

## Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

### Outcomes from Meeting 51– Tuesday 7 December 2010 Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence

#### **Attendance**

Bruce Schumacher	Chairperson
Alistair McGlashan	Offshore Fishing & Media
John Drew	Estuary Fishing
Max Castle	Estuary Fishing
Adrian Wayne	Underwater Fishing
Ronald Croker	Freshwater Fishing
Sanchia Glaskin	Offshore Fishing
Charles Howe	Estuary & Offshore Fishing
Kevin McKinnon	Freshwater Fishing
John Clarke	Offshore Fishing
Sylvia Zukowski	Freshwater Fishing and Ecology Research
John Humphries	Freshwater Fishing
Ann Garard	Charter Boat Fishing
Janette McLeod	Estuary Fishing
Shane Jasprizza	Estuary Fishing
Peter Turnell	Director, Fisheries Resource Management

#### **1. Apologies**

Neil Ryan (Recreational Fishing Media) and Claudette Rechterik (Conservation).

#### **2. Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meeting**

##### Proposed Commonwealth Endeavour Dogfish Closures

I&I NSW clarified that the proposed zero bag limit will apply to all Dogfish species in all NSW and Commonwealth waters.

**Motion:** The council accepted the outcomes, with the above amendment, as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 50<sup>th</sup> ACoRF meeting, held 2 September 2010. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Alistair McGlashan. **Carried.**

#### **3. Business arising from the minutes**

The department confirmed that advisory information on the recommended use of collapsible crab traps will be published on the I&I NSW website in the near future.

The council noted the remaining action items arising from the minutes have either been listed in the agenda for discussion, or completed.

#### **4. Recreational Fisheries Management update**

##### a) Discussion paper – statutory review of the Fisheries Management Act 1994

Council members were notified of the statutory review and provided a copy of the discussion paper on 15 October 2010. Stakeholder comments were accepted until 12 November 2010.

##### b) Promoting ACoRF in the recreational fishing guides

Council members were provided a copy of the draft information “What is ACoRF” that will be included in the 2011 Recreational Fishing Guides.

The council noted a recent fishing magazine article that was critical of the lack of information available about the role of ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC members. Bruce Schumacher,

Chairperson, advised that a letter should be sent to the magazine editor to clarify the issues raised.

The council discussed the idea of including a more detailed, short biography of each member on the I&I NSW website detailing their recreational fishing interests, experience and expertise. It was noted that the *Newscast* newsletter could also be used to increase the profile of the council and committees amongst recreational fishers.

#### **Action Item**

Council members to provide the department with a short biography of their recreational fishing interests, experience and expertise for the I&I NSW website.

#### **c) NSW/QLD cross jurisdictional management discussions**

Council was advised that I&I NSW recently met with their Queensland counterparts regarding joint fisheries management issues.

#### **d) Waverley Council spearfishing forum update**

Following extensive consultation between Waverly Council, I&I NSW, Underwater Skindivers & Fishermen's Association Inc. (USFA), various conservation groups and the local community, an agreement on the appropriate course of action to improve spearfishing safety at Bondi has now been established. This will include:

- i) A local education and advisory campaign regarding spearfishing safety.
- ii) New signage to direct spearfishers and swimmers where they should access the water.
- iii) An amendment to the prohibition on carrying spearguns through the Ben Buckler Reserve at the northern end of Bondi Beach to provide spearfishers with safer access to the rock platform below.
- iv) An extension to the area where spearguns cannot be carried to include that area from the southern end of Ben Buckler Reserve to the southern most point of Bondi Beach.

#### **e) Proposed listing of Dusky Whaler and Shortfin Mako as threatened species under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)**

The council noted the invitation for comment from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) on the proposed listing of Dusky Whaler (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) and Shortfin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) sharks as 'vulnerable' species under the EPBC Act.

The department advised that it would be providing a submission to DSEWPC advising that there are appropriate management arrangements in place for the harvest of Dusky Whaler and Shortfin Mako by NSW commercial and recreational fishers. It was noted that a significant number of Shortfin Mako sharks are released by recreational fishers as part of the I&I NSW Gamefish Tagging Program.

**Motion:** A letter to be sent to DSEWPC providing details of the current recreational catch and current suite of fishing controls for the 2 species, which are deemed appropriate. **Moved:** Max Castle. **Seconded:** Sanchia Glaskin. **Carried.**

#### **Action Item**

The department to contact DSEWPC to clarify if the listing of Shortfin Mako as a vulnerable species will impact the recent EPBC Act amendments that allow recreational fishing for the species to occur in Commonwealth waters.

#### **f) Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2010**

The council was advised that the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AMFA) had released the Draft ETBF Management Plan 2010 for public consultation. The draft plan details some significant changes to the management of the fishery, including the introduction of a Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for 5 main species (including Striped Marlin) as opposed to the traditional Total Allowable Commercial Effort (TAE) that limited the total number of hooks

allowed. The council noted that the closing date for comments is 8 December 2010. The department advised that it would be seeking a time extension to the closing date to allow for input from ACoRF on the I&I submission.

#### g) Meroo National Park Plan of Management

The department advised that the final Meroo National Park Plan of Management (PoM) has been released by the Hon Frank Sartor MP, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. The council expressed concern that despite extensive negotiations with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), the final PoM does not provide adequate recreational fishing access to Meroo Lake. The council noted that the PoM indicates that the main road access to Meroo Lake will be closed by a gate. Council members raised concerns that the PoM does not provide details regarding the availability of keys to the gate and whether an access fee will apply. The department advised that clarification was being sought from DECCW regarding a number of access issues throughout the park. The council discussed the extent of recreational fishing representation on National Parks advisory councils and committees and requested the department to investigate the appointment process for recreational fishing stakeholder representation. The council stated that support from other major stakeholder groups should be sought to complement the council's position regarding continued recreational fishing and boating access.

**Motion:** ACoRF to write to NSW Maritime and the Boating Industry Association of NSW to seek support for continued fishing and boating access in NSW National Parks. **Moved:** Max Castle. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

#### Action Item

I&I NSW to investigate the appointment process for National Park advisory council and committee membership and encourage greater recreational fishing representation on these advisory bodies.

#### h) New Recreational Fishing Trust Applications

The council considered expenditure recommendations arising from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC and RFSTEC) meetings held on 29 September and 23 November 2010 (refer to tables in Appendix 1). Recommendations for new Trust applications supported by the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF are outlined in Table 1. The council noted the recommendations from RFFTEC and RFSTEC for those programs that were deferred (refer to Table 2) and for programs that were not supported (refer to Table 3).

#### i) New Habitat Action Grants

The council supported the saltwater and freshwater Habitat Action Grant projects for 2010/11, as recommended by RFFTEC, RFSTEC and the Habitat Action Grants Technical Assessment Panel (refer to Table 4).

### **5. NSW Marine Park issues**

#### a) Marine Park zoning plan review submissions

Council members noted that the ACoRF submissions for the Solitary Islands Marine Park, Jervis Bay Marine Park and Lord Howe Island Marine Park zoning plan reviews had been forwarded to the relevant marine park review committees. The department will provide council members with copies of the new zoning plans for each marine park when they are released.

#### b) Discussion paper on the development of a NSW Marine Park Recreational Fishing Competition Policy

The department provided a copy of the draft discussion paper on the development of a NSW Marine Park Recreational Fishing Competition Policy. Council members raised concerns that the draft discussion paper did not include all the recommendations from the last ACoRF sub-committee meeting. The council advised that it did not support the release of the discussion paper for public consultation at this stage.

**Motion:** The ACoRF fishing tournament sub-committee to meet and clarify their recommended amendments for the discussion paper. **Moved:** John Clarke. **Seconded:** Sanchia Glaskin. **Carried.**

#### **6. Blue Groper Research – Bluey Tagging Program**

Kate Lee (Macquarie University) provided the Council with a presentation on the Blue Groper research program. Ms Lee advised that a number of Blue Groper have been tagged as part of the 2 year program and the movement of each fish throughout the Clovelly Bay Aquatic Reserve and surrounding areas is being monitored. Although the project is not due to finish until the middle of 2011, preliminary findings indicate that Blue Groper have high site fidelity, i.e. once established they are likely to inhabit a small home range for long periods of time. Ms Lee noted that these preliminary findings suggest that small aquatic reserves (such as Clovelly Bay Aquatic Reserve) are therefore likely to provide good protection for Blue Groper, if required.

#### **7. Planning Strategic Research for Wild Fisheries, Aquatic Ecosystems and Aquaculture in NSW – Table of Research Priorities**

The council reviewed the existing Planning Strategic Research for Wild Fisheries, Aquatic Ecosystems and Aquaculture in NSW – Table of Research Priorities. The council supported the list of existing priorities table with the following amendments:

- Remove ACoRF nomination from the ‘Determine the spread, impacts and control mechanisms for *Caulerpa taxifolia*’ project.
- Add ACoRF to the ‘Develop indicators of recreational fishing quality’ project.
- Add a new research priority titled: Socio-economic survey on impacts of areas closed to recreational fishing.

#### **8. Sydney Harbour Clean, Safe Wharf update**

The department advised that new measures put in place over the past 6 months as part of a coordinated approach to keep the public commuter wharves on Sydney Harbour clean have had some success to reduce anti-social behaviour and littering. These measures include the introduction of a fishing ban between 5am and 10am at Abbotsford, Cabarita, Chiswick and Kissing Point wharves to enable cleaning as well as new signage to advise anglers to fish responsibly.

Following another meeting between I&I, NSW Police, NSW Maritime, relevant local councils and stakeholder groups, it is proposed to restrict access at Cabarita wharf.

Additional initiatives to encourage responsible fishing implemented by the department include developing a multi-lingual advisory brochure and a targeted Fishcare advisory patrols. Advertising in local newspapers will also be undertaken.

#### **9. Recreational and Commercial Harvest of Pipis – Stockton Beach**

Council member John Clarke raised concerns about the status of pipis in NSW noting there had been a reduction in the number of pipis on Stockton Beach. Mr Clarke was concerned that this trend was occurring throughout NSW and was mainly due to overfishing. The department advised that as the decline in the number of pipis has been observed all along the NSW Coast and is not isolated to those beaches which are commercially harvested it is likely that other environmental factors may also be affecting stocks. The council noted that I&I was submitting a research application to FRDC to investigate pipi stocks in NSW. Seed funding had also been sought from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts. The department advised that further research information may explain the trends in pipi populations and identify any management intervention required. It was noted that industry was proposing a new commercial size limit and a voluntary spatial closure.

I&I advised it may be appropriate to establish a pipi working group to review any changes in fishing arrangements that may be required. Council members John Clarke and Charles Howe were nominated to represent ACoRF.

**Motion:** That the commercial harvest of pipis in NSW should cease immediately. **Moved:** John Clarke. Motion Lost.

**Action Item**

ACoRF to send a letter to FRDC in support of the I&I NSW Pipi and Murray cod research projects.

***10. Fish Rock and Green Island Grey Nurse Shark – Fishing Closure***

Peter Gallagher, Senior Fisheries Conservation Manager, I&I NSW, provided an update on the review of the current fishing arrangements at Fish Rock. In response to community concerns regarding the proposals, the department held a local meeting to discuss the issues. I&I also wrote to various stakeholder advisory groups requesting feedback on possible options, which resulted in receipt of 94 submissions. The council was advised that the main concerns raised in these submissions included:

1. Economic impacts that these changes will have on the local community.
2. Scepticism of the research methodology and results.
3. Impacts of scuba diving.
4. Not enough consultation with local community.
5. Spear fishing access.
6. Land based access.

Council was advised that the recent research carried out by I&I using funds allocated from the Recreational Fishing Trust titled aimed to investigate the behavioural response of Grey Nurse Sharks to recreational lures and baited lines. The research was designed to provide more detailed information on Grey Nurse Shark behaviour in response to recreational fishing methods. It is important to note that this research project was not a primary driver of the current review of critical habitat areas. Rather, it is one piece of information of relevance being considered during the process. Other information relevant to the review include the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) case in 2008 which identified that further restrictions were required; recent population research commissioned by DEWHA which has shown the population of GNS likely to be less than 1500; and a research paper by Bansemer & Bennett on retained fishing gear and associated injuries in east Australian grey nurse sharks.

The department provided members with a preliminary summary of recent I&I NSW research. This study identified bait fishing as a high risk method and is likely to result in an interaction with GNS. Trolled and jigged lures (including soft plastics, bodied lures and metal jigs) were identified as low risk methods and less likely to result in interactions with GNS. It was also noted by the Council that research suggests circle hooks reduce deep hooking which is the main cause of GNS fishing mortality.

Council members raised concerns that the research methodology on gear interactions did not include the use of live baits (unweighted and/or trolled) or unweighted dead baits that are commonly used in the area and thought to have a low risk of interaction with GNS. The council recommended that the focus of the review be on reducing the impacts of hooking rather than implementing spatial closures. Council members do not support the current proposals. Council suggested the following alternatives should be investigated: no use of wire traces, no burleying, use of circle hooks and barbless hooks when bait fishing in the area (except when trolling or drifting live bait), no sinkers or weighted line when bait fishing.

**Action Item**

The council to write to the Minister advising that they do not support either of the proposed fishing closure options. Additional low risk recreational fishing methods should be considered in the review. Additional research of potential low risk methods should also be undertaken to investigate the likelihood of GNS interactions, including using live baits (unweighted and/or trolled) and unweighted dead baits, as well as the impacts of circle hooks and barbless hooks on GNS.

## **Action Item**

Peter Gallagher to provide addition information regarding Grey Nurse Shark related research at Fish Rock and Green Island.

## **11. Recreational Fishing Programs presentations**

### **Marine Stocking**

The Committee was advised that the Cardno Ecology Lab had submitted the draft EIS and FMS to I&I NSW in late August. An extensive internal review was carried out across various fisheries units, including Threatened Species, Biosecurity, Aquaculture, Policy, Commercial Fishing, Industry Analysis, Science and Research, Conservation and Environmental Planning. Collated comments were provided to Cardno on 10 November and a follow-up meeting held on 16 November to discuss a number of issues. Most of these issues have now been resolved and the department expects to receive the final draft EIS from the contractors in January 2011. I&I advised that the delay in the preparation of the EIS/FMS would require contingency funds in the existing approved budget to extend the EIS program

### **Fisheries Enhancement**

I&I NSW advised that the department is expecting delivery of the final design of the Offshore Artificial Reefs from the contractor by mid December. The public consultation and review process has been completed for the Offshore Artificial Reef Environmental Assessment and the department is awaiting a final determination on the proposal by the NSW Department of Planning and Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. Following approval which is expected soon, the department will tender the construction and deployment of the OAR in early 2011.

Members were advised that I&I has completed the expansion of the estuarine artificial reef in St Georges Basin with an additional 300 reef balls added in November.

Council was advised about a proposal for the building of an artificial reef in Lake Illawarra from the Lake Illawarra Authority (LIA). The Authority had offered to provide some seed funding towards the project and would, as the proponent, complete the environmental assessment. I&I noted that gaining community support for the proposal was essential. RFSTEC had recently recommended that:

- the LIA contribute funding of at least 50% of the total project cost, noting that the artificial reef will be accessible to recreational and commercial fishers in the region;
- I&I NSW should undertake comprehensive stakeholder consultation with relevant local recreational and commercial fishing to ensure community support prior to proceeding with the project..

The department advised that the majority of FADs had now been deployed and early signs indicate a good fishing season.

### **Community Programs**

The department advised that Fishcare Volunteers have assisted I&I NSW Education Officers and regional staff at more than 70 fishing workshops and many other recreational fishing related events. The 'Get Hooked...it's Fun to Fish' program has also had a successful year with 1136 students from 32 schools participating in the fishing education workshops at 15 locations around NSW.

## **12. Out of Session**

### **a) Fisheries Scientific Committee determinations**

The council noted the Fisheries Scientific Committee's proposed determinations to amend the Threatened Species Schedules of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (in relation to the marine worm, *Hadrachaeta aspeta* and the marsh-hopper, *Mirrorchestia bousfidedi*). It was acknowledged that these determinations will have minimal impact on recreational fishers.

b) Expression of Interest - future Resource Planning Groups

The council noted that an EOI for participation on future Resource Planning Groups (RPG) for those species identified as being 'overfished' by the I&I NSW Resource Assessment Review Committee was recently released. Council members were encouraged to forward an EOI to the department if interested in being considered for the groups. The council noted that the RPG for Mulloway was due to hold another meeting in early 2011. The department clarified that the next RPG will be established for Eastern Sea Garfish.

**13. Correspondence**

The Council noted the correspondence received and sent.

**14. General Business**

a) Expression of interest for recreational fishing council and committee representative positions

The department advised that the application period has closed and the appointment process is progressing. All applicants will be notified of the outcome once this process has been finalised.

b) Trial Bay bait grounds closure proposal

The department provided the an update on the replacement of the two mooring buoys at the Trial Bay bait grounds following consultation with NSW Maritime. The department has received notification from NSW Maritime that they propose replacing one of the original emergency mooring buoys in the near future. The department is seeking permission from NSW Maritime to replace the other buoy with a Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) under the current FADs program. The department will be submitting a commercial mooring application to NSW Maritime.

c) Freshwater fishing update

Alistair McBurnie, A/Senior Fisheries Manager, I&I NSW, provided an update on major freshwater issues that the inland recreational fishing team have been working on.

*Freshwater Stocking* - The council was advised that I&I NSW fisheries scientists at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre have recently bred the endangered Macquarie perch for the first time in captivity. This was achieved using a new approach involving the construction of an artificial breeding stream. Both male and female Macquarie perch have reached breeding condition. Mr McBurnie also advised that the salmonid stocking program had a very successful year with most of the trout and salmon already released. The council noted that golden perch have also been successfully released in Copeton Dam, however, due to recent floods the scheduled trout cod and Murray cod releases have been postponed. An outbreak of nodavirus in the hatchery at the I&I NSW Port Stephens site required euthanizing the department's Australian bass hatchery stock, including broodstock. This outbreak will have a significant impact on Australian bass stocking this year.

*LED lures* – The council discussed an apparent increase in the use of illuminated/ flashing light fishing lures in the inland. The department clarified that under the current fisheries regulations a person may not use a light for the purpose of taking Atlantic salmon or trout, however, lights may be used when targeting other freshwater (i.e. native) species. It was noted that a wide range of saltwater fishing gears and methods have historically been used. The council recommended that the use of fishing gear with light to attract fish, such as LED lures, be considered for inclusion in the upcoming review of recreational fishing rules which is due to commence in 2011. The department advised that it will carry out further consultation with recreational fishing groups and tackle outlets in the inland to obtain further information on the sale, distribution and use of the lures.

**Action Item**

The department to consult with recreational fishing groups and tackle outlets in the inland to obtain further information on the sale, distribution and use of the lures.

*Wakool and Edwards River fish kill* – The council noted the recent fish kill on the Murray River and Edwards River near Wakool as a result of ‘blackwater’ flushing following the recent flood events in the area. The department advised that a number of very large fish were killed during the event. It was noted that I&I NSW fisheries scientists were planning to sample these fish as part of a project focussed on determining the age and growth of large Murray cod and golden perch from the area.

### **Action Item**

The department to clarify if recreational fishers can use a lift net to take yabbies in Lake Lyall and notify council members out of session.

### **d) Commonwealth Endeavour Dogfish Closures**

Fiona Hill, Fisheries Manager I&I NSW, attended the meeting to clarify that the proposed zero bag limit will apply to all dogfish species in all NSW and Commonwealth waters. Ms Hill advised the council that current research suggested the survival rate of released dogfish is quite high. It was noted that the zero bag limit for recreational fishers would be complemented by a fishing closure that will prohibit the use of bottom setlines by NSW and Commonwealth commercial fishers around the Telstra communication cables. These arrangements for recreational fishers were preferred as opposed to a spatial closure in the Browns Mountain area, as proposed by the Commonwealth. Ms Hill further advised that the risk assessment of commercial and recreational fishing methods relating to dogfish interactions was progressing.

### **e) Recfish Update**

Max Castle provided a written and verbal update on recent Recfish achievements. The council noted the accomplishments of Recfish and thanked Mr Castle for his ongoing efforts as the ACoRF representative on Recfish.

### **f) Spearfishing Accreditation proposal (USFA)**

Adrian Wayne provided the council with some preliminary information regarding the USFA proposal to introduce a spearfishing accreditation scheme to improve the safety and ethical standards of spearfishers in NSW. Mr Wayne advised that USFA was currently developing the proposal and would provide further information in the future.

### **g) Coronial inquest - rock fishing fatalities**

The department advised that there would be a coronial inquest into the recent rock fishing fatalities.

### **h) Recreational Fishing Inquiry report**

The council was advised that the report from the Select Committee inquiry into recreational fishing in NSW was due to be released on 10 December 2010.

## **21. Next meeting**

The next meeting (ACoRF 52) is scheduled for 24 May 2011.

**Action items from 50<sup>th</sup> ACoRF meeting on 2 September 2010**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Team Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
Planning Strategic Research for Wild Fisheries, Aquatic Ecosystems and Aquaculture in NSW – Table of Research Priorities	Council members to forward comments out of session. I&I NSW to collate comments for the Council's approval at the next meeting.	Recreational Management / Council members	Completed.
I&I NSW Fisheries Resource Management Update – Collapsible crab traps	I&I NSW to publish advisory information on the department's website advising recreational fishers on the recommended use of crab traps to avoid the incidental capture and subsequent drowning of threatened species such as turtles.	Recreational Management/ Publications Unit	Completed.

**Action items from 51<sup>st</sup> ACoRF meeting on 7 December 2010**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Team Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
Recreational Fisheries Management Update – Promoting ACoRF in the recreational fishing guides	Council members to provide the department with a short biography of their recreational fishing interests, experience and expertise.	ACoRF	Pending
Recreational Fisheries Management Update – Proposed listing of Dusky Whaler and Shortfin Mako as threatened species under the EPBC Act.	The department to contact DSEWPC to clarify if the listing of Shortfin Mako as a vulnerable species will impact the recent EPBC Act amendments that allow recreational fishing for the species to occur in Commonwealth waters.	Recreational Management	Completed.
Recreational Fisheries Management Update – Meroo National Park Plan of Management.	I&I NSW to investigate the appointment process for National Park advisory council and committee membership and encourage greater recreational fishing representation of these advisory bodies.	Recreational Management	Pending
Recreational and Commercial Harvest of Papis – Stockton Beach	ACoRF to send a letter to FRDC in support of the I&I NSW Papi and Murray cod research projects.	ACoRF	Pending
Fish Rock and Green Island Grey Nurse Shark – Fishing Closure	The council to write to the Minister advising that they do not support either of the proposed fishing closure options and that additional research be undertaken to investigate the likelihood of GNS interactions when using live baits (unweighted and/or trolled) and unweighted dead baits, as well as the impacts of circle hooks and barbless hooks on GNS.	Chairperson/ Recreational Management	Pending
Fish Rock and Green Island Grey Nurse Shark – Fishing Closure	Peter Gallagher to provide additional information regarding Grey Nurse Shark related research at Fish Rock and Green Island.	Fisheries Conservation	Pending
General Business - freshwater fishing update	The department to consult with recreational fishing groups and tackle outlets in the inland to obtain further information on the sale, distribution and use of the lures.	Recreational Management	Pending
General Business - freshwater fishing update	The department to clarify if recreational fishers can use a lift net to take yabbies in Lake Lyall and notify council members out of session.	Recreational Management	Pending

**Table 1 - New Trust Project Applications supported by ACORF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC for funding**

**Saltwater Trust Applications**

<b>Platform: Fishing access and facilities</b>					
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Moruya River Anglers' Fishing Platform</b> Construction of an angler's platform (about 6metre x 4metre) on the site of the former Moruya Quarry Wharf in response to demand from visiting and local anglers.	Land & Property Management Authority	\$8,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
Small Projects					
<b>Sawtell fish cleaning tables</b> To remove and replace dilapidated fish cleaning facilities at Sawtell Headland.	Coffs Harbour Deep Sea Fishing Club	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Sussex Inlet (Lakeside Dr) fish cleaning facility improvements</b> Enhancement of an existing fish cleaning table by providing a roof structure, increasing the size of the table and the surrounding concrete slab.	Shoalhaven City Council	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

<b>Platform: Recreational fishing education</b>					
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>Eurobodalla Sustainable Recreational Fishing Education Program</b> The project will engage and educate years 5 and 6 students at schools throughout the Eurobodalla Shire and to engage and educate recreational fishing groups throughout the 110km of Eurobodalla coastline to promote sustainable fishing practices and the protection of fish habitat.	Eurobodalla Shire Council	\$13,560	\$3,000	\$0	\$0

<p><b>Sydney International Boat Show Fishing Clinic</b>  The Fishing Clinic runs at the Sydney International Boat Show each year. The Trust provided sponsorship funds of \$20,000 in 2010/11 and I&amp;I NSW provided presentations on each day of the show.  <b>Note:</b> RFSTEC advised that the funding should be conditional on:  1) the Bluey advisory trailer being placed at the fishing clinic site (as per last year)  2) free display space being provided for the RFA/ANSA angel ring trailer in a suitable location (e.g. fishing retail section)  3) 3 Trust presentations being provided for at the clinic i.e. education, enhancement and habitat.</p>	Boating Industry Association of NSW Ltd (BIA)	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$0
<p><b>Educating high school students to get hooked on sustainable rec fishing [request for project variation and additional funding]</b>  In 2009 the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust approved funding of \$20,000 for the project entitled 'Educating high school students to get hooked on sustainable rec fishing'. This application seeks additional funding of \$5,520 to provide for a project officer to build on the success of the existing Recreational Fishing Display area.</p>	National Marine Science Centre	\$5,520	\$0	\$0	\$0

<b>Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing</b>					
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p><b>Fisheries biology and movement of Mangrove Jack in NSW</b>  The research will investigate diet, growth, age, longevity and movement of juvenile and adult Mangrove Jack in Northern NSW.</p>	National Marine Science Centre (NMSC), Southern Cross University	\$53,784	\$69,378	\$46,489	\$0
<p><b>Why have the numbers of pipis on beaches declined?</b>  This proposal will investigate the environmental reasons why pipis have disappeared from beaches along the NSW coast. It will provide an understanding about the ecological and environmental conditions for best pipi survival.</p>	Industry & Investment NSW	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
<p><b>Biological Assessment of Offshore Artificial Reefs (OARs)</b>  This project will address priority 2 monitoring of the Offshore Artificial Reefs as outlined in the environmental assessment. This project will involve monitoring the benthic and planktonic supply of nutrients to the harvest of fish, to determine if OARs are a sustainable option for recreational fishing.</p>	University of New South Wales (UNSW)	\$0	\$74,130	\$64,503	\$59,984

<p><b>Statewide survey of recreational fishing in NSW – development, validation and implementation using existing and novel methods</b>  This proposal will implement a statewide phone/diary survey of recreational fishing in NSW and address the need for updated estimates of recreational catch at a statewide scale.  <b>Note:</b> RFSTEC supported funding for the statewide survey component of the application and requested that I&amp;I with support from Recfish Australia seek funding from FRDC for the Illawarra validation component of the project as the validation project has national benefits.</p>	Industry & Investment NSW	\$1,360,000 (statewide survey)  \$75,000 (Victoria survey and testing licence holder frame)
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**Motion:** The council supports the recommendations made by RFSTEC to support the programs under each of the above funding platforms.

**Moved:** John Drew. Seconded: Charlie Howe. **Carried.**

**Motion:** The council supports the project titled: Why have the numbers of pipis on beaches declined?. 11 **for**; 2 against (John Clarke and Charlie Howe). **Carried.**

### **Freshwater Trust Applications**

<b>Platform: Recreational fishing education</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Small Projects				
<p><b>Freshwater Fishing Safety DVD</b>  To publish &amp; distribute a Freshwater Fishing Safety DVD to anglers.</p>	Council of Freshwater Anglers / Recreational Fishing Alliance	\$5,000		

<b>Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Small Projects				
<p><b>Recreational Fishing Fee administration</b>  Following an increase in the Freshwater Trust allocation to \$4 million in 2009/10, it is proposed to increase the freshwater Trust contribution to Recreational Fishing Fee administration budget to \$400,000 (10% of revenue) in 2010/11.</p>	Industry and Investment NSW	\$100,000		

<b>Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Small Projects				
<b>Species Impact Statement and Ministerial order for limited recreational fishing for Trout Cod in stocked impounded waters</b> To undertake a Species Impact Statement and prepare a Ministerial order to enable limited recreational fishing of Trout cod in stocked impoundments.	Industry and Investment NSW	\$30,000		

<b>Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Small Projects				
<b>Investigations into captive breeding techniques for Macquarie perch &amp; future conservation stocking program – Phase 2</b> To continue to maintain the rescued population at Narrandera Fisheries Centre by installing netting over Pond 24 and artificial stream to prevent cormorant predation.	Industry and Investment NSW	\$10,000		
<b>Age and growth of Murray cod and golden perch from the Edward – Wakool fish kill, 2010</b> To set and section otoliths from deceased Murray cod and golden perch, to estimate and verify age of fish. Otoliths were removed from Murray cod and golden perch recently killed by a natural flooding event in the Edward & Wakool River systems.	Industry and Investment NSW	\$1,200		

**Motion:** The Council supports the recommendations made by RFFTEC to support the programs under each of the above funding platforms.  
**Moved:** Max Castle. Seconded: Ann Garard. **Carried.**

**Table 2: New Trust Applications deferred by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC**

**Saltwater Trust Applications**

<b>Platform: Recreational fishing education</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p><b>Development of an iPhone &amp; iPod service on recreational fish species and fishing rules: tender process.</b> Includes running a tender process to identify service providers who can design and develop a network platform application that provides free up to date recreational fishing information (e.g. on recreational fish species, recreational fish bag and size limits, locations of fishing closures etc.), to “iPhone” &amp; “iPod” touch users. <b>Note:</b> It was noted that RFFTEC had deferred this application to the next budget meeting and that several companies had expressed interest in developing similar applications.</p>	Industry and Investment NSW	\$70,000 SW	\$0	\$0

**Freshwater Trust Applications**

<b>Platform: Recreational fishing education</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Small Project				
<p><b>Development of an iPhone and iPod application</b> To develop an iPhone &amp; iPod service on recreational fish species and fishing rules: tender process. <b>Note:</b> RFFTEC recommended that the application be deferred for consideration at the 2011/12 annual budget meeting</p>	Industry and Investment NSW	\$30,000 FW		

<b>Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Small Projects				
<p><b>Investigations into captive breeding techniques for Macquarie perch &amp; future conservation stocking program – Phase 2</b> To continue to investigate captive breeding techniques of Macquarie perch &amp; monitor impacts of the redfin perch invasion in the Lachlan catchment on Macquarie perch and native fish communities. <b>Note:</b> RFFTEC recommended that funding for this component of the program, (years 2 and 3 of the budget) be deterred for consideration at the 2011/12 annual budget meeting</p>	Industry and Investment NSW		\$32,358	\$33,328

<p><b>An assessment of the Australian bass stockings in the Snowy River</b>          To finalise research on recent Australian bass re-stocking efforts in the Snowy River by performing otolith microchemistry analysis on known wild and sampled bass.  <b>Note:</b> RFFTEC recommended that funding for the program be deterred for consideration at the 2011/12 annual budget meeting.</p>	Southern Cross University	\$10,000		
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**Table 3: New Trust Applications not supported by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC**

**Saltwater Trust Applications**

<b>Platform: Fishing access and facilities</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p><b>Upgrade of rescue equipment, Camden Haven Sea Rescue Squad [resubmitted]</b>                      To upgrade essential navigational instruments on the rescue boat. The existing radar and GPS are outdated.  <b>Note:</b> It was noted that a new funding model for marine rescue equipment and infrastructure is currently being designed by NSW Maritime. The criteria of the new program need to be confirmed by Maritime to determine if this project fits under the new model.</p>	Camden Haven Sea Rescue Squad Inc.	\$7,100	\$0	\$0
<p><b>Trial Bay Marine Rescue weather station [resubmitted]</b>                      To allow accurate dissemination of important local weather information to ocean going fishing vessels.  <b>Note:</b> It was noted that a new funding model for marine rescue equipment and infrastructure is currently being designed by NSW Maritime. The criteria of the new program need to be confirmed by Maritime to determine if this project fits under the new model.</p>	Marine Rescue Trial Bay	\$6,900	\$0	\$0

<b>Platform: Recreational fishing education</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p><b>Recovery Fishing Clinic</b>                      The aim of this project is to give participants (those living with mental illness) the opportunity to either learn a new skill or enhance an old one through the recreation of fishing. This involves an 8 week programme that educates the participants in every aspect of fishing including: understanding our fishery, tackle identification and procurement, fishing techniques, health and safety, local requirements, estuary, beach and lake considerations, nutrition and cooking techniques.</p>	Recovery and Recreation	\$9,600	\$0	\$0

<p><b>Rock Fishing Safety – Sponsored Life Jacket giveaway</b>  NSW Maritime and BIA NSW donated 3,000 unused PFD1 Life Jackets to the RFANSW to be distributed to anglers to promote safe fishing. These life jackets have been in storage for a period of time and need to be inspected, re-certified and installed with new gas cylinders before being provided to anglers through a distribution system.  <b>Note:</b> RFSTEC recommended that relevant parties hold a brainstorming session to formulate the most effective model for the Sponsored Life Jacket giveaway project proposed by RFA of NSW in order to better meet the project objectives.</p>	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	\$153,500	\$0	\$0
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### Freshwater Trust Applications

<b>Platform: Fishing access and facilities</b>				
Project Title	Organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p><b>Build a fishing club room and fish cleaning facility for the Euston Resort Fishing Club</b>  To build a fishing club clubhouse for Euston Resort fishing club functions and to construct a fish cleaning table adjacent to the Murray River at Euston. <b>Note:</b> RFFTEC did not support funding for this project. It was noted that the fish cleaning table component of the application appeared to be incorporated into the overall design of the fishing club clubhouse and as a matter of policy, the Trust does not fund construction of fishing club facilities. The Committee recommended that the angling facilities manager contact the applicant with a view to developing an application for a fish cleaning table at a nearby public reserve, for resubmission to the Trust at a future meeting.</p>	Euston Resort Fishing Club	\$44,000		
<p><b>Fishing access track upgrade, property “Bundi”</b>  To upgrade a private road through property “Bundi” to a popular fishing destination on the Macquarie River known as “Gardeners Hole” near Hill End. <b>Note:</b> RFFTEC did not support funding for this project. The Committee did not consider this project a priority for funding as the access track to “Gardeners Hole” was located on private property and a fee was charged by the property owner to use the track. The Committee also considered the proposal may only provide a temporary solution to the erosion problem along the track, as the application did not mention any erosion control measures to be applied (e.g. use of gravel or road base to fill in wash out areas or low spots).</p>	Bundi Fishing Club	\$10,000		

**Table 4: Habitat Action Grant projects for 2010-2011 supported by ACoRF, RFSTEC, RFFTEC and the Habitat Action Grant Technical Assessment Panel.**

**Saltwater funded projects**

Project title	Organisation	Nearest township	Catchment	Project summary	Funding
Korogoro Creek Foreshore Rehabilitation.	Hat Head Bowling and Rec Club Ltd (Amateur Fishing Club)	Hat Head	Macleay River Catchment, Northern Rivers region	Rehabilitate a 1.2 ha section of Korogoro Creek south bank by planting native endemic trees in accordance with Korogoro Creek Estuary Management Plan.	\$2,000
Brunswick River Rehabilitation project Stage 2.	Private landholder	Mullumbimby	Brunswick River, Northern Rivers region	Construction of riparian fencing along 1 km of estuary and completion of 60 m of further bank stabilisation.	\$22,500
Hunter River bank stabilisation project.	Soil Conservation Service	Muswellbrook	Hunter River, Hunter Central Rivers region	Construction of 700 m of rock fillets to promote the recovery of mangroves and riparian vegetation.	\$30,000
Tarkeeth Wetlands Connectivity.	Private Landholder	Tarkeeth	Kalang River, Bellinger River Catchment, Northern Rivers region	Reconnect 4 ha saltmarsh wetland to an unnamed creek which flows into the Kalang River, enhance fish passage and allow tidal inundation.	\$4166.40
Fernmount Beach fish habitat enhancement.	Bellingen Shire Council	Bellingen	Bellinger River, Northern Rivers region	Protect and enhance habitat in the Bellinger Estuary through restricting cattle access to the river (0.7 km) and rehabilitating a highly degraded river bank (0.38 km, 0.41 ha).	\$18,245
Manning River bank stabilisation and rehabilitation.	GPB - Power of attorney for Pauline Goldsmith	Taree	Manning River, Hunter Central Rivers region	Stabilise river banks via rock fillets to encourage mangrove and other aquatic habitat. Erect stock-proof fence and replant native riparian rainforest.	\$30,000
Pasargadae Kalang River riparian restoration project.	Private Landholder	Urunga	Bellinger River, Northern Rivers region	Improve riparian condition of the riparian zone along 1 km of the Kalang River by installing riparian fencing and planting 1250 local trees and shrubs.	\$13,050
Rehabilitating fish habitat in Tomago Wetlands, Hunter River Estuary	Water Research Laboratory, University of New South Wales	Tomago, Newcastle	Hunter River, Hunter Central Rivers region	Restore fish passage to 100 ha of Tomago Wetlands in the Hunter Estuary by opening/modifying floodgates and undertaking earthworks to restore tidal channels. Remove barriers to fish passage, rehabilitate riparian wetlands and reinstate natural flow regimes.	\$30,000
Mummuga Lake fishing haven riparian rehabilitation and community education project 2011.	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Moruya	Recreational Fishing Haven, Mummuga Lake, Southern Rivers region	Engage recreational fishers and the local community in rehabilitating the foreshore of Mummuga lake improving water quality and fish habitat of the RFH by weed removal (3.3. km and landholder education.	\$19,320
Bank erosion treatment on the Wilson River, Lismore.	Lismore City Council	Lismore	Richmond River, Northern Rivers region	Address poor aquatic habitat and bank erosion along 125 metres of the Wilsons River in Lismore with a combination of riparian revegetation, bank regrading, rock armouring and the installation of large woody debris.	\$13,732

Maintaining commitments to Key Fish Habitat.	Land and Property Management Authority	Nowra	Tomaga River, Southern Rivers region	3 x 1.5 km of stock exclusion fencing to protect identified key Fish Habitat.	\$4,250
Currowan Creek rehabilitation project.	Southern Rivers CMA	Batemans Bay	Clyde Catchment, Southern Rivers region	Riparian zone corridor fencing to exclude stock (protect 20 ha) revegetation of the creek bank (0.5 ha), value add to previous project which installed a fishway on Currowan Creek.	\$14,797.50
The Horse Paddock riparian cattle exclusion riparian rehabilitation project.	Byron Shire Council	Mullumbimby	Brunswick River, Northern Rivers region	Protect 1 km of riparian zone from stock by fencing the entire boundary and protect mangrove, saltmarsh and remnant floodplain rainforest.	\$6,000
Restoring fish habitat through riparian rehabilitation rock fillets Wallis Lake	Great Lakes Council	Forster	Wallamba River, Wallis Lake Catchment, Hunter Central Rivers region	Enhance fish habitat by addressing water quality decline associated with bank erosion and disturbance of the riparian zone via bank stabilisation works (rock fillets, mangrove establishment and revegetation 200 m).	\$30,000
Tambourine Bay - enhancement of fish habitat by the rehabilitation of saltmarsh and mangrove communities.	Lane Cove Council	Lane Cove	Tambourine Bay, Lane Cove, Sydney Metro region	Rehabilitate mangroves and saltmarsh through bush regeneration works (0.1 km revegetation, 1 km fencing, 1 km weed management). Plant indigenous seedlings to create a buffer zone for the bay.	\$28,000
Yellowrock Wetland enhancement Back Creek floodgate remediation.	Wetland Care Australia	Urunga	Kalang River, Bellinger River Catchment, Northern Rivers region	Reinstate natural hydrology to 20 ha wetland through upgrading a series of degraded floodgates to a best practice management regime. Restore flows and fish passage to wetland of mangroves, saltmarsh and sedgeland.	\$29,590
Whiteman Creek river reach project.	Clarence Valley Landcare	Grafton	Clarence Catchment, Northern Rivers region	Rehabilitate degraded riparian zones on multiple work sites along Whiteman Creek via 10 km weed control works.	\$20,000
Re-snagging in the upper Hunter River.	Hunter Central Rivers CMA	Paterson	Upper Hunter Catchment, Hunter Central Rivers region	Instream fish habitat, channel morphology and bank stabilization works in a prioritized section of the Upper Hunter. The construction of four engineered log jams will add to earlier works to rehabilitate this degraded area.	\$30,000
Kanoona Rocks fish habitat enhancement project.	Southern Rivers CMA	Bega	Bega River, Southern Rivers region	Address key threats to fish habitat along Kanoona Rocks reach of the Bega River through removal of willow chokes (3.5 km), strategic revegetation (1 km) and weed control in riparian areas.	\$13,680
The Bank Job.	Friends of the Mongarlowe River	Braidwood	Mongarlowe River, Shoalhaven River Catchment, Southern Rivers region	Rehabilitate a severely eroded bank in the Mongarlowe River. Installation of engineered log jams (10) and the revegetation of the riparian zone (0.45 km). Reduce significant source of sediment and improve habitat for fish.	\$25,400
Webbers Creek Restoration project.	CB Alexander Foundation	Paterson	Webbers Creek - Paterson River, Hunter River Catchment,	Restoration of Webbers Creek riparian zone - eradicate exotic plants, eliminate access of stock through fencing, restore riparian vegetation along a 1.6 km reach of the creek.	\$20,270
<b>Total:</b>					<b>\$405,000.90</b>

## **Freshwater funded projects**

Outcomes of 51<sup>st</sup> ACoRF meeting 7 December 2010

Project title	Organisation	Nearest township	Catchment	Project summary	Funding
Cob-o-Corn weir removal	State Water Corporation	Kyogle	Richmond River Catchment, Kyogle Shire, Northern Rivers region	Staged weir removal and construction of two rock bed control structures to stabilize the river bed and provide 40 km of fish passage.	\$20,000
Dungay Creek Fish Friendly Causeway Improvements	Kempsey Shire Council	Kempsey	Macleay River Catchment, Kempsey Shire, Northern Rivers region	35 km of significant stream habitat will be re-opened by retrofitting box culverts to the Dungay Creek causeway, the highest priority fish barrier in the Macleay Catchment	\$30,000
Coombadjha Riparian Rehabilitation	Private landholder	Coombadjha	Clarence Catchment, Northern Rivers region	Increase bank stability, remove lantana and other noxious weeds and replace with appropriate native plants along 3 km Coombadjha Creek and Mann River, fencing to exclude stock access.	\$4,000
Riparian restoration and habitat improvement of Cudgegong River	Mid Western Regional Council	Mudgee	Cudgegong River, Macquarie Catchment, Central West region	Improve riparian habitat of the Cudgegong River, Mudgee through 3.2 km willow removal and re-snagging. This will extend the significant areas of riparian restoration already being undertaken in Mudgee.	\$8,000
Downstream Deua River Australian bass habitat rehabilitation project 2011	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Moruya	Deua River, Moruya River Catchment, Southern Rivers region	Improve fish habitat on the Deua River by engaging a wide range of users to reduce the impacts of weeds (15 km), restore riverbank vegetation (0.5 km) and improve Australian bass habitat.	\$13,340
Restoring fish habitat in the Macquarie	Wellington Council	Wellington	Macquarie River Catchment, Central West region	Recent in-stream habitat mapping identified priority resnagging locations along the Macquarie River at Wellington. The project will establish 5 snag complexes. Educational signage and approx 1 km of stock exclusion fencing.	\$14,364
Bombala River platypus and fish habitat protection project	Bombala Council	Bombala	Bombala River, Snowy River Catchment, Southern Rivers CMA	Follow up weed control works along 1.4 km (both banks 2.8 km) of the Bombala River. Reduce channel choking and protect fish and platypus habitats that are currently under threat.	\$6,400
Wellers Lane Causeway fish passage upgrade	Hunter Central Rivers CMA	Nabiac	Wallamba River, Wallis Lake Catchment, Hunter Central Rivers region	Replace a single narrow pipe culvert with 3 large box culverts that will improve fish migration to over 18 km of high quality habitat in the Wallamba River.	\$30,000
Rehabilitation of Apex Park, Bathurst	Bathurst Regional Council	Bathurst	Macquarie River, Central West region	Restore degraded recreational area by replacing exotic weed species with native vegetation, improving aquatic habitat and improving water quality by reducing erosion and sedimentation. 550m (3.175 ha)	\$10,000
Bundidgerry Creek revegetation project	Private landholder	Narrandera	Murrumbidgee catchment, Murrumbidgee region	Revegetation along 1115 sqm of 0.15 km raised creek bank and low lying mud flat areas previously infested with willows.	\$4,497.75
<b>Total:</b>					<b>\$140,601.80</b>