

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee
Outcomes, Meeting 31, 17 November 2009

Apologies

Brian Hutchinson, Lisa Terry, Greg Liddell and Stuart Rhodes.

1. Confirmation of outcomes from previous RFSTEC meeting

The outcomes of the 30th RFSTEC meetings were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting with the following amendment. The total approved funding for the NSW Rock Fishing Safety Workshops program was \$33,175 and the applicant was the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW. **Moved:** John Burgess. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

2. Correspondence received

- Letter received from Planina-Macedonian-Australian Fishing and Hunting Association Management Committee regarding the reasons provided by the Committee on the application "Fish Safe and Sound Radio Program". The application was submitted to the expenditure meeting on 5 & 6 May and 12 August 2009 and was unsuccessful on both occasions.

The Committee acknowledged that the Planina-Macedonian-Australian Fishing and Hunting Association is not a commercial entity, as noted in the response from the organisation. However, the Committee reiterated that following a second review of the application, the funding of this project could set a precedent for other organisations that run fishing shows and that the project would provide limited benefit to the recreational fishing community. It was noted there are a number of fishing radio shows in NSW.

- Letter received from Dr. Matthew Taylor, University of NSW regarding the successful funding of the program "Enhancing recreational fisheries through conservation of iconic recreational trophy fish" through the Australian Research Council (ARC).

The Committee acknowledged the leveraging of additional ARC funding for this Trust funded program and requested that an acknowledgement letter from the Chair be sent to Dr Matt Taylor.

- Email received from Bill Harvey on behalf of a local recreational fisher -Wayne Colling, requesting a FAD to be deployed at Hat Head, NSW.

The Committee noted that Crowdy Bay was a new FADs location for the 2009/10 summer fishing season. Additional new locations for 2010/11 will be considered next year and Hat Head will be included in the nomination process, including any other proposals submitted by other recreational fishing organisations. The Committee recommended that the Hat Head FAD location be directly off Hat Head rather than between Hat Head and SW Rocks.

3. Action Items from meeting 30

The Committee noted there were no outstanding action items.

4. Recreational Fishing Trust Report

The status of the Saltwater Trust, including details of the updated Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan, were provided at the meeting.

A summary table prepared using the meeting reports submitted by external applicants and I&I NSW managers were reviewed by the Committee. The Committee noted the progress of the various Trust funded programs and recommended the following:

- Project: Merimbula fish cleaning pontoon/table. **Action:** The Committee approved a further six month time extension for the club to gain indemnity insurance and to complete the project.
- Project: New weigh station and Pontoon for Port Hacking Game Fishing Club. **Action:** The Committee approved a further six month time extension as the redevelopment is due to commence after summer.

Due to the increasing number of Trust projects being funded, it was proposed for project meeting reports to be sought from project managers twice per year. Monitoring of projects and payment of funds by I&I NSW will continue in the normal manner.

Ratification of out of session applications

Application 1: Kurnell Desalination Plant – Review of new scientific data related to potential environmental, human and aquatic animal health impacts. **Motion:** The Committee supported the application. **Moved:** Geoff Shelton. **Seconded:** John Burgess. **Carried. Motion lost. Note:** The Committee expressed concern that the project could have limited outcomes for recreational fishers.

Application 2: Pesticide toxicology study of aquatic species in the Shoalhaven region. The Committee did not support the funding of the project at this stage. **Motion:** The Committee supported the application. **Moved:** John Paton. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Motion lost. Note:** The Committee requested that additional information be provided by the applicant, including:

- chemicals to be tested
- how those chemicals were selected (e.g. on the basis of known inputs into the Shoalhaven catchment?)
- rates of exposure (and data that demonstrates what proposed exposure rates are reasonable)
- information on other general experimental procedures such as how impacts are to be measured..

Review of new 2010 Saltwater applications

New applications (large and small grants) approved and not approved for funding from the Saltwater Trust reviewed are shown in Tables 1-3.

5. Habitat Action program 2009/10 – Mrs Sharon Molloy/ Mrs Charlotte Jenkins

Funding of \$500,000 has been provided for the Habitat Action Program in 2009/10. A technical panel was established to evaluate each proposal according to a set of criteria, including value for money and benefits to recreational fishing. John Paton was previously nominated to represent saltwater fishing in the technical panel. A summary of all the applications received were presented to the committee members with advice provided by the technical panel.

New Habitat Action Program applications approved and not approved for funding from the Saltwater Trust reviewed are shown in Tables 4-5.

The Committee supported the applications in Table 4 and requested that the habitat technical panel revisit the applications in Table 5 and provide additional advice before making final recommendations to RFSTEC out of session. The committee acknowledged the effort of members of the technical assessment panel, including John Paton.

6. Project Updates – Presentations

- a) Fishing Infrastructure - Mel Bradbury, Angling Facilities Manager, provided an update on projects in development, the status of current projects and projects recently finalised. A draft copy of the Angling Facility Design Guidelines for Fish Cleaning Stations was presented to the Committee and will be provided to members out of session for review.

- b) Tournament Monitoring - Danielle Ghosn provided an overview of the methods used to monitor NSW gamefishing tournaments to obtain long-term catch and effort data for primary species of billfish, tuna, shark, sportfish and baitfish.

Output methods discussed were:

- The recording of both catch and effort information through a mandatory radio schedule reporting system (*Scheds*).
- An on-site post-fishing interview component
- Post-tournament phone surveys were initiated in the 2008/09 fishing season. This pilot study showed promising results with 86% of participating tournament vessels willing to participate in these auxiliary surveys.

Future directions of the project include the standardisation of catch and effort indices and evaluations of the utility of these data in formal stock assessment processes and in the management of fish stocks of primary target species of this fishery.

- c) Marine Stocking EIS –Sarah Martin provided an update on the Environmental Impact Statement into Marine Stocking that has been running since late July and progressing well; the presentation involved an update on where that process is at, and what the main areas of concern and key issues are for the EIS. The presentation detailed the current list of estuaries proposed to be incorporated into the stocking program. The presentation also detailed the decision making process and framework that has been developed to ensure the marine fish stocking program minimises ecological impacts.
- d) Governance, Business and Investment – Trent Wilson advised that Gaden Trout Hatchery is progressing well. A new Tour Guide has been recruited and is due to start in the coming weeks. The Business Plan is being developed and will be reviewed soon by the Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Committee. NSW Tourism, National Parks and the Regional Visitor Centres have been updated on the plans for Gaden and have committed to support to increase awareness and Gaden's profile. Sponsorship for Recreational Fishing Programs has been proposed with FADs and the Fish Tagging Program as potential pilot projects. Sponsorship packages have been developed.
- e) Economic survey of recreational fishing – It was acknowledged that expenditure surveys are important to demonstrate the importance of recreational fishing to local communities and the economy more widely. There are many challenges with undertaking economic surveys as it is difficult to place a value on the benefits recreational fishers derive from fishing. Usually the following contributions are estimated: expenditure on inputs used in undertaking fishing activities; purchases of goods and services in local communities, including on food and accommodation; and, expenditure on goods and services in other areas as part of the costs of travel to fishing destinations. Sampling the one million fishers in NSW is also challenging and very costly. Unfortunately the study titled: 'Development of a strategy to address national needs for recreational fishing data for fisheries management and development' did not identify specific methodology or a detailed framework for measuring standardised socio-economic values in a cost effective manner. I&I NSW is also continuing to investigate options for obtaining statewide estimates of recreational catch and effort (following on from the National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey).

Action item: I&I NSW to investigate options for undertaking the NSW economic survey.

7. 2009/10 Investment Plan Summary

The Trust Investment Plan for 2009/10 will be updated with the programs supported for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust for review by the Expenditure Committee.

General business

Review of out of session applications

The Committee discussed the policy for reviewing out of session applications. It was reiterated that applications received by the department before the agenda is sent to members should be considered at the expenditure meetings. Applications received after the agenda is sent to members should be held over to the next meeting to enable formal discussion. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair may recommend that urgent applications be considered out of session. This would be considered on a case by case basis.

Fishing licence fee

The Chairman advised that the Freshwater Trust had been overallocated in 2010/11 and beyond and that RFFTEC had recommended an increase in the annual Freshwater Trust allocation from \$3 million to \$3.5 million. RFFTEC had noted that the recreational fishing fee was increased by \$5 for a one year licence on 1 July 2005 in line with CPI. CPI indexing of the fee since 2005 to the end of the 2009/10 financial year would have resulted in a \$5 increase of a one year licence to \$35. RFFTEC therefore recommended that the fee be increased in line with CPI on 1 July 2010.

RFSTEC supported the proposal by RFFTEC to increase the fee in line with CPI in 2010/11. **Moved:** Lionel Jones. **Seconded:** Malcolm Poole. **Carried.**

Promoting people development in recreational fishing

The Committee discussed the benefits of promoting involvement in the management of recreational fishing. The following potential options were considered:

- establishment of an awards program
- ARC linkages
- scholarships
- building relationships with Universities in NSW and FRDC

Next Meeting 2010

4 & 5 May – Annual Budget Meeting including joint session with RFFTEC – Cronulla Fisheries Centre

Table 1 - New Trust Project Applications supported by RFSTEC for funding

Platform: Fishing access and facilities					
Project Title	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>RFA NSW – NSW Crown Lands and Reserves vesting and securing recreational fishing access for the future.</p> <p>The aim of this project is for the RFANSW to employ the services of a Project Officer to identify existing crown reserves or Crown parcels of land, which could be formed into reserves dedicated for recreational usage such as fishing under the Crown Lands Act. It will include the establishment of a RFANSW Crown Lands Trust Board to oversee the application and management process through NSW Lands and arrangements for ongoing maintenance of the Crown Reserves. The RFANSW will be the identified peak body to secure and hold management responsibilities for public lands relevant to recreational fishing access as trustee. The project seeks 70% funding from the Saltwater Trust (\$128,695) and 30% from the Freshwater Trust (\$55,155).</p> <p>Motion: The Committee supported funding for the program. The Committee requested that the budget be split over 2009/10 and 2010/2011 financial years (and 2011/12 if required).</p> <p>Moved: John Paton. Seconded: Geoff Shelton. Carried.</p>	Recreational fishing Alliance of NSW	\$128,695 SW \$55,155 FW			

Platform: Fishing access and facilities					
Project Title	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Cooperook fishing platform with fish cleaning facility, Manning River</p> <p>The proposed project involves the construction of a fishing platform incorporating fish cleaning facilities on the Lansdowne River Foreshore adjacent to the Cooperook Foreshore Reserve. This project forms part of a larger project which includes improvement of boating facilities in the reserve.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee supported funding for the program. Moved: Malcolm Poole Seconded. John Drew. Carried.</p>	Greater Taree City Council	\$46,185			

Table 1 - New Trust Project Applications supported by RFSTEC for funding - continued

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing					
Project Title	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Solving bycatch and discard problems in NSW's recreational mud crab fishery. This project seeks to develop solutions to the problems of bycatch (primarily yellowfin bream) and discarding of undersize mud crabs in recreational traps using experimental manipulations of trap design. A series of experiments will be conducted in NSW estuaries to examine the effects of inserting escape gaps into crab traps and increasing the size of mesh size used in the gear on catches of legal and sub-legal mud crabs and bycatch (primarily yellowfin bream). The final report will recommend the most appropriate measures to reduce bycatch and discarding in the NSW recreational mud crab fishery. A dissemination and extension plan will be required to publicise the outcomes of the research - particularly if any legislative changes to current gear regulations are required. Motion: The Committee supported funding for the program. Moved: John Paton. Seconded: John Burgess. Carried.</p>	I & I NSW	\$20,281			
Platform: Research on fish and recreational fish					
Project title	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p>A complemented angler survey to estimate the recreational catch and effort for wahoo off eastern Australia. Wahoo (<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>) is a large pelagic predator, caught in significant quantities in commercial and recreational fisheries off eastern Australia. Due to their large size, fighting ability and superb flesh quality, wahoo are targeted and taken incidentally by recreational anglers while targeting billfish and tuna. While the catch (i.e. landed and released fish) from recreational fisheries is poorly understood, anecdotal evidence suggests it may contribute significantly to the total catch of wahoo off eastern Australia. Through the use of a complemented survey design using off-site and on-site methods, this project aims to determine the total recreational catch and effort for wahoo, as well as the total game fishing effort, off eastern Australia. Motion: The Committee supported funding for the program. Moved: John Burgess Seconded: John Drew. Carried</p>	University of Queensland & CSIRO marine and Atmospheric Research	\$9,725			

Table 2 – New Trust Project Applications deferred by RFSTEC

	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Platform: Platform: Fishing access and facilities					
Project title					
<p>Pubic pontoon and associated works for recreational fishing on the Williams River at Seaham, NSW</p> <p>This project is to construct a public recreational fishing pontoon on the western bank of the Williams River south of Seaham Weir and Jimmy Scott Bridge at Seaham with access to the pontoon from Seaham Park. This structure is modelled on a similar public recreational pontoon recently opened at Eildon, Victoria. An access path and seats and tables will be provided by the Seaham Park Committee as part of the approved management plan for the Seaham Park.</p> <p>Motion: The Committee provided in-principle support for the program and requested the application be deferred to the Infrastructure Grants Manager to investigate gaining additional contribution from council. Moved: John Paton Seconded. Lionel Jones. Carried.</p>	Seaham Park Committee Incorporated	\$96,000			

Table 3 – New Trust Project Applications not supported by RFSTEC

	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13					
Platform: Platform: Fishing access and facilities										
Project title										
<p>Effective engagement of recreational fishers in the east bioregional Planning Process Recfish Australia has traditionally represented the interests of recreational anglers at the national level. Recfish Australia is now proposing to play a major role in the Australian Government's Bioregional Planning consultation process This process marks one of the most expansive and comprehensive attempts to catalogue and protect the biodiversity and conservation values of Commonwealth Waters. The East Bioregion is the largest area stretching from the tip of Cape York to beyond Bateman's Bay. Conservation groups are calling for large areas of the bioregion to be declared IUCN Category I Reserves which essentially would disallow all fishing activities including recreational fishing. Recfish Australia is taking a lead role to ensure that any proposals for marine protected areas are risk based and that all attempts are made to minimise the impact on recreational fishers. To best understand the concerns of recreational fishers, it is vital to consult widely and this project aims to establish communication channels and share information with NSW fishers to enable meaningful engagement in the bioregional planning process. Motion: The Committee did not support funding for the program. Moved: Lionel Jones. Seconded: John Millyard. Carried. Note: RFSTEC was concerned that there was still no long term Recfish business plan with a preferred model of future operation and management.</p>						Recfish Australia	\$33,000			
Platform: Recreational fishing education										
Project title										
<p>Manning River recreational Fishing Haven promotion brochure This project will involve the development of advisory brochures that will provide information and education on the Manning River Recreational Fishing Haven. These brochures are intended to promote the Fishing Haven as an important community resource as well as educate on its sustainable utilisation. Motion: The Committee did not support funding for the program. Moved: Malcolm Poole. Seconded: John Paton. Carried. Note: RFSTEC noted that I&I NSW is producing an informational Primefact brochure for the Manning River area and will provide Council with this brochure so they can distribute in the region.</p>						Greater Taree City Council	\$3,336			

Table 4 – New Trust Habitat Action Grants supported by RFSTEC

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation		
Proposal	Proponent	2009/10
<p>One Tree Reach Wetland Restoration Stage 2 Investigate the presence and extent of acid sulphate soils in the wetland, recommend and commence remediation of acid sulphate soils affected areas, install interpretative signage.</p>	Hornsby Shire Council	\$15,063
<p>Mangrove and riparian rehabilitation, Scott's Creek, Manning Estuary Reduce bank erosion, protect mangroves: Install rock fillets 400m, erect stock proof fence and replant native riparian rainforest.</p>	Paul and Liz Brennan	\$25,000
<p>Breaming with fish habitat - Stage 2 saltmarsh expansion at Pemberton Street, Parramatta Value add to Stage 1 project - Stage 2 to expand area of area of salt marsh (Stage 2) 500 square metres, by removing sediment adjacent to the mangrove zone. Native buffer planting with native grasses 700 square metres.</p>	Parramatta City Council	\$31,450
<p>Improving sustainable recreational fishing by protecting and regenerating 0.7 km of the Manning River Estuary Protect and regenerate 0.7 km of mangroves along the foreshore of the Manning Estuary through the exclusion of live-stock and construction of rock fillets.</p>	Peter Brame, administered by Greater Taree City Council	\$9,980
<p>Improving sustainable recreational fishing by protecting and regenerating 5 km of Mangrove forest in the Manning River Estuary Protect a 5km continuous width of mangrove forest of up to 50 metres in width (25 ha) by the erection of permanent stock management fencing and lantana weed control.</p>	Ross Anderson administered by Greater Taree City Council	\$9,900
<p>Pumpkin Point aquatic habitat restoration Reduce bank erosion through construction of rock fillets 0.1 km, revegetate 0.2 km bank, control weeds along 0.2 km.</p>	Riverside Retreat	\$10,439
<p>Brunswick River rehabilitation project Rehabilitation at 3 sites: site 1 construct erosion stabilising rock fillets 400 m, site 2 (opposite site 1) erect 1.3 km stock management fencing, Site 3 restore fish passage at Mullumbimby Weir, remove weir entirely open up full length of creek to fish passage 9km, conduct weed control and revegetation at site.</p>	John Bashforth	\$30,000

<p>Restoring fish passage at Dargavilles Crossing, Wallamba River Restore fish passage at high priority barrier, construct a full width rock ramp, opens 3 km of upstream habitat, 47 km total habitat.</p>	Greater Taree City Council - Brett Currie	\$30,000
<p>Mullet Creek fishway Improve fish passage at second highest priority barrier in region (only barrier on Mullet Creek) - construct of vertical slot fishway. Open up 20 km habitat for fish.</p>	Lake Illawarra Authority	\$30,000
<p>Stewarts River Weir full-width rock-ramp fishway Improve fish passage at second highest priority barrier in region - construct full width rock ramp. Open up 63.5 km habitat for fish.</p>	Greater Taree City Council - Brett Currie	\$30,000
<p>Rehabilitating fish habitat at Bimbadeen Avenue, Banora Point in the Lower Tweed Estuary Protect and enhance river bank vegetation - 0.66 km weed management, 0.5 ha wetland rehabilitation, 1 interpretative sign, community field day.</p>	Tweed Landcare Inc on behalf of Bimbadeen Landcare Group	\$22,400
<p>Fishing and dairying co-existing at 'Greenway' on the Tuross River Riparian fencing 730 m, riparian revegetation with 500 plants, wetland fencing 570 m, wetland revegetation with 1000 plants, weed management across all fenced zones, erosion protection works on laneway, off-stream water system 5 troughs and pipes.</p>	Greg Matthews & Anabel Blake 'Greenway'	\$19,100
<p>Fish habitat improvement in the Pambula River Catchment Improve Pambula and Yowaka Rivers – Pambula: fence (electric) and revegetate 750 m reach, create 40 m wide buffer zone, Yowaka: 50 m erosion works, 500 m riparian rehabilitation through fencing and revegetation.</p>	Southern Rivers CMA	\$14,555
<p>Pig Island saltmarsh and mangrove restoration - 'Cows out of water' Reduce effluent and sediment input to Shoalhaven River, erect 4.69 km stock management fencing, 4 km revegetation (mangroves, foreshore), 5 ha wetland rehabilitation, 0.35 km weed management, 3 km erosion control works.</p>	Southern Rivers CMA	\$14,441
<p>Fish in, mozzies out Improve tidal flushing of isolated pools in an 18ha mangrove wetland to increase access for fish, reduce habitat suitability for mosquitoes and facilitate more efficient conversion of 'energy' from mangrove growth into fish production. Undertake extensive fish and invertebrate sampling throughout project (conducted by university researchers) to identify impact of remediation on fish communities and habitat use of fish.</p>	Tweed Shire Council	\$59,382
TOTAL		\$351,710

Table 5: New Trust Habitat Action Grants *not supported* by RFSTEC

Program	Proponent	Description	2009/10
Clarence Catchment cries 'SOS' - Save our Saltmarsh	Wetland Care Australia	Identify and enhance minimum of 5 key saltmarsh sites in Clarence, engage with local community regarding saltmarsh, wetlands and fish habitat	\$79,435
Manning River Recreational Fishing Support Project - habitat component only	Greater Taree City Council	Rehabilitate 2 - 5 priority hotspots - bank stabilisation, stock exclusion and revegetation. Conduct field days for landholders at demo sites.	\$100,000
Repairing fish habitat in the Hastings River	Oceanwatch Australia Ltd	Rehabilitate a minimum of 6 sites works to include: stock management fencing, off-stream water installation, riparian rehabilitation, weed control, bank stabilisation. Oyster bay clean up remove derelict oyster equipment	\$82,865
Fish Fillets in the Hastings Catchment	Wetland Care Australia	Restore degraded stream banks using rock fillet work, native vegetation regeneration and the installation of stock management fencing. Sites prioritised according to the Estuary Management Plan and CMA CAP	\$69,994
Protection and enhancement of tidal wetland vegetation, Tweed Heads Pony Club Reserve, Cobaki Broadwater (Horses and weeds out - Fish in)	Tweed Shire Council	Protect saltmarsh from grazing - 750 m fence, 4 hectares weed management, wetlands rehabilitation (2ha saltmarsh, 1 ha swamp oak, 1 hectare mangrove),	\$13,260
Clean up west Lake Macquarie foreshore	Koompahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council	Manual removal of rubbish over 65 km of shoreline, coordinate meetings with local fishing clubs regarding fishing related rubbish	\$30,000
Improving acid drain water discharge from the Anna Bay Drainage System	Port Stephens Council	Install water control structures to improve water quality draining from Anna Bay drain	\$30,000
Candalagan Creek and Broulee foreshore habitat rehabilitation 2009/10	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Remove exotic weeds 6km from Broulee/Mossy Pt with focus on Candalagan Ck, replant 100 plants where required, promote community involvement	\$25,000
Creating a fish nursery through mangrove rehabilitation	Nyambaga Indigenous Green Team/Ngurrula Aboriginal Corporation	Value add to previous project - restore 250 m river bank using rock fillets, revegetate 500 m, transplant mangroves if necessary	\$25,000
Fish unlimited - Wooli Wooli River habitat project	Wetland Care Australia	Reduce unauthorised vehicle use and illegal fishing activities in reserve (crab pot and net use), decommission unauthorised camp site, undertake 0.3 km weed control, 0.25 ha targeted revegetation, install educational signage for reserve users.	\$29,909
Holmes Drive reserve riverbank restoration	Hawkesbury City Council	Reduce river bank erosion according to best practice, revegetate 100 m river bank approx 5000 plants	\$30,000

