

**NT GUIDED FISHING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2006  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Rob Marchant, Wayne Bishop, Graeme Williams, Tom Kontis, Jim Bancroft, Kaleem Quaiser, Ron Gilmore, Luke Seaman, Michael Walsh, Chris Jones, Mike Jones (Associate Member), John Dagan, Justin Altiras (ACP), David Mobbs, Darren Nickolls, Viv Thistlethwaite, Kurt Oswald, Alex Jevdendevic

**APOLOGIES:** Greg Trouchet

Meeting opened at 1925hrs.

**1.COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Chairman (Graeme Williams) welcomed members and proceeded to outline the Committee's activities and initiatives during 2005/6. (Copy attached).

**2. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

At the request of the Chairman, the Executive Officer (Lloyd Browne) briefed the meeting on the Association's finances. (Copy of the Auditors report attached).

**Moved Rob Marchant, seconded Darren Nickolls that the Financial Reports be accepted. Passed unanimously.**

**3. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Graeme advised that one nomination for each of the five positions on the Committee had been received within the timeframe required by the Constitution. On that basis he declared the nominees duly elected as follows:

Chairman:	Graeme Williams
Vice Chairman:	Rob Marchant
Secretary:	Greg Trouchet
Treasurer:	Darren Nickolls
General Committee Member:	Wayne Bishop

#### 4. INTRODUCTION OF FTO LICENCE FEES

The discussion began with Graeme requesting Lloyd to outline major problem areas within the FTO Fishery. Lloyd said that in essence these were Nominations, and the legitimizing of a role for assistant fishermen to enable the operation of a multi tier business licence. Such problems could be best addressed by the declaration of a managed fishery and that this was the very least the Association the Association ought to be prepared to accept in return for the introduction of licence fees. A Managed Fishery was the first step on the road towards Licence Limitation.

Graeme then referred members to the hand-out copy of the Minister's decision on licence fees, noting that the proposed \$400 fee with \$100 annual increments (to an \$800 maximum) was at variance with the Association's recommendations and sought a direction from the meeting as to how the Association should respond. As part of the ensuing discussion, Wayne Bishop briefed the meeting on funding arrangements for the NT Seafood Council, which consisted of a Government grant plus a levy on all NT licensed commercial fishermen. The levy was collected (as part of the licence fee) by Fisheries and returned to the Seafood Council to be used to fund projects aimed at increasing the administrative efficiency and economic viability of various (commercial) fisheries. Wayne suggested that the Association request the \$40,000 be continued as a grant for the next three years and that half the FTO licence fee of \$400 be returned to the Association as a levy to fund similar projects in the FTO Fishery. In this connection Wayne noted that not one of the many improvements and economic initiatives in the commercial fisheries over the previous five or so years had been initiated by Government; all such initiatives had been instituted by Industry and largely funded from the levy income.

**The following motion was then proposed by John Dagan and seconded by Mickey Qaiser.**

*That the Minister be requested to continue the \$40,000 annual grant to fund the Position of Executive Officer for the next three years and that half the \$400 licence fee be regarded as a levy and returned to the Association to provide baseline funding for the improvements to the full spectrum of the fishery's operations.*

**Passed unanimously.**

**Graeme said that the Association needed to formalize its position on whether or not it supported the declaration of a Managed Fishery, and to this end proposed the following motion**

*That as a fundamental objective of the Association's policy, the meeting endorse the declaration of the FTO Fishery as a Managed Fishery.*

**The motion was seconded by Chris Jones and passed unanimously.**

The need to form a Working Group which would be fully representative of all the various industry sectors was then discussed. The following members agreed to participate: John Dagan, Tom Kontis, Mickey Qaiser, Paul Salotti, Viv Thistlethwaite. It was agreed that the first meeting of the Working Group would be in mid-January 2007.

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

**Annual Fees: Proposed Darren Nickolls, seconded Tom Kontis that annual fees remain at \$10. Passed unanimously.**

Commercial Netting in Darwin Harbour: Mike Walsh and Rob Marchant raised the question of the two commercial licences which continue to operate in Darwin Harbour. One in particular which set nets off Woods Inlet posed a major problem for recreational fishers. It was noted that the agreement to close the harbour to commercial fishing was at this stage still an informal one – “a gentleman’s agreement”.. The Association undertook to raise the matter with Fisheries but noted that there was little likelihood of removing these operators until the buy back of Coastal Net licences .has been effected.

Barra Farms: Wayne Bishop advised that it was his understanding that the Company which had applied for barra farms in Darwin and Bynoe Harbours were pulling out of Australia altogether and the projects would not proceed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2100hrs