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AUSTRALIA**



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AUF renews links with Recfish Australia

After a period of about 8 years the Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) through their Spearfishing Commission has rejoined the peak national body for recreational and sport fishing, Recfish Australia.

“We are delighted that this important element of recreational fishing has been able to return and contribute to the debate and strategic direction of Recfish Australia. With a plethora of issues facing the recreational and sport fishing industry around Australia it is important that spearfishing is involved in the debate regarding national issues” Mr John Harrison, CEO, of Recfish Australia said today.

“There are many issues that we believe Recfish Australia can help the AUF with to improve our sport including the contentious and emotive issue of marine protected areas and protected species management (particularly grey nurse shark closures) that impact hugely on our limited recreational fishing activities” Dr Adam Smith, National Chair, of Spearfishing added.

Dr Smith continued “As one of the founding members of Recfish Australia in 1983 it was disappointing that AUF were not able to continue our membership in recent years. However we see the opportunity with rejoining to assist us in providing for greater certainty and a stronger united voice to Government and the community for sustainable, safe, selective spearfishing”.

“With Recfish Australia in the process of establishing a Board for the management of its functions and with an injection of financial support from the Australian Government over the next three years it is timely and very appropriate that AUF be with us to assist to forge the future for recreational and sport fishing in Australia.” Mr Harrison concluded.

End

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The Australian Recreational & Sport Fishing Industry Confederation Inc.