

TALE ROPE

Newsletter of the
CANBERRA GAME FISHING CLUB
(Incorporated)



P.O. Box 94
WODEN ACT 2606



March 2017

CONTACTS & OFFICE BEARERS 2016 - 2017

POSTAL ADDRESS

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Editors Report

Nothing really to add this month, I have not had a chance to Fish. Sorry the Tale Rope is late, work has been really busy and I have not had a chance to get it out before now.

I have been working on an electronic membership system when I get some free time, I am hoping we can have this implemented in the coming months. Will keep you posted.

We are adding a new section to the website for club member boats, if you would like your boat featured on the website, please forward a photo and description to admin@canberragamefishingclub.com.au

If you have any stories, photos, jokes, information or anything else you would like included in the Tale Rope, please send an email with all the information to admin@canberragamefishing.com.au and we will be sure to include it.

Be sure to check out the website: <https://www.canberragamefishing.com.au> it has been updated with all the new committee contacts, photos from the AGM and all of the 2016 – 2017 events have been added. If you want any photos or anything added to the website, please email admin@canberragamefishing.com.au

See you all on the water.

Cheers,

Alan

GOHOSTING



Presidents Report

G'day everyone

The fishing is hot at the moment, with many boats catching between one and four marlin a day. That's pretty good, I reckon. The main bite has been from the bottom of Tuross to Eden – all depends on the day. There has also been a lot of the mako sharks around, this is a bit early, let's hope they hang around for our Tournament.

The Batemans Bay Tollgates Classic was held the other week and Canberra boats did well again, with Aquaholic winning the T&R section, Persistence coming in second and Carol Taylor winning the women's T&R section. Well done to all involved. Canberra was well represented again, which is great to see and well noted by other clubs. It was a good weekend had by all.

Congratulations to Aaron Wild and Sarah on the birth of the twin girls Sophie and Sidney. We have three events coming up in March:

1st will be the Alliance T&R on the 11th and 12th. There will be fish and chips provided by the Terrace Restaurant on Saturday night at the Bermagui Country Club from 7pm down the back of the club. If you need more info, call me.

2ND our March meeting on the 14th at 7.30pm at the Hellenic Club Woden. Hope to see you all there with many stories to tell.

3rd will be our Bermi Bash on the weekend of the 25th and 26th of March. This is a good weekend to bring someone new along to learn about gamefishing and to have fun. There will be a BBQ on Saturday night at the Bermagui Country Club.

Thanks to those members who showed others how the ring skip baits at the last meeting. I've heard very good feedback from fellow members, thank you.

Regards
Mario Imbriano
President



Secretary's Report

Hi everyone,

There has been little activity on the news front for the Club this month. Important business arising including changes to GFAA rules on the 9th of February 2017 in which P57 The Following Acts Will Disqualify a Catch "Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off the angler" has been altered to now included the following "Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification". Notes this change has been fully supported by NSWGFA. Additionally, P54 Equipment Regulations (b) Line backing is now Line & Backing whereby New 1. The use of backing is permissible. New 2. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first five meters of the line directly preceding the double, leader & hook. This section must be comprised of a single homogenous piece of line. Importantly NSWGFA does not support this change as it conflicts with their current regulations regarding topshots and line. Regarding the GFAA these changes won't take effect until April 1st. The issue of linebacking is to be discussed at the NSWGFA AGM in July 2017.

Upcoming events include the Alliance Tag and Release on the 11th and 12th of March and it should be noted that Monday the 13th is a Public Holiday in Canberra. The Club is looking to organize something on the Saturday night with more details available on the Facebook page. Also, the 11th and 12th of March is also the Southern Zone Interclub which can be fished out of Bermagui at the same time as the Alliance, allowing you to fish and enter 2 tournaments in a single weekend. We have decided to hold the Bermi Bash on the 25th and 26th of March which is a relaxed social weekend aimed at introducing new or potential members to game fishing. More details to come soon on Facebook. A little further away on the 1st and 2nd of April is the Kiama Leagues Club Blowhole Big Fish Classic. The next general meeting will be held on March 14th at the Woden Hellenic Club at 7:30. The executive meeting will be held at 6:30.

Regards
James Wearn



CANBERRA GAME FISHING CLUB POINTSCORE

YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY, 2017

LOCAL WATERS

TAG AND RELEASE

DATE	ANGLER	BOAT	TAG CARD NUMBER	FISH SPECIES/LINE CLASS	POINT SCORE
9/07/2016	Finn Bradley	Mr Hooker	A517838	TUNA - ALBACORE/15	575.00
9/07/2016	John Parbery	Mr Hooker	A517840	TUNA - ALBACORE/15	575.00
9/07/2016	Ben Perrett	Mr Hooker	A517839	TUNA - ALBACORE/24	500.00
9/07/2016	Finn Bradley	Mr Hooker	A565941	TUNA - ALBACORE/24	500.00
9/07/2016	Billy Sheffield	Have A Go	A591052	TUNA - BLUEFIN/15	1,150.00
9/07/2016	Billy Sheffield	Have A Go	A590059	TUNA - BLUEFIN/24	1,000.00
9/07/2016	Jason Sheffield	Have A Go	A591055	TUNA - BLUEFIN/8	1,250.00
16/07/2016	Billy Sheffield	Have A Go	S255209	BLUE SHARK/24	2,500.00

LEADING BOAT Have A Go 5,900 points
LEADING ANGLER Bills Sheffield 4,650 points

CAPTURE

DATE	ANGLER	BOAT	FISH SPECIES	WEIGHT OF FISH	LINE CLASS	POINT SCORE
9/07/2016	Lynette Robb	Mr Hooker	TUNA	61.4	24	2,167.73
9/07/2016	Steve Angus	Mr Hooker	TUNA	54.2	24	1,689.14



DATES TO REMEMBER

11th and 12th of March – Bermagui – Alliance Tag and Release Tournament
14th March – Hellenic Club Woden – Club Meeting.
25th and 26th of March – Bermi Bash
1st and 2nd of April – Kiama Blowhole Big Fish Classic

NOTICE: CHANGE OF POINT SCORE FOR SHARKS

SPECIES	6-10 kg	15kg	24kg	37kg	60kg
Sharks	3750	3450	3000	2550	2250
Blue sharks	3125	2875	2500	2125	1875

Please note the changes above to shark points for tag and release. These were changed at the NSWGFA AGM after the motion put up by Broken Bay GFC.



Be sure to support these fellow Southern Zone Clubs by attending their tournaments if at all possible. We cannot expect clubs to support our Yellowfin Tuna Tournament unless we reciprocate.

SOUTHERN ZONE - EVENTS CALENDAR 2016-2017

Queen's birthday long weekend	June 13
Zone weekend	June 11-12
Merimbula 21 st Broadbill & 1 st SBT Tournament 1st leg	June 15-17
Zone weekend	June 25-26
Merimbula 21 st Broadbill & 1 st SBT Tournament 2 nd leg	June 22-24
Southern Zone AGM & Trophy Presentation	July 3
Zone weekend.	July 9-10
Zone weekend	July 23-24
Zone weekend	August 13-14
Zone weekend	August 27-28
Zone weekend	September 10-11
Zone weekend	September 24-25
Zone weekend	October 8-9
Zone weekend	October 22-23
Zone weekend	November 12-13
Zone weekend	November 26-27
Jervis Bay White Sands Tournament *	November 25-27
Zone weekend	December 10-11
Zone weekend + Christmas & Boxing Day	December 24-26
New Years Day	January 1
Zone weekend	January 14-15
Batemans Bay Tollgate Island Classic *	January 20-22
Zone weekend	January 28-29
Bermagui Blue Water Classic *	January 28-30
Jess Sams Ulladulla Open *	February 3-5
Zone weekend	February 11-12
Shellharbour Tournament *	February 11-12
Zone weekend	February 25-26
NSWGFA Interclub	February 25-26 +-March 4-5
Alliance T/R Tournament, Bermagui	March 11-12
Southern Zone Interclub *	March 11-12
Zone weekend	March 11-12
Shoalhaven Open Tournament *	March 24-26
Eden Open Tournament *	March 18-20
Zone weekend (Easter)	March 25-26
Kiama Blowhole Big Fish Classic *	April 1-2
Zone weekend	April 8-9
Easter	April 14-17
Zone weekend	April 22-23
Zone weekend	May 13-14
Canberra Yellowfin Tournament *	May 20-22
Zone weekend	May 27-28
Zone weekend	June 10-11
Merimbula Open *	June 10-12
Zone weekend	June 24-25
Southern Zone AGM and presentation lunch	July 2
Merimbula Broadbill & SBT Tournament 1st leg	July 7-9
Merimbula Broadbill & SBT Tournament 2 nd leg	July 14-16

NB : Zone weekends are the second and forth full weekend of every month.

Fish tagged or captured at the NSW Interclub will be counted in Southern Zone monthly Cock O'the Walk competition. All gazetted NSW Public Holiday long weekends are also included

* Denotes nominated tournaments eligible for Zone points and the Columbus and George Bass Trophies.

Recaptured kingfish breaks record for most time at liberty

23 February 2017

A YELLOWTAIL kingfish tagged by Patrick Schofield of Eden Sports & Game Fishing Club boat *Shockwave* on the 11th November 2005 has recently been recaptured.

The kingfish was recaptured by Port Macquarie Game Fishing Club boat *Reel Trouble* whilst fishing off Forster, NSW on the 27th January 2017. The *Reel Trouble* crew decided to keep the large kingfish for the barbeque and it was not until they were filleting the fish that they noticed the small tag which was completely grown over by muscle tissue.

After 4,095 days at liberty the kingfish had grown from 65cm and an estimated 2.5kg to 130cm and approximately 20kg. The kingfish, having spent over 11 years at liberty has smashed the previous record for time at liberty for the species.

The previous record was just under seven years for a fish that was tagged in Sydney and recaptured at Terrigal.

The [NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program](#) issues tags free of charge and works in close association with the NSW Game Fishing Association, the Game Fishing Association of Australia and ANSA.

Southern Zone

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COCK O' THE WALK RESULTS DECEMBER 2016

CAPTURES : HEAVIEST

SPECIES	WHT	LINE	S/J	ANGLER	BOAT	CLUB	PTS
MARLIN							
SHARK							
TUNA							
BROADBILL							
OGF							
SBS	32.6	24	S/M	Ben Beck	Reel Devocean	Jervis Bay	5

MOST MERITORIOUS

MARLIN							
SHARK							
TUNA							
BROADBILL							
OGF							
SBS	32.4	24	S/M	Ben Beck	Reel Devocean	Jervis Bay	5

CAPTURE POINTS FOR MONTH

Jervis Bay 10

TAG & RELEASE PONTs FOR MONTH

Fast & Furious	Shellharbour	10000	5
Magic	Shoalhaven	3450	4

CAPTURE POINTS 2016-17

Merimbula	36
Jervis Bay	22
Eden	18
Canberra	16
Shoalhaven	10
Kiama	4

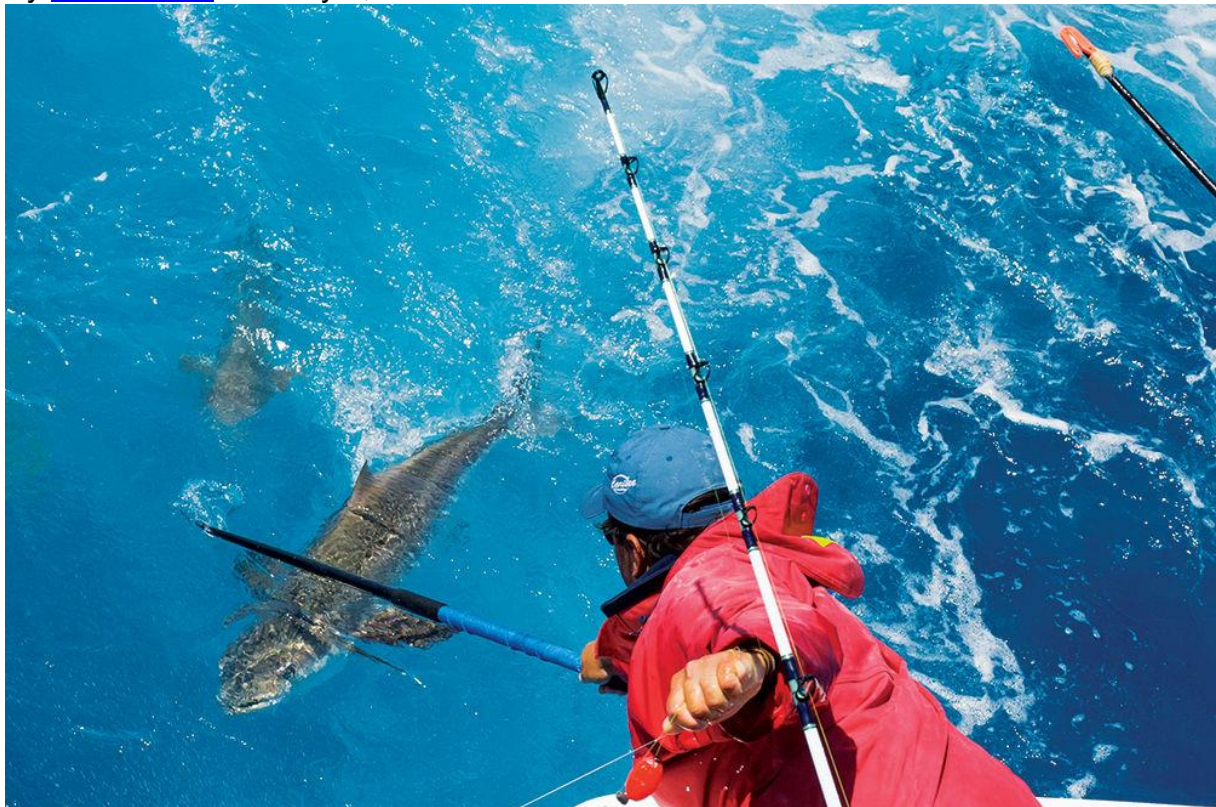
PROGRESSIVE TAG & RELEASE POINTS 2016-17

Shellharbour	33
Jervis Bay	7.5
	7
Batemans Bay	5
Merimbula	5
Ulladulla	3.5
Canberra	2

Pick the Right Gaff for Your Style of Fishing

Have confidence in your gaff when making that critical kill shot

By [Sam Hudson](#) January 7, 2015



Angler gaffing a cobia while saltwater fishing"

Capt. Vincent Daniello

Give 'Em the Hook

A quality gaff allows ultimate control over fish headed for ice like cobia.

Hanging over the side of the boat with my camera, I watched a Louisiana captain pierce an energized [yellowfin tuna](#), only to have the fish tear the gaff from his hands in a desperate attempt to flee. I won't mention the captain's name, but both he and I sat stunned, wondering what we had just witnessed.

"That was a \$200 gaff!" he yelled, breaking the silence.

To be honest, the experienced captain's slip-up was not from using the wrong gaff, but instead because he wasn't wearing [fishing gloves](#) to better grip the handholds. Still, I used his recent experience as a catalyst to investigate the marketplace for quality gaffs and to identify the best situations to utilize them. Fishing gaffs come in a variety of lengths, materials, designs, and hook sizes, allowing anglers to pick specific models for their preferred fishing style and vessel.



Eagle Claw fishing gaff hook

Courtesy Manufacturer

Give 'Em the Hook

Eagle Claw's 3-inch gaff hook is prime for most species.

How Gaff Lengths Measure Up

“The length of the gaff is critical, predicated on the species targeted and the configuration of the boat,” says Don Hutson, a fishing group sales manager at [Bass Pro Shops](#). “A 5-foot gaff with a 3-inch hook is popular for species like [dolphin](#) and [kingfish](#), even [cobia](#).”

Modest gunwale heights on most sport-fishing boats mean anglers can reach fish fairly easily; 4- to 6-foot handles are just the right length to touch water in 25- to 40-foot boats.

“Handle lengths have a lot to do with boat size and personal preference,” says Greg Stotesbury, [AFTCO](#)’s sales manager. “Shorter gaffs are easier to store and handle, but their shorter length requires the gaffer to wait for a close, clean shot. Many boats have storage issues with gaffs longer than 6 feet.”



AFTCO fishing gaffs

Courtesy Manufacturer

Give 'Em the Hook

AFTCO makes an array of gaffs in different handle lengths and round-bend hook sizes.

Gaff hooks range in size, but the most versatile models are those with the gap measuring 2 to 4 inches with hooks manufactured from stainless steel. Quality hooks

emphasize corrosion resistance and tensile strength. The gauge of the gaff hook is directly related to the size of the fish targeted.

[Sea Striker](#) produces simple hand gaffs to 12-foot tournament kingfish models, featuring 2- to 4-inch hooks. Berkley's gaff measures just 3 feet, built with featuring a black aluminum pole and stainless-steel hook. [Eagle Claw](#) recently introduced four new gaffs, ranging from 2- to 6-footers, utilizing 2- and 3-inch hooks.

All gaffs feature a solid handhold, whether that's foam grips, tuna-cord wraps or a wrist lanyard. With any of those, gloves still help mitigate a slimy, wet handle during critical moments at the gunwale.

AFTCO's two most popular gaffs are 4- and 6-footers with 4-inch gaff hooks. "They are the two most popular sizes for gaffing tuna, probably the most commonly gaffed fish," says Stotesbury. "The 4-inch hook gets a big bite of flesh, which makes it difficult for the tuna to pull off or open the hook."



Berkley aluminum fishing gaff with lanyard

Courtesy Manufacturer

Give 'Em the Hook

Berkley's 3-foot aluminum gaff features a lanyard to prevent fish from ripping the handle out of your grasp.

Fishing Gaff Material

Most companies make gaff handles from aluminum or fiberglass. Pound for pound, aluminum and fiberglass gaffs possess very similar strengths, and both can last for many years.

Anodized-aluminum gaffs are basically standard issue on charter boats these days, whether they're coated in black, gold, silver or blue. "We tested our aluminum gaffs in salt-spray chambers for more than 552 hours, resulting in minimal corrosion," says Colleen Hopwood, of Eagle Claw.

Most quality gaffs feature a tapered handle, such as [Offshore Angler's](#) Tapered Gaffs. The butt section is fatter, with a grip for strength, and slims down toward the hook point for less resistance in the water.

Often gaff-handle material comes down to the fisherman's preference. Some prefer that rich anodized look of aluminum, while others like the old-school fiberglass feel of cord-wrapped handles, says Stotesbury.

"Fiberglass AFTCO gaffs are 20 percent lighter than the aluminum gaffs, and their thick-walled E-glass construction makes them extremely durable and flexible," he says. "Fiberglass gaffs are more forgiving and flex easily without bending or breaking."

Certain gaffs float if accidentally dropped overboard. But a floating gaff isn't the silver bullet it appears to be. "In many cases, gaff handles don't displace enough air to give them positive buoyancy — we would have to have much fatter handles and smaller hooks to get all of our gaffs to float," says Stotesbury. "Slender gaff handles are much more functional than fatter models."



Fisherman gaffing a tuna fish caught deep sea fishing

Jessica Haydahl

Give 'Em the Hook

Make sure your gaff is up to snuff when a hefty tuna tires out. Always keep the gaff from resting against the boat's gunwale or chine.

Different Fishing Gaff Designs

Besides the typical round-bend style, other gaff-head designs — such as the diamond-shaped hooks made by [Top Shot Tackle](#) and [West Marine](#)'s Blacktip — have gained advocates.

“The Australian-style squared gaff forces fish to sit in the gap, and fish won't fall out, which happens at times with barbless round-bend gaffs,” says Capt. Rick Constantine, vice president of Acme United, manufacturers of [Cuda](#) and West Marine's Blacktip tackle. “The Blacktip Hydro-Flow gaff has an offset handle and holes in the aluminum so anglers don't fight against the water.”

Tournament kingfishermen often utilize 8- and 12-foot gaffs, especially when prize money is up for grabs. “The extra length gives anglers more reach, decreasing the chance of losing the fish on a final run,” says Hutson. Handle material is usually fiberglass, lighter and more flexible, coupled with hook sizes measuring just 2 to 3 inches.

Offshore kayak fishermen tend to use harpoon-style gaffs to subdue fish. “Using a kage (spear) gaff, there are no turns in the hook, which makes it easy to hit the right spot,” says Eric McDonald, owner of [Deep Blue Kayak Fishing](#). “With a traditional gaff, you need to pull it toward you, while a kage gaff gets pushed away, much better for balance in a kayak. Still, carry a hand gaff to [pull fish onto the kayak](#).”

Flying gaffs are used by experienced offshore fishermen for fish in the 200- to 500-pound range, and beyond. Tie the hook's rope to a reinforced boat cleat or buoy float to tire the fish further before bringing it inside the boat. “Flying gaff hooks should be selected to be one-third the width of the potential fish to be gaffed,” says Stotesbury. “Using rough guidelines, a fish that's about 2 feet in width needs about an 8-inch hook.”

A gaff is like a claw hammer: It's a very simple tool that will last for many years, explains Stotesbury, but if you gaff fish that are not ready, lever the handle against the gunwale or boat's chine, or use the wrong-size gaff, expect to have some failures.



Lizard Island, Australia 2016 Race Start

FEBRUARY 2017 -- October marked three decades of fishing for the Great Northern Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic. The Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic is the second longest running tournament in the IGFA Great Marlin Race (IGMR) and four fish tagged in these tournaments occupy first, third, fourth, and fifth place on the IGMR Global Leaderboard of Top 5 Longest Tracks to Date! This year, a remarkable 21 tags were sponsored by Peter Teakle, Ernesto Bertarelli, and Barry and Josh Shevlin, and nineteen of the tags were deployed on black marlin during the week-long event.

Of the nineteen tagged marlin, five are swimming with their tags and fourteen have reported. After thorough analysis of the data with our partners at Stanford, and conversations with Wildlife Computers, we can safely say that there are no tag issues, but a few different unfortunate occurrences:

By looking at the light level plots, we were able to conclude that Fish 1 (6 days at large (DAL)), Fish 3 (23 DAL), Fish 6 (19 DAL), Fish 8 (11 DAL), and Fish 15 (3 DAL) were all predation events. Fish 1, Fish 6, and Fish 15 were predations that occurred immediately after tagging. Fish 3 and Fish 8 were predations that occurred one day after tagging.

By analyzing the plots of depth and temperature, we were able to conclude that Fish 13 and 18 died right after they were tagged. Both tags sunk to the ocean floor immediately after deployment and remained at the bottom (no depth change). When no depth change occurs for a while, the tags are programmed to release themselves and pop up to the surface and report that information.

The data for Fish 10 (19 DAL) and 11 (1 DAL) show that the tags pulled out of the marlin. In this situation, we're unable to determine if the tag was not set deeply enough or if the marlin expelled the tag.

The data for Fish 2 (26 DAL), Fish 5 (17 DAL), and Fish 16 (41 DAL) reveal normal, premature releases that we see sometimes in this program. The good news is, all three fish swam far distances in the time the tags were with them, and when the data finishes transmitting, we will be able to make tracks for these tags and learn more about the deployments.

Last month, Fish 7 popped up near the Solomon Islands in the Solomon Sea after 92 days at liberty and traveling a point to point distance of 744 nautical miles. Also popping up near the Solomon Islands, Fish 14 reported this week after 102 days on the black marlin and having traveled a linear distance of 1,055 nm northeast. Once the data finishes transmitting, tracks will be developed and we'll have a more clear idea of why these tags released prematurely.

It is our hope that the five fish currently swimming with their tags will continue to break more IGMR records. Lizard Island has fostered some of the longest tracks in the IGMR over the years. In fact, sponsor Peter Teakle has recently won the 2015-2016 annual IGMR (for the second time) for his winning black marlin that swam 4,393 nautical miles – the longest distance of the year and the third longest distance in IGMR history! Please stay tuned to the race page for new information and tracks.

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Captured/Tagged/Measured fish are to be entered on-line directly to the GFAA website data base and must be lodged by the 14th day of the next Month following their Capture/Tag/Measure

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An Invitation

is extended to you to enter the

GFAA Junior National Tournament

1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

Eligible Fishing Days

The tournament will be conducted from 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017 and ALL days of the year are eligible fishing days.

Entry Fee

*Entry into this year's tournament is again **FREE**.*

Entry forms are to be submitted on-line at
www.gfaa.asn.au

Note: This must be done before any capture or tag & release can be recognised

Each entrant will be supplied with welcome letter by their State Coordinator after their entry has been received by the GFAA Coordinator.

Categories

Small Fry - Capture/Tag & Release/Measure & Release
Anglers under the age of 11 years at the date entry is accepted. If you turn 11 years after entering the tournament you are eligible to fish in the "Small Fry" category until the end of the tournament year i.e. 30th June 2014.

Junior - Capture/Tag & Release/Measure & Release
Anglers 11 years at the date entry is accepted and under 16 years are eligible to fish in this tournament. If you are 15 at the beginning of the tournament year you may fish and be eligible for trophies until your 16th birthday.

Entry Forms & Details Available at:
Website www.gfaa.asn.au

SHIMANO



BlueWater
Recreational Sportswear
www.bluewatermeg.com.au

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