

APPENDICES

Audits and reviews performed during the period included the following:

- ◆ attendance and leave recording
- ◆ engagement and use of consultants
- ◆ motor vehicle usage
- ◆ compliance with statutory requirements
- ◆ compliance with superannuation guarantee legislation
- ◆ administrative and accounting procedures.

Appendix 36

Credit Cards

NSW Fisheries has issued credit cards to eight senior officers, and one to the librarian to enable payment of annual subscriptions. The department monitors the usage of these credit cards on a monthly basis. The Finance Branch processes all payments charged to the cards and the Chief Executive Officer approves all expenses associated with the credit cards of the eight senior officers.

Appendix 37

Price Determination

NSW Fisheries is currently not subject to determination by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

Appendix 38

Trust Fund Report 2001-02

Six fisheries trust funds have been created under Division 3 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. Moneys held in these trust funds are under the control of the Minister for Fisheries and can be expended by the Minister only for the purposes authorised by the Act, in consultation with Ministerial Advisory Committees.

The activities that are funded by each special fisheries trust fund during 2001-02 are outlined below. Expenditure estimates include a number of assumptions relating to allocated shared costs, overheads and the flow of benefits from projects to different programs.

Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund

<i>Project</i>	<i>Total Available 2001 – 02 \$'000</i>	<i>Actual Expenses 2001 – 02 \$'000</i>	<i>Carry Forward \$'000</i>
Angler catch monitoring program	316	161	155
Bass habitat	100	68	32
Carp assessment and reduction program	164	113	51
Effectiveness of stocking research	319	230	89
Enhanced Departmental government fish production	379	355	24
Field operations staff	609	610	...
Fish passage/weir removal	69	73	...
Fishcare Volunteer Program	356	244	112
Fishing information (shared program)	60	29	31
Impoundments access program	69	26	43
Purchase of native fish from private hatcheries	218	149	69
Recreational advisory and education program	264	214	50
Recreational fishing expenditure survey	71	...	71
Regional fish habitat	269	276	...
Small project enhancement program	20	2	18
Statewide angler survey	14	1	13
Wetland preservation	100	...	100
Total	3,397	2,551	858

Note: The 'total available 2001-02' consists of allocations from the trust fund in 2001-02 and amounts carried forward from 2000-01.

Angler catch monitoring program

The Trust provides for monitoring of the angler catch at selected fishing competitions and special Angler Catch Research Program events. It also funds analysis of catch rates, species compositions and size distributions and comparisons with previous events. Results are reported to angler groups, committee meetings and conferences. The funds cover staffing, operational expenses, and equipment. The program has recorded captures of 48,000 fish over 123,000 angling hours. Over 50 major tournaments are presently being attended annually. Fishcare volunteers will assist in monitoring during 2002-03.

Bass habitat

This new project involves anglers in the mapping of habitats of three key bass rivers, the Macleay, Hawkesbury and Shoalhaven rivers, in order to establish a baseline for a long term monitoring project of these environments.

APPENDICES

Carp assessment and reduction program

The carp assessment and reduction program is a whole-of-government initiative jointly funded by a number of state agencies, with a small contribution from the freshwater trust. The program has several major components, including research into the development of effective fishing methods to target carp but mitigate impact on non target species, community education about carp, an incentive scheme to encourage commercial fishers to take carp, and increasing the commercial utilisation of carp.

Effectiveness of stocking research

This program encompasses research into effective marking techniques for hatchery produced trout and native fish, surveys of fish populations in key impoundment fisheries, experiments in hooking mortality in stocked silver perch, as well as trial stocking programs. A number of reports on the program have been published in popular angling magazines, and presentations given to angling clubs.

Enhanced government fish production

Government hatcheries at Narrandera Fisheries Centre, Gaden Trout Hatchery (Jindabyne), Dutton Trout Hatchery (Ebor) and Port Stephens Fisheries Centre received funding to boost production of native fish species (trout cod, Murray cod, golden perch, silver perch and Australian bass) and salmonid species (Atlantic salmon, brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout). Funds were used for additional staffing, additional operational expenditure and for capital items including a new broodstock shed, pond construction and equipment. The Government's stocking program resulted in 7.8 million freshwater fish being stocked into NSW rivers, streams and impoundments during 2001-02.

Field operations staff

Six additional inland NSW Fisheries officer positions are funded from the freshwater trust. These positions are located at Inverell, Bathurst, Wellington, Cooma/Jindabyne, Albury and Buronga. Additional operational funding to all inland fisheries districts enhances the levels of compliance and advisory services available. Funds are provided for staff, and for operational expenses such as vehicle running, boats and travel, and specialist equipment.

Fishway passage/weir removal

Barriers to fish passage are one of the primary threats to native fish populations. A project officer was part funded to investigate improved fish passage at human-made barriers in inland regions including the decommissioning of discontinued weirs. Funding has already facilitated the removal of Muswellbrook weir on the Hunter River, as well as several small barriers in the Central West Catchment on Mandagery Creek, and Cudgegong River. Progress is being made on a further 10 priority sites for barrier removal on both coastal and inland rivers.

Fishcare Volunteer Program (Freshwater)

Fishcare Volunteers are community members involved in face-to-face education of the recreational angling community. Volunteers donate their time and effort, promoting awareness and advising anglers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing. They assist in a range of activities such as fishing clinics, catch surveys, fishing community events and volunteer training weekends. At 30 June 2002, there were 68 active

inland volunteers. They have attended a two-day training program in Armidale, Yass, the Snowy Mountains, Bathurst, Nepean, Orange or Grafton. Funds go towards program coordinators at Albury and Tamworth, training, volunteer uniforms, ongoing management and advisory materials.

Fishing information (shared program)

Both expenditure committees recognised the need to inform anglers about the recreational fishing licence in NSW. The information program involved distribution of information about the fishing fee, exemptions from the fishing fee and the purpose of the fishing fee.

Impoundment access program

Increased access to impoundments for anglers will improve angling opportunities, decrease pressure on wild fish stocks and stimulate regional employment and economic activity. A project officer was part funded to negotiate improved access to impoundments.

Purchase of native fish from private hatcheries

Angling clubs, councils and community groups manage and take ownership of the fish stockings in their local areas. They receive dollar-for-dollar funding to increase the numbers of Murray cod, golden perch and Australian bass stocked in NSW. The dollar for dollar fish stocking program supports private hatcheries, increases stocking rates and increases compliance with reporting requirements for stocking groups. In 2001-02, dollar for dollar stockings included a record 602,000 golden perch, as well as 154,000 Murray cod and 184,000 Australian bass.

Recreational advisory and education program

This program provides advisory information to organised angling groups, licence sales agents and stocking groups, and supports the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing and the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee. In 2001-02, the program subsidised 10 fishing clinics held at government hatcheries and funded advisory material such as signs, brochures, and booklets. A new freshwater recreational fishing guide is being prepared and will be available for summer 2002/03.

Recreational fishing expenditure survey

No funds were expended on recreational fishing expenditure surveys this year.

Regional fish habitat

Protection, restoration and rehabilitation of fish habitat enhance the sustainability of recreational fisheries in inland regions. Two conservation managers based at Narrandera and Inverell ensure that the habitat implications and the potential impact on fish stocks are considered for a range of activities including modifying bridges, causeways, roads and culverts, water releases from dams, development approvals, and water management plans .

APPENDICES

Small project enhancement program

This program funds small projects that benefit recreational fishing. Organisations are encouraged to apply to the expenditure committee for support. Proposals are then prioritised and expenditure recommended. In 2001-02, the expenditure committee approved a grant of \$2,000 to the organisers of the World Recreational Fishing Conference. The grant was put towards running the conference and the Trust was recognised in conference material, providing both national and international exposure.

Statewide angler survey

This program funded the data management in relation to recreational fishing.

Wetland preservation

The project works aims to work with anglers to provide on-ground enhancement of fish habitats in inland waters by assisting with the rehabilitation of riparian zones by fencing, native tree planting and exotic vegetation removal. Expressions of interests for funding under this project will be sought early in 2002-03 for consideration by the expenditure committee.

Combined Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) and (Saltwater) Trust Fund Administration expense

<i>Project</i>	<i>Expenditure 2001 – 02 \$'000</i>
Recreational fishing fee administration	810
Total	810

Recreational fishing fee administration

The Government is committed to ensuring that no more than 10 per cent of fishing fee revenue will be used for administration costs.

Administration of the licensing system ensures the efficient servicing of enquiries from licence sales agents and licensed recreational fishers. It also covers running costs associated with maintaining the licence sales network, licence printing, postage, financial management and audit requirements, data management and payment of the 5 per cent agent's commission to standard agents.

Other expenditure carrying out an expression of interest process for trust funded programs.

Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund

The trust funded projects in 2001/02 were as follows:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Total Available 2001-02 \$'000</i>	<i>Actual Expenses 2001-02 \$'000</i>	<i>Carry Forward \$'000</i>
Angel rings	25	25	...
Communication and education	393	151	242
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	30	27	3
Field operations staff	1,050	1,050	...
Fishcare Volunteer Program	561	412	149
Fishing information (shared program)	60	29	31
Gamefish tagging program	138	123	15
Licence research database	65	68	...
Marine recreational management	92	92	...
Marine recreational research	93	93	...
Selection of recreational fishing havens	1,403	1,170	233
Small project enhancement program	50	11	39
Striped marlin economic survey	75	...	75
Total	4,035	3,251	787

Note: The 'total available 2001-02' consists of allocations from the trust fund in 2001-02 and amounts carried forward from 2000-01.

Angel rings

The angel ring project is run by the Australian National Sportfishing Association (NSW Branch) with the support of the Department of Sport and Recreation and NSW Sporting Injuries Insurance. It involves the installation of angel rings (or life buoys) at known rock fishing black spots. Funds have been allocated towards the expansion of this important fishing safety initiative. This project not only contributes to saving lives but also identifies regional rock fishing black spots and encourages community awareness.

Communication and education

Licence fees support a range of programs aimed at educating the community about responsible fishing and fishing rules. Programs supported include the implementation of education programs and the management and enhancement of fishing clinics along the coast. The community was also informed about fishing rules through advertisements, posters and flyers distributed by Fisheries Officers, angling groups, licence sales agents, volunteers and via community event days. The preparation of a new saltwater fishing guide commenced and is scheduled for release in Summer 2002-03.

APPENDICES

Expenditure committee meeting expenses

The Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee oversees expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust. There are thirteen members representing all 8 regions along the coast and the major angling organisations in NSW. The committee met five times during 2001-02 and was also requested to consider issues out of session. Expenses associated with the committee meetings included sitting fees, travel expenses and accommodation.

Field operations staff

Ongoing funding has been provided for nine coastal fisheries officers positions, to enhance the level of compliance and advisory services. These officers are based in the Clarence, Hastings, Port Stephens, Hunter, Sydney (*2), Shoalhaven, Batemans Bay, and Far South Coast regions.

Fishcare Volunteer Program (saltwater)

The successful Fishcare Volunteer Program first expanded from freshwater to saltwater with a trial at Lake Illawarra. At 30 June 2002, a total of 140 volunteers have attended two-day training courses in the marine areas of Lake Illawarra, Botany Bay, Lake Macquarie, Port Macquarie, Middle Harbour, Batemans Bay, Jervis Bay and Long Reef. The program continues to grow in communities up and down the coast with the appointment of three coastal coordinators in 2001/02 based at Nowra, Sydney, and Maclean.

Fishing information (shared program)

Both expenditure committees recognised the need to inform anglers about the recreational fishing licence in NSW. The information program involved distribution of information about the fishing fee, exemptions from the fishing fee and the purpose of the fishing fee.

Gamefish tagging program

Funds have been allocated towards the Game Fish Tagging Program, the largest recreational tagging program in the world. The objectives are to obtain information on the biology (distribution, movement, growth, exploitation) of billfish, tuna, sharks and sportfish, and to encourage gamefish anglers to participate in fisheries management and research. The program provides the only tag/recapture information on species such as black marlin, sailfish, albacore, dolphin fish and sharks. Funds have also been allocated towards the development of a new double barbed tag which is regarded as the 'world's best'. The new tag will significantly improve tag retention rates.

Licence research database

Information on the number and distribution of recreational fishers to is important for the management of recreational fishing and the conservation of fish stocks. A comprehensive range of recreational fishing statistics has been gathered in recent years by the National Angling Survey. Research staff have created a database containing the demographic information on recreational fishing.

Marine recreational management

Funds have been allocated to a range of marine recreational management activities. This includes providing advisory information to angling groups, stocking groups and stakeholders, consulting and corresponding with fishing clubs and other key stakeholder groups, responding to angler inquiries, collating community submissions and maintaining a database of over 600 NSW based recreational fishing clubs.

The Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing provides high quality advice to the Minister for Fisheries on matters relating to recreational fishing. The Council plays a key role in consultation over new changes to recreational fishing and advises on the feasibility and acceptability of management initiatives. The Council is required to meet at least four times a year and also considers issues out of session. Expenses associated with Council meetings are funded by the Trust.

Marine recreational research

Marine research activities funded by the trust include the Estuarine Creel Survey programs, including analysis of survey data and a program to develop a database of anglers who buy the licence. This will provide information on a broad geographic and fisheries based cross-section of the recreational fishing community. It also allows for cross checking of the accuracy and reliability of records and will enable licence spending decisions to be better targeted to benefit the majority of anglers.

Selection of recreational fishing havens

Anglers along the NSW coast are benefiting from the new recreational fishing havens - areas protected from commercial fishing which help give anglers a fairer chance of catching fish. Twenty nine new recreational fishing havens were implemented along the coast in May 2002. A 30th haven in the Clarence started on 1 September. The area of NSW estuaries protected from commercial fishing increased from three per cent to 27 per cent.

These havens were created as a result of extensive local community consultation. Around 50,000 discussion papers were distributed, more than 10,000 written submissions received, and results of 62 public meetings were also considered. The final areas were recommended by anglers overseeing the Recreational Fishing Trusts and were accepted by the Minister for Fisheries.

Over 550 commercial fishers registered interest in voluntary buyouts. Almost \$20 million has been allocated to the buy out of commercial fishers, and implement the havens. 251 commercial fishing businesses have been bought out.

The trust is funding the management of the community consultation process and commercial buy-out process. The expenditure for 2001-02 relates to the community based selection process and administration of the buyouts. Repayments on the \$20 million crown advance to fund the buyout of licences commence in December 2002.

Small project enhancement program

The Small Grants Program is funded by trust and gives fishing clubs, councils and other community members the opportunity to obtain funding for small, local or regional projects which enhance recreational fishing. Funding proposals are limited to \$5,000 and should be matched by funds from the applicant or other sources.

This program is funding the installation of four fish measuring stations by Healthy Cities Illawarra on the NSW South Coast aiming to educate anglers from all backgrounds about caring for the coastal environment and conserving marine species. They also provide information on fishing regulations.

APPENDICES

A program involving biological sampling at gamefish tournaments has also been funded by the trust. It involves routine monitoring and biological sampling of the landed catch, such as sharks and billfish at weigh stations and gamefish tournaments in NSW. All fish weighed in are sexed and biological samples, such as tissue for DNA samples and hard parts for ageing, are collected for current research projects.

Striped marlin – economic survey

The trust is funding an economic survey of the striped marlin fishery, scheduled to start next year. The comparative economic benefits of the use of the striped marlin resource by recreational and Commonwealth licensed commercial fishers will be assessed. The outcome of the economic study will support well informed decision-making on the future use and management of the striped marlin resource.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Total Available 2001 – 02 \$'000</i>	<i>Actual Expenses 2001 – 02 \$'000</i>	<i>Carry Forward \$'000</i>
Floodgates on lower Macleay River (Kempsey Shire)	20	6	14
Shoalhaven Riverwatch	3	3	...
Total	23	9	14

Floodgates on lower Macleay River

\$20,000 was spent to assist Kempsey Shire Council to actively manage five high priority floodgates identified by NSW Fisheries under the North Coast Floodgate Project. To date, the funds have been used to open and actively manage the floodgates on the Frogmore/Darkwater drainage system which consists of approximately 13km of drainage network, now open to fish passage.

Shoalhaven Riverwatch

The Fish Conservation Trust Fund provided \$3,000 to assist Shoalhaven Riverwatch - a community-based group. The Department of Land and Conservation provided an additional \$7,000. The funding was used to purchase fencing materials as part of bank restoration works on the Shoalhaven River.

Commercial Fishing Trust Fund

NSW Fisheries provides a range of monitoring, scientific, compliance and administrative services to the commercial fishing industry.

Of the 8 major commercial fisheries only two, abalone and rock lobster, are subject to full cost recovery of attributable costs (this still involves some degree of Government contribution). In both these cases budgets are negotiated in detail with the relevant management advisory committees.

For the remaining fisheries charges are levied for services such as licence administration and management, but are not project specific.

Expenditure by NSW Fisheries on activities relating to commercial fishing are funded from consolidated revenue with a contribution from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund.

The Advisory Council on Conservation is consulted each year over the draft budget for commercial fishing.

In 2001-02, the commercial fisheries trust fund contributed \$3M to commercial fishery related programs.

Aquaculture Trust Fund

NSW Fisheries provides a range of monitoring, scientific, compliance and administrative services to the aquaculture industry.

The aquaculture industry is not subject to full cost recovery and charges are not project specific.

Expenditure by NSW Fisheries on activities relating to aquaculture are funded from consolidated revenue with a contribution from the Aquaculture Trust Fund.

The Advisory Council on Aquaculture is consulted each year over the draft budget for aquaculture.

In 2001-02 the aquaculture trust fund contributed \$600,000 towards the department's aquaculture management activities.

Charter Fishing Trust Fund

The Charter Fishing Trust Fund commenced in 2001 and no activities were directly funded during the financial year.