Minutes 2015 AGM  
April 11th 2015

Attendees  
Graeme Williams, Greg Trouchet, David Thomas, Dorothee Williams, Greg Murdock, Dennis Sten, Rob Marchant, Steve Compain, Matt Holmes, Peter Fabriss. Wayne Williams, Sri Srinivas.

Apologies  
Kurt Ostwald, Alex Julius, Christine Mansfield, Alan Beale, Chris Jones, Mike Jones, Dean Jackson Geoff Corry, Mark Rolle, Emma Cartwright, Chris Jones, Glenn Watt, John Dagan, Vicki Dagan, Trevor Robb, Viv Thistlewaite, Karl Skyring, Renée Skyring, John Mahar, , Brian Redmond, Justin Jones, Ben Currell, Darren Nicolls, Sharon Newbould, Micky Quaiser, Aaron Gange, Jarrod Godson.

President’s Address

Greg Murdock opened the meeting at 7.30 pm, Greg thanked those attending for coming and noted due to mitigating factors around the 2014/2015 funding that the AGM being held in April was not conducive to the working season for many FTO’s and is why the high number of apology’s are registered, it is expected that the AGM will return to its November time slot in future.

Greg welcomed Sri Srinivas from the marine Branch and Accepted Steve Compains wish to address the meeting which both being deferred to new business.

Greg called for the previous minutes to be accepted as an accurate reflection and was seconded by Rob Marchant.

Greg called for the financials as presented to be accepted as an accurate reflection of the Association Funding and was accepted by Peter Fabriss.
A point of order was raised by Mr Marchant in regard to how the financials were presented and in future could they be shown as a full audit and not as balance sheets, the Executive pointed out that there was a full audit copy on the table but not produced for distribution to the information package provided.

**President Report**

Greg outlined briefly the activities undertaken during the year which centered around the Government’s prioritizing of the proposed Recreational and FTO fishing controls, Greg pointed out that the association was heavily involved in numerous discussion with all matters pertaining to our sectors interests, many of these he pointed out were extremely drawn out and involved the Government having caused a major dissent between the AFANT and the NTGFIA in how it proposed the controls. Greg also pointed out that the historical cooperation with AFANT was severely tested by its now former Executive who showed to be antagonistic towards FTO operations and that with his departure and their new Executive being employed this hopefully will change.

Greg asked for the Executive to outline his activities during the year.

**Executive Report**

Graeme pointed out immediately that with the committee being in a holding position from April to February that he and Greg worked continuously on all matters relating to our sector.

Graeme said that whilst handling the day to day issues relating to members and maintaining a presence on the numerous advisory councils which is part of our funding agreement that the Executive position was unpaid for over 5 months, steps are being taken to address this ongoing concern.

The recreational Fishing advisory Council dominated much of 2014 and was outlined in its minutes. Greg mentioned it had put us into direct confrontation with AFANT, this required much delicate negotiations and dispelling of the myths that former executive Craig Ingram seemed intent on portraying,
Graeme also hoped that the new Executive will use common sense and not be as driven by the often ridiculous social media as his predecessor had.

**Blue Mud Bay (BMB)**

Graeme outlined his involvement firstly presenting the TIWI Brochure pointing out that up to this point the Tiwi’s had steadfastly refused to have any FTO’s operate in their waters, this concluded negotiation now allows that to happen in all areas bounded by yellow, whilst this was not exactly what was wanted it certainly was a departure from their previous position, there are 6 areas in negotiation at present.

The Finniss River has not progressed with the Minister stating that the T.O’s have refused to even negotiate the upper reaches, short of an organised major demonstration by the public we have no definitive answer.

There are areas around the Blue mud bay, Borroloola, Elcho Island, Millingimbi and Maningrida that are still progressing, included are areas west of the Finniss River down to Port Keats. These will be updated to members as it occurs.

Graeme pointed out that without our involvement in these protracted negotiations over 5 years there would be a virtual lockout to FTO’s, a general range of the west Kakadu border to Daly river would be our demographics, this is why membership is so critical.

The President accepted the Executive summary and thanked Graeme for his commitment and tireless work in what had been an extremely stressful year

Due to new business becoming drawn out in discussion Greg indicated that the New Committee will be announced at this stage.
The executive presented as required by our charter the nominations for all positions, these were accepted by all present with the addition from the floor to represent the offshore operations by a dual committee member.

That nomination was accepted by Steve Compain and Matt Holmes.

### 2015/16 Committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Dennis Sten</td>
<td>Mob 0488484207</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Greg Trouchet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Rob Marchant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Office</td>
<td>Graeme Williams (Current Executive)</td>
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<td>Committee</td>
<td>Greg Murdock</td>
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<td>Dean Jackson</td>
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Dennis introduced our special guest

**Sri Srinivas Chief Surveyor Marine branch.**

Sri as is his custom presented a descriptive and informative address, the compliance issue of domestic Commercial vessels (DCV) under 5 metres was his main topic, Sri provided a flyer to explain this and fielded questions around that topic.

AMSA has directed that any vessel operating prior to June 30th 2013 and continuous to now having been survey exempt will be allowable until July 1st 2016. The operator must register with the federal Regulator that vessel prior to June 30th 2015.

Currently if you introduce any new vessel into operations regardless of size they must hold the relevant certification and be driven by suitably qualified operators.
Those that do not hold the relevant qualifications and have operated these vessels prior to July 1st 2013 will have to comply by June 30th 2016, this would obviously be by default.

Sri also made clear that any DCV operating with a length over 5 metres must hold certification and is illegal otherwise, he fielded questions regarding bulkheads and extended pods, his advice, there is no evidence to this being allowed previously and certainly isn’t under AMSA regulations.

Sri also fielded a number of other concerns and questions relating to survey conditions and requirements and was thanked generously by all attending for his time.

**New Business**

The floor raised the issue of adverse media publicity recently and in particular Mr Alan Beale.

The acceptance of Mr Beales membership had been raised at committee level, in the process of asking him to give cause as to why he should be accepted as a member after numerous breaches of our C.O.C. He pre-empted by a letter he sent to the NTGFIA. The NTGFIA responded and advised him it will be debated and he would be advised. The broad response from the floor was that he not be allowed and it was put to a vote with an amendment from the Executive that it be only for 12 months.

The motion was carried unanimously.

**Fisheries request for an indication of support to variations of our licences with regard to, Current levels, Manning levels and Signage.**

Graeme put forth DPIF concerns firstly that although the reef Licence’s in the Western Zone, (Vashon head to W.A border), were frozen on the 20th of March
the risk to reef fishing creep by any new licences under the category of “Barra licences “would by virtue of how we operate impact on the two endangered species i.e. Golden Snapper and Jewfish.

There is serious consideration being given to the capping of all licences in the Western Zone.

This was debated and carried unanimously by all present.

Secondly Maximum vessel capacity

A discussion around this and all agreed that our position has always been the 5, 10, 15 category’s as agreed to in our 2012 public comment paper.

This had full support from those attending.

The question of signage on FTO Vessels was given little discussion as it is regarded as needing the executive to continue within his role.

**Fisheries request the NTGFIA consider Arafura Blue’s request to vary recent GPL announced by the Minister**

Steve outlined his request and reasons regarding an increase to the GPL for his long range charters

Graeme stated as Executive it’s his role to point out that we are recreational Fisherman in all matters pertaining to catching fish under the Fisheries Act, we have fought a long, continuous and substantial battle to resist any variation to that position. Regardless of some aspects around closures we accept the umpire’s decision, all members of RFAC were tasked with this including the wider community prior to the Ministers announcement.

The general consensus was that the NTGFIA cannot lend support to this proposal as it would vary a principal of the Association, long agreed to by all past and present members.

Fisheries executive response to his letter show that it would be very difficult to achieve this change.

**Latent Licences, Bogus Guides, Hunting Guides advertising fishing without licences.**
These items were not given due consideration because of time constraints and will be continued by the Executive reporting to the committee

CLOSE

The president Dennis Sten formally closed the meeting by thanking everyone reiterating that without your support achieving goals was difficult, he encouraged all to convince others of this fact. Dennis also reminded everyone the web site is current and can be accessed by members for all updated information, there is also provision for advertising in the find a guide section. Additionally any other members who are unpaid can do so on line

Meeting closed 9.45 pm