



Canberra Fisherman's Club Inc



Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 8
March 2014

Winner of the February 2013 Photo Competition



Keith with a nice Tuross River Jewfish

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About the Club

The Canberra Fisherman's Club Inc. is a sport fishing club that endeavours to promote a social awareness among its members, single or family. General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the **Eastlakes Football Club No 3 Oxley St Griffith ACT** beginning at 7:30pm. All members and visitors are most welcome.

Members of the Canberra Fisherman's Club are eligible to set Club Records and, upon payment of an Australian National Sport fishing Association (ANSA) affiliation fee, also able to set Australian records, and World records (through ANSA affiliation with the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA)).

Aims of the Club

- To promote sport fishing
- To foster the art of angling
- To teach the art of angling to new members and particularly juniors
- To promote the study and conservation of fish species and the environment
- To co-operate with and support other bodies with similar aims and ideals.

The Club also supports the Recfish Australia National Code of Practice for Recreational and Sport Fishing, which endorses:

1. Quickly and correctly returning unwanted or illegal catch to the water
2. Quickly killing fish that are kept for consumption
3. Using only appropriate, legal tackle, attending gear and valuing the catch
4. Taking no more than our immediate needs
5. Supporting and encouraging activities that preserve, restore and enhance fisheries and fish habitat
6. Understanding and observing all fishing regulations and reporting illegal fishing activities
7. Preventing pollution and protecting wildlife by removing rubbish
8. Taking care when boating and anchoring to avoid damage to wildlife and habitat
9. Using established roads and tracks
10. Reporting environmental damage
11. Avoiding unnecessary interactions with wildlife species and their habitats
12. Practising courtesy towards all those who use inland and coastal waters
13. Obtaining permission from landholders and traditional owners before entering their land
14. Caring for our own safety and the safety of others when fishing.

President's Report

What a great month March is turning out to be.

The March outing was to the Narooma Convention on the Canberra Day long weekend. This time around the Club organised a gamefishing charter on Nitro on the Saturday for six members, which really produced the goods. Most anglers caught a couple of legal kingfish and some nice reef fish as well. The charter was so successful the Club has again booked Nitro for our return trip to Narooma on the June long weekend. A list will be circulating at the next meeting – if you're interested; put your name down (the cost will be somewhere between \$250 and \$300 for the day).

Stand-outs for the Narooma Convention were Chris and Colin Clarke who took out the heaviest Australian Salmon and Tailor awards. Special mention should also go to Shane Jasprizza and his two friends from Sydney who put in mammoth efforts on the beaches and rocks, returning to the Club accommodation only when they collapsed from exhaustion.

The April outing is to St Georges Basin, which became my new favourite estuary last month. We got stuck into some genuinely huge flathead at the Nowra Convention – and I'm told there are also great snapper available at the artificial reefs in the Basin. The outing will be a social competition with the local Bay and Basin Lure and Fly Club, so I reckon there'll be a few of us trying to learn the secret spots and techniques – I hope you can make it!

In the meantime, we are counting down the last few days before the Club hosts this year's Canberra Carp-Out. Thanks very much to the members that have volunteered their time over the last few weeks to help sell tickets in the Fish Stocking Raffle at stands across Canberra. I've been at a few and the feedback and recognition that the Club received has been absolutely fantastic.

Many people at the stalls said they have heard our ads on FM104.7 and have seen the Facebook ads. I've had people come up to me and tell me how fishing at places like Yerrabi has improved dramatically over the last couple of years – it felt pretty good to be able to tell them the Club's efforts at the Carp-Out had a large part to play in that and that just before Christmas we released even more Murray Cod fingerlings into Yerrabi. It really is good to see the Canberra Fisherman's Club getting the recognition we deserve.

There are a lot of people out there having a whinge about the state of our environment, our local lakes and the carp problem. But it's the Canberra Fisherman's Club that's getting out there and doing something about it!

On top of all the kudos, it's also heaps of fun. If you can spare a couple of hours to help out on the day, please contact a committee member (or just email the Club). Not only will you be supporting the local environment, but also our local community through the Cancer Support Group.

See you at the Carp-Out,
Glen



Secretary's Report



My 38.5 cm Dusky Flathead caught on fly at Lake Coila during the Narooma Outing weekend. I was very fortunate to bump into Steve Starling who was fly fishing the day before and very kindly gave me a few tips on how to catch Flathead on fly.

Hi everyone,

While we're all hoping this newsletter makes out before the end of March, the committee has been very busy with the preparations for the Canberra Carp-Out on 30 March 2014.

The Canberra Carp-Out

For the visitors and new members of the Club, the Canberra Carp-Out is a fund raising fishing competition hosted by the Club at Lake Burley Griffin. The Club distributes the net profits of the Canberra Carp-Out equally between the **Cancer Support Group, ACT Eden Monaro's Own** and to the stocking of native fish in Canberra's lakes. The Cancer Support Group is a charitable organisation that provides financial assistance and support to cancer patients and

family residing with them within the ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds. You can find out more about this organisation on <http://thecancersupportgroup.org.au/>.

The fish stocking raffle, which is also drawn on the day of the Canberra Carp-Out, raises additional money for fish stocking.

Karen, Sarah, Luke and Mick were out at Erindale on 8 March 2014 selling the fish stocking raffle tickets and promoting the Canberra Carp-Out, Kevin and Adam were out



at Charnwood on 15 March 2014, and Karen, Sarah and Glen were out at Jamisen Trash and Treasure on 16 March 2014. Darren Boaden, Karen Malam and myself were at Jerrabomberra Shopping Centre on 22 March 2014 while Dino Martinello and Kristin O'Neill were at the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets on 23 March 2014.

In the meantime, Chris Head has been talking to our main sponsor, Tackle World Canberra, about prizes for the Carp-Out. The Cancer Support Group has also been supportive, allowing the Club to promote the event on during their regular spot on FM 104.7. And John Bosch has been putting the final touches on the Club's capture database in preparation for the tonne of carp we expect to weigh in at the Carp-Out.

On Saturday, 29 March 2014, the Club will be hosting the Kid's fishing clinic at Lake Burley Griffin. We will also be running a stall at the Connect and Participate Expo that day at the Bus Depot Markets. If you're in Kingston on that Saturday, drop in and say hello. And of course, the Carp-Out will be on Sunday, 30 March 2014.

ANSA Mulloway Tagging Program

ANSA NSW has commenced tagging mulloway in NSW under a pilot project that will provide data on growth and the movement details of these iconic fish that will contribute valuable data to the current Mulloway Research Program that is already collecting size, age and quantity information in NSW

In conjunction with NSW Fisheries ANSA NSW is managing the project and has selected a team of prominent mulloway anglers and fishing guides who will participate with the hopes of tagging up to 1000 fish all over NSW from our rivers, estuaries, harbours and inshore and offshore locations.

If you catch a tagged Mulloway, can you please record tag number and record the length and weight of the fish and pass those details onto ANSA either per the instructions on the tag or by emailing ANSA NSW directly.

Murray Crayfish

The Interim Order for Murray Crayfish that was issued on 8 August 2013 which permitted a daily limit of two Murray Crayfish and a possession limit of four expired on 8 February 2014. Accordingly, it is unclear whether a new Interim Order will be issued prior to the commencement of the Murray Crayfish season from 1 June to 31 August 2014. The Recreational Fishing Alliance has sought further information from the Department of Primary Industries, and I'll update you as soon as we get its response.

Southern Bluefin Tuna

The NSW Government is proposing to reduce the current bag limits for Southern Bluefin Tuna to one fish per person, a boat limit of two fish per boat, and a charter limit of six fish per charter boat. Having never caught Southern Bluefin Tuna myself, I decided to do a bit of reading on the topic and had a chat to Malcolm Poole, President of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW. As a result, the segment on SBT that was going to appear here has turned into an article.

The upshot is that the available scientific evidence points to a recovery of SBT stocks. The NSW Government's proposal would result in the strictest bag limits in Australia. Both the scientific evidence and the Government's Species Impact Statement do not demonstrate the need to adopt the strictest bag limits in Australia. Submissions on the proposed reduction on SBT bag and boat limits are due on 16 April 2014. The Club proposes to oppose the reductions unless members tell us otherwise.

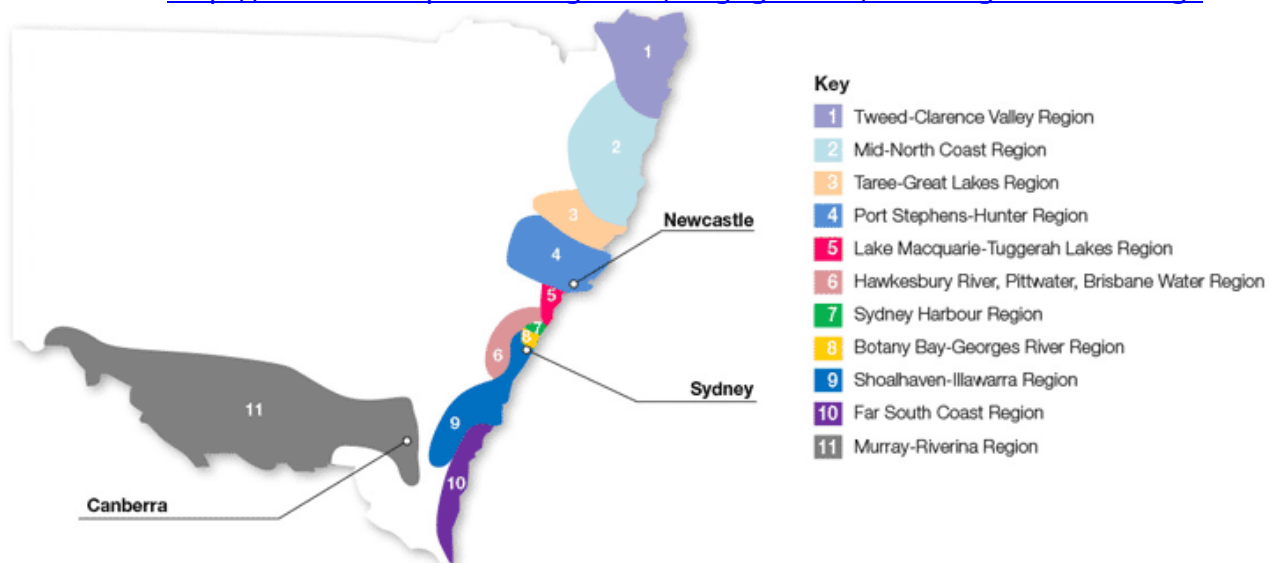
NSW Regional Boating Plans

For boat owners in the Club, the NSW Department of Transport's latest survey may interest you, particular if there is a boat ramp you regularly use that is in need of upgrade or repair. The Maritime Management Centre within Transport for NSW together with Roads and Maritime Services is undertaking a state-wide study of existing boating facilities and safety measures to inform the development of Regional Boating Plans for each of the major waterways in NSW.

The study will identify the actions required to enhance the boating experience across NSW by improving boating safety, boat storage and waterway access on our major waterways.

The study area for this project has been broken down into 11 regions, as shown in the map below. Each region contains significant waterways that will be investigated for the development of the Regional Boating Plans. Inland lakes and dams have been allocated to their closest region.

There is a separate survey for each of the 11 regions. Shoalhaven-Illawarra Region survey closes on 30 March 2014, while the Far South Coast Region closes on 11 May 2014 and Murray Riverina Region closes on 20 April 2014. To complete the surveys or to find out more, go online at [http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/engagement/nsw-regional-boating-](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/engagement/nsw-regional-boating-plans)



[plans.](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/engagement/nsw-regional-boating-plans)

The April Outing

For those of you who attended the new members night last December, you may recall everyone voted in favour of holding the April Outing with Bay and Basin Lure and Fly Fishing Club. The date of the outing will be 12-13 April 2014 at St George Basin. There will be an inter-club comp but the committee is having talks with the Bay and Basin Lure and Fly Fishing Club over the rules for the competition.

Watch this space for more details in the lead up to the April Outing. If you want to attend an outing, please contact our Outings Officer, Kevin Spriggs (or email me and I'll forward your email to him).

Anthony Heiser



Recorder's Report

Hello again all,

Carp Out is behind us. Thanks goodness! It has been a very busy month for the committee and it was a very busy day for everybody involved. I give a personal big thank you to everybody who helped out. In particular I'd like to thank Mick Jewry, Adam Martin and anybody else that worked the carp killing station along with Luke Robbie, Zane Zhao and Tim Jones for their help in the recorder's tent.

We had 906 registered anglers, of which just 281 recorded at least one capture. The best effort was 22 fish entered by one individual. In total, 743 Carp and 176 Red Fin were caught which added up to 1,411kg of Carp and 20.94kg of Red Fin. The heaviest single Carp this year weighed in at 7.84kg. That's a mammoth effort and one of the best results we've seen.

In other news, the Nowra convention saw close to 20 anglers capture 3 outings book pages worth of fish. The Pirtek fishing challenge was held last weekend as well and the results were published today. Unfortunately, I did not see any club member's names among the winners. I fished on Googong for Red Fin and the best I could come up with was a 36.7cm variant, some 10cm short of 3rd place!

The next outing is the St. George's Basin friendly competition against the Bay and Basin Lure and Fly Fishing club. It's shaping up to be a seriously good outing with the number of angler pushing the accommodation to the limit. The weather is looking ok at this stage too, with a bit of a lull in the rain coming. Listening in on the reports by the Jervis Bay Flatty Flickers Facebook page manager and Big-E, they both think that the basin will be firing in a couple of weeks, thanks to the heavy rain we've had recently.

That's it for another month. I'll see you on the water!

John.



Club Championship

Open

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Chris Clark | 609 |
| Mel Marlborough | 562 |
| Glen Malam | 558 |
| Anthony Heiser | 339 |
| Colin Clark | 311 |

Ladies

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Mel Marlborough | 562 |
| Coralie Teer | 71 |
| Rose Davis | 38 |

Junior

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Kyle Walton | 290 |
| Connor Davis | 191 |
| Tom Stanfield | 106 |
| Daniel Clarke-Seel | 30 |

Land Based

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Chris Clark | 549 |
| Anthony Heiser | 339 |
| Colin Clark | 265 |
| Chris Head | 237 |
| Steve Bailey | 196 |

Fresh Water

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Mel Marlborough | 562 |
| Anthony Heiser | 282 |
| Steve Bailey | 268 |
| Connor Davis | 191 |
| Kyle Walton | 158 |

Salt Water

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Chris Clark | 609 |
| Glen Malam | 558 |
| Colin Clark | 311 |
| Brian Stacy | 182 |
| Greg Davis | 142 |

Most Versatile Angler

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Anthony Heiser | 11 |
| Chris Clark | 7 |
| Colin Clark | 7 |
| Kyle Walton | 6 |
| Shane Jasprizza | 5 |

Salt Water Length

(Bartailed Flathead, Dusky Flathead, Sand Flathead, Tiger)

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Brian Stacy | 19,305 |
| Susan McNiece | 8,255 |
| Kyle Walton | 5,700 |
| John Bosch | 5,030 |
| Kevin Spriggs | 4,560 |

Fresh Water Length

(European Carp)

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Luke Robbie | 5,660 |
| Daniel Clarke-Seel | 2,610 |
| Timothy Jones | 2,425 |
| Zane Zhao | 1,070 |

Board Fish

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
| ALBACORE | 2.70 kg | Greg Davis |
| ATLANTIC SALMON | 1.07 kg | Keith Smith |
| AUSTRALIAN BONITO | 1.22 kg | Glen Malam |
| AUSTRALIAN SALMON | 3.04 kg | Colin Clark |
| BARRAMUNDI | 25.00 kg | Steve Bailey |
| BROOK TROUT | 0.56 kg | Anthony Heiser |
| BROWN TROUT | 2.10 kg | Keith Smith |
| DUSKY FLATHEAD | 5.60 kg | Kevin Spriggs |
| ESTUARY PERCH | 1.10 kg | Kyle Walton |
| EUROPEAN CARP | 5.62 kg | Mel Marlborough |
| FIDDLER RAY | 2.89 kg | Chris Clark |
| GOLDEN PERCH | 1.91 kg | Connor Davis |
| HAIRTAIL | 1.69 kg | Chris De La Rue |
| HAMMERHEAD SHARK | 2.73 kg | Colin Clark |
| LEATHERJACKET | 0.94 kg | Zane Zhao |
| MORWONG | 1.50 kg | Brian Stacy |
| MULLOWAY | 3.09 kg | Keith Smith |
| MURRAY COD | 7.68 kg | Daniel McNiece |
| RAINBOW TROUT | 0.72 kg | Steve Bailey |
| SILVER TREVALLY | 0.60 kg | Kristin O'Neill |
| SNAPPER | 2.66 kg | Glen Malam |
| SWALLOWTAIL DART | 0.61 kg | Anthony Heiser |
| TAILOR | 1.10 kg | Colin Clark |
| TARWHINE | 0.57 kg | Anthony Heiser |
| YELLOWFIN BREEM | 0.60 kg | Zane Zhao |
| YELLOWTAIL KINGFISH | 7.98 kg | Colin Clark |

Best Fish

Fresh Water

EUROPEAN CARP

5.62kg on 1 kg

Mel Marlborough

Blue Water

SNAPPER

2.66kg on 3 kg

Glen Malam

Estuary

DUSKY FLATHEAD

4.69kg on 1 kg

Glen Malam

Rocks

AUSTRALIAN SALMON

1.36kg on 2 kg

Shane Jasprizza

Beach

AUSTRALIAN SALMON

1.91kg on 1 kg

Chris Clark

All Tackle Championship

Open

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Anthony Heiser | 27 |
| Greg Davis | 16 |
| John Vogel | 15 |
| Kevin Spriggs | 15 |
| Glen Malam | 15 |
| Keith Smith | 15 |

Junior

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Tom Stanfield | 4 |
| Connor Davis | 3 |
| Sebastian Davis | 2 |
| Tyson Davis | 2 |
| Kyle Walton | 2 |

Soon to Expire Scales

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|----------------------|-------|------------|
| 29 | Jasprizza, Shane | Salter Little Samson | 3 Kg | 22/04/2014 |
| 56 | Jasprizza, Shane | Salter Baby Scales | 10 Kg | 22/04/2014 |
| 90 | Jasprizza, Shane | Angyu Digital | 5 Kg | 22/04/2014 |
| 132 | Luttrell, Patrick | Weiheng | 50 Kg | 7/04/2014 |

When giving me scales to test please provide a new battery with them as well. Your scales have a better chance of passing if the battery is fresh, and it's worth replacing it once a year anyway!

News & Stories

Happy hunting with Benny on board Nitro

By Anthony Heiser

The Narooma Outing was a memorable trip for the six of us who went fishing on board *Nitro* with Benny of Charter Fish Narooma. On board was Keith, Tom, Jon, Zane, Carl and myself. We left Wagonga Inlet at 6 am on Saturday, 8 March 2014 and headed straight out to Montague Island. We first jugged up a bunch of yakkas and slimies and the odd trevally for live bait and then made our way to the Kingfish grounds. We had a choice of using livies or a paternoster rig with strip baits.

As it turned out, the Kingfish ignored those who fished with livies and just went for the strip baits. Jon Vogel hooked up to the first legal Kingfish pretty much as soon as he dropped his bait in the water.

We spent the morning chasing kingies, and then bottom bashed for Blue Morwong and Snapper.

Just before heading back to Wagonga Inlet, Benny took us in close to the seals for some photographs. It was a great day out and I'll definitely be putting my name down for the charter at the June outing.



Jon Vogel with the very first fish for the day



Me with my second legal size Kingfish ever.



Zane with a nice Blue Morwong



Zane with one of the more colourfish fish – the dreaded Leather Jacket!



Jon with the biggest Kingfish for the day



Mine can look just as big with the arms outstretched!



Zane with another Morwong



Me with a snapper (although the charter boats in Queensland will insist that is still a squire).



Glen and Kevin off Montague Island



Greg and Coralie look concerned as Brian commits an offence against the natural order of things.



Plenty of photo opportunities with Montague Island...if only you could hold the camera steady in the swell.



Seals frolicking off Montague Island. Unlike my previous visit to Montague Island, the seals focused on being cute and playful instead of stealing fish.



Left to right: Anthony Heiser, Keith Smith, Tom Harrington, Zane Zhao, and Jon Vogel.

Should NSW anglers cop Australia's strictest bag and boat limits for Southern Bluefin Tuna?

By Anthony Heiser

For those who attended the March General Meeting, you would have heard that the NSW Government is proposing to make the following changes to recreational fishing bag limits for Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT):

- daily Bag Limit: 1 SBT
- daily Boat Limit: 2 SBT, and
- charter Boat Limit: 6 SBT.

Current bag and size limits

Current bag and size limits for SBT in each of the States and Territories are as follows:

| State | Bag limits | Size limits |
|-------------------|--|--|
| New South Wales | Seven fish in any combination of the following species Albacore, Big-Eye, Longtail, Southern Bluefin, and Yellowfin Tuna | No more than two tuna over 90 cm No more than five tuna under 90 cm |
| Victoria | Personal bag limit of two tuna (SBT, Yellowfin and Bigeye) | No minimum size limit |
| Western Australia | Personal bag limit of two tuna (SBT, Yellowfin and Bigeye) | No minimum size limit |
| South Australia | Personal bag limit of two tuna (SBT and/or Yellowfin) Daily boat limit of six tuna (SBT and/or Yellowfin) | No minimum size limit |
| Tasmania | Personal bag limit of two tuna (SBT, Yellowfin and Bigeye) | No minimum size limit |

Under the current rules, recreational anglers in NSW can catch up to seven fish in any combination of the following species Albacore, Big-Eye, Longtail, Southern Bluefin, and Yellowfin Tuna, with only two fish being greater than 90 cm and no more than five fish under 90 cm. However, the NSW Government's proposed changes would result in NSW anglers having the strictest SBT bag and boat limits in Australia

Possible Club's position on the proposed bag and boat limits

Unless members express a different view, the Club intends to oppose these changes. I emailed the membership on 14 March 2014 seeking their views on the proposed changes. However, I anticipate little support for the new SBT bag limits based on last year's survey of members regarding proposed changes to recreational fishing rules. You may recall the NSW Government previously proposed changing the current mixed bag of seven tuna by restricting it to Albacore, Big-Eye, Longtail, and Yellowfin Tuna and reducing the bag limits to either:

- five fish with only one fish over 90 cm, or
- two fish only.

Fifty-seven percent of members did not support the first option and 67% strongly opposed the second option. Accordingly, the Club opposed both options and argued that the NSW Government had offered little or no scientific evidence.

Unlike the proposed changes to recreational fishing rules last year, the NSW Government has provided a summary of the available scientific evidence in the form of a Species Impact Statement. You can access this information here:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection/conservation/what-current/endangered-species/sbt/changes-sbt>.

In addition, members can access additional information from other sources including Fisheries Victoria (<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-guide/recreational-fishing-initiatives/southern-bluefin-tuna>) and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (<http://www.ccsbt.org/site/>). However, many of you who may not have time to read all this so I have summarised this information for you.

Summary of the scientific evidence on the current state of SBT stocks

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna was established in 1994 under a treaty between Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The Commission is based in Canberra and its objective is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of the global SBT fishery. Since then, South Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan have joined the Commission, with Philippines, South Africa and the European Community joining as 'cooperating non-members.'

According to the Commission's website:

Southern Bluefin tuna (SBT) are large, fast swimming, pelagic fish (ie. living in the open seas). SBT are found throughout the southern hemisphere mainly in waters between 30 and 50 degrees south but only rarely in the eastern Pacific. The only known breeding area is in the Indian Ocean, south-east of Java, Indonesia.

SBT can live for up to forty years, reach a weight of over 200 kilograms, and measure more than 2 metres in length. There is some uncertainty about the size and age when on average they become mature. This is the subject of current research by Commission members. The available data suggests that it is around 1.5 metres and no younger than age 8. Mature females produce several million or more eggs in a single spawning period.

Breeding takes place from September to April in warm waters south of Java. The juveniles migrate south down the west coast of Australia. During the summer months (December-April), they tend to congregate near the surface in the coastal waters off the southern coast of Australia and spend their winters in deeper, temperate oceanic waters. After age 5, they are seldom found in near shore surface waters.

As SBT breed in the one area (south of Java) and all look alike wherever they are found, they are managed as one breeding stock.

According to the Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee, Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (19 – 28 July 2011):

- SBT stock has been exploited for more than 50 years
- total catches worldwide peaked at 81,750 t in 1961
- the Japanese longline fishery (taking a wide age range of fish) recorded its peak catch of 77,927 tonnes in 1961
- the Australian surface fishery catches of young fish peaked at 21,501 tonnes in 1982
- New Zealand, Taiwan, and Indonesia have also exploited southern bluefin tuna since the 1970s - 1980s while South Korea started a fishery in 1991
- 80% of the SBT catch has been made in the Indian Ocean, 16% in the Pacific Ocean and 4% in the Atlantic Ocean
- since 1968, the reported Indian Ocean catch has declined from about 45,000 tonnes to 8000 tonnes, averaging about 20,000 tonnes

- the reported Pacific Ocean catch since 1968 has ranged from about 800 tonnes to 19,000 tonnes, averaging about 5500 tonnes
- a 2011 assessment suggested that the SBT spawning biomass is at 5% of its original biomass
- nevertheless, the Scientific Committee found that the prognosis for the future of SBT stocks was positive, and
- There is a 70% probability of rebuilding SBT stocks to 20% of the original biomass by 2035.

A Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna will conduct a further assessment of SBT stocks in 2014.

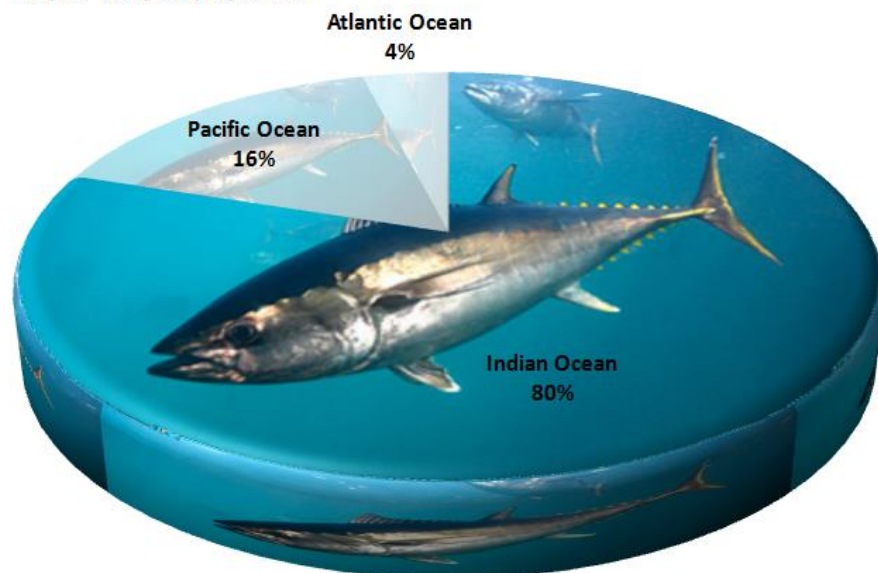
The Commission reported that just under 10,000 tonnes of SBT were caught in 2010:

| Country | Number of commercial vessels | Catch | Other details |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------------|---|
| Australia | 23 | 4199 tonnes | 96% by purse seine 4% by long line |
| Taiwan | 82 | 1140 tonnes | |
| Indonesia | 737 | 468-566 tonnes | 90% of catches were landed in Port of Benoa, Bali. Mean size decreased from 182 cm in 1990s to 168 cm in 2010. |
| Japan | 84 | 2083 tonnes | |
| New Zealand | | 500 tonnes | |
| South Korea | 9 | 869 tonnes | Active vessel numbers reduced from 19 in 2009 |

The majority of the commercial SBT catch was in the Indian Ocean, as illustrated below:

Distribution of Southern Bluefin Tuna catches*

* Report of the sixteen meeting of the Scientific Committee, Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, 19 – 28 July 2011, Bali, Indonesia



Fisheries Victoria conducted an SBT recreational fishing survey between March and July 2011 and estimated that recreational anglers caught 240 tonnes of SBT in 2011.

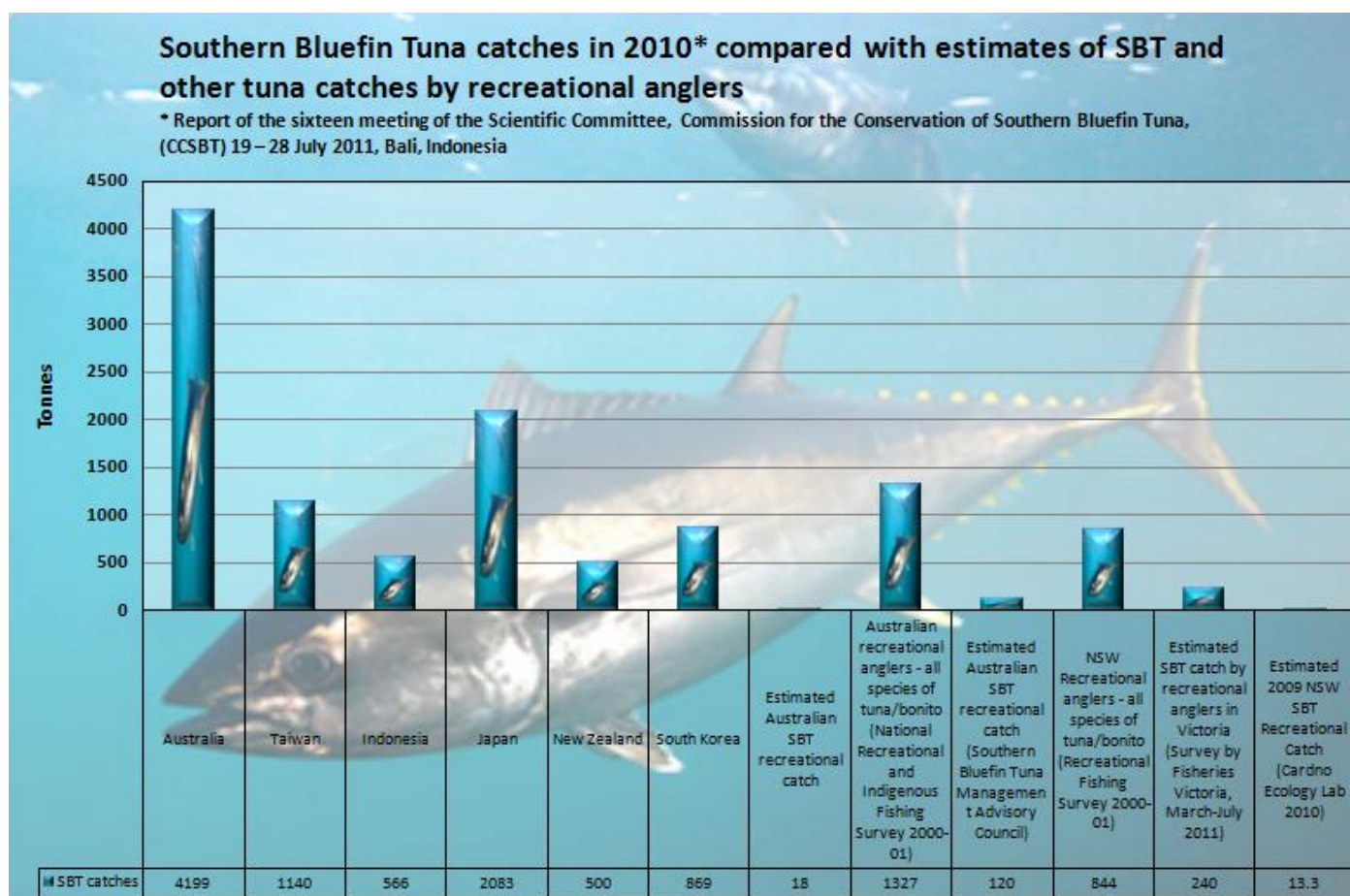
The Species Impact Statement provided by the NSW Government also contains the following facts or findings:

- there is very few data on SBT recreational catches in Australia
- the available data indicates that SBT recreational catches are a small proportion of the global SBT catch

- the estimates of national recreational SBT catches ranges from 18 tonnes to 120 tonnes per year
 - the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna estimates that 18 tonnes of SBT were taken by recreational anglers each year, and
 - the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee (SBTMAC) estimates that recreational fishing accounts for 120 tonnes per year
- it is not possible to make an accurate estimate of NSW SBT recreational catches on current levels of data
- only 2% of NSW recreational fishing effort takes place in offshore waters where the majority of SBT fishing would occur
- the Cardno Ecology Lab (who prepared the Species Impact Statement) previously estimated the NSW SBT recreational catch to be 13.3 tonnes in 2009, and
- other available evidence suggests that NSW recreational SBT catches are lower than other states.

To gain a better understanding of the national recreational catch of SBT, the Australian Department of Agriculture is undertaking a survey in 2013-14. The NSW Government is also conducting its own recreational fishing survey to estimate the amount of fish caught by recreational anglers.

A comparison of 2010 commercial SBT catches with different estimates of recreational SBT and other tuna catches is illustrated in the graph below.



Arguments put forward in the Species Impact Statement in favour of the proposed bag and boat limits (as best as I can understand them)

The arguments put forward by the Species Impact Statement for imposing the strictest bag and boat limits are difficult to follow. The arguments as I understand them appear to be based on the assumption that the NSW recreational harvest of SBT will increase as SBT

stocks recover and boats that can take anglers out to SBT fishing grounds become more affordable.

The Species Impact Statement also assumes that it is necessary to reduce the number of SBT caught and kept by recreational anglers in NSW and that only a boat limit can achieve that goal. It also states that it is not possible to assess the impact of alternative measures without knowing what the recreational SBT catch is and, in any event, such measures are not cost effective.

Finally, the Species Impact Statement argues that the proposed bag and boat limits will reduce the recreational SBT catch without any adverse social or economic impacts.

Response to the Species Impact Statement

In response, I would argue that the Species Impact Statement has not adequately demonstrated why NSW anglers should be slapped with the strictest bag and boat limits, nor does the scientific evidence support this.

- The scientists at the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna assessed the future prognosis of SBT to be positive and that on current management practices, there is a 70% probability of rebuilding SBT stocks to 20% of the original biomass by 2035.
- Despite the uncertainty of the exact amount of recreational fishing effort for SBT, it is clearly small compared to the commercial fishing effort.
- The timing of the NSW Government's proposal is out of line with the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna's assessment of SBT stocks in 2014, the Department of Agriculture's assessment of the 2013-14 recreational fishing effort for SBT, and the NSW Government's 2013-14 recreational fishing survey.
- The arguments that recreational fishing effort for SBT might suddenly increase is not based on scientific evidence but speculation based on nothing more than educated guesses.
- The Species Impact Statement offered no cost benefit analysis of the proposed bag and boat limits nor did it provide any analysis of alternative measures.

The proposal is only a piecemeal solution that ignores the following facts:

- SBT are a highly migratory species whose sole breeding ground is in the Indian Ocean.
- 80% of the World's SBT are caught in the Indian Ocean
- SBT are also caught in offshore areas in Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria
- only 2% of NSW recreational fishing effort takes place in offshore waters where the majority of SBT fishing would occur, and
- the limited evidence available suggests that NSW recreational SBT catches are lower than other states.

Finally, one important point to remember is that it was the unsustainable commercial fishing effort that resulted in the depletion of SBT stocks. Nevertheless, while recreational anglers did not cause the depletion of SBT stocks, we need to ensure that we do not contribute to any further depletion.

Feedback from the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

I spoke with Malcolm Poole, President of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFANSW). I won't pretend to say I understood everything he said to me so if I get any of this wrong, I'm sure our Editor will allow Malcolm a right of reply in the next newsletter.

First of all, Malcolm stressed that while the current bag limits are in place, we should encourage anglers to exercise their common sense by not wasting fish through high grading or

poor handling of fish before release and not catching more than you need (even if it is within the bag limit).

Second, if the proposed bag and boat limits are introduced, Malcolm is concerned about the following unintended consequences:

- adverse impact on fishing charters
- tension between anglers where there is an inequitable distribution of catches when the boat limit was reached, and
- wastage of fish due to high grading or having to release a gut hooked fish because of the strict boat and bag limits had been reached.

Third, Malcom advised that RFANSW is considering a split of the current bag limit of mixed tuna as follows:

- a mixed bag limit of up to five Albacore, Big-Eye, Longtail, and Yellowfin Tuna
- a bag limit of two SBT, and
- no boat limits of SBT.

This would ensure NSW bag limits were similar to SBT bag limits in other jurisdictions. In addition, it would avoid the inevitable tension that would arise between anglers in the event that a boat limit had been reached before everyone had the opportunity of keeping at least one SBT. It would also reduce the incentive to high grade fish and reduce the risk of having to release the odd SBT that had been gut hooked.

Finally, Malcolm advised that there were alternative measures that could be adopted to ensure recreational effort for SBT was sustainable. These included:

- adopting seasonal slot limits that could be communicated to anglers via smart phone apps rather than setting bag and size limits for a fixed five year period
- encouraging anglers to measure fish in the water rather than on deck before releasing them to maximize their survival rates, and
- adopting a tag system whereby anglers purchase a tag for the right to retain each SBT (similar to tags used in the USA for hunting big game).

No doubt, each of those alternatives have advantages and disadvantages that need to be weighed up. It is not possible for me to outline these alternatives in greater detail or to list each of the advantages and disadvantages. Suffice to say, it is useful to note that there are alternatives that recreational anglers and the NSW Government could explore in greater detail.

Next steps – preparing the Club's response to the proposed bag and boat limits

The Committee will start preparing the Club's submission on the proposed changes to SBT bag and size limits. Based on the available scientific evidence, it is likely that the Committee will oppose the proposed changes. The Committee may also propose a split of the current bag limit of mixed tuna as follows:

- A mixed bag limit of up to five Albacore, Big-Eye, Longtail, and Yellowfin Tuna.
- A bag limit of two SBT.
- No boat limits of SBT.

The Committee probably does not have enough information to make a decision on the possible alternatives Malcolm Poole offered. However, it may be useful for recreational anglers to at least explore other options in the future.

If you want to have your say in the Club's submission on the proposed changes to SBT bag and boat limits please email me on info@canberrafishos.com. The Club's submission is due by 16 April 2014. So please ensure your feedback is sent by 9 April 2014 to allow us sufficient time to prepare the submission.

Burrinjuck Waters State Park Fishing Report – March 19th 2014

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Water level current: | 44.7 % | Water level: | 12/03/14 44.5 % |
| Rain last 7 days: | 6 mm | Current discharge: | 384 ML per day. |
| Current inflow: | 384 ML per day. | Water visibility: | up to 2.0 metres in main basin |

Forecast Weather: Possible showers predicted for the weekend 1-5 mm. Temps between 14 & 28 deg C. Winds up to 11 KMH on both days

Full Moon: Mar 17th **New Moon:** Mar 31st **Water Temperature:** 22- 24 deg

Murray Cod: We had fantastic weather on Saturday but oh dear the wind on Sunday saw most fishermen pack up and head home early. We had a few fishing clubs in over the weekend with some of these arriving on Thursday so they had a couple of good days on the water. A lot of these guys were trolling hard bodies & spinner baits resulting in some good reports. There were more Cod caught this weekend than we have seen for the last couple of months the biggest reported fish was 78cm from the top of Wade Island taken on a black & white spinner bait. Ian from Wagga Boat Club Anglers managed 4 fish from 50 – 62 cm trolling a purple Predatex around Scrubby, Sam from Penrith caught 7 cod for the weekend. Most fishermen have been targeting the main basin and Bidgee River Arm up to Scrubby. The Goodradigbee River usually produces big cod and in good numbers but has been very quiet so far this year, Will be worth a look in the next few weeks.

Yellow Belly: The odd fish being caught on the troll but it remains tough going. The yellows have stayed consistent on the trees in the deeper water for several weeks now although the fish holding trees are getting harder to find. We had Roman Dicoski from Fish Strike Productions doing some filming for their next DVD over the last 2 weekends. Roman was targeting these same trees with soft plastic grubs and managed more than 20 fish each day. Steve Starling also paid us a visit for a few days but I missed having a chat when he left. Kyle from Tumut picked up 13 yellows fishing with small yabbies in the evening near the main boat ramp. Shrimp remain the best bait option for the trees and there are plenty of big shrimp being caught. A reminder that your shrimp trap must have a tag attached with the letters ST (shrimp trap) and the name & address of the fishermen. 1 Trap per person only. This tag can be located on the trap below the water. The trap will be confiscated if it is checked by the Fishing Inspector and is found without a tag.

Redfin: Are mainly being caught trolling with no big numbers being reported. The fish being caught are a good size with plenty above 30 cm.

Trout: No reports

Park News: The Pirtek fishing challenge is on again on Sunday the 23rd of March. The entry fee is \$20.00 with all entrants going in the draw to win a Stacer 489 Outlaw with side console. All Proceeds from the day go to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. For information and entry google Pirtek fishing challenge.

We have another fish release happening today at the park from Narrandera fisheries. 60,000 Yellow Belly & 5000 silver perch. Great to see our licence fees being coming back to the dam.

Dean Brind
Manager Burrinjuck Waters State Park.

From the Editor

Thanks again to Anthony for two great article, the aboard Nitro, and a great piece on the Southern Bluefin Tuna. Its articles like these that really make the newsletter.

If you want to try your hand at an article, send it into the Club email account below. It'd be great to keep the good articles from Club members going. I'm sure there's something that you can share from your summer holidays.

I'll keep on encouraging everyone to send in your photos for the monthly photo competition, it'll help you hone your fisho-graphic skills, and may make your next tackle purchase a little cheaper.

The winner of the February Photo Competition, as seen on the cover, is Keith Smith, with very nice Tuross River Jewfish. Remember, the winners of the monthly photo comp get a \$20 Tackle World Canberra voucher for their winning pic. The rules of the photo comp are:

- Members can submit up to two photos per month
- The photo must either be taken by the member submitting the photo or a photo of the member
- No photo shopping or other digital enhancements are allowed

Preferably, photos should be 300 KB to 2 MB in size. Photos greater than 2 MB will need to be compressed if you are attempting to email them. You can contact me if you need help with compressing photos.

Also if you have some gear to sell, swap, wanted or barter then send through the details.

All of the above should be emailed to info@canberrafishos.com.

This month's quote is:- "I don't exaggerate...I just remember BIG !!!"



Work fills in time between fishing trips!!

Cheers,

Greg Davis

February Photo Competition



Anthony with a Nowra Flattie



Chris Head with his first Puffer Fish on lure!



Keith's great shot of a Tuross stormy sunset

February Photo Competition



Keith with his 72.5 cm Jewfish



Kristin with a great Nowra Flattie

2013-2014 Canberra Fisherman's Club Outings & Meeting Calendar

| <i>Outing Date</i> | <i>Outing</i> | <i>Monthly Meetings</i> |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 12TH-13TH April | St Georges Basin | 8th |
| 24th-25th May | Kalkite | 13th |
| 7th-9th June | Narooma | 10th |
| 26th-27th July | Kioloa / Ulladulla | 8th |

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