

20. Fisheries trust fund report (continued)

Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund expenditure

Project	Total available 2005-06* \$'000	Actual expenses 2005-06 \$'000	Carry forward \$'000
ACoRF meeting expenses	17	21	-5
Artificial reefs management	155	145	10
Artificial reefs monitoring and research	154	69	85
Coastal Habitat Restoration Grants Program	206	171	35
Dusky flathead research	46	51	-4
Expenditure Committee meeting expenses	23	33	-10
Fish aggregation devices (FADs)	132	132	1
Fishcare Volunteer Program	696	585	111
Fisheries Officers (9 Coastal Officers)	1053	1053	0
Fisheries Officers (Mobile Squad)	426	276	150
Gamefish Tagging Program	126	115	11
Life history of black bream and luderick	281	123	158
Marine Recreational Management Project	75	30	45
Maximising Survival of Line Caught Fish Research (Phase 1 and 2)	163	161	2
Recreational Fishing Fisheries Management Strategy	36	42	-6
Recreational harvest of baitfish in NSW research	71	50	20
Recreational fishing havens process	326	107	219
Recreational publications	143	66	77
Recreational Research Project	93	58	34
Small Grants Program	110	79	31
Tournament monitoring (Coastal)	157	159	-2
Trust Executive Officer	141	149	-8
Sub-total	4630	3675	954
Direct payments:			
Framework for fish harvest sizes	51	51	0
Historic Insights into Recreational Fishing Program	18	13	5
Iluka fishing platform	15	12	3
Loan repayment - recreational fishing havens	2000	2000	0
Marine Discovery Centre, Bondi Beach	10	0	10
Mulloway stocking in NSW estuaries	136	136	0
Recreational Fishing Line Bin Program	21	14	6
Rockfishing Safety Awareness Program	88	88	0
Study on landed fish at gamefishing tournaments	30	24	6
Validating existing fishing survey information	19	19	0
Sub-total	2388	2357	30
Total	7018	6032	984

* The total available 2005-06 consists of allocations from the trust fund in 2005-06 and amounts carried forward from 2004-05

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ACoRF meeting expenses – cover the cost of the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF), which provides high quality advice to the Minister on important matters relating to recreational fishing. The Council is required to meet at least four times a year.

Artificial reefs management – involves the deployment of six small artificial reefs in identified barren areas in Lake Macquarie, Botany Bay and St Georges Basin. The reefs are being constructed using concrete 'Reefball' modules.

Artificial reefs monitoring and research - is investigating the effectiveness of artificial reefs in three recreational fishing havens to create fish habitat. The reefs are being monitored before and after installation to investigate changes in fish populations.

Coastal Habitat Restoration Grants Program - provides matching funding from the Saltwater Trust to angling clubs, local councils and Landcare groups for on-grounds habitat rehabilitation projects to enhance native fish stocks.

Dusky flathead research – involves essential research to determine the reproductive cycle, size and age at maturity and the timing and location of spawning of dusky flathead in NSW.

Expenditure committee meeting expenses – covers the cost of the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) meetings. The Committee provides advice on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust to the Advisory Council and monitors the progress of projects supported by the Trust.

Fish aggregating devices (FADs) – involves the placement of 21 fish aggregating devices (FADs) in coastal waters to attract pelagic fish such as mahi-mahi and even tunas and marlin.

Fishcare Volunteer Program - a dynamic volunteer program providing face-to-face education of recreational fishers. Volunteers advise anglers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing. Volunteers also assist with fishing clinics, catch surveys, fishing community events.

Fisheries Officers (9 Coastal Officers) - nine Fisheries Officers are based at Clarence, Hastings, Port Stephens, Hunter, Sydney (x 2), Illawarra, Batemans Bay and the Far South Coast regions to maximise compliance with fishing rules and provide advisory services in recreational fisheries.

Fisheries Officers (Mobile Squad) - comprising three Fisheries Officers who are heavily involved in recreational compliance activities. The squad maintains a mobile support group with rapid response capacity.

Gamefish Tagging Program - provides valuable scientific information on the biology (distribution, movement, growth

and exploitation) of billfish, tuna, sharks and sportfish. Running since 1973, the tagging program is the largest of its kind in the world and encourages gamefish anglers to participate in fisheries management and research.

Life history and biology of black bream and luderick – involves research on the biology and life history of black bream and luderick, two key recreational species.

Marine Recreational Management Project – develops new recreational fisheries' policies, codes of conduct, fisheries advisory tools and products and other initiatives to enhance recreational fishing opportunities and ensure responsible fishing.

Maximising the Survival of Line Caught Fish Research (Phase 1 and 2) – studies are underway to estimate the survival of popular recreational estuarine species and establish the factors that increase survival when released.

Recreational Fisheries Management Strategy – develops a fisheries management strategy to ensure our recreational fishery is managed in a sustainable way.

Recreational harvest of baitfish in NSW research - aims to provide estimates of the quantities of baitfish taken by the recreational sector to determine the total impacts of fishing and to make informed decisions about resource sharing amongst stakeholders.

Recreational fishing havens process - 30 recreational fishing havens were created along the NSW coast in 2002 to provide better fishing opportunities for anglers. Many commercial fishing businesses were bought out using funding from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Trust, via a \$20 million loan that the Trust is repaying on an annual basis.

Recreational publications - aims to inform and educate the community about responsible fishing, compliance with fishing rules and to encourage responsible fishing.

Recreational Research Project - collects information on the effort and harvests of recreational fishers for resource assessments. The program also produces articles for the recreational fishing community.

Small Grants Program - enables fishing clubs, councils and other community members to submit saltwater proposals for small, local or regional projects aimed at enhancing recreational fishing.

Tournament monitoring (Coastal) – collects catch and effort information at selected fishing competitions across NSW to monitor fish populations and the quality of recreational fishing across coastal NSW.

Trust Executive Officer - oversees and coordinates the Recreational Fishing Trusts and provides efficient service

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delivery to the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF to ensure transparent reporting. Communicates the work of the committee to the broader community.

Direct payments

Framework for fish harvest sizes – this research is developing a framework based on biological, social and economic information by which appropriate minimum legal lengths can be determined for popular fish species.

Historic Insights into Recreational Fishing - this study is collating reliable accounts, reports and actual records of abundances and catches of fish in coastal NSW throughout the past 200 years. This will provide information on real versus perceived changes to fish populations, habitat and catch rates over long time periods.

Iluka fishing platform – involves the construction of a safe fishing platform and measuring station for recreational fishers on the Clarence River.

Loan repayment, recreational fishing havens - the recreational fishing havens established in 2002 were funded through a \$20 million loan. The loan repayments schedule requires that repayments of \$2 million be made each financial year.

Marine Discovery Centre, Bondi Beach – involves the enhancement of the Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi Beach. The Centre is a non-profit organisation for the education of Sydney school children on sustainable recreational fishing.

Mulloway stocking in NSW estuaries - ongoing research is exploring the effects of stocking the highly prized sportfish, the mulloway, into NSW estuaries. Tens of thousands of mulloway fingerlings are being stocked into Botany Bay and three north coast estuaries: Manning, Richmond and Tweed rivers.

Recreational Fishing Line Project – involves the proposed installation of specifically designed bins at popular recreational fishing spots in NSW. The program is being developed by Oceanwatch to help reduce the risk of death and injury to wildlife due to discarded monofilament fishing line.

Rockfishing Safety Awareness Program – this rock fishing safety awareness campaign involved the production of brochures in a number of different languages and a DVD on rock fishing safety to educate fishers about the dangers of rockfishing.

Study of landed fish at gamefishing tournaments - involves the collection of valuable biological data on otherwise difficult to access species at gamefishing tournaments across

NSW to enable the study of the life cycles of gamefish and sharks.

Validating existing fishing survey information - all current information on recreational fishing activity, catch and expenditure in NSW is being reconciled to identify areas where potential discrepancies appear and propose ways to clarify the validity of using the surveys for management decisions.

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Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund expenditure

Project	Total available 2005-06* \$'000	Actual expenses 2005-06 \$'000	Carry forward \$'000
Dollar-for-Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program	240	159	81
Eastern Cod Stocking Program	7	2	5
Effectiveness of stocking research	160	127	33
Enhanced fish production for stocking	338	305	33
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	13	23	-10
Fishcare Volunteer Program	209	169	39
Fisheries Officers (Inland)	625	657	-32
Freshwater recreational management	161	150	11
Gaden Trout Hatchery redevelopment	100	0	100
Impoundments Access Program	30	22	8
Inland Habitat Restoration Grants Program	225	220	5
Recreational Fishing Fisheries Management Strategy	15	17	-2
Regional fish Habitat Managers (2)	298	290	8
Small Grants Program	30	21	9
Tournament monitoring (Inland)	125	127	-2
Maintaining travelling stock reserves	30	27	3
Sub-total	2606	2316	289
Direct payment:			
Conservation genetics of bass and perch	20	10	10
Sub-total			
Total	2626	2326	299

* The total available 2005-06 consists of allocations from the trust fund in 2005-06 and amounts carried forward from 2004-05.

Dollar-for-Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program – enables fishing clubs, councils and community groups to apply for matching funds to buy native fish from hatcheries to stock public waterways, where approved.

Eastern cod stocking - this conservation stocking program is part of the Eastern Cod Recovery Plan. The funding supports essential research into genetic factors of cod to ensure effective stocking practices in the future.

Effectiveness of stocking research – this program involves research on the effectiveness of freshwater stocking in NSW, which will lead to improved stocking practices in the future.

Enhanced fish production for stocking - these funds boost the capacity of government hatcheries at Narrandera, Jindabyne (Gaden Trout Hatchery), Ebor (Dutton Trout Hatchery) and Port Stephens to produce popular, recreational species including trout, salmon, Australian bass, Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch.

Expenditure committee meeting expenses – the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee provides advice on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust to the Advisory

Council and monitors the progress of projects supported by the Trust.

Fishcare Volunteer Program - a dynamic volunteer program providing face-to-face education of recreational fishers. Volunteers advise anglers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing. Volunteers also assist with fishing clinics, catch surveys, fishing community events.

Fisheries Officers (Inland) – provides funding for six additional fisheries officers based in inland NSW to maximise the level of compliance with fishing rules and provide advisory services in the recreational fishery.

Freshwater recreational management – this program manages fish stocking programs in NSW and plays a key role in community liaison and correspondence with fishing clubs and other key stakeholder groups.

Gaden Trout Hatchery redevelopment - the Gaden Trout Hatchery, Jindabyne, is being re-developed to cater for long-term community demand for the production of trout fry and fingerlings for stocking. It will ensure the supply of quality stock in the future for the benefit of anglers and the regional economy.

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Impoundments Access Program - this program involved the development of a guidebook on stocked lakes and impoundments to assist and encourage anglers to visit quality fisheries established as a result of stocking recreational fish species.

Inland Habitat Restoration Grants Program - provides matching funding from the Saltwater Trust to angling clubs, local councils and Landcare groups for on-grounds habitat rehabilitation projects to enhance native fish stocks.

Recreational Fisheries Management Strategy - a fisheries management strategy is being developed to ensure our recreational fishery is managed in a sustainable way.

Regional Fish Habitat Managers - this program funds two inland conservation managers focused on protecting and rehabilitating valuable freshwater fish habitats for healthy and productive recreational fisheries.

Small Grants Program - enables fishing clubs, councils and other community members to submit saltwater proposals for small, local or regional projects aimed at enhancing recreational fishing.

Tournament Monitoring (Inland) - this program collects catch and effort information at selected fishing competitions across NSW to monitor fish populations and the quality of recreational fishing across inland NSW.

Maintaining travelling stock reserves - involves identification of travelling stock and other reserves of importance to recreational anglers and follow-up management action to ensure maintenance of appropriate access for fishers.

Direct payment

Conservation genetics of bass and perch - this program is assessing the population genetic structure of golden perch, Macquarie perch, estuary perch and Australian bass within NSW, which will contribute to the development of more effective broodstock collection procedures.

Recreational Fishing (Freshwater and Saltwater) Trust Fund expenditure

The following programs are funded on a one-third two-thirds basis by the respective trust funds.

Project	Total available 2005-06*	Actual expenses 2005-06	Carry forward
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Fishing guides	137	126	10
Fishing workshops	151	79	71
Fishing promotion	69	42	27
Recreational fishing fee administration	848	882	-34
Recreational fishing fee research database	80	69	11
Recreational fishing fee reminder notice	110	110	0
Total	1395	1308	85

* The total available 2005-06 consists of allocations from the trust fund in 2005-06 and amounts carried forward from 2004-05.

Fishing guides - involved the printing and distribution of 200 000 quality recreational saltwater fishing guides and 100 000 freshwater guides in 2005-06.

Fishing workshops - involved holding children's workshops in Sydney, at government hatcheries and across regional NSW, including workshops for special needs groups and NESB communities.

Fishing promotion - raises awareness of fishing rules (including the need to pay the fee) and encourages responsible and sustainable fishing practices. These are promoted through a range of media at peak fishing periods.

Recreational fishing fee administration - involves management of a network of approximately 1100 fee agents, including the distribution of fishing fee receipt books and advisory material, processing and reconciliation of monthly returns and agent accounts and maintenance of web and IVR fee payments. Also includes payment of agent commissions.

Recreational fishing fee research database - the database collects information on the names, addresses, phone details and other demographic information for use in surveys.

Recreational fishing fee reminder notice - involves the mailing out of reminder letters (with advisory material) to one and three year fee receipt holders.