



# Nautical Notes

## The real impact of recreational fishing

Recfish Australia recently released a report into the level of recreational fishing occurring in Commonwealth Waters. The report was funded by the Federal Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts as part of its Marine Bioregional Planning Process.

The report found that, in some regions, 47 per cent of fishing trips occur further than three nautical miles from shore and generate about \$27m for the local community.

The report also found that the majority of recreational fishers are supportive of marine parks, but would prefer to see multi-use marine reserves, rather than a complete ban on recreational fishing.



Russell Conway, Chair of Recfish Australia believes that the report provides valuable input into planning for marine protected areas in Commonwealth Waters. "Our report demonstrates that ongoing access to Commonwealth Waters is vital for Australian recreational fishing families and we trust that the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts will take our information into account when developing plans for new marine parks."

Conway also called on the major parties to commit to a Federal management plan to develop and improve access to recreational fishing locations and infrastructure in an effort to ensure long-term access rights to fisheries resources.



Christmas tree to discarded fishing line and bottles. These items represent just a small portion of the estimated 6.5 million tonnes of rubbish entering oceans each year.

Reef Check Australia is a community-based charity that trains recreational divers to monitor coral health on

## International Clean Up Day

A group of 36 volunteers gathered on the Gold Coast Seaway on September 26 for 'International Clean Up Day', a global event with more than 15,000 participants in more than 100 countries.

The not-for-profit group, Reef Check Australia partnered with local Brisbane dive shop, Dive World, for this underwater and coastal clean up with the support of South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership and the Gold Coast City Council.

In the course of a few hours, volunteers collected an estimated 100kg of rubbish – everything from a toaster and a plastic

more than 100 sites along the Queensland coast; these surveys include recording of marine debris found during surveys. Dive World, a new Brisbane-based dive shop, also supports marine conservation efforts and has sponsored this event.

The Gold Coast City Council had a number of volunteers participating in the clean up and provided appropriate rubbish disposal facilities for collected items.

South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership sponsored the event, providing numerous supplies that support the clean up. "Healthy Waterways is keen to raise awareness of the issue of litter and debris in waterways and will support groups and individuals who step up to the task of addressing this problem," said Dr Peter Schneider, CEO of Healthy Waterways.

## New marine safety laws introduced

Victorian Roads and Ports Minister Tim Pallas recently announced the introduction of new legislation into State Parliament that seeks to strengthen and modernise Victoria's marine safety laws.

According to the office of the Roads and Ports Minister, the new laws will assist police and regulators in improving safety on the state's waterways.

Mr Pallas said the Bill and accompanying regulations, including a new system of seaworthiness checks, addressed key recommendations and findings from recent Coronial inquiries and added to the case for legislative reform.

"Some early initiatives have already been implemented, such as the new hoon boating laws which came into effect last summer, and this bill now completes the review process with a balanced set of measures designed to further encourage a strong safety culture on the water," said Mr Pallas.

According to Mr Pallas, Labor has listened to stakeholders across the marine sector in developing the new legislation. "One of the main focuses of the new laws is to improve the practical skills and safety culture of all who take part in recreational boating, but without unduly impacting on their ability to enjoy their pastime," he said.

For great *Club Marine* Directory advertising deals call Sandra Harvey on (03) 8591 1934