

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing Outcomes from 61st meeting Port Stephens Fisheries Institute, Taylors Beach

21 November 2013

Attendees

Bruce Schumacher (Chairperson), John Drew (Estuary Fishing), Max Castle (Estuary Fishing), Adrian Wayne (Underwater Fishing), Kevin McKinnon (Freshwater Fishing), John Clarke (Offshore Fishing), John Humphries (Freshwater Fishing), Ann Garard (Charter Boat Fishing), Shane Jasprizza (Estuary Fishing), Lionel Jones (Estuary Fishing) and John Paton (Offshore Fishing).

1. Apologies

Al McGlashan (Offshore Fishing and Media), Jan McLeod (Estuary Fishing - Lionel Jones attended as deputy), Garry Chenoweth (Offshore Fishing – John Paton attended as deputy), Charlie Howe (Estuary and Offshore Fishing).

Absent

Neil Ryan

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed council members and Bill Talbot, Director Aquaculture, Conservation and Marine Parks.

3. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

Motion: The council accepts the outcomes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 60th ACoRF meeting, held 6 August 2013. Moved: Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: Max Castle. **Carried.**

4. Business arising from the minutes

The Chair provided an update of Action Items from the previous meeting and the current status of each issue.

The government is currently considering changes to consultative arrangements for recreational fishing. A response from the Minister is pending regarding the council's request for a charter fishing sector delegate on MFAC.

Consideration of the potential adjustment to the Eel-tailed Catfish listing for western populations in northern NSW areas is ongoing.

5. Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries Management update

a) Consultative structures

Addressed in Business arising.

b) Meeting expenses and sitting fee claims

DPI provided an update on sitting fee and travel expense claims for meetings.

Action – DPI to facilitate remittance advices with all payments for sitting fees and travel expenses.

c) Mulloway Recovery Program

The new recreational and commercial fishing rules for Mulloway commenced 1 November 2013. The recreational bag limit reduced from 5 to 2 fish. The minimum legal length increased from 45cm to 70cm. Community consultation undertaken showed there was strong support to implement a minimum legal length of 70cm and a reduced bag limit. The new minimum legal length applies to recreational and commercial fishing, however, commercial Estuary General fishers using meshing nets have a bycatch allowance (possession limit) of 10 fish between 45 and 70cm. In addition, a 500kg possession limit for commercial Ocean Hauling endorsement holders also applies.

The Council indicated support for the recreational fishing restrictions imposed to assist recovery of the species. It is believed that a 70cm minimum legal length is a positive step and a decision based on scientific information (e.g. size at 50% maturity), while the bag limit of 2 provides continued access to the species for recreational fishers whilst still providing protection for the species.

The Council notes protection of the Mulloway resource is the main objective of the recovery process for this species and that reducing overall fishing mortality is a major component to achieving this goal. Concern was expressed regarding the commercial fishing bycatch provisions. Members conveyed strong opposition to estuary general mesh net fishers being permitted to retain 10 "undersize" fish (between 45cm and 70cm) in possession.

The Council acknowledges that ocean beach haul fishers were not previously restricted in the amount of Mulloway they could retain, however, it is believed that a bycatch of 500kg per endorsement holder per general purpose hauling net shot is excessive.

Motion: The council write to the Minister to express concerns regarding the bycatch provision for undersize fish (45-70cm) caught by estuary mesh netters, as well as the 500kg trip limit for each ocean haul endorsement holder. Moved: Max Castle. Seconded: Shane Jasprizza. **Carried.**

Action – Circulate copy of letter to members.

d) Fisheries enhancement programs update

Marine Stocking – Approval of the Environmental Impact Statement and associated Fisheries Management Strategy is being sought. The Hatchery Quality Assurance System will be amended to include marine aspects and a stocking plan will need to be developed in 2014. It is planned for the first stockings) to occur next summer..

FADs and artificial reefs - Deployment of all 25 FADs will be completed in December for the 2013/14 season. New FAD approvals are being sought for the Clarence on the NSW far north coast and Ulladulla and Port Kembla on the south coast. The GPS tracking of the FADs has proven extremely effective and is being continued this season. Monitoring of the Sydney OAR is ongoing. The reef is supporting a diverse fish community and experiencing high usage rates by fishers. A preliminary site east of Kinghorn Point was initially identified as a potential location for construction of the Shoalhaven offshore reef. Angler feedback indicated preference for a site north of the Shoalhaven river entrance. A new site has now been identified and further investigations are being conducted to determine its suitability. The draft environmental assessment is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year and tender for the reefs fabrication, transport and deployment is tentatively scheduled to be released in early 2014.

The Council's Underwater Fishing representative encouraged future consideration of reef deployment in waters/depths that are accessible to spearfishers.

e) Spearfisher safety: floats & flags advisory program

The Council's Underwater Fishing representative, Adrian Wayne, Deputy Chairman of the Underwater Skindivers & Fishermen's Association (USFA), has requested a discussion paper on Spearfishing Safety: Floats and Flags be prepared and distributed by Fisheries NSW to obtain feedback from recreational spearfishers and other relevant water users regarding a proposal to introduce the mandatory use of the Alpha flag and potentially an associated high visibility flag by spearfishers (i.e. legislated in the Fisheries Management Regulation).

Motion: ACoRF write to the Minister to provide support for the USFA's proposed action on this issue to improve the safety of water users. Moved: Adrian Wayne. Seconded: Max Castle. **Carried.**

f) Fish stocking programs summary

Port Stephens Fisheries Institute – Australian bass

A total of 413,000 Australian bass fry were released this year into 22 public, freshwater impoundments across NSW, which is a record.

Narrandera Fisheries Centre – natives

Murray cod production is underway and so far signs are good and staff may commence stocking in the north of the state next week. Stockings of cod into other genetic zones will follow throughout December and January.

Golden perch production is yet to commence - usually occurs after cod with stockings between February and April. Aim to produce fish for all genetic zones.

Silver perch production yet to commence - stockings usually occur in March/April.

The hatchery has had great success with Macquarie perch production. DPI stocked 8,000 fish into the Retreat River in the Lachlan catchment two years ago and has moved significantly more larvae into a hatchery pond in recent months and plan to stock into the same river in December 2013 or January 2014.

A small number of trout cod have been produced and aim to stock into the Macquarie River in December. This will be the fifth year trout cod have been stocked in the upper Macquarie River and stockings are likely to continue there for a further two years.

The council inquired about developments on the potential stocking of trout cod in Googong Dam as a catch and release only fishery. DPI advised this is likely to occur when sufficient stock is available.

Dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking program – bass, golden perch

Around 95 groups applied to receive matching funds to stock Australian bass in the east of the state and golden perch and Murray cod west of the Great Dividing Range. All applications have been assessed and notifications distributed to all applicants.

One bass hatchery in the north of the state has supplied bass for stocking since August and completed all of their orders. One hatchery on the south coast received nodavirus clearance this week and will commence stocking tomorrow. The third hatchery has submitted bass for nodavirus testing and will stock throughout December pending test results.

Orders for golden perch and Murray continue to be submitted by stocking groups. Production is underway in hatcheries and some may commence Murray cod stockings in early December.

Gaden and Dutton Trout Hatcheries – rainbow trout, brown trout, Atlantic salmon, brook trout

Aiming to stock approx. 2.9 million salmonids throughout the state this season. Stockings by the Dutton Trout Hatchery are close to completion with rainbow and brown trout stocked throughout the New England and Central Tablelands and rainbow trout in the Southern Highlands. Gaden Trout Hatchery staff have stocked Atlantic salmon and brook trout in recent weeks and will commence stocking of rainbow trout and brown trout in the coming week. Dutton Trout Hatchery staff also stocked a total of 400 ex-broodstock rainbow trout of up to 5kg in weight into several impoundments and Gaden staff stocked a small number of ex-broodstock rainbow trout into Pejar Dam.

These stockings are very well received by anglers as they provide them with an opportunity to catch trophy sized fish.

g) Angler access program update

DPI provided an update on assessment of applications as part of the Crown Roads Disposal Program. An access strategy is being developed to address access issues on a river reach basis and to provide anglers with information that will assist them in accessing rivers. The angler access team is currently conducting whole of river reach assessments of access points within a river reach. Effort is concentrated on more important priority waterways. Web delivery of access locations and site details is planned in the future. The Fisheries Management Officer has continued to undertake site inspections and assessments of identified access locations on numerous waterways throughout the state. A training session was recently held at Grafton Lands Office with Fisheries and Crown Lands staff to discuss road closure assessment procedures.

6. Recreational Fishing Trust issues

a. Habitat Action Grants program

The status of the Fish Habitat Network program and previously funded Habitat Action Program grants was presented by DPI. A total of 69 freshwater and 48 saltwater habitat grant applications were received this year in response to the expression of interest. The habitat grants technical assessment panels (TAP) met in October to assess the applications. The TAP developed a list of recommended projects which were reviewed by the council. New habitat grant applications recommended for funding under the Habitat Action Grant program are listed in Tables 1 (freshwater) and 2 (saltwater).

Motion: The council endorses the recommendations of RFFTEC and RFSTEC relating to applications recommended for funding under the Habitat Action Grant program. Moved: John Drew. Seconded: Ann Garard. **Carried.**

b. Review of Trust applications

The status of the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts were provided at the meeting. Predicted revenue of \$14.5m is expected to be received from the recreational fishing fee in 2013/14.

The council reviewed new freshwater and new and deferred saltwater Trust project applications, including information provided regarding applications supported for funding by RFFTEC and RFSTEC, as well as applications that were not supported.

Freshwater Trust project applications

Motion: Freshwater Trust applications supported and not supported for funding by RFFTEC (Table 3 and 5) are supported by the Council. Moved: John Drew. Seconded: Max Castle. **Carried.**

Saltwater Trust project applications

Motion: Saltwater Trust applications supported and not supported for funding by RFSTEC (in Table 4 and 6) are supported by the Council. Moved: Ann Garard. Seconded: Lionel Jones. **Carried.**

Ratification of out of session items

Motion: The project applications supported for funding by RFSTEC out of session (included in Table 4) are supported by the Council. Moved: Adrian Wayne. Seconded: Ann Garard. **Carried.** (Shane Jasprizza did not support the Hammerhead application).

Deferred Saltwater/Freshwater Trust project applications

Motion: The Council supports the RFSTEC recommendation to not support funding for the application "Recreational Survey Data Internet Portal". Moved: Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: John Drew. **Carried.**

c. Recreational fishing fee

The NSW recreational fishing fee increased on 1 September 2013 for each fee category as follows:

3 day - \$7.00 (increased from \$6.00); 1 month - \$14.00 (increased from \$12.00); 1 year - \$35.00 (increased from \$30.00); and 3 years - \$85.00 (increased from \$75.00).

7. Review of NSW recreational saltwater and freshwater fishing rules update

A total of 5,440 submissions were received as a result of the public exhibition of the review of NSW fishing rules discussion paper.

As part of the analysis of submissions, the Recreational Fisheries section is assigning codes to the various comments received (over 30,000 comments in total) to enable accurate assessment of the feedback received from the fishing public. A summary of submissions report will be prepared.

The Council requested an update on progress of the review outcomes prior to the Submissions Report becoming publicly available.

Recreational fishing bag limit for Abalone

The Council requested DPI consider an increase to the recreational bag limit for Abalone (*Haliotis rubra*) from 2 to 5 in some NSW waters, as a result of consistent increases to the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) in recent years.

The Council supports retention of existing recreational fishing rules between Port Stephens and Wreck Bay Beach, Jervis Bay i.e. a bag limit of 2 and that Abalone can only be taken on weekends and NSW public holidays directly adjacent to a weekend.

Motion: The council write to the Minister to request consideration of an increase to the recreational bag limit for Abalone (*Haliotis rubra*) from 2 to 5 in some NSW waters. Moved: Adrian Wayne. Seconded: Ann Garard. **Carried.**

8. Fisheries NSW Research Strategy

Dr Bob Creese discussed the development of a Strategic Fisheries Research Plan that links with the Fisheries NSW Strategic Plan. This covers: priority programs (7) with indicative themes within each; key research tools that can be used; how science is communicated; and how data can be provided to internal and external stakeholders. The Plan will serve as a framework to guide the development of future research projects. Importantly the Plan can also be used to guide research priority-setting by the recreational sector, which is essential for broader planning and assessment of programs for the expenditure committees and ACoRF. The Committee discussed a process for getting stakeholder input for priority setting. The Chair noted that ACoRF and the committees will develop a list of research priority areas in the near future to be considered within the context of the plan.

An update was also provided of the 13 Recreational Fishing Trust funded research projects currently being carried out by the DPI Fisheries Research branch.

Internal work is also under way on one aspect of the 'Web Portal' project, including looking at the potential for making data collected from the Resource Assessment System available to external users. DPI also advised the Resource Assessment Workshop was held in October and some priority species identified for research (e.g. bait species, Tailor). There is also a new FRDC project to examine better integration of data sets into NSW stock assessments approved through the EOI stage.

Action – Fisheries Research to provide details of the Strategic Fisheries Research Plan and subsequent development of recreational fishing research priorities.

9. Port Stephens Fisheries Institute site tour

A tour of the research and hatchery facilities, including the broodstock holding facility, was undertaken. Intensive and extensive methods of fish cultivation were discussed. Control over environmental influences can be achieved during fertilisation, egg and fry development to achieve successful rearing of species such as bass, kingfish, snapper and mulloway.

The council was advised that funds from the Trust are currently assisting a project to boost breeding and stocking of Australian bass.

10. Commercial Fishing update

Commercial fishing reform process

Dr Veronica Silberschneider provided an update on the commercial fishing reform process. The reform program seeks to provide improved meaning and value in shares, improve the overall viability of the NSW commercial fishing industry and to improve investment confidence and support from financial institutions. It should also help to secure greater community acceptance and support for NSW commercial fisheries and commercial fishers in the long run.

A key part of the reform program is to link shares to resource access, by directly connecting the level of share holdings to the amount of access to the resource including, for example, catch limits (Total Allowable Commercial Catch) and/or fishing effort (days fished, number of traps, net soak time etc). Three typical examples of share linkage are:

1. each share gives the shareholder a portion of a total catch level that is set - e.g. 1 share = x kg of catch;
2. each share gives the shareholder a portion of a total effort level that is set - e.g. 1 share = x amount of gear, or 1 share = x fishing days;
3. minimum shareholdings can be used to limit the number of endorsements that are available (if neither approach above leads to a workable outcome).

Once the form of share linkage and the total catch or effort levels have been decided, fishers will be better placed to make an informed decision about their future in the industry or particular fisheries. Fishers will

be able to decide if they wish to exit by submitting a tender to the \$15.5 million exit grant program and/or downsize, increase or maintain their current shareholding in preparation for the linking of shares to catch or effort.

A consultation document is being prepared for public release in early 2014 and will be distributed to recreational and charter fishing advisory committee members.

Baitfish working group outcomes

Under DPI Policy, permits may be issued to eligible Commonwealth fishers to authorise the use of a purse seine net to take baitfish in State waters for use in the Commonwealth Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery. The permit holder is required to complete and comply with the requirements of the NSW DPI Catch & Effort Logbook instructions as stated on their permits.

A number of Commonwealth endorsed tuna long line operators have requested the issuance of a Section 37 tuna bait permit, to take bait for own use from NSW ocean waters by use of a small purse seine net. More information on these requests will be provided soon.

Pipis

The Council requested confirmation that the commercial fishing closure, to prohibit the taking of pipis (*Donax deltooides*), by holders of a hand gathering endorsement in the Estuary General Fishery, by the method of hand picking, from all waters from 1 December 2013 until 31 May 2014 inclusive, would be renewed. DPI indicated that this was proposed. The council supports renewal of the closure in its current form.

John Clarke advised the Council of an interview conducted by ABC radio with Dr Doug Ferrell, Manager Resource Planning, NSW DPI, regarding the pipi resource. Mr Clarke expressed concern that reference had been made to the "boom and bust" nature of the resource, however, subsequent requests for evidence of this occurrence has not been forthcoming.

Motion: The Council write to the Executive Director, Fisheries NSW, to express concern about the information conveyed in the interview regarding the boom and bust theory and request provision of evidence that supports this claim. Moved: John Clarke. Seconded: Ann Garard. **Carried.**

Action – Forward Council members a copy of the ABC interview relating to pipis.

11. Fisheries Compliance program update

An overview of 2012/13 compliance actions undertaken across NSW including significant enforcement outcomes was provided.

Saltwater (Marine Recreational Fisheries Program)

In 2012/13 around 50,000 client contacts were made (powers exercised) including: 3,600 field cautions, Around 2,200 penalty notices and 205 matters successfully prosecuted, including: 108 court imposed fines, 33 gaol sentences (7 individuals), 26 bonds (e.g. good behaviour) and 2 Community Service Orders.

Some of the Compliance highlights in 2012/13 included apprehensions in:

- Coffs Harbour: 3 men in possession 120kg Eastern Rock Lobster. Convicted, \$40,000 fine, boat forfeited;
- Coffs Harbour: 2 men issued multiple Penalty Notices (\$2000) for excess lobster traps - possess 10 Eastern Rock Lobster;
- Central Coast: 48 Penalty Notices issued - Power Station closures;
- Botany Bay: 1 man - 12 charges for set lines totalling (180m-43 hooks);
- Tuross – 1 man with 68m meshing net. 7m punt seized – convicted and boat, motor & trailer forfeited.

Freshwater/Inland

Inland Fisheries Officers have contributed significantly to freshwater patrol activities. There has been a continued focus on maximising voluntary compliance and creating an effective deterrent by having presence during periods of high fishing activity and by targeting fishers involved in illegal fishing activities utilising covert and overt operations. Many operations were held over the past financial year targeting

Murray crayfish, fishing competitions, patrolling closed trout spawning streams, Murray cod closed and open seasons and inspecting restaurants and processors selling fish. Over 11,700 freshwater fisher contacts were made during the last financial year with 88% of fishers found to be complying with the fisheries legislation.

12. Fisheries Conservation update

Policy and guidelines for fish habitat conservation and management (update 2013)

This document outlines policies and guidelines aimed at maintaining and enhancing fish habitat for the benefit of native fish species, including threatened species, in marine, estuarine and freshwater environments. It builds on earlier versions which have been in place since the early 1990s.

Fisheries NSW consulted other relevant State agencies and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW during the development of the document. The public is invited to have a say using the online submission form at: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/publications/policies,-guidelines-and-manuals/fish-habitat-conservation>. Copies of the document were made available at the meeting. Submissions will be accepted until 30 June 2014.

Marine Parks Review

The NSW Government is seeking to better manage the NSW marine estate across our marine waters, coastline and estuaries, including the existing six marine parks.

A Marine Estate Strategy will outline the approach for Marine Estate management in NSW. The Marine Estate Management Act is being developed and will replace the existing Marine Parks Act.

A risk assessment framework is currently being developed to consider environmental, social, Indigenous and economic issues to identify gaps from existing threats (mainly non-fishing issues) e.g. affects of urban run-off. Sustainability assessments will be undertaken as part of this process and it is envisaged that a positive outcome for fishing/fisheries resources will result. Stakeholders will be involved in development of the new approach.

Recreational fishing activities in North Harbour Aquatic Reserve

The Council raised concerns on behalf of recreational fishers that line fishing for fin fish only is permitted in this aquatic reserve. It was previously interpreted that line fishing for all fish species, including, for example, squid, was permitted within the reserve. This is a popular squid fishing ground for many recreational fishers, including obtaining squid for targeting kingfish.

Motion: The council write to the Minister to request consideration to allow recreational line fishers to be permitted to take squid species in the North Harbour Aquatic Reserve. Moved: Max Castle. Seconded: Ann Garard. **Carried.**

13. Correspondence

a. Response from Minister to ACoRF dated 27 August 2013 regarding the following issues: recreational fishing consultative arrangements; request for increased recognition of Recreational Fishing Havens (RFHs) in the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*; involvement of Western Sydney schools in the Get hooked...It's fun to fish program; spearfisher safety issues; and access to Laggars Point boat ramp, Trial Bay, South West Rocks.

Information noted.

b. Letter from Minister to Premier dated 27 August 2013 regarding involvement of Western Sydney schools in the Get hooked...It's fun to fish program. Response from Premier to Minister dated 11 September 2013 indicating the issue has been forwarded to the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP, Minister for Education, for consideration.

Information noted. The Council will be advised of any developments regarding this issue.

c. Letter from ACoRF to the Minister to request a Charter Fishing representative on MFAC sent 10 September 2013.

Issue addressed in agenda item 5a.

d. Media release "People Power to Play a Major Role in Fish Research" sent 2 September 2013.

Information noted.

e. Letter from Caltex Australia to ACoRF dated 18 October 2013 regarding the Kurnell Port and Berthing Facilities Upgrade project.

Information noted.

f. Letter from Geoff Allan, Executive Director, Fisheries NSW, to ACoRF dated 25 October 2013 concerning the listing of Murray Crayfish as a vulnerable species and proposed *Fisheries Management (Murray Crayfish) Order 2014*.

The Council notes that the proposed Ministerial order and relevant Species Impact Statement (SIS), as well as advice from ACoRF, will be placed on public exhibition prior to the order being made.

Motion: The Council supports the proposed Ministerial order to be made to authorise continued recreational fishing for Murray Crayfish. Moved: Shane Jasprizza. Seconded: Ann Garard. **Carried.**

14. Out of session

a. Correspondence from ANSA NSW to ACoRF regarding boat trailer parking on public roads

The Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) wrote again to ACoRF regarding further issues relating to boat trailer parking restrictions on public roads and, to request ACoRF's consideration of issues and assistance with this matter. A copy of this correspondence is attached as additional information.

Over time the size of boat trailers has increased in size yet it appears the road rules governing parking is not in line with the changing demographic of boat trailers. A major factor relating to this is that Section 200 of the National Road Rules prevents all vehicles over 7.5m in length, or with a GVM of 4.5 tonnes or more, from stopping on a road in a built up area for longer than one hour. It has been reported that some Councils are targeting large boat trailers parked on public streets in an attempt to restrict parking, including signage (as reported by ANSA).. The legal basis for installing these signs is being investigated by ANSA.

Motion: The council write to the Minister regarding this issue and request the Minister to write to the Hon. Don Page MP, in his capacity as Minister for Local Government, to outline these concerns on behalf of ACoRF and ANSA; as well as to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC, Minister for Roads and Ports, regarding the Boat Trailer Working Group recommendations. Moved: Ann Garard. Seconded: John Drew. **Carried.**

b. Review of Trust applications

Addressed in agenda item 6b.

c. NSW Water Safety Strategy 2013-15

Information noted.

d. Lifejacket discussion paper

Information noted.

e. Expression of interest for positions on MFAC

Information noted.

15. General business

Greynurse Shark Symposium

Adrian Wayne provided an overview of the issues discussed at the symposium. The Council noted that outcomes from the conference will be distributed when available.

Next meeting

The next meeting (meeting 62) is scheduled to be held on Thursday 1 May 2014.

Action items from 61st ACoRF meeting on 21 November 2013

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Status
5.b. Meeting expenses and sitting fee claims	DPI to facilitate remittance advices with all payments for sitting fees and travel expenses.	DPI	Ongoing
5.c. Mulloway Recovery Program	The council write to the Minister to express concerns regarding the bycatch provision for undersize fish (45-70cm) caught by estuary mesh netters, as well as the 500kg trip limit for each ocean haul endorsement holder. Circulate copy of letter to members.	ACoRF/ Recreational Management	Completed
5.e. Spearfisher safety: floats & flags advisory program	ACoRF write to the Minister to provide support for the USFA's proposed action on this issue to improve the safety of water users	ACoRF	Completed
7. Recreational fishing bag limit for Abalone	The council write to the Minister to request an increase to the recreational bag limit for Abalone (<i>Haliotis rubra</i>) from 2 to 5 in some NSW waters.	ACoRF	Completed
8. Fisheries NSW Research Strategy	Fisheries Research to provide details of the Strategic Fisheries Research Plan and subsequent development of recreational fishing research priorities.	Fisheries Research	Completed
10. Commercial Fishing update - pipis	The Council write to the Executive Director, Fisheries NSW, to express concern about the information conveyed in the interview regarding the boom and bust theory and request provision of evidence that supports this claim.	ACoRF	Completed
10. Commercial Fishing update - pipis	Forward a copy of the ABC interview relating to pipis to Council members.	Recreational Management	Completed
12.c. Recreational fishing activities in North Harbour Aquatic Reserve	The council write to the Minister to request consideration to allow recreational line fishers to be permitted to take squid species in the North Harbour Aquatic Reserve.	ACoRF	Completed
13.f. Murray Crayfish	The Council write to the Executive Director, Fisheries NSW, to confirm support for the proposed Ministerial order to be made to authorise continued recreational fishing for Murray Crayfish.	ACoRF	Completed
14.a. Correspondence from ANSA NSW to ACoRF regarding boat trailer parking on public roads	The council write to the Minister regarding boat trailer parking on public roads and request the Minister to write to the Hon. Don Page MP, in his capacity as Minister for Local Government, to outline these concerns on behalf of ACoRF and ANSA; as well as to the Hon. Duncan Gay, MLC, Minister for Roads and Ports, regarding the Boat Trailer Working Group recommendations.	ACoRF	Completed

Appendix

Table 1: Summary of new Freshwater Trust habitat grant applications recommended for funding by RFFTEC and ACoRF

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project title and summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<p>Belubula River Fishing Park Blayney</p> <p>Removal of willows in a section of Belubula River about 100 metres from Blayney Post Office to be used as a public park for fishing. The river at this location is stocked annually with trout fry.</p>	Central Acclimatisation Society Inc	\$8,285	\$0	\$0
<p>Laura Creek crossing on Longford Road</p> <p>Longford Road causeway project is the replacement of an existing pipe culvert that has poor inlet conditions with a box culvert at a lower level to reduce headloss in stream flow</p>	Guyra Shire Council	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Restoring fish habitat and riparian biodiversity at Inverell</p> <p>The project will see 0.8km (1.6ha) riparian invasive weeds removed from the banks of the Macintyre River in Inverell. The project will involve significant volunteer contributions through ongoing site maintenance and revegetating 2.4ha (0.8km) of the public reserve with native species.</p>	Inverell Shire Council	\$13,625	\$0	\$0
<p>Bringing Back the Fish on the Horton River</p> <p>Protecting and improving an area of high habitat value by 12km fencing, 4km weeding, resnagging (3) and road barrier removal on the Horton River.</p>	Upper Gwydir Landcare Association	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
<p>The Macquarie River Waterways and Riparian Restoration Action Program (WRRAP) - Reach 3 restoration works</p> <p>The project will rehabilitate a section of river by replacing 750m (3ha) willow infestations with a biodiverse range of native species to reduce erosion and flooding, improve water quality, increase available habitat, and improve access to the river for recreational activities.</p>	Bathurst Regional Council	\$23,140	\$0	\$0

<p>Making Fish Happen in the Macquarie</p> <p>Installation of key fish habitat (25-40 snags) at 12 sites in the Macquarie River at locations identified through habitat mapping to be deficient in large woody debris</p>	<p>Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>\$0</p>
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Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project title and summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<p>UMDR community willow control project</p> <p>The project will engage community members and river interest groups to control young instream sapling willows and survey all willow infestations along 45km of the Upper Murrumbidgee River within the NSW section of the Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach. Consultation with recreational user groups to identify further opportunities to enhance community use and fish habitat in the UMDR.</p>	<p>Kosciuszko 2 Coast Inc</p>	<p>\$10,440</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>\$0</p>

Table 2: Summary of new Saltwater Trust habitat grant applications recommended for funding by RFSTEC and ACoRF

Project title	Project summary	Organisation	TAP Recommended \$
Gumma IPA – Nambucca River Estuary Rehabilitation Project	Gumma Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) proposes natural area restoration works to provide more resilient and productive estuary margins in the Nambucca River Estuary. The IPA will achieve this by managing Invasive weeds (6 Ha), regenerating riparian habitats and implementing timber fillets to mitigate eroding riverbanks (0.5 Km) and encourage mangrove propagation.	Gumma Indigenous Protected Area	\$22,770
Bilambil Creek riparian restoration	This project will convert a 500m long camphor laurel dominated riparian zone to regenerating riparian rainforest at the interface between the Bilambil Creek estuary and freshwater catchment. The project extends a significant riparian restoration partnership adding 500 m to an existing 5 Km restored estuarine corridor.	Tweed Shire Council	\$30,950
Protecting fish habitat along the Lane Cove River Estuary	This project will focus on increasing the resilience of unique ecological communities that provide vital breeding grounds for fish and other fauna - saline wetlands and their associated buffer zones along Buffalo Creek, Kittys Creek, Pages Creek and Fairylands Creek. 4 Ha weed management, 200 m riparian fencing, 1 Ha revegetation, 0.5 ha wetland rehabilitation, 0.1 km erosion protection works.	Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc	\$40,000
Rehabilitating Orara River fish habitat and promoting fish habitat values	Stock management (1.25 km) and riparian zone rainforest regeneration (4 km) along the Orara River, Fridays Creek and Walgarah Creek for the enhancement of habitat for the Australian Bass, promoted through an educational video targeted to landholders and fishers.	Orara Valley Rivercare Groups Management Committee	\$31,000

Project title	Project summary	Organisation	TAP Recommended \$
A cost effective mangrove regeneration citizen science program in the Hastings with application for broader use across Australia	Australia's first pilot citizen science project in the Hastings River between oyster farmers and recreational fishers to trial innovative and cost effective ways of mangrove establishment (1 ha) under different environmental conditions using hessian mats rather than expensive rock fillets.	NSW Farmers Port Macquarie Oyster Branch and Hastings Fly Fishers	\$9,487
Engaging the community in the protection of saltmarsh along Dora Creek	The project will engage and support existing and new landcare volunteers to remove weeds (3 ha) and regenerate saltmarsh and swamp-oak floodplain forest along Dora Creek (0.5 ha), protecting fish habitat.	Lake Macquarie City Council	\$7,900
Bring back the Tapitallee Fish	To enhance the riparian zone of Tapitallee Creek building on previous fish passage and ecological works. 2.7 km riparian fencing, 1.0 km riparian reveg, weed management and erosion works, 8-10 km fish passage opened.	Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	\$40,000
Stabilizing creek crossing and regenerating surrounds	The aim of this project is to bring together local landholders, fisheries, Greater Taree City Council and Landcare, to stabilize a creek crossing and to prevent continual movement of approximately 400 tonne of gravel washing downstream in high flows.	Manning Landcare Inc	\$2,755
Lane Cove Australian Bass Habitat project Stage 2	Improve Australian bass habitat along the Lane Cove river by engaging recreational fishers the Sydney bass Fishing Club Inc, community volunteers, park staff and contractors. This second stage will follow up weeding along the river and continue primary weeding downstream. Another planting site of 500 trees will be established.	Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc	\$10,000
Coopers Creek fish habitat restoration project Stage 3	Rehabilitate creek bank for fish habitat. Reduce siltation, improve water quality by fencing of creek bank. Remove cattle and noxious weeds and planting to stabilize the bank. Provide cover for native fish. 300 m fencing, 6,000 cubic metres weed management, 6000 cubic meters revegetation	Private Landholder	\$10,060

Project title	Project summary	Organisation	TAP Recommended \$
Lower Lansdowne River Estuarine Habitat Rehabilitation	Ongoing erosion has degraded the estuarine environment causing loss of instream habitat values. The project aims to restore the degraded estuarine environment and increase local recreational fishing values by installing instream structures 0.1 km and riparian fencing 0.3 km and undertaking revegetation 0.1 km, promoting mangrove recovery.	Private Landholder	\$20,800
Neighbours for Natives	Four landholders with frontage to Skinners Creek will combine forces to improve the health of the creek by removing dominating weed species (0.4 km) and replace them with native vegetation (0.7 ha).	Private Landholder	\$3,775
Tonbridge Creek rehabilitation	Undertake 0.43 ha of weed management and wetland rehabilitation in the Hawthorne Street Reserve to improve habitat values of Tonbridge Creek.	Rockdale City Council	\$25,000
Onground estuary remediation works at Big Swamp Manning River Estuary	This project aims to remediate a combined total of 670 ha of Big Swamp floodplain, including approximately 30 km of tidal channels in the Manning River Estuary. This will be achieved by modifying floodgates and carrying out earthworks to reshape the land and encourage tidal reflooding.	Water Research Laboratory, University of NSW	\$31,500
Acid sulfate soil prioritisation and remediation works on the Broughton Creek floodplain, Shoalhaven River Estuary	This project adopts a strategic catchment wide approach to target and remediate high acid contributing drains to improve water quality and fish habitat in the Shoalhaven River estuary. 5 km of tidal channels across the Broughton Creek floodplain will be remediated by modifying floodgates to encourage in-drain tidal buffering of acid by products. Estimated in-drain volume 36,500 cubic metres.	Water Research Laboratory, University of NSW	\$30,000
Pelican Bay Peninsula - Marine Habitat Enhancement	To stabilise approximately 400 metres of badly eroding foreshore using rock fillets (0.4 km) to provide habitat for mangrove colonization also replant on top of the bank with native trees to also assist in bank stabilization.	Manning River Oyster Farmers Association	\$40,000
Tuross Head Fishing Club working to protect their own 'patch	Tuross Fishing Club and other volunteers will undertake fish habitat restoration works along the bank of the Tuross River at a popular fishing reserve. Works will include erosion control, consolidation of vehicle access, replanting (220 m) and weed control (8 ha)	Eurobodalla Shire Council and Tuross Fishing Club	\$24,260

Project title	Project summary	Organisation	TAP Recommended \$
Fish @ the Hawkesbury Riverfarm	Fish @ the Hawkesbury Riverfarm aims to improve riparian health and increase the fish habitat on this Hawkesbury River site (1032 m) by resnagging the riverfront, weed management and revegetating the riparian corridor. Open Bass Club days will increase awareness of aquatic life in the Hawkesbury LGA and monitor fish populations.	University of Western Sydney	\$21,863
Upper Monkerai Land management partnership - Upper Karuah River riparian project and Lantana Control (Stage 1)	Reduce infestations of invasive environmental weeds, privet and lantana from the Upper Karuah River riparian zone (14 km) through primary controls and landholder support to enhance water quality and fish habitat.	Great Lakes Council	\$12,990
Repairing Taylors Arm	Two bypassed bed control structures installed into Taylors Arm to maintain water levels after gravel extraction caused bed lowering will be reinstated. 0.04 km. Works will maintain bed levels, reduce sediment input (including from eroding banks) and retain valuable fish habitat.	Scotts Head Fishing Club and Utungun Landcare	\$9,540
Saltmarsh south west rocks	Protect an area of mangroves and saltmarsh by improving vehicle management	SW Rocks Anglers	\$4,350
Hollingworth Creek restoration	Exotic vegetation control, 1 km, Hollingworth Creek. Replanting with indigenous native trees on the banks and dumped rubbish removal.	Private Landholder	\$1,000
			\$430,000

Table 3: Freshwater Trust grant applications recommended for funding by RFFTEC and ACoRF**Platform: Recreational fishing education**

Small Projects

Project title and summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<p>Distribution of free Fishing Safety DVDs to fishing groups, community groups, agencies and other organisations</p> <p>Printing and distribution of bulk copies of fishing safety DVDs to community and angling organisations</p>	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Fisheries Advisory trailer, south west NSW</p> <p>To purchase a fisheries advisory trailer based at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre for use by Fishcare volunteers and angling clubs to promote responsible fishing practices, recreational fishing trust programs and fishing rules and regulations at open days / field events.</p>	NSW DPI	\$31,635	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project title and summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<p>Fisheries Management Officer (Angler Access)</p> <p>To employ a Fisheries Management Officer to address the increased volume of road closure applications associated with the Crown Lands Road Disposal Program.</p>	NSW DPI	\$0	\$127,650	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project title and summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<p>Managing the recovery of Murray crayfish in the southern Murray-Darling Basin</p> <p>To assess the population status of Murray crayfish in the Murray Darling Basin, particularly within black water affected reaches and to develop a long term monitoring strategy for Murray crayfish.</p>	NSW DPI & Nature Glenelg Trust	\$95,166	\$72,011	\$0

Table 4: Saltwater Trust grant applications recommended for funding by RFSTEC and ACoRF

Project title and summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15
<p>A review and analysis of the determination of two species of hammerhead sharks as threatened in NSW.</p> <p>Review and critique the process which led to the listing of great and scalloped hammerhead sharks as protected in 2012 by the NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee. The research will aim to review the reasons and arguments for the determination, analyse all data available on historic hammerhead shark catches, all relevant overseas data cited in the determinations and assess whether or not there is a basis to apply for a de-listing of either or both species of hammerhead sharks. The project will analyse the conclusions reached during the determination including the declines in catches of 'generic' hammerhead sharks assumed to be equivalent to declines in the populations of the two hammerhead species over their geographic range in NSW/QLD waters.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$38,500	\$0
<p>NSW Fisheries Enhancement Research Program</p> <p>This project combines the research and monitoring requirements of the existing Sydney Offshore Artificial Reef project and the Marine Stocking Program which is currently being set up for implementation in 2014 (as opposed to having 2 separate programs). This provides for a more cost effective approach to ensuring the research requirements are met with these 2 high profile fisheries enhancement projects.</p>	DPI	\$317,330	\$525,330
<p>Installation of boom gate at Lagers Point boat ramp, Trial Bay</p> <p>Installation of a boom gate with swipe card (or pin) access at Lagers Point boat ramp to provide boating access to a currently restricted boat ramp during peak holiday periods.</p>	DPI	\$30,000	\$0
<p>Angel Rings interim funding (Small Grant No 2 Oct 2013)</p> <p>Additional funding for the ongoing angel rings program.</p>	ANSA NSW Branch	\$10,000	\$0

Table 5: Freshwater Trust project applications *not supported* by RFFTEC and ACoRF

Project Title and Summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15
Development of local native fish education kit and brochures The project aims to develop an education package including brochures and posters for schools and universities about native fish held in aquariums at Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, Burrumbuttock and responsible fishing practices	Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre	\$4,800	\$1,800
Camden Town Farm Lagoon Platform Install a fishing platform and footpath at Camden Town Farm lagoon to improve angler access opportunities at the lake and to remove carp and noxious weeds from the dam.	Camden Council	\$28,000	
Dollar for dollar native fish stocking program To increase the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program budget due to increased stocking applications received and to assist hatcheries to fulfil HQAS and calcien marking requirements.	NSW Silver Perch Growers Association	\$100,000	\$100,000

Table 6: Saltwater Trust grant applications *NOT recommended* for funding by RFSTEC and ACoRF

Project Title and Summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15
Development of a Strategic Research Plan for the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Sector of NSW Through a series of workshops, meetings and drafting sessions, we will deliver a 5 year strategic research plan for the saltwater recreational fishing sector of NSW, against which subsequent research proposals can be assessed so that the major objectives of the sector can be achieved.	IC Independent Consulting	\$68,400	\$0
An economic survey into recreational fishing in northern coastal NSW Economic and fishing activity information will be collected from recreational fishers in three coastal towns in northern NSW. This information will be analysed to provide estimates on the value of recreational fishing for these communities.	IC Independent Consulting	\$94,800	\$0
Evaluation of monitoring coastal charter boat catches for recreational fisheries resource sustainability Assess the composition and levels of retained and released catches and examine the utility of different ways of monitoring coastal charter boat catches for inclusion in fishery and species resource assessments. Referred to MERCMAC for advice and recommendation.	Sydney Institute of Marine Science	\$169,970	\$33,275
Independent observer program for the recreational charter boat fishery [Pre-proposal] The pre-proposal is to gain support for an independent assessment of the charter fishery to assess the accuracy of charter logbook information. It is intended that this program will develop long term solutions that will provide a cost effective means of monitoring the activities of this sector. Referred to MERCMAC for advice and recommendation.	DPI		

Project Title and Summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15
<p>Recreational Survey Data Internet Portal Develop a web portal that provides user-friendly access to recreational fishing survey data to the public including graphs and tables on catch and effort by species, location and date.</p>	systems2serve	\$118,000	\$0
<p>Assessment of the tailor stock [Pre-proposal] Will provide the necessary biological and fishery information to enable an assessment of the tailor stock to be made. Data collected will include size and age compositions and how they vary with latitude, growth rates, reproductive biology including where when and at what sizes tailor in NSW spawn, patterns of movement and connectivity with the Queensland stock, what tailor eat and how they interact with other species and recruitment modelling to determine where most of the tailor in NSW may have been spawned. Will utilise a PhD approach.</p>	DPI		
<p>Bait security: Ensuring angler opportunities through effective assessment and understanding of bait species [Pre-proposal] The objective of this project is to provide up-to-date life history (age, growth, distribution and potentially abundance) and exploitation-related (mortality) information to enable assessment and effective management of cunjevoi, ghost nippers and beach worms to ensure quality bait resources for recreational fishers.</p>	DPI		
<p>Sussex Inlet Game Fish Gantry To build a fish weighing gantry next to the cleaning tables at Lakehaven Drive, Sussex Inlet. [Resubmitted application with further information provided].</p>	Sussex Inlet Bowling Club Fishing Club	\$10,000	\$0
<p>Fishing for the Past – Fish catches in Australia in pre and early colonial times. The proposal seeks a subsidy for the publication of a completed book: 'Fishing for the Past – Fish catches in Australian waters in pre and early colonial times'.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$34,000	\$0