

# Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

## Minutes

**34<sup>th</sup> MEETING (02/2005)**  
**9:30am, Thursday 23 June 2005**

**NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Cronulla Fisheries Centre Conference Room  
202 Nicholson Parade, Cronulla**

### Attendance

#### **Chair**

Bruce Schumacher

#### **Members**

|                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Elaine Garvey  | Estuary, Offshore Fishing   |
| Lionel Jones   | Estuarine Habitat           |
| Scott Mitchell | Freshwater, Tackle Sales    |
| Mel Brown      | Underwater Fishing          |
| Ann Lee        | Freshwater Fishing          |
| Anthony Moore  | Nature Conservation Council |
| Neil Ryan      | Recreational Fishing Media  |
| Lisa Terry     | Marine Biology              |
| John Dunphy    | Tackle Sales                |
| Jim Harnwell   | Offshore Fishing            |
| Nick James     | Departmental nominee        |

#### **Observers**

Bryan van der Walt, Senior Manager Recreational Fisheries  
Mandi McKaig, Management Officer Recreational Fisheries

### Business

#### *Welcome by Chair*

The Chair also welcomed Jim Booth, Charter Boat representative on behalf of Ann Garard and Doug Joyner, Tackle Sales representative on behalf of John Dunphy, who were unable to attend the meeting.

*Apologies* Graham Moore (Indigenous Fishing); Terry Maloney (Freshwater Fishing)

#### *Minutes of previous meeting*

#### **Recommendation**

The minutes are a true and accurate record of discussions at the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting, held 12 April 2005.

Moved: Mel Brown                      Seconded: Ann Lee      **Carried**

#### *Business arising from the minutes*

Nil

## **Agenda Items**

1. Update on assessment of the effects of stocking in the NSW freshwater fishery research program
2. Recreational Fishing Trusts report
3. Update on impact of restocked mulloway fingerlings in estuaries research program
4. Update on using recreational anglers to estimate and maximise the survival of released line - caught fish research program.
5. Protection of spawning sites for native freshwater fish
6. Tournament monitoring program
7. Compliance/Recreational Mobile Squad update
8. Update on determining appropriate sizes at harvest for species shared by the commercial trap and recreational fisheries in NSW research program
9. Request for spearfishing closure between Salmon Haul Bay and North Cronulla Beach
10. Baitfish issues
11. FADs/Artificial reefs update

### *Out of session items*

General Inland Waters closure.

### *Other Business*

Release of draft Trout Cod Recovery Plan.

Request for the Estuary General MAC's consideration of a proposal to standardise hoop net/witches hat identification for recreational and commercial fishers in estuarine waters.

### *Correspondence received*

Nil.

### *Around the table*

**Next meeting** – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005.

**Issue**

Update on assessment of the effects of stocking in the NSW freshwater fishery research program.

**Background**

The activity of fish stocking is undertaken in many water storage impoundments and rivers throughout the State at a rate of around 7 million fish per annum. Stocking is primarily of native species including golden perch, silver perch, Murray cod and Australian bass, and non-native species including Atlantic salmon, brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout.

There is a need to develop effective marking methods for small hatchery-reared trout and native fish fry so that hatchery and wild fish can be identified and survival rates of stocked fish determined. Very little is known about the survival of stocked trout and native fish fry and the contribution of these fish to the recreational fishery in NSW. Several factors can influence survival of fry including pollution, predation and competition, availability of food for young fish, water-use practices, disease and environmental events and fishing mortality.

This fish marking study is providing estimates of mortality and survival rates of stocked fish, the contribution of stockings to recreational fishing and percentage returns to the angler. This assessment of the effectiveness of stocking will greatly contribute to the development of a stocking strategy for NSW freshwater waterways and allow for recommendations to be made on numbers and size of fish to be stocked. Several impoundments and rivers have been stocked with the marked fish including rainbow trout, Murray cod, golden perch and Australian bass.

To assess survival and growth of rainbow trout in Lakes Eucumbene and Jindabyne over the past 3 years, a proportion of the rainbow trout stocked into Lakes Eucumbene and Jindabyne have been finclipped. For Lake Eucumbene, 150,000 rainbow trout are stocked each year. Lake Jindabyne receives 50,000 rainbow trout each year. Volunteers assist with the finclipping, which enables identification of these fish in the future. This will allow for the determination of survival and the contribution of stocked fish to the fishery and to the spawning population. The annual trapping of the main tributaries of both lakes has enabled recapture of these fish. The results show that the hatchery fish do contribute to the spawning population. Angler catch is also monitored in both lakes at major fishing competitions, enabling estimates of the stocking in maintaining angler catch rates.

John Pogonoski, Fisheries Technician, was intending to provide a program update to council, however, he is no longer able to attend the meeting. John will be discussing this issue with the Snowy Mountains Lakes Working Group on Friday 24 June, therefore, information/outcomes from that presentation will be included in the minutes for this meeting, for council's information. John will also be available to discuss this program at a future council meeting, if requested.

**Outcomes**

John Pogonoski is attending the Snowy Lakes Strategy Meeting at Gaden Trout Hatchery on 24 June and will give a presentation on the freshwater stocking research being conducted by NSW DPI Aquatic Ecosystems Research staff on the Snowy Mountains Lakes (particularly Lake Eucumbene and Lake Jindabyne).

**Summary of Presentation:**

The research to date suggests that the enhancement of rainbow trout populations by stocking 150,000 fingerlings per year into Lake Eucumbene and 50,000 fingerlings per year into Lake Jindabyne (as recommended by the Snowy Lakes Strategy Committee in 2000) is contributing to the rainbow trout populations in both lakes. The stocking success is

measured by recording the proportion of finclipped – i.e. hatchery-reared and stocked – rainbow trout in a sample of the trapped spawning migrations into the inflowing tributaries of each lake. The data collected to date suggests that the proportion of stocked rainbow trout in both Lake Eucumbene and Lake Jindabyne have increased between 2003 and 2004. In 2003 an estimated 7% of Lake Eucumbene rainbow trout sampled (3-year old fish) were identified as stocked fish and this figure rose to around 10% in 2004. In 2004 an estimated 29% of 2-year old rainbow trout sampled in the Lake Eucumbene catchment were identified as stocked fish. For Lake Jindabyne, the estimated percentage of 3-year old stocked rainbow trout rose from around 14% in 2003 to around 32% in 2004. In addition, an estimated 65% of 2-year old rainbow trout sampled in the Thredbo River spawning run were identified as stocked fish. Similar estimates of stocked rainbow trout were also identified from 2004 Easter and Snowy Mountains Troutfest recreational catches when research staff examined rainbow trout at boat ramps (although sample sizes were much smaller). Brown trout populations are still self-sustaining in both lakes and there is no intention to change the policy of not stocking brown trout into the Snowy Mountains Lakes. Ongoing monitoring of both rainbow and brown trout populations is continuing in the Snowy Lakes and a report is currently being compiled that will summarise the results of these studies.

For information.

**Issue**

Recreational Fishing Trust Report.

**Background**

Status of the Recreational Fishing Trusts

At the April budget meeting the Saltwater Expenditure Committee supported budgets totalling \$9.7 million to a range of compliance, research, management and education programs to improve recreational fishing in 2005/06. This includes predicted carry-overs from 2004/05. Likewise, the Freshwater Expenditure Committee supported budgets totalling \$2.9 million to a range of programs in 2005/06. Total predicted income from licence sales in 2004/05 is approximately \$9.5 million.

RFSTEC recommendations

The Saltwater Committee also reviewed new applications for funding on 16 June 2005 and recommendations arising from this meeting will be provided to Council.

**Outcomes**

Status of the Saltwater Trust

The Department advised that as of 31 May 2005 income from licence sales was \$9.3 million and that a balance of approximately \$1.4 million remained in the Saltwater Trust for new programs to improve recreational fishing in 2005/06.

Licence fee increase

The Department advised that the increase in the licence fee had been announced and would take effect from 1 July 2005 to ensure that the capacity of the Trusts to improve recreational fishing is maintained over time. From July 1, a 3-year licence will increase from \$70 to \$75, one-year from \$25 to \$30, a one-month licence will rise from \$10 to \$12 and a three-day licence will now cost \$6, up a dollar. It was noted that this was the first increase in the licence fee since the freshwater licence was reintroduced in 1998 and extended to all waters in 2001. Fishers will continue to benefit from a range of important projects as a result of this boost in funding for the two independent Trust funds.

Tender for the Recreational Fishing Licence Administration System

The Department advised that it would soon be calling for tenders, in consultation with the Department of Commerce, for a state-of-the-art electronic licence sales system that will provide waterproof licences. Agents and anglers have asked for a more efficient system to speed up licence purchases particularly during peak times such as school holidays.

A Guide to Stocked Lakes and Dams in NSW

The Department advised that the new Guide was recently launched at The Fishing Show at Homebush. It provides travelling anglers with basic fishing information about the many stocked lakes and dams throughout NSW. It also has information on recreational facilities at these locations, including accommodation, boating and fishing access arrangements, to make any fishing trip easier to enjoy. A total of 93 stocked lakes and dams have been included in the Guide ranging in size from some of the state's largest freshwater lakes to some very small dams, which all offer great fishing opportunities. A map of most of the dams has been included to show some of the facilities around each water body. The Guide will be sold on the NSW DPI website and at the 'Bluey' Advisory trailers.

RFSTEC recommendations

ACoRF reviewed applications supported by the Saltwater Committee on 16 June 2005. Details of each program, including funding requested from the Saltwater Trust, were presented to the Council (see table below). The benefits of each program to recreational fishing were assessed by Council.

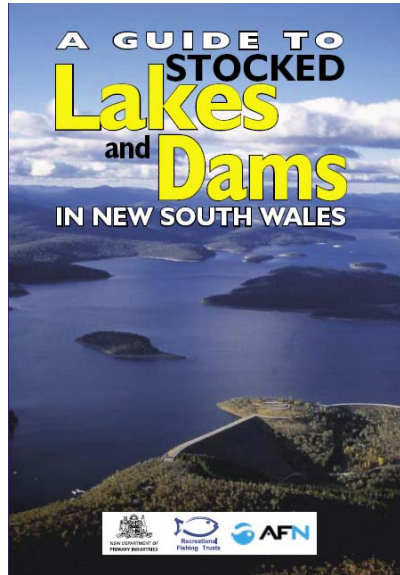


Table 1: Applications supported by RFSTEC

| Program  | Applicant                      | Funding 2005/06 |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Enhancing recreational fisheries through stocking of mulloway into estuaries – additional funds for purchase of fingerlings   | University of NSW              | \$36,750        |
| 2. Fish Cleaning Table at Lions Park Gamban Road Gwandalan (small grant)   | Gwandalan Branch of Lions Club | \$5,000         |
| 3. 'Bluey' advisory trailer for Central Coast region   | NSW DPI                        | \$28,591        |
| 4. Recreational Fishing Trusts Promotional Video / DVD (small grant)   | NSW DPI and Immersion          | \$5,000         |
| 5. Existing Services budget for the following programs: Nine coastal Fisheries Officers (\$1,053,475), ACoRF Consultation (\$16,500), Gamefish Tagging (\$120,000), Recreational Research (\$92,525), Recreational Management (\$75,000) and Recreational Fishing Publications (\$142,500) | NSW DPI                        | \$1,5 million   |

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Funding for the applications outlined in Table 1, as recommended by the Saltwater Expenditure Committee, is supported by the Council.</p> <p>Moved: Anthony Moore                      Seconded: Mel Brown                      <b>Carried</b></p> |
|---|

**Issue**

Update on impact of restocked mulloway fingerlings in estuaries research program.

**Background**

Fish stocking supports some of our most important inland fisheries enhancing the recreational catch of anglers. A small marine trial of mulloway fingerlings in 1997 proved successful. However, there is no information on the environmental aspects of marine stocking, such as predatory impact on small forage fish and prawns and the growth and survival of the stocked fish. Such aspects need to be investigated before any large scale marine stockings can occur.

The research project has involved the release of 80,000 marked mulloway into Botany Bay and 60,000 into Smiths Lake in May 2003. The stocked fish were marked with a special harmless chemical to help identify them from wild stock. The research has shown good initial survival for the mulloway fingerlings in Botany Bay and Georges River.

The project is a win for anglers because the stocked fish can be caught once they reach the legal size of 45cm.

The project is also looking at what the stocked mulloway eat. The project will help assess the impact of the stocked mulloway on wild stock food sources such as other fish and prawns. Researchers are analysing gut contents of stocked mulloway and comparing these results with those from wild stock.

An extension to this study involves using ultrasonic tags to track mulloway, which will provide information on daily and seasonal movements. It will give estimates of the home range and preferred habitat of mulloway and give insight into appropriate stocking densities for an estuary.

Matt Taylor, UNSW, will provide an update on the research program at the meeting.

**Outcomes**

Matt Taylor provided an update on the impacts of restocked mulloway fingerlings to the Council for their information.

Stocked mulloway are monitored through fish captured by the University of NSW and recreational fishers. Mulloway were sampled using research trawl surveys, mostly around the release site, with 89 mulloway captured between 60mm and 700mm so far. 54 mulloway had been obtained from recreational fishers so far, with another 11 this week bringing the total to 154.

The Council was advised that growth of mulloway stocked in 2003 had been impressive, with fish growing at approximately 0.81 mm per day. These fish are now over 5 times as long and almost 200 times heavier than when they were released. The 2004 cohort had grown slightly faster than the 2003 cohort at 1.32 mm per day. This was probably due to the fact that they were stocked earlier in the summer.

As the catchability of mulloway increases and the research trawl sampling winds down, the frequency of mulloway is expected to get a bit lower as they reach 2 and 3 years of age. Then as the fish become reproductively active at and after three years, they will be more inclined to migrate so catch frequency of stocked fish in the Georges River and Botany Bay catches may further decrease. It is interesting to note that no wild fish under 350mm were caught in the trawl surveys, which points to a theory that wild mulloway are largely supplied

from the larger estuaries like the Clarence, Richmond and Hawkesbury. When the fish reach a size where they can safely migrate, they recruit to the surrounding smaller estuaries.

Preliminary analysis of some 2000 location fixes of tracked mullock have shown that the preferred habitat of juvenile mullock is deep holes with bottom structure and submerged sheer rock faces. The crevices in these rock faces and the presence of bottom structure provides refuge for the fish from both predators and currents. This data has also shown that home range overlaps between individuals and tagged fish have been detected schooling, showing that mullock are not territorial.

The Council was advised that the analysis of gut contents of fish showed several shifts in diet as the mullock grow. Small mysid shrimp are very prevalent in the diet of small fish, but this decreases as the fish grows. As the abundance of mysids in the diet decreases, the number of prawns increases until the fish reach 500mm, after which small fish become more important in the diet. As the mullock grow, the proportion of squid in the diet also increases. These shifts in diet are important when estimating the predatory impact of stocked mullock.

Temperature loggers were deployed at the mouth of the bay and at Picnic Point. As described in earlier milestone reports, fish tagged in early 2004 moved out of the estuary during winter. Water cools down substantially in the estuary during winter and the fish temporarily leave the estuary for the nearshore areas and the warmer ocean water. This cycle is reversed in the summer when water in the estuary warms up. However, the survey has observed one fish re-entering the estuary after winter.

Future work for the tracking project will involve mapping the river at extremely high resolution to reveal bottom structure and subsequent mullock habitat. This must be achieved before any further data analysis can be undertaken. Home range data will be analysed using GIS software and long term migrations will be studied by a UNSW Honours student who will deploy the remaining six ultrasonic tags and track the fish until early 2006.

The Council was informed that both the university and the Recreational Fishing Trusts have received extensive publicity over the course of this project, demonstrating the popularity of marine stocking with the general public and anglers alike.

For information.



**Issue**

Update on using recreational anglers to estimate and maximise the survival of released line-caught fish research program.

**Background**

The recently published national recreational fishing survey estimated that more than 8.9 million bream and 9 million snapper, flatheads and mulloway (20% of the total released catch) were released from recreational hook-and-line fisheries during 2000/01. These numbers are of considerable concern, because they have the potential to represent high levels of unknown mortalities. Furthermore, catch and release fishing is increasing in popularity with anglers.

There is a clear need to do this sort of research for key species identified in NSW. The study will identify detrimental hooking, handling and release procedures and establish strategies for enhancing the survival of large numbers of released caught fish. The research will involve interviews with anglers at recreational fishing tournaments and aquarium experiments focussing on the post-release survival of two key recreational species - bream and mulloway.

Dr Matt Broadhurst will provide an update on this program at the meeting.

**Outcomes**

Dr Matt Broadhurst advised that during three recreational fishing events more than 125 recreational fishers caught and released a total of 555 fish into sea cages. These fish were monitored for up to 10 days. Sufficient numbers of yellowfin bream, snapper, sand whiting and trevally were caught to provide estimates of their survival and the key contributing factors, including anatomical hook location and time spent in on-board holding tanks. During 4 aquaria experiments using conventional hooks and bait, 255 mulloway and 115 yellowfin bream were caught, handled in a variety of ways, and then released into the sea cages. The effects of air exposure, anatomical hook location and hook removal were examined for their influence on survival and stress for up to 5 days. Survival rates varied considerably, according to anatomical hook location and the post-capture handling techniques. Preliminary results show that mouth-hooked mulloway and yellowfin bream generally have greater post-release survival rates than gut-hooked individuals. A 5th aquarium experiment aimed to provide some estimate of the physiological changes and longer-term survival of yellowfin bream after swallowing typical hooks. Of 20 hook-ingested fish, 17 survived more than 8 weeks, with 13 passing hooks after approximately 20 days. Matt Broadhurst also discussed preliminary experiments to assess the effects of hook design on anatomical location and planned future work for the project which includes a recreational fishing event targeting mulloway on the Hawkesbury River in late 2005. The Council was advised that 5 papers had been published in fishing magazines (such as 'Fishing World') and 2 papers completed for international journals.

For information.

**Issue**

Protection of spawning sites for native freshwater fish.

**Background**

Spawning sites are critically important for the maintenance of fish biodiversity, the recovery of threatened fish species, and the continuation of the freshwater recreational fishery in NSW. Salmon and trout spawning gravel beds are currently protected under Section 206(1) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act), however the majority of spawning areas for native freshwater fish are not currently protected by the FM Act or other legislation. Lack of protection and on-going disturbance to spawning sites is detrimentally affecting the success rate of native fish spawning and threatens fish biodiversity and the freshwater recreational fishery.

Key spawning sites for currently listed threatened fish species and unlisted native fish species of high recreational fishing value include:

- aquatic vegetation (Olive perchlet, southern pygmy perch, Oxleyan pygmy perch, Murray hardyhead),
- riffles – gravel and cobbles (Macquarie perch, freshwater catfish), and
- snags, rock bars and rocks/boulders (trout cod, eastern freshwater cod, Murray cod, southern purple-spotted gudgeon).

The removal of “large woody debris” (or snags) is listed as a “key threatening process” under the FM Act, and the final recommendation of the Fisheries Scientific Committee notes their importance as spawning sites for several native threatened fish species.

The Department continues to receive numerous reports of activities impacting on spawning sites from members of the public each year. These include:

- sand and gravel extraction operations where operators require removal of snags or in-stream vegetation to access materials,
- lopping or removal of snags for recreational boating activities and water skiing areas,
- removal of snags for aesthetic purposes,
- construction of waterfront developments such as bank stabilisation works, jetties and boat ramps,
- removal of snags that have lodged against waterway crossings and bridges for safety purposes, and,
- removal of snags from pump site locations.

Section 206(2) of the FM Act provides for regulations to prevent damage to any place where fish of any species spawn or are likely to spawn (such as snags, cobbles, gravel beds, rock bars and large in-stream boulders).

The Minister has approved the amendment of the FM General Regulation to protect important spawning sites for native fish, establish offence provisions consistent with others in Part 7 (aquatic habitat protection) of the FM Act by increasing the penalty notice amount from \$200 to \$1,000, and to require a permit to damage spawning sites. An exemption may be considered where another public authority has granted approval for an activity to avoid conflicts, duplication or adverse impacts on existing legislation and an interagency consultation process is proposed to achieve this.

The Minister has also supported the initiation of an education strategy targeting the key stakeholders who are likely to be affected by the amendments. These include:

- recreational waterway users such as boating users, water skiers and recreational fishers,
- riverfront landholders wishing to develop their foreshore or to manage their riverbank and pump access sites,

- local councils and other public authorities who are responsible for authorising others to undertake in-stream works or who may wish to undertake works in waterways.

The education strategy will focus on the importance of spawning sites for native fish, the need to protect them and the process for obtaining approval if undertaking in-stream works impacting on spawning sites. The education strategy would also focus on ways that the general public can assist in protecting and enhancing spawning sites and practical ways that they can ensure such sites remain *in situ* while undertaking their required works, thus avoiding the need for a permit under the FM Act. The education strategy would focus on the development and use of the following media:

- website information,
- brochure production for use at a range of venues/locations such as local councils, Agriculture field days, recreational fishing and water skiing competitions etc.
- targeted media releases and features in "The Land" and regional newspapers,
- letter and brochure drops to riverfront landholders in areas where previous reports of spawning site removal have occurred,
- promotion of the issue through the Department's Fishcare Volunteer Program and other extension programs/services.

The amendment and education strategy will be implemented by the Aquatic Habitat Protection Unit (AHP) of the Fisheries Management Branch. Compliance activities would be enforced via the use of the existing AHP regional compliance officers and Fisheries Compliance Operations staff.

As part of the approval of the amendments, targeted consultation is required to be undertaken with the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing. Sarah Fairfull, Program Manager (Aquatic Habitat Protection), is seeking feedback from the council on the proposed amendments and education strategy and a presentation will be provided to facilitate discussion.

#### **Outcomes**

Sarah Fairfull, Program Manager, provided an outline of proposed changes to the Fisheries Management Act 1994 and associated Regulation to increase protection of spawning sites for native freshwater fish and the education strategy to support the communication of the proposed changes to key stakeholders. The Council was advised that DPI would be funding the education programs. The Council was supportive of the proposals discussed.

For information.

**Issue**

Tournament Monitoring Program.

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**Background**

The Tournament Monitoring Program is a collaborative project between NSW Department of Primary Industries and inland and coastal anglers. The program provides the opportunity for anglers to be actively involved in the management of their fisheries. The program monitors a wide range of fishing events throughout NSW and catch and effort information is collected from anglers at these events. Competitors are asked to complete fishing report forms on which they record number of fish captures, fish measurements and their time spent fishing. This information is used to determine an angling catch rate (i.e. the number of fish caught for every hour spent fishing) and the fish population structure in each fishery. This allows the monitoring of the condition of fish stocks and the aquatic habitats in which they live.

Tim Park, Research Scientist, will provide an update on the program at the meeting.

**Outcomes**

Tim Park provided the Council with an overview of the Angling Research and Tournament Monitoring Program (ARTMP). The program directly shows the relative quality of angling by area and through time. The angler-generated data collected are used to monitor the status of recreationally important fish populations and thereby provide a tool for assessing the effects of management initiatives, e.g. stocking and Recreational Fishing Havens. The activities of the program also provide an opportunity for involvement and communication with angling groups. It allows the recreational fishing community to directly contribute to the management of their fishery.

The Council was advised that angler catch and effort data were collected at selected fishing events directly from participating anglers using reporting 'kits' issued to them. Anglers record fishing effort as hours per day, the species composition of their catch and lengths of all fish caught including discards and undersized fish are recorded. In specific cases other information such as river reach, conditions, whether in a marine park, etc are also recorded. Starting this year, creel surveys are being done at selected tournaments. Game data from schedules and interviews is also utilised as a data source.

The initiation of the saltwater component of the ARTMP in late 2003 enabled the expansion of the program to cover saltwater events. Thus in 2004 the saltwater component of the Program collected data from 31 fishing events representing 8284 fishing trips and comprising 18,450 fish of 84 species. In addition to this the gamefishing monitoring covered 17 tournaments of 40 fishing days, 1570 vessel-days effort, and 9766 radio scheduled reports. During this period some supporting infrastructure was developed, such as the Gamefish Tournament Database, the Saltwater ARTMP database and the Spearfishing ARTMP Database, all of which include historical data.

Achievements in the Freshwater sector include: data collected from 52 events representing 6901 fishing trips and comprising 12,562 fish of 25 species. Two talks were given for the Murray Cod Status Workshop in Canberra. Two papers for the proceedings of the Workshop are due for publication in July 2005. Tournament summary reports were provided for Hawkesbury, Macleay, Williams River Basscatch Events, Lake St. Clair, Bidgee Classic, Hillston and Tocumwal Fishing Events. Talks have been given to Sydney, Hastings, Williams, Manning and Bulahdelah Basscatch organisers.

The Council was advised that goals for the Angling Research and Tournament Monitoring Program in 2005 include the development of a mapping facility on Saltwater, Freshwater and

Gamefishing databases. Priorities also include establishing monitoring of spearfishing tournaments through their voluntary cooperation and doing Creel Surveys at saltwater non-targeted events (e.g. Evans Head Fishing Classic, Ballina Fishing Classic, Coffs Harbour Easter Classic and Port Stephens Trailerboat). This will aim to improve coverage of saltwater tournaments and utilize FCVs to assist in coverage of tournaments. Gamefish, Freshwater and Saltwater review reports will be prepared, with an increased number of tournament reports for tournament organisers and information posted on the DPI Fisheries website.

The Council expressed concern that saltwater tournaments had not been adequately covered. The Department advised that freshwater monitoring had been established first and more data were therefore currently available owing to established relationships with many tournament organisers. However, saltwater monitoring will increase as the program progresses and more tournaments are monitored.

The Department advised that this information would be available to the Council in report format in the near future. It will also be available on the fisheries website [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au).

For information.

**Issue**

Compliance/Recreational Mobile Squad Update

**Background**Compliance summary

Wayne Currie, Senior Investigator, and Bradley Harrison, Fisheries Officer, will provide an update on compliance matters at the meeting.

Recreational' flying squad'

The Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust is funding a Recreational Mobile Squad or 'Flying Squad' of 3 fisheries officers based at Brooklyn. The objectives of the squad include:

- To maximise compliance with General Recreational Fishing Licence and recreational fishing legislation.
- To maximise compliance with legislation in Recreational Fishing Havens.
- Suppression of unlawful harvesting practices.
- To improve compliance by the delivery of effective education and advisory programs.
- Protection and conservation of key fish habitat.
- Provide assistance on request from coastal district staff.

Wayne Currie, Senior Investigator and Bradley Harrison, Fisheries Officer, will provide an update at the meeting.

**Outcomes**

Wayne Currie provided an update of compliance issues to the Council. The Council was informed that the Department's Compliance Operations and Special Operations (Fisheries) have now added an essential compliance tool to aid in investigations of illegal fishing activities. The purchase of the Secure Intelligence Database (SID) is consistent with what other interstate fisheries agencies are using. It now allows for Fisheries Officers to develop intelligence driven compliance activities on target areas, on persons and at times when the activity is taking place. SID provides functions to capture information management, investigation management and intelligence interfaces - tools to interpret, analyse, filter and display information over time and provides mapping systems.

Brad Harrison presented an overview of the 'Recreational Flying Squad'. The Council was advised that extensive patrols have been undertaken in the Recreational Fishing Havens, including the Tweed River, Richmond River, Clarence River, Bellinger/Kalang River, Deep Creek, Hastings River, Lake Macquarie, Botany Bay, St Georges Basin, and Tuross Lake/River.

Operational Plans have been developed to target illegal activity using overt and covert methods, including Tuross Lake & Wallaga Lake (illegal netting), Karuah River and Hunter Rivers (illegal prawning) and the Lake Macquarie and Tuggerah Lakes Power Stations (night-time closures, size & bag limit, fishing licence issues). The Mobile Squad was also present for monitoring at The State Bream Pro Tournaments (Lake Macquarie and Hawkesbury River), Evans Head Classic, Sydney Boat show, Sydney Tackle and 4x4 show, Broken Bay fishing clinic.

The Council was advised that the nighttime closures at the hot water outlets at Lake Macquarie and Tuggerah Lakes are working well. The Mobile Squad reported that at least 20 illegal fishers are caught within this area every time it is patrolled. Police assistance is often used in these areas due to the risk of assault by offenders.

For information.

**Issue**

Update on determining appropriate sizes at harvest for species shared by the commercial trap and recreational fisheries in New South Wales research program.

**Background**

Available evidence suggests that most coastal fish species harvested by recreational and commercial fishers are taken at sizes that are too small to optimise yield and reproductive output. This is because most species either have minimum legal lengths that are too small or do not have minimum legal lengths at all. There is concern that many coastal fish species are in decline and there is insufficient information on which to assess their stock status or base management decisions.

DPI - Fisheries recently completed a draft assessment of information on fish species sizes at sexual maturity and their current minimum legal lengths. Coastal species that have been identified as having minimum legal lengths that may be inappropriate, or require minimum legal lengths, include snapper, silver trevally, rubberlip morwong, yellowtail kingfish and mulloway, as well as a range of less important species including sweep, pearl perch and various reef associated wrasses and leatherjackets. All of these species are targeted by both recreational and commercial fishers in NSW and it is highly likely that some minimum legal lengths considered to be appropriate by the commercial sector will differ from those of the recreational sector.

DPI - Fisheries (and most agencies around the world) do not have formal protocols when determining at what sizes fish should be harvested. This study aims to: (i) collect information on the biology and fisheries for a range of species, and; (ii) use this information in addition to surveys of stakeholders to develop a transparent protocol that may be used in setting appropriate harvest sizes.

Dr John Stewart, Research Scientist, will provide an update on the program at the meeting.

**Outcomes**

Dr John Stewart advised the Council that a key group of species shared by the commercial trap fishery and the recreational fishery are currently being investigated to develop a process for deciding at what size fish should be harvested.

Prior studies into escape panels in fish traps revealed inappropriate (or lack of) minimum legal lengths for rubberlip morwong, tarwhine, pearl perch, trevally, sweep, and leatherjackets i.e. legal/suitably sized fish were being discarded because there was no market for them. It was also ascertained that the recreational sector is a major harvester of some species that are landed by commercial fish trappers, and that many of these species may be overfished.

The study includes obtaining information such as fishery status, size at maturity, size at optimal yield and value, longevity, the sizes currently landed by commercial and recreational fishers and surveying important stakeholders on what sizes they think each species should be caught. Further updates will be corresponded to the Council as the program progresses.

The Council questioned why not simply reduce bag limits. The sustainability of stocks, including basing size limits at sexual maturity, is an important factor that is still being assessed. It was also highlighted that bag limits do not apply to the commercial fishery.

For information.

**Agenda Item 9****Bryan van der Walt**

**Issue**

Request for spearfishing closure between Salmon Haul Bay and North Cronulla.

**Background**

A resident of Blackwoods Beach, Cronulla, has written to the Department stating that increasing numbers of spearfishers are using the waterways between Blackwoods Beach and Shark Island, which are popular designated swimming areas for the public. Currently, there are no access restrictions on spearfishing at Blackwoods Beach or Shark Island. The resident has requested for the spearfishing closure to be extended from Salmon Haul Bay to North Cronulla.

In line with the pro-forma for proposed spear fishing closures, consultation with groups including the Sydney South District Fisheries Office and Mel Brown, in collaboration with the SFA, has been undertaken and will be provided at the meeting.

**Outcomes**

The Council discussed the proposal for a spearfishing closure in Cronulla and noted that consultation had occurred with the local Fisheries Office. It was noted that a similar proposal had been previously received by Council but was not supported as it was not considered necessary. Based on the information received from compliance staff and the fact that some of this area is already restricted to spearfishing activities, the Council did not support the proposal.

**Recommendation**

The Council does not support the proposed spearfishing closure between Salmon Haul Bay and North Cronulla.

Moved: Mel Brown

Seconded: Elaine Garvey

**Carried**



**Issue**

Baitfish issues.

**Background**

New management measures for the collection of baitfish by NSW ocean hauling, purse seine, estuary prawn trawl and estuary general commercial fishers have recently been implemented as a result of the fishery management strategies.

Darryl Sullings, Commercial Fisheries Manager, will discuss these developments at the meeting.

Additionally, the Small Pelagic Fishery Management Advisory Committee (SPFMAC) convened its first meeting on 27 April 2005 at the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

A copy of the Chair's summary from the SPFMAC will be distributed to members at the meeting, for information.

**Outcomes**

Apologies were extended to the Council on behalf of Darryl Sullings, Commercial Fisheries Manager, who was unable to attend the meeting. An update on baitfish issues in NSW, including new regulations/collection methods by commercial fishers, will be provided at the next meeting in September 2005.

For information.

**Issue**

Fish Attracting Devices (FADs)/Artificial reefs update.

**Background**

A majority of the fish species that are attracted to the NSW FADs are seasonal pelagic fish whose arrival off our coast coincides with the warm water that is delivered by the East Australian Current over summer and autumn. The NSW DPI Fisheries FADs tend to work most effectively when the seawater temperature exceeds 20°C. For this reason the FADs are installed for the summer fishing season and serviced during the winter months to ensure longevity. Various FAD designs are being tested to find the best suited design to withstand the particularly harsh sea conditions experienced off the NSW coast.

The trial includes a logbook program to monitor what anglers are catching. The study also includes work to assess types of species aggregating around the NSW DPI FADs and environmental variables that may influence the catchability of fish around the devices. Catch rates are being compared to fish densities around the devices in order to better understand the relationship between the numbers of fish located at a FAD and their subsequent catchability.

The FADs are now being removed for maintenance (over winter) and will be redeployed in October. If you want to know more about the NSW DPI Fish Attracting Devices (FADs) program or have any questions about the devices, you can email the program directly: [fads@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fads@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Unfortunately, there have been reports of conflict between anglers and spearfishers at the FADs. As a consequence, the following Code of Conduct has been developed for users of the FADs:

*Code of Conduct for FAD Fishing*

- RESPECT other FAD users at all times.
- FADs are for the benefit and enjoyment of all recreational sectors, including anglers, charter operators and spearfishers.
- Courtesy should be given to fishers who are already using the FAD.
- FAD users should take turns in fishing the FAD and accommodate new arrivals.
- Spearfishers should be aware of other FAD users and should not enter the water if other boats are around the FAD. Likewise, anglers should wait until spearfishers have completed their drift past the FAD before deploying lines (spearfishers usually only spend a short time period around FADs).
- Spearfishers should always tow a float displaying the "Divers Flag A".
- A safety boat, with the operator acting as a lookout, should accompany spearfishers at all times.
- All fishers should keep boats, lines and lures a safe distance from the FAD, spearfishers and other boats at all times.
- Do not tie your boat up to the FADs. This may cause damage to the mooring line of the FAD, causing the device to break free and become lost (fines of up to \$5,500 apply).
- Limit your catch – do not catch your limit. Take only what you need.

Heath Folpp, Management Officer - Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) & Artificial Reefs, will provide an update on the FADs and a brief overview of the Artificial Reefs program.

## **Outcomes**

### **Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)**

The Council was advised that 2004/05 had been the most successful season to date in terms of the longevity of the FADs and angler catches, which resulted in high usage and reduced capital costs. The Council was provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct for Fishing around FADs. The Code had been developed in response to reports of usage conflict, predominantly between spearfishers and anglers. The Council was requested to provide comments to the program coordinator out of session.

Removal of the Recreational Fishing Trust FADs from NSW coastal waters for winter maintenance had commenced with the Jervis Bay FAD removed on 11 May 2005. The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) permit requires all FADs to be removed from the water over winter. The FADs will be redeployed in September/October 2005.

At the April budget meeting the Council supported funding to extend the program, which will involve the deployment of 5 additional FADS. Approval for these FADs is being sought from DEH. Preliminary sites for the deployment of the additional FADs for 2005/06 are currently being assessed. Two additional sites are proposed for Sydney (Botany Bay wide and Port Jackson). The final three sites will be used to service regional locations along the NSW coast, with Evans Head, Ballina, Newcastle, Bermagui and Eden currently short-listed.

### **Artificial Reefs Management**

NSW DPI and Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) staff conducted a site inspection of the proposed Lake Macquarie, Galgabba Point reef site in May 2005. LMCC had requested additional information for inclusion in the current Development Application (DA), which is being provided. NSW DPI staff were also asked to attend and present an update on the Artificial Reefs Pilot Study to the Lake Macquarie Coastal and Estuary Management Committee (LMCEMC) in June 2005. Heath Folpp, Program Coordinator, presented the committee with an update on the progress and objectives of the project, while the detail concerning the survey design for associated research was presented by Dr Michael Lowry. Approval for the Botany Bay phase of the project has progressed and a draft 'Review of Environmental Factors' (as per NSW Maritime requirements) is currently being reviewed by NSW DPI staff. It is expected that the formal application for deployment of the artificial reef structures will be submitted to the NSW Maritime Authority (as the consenting authority) by the end of June 2005. Work on the St Georges Basin approval application will begin soon. Three complete reefs (90 reef balls) have been constructed to date and are currently being stored at Cronulla.

For information.

### **Out of Session items**

#### *General Inland Waters closure.*

The Council was advised this issue has been included as part of the formal review of freshwater recreational fishing management arrangements. Cameron Westaway, Senior Manager, (Freshwater) Recreational Fisheries, will provide an update on this issue at the next meeting.

### **Other Business**

#### *Eastern Freshwater Cod*

At the last meeting the council expressed its support for a reconfiguration of the NSW DPI hatchery at Grafton for the production of eastern freshwater cod. It was suggested that the costs associated with this proposal be investigated to determine feasibility. The Council recommended that the Department develop a proposal for the production of eastern freshwater cod at Grafton hatchery. Geoff Allan, Principal - Aquaculture Research, has been asked to consider the proposal and provide further information on this issue.

The Council was advised that a proposal is being developed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### *Release of draft Trout Cod Recovery Plan*

The trout cod is a freshwater fish that is listed as 'endangered' under the NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994. The draft trout cod recovery plan has been released for public consultation. The plan discusses the threats and issues affecting the species' conservation. It also identifies the actions required to improve the management of the species and reduce the threats, thereby ensuring the viability of trout cod throughout their natural range.

The draft recovery plan is now being publicly exhibited and public submissions are invited. The draft recovery plan and overview brochure will be displayed at all NSW Department of Primary Industries (formerly NSW Fisheries) Offices. The documents are also available on the Department of Primary Industries web site at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au). Further copies of the overview or plan can be requested by phoning (02) 4916 3811.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 29th July 2005. Following public exhibition of the draft plan and consideration of all submissions, the plan will be finalised and submitted to the Minister for Primary Industries for approval.

#### *Request for the Estuary General MAC's consideration of a proposal to standardise hoop net/witches hat identification for recreational and commercial fishers in estuarine waters (information provided to EGMAC - meeting held 9 June 2005)*

NSW DPI has received requests to standardise estuarine recreational fishing gear identification, particularly relating to hoop nets/witches hats, in line with the current identification requirements for crab traps (i.e. the use of a buoy of at least 10cm in diameter). The issues relate to safety/navigational concerns, where small tags and plastic bottles are often used to mark hoop nets/witches hats, making them very difficult to see from an approaching vessel.

Under the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2002* set fishing gear such as traps and nets are all required to be clearly identified by fishers in NSW. The regulations stipulate that the position of crab and lobster traps must be indicated by a buoy, moored above the trap, with an above water diameter of at least 10cm. To reduce the risk of entanglement a weight of at least 50 grams must be suspended not less than 1 metre under the buoy so that no rope is floating on the surface of the water.

The Advisory Council strongly supports the intention to standardise hoop net/witches hat identification for recreational fishers in estuarine waters. Following discussion of possible alternatives, the Advisory Council recommended that an identification buoy be required for

hoop nets/witches hats, that is greater than 10cm in diameter and not made from clear/transparent material. For recreational fishers, it is proposed that the fisher's name and address, or name and phone number, or name and boat registration details be displayed on the buoy.

For consistency of rules across sectors, the Department requests the Estuary General MAC's consideration and comment regarding the standardisation of hoop net/witches hat identification for recreational and commercial fishers in estuarine waters. Please note that there is no intention to alter the actual information that is currently required on hoop nets/witches hats used by commercial fishers.

The Commercial Management section has confirmed that this information was distributed and discussed at the recent EGMAC meeting. Industry members agreed to go back to their constituents to discuss further and provide advice on the proposal in due course.

### ***Additional Buyouts***

The Council proposed that additional buyouts of commercial fishing businesses should be targeted in areas of conflict resulting from previous shifts in effort from the original buyout process. There is approximately \$1.2 million dollars available in the Saltwater Trust that could be committed to removing commercial fishing effort from high interaction areas such as, for example, the Clarence, Manning, Camden Haven and Hastings areas on the north coast, the Shoalhaven and the area from Tuross through to Bermagui on the south coast. The Minister has noted that his preference is for a small number of members (3 each) from both ACoRF and SIAC to meet as soon as practical to discuss matters of mutual interest. Buybacks are regarded as one of those matters. It should be noted that this process does not commit trust funds in any way. This would remain subject to consideration by RFSTEC and ACoRF in making their recommendations to the Minister.

### ***Fisheries Research Advisory Board***

The Chair advised that the Fisheries Research Advisory Board (FRAB) is currently being restructured. The Board requires a representative from the recreational sector and the Council nominated committee member Scott Mitchell (Freshwater, Tackle Sales), to provide advice on their behalf.

### ***Peter Goadby***

The Chair advised the Council that Mr Peter Goadby, a previous, long-term representative on ACoRF, had been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to Recreational Fishing in Australia. Peter has worked tirelessly in many significant representative roles within the recreational and commercial fishing sectors and has been a committed and dedicated member on over 20 fisheries related committees and working groups at state and national level since the 1960's. Peter had also shown commitment to implementing rules and ethics within the recreational and commercial fishing industry and has had a substantial influence on the integrity of world class and Australian game fishing tournaments.

The Chair proposed that the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts Expenditure Committee implement an award for contributions to recreational fishing in NSW. It was noted that the Recreational Fishing Trusts could fund the administration of the award.

### **Recommendation**

The council supports in principle the proposed awards/recognition concept.

Moved: Ann Lee

Seconded: Jim Harnwell

**Carried**

### **Lake Macquarie Survey**

Dr Charles Gray, Research Leader - Wild Fisheries, provided the Council with a summary update regarding the release of the Lake Macquarie creel survey results.

The Council was advised that the recent survey carried out by the Department of Primary Industries found that while the total quantity of fish caught remained mostly unchanged, there was an increase in species targeted by recreational anglers. Since the lake was declared a recreational fishing haven in May 2002, the size and numbers of many popular species have significantly increased. The Department carried out two surveys of fish numbers in the lake in the last six years with the results of the survey revealing the following data:

- The number of tailor taken by recreational fishers increased by 206%, while the average weight increased by 540%.
- The number of sand whiting rose by 158%, while average weight was up 170%.
- Dusky flathead numbers were up by 119% and the average weight increased by 233%.
- Trumpeter whiting numbers were up by 121% and average weight increased by 138%.

The Council was advised that while the number of squid, blue swimmer crabs and leatherjackets caught by recreational anglers had fallen between the two surveys, this could be attributed to changes in targeting practices. Overall however, recreational fishers were seen to catch more of their key target species since the haven was declared, with fish numbers and sizes generally increasing in Lake Macquarie.

#### ***RFHs***

It was discussed that the term 'Recreational Fishing Haven' may not be appropriate as some anglers have mistakenly been under the impression that no fishing is allowed in the havens. Other fishers have not been aware that there is no commercial fishing in the havens.

#### **Recommendation**

The Council recommended that the name Recreational Fishing Haven (RFH) be changed to Recreational Only Fishing Area (ROFA).

Moved: Jim Harnwell

Seconded: Elaine Garvey

**Carried**

#### **Action Item:**

NSW DPI to investigate the proposal to alter the term Recreational Fishing Haven to Recreational only Fishing Area (RoFA).

#### ***Correspondence received***

Nil.

#### ***Around the table***

- Jim Harnwell requested an update on the status of Grey Nurse Sharks. The latest research has shown that the shark aggregation sites (including the ten critical habitat areas and two other areas located within the Solitary Islands Marine Park) are so popular with divers, there may be a negative impact on the shark population unless control measures are put in place. The proposed dive fee and accompanying compliance measures will go a long way towards protecting the grey nurse shark in NSW by providing funds for vital projects. The fee will apply for people wishing to dive in grey nurse shark critical habitat areas. Divers will also be required to dive with specifically licensed commercial charter dive operators and to adhere to certain diving practices in place at the sites. The State Government is continuing to consult with stakeholders over the fee system - a date for its implementation has not been set. The exact cost of the licence and the way it is administered will only be determined following careful consultation with industry and key stakeholders. The

Council stated its support for the fee as divers may now contribute towards the Grey Nurse Shark's protection.

- At the December 2004 meeting, the Council requested that the Lake Illawarra commercial fishing closure be amended to prohibit the use of mesh nets in Mullet Creek in addition to Macquarie Rivulet, to protect bream and mullet. However, the Estuary General MAC strongly opposed this proposal. The Council expressed concern that illegal netting was still continuing in this area and that bream was particularly affected. The Council re-affirmed its position that it does not support commercial meshing activities in Mullet Creek and requested catch records and the commercial value of the fishery to be ascertained by the Department. Confirmation of compliance issues for illegal fishing re-offenders was also requested. The possibility for Mullet Creek to be included in the proposed additional buyout process was also mentioned.
- Concern was expressed over the recent media release on the Lake Macquarie Recreational Fishing Haven creel survey, as a final report was not included with the release. Concern was also voiced over the lack of appreciation given to volunteers who played a crucial role in obtaining the data.
- The Council stated there was still no response from the Federal Minister to the Anglers Action Group (AAG) regarding the Striped Marlin issue. The Department advised that this is a Commonwealth issue. Since the meeting, a response by the NSW Minister for Fisheries was submitted to the AAG concerning commercial fishing for striped marlin and fisheries management arrangements for striped marlin harvesting in NSW. It was noted that the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) manages the taking of striped marlin outside 3nm as part of the East Coast Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ECTBF). Commercial fishers operating in NSW waters cannot legally land Striped Marlin. However, Commonwealth licensed longline operators may take these fish as bycatch in the eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery. The Minister noted the economic and social benefits of the striped marlin fishery to all Australians and highlighted the importance of striped marlin and sailfish to the recreational fishing sector. The importance of recognising that the Eastern Tuna and Billfish fishery is a major export fishery, worth an estimated \$67.9 million in 2002/03, with a substantial portion of this economic activity centred on regional NSW communities such as Coffs Harbour and various south coast New South Wales ports, was also highlighted in this correspondence.

**Next meeting** – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005 (at Parliament House).

*Meeting ended 3:30pm*

**33<sup>rd</sup> ACoRF Meeting – 12 April 2005**  
**ACTION ITEMS**

| <b>Agenda Item Number</b> | <b>Agenda Item Title</b>  | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Team responsible</b>            | <b>Status</b> |
|---------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 3                         | Commercial Fishing Issues - Method of prawn counts in the Hawkesbury River EPT fishery                      | The Department is aware of these concerns and are closely monitoring the situation.   | Ongoing – Commercial Management    | Ongoing       |
| 3                         | Commercial Fishing Issues - Proposed Myall River Closure  | Commercial Management to advise EGMAC that the proposed introduction of a seasonal, nighttime (sunset to sunrise) closure from 1 <sup>st</sup> October – 1 <sup>st</sup> March each year in the Myall River Broadwater is not supported by ACoRF. | Commercial Management/ Closures    | Completed     |
| 3                         | Commercial Fishing Issues - Use of hoop nets from sunset to sunrise by recreational and commercial fishers. | The Council recommends that cl.48 of the <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002</i> be amended to reflect that hoop/lift nets used from sunset to sunrise in tidal waters must be attended by recreational fishers.                    | Recreational/Commercial Management | Ongoing       |
| 4                         | Freshwater fishing update   | Removal of Schedule 6 of the General Inland Waters closure - Freshwater Recreational Management to progress this issue with the Council out of session (closure renewal due by 8 June 2005).  | Closure renewed, review ongoing    | Ongoing       |
| 5                         | Proposed fishing closure at Audley Weir to reduce angling predation around a new fishway                    | Further information be provided by the Aquatic Habitat Protection Unit, for consideration at the next meeting.  | Proposal deferred                  | Deferred      |
| 6                         | Salmon Working Group update   | Write to the Minister to advise that the council does not support a change to existing management arrangements for salmon.  | Chair, ACoRF                       | In Progress   |



### 33<sup>rd</sup> ACoRF Meeting – 12 April 2005 (continued)

#### ACTION ITEMS

| Agenda Item Number | Agenda Item Title  | Action   | Team responsible   | Status    |
|--------------------|--|--|--|-----------|
| 7                  | Shift of estuarine commercial fishing effort resulting from the creation of Recreational Fishing Havens. | Write to the Minister to request approval for the Department to send an expression of interest to all commercial fishers to determine future buy-out potential.  | Chair, ACoRF   | Completed |
| 8                  | Request for spearfishing closure at Balmoral and Edwards Beaches   | The Department to advise the Balmoral Beach resident that ACoRF did not support the proposed closure.  | Completed  | Completed |
| 9                  | Standardisation of estuarine recreational trap and net identification buoys                              | Standardised identification for these traps/nets to be considered by Estuary General MAC at their next meeting.  | Currently being considered by EGMAC members (9 June 05)                    | Ongoing   |
| 10                 | Closure renewals   | <p><i>Caulerpa</i><br/>Renewal of this closure, including amendment to Schedule 4 and removal of Schedule 5 if required.</p> <p><i>Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT)</i><br/>Renewal of the closure relating to the taking of SBT by commercial fishers, if required.</p> <p><i>Gemfish</i><br/>Renewal of the commercial fishing component (i.e. 50kg trip limit) of this closure. The council also recommended that the recreational boat limit of 10 be removed from the closure.</p> <p><i>Black Road Bait Ground</i><br/>Renewal of this closure.</p> | Recreational Management / Closures / Commercial Management                 | Completed |
| 11                 | Out of Session - <i>Proposal to change access to purse seine activities off NSW</i>                      | Future management measures to be determined in accordance with the share management plan and supporting policies.  | Ongoing – Commercial Management  | Ongoing   |
| 12                 | Other Business – <i>Around the Table</i>   | The Department investigate costs and commence plans for the production of eastern freshwater cod at Grafton hatchery.  | Geoff Allan provided with this information and will respond in due course. | Ongoing   |

**33<sup>rd</sup> ACoRF Meeting – 12 April 2005 (continued)**

**ACTION ITEMS**

| <b>Agenda Item Number</b> | <b>Agenda Item Title</b>                 | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Team responsible</b>                                   | <b>Status</b>  |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 12                        | Other Business – <i>Around the Table</i> | <i>Freshwater tournament monitoring</i><br>Consideration for the utilisation of Fishcare Volunteers during surveys, to assist consultation/education efforts and possibly reduce overall monitoring program costs.  | Ongoing - Recreational Management                         | Advise provided to Tournament Monitoring Program - Completed |
| 12                        | Other Business – <i>Around the Table</i> | Write to the Minister to express concern over the appointment of a NSW DPI Fisheries staff member, with full voting rights, to the expenditure committees.  | Chair, ACoRF  | Completed  |
| 12                        | Other Business – <i>Around the Table</i> | <i>Capacity development for recreational fishing committee representatives (program funded by the Saltwater Trust)</i><br>Development of an instruction manual for councils and committees. The final draft would be available to members soon.   | Recreational Management – Saltwater / Dominion Consulting | Currently being finalised                                    |
| 12                        | Other Business – <i>Around the Table</i> | EGMAC did not support the Council's proposal that the Lake Illawarra commercial fishing closure be amended to prohibit the use of mesh nets in Mullet Creek in addition to Macquarie Rivulet, to protect bream and mullet. The buy-back of mesh nets from this system may need to be considered by the recreational fishing sector in the future. | Recreational/Commercial Management                        | Information to be provided at next meeting                   |

**34<sup>th</sup> ACoRF Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2005**  
**ACTION ITEMS**

| <b>Agenda Item Number</b>                | <b>Agenda Item Title</b>  | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Team responsible</b>                          |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>6</b>                                 | Tournament Monitoring Program.  | ARTMP to provide Tournament Monitoring Reports to Council  | Recreational Management                          |
| <b>9</b>                                 | Request for spearfishing closure between Salmon Haul Bay and North Cronulla Beaches | The Department to advise the Cronulla Beach resident that ACoRF did not support the proposed closure.  | Recreational Management                          |
| <b>Other Business – Around the Table</b> | Mullet Creek  | Catch records and the commercial value of the fishery to be ascertained. Confirmation of compliance issues for illegal fishing re-offenders is also requested. | Recreational/Commercial Management (David Makin) |
| <b>Other Business – Around the Table</b> | Lake Macquarie Creel Survey   | The Department to write to relevant Fishcare volunteers to express gratitude for their participation in the creel surveys.                                     | Recreational Management                          |
| <b>Other Business – Around the Table</b> | Recreational Fishing Haven name change  | NSW DPI to investigate the proposal to change the name Recreational Fishing Haven to Recreational only Fishing Area (RoFA).                                    | Recreational Management                          |

