



# Annual Report

# 2023

Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc.

# Table of Contents

## CONTENTS

02.	Corporate Members
03.	AFANT Partners
04.	AFANT Committee & Staff
05.	Presidents Report
08.	A word from our CEO
10.	AFANT's Key Activities & Communication
11.	Committees and Working Groups
12.	AFANT Research Tagging Program
14.	Top End Billfish Research - Billseekers
15.	NT recreational fishing value and participation
16.	Social fisheries research & WRFC10
17.	AFANT & OzFish Partnership
18.	NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan
20.	AFANT 2023 Activity Snapshots <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Point Stuart</li><li>• Water Planning and Policy</li><li>• Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct</li><li>• Access to Rivers and Intertidal Waters</li></ul>
22.	NT Barramundi Fishery
24.	Audited Financial Statements 2023
40.	Fishing Club Members

AFANT operates on Larrakia country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region and we pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present. We extend this acknowledgment and respect to the Traditional Owners of everywhere we go fishing.



AFANT acknowledges grant support from the Northern Territory Government through the Industry Development Support Program and the NT Recreational Fishing Grants Program.



## GOLD MEMBERS



## SILVER MEMBERS



## BRONZE MEMBERS



AFANT acknowledges our partners. Their support helps us to deliver our organisational objectives, projects, and activities for the benefit of the Northern Territory's vibrant and valuable recreational fishing sector.

*We thank you for your continued support and acknowledge the important contribution you make to recreational fishing in the Northern Territory*





## AFANT Executive



President  
Warren de With



Vice President  
Dennis Smart



Secretary  
Evan Dixon



Treasurer & Public  
Officer  
Rocky Edwards



Assist. Sec/Treas  
Josie Short

## Committee Members



Brent Murdoch



Alastair Shields



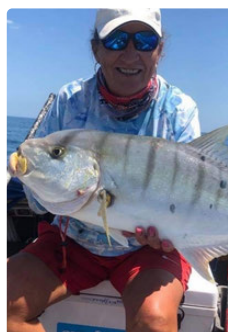
Geoff Bird



Glenn "Watty" Watt



Stewart Odgers

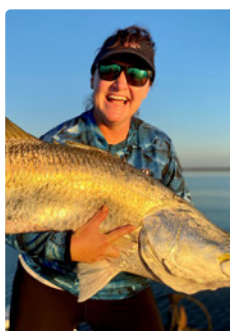


Megan Brown

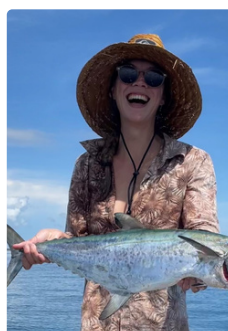
## AFANT Staff



David Ciaravolo  
CEO



Joanne Rudd  
Projects & Admin



Ruby Hatfield  
Projects (Ozfish)

In 2023 we have continued to work hard to represent the Territory's recreational fishing sector. Since I delivered my President's Report 12-months ago, the AFANT team has been kept busy across a wide range of important issues.

We have been working to make sure that the recreational fishing sector is represented on fisheries management, water policy and infrastructure. We have been actively collaborating on a number of research projects including on Billfish, Mangrove Jack, fish tagging, water resource

development and we are coinvestigators on a new social study that is looking into how we can incorporate fisher satisfaction into fisheries management. Of course we have also been working behind the scenes, as we seek to ensure that the Northern Territory Government delivers all of its \$50M recreational fishing commitment before the election next August. You can read more about a number of the specific issues and projects we have been working on in this Annual Report.



Before I go into a few of the biggest issues of 2023, I want to thank our staff and volunteers for their dedication throughout this year. I thank my fellow Committee Members for their service to our organisation. And I thank our staff, David and Joanne who have continued to work tirelessly, ensuring that AFANT is across the many issues and opportunities facing our sector. This year, Ruby from OzFish joined the team as part of our ongoing partnership with Australia's biggest fish-habitat-charity. Together, our staff have ensured that the 60,000 Territorians who go fishing, the businesses that make up our industry, and the thousands of people who are employed in recreational fishing have always had professional representation.

I also want to thank our funding bodies and our corporate sponsors, as well as our members and the other recreational fishers who have engaged with us throughout the year. Whether through your subscription fees, fish tagging efforts, or taking the time to participate in our consultations and surveys; your contributions have helped to shape the work we do.

This year, we learned from the *National Recreational Fishing - Social and Economic Survey* that recreational fishing contributes \$270M to Territory GDP. And that at least 2,500 Territorians have a job thanks to rec fishing. Of course, the economic value is only part of the story. The same study also confirmed some things that we had never doubted. It found, that fishing is good for you! That, fishing supports mental health and wellbeing. And that, people who go fishing are more able to face the challenges that life throws at us.

So, it's a good thing then, that we have been making a plan to ensure that the future of fishing in the Northern Territory is bright and prosperous.

This new plan is not just a cut and paste job. It's far from being a carbon copy of the plan before it. It is the result of listening to the voices of hundreds of fishers and stakeholder experts who participated in an innovative planning process.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT CONTINUED....

We worked closely with staff at NT Fisheries (and I thank the rec fishing team sincerely for their leadership and commitment), the RFAC, as well as reps from fishing clubs and businesses. The planning team went back to the fundamentals. They put assumptions aside, and took a deep dive into the dynamics, challenges and opportunities that face our fishing sector.

Of course, if we do want to achieve the bold vision that is set out in the new *NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan*, then all stakeholders, organisations, government, business, and fishers will need to work together. Government will need to seriously invest in key infrastructure and, just as importantly, in the people required to do the work. We cannot keep doing the same thing, with the same level of investment and expect better results.

Unsurprisingly, improving access through building stronger relationships between recreational fishers, fishery managers, land councils and Traditional owners came to the top of the list of strategic actions required to achieve the new 10-year vision. It is clear that a lack of resources and lack of progress continues to come between groups of people, who surely, have their differences and their own unique challenges and responsibilities, but also a lot of shared values that should be, and could be, a foundation for more cooperation. In the last 12-months there have been some positive signs and we are pleased that the NT Government has revised its position and has put more resources and more flexibility on the negotiating table. Overall, however, progress remains slow and below the expectations of all parties.

I want to take a moment, to reflect on the passing of NLC Chair Dr Bush-Blanasi. He was a formidable leader. Always looking out for the people he represented and always collegiate in his approach with me. Over the many years in our respective roles, we talked a lot, debated a lot, and actually agreed on a lot more than you might think. It wasn't a surprise for him to call and tell me to put the kettle on when he would be in town. He will be missed.

They say that nothing stays the same. Except, we still love Barramundi just as much as ever. And when I hear about \$270M of value, I hear Barramundi. When I hear 2,500 jobs, I know it's thanks to Barramundi! Of course, the rich diversity of fishing on offer in the Territory is important. It is unique, and valuable, and growing in recognition. But respectfully, for many people and many businesses, all the other fishing is a very welcome sideshow.

It's the Barra that put the NT on the map of the world's best recreational fishing destinations. It's the Barra that keeps the locals going out and keeps the tourists coming back! It's the Barramundi that make fishing in the Northern Territory the unique, and captivating thing that it is. To say all of this, should be far from controversial because it has been well understood for a long time.

So why then, two years into the Barramundi fishery review are we seemingly no closer to resource sharing being thoroughly investigated and decided upon? How can it be that we seem to find ourselves focused on paving the way for export accreditation for the comparatively small and often problematic commercial fishery?

Why are we still concerned that the intertidal closures announced this year will mean more netting and more commercial catch coming out of key recreational fishing areas like Anson Bay and the Roper River? And why is it that the public have no definitive clarity about the progress of the Barramundi management review so far?



## PRESIDENTS REPORT CONTINUED....

If we are to be all-in on planning for a bright recreational fishing future, then we can't leave Barramundi to chance. We must not accept that optimising the NT's single most valuable fishery – yes, the recreational barramundi fishery - becomes a second-tier order of business.

We support resource sharing. Barramundi are hugely important to Traditional harvest fishers, to fishing tour operators, and to recreational fishers. And we all want the same things, abundant fish stocks, high strike rates, and as many big fish as possible. Any commercial barramundi fishing needs to fit within and compliment this paradigm. This is how we can genuinely optimise the use of our valuable natural resource.

We cannot ignore the fact that Traditional Owners have closed waters to gill netting over concerns about wasted fish and dead threatened, endangered and protected species. Nor can we just accept that this has displaced up to 50% of the commercial catch in the last year alone, and yet we still don't have catchment-based quotas in place for next season.

We cannot ignore the fact that just over the border, the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments have just announced a \$185M package to phase out all gillnetting on the east coast over the next few years. And they are planning big new net-free zones on the Queensland side of the Gulf of Carpentaria too.

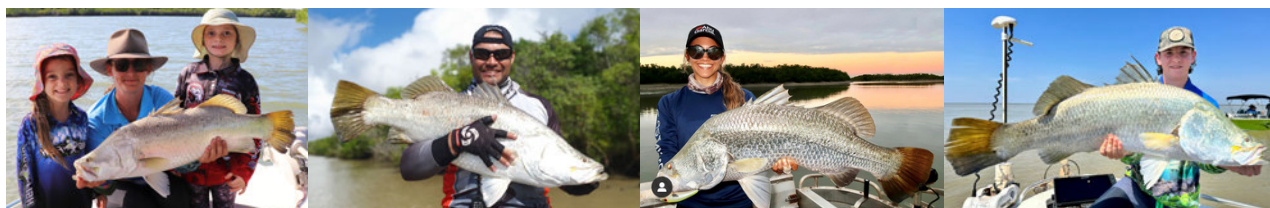
Queensland is our head-to-head competitor for the fishing tourism market. And their offering is about to get a whole lot more competitive. Add to the improvement in barra fishing, Queensland's comparative wealth of infrastructure and hospitality offerings, and the NT's most valuable fishery is about to stare down it one of its toughest challenges in decades.

Now, if we pull together and make the right moves, I have no doubt that the NT can remain the go-to destination for Barramundi fishing. But it simply won't happen if we don't respond to the circumstances that are in front of us. The management of the barramundi fishery should be world-leading, and must comprehensively reflect the reality of the values at stake. So let's plan, let's focus and let's get our priorities right.

Our new Recreational Fishing Minister is also the Minister for Tourism and the Minister for Infrastructure and that is an exciting combination of responsibilities. We have a new plan and a bold vision for the future of recreational fishing. We need to start taking the steps toward that vision immediately. We look forward to what can be achieved over the next 12-months. And 2024 is an election year.

Tight lines.

*Warren de Wilde*



Big Barramundi are the backbone of NT recreational fishing and a major tourism drawcard

## A WORD FROM OUR CEO

The NT has a big plans and bold vision for a bright fishing future. Drafting the new plan was a uniquely collaborative effort. Success is now dependent on embracing change and investing in the actions that have been identified as essential...

When I reflect on the creation of the *NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan 2023-33* (RFDP) over the past two years, I consider it to be an amazing journey. When the task first came along through our membership of the NT Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC), AFANT were determined that it not be a simple cut and paste job of the previous plan. That is not to say that the previous plan was not useful, in fact, we referred to it all the time. But the opportunity to plan and set out a 10-year vision only comes around once in a decade and we wanted to make the most of it.

It was wonderful that the RFAC was unanimous in its assessment that the future is likely to be very different from the past and that fresh eyes and an innovative approach to planning was needed. With funding provided by the NTG and unwavering energy from the NT Fisheries team (especially Jake Maynard and Kane Dysart), we were able to work with Gary Saliba from Strategic Journeys, one of Australia's leading strategic and systems thinkers.

It ended up being a genuinely collaborative, inclusive and innovative undertaking. It proved that sometimes when planning for the future, the processes you go through and the journey you share, can be just as transformative as the strategies and actions you eventually identify. By challenging our own assumptions, together, we developed a plan that anticipates uncertainty, embraces change and invites reassessment.



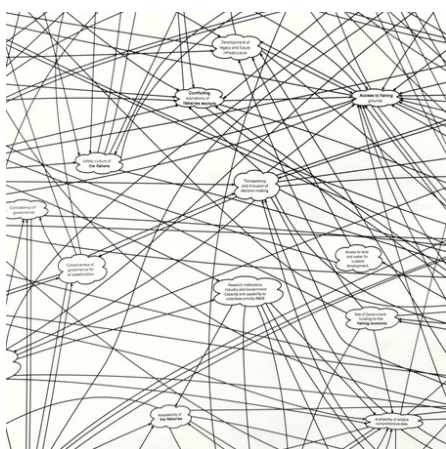
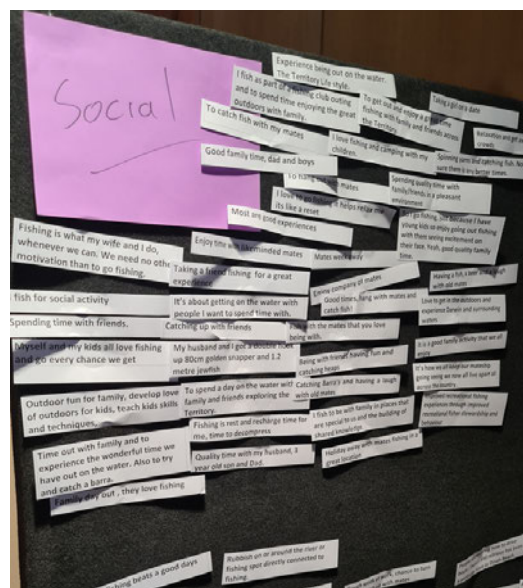
“  
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CEO CONTINUED...

Rather than beginning by just asking people what actions and investments they wanted to see over the next 10 years, we put all assumptions aside, and started interviewing fishers at boat ramps, on jetties and online. We asked people to candidly tell us their stories about recent fishing trips, their best days fishing, and what it was that made those days so good. We also asked about their worst days out fishing and dared them to dream about a perfect NT fishing trip.

After we had collected stories from around 250 fishers, this is where the magic happened. The team assembled 40 recreational fishers from around the Territory and in Parliament House, overlooking the blue waters of Darwin Harbour, they were put to work. Confronted with almost 1,500 excerpts from the stories collected, all randomly stuck up on the wall, the task was for a diverse gathering of peers to take the printed statements, organise them into themes, discuss what they mean and what outcomes we should calibrate the new plan to achieve.

We took the results of that workshop and to produce the final plan, we needed to overlay them with findings of the other planning processes the team had been through. This had included several full-day systems mapping workshops where fishers, fishery managers, scientists, businesses, infrastructure experts, tourism industry, seafood and Indigenous fishing sector representatives, helped us to build a full picture. The result was a mind-blowing systems map illustrating the complex, interconnected and dynamic environment that recreational fishing exists within. It showed the internal and external drivers that shape our world. And the feedback loops revealed on the map, helped us to refine and accurately target our strategies.



With the new plan now complete, securing ongoing buy-in from key stakeholders will be essential. While it is certainly encouraging that this plan has been embraced and launched by the two Minister's for Fisheries, it is also fair to say that not every person involved came on the entire journey with us. This means that for AFANT, continuing our professional advocacy to build support will be essential. We'll be working to ensure that the Government quickly commits to investing in the actions and initiatives identified, as this will make or break the exciting future vision that the plan has set a trajectory towards.

With the RFDP now live, and a shared appreciation of our operating environment developed, the challenging task of delivering a vibrant future for the NT's 60,000 fishers, along with the \$270M economy and the 2,500 jobs that rec fishing supports has well and truly begun.



## AFANT'S KEY ACTIVITIES

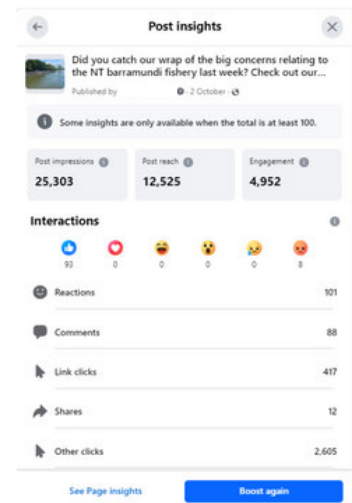
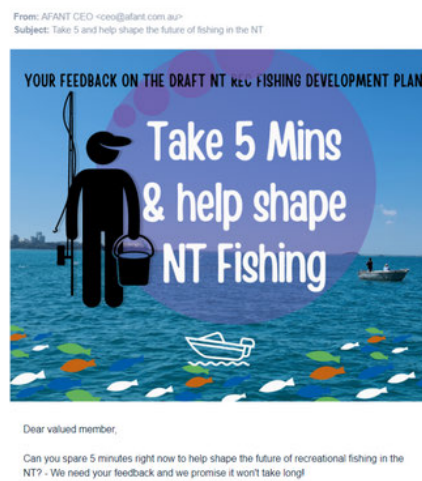
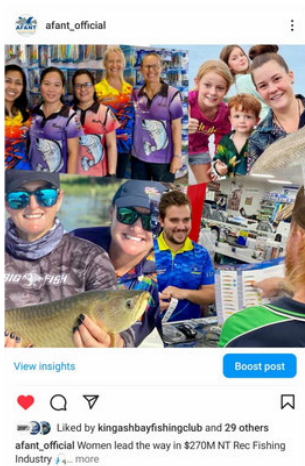
AFANT has continued to ensure that our resources are applied to key organisational strategies. Our actions, projects and representations are professionally delivered for the benefit of the Northern Territory's recreational fishers, as well as the fishing clubs, associations and businesses that make up our valuable and vibrant sector.

### **AFANT's key areas of strategic focus are to:**

- Represent and advocate for the interests of all recreational fishers in the NT;
- Protect and enhance the quality of the fishing experiences and resources that are available to Northern Territory and visiting anglers;
- Participate in the management and co-management of recreational and other fisheries;
- Support, participate and coordinate recreational fisher involvement in fisheries research;
- Provide representation and advice to governments and others on recreational fishing issues;
- Maintain and improve access to recreational fishing opportunities;
- Promote and advocate for ethical, sustainable, safe, and legal fishing practices;
- Liaise constructively with other organisations on matters of mutual interest;
- Promote, and be an advocate for fish habitat and protection of the environment when it has the potential to impact on recreational fishing.

## COMMUNICATION

We work hard to keep our members and supporters updated on the important issues. Our team delivers across a range of communication channels from media releases and web updates, to issue-based email campaigns and posts on our social media accounts. If you have an interest in recreational fishing, we invite you to join as a member or as a supporter and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Fishers can also contact us through Facebook messenger, email, phone, or catch us in our office at 19/90 Francis Bay Drive, Stuart Park.



# MANAGEMENT ADVISORY & RESEARCH COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Through our staff and some of our volunteers, AFANT maintains formal membership, and active participation in a range of committees and organisations related to the management of fisheries, lands, water, and the broader environment. By actively participating in these important groups we have sought to ensure that the interests and perspectives of the recreational fishing sector were professionally and effectively represented during 2023.

## **Fishery Committee Memberships (organisational, individual, or observer):**

- Recreational Fishery Advisory Committee (RFAC)
- Barramundi Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- Mud Crab Fishery Harvest Strategy Group
- Coastal Line (Fishery) Advisory Group
- Spanish Mackerel Fishery Advisory Group
- Offshore Net and Line Fishery Advisory Group
- Aquarium Fishery Advisory Group
- Strategic Fisheries Advisory Forum

## **Water Resource Committees:**

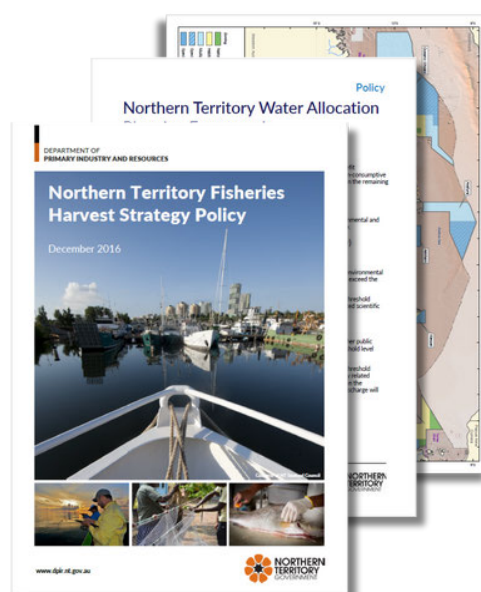
- Tindall Mataranka Daly-Waters Water Advisory Committee
- Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program Community Reference Group
- Roper River Water Resource Assessment and Victoria River Water Resource Assessment Steering Committee

## **Other Committees and working groups:**

- Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee
- North Marine Parks Advisory Committee
- Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee
- NT Water Safety Advisory Council
- FRDC NT Research Advisory Committee
- Middle Arm Social Assessment Expert Panel

## **Memberships:**

- Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation



# AFANT RESEARCH TAGGING PROGRAM

AFANT partners with NT Fisheries to deliver a community-based Barramundi tagging program. The information collected contributes to the understanding of fish stocks, including size, and age structures, as well as trends in catch and release rates. AFANT is responsible for coordinating volunteer taggers, managing community engagement, and facilitating fish recapture reports.

In addition to engaging fishers in the research of this key fishery, a major purpose of the tagging program is to replace commercial catch-return data following the introduction of net free and recreational fishing zones. We once thank all of our volunteers and citizen scientists for their valuable contributions.

Activities to support the Research Tagging Program in 2023 has included:

- Recruitment and support of volunteers
- Database maintenance (in partnership with InfoFish)
- Monitoring the 1800 hotline & web portal
- Issuing certificates and recapture rewards/vouchers
- Coordination of tagging for DGFC Barra Classic
- Online news and tagging report updates

## A tagging tale...

### Mega Mary River Mission

Earlier this year, Chris Pearce was on a fishing trip with his son, at Marsh Creek (part of the Mary River floodplain coastal creek system). After a quiet day they were happy to catch and release a 96cm tagged barramundi.

Our records showed that the fish was first tagged 2,743 days earlier in Corroboree Billabong at the SWB Barra Challenge in September 2015. Tagged as a 47cm freshwater (and almost certainly male) fish, it had grown 49cm, travelled a vast distance downstream to the coastal creek, and changed into to a prime female saltwater barramundi.

Thank you to Chris and the SWB Barra Challenge for participating in our Barramundi Research Tagging Program and for contributing your time and data.



September 2015, SWB Barra Challenge



April 2023, Chris Pearce



## More information...

There is a lot more information learned from tagged Barramundi on our website. Including over a decade of data on growth rates, distances travelled and trends in the size of fish caught. Plus, you can download the Daly River 10-year tagging report, detailing a wealth of information collected thanks to fishers at the annual NT Barra Classic and NT Fisheries. It has been compiled by our data partners at InfoFish Australia. Scan the QR to take you there...



Scan & find out more

## 2023 AFANT tagged fish and all recaptures

Summary data for 2022/23			
Tags Supplied (issued)	1,692		
Tags Released (in fish)	1,611		
Recaptures reported (rewards issued):	157		
Location data for 2022/23			
Region	AFANT Recaptures	FISHERIES Recaptures	AFANT Tagged Fish
Adelaide River	5	12	69
Daly River	46	23	1,418
Darwin Harbour	8	7	39
Finniss River	-	7	-
Manton Dam	-	3	17
Mary River	6	19	42
Roper River	3	3	-
Yellow Waters/ South Alligator	-	-	16
East Alligator	-	3	3
Shoal Bay	5	7	7
TOTAL	73	84	1,611

We acknowledge and thank our program partners and sponsors:



## TOP END BILLFISH RESEARCH: BILLSEEKERS

AFANT have been pleased to partner as a co-investigator in an exciting project seeking to better understand the Sailfish and Marlin fisheries off the coast of the Northern Territory. Officially titled *The emerging billfish fishing grounds of northern Australia: fisheries description, movements, and hot spots* the project is led by principal investigator Dr Keller Kopf at Charles Darwin University and along with PhD candidate Matt Hammond includes a project team of 12 expert personnel from the Northern Territory and other parts of Australia. Project partners include Fisheries NT, AFANT, University of Queensland, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), AIMS (Australian Institute of Marine Science), Pepperell Research & Consulting and recreational fishers.



Dr Keller Kopf, Matt Hammond, Bomber Farrell and Kane Dysart tagging sailfish around Groote Eylandt

In late 2022 and during 2023 the citizen science collaboration has been in full swing. It kicked off with the fishing team tagging billfish off the coast of Groote Eylandt NT, and has since also tagged billfish off the coast of Nhulunbuy and Dundee. The tagging team is a great example of scientists, fisheries experts and rec fishers working together to place pop-off satellite tags in sailfish and black marlin. This is expected to produce valuable insights as the data continues to roll in and be evaluated by the team of expert researchers in Darwin and around Australia.



Pop-off satellite tags ready for deployment.

11 - procured by AFANT with funds from the NT Recreational Fishing Grants Program

To date, AFANT's key roles have included promoting awareness through the Bill Seekers social media channels and fishing clubs, as well as procuring satellite tags for deployment.

Top End Billfish Research is funded thanks to grants from the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC) and Northern Territory Government - NT Recreational Fishing Grants Program.



## NT REC FISHING VALUED AT \$270M; Supports 2,500 jobs & wellbeing of 61,000 Territorians

In February 2023 the Australian Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) released the long awaited *National Social and Economic Survey of Recreational Fishers*. The detailed report found that recreational fishing contributes \$270M to NT GDP annually and supports 2,500 full time jobs.

The study also revealed what many have long understood; Recreational fishing connects people with nature and with one another. It provides individuals and communities with a range of social, as well as health and wellbeing benefits. With Recreational fishers having, higher levels of wellbeing than non-fishers



Supplied: FRDC

Additionally, those who fish more frequently have higher levels of wellbeing, relative to those who fish less frequently. Recreational fishing was also found to aid personal resilience and recovery from adverse life events. And it was found that recreational fishing is an important form of exercise, providing recommended daily physical activity, especially for senior citizens

## WOMEN LEAD THE WAY IN THE NT; As the Territory leads the nation in rec fishing participation

*The National Social and Economic Survey of Recreational Fishers: Northern Territory Snapshot* released in August, detailed that while across the rest of the nation, fishing participation is significantly higher amongst men than women, the Northern Territory is bucking the trend with 33% of women going fishing, compared to a national average of 17.8%.

The participation of NT men, is also nation leading and contributed to an overall, nation-high participation rate of 32.7%. In all, the survey found 60,800 adults Territorians went fishing each year during the survey period.



The team at Northern Territory fishing tackle manufacturer Reidy's Lures



## PIONEERING SOCIAL FISHERIES RESEARCH ON NT BARRA

The future of recreational fishing in the Northern Territory may be better informed with the research project *Enhancing Recreational Fisher Experience through Informed Decision Making* commencing in mid-2023. Spearheaded by Hudson Howells, in collaboration with AFANT, NT Fisheries, Action Research, the NT Guided Fishing Industry Association (NTGFIA), Fishwell Consulting, and Power Stats, the project aims to elevate the management of fisheries resources by incorporating invaluable fisher experience data.

The study is delving into the experiences of recreational fishers to help inform future resource management and measure fishery performance. It will explore how catch settings and other factors may influence the overall fisher experience. Employing existing frameworks for measuring fisher experience, the project seeks to validate their applicability within the NT.



The study is supported by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. The survey component has commenced and is now taking place at boat ramps and online, with all recreational Barramundi fishers encouraged to participate.

## WORLD RECREATIONAL FISHING CONFERENCE

Thanks to support from the FRDC, AFANT's CEO and Projects Officer were able to attend the 10th World Recreational Fishing Conference in Melbourne from February 20 -22.

The headline theme for the conference was *Keeping Pace in a Dynamic and Challenging World with Changing Fisheries*, with presenters and attendees engaging with the big challenges and latest research from around the world. Sub-themes included climate change, resource sharing, stewardship & advocacy, citizen science, best practice, new technologies, and First nations peoples-interactions with recreational fisheries. A key take home for our team was that optimal outcomes require fishers, researchers and managers to work together across all stages of projects and studies.



## AFANT & OZFISH PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES; with Tangle Bins to Tackle Litter

Our partnership with national fish habitat charity OzFish Unlimited continued throughout 2023 with the appointment of Ruby Hatfield as project officer embedded at AFANT. Following a successful application to the NT Recreational Fishing Grants program, the Tangle Bins Project commenced in mid 2023.

In a first for the Northern Territory, with the support of AFANT, OzFish Unlimited installed tangle bins in popular land based fishing spots around Darwin and Palmerston. The project aims to help keep these areas free of stray fishing gear.

With cooperation from the City of Darwin Council, Palmerston City Council, Darwin Waterfront Corporation and NT Parks, the permanent bins have been set up in eight designated areas, originally identified by local recreational fishers.

Not only do the tangle bins assist in keeping waterways clear of discarded line and other items, the fishing waste is also being diverted from landfill and will be recycled by OzFish as part of its Tackle Loop initiative.

The bins are routinely emptied by community volunteers who help OzFish monitor, empty and maintain the tangle bins. This ensures that they remain clean and safe for people to use and fishers can help contribute to a healthier environment in the places where they love to go fishing.

### Tangle Bin Locations:

- Nightcliff jetty
- Rapid Creek fishing platform
- Stokes Hill Wharf
- East Point Reserve
- Durack Lake #6
- Sanctuary Lake carpark
- Elizabeth River boat ramp
- Buffalo Creek boat Ramp



AFANT CEO David Ciaravolo & OzFish Project Officer Ruby Hatfield at the Nightcliff Jetty tangle bin



# NEW 10 YEAR PLAN

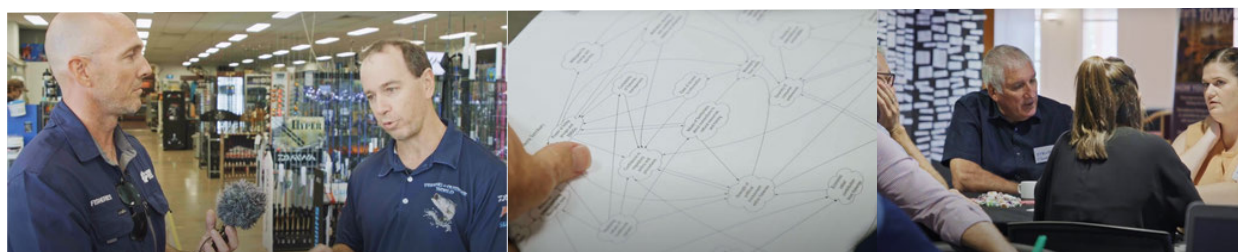
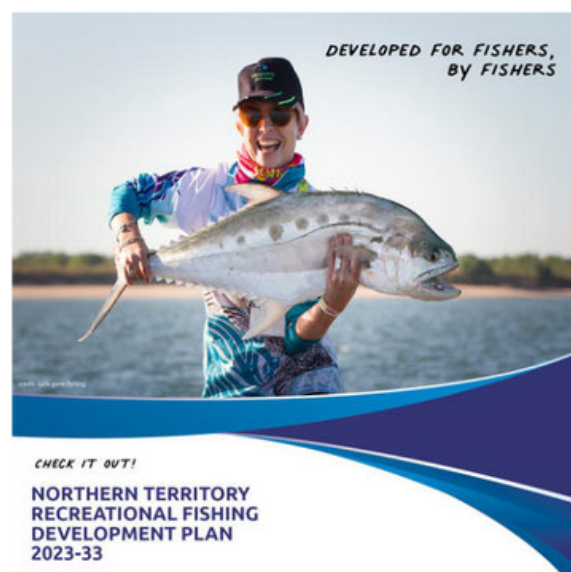
## To deliver bright future for recreational fishing in the NT

Following 18-months of collaboration between AFANT, NT Fisheries, the NT Guided Fishing Industry Association (NTGFIA) and the NT Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC) the *Recreational Fishing Development Plan (RFDP) 2023 – 2033* was officially released on 6 November 2023. The plan identifies an ambitious vision for a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous recreational fishing future and outlines key actions to guide government and stakeholders.

The plan was officially launched by Recreational Fishing Minister the Hon Joel Bowden and Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries the Hon Nicole Manison, along with AFANT CEO David Ciaravolo, NTGFIA EO Kane Dysart and senior representatives from NT Fisheries.

With over 60,000 Territorians and tens-of-thousands of visitors going fishing each year, fishing in the NT is not only popular, it's also big business. The sector contributes \$270M to Territory GDP, supporting 2,500 full-time jobs and this makes well-informed planning for future management needs and infrastructure developments essential.

The AFANT team enjoyed working with the fishing community, businesses, government (especially the NT Fisheries team) and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee through a series of comprehensive and highly collaborative steps. The process was assisted with expert guidance and advice from Gary Saliba from Strategic Journeys. AFANT would like to thank Jake Maynard and Kane Dysart for their leadership and genuine approach to partnership at every stage.





The new NT Recreational Fishing Development Plan is a wholistic set of forward-focused strategies, setting out four key outcomes which were identified through the input of hundreds of recreational fishers, peak bodies, industry representatives, and the Northern Territory Government.

**The four key outcomes are:**

1



**Shared understanding and access**

Creating shared understanding and respect between recreational fishing stakeholders, Aboriginal land and sea owners, and other land owners and managers, and providing certainty of access for recreational fishers and businesses across the Territory in accordance with the wishes of Traditional Owners and other land managers.

2



**Diverse and abundant fish stocks**

Maintaining and protecting recreational fish stocks at levels that satisfy the expectations and needs of the Territory's recreational fishing community and fishing tourism sector.

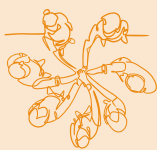
3



**Fishing opportunities for everyone**

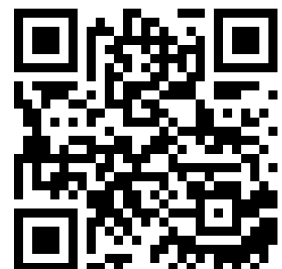
Facilitating the maintenance and creation of recreational fishing experiences for everyone who lives in, or visits the Territory to enjoy and benefit from.

4



**A capable and confident sector**

Creating a highly capable recreational fishing sector, which attracts public confidence, is able to effectively deliver all other components of the plan, and facilitate achievement of the future desired by the Territory's recreational fishing community.



Scan for more

# SNAPSHOTS...

## Point Stuart

The completion and opening of the upgraded Point Stuart access road marked the beginning of certain and free public access to the Point Stuart boat ramp. This is a strategic development that AFANT had long advocated for.

The Point Stuart boat ramp is constructed on land managed by NT Parks and Wildlife, however, the access track used to be across private land and previously, fishers were charged to access the ramp

In addition to upgrading over 12km of access road (including re-alignment, widening, and raising of the road and the installation of improved drainage and culverts), the now completed project also included the NT Government securing a right of access to the boat ramp area.



The upgrades to the road have been designed to make the road less prone to flooding and to help ensure access to the ramp can occur at more times of the year. The boat ramp provides convenient access to the Point Stuart coastline including coastal creeks, the Wildman River and a variety of reef fishing opportunities. It is also an excellent location to commence longer range trips towards other parts of Kakadu.

At a time when access to recreational fishing locations has become increasingly challenging, the securing of free public access at Point Stuart is of exceptional strategic importance.

## Water Planning and Policy

Freshwater is major driver of productivity in key Northern Territory fisheries like Barramundi and Mud Crab. Throughout the year, the AFANT team has continued to professionally represent the interests of the recreational fishing sector on water planning and policy.

Key Activities over the past 12 months have included submissions on the *Surface Water Take – Wet Season Flows Policy* and the *NT Water Plan*. Our CEO has continued to participate on the the Tindall Mataranka Daly-Waters Water Advisory Committee (Roper River) and on the Darwin Region Water Supply Infrastructure Program Community Reference Group (AROWS). We have also participated on the CSIRO Roper River & Victoria River Water Resource Assessment Steering committees.



# SNAPSHOTS...

## Middle Arm Industrial Precinct

Since our initial response to Terms of Reference through the NT EPA in 2022, our team has been closely following developments related to planning for the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct (MAIP), also known as the Middle Arm Sustainable Development precinct.

We have received a number of updates from NTG both directly and through our membership of the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee. Our CEO has been a member of the Social Impact Expert Panel; the primary goal of that group was to provide advice and inform the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct strategic social impact assessment.

In November 2023 AFANT provided a formal submission to the Senate inquiry into the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct. Our submission reflects our organisation's view that while there are certainly benefits to the whole-of-area strategic environmental assessment approach taken by the Northern Territory Government. It must also be acknowledged that the development of new port infrastructure at the mouth of the Elizabeth River and the associated shipping channel will cause significant and irreparable damage to fish habitats. Additionally, we hold concerns about a loss of access to a number of mangrove creeks and reduced amenity from the Elizabeth River boat ramp due to forecast access restrictions when large ships are docking. We urge careful consideration of the need for new port development and argue that offsets to mitigate unavoidable impacts on fish stocks and access needs greater consideration.

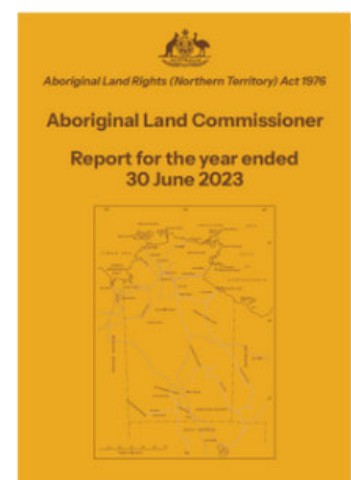


## Access to Rivers and Intertidal Waters

Throughout 2023 AFANT has continued to work to represent the interests of recreational fishers with respect to waters overlying Aboriginal Land. We have engaged regularly with the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet's - Aboriginal Strategic Policy team and the Northern Land Council's Sea Country team.

We have continued to assist recreational fishers with information about access to their favourite fishing waters and have made representations and submissions with respect to a number of land claims before the Aboriginal Land Commissioner.

Key actions in the new RFDP are aimed at building stronger relationships and addressing our capacity to effectively engage with Traditional Owners and Rangers.





# NT BARRAMUNDI FISHERY

## Review and issues

Barramundi are *the* iconic fish species for recreational fishing in the Territory and the backbone of the recreational fishing sector; celebrated for bringing social, cultural and economic benefits to tens of thousands of people (both fishers and non-fishers). At the 2020 NT election, AFANT and other groups including the Northern Land Council received commitments from Northern Territory Government to review the management of the NT's prized Barramundi fishery.

At the time, in confirming support for a comprehensive review, the Government told us it would appoint a Management Advisory Committee (MAC) *that reflects all stakeholders, and to oversee continuous improvement of the Barramundi Management Framework and harvest strategy to reflect the contemporary context.* So how are things progressing and what new challenges have emerged?

The NT Barramundi MAC first met in September 2021 and has since held five official meetings, one whole of committee workshop, and number of formal working group and stakeholder meetings. The major focus has been on responding to the Environmental Risk Assessment and developing a Threatened, Endangered and Protected Species (TEPS) strategy, as well as an interim Harvest Strategy.



AFANT's Projects and Administration Officer, Joanne Rudd with a 111cm Roper River Barramundi

While no one would argue that a plan to better assess and mitigate interactions with TEPS is a matter of the highest priority, the focus on the development of a Harvest Strategy (setting basic catch management rules for the commercial sector), prior to other important foundational work being completed, has not met our expectations.

Given the significance of the Barramundi fishery to the recreational, tourism and Traditional fishing sectors, the focus on a Harvest Strategy (a primary need of the commercial sector to secure Commonwealth export-approval), prior to making progress on resource sharing and a social and economic assessment, seems to us to be back to front. The instruction for this order of focus has come directly from subsequent Fisheries Ministers, and our CEO has raised AFANT's concerns with the Minister responsible on a number of occasions.

It is important to acknowledge assurances have been received that following the completion of the TEPS Strategy and the interim Harvest Strategy, the MAC will be able to turn it's attention to resource sharing and a review of recreational fishing management arrangements. Whether this can effectively meet diverse stakeholder expectations now remains to be seen; some three years after the initial commitment.

## Will management prevent increased pressure on key recreational Barra catchments, following access changes?

At the beginning of 2023 it was announced that Traditional Owners had decided to close the waters of the Mini Mini region to commercial Barramundi netting. Given that this area reportedly provided up to 23% of the annual commercial catch, AFANT became concerned about the impact of that netting effort and catch being relocated to open catchments like the Daly and Roper rivers, or Arnhem and Buckingham bays.

Unfortunately, our concerns were validated when in March, the NT Seafood council made calls for government support in the form of a licence buy-back or incredibly, the opening of Chambers Bay and Finke Bay. These areas had been closed to commercial Barramundi fishing in 2013, in recognition of the iconic status of Shady Camp and the surrounding areas for recreational fishing and fishing tourism.



Gillnetting is the commercial method for Barramundi fishing in the Northern Territory

AFANT and the NTGFIA called upon the Government to immediately buy-out affected licences and prevent additional pressure being placed on key recreational fishing grounds. These calls went unheeded and then in September, concerns escalated further when the Northern Land Council announced that Buckingham Bay Traditional Owners had also decided to close their waters to commercial Barramundi netting. They cited observations and concerns *about the amounts of fish that are being caught and wasted, and the vulnerable marine life that get caught in the gillnets.*



Buckingham Bay was closed following observations of wasted fish and dead crocodiles in nets in 2023

With both areas now closed to commercial netting in only 6 months, up to 50% of the annual commercial catch has potentially been displaced. Should this netting effort and catch shift to popular recreational fishing locations, it will significantly impact the usage and harvest of fish in these areas.

AFANT and the NTGFIA wrote to the Minister for Fisheries calling for action to ensure that catchment-based commercial caps are introduced to prevent increased netting and catch in places like Anson Bay and the Roper River, with no response so far.

Time is fast running out for arrangements to be put in place for the 2024 season, and with the resource sharing component of the review having been previously delayed, there is a lot riding on what happens to Barramundi management at the end of 2023.

## AMATEUR FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NT INC

ABN 47 665 738 318

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### INDEX

1. Statement by Members of the Committee
2. Committee's Report
3. Income and Expenditure Statement
4. Detailed Balance Sheet
5. Balance Sheet
6. Depreciation Schedule
7. Notes to the Financial Statements
8. Independent Auditor's Report to the Members



**Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318**

**Statement by Members of the Committee**

**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

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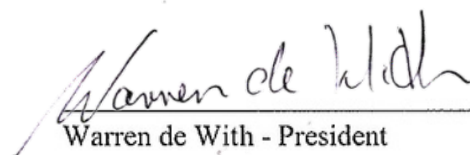
In our opinion:

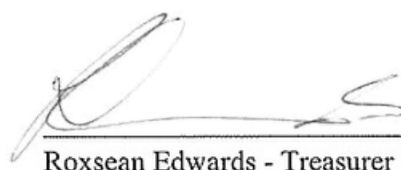
- (a) the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2023 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date;
- (b) the accounts of the Association have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Association; and
- (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Signed at: Northern Territory

Signed on: 16 / 11 / 2023

  
Warren de With - President

  
Roxsean Edwards - Treasurer

**Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318**  
**Committee's Report**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

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Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

### **Committee Members**

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Warren de With - President  
Roxsean Edwards - Treasurer  
Dennis Smart - Vice President  
Evan Dixon - Secretary  
Josie Short - Assistant Secretary  
Megan Brown  
Geoff Bird  
Glen Watt  
Stewart Odgers  
Brent Murdoch  
Alastair Shields

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: to represent recreational fishing in the NT and ensure the quality of the sport of fishing..

### **Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

### **Operating Result**

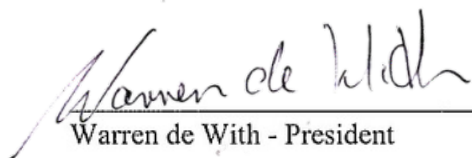
The profit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2023	30 June 2022
\$	\$
47,255.69	(51,913.11)

**Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318**  
**Committee's Report**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

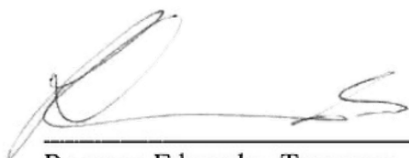
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Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on: 16 / 11 / 2023



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Warren de With - President



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Roxsean Edwards - Treasurer



**Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318****Income and Expenditure Statement****For the year ended 30 June 2023**

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	7,027.69	6,586.75
Reimbursements - travel & other expenses	4,595.25	
Interest received	1,062.91	42.22
Raffles		231.90
Grant - GFD 2019		3,949.74
Grant - Tagging App		6,862.82
Grant - Dept Primary Industries	292,000.00	228,000.00
Grant - Inpex Sponsorship		384.00
Grant - Culture and Capability		71,036.23
Grant - Lingiari		3,763.00
Grant - Ozfish Habitat	6,875.51	13,915.15
Grant - Solomon		5,738.10
Grant - Billfish Research	61,096.00	
Grant - Fishing NT	5,248.00	
Grant - LBF Guide Book	1,459.00	
Project services	10,287.00	
Total income	389,651.36	340,509.91

# Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318

## Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising & promotion	4,142.86	1,478.26
Audit fees	5,843.54	5,285.71
Bank fees & charges	326.29	286.39
Computer expenses	5,638.59	5,117.08
Depreciation - Plant		56.37
Electricity	1,516.31	2,798.36
General expenses	2,176.20	1,114.07
Grant exp - LBF Guide	1,459.00	
Grant exp - Fishing NT	5,248.00	
Grant exp - Ozfish Habitat	6,875.51	13,915.15
Grant exp - Lingiari		3,763.00
Grant exp - Solomon		5,775.96
Grant exp - Culture & Capability Prog		71,036.23
Grant exp - GFD 2019		3,950.45
Grant exp - Billfish Research	65,961.41	
Grant exp - Tagging App		6,909.55
Grant exp - Inpex Sponsorship		384.00
Insurance	5,110.48	4,902.92
Meeting expenses	2,591.34	3,979.91
Depreciation - M/V car		10,530.73
M/V car - Fuel & oil	2,640.96	2,379.51
M/V car - Registration	370.59	1,071.91
M/V car - Repairs	840.88	916.36
Postage	745.99	1,862.58
Printing & stationery		1,893.03
Rent on land & buildings	28,465.46	29,082.50
Relocation costs		203.75
Salaries - Ordinary	171,257.52	187,626.31
Subscriptions	1,529.03	1,330.85
Superannuation	19,920.06	19,440.83
Telephone	4,008.40	4,941.51
Travel and accomodation	5,727.25	389.74
Total expenses	342,395.67	392,423.02
<b>Profit from ordinary activities before income tax</b>	<b>47,255.69</b>	<b>(51,913.11)</b>

**Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318**  
**Income and Expenditure Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
<b>Net profit attributable to the association</b>	<u>47,255.69</u>	<u>(51,913.11)</u>
<b>Total changes in equity of the association</b>	<u><u>47,255.69</u></u>	<u><u>(51,913.11)</u></u>
Opening retained profits	324,371.11	376,284.22
Net profit attributable to the association	<u>47,255.69</u>	<u>(51,913.11)</u>
<b>Closing retained profits</b>	<u><u>371,626.80</u></u>	<u><u>324,371.11</u></u>



# Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318

## Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Cash Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank - Cheque Account		20,321.30	7,219.11
Cash at Bank - Cash Management Account		555,502.31	611,329.40
Cash at Bank - Research & Development		48,704.04	48,704.04
Paypal		650.40	536.39
Aust Post Mastercard		4,183.77	277.11
Cash Float - Office		180.00	180.00
		<u>629,541.82</u>	<u>668,246.05</u>
<b>Receivables</b>			
Trade debtors		13,617.66	
		<u>13,617.66</u>	
<b>Other</b>			
Prepayments - Bond		4,320.00	4,320.00
Prepayments - Rent		4,320.00	4,320.00
		<u>8,640.00</u>	<u>8,640.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u><b>651,799.48</b></u>	<u><b>676,886.05</b></u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>			
Plant & equipment (cost)		21,379.37	21,379.37
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(21,379.37)	(21,379.37)
Motor vehicles (cost)		56,103.73	56,103.73
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(56,103.73)	(56,103.73)
		<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
		<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
		<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><b>651,799.48</b></u>	<u><b>676,886.05</b></u>

# Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318

## Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
<b>Unsecured:</b>			
Sundry creditors		1,396.24	2,446.97
Unexpended grant - Fishing NT Grant		47,237.00	52,485.00
Unexpended grant - LBF Guide Book		13,137.00	14,596.00
Unexpended grant - Manbulloo		23,230.98	23,230.98
Unexpended grant - Billfish Research			61,096.00
Unexpended grant - FAD Trial Grant		13,610.00	13,610.00
Unexpended grant - Strategic Fund		3,829.40	3,829.40
Unexpended grant - Inpex Sponsorship		48.00	48.00
Unexpended grant - Ozfish Habitat		20,010.26	26,885.77
		<u>122,498.88</u>	<u>198,228.12</u>
<b>Current Tax Liabilities</b>			
GST Liabilities		31,823.35	37,468.30
		<u>31,823.35</u>	<u>37,468.30</u>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee entitlements		53,955.45	44,923.52
		<u>53,955.45</u>	<u>44,923.52</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u><b>208,277.68</b></u>	<u><b>280,619.94</b></u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><b>208,277.68</b></u>	<u><b>280,619.94</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>443,521.80</b></u>	<u><b>396,266.11</b></u>

# Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318

## Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<hr/>			
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
<b>Reserves</b>			
General reserve		71,895.00	71,895.00
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		371,626.80	324,371.11
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<u><u>443,521.80</u></u>	<u><u>396,266.11</u></u>



# Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc ABN 47 665 738 318

## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash assets		629,541.82	668,246.05
Receivables		13,617.66	
Other		8,640.00	8,640.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>651,799.48</b>	<b>676,886.05</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>651,799.48</b>	<b>676,886.05</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables		122,498.88	198,228.12
Current tax liabilities		31,823.35	37,468.30
Provisions		53,955.45	44,923.52
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>208,277.68</b>	<b>280,619.94</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>208,277.68</b>	<b>280,619.94</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>443,521.80</b>	<b>396,266.11</b>
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Reserves		71,895.00	71,895.00
Retained profits		371,626.80	324,371.11
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<b>443,521.80</b>	<b>396,266.11</b>

**Pool : General Pool**

Opening Value of the Pool:	0
Plus the taxable use percentage of assets allocated to the pool for the income year	0
Less deduction for the decline in value of depreciating assets of the pool for the income year	0
Less deduction for the decline in value of depreciating assets allocated to the pool for the income year	0
Less the taxable use percentage of the termination value of pooled assets disposed of during the income year	0
Closing Value of the Pool	0

## Office Equipment

Asset	Acquisition Date	Cost	Depreciation Method	Useful Life (Years)	Current Value	Disposal Method
Guard All Safe	471.82 02/04/12	472	0.00	0	0	W 30.00 0 0 w/o
Office Furniture (Frances Bay Office)	7,424.55 21/09/20	7,425	0.00	0	0	W 30.00 0 0 w/o
Laptop - Yago Duet I5	1,177.27 09/06/21	1,177	0.00	0	0	W 30.00 0 0 w/o
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>						
2014 Toyota Prado GXL Diesel Wagon	56,103.73 14/02/14	56,104	0.00	0	0	W 30.00 0 0 w/o

AFANT | ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## **Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### **Basis of Preparation**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of the Northern Territory. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

#### **(a) Accounts Receivables and Other Debtors**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

#### **(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### **(c) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue was recognised when the right to receive a dividend had been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).



**(d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

**(e) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

## **Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT Inc (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2023 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Act.

### **Qualification**

It is not practicable for the Association to maintain an effective system of internal control over transactions until each transaction is recorded in the accounting records. This is normal for organisations of similar size and nature. Accordingly, the scope of the audit has been limited to the recorded transactions.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### **Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report**

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Act and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

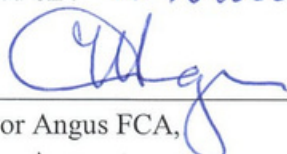
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Signed on : 16 November 2023



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Trevor Angus FCA,  
Angus Accountants

Level 1, 40 Parap Road, Parap NT 0820



# FISHING CLUB MEMBERS

AFANT acknowledges our Fishing Club Members. Fishing clubs are a central part of the NT recreational fishing community. From Barramundi fishing, to game fishing, fly fishing, and spear fishing, our member clubs conduct a range of activities and competitions right around the Territory. They are family friendly and inclusive! We encourage you to check them out!

*We thank you for your continued support and contribution to recreational fishing in the NT*



**PALMERSTON GAME FISHING CLUB**





# **AFANT 2023**

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