher, Chair of Recfish Australia, today called for Australians interested in recreational fishing to provide comment on the revised national code of practice. “This project that has been funded by the Australian Government Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program will review and revise the national code of practice (COP) for recreational fishing and update the content to reflect the knowledge gains and changes since it was first written in 1995.”

The current COP has four main areas of fishing responsibility: **Looking after our fisheries, Treating fish humanely, Protecting the environment and Respecting the rights of others.**

“The revised code will incorporate the new best practices that have been developed in recent years including the use of circle hooks, knotless landing nets, fish handling techniques, best methods for releasing various species, animal welfare advice as per the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, safety issues like boating, rock fishing, and dangerous/poisonous fish.”

Recreational fishing is a popular activity that involves around 34 per cent of the Australia’s population, contributes more than \$2 billion a year to the economy and is a healthy outdoor activity that involves the environment, sport, friendship and the chance to catch fresh seafood.

“Recfish Australia works with its members and the community on the development of policy, industry standards and guidelines in a range of areas relating to recreational fishing, environment and performance. This self-regulatory approach has proven to be very effective, and has delivered substantial benefits to recreational fisheries, community and Government and contributed to sustainable world-class fisheries for Marlin in QLD, Barramundi in NT and many more.”

“Input to the revised COP will be sought through our targeted consultation with key groups and clubs, as well as encouraging all fishers to provide comments on the draft Code of Practice via the Recfish Australia web site.” <http://www.recfish.com.au> (Quick Links).

“Dr Julian Pepperell, who has had 30 years experience in all aspects of recreational fishing in Australia (biological and socio-economic research, advisory, communication and media), will work with Recfish Australia on this project.”

“This is a great opportunity for the recreational fishing community to have a say on the COP to help ensure sustainable fishing and fish for the future generations of Australians” Mr Schumacher concluded.

END

Media enquiries to Bruce Schumacher 0418 499322