

THE GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

MINUTES of the Twenty First Biennial Conference held at Menzies Hotel, Sydney on the 17th and 18th November, 1983.

PRESENT:	President & Chairman	Mr. C.I. Cutler
	Vice President	Mr. P. Goadby
	Hon. Secretary	Mr. P. McNamara
	Past President	Mr. J.C. Johnston
	Delegates from Queensland	Mrs. D.V. Neilsen, Messrs J. Izatt, M.D. Ramsay, W. Stoddart, P.V. Gay
	Delegates from N.S.W.	Messrs W.R. Heyward, R.E. Waddy, R. Curry, T. Roche
	Delegates from Victoria	Messrs R. Ellis, K. Taylor, R. Denham R. Fisher
	Observer	Mr. Neil Ipsen
	Delegates from Tasmania	Messrs J. Jacob, M. Constantine
	Delegates from S.A.	Messrs R. Parsons, J.C. Johnston
	Delegate from N.T.	Mr. C. Mellon
	Delegate from W.A.	Mr. N. Patrick
	Life Members Present	Messrs W.B. Coombes - S.A., J. O'Brien - N.S.W., E. Palmer - S.A., P.V. Gay - Q'ld., P. Goadby, N.S.W.
	Dept. of Fisheries	Dr. J. Pepperell

APOLOGIES: Messrs C. Roberts - N.T., R. Durrell - W.A., G. Bevan - N.S.W., J.W. Taylor (Life Member)

PRESIDENTS WELCOME:

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for attending what he described as the main Game Fishing Conference in Australia and wished the conference every success in deliberations. The delegates were then invited to stand and introduce themselves to the assembled conference.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous conference held in 1981 were confirmed on the motion of Mr. J. Johnston and seconded by Mr. W.R. Heyward and carried.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

The President outlined his report covering activities over the past two years which was received with acclamation. A copy of the report was circulated to all conference delegates.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Mr. Goadby delivered the Vice Presidents report which had also been circulated and was received by all delegates with acclamation.

Following the Vice Presidents report State Executive Officers were then invited to submit their reports to the conference.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Mr. Colin McKay submitted the financial statement for the year ending June 30th 1983, which had been audited and circulated to the delegates.

Following questions from the delegates it is noted that there are certain stocks of lapel badges, car and boat stickers plus a number of patches which have not been taken into account as assets of the Association.

It was arranged that the balance sheet should be re-submitted in proper form to the auditors and circulated to delegates following the annual general meeting.

Subject to these alterations being made the report was received and adopted.

REPORT BY DR. JULIAN PEPPERELL:

Dr. Pepperell gave a verbal report of the success of the N.S.W. Department of Fisheries tagging program which interested the delegates from all over Australia. As the tagging program is now of Australia wide interest the N.S.W. Department of Fisheries is the central tagging organiser for the whole of Australia and reports of recoveries of fish tagged were received.

Dr. Pepperell was accorded a vote of acclamation following his report and thanks from all concerned.

I.G.F.A. TRUSTEE REPORT:

Mr. E.W. Palmer gave a verbal report of I.G.F.A. activities and stressed the requirement for additional support for I.G.F.A. over the next few years.

Mr. Palmer indicated that I.G.F.A. would be holding a first world angling conference in France in September, 1984 and delegates were advised that applications for attendance would be received by I.G.F.A. shortly.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Chairman called for nominations for the election of office bearers for the period 1984/85.

PRESIDENT:

Mr. A.M. Ramsay, Q'ld. was nominated by the Chairman Mr. Cutler, seconded by Mrs. Neilsen. There were no further nominations and the Chairman congratulated Mr. Ramsay on his appointment as President-elect.

Mr. Ramsay thanked the Chairman and delegates for their support.

VICE PRESIDENT:

Mr. W.R. Heyward nominated by Mr. A.M. Ramsay and seconded by Mr. J.F. Jacob.

There were no further nominations and the President declared Mr. Heyward Vice President-elect. Mr. Heyward thanked the Chairman and delegates for their support.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

Mr. R.E. Waddy was nominated by Mr. R.G. Ellis and seconded by Mr. R. Fisher. There being no further nominations Mr. Waddy was elected as Executive Vice President.

The Chairman stated that it would be up to Mr. Ramsay to nominate his working secretary for the ensuing 12 months and no doubt he would advise the conference delegates in due course of that appointment.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR EACH STATE:

Queensland - Mrs. D.V. Neilsen for North Queensland and Mr. W.A. Stoddart for South Queensland nominated by the Queensland Game Fishing Association.

N.S.W. - Mr. R. Curry nominated by N.S.W. Game Fishing Association.

Victoria - Mr. R.G. Ellis nominated by Game Fishing Association of Victoria.

Tasmania - Mr. John Jacob nominated by Tasmanian Game Fishing Association.

S.A. - Mr. R. Parsons nominated by S.A.G.F.A.

W.A. - Mr. N. Patrick nominated by W.A.G.F.A.

N.T. - Mr. K. Moore nominated by N.T.G.F.A.

MR. PETER GOADBY:

The President spoke to the conference and indicated how sorry the conference delegates were to lose the contribution of Mr. Peter Goadby who has suffered a

change of circumstances and is unable to carry on with the presidential position at this point of time. A tribute was paid to Mr. Goadby for all the time and effort he has put into the Association over the many years.

PROPOSALS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Mr. E. Palmer formerly read the citation for Life Membership for Mr. John Johnston and Life Membership was conferred on Mr. John Johnston with acclamation.

Mr. M. Ramsay and Mr. J. Izatt formerly proposed Life Membership for Mrs. D.V. Neilsen which also was carried with acclamation.

ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION:

1. From the Executive that article 10(A) in the constitution be amended as follows:

President to be elected by the delegates at a general meeting of G.F.A.A.

Secretary to be appointed from the same State Branch as the President

Immediate Past President

Vice President - to be elected from another State Branch

Executive Vice President - to be elected from and resident in the State which the secretariat is situated.

Executive Officers - each State Branch shall appoint one Executive Officer except for Queensland G.F.A. which will have two Executive Officers (one from North of the Tropic of Capricorn and one from South of the Tropic of Capricorn). The motion was submitted to the conference and was carried on the voices.

2. Queensland motion to include a clause as follows:

- Tournament Rules
1. Tournaments or angling competitions must not offer cash prizes.
 2. All tournaments must incorporate a scoring system which encourages tagging.
 3. All proposed tournament dates, rules and regulations must be submitted to the State Body for approval 3 months prior to the proposed tournaments.

There was considerable debate among delegates regarding this proposed amendment.

Following this debate the alteration to the constitution on rule 26 of the constitution is as follows:

Rule 26 - Tournaments

Tournament or competition rules

Cash prizes shall not be awarded in any angling tournament or competition conducted by State Branches or affiliated clubs.

Angling tournaments or competitions shall, wherever possible, incorporate a point scoring system which encourages the tagging of fish.

State Branches or affiliated clubs shall not approve a tournament or competition unless prior notice of such tournament or competition stating the dates, rules and regulations thereof shall have been submitted for approval three months prior to the holding of such tournament or competition.

- 4 -

4. When a cash prize is offered in a tournament of competition a capture in such tournament or competitor shall not be eligible for an Australian or State record. The motion was carried.

3. Alterations to Angling Rules and Equipment Regulations:

1. From New South Wales the motion with regard to the heaviest existing junior record of each nominated species and line class from any of the State Associations be granted recognition by G.F.A.A. as Australian junior records. Following debate the motion was defeated.

2. From Victoria

That a national point scoring system be developed by G.F.A.A. After debate it was agreed that a draft of the N.S.W. point scoring system be circulated to all delegates and that a similar scoring system be recommended for use in conjunction with all tournaments.

Most meritorious capture award: following discussion on this matter the motion was withdrawn.

Australian record holder: Jacket patches are recommended for the issue to Australian record holders, the idea being that proceeds could go to the Australian Fishing Museum. This will be taken up by the incoming executive.

Sharks - Victoria believes that the rules should be widened so that club officials can humanely paralyse and kill sharks when the fishes nerves are still active causing weighing to be difficult and dangerous. Following debate, this is to be promulgated as a recommendation only.

3. From South Australia

That the following two species be added to the list of recognised game fish and sharks

- A) Snapper - *Chrysophrys Guttulata*
B) Eagle Ray *Australis*

Following debate amongst the delegates the motion was carried.

4. From Northern Territory

Mr. C. Mellon reported that he had forwarded to G.F.A.A. Secretariat request for additions to the fish available for capture but that apparently the secretariat had not received it.

The President stated that it could not be included because brother states had not had the required notification. Northern Territory was asked to re-submit it or else have the matter dealt with by postal ballot.

Mr. Mellon asked that a postal ballot be implemented as soon as practicable.

This was agreed to by the conference.

5. From Queensland

1. That only barramundi caught on tackle complying with fresh water rules be eligible for record claims.

After discussion this motion was carried.

2. That the broad barred or grey mackerel be recognized as a game fish species.

After debate, this addition was agreed to.

3. Threadfin salmon: It was agreed that this fish be recorded as a salt water fish.

GENERAL BUSINESS:1. From Victoria

The discussion on Southern Bluefin Tuna stocks and quotes from recent articles in the Australian Financial Review and the Fisheries Newsletter resulted in a discussion amongst delegates and it was agreed that G.F.A.A. would encourage discussion with the Department of Primary Industry with regard to the stocks of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

2. From South Australia.

1. Query whether 'Smith's Jig' is legal or illegal tackle under existing equipment regulations.

With discussion during the conference it was agreed that the matter has been clarified that a single hook would be acceptable on a 'smith's jig' whereas a double hook would not be acceptable. This was carried.

2. There was discussion on whether G.F.A. proposed to seek Federal Government financial assistance. The President advised the conference that this matter is already well underway and that submissions have been made to the Government in the form required.

Should G.F.A. consider reducing charges for claims for Australian and World records.

The conference was informed that this is a considerable source of income and virtually covers only the costs of testing and issue of current record certificates.

3. From N. Patrick - W.A.

Mr. N. Patrick requested advice as to whether it was proposed to do away with double lines on game fishing gear. Mr. Palmer advised that there has been no move at the present moment to change the rule relating to the use of double lines. There is a body of opinion that no such vital change would be made without consultation with all constituted bodies of I.G.F.A.

4. From Queensland

Mrs. Neilsen requested the conference to consider the weighing of fish at sea being submitted for the annual I.G.F.A. fishing contest and stated that it seems that this could be the thin edge of the wedge to fish being accepted after weighing at sea.

Mr. Palmer stated that this was not the intention but that he would raise the matter with I.G.F.A. as soon as possible.

The President produced the cup donated by Peter Goadby for the capture of the heaviest shark and also the tag and release trophy donated by Mr. John O'Brien for the best point scoring club in each State.

Both these trophies were received with acclamation and thanks from the conference.

Mrs. Neilsen submitted to the conference that the rule relating to protests had been deleted from the rule book.

It was pointed out that the new angling rules and equipment regulations were circularised prior to the last conference and at the last conference the new rules and equipment regulations were approved by all States.

5. From Tasmania

Mr. Constantine stated that as a representative from Tasmania he expressed the disappointment of the Tasmanian delegates that the matter of record keeping had not been presented but had been ignored.

- 6 -

The President explained to Mr. Constantine the difficulty the executive was under at the present time and stated that the matter would be discussed at the trustee meeting immediately following this conference.

The conference resumed on Friday morning following the meeting of Australian Fishing Museum Trustees.

The financial position of the Australian Fishing Museum was discussed and its relationship to the G.F.A.A. accounts and it was agreed that both sets of accounts should be re-submitted by the respective accountants and re-submitted for audit and circularization to all states.

The position with regard to the secretariat and the operation of record keeping and granting of records and issue of certificates was fully discussed and it was agreed that the new executive should make every effort to keep the records up to date following the takeover on January 1, 1984.

It was agreed that Mr. Goadby and Mr. Heyward should liaise with the Museum Secretariat to clear up the back log of record claims and certificate issue as soon as possible.

Constitution - consequential alterations. Following the acceptance of the Tag and Release Trophy from Mr. John O'Brien and the G.F.A.A. Shark Trophy from Mr. Peter Goadby article 28 relating to perpetual trophies in the constitution should be added as follows:

Paragraph C - The G.F.A.A. Trophy for the heaviest shark captured in Australian waters donated by Mr. I.P. Goadby

D - The Tag and Release Trophy donated by Mr. John O'Brien for the best point scoring club in all states for each 12 months.

All trophies shall be under the control of G.F.A.A. and shall remain in Australia.

Special Levy

The conference agreed that in order to pay for the Instron line testing machine a special levy should be struck on all members of G.F.A.A. including all affiliated members of G.F.A.A. clubs of \$1.00 per head payable by the end of February, 1984. It was left to the executive to advise all states and obtain the levies.

CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE:

Mr. J.C. Johnston moved a vote of thanks to the President for his handling of the conference and discharging the offices of President during the past two years. The motion was agreed to with acclamation.

The President concluded the conference by thanking all members present for their patience and understanding and wished G.F.A.A. a healthy future. The conference concluded.