

## **SDFSFA Bulletin January 2018**

This bulletin is provided as a service to members of the

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA

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The SDF is the peak body in South Australia, representing all recreational scuba divers.

The SDF is also the ‘Safe Diving’ Federation. We promote Safe Diving.

We are publishing this electronic bulletin as a separate publication to our normal monthly SDF News Sheet. Future issues of this “SDFSFA Bulletin” will include lengthy articles about matters of interest to recreational divers. We welcome contributions from our readers.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE - We wish our members and news sheet readers a happy New Year.**

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## **SECCHI DISK MARINE MONITORING PROGRAM**

The Friends of Gulf St Vincent have been running the secchi disk marine monitoring program for a few years, tracking changes in water turbidity over time and identifying pollution hotspots.

Thanks to the Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM, they now have an interactive website that shows trends in marine water clarity over time at 25 sites around the gulf and southern metropolitan coast. You can view this at <http://secchi.org.au/> . The Secchi Disk Project Officer, Melanie Rees has provided us with an article on the project and the website's features: -

**“How turbid is the water at your beach?** You can now find out on the Secchi Disk Marine Monitoring website at: [www.secchi.org.au](http://www.secchi.org.au) . Friends of Gulf St Vincent have been running this citizen science project for around 5 years. The aim has been to collect secchi readings, which gives an indication of water turbidity or its clarity. Turbidity is affected by factors such as stormwater and wastewater run-off, and dredging; and this can have impacts on seagrass, marine life, and the safety of the water for swimming. The process simply involves lowering a disk into the ocean until no longer visible. This is mostly carried out from the end of jetties. These results can highlight turbidity hot spots and help analyse water quality over time.

Thanks to the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management, an interactive website has been developed, which displays raw data, statistics, graphs and other important information on 25 marine monitoring sites around Gulf St Vincent. The easy to use website

includes information on the project, impacts of turbidity, and how volunteers can become involved in taking readings. You can click on a site to reveal the raw data, graphs showing changes in secchi depth over time, and the site's location. Besides environmental departments, this data could also be of interest to the fishers, beach-goers, surf-life saving clubs, schools, and anyone with an interest in the impacts of turbidity on our precious marine environment. Volunteers always welcome new volunteers to take readings at existing or new sites. If you are interested in participating in this project, or if you know of someone who might be, please contact [secchisa@gmail.com](mailto:secchisa@gmail.com).”

## **“CURRENT AND FUTURE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MARINE FISHERIES AND BIODIVERSITY**

(released 6 December 2017)

The senate inquiry into Current and future impacts of climate change on marine fisheries and biodiversity was released on the 6 December. The review provided recommendations regarding resourcing of research capacity (i.e. IMOS, RV investigator) as well as reiterated some of the recommendations to come out of marine fisheries and aquaculture productivity commission (i.e. recreational licensing, data collection, OCS). Recommendations that are of particular relevance to FRDC include:

- Recommendation 1: The committee recommends that the Australian Government review the funding provided for research into the effects of climate change on the marine environment and possible adaptation measures to ensure the funding is appropriate for facing the challenges of climate change.
- Recommendation 2: The committee recommends that the Australian Government take a national leadership role in funding and supporting connections between the fishing and aquaculture industry and research organisations to help industry understand and adjust to the effects of climate change.

The full report can be found at:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/ClimateChangeOceans/Report](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/ClimateChangeOceans/Report) .”

## **NEW RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM NEEDED – REPORT**

According to a report found at <https://nzinitiative.org.nz/reports-and-media/reports/thefuturecatch/> , “Management of recreational fisheries needs to change, a research group has found. The current level of access to fisheries that so many New Zealanders value cannot be taken for granted, according to The Future Catch report, the latest in a series written by Dr Randall Bess. It proposes a Western Australia-style management system where recreational, commercial and customary sectors collaborate, licence fees fund a healthier resource and catch data is recorded. The report was funded by The New Zealand Initiative, an independent think tank supported by major businesses and the late Sir Douglas Myers in particular. Bess, a former fisherman in Alaska, US-based Environmental Defence Fund consultant and Ministry for Primary Industries official, is a research fellow on fisheries management policy at the Initiative. The report was launched on Monday night at a panel discussion that included Bess, Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash, Te Ohu Kaimoana deputy chair Sir Mark Solomon and New Zealand Sport Fishing Council vice-president Bob Gutsell.

Many New Zealanders love to fish. With the tenth longest coastline in the world, hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders fish recreationally each year in inshore waters.

Fishing is integral to the Kiwi way of life.

This is under threat.

Historically, too little attention has been directed at improving the fisheries that are important to recreational fishers.

If changes are not made to the management of recreational fisheries, New Zealanders can expect increasingly stringent constraints on their access to fisheries resources.

And, even then, we risk the type of catastrophic depletion that has too often characterised the recreational fisheries in other coastal nations.

Indeed, this level of depletion has already occurred in the blue cod and scallop fisheries in the Marlborough Sounds, the finfish fishery in Hawkes Bay and the rock lobster fishery along the northeast coast of the North Island.

This report, *The Future Catch: Preserving Recreational Fisheries for the Next Generation* addresses this critical issue. It propounds three key messages:

First, we need broad representation of recreational fishing interests with the establishment of a Western Australia type institution (<http://recfishwest.org.au>) recognized by the Government. This will be the source of peak body advice and central point of contact and referral for recreational sector issues.

Secondly, this Peak Body, the Government and other fishing sectors (customary and commercial) need to demonstrate a commitment to constructive and effective management of shared fisheries. Shared fisheries are where all sectors have an interest in catching more of the fish stock, but value their share of the catch quite differently.

This commitment can be demonstrated by agreeing on targets for higher abundance (biomass) for shared fisheries, and management measures to attain those targets. It could also be demonstrated by agreeing on indicators of core management performance (eg, tracking the satisfaction of the non-commercial fishing experience over time).

Thirdly, we recommend integrating recreational fisheries into government and ministry management policies and processes. This can be accomplished by developing a recreational fisheries policy in the context of shared fisheries,

- by improving the information available on recreational fishing, and
- by improving the Ministry for Primary Industries' level of stakeholder participation and engagement.
- Switching the basis for allocating a total allowable catch (TAC) of a fishery between fishing sectors from discretionary to secured. Secure allocations in place incentivises sectors to collaborate to improve a fishery for the benefit of all. This necessitates developing a process to reallocate a TAC over time as social values change. It is important that this process benefits recreational fishers and compensates quota holders.

All recommendations are intended to improve New Zealanders' recreational fishing experience, while upholding the secure rights associated with commercial quota holdings and Treaty of Waitangi settlement obligations.

The next step

It is vitally important these recommendations are met with a political will to make tough decisions, in this case, to preserve recreational fisheries for the next generation.”

(About the author - Dr Randall Bess is a Research Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative. Before joining the Initiative, he was a consultant for the US-based Environmental Defense Fund working

on a range of fisheries issues. He previously worked for the Ministry for Primary Industries, and the former Ministry of Fisheries, for 13 years. Prior to that, he researched fisheries in New Zealand. He also fished commercially and recreationally in Alaska before moving to New Zealand in 1994. He holds a PhD from Massey University and a Master's in Public Management from the Victoria University of Wellington. Prior to moving to New Zealand he gained a Bachelor's degree and a Master's of Business Administration.)

The Scuba Divers Federation of SA is a member of the following: -

RecfishSA (SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council)

TRAIL COMMITTEES - SA Trails Coordinating Committee (Office of Recreation & Sport) and

Port Noarlunga Reef Underwater Trail [South Australian Trails](#)

If you wish to be included on the mailing list for this electronic bulletin, contact Steve Reynolds, the Federation's Secretary, on [sdfsa@adam.com.au](mailto:sdfsa@adam.com.au) for more details.

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