

**Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee**  
**Outcomes – Meeting 25, 14 November 2007**

**Apologies**

Lisa Terry, John Millyard and Dr Steve Kennelly nominated Doug Joyner and Dr Charles Gray respectively to attend on their behalf.

**1. Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust report**

The current Trust budget for 2007/08 was presented to the Committee to indicate the amount of funds available for new programs. The budget table for 2007/08 was updated throughout the meeting to track the total amount of funding allocated to programs by the Committee.

The Committee was advised that a repeat survey of recreational fishers will be undertaken soon to determine updated Trust priorities. This information will contribute to the development of an investment plan for the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

**2. Review of new large Saltwater grant programs**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$228,570 in 2007/08, \$185,946 in 2008/09 and \$28,176 in 2009/10 for **Investigating the behavioral response to grey nurse sharks to recreational lure and baited lines**. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. **Seconded:** John Burgess. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$75,996 in 2007/08, \$80,359 in 2008/09 and \$86,422 in 2009/10 for **Monitoring of Gamefish and Australian bass fisheries via competition-based angling**. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. **Seconded:** Lionel Jones. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$47,664 in 2007/08, \$165,659 in 2008/09 and \$164,559 in 2009/10 for **Monitoring Artificial structures for the enhancement of recreational fishing**. **Moved:** Lionel Jones. **Seconded:** Stuart Rhodes. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$72,500 in 2007/08 for the **Bringing Bass back to the Hawkesbury Nepean project**. The committee advised that some activities of the proposed project such as refuse rubbish removal and mooring installation were inappropriate for funding from the Trust. **Moved:**John Burgess **Seconded:**John Drew **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$81,491 in 2007/08 for the **Repairing Fish Habitat in the Hunter Central Rivers project**. The committee advised that some activities of the projects activities such as refuse rubbish removal and water treatment equipment were inappropriate for funding from the Trust. **Moved:** Lionel Jones. **Seconded:** Stuart Rhodes **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$30,000 in 2007/08 for the **Richmond River Rescue (installation of floodgates) project**. **Moved:** Brian Hutchinson. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Carried.** The committee recommended that DPI (Conservation Branch) become a project partner to provide project support and expertise.

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$35,300 in 2007/08 for the **Erection of a replacement Radio Tower with Safe Access to maintain 24 hour operations**. **Moved:** Lionel Jones. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$12,372 in 2007/08 for the **Shelley Beach Public Amenities Block Upgrade**. The committee were concerned about limited public access to the facilities and the issue of funds for fishing club facilities. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$8,712 in 2007/08, \$8,712 in 2008/09 and \$8,712 in 2009/10 for **Sand Removal at Bellambi Boat Ramp**. The committee advised that the ongoing boat ramp maintenance was inappropriate for funding from the Trust. **Moved:** John Drew. Seconded: Lionel Jones. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$8,712 in 2007/08, \$8,712 in 2008/09 and \$8,712 in 2009/10 for **Sand Removal at Austinmer Boat Ramp**. The committee advised that the ongoing boat ramp maintenance was inappropriate for funding from the Trust. **Moved:** John Drew. Seconded: Lionel Jones. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$20,800 in 2007/08 for **Underwater Fish Attracting Devices at Port Kembla**. The committee advised that no consultation had been undertaken nor approvals obtained from the relevant Authorities, including the Port Corporation. Therefore funding from the Trust could not be considered at this stage. **Moved:** Greg Liddell. Seconded: Malcolm Poole. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$66,000 in 2007/08 for the **Construction of floating pontoon/fishing platform with disabled fishing access, Port Kembla Harbour**. The committee advised that no consultation had been undertaken nor approvals obtained from the relevant Authorities, including the Port Corporation and Maritime Authority (Marine Infrastructure Program). Therefore funding from the Trust could not be considered at this stage. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. Seconded: John Burgess. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$39,000 in 2007/08 for **Predicting hazardous conditions for rock fishing (UNSW)**. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. Seconded: John Burgess. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$23,500 in 2007/08 for the **New South Wales Young Leaders 2008 project – Supporting the Future of Recreational fishing**. **Moved:** John Drew. Seconded: John Burgess. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$136,700 in 2007/08 and \$33,000 in 2008/09 for the **Large scale migration and distribution of iconic recreational trophy species: Where do the large fish go and why? research project**. The committee requested that the application be re-submitted at the budget meeting in 2008. The application should include information and results from the proposed pilot study. **Moved:** John Burgess. Seconded: Stuart Rhodes. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$540,000 in 2007/08 for the **Currarong Boat Launching Ramp**. The committee advised that the project budget was extensive, and that no financial support had been provided from the NSW Maritime Authority (Marine Infrastructure Program). **Moved:** John Burgess. Seconded: Malcolm Poole. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee deferred the funding application of \$60,000 in 2007/08 for the **Making a sustainable recreational fishing educational experience more relevant to High Schools students program**. The Committee deferred the application to the next budget meeting to enable comparison with other new and current Trust funded education and advisory programs. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. Seconded: John Drew. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee deferred the late funding application of \$45,000 in 2007/08 for the **Accessible Fishing platform on Stockton Foreshore** to the next budget meeting. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. Seconded: Lionel Jones. **Carried.**

#### **4. Review of new small grant programs**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$9,800 in 2007/08 for the **Wooli Marine Radio base**. **Moved:** Brian Hutchinson. Seconded: John Burgess. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$5,000 in 2007/08 for a **Strategic research plan for the sustainable resource use of Longtail Tuna (*Thunnus tonggo*) in Australian Waters**. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** John Burgess. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$2,754 in 2007/08 for **Assisting others to enjoy fishing in Narooma**. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** John Burgess. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$5,000 in 2007/08 for the **Brisbane Water Shellfish Program**. The committee advised that the removal of disused aquaculture infrastructure is the responsibility of the commercial sector. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. **Seconded:** John Burgess. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$6,123 in 2007/08 for the **Crowdy Head Boat Ramp Lighting project**. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Brian Hutchinson. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$5,000 in 2007/08 for the **Australian Fishing Exhibition in Newcastle**. The committee advised that the project was primarily for tourists and provided little benefit to recreational fishers. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. **Seconded:** John Burgess. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$6,000 in 2007/08 for the **Sunshine Foreshore Improvement Project – Fish Cleaning Facility in Lake Macquarie**. **Moved:** Lionel Jones. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$5,000 in 2007/08 for the **Fishing with TLC Program (disabled fishing clinics)**. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** David Jones. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$10,000 in 2007/08 for the **Loyalty Sticker for the OWA TAngler Bin Project**. The TAngler bin project is currently funded by the Trust and the Committee advised that an onsite appraisal of TAngler bin sites be completed before approval of additional funding. **Moved:** Greg Liddell. **Seconded:** Stuart Rhodes. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$10,000 in 2007/08 for the **Cookies Beach Boat Ramp Reconstruction**. **Moved:** Brian Hutchinson. **Seconded:** Lionel Jones. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$3,000 in 2007/08 for the **Tailor Tagging Program**. The committee advised that the project application had little scientific basis. There is extensive documentation of the movements of tailor and tailor is not a recommended species in the Gamefish Tagging Program. **Moved:** Greg Liddell. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$2,450 in 2007/08 for **Attendance of Julian Pepperell at the Second International conference on Tagging and Tracking of Marine Fish with Electronic devices**. The committee advised that the conference had already occurred and that the project had little benefit to recreational fishers. **Moved:** Greg Liddell. **Seconded:** Brian Hutchinson. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee did not support funding of \$5,000 in 2007/08 for the **NSW Mulloway Classic 2007, Botany Bay and Richmond River components**. The committee advised that although the project was research based, the inclusion of cash for prizes marketed the project as a competition therefore it was considered inappropriate for funding from the Trust. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Amanda Hill. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$8,290 in 2007/08 for the **Fish Cleaning Table-Smithtown**. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Greg Liddell. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$7,000 in 2007/08 for the **Gerringong Boat Harbour – Fish cleaning bench**. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** Brian Hutchinson. **Carried.**

The expenditure committee supported funding of \$10,000 in 2007/08 for the further replication of the **Learn to fish DVD** for distribution to anglers. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. Seconded: John Burgess. **Carried.**

## 5. Project updates

Project updates on the following programs were presented and discussed at the meeting: Compliance (9 Fisheries Officers and Recreational Mobile Squad), Mulloway and Prawn Stocking, FADs and artificial reefs, Fishing Workshops, Fishcare Volunteer Program and the Recreational Fishing Tournament Management program. Details of a Fisheries Compliance Restructure proposal were also presented at the meeting.

Action item: Committee members to provide comments on the Fisheries Compliance Restructure proposal to DPI within 4 weeks.

## 6. General Business

### Correspondence received

1. Letter from Tomaree Pro-Am re: request for pippis to be included in the proposed Marine stocking environmental assessment following a decline in pippi stocks on Stockton Beach.

The Committee advised that the decline in pippi numbers was due to overfishing as stated in the correspondence. This represents an overharvesting strategy which does not provide a basis for potential restocking. Bivalves populations also follow a boom and bust life history. Therefore the pippi stocks issue on Stockton Beach should be managed by changes in harvesting regimes.

**Action item:** DPI to send a letter to Tomaree Pro-am.

2. Letter from Jeff Holmes-Coffs Harbour City Council seeking approval to change the proposed location of two fish cleaning tables previously approved by RFSTEC.

The Committee supported the change in locations for the two fish cleaning tables. **Moved:** John Drew. Seconded: Malcolm Poole. **Approved.**

### Out of Session

Letter received from David Ayre - University of Wollongong regarding variation to the methodology for 'Experimental breeding and rearing of NSW Black Bream and tests for hybridization' program. The revised proposal was sent out of session to members and no objections were received.

The expenditure committee supported the project variation. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. Seconded: Lionel Jones. **Approved.**

### Other business

New fishing rules advisory campaign

A number of changes to size limits, bag limits and permitted fishing gear were implemented in September 2007 following a comprehensive review of recreational fishing rules. Hundreds of thousands of recreational fishing brochures and sticky rulers had been distributed to fishers via Fisheries Offices, Fishcare Volunteers, fishing clubs, licence agents, Aboriginal Land Councils and Charter Boat Operators. New recreational fishing signage is also being rolled out.

**Action Item:** The Committee requested that a letter be sent to the Minister raising concern about the delay in the committee member appointment process.

