

**Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing**  
**Draft Outcomes - Meeting 37, 12 April 2006**

**Apologies**

Renata Brooks (Anthony Hurst attended on Ms Brooks' behalf), Jim Harnwell (Doug Joyner attended on Mr Harnwell's behalf), Anthony Moore (Megan Kessler attended on Mr Moore's behalf), Ann Lee. Graham Moore was absent from the meeting.

**Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meeting**

The Council accepted the draft minutes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 36<sup>th</sup> ACoRF meeting, held 8 December 2005. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** Terry Maloney. **Carried**

**1. Recreational Fisheries Management update**

Review of bag and size limits – all submissions have been collated and entered into database. Management Planning Committee/ACoRF meetings to be held in late May to consider submissions/issues.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

**2. Recreational Fishing Trust expenditure**

**Motions:**

The Council supported a Freshwater Trust allocation of \$3 million for the 2006/07 financial year. **Moved:** Elaine Garvey. **Seconded:** Terry Maloney. **Carried.** This will be reviewed by Council on an annual basis and as new priorities arise.

The Council supported funding from the Saltwater Trust for ongoing NSW DPI programs (previously supported by the Recreational Fishing Trusts) as outlined in Table 1. **Moved:** Elaine Garvey. **Seconded:** Mel Brown. **Carried.**

The Council supported funding from the Freshwater Trust for ongoing NSW DPI programs (previously supported by the Recreational Fishing Trusts) as outlined in Table 2. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** John Dunphy. **Carried.**

The Council supported joint funding from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts for ongoing NSW DPI programs (previously supported by the Recreational Fishing Trusts) as outlined in Table 3. **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

The Council supported funding from the Saltwater Trust for new large grant applications as outlined in Table 4. **Moved:** Elaine Garvey. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

The Council supported funding from the Freshwater Trust for new large grant applications as outlined in Table 5. **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Elaine Garvey. **Carried.**

The Council supported funding from the Fresh and Saltwater Trusts for new large grant applications as outlined in Table 6. **Moved:** Steven Scott. **Seconded:** Neil Ryan. **Carried.**

The Council supported funding from the Saltwater Trust for new small grant applications as outlined in Table 7. **Moved:** Neil Ryan. **Seconded:** Otto Volz. **Carried.**

The Council does not support the small grant application from the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association for the replacement and upgrade of VHF & UHF radios. **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Neil Ryan. **Carried.**

The Council supported funding from the Freshwater Trust for new small grant applications as outlined in Table 8. **Moved:** Elaine Garvey. **Seconded:** Terry Maloney. **Carried.**

That Expressions of Interest be sent to Region 3 and Region 6 commercial fishers regarding buyouts (see Table 4). **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Neil Ryan. **Carried.**

That NSW DPI investigate and implement reduced overhead levels for DPI Trust funded programs resulting from efficiencies in the establishment of DPI, and as applied to the DPI commercial abalone and lobster programs (48%). **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Neil Ryan. **Carried.**

### **3. Marine Parks update**

The Council requests that the Marine Parks Authority address issues relating to the removal of latent effort/dormant commercial fishing licences, prior to any Marine Park related buyouts.

#### **Action items**

The Council requested the Port Stephens - Great Lakes Marine Park Draft Zoning Plan be placed on the agenda for the next meeting (29 June 2006). Andrew Read to be invited to the meeting to discuss the draft plan.

### **4. Update on SIAC and ACoRF working group discussions**

The working group is continuing the development of options for future buyouts. Information noted. No recommendations.

#### **Action item**

NSW DPI to provide a detailed presentation on structural adjustment issues at the next meeting (29 June 2006).

### **5. Recreational fishing (50m beach) closure for pipis**

Following discussions on the pros and cons of the current closure versus a health warning, the Council confirmed that the current protection (ie fishing closure) should be retained.

### **6. Report on the Review of Fisheries Management in NSW**

A copy of the Stevens report may be downloaded from the DPI website. Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

### **7. Issues raised by Newcastle Neptunes Underwater Club relating to the recent protection of Bluefish and a proposal to protect two additional species, Butterfly Cod and Pineapplefish**

The Council noted and supported the Threatened Species Unit's advice that no additional protection measures are required for these species at this time.

#### **Action item**

NSW DPI to write to the Newcastle Neptunes Underwater Club to advise that the Council does not support the introduction of additional restrictions to protect Butterfly Cod and/or Pineapplefish.

### **8. Stock assessment and related research - eastern rock lobster**

A project update was presented and discussed at the meeting. Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

#### ***Out of session items***

Nil.

#### ***General Business***

- **Stevens Weir**

**Action item**

Recreational Freshwater Management to provide an update on this issue at the next meeting (29 June 2006).

- **“Crab Claws”**

**Action item**

The Council to consider whether to prescribe lawful recreational fishing gear in legislation, as opposed to unlawful gear, to remove any uncertainty as to the legality of different gear types. Recreational Fisheries Management team asked to prepare a briefing for consideration at the next meeting.

- **Submarine Cable Protection Regime**

The Council nominated Mr Bruce Schumacher as the recreational fishing representative on the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) Advisory Committee.

**Action item**

Notify Ms Jackie Fam (ACMA) re: Mr Schumacher's nomination. Email sent to Ms Fam on 24 April 2006.

*Completed.*

- **Sandon River closure renewal**

The Council supported the renewal of this closure. **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Neil Ryan. **Carried**

**Action item**

(NSW DPI) to note Council's support for the renewal of the closure. *Completed.*

- **Threatened Species legislation – proposed amendments to S.36 of the Act**

**Motion:** The Council recommended to defer a decision on this issue until further information could be considered out of session. **Moved:** Meredith Peach. **Seconded:** Neil Ryan. **Carried**

**Action item**

Further information to be provided out of session by the DPI Threatened Species Unit. *Completed.*

**Note:** *Following consideration of further information provided by the Threatened Species Unit out of session, the Council did not support the proposed legislation amendments.*

- **Gemfish boat limit of 10 for recreational fishers**

**Motion:** The Council recommends the removal of this boat limit. **Moved:** Doug Joyner. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried**

- **Grey Nurse Shark protection**

**Motion:** The Council asks the Minister to stop commercial dropline fishing for wobbegong sharks, due to the impact on Grey Nurse Sharks. **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Otto Volz. **Carried**

**Action item**

The Chair write to the Minister to request a ban on commercial dropline activities for wobbegong sharks.

***Correspondence received***

*Letter from Mr Hans Heilpern, Chairperson, NSW Seafood Industry Conference, regarding the NSW Food Authority/DPI joint operation on seafood traceability and black marketing.*  
Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

*Letter from Andrew Goulstone, A/Manager, Fisheries Planning and Operations, regarding the Ocean Trap & Line Environmental Impact Statement.*  
Members are encouraged to make a submission by 21 April 2006.  
Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

*Letter from Ms Renata Brooks, Deputy Director-General, Agriculture, Fisheries and Regional Relations, regarding the review of the NSW abalone fishery.*

**Motion:** The Council recommends an increase in the recreational abalone bag limit from 2 to 5 abalone per person, per day. Moved: Mel Brown. Seconded: John Dunphy. **Carried**

*Letter from Ms Jacky Klausen, community member, regarding the recreational fishing licence and commercial fishing issues.*  
Information noted.

*Letter from Mr Graham Harrison, RFSTEC Region 4 representative, regarding Recreational Fishing Havens.*

The Council unanimously supports the position that there be no changes to RFHs.

A copy of the Minister's press release, which confirms that no RFHs would be made into Marine Parks Sanctuary Zones, was distributed to members.

*Letter from Dr Chris Burns, MLA - Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, regarding the recreational fishing (50m beach) closure for pipis. This issue is addressed in agenda item 5.*

**Action item**

Write to Dr Burns to advise of the Council's position regarding this issue.

*Letter from Mr R W Crawford, community member, concerning requirements to pay the recreational fishing licence.*

The Council does not support the introduction of a "companion/buddy" type licence.

**Action item**

Write to Mr Crawford to advise of the Council's position regarding this issue.

*Letter from Newcastle Neptunes Underwater Club relating to the recent protection of Bluefish and a proposal to protect two additional species, Butterfly Cod and Pineapplefish.*  
Addressed in agenda item 7.

*Letter from Mr Jim Walker, community member, requesting the Council's consideration of a closure for spawning bream in Wallaga Lake.*

The Council to consider possible protection measures for spawning stocks – for further discussion at the next meeting.

*Letter from Mr George Robinson, Manager, Ballina Fishermens Co-op, regarding the ongoing permit requirements to enable commercial fishing activities (hauling) in the Richmond River Recreational Fishing Haven.*

The Council did not support Mr Robinson's proposal at this time to remove the need for an annual permit by recognising this commercial fishing access to the Richmond River

Recreational Fishing Haven in the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002*. It was recommended that the Co-op provide details regarding its contribution to recreational fishing, as per the original agreement, including the fish stocking and a contribution towards habitat improvement. Following provision of these details the Council will reconsider the proposal.

**Action item**

Write to Mr Robinson to advise of the Council's position regarding this issue.

**Next meeting**

ACoRF meeting 38 (02/2006) is scheduled for Thursday 29 June 2006.

**Table 1: Ongoing NSW DPI programs recommended for funding from the Saltwater Trust**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Budget 2006/07</b>	<b>Budget 2007/08</b>	<b>Budget 2008/09</b>
<b>Recreational Fishing Trusts Executive Officer</b> - oversees and coordinates the Recreational Fishing Trusts and provides efficient service delivery to the Expenditure Committees to ensure transparent reporting. Communicates the work of the committee to the broader community.	\$149,900	\$150,590	\$150,590
<b>Recreational mobile squad</b> - comprised of three Fisheries Officers that are heavily involved in recreational compliance activities. The squad maintains a mobile support group with rapid response capacity.	\$446,390		
<b>ACoRF meeting expenses</b> - provides funding for sitting fees, travel fares etc.	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500
<b>Recreational Management Project</b> - consults with angling groups and other recreational stakeholder groups and provides quality advisory and education information. This project also oversees the preparation of RFSTEC meetings.	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
<b>Recreational Publications</b> - aims to inform and educate the community about responsible fishing, compliance with fishing rules and to encourage responsible fishing.	\$142,500	\$142,500	\$142,500
<b>Recreational Research Project</b> - Collects information on effort and harvests of recreational fishers for resource assessments. Produce articles for the recreational fishing community.	\$92,524	\$92,524	\$92,524
<b>9 Coastal Fisheries Officers</b> - 9 Fisheries Officers are based at Clarence, Hastings, Port Stephens, Hunter, Sydney (x 2), Illawarra, Batemans Bay and the Far South Coast regions to enhance the level of compliance and advisory services in recreational fisheries.	\$1,053,476	\$1,053,476	\$1,053,476
<b>Gamefish tagging program</b> - involves the management and coordination of the distribution of tags to anglers. Information on tagging is collated from anglers onto a database, which is used to investigate the migratory habits and growth of gamefish.	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
<b>RFSTEC meeting expenses</b> – provides funding for sitting fees, travel fares etc.	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
<b>Small grants program</b> - enables fishing clubs, councils and other community members to submit saltwater proposals for small, local or regional projects aimed at enhancing recreational fishing.	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

**Table 2: Ongoing NSW DPI programs recommended for funding from the Freshwater Trust**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Budget 2006/07</b>	<b>Budget 2007/08</b>	<b>Budget 2008/09</b>
<b>Enhanced fish production</b> - an ongoing program that provides additional operational funds to Government hatcheries to boost fish stocking for the enhancement of recreational fishing.	\$335,000		
<b>Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program</b> – this program provides matching funds for fishing clubs and other community groups to purchase native fish from private hatcheries for stocking into approved waters.	\$230,000		
<b>Freshwater recreational management</b> – this program manages the Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program and oversees freshwater stocking practices in NSW.	\$166,000	\$166,000	\$166,000
<b>Inland fisheries officers</b> – provides funding for 6 additional fisheries officers based in inland NSW to enhance the level of compliance and advisory services in recreational fisheries.	\$625,000		
<b>Small grants program</b> – enables fishing clubs, councils and other community members to submit saltwater proposals for small, local or regional projects aimed at enhancing recreational fishing.	\$60,000		
<b>Effectiveness of stocking program</b> – this program involves research into the effectiveness of stocking in NSW to improve current freshwater stocking practices by the Department.	\$160,810		
<b>Regional fish habitat (inland)</b> – this program funds 2 regional conservation manager positions, focused on rehabilitation of degraded fish habitat and liaising on in-stream development applications and projects.	\$304,990		
<b>RFFTEC meeting expenses</b> – provides funding for sitting fees, travel fares etc.	\$25,000		
<b>Rivers access program 06-07</b> – involves identification of Travelling Stock and other reserves of importance to recreational anglers, including GIS Database management of trust funded programs, Crown Roads and all Crown Estate.	\$62,000 (previously approved)		

**Table 3: Ongoing NSW DPI programs recommended for funding from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Budget 2006/07</b>	<b>Budget 2007/08</b>	<b>Budget 2008/09</b>
<b>Recreational Fishing Fee Administration</b> - involves management of a network of 1,100 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.	FW \$300,000 SW \$700,000 Total \$1,000,000		
<b>Contingency funding for improved administration system</b> - The tender process for outsourcing the administration system is currently being reviewed in light of the outcome of the tender process and analysis of risks. Contingency funding set aside for 2005/06 will remain unspent in the Trusts and these funds will be rolled over to 2006/07 (pending outcome of the DPI licence tender process).	FW \$90,000 SW \$210,000 Total \$300,000		
<b>Recreational fishing awareness raising</b> - 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 (newspaper, magazines, radio, billboards) at peak fishing periods.	FW \$15,000 SW \$35,000 Total \$50,000		
<b>Fishing workshops</b> - involves holding children's workshops in Sydney, at Government hatcheries and across regional NSW, including workshops for special needs groups and NESB communities. Workshop fees are returned to the Trusts and program sponsorship is being sought.	FW \$31,342 SW \$71,037 Total \$102,419		
<b>Fishcare Volunteers</b> - a dynamic volunteer program providing face-to-face sustainable fishing education to the community and support to community programs, such as fishing clinics and school visits. Positions funded include a State Co-ordinator, and 4 saltwater and 1 freshwater Education Officers.	FW \$186,956 SW \$631,736 Total \$818,692	FW \$175,801 SW \$612,701 Total \$788,502	FW \$175,771 SW \$620,201 Total \$795,972
<b>Fishing Guides</b> - involved the printing and distribution of 200,000 quality Recreational Saltwater Fishing Guides and 100,000 Freshwater Guides in 2004/05. The guides will only be printed following the completion of the bag and size limit review.	FW \$40,000 SW \$100,000 Total \$140,000		
<b>Fish Habitat Restoration</b> - Provides funding for fish habitat restoration grants. This seed funding is used to leverage funding from other sources for floodplain and wetland rehabilitation, riparian re-vegetation and fish passage restoration.	FW \$200,000 SW \$200,000 Total \$400,000		
<b>Recreational Angling Database</b> - the database collects information on the names, addresses, phone details and other demographic information for use in surveys.	FW \$27,000 SW \$63,000 Total \$90,000		
<b>Licence Reminder Notice</b> - involves the mailing out of reminder letters (with advisory material) to one and three year receipt holders to ensure anglers renew their receipts as they expire. There is a strong expectation from anglers for this essential service.	FW \$49,200 SW \$114,800 Total \$164,000		



**Table 4: New large grant applications recommended for funding from the Saltwater Trust**

Large grants program details	Applicant	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Monitoring and research on landed fish at game fishing tournaments in NSW 2006/07</b> – this is an ongoing program that organises, coordinates and reports on biological research and sampling of sharks and billfish at tournaments.	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$23,500		
<b>Annual Membership of Recfish Australia</b> – will provide a firm funding base for Recfish Australia as the peak recreational fishing body to effectively carry out its role.	Recfish Australia	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000
<b>Environmental impacts and techniques for stocking the eastern king prawn into recruitment limited recreational fishing havens</b> – will involve monitoring the growth, mortality and consumption of stocked prawns in two far south coast estuaries (Back and Wallagoot Lakes). Will also develop a bioeconomic model for prawn stocking to enhance recreational fishing.	UNSW	\$131,225	\$123,854	\$83,796
<b>Movements and behaviour of tiger sharks (<i>Galeocerdo cuvier</i>) off New South Wales as determined by use of popup satellite tags</b> – involves determination of movement patterns and survival of tiger sharks caught and released using recreational fishing gear. Will use state of the art tags to provide 'real time' migration data.	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$68,600		
<b>Recreational fishing and fishery-independent surveys in the Hawkesbury bioregion</b> – will obtain information about the distribution and amount of recreational fishing effort in the estuaries and along the coast within the Hawkesbury bioregion.	NSW DPI	\$339,000	\$355,500	
<b>Additional buyout of commercial fishing businesses (Region 3 and 6)</b> – this proposal will use funding remaining from the \$20 million RFH loan and new funding from the Saltwater Trust for additional buyouts of commercial fishing businesses in Region 3 and 6 to address issues associated with shift in effort into the Macleay and Shoalhaven Rivers. It is recommended that ACoRF and DPI develop a detailed proposal for the process.	RFSTEC	\$3,200,000		
<b>Age, growth and reproductive biology of striped marlin</b> – will study key population parameters to support the development of stock assessments for fisheries management.	Charles Sturt University	\$4,550	\$4,550	\$4,550

**Table 5: New large grant applications recommended for funding from the Fresh**

Large grant program details	Applicant	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Community accessible fishing deck, Gosling Creek Reservoir</b> – involves constructing a fishing platform at Gosling Creek Reservoir to compliment recreational activities at Gosling Creek Reserve and improve fishing access to the Lake.	Orange City Council	\$19,000		
<b>Fishing Places, Fishing People</b> – involves constructing 2 fishing platforms, 2 fish cleaning tables, 2 fish measuring stations and fisheries advisory signage at public reserves on the Barwon and Darling Rivers, Brewarrina.	Brewarrina Shire Council	\$20,850		
<b>Quantifying and improving the survival of fish caught and released</b> – will use recreational catch and release events to determine short term post survival rates of Murray cod, golden perch and Australian bass caught by hook and line	NSW DPI	\$175,572	\$160,339	\$11,995
<b>Redevelopment of hatchery facility, Gaden trout hatchery</b> – will redevelop the existing hatchery facility to ensure the long term production of trout for public stocking.	NSW DPI	\$138,000		
<b>Installation of a recirculation unit, Dutton trout hatchery</b> – involves installing a recirculation unit in the existing hatchery facility to harbour 300kg of trout broodstock during the summer period.	NSW DPI	\$52,553		
<b>Investigations of nodavirus infections in Australian bass</b> – involves testing all broodstock held at the Port Stephens Fisheries Centre (northern, central and southern strains) for nodavirus to determine the transience or otherwise of the infection.	NSW DPI	\$16,200	\$17,010	\$17,861

**Table 6: New large grant applications recommended for funding from the Fresh and Saltwater Trusts**

Large grant program details	Applicant	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Recreational Fishing Tournament Management Program</b> – represents a revision of the Anglers Catch Research program and will focus on strategies to change the conduct of fishing competitions to improve environmental outcomes.	NSW DPI	\$93,500 SW Trust \$40,000 FW Trust		
<b>Recreational Fishing Tournament Assessment Project</b> – represents a revision of the Anglers Catch Research program and will focus on the collection of catch and biological information from fishing competitions for assessing fish stocks, impacts of competitions and success of fish stockings.	NSW DPI	\$82,700 SW Trust \$82,700 FW Trust		
<b>Recreational Fishing Trusts Promotional Video DVD</b> - will produce a quality 15-20 minute Recreational Fishing Trusts video DVD to educate the public on where license fees are spent	NSW DPI / Recreational Fishing Alliance	\$21,000 SW Trust \$9,000 FW Trust		
<b>Habitat utilisation, movement and distribution information required for a plan to control banded grunter in the Clarence River</b> – involves research to gain biological and demographic information to control the banded grunter, which is a noxious pest in the Clarence River.	NSW DPI	\$29,200 SW Trust \$29,200 FW Trust	\$5,725 SW Trust \$5,725 FW Trust	

**Table 7: New small grant applications recommended for funding from the Saltwater Trust**

<b>Small grants program details</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Sanctuary Point fish cleaning table</b> – construction of a new table.	Shoalhaven City Council	\$4,000		
<b>Lake Conjola fish cleaning table</b> – construction of a new table.	Shoalhaven City Council	\$4,000		
<b>Greenwell Point fish cleaning table</b> – construction of a new table.	Shoalhaven City Council	\$4,000		
<b>Ballina fish cleaning table upgrade</b> – construction of a new table at Fisheries Boat Creek Boat Ramp, Ballina.	Ballina RSL Fishing Club	\$4,800		
<b>Roof for existing fish cleaning table and a new weigh and measuring station at Camden Haven.</b>	Laurieton United Servicemen's Club	\$1,750		
<b>Removal of disused boat ramp and construction of fish cleaning table at Tweed</b> - also involves revegetation following removal of boat ramp at Seagulls, Birds Bay,	Seagulls Fishing Club	\$1,335		
<b>Fishing jetty education installations</b> – will provide improved information on fish bag and size limits using fish carvings at 3 jetties at Burrill lake (pilot project).	Shoalhaven Council	\$6,490		
<b>Crescent Head fish cleaning table</b> – upgrade of existing fish cleaning table at Crescent Head.	Kempsey Shire Council	\$5,000		

**Table 8: New small grant applications recommended for funding from the Freshwater Trust**

<b>Small grant program details</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Fish cleaning table and measuring station</b> – involves erecting a fish cleaning table and fish measuring station on the eastern foreshore of Lake Keepit adjacent to a community boat ramp and amenities development.	Lake Keepit State Park	\$5,000		
<b>Urana Aquatic Centre Fishing Enhancement Project</b> – will provide boating access and installation of shade cloth and fish cleaning tables at the Urana Aquatic Centre Lake.	Urana Shire Council	\$3,000		

