

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

**Outcomes from Meeting 53 – Tuesday 17 May 2011
Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence**

Attendance

Bruce Schumacher	Chairperson
Alistair McGlashan	Offshore Fishing & Media
John Drew	Estuary Fishing
Neil Ryan	Fishing Media
Claudette Rechterik	Conservation
Max Castle	Estuary Fishing
Adrian Wayne	Underwater Fishing
Susan North	Freshwater Fishing and Fishing Industry Liaison
Patricia Jones	Offshore Fishing
Charles Howe	Estuary & Offshore Fishing
Kevin McKinnon	Freshwater Fishing
John Clarke	Offshore Fishing
Michelle Martin	Tackle Sales
John Humphries	Freshwater Fishing
Ann Garard	Charter Boat Fishing
Janette McLeod	Estuary Fishing
Shane Jasprizza	Estuary Fishing
Peter Turnell	Director, Fisheries Resource Management

1. Apologies

Sylvia Zukowski (Freshwater Fishing and Ecology Research).

2. Welcome new members

The Chair welcomed new members Susan North, Pat Jones and Michelle Martin to the council. Members introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of their role on ACoRF and related fishing experience.

3. Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meetings

ACoRF Meeting 51

Motion: The council accepted the outcomes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 51st ACoRF meeting, held on 7 December 2010. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** Charles Howe. **Carried.**

ACoRF Meeting 52

Correspondence

The Chair clarified that he contacted John Wilson from FRDC, not Dr Patrick Hone, in relation to the Murray Cod and Pipi research projects and requested the outcomes be amended to reflect this.

Motion: The council accepted the outcomes, with the above amendment, as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 52nd ACoRF meeting, held on 15 February 2011.

Moved: John Drew. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

4. Business arising from the minutes

a) Recreational Fisheries Management update - Proposed listing of the Dusky Whaler and Shortfin Mako as threatened species under the EPBC Act

The council requested an update in regard to the proposed listing of Dusky Whaler and Shortfin Mako as threatened species under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The department advised that an update would be provided as part of the Recreational Fisheries Management update.

b) General Business - Freshwater fishing update

The department will continue to consult with fishing groups and tackle outlets in the inland to obtain further information on the sale, distribution and use of lures containing LED lights. It was noted that initial investigations have revealed these lures are unlikely to significantly increase catch rates for Murray Cod and other native freshwater finfish.

The department re-iterated that recreational fishers are not permitted to use lift nets to take yabbies in Lake Lyell as it is a notified trout water. The department advised that this issue would be considered for inclusion in the Review of NSW Fishing Rules 2011-12.

c) NSW Marine Park issues - Discussion Paper on the development of a NSW Marine Park Recreational Fishing Competition Policy

The department advised that an update on the development of a NSW Marine Park Recreational Fishing Competition Policy would be provided as part of the Recreational Fisheries Management update.

5. Recreational Fisheries Management update

a) Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services

On 4 April 2011 the Premier announced new administrative arrangements for the public sector, which resulted in a reduction from 13 to 9 cluster/super departments in NSW. These include:

1. Department of Premier and Cabinet
2. Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
3. The Treasury
4. Department of Finance and Services
5. Department of Health
6. Department of Family and Community Services
7. Department of Attorney General and Justice
8. Department of Transport
9. Department of Education and Communities

The former department, Industry and Investment NSW, has been restructured and is now called the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTIRIS). The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is within DTIRIS and includes the following services:

- Primary Industries (including Fisheries)
- Regional Development
- Office of Rural Affairs
- NSW Food Authority
- Rural Assistance Authority
- Lands
- NSW Office of Water
- Marine Parks Authority

Other major Offices within the DTIRIS cluster include: the Office of Trade, Business and Industry; Office of Energy and Resources; Office of Tourism, Major Events and Arts as well as a

number of other Offices, Authorities and Bodies. The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP has been announced as the Minister of Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business.

Recent changes to the structure of Fisheries within the Department of Primary Industries

A number of changes to the structure and operations of the Fisheries Branch will also take as part of this process. These changes have been made to bring all fisheries-related activities within a single branch. The new Fisheries Branch of DPI includes the following management units:

- Recreational and Indigenous Fishing
- Aquaculture, Conservation and Marine Parks
- Commercial Fisheries
- Fisheries Research
- Fisheries Compliance

b) Revocation of the Fish Rock and Green Island Grey Nurse Shark Fishing Closures

The council noted that the Minister for Primary Industries had recently announced the revocation of Fish Rock and Green Island fishing closures introduced in January this year. It was noted that a further three month public consultation process is proposed to ensure the best outcome is achieved for both the grey nurse shark population and the local community. The department advised that the process would include a discussion paper seeking comments from the community.

Action Item:

The council requested that a representative from the Aquaculture, Conservation and Marine Parks Unit of DPI provide a presentation/update at each council meeting to discuss major NSW Marine Park issues.

c) Rock Fishing Safety

The department provided an update on current Rock Fishing Safety Programs in NSW and outcomes from the recent Coronial Inquiry into the deaths of two rock fishermen at North Bondi in April 2009.

A wide range of rock fishing safety programs in collaboration with various other government and non-government agencies and DPI continue to be undertaken. These programs include:

1. The Angel Ring program – approximately 110 angel rings have been placed at popular rock fishing locations along the NSW coast. The program is co-ordinated by the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) NSW Branch.
2. The 'Don't put your life on the line' DVD.
3. The Asian Awareness Program.
4. Rock Fishing Safety Workshops, particularly focussed on education for Non-English Speaking Background communities about fishing safety.
5. Rock Fishing Safety multilingual brochure – 250,000 copies distributed with recreational fishing licence renewals.
6. Rock Fishing Safety Alerts.

A Coronial Inquiry into the deaths of two rock fishermen at North Bondi on 24 April 2009 has the following recommendations:

1. That research be undertaken under the authority of DPI, to:
 - Identify the demographic groups most at risk of drowning related to rock fishing fatalities, and
 - Identify and assess the effectiveness of all educational, enforcement and engineering safety methods currently used to prevent such fatalities.
2. That the results of such research be used to develop a rock fishing safety program for New South Wales.

DPI is proposing to lead the implementation of these recommendations. A working group including representatives from all relevant organisations will assist with the implementation. The

council expressed support for the proposed working group and suggested that ACoRF/Trust Committee representatives Max Castle and Malcolm Poole could assist with the group.

It was noted that a second Coronial Inquiry into the deaths of 12 rock fishers in 2009 and 2010 is scheduled to commence on 9 June 2011.

d) Crab net and trap identification

The council discussed recent changes to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2010* to introduce consistent gear marking requirements for recreational traps and nets. The department noted a number of concerns regarding security have been raised about the new requirement for trap and net floats to be labelled with the full name and address of the person who sets, uses or lifts the fishing gear. The department advised these concerns will be considered as part of the Review of NSW Fishing Rules 2011-12.

e) Freshwater fishing update

The department provided an update on major freshwater issues, including recent flooding and 'blackwater' events, the 2010/11 Fish Stocking Programs and community concerns relating to the draw down of Lake Mulwala.

The department advised the council about the severity of recent flooding events which covered a large portion of south western NSW and Victoria, causing major 'blackwater' events and subsequent fish kills in most southern river systems.

Although the department undertook a number of fish rescues at various locations, due to the extremely low dissolved oxygen levels that occurred during these 'blackwater' events there was high levels of mortality in many areas. The department worked with various State and Commonwealth agencies to provide dilution flows including a major delivery of environmental water in the Murrumbidgee system and attempted to provide artificial aeration in some areas where fish were congregating. DPI fisheries scientists have collected a range of biological information from a large portion of these dead fish, which will be used to develop a better understanding of the age and growth structures of these native fish populations.

The council were advised that major flooding in the Upper Murray, Murrumbidgee, Billabong and Murray Rivers has also caused extensive damage to riverbanks, bridges, roads and other infrastructure. The department noted that it is working with other agencies to ensure no net loss of fish habitat occurs during repair of flood damaged infrastructure.

The department provided a summary of recent fish stocking activities noting that to date nearly 5 million native fish and salmonids have been stocked under the dollar for dollar and Government native and salmonid stocking programs in 2010/11. This is comparable with the 5.5 million fish stocked in 2009/10 and 5 million in 2008/09. The department has continued to calcein mark a large number of the stocked native fish as part of a research project focussed on determining the effectiveness of stocking.

The department noted that an outbreak of nodavirus in the Australian bass hatchery stock at the DPI Fisheries Centre at Port Stephens meant the entire stock had to be euthanised. As a result Australian bass stockings were significantly lower than in previous years.

The council was advised that NSW DPI fisheries scientists from the Narrandera Fisheries Centre had recently released 200 captive-bred Macquarie Perch fingerlings into the Abercrombie River as part of a research project to enhance the natural population of this species.

g) Recreational Fishing Communication Strategy

The council discussed the proposed development of a recreational fishing communication strategy, as recommended by RFSTEC at its meeting held on 5 April 2011 and highlighted by the Select Committee on Recreational Fishing in its Inquiry Report. The council discussed the

current communication avenues the department uses to provide information to recreational fishers including, for example, the DPI website, media releases, e-newsletters like 'Newscast' and 'Newstream', educational and advisory material mail-outs to recreational licence holders and fishing clubs, as well as various external media streams such as fishing magazines, local and state radio and newspapers.

The council supported the RFSTEC recommendation for the department to develop an integrated recreational fishing communication strategy for NSW. It was noted that the strategy should outline all existing recreational fisheries publications and identify additional methods to promote recreational fishing rules, responsible and sustainable fishing practices, safe fishing and the achievements of Trust programs.

Council member Susan North offered to assist with the development of the strategy noting her previous involvement in developing similar strategies for various government and non-government agencies.

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

Council members noted the submission from NSW DPI to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities regarding nominations to list Dusky Whaler and Shortfin Mako sharks as threatened under the Commonwealth EPBC Act (provided to the Council as part of the Meeting 52 Agenda). The department advised that it was its understanding that if these species are listed as threatened under the EPBC Act recreational fishers would no longer be permitted to take them in Commonwealth or NSW waters.

i) Discussion paper - NSW Marine Park Recreational Fishing Competition Policy update

ACoRF Marine Park Fishing Competition Policy sub-committee members advised council that not all the previous changes requested by the sub-committee had been undertaken at the last meeting. The council queries whether a recreational fishing competition policy specific to NSW Marine Parks is still necessary in light of the new departmental structure. The council therefore suggests that DPI review the need for a specific NSW Marine Parks Fishing Competition Policy.

Motion: ACoRF write to the Director General DPI to express the council's concerns with the current policy development process and request the department review the need for a specific marine parks policy for fishing competitions, particularly as a result of the new departmental structure. **Moved:** Neil Ryan. **Seconded:** Patricia Jones. **Carried.**

Action Item:

ACoRF write to the Director General DPI regarding this issue.

6. Recreational and Charter Trust issues

a) Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan

The department provided an overview of the functions of ACoRF and the Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure Committees, including a summary of the recreational fishing trust fund allocation process.

Note: The council recommended the following amendment to the Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan for 2011/12:

- *Gaden Trout Hatchery Tour Guide position* - Add "to increase the profile of the Gaden Fish Hatchery" to the project summary.

b) New Recreational Fishing Trust Applications

The council considered expenditure recommendations arising from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC and RFSTEC) meetings held on 5 and 6 April 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 RFFTEC and RFSTEC for programs that were deferred (refer to Table 2) and programs that were not supported (refer to Table 3).

Note: The department noted the following amendment:

- *Rescue and protection of Macquarie perch from upper Lachlan river system and investigations into captive breeding techniques* - Table to reflect this as a Freshwater Trust funded project.

c) Charter Fishing Trust Fund

The council supported the Charter Fishing Trust Fund program budgets for 2011/12-2013/14 as recommended by the Marine and Estuarine Recreational Charter Management Advisory Committee (MERC MAC) at its meeting on 29 March 2011 (refer to Table 4).

6. Australian Government's marine bioregional planning process - East Marine Bioregion update

The department advised that the Assistant Director (Liaison) East Marine Region, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities (DSEWPC), Mr Martin Russell, was unavailable to provide an update on the development of the draft Marine Bioregional Plan for the East Marine Region. Council members noted that the timeline for the completion of the draft Marine Bioregional Plan for the East Marine Region has not been confirmed, however, it is expected to be released during the current calendar year. The council requested Martin Russell be invited to the next meeting to provide an update on this process. The council was provided with a copy of the proposed Marine Bioregional Plan for the South West Region, which includes South Australia and southern Western Australia.

7. Review of NSW Fishing Rules 2011/12

The department confirmed that the formal process to undertake the review of fishing rules in NSW commenced in March 2011 and provided an overview of the project plan, which includes the following major steps:

- a) Planning phase
- b) Preliminary consultation to identify additional stakeholder priority issues
- c) Draft review discussion paper
- d) Ministerial approval for public consultation
- e) Public consultation
- f) Review submissions/Ministerial approval
- g) Identify amendments/actions in relation to the Regulation
- h) Drafting of Regulation
- i) Approval of Regulation
- j) Proposed commencement of new Regulations
- k) Advisory campaign/compliance period

It was noted that a detailed planning phase was currently underway, including compilation of issues identified by the department and stakeholders since the finalisation of the previous review in 2007.

The department commenced preliminary consultation with the council, discussing a range of potential issues that have been identified to date. The council was asked to identify any additional fishing issues, including those relating to the bag and size limits for key species and fishing methods that have been raised by recreational fishing stakeholders since the previous review. Members were encouraged to forward major issues to the department as soon as possible.

It was noted that a Technical Group would be established with representatives from each fishing sector and departmental representatives from Science and Research, Fisheries Management, Conservation and Compliance. The main role of the Technical Group will be to consider the necessity of any issues for inclusion in the review process.

Motion: The council requested the potential use of cast nets in saltwater be considered for inclusion in the review process. **Moved:** Charles Howe. Seconded John Humphries. **Carried.**

8. Proposed amendment of the Hasting River spearfishing closure

The council acknowledged the request for a review of the current spearfishing closure near the mouth of the Hastings River following complaints that spearfishing in the area presents serious safety and OH&S risks. The council noted these concerns and recommended Compliance staff at the Hastings Fisheries Office consult directly with Adrian Wayne and the USFA to investigate the proposal.

9. Commercial Fisheries update

Pipis

The council acknowledged that a closure on the commercial harvest of pipis was due to expire on 1 June 2011. It was noted that the closure was implemented in February 2011 following concerns that pipi numbers were decreasing on NSW beaches.

The department advised that recent reports have indicated an increase in pipi numbers on various beaches, however, it is important for science-based abundance indicators to be developed so the department can establish a better understanding of NSW pipi stocks. To gather the required information the department proposes to conduct a high-level monitoring program using commercial harvest data and validated fishery independent research.

The council expressed concern that re-opening the commercial fishery is likely to add further pressure to local depleted pipi populations. The department advised that available data indicates commercial pipi harvest has historically fluctuated and the recent decline is unlikely to be caused by commercial fishing pressure. It is more likely the decline is due to environmental factors such as changes in water quality, ocean currents, beach morphology and wave action that have affected the pipis natural recruitment cycle.

The council re-iterated its concerns and noted that, irrespective of whether the decline has been caused by overfishing or environmental factors, the department should not allow any further harvest of pipis until a better understanding of NSW pipi stocks has been established.

Motion: ACoRF write to the Minister for Primary Industries requesting that the current closure on the commercial harvest of pipis be retained until a better understanding of NSW pipi stocks has been established. **Moved:** Charles Howe. Seconded Neil Ryan. **Carried.**

Action Item:

ACoRF write to the Minister for Primary Industries regarding this issue.

Beachworms

The council noted that following the Resource Assessment Workshop (RAW) on 29 April 2011 the status of beachworms in NSW remains 'undefined' as there is insufficient information available to make an individual species assessment. It was noted that a number of different worm species may currently be reported as 'beachworms' on commercial catch returns. The department proposes to amend the reporting requirements for commercial beachworm harvesters to collect specific information about each species.

Danish Seine

Council member John Clarke raised concerns that were outlined in a letter he received about the use of an allegedly modified Danish seine (trawl) net by a commercial fishing vessel operator in the area. The department is aware of this operation and will seek clarification from local Compliance officers regarding the legality of this fishing method and gear.

10. Recreational Fishing Programs presentations

Improving survival of released fish after catch and release

Dr Matt Broadhurst provided an update on recent research projects investigating the use of certain fishing gears and practices to improve the survival of released fish in saltwater. Over the past seven years, 31 field based experiments have been conducted at recreational fishing events throughout NSW as well as 14 aquaria based experiments at various DPI sites, including Grafton, Coffs Harbour and Cronulla. The experiments have identified key factors influencing the survival of 17 finfish and shellfish species commonly released by recreational fishers. These results have enabled the department to develop a range of advisory material on recommended fishing practices to maximise survival and reduce sub lethal impacts on released fish.

The council discussed the recent NSW DPI research on the effects of barotrauma on key recreational species such as snapper and mulloway. The department advised that preliminary findings suggest the major influence on the effects of barotrauma is water depth, while fish size is unlikely to have a significant influence.

Note: The other scheduled recreational fishing program presentation on Community Programs was postponed until ACoRF meeting 54 due to time constraints.

11. Keep Australia Fishing

Mr Martin Salter, former British politician and parliamentary spokesperson for angling provided the council with a presentation on the *Keep Australia Fishing* report. The report was prepared by Mr Salter on behalf of the Boating and Fishing Council of Australia (BCFA) and was launched on 14 April 2011. The report makes eight recommendations to help 'secure the future of recreational fishing' in Australia. These recommendations include:

- i) The Commonwealth should provide funding to determine participation rates in aquatic based wildlife activities, including recreational fishing, to determine the socio-economic benefits of these activities.
- ii) An investigation of the economic value of potential recreational fishing only species.
- iii) Development of a national peak body and vision for recreational fishing, including an Australian Charter.
- iv) Preparation of a revised, co-ordinated policy position on Marine Parks and their future function and management with all relevant stakeholder groups to regain community support for marine parks.
- v) Development of a code of conduct for recreational fishing in highly protected marine protected areas (such as sanctuary zones), including limited and restricted access in these areas e.g. catch and release fishing.
- vi) Lifting of the restrictions on trolling for pelagic fish species in Marine Park areas open to other boating activities.
- vii) Adoption of a clear statement of environmental objectives within the Charter for Recreational Fishing and building partnerships with conservation groups on matters of common concern.
- viii) The BCFA to establish an independent national body called 'Keep Australia Fishing' to campaign and lobby on behalf of recreational fishing and promote the sport. Independent funding models would need to be developed by the recreational fishing sector to support the lobby group.

In addition to these recommendations the report makes a number of other key points including:

- The establishment of a new mass membership national peak body based on recreational fishing licence holders with voting rights.
- The establishment of recreational fishery trust funds in all States.
- Tougher rules on pollution and habitat degradation.
- Closing inshore reefs in metropolitan areas to commercial fishing and restrictions on beach netting and targeting of spawning aggregations.
- Opening up water supply dams to recreational fishing.

The department will consider these recommendations in consultation with the council.

12. Out of Session

a) Draft Fisheries Enforcement Policy

The department acknowledged the comments by council members and advised that it was likely the draft policy would need to be amended to incorporate Marine Park issues under the new department structure. The department advised that further information on the progress of the draft policy would be provided when available.

b) *Caulerpa taxifolia* closure

Council members acknowledged receipt of the *Caulerpa taxifolia* closure in April 2011.

Motion: The council ratifies the Out of Session items. **Moved:** Charles Howe. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

13. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received.

14. General Business

a) *Sydney Harbour Clean, Safe Wharf update*

The department is continuing to work in conjunction with NSW Maritime and local councils to promote clean, safe wharfs in Sydney Harbour. The department has used targeted Fishcare advisory patrols and multi-lingual advisory brochures to educate local recreational fishers about the importance of fishing responsibly and cleaning up after themselves. In addition the department has undertaken an advertising campaign in local newspapers warning anglers to keep Sydney Harbour wharfs clean or fishing bans may be implemented.

b) *ACoRF Function*

Council member John Clarke requested the council and department consider a proposal to change the council's current membership composition. Under the proposed restructure the council would be comprised of 12 regional-based members (similar to RFFTEC and RFSTEC) and members from each of the following fishing sectors:

- Charter industry,
- Tackle industry,
- Game Fishing,
- Spearfishing,
- Indigenous,
- Commercial fishing industry, and;
- Conservation.

In addition, delegates from NSW DPI Science and Research, Marine Parks and National Parks would be nominated to attend council meetings as required.

Council was advised that the NSW Government is proposing to undertake a review of NSW fisheries policy, management and administration. This will include examining the present arrangements for consultation with key stakeholder groups in NSW, including the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing, and recommend ways to improve the transparency and efficiency of how the NSW Government seeks and responds to stakeholder input.

It will also identify mechanisms for creating a new joint Recreational and Commercial Fishing Advisory Committee, including stakeholders from all fishing industries.

c) *Offshore Artificial Reefs and Estuarine Artificial Reef Projects*

The council was advised that the final design of the Sydney Offshore Artificial Reef had been completed and the department recently released a tender package for the construction and deployment of the reef, which will consist of the following specifications:

- Total weight 42 tonnes;
- 15m high;
- 12 x 15m wide;
- over 700m³ internal reef volume;
- high complexity in lower 4m of structure;

- upper 'tower' sections for 'bait' attraction (e.g. yellowtail).

The council was advised that as part of the Estuarine Artificial Reef program 2,200 modules (reef balls) have been deployed in eight NSW estuaries since 2005. Most recently 300 reef balls were deployed in St Georges Basin in November 2010. It was noted that an additional 200 reef balls were scheduled to be deployed in Botany Bay by late May. The department is currently investigating the potential enhancement of existing estuarine breakwalls to provide land based fishers with access to artificial reefs.

d) HMAS Adelaide fishing closure

The council discussed the recent scuttling of the *HMAS Adelaide* off Terrigal Beach on the Central Coast. The department confirmed that a small fishing closure had been implemented at the site, which has been nominated as an exclusive scuba diving and snorkelling location.

Action item:

The council requested the department provide an update on the Recreational Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing Access Programs at the next meeting.

e) Recfish Update

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

f) Spearfishing accident/proposal for increased safety identification (USFA)

Council member Adrian Wayne advised the council about a recent boating accident that resulted in his son being left with severe back and leg injuries. The council noted Mr Wayne's son had been spearfishing off Sydney when he was struck by a high powered commercial vessel. Mr Wayne noted that his son was displaying a blue and white identification flag from his vessel as well as his individual float at the time. Mr Wayne re-iterated his concerns that the current identification system (blue and white flag) for divers in the water is not sufficient and should be urgently reviewed.

It was noted that Mr Wayne and the USFA had made previous representations to the NSW Maritime Authority regarding this issue. The council discussed the seriousness of this issue and the need for urgent action before similar incidents occur.

Action Item:

ACoRF to write to the Minister for Primary Industries to seek assistance from the Minister for Roads and Ports and NSW Maritime regarding this issue.

h) Fishers for Fish Habitat Forum

Mr Charlie Howe, John Drew and John Humphries were nominated as ACoRF representatives to attend the annual Fish Habitat Forum, to be held in Tamworth on 20-21 May 2011.

i) Pittwater Council – Boat parking issue

The council discussed the new Parking Guide released by Pittwater Council. It was noted that under the parking guide vehicles with trailers or not permitted to park on the road if the total length of the vehicle and trailer exceeds 7.5 metres.

Action Item:

The Saltwater Access Manager to liaise with local councils regarding possible exemptions in locations where insufficient designated vehicle and trailer parking is available.

j) Superannuation issues

The council noted that some members had not received superannuation payments from the department. The department advised that council members should check their superannuation fund regularly and report any non-payments to the department.

21. Next meeting

ACoRF 54 meeting date to be confirmed.

The following items were requested to be placed on the agenda for meeting 54:

- Gaden Trout Hatchery update
- NSW Marine Parks update
- Commonwealth Marine Parks (East Marine Bioregion) update
- Recreational Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing Access Program updates

Action item from 52nd ACoRF meeting on 15 February 2011

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Status
Other Business - Meroo National Park	The council write to the NSW Maritime Authority to advise about proposed ongoing provisions for powered craft in Meroo Lake.	ACoRF	Pending

Action items from 53rd ACoRF meeting on 17 May 2011

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Status
Recreational Fisheries Management update b) Revocation of the Fish Rock and Green Island Grey Nurse Shark – Fishing Closure	The council requested that a representative from the Aquaculture, Conservation and Marine Parks Unit of DPI provide a presentation/update at each council meeting to discuss major NSW Marine Park issues.	Fisheries Conservation	Pending
Commercial Fisheries update a) Papis	ACoRF write to the Minister for Primary Industries requesting that the current closure on the commercial harvest of papis be retained until a better understanding of NSW Papi stocks has been established.	ACoRF	Pending
Recreational Fisheries Management update i) Discussion paper - NSW Marine Park Recreational Fishing Competition Policy update	ACoRF write to the Director General regarding the development of a policy for fishing competitions within marine parks and the ongoing need for a specific marine parks policy for fishing competitions.	ACoRF	Pending
General Business - g) Spearfishing Accident/proposal (USFA)	ACoRF to write to the Minister for Primary Industries to seek assistance from the Minister for Roads and Ports and NSW Maritime regarding the current identification system (blue and white flag) for divers in the water.	ACoRF	Pending
General Business - i) Pittwater Council – Boat parking issue	The Saltwater Access, Manager to liaise with local councils regarding possible exemptions in location where insufficient designated vehicle and trailer parking is available.	Recreational Management	Pending

Table 1 - New Trust Project Applications supported by ACoRF, RFFTEC and RFSTEC for funding**Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation**

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Habitat Action Program – making more fish... naturally - additional funding for 2011/12 & 2012/13 An allocation of \$400,000 (\$200,000 per Trust) towards the Habitat Action Program (HAP) was approved by RFFTEC, RFSTEC and ACoRF in July 2008. Approval is sought for an additional \$300,000 from RFSTEC and \$300,000 from RFFTEC per year for the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 financial years.	NSW DPI	\$300,000 SW	\$300,000 SW	\$0
Northern Rivers water quality monitoring project To purchase and maintain a Horiba water quality monitoring instrument to independently monitor water quality from behind flood mitigation and agricultural drains leading into the Tweed, Richmond and Clarence Rivers. This monitoring will allow for early warnings to prevent potential fish kills in the rivers.	ECOfishers NSW	\$5,395 SW	\$0	\$0
Coastal fish habitat protection and management Provision of fish conservation management services to coastal NSW to enhance key fish habitat protection and recreational fishery involvement in fish habitat protection and management.	NSW DPI	\$0	\$173,198 SW	\$0
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation in the South West region To provide aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation regulatory and advisory services to the South West of the State.	NSW DPI	\$19,000 FW	\$19,000 FW	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Crookhaven Heads Fish cleaning facility improvements To upgrade an existing fish cleaning facility involving construction of a new concrete slab, raising the height of the existing fish cleaning table so as to improve the ergonomics, provision of a contemporary shade/shelter structure over the fish cleaning facility and improvement to drainage.	Shoalhaven City Council	\$14,000 SW	\$0	\$0
Small projects				
Fish Cleaning Table at Yallah Boating Facility The project will consist of the construction of a fish cleaning table alongside the newly built boat ramp and wharf at Yallah Bay. The structure will be used by recreational fishers to clean fish caught at the locality or from fishing out in the lake.	Lake Illawarra Authority	\$4,000 SW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities (continued)

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Caring for our Coast Caring for our Coast is a project that will focus on marine environment protection education with the target audience of individuals and families that visit the wharves of Balmoral and Clifton Gardens for recreational fishing activities.	Mosman Council	\$4,450 SW	\$2,900 SW	\$0
Wingecarribee River recreational fishing platforms To establish two timber deck structures on the banks of the Wingecarribee River to facilitate safe and convenient access for the purpose of promoting and encouraging recreational fishing.	Wingecarribee Shire Council	\$10,000 FW	\$0	\$0
Water tanks for showers and fish cleaning table Lake Keepit Matthews Reserve To provide water for showers and construct a fish cleaning table for the recreational fishing and camping area at Matthews Reserve, Lake Keepit.	Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club Fishing Club	\$2,000 FW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Project Title	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Recreational fishing licence fee administration Provision of a cost-effective and efficient licensing administration system integrated to the Government Licensing Service. The system provides a convenient network for payment of the recreational fishing licence fees and distribution of plastic licence cards to anglers. Note: That the ACoRF chair write to the Minister requesting that the Minister for Finance and Services review the Government Licensing Services transaction costs for the sale of recreational fishing licences given the high volume of simple fishing licence transactions.	NSW DPI	\$1,402,800 SW \$601,200 FW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Distribution of the RFA of NSW Spearfishing Safety DVD in NSW Distributions throughout NSW of an initial reproduction run of the DVD produced by the RFA of NSW using Recreational Fishing Trust funds over the past two years. The video is currently available for viewing on Youtube at the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJGfCmx7xIQ .	Underwater Skindivers and Fisherman's Association (USFA)	\$34,500 SW	\$0	\$0
'Maguradala Libyil' - "Let's fish together" The project will provide a variety of culturally appropriate workshops to Aboriginal youth addressing all aspects of recreational fishing, traditional Aboriginal fishing techniques and sustainability regimes such as bag and size limits and best practice handling techniques. Note: The Committee recommended that KARI work with the Fishcare volunteer program to ensure consistent information is being provided. This resubmitted project application can commence in 2010/11.	KARI Aboriginal Resources	\$9,143 SW		
Small projects				
Assisting others to enjoy fishing To hold 2 one-day junior clinics, 2 one-day Grey Power clinics, one two-day Camp Quality clinic and one two-day Canteen clinic.	Narooma Sports and Game Fishing Club	\$5,230 SW	\$0	\$0
Quality advisory canopy for Inland Fishcare utility vehicle to enhance education capacity, particularly in remote areas where the advisory trailer (Perchy) cannot be used. Purchase of an aluminium utility storage canopy for the inland Fishcare vehicle, to increase the awareness/advisory capacity for the region in remote areas, enabling better service to anglers and the wider community relating to recreational fishing and Trust funded initiatives.	NSW DPI	\$10,000 FW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Closing the loop: understanding the relationships between recreational fishing surveys, bag and size limits and fisheries management objectives. [funding for full project if ARC funding is unsuccessful] The project will develop tools for identifying regulation strategies which achieve management objectives and designing cost-effective recreational fishing surveys which accurately measure the performance and impact of these regulations.</p>	University of Sydney	\$73,600 SW	\$70,225 SW	\$70,900 SW
<p>Monitoring and Research on Landed Fish at Game Fishing Tournaments in NSW: 2011/2012 The project facilitates and conducts monitoring and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured and weighed at the major game fishing tournaments in NSW. Note: The Committee noted the ongoing delay in publishing these annual reports and requested DPI to advise the proponent about the Committee's concerns.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$26,500 SW	\$0	\$0
<p>The USFA Project Determine relative fish abundance off the Sydney coast using spearfishing competition catch data from 2000 to 2010.</p>	Underwater Skindivers and Fisherman's Association	\$16,500 SW	\$0	\$0
<p>Rescue and protection of Macquarie perch from upper Lachlan river system and investigations into captive breeding techniques. Continue to maintain a captive population of Macquarie perch rescued from the upper Lachlan catchment until a self-sustaining population can be established in the Retreat River refuge reach (or a suitable alternative refuge from redfin perch invasion). Continue to refine the successful captive breeding techniques established in 2010 in order to achieve large-scale hatchery production for the species. Monitor the establishment of the released captive bred fingerlings. Monitor the spread of redfin perch and their impacts on Macquarie perch and native fish communities.</p>	NSW DPI	\$38,208 FW	\$39,354 FW	\$0
Small Projects				
<p>An Assessment of the Australian bass stockings in the Snowy River The information collected from this project will finalise research aimed at better informing future stockings of Australian bass in rivers throughout NSW.</p>	Southern Cross University	\$10,000 SW	\$0	\$0

Motion: The council supports the recommendations made by RFFTEC and RFSTEC to support the programs under each of the above funding platforms. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

Table 2 - New Trust Applications *deferred* by ACoRF, RFFTEC and RFSTEC**Platform: Fishing access and facilities**

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Bega Valley Shire fish cleaning tables To construct three new and replace three old fish cleaning tables throughout the Bega Valley Shire to improve facilities for anglers. Note: The Committee recommended that the table design be amended to include the installation of water to assist with the cleaning and maintenance of the tables and for Council to verify the suitability of the site given previous issues associated with birds and the airport for the floating pontoon project. .</p>	Bega Valley Shire Council	\$19,500 SW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>South Coast Fish and Habitat Monitoring Project The project will investigate distribution and abundance of recreational fishing species in 9 NSW South Coast estuaries from Batemans Bay to Tathra and produce a report and pamphlet for recreational fishers. Note: The Committee recommended that the following actions should be undertaken prior to re-consideration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation with the DPI South Coast Conservation Manager and Batemans Marine Park Manager. 2. Input from scientists regarding the suitability of proposed sampling methods. DPI scientists are available to provide advice if necessary. 	South Coast Waterwatch and Estuary Health / Sulisit Consulting Environment, Research and Water	\$38,000 SW	\$33,500 SW	\$33,500 SW
<p>Removal of marine debris to enhance recreational fishing in Wallis Lake and education of the recreational fishing community in order to prevent further degradation of recreational fishing areas. The project will remove marine debris/litter from 50 kilometres of the Wallamba River's banks and foreshore areas in order to improve significant recreational fishing grounds. Note: The Committee noted the merit of this project but suggested that additional coordination and interaction with other programs, such as the DPI Fishcare Volunteer Program and the Fishers for Habitat Program, may enhance the outcomes of the project. DPI should provide contact details for the relevant program managers to facilitate consultation. The Committee also suggested that increased in-kind funding for rubbish disposal should be provided by Council given that this is an ongoing Council responsibility.</p>	Great Lakes Council	\$10,000 SW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Artificial reef in Brisbane Water The project seeks support to establish an artificial reef in Brisbane Water in the area between Green Point and Koolewong Nature reserve. Note: The Committee recommended that DPI investigate the potential for inclusion of the project into the current Estuarine Artificial Reefs project.	Ettalong Memorial Bowling Club Fishing Club	\$0	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Identification of genetic management zones for key species prioritised within the proposed Marine Stocking Fisheries Management Strategy. This project will provide essential data for the marine stocking program by collecting tissue samples and conducting genetic analyses for selected species and providing advice on genetic resource protocols. Note: The Committee deferred funding for this project until public exhibition of the research plan in the marine stocking Fishery Management Strategy had been undertaken.	NSW DPI	\$149,648 SW	\$75,000 SW	\$0
Molecular tools for the assessment of genetic variation in NSW estuarine fishes to support marine restocking Develop molecular tools (primers) to assess the genetic diversity and strength of connections between populations of estuarine fish of key recreational importance. This is an essential step (leverage) in the development of a larger proposal to assess the strength of genetic connections between NSW estuarine populations, the genetic diversity of populations in specific estuaries and the likelihood of outbreeding depression if fish are crossed between estuaries. Such data would provide a critical underpinning to any proposed restocking programs. Note: The Committee deferred funding for this project until public exhibition of the research plan in the marine stocking Fishery Management Strategy had been undertaken.	University of Wollongong	\$67,000 SW	\$37,000 SW	\$32,000 SW
Mitigating the environmental impacts of recreational fishing in NSW The project will provide clear and applied solutions for mitigating the perceived environmental impacts of recreational fishing in NSW, thereby ensuring its ongoing sustainability. Note: The Committee recommended that a working group be set up to develop environmental impact priorities in a research plan which should then be incorporated into a revised application. The Committee nominated John Paton and John Burgess to assist DPI on a working group.	NSW DPI	\$55,383 SW	\$234,307 SW	\$231,470 Plus \$261,556 in 14/15 \$261,077 in 15/16 \$224,307 in 16/17 SW

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing (continued)

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>PRE-PROPOSAL: Climate change: Investigating implications and potential management responses for new pelagic recreational fishing opportunities</p> <p>To produce a Technical Report documenting the outcome of the species profiles of high value recreational fishing targets (distribution, abundance, phenology); Projection maps for distributional change based on sea surface temperature modelling; Catch data for new target species from diary anglers and/or charter boat log books; and a mandatory Project Management objective will be included in the final project proposal.</p> <p>Note: The Committee noted that DPI was currently involved in the national climate change program titled <i>Adaptation of Fishing and Aquaculture Sectors and Fisheries Management to Climate Change</i>. The Committee requested further information about the current project and requested that the Department provide a presentation at the next meeting.</p>	NSW DPI and Fisheries Victoria	\$100,000 SW	\$0	\$0
Small Projects				
<p>Provision of an Annual Report for the Gamefish Tagging Program for 2010/2011</p> <p>Provision of an informative, readily accessible report on the Gamefish Tagging Program for the year 2010/2011.</p> <p>Note: The Committee raised concerns about the delays in the publication of previous reports and noted that it is essential for this information to be published as soon as possible after each tagging season to improve communication with fishers. The Committee acknowledged that a revised collaborative approach may be needed to ensure timely delivery of the annual report. It was suggested that DPI play an increased role in preparing the draft framework (maps, tables, brief descriptors of figures and maps) and for the applicant to undertake further interpretation of the results (i.e. value adding). The Committee recommended that the applicant collaborate with DPI to submit a revised application.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$7,000 SW	\$0	\$0
<p>EOI for investigation and construction of carp trapping mechanism on fishways currently being constructed in the Edward-Wakool River system</p> <p>An expression of interest for obtaining funds through to investigate and possibly implement carp trapping mechanisms on fishways in the Edward-Wakool River system.</p>	DECCW, NSW Office of Water	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 3 – New Trust Project Applications *not supported* by ACORF, RFFTEC and RFSTEC**Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation**

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13
<p>Habitat Action Program – making more fish... naturally - additional funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13</p> <p>An allocation of \$400,000 (\$200,000 per Trust) towards the Habitat Action Program (HAP) was approved by RFFTEC, RFSTEC and ACoRF in July 2008. Approval is sought for an additional \$300,000 from RFSTEC and \$300,000 from RFFTEC per year for the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 financial years.</p>	NSW DPI	\$300,000 FW	\$300,000 FW

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Judbooley Parade Foreshore Recreational Fishing Platform</p> <p>The project will consist of the construction of a recreational fishing platform alongside the newly landscaped Judbooley Pde Foreshore. The structure will allow easy access to fishing in the entrance channel whilst adjacent to picnic facilities.</p> <p>Note: Given the high value of the program, the Committee recommended that additional funding be sought from the Authority and other sources and that the Authority should undertake consultation with fishers to ensure that the location was suitable for a platform. The Authority should also confirm that the proposed structure was a dedicated land based fishing platform with handrails. The Committee recommended that the applicant liaise with the DPI Angling Facilities Manager to submit a revised application.</p>	Lake Illawarra Authority	\$135,000 SW	\$0	\$0
<p>Cooks River Kyeemagh – Proposed Fishing Platform</p> <p>To construct a fishing platform in the Cooks River, Kyeemagh over an obsolete boat ramp for the benefit of all Recreational Anglers in the area. The facility would benefit all anglers especially the young, aged and disabled persons.</p> <p>Note: The Committee noted that DPI currently has signage at various access points along the Cooks River which advises the public not to eat fish or shellfish caught in the river. Therefore the Committee recommended that Council consider alternative locations for a fishing platform and that Council should liaise with the DPI Angling Facilities Manager and John Burgess about other potential locations and submit a revised application.</p>	Rockdale City Council	\$40,000 SW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities (continued)

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Brierley's boat ramp unisex disabled toilet To replace two old pit toilets at this boat ramp used by primarily by anglers and to install a unisex disabled hybrid composting system. Note: RFSTEC considered the provision of toilet amenities to be the responsibility of the council.	Eurobodalla Shire Council	\$45,000 SW	\$0	\$0
Murray River - Accessible Fishing Platform To construct an accessible fishing platform as part of a trail currently under construction, which is an accessible shared pathway known as the Wagirra Trail. The fishing platform will be a key activity point on this trail along the Murray River.	Albury City Council	\$45,500 FW	\$0	\$0
Build a fish cleaning facility for the Euston Resort Fishing Club Inc To construct an adequate facility for anglers to clean fish and for the use of the wider community.	Euston Resort Fishing Club Inc.	\$44,000 FW	\$0	\$0
Small Projects				
Berrigan Angling Club Family Involvement To purchase portable toilet and sun shade to provide facilities and encourage involvement of children, elderly members and families to participate in angling.	Berrigan Sporties Angling Club	\$5,200 FW	\$0	\$0
Bells Bay Fishing Recreation and Camping Area Refurbishment To introduce educational signage to promote catch and release fishing practises, size limits, threatened species, conservation and historical information exclusive to Toonumbar Dam and Kyogle Fish Acclimatisation Society.	Growing Kyogle – A Community Economic Development Committee	\$7,822 FW	\$0	\$0
Creation of fishing area Lansdowne To clear a section of riverbank to allow fishing access and to build, two picnic tables and a shelter.	Lansdowne Fishing Club	\$10,000 FW	\$0	\$0
Fort Courage fish cleaning shelter To construct a covered and partly enclosed fish cleaning station at Fort Courage.	Wentworth Angling Club	\$9,400 FW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Fishing NSW iPhone App pre-proposal To design and develop an iPhone app for fishing enthusiasts and a general audience to easily gain up to date information on various fish species, rules and regulations that pertain to bag and size limits on recreational, salt and freshwater fishing within NSW. Supporting iPhone 3GS and iPhone 4. We could look to roll this to other mobile platforms i.e. Android.</p> <p>Note: RFSTEC and RFFTEC noted that several similar programs were being developed in NSW and recommended that DPI develop a broader communications strategy for recreational fishing, including investigating the feasibility for an iPhone application.</p>	Image Mechanics	\$0 Jointly funded SW/FW	\$0	\$0
<p>Mobile Phone Fishing Application for Recreational Fishing The FISHABOUT App will provide the where, what, how and when to catch recreational fish species in NSW, based on a user's GPS location and time of year. The App will also include vital Fisheries information such as: bag limits, green zones, boat ramps, licences and safety instruction and the ability to buy a fishing license.</p> <p>Note: RFSTEC and RFFTEC noted that several similar programs were being developed in NSW and recommended that DPI develop a broader communications strategy for recreational fishing, including investigating the feasibility for an iPhone application.</p>	Untamed Group Pty Ltd (Head Company for Fishabout)	\$120,000 Jointly funded SW/FW	\$0	\$0
<p>Fishy Business The purpose of the "Fishy Business" project is to inform Aboriginal people in coastal NSW of their rights to access marine/estuarine resources.</p> <p>Note: The Committee considered the project, which involves informing Aboriginal people about fishing access, to be the responsibility of the government.</p>	Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation	\$50,400 SW	\$0	\$0
Small Projects				
<p>Aboriginal Community Fishery Access Days To provide cultural fishing and heritage experiences to 60 Aboriginal young people in the Community. The project will also include accessing cultural fishery sites including middens, engravings and the telling of fishery dreaming stories.</p> <p>Note: The Committee considered that alternative funding sources for this program should be sought as the focus of the project was promoting cultural fishing rather than recreational fishing.</p>	Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation	\$7,440 SW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education (continued)

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Lower estuary and Urunga lagoon fish nursery protection signage To provide signage to explain trap closures and the need to protect and respect areas of the lower Bellinger and Kalang estuary and Urunga lagoon as a valuable fish nursery area. The project also seeks to consolidate existing multiple signs.</p> <p>Note: The Committee recommended that the DPI Angling Facilities Manager liaise with the Urunga Fishing Club, local Fisheries Officers and the regional Conservation Manager to develop and implement customised signage.</p>	Urunga Anglers Club	\$6,350 SW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Small Projects				
<p>Bellevue Hotel Fishing club prizes The club seeks funding to provide prizes and club t-shirts to encourage juniors into the club.</p> <p>Note: The Committee recommended that the applicants liaise with the State Coordinator, Community Programs and Newcastle Education Officer to develop a strategy to encourage more juniors to join the fishing club.</p>	Bellevue Hotel Fishing Club Tuncurry Inc.	\$0	\$0	\$0
<p>TotalFish software package with laptop TotalFish is a software package developed in consultation with fishermen and club administrators. Its functions are administration of membership, boating registration and safety, tournament lists and progress scores, trophy lists and scientific data recording. The club seeks funding to purchase this software and technical support as well as a laptop.</p> <p>Motion: RFSTEC did not support funding for the program. Moved: John Paton. Seconded: John Burgess. Carried. Note: The Committee noted that funding this project would set a precedent for other fishing clubs. It was further noted that this type of software was advanced, expensive and not essential to the running of the club. The Committee recommended the fishing club investigate other fund raising option as has been done by other game fishing clubs.</p>	Port Macquarie Game Fishing Club	\$3,475 SW	\$300	\$0

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Adjustment to funding – CPI increases for 9 Coastal Fisheries Officer Project Funding adjustment for existing project 9 Coastal Fisheries Officers Note: The Committee noted that RFFTEC did not support funding for the Inland Fisheries Officer positions. The Committee supports the action item that a letter is written from ACoRF to the new Minister requesting that additional funding from the government be provided for the 18 Fisheries Officers using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts beyond the current duration of the current Trust Investment Plan. A reduction in funding (e.g. two thirds) from the Trusts should be considered with no net loss of staff.</p>	NSW DPI	\$70,622 SW	\$115,586 SW	\$0
<p>Adjustment to funding - Additional Inland Fisheries Officer To enhance the fisheries officer complement by one officer to provide a broader compliance presence in far western NSW. The additional officer, if funded by the Recreational Freshwater Fishing Trust would be based at Dareton (Far West District). Note: That a letter be written from ACoRF to the new Minister requesting that additional funding from the government be provided for the 18 Fisheries Officers using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts beyond the current duration of the current Trust Investment Plan. A reduction in funding (e.g. two thirds) from the Trusts should be considered with no net loss of staff.</p>	NSW DPI	\$120,096 SW	\$124,900 SW	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<p>Towards better management of the impact of blackwater on recreational fisheries in lowland rivers</p> <p>This project seeks to develop a model that helps management agencies minimise recreational stock losses due to blackwater; determine why some blackwater events and not others result in massive fish kills; determine whether blackwater events shift the fish community from one dominated by desirable sportfish to an undesirable one dominated by exotics (carp and goldfish).</p> <p>Note: RFFTEC recognised the importance of addressing impacts of black water events on recreational fish species however it was noted that a better integrated program should be developed with other collaborating agencies, including NSW DPI and Victoria Primary Industries, with a view to minimising the impacts of black water events on fish species in future.</p>	CSIRO Land and Water, Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre	\$152,900 FW	\$202,000 FW	\$0
<p>Status of reintroduced trout cod (<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>) populations in NSW – implications for conservation status and future recreational fisheries</p> <p>This project examines the status and impact of reintroduced riverine trout cod populations in NSW, including assessing their recruitment, growth and survival with that of a natural occurring population.</p> <p>Note: RFFTEC noted that funding was recently supported from the Trust to develop a Species Impact Statement to enable limited recreational fishing for Trout Cod in stocked impoundments.</p>	NSW DPI	\$80,360 FW	\$81,605 FW	\$0

Note: The following amendments have been made:

- i) *Rescue and protection of Macquarie perch from upper Lachlan river system and investigations into captive breeding techniques* – changed to Freshwater trust funded project.
- ii) Table numbers corrected for supported, deferred and not supported programs.

Table 4 – Proposed budgets for Charter Fishing programs to be funded by the Charter Trust 2011/12-2013/14*Supported by MERCMAC on 29 March 2011.*

Program	Proponent	Ongoing or New	Budget		
			2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Charter fishing logbook monitoring program	I&I NSW	Ongoing	\$60,000	\$62,000	\$64,000
Charter fishing consultation/MERCMAC meetings	I&I NSW	Ongoing	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Charter fishing management	I&I NSW	Ongoing	\$110,000	\$115,000	\$125,000

Motion: The council supports the recommendations made by MERCMAC regarding the proposed budgets for Charter Fishing programs to be funded by the Charter Trust 2011/12-2013/14. **Moved:** John Humphries. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**