



**AMATEUR FISHERMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION OF THE NT INC.**

**DEVELOPMENT  
PLAN  
2006 – 2009**

**AFANT'S MISSION**

**“To represent recreational fishing in the  
NT and ensure the quality of our sport.”**

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# INTRODUCTION

The Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT (AFANT) was formed in 1980 and is an incorporated association in the Northern Territory under the Associations Incorporation Act. The AFANT Committee meets at least eight times each year and the Executive meets at other times as required. AFANT has an office located in Malak with a full time Executive Officer and an Office Manager who also manages research and other projects.

AFANT is officially recognised by the NT Government as the peak body representing recreational and sport fishing in the Northern Territory. AFANT's membership consists of individuals, family members, affiliated fishing clubs, Territory fishing associations, industry, corporate and junior members.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Recreational fishing is now well recognised as an important element of the lifestyle of many Territorians. It is a major drawcard bringing tourists to the NT and a significant contributor to our economy — it is now very much a large and important industry in its own right. Its significance is perhaps best illustrated by an oft-repeated catchcry of the present NT Government — *“Fishing is the Lure of the Territory.”*

There are more than 44 000 non-indigenous recreational fishers in the NT representing some 32% of the population. Expenditure of more than \$34 million per year is directly attributable to recreational fishing in the NT and over \$9 million is directly spent on recreational fishing by visitors — both with significant other flow-ons.

The standard of our wild recreational fishery is second to none thanks to our largely unspoiled environment, the number of recreationally-significant fish and marine species available and their abundance in particular areas. An overriding objective of AFANT is to ensure that this world-class recreational fishery is nurtured and protected for current and future generations of Territory and visiting fishers.

Successive Territory Governments, with support from AFANT, have developed management approaches that are aimed at preserving the quality of both our commercial and recreational fisheries. AFANT will continue to work with Government to ensure that this continues and that our recreational fishery continues to be developed so it can make the best possible contribution to our lifestyle and our economy.

## AFANT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of AFANT are contained in its constitution and they are:

- To represent the interests of recreational and sport fishing in the Northern Territory.
- To act as an advisory body for recreational and sport fishers in the Northern Territory.
- To further the aims, objectives and value of recreational and sport fishing in the Northern Territory.
- To promote recreational and sport fishing in the Northern Territory.
- To co-operate with all research organisations and other bodies whose aims and objectives are to further the knowledge of fish species and their environments.

- To make public scientific and recreational information that is of interest to recreational and sport fishers.
- To provide a forum for recreational and sport fishers.
- To actively participate in the drafting of rules and regulations of concern to recreational and sport fishing.
- To liaise constructively with commercial fishing organisations on matters of mutual interest.
- To liaise with other groups and bodies holding similar interests.
- To take an active interest in any environmental issues that may be raised in conjunction with recreational and sport fishing.
- To send representatives to seminars, conferences and discussion groups in relation to recreational and sport fishing.
- Maintain, and where possible, increase access to recreational and sport fishing.
- Promote recreational fishing as a sport in the NT.
- Assist in the promotion of recreational and sport fishing related tourism.
- Encourage youth participation in recreational and sport fishing.
- Encourage the Government to further develop the recreational and sport fishing industry in the Northern Territory.
- Establish and maintain communication and discussion with relevant government agencies, ministers and departments at all levels of government.
- Develop an educational program for recreational and sport fishing in NT.
- Promote legal and ethical recreational and sport fishing practices.
- Promote scientific research, conservation and management of fish, their environment and ecology.

## PREVIOUS AFANT DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

AFANT's vision statement and its general directions were adopted by members during a strategic planning workshop in 1998. In 2002, AFANT's first major Development Plan was formulated to cover the period 2002 to 2005 and it set out the direction and objectives of the association for that period. The major strategic issues addressed in the 2002-2005 plan are set out below with brief comments on the progress achieved:

**Developing AFANT to its full potential.** The organization works on a process of continual improvement but much has been achieved over the past four years including continued work such as the closure of the Adelaide River to barramundi gill netting to secure a viable and ongoing recreational barramundi fishery for the NT. AFANT has become widely recognized as the most successful recreational representative and lobby group in the country and has helped to develop an understanding of the importance of recreational fishing as a major industry in the NT and very important element of our lifestyle. In turn, the NT has developed a reputation as having a well-managed recreational fishery and as a great place for fishing visitors.

**The provision of assistance to members.** AFANT has maintained a strong member focus and it provides a range of assistance to its members including securing access to expanded fishing areas, keeping members informed of developments and activities in recreational fishing, assisting club affiliated members with a range of activities (including administering a club small grants program on behalf of the NT Government) and making representations to Government and other organizations on behalf of members.

**Continued recognition by the NT Government.** AFANT is recognised by the NT Government as the peak body representing recreational fishing in the Territory. Government provides financial and other assistance for AFANT's operations and, by ensuring our **representation on committees, working parties and various boards of management which impact on the recreational and sport fishing industry in the NT**, provides the opportunity for the association to be consulted on and involved in decision-making processes that impact on our fishery.

**Continued research into the socio-economic value of recreational and sport fishing.** AFANT has long promoted the need to compile meaningful and up to date data of recreational fishing in the NT including its contribution to the economy. In 2002 the Territory-specific results of the first National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey were published. These demonstrated that recreational fishing was an important element of our lifestyle and an important contributor to our economy. AFANT is currently encouraging the conduct of a repeat survey — at least for the Northern Territory — in the hope that one can be completed in 1006/7. In addition, AFANT is cooperating with Recfish Australia (the national recreational fishing peak representative body) and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation on developing a methodology to determine the value of recreational fishing in Australia and, if this is successful, data will be available at a state and territory level.

**Junior, senior & disabled angler education programs are initiated.** AFANT has encouraged and assisted a range of junior fisher introduction and education programs. Each year for the past two years, some of the funding provided by the NT Government under the Fishing Clubs Grants Scheme has been provided to clubs to assist with these activities. We have also encouraged government to be involved in this process and much valuable work is undertaken in schools and other venues by the Recreational Fishing Section of the Fisheries Group. AFANT has not been actively involved with senior and disabled groups as was intended but proposes to expand activities into these areas in the future.

**The development and establishment of a secure stream of revenue to allow for a contribution by the recreational sector towards research and development of our industry in the NT and initiating a process whereby the industry can contribute to the cost of fisheries management in the NT.** Until recently, AFANT continued to support the introduction of a recreational fishing licence in the NT as a means of securing a stream of revenue for these purposes. Successive NT Governments have not supported this approach and, in 2005, the association changed its policy and no longer supports licences. In doing so it noted that if Government does not wish to introduce a licence scheme to provide revenue, it should ensure that adequate resources from other sources are provided for recreational fishing management, research and development.

**Creating a suitable training and development program for Committee members to assist them to aid the management of the fishing industry in the NT.** This has proved to be difficult given the voluntary nature of AFANT committee membership and the Executive Officer provides necessary advice to the committee on specific issues such as those related to fisheries management and their responsibilities under the Associations Act.

## STRATEGIC ISSUES 2006-2009

Whilst many of these issues will remain as priority activity areas, the current AFANT Committee believes that the focus of the organisation should be on the following key strategic areas and these are reflected in the objectives and strategies of this plan. In considering these strategic areas it needs to be noted that, for AFANT to effectively represent the interests of recreational fishers, it will need to have an interest in and involvement across a wide range of fishery management, environmental, government, economic and social activities.

- Represent and advocate for the interests of all recreational fishers in the NT
- Ensure that the allocation of fishery resources in the NT provides for an adequate share for recreational fishers and allows for the predictable growth in recreational fishing
- Provide representation and advice to governments and others on recreational fishing issues
- Promote and further the development of recreational fishing
- Maintain and where possible increase access to recreational fishing opportunities
- Participate in the management of recreational and other fisheries and liaise constructively with commercial fishing organisations on matters of mutual interest
- Promote and be an advocate for ethical, sustainable, safe and legal fishing practices
- Promote and be an advocate for the protection of the environment as it impacts on recreational fishing
- Support and participate in fisheries research

STRATEGIC ISSUE 1.

**REPRESENT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE INTERESTS OF ALL RECREATIONAL FISHERS IN THE NT**

Objective	Strategies	Performance Indicators and Timing
<p>AFANT will continue to provide effective representation of all recreational fishers in the NT and will be responsive to the wishes and needs of these fishers.</p>	<p>Maintain and further develop contacts with fishing clubs, recreational anglers and fishing visitors to the NT to determine their wishes and needs.</p> <p>Use the AFANT website and other web-based fishing forums in the Territory to encourage input from recreational fishers.</p> <p>Use the media to promote AFANT’s work and to encourage input from recreational fishers.</p> <p>Strengthen AFANT’s “Club Representative” program by providing material for club meetings and by encouraging them to bring issues of concern to their members to AFANT.</p> <p>Establish and maintain regular contact between AFANT Executive Officer and club representatives in regions outside Darwin and AFANT Executive Officer or a member of AFANT Executive try to attend at least one meeting of each affiliated club per year.</p>	<p>Satisfactory feedback from club representatives and other fishers on AFANT’s representation — ongoing.</p> <p>Increased input from recreational fishers — ongoing.</p> <p>Increased input from recreational fishers — ongoing.</p> <p>Material provided to clubs and satisfactory feedback from club representatives — ongoing.</p> <p>Satisfactory feedback from club representatives and number of clubs/meetings attended by Executive Officer and Executive members — ongoing.</p>
<p>AFANT will provide effective representation in matters of access to fishing areas.</p>	<p>See below under “Maintain and Increase Recreational Fishing Access.”</p>	
<p>AFANT will maintain and improved liaison with and representation of all recreational fishers in the NT including those from different ethnic groups and those of indigenous descent.</p>	<p>Where possible, have important AFANT material available in appropriate languages covering major recreational fishing groups in the NT.</p> <p>AFANT Executive Officer and Committee members will seek contacts with these recreational fishers to determine what issues are of concern to them and how AFANT can best serve their needs.</p>	<p>Amount of material available in other languages — ongoing.</p> <p>Number of meetings with different groups of recreational fishers attended by Executive Officer and Executive members — ongoing.</p>

STRATEGIC ISSUE 2.

**ENSURE THAT THE ALLOCATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES IN THE NT PROVIDES FOR AN ADEQUATE SHARE FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERS AND ALLOWS FOR THE PREDICTABLE GROWTH IN RECREATIONAL FISHING**

Objective	Strategies	Performance Indicators and Timing
<p>The allocation of fishery resources in the NT will provide an adequate share for recreational fishers and allow for the predictable growth in recreational fishing.</p>	<p>To seek agreements with commercial fishers and other marine resource users on sharing resources that are of interest to recreational fishers or which might impact on recreational fisheries.</p> <p>In the absence of any agreements with other users of marine resources, continue to lobby Government to allocate marine resources so there is an adequate share for recreational fishers.</p> <p>To agree and provide adequate protection for a dedicated allocation of the NT’s jewfish resource to the recreational fishing sector.</p> <p>To seek the closure of Bynoe Harbour and the Finniss River to commercial barramundi fishing as per the Barramundi Five Year Plan to ensure resource access for recreational fishers in waters close to Darwin.</p> <p>To seek the closure of Bynoe Harbour and Shoal Bay to commercial mud crabbing as a means of ensuring resource access for recreational fishers and to protect waters close to Darwin from possible overexploitation by commercial crabbers who may be displaced from Gulf fisheries by the decline in crab stocks there.</p>	<p>Fisheries management plans and resource agreements reflect the need for an adequate share for recreational fishers and allow for the predictable growth in recreational fishing — ongoing.</p> <p>Fisheries management plans and resource agreements reflect the need for an adequate share for recreational fishers and allow for the predictable growth in recreational fishing — ongoing.</p> <p>A jewfish resource agreement is implemented which reflects the need for an adequate share for recreational fishers. By 2007.</p> <p>Committees in place early 2006 and closures to be effective in 2007.</p> <p>Committees in place early 2006 and closures to be effective as soon as possible but no later than the end of 2007.</p>

## STRATEGIC ISSUE 3.

**PROVIDE REPRESENTATION AND ADVICE TO GOVERNMENTS  
AND OTHERS ON RECREATIONAL FISHING ISSUES**

Objective	Strategies	Performance Indicators and Timing
<p>AFANT will be recognised by governments and other significant groups as the peak recreational fishing representative body in the NT.</p>	<p>Continue to participate on all government committees and working groups dealing with issues that can impact on recreational fishing in the NT and ensure that AFANT provides valuable input to these groups.</p> <p>Maintain relationships with senior political, public service and industry group figures in the NT so that they are aware of AFANT's interests and objectives.</p>	<p>AFANT membership of all important committees and feedback on value of AFANT input — ongoing.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>AFANT will have constructive relationships with major land owner groups in the NT (including indigenous land owners and pastoral leaseholders) to further the interest of recreational fishers.</p>	<p>Maintain and enhance the relationship between AFANT and the Tiwi Land Council in respect of recreational fishing access to Tiwi land and waters.</p> <p>Establish a mutually beneficial working relationship with the Northern Land Council and the Anindilyakwa Land Council to promote access for recreational fishers to land and waters that they are responsible for.</p> <p>To continue existing and establish new relationships with traditional owners of aboriginal land to promote access for recreational fishers to their land and water.</p> <p>To continue to develop relationships with the NT Cattlemen's Association and pastoralists to provide access for recreational fishers.</p>	<p>Access to Tiwi land and water is maintained and enhanced and feedback indicates satisfaction with AFANT — ongoing.</p> <p>Access agreements for specific areas — ongoing.</p> <p>Access agreements for specific areas — ongoing.</p> <p>Access agreements for specific areas — ongoing.</p>

## STRATEGIC ISSUE 4.

**PROMOTE AND FURTHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL FISHING**

Objective	Strategies	Performance Indicators and Timing
There will be improved infrastructure and facilities for recreational fishing.	<p>Liaise with recreational fishers around the Territory to determine their priority infrastructure needs.</p> <p>Continue to lobby Government and other funding groups to ensure adequate resources for recreational fishing infrastructure.</p> <p>Continue to respond to calls for submissions on the development of fishing infrastructure.</p>	<p>General satisfaction among fishers with AFANT's infrastructure priorities — ongoing.</p> <p>The level of funding provided by government for recreational fishing infrastructure — ongoing.</p> <p>Submissions and their success in terms of take up — ongoing.</p>
There will be increased participation of young people, women, the disabled and older people in recreational fishing.	<p>Support and encourage government, fishing clubs and others to provide programs to attract, educate and involve young people, women, disabled and older people to participate in recreational fishing.</p> <p>Establish a junior AFANT membership program.</p> <p>Investigate the needs of disabled fishers and ensure that these are considered in any programs to develop or upgrade fishing infrastructure.</p>	<p>Participation levels in these groups — ongoing.</p> <p>Program operating by end 2006.</p> <p>Some suitable infrastructure planned by end 2007 then ongoing.</p>
There will be improved fish stocks for the recreational fishing sector.	<p>Promote the practice of catch and release and conservative fish harvesting practices to the full spectrum of recreational fishers.</p> <p>Ensure that fisheries regulations and management plans are based on the principle of improving fish stocks, particularly where they impact on recreationally important species.</p> <p>Ensure that there is adequate enforcement of all fisheries regulations (including protection against illegal foreign fishing).</p> <p>Maintain and enhance the stocking of impoundments in accord with sound fisheries management practice.</p>	<p>Statistics showing increase in catch and release — ongoing</p> <p>NT Fisheries Act and management plans reviewed and include stock improvement measures — ongoing</p> <p>Feedback indicating satisfaction from recreational fishers and community — ongoing</p> <p>Program continues and impoundment fishing improves — ongoing.</p>

<p>Recreational fishing will continue to be recognised as an important part of Territory lifestyle and an important contributor to the NT economy.</p>	<p>Ensure that proper data is collected to demonstrate the important contribution that recreational fishing makes to life in the NT.</p> <p>Encourage Government to regularly collect data, including tourism information, to show the contribution that recreational fishing is making to regional economies in the NT and the Territory economy as a whole.</p> <p>Work with Recfish Australia and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to develop a methodology to determine the value of recreational fishing in Australia with data available at a state and territory level.</p> <p>Provide material to media and other promotional bodies showing the benefits and importance of recreational fishing in the NT.</p> <p>Continue to make representations to governments and other groups on the significance of recreational fishing in the NT.</p>	<p>NT Recreational Fishing Survey conducted by Government in 2006/07 and committed to repeat every five years.</p> <p>As above to include regional and area tourism data and use outcomes of the Recfish/FRDC project developing a methodology to determine the value of recreational fishing in Australia — ongoing.</p> <p>Acceptable data available by end 2007 then ongoing annually.</p> <p>Material published — ongoing.</p> <p>Government programs and funding demonstrate recognition of recreational fishing — ongoing.</p>
<p>The national and international profile of recreational fishing in the NT will be maintained, the local recreational sector will be aware of broader developments and AFANT, on behalf of recreational fishers in the NT, will have input to national and international forums on recreational fishing.</p>	<p>Maintain liaison with national and international bodies with an interest in recreational fishing to ensure that AFANT is aware of important issues and that outside bodies know about the work of AFANT and the issues we consider to be important.</p> <p>Maintain membership of bodies such as Recfish Australia to ensure that recreational fishing in the NT has input to national and international recreational fishing bodies and forums.</p>	<p>Published material and national and international feedback — ongoing.</p> <p>Worthwhile memberships and affiliations maintained — ongoing.</p>

STRATEGIC ISSUE 5.

**MAINTAIN AND WHERE POSSIBLE INCREASE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

Objective	Strategies	Performance Indicators and Timing
<p>Access to recreational fishing areas throughout the NT will be maintain and, wherever possible, increased.</p>	<p>Encourage recreational fishers, particularly those in regions outside Darwin, to advise AFANT of access requirements and any access opportunities that may arise in their area.</p> <p>Continue to play a major role on Government’s Recreational Fishing Access Working Group.</p> <p>Continue to monitor land use and other development proposals in the NT to ensure that they do not inhibit fishing access and that opportunities to enhance fishing access are taken when they arise.</p>	<p>Amount of advice received from fishers outside Darwin and instances where new access is agreed — ongoing.</p> <p>Ongoing membership and effective access outcomes from committee’s work.</p> <p>Land use plans taking account of needs of recreational fishing — ongoing.</p>
<p>Recreational fishing access will be a major consideration in the development of any national parks, marine parks and marine protected areas that are proposed for waters in and around the NT.</p>	<p>Disseminate AFANT’s policy “opposing any proposals to restrict access or exclude recreational fishing from any areas unless there is clear and irrefutable scientific evidence that a real and current threat to marine species exists and that restricted access or closure is the only way to remove the threat” and ensure that governments and other proponents of parks and restricted areas are aware of the policy.</p> <p>Lobby governments to ensure that AFANT is able to represent the interests of recreational fishers in any committees or working groups set up to consider new national parks, marine parks or marine protected areas.</p> <p>Continue liaison with, and the provision of advice to, the Marine Division and National Oceans Office within the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage and seek for that department to resource AFANT to consult recreational fishers in the Northern Territory on matters related to planning for the introduction of marine protected areas.</p>	<p>Parks, marine parks and other marine protected areas allow continued recreational fishing access unless it is absolutely necessary to restrict such access, and have sound recreational fishing management regimes — ongoing.</p> <p>AFANT membership of all relevant committees — ongoing.</p> <p>DEH funding for AFANT consultations in 2006 and ongoing if process requires it.</p>

<p>The interests of recreational fishers in terms of access to fishing areas will be effectively represented in the process of granting Aboriginal Land and Native Title claims.</p>	<p>Continue representation of recreational fishing interests in all claims which cover fishing waters and access to them where the rights the claimants are seeking are “to the exclusion of all others” and “to control the use and enjoyment of all others.”</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>AFANT will have effective relationships with Aboriginal land organisations and land owners to maintain cordial relations between them and recreational fishers and to encourage and support them in making areas of their land available for recreational fishing.</p>	<p>Have individual members and clubs identify aboriginal land where there are recreational fishing access opportunities and, with the land owners, attempt to establish agreements for access.</p> <p>In all such cases, promote to recreational fishers the need to respect any designated sacred or culturally significant sites, land owner’s privacy and the need to remove rubbish and generally care for the area.</p>	<p>Access agreements for specific areas — ongoing.</p> <p>Feedback from landowners that they are satisfied that recreational fishers respect their land and treat it with due care — ongoing</p>

## STRATEGIC ISSUE 6.

**PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF RECREATIONAL AND OTHER FISHERIES  
AND LIAISE CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH COMMERCIAL FISHING ORGANISATIONS ON  
MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST**

Objective	Strategies	Performance Indicators and Timing
AFANT will continue to be represented on all appropriate fisheries management advisory committees and other working groups making decisions on or providing advice on the management of the NT's fisheries.	<p>Continue to provide sound and valuable advice and input to Government and others through fishery management advisory committees and other fishery related groups such as the Aquatic Resource Users Group and the Fishing Access Working Group.</p> <p>Lobby Government for AFANT involvement in any new groups which provide advice that may impact on recreational fishing.</p> <p>Identify fisheries management needs as they emerge and advise Government of these needs.</p>	<p>AFANT membership of all relevant committees — ongoing.</p> <p>AFANT membership of all relevant new committees — ongoing.</p> <p>AFANT concerns and issues are taken into account in legislation and regulations — ongoing.</p>
AFANT will continue to maintain an effective working relationship with the NT Seafood Council and other representative commercial fishing bodies.	<p>Maintain good personal relations at executive officer and senior office bearer levels and meet regularly to discuss matters of mutual concern and benefit.</p> <p>When there is no conflict, support the NT Seafood Council (and its committees) on matters it considers important and seek its support for similar AFANT issues.</p>	<p>Regular meetings and personal contact at executive officer and office bearer levels — ongoing.</p> <p>Issues where joint approach has been presented — ongoing.</p>
AFANT will develop and maintain an effective working relationship with the Fishing Tour Operators Association of the NT.	<p>Maintain good personal relations at Executive Officer and Executive levels and meet regularly to discuss matters of mutual concern.</p> <p>Invite FTOA Committee to meet with AFANT Committee at least once each year.</p>	<p>Regular meetings and personal contact at executive officer and office bearer levels — ongoing.</p> <p>Annual AFANT/FTOA committee meetings — 2006 then ongoing.</p>

## STRATEGIC ISSUE 7.

**PROMOTE AND BE AN ADVOCATE FOR ETHICAL, SUSTAINABLE,  
SAFE AND LEGAL FISHING PRACTICES**

Objective	Strategies	Performance Indicators and Timing
Recreational fishing practices in the NT will be consistent with maintaining sustainable fisheries.	In cooperation with Government and others, AFANT will continue to play a lead role in developing appropriate recreational fisher behaviour such as catch and release, fisheries management approaches such as specific regulations for more heavily fished areas and general regulations such as possession and size limits that ensure the sustainability of our fisheries.	Review recreational fishing regulations to ensure they provide for continued sustainable use of the fishery in 2006. Improvement in sustainable recreational fishing practices demonstrated in surveys and reflected in regulations — ongoing.
Recreational fishers will treat fish and other catches in a humane manner and release all unwanted catches with as little damage as possible.	<p>Get the process of developing a NT Recreational Fishing Code of Practice back on track and ensure it is disseminated as widely as possible to NT and visiting fishers.</p> <p>Use the media, public information material and AFANT membership and club/affiliated organisations networks to promote the safe release of all fish and other bycatch that are not to be retained for consumption.</p> <p>Continue to work with NT Fisheries and the National Released Fish Survival Project to determine the best means of handling fish destined for release and promote safe release practices to all fishers.</p>	<p>Code agreed and published in 2006 and made widely available.</p> <p>Survey and other feedback showing safe release of all fish and other bycatch that are not to be retained — ongoing.</p> <p>Survey and other feedback showing safe handling and release of fish when practicing catch and release — ongoing.</p>
Recreational fishers in the NT will effectively record and report any instances of illegal and unsafe fishing activity to appropriate authorities.	<p>Develop AFANT's Your Eyes on the Water project which will enhance the NT Government's existing Riverwatch and Fishwatch programs by advising recreational fishers what to look for and how to report suspected illegal or unsafe fishing activities.</p> <p>Continue to liaise with Indigenous Northern Territory Fisheries Consultative Committees and the Indigenous marine ranger groups established in various coastal centres to encourage and, where possible, assist them in their monitoring and reporting role.</p>	<p>Project material produced and disseminated during 2006. Useful reporting ongoing.</p> <p>Number of meetings/coastal committees attended by AFANT and feedback from Police and others indicating increased effectiveness of Indigenous marine ranger programs — ongoing</p>

<p>Recreational Fishers will comply with boat safety and other marine regulations to maintain safety on fishing waters.</p>	<p>AFANT will continue to work with the NT Water Safety Council to develop regulations and education programs to enhance safety on the water.</p> <p>AFANT will lobby the NT Government to implement necessary marine regulations such as blood alcohol limits for boat drivers, proper “rules of the road”, overloading and so on and impose penalties for breaches.</p>	<p>Continue to contribute to NT Water Safety Council.</p> <p>Feedback on effectiveness of marine use education programs — ongoing.</p> <p>Effective marine regulations in place by 2006/07.</p>
<p>Recreational fishers will behave courteously and with due regard to other fishers, water users and the environment.</p>	<p>Promote to recreational fishers the need to respect other water users, other fishers, landowner’s and others.</p> <p>Repeat clear messages to recreational fishers on the need to remove rubbish and generally care for the area they are fishing.</p>	<p>Amount and frequency of published/web material from AFANT — ongoing.</p> <p>Amount and frequency of published/web material from AFANT — ongoing.</p>

STRATEGIC ISSUE 8.

**PROMOTE AND BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AS IT IMPACTS ON RECREATIONAL FISHING**

Objective	Strategies	Performance Indicators and Timing
<p>The environmental and access requirements of recreational fishing will be taken into account in all land use, mining and industrial developments in the NT.</p>	<p>Continue to lobby Government to ensure that recreational fishing is a consideration in its planning and approvals processes.</p> <p>Continue to bring a recreational fishing perspective to planning and environmental assessment processes by commenting on planning proposals and environmental reports on developments that may impact on recreational fishing.</p> <p>Lobby government to ensure that AFANT is able to represent the views of recreational fishers on committees and working groups dealing with development and environmental assessment. For example, Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Work with governments and other groups to eliminate threats to the recreational fishing environment from existing developments — in particular abandoned mines like Mount Todd.</p>	<p>Recreational fishing interests are seen to have been taken into account in major planning processes — ongoing.</p> <p>Number of relevant submissions and effectiveness of AFANT’s input in terms of minimising risk/harm to recreational fishing — ongoing.</p> <p>AFANT membership of all relevant committees — ongoing.</p> <p>AFANT membership of all relevant committees and effectiveness of governments’ responses to threats — ongoing.</p>
<p>Recreational fishing in the NT will not be contributing to the introduction or spread of weeds and introduced pests.</p>	<p>Form an alliance with officers in the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts who are responsible for weeds and pests and aid in the dissemination of information and the promotion of practices that will help recreational fishers ensure they are not contributing to the introduction or spread of weeds and pests and that recreational fishers monitor areas and report on any weed or pest incursions.</p> <p>Lobby governments to prohibit the import of fish, marine products and plants that pose a threat to our recreational fishing environment.</p>	<p>Feedback showing increased awareness and improved practices by recreational fishers — ongoing.</p> <p>The number and type of organisms posing a potentially threat to our fishing environment that can legally be brought into the NT is reduced and regulations are effectively enforced — ongoing.</p>

	Lobby governments to provide realistic resources to manage existing weed and pest infestations in our recreational fishing environment.	More resources and more effective programs to deal with weeds and pests in the NT — ongoing.
Fishing activities, including competitions where it is proven that they will be damaging to fish stocks and or the environment will not be supported in the NT.	AFANT will work with Recfish Australia to develop, implement and promote a national program for the environmental accreditation of fishing tournaments and major events.	Program trialled in the NT in 2006 and available for use by all competition organisers in 2007. AFANT and the NT Government will encourage all competition organisers to apply the assessment to their events — ongoing

## STRATEGIC ISSUE 9.

**SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN FISHERIES RESEARCH**

Objective	Strategies	Performance Indicators and Timing
There will be continued effective research into NT fisheries, in particular, where they impact on recreational fishing.	<p>To lobby the NT government to provide adequate resources for the fisheries group to monitor and collect necessary information for sound management of recreational fishing in the NT.</p> <p>To represent the interest of recreational fishing in decision making on fisheries research in the NT and, in particular, to continue membership of the NT Fisheries research Advisory Board.</p>	<p>Recreational fishing research by the Fisheries Group increases and better management information is available — ongoing.</p> <p>Continued membership of NTFRAB, quality of project approved for NT and relevance to recreational fishing — ongoing.</p>
There will be an effective process for monitoring and reporting on all aspects of recreational fishing in the NT to provide a sound basis for management and resource allocation decision-making.	<p>Encourage Government to conduct a recreational fishing survey in the Northern Territory every five years.</p> <p>Seek government funding for AFANT to conduct a wide-scale and long-term recreational fish tagging and effort recording program in the NT.</p>	<p>NT recreational fishing survey conducted in 2006/07.</p> <p>Tagging program to commence in 2007 and be ongoing.</p>