

THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA.

Minutes of the 17th Biennial Conference held at Park Royal Motor Inn, 226 South Terrace, Adelaide, on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th November, 1975.

PRESENT:	Mr. W.B. Coombs	-	President and Chairman
	Mr. P.V. Gay	-	Vice-President
	Mr. B.D. Mitchell	-	Hon. Secretary
	Queensland	-	Mrs. D.V. Nielsen Mr. J.H. Izatt Mr. M.E. Leahy
	New South Wales	-	Mr. I.P. Goadby Mr. W.J. O'Brien Mr. R.E. Waddy Mr. W. Heyward Mr. T. Roche (Observer)
	Victoria	-	Mr. C.I. Cutler Mr. T.D. Mitchell Mr. V. Crawley (Observer) Mr. L. Tyquin (Observer)
	Tasmania	-	Mr. J.F. Jacob Mr. T. Charlton
	Western Australia	-	Mr. K.W. Gibbs
	Northern Territory	-	Mr. L.G. Redmond
	South Australia	-	Mr. E.W. Palmer (Life Member) Mr. J.C. Johnston Mr. K. Waterman (Observer)
	LIFE MEMBER	-	Dr. H.J. Delohery.
APOLOGIES:	There were no apologies but Mr. Coombs advised that he had received a telegram from Mr. John McIntyre wishing the Conference success.		
PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:	Mr. Coombs welcomed the delegates, particularly the two Life Members, Dr. Delohery and Mr. Palmer, and noted that there were a record number of observers (four), which he considered was a tribute to the high regard in which the sport was held. Delegates had travelled long distances at their own expense to ensure that the Association continued to represent the majority, if not all game fishermen throughout Australia.		
PRESIDENT'S REPORT:	Mr. Coombs read his report, previously circulated. MOVED MR. CUTLER, SECONDED MR. JOHNSTON, that THE REPORT BE RECEIVED AND ADOPTED. <u>Carried.</u>		
SECRETARY'S REPORT:	The Hon. Secretary presented his report. MOVED MR. JACOB, SECONDED MR. GAY, that THE HON. SECRETARY'S OBVIOUS EFFORTS BE RECOGNISED BY THE MEETING AND THAT HIS REPORT BE ADOPTED. <u>Carried.</u>		
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	MOVED MR. GOADBY, SECONDED MR. CUTLER, that THE MINUTES BE CONFIRMED. <u>Carried.</u>		
BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:	Mr. Coombs briefly commented upon several matters before calling for general discussion.		
FINANCIAL STATEMENT:	The financial statement was read by the President. Regarding the Association's application for a grant from the government, the President advised that since writing the financial statement the Association had received notification from one state that		

they deprecate this assistance and all that it implies, and this matter will be raised for discussion later in the Conference.

MOVED MR. PALMER, SECONDED MR. T. MITCHELL that THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT BE ADOPTED.

Carried.

ALTERATIONS TO AGENDA:

MOVED MR. CUTLER, SECONDED MR. O'BRIEN that ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA AND THAT ITEMS 8, 9 AND 10 BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER CONSIDERATION OF ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Coombs pointed out that Recommendations by Administration fitted into the category of "Special Business" and should take precedence over Alterations to the Constitution. Mr. Cutler altered the motion to read:

"THAT ITEM 10 BE DISCUSSED NEXT, FOLLOWED BY ITEM 11, FOLLOWED BY ITEMS 8 AND 9."

RECOMMENDATIONS

BY

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Coombs read the recommendations by administration and said that he regarded "administration" as being the President and Secretary. They felt it preferable for a small sub-committee centrally located to delve into all the problems and explore all the alternatives associated with the five points listed rather than that these vital points be dealt with summarily in the limited time at Conference with so many other things to be discussed.

Carried.

The Secretary expanded on the recommendations and said that a committee, if formed, would need to meet about four times during the year and the people on the committee would have to travel and would have to be willing to do so. The committee would have to be selected from representatives who are willing to give their time and energy to it. It is a big issue and the administration felt a small sub-committee could go into the matter and see what is involved.

MOVED BY MR. PALMER, SECONDED MR. GOADBY, that IT BE A RECOMMENDATION FROM THIS CONFERENCE THAT THE IN-COMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

1. (a) THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION
- (b) MEMBERSHIP
- (c) HEADQUARTERS AND SECRETARIAT
- (d) FINANCING
- (e) STATE REPRESENTATION BY DELEGATES.

2. THAT THE FINDINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT RECOMMENDATIONS BE TABLED BEFORE A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD BY THE END OF 1976.

Carried.

ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION:

FROM NEW SOUTH WALES GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION:

Item 1. Motion:

DELETE CLAUSE 21(a) IN ITS PRESENT FORM. ADD A NEW CLAUSE 21(a) AS FOLLOWS: 'VOTING BY THE DELEGATE OR DELEGATES REPRESENTING A STATE BRANCH SHALL BE ON THE BASIS OF ONE VOTE FOR EVERY FIFTY(50) FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF THAT STATE BRANCH. SUCH NUMBER OF BOHA-FIDE FULLY FINANCIAL MEMBERS TO BE AS DECLARED AND SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID AS AT 30th JUNE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING CONFERENCE.'

Mr. O'Brien gave a brief history of voting within GFAA and handed around copies of figures, percentages and breakdowns of voting currently applying which he said highlighted the current situation and is one of the reasons N.S.W. felt so strongly and why they had been so clearly instructed by

delegates from N.S.W. clubs. He said that N.S.W. did not believe any state, now or in the future, should be in a position to dictate or dominate at GFAA. Since presenting the original motion the figures he handed around had become available and had been referred back to the clubs in N.S.W. and he was very keen to hear what other delegates felt would be an equitable approach and fair to all concerned.

Mr. O'Brien stated that the original proposition was that N.S.W. wanted 54% of the vote, but N.S.W. clubs had ameliorated this.

Delegates from each State expressed their views on the subject.

MR. PALMER proposed an AMENDMENT, SECONDED BY MR. JOHNSTON THAT THE EXISTING RULE 15(a) BE DELETED AND THE FOLLOWING BE SUBSTITUTED:

STATE BRANCHES WITH MORE THAN 500 MEMBERS MAY NOMINATE FOUR (4) DELEGATES AND THE REMAINING STATE BRANCHES TWO (2) DELEGATES TO THE GFAA. SUCH NOMINATIONS SHALL BE MADE IN WRITING AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO AN ORDINARY OR SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION.

- and -

THAT THE EXISTING RULE 21(a) BE DELETED AND THE FOLLOWING BE SUBSTITUTED:

STATE BRANCHES SHALL BE ENTITLED TO EXERCISE VOTES ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS: TWO (2) VOTES FOR EACH STATE BRANCH PLUS AN ADDITIONAL VOTE FOR EVERY THREE HUNDRED (300) MEMBERS OR PART THEREOF. PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT NO STATE BRANCH SHALL BE ENTITLED TO MORE THAN ONE THIRD (1/3) OF THE AGGREGATE VOTES OF ALL STATE BRANCHES.

Carried. ✓

The AMENDMENT then became the MOTION and was

Carried.

Mr. O'Brien thanked the delegates for their courtesy and understanding, and Mr. Goadby seconded his remarks and asked that they be included in the minutes.

Item 2. Motion:

ADD TO CLAUSE 14: 'AND THAT COPIES OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS BE CIRCULATED TO THE STATE BRANCHES EACH FINANCIAL YEAR.'

The MOTION was put and

Carried.

Item 3. Motion:

DELETE CLAUSE 15(b): 'IF A STATE BRANCH CANNOT BE REPRESENTED BY A MEMBER OF THAT BRANCH IT WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A LIFE MEMBER OF THE C.F.A.A. AS PROXY DELEGATE. NO LIFE MEMBER SHALL REPRESENT MORE THAN ONE STATE BRANCH AT ANY GENERAL MEETING.'

The MOTION was put and

Lost.

Item 4. Motion:

DELETE FROM CLAUSE 16(c): 'FOR A STATE BRANCH'. ADD TO CLAUSE 16(c): 'FOR HIS OWN STATE BRANCH.'

Mr. Goadby said this item was in conjunction with the previous one and it would be simpler to withdraw Item 4.

Withdrawn.

DELETE CLAUSE 24(a) AND 24(b):

'REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION (a) THE PRESIDENT FOR THE TIME BEING SHALL BE SUGGESTED AS THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION.

(b) OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS BY STATE BRANCHES TO THE INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION SHALL BE DIRECTED THROUGH THE G.F.A.A.

Mr. Goadby said N.S.W. felt this was something which had not been recognised in the last several Presidencies, and it seemed to be something which was redundant.

Mr. Coombs felt it was not up to G.F.A.A. to recommend who their representative is going to be. I.G.F.A. keep pretty well informed with the whole situation in Australia.

Mr. Cutler said that various clubs and G.F.A.A. subscribe quite a deal to I.G.F.A. and therefore he felt G.F.A.A. should have some say by the nomination of our representative from this country. Mr. Gay agreed.

Mr. Palmer gave some history on the topic and said he felt the rule was completely redundant but I.G.F.A. is very interested in what is going on in this country. They are very helpful with the compilation of world record charts, very anxious to have a discussion on rules. They look upon Australia as a country which is more inclined towards the implementation of the rules and ethical standards of conduct than any other country - the nearest to I.G.F.A. in world status so far as administration of game fishing.

Mr. T. Mitchell pointed out that game fishing is administered by the President of G.F.A.A., fishing is according to G.F.A.A. rules and I.G.F.A. have no say unless we apply for world records. He felt very strongly that representatives for I.G.F.A. should be chosen by G.F.A.A. members in Australia and not I.G.F.A. If I.G.F.A. hold G.F.A.A. in such high regard, he can see no reason for them objecting to this.

The Secretary advised delegates that there were three files covering correspondence to and from I.G.F.A. He could not see any reason for G.F.A.A. to endeavour to tell I.G.F.A. what their rules should be or who should be their representatives. He considered G.F.A.A. was fortunate to have the representation it did have, there was a good working relationship and if it could be kept on that plane he could see no harm in leaving it the way it is, and the in-coming executive to follow it up.

Mr. Johnston asked if the possibility of the President becoming recognised in this way had been explored. Mr. Coombs said it had not, and that following the appointment of Mrs. Nielsen and Dr. Delohery, presumably the last two conferences had felt that three representatives are adequate.

Mr. Goadby said that the discussion clearly showed the interest everyone has in fishing administration here and that N.S.W. would be quite happy to withdraw 24(a). However he agreed with Mr. Palmer from S.A. that it is a redundant clause in the constitution and suggested that it be put to the vote and defeated, if that is what people want.

The MOTION "DELETE CLAUSE 24(a)" was put and

Lost

Mr. Goadby said that as clause 24(b) might be the cause of some embarrassment to I.G.F.A., state branches, member clubs and individuals, it would be better to delete that clause. Mr. Gibbs disagreed. He would like to see GFAA remain the controlling body in Australia.

The Secretary said that all G.F.A.A. looks for is a courtesy notification and a copy of correspondence where it affects policy, and also world record claims because I.G.F.A. notify us of their line test results.

The MOTION 'DELETE CLAUSE 24(b)' was

Withdrawn

Item 7. Motion:

ADD TO CLAUSE 23 THE WORDING OF THE MOTION CARRIED AT THE 15TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE (PAGE 6(P) OF THE PUBLISHED MINUTES) AS FOLLOWS: 'THAT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ANGLERS WISHING TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA BE WRITTEN APPROVAL BY THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER:

1. THE ANGLER'S CLUB
2. THE STATE ASSOCIATION
3. THE G.F.A.A.

Mr. Coombs pointed out that the motion referred to was not in fact carried. The minutes record finally resolved that the matter be left for the in-coming executive to advise the procedure to all affiliated clubs, but the in-coming executive did nothing about it.

Mr. Gay feared that because of the time lag which could arise because of the necessity for written approval it might automatically exclude a lot of people. He did not disagree with the motion but felt it was unwieldy. The executive officer had the ability to go direct to individual clubs. Mr. Redmond also thought written applications would take too long. He felt a state association could ring a club and get a confidential report on a member.

Mr. Gibbs asked if it was the intent that G.F.A.A. be the final arbiter in the event of there being ten recommendations for a team of five and Mr. Palmer said that in his opinion the executive of G.F.A.A. should have the final choice.

MR. T. MITCHELL MOVED AN AMENDMENT, SECONDED BY MR. GAY, THAT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ANGLERS WISHING TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA BE APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER:

1. THE ANGLER'S CLUB
2. THE STATE ASSOCIATION
3. THE G.F.A.A. EXECUTIVE WHO SHALL SELECT THE TEAM.

Mr. Palmer suggested the addition of the following:

ALL SUCH TEAMS SHALL WEAR A UNIFORM IN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COLOURS OF GREEN AND GOLD AND OF A STYLE APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Carried.

The AMENDMENT then became the MOTION and was

Carried.

Item 8. (Not submitted as a motion)

THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE NEED, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE G.F.A.A. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS WITH A DECISION EITHER THAT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OTHER THAN ONE FROM THE SAME STATE AS PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY BE DELETED FROM CLAUSE 11(a), OR THAT EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (TO ACT AS THE EYES AND EARS OF G.F.A.A. FOR RULE OBSERVANCE) BE APPOINTED FOR EACH MAJOR FISHING AREA IN AUSTRALIA.

The subject was discussed and each state offered their views.

ITEM 6. NSWQFA BYLAWS WITHDRAWN
in place B.D. Mitchell

Item 9. (Not submitted as a Motion)

THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE FUTURE OF THE G.F.A.A. ALL-AUSTRALIA GAME FISHING CONTEST IN ITS PRESENT FORM OR WHETHER SOME OTHER FORM OF COMPETITION TO SUIT THE PRESENT DAY FISHING AND HABITS BE SUBSTITUTED.

Speaking on behalf of N.S.W. and affiliated clubs, Mr. Heyward said there has been a fair amount of discussion in regard to the All-Australia. It has been held each two years, the venue was to be selected, the date and time of the year, and N.S.W. wished to have discussion at this Conference on whether the All-Australia should stay within N.S.W., whether the All-Australia should be held each two years, where, and at what time of the year.

As it is now, it is held late January and in N.S.W. waters there is not a great deal of fish available at that time. Some consideration might also be given to expanding the All-Australia up and down the Australian coast.

Each State expressed their several views on the subject.

Mr. Heyward requested that the matter be referred to the in-coming executive for further consideration.

Item 10. Motion:

DELETE FROM CLAUSE 8(a) 'FROM TIME TO TIME'. ADD TO CLAUSE 8(a) 'AT EACH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE'.

Mr. O'Brien said that N.S.W. felt Clause 8(a) was not specific. They would like to be able to plan and know what their contributions to G.F.A.A. would be, and if it was set at each biennial conference they would know where they were going for the next two years.

Dr. Delohery said if a new executive was elected, surely there must be sufficient trust in them to allow them to decide how much money will be collected.

Mr. Gay felt it would be quite improper also to limit the ability of G.F.A.A. to fund itself for a period of two years, particularly in these economic times.

The MOTION was put and

Lost.

FROM THE SHORDFISH AND TUNNY CLUB OF AUSTRALIA:

Motion: Re RULES COMMITTEE:

Mr. T. Mitchell said he would like this submission deferred until Item 7 suggested by N.S.W. had been decided. Item 7 should have been listed under Alterations to the Constitution as the constitution defines what rules we fish under.

Mr. Coombs thanked Mr. T. Mitchell and brought forward Item 7 under Alterations to Fishing Rules from N.S.W. for discussion:

'THAT G.F.A.A. FISHING RULES BE IDENTICAL WITH I.G.F.A.'

Mr. Waddy, on behalf of N.S.W., recommended that G.F.A.A. fishing rules be identical with I.G.F.A.

Mr. Palmer said he believed that for many years G.F.A.A. has been adopting the new I.G.F.A. rules as they come into force. We have a set of rules and to alter them is actually a drafting job that requires a lot of work. I.G.F.A. rules relate to a lot of other things that are not applicable in our constitution.

Mr. Leahy had no criticism of the angling regulations but G.F.A.A. has its own national set of rules and G.F.A.A. had no say in the alteration of the rules of I.G.F.A. I.G.F.A. do not submit amendments of the I.G.F.A. rules to G.F.A.A. first for consideration.

Mr. Waddy said there had been very healthy discussion on the motion and for the good of the Conference N.S.W. withdrew the motion.

Withdrawn.

Mr. Coombs advised receiving the following telegram:

"I TRUST HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE
BENEFICIAL TO GAME FISHING. COMMENDATIONS
TO YOURSELF AND BASIL FOR A JOB WELL DONE.
REGARDS TO ALL.....JOHN TAYLOR" (Life Member)

FROM THE SWORDFISH AND TUNNY CLUB OF AUSTRALIA.

Motion:

RULES COMMITTEE. G.F.A.A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL APPOINT A RULES COMMITTEE OF THREE MEMBERS WHO SHALL HAVE POWER TO CO-OPT EXPERIENCED ANGLERS, BOATMEN AND TACKLE MANUFACTURERS AS REQUIRED. ONE MEMBER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RULES COMMITTEE, SHALL ALSO BE A MEMBER OF G.F.A.A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO RULES BROUGHT FORWARD BY ANGLERS CLUB, STATE BRANCHES OR OTHERS WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE AND ANY RECOMMENDED MODIFICATION WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL WHERE ADOPTION WOULD REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. PROPOSED MODIFICATION WOULD BE NOTIFIED TO STATE BRANCHES NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS BEFORE SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL.

Mr. T. Mitchell said the suggestion was put forward in the hope that it would find some merit in the eyes of other state branches. It was not a facsimile of what should appear in the rule book but a suggestion of policy and would probably need to be re-drafted with certain alterations.

Mr. Gay said Queensland had discussed the matter prior to attending the Conference. He supported the concept of a Rules Committee. It is not always in the best interests of the rules that they are formulated and re-drafted, sometimes in haste, at these Biennial Conferences. Mr. Gay therefore supported Victoria's submission.

The MOTION was put and

Carried.

FROM THE GAME FISHING CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Motion:

THAT A FURTHER CLAUSE (e) BE ADDED TO CONSTITUTION ITEM 12, ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TO READ: 'THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY SHALL BE LIMITED TO A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TWO YEARS.

Mr. Johnston said that a lot of people had aspirations for the position of President and the limit of two years would act as a stimulus to some people. He thought it was self-evident and a reasonable proposition to occupy this position for not longer than two years.

After all delegates had expressed the views of their states, Mr. Palmer asked leave to amend the resolution to read:

CLAUSE 12(e). THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY SHALL BE A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY FOLLOWING HIS ELECTION. A PRESIDENT SHALL NOT HOLD OFFICE DURING TWO SUCCESSIVE TERMS OF OFFICE.

Mr. Palmer said the purpose of the motion was to ensure as many Presidents as possible, providing they are the right type, from as many different parts of the country, and secondly, there should be incentive for the right type of person to aspire to the Presidency.

Mr. Cutler moved an AMENDMENT, seconded by Mr. Gay: THE PRESIDENT SHALL NORMALLY SERVE A TERM OF TWO YEARS." The AMENDMENT was Carried.

The AMENDMENT then became the MOTION, which now reads: CLAUSE 12(e). THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY SHALL BE A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY FOLLOWING HIS ELECTION. THE PRESIDENT SHALL NORMALLY SERVE A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

The MOTION was put and Carried.

FROM G.F.A.A. EXECUTIVE: Motion:

1. THAT ITEM 12(c) READ: 'EACH STATE BRANCH SHALL ADVISE G.F.A.A. THE NAME OF THEIR NOMINEE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.
2. THAT PARAGRAPHS (b), (c) AND (d) BE RE-NUMBERED (d), (e) AND (f).

Mr. Coombs said that the thought behind this was that the proposed nominee should be decided by each state branch at a general meeting, not at the Conference table where selection or nomination might embarrass someone.

The MOTION was put and

Lost.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Gay asked the President to retire temporarily. He then addressed the Conference and said that Queensland had circulated the required citation and pursuant to Section 16, Life Membership, all the required details had been attended to. He called on Dr. Delohery to support him in this proposal for Life Membership to be conferred on Bill Coombs.

Dr. Delohery said that Mr. Coombs had been dedicated to game fishing and game fishing administration, and he did not think there was a person more qualified to accept Life Membership of this Association. He had very much pleasure in supporting the nomination.

Mr. Leahy read a letter from Mr. Tom Bell (Life Member) and Mr. Goadby requested that it be included in the minutes:

"I am very pleased to endorse your proposal that Bill Coombs be made a Life Member of the G.F.A.A. I have known Bill for many years and am delighted to know that he will be so honoured for the work he has done for game fishing. With best wishes,

Sincerely,
Tom Bell."

The proposal for Life Membership was unanimously accepted.

RESOLUTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman called for the nominations for the position of President.

Mr. Palmer nominated Mr. P. Gay, seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Mr. Goadby MOVED: THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED, Seconded by Mr. Redmond.

The Chairman announced Mr. Patrick Gay of Queensland as President-elect.

Mr. Gay thanked delegates for the honour and said he would do all in his power to fully perform the duties of President.

Mr. Gay then announced the appointment of Mr. Michael Leahy as his Honorary Secretary.

The Chairman then invited nominations for the position of Vice-President.

Mr. Cutler nominated Mr. John O'Brien from N.S.W. as Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Gay.

The Chairman declared Mr. John O'Brien Vice-President elect.

Nominations were then invited for the five positions of Executive Officer.

<u>S.A.</u>	<u>Mr. E. Mitchell</u> , nominated by Mr. Palmer, seconded Mr. Heyward.	<u>Elected.</u>
<u>Victoria</u>	<u>Mr. I. Cutler</u> , nominated by Mr. T. Mitchell seconded Mr. Goadby.	<u>Elected.</u>
<u>N.T.</u>	<u>Mr. G. Redmond</u> , nominated by Mr. Johnston seconded Mr. Palmer	<u>Elected.</u>
<u>W.A.</u>	<u>Mr. K. Gibbs</u> , nominated by Mr. Redmond seconded Mr. Jacob	<u>Elected.</u>
<u>Tasmania</u>	<u>Mr. J. Jacob</u> , nominated by Mr. Charlton seconded Mr. Waddy	<u>Elected.</u>

ALTERATIONS TO FISHING RULES
FROM NEW SOUTH WALES GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION:

1. Motion:

NEW RULE: THAT ANY DELIBERATE FALSIFICATION OF AN APPLICATION WILL DISQUALIFY THE APPLICANT FROM ANY FUTURE G.F.A.A. AUSTRALIAN RECORDS.

Mr. Goadby said N.S.W. believed that if the rule they suggested, and borrowed from I.G.F.A., is adopted, it will make some of the people who are fishing unethically, some people who are going around rules and bending them, think twice if they realise that there is provision in the rules that if in the opinion of the executive they have deliberately falsified a claim, or in making a statutory declaration that they have observed all the rules when they have not, they can be disqualified from future G.F.A.A. Australian records.

General discussion followed and Mr. Coombs asked if N.S.W. was prepared to accept a recommendation that the in-coming committee refer investigation to the Rules Committee. Mr. Goadby said N.S.W. was prepared to accept the recommendation of the rules committee but would like noted in the minutes of this Conference the intention of the delegates from all over Australia, so that it is there as a lead.

The MOTION was put in the following terms:

16(a)(viii) ANY DELIBERATE FALSIFICATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A RECORDING MAY DISQUALIFY THE APPLICANT FROM ANY TROPHIES, AWARDS OR RECORDS.

Carried.

Mr. T. Mitchell asked whether he could take it that this would be incorporated in the next reprint as he would like to circulate it to all members. The Secretary said it would appear in the bulletins which go to each club and it was up to the clubs to circulate it from there on.

2. Motion:

ADD TO RULES 13(a) AND 15(a): 'BY A FULLY FINANCIAL MEMBER'.

After a full discussion it was generally agreed that this was a domestic matter, that an angler was either a member of a club or he was not a member, and that the existing wording of the Rules was adequate.

The MOTION was put and

Lost.

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Mr. Heyward suggested that the next two items be considered together.

3. THAT THE WORDS 'INTENT OF THE RULES' BE ADDED TO FISHING RULES NOS. 4, 5, 8, 13 AND 14.
4. THAT DRAWINGS BE INCLUDED SHOWING CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF RULES NOS. 4, 7, 8 AND 12.

Mr. Heyward pointed out that his club was one of the newer clubs and some anglers would benefit by the additions suggested. This might be referred to the new Rules Committee. Mr. Goadby said that what N.S.W. requested was that the intent of each rule as well as the wording of the rule be included so that new members are quite clear as to what the rule means.

REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE.

Departure from Agenda

It was suggested that any further consideration of alterations to the fishing rules be deferred for the moment in favour of some of the more important things listed under General Business, and when they are finished, come back and discuss as far as possible the alterations to the fishing rules.

General Business

FROM NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN AT THE 16TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE BY NEW SOUTH WALES GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION: 'IN WHAT WATERS ARE FISH TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AUSTRALIAN RECORDS?'

Mrs. Nielsen felt that for Australian records a fish should be capable of being weighed at an Australian weigh station. Mr. T. Mitchell pointed out that the rules covered such situations as "two people fishing together can erect a gallows" and as long as the weighing was witnessed.

Mr. Leahy MOVED, seconded by Mr. Gay:

MOTION: THAT PARAGRAPH 2 OF RULE 17 READ: FISH WEIGHED AT AN AUSTRALIAN WEIGH STATION CAUGHT FROM A BOAT LEAVING AND RETURNING TO AN AUSTRALIAN PORT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR AUSTRALIAN RECORDS.

Carried.

FROM THE SWORDFISH AND TUNNY CLUB OF AUSTRALIA:

SECRETARIAT: The executive committee will no doubt report on progress in this matter.

SECRETARIAT

Mr. Cutler said he did not feel there was any need for further discussion. The matter will no doubt be progressed by the in-coming executive. Mr. T. Mitchell said the in-coming executive would no doubt seek guidance from this Conference.

Mr. Coombs said the question of the Secretariat had concerned the executive of this Association for at least the past eight years. It has been discussed and debated at the last four Conferences, approved by the 1971 Conference and the present executive were instructed to explore every avenue for establishing a permanent Secretariat. He and the Secretary had given it a great deal of thought during the whole of their term of office.

Every time it was discussed the question of how to finance it had come up. The sum of \$8000 to \$10,000 was suggested as a conservative minimum two years ago and it would be much more now. Victorian delegates had spoken of a levy of \$10 per head from every club member. Finding finance of this order would be a major task, coming on top of club fees, state affiliation fees, G.F.A.A. affiliation fees, and even \$5 a head would have a drastic snowballing adverse effect on club membership.

The executive considered that the whole matter demanded a thorough detailed study by the in-coming executive and for that reason it was included in Recommendations by the Administration.

Mr. Cutler said the original submission of the Swordfish and Tunny Club going back some eight or ten years was to establish a permanent home for GFAA in terms of the administration, and ideally this should be located in N.S.W., either at a university or at the marine centre in Cronulla, or a central location such as that, where a part-time secretary could be employed on the maintenance of G.F.A.A. records, dealing with correspondence between the states, and also to act as a repository for G.F.A.A. records which should be maintained in some permanent form.

The issue was discussed at length. No further action was required by Conference as the issue was incorporated in the Administration Recommendation which has been dealt with and passed earlier in Conference.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Mr. Coombs asked whether the conference would like to discuss the question of government grants. Delegates were all aware of the extent of the grants for which we applied. He advised receiving a letter from N.S.W. Association which was read to delegates. In explanation he said that the executive had to act quickly and were prompted to do so by action taken by Cairns club.

Mr. Goadby referred to action being taken involving all states without consultation with the executive officers. N.S.W. as a matter of principle was not objecting to any money being sought to administer the sport, for the support of scientific projects in conjunction with the sport, as distinct from participating in tournaments.

Mr. Coombs said that a requirement was that G.F.A.A. supply an audited statement as at 30 June and a certificate signed by an auditor who holds no position in the Association.

Mr. Gay saw nothing contentious in the documentation provided. The Association had an opportunity to obtain and use money for the funding of a Secretariat, to which he had no objection. Mr. Palmer said in his opinion there was nothing wrong with applying for the maximum. He honestly believed G.F.A.A. had something to contribute. Museums attract big grants and we have very interesting historical material here in Australia. He suggested applying for an increased grant.

It was MOVED by Mr. Gay, seconded Mr. Gibbs:

THAT WE ACCEPT THESE GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES.

Mr. Coombs said that the terms of this motion meant in effect that the grants approved for travel to and from this Conference and to and from the Cairns tournament ought not to be applied for.

Mr. Palmer MOVED an AMENDMENT, seconded by Mr. Johnston

THAT THIS CONFERENCE RATIFIES AND CONFIRMS THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY IN REGARD TO THE COMMONWEALTH GRANTS AS SET OUT IN THE CORRESPONDENCE."

Carried.

The AMENDMENT then became the MOTION and was

Carried.

Mr. Goadby still wanted the fare subsidies issue cancelled as far as N.S.W. was concerned.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

FROM G.F.A.A. EXECUTIVE:

- a: 1. THAT CONFERENCE DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD DELETE ALL REFERENCE TO CAPTURES IN P.N.G. WATERS FROM THE G.F.A.A. REGISTER OF AUSTRALIAN RECORDS FOLLOWING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND, IF NECESSARY, WHETHER THE AUSTRALIAN RECORD HELD IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO ANY SUCH DELETION/S SHOULD BE REINSTATED AND SHOWN AS THE CURRENT RECORD.

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The Secretart said there would be no problem with deleting records now being held by people who have caught them in New Guinea veters or from New Guinea clubs, as we have got the previous record.

Queensland opposed the motion on the basis that there were several clubs in New Guinea and G.F.A.A. had their members' financial support by way of affiliation fees. They were part of G.F.A.A. when the records were established and they paid their money when these records were obtained. If we take them out of the chart, what happens to Australians who have obtained an earlier Australian record but not claimed it because of the New Guinea record? How would they feel about it? It was similar to the case of an Australian athlete who had a track record in an athletic programme and he then becomes an American citizen. His name is not wiped off the record chart.

After discussion Conference decided to allow the record to remain unaltered.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM I.C.F.A
SUBSCRIPTION TO I.G.F.A. This came under Matters Arising from the last Conference, wherein G.F.A.A. was directed to pay an annual subscription of \$US200 to \$US250 until further notice.

Mr. Palmer MOVED, seconded by Mrs. Nielsen:

THAT G.F.A.A. MAKE A DONATION OF \$US250 TO I.G.F.A.

Carried.

TREASURER

Mr. Leahy said that under General Business he would like to recommend that the Association appoint a Treasurer. The person he had in mind was Col. Seawright, who is a partner in the firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., a firm of chartered accountants in Brisbane. He has agreed to offer his services as Treasurer and, if necessary, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. have offered to be Honorary Auditors.

MOVED by Mr. Leahy, seconded Mr. Palmer:

THAT MR. C. SEAWRIGHT BE APPOINTED TREASURER OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THAT MESSRS. PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO., CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF BRISBANE BE APPOINTED HONORARY AUDITORS.

Carried.

The Conference then returned to discussion of Alterations to Fishing Rules.

ALTERATION TO FISHING RULES NEW SOUTH WALES GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION:

Item 5. Motion:

ADD TO RULE 7 (END OF PARAGRAPH4): 'OR SPLICE'.

The Secretary pointed out that the motion would make the G.F.A.A. rule identical to the I.G.F.A. rule.

Carried.

Item 6. Motion:

THAT RULE 15 BE AGAIN REVIEWED WITH I.G.F.A.

Withdrawn.

Item 7. On page 6.

Item 8. Motion:

THAT G.F.A.A. SEEK FROM I.G.F.A. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO ALL RULES AND THEIR INTERPRETATION WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT THE QUESTIONS AND THE ANSWERS BE PUBLISHED IN I.G.F.A. INTERNATIONAL MARINE ANGLER AND G.F.A.A. NEWSLETTER.

Motion AMENDED.

MOVED by Mr. Goadby, seconded Mr. Johnston:

THAT THE RULES COMMITTEE OF G.F.A.A. PREPARE A SET OF QUESTIONS TO ASK I.G.F.A. AND THAT THEIR ANSWERS BE PUBLISHED IN THE G.F.A.A. NEWSLETTER AND AVAILABLE FOR PROMULGATION TO OUR MEMBER CLUBS SO THAT WE GET UNIFORMITY.

Carried.

Item 9. Motion:

NEW RULE: 'THAT SUCH RULE CHANGES AS PUBLISHED ANNUALLY BY I.G.F.A. BE AUTOMATICALLY APPLICABLE TO G.F.A.A. RULES.'

WHALES & SHARKS

Withdrawn.

Item 10. Motion:

THAT THE SPECIES OF CARCHARHINID SHARKS OTHER THAN TIGER AND BLUE SHARK BE DIVIDED INTO COMMON WHALER AND BRONZE WHALER CATEGORIES.

Mr. Goadby said there were some 14 species of sharks in the Carcharhinid family which have been condensed generally into two categories. He suggested that this matter be looked at in conjunction with the South Australian motion. He saw two possible ways of dealing with this: one, in the interests of adjudicating fairly, lump all the whalers together and thus eliminate one section from the record chart, or, as N.S.W. have suggested here, to give the anglers two categories, by keeping them to the blunt head and wide teeth and the narrower head and short and narrow jaws. The problem has world ichthyologists baffled. N.S.W. was not saying it was the complete answer. It was possible that at this Conference or in two years' time we may end up with one species of whaler.

Mr. Palmer seconded the motion and said he had done some investigation in conjunction with South Australia's motion. The difference between the bronze whaler, as known on the east coast, and the South Australian whaler is indistinguishable except by an ichthyologist and it is something to do with the liver. Mr. Palmer suggested that it should read "Common whaler, all species" because it applies to the various types of black top, white top, greys, and the bronze whaler is quite a separate species.

Mr. Goadby agreed to this and suggested the addition of "all species" after "bronze whaler" because there is one which has a pointed head and a black tip to its second dorsal.

The MOTION now should read:

THAT THE SPECIES OF CARCHARHINID SHARKS OTHER THAN TIGER AND BLUE SHARK BE DIVIDED INTO COMMON WHALER, ALL SPECIES, AND BRONZE WHALER, ALL SPECIES. THE DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OR KEYS FOR INCLUSION IN EACH CATEGORY ARE:

COMMON WHALER

BLUNT HEAD
SERRATED TEETH
BROAD UPPER JAW
NARROW LOWER JAW

BRONZE WHALER

MODERATELY POINTED HEAD
SHORT AND NARROW UPPER JAW
SHORT AND NARROW LOWER JAW

Carried.

FROM GAME FISHING CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Motion:

OWING TO THE MINIMAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE FAMILY OF BRONZE WHALER SHARKS WE PROPOSE THAT THE SEPARATE SPECIES KNOWN AS S.A. WHALER SHARK BE DELETED FROM THE AUSTRALIAN RECORD BOOK AND THAT EXISTING AUSTRALIAN RECORDS FOR THIS SPECIES BE

AMALGAMATED WITH THE BRONZE WHALER SHARK, WITH THE HEAVIEST OF EITHER SPECIE IN EACH LINE CLASS TO BE SHOWN AS THE CURRENT HOLDER OF AN AUSTRALIAN RECORD.

Carried.

FROM QUEENSLAND GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION:

Item 1. Motion:

RULE 13(b): FIRST SENTENCE TO BE DELETED AND INSERT IN LIEU THEREOF: 'NO PERSON OTHER THAN THE ANGLER MAY TOUCH THE ROD REEL OR LINE FROM THE TIME OF STRIKE TO THE TIME OF BOATING THE FISH.'

Mr. Leahy said that Queensland were also thinking of a motion in relation to stunt gaffing, which is pertinent to Rule 13 (b), and the introduction of a new rule 14(h) in relation to attracting a hooked fish back to the boat for the purpose of gaffing. He thought everyone would agree these were difficult things to decide around the Conference table but for the benefit of the Rules Committee, requested some discussion.

Mr. Heyward said his interpretation would be "The angler must hook, fight and bring the fish to trace or gaff unaided by any other person." He considered gunning of the boat would come under the category of being aided by another person, that person being the driver of the boat.

Mr. Palmer said gunning of the boat had been in game fishing since it ever started. It was necessary after the fish had been hooked to take up slack line and keep away from the fish.

It was RESOLVED to refer the matter to the Rules Committee.

REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE.

'IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES'

Item 2. Motion:

THAT A NEW RULE 19(c) BE INSERTED TO READ: 'DISPUTED EXISTING RECORDS WILL BE REFERRED TO THE ENTIRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW. IN CASE OF A DISPUTED SPECIES IDENTIFICATION PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CATCH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TWO QUALIFIED ICHTHYOLOGISTS FOR THEIR DECISION. WHEN A QUESTION OF IDENTIFICATION ARISES THE ANGLER WILL BE NOTIFIED AND GIVEN AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT FURTHER EVIDENCE OF IDENTIFICATION.'

Mr. Leahy said this merely followed I.G.F.A. rules. Queensland felt that if there was some dispute or difficulty in identification, then that identification should be made by qualified people.

Mr. Coombs said that he felt the present Executive should be regarded as reasonably qualified and certainly trusted to settle any dispute of that nature. The Executive had access to quite a few books of reference and had referred questions of identification to Mr. Goadby who was an expert. They could also refer to other qualified ichthyologists if they were in doubt. Mr. Coombs felt this implied a bit of a reflection on the ability of the Executive.

Mr. Goadby supported the Chairman. He said the Executive have people in their states they can call on for an opinion and M.S.W. had faith in the Executive that they would seek the opinion of ichthyologists competent in the particular area.

In the interests of saving time the motion was Withdrawn.

RULE 13(d):

After discussion it was resolved that the Motion read:
THAT THE WORDS "ROD HOLDER" IN RULE 13(d) BE DELETED.

The MOTION was

Carried.

FROM THE G.F.A.A. EXECUTIVE:Item 1. Motion:

THAT RULE 14 'DISQUALIFICATIONS' PARAGRAPH B READ: 'STUNT GAFFING OR THE UNETHICAL USE OF THE BOAT WHICH RESULTS IN THE CAPTURE OF A FISH WITHOUT A PROPER FIGHT', AND THAT THE PRESENT PARAGRAPHS B TO G BE RE-NUMBERED C TO I.

The MOTION, having already been dealt with was

Withdrawn.

Item 2. Motion:

THAT THE FOLLOWING CLAUSE BE INSERTED BETWEEN THE WORDS 'FISH' AND 'WEIGHING' IN RULE 17 'QUALIFICATIONS' 'CLAIMS' (LINE 1 IN RULE BOOK): "CAPTURED WITHIN AUSTRALIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 322 KILOMETRES (200 MILES)"

This matter had already been resolved under General Business.

The MOTION was

Withdrawn.

Item 3. Motion: FILING FEE

THAT THE FILING FEE OF \$5.00 MENTIONED IN RULE 18(h) BE AMENDED TO READ \$10.00.

The Secretary pointed out that the line test conducted at the University of Adelaide costs G.F.A.A. \$4.50 a test, so 50 cents out of the \$5 is to cover postage and record certificate and everything else.

The MOTION was put and

Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESSFROM THE WEST AUSTRALIAN GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION:Motion:

THAT G.F.A.A. GIVE CONSIDERATION TO A PROGRAMME OF IDENTIFICATION, WITH SUITABLE COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS AND DESCRIPTIONS, OF GAME FISH COMMONLY CAUGHT IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS.

Mr. Coombs said that he and the Secretary had been into this and found it to be too costly. He recommended that the in-coming executive consider putting the outlines from Peter Goadby's book into some form of record. Mr. Goadby offered to re-draw the outlines and highlight things for the angler to look for, providing a simple key underneath. This he would be happy to submit so that it could be added to. The Chairman thanked him and assured him the in-coming executive would be most grateful.

REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE.

FROM QUEENSLAND GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION:

WHETHER A FIGHTING CHAIR BUILT IN THE FORM OF A ROWING CHAIR TO MOVE BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS IS IN CONTRAVENTION OF RULE 11.

Mr. Gay put this forward and said that in Cairns there was a chair fitted with rollers in the form of a rowing or sculler's chair. His club had no objection to this device because they did not feel it contravened the 'mechanical aid' covered by Rule 11.

Mr. Goadby read a ruling he had sought from Elwood Harry, which concluded by saying these chairs would be acceptable provided the movement was solely done by the angler's effort.

RESOLVED that such a device was not a contravention of Rule 11.

Conference then returned to discussion on Alterations to Fishing Rules, which had been helited part way through discussion of Queensland's submission on Rule 13(b).

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON RULE 13(b)

Mr. Gibbs said W.A. felt there was quite a lot of urgency about this particular rule, realising that although we have a Rules Committee, it will take some time to implement any changes they decide on. He considered Conference should try to at least improve the rule in the little time available.

Mr. Palmer thought it would be imprudent to rush into an amendment which is contrary to I.G.F.A. and later on have to withdraw, but Mr. Coombs said it was preferable that the matter be thoroughly discussed now while we had the advantage of such a representative gathering of experienced game fishermen.

Mr. Gibbs considered it was vital to improve it today if possible. We have a big problem in Australia where this is occurring and we should be leading I.G.F.A. Mr. Redmond observed that if the fish is caught in a couple of seconds, he has not fought. Mr. Izatt said he had seen fish caught in 3 to 5 minutes. A 35-lb. bait was used, was caught in the gills and the fish choked.

Mr. Goadby said he had been in a position many times to look for reasons to try and disqualify a fish. He cited two instances, one of a 340-lb. Mako which was investigated by the State, by G.F.A.A. and by I.G.F.A., and the other was a 1000-lb. Marlin caught at Cairns on a 50-lb. line. There was nothing in the rules to say that anything wrong had been done. To be able to disqualify, we must be able to define "fight".

Mr. Johnston said sharks come back after berley, or it could come up of its own volition, not knowing it had been hooked. He wondered if an area could be determined by a rule which said the fish must obviously change its behavioural pattern.

Mr. Palmer said Elwood Harry had made one or two pertinent points because he had been inundated with the same problem. It has been canvassed world wide by genuine anglers who are all confronted with the same problem. He was presented with the draft of an amendment to this rule by G.F.A.A. mentioning "stunt gaffing or the unethical use of the boat". Mr. Palmer said it was the intention of the rule that the angler should fight it unaided by the boat and to the maximum limits of the gear being used, but whatever words were used, there was a stumbling block. Mr. Palmer read some comments from Mr. Harry on the subject.

Mr. Palmer said that some of these freak catches have taken the interest out of certain types of fishing. He wondered whether it would be possible to set up an award every five years for a new category. If you like to call the present world record a Gold Button World Record, and in 1975-80 open the classification for the Silver Button, so that you could start catching 50-lb. black marlin again. It was an interesting point that could be kicked around some time as a means of creating interest in areas of the sport which have been blocked off by stunt catches in the past.

Mrs. Nielsen suggested closing off the record book for imperial and starting again with metric on 1st January.

Mr. Palmer thought the Rules Committee could perhaps list all the possible objections and enter into further

discussion with Elwood Harry, but he thought we needed to be very careful about putting words in. The only words he could suggest were "It is the intent of the rule that the angler shall fight the fish to the maximum capacity of the gear that he is using."

Mr. Leahy said the more he listened to the discussion, the more he thought it was going to be very difficult to draft a rule which is capable of some sensible interpretation, and the more he looked at it, the more he felt that, like all sportsmen's rules, it really rests with the angler's conscience. He thought the Rules Committee might consider a provision along these lines: "The intent of the rule is that the angler himself shall hook and fight the fish but may not record it if he considers undue use of the boat has been made or where the fish has been stunned after being struck."

Mr. Gibbs agreed with this but felt the words "Nobody shall use a boat to catch a fish in an unethical manner" could be added. Mr. Palmer said the word "unethical" had no meaning in law, and in any case a boat must be used to keep up with the fish.

Mr. Coombs said he felt the matter had had a good airing and the in-coming executive would have a good idea of the thinking of this Conference from the discussion. The Secretary said that in the meantime a statutory declaration still had to be filled in and lived with.

REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE.

The final matter under General Business:

FROM G.F.A.A. EXECUTIVE:

REPORT TO CONFERENCE OF THE OUTCOME OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.00 A.M. ON 27 NOVEMBER 1975 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING RECENT CRITICISM OF G.F.A.A. BY SYDNEY GAME FISHING CLUB LTD. AND BY THE N.S.W. GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Coombs said this matter had been discussed in some depth. The Conference has resolved the issue which triggered off the matter and the necessary amendments have been made to the constitution, so the position is now fully covered and should never arise again. Mr. Coombs said he very much regretted that it had occurred and was pleased that the matter was now closed.

Mr. Cutler, on behalf of the delegates, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Coombs and his committee for the manner in which the Conference had been conducted and the manner in which G.F.A.A. affairs had been conducted over the past two years. He invited the other delegates to support him.

SUPPORTED BY ACCLAMATION.

Mr. Waddy supported Mr. Cutler's remarks. He said it was his first G.F.A.A. Conference; it was an eye-opener and he wished more anglers could come and see it.

Mr. T. Mitchell said that the observers who are present had asked him to pass on their compliments and to say that they were happy to be allowed to attend. Mr. Coombs said he was very pleased to have them as observers.

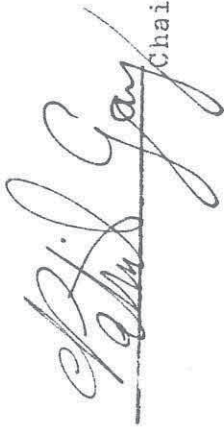
Mr. Gay also endorsed the comments of Mr. Cutler and

expressed his gratitude to Mr. Coombs for his co-operation.
It had been a pleasure to work with him.

Mr. Jacob asked that the conference acknowledge the
difficulty that the reporter had had in following the
discussion.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman
closed the Conference at 5.10 p.m.

(Signed)


Chairman

(Date)

10/11/77

THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1974 - 1975

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report on the administration of this Association during my term of office, and to give you an account of our stewardship over the past two years.

Firstly I want to refer to the death in March last year of our Foundation President and Life Member, Clive Firth. It was mainly through his interest and endeavours that our Association was conceived and established some 38 years ago. He chaired the first Meeting, in October 1937, of what was then called the Big Game and Rod Fishers Association of Australia. Clive's name will live on among game-fishermen, and it is fitting that it still graces our latest Aust. Record Book. Vale Clive Firth.

We were honoured to welcome the new Governor-General of Australia, Sir John Kerr, K.C.M.G., K.St.J., Q.C., as Patron of our Association following the retirement of Sir Paul Hasluck last year.

On the international fishing side it was our privilege to select two Australian Teams. The first was captained by our Vice-President, Pat Gay, and competed in the 26th International Tuna Cup Match at Nova Scotia in September this year. The other, captained by our 'Old Man and the Sea', Bob Dyer, represented Australia in the Cairns International Black Marlin Tournament earlier this month. We congratulate all Members on their selection. Both Teams acquitted themselves as well as the fish allowed. Our chaps at Nova Scotia proved worthy ambassadors for Australia, and we appear assured of a repeat invitation next year.

On the home front we were grateful to N.S.W.G.F.A. and to Broken Bay Game Fishing Club for again conducting another successful All-Australia Contest - the 7th - in January this year. We gave our blessing to several other Australian Contests, including the 2nd and 3rd Australian Northern Bluefin Tuna Contests run by the Moreton Bay G-F. Club at Tangalooma in 1974 & 75, the 5th Australian Bluefin Tuna Contest conducted by The Tuna Club of Tasmania last year, and the International Tournament staged by the Cairns Club earlier this month. All of these events were splendidly organised and well patronised by visitors from most States.

It has been encouraging to note the increase in the number, size and quality of new boats entering the sport; the ever-widening searches for game-fish; the growing number of Clubs and Members; and the continually improving facilities being provided, of which the new Weigh Station at Cairns is a fine example.

It is also reassuring to observe the increasing emphasis being placed on Conservation of our fish stocks by planned Tagging Programmes and the introduction of Tag and Release Sections in Club and other Contests. Both N.S.W. and Queensland have been particularly active in this connection and are to be congratulated on their initiative.

The Tom Bell Trophy was won last year by our Hon. Sec., Basil Mitchell with a 1257 lb Black Marlin taken at Cairns. At this stage Seville Green looks the likely 1975 winner with one of 1367 lbs caught in the same area.

On the developmental side we have maintained continual close liason and friendly co-operation with the Executive of I.G.F.A. throughout our term of office, and the introduction to their World Record Chart of most of the species we recommended to them was appreciated.

With the Declaration of Independence by Papua New Guinea on 15 th September this year, the five Game-Fishing Clubs there formed their own G.F.A. of P.N.G. and ceased their direct association with G.G.F.A., who consequently lost some 380 members. But this gap is being filled. Two new Clubs were formed, each with 60 Members; viz. Lord Howe Island, affiliated with NS/IGFAssocn., and the Victorian Game Fishing Club, with two other Clubs in the process of formation in N.S.W. and Queensland. The Swordfish & Tunny Club of Aust. are making arrangements for the formation of a Victorian State Association to cover the latest addition there.

As this is International Women's Liberation Year, we gave consideration to acknowledging their equality by amalgamating the Men's and Women's Australian Records, but decided to take no immediate action.

We have kept in close and continuous touch with our fellow Executive Officers in each State throughout our term of office, and have sought and benefitted from their opinions. We have also ensured that State Branches have been kept fully informed of developments as they have occurred, and have been grateful for their attention to correspondence generally.

Whilst we have enjoyed some praise for certain innovations, I must record that we have also come in for censure from two quarters in the exercise of our office. We have advised both parties that their criticisms have been placed on the Agenda for discussion by the Executive Committee at 9 a.m. this morning, and that the outcome will be reported to this Conference.

Our Hon. Secretary, Basil Mitchell, has been quite invaluable to the Association and a tower of strength to me. Apart from attending to all the necessary routine details, he has put an incredible amount of thought, time and effort into furthering the welfare of our sport and this Association. I cannot speak too highly of his devotion, initiative and interest in carrying out the task allotted to him.

For my part, I am grateful for having been entrusted with the Presidency - it has been a memorable experience. I have the time, the inclination and perhaps the capacity to contribute further and, if these services are called upon, they will be readily available.

In conclusion, may I remind you that the first Meeting of our Association was held in Sydney on 26th October 1937, and that we have inherited an impressive record of achievement over the intervening 33 years. Rapid and far reaching changes are occurring in most sports in these exciting times, and ours is no exception. A heavy responsibility rests on our shoulders therefore to ensure that we shape our future wisely for the consolidation of G.F.A.A. and the continued improvement of our sport. I sincerely trust that all Clubs will give their full support to the new Executive who are to administer our Association and lead us over the next two years.

26 Nov 75.

Bill Coombs

PRESIDENT

THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

1974 - 1975

Mr. President, Mrs. Nielsen, Gentlemen, I have pleasure in presenting my Report covering two years of Administration.

A number of tasks were set for us by the last Conference in 1973. Most have been achieved but, unfortunately, a few had to be left for obvious reasons. Some of these have been covered by the President in his report - others are reported on as follows;

1. AUSTRALIAN RECORD BOOK: The introduction of this Book last year, and repeated this year with the Fishing Rules, World Record Weight reference, and the tear-out Australian Record Application Form centre-piece included, was, in our opinion, a timely innovation which can be extended to assist State and Club finances by considering the following suggestions;

- (a) The Application Form could be used for State and Club Recordings by the addition of a few words. Cost would be minimal if printed at the same time as 1976 Record Book.
- (b) An extra column could be added to each page (there is enough space). This blank column could then be used by Members for entering their own State Records.
- (c) A sketch of each specie could be printed at top of each page, as per the sketches appearing in the publication 'Big Fish and Blue Water' whose author, Peter Goadby has kindly given his permission for the Association to use any part of this book as required.

2. G.F.A.A. BULLETINS: These have been distributed quarterly direct to Club Secretaries, saving double handling and postal charges for State Branches. We devoted much thought to the production of a publication to replace the Bulletins. This was to be called 'The Australian Gamefisherman', of 4 pages with photographs, topical news items and stories from the local scene and amendments to Australian and World Records, and mailed free of charge to every Club Member. Our intention was to make contact with members through their Clubs, with Club Secretaries including their own Circulars & Notices etc. This would result in every Member receiving at least four communications a year - 4 publications from GFAA, the Aust. Record Book and Club literature. This idea lacked support from three States, so it was deferred.

3. G.F.A.A. BUTTONS: To avoid overlapping of book-keeping, of correspondence and postage, we transferred authority to State Branches to order and issue GFAA Buttons to members in their own States, and a considerable saving has resulted.

4. I.G.F.A. NEW SPECIES: As a result of persistent requests to IGFA from this and past Administrations, IGFA included several species of game-fish and the Hammerhead Shark to the World Record Book. These additional species are prevalent in our waters and have accounted for approximately half of the World Record Claims received by GFAA in the past two years.

5. REGISTER OF AUSTRALIAN RECORDS: We have produced a new Australian Record Register to cover the change over to Metric. It also shows the 'imperial' weights and includes details of measurements which are of immediate interest and could benefit future researchers.
6. G.F.A.A. SEAL: With regard to the Registration of our name and Seal, we sought opinions from legal and Patent & Mark Attorneys in this and other States, but were unable to arrive at any satisfactory solution to this problem. Consensus of opinion was that there is little if any risk in carrying on as we have in the past.
7. THE CONSTITUTION: We made an attempt to redraft the Constitution this year, but in view of the many suggestions which came forward for inclusion on the Agenda for this Conference, we thought it useless to go to the expense of producing our proposed re-draft, and decided to defer the matter pending the outcome of Conference this week.
8. TREASURER: While it is helpful to have an ex-banker as President or Secretary to act as Treasurer, this ideal situation may not always be possible. It is suggested therefore that the Executive should have the authority to appoint a Treasurer if they so wish, for at times another pair of shoulders could be beneficial to all.
9. APPLICATIONS FOR RECORDS: A few statistics are included for interest. Figures cover the two years 1974 and 1975 as at 11 Nov 75.

<u>AUSTRALIAN RECORDS</u>		
<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Granted; 40	32	72
Rejected; 12	9	21
Pending; 7	1	8
Total; 59	42	101

<u>WORLD RECORDS</u>		
<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Granted; 14	15	29
Rejected; 8	5	13
Pending; 8	-	8
Total; 30	20	50

In conclusion I wish to thank Members of the Executive and State Branch Secretaries for the co-operation they have given me. To President Bill Coombs, a thank you for the personal help and guidance which was always so readily available.

26 Nov 75.

Basil Mitchell.
HON. SECRETARY.

THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

FINANCIAL REPORT

We submit the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the 24 months ended 31st October 1975, and the Balance Sheet of the Association as at that date.

The books and accounts were audited by a Firm of Chartered Accountants as on 30th June 74 and again as on 30th June 75 in terms of our Constitution, and the Auditor's Reports for both these periods are attached. The Auditor is a Member of our local Club and we have suitably thanked him for his honorary services in this connection.

We feel that it may be preferable for the accounts to be ruled off and audited as at the 31st October each year, or every other year, or when the Administration changes hands, rather than at the unrelated date of 30th June as at present. Although we are pleased to be able to report that all States have paid their full Affiliation Fees for this year by the prescribed due date, 31st October 75, this has not always been the case. It is relevant to point out, for example, that four States had not paid their full Annual Subscriptions by 31st October in 1973, and were not therefore entitled to exercise their rights as Members by voting at the 16th Biennial Conference in 1973, although this conformance with the Constitution was generously overlooked. We are aware that payment of these dues by the 31st October entails hardship on some State Branches, and recommend that this be recognised and the date amended to say 31st December in any re-draft of our Constitution.

With inflation at recent levels, most charges, particularly Postage and Telephone, have increased considerably. They would have been higher still had it not been that many interstate phone calls, postage and duplicating costs were not charged. This is mentioned solely that it may be borne in mind by anyone estimating these costs in future budgeting.

As a result of an announcement by the Aust. Government in November last year of proposed subsidy grants of up to \$1.15 million to sporting bodies generally, we applied for the maximum assistance allowable in each of the several areas applicable to our Association, to a total of over \$15,000. Whilst we have been denied assistance in some of the areas applied for, and have been promised limited subsidies only in others, we consider we were fortunate in receiving approval for total subsidies of \$4,400.

Some \$1,200 of this will be available shortly to subsidise fares of certain Australian Team Members who took part in the Cairns International Tournament this month, and over \$1,000 to Cairns Club to assist meet their administrative costs in staging that event. An amount of \$750 has been approved to subsidise fares of one Delegate from each State and certain Executive Officers to this Conference. The balance of the approved sum, \$1,440 has been promised as a 50% subsidy of the salary of a part-time typiste for two days per week, for up to 48 weeks per year at \$60 p.w., and a continuation of this latter subsidy has been promised for 1976.

We were grateful to Cairns Club and particularly to John Izatt for their initiative and alertness in making their own original approach for Government assistance, and in advising us promptly of the possibilities open also to this Association.

1 Nov 75.

W.B.Coombs.

THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31st OCTOBER 1975

<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS;</u>	<u>31/10/75</u>	<u>31/10/73</u>
Balance at 31st October 1973;	\$2724	
<u>Less</u> Prior period Adjustments, vide Auditor's Report at 30th June 1974;	<u>156</u>	\$1520
<u>Add;</u> Excess of Income over Expenditure, vide Statement attached;	1859	162
Affiliation Fees paid in Advance;		1042
BALANCE as at 31st October 1975;	<u>\$4427</u>	<u>\$2724</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

Current Assets;

Cash in Interest-bearing A/c.,
National Bank, Rundle Street; \$3971

Sundry Debtors; 111

Sundry items of Stock; 145

Fixed Assets;

Duplicating Machine; \$140

Filing Cabinet; 10

Seal; 50

10

200

Less; Creditors;

Nil.

\$4427

\$5474

2750

\$4427

\$2724

1 Nov 75.

W.B.Coombs.

PRESIDENT.

B.D.Mitchell.

SECRETARY.

THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1975

1972/3	EXPENDITURE	1974/5	1972/3	INCOME	1974/5
1706	Cost of Buttons	328	1701	Sale of Buttons	642
458	" Rule Books	1048	430	" Rule Books	1189
250	'74 A.Record Books	1400		'74 A.Record Bks	45
	'75 Aust. " "	2100		'75 Aust. " "	-
	Postage & Freight	527		Affiliation Fees;	
	Telephone & T/grms	252		1974 1975	
	Printing & Statny.	597		Qld; 1098 600	
725	Duplicating	192		NSW; 1529 1896	
	Purchase of 2nd-hand Duplicator	140		Vic; 89 126	
5	Engraving & Insce. Tom Bell Trophy	40		Tas; 234 296	
	Repairs to Seal	48		S.A; 164 165	
	Univ.of Adelaide, Line Testing costs	315	3121	W.A; 367 353	
446	Two years Subs.to IGFA (2 @ US\$250)	357	575	N.T; 70 52	
169	Sundries	56	57	3551 3488	7039
7	Payments to Creditors outstanding on 31st October 1973	348		Filing Fees re;	
2126	1973 Year Book	1838		Aust.Records	405
4407	1973 All-Aust.Comp.		4747	World Records	495
2014	1972 & 73 Tuna "		2262	Bank Interest	106
586	1973 B.Conference	701	250	Collection of A/cs outstanding on 31st October 1973;	
25	Audit Fees			Sundry Debtors;	2085
57	Losses Written off			Affiliation Fees	140
	Contra Items	320		1973 All-Aus.Comp.	
				1972 & 73 Tuna "	
				Advertising revenue	-
				Contra items	320
12981	TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	10607	13143	TOTAL INCOME:	12466
162	EXCESS of INCOME over Expenditure;	1859			
13143		\$ 12466	13143		\$ 12466

1 Nov 75.

W.B.Coombs.
PRESIDENT.