



GFAA Newsletter

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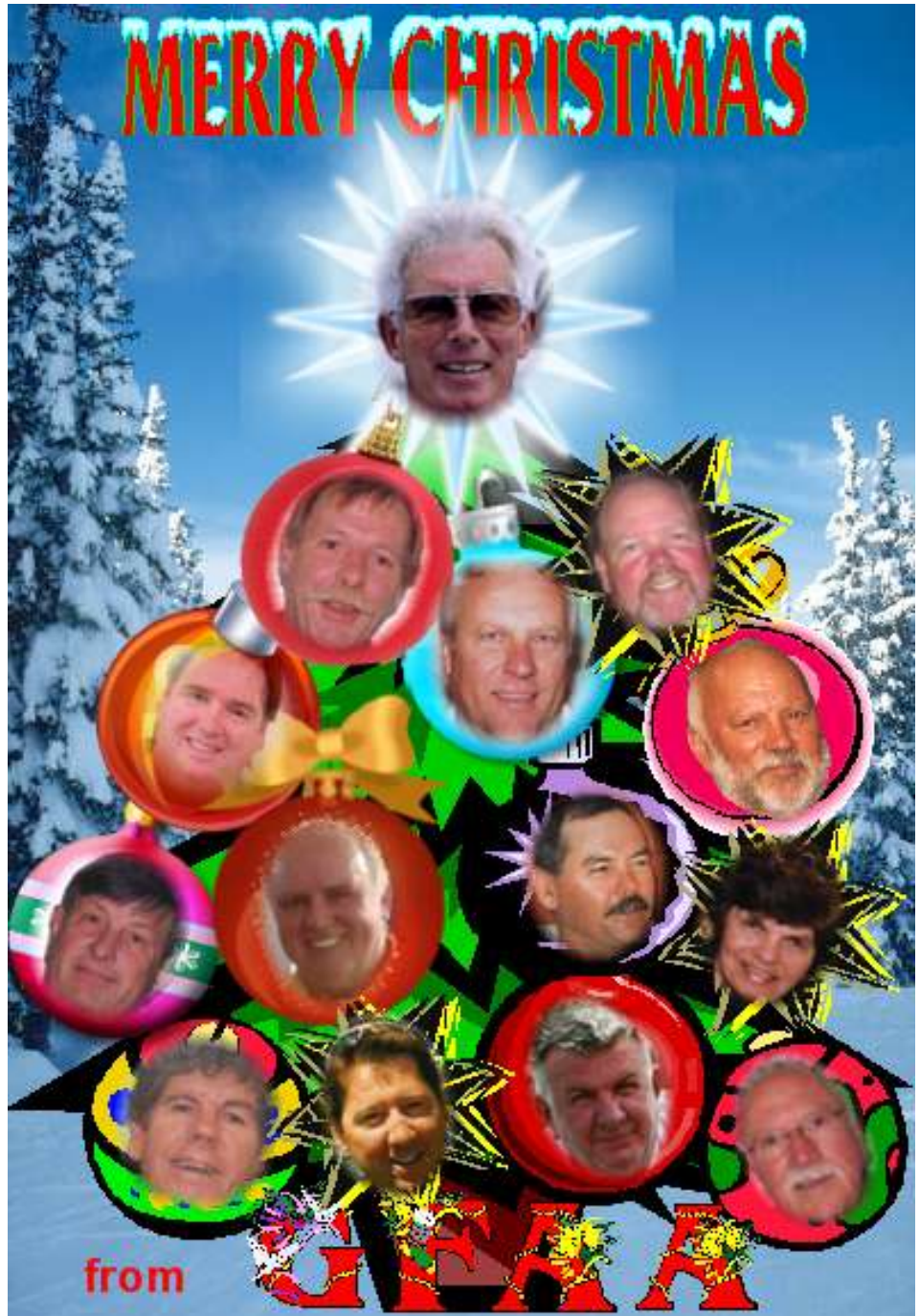
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GFAA Annual Conference 21st & 22nd October 2011 Crowne Plaza Hotel—Darwin

The conference was held in Darwin for the very first time in GFAA's history with all States being represented by their State Delegates and State Executive Officer(s).

Reports that were presented to this meeting have been included in this Newsletter edition, could you please send a copy to each of your Clubs. The Newsletter will as well be available to download from the GFAA website—www.gfaa.asn.au

On the Saturday evening of the Conference the 2010/11 GFAA Trophy Winners were announced, around 100 people attended the dinner, it was great to see some of our Junior Anglers attend to receive their award in person.



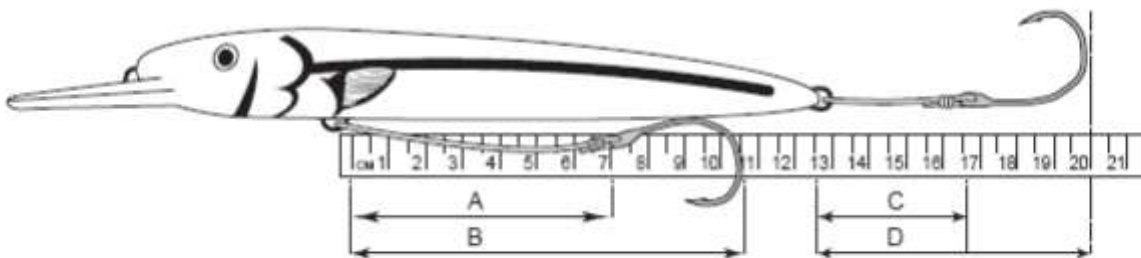


NEW RULE—RULES & EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

(h) Hooks and Lures

(note: the following new rule was listed in the GFAA Rules & Equipment Regulations as a clarification and was adopted as a **RULE** at the October GFAA AGM.

3. “Assist hooks or other such single hooks that are attached to a lure with a lead constructed of monofilament, multifilament, wire or other such material must conform to the following: When using assist hooks on any artificial lure, **other than a skirted lure**, the lead cannot be more than 1½ hook’s length and the bend of the hook must not be more than 4 inches (101 mm), whichever is less from the closest point of attachment on the lure. **Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks**”.



- A. Not legal, the connection length is longer than 1.5 times the length of the hook.
- B. Not legal, the overall length exceeds 101mm.
- C. Legal, the connection is less than 1.5 times the length of the hook.
- D. Legal, the overall length is less than 101mm from the lure.



GFAA GUIDELINES—TAG & RELEASE

GFAA Guidelines for Tag & Release—Part 7 amended to read:

“A fish is considered tagged and released when the tag is secured to the fish **and the fish is released back into the water alive** “.

GFAA POLICY—SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

The GFAA Policy—Sanctioned Tournaments—Maximum Cash and/or Prize Limit was amended to read:

Note 1: GFAA disapproves of the offering of substantial rewards for the capture or tagging of fish. This practice is not in the best interest of the sport of angling or the conservation of gamefish.

Note 2: GFAA allows State Associations to pre-determine their own cash and/or prize limit in sanctioned tournaments. The best interest of the sport of angling and the conservation of gamefish should always be considered.



GFAA RECORD REQUIREMENTS & POLICY

The above GFAA Policies **DO NOT** over-ride the GFAA Record Requirement & Policy with respect to a Record Catch which reads:

“When an award above \$10,000 is specifically offered for an Australian record catch, only a claim for an All Tackle record will be considered”.



2012 GFAA JOURNAL—MAILING LIST

State Associations are to forward to GFAA their “State Mailing List” (in required format) NO LATER than 15th January 2012.

Please ask Clubs to ensure that their Club mailing list is current and includes each member’s name, address, state & postcode.

THE DODRANSCENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
OF
THE GAMEFISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

26th October 2012

75 YEARS OLD



The first meeting of The Game Fishing Association of Australia was held at Martin Place, Sydney on 26th October 1937.

2012 will mark the 75th Anniversary of the Association, as the birth place of GFAA was in Sydney it has been decided to hold the 2012 GFAA Annual General Meeting in Sydney on the 26th & 27th October. Plans are well underway and as soon as these have been finalised State Secretaries will be informed. GFAA would like to see as many Delegates and Observers attend this weekend to celebrate this milestone in the Association's history.

There is other celebration planning in the "pipeline", we are working extremely hard to ensure that this 75th Anniversary will be a successful and enjoyable celebration for the States, Clubs and Club Members.





OFFICE BEARERS—2011/2012

President

Grahame Williams

Vice President

Brett Cleary

Honorary Treasurer

Bob Oliver

Secretary

Pat Jones

Honorary Records Officer

Peter Babarskas

Honorary Publicity Officer

Otto Volz

Honorary Public Officer

Grahame Williams

State Executive Officers

New South Wales

David Litchfield

Queensland North

Mick Meiers

Queensland South

Brian Kirkby

South Australia

Bob Oliver

Western Australia North

Dennis Bryan-Smith

Western Australia Sth

John Webber

Victoria

Geoff Fisher

Northern Territory

Peter Cox

Tasmania

John Brooker



The Game Fishing Association of Australia

GFAA Presidents & Life Members

1937 - 2011

GFAA Presidents

Clive W. Firth *(Foundation)	1937 - 47
Thomas A. Bell *	1948 - 49
G. R. (Jim) Cowell *	1950 - 51
John A. Kelly *	1952 - 53
Thomas A. Bell *	1954 - 59
William L. Southam *	1960 - 61
Ernest W. Palmer AO *	1962 - 63
Richard Rowe *	1964 - 67
Dr. J. James Delohery *	1968 - 71
Terrence M. Caughlan *	1972 - 73
William B. Coombs *	1974 - 75
Patrick V. Gay AM	1976 - 77
W. John O'Brien MBE *	1978 - 79
John C. Johnston	1980 - 81
C. Ian Cutler *	1982 - 83
Mal Ramsay *	1984 - 85
Bill Heyward *	Nov/Dec 1985
Neil Patrick	1986 - 87
Robert Ellis	1988 - 89
Bruce Downie*	1990 - 91
Col Roberts	1992 - 93
Robert H. (Bob) Lowe	1994 - 95
Alan Messenger	1996 - 97
Grahame A. Williams	1997 -

GFAA Life Members

Clive W. Firth *	1939
G. R. Cowell *	1951
Thomas A Bell *	1951
A. B. Carrodus *	1951
M. J. Lawson *	1957
Michael Lerner *	1959
E. W. Palmer *	1965
Dr H.J. Delohery *	1973
W. B. Coombs *	1975
Elwood K. Harry *	1979
W. John O'Brien *	1981
Peter Goadby OAM*	1981
Patrick V. Gay AM	1981
John C. Johnston	1983
Daphne V. Nielsen	1983
C. Ian Cutler *	1985
Malcolm D. Ramsay *	1989
K. Neil Patrick	1991
Bruce Downie*	1993
Robert H. (Bob) Lowe	1997
Col Roberts	1997
Grahame A. Williams	2000
Tom Roche *	2004

* Deceased

* Deceased



President's Report

2011 AGM—October
Darwin, NT



The workload at GFAA has not reduced in the past year, nor can I see it reducing in the near future. The general administration time is reasonable and fairly constant, the work in advising the Federal Government and being on Committees has definitely increased. This is mainly due to Environment issues including C/W M.P.A's and Green/Animal Welfare groups.

I note the continual call for more Press Releases etc., however, I state again, those calling for these do not fully understand the workings of Politicians and Bureaucrats, plus many of the subjects I deal with are "IN CONFIDENCE". GFAA is fully recognised in Canberra as the genuine expert representative body looking after the interests of Game/Recreational anglers in Commonwealth Waters. This has taken many years to achieve and shooting off at the mouth (unless it is the last alternative) does not assist the process.

I again request all to have patience and understand that GFAA will do everything possible to protect our sport and our fish species.

A very important factor that can and will assist is robust dialogue between State Associations, State Fisheries Departments and Ministers as under the O.C.S. Agreements many of the States manage the offshore fisheries on behalf of the C/W and obviously have a voice through the AFMF (Australian Fisheries Management Forum). I request each State Executive Officer plus State Associations to ensure they know and communicate with their respective people and bodies and report State issues to me on a regular basis.

The A.I.B.T. earlier this year was a great success with the number of boats and entrants creating a record. I thank the organisers and host club Exmouth GFC. on behalf of G.F.A.A. The 2012 event is on at the same location so I request all to support it by advising your club members and referring them to the Exmouth GFC web site.

The National Junior Tournament has everything going for it except our States and Clubs are not promoting it. We need nearly ALL our juniors entered in this Tournament so I again request everyone to get off their backsides and promote this at ALL clubs.

The GFAA promotional DVD is now completed. **Thank you** to Otto Volz for the persistence and hard work. This was a challenging and sometimes difficult project. Making an informative while interesting and enjoyable DVD is not an easy task. A copy of this DVD will be distributed to every affiliated angler's household in the early part of 2012.

Special thanks go to V.P. Brett this year as he has stepped up and been a great help in representing me when I have not been available. Brett also took on the role as Acting President recently when I went overseas for 5 weeks. I am sure Brett now understands the President's role is not just a name. The assistance is greatly appreciated Brett.

26th October 2012 is a big day in the history of GFAA. GFAA was born that day in 1937, 75 years old.

The birth of GFAA was held in Sydney this is where the celebrations will take place. Once plans are finalised all State Secretaries will be advised and details will be posted on the GFAA website at www.gfaa.asn.au

GFAA Newsletter

I have again included the commercial logline primary species catch statistics for your information. You will note that the catches are down, mainly due to not as many vessels and the extra cost of fishing plus the A\$ high value. Overall this is good for us as it leaves more fish in our waters. Striped Marlin is a stock of concern at present as we have not had a stock assessment since 2006. Due to this the commercial fleet have had to accept a drop in their 2012-13 TACC to 370 Tonnes (approx. 4700 fish. This is a drop of 20 Tonnes from 2011/12 (approx. 260 fish). It will be interesting to see how the NSW striped marlin game fishing season develops over the next 2 seasons.

Thank you to Secretary Pat for all her hard work. Pat is an outstanding Secretary; I am extremely lucky to have her as my support.

I look forward to serving GFAA for the next year.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grahame Williams', is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Grahame A. Williams
President

Table 6: Most commonly caught sharks and percentage released in the ETBF from observer records 2006-2010.

ETBF				
Species	Observed Discarded	Observed Retained	Total	% Released
Blue Shark	935	73	1008	93%
Shortfin Mako	170	469	639	27%
Tiger Shark	120	37	157	76%
Dusky Whaler	92	16	108	85%
Crocodile Shark	107	0	107	100%
Bronze Whaler	77	13	90	86%
Pelagic Thresher	85	0	85	100%
Silky Shark	65	15	80	81%
Oceanic Whitetip Shark	46	14	60	77%
Bigeye thresher	54	5	59	92%
Thresher Shark	49	2	51	96%

Table 7: Most commonly caught sharks and percentage released in the WTBF from observer records 2006-2010.

WTBF				
Species	Observed Discarded	Observed Retained	Total	% Released
Blue Shark	192	61	253	76%
Crocodile Shark	107	1	108	99%
Shortfin Mako	58	1	59	98%
Oceanic Whitetip Shark	6	4	10	60%

- **Great White Shark and Grey Nurse Shark**

The great white and grey nurse sharks are listed as protected species under the EPBC Act. In the ATBF between 2006 and 2010, there have been two great white shark interactions reported in logbooks and one was released alive. There have been no grey nurse shark interactions reported in logbooks in the ATBF since 2007. Grey nurses are largely a coastal shark and there is limited interaction between their range and the tuna fishing grounds.

Blue and Black Marlin

Since 1998, a legislative ban has been in place prohibiting the commercial take of Blue and Black marlin (dead or alive), as a recognition of the importance of these species to the Australian game fishing sector. Since 2010, AFMA have been required to report

interactions with both Blue and Black Marlin to the SEWPac as part of regular protected species reporting.

The catches of both Blue and Black marlin from the pelagic longline sector of the ETBF and WTBF have halved over the last five years. Table 8 outlines the decrease between 2006 and 2010 reported from logbook data.

Table 8: Number of Blue and Black Marlin caught and released alive in the ATBF from Logbook records.

Year	Black Marlin		Blue Marlin	
	Caught	Released Alive	Caught	Released Alive
2006	584	366	536	387
2007	341	219	349	248
2008	325	198	377	275
2009	227	90	286	164
2010	293	184	254	188

Southern Bluefin Tuna

Each year during the winter months Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) migrate north along the New South Wales coast following cooler currents from the south.

SBT is a target species in the ETBF, however there is the potential for operators in the ETBF to discard SBT due to not holding quota. Alternatively, there is the possibility of high grading to obtain more valuable species or to fish down quota to a predetermined level.

In an attempt to ensure that the incidental capture of SBT by ETBF longline operators is covered by quota, AFMA institutes restricted access areas (Core and Buffer zones) in the ETBF during the winter months

Striped Marlin catch and Effort for the ETBF

Logbook data ETBF

Table 9. 2011 catch and effort by month (including 2009 and 2010 data for comparisons) Source: Logbook data. Note: Weights are estimates reported in logbooks.

Striped Marlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Catch (t) in 2011	16	22	18	27	17	17	3	1					121
Catch (t) in 2010	16	12	36	24	24	9	13	15	21	26	25	30	251
Catch (t) in 2009	20	19	57	19	16	20	14	28	31	36	30	36	328
% of total catch in 2011	13	18	15	22	14	14	2	1					100
% of total catch in 2010	6	5	14	10	10	4	5	6	8	10	10	12	100
% of total catch in 2009	6	6	17	6	5	6	4	9	10	11	9	11	100
Effort ('000 hooks) in 2011	184	131	159	210	198	193	28	7					1110
Effort ('000 hooks) in 2010	134	96	180	192	146	112	151	174	247	274	248	255	2209
Effort ('000 hooks) in 2009	172	94	135	150	182	237	181	278	318	360	273	328	2728
No. shots in 2011	112	98	115	142	126	129	19	7					
No. shots in 2010	95	67	128	136	102	76	102	119	156	168	157	163	1469
No. shots in 2009	123	76	122	112	121	160	116	178	192	221	161	192	1774
CPUE (kg/000hooks) in 2011	87	168	113	129	86	88	107	143					115
CPUE (kg/000hooks) in 2010	119	125	200	125	164	80	86	86	85	95	101	118	115
CPUE (kg/000hooks) in 2009	116	202	422	127	88	84	77	101	97	95	110	110	136

*Effort is based on the number of hooks set on shots where Striped Marlin was caught and is not the total number of hooks set in the fishery. CPUE is a raw estimate only and no standardisation has been applied.

Catch Disposal Records ETBF

Table 10. Catch by port Source Catch disposal records. Note: weights are verified.

Striped marlin	Port	Calendar year 2011			Season 2011/12			
		1	no. unloads	% of total catch	1	no. unloads	% of total catch	% of total TACC
	CAIRNS	3	19	1.6	3	18	2.1	0.8
	MOOLOOLABA	61	180	33.0	50	145	35.5	12.8
	COFFS HARBOUR	19	76	10.3	18	70	12.8	4.6
	SYDNEY	15	61	8.1	13	56	9.2	3.3
	ULLADULLA	39	90	21.1	20	52	14.2	5.1
	BERMAGUI	8	27	4.3	3	14	2.1	0.8
	Other	40	116	21.6	34	101	24.1	8.7
	Total	185	569	100.0	141	456	100.0	36.2

Striped Marlin catch and Effort for the WTBF

Logbook data WTBF

Table 11. 2011 catch and effort by month (including 2009 and 2010 data for comparisons) Source: Logbook data. Note: Weights are estimates reported in logbooks.

Striped Marlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Catch (t) in 2011	0	0.256	0.256	0.033	0	0.044							0.589
Catch (t) in 2010	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.18	0.383
Catch (t) in 2009			0.1			0.1							0.2
% of total catch in 2011	0	43	43	6	0	7							100
% of total catch in 2010	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	6	33	47	100
% of total catch in 2009	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Effort ('000 hooks) in 2011	0.0	5.7	7.6	1.6	0.0	1.6							
Effort ('000 hooks) in 2010	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	4.6	10.7
Effort ('000 hooks) in 2009			2			2							4
No. shots in 2011		4	5	1		1							
No. shots in 2010					1						3	3	7
No. shots in 2009			1			1							2
CPUE (kg/000hooks) in 2011		45	33	21		28							32
CPUE (kg/000hooks) in 2010					49						28	39	39
CPUE (kg/000hooks) in 2009			50			50							50

*Effort is based on the number of hooks set on shots where Striped Marlin was caught and is not the total number of hooks set in the fishery. CPUE is a raw estimate only and no standardisation has been applied.

Catch Disposal Records WTBF

Table 12. Catch by port Source Catch disposal records. Note: weights are verified.

Striped Marlin	Calendar year 2011		
	Port	t	% of total catch
	FREMANTLE	0.3	100.0
	Total	0.3	100.0



Vice President's Report

October 2011



Firstly, can I thank the association for giving me the opportunity to be Vice President for the past year? The first six months were a bit quite for me but it has ramped up over the last six months. It has given me a small insight into the association from a different prospective than that of an executive officer.

It must be some ten years ago the President gave me a job to join RECFISH Australia as the GFAA representative and during that period I was also on the Small Pelagic MAC. Those years have given me experience into the difference between a representative body and a peak body. I see GFAA as the peak body in Australia for Game Fishing and Game Fishers all over Australia. The importance of this role should never be lost sight of and should be articulated back to our members. The executive itself needs to understand the difference and bring an open mind to issues that are at a national level.

I represented GFAA at a meeting in Melbourne in July about SBT in Southeast Australia. I hear some states say " Bloody SBT" but the thing I took out of the meeting was that GFAA is seen as a Peak Body and has the ability to work through the issues and make decisions on the spot and when needed, this is done in the best interest of our members the resource and the environment.

I also had the opportunity to represent the President in Canberra at a heads up meeting prior to the public release about the daft marine bioregional plans and Commonwealth marine reserve network proposals for the North and North- west marine regions. Information was also provided on boundaries and zoning arrangements for the North and North-west marine reserve network. Here too we have to work as a peak body and have clear and defined views, which can be consistent right around Australia.

In conclusion I hope that all executive members present and future can also experience the National work the Association participates in and they can contribute to this important work.

Cheers

Brett Cleary



Secretary's Report

October 2011



It is hard to believe that it has been 12 months since the Annual Meeting was held in Adelaide, the months have certainly flown by.

This is the very first Annual Meeting to be held in Darwin, it is pleasing to see so many State Delegates and Observers travel to the Northern Territory to attend this meeting.

Thankyou to all State Secretaries, who have assisted me during the year and sent through all required information this year on time.

The winners of the 2010/11 GFAA Trophies are listed on the following pages. I would like to congratulate all winners.

A reminder to State Secretaries that. The Club member's mailing list is due into GFAA no later than **15th January**, this list is required for the journal mail-out and must be in the required format.

In conclusion, I would like to thank President Grahame for his support over the past year with a special thankyou to Vice President Brett Cleary for "holding down the GFAA fort" whilst President Grahame and myself were on leave this year. A very big thankyou to my husband David for his continued support and assistance.

Regards
Pat Jones



Record Officer's Report

October 2011



There has been a large increase in claims this last 12 months mainly due to an increase in small fry claims, but again I'm still getting claims with missing info, line presented on 10" hand casters & plastic spools with no label on them showing anglers name or line class, which make it difficult to distinguish when I put 2 or 3 samples in the distilled water for soaking prior to testing, line must be presented as shown on the diagram in the GFAA Journal.

Photos are also being sent in on computer disc's I don't have time to be loading them up & then printing them out to put on fill so please get the anglers to print them & lodge with the claim. There are also claims with no photos of the fish on the scales showing the weight; this is required.

I have processed 73 records in the last 12 months, of which there has been 14 Men's, 12 Women's, 19 Junior's & 39 Small fry, there has also been 18 world claims.

Unfortunately there have been 14 claims rejected, 3 of which should not have got passed club or state level as the fish were lighter than the existing records, and other claims with missing info & terminal tackle as well as illegal terminal tackle should all have been picked up by the club weigh masters & or state recorders.

Claims by states are as follows; WA 42, NSW 16, NT 5, QLD 4, VIC 4, SA 2 & TAS 0

Peter Babarskas
GFAA Records Officer
Sept 2011



North Queensland Executive Officer's Report

October 2011



The effects of Cyclone Yatsi on the North Queensland area is probably the most devastating we have ever encountered. Huge bommies weighing hundreds of tonnes just thrown up on reefs like ping pong balls. What effect the cyclone and the extended wet will have on game fishing in our area is still to be seen.

To date there have been reports of numerous sighting of small sailfish in the three to seven kilos range up and down the coast. I have received only a few sightings of marlin to 12 kilos anywhere south of Cairns. Interesting there has been 20 kilo marlin caught at Weipa along with big numbers of sailfish. Because of the interest in small blacks and the numerous sailfish in the area I have received queries on raising a game fishing club at Weipa.

The first of the Nth. Qld. competitions started on the 24th August. A few small black marlin have appeared on our inside grounds. These fish range to 40lb. In contrast with the last two years where no fish were caught. I am receiving frequent reports of large fish bites and captures on our outer reefs. It would appear our bigger fish are turning up early.

Jullian Pepperell and I on behalf of the Q.G.F.A. have conducted a series of workshops and seminars up and down the North Queensland coast from Cairns to the Whitsundays. The workshops have been for the general public's education on fish handling and release techniques, tagging practices for different species, fish identification by fin and spine counts. The seminars also covered the use of fish friendly devices. This programme was well received and supported by the general public and funded by the Federal Government.

Draft plans of the bio region rezoning of the northern and north east zones have been released. Refer to the link on the GFAA website—www.gfaa.asn.au

Mick Meiers
Nth. Qld. G.F.A.A. Rep.



South Queensland **Executive Officer's Report**

October 2011



Junior's Tournament 2010-11.

This has to be the slowest year we have seen for reporting captures and Tags. Our juniors in Qld have a great advantage over most other States in Australia, with better numbers and consistency of fish species to target. Please make a commitment to speak with your Club Members and assist with getting more juniors to participate.

QUEENSLAND COASTAL MARINE PARK REVIEWS.

The public meetings called to inform members of the impending Snapper closures and establishment of the MPA's were well attended, and to say the least, extremely vocal. The recent ban on 3 of the main bottom reef species saw the Government re-think the issue as a whole and decide to cancel plans of introducing a "New TAX" to go fishing. Was it ever going to proceed when anglers asked how the Govt. had assessed that Snapper, Pearl Perch, and Trag Dew were under threat? We have shown that we can make a difference when decisions are being made at Government levels. Voters do count for decisions. When asked to do so in future, make an effort to contact your Local Member.

Fads and ARTIFICIAL Reef's

The Moreton Bay Marine Park Artificial Reef Systems are now a reality and Implemented.

Discussions begun in 2007 we now have seen the deployment of 6 Fads off the Gold Coast last year marking the boundaries of the South Stradbroke Artificial Reef. Deployment is under way to build this reef by the addition of some 20 Fish Caves. Weather permitting, 3 specifically built steel structures, weighing 17 tonne and standing 14 metres high, will be deployed on the Wild Banks area east of Bribie Island. A further 30 odd Concrete Fish Caves will be deployed in the area of Yellow Patch North Moreton Island in 18 met of water. Completed Reef's are now producing fish in great numbers from West Peel Island, East Coochy Island and the Harry's Reef mid Moreton Bay.

We have full deployment of the "First specifically designed" Artificial Reef complex system in Australian Waters.

Primary results are pleasing with various "targeted" species being harvested already in just a few weeks. The mid bay Atkinson Reef is working extremely well now deployed for just under 12 months.

Harvey Bay Fads are now approved for deployment and the Permit's are in hand. Doug Sanderson will assist with deployment when the Whale migration is completed in November.

QGFA members have worked hand in hand with the EPA and the Environment Minister in Queensland for the past 3 years to establish these facilities for the benefit of all Members and the public.

If any abuse is seen (like hanging from a Fad), then photograph and report it to Fisheries or the Water Police.

Club Scene:-

Clubs have reported very slow fishing this year and again many Tournaments' were re-scheduled due to bad weather. Many Clubs Tournaments are down on numbers and vessels.

Favorable captures have been few with only some small windows of good fish numbers recorded. The recent 200 year floods did little to help with brown/green water recorded 20 miles offshore. The light tackle grounds produced few tagging results. We again ran the MBGFC "Back 2 Tanga 3" Tournament in March with great action on the grounds north of Moreton Island and Mooloolaba. 27 Boats tagged 33 Billfish, mostly heavy tackle action. Some 40 other species caught and tagged. Tournaments the week before and after produced very little fish and Boat numbers were well down.

Regards
Brian (Spike) Kirkby



New South Wales **Executive Officer's Report**

October 2011



It gives me great pleasure to present my first report as NSW State Executive Officer to the GFAA. I was elected to the position of NSWGFA President at our recent AGM in Port Macquarie in July this year. I am looking forward with enthusiasm to being part of the GFAA team.

Our last Interclub tournament at Port Stephens held Feb/Mar this year was again quite successful as far as fishing goes... we lost one day due to bad weather. Next year's Interclub will be our 50th. We are planning to make this a special event. One thing in particular is that we are working with the local community to include the public more into the 'Game Fish Festival'.

Of concern to our association is the information being found in the media, web sites and face book. The association is working hard to enforce our media policy, which especially prohibits the display of dead fish being portrayed and the restriction of who can speak to the media?

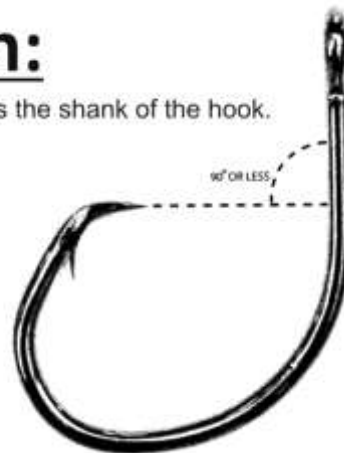
The use of circle hooks is being accepted by members who have discovered that these hooks have not had a negative effect on hook-ups. Sydney GFC recently held a mako tournament which was a circle hook only event with success. The full council at our AGM included in the circle hook rule a clarification and definition of what constituted a circle hook as some anglers were confused due to some hooks being labelled as circle hooks when in-fact they weren't. The NSWGFA circle hook rule and definition now reads:

CIRCLE HOOKS ONLY are permitted to be used for livebaiting and trolling natural baits whether live, dead, mutilated or dissected. NB: no points to be scored for any species caught while using livebaits and/or trolling natural baits with "J" hooks..

Circle Hook Definition:

A hook with its point turned 90 degrees or less back towards the shank of the hook.

"If an imaginary line is drawn and follows the trajectory of the point of the hook to the shank – the angle made where the imaginary line crosses the shank should be 90 degrees or less."



NSWGFA has formed a sub-committee to look at fishing methods used in NSW, one aspect that will be looked at is the method used to release a fish after it has been tagged. Once the sub-committee has completed their review I will report back to GFAA with their findings and any recommendation.

As our fishing season has only just started I cannot advise how things are at present. Coffs Harbour is our first tournament which is to be held in the 2nd weekend in November.

David Litchfield
State Executive Officer - NSW



Victoria **Executive Officer's Report** October 2011



Tournaments

This year saw a decline in the number of sanctioned tournaments being run by our clubs and consistently poor weather severely impacted the traditional fishing in Bass Strait. Several Club events needed to be re-scheduled as did the February Phillip Island Tournament.

This year we are promoting friendly club rivalry in sanctioned tournaments and hope to see greater participation from more clubs and anglers.

Southern Bluefin Tuna

The Southern Bluefin Tuna phenomenon continued this year along the far west coast and a new fishery developed offshore from Apollo Bay at "Big Reef". This area attracted vast quantities of 'red rocket' baitfish (Red Pearl - *Emmelichthys nitidus*) which in turn attracted much larger SBT. The average size of retained fish at Apollo Bay was 44Kg whereas the average size for the rest of the state is around 10-19Kg. A number of SBT over 100Kg were taken from this area during the year.

Fisheries have been conducting research to estimate the recreational SBT catch in Victoria and an interim bulletin was produced in August which estimates the catch for 2011. The final report will be produced later this year. This research has attracted National interest and I was privileged to be invited to attend a workshop held by ABARES to consider proposing a National SBT recreational monitoring program.

Fisheries have also proposed changing the regulations for SBT so that fish that have been killed must be brought to shore whole or as a carcass (gutted and gilled). This is intended to prevent filleting of SBT at sea being used as a method of disguising non-compliance with the angler bag limit (EG – an angler fillets 5 x 20kg fish but claims it was 2 x 50kg fish). Fisheries don't currently see a need to revise angler bag limits (2 fish per day of which no more than 1 may equal or exceed 120cm).

Research Proposals

During the year GFAV supported a (successful) application by Paul Rogers (SARDI) for the satellite tagging of Mako Sharks in conjunction with Warrnambool Offshore & Light GFC and Bass Strait GFC. We also strongly supported a proposal (Dr Sean Tracey - Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania) for research into the post release survival rate of Southern Bluefin Tuna. This information will be vital to understanding and refining best-practice Tag & Release.

Game Fishing Opportunities in Victoria

We gave a presentation to the State Roundtable Forum in September. We highlighted the lack of adequate launching facilities particularly in the far east of the state. The presentation was very well received and successfully communicated the tremendous opportunities that exist out of Cape Conran and Mallacoota.

Membership and Promotion

GFAV affiliated anglers reduced slightly this year. We have developed a strategy to attempt to reverse this trend. Part of the strategy is to educate un-affiliated anglers of the benefits of joining a club and likewise for clubs to join GFAV. We have also relaxed our club entry requirements and hope that this will encourage more clubs to consider affiliating. Our "Game Fishing in Victoria" brochure has been printed and we are delighted to report that it was fully funded by a grant from the Recreational Fishing Licence Grants Program. The brochure is being widely distributed to clubs and retailers.

I am delighted to advise that the GFAV Trophy for the heaviest Gamefish or Shark captured by a Junior in Victorian Waters has been renamed the Corrie Banks trophy in recognition of Corrie's contribution to Game Fishing.

2010-11 Capture Record claims

It has been another great year in the Record Claims department with 9 records being passed with 3 being Australian records.

GFAV ANNUAL TROPHIES 2010 - 2011

HEAVIEST SHARK - "Kel Taylor Trophy"

For recognised (shark) species captured on GFAA line classes, within Victorian waters.

Winner **Clinton Adlington - 145.2kg Mako shark (Bass Strait GFC)**

TAG & RELEASE - "Ian Cutler Trophy"

Angler who tags and releases the highest point scoring number and species of GFAA recognised species in a given year, in Australian waters. The calculation of the point scoring is by means of the current GFAV point scoring system for Tag & Release.

Winner **Reiner Hermens - 90,000 points (South Gippsland GFC)**

CHAMPION JUNIOR TAG & RELEASE - "Neville Dance Trophy"

For the junior angler who tags and releases the highest point scoring number and species of GFAA recognised species in a given year, in Australian waters. The calculation of the point scoring is by means of the current GFAV point scoring system for Tag & Release.

Winner **Dillon Paul - 16,000 points (South Gippsland GFC)**

HEAVIEST GAMEFISH - "John Bryant Trophy"

For recognised Gamefish species (excluding sharks) captured on GFAA line classes, within Victorian waters.

Winner **Andrew Mangion - 131.5kg Southern Bluefin tuna (South Gippsland GFC)**

TAG & RELEASE - VICTORIAN WATERS

For the angler who tags and releases the highest point scoring number and species of GFAA recognised species in a given year, within Victorian waters. The calculation of the point scoring is by means of the current GFAV point scoring system for Tag & Release.

Winner **Dan Belvedere - 33,500 points (South Gippsland GFC)**

CHAMPION JUNIOR TAG & RELEASE VICTORIA - "Bruce Harrison Trophy"

For the junior angler who tags and releases the highest point scoring number and species of GFAA recognised species in a given year, in Victorian waters. The calculation of the point scoring is by means of the current GFAV point scoring system for Tag & Release.

Winner **Darcy Dodoro - 10,000 points (Warrnambool Offshore & Light GFC)**

HEAVIEST GAMEFISH/SHARK (JUNIOR) - "Terry Mattingley Trophy"

This trophy is available annually to affiliated Junior members for recognised Gamefish species (including sharks) captured on GFAA line classes, within Victorian waters.

Winner **Nicholas Taranto - Mako shark 67.8kg (Bass Strait GFC)**



Tasmania

Executive Officer's Report

October 2011



At the last executives officers meeting I gave a gloomy report of the states fishing outlook. This has continued and despite various efforts and initiatives we now find our membership slipping to a little over 400.

Almost unbelievable when we were getting excited about the prospect of building the membership to over 1000 just a few short years ago.

The states major forestry company Gunn's made a decision to withdraw its operations from what is known as "old growth forests" in order for it to concentrate on its controversial wood chip mill. This decision obliterated many of its forest contractors, earth and road building contractors etc. Many of them were involved in game fishing.

Having said that the season in the south of the state was good for SBT and Mako's.

The opposite is true in regard to the north east where fish stocks have been very quiet.

The usual run of yellowfin, marlin etc did just not eventuate which probably attributed to the smaller number of competitors involved in tournaments in the north east.

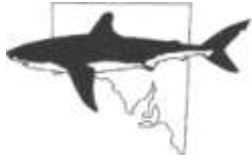
TGFA president Brett spent a few days at Agfest, our states premier agricultural event, and despite people showing interest found it difficult to get them to commit.

Strangely enough boat registrations in the state continue to rise.

This confirms to me that on both a state and national level we are preaching to the converted.

Given that we know that our membership represents less than 10% of the offshore fishing fraternity it is time we made some attempt to capture a better chunk of this market.

John Brooker
Tasmanian Executive Officer



South Australia **Executive Officer's Report**

October 2011



Improved weather conditions during April and May saw a large increase in fishing activity across the State.

The Port Mac Donnell Clubs 30th Tuna and Sportfish Tournament enjoyed 7 fishable days in May this year, with over 1200 Southern Blue Fin Tuna (SBT) being tagged. Other species targeted included Albacore, Sharks, and Snapper. The capture of a 24kg Samson Fish is a rare catch in these waters, and the coming season should see lots of jigs and live baits hitting the bottom.

The Game Fishing Club of South Australia's Port Lincoln Blue Water Classic also held in May resulted in 269 SBT being tagged. Other species captured/tagged during the Tournament included Shark and Eagle Rays.

The total of 2778 fish were tagged for the year, of which 2533 were SBT. One notable capture was by Lance Walkom of the Adelaide Game Fishing Club with a SBT of 105 kg on 24 kg line.

After 13 years as Executive Officer of SARFAC Trevor Watts retired at the end of June. Gary Flack is the new Executive Officer who has a Diploma in Aquaculture and has been a SARFAC Board Member for the last 3 years.

The Department of Fisheries continues with its Recreational Fishing Workshops for the Development of both a Management and Strategic Plan for the Recreational Fishing Sector.

The State Government will move to further protect the States fish stocks by introducing possession limits for recreational fishers. The introduction of a total allowable commercial catch on all scale species is something the recreational sector has been lobbying Government for some time. The introduction of possession limits coupled with TACC would protect South Australian Fish Stocks from over exploitation and ensure a fair and reasonable allocation of this shared resource.

Rolf and Ralph Czabaski together with Brad Bobberien of the GFC of SA fished the Hawaii International Bill Fish Tournament in Kona and were placed 3rd overall out of 28 Teams.

Bob Oliver
GFAA Executive Officer
South Australia



Western Australia South **Executive Officer's Report**

October 2011



Club update

Club membership remains steady in the southern part of the State.

Tournaments

All of the WAGFA Sanctioned Tournaments Competitions have now been held in the southern zone for this year. Sadly the early strong La Nina event this year resulted in marlin moving through Perth waters early in the season and subsequently captures were down in what promised to be a good billfish season. Small blacks were however caught as far south as Busselton.

FAD Program

The Perth FAD program continues to receive funding from the state Department of Sport and Recreation Development Committee, via Recfishwest, and six FADS were deployed off Perth this season. A further two FADS were also deployed this year off Jurien Bay, where several marlin, tuna and mahi mahi were caught during the earlier part of the season.

The Association is continuing to work with the State's peak recreational fishing body, Recfishwest, to initially establish a code of practice for anglers and divers using the FADs to avoid a repeat of a serious incident a few years back. We have made some progress with a joint proposal to be put forward to re-introduce the use of personal diver floats. In offshore waters the proposal is to have divers use a 30 litre float for improved visibility.

Marine Park Issues

The Commonwealth South West Marine Parks were released for public comment. We were fortunate enough, through Recfishwest, to be able to provide input in relation to areas important to game fishing. However, we remain very concerned given the nature of politics, the extensive high profile campaign being run by ideological groups, funded from overseas, and the potential impacts of the last opinion poll.....

The State Government continues to hold informal early discussions with Recfishwest in relation to State marine parks, but the goalposts seem to move on a weekly basis. There has recently been some supportive research emerging out of Western Australia that does not support the wholesale introduction of marine parks and associated no-fishing areas, sadly the radical greenies don't seem to read these reports.

These remain very difficult times for game fishing throughout WA.

Recfishwest

I continue to serve on the Board of Recfishwest, as does Ian Stagles WA Association Secretary, Kurt Decker from Exmouth GFC and Tim Carter from Perth GFC. The Minister for Fisheries now accepts Recfishwest as the only source of advice on recreational fishing, and game fishing is well represented on the Board. We are working to ensure that the benefits of this work reap rewards for all anglers in due course.

John Webber
GFAA Southern Executive Officer



Western Australia North **Executive Officer's Report**

October 2011



The north of W.A. had another very successful round of tournaments and seasonal fishing for 2011

Broome had several events throughout the year including Barramundi and social events besides their well Known 10 kg Tag & Release annual tournament Broome club also ran a club introduction and promotional day at the club house and had around 700 people through for the day

Dampier had similar fishing results with Broome and Dampier more known for larger sailfish numbers than marlin however this year was a reversal with Dampier having approx 75% marlin to 25% sailfish ratio

The Dampier classic hosted by the King bay Gamefishing club had another well attended and successful tournament

They have also been a dedicated effort into providing more social events and hopefully increase memberships for the future

Small fry numbers have increased for the national tournament and some very fierce competition is great to see amongst them

Exmouth hosting of the 2011 A.I. B.T was a huge success with entrants from all over Australia competing. next years dates for the A.I.B.T. are Briefing 19th March Fishing 20 21 22nd March with the presentation 23rd

The well known and successful Gamex will precede the A.I.B.T.

This year commencing with the Briefing on 10th March with fishing 11 through 16th and Presentation night 17th March

All information and tournament entry downloads are available on the www.egfc.com.au website

Dennis Bryan-Smith
G.F.A.A. Executive
W.A. North



Northern Territory **Executive Officer's Report** October 2011



The NTGFA welcomed everyone from around Australia to Darwin for the 2011 GFAA Annual Conference.

I would like to thank the Northern Territory Game Fishing Association Committee and members of the Darwin Game Fishing Club, Groote Eylandt Game & Sports Fishing Club, Nhulunbuy Regional Sports Fishing Club and Katherine Game Fishing Club for supporting the bid to host this Annual Conference.

The Northern Territory Game Fishing Association has continued to represent NT anglers across many important issues that impact the current and future opportunities for recreational anglers in the Northern Territory. The NTGFA membership remains steady despite several initiatives to attract and increase memberships. The ever changing demographics and remote nature of the Northern Territory with its very transient population continues to work against the attempts of many to attract both new members and affiliated clubs.

I would like to also acknowledge the support and sponsorship received by the NTGFA to host the 2011 GFAA Annual Conference. Lion Nathan NT, Airnorth, Shimano Australia, Fishing & Outdoor World, Halco and David Pearce Marine Art have worked alongside the NTGFA to ensure those attending the conference will fondly remember their stay.

Junior Activities & Participation.

The NTGFA is pleased to see NT juniors amongst the prizes on offer in the GFAA Junior Tournament. All clubs have continued throughout the year with junior fishing clinics and various family competitions. Special junior tournament categories in competitions have attracted an increased level of interest by younger anglers. Groote Eylandt has again led the way with their extensive junior programme over the last 12 months. I would like to acknowledge and thank the efforts and tireless contributions by Terence "Bomber" Farrell from the Groote Eylandt Game & Sports Fishing Club. His enthusiasm and contributions are reflected in the success of juniors from his own club, as well as his efforts as Junior Coordinator for the NT. Thanks Bomber.

Sponsorship

The NTGFA continues to secure assistance and support from sponsors for member clubs who host the NT Game Fishing Association Championships. The future of the Northern Territory Game Fishing Association Championships is assured following the extension of support by Lion Nathan NT. This support is in place for the next 3 years, and removes the financial burden of hosting the Championships from member clubs past 2013. The NT Championships are rotated each year amongst the member Clubs of the NTGFA.

The Northern Territory Game Fishing Association sanctioned a total of 5 tournaments during the 2010 – 2011 fishing season. These events were supported by 3 of the Member Clubs of the NTGFA where 471 anglers competed for NTGFA and club trophies. A combined total of 293 billfish were tagged and released during the collective efforts of Member Club sanctioned tournaments, the 2010 NTGFA Championships and member social fishing days.

Four satellite tags were deployed in December 2010 by the Nhulunbuy Regional Sports Fishing Club. This is the second programme run by this NTGFA Club. Tracking and behavioural data collected and reviewed to date clearly shows the "gathering" of these fish north of Nhulunbuy. Whereas the tagging program completed in February 2010 identified fish leaving the region at the end of the season to all points of the compass. The club is now looking at deploying tags early this season to hopefully close the data loop on fish heading back to this region.

NTGFA Championships

The 2010 NTGFA Championships were hosted by the Groote Eylandt Game & Sports Fishing Club in November last year. This event was well attended by anglers from across the Northern Territory and from around Australia. All billfish caught were tagged and released, during this tournament. The focus on bill fishing by NTGFA clubs has increased the interest in this activity by all Member Clubs and with satellite tagging and extra Billfish events, it is expected that more tags will be deployed than ever before in the coming 12 months.

Blue Mud Bay

The Blue Mud Bay Decision handed down some 4 years ago which officially confirmed the recognition of the intertidal zone as Aboriginal-owned along 80 per cent of the NT coastline, has popped up once again due to the announcement of the Northern MPA proposal. Initially the hot topic of recreational anglers across the Territory, several recent articles have made little noise in the press. Traditional Land Owners have shown a high degree of interest as the Marine Division passed through the Northern Territory rolling out its public information sessions. However, the original fishing licenses have now officially expired after being extended on 2 occasions.

Northern Marine Protected Area

The Northern Marine Protected Area proposal for the Northern Territory was released on the 23rd of August 2011.

The initial feedback from recreational anglers and charter operators was a mixed bag. It is disappointing to discover that an area NOT identified at any stage of the 3 years of previous discussions, meetings and information workshops received the only green zone in the Northern MPA.

The area in question is approximately 5,500 sq kms in size, 80 nautical miles north of Nhulunbuy adjacent the East Arnhem Land Region.

As mentioned, this area was not listed by the Marine Division as an area of interest when the lead up consultation process was underway and appears to be an area "left over" after the oil, gas, mining and commercial lobby groups have had first pick, so to speak.

Unfortunately, the area proposed for a green zone has been identified as important to recreational anglers and fishing charter operators. This is clearly an area of great interest for billfish tagging programmes. Recent satellite tagging adjacent to this proposed green zone has directed interest towards this region for the presence of large black marlin, and the green zone proposed would rule out any future development of this activity.

Several meetings and public information sessions have occurred since the announcement and draft counter proposals are under consideration in the lead up to the close of submissions in November 2011.

The public information sessions rolled out across the Territory has been coordinated by the Northern Marine Division. Director of the Tropic North Marine Conservation Marine Division is Dr. Ilse Kiessling. Dr Kiessling is based in Darwin and has been in regular contact with the NTGFA and Member Clubs.

Fishing Working Group

The NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan Working Group established in 2009, was responsible for providing a platform for the recreational angling industry in the NT.

This group rolled out reductions in some recreational fishing bag limits, but now appears to be holding back on further announcements while the Marine Division rolls out the Northern Marine Protected Area.

The plan's five year strategy goals are to ensure long term sustainability and provide advice and guidance on the resourcing needs of the Territory.

The NTGFA continues to work closely with all stakeholders and keep all recreational anglers up to date with the group's progress and proposals put to NT Fisheries and the NT Government.

I wish to thank the GFAA for the opportunity to host this year's annual conference.

A special thank you to Debbie Halprin from the Darwin Game Fishing Club for her ground work in Darwin that has assisted me greatly with the planning and coordination of this year's GFAA Annual Conference.

Once again, thank you to all member clubs of the Northern Territory Game Fishing Association for your continued support over the last 12 months.

Tight lines for the 2011 – 2012 fishing season.

*Peter Cox
Northern Territory Executive Officer
GFAA*



IGFA Trustee Report October 2011



At the January Board of Trustee's meeting the IGFA elected a new Chairman, Paxton (Packy) Offield. Packy has had a very long association with gamefishing and is a past president of the Billfish Foundation.

The past Chairman, George Matthews who did a magnificent job for IGFA will be inducted into the Fishing Hall of Fame this month.

I would also like to add that under President Rob Kramer he has built an exceptional staff and operation at IGFA moving forward into the electronic age where necessary and running the operation like an efficient business.

Membership.

While the economic conditions have affected our membership base slightly, IGFA has come forward with the Electronic Membership at a cost of US\$15.00 which gives access to the IGFA publications online plus World Record details, reduced WR fees as well as other benefits. Also if IGFA member clubs sign up IGFA E-Members for \$15.00 The club will get \$5.00. This Membership is proving very popular. IGFA now has 735 E-members with 45 in Australia.

IGFA is taking progressively more involvement in fish conservation internationally and it is important to have numbers behind them when confronting organisations such as the major tuna RFMO's and governments. We need to build our membership base.

The Great Marlin Race.

IGFA has partnered with scientists from Stanford University to create the IGFA Great Marlin Race. IGFA is planning to deploy electronic satellite tags on a variety of marlin species in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans over the course of a year.

The concept behind the Great Marlin Race is that in days leading up to a chosen billfish tournament, angler teams are invited to sponsor a PAT (pop up archival satellite tag). The tags are set to release automatically from the fish 120 after the tag is deployed, The exact position of the tag is determined by satellite and the fish that has swum the most distance since it was deployed is the winner.

IGFA APPS.

For those of you with I-phones or I-pads IGFA has a great app with very useful information such World Records (updated very regularly) Rules, species identification, their website (which is constantly being upgraded) and other sections. These apps will shortly be available for an Android (Google) version in 2012.

Records by Length

As at the 13th of September there were 251 records submitted to IGFA. The new mat has been widely accepted and is easy to check by the records officers at IGFA. Three State Associations have ordered these for their clubs.

IGFA YouTube and Face Book

There are 11,407 Fans of IGFA Face Book and 25,941 views of YouTube.

Visit by GFAA Chairman

Grahame recently visited IGFA at Dania Beach Florida where he was given a personnel tour of the facility and had some good discussions with IGFA President Rob Kramer and other IGFA staff.

Neil Patrick—IGFA Trustee

SBT MAC Report

October 2011



I recently attended the latest SBTMAC in Canberra.

SBTMAC has turned into a yearly event and as such seems to concentrate on issues regarding industry compliance and international politics through the agency of CCSBT.

You will be aware that in November of 2010 SBT were listed as “conservation dependent” by Minister Tony Burke

“A conservation dependent listing allows for continued SBT fishing but gives the Federal Environment Minister stronger opportunities to intervene in management to ensure recovery. The Minister must ensure SBT does not continue to suffer ‘business as usual’ and that management actions are in place to achieve its recovery’. said Alexia Wellbelove from HSI.

The “management actions” at CCSBT level are the catalyst for the Australian Government to establish what is the level of recreational catch. Abare have recently conducted a meeting to begin to establish the methodology of how this undertaking will proceed. VP Brett Cleary attended this meeting.

I find it quite extraordinary that the Minister can say the fishery is being managed effectively without the recreational catch being quantified. I guess the Japanese are putting heavy pressure on CCSBT to address this issue.

What implications this puts on recreational fishing for SBT in the long term is unknown at present but in my eyes it certainly isn't going to be pleasant and may be very messy in regard to any future quota allocations. The industry sector will certainly not want to relinquish any of its existing quota.

John Brooker
Permanent Recreational Observer
SBTMAC

Scientific Report

October 2011



Popup Tagging: Sailfish, Broome WA

Two studies on sailfish off northwestern Australia, both funded by Woodside Energy and mentioned in last year's report to GFAA, have now been completed and comprehensive reports on both are now available. The first was a desktop study which compiled historic commercial fishery, tag and release and charter boat data to investigate seasonality of the fishery and trends in fish size and relative abundance through time. In addition to the report for this study, it has also been summarized as a scientific paper, published in the Journal of the Royal Zoological Society of WA.

The second study aimed at determining short term movements and resident times of sailfish in the Broome region. This was done by attaching eight popup satellite tags and 10 SPOT tags to sailfish tails to enable tracking of fish in real time – the first time this has been attempted on this species. Unfortunately, the SPOT tagging experiment only yielded minimal results, the most likely reason being that the fish were too small and the tags were above the surface for insufficient times to transmit. On the other hand, all eight of the sailfish tagged with PAT tags provided excellent information. One tag popped up prematurely, six stayed on their fish for the preset period of 30 days and one tag was ingested by an unknown predator after 23 days and regurgitated 7 days later.

Tagged sailfish were very surface-oriented, spending 50 – 60% of their time in the upper 5 metres of the water column and greater than 76% in their time in the upper 10 metres. All tagged sailfish moved at least some distance from their points of release (19 to 266 km straight line distances) in 6 to 30 days after release. Average rates of travel ranged between 0.9 km/day to 11 km/day. Results indicate that, while about half of the sailfish tagged on the fishing grounds dispersed over a fairly broad area (174 km north, 266 km south) in relatively short time periods (up to 30 days), three fish did not disperse very far over the same timeframe (26 to 50 km), indicating a tendency for short-term residence for at least some proportion of the population once they have arrived on the grounds.

Dr Shane Griffiths of CSIRO also tagged a number of sailfish off Gove, NT with satellite tags and the information from both locations will be pooled for a scientific paper.

The assistance of members of the Broome Game Fishing Club and the Nhulunbuy Regional Sports Fishing Club in initiating these studies and in deploying the tags is gratefully acknowledged.

Mako sharks

As a result of the listing of mako sharks as being 'vulnerable' in the Mediterranean and the eastern Atlantic, and the resulting attempt to ban fishing for makos off Australia (subsequently overturned), funding was finally received by CSIRO to hold an important workshop on makos to overview past and current knowledge on the species, discuss existing data sets, discuss how best to integrate disparate existing data sets into a synthesis of existing knowledge (ie to what extent can current data provide guidance on the status of mako sharks in Australasian waters), identify gaps in knowledge and identify what would be required to fill these gaps and reduce uncertainty. The workshop will be held in Hobart in late 2011 or early 2012 and results made available to all stakeholders.

A paper on the genetics of mako sharks was presented by Dr Shannon Corrigan of Murdoch University at a shark conference held on the Gold Coast in September. This important study used samples collected from different parts of the world, including eastern Australia, to determine the finer scale 'connectiveness' of makos. Initial findings show that the Atlantic population appears to be quite separate from Australian makos, and furthermore, that there may be eastern and western populations of makos in Australian waters. A more sensitive genetic test is currently being applied to the samples. The samples collected from tournaments in NSW have been invaluable for this study.

Striped Marlin

The results of the study on the growth rate of striped marlin carried out by Dr Keller Kopf of Charles Sturt University, are now being used in a stock assessment of this species in the southwestern Pacific. Keller's work has been acknowledged as one of the best age-and-growth studies yet conducted on a billfish species. The full scientific paper on this work (co-authored by Drs Peter Davie, Don Bromhead and Julian Pepperell) has just been published in the prestigious journal, the ICES Journal of Marine Science. Again, having access to landed fish at game fishing tournaments was vital for the conducting of this study.

Tiger Shark Movements

A study of the movements of tiger sharks off southeastern Australia using popup satellite tags is nearing its conclusion. Since April 2007, ten tiger sharks have been tagged, eight from volunteer gamefish vessels. All sharks survived, and tags have stayed on nine sharks for between 5 and 58 days. The tag on the tenth shark has now been silent for nearly the full six months of its allotted time, so fingers are crossed for a successful popup on 20 October – the day before the GFAA conference.

The greatest straight-line distance so far travelled was 1,800 km from Botany Bay NSW to northern New Caledonian waters after 48 days at liberty. Tiger sharks spent considerable time near the surface, but regularly undertook deep dives to around 500 metres. The deepest dive was recorded at 1,760 metres – deeper than previously reported for this species. The minimum temperature recorded was 5.9°C on the same dive, although it was not uncommon for sharks to dive in water temperatures less than 7°C, although the average water temperature in which sharks swam was 21.5°C.

Monitoring of Landed Fish at Tournaments

This program, funded from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts, was again undertaken during the 2010/2011 season. Eight major tournaments were attended and much interest from various research organizations again resulted in the facilitation of a wide range of local and overseas research activities through the program. A report is currently being prepared. The 2009/2010 report is now available, as are all earlier reports, and I would encourage clubs to have a look at these. I am again happy to report that funding for this ongoing project has again been approved by the Trusts for the 2011/2012 season.

Ms Bonnie Holmes, University of Queensland, is studying for her Ph.D on the biology and movements of tiger sharks. She examined tiger sharks for reproductive studies, and visited NSW DPI labs at Taylors Beach to collect tissue samples from tiger sharks that have been weighed at the Interclub, and several other tournaments, over the past ten years or so. She was able to subsample muscle from 89 tiger sharks, which is part of a major global genetic study of this species.

Tagging Reports

The annual reports on the Gamefish Tagging Program for 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 are now available. Tagging has continued strongly with 13,289 fish tagged in 2008/09 and 14,370 in 2009/10. The reports, which are packed with information, maps and recapture highlights, are available at:
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/saltwater/gamefish-tagging

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As always, thank you for the opportunity to report and for your continued support and interest in the science of game fishing.

Julian Pepperell



Game Fishing Association of Australia Annual Trophy Winners 2010/2011

Sir Garrick Agnew Trophy

GFAA Angler who has tagged the most billfish in Australian waters

3 rd :	Jay Wheelock	Darwin GFC	NT	26 Billfish
2 nd :	Bart Portelli	Sydney GFC	NSW	40 Billfish
1 st :	Scott MacGowann	King Bay GFC	WA	51 Billfish

John O'Brien Trophy

Highest Tag & Release pointscore GFAA affiliated Club in Australian waters

3 rd :	Sunshine Coast GFC	QLD	91,488 points	(260 fish)
2 nd :	King Bay GFC	WA	97,819 points	(451 fish)
1 st :	Exmouth GFC	WA	144,073 points	(481 fish)

Neil Patrick Trophy

GFAA Angler who has tagged and released the most OGF (All fish except Billfish & Sharks)

3 rd :	Kym Barrett	Port MacDonnell OAC	SA	123 fish
2 nd :	Dave Malcolm	Port MacDonnell OAC	SA	144 fish
1 st :	Max Barrett	Port MacDonnell OAC	SA	154 fish

John and Anne Brooker Trophy

GFAA Angler who has tagged the most Southern Bluefin Tuna in Australian waters

3 rd :	Kym Barrett	Port MacDonnell OAC	SA	122 fish
2 nd :	Dave Malcolm	Port MacDonnell OAC	SA	143 fish
1 st :	Max Barrett	Port MacDonnell OAC	SA	153 fish

Grahame A. Williams Trophy

GFAA Angler who has tagged the most sharks in Australian waters

3 rd :	Braden Cooper	Exmouth GFC	WA	16 sharks
2 nd :	Paul Hogg	Lake Macquarie GFC	NSW	17 sharks
1 st :	Jono Livingstone	Lake Macquarie GFC	NSW	21 sharks

Tailored Marine Trophy

Highest pointscore GFAA Boat Tag & Release (All fish) in Australian Waters

3 rd :	Mr Hooker	Bermagui BGAC	NSW	19,520 points (191 fish)
2 nd :	Sniper	Jervis Bay GFC	NSW	20,000 points (50 fish)
1 st :	The Wench	King Bay GFC	WA	33,200 points (83 fish)

Tom Bell Trophy

Angler who captures the heaviest gamefish (excluding sharks) in Australian Waters

3 rd :	Samantha Heaton	Botany Bay GFC	NSW	179.0kg Blue Marlin	23/01/11
2 nd :	Mark Coles	Shellharbour GFC	NSW	192.5kg Blue Marlin	01/04/11
1 st :	Len Vollebregt	Eden Sport & GFC	NSW	283.88kg Blue Marlin	08/04/11

Peter Goadby Trophy

Angler who captures the heaviest Shark in Australian Waters

3 rd :	Graeme French	Lake Macquarie GFC	NSW	366.0kg Tiger Shark	08/01/11
2 nd :	James Laurence	Botany Bay GFC	NSW	406.5kg Tiger Shark	08/01/11
1 st :	Iain Houlford	Jervis Bay GFC	NSW	489.0kg Tiger Shark	15/05/11

Bob Lowe Trophy

Most Meritorious Tag & Release achievement by a GFAA affiliated Club in Australian Waters

1 st :	South Gippsland GFC	VIC
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Peter Bennett Trophy

Most Meritorious Tag & Release achievement by a GFAA Junior Angler in Australian Waters

1 st :	Connor Craven	N'cle & Port Stephens GFC	NSW
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Geoffrey Woolley Trophy

Most Meritorious Tag & Release achievement by an Adult Angler in Australian Waters

1 st :	Mitchell Hogg	Lake Macquarie GFC	NSW
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GFAA Newsletter

GFAA Junior Tournament National Winners

Junior

CAPTURE	Claire Jones	64 points	Lake Macquarie GFC	NSW
T&R	Braden McDonald	363 points	Groote Eylandt G & SFC	NT

Small Fry

CAPTURE	Jackson Tatham	114 points	King Bay GFC	WA
T&R	Amber Cloughessy	222 points	King Bay GFC	WA

GFAA Junior Tournament State Winners

CAPTURE - Junior

QLD	Not Won			
NSW	Claire Jones	64 points	Lake Macquarie GFC	
NT	Alex Riches	8 points	Groote Eylandt S & GFC	
WA Nth	Shanae Cook	44 points	King Bay GFC	
WA Sth	Not Won			
VIC	Nicholas Taranto	10 points	Bass Straight GFC	
SA	Liam McKinnon	6 points	Port Macdonnell OAC	
TAS	Not Won			

TAG & RELEASE - Junior

QLD	Daniel Brooks	52 points	Sunshine Coast GFC	
NSW	Amy McAndrew	249 points	Broken Bay GFC	
NT	Braden McDonald	363 points	Groote Eylandt G & SFC	
WA Nth	Shanae Cook	14 points	King Bay GFC	
WA Sth	Not Won			
VIC	Brayden Richardson	51 points	Sth Gippsland GFC	
SA	Liam McKinnon	36 points	Port Macdonnell OAC	
TAS	Not Won			

CAPTURE - Small Fry

QLD	Cassie Powis	4 points	Townsville GFC	
NSW	Jake Brisbane	84 points	Shellharbour GFC	
NT	Hannah McConachy	18 points	Groote Eylandt S & GFC	
WA Nth	Jackson Tatham	114 points	King Bay GFC	
WA Sth	Not Won			
VIC	Not Won			
SA	Zarli Sanders	6 points	Port MacDonnell GFC	
TAS	Scott Salter	6 points	Tuna Club of Tasmania	

TAG & RELEASE - Small Fry

QLD	Riley Dunbar	2 points	Surfers Paradise GFC	
NSW	Not Won			
NT	Hannah McConachy	103 points	Groote Eylandt G & SFC	
WA Nth	Amber Cloughessy	222 points	King Bay GFC	
WA Sth	Not Won			
VIC	Not Won			
SA	Not Won			
TAS	Mitchell Hill	33 points	St. Helens GFC	