



Marine House  
24 York Street  
South Melbourne Vic 3205  
Mob: 0419 320 843  
18 June 2012

Tertius de Kluver, Ph.D.  
Senior Policy and Project Officer  
Environment Standards Branch (Air Quality)  
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir,

**“Reducing Emissions from Non-Road Spark Ignition Engines and Equipment”**

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide comment regarding the options for reducing pollutant emissions from petrol-based marine engines discussed in the regulatory impact statement.

Recfish Australia is committed to the continued development and improvement of recreational fishing in Australia. Recfish Australia is the National Peak Body representing recreational fishers in Australia. Our members include the majority of the State and Territory recreational fishing peak bodies.

Recreational fishers make up a considerable proportion of the Australian community and boats and boating activities are of vital concern to recreational fishers. Approximately forty per cent or all fishing is conducted from boats (FRDC 2001) and industry figures indicate that the greater majority of boats are sold for the primary purpose of recreational fishing.

Recreational fishers seek at all times to be environmentally responsible and there are very valid arguments to improve emission regulations to ensure we operate in an environmentally sustainable manner and follow environmentally responsible practices.

Recfish Australia supports the proposal that emissions standards for marine engines should follow a recognised international standard. This will ensure the widest range of choice for Australian consumers and the least disruption to the market.



*One voice representing Australian recreational fishers*



We have received advice that although three star engines have a higher purchase price, their fuel costs are considerably lower and they may have a longer working life.

From a recreational fisher's point of view, our stance would be that the costs for users to progress from our current range of engines and emission regulations to the new breed of engines complying with the lower emission levels should not be unreasonable and that price increases should not fall predominately on recreational consumers.

We note that some within the commercial industry favour regulations to commence after 2012. Recfish Australia makes no comment on the timing of the introduction of the regulation changes, however we recommend an orderly and well planned introduction of the regulations that will have minimal impact on marine engines that are already owned by Australian recreational fishers and that minimizes the impact on consumers and marine businesses.

In conclusion, Recfish Australia believes there are community and environmental benefits in the proposal and welcome the adoption of effective emissions standards.

To facilitate ongoing interaction in this issue, we would appreciate the opportunity to nominate a representative from our sector to participate on any committee established to introduce regulations that may affect recreational fishers.

We look forward to working closely with the Department on this important issue.

Yours Sincerely

Russell Conway  
Chair  
Recfish Australia

