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Supplementary Table S1. Costs of monitoring program in each year between 2002/03 and 2012/13. Expenses are shown as numbers of each item except where listed as \$Aus (e.g. promotion). Salaried staff are numbers of full-time equivalents (RS, Research scientist; STO, Senior technical officer; TO, Technical officer; LA, Laboratory assistant). Other costs are number of weekend days incurred on field trips (no. of staff × no. of days), no. of vehicles leased, no. of freezers and field and lab equipment kits purchased/replaced. Promotion includes production staff time and printing costs (including flyers, banners, signs, drink coolers, water bottles, stickers, hats, t-shirts, prize winner flights, web-links, mail-outs, newsletters).

Expense	Detail	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Staff	RS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	STO						2	2	1	1	1	1
	TO	1	1	2	2	1.5	0.5	2	2	2.3	2.3	2.3
	LA	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1	1	1	1	1
Weekend field days		39	51	67	67	67	68	90	67	61	61	61
Vehicles		1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	2.5	2.5	2.5
Field & lab equipment	Freezers			3	1	1	2	1	1			
	Electricity (\$)											2000
	Field/Lab kits	1	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.75	1.5
Promotion (\$)		7600	9000	7600	9000	7600	9000	16600	11800	58450	73115	37591
Total cost vs 2004/05				1.000	0.995	0.909	1.461	1.539	1.347	1.550	1.555	1.499

Supplementary Table S2. Questions, answers and results of an online survey of members of the public about the Send us your skeletons program.

#	Question and answer options	No. of respondents	%
1	Are you already aware of the Send us your skeletons campaign		
	No, never heard of it before this survey	29	11.6
	Yes, but not sure what it is.	31	12.4
	Yes, I think I am pretty clear about what is involved.	189	76.0
		249	100
2	If Yes, How often do/have you donated your fish skeletons		
	Every month	12	5.5
	Every few months	26	11.9
	Once or twice a year	51	23.3
	Never	130	59.3
		219	100
3	If you know about SUYS, but have not donated skeletons, why do you choose not to? (Multiple answers accepted)		
	Too hard or inconvenient.	44	34.4
	I don't trust the Department of Fisheries researchers.	3	2.3
	I'm concerned that the Department of Fisheries will use this information to restrict my future fishing.	9	7
	Don't really understand how this relates to me as a rec fisher.	8	6.3
	Other	_ 77	60.2
		141	
4	If you know about SUYS, are there any other comments you would like to make about the campaign?		
	Supportive of SUYS/Department and understand the need	52	42.3
	Unsupportive	2	1.6
	Other	_ 69	56.1
		123	100
5	How often do you go fishing?		
	At least once a month	181	73
	Every few months	49	19.8
	Once or twice a year	13	5.2
	Less than once a year	5	2
		248	100
6	Would you be happy to receive further information about the Send us your skeletons campaign		
	Yes	199	80.6
	No	_48	19.4
		247	100