

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

**Outcomes from Meeting 56 – Tuesday 29 November 2011
Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence**

Attendance

Bruce Schumacher	Chairperson
John Drew	Estuary Fishing
Max Castle	Estuary Fishing
Susan North	Freshwater Fishing and Fishing Industry Liaison
Charlie Howe	Estuary & Offshore Fishing
Kevin McKinnon	Freshwater Fishing
John Clarke	Offshore Fishing
John Humphries	Freshwater Fishing
Pat Jones	Offshore Fishing
Ann Garard	Charter Boat Fishing
Adrian Wayne	Underwater Fishing
Alistair McGlashan	Offshore Fishing and Media
Claudette Rechterik	Conservation
Shane Jasprizza	Estuary Fishing
Mika Malkki	A/Director, Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries

1. Apologies

Peter Turnell (Director, Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries), Michelle Martin (Tackle Sales), Jan McLeod (Estuary Fishing), Neil Ryan (Recreational Fishing Media).

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and confirmed there was a quorum for the meeting.

3. Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meetings

It was clarified that Shane Jasprizza provided an apology for the meeting on 27 September 2011.

Motion: The Council accepted the outcomes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 54th ACoRF meeting, held 24 August 2011 and the 55th ACoRF meeting, held 27 September 2011. **Moved:** Charlie Howe. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

4. Business arising from the minutes

The Council noted that issues arising from the previous meeting were either included in the agenda for the meeting or had been resolved out of session.

5. Recreational Fisheries Management update

a) Recreational licensing - Government Licensing Service update

The Department advised that it was negotiating with GLS regarding current pricing structure for transaction. It was noted that electronic licence sales now represent 40% of total licence sales.

b) Rock fishing safety update

The Department has established a working group with representatives from relevant recreational fishing organisations to assist with the implementation of recommendations from the Coronial Inquiries into a number of rock fishing related fatalities during 2009/10.

The Department provided an overview of the tender process to source an expert contractor to conduct the research review of rockfishing safety in NSW, as recommended by the Glebe Court Coronial Inquiry. The contractor is assessing the effectiveness of all educational, enforcement and engineering rock fishing safety methods. The research review will also include a detailed risk analysis of the potential advantages and disadvantages of the wearing of the various types of personal flotation devices (available for use by anglers fishing on NSW rock platforms) and also determine the most appropriate personal flotation device(s) that should be carried by those involved in rock fishing. DPI will be holding regular meetings with the preferred supplier to monitor progress of the research to ensure timely completion.

c) Recreational Fishing Trust status

The status of the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts was provided. The Council was advised that around \$13 million had been received by the Trust from recreational licence revenue in 2010/11. A total of \$4.5m has been allocated to the Freshwater Trust in 2011/12.

d) Recreational fishing guides

DPI advised that production of the 2012 saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing guides had been completed and the guides were currently being printed.

It was noted advertising currently takes up around 30% of the guide, which has increased over recent years. It was reported that previous feedback on the 2011 guides indicated that this relatively high percentage of advertising in the guide may detract from the display of key messages and information. Consequently, DPI is considering a proposal to reduce advertising from future guides. The Department advised that it would continue to look into the proposal and provide further information to the Council when appropriate. It was suggested that Bureau of Meteorology Marine Alerts and links to further information on fishing and water safety related topics should definitely be included in future versions of the guides.

The Council discussed the importance of electronic and online multimedia technologies and the cost-effective nature of these services. It was noted that many people now use smart phones, tablets and computers to view media outputs. The Department advised that the online recreational fishing application is being developed and should be available soon.

e) Chairperson's (ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC) meeting with the Minister for Primary Industries

Bruce Schumacher advised that he had met with the Minister on 3 November 2011 to discuss a number of major recreational fishing issues, including:

- ACoRF and the Trust Committees' support for an increase in the 1 year and 3 year recreational licence fee in line with CPI.
- An overview of the current bag and size limit review.
- Resource planning group process for overfished species and the importance of implementing management action for key recreational species such as Mulloway.
- The need for ongoing infrastructure maintenance at the Gaden Trout Hatchery.
- Ensuring ongoing delivery of key recreational fishing programs following the Government's decision to relocate staff from the Cronulla Fisheries Centre.
- The recent deployment of the State's first offshore artificial reef.

g) Indigenous fisheries issues

The Council noted the definition of cultural fishing activities as prescribed in the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (the Act) and those amendments to the Act that commenced in 2010 in recognition of Aboriginal peoples' cultural fishing needs and traditions. The Council also noted that there was a remaining amendment passed by Parliament (Section 21AA) that has not yet commenced. Section 21AA provides for regulation making powers that allow limits (including bag

and possession limits) and/or other management options to be applied for cultural fishing purposes. The Minister is required to consult with the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council on the making of the Regulation. The Department advised there is an interim compliance policy currently in place to capture the spirit of section 21AA.

It was noted that although the new regulation could include details on the use of traditional fishing practices and techniques, it is unlikely that permitted cultural fishing activities would be limited to traditional practices and techniques. The Council discussed the importance of sharing within the Aboriginal community and noted that it was likely the new regulations would accommodate this traditional practice.

The Council discussed the need of an education campaign for the broader community to reduce possible conflict between user groups once these new regulations are implemented.

h) Recreational Fishing Communication Plan

An outcome from the ACoRF meeting on 27 September 2011 was to set up a working group to progress the development of a communication plan for the Department's Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries Branch. ACoRF agreed to DPI forming a working group, which would comprise of at least two stakeholders members to help with the initial development of the plan. It is proposed for the working group to hold its first meeting in December 2011.

Freshwater recreational fishing issues

Cameron Westaway, Senior Manager Inland, provided an update on freshwater management issues including the establishment of the Murray Cod Fishery Management Group (MCFMG), the definition of a fishing impoundment and the release of the Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan.

A Murray Cod Fishery Management Group (MCFMG) has been formed consisting of inland managers and researchers from relevant states and territories as well as a representative from the Murray Darling Basin Authority. Matt Barwick has been appointed the independent Executive Officer of the MCFMG. Mr Barwick will be responsible for the development of the MCFMG communication plan and the preparation of various MCFMG collaborative research funding applications. One of the priorities for research identified at a recent MCFMG meeting was a need to determine the extent of larval recruitment of Murray Cod post spawn.

The Council noted several inquiries from recreational fishers requesting clarification of the definition of a fishing impoundment.

Motion: The Department develop a schedule of all waterways in NSW that are classified as fishing impoundments. **Moved:** Shane Jasprizza. **Seconded:** Max Castle. **Carried.**

The Council was advised that the Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan was recently released. Shane Jasprizza, Terry Maloney and Rodney Tonkin are representatives on the Murray Darling Basin Recreational Fishing Council and considered the proposed new water allocation scheme not to be ideal, stating that regardless of the actual amount, flows are needed which are designed to improve native fish populations and ensure better outcomes for fish friendly infrastructure projects.

6. National Parks Plans of Management, including Meroo National Park

Mr Terry Bailey, Director Coastal, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, (OEH), attended the meeting to discuss the National Parks Plan of Management (PoM) process and associated legislative requirements.

Mr Bailey advised that OEH had recently developed a policy document relating to the use and access of mountain bikes in NSW National Parks. The Council requested whether OEH and DPI could develop a similar document for recreational fishing, noting that it is a popular activity in National Parks. The Department advised it would discuss this proposal with OEH and advise Council of progress.

Members expressed concern in relation to the loss of access for recreational fishers during previous National Park PoM processes, especially in regard to the Meroo National Park and Wooyung Nature Reserve. Mr Bailey acknowledged the importance of recreational fishing as a recreational activity and expressed his commitment to improving the interaction and consultation between OEH, DPI, ACoRF and recreational fishers as part of the development for future National Parks Plans.

The Council discussed the proposed Meroo National Park working group meeting scheduled for 12 December 2011 noting a DPI representative as well as Max Castle and Malcolm Poole from the RFA would be attending.

The Council requested clarification of the intention of OEH to permit and maintain trail access for vehicles and trailer boats to Meroo Lake noting the importance of this waterway as a Recreational Fishing Haven. Mr Bailey confirmed it was proposed to provide regulated access along Meroo Lake Road. The Council appreciated Mr Bailey's open and detailed discussions and invited him to attend future ACoRF meetings on a needs basis to ensure thorough discussion of National Park issues.

7. Recreational Fishing Trust Issues

New Recreational Fishing Trust Applications

The Council considered expenditure recommendations arising from the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC and RFFTEC) meetings held on 16 and 17 November 2011 (refer to tables in Appendix 1). Recommendations for new Trust applications supported by the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF are outlined in Table 1. The Council noted and agreed with the recommendations of RFSTEC and RFFTEC for programs that were deferred (refer to Table 2) and programs that were not supported (refer to Table 3).

The Council also considered and supported the recommendations from RFSTEC and RFFTEC for those programs supported (refer to Table 4) and not supported (refer to Table 5) under the Habitat Action Grants Program. The Council expressed its appreciation to Kevin McKinnon for his involvement with the Habitat Action Program on behalf of ACoRF.

8. Review of NSW Fishing Rules (Bag and Size Limit Review) 2011/12 update

The Bag and Size Limit Review Technical Working Group met on 23 September and 23 November 2011 to provide feedback on potential issues for inclusion in the in the public consultation discussion paper for release in 2012.

The Council recommended the following issues be considered for inclusion in the discussion paper:

- Introduction of a minimum legal length for Cobia;
- Introduction of a maximum legal length for Dusky Flathead;
- Introduction of a minimum legal length of for Mangrove Jack;
- Introduction of a minimum legal length for Nannygai;
- Consider reducing the bag limit of Sweep.

9. Commercial Fisheries Management issues

Pipis management update

Doug Ferrell, Manager Resource Planning, Commercial Fisheries, provided an update on the management of Pipis in NSW. Dr Ferrell advised that a new fishing closure will be in place until 1 June 2012. Other changes currently proposed are to increase the minimum legal length from 4cm to 4.5cm to provide further protection for juveniles and a refinement of the 40kg trip limit (24 hour period).

The Council reiterated strong concerns about the impact of commercial harvesting on pipi stocks. It is proposed for commercial harvesting to resume in June 2012. The Department advised that there are a number of monitoring programs proposed that will improve information on pipis. This

information will assist the assessment of stock status and ensure refined management arrangements are appropriate.

The Council advised that recreational fishers along the coast had been undertaking a voluntary survey to try and gather further information about local pipi populations. Dr Ferrell advised that DPI could provide advice on methodology if required. The Council reiterated its support for beaches to be closed on an ongoing basis until there is a complete stock recovery. John Clarke and Charlie Howe advised that they propose to take this matter to the national level and requested the Council's support for this proposed action. The Chair advised this was outside the scope of the NSW Council.

Motion: The Council acknowledged Mr Clarke and Mr Howe for their ongoing efforts to ensure sustainable fishing practices for pipis stocks in NSW. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** Claudette Rechtorik. **Carried.**

Australian Salmon management update

The Council noted the Minister's media release on 25 November 2011 advising that a number of changes had been made to the commercial fishing arrangements for Australian Salmon.

The Council expressed disappointment that its recommendation to renew the long standing fishing closure on the taking of Australian Salmon north of Barrenjoey Headland by commercial fishers without amendment, was not implemented.

The Department noted that Australian Salmon is a valued recreational fishing species, as well as an important source of bait for commercial fish and lobster traps. These new measures will help to ensure that there is a ready supply of trap bait available for commercial fishers on the north coast of NSW, at a time when Australian Salmon undertake their annual migration from southern Australian waters.

DPI advised that following consultation with ACoRF, the commercial fishing sector and the Australian Salmon Working Group, the commercial fishing closure was amended to enable commercial ocean hauling endorsement holders to be subject to a daily catch limit of 3 tonnes and a total annual catch trigger level of 224 tonnes (up from 100 tonnes).

The Council noted that catch of Australian Salmon will be monitored throughout the year and a review process, comprising commercial and recreational fishing representatives, will be instigated if the total catch approaches the trigger level of 224 tonnes. The Department advised that this monitoring is in addition to the annual species assessment process already in place.

Guidelines for Review of Species Restrictions in NSW Commercial Fisheries

The Council was provided with copies of the draft 'species' and 'fishing closure' decision trees and asked for feedback on the proposed structure. The Council recommended the following issues be considered:

- The decision trees should encompass recreational, commercial and indigenous fisheries, not just commercial fisheries.
- The term 'high risk' not be used in relation to the sustainability of a species as it is subjective.
- The term 'significant' not be used in relation to the reallocation of fisheries resources as it is subjective.
- Add another field - 'Will the proposal increase interaction with other user groups?'
- Consider adding another field at the end to allow for any other impacts associated with the proposal that should be considered.

ACoRF submission to the Independent Review of Commercial Fisheries Management, Policy and Administration

The Council acknowledged the ACoRF submission that was lodged as part of the Independent review of commercial fisheries management, policy and administration.

10. Draft Marine Bioregional Plan for the Temperate East Marine Region

The Department advised that Martin Russell, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC), had attended the RFSTEC meeting on 16 November 2011 to discuss the release of the draft plan and marine reserves network proposal for public consultation. Copies of the draft plan were circulated to Council members for discussion.

It was noted that the proposed Temperate East Marine Region comprises 1,466,792 square kilometres of Commonwealth waters from the southern boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to Bermagui in southern New South Wales. This includes the waters surrounding Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.

The Department advised Mr Russell had provided RFSTEC with a summary of the consultation process noting that the first consultation period concludes on 21 February 2012. Public submissions will then be considered and the draft plan and marine reserves network proposal reviewed accordingly. The reviewed draft plan and marine reserves network proposal will then be released for a further public consultation period prior to declaration.

The Council expressed their support for the draft plan and marine reserves network proposal in its current form.

The Department advised that Council members should contact SEWPAC by email: East.MarinePlan@environment.gov.au; or phone: 1800 069 352, or contact Martin Russell directly on email: Martin.Russell@environment.gov.au; mobile 0409345017 for further information on the process and to lodge a submission.

11. Correspondence

Clarence River Recreational Fishing Haven

The Council acknowledged the letter from a community member to the Minister requesting the expansion of the current network of Recreational Fishing Havens (RFHs) in the Clarence River.

Motion: The Council supports the general concept relating to this RFH but requires further details about the potential cost of commercial fishing buy outs to the Recreational Fishing Trust and the extent of interest from local recreational and commercial fishers. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Charlie Howe. **Carried.**

12. Out of Session

Eleebana fish cleaning table funding application

The Council noted that the application had been addressed in agenda item 7.

13. General Business

Marine Stocking EIS

The Department advised that the marine fish stocking EIS was released for public exhibition on 23 November 2011. Submissions can be lodged online at fishstocking.eis@industry.nsw.gov.au, mailed to EIS Submission Fish Stocking 3/556 Macauley Street, Albury, NSW, 2640, or faxed to (02) 6021 0113 (marked attention "Fish Stocking EIS Submission"). Submissions should be lodged in writing by Tuesday 31 January 2012. Members were advised to contact DPI on phone (02) 6042 4202 or email fishstocking.eis@industry.nsw.gov.au for more information or to obtain a copy of the EIS on CD-ROM.

Environmental Assessment of Recreational Fishing Activities in NSW

The Council supported RFSTEC's recommendation that the Chair write to the Minister requesting DPI undertake an environmental assessment of recreational fishing as a high priority and develop an associated fisheries management strategy for recreational fishing, which could be jointly funded by DPI and the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

Discarding of unwanted catch/dumping of fish

The Council discussed the issue of fish dumping by recreational fishers at some recreational fishing competitions. It was noted that DPI, through the Fishing Events Management Program, promotes responsible fishing practices and works closely with recreational fishing event organisers to improve the environmental outcomes of fishing competitions.

Pat Jones, NSW GFA representative stated that a series of game fishing tournaments are held in NSW every year and the majority of fish caught during these events are tagged and released as part of the NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program, with only a small number of fish weighed-in during each event. The Council noted that the NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program provides valuable scientific information on the behaviour and movement of large pelagic fish species. However, a small percentage of trophy sized fish continue to be weighed at these tournaments with the majority retained and eaten by the fishers that caught them. There is also some scientific sampling of fish weighed at selected events, which contributes to international scientific research on the species.

Fisheries Enhancement

i) Offshore Artificial Reef program

DPI provided an update on the Offshore Artificial Reef program. The Council noted that the first offshore artificial reef was successfully deployed off Sydney in October 2011. The purpose-built reef is the first and largest offshore artificial reef structure to be designed and constructed in Australia and is part of a planned series of reefs to be deployed in NSW over the next five years. The reef is expected to vastly improve recreational fishing opportunities off the coast of Sydney. The reef is located approximately 1.2 kilometres off The Gap at Vaucluse. The reef is made of steel, stands 12 metres high, weighs approximately 42 tonnes and is designed to provide a complex habitat for a range of marine species. It was noted that the reef structure has a lifespan of more than 30 years and has been specially designed to withstand NSW coastal conditions while minimising ecological impacts. DPI advised a proposal for the next phase of offshore reefs in locations north and south of Sydney will be provided at the next meeting. The Council acknowledged that this is a great example of how recreational licence fees are being invested back into the fishing community.

Alleged sale of juvenile fish

The Council noted concerns from recreational fishers that some commercial fishing co-operatives, mainly on the north coast, were allowing commercial fishers to weigh-in a proportion of undersize fish as part of their catch. The Department undertook for Fisheries Compliance to investigate these allegations.

Possession limits

The Council requested clarification of the definition of possession limit rules. This information will be provided out of session.

Mulloway Resource Planning Group

The Council noted that a Mulloway Resource Planning Group meeting was scheduled for 13 December 2011. ACoRF reconfirmed Council's recommendations for fishing arrangements in NSW for Mulloway, as outlined:

- Support the introduction of a 75cm minimum legal length for all fishing sectors.
- Support the introduction of a bag limit of 2 for recreational fishers.
- Do not support any bycatch provisions for undersize Mulloway by commercial fishers.
- Support the introduction of a seasonal closure for Ocean Hauling and Estuary General Fishers during the summer period.

The Council also suggested that further consideration be given to funding a buyout of Estuary General Fishery meshing entitlements (endorsements/shares) in major systems, including Hawkesbury, Shoalhaven and Clarence Rivers, to further reduce fishing pressure on juvenile Mulloway.

Motion: The Council unanimously supports the recommendations relating to proposed fishing arrangements for Mulloway in NSW, as outlined. **Moved:** Al McGlashan. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

14. *Next meeting*

The next meeting (ACoRF 57) is proposed for 14 and/or 15 May 2012.

Action items from 56th ACoRF meeting on 29 November 2011

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Status
5. Recreational Fisheries Management update	The Department develop a schedule of all waterways in NSW that are classified as fishing impoundments.	Freshwater Fisheries Management	Pending
6. National Parks Plans of Management, including Meroo National Park	The Department to discuss the proposal for a statewide policy for recreational fishing in NSW National Parks with OEH and advise Council of progress.	Recreational Fisheries Programs	Pending

Appendix 1

i) GENERAL PROGRAMS

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

SALTWATER

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Restoring fish habitat and improving the ecological condition of Wallamba River / Wallis Lake through removal of marine debris. [resubmitted with alterations]</p> <p>The project aims to improve fish and crustacean nursery habitat and ecological condition of the Wallamba River by removing all rubbish from 50 km's of its riverbanks.</p> <p>Note: RFSTEC recommended a reduction in funding from \$20,000 to \$10,000 to provide the project to proceed on a trial basis. The applicant should provide a strategy to reduce ongoing rubbish dumping and form linkages with the CMA. The Committee requested feedback on the type of rubbish collected.</p>	Great Lakes Council	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Judbooley Parade Foreshore recreational fishing platform [resubmitted with alterations]</p> <p>To construct a recreational fishing platform alongside the newly landscaped Judbooley Pde Foreshore. The structure will allow easy access to fishing in the entrance channel of Lake Illawarra whilst adjacent to picnic facilities.</p>	Lake Illawarra Authority	\$0	\$80,000	\$0
<p>Boambee Creek Restoration and Recreational Fishing Infrastructure Development</p> <p>Construction of two fishing platforms, walkway, picnic area and signage to support recreational fishing and protect creek bank stability at a popular public fishing spot along Boambee Creek.</p> <p>Note: RFSTEC recommended a reduction in funding from \$55,454 to \$37,000 for the construction of the fishing platform and disabled pathways only.</p>	Coffs Harbour City Council	\$37,000	\$0	\$0

Small Projects

Sawtell cleaning table - addition of a roof To supply a roof with lighting for the newly upgraded Sawtell headland fish cleaning table.	Coffs Harbour Deep Sea Fishing Club	\$9,940	\$0	\$0
Eleebana fish cleaning table and solar light To install a new fish cleaning table and solar light at Eleebana Lions Park boat ramp.	Lake Macquarie City Council	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Small Projects

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Southern Illawarra Tourism Fishing Guide To update and reprint 15,000 copies of the Southern Illawarra Tourism Fishing Guide. This comprehensive guide encompasses many aspects of fishing including: recreation, safety, education/awareness and promotion of Shellharbour and Kiama as a great place for many styles of fishing. Note: The Trust logo should be displayed on the brochure.	Illawarra Tourism	\$4,447	\$0	\$0
Urunga Fisheries Education Project To enhance the recreational fishing value and health of the lower Bellinger and Kalang estuary by improving the communication of fisheries rules and regulations particularly to visiting anglers. The project also seeks to engender understanding, respect and stewardship for the valuable fish nursery areas of Urunga Lagoon within the wider public.	Bellinger Heads State Park in partnership with Urunga Anglers Club	\$3,400	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Club and competition systems and management The project seeks funds to display results at competitions and other management information at club meetings onto a large. Note: RFSTEC recommended that the project must be undertaken as a training/demonstration aid to showcase and train other clubs on the fishing tournament software to improve the management of fishing tournaments.	Sydney Metropolitan Division of NSW FCA Inc.	\$1,300	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Developing a cost effective state wide expenditure survey method to measure the economic contribution of the recreational fishing sector in NSW. The project will evaluate the economic expenditure and contribution of the recreational fishing sector in NSW and determine the most cost effective approach for future expenditure surveys.	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong.	\$162,800	\$79,750	\$0

<p>Note: RFSTEC recommended that the funds from the Recreational and Charter Fishing Trust of \$225,000 previously approved by the Minister for the DPI statewide economic survey project be reallocated to this application as a project variation. It was acknowledged that the previous program had not yet commenced and had similar objectives to the proposed study. The remaining funding of \$17,550 required for the new program should be funded from the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust (see attachment for project variation).</p>				
<p>Restoration of missing underwater forests in Sydney Habitat-forming crayweed has gone extinct along the Sydney metro region, impacting abalone, lobsters and key fish species. We will restore populations of these missing algal forests (200 square metres) in an ecologically sustainable way, enhancing local diversity of fish and other marine organisms. Note: Funding was reduced from \$39,996 to \$10,000 to enable a trial and control to be undertaken in one site only noting this would provide for an evaluation of the effectiveness of this program prior to further expansion.</p>	University of NSW and Sydney Institute of Marine Science	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Research review of rock fishing safety in NSW to address Coronial recommendations relating to rock fishing deaths The primary objective of this project is the delivery of a detailed research report identifying the demographic groups most at risk of drowning whilst rock fishing and an assessment of the effectiveness of available rock fishing safety programs.</p>	NSW DPI	\$121,972	\$0	\$0
<p>Development of a scientifically based ACoRF submission to the Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks in NSW. It is proposed to engage a contractor to develop a scientifically based submission as part of the Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks in NSW. The written submission will address each of the terms of reference.</p>	Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF)	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

FRESHWATER

Platform: Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Removal and remediation of Bangate Bridge Weir, Narran River, NSW Removal and remediation of the Bangate Bridge Weir on the Narran River to improve passage for native fish to access habitat necessary for improved native fish populations.</p>	Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund	\$5,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Small projects

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Brighter Access Fishing Skills Club To provide recreational fishing information and education via practical application for</p>	Inverell Disability Services Inc. T/A	\$2,800	\$0	\$0

a group of people that would normally not be able to access and be included in the sport due to physical disability. Note: Funding was reduced from \$10,000 to \$2,800 to provide for weekly sessions with the members and training day for a full day workshop. It was not proposed to provide funding for instructor's wages.	Brighter Access			
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Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Securing better outcomes for native fish and recreational fishing through the Murray Darling Basin Plan To coordinate a public campaign to promote the interests of NSW recreational fishers within the Murray Darling Basin and ensure the social and economic interests of fishers are taken into account during the development of the MDB plan.	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers	\$4,500	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
An assessment of the trout population within the New England To assess the success of trout stocking in the New England region around Ebor.	NSW DPI	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Wee Jasper weed control stage 1 To improve access along the Goodradigbee River and Micalong Creek at Wee Jasper so as to enhance the recreational fishing activities for this section of water body.	Wee Jasper Reserve Trust	\$11,500	\$0	\$0

Table 2 - New Trust Applications deferred by RFSTEC

SALTWATER

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Upgrading and expansion of stainless steel fish cleaning tables at Durras Lake, South Durras; Tuross River Bridge and Mummaga Lake, Dalmeny. To construct three stainless steel fish cleaning tables at Durras Lake, Tuross River and Mummaga Lake in the Eurobodalla Shire. Note: RFSTEC noted that this project was expensive compared with other fish cleaning table projects and there was insufficient details provided in the application on the budget. The Committee recommended that the budget be reviewed and additional information on the costs be provided.</p>	Eurobodalla Shire Council	\$26,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Pre-proposal for angling education in the Port Macquarie Hastings region The project proposes a number of components to be run from the Port Macquarie Marine Discovery Centre including interpretive signage, interactive models, and education program, fishing displays, staffing and marketing. Note: RFSTEC deferred the application subject to further consultation with DPI (Fishcare and fishing facilities programs). DPI to set up a meeting with the applicant and the local RFSTEC member (Geoff Shelton) to discuss the recreational fishing components of the proposed program. RFSTEC did not support funding for staffing of the Discovery Centre.</p>	Port Macquarie Marine Discovery Centre	\$108,000	\$0	\$0

Small Projects

<p>Angling Education for Hastings Point, Tweed Shire The project will provide visitors and students with angler education including: 3 new "sustainable fishing education" interpretive signs and sustainable fishing education for visitors to The Adventure Education – Marine Environments Field Study and Resource Centre. Note: RFSTEC recommended that the Fishing Facilities Manager consult with the applicant to review the proposed script and to ensure key messages relating to sustainable recreational fishing are included. The project should also review the budget and where possible improve value for money.</p>	Marine Environments Field Study and Resource Centre (Hastings Point)	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
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Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Fish in Mozzies Out Stage 2 This extension of the Fish In, Mozzies Out project allows monitoring of fish using the 18-ha mangrove basin site at Terranora Broadwater after hydrologic modification. Fish occurrence and diet will be compared with pre-modification data collected by the original grant. Note: RFSTEC requested clarification if the post monitoring was supposed to have been carried out as part of the first stage of this project noting there was high rainfall during that period. If so, previously approved funding should be used for that purpose. DPI to clarify with the applicant out of session prior to ACoRF Meeting 56.	Tweed Shire Council	\$22,490	\$0	\$0

Table 3 – New Trust Project Applications *not supported* by RFSTEC and RFFTEC

SALTWATER

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>One Tree reach wetland recreational access One Tree Reach Wetland is a unique freshwater wetland situated along the banks of the Hawkesbury River providing significant habitat for a diverse range of terrestrial and aquatic species. The project will allow access for fishing and other recreational uses. Note: RFSTEC noted that this project would mainly benefit other recreational user groups and had limited direct benefit to recreational fishers.</p>	Hornsby Shire Council	\$35,250	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Recreational fishing trust communication and extension officer The trust communication and extension officer under the guidance of the Project Board will implement a comprehensive communication strategy for recreational fishers to promote the Recreational Fishing Trusts and associated programs and the work of the Trust Committees and ACoRF. The officer will work closely with Trust project proponents to ensure promotion and extension to the general public. Note: It was noted that a revised application may be submitted at the next meeting.</p>	NSW DPI / ACORF / ANSA NSW	\$148,612	\$152,351	\$0

Small Projects

<p>Sustainable Seafood Stories The project aims to identify seafood industry champions by presenting information on various industry sectors; exploring project extension opportunities; and utilising social media, web-based platforms and print media to disseminate project information. Note: RFSTEC noted that there was a strong project focus on commercial fishing and other funding sources may be more appropriate.</p>	Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) on behalf of National Seafood Industry Leadership Program (NSILP)	\$9,000	\$0	\$0
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Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
<p>Developing environmentally friendly recreational fishing gears and practices for marine parks and other coastal areas: phase 1 The project will identify and recommend environmentally friendly recreational fishing gears and practices for use in NSW marine parks and other coastal areas. Note: RFSTEC recommended that the Chair of ACoRF and RFSTEC write to the Minister requesting that DPI undertake an environmental assessment and develop a fisheries management strategy for recreational fishing, which could be jointly funded</p>	Fisheries Conservation Technology Unit (FCTU), NSW DPI	\$32,785	\$251,707	\$262,970	\$233,213

by DPI and the Trusts. The FMS will identify any research gaps for future monitoring. Modules 3 and 4 were considered to be low priority.					
The New South Wales Research Angler Program – Mulloway The project will establish a network that facilitates anglers contributing to biological and fishery assessments for key recreational species in NSW. The program will start with mulloway. Note: RFSTEC questioned the need for two scientists for the program which significantly increased the costs of the program. It was noted that future management and monitoring action was proposed for mulloway and that this project should not pre-empt those actions.	NSW DPI	\$0	\$199,845	\$209,032	\$200,985

FRESHWATER

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Increasing recreational fishing access to the Murray River To provide year round recreational access to the Murray River and its tributaries through the construction of three swing footbridges.	Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd	\$101,000	\$71,000	\$137,000
Tocumwal Angling Club clubhouse To complete the building of a clubhouse / storage facility to accommodate club plant and equipment and to hold meetings and host visiting angler clubs.	Tocumwal Angling Club	\$11,800	\$0	\$0
Yass Weir, Meehan St Fishing Ramp To provide fishing access to the top end of the Yass Weir once the raising of the weir wall is completed.	Yass Valley Council	\$21,800	\$0	\$0
“The Biggest Trout in the World Restoration Project” which will save the “Big Trout” at Adaminaby NSW. To rejuvenate and repaint the Big Trout at Adaminaby to restore it to original condition. RFFTEC noted that this application may be more applicable for funding through Destination NSW - Tourism and Snowy Hydro. A revised budget of up to \$2,000 could be considered upon re-application.	Monaro Acclimatisation Society and Lake Eucumbene Chamber of Commerce	\$18,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Recreational fishing in impoundments: optimising research methods and understanding the influence of blue-green algae and other environmental factors on catch rates and fishing quality This project examines recreational fishing in NSW impoundments and aims to determine the impact of blue-green algal blooms and other environmental factors on fishing quality and the overall fishing experience.	University of Western Sydney	\$19,750	\$19,865	\$0

<p>Dietary overlap of rainbow trout and carp in a listed trout stream and the potential impact on trout fisheries This study will examine competition for food resources between carp and trout and the implications and management options for recreational fisheries.</p>	University of Western Sydney	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Diet and connectivity of redfin populations in the Cudgegong River and Burrendong Dam, central NSW This project will gather information on redfin populations (diet, size structure and connectivity) in the Cudgegong River and Burrendong Dam to aid in improving fisheries for trout and natives.</p>	University of Western Sydney	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

ii) HABITAT ACTION GRANTS PROGRAM

Table 4 – New Trust Project (Habitat Action Grants) Applications supported by RFSTEC and RFFTEC

SALTWATER

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation		Total requested
Proposal	Proponent	2011/12
Russell Street Emu Plains Rehabilitation Project Stage 3 Weed removal and replanting (0.5 km) of local provenance of native species to regenerate riparian zone of Nepean River.	Bass Sydney Fishing Club Inc	\$4,981
Korogoro Creek foreshore rehabilitation Stage 2 Continue rehabilitation of Korogoro Creek south bank approx 2.5 ha by planting endemic trees and saltmarsh plants. Improve the ecological integrity and diversity of the estuary and foreshore.	Hat Head Amateur Fishing Club c/o Hat Head Bowling and Recreation Club Ltd	\$5,000
Wyndham Estate Fish Habitat Enhancement Installation of 5 engineered log jams as part of a staged rejuvenation project that extends over a 1.38 km reach of the Hunter River. This will provide essential habitat complexity for native fish.	Wyndham Estate Wines	\$40,000
Stage 3 rehabilitation works at Tomago Wetlands Hunter River Estuary Tidal flushing will be restored to approximately 62.5 ha of Tomago Wetlands, including a 3.2 km long tidal channel, in the Hunter Estuary, by modifying floodgates and carrying out earthworks to restore tidal channels. The rehabilitated wetland will provide valuable habitat for a range of fish species (including small fish which provide a food source for larger fish) and improve recreational fishing in the Hunter Estuary.	Water Research Laboratory, University of NSW	\$39,500
Lane Cove River Australian Bass habitat project Improve Australian bass habitat in the Lane Cove River by engaging recreational fishers the Sydney Bass Fishing Club, community volunteers, Lane Cove National Park staff and bush regeneration contractors to reduce the impact of weeds (2.3 km) and restore riparian vegetation (0.5 km)	Friends of Lane Cove National Park	\$10,000
Banks for Bass Stream stabilisation works (1 km) on the south east bank of Macquarie Rivulet at the confluence of Marshal Mount Creek. The works will include stream structures to reduce flow, fencing to restrict cattle access and tree planting to assist stabilisation.	Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	\$12,541
Coopers Creek fish habitat restoration project Rehabilitate Coopers Creek for fish habitat. Reduce siltation, improve water quality by fencing creek bank (1.3 km), removing noxious weeds (0.3 km) revegetating (0.1km), provide cover for fish.	Private landholder	\$4,987
Currambene Creek stage 3: Fish Friendly Foreshore Restrict stock access to Currambene Creek and allow regeneration of swamp sclerophyll EEC as well as protection of the JBMP sanctuary zone (650m)	Crown Lands Division - NSW DPI	\$3,500

<p>Middle Deua River Australian bass habitat restoration project 2012 Improve fish habitat along the Deua River (10km). A wide range of river users will be engaged to reduce the impact of environmental weeds and to restore riparian vegetation through planting and weeding, thereby improving Australian Bass habitat.</p>	Eurobodalla Shire Council	\$21,138
<p>Belmore Wetland habitat for fingerlings Improve a 43 Ha SEPP 14 wetland that is connected to 2 creek lines which run to Killick beach estuary through stock management fencing, reducing weeds. Protect freshwater creek and estuary zone from ASS</p>	Private landholder	\$5,152
<p>Tambourine Bay wetlands Stage 2 - enhancement of fish habitat by the rehabilitation of saltmarsh and mangrove communities This grant will form stage 2. of our previous grant (2.5 ha wetland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitate mangroves & endangered saltmarsh vegetation through further primary bush regeneration works • Plant more indigenous seedlings in buffer zones to protect saltmarsh and wetland areas. • Promote the importance of fish habitat in Tambourine Bay through environmental education and community involvement. 	Lane Cove Council	\$33,200
<p>Brogo River fish habitat enhancement This project will enhance fish habitat on the Brogo River. Works will include bank erosion control using large woody debris, sand sheet stabilization, willow choke removal, riparian and wetland fencing and revegetation and dairy laneway relocation.</p>	Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	\$40,000
<p>Ramp it up - anglers restoring fish habitat at ramps and key fishing areas This project will engage fishers and other community volunteers to restore degraded areas of fish habitat in the areas they use most. Project works will include revegetation; weed removal and erosion control at sites within 500m of boat ramps throughout the Eurobodalla.</p>	Eurobodalla Shire Council	\$25,000
<p>Rock Fillets for Fish Fillets This project will enhance the ecological condition of the lower Bellinger estuary. Construction of rock fillet and artificial reef structures will provide habitat for fish, marine invertebrates and mangroves, mitigate erosion, protect infrastructure (boat ramps, etc) and improve river bank condition.</p>	Bellingen Shire Council	\$40,000
<p>Restoring fish habitat through riparian rehabilitation Wallamba River/Wallis Lake The project aims to enhance fish habitat and ecological condition of the Wallamba River by addressing the water quality decline associated with bank erosion and disturbance of the riparian zone through bank stabilisation works (rock fillets, mangrove establishment and revegetation).</p>	Great Lakes Council	\$40,000
<p>Upper Hunter instream works The HCR CMA and NSW DPI have been working collaboratively in the upper Hunter over a number of years to reinstate instream habitat complexity and structure. These instream habitat works have been identified as part of a study undertaken to improve the health of the river.</p>	Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	\$40,000

<p>Addressing the last major fish passage barrier on Bowman River A full-width rock-ramp fishway will be installed and the last remaining high priority barrier to fish passage on Bowman River removed. The fishway will aid migration for fish like Australian bass, reinstate access to 10km of waterway and improve fish stocks.</p>	<p>Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority</p>	<p>\$40,000</p>
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<p>Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation</p>		<p>Total requested</p>
<p>Proposal</p>	<p>Proponent</p>	<p>2011/12</p>
<p>Cushans Reserve rehabilitation project Rehabilitation of a badly degraded public reserve on the bank of the Namoi River some 4 km from Gunnedah. Work will involve bank stabilisation, invasive weed control, fencing, track work and planting of trees and shrubs</p>	<p>Gunnedah Urban Landcare Group</p>	<p>\$13,600</p>
<p>Talbragar River fish and riparian expression session Removal of a high priority Talbragar River fish passage barrier, installation of a new "fish friendly" river crossing and associated riparian rehabilitation works including fencing to exclude stock and replanting of endemic tree species in degraded riparian zone.</p>	<p>Dunedoo Area Community Group (Landcare)</p>	<p>\$40,000</p>
<p>Talbragar River resnagging Installation of snags in a section of the Talbragar River that has a history of snag removal and fencing of the banks to totally exclude domestic stock from the waterway.</p>	<p>Dunedoo Area Community Group (Landcare)</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>
<p>Cumbijowa Recreation Reserve habitat fencing Erect stock proof fencing along approx 1.7km Lachlan River fronting a River Red Gum Forest within a Crown reserve. Five gates and two styles are proposed to be installed to maintain fishermen and recreational access to the river. Signage will be installed to promote and explain the program. Weed control will be undertaken to encourage native regeneration.</p>	<p>Cumbijowa Public Recreation Reserve Trust</p>	<p>\$13,500</p>
<p>Queanbeyan River restoration - restoring native fish habitat in the Queanbeyan River This project aims to improve native fish habitat through resnagging and rehabilitation of the riparian zone on the Queanbeyan River. The project connects with and extends on the recently completed Queanbeyan Traditional Owner River Restoration Project (upstream of this project site).</p>	<p>Capital Region Fishing Alliance Inc</p>	<p>\$21,950</p>
<p>Keeping big fish moving in the Little River This project aims to provide fish passage at the Obley Gauging Station Control Structure, a low level weir on the Little River, NSW</p>	<p>Yeoval Fishing Club</p>	<p>\$25,750</p>
<p>Banks for Bass This project aims to provide stream stabilisation works (1 km) on the south east bank of Macquarie Rivulet at the confluence of Marshal Mount Creek. The works will include stream structures to reduce flow, fencing to restrict cattle access and tree planting to assist stabilisation. Funding approved to install a lesser number of snags within the river than proposed within the application.</p>	<p>Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority</p>	<p>\$10,200</p>

Table 5 – New Trust Project (Habitat Action Grants) Applications *not supported* by RFFTEC

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation		Total requested
Proposal	Proponent	2011/12
Toogimbie IPA wetlands lippia control Address the spread of Lippia (phylus sp), a declared noxious weed, across a 2000 ha floodplain wetland area of Toogimbie Indigenous Protected Area	Nari Nari Tribal Council	\$38,340
Yass Dam riparian revegetation Undertake revegetation of riparian zones of the Yass Dam to improve water quality and fish habitat in the Yass River. The project will involve planting of native vegetation in accordance with the Yass Dam Operational Environmental Management Plan OEMP. (Full copy available on request)	Yass Valley Council	\$40,000
Rehabilitation of fish habitat in the Lachlan River The project aims to rehabilitate an area of the Lachlan River close to the Cowra CBD and major sporting grounds. The project will increase usage of the area by local anglers and encourage visitation by the general public.	Cowra Shire Council	\$30,000
Beemery resnagging project Reinstate at least 20 large woody habitats at priority site/s through the middle reaches of the Brewarrina to Bourke Demonstration Reach on the Barwon-Darling River.	Western catchment Management Authority	\$29,352
Wetlands for fish - Deni Wetland Restoration The RSL fishing club will increase the awareness of native fish and the importance of their habitats in the Murray catchment. In collaboration with Deniliquin Council, Murray CMA, and NSW DPI, we will create a 3 ha wetland restoration demonstration area to highlight the importance of wetlands (their restoration) and large and small-bodied fishes role in the food chain.	Deniliquin RSL Fishing Club	\$9,050
Rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of Fort Courage Revegetation works around our park, managing weeds and improving the habitat of the area. Reduce erosion and create wildlife habitat along the banks of the Murray River at Fort Courage	Wentworth Angling Club Inc	\$14,250
Yass Dam riparian revegetation Undertake revegetation of riparian zones of the Yass Dam to improve water quality and fish habitat in the Yass River. The project will involve planting of native vegetation in accordance with the Yass Dam Operational Environmental Management Plan OEMP. (Full copy available on request)	Yass Valley Council	\$40,000