

**Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee Outcomes**  
**Meeting 28, November 27 2008**

**1. Apologies**

None

**2. Confirmation of outcomes from previous RFSTEC meeting**

The outcomes of the 26th and 27th RFSTEC meetings were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting: **Moved:** John Paton. Seconded: Ann Garard. **Carried.**

**3. Correspondence received**

1) *Letter from ECOfishers regarding the application for the program titled: Northern Rivers Water Quality Program.* Professor Steve Kennelly, Director Systems Research and Chief Scientist advised that DPI has loaned a Horiba water quality meter to John Gallagher, Richmond River Fishermans Co-operative, and that ECOfishers can access the Horiba metre to undertake their own water quality measurements. DPI has previously serviced the meter as required and will continue to do so in the future. *Action Item:* Professor Kennelly to advise John Gallagher, Richmond River Fishermans Co-operative, that ECOfishers can access the Horiba metre for water quality measurement. The Committee confirmed previous support for funding of \$2,000 in 2008/09 to be used for water quality measurements, if required. **Moved:** Brian Hutchinson. Seconded: Lionel Jones. **Carried.**

2) *Letter from Tom Scott – Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club Inc requesting an extension of 12 months from March 2009 for the project “Merimbula Fish Cleaning Pontoon”.* The Committee supported the extension of 12 months for the program to facilitate project completion. **Moved:** Greg Liddell. Seconded: Brian Hutchinson. **Carried.**

3) *Report from Pepperell Consulting requesting to deploy 3 satellite tags in Queensland (rather than NSW).* The Committee supported the deployment of 3 satellite tags in Southeast Queensland to facilitate project completion. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. Seconded: Brian Hutchinson. **Carried.**

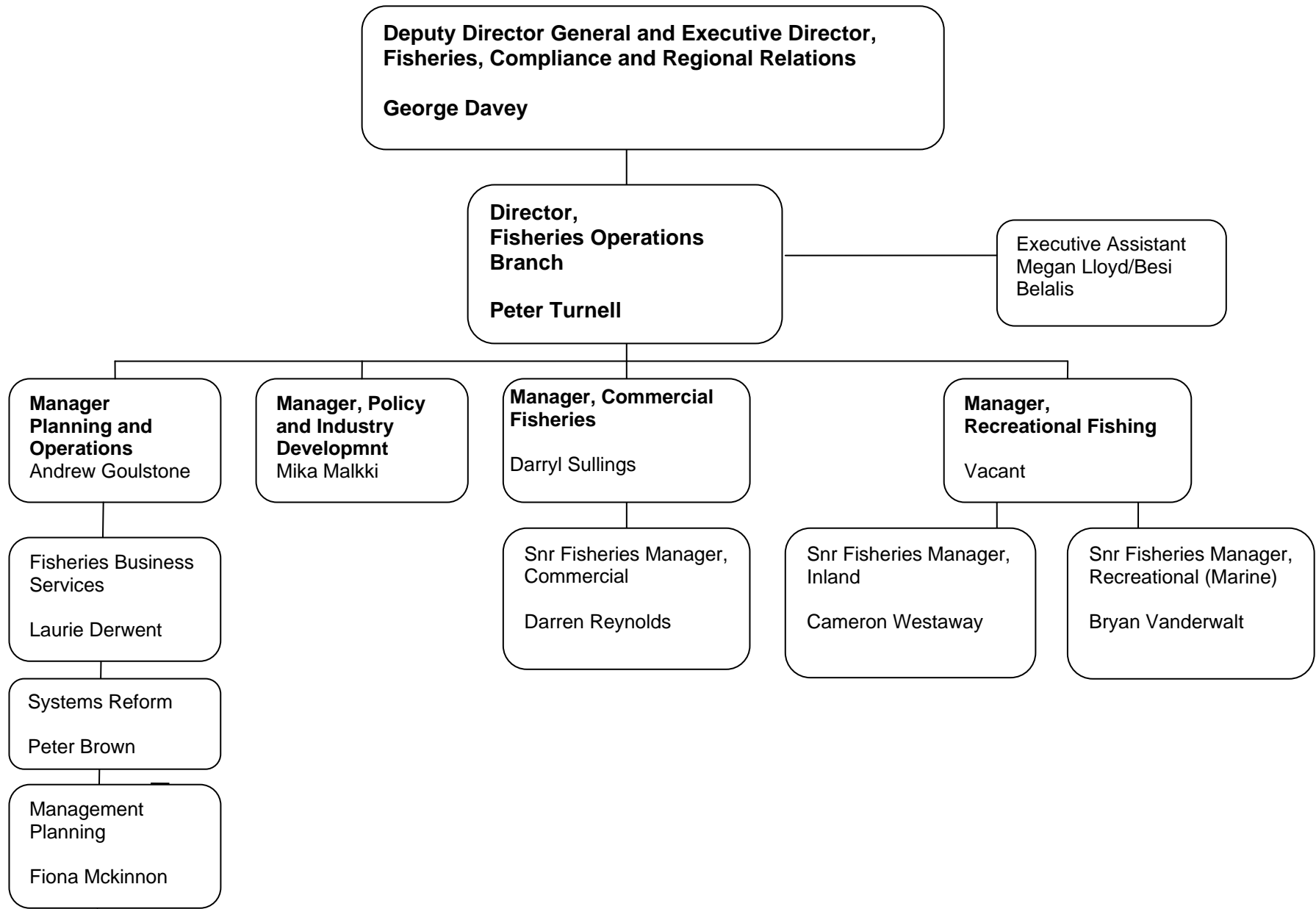
4) *Report from Recfish Australia requesting to adjust the longtail tuna research project milestones in line with FRDC milestones.* The Committee raised no concerns with the adjustment to project milestones in line with FRDC milestones. **Carried.**

**4. Recreational Fisheries Management report**

DPI advised that the Wild Harvest Fisheries Branch was restructured to ensure best service delivery in 2008. A new Fisheries Operations Branch has been created and Mr Peter Turnell is the Director of the Branch. The position of Manager, Commercial Fisheries and Manager, Recreational Fisheries report to the Director. See attached organisational chart.

The Chair advised that a request had been received from DPI Fisheries Victoria to introduce a reciprocal Victorian / NSW recreational fishing licence. DPI presented the potential risks and benefits of licence reciprocity. The Committee noted that there would potentially be a substantial loss of revenue to the Recreational Fishing Trusts if a reciprocal recreational fishing licence were to be introduced as well as other issues relating to joint management of funds and expenditure between NSW and Victoria.

**Motion:** The Committee did not support the introduction of a reciprocal recreational fishing licensing system with DPI Fisheries Victoria. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole Seconded: Lisa Terry. **Carried.**



## 5. Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan

The Minister has approved the Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan in light of recommendations from RFSTEC and ACoRF. The various platforms of approved programs were incorporated in the draft Investment Plan which had been provided to members.

The Trust Investment Plan will be subject to annual review to account for any variations in revenue and to direct funds towards new emerging priorities, if required. An annual community expression of interest for Trust funded programs will continue to be advertised by DPI in the future.

A meeting format for the budget meeting in early 2009, with details of a joint RFSTEC and RFFTEC session, was presented at the meeting. Annual reports will be provided to the Committees prior to the budget meeting to review progress of the various programs funded by the Trusts. *Action Item:* The Committee requested clarification on any potential linkages in the Trust investment plan to DPI recreational management objectives and programs.

## 6. Saltwater Trust report

### Programs supported by RFSTEC

Program	Proponent	2008/09
<p><b>New Application - Accessible Fishing Platform on Stockton Foreshore for disabled people</b> - This project involves the building of a cantilevered platform which will extend over the rocks enabling people with a disability or those that are elderly the opportunity to fish.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The Committee supports funding for the program. <b>Moved:</b> Malcolm Poole. <b>Seconded:</b> John Burgess. <b>Carried.</b></p>	Newcastle City Council	\$25,000
<p><b>New Application - Monitoring the Clybucca Creek/Andersons Inlet System (Macleay River) for Acid Sulphate Discharge</b> – This project will monitor low dissolved oxygen levels, low pH, high dissolved aluminium and iron levels which cause fish mortality during a flood event in an estuary.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The Committee supports funding for the program. <b>Moved:</b> John Drew. <b>Seconded:</b> Lisa Terry. <b>Carried.</b></p>	University of New England	\$1,748
<p><b>New Application - Dobell Park, Wangi, Foreshore Rehabilitation Project – Fish Cleaning Facility.</b> This project involves the installation of a new fish cleaning table with lighting as part of the Council's boatramp Rehabilitation and Foreshore Improvement Program. (Total Trust funds requested \$10,000)</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The Committee supports \$6,000 funding for the program. <b>Moved:</b> Lionel Jones. <b>Seconded:</b> Brian Hutchinson. <b>Carried.</b></p> <p><i>The Committee allocated \$6,000 for fish cleaning facilities only.</i></p>	Lake Macquarie City Council	\$6,000
<p><b>Supplementary Funding – Movements and behaviour of tiger sharks (Galeocerdo cuvier), off New South Wales as determined by use of popup satellite tags.</b> This project will provide for 6 new batteries for existing satellite tags.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The Committee supports funding for the program. <b>Moved:</b> Lisa Terry. <b>Seconded:</b> John Burgess. <b>Carried.</b></p>	Pepperell Consulting	\$8,300

## In-principle support provided by RFSTEC

<p><b>Pre-Proposal – Maintaining a diverse beach worm fishery</b> - This project will investigate the diversity of beach worms on NSW coast and determine their taxonomic status using mtDNA to determine species present and to generate data for diversity surveys and specimens for identification.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The Committee advised that the project would provide some interesting information but did not consider the project to be high priority. It was noted that Dr Danny Bucher, Southern Cross University, was also investigating beach worms and it was recommended that there be consultation between the applicant and Southern Cross University and other potential funding sources such as FRDC, particularly as this project will also have benefits for commercial fishing.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> John Millyard. Seconded: Lisa Terry. <b>Carried.</b></p>	University of Wollongong	Approx \$41,000
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## Program not supported by RFSTEC

<p><b>New Application - Reconstruction of Rathmines Fuel and Bomb Wharf</b> - This project involves the reconstruction of the Fuel and Bomb wharf in Lake Macquarie. <b>Motion:</b> The Committee does not support funding for the program. <b>Moved:</b> Lionel Jones. Seconded John Burgess. <b>Carried.</b></p> <p>Note: The Committee was concerned that there was no railing proposed for the wharf and that it would be mainly used by boats. It was noted that all previous fishing platforms funded by the Trust had railings (preventing boat access) and were dedicated for land based fishers.</p>	Lake Macquarie City Council	\$50,000
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## 7. Trust Program Updates

Habitat Action Program 2008/09 Sharon Molloy – Senior Conservation Manager, Habitat Action Group. The Committee was advised that the Minister had approved funding of \$200,000 for the Habitat Action Program in 2008/09. A project proposal for the management and completion of aquatic rehabilitation and restoration projects was presented at the meeting. Specific saltwater project sites for aquatic rehabilitation include:

- Windeyers Creek - tributary of Hunter River
- Pelican Island - Hawkesbury catchment
- Lower Popran Creek - Hawkesbury catchment
- Wisemans Ferry Wetland – Hawkesbury catchment

**Motion:** The Committee supports the Saltwater Habitat Action project proposal for 2008/09 as presented. **Moved:** Lisa Terry. Seconded: Malcolm Poole. **Carried.** Note: The Committee expressed concern about the management fee component of the program and indicated this may be reconsidered in future years.

### Artificial reefs – Heath Folpp

i) *Estuarine reefs* - NSW DPI is deploying artificial reefs to investigate the benefits of these structures as a fisheries enhancement tool along the NSW coast. A short update was provided on the timetable for deployment of estuarine reefs. The 400 Reefball in Lake Conjola had recently been completed and the expansion of Lake Macquarie and Botany Bay is scheduled in the first half of 2009.

ii) *Byron Bay artificial reef project* - DPI provided an outline of the ongoing proposal by the Byron Bay Services Deep Sea Fishing Club for the establishment of a small artificial reef in the

Cape Byron Marine Park. Guidelines are currently being sought from the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) for artificial reefs in marine parks. The Club had been successful in obtaining \$95,000 from the Commonwealth Community Grants Program for the program, however, the funds will be unspent as the project has not been completed within the designated timeframe. Therefore, the Club had requested for the Byron Bay artificial reef proposal to be included in the broader DPI Offshore Artificial Reefs program as the fourth reef.

The Committee noted that Trust funding had so far been approved for one offshore artificial reef only to enable an assessment of the effectiveness of the reef. Although the environmental assessment was considering 3 metropolitan locations (i.e Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong), it was considered too early in the program to finalise regional locations. Nevertheless, the Committee provided in-principle support for the inclusion of Byron Bay artificial reef in the broader DPI regional program. **Moved:** Greg Liddell. **Seconded:** Geoff Shelton. **Carried.**

#### Australian Salmon: Population structure, reproduction, diet and composition of commercial and rec catches in NSW – John Stewart

Eastern Australian salmon are important to commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers. This program is providing information on the biology of salmon and the current population structure along the NSW coast. A summary of the following aspects were presented at the meeting: (i) movements and diet of salmon, (ii) status of the stock, (iii) impacts of resource allocation, and (iv) ecosystem effects of salmon population expansion. Results from this project will enable informed management of the salmon resource.

#### Saltwater Access – Daina Aspin

A key objective of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (NSW) is the promotion of quality recreational fishing opportunities [s 3(e)]. Both the angling community and the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) have identified the loss of access to recreational fishing sites as a key concern in the delivery of this objective. The Saltwater Access Program aims to enhance access through the review of land management policies, inter-agency negotiation and the development of high-level agreements to facilitate greater recognition of recreational fishing interests in land management documents. An overview of the objectives, challenges and achievements of the Program was presented at the meeting. Key among these was the creation of Crown reserves as a means of extending legislative protection to recreational fishing havens.

**8. Next Meeting** 5-6 May 2009.