



**Recreational
Fishing Trusts**

***Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust
Expenditure Committee***

MINUTES

**21st RFFTEC MEETING
6-7 April 2005**

**CRONULLA FISHERIES CENTRE
202 NICHOLSON PARADE CRONULLA 2230
02 9527 8411**

**Twenty First Meeting of the
Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee
Draft Minutes
6-7 April 2005
Cronulla Fisheries Centre
202 Nicholson Parade, Cronulla**

Attendance

Committee Members

Bruce Schumacher	Chair
Steve Rudder	Region 1
Karl Schaerf	Region 2
Robert Bell	Region 3
Rodney Tonkin	Region 5
Debbie Lennon	Region 6
Richard Ping Kee	Region 7
Kevin McKinnon	Region 8
Brian Hale	AFTA
Dr Steve Kennelly	Chief Scientist, NSW DPI

NSW DPI (observers)

John Diplock, Program Manager, Recreational Fisheries
Cameron Westaway, Senior Fisheries Manager (Inland)
Bryan van der Walt, Senior Fisheries Manager Recreational Fisheries
Craig Watson, Manager, Recreational Fisheries

Agenda Items

6 April 2005

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Business

Chair's introduction

Welcome to new committee member

Apologies

Confirmation of minutes from previous RFFTEC meeting

1. 2004/05 Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust status report
2. Renewal of funding for ongoing programs
3. Review of applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs
 - a) Enhanced Departmental Fishing Production
 - b) Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program
 - c) Freshwater Recreational Management
 - d) Inland Fisheries Officers
 - e) Small Grants Program
 - f) Stocking Success Program
 - g) Inland Conservation Managers
 - h) RFFTEC Meeting Expenses
 - i) Impoundments Access Program

2:15pm - 5:00pm (Combined session with RFSTEC)

4. Presentation by John Wilson, FRDC
5. Review of joint Trust applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs
 - a) Recreational Fishing Fee Administration
 - b) Fishing Promotion
 - c) Fishing Clinics
 - d) Fishing Guides
 - e) Fishcare Volunteers
 - f) Tournament Monitoring
 - g) Fish Habitat Rehabilitation
 - h) Recreational Angling Database
 - i) Licence Reminder Notice

Agenda Items

7 April 2005

9:30pm - 12:00pm

6. Project updates

- a) Nodavirus research (Jane Frances)
- b) Eastern cod research programs (Gavin Butler)
- c) Marsden Weir redevelopment (Craig Watson)

12:30pm - 3:00pm

7. Review of new applications

Small grants

- a) Feasibility study into providing water for Lake Albert
- b) Investigation into the genetic structure of Murray cod pre- and post-stocking within the Murray Darling basin
- c) Improve fish passage in the Fish River above Oberon Dam
- d) Plan of Management for Town Creek, Clarence Town

Large projects

- a) Identification of travelling stock and other reserves of importance to recreational anglers
- b) Survey of threatened frog species in the Styx River and its tributaries
- c) Population structures and the genetic implications of stocking native fish
- d) Conservation genetics and management implications for golden perch and bass
- e) Research and monitoring for an introduced freshwater crayfish species
- f) An education program for an introduced freshwater crayfish species
- g) Keepit Fishing Outdoor Education Program
- h) Fish passage on the Gloucester River

8. 2005/06 Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust budget

9. Annual / Progress Reports

10. Action Items from meeting 20

11. General Business

Next Meeting

Business

Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting noting a full agenda. The purpose of the meetings is to review applications for funding for ongoing programs and new projects for expenditure and to finalise the budget positions for the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the forthcoming financial year.

Apologies

Elizabeth Brodbeck (Region 4)

Confirmation of minutes from previous RFFTEC meeting

The draft minutes of the 20th RFFTEC meeting were accepted by RFFTEC as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Agenda item 1

Bryan van der Walt/Cameron Westaway

Issue

2004/05 Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust report

Background

The general recreational fishing licence has been in place since March 2001 and the freshwater licence has been providing funds since 1998. Over this time, there have been a large number of projects recommended by the fresh and saltwater expenditure committees and the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF), and approved by the Minister.

Status of the Freshwater Trust

During 2004/05, the Committee supported a total budget of \$3.231 million for a range of programs to improve recreational fishing. Some programs had substantial carryovers at the end of the 2003/04 financial year resulting in a total transfer of \$2.6 million from the Freshwater Trust for the 2004/05 programs. The predicted balance of the Freshwater Trust at the end of the current financial year is approximately \$500,000.

Some programs are also expected to have significant carryovers this year, due to staff vacancies. The predicted carryovers in 2004/05 will be taken into account during the review of applications for funding in 2005/06. The 2004/05 financial table is attached for the Committee's information (refer to Attachment 1).

Trust application assessment form

A Trust application assessment form has been prepared to assist members when considering new applications for funding (refer to Attachment 2). The assessment form can be used as a tool to assist members to ensure that applications meet all the criteria and requirements for funding from the Trusts. Funding proposals can be assessed against specific selection criteria such as benefits to recreational fishing, cost effectiveness and consistency with expenditure priorities (see below).

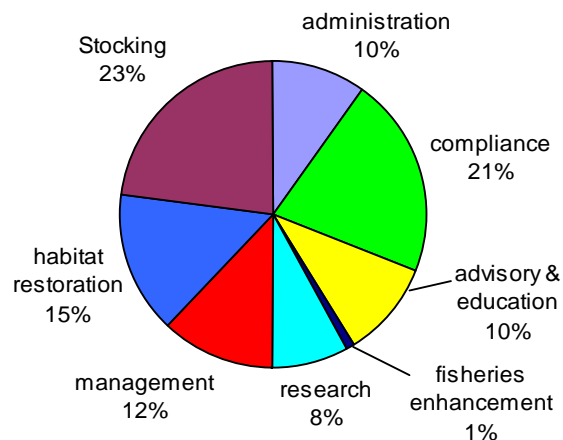
Freshwater research priorities

During the year ACoRF have identified research priorities to address various management issues. A NSW DPI freshwater research planning meeting was held on 24 November 2004 to review current freshwater research programs, identify freshwater research knowledge gaps and discuss a strategic framework for future research within identified priority areas, to assist decisions on allocation of resources. A list of these priorities has been compiled to assist RFSTEC during the consideration of applications. The list (see Attachment 3) will be continually updated as new issues arise and other knowledge gaps become apparent.

Breakdown of funding

Funding was allocated by the Expenditure Committee for a range of compliance, research, management, and habitat restoration and education programs in 2004/05 as shown below (see pie graph). The graph serves as a guide for the Committee to determine if funding levels for each category should be maintained at or near the current levels.

Breakdown of funding in 2004/05



A draft budget table for 2005/06 will be updated throughout the meeting to track the total amount of funding allocated to programs by the Committee to ensure that the funding available is not exceeded.

Outcomes

Status of the Freshwater Trust

The Committee was advised that the total income from licence sales has increased each year since the implementation of the licence, from \$8.1 million in 2001/02 to \$8.4 million in 2002/03 and \$9 million in 2003/04. Income from licence sales from 1 July 2004 to 31 March 2005, was nearly \$7.6 million, which is approximately \$1.1 million more than the income for the same period in 2003/04 and if licence sales for April, May and June 2005 are similar to the previous year, then the total income in 2004/05 may reach between \$9.5 and \$10 million. The increase in income is attributable to an increase in sales of the 3 year licence and is most likely anglers renewing their 3 year licence that were purchased after the introduction of the general licence. It was noted that the licence sales income is expected to revert to a predicted \$8.5 million in the 2005/06 financial year.

At the end of the 2003/04 financial year, the balance of the Freshwater Trust was \$567,000. Allocations transferred from the Trust this year and committed funding totals \$2,654 million. Income to the Freshwater Trust in 2004/05 is \$2.5 million, which leaves a predicted balance of \$414,000 as of 30 June 2005. Income to the Freshwater Trust next year will be \$2.5 million, which leaves a total available balance of \$2.9 million for allocation in 2005/06.

Several members raised the issue of the funding allocation for the freshwater trust. The allocation of funding to the Freshwater Trust for the years 2000/01 to 2004/05 was \$2.5 million per year with the remaining funds allocated to the Saltwater Trust. At the December meeting the Committee recommended that the \$2.5 million allocation be increased to \$2.8 million. The Saltwater Expenditure Committee recommended that the current arrangement be maintained for the 2005/06 financial year. ACoRF reviewed these recommendations and in December 2005 advised the Minister that the current arrangement be maintained for 2005/06. Due to the unpredictable nature of licence income ACoRF also recommended that the funding level be reviewed annually. The Committee was advised that the Minister had approved the recommendations from ACoRF.

Trust application assessment form

The Committee acknowledged the benefit of the form noting that it provided structure and consistency to the decision-making. NSW DPI advised that the assessment form is a tool to assist members in ensuring that applications meet all the criteria and requirements for funding from the Trusts. It is not designed to replace the function of the Committee. The Department requested that the Committee review the document and provide any comments.

FW water research priorities

Cameron Westaway advised that a draft list of freshwater research priorities has been compiled to assist RFFTEC during the consideration of future applications. The draft list is a working document and will be continually updated with the assistance of RFFTEC, ACoRF and scientific and management staff. NSW DPI invites members to identify any new priority

areas for consideration. These will be discussed at the next meeting. The list is designed to help proponents submit projects that are relevant to the needs of anglers and will assist with management decisions in the future on allocation of resources.

Monitoring of existing programs

The Department noted the large amount of paperwork associated with this meeting including the agenda, annual reports for each program and applications for new and ongoing programs. The Department proposed to stagger the reports so that small grant reports are received at meetings 1 and 2 and large program reports at meeting 1 and the annual budget meeting in April. It was noted that a number of program managers had requested a reduction in reporting requirements. The Committee advised that the reports were very informative and recommended that the current reporting structure be maintained.

Agenda item 2

Cameron Westaway

Issue

Renewal of funding for ongoing programs

Background

RFFTEC has supported a number of programs carried out by NSW Department of Primary Industries over the 3 years since the introduction of the General Recreational Fishing Fee. These programs have achieved a range of benefits for recreational fishers in coastal NSW.

Outcomes

In consultation with the freshwater expenditure committee, NSW DPI will work through the list of applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs on a project-by-project basis. Comments on each program will be sought from members including recommendations for funding in 05/06 and beyond. Some projects offer a number of alternative funding arrangements.

Recommendation

Noted by the Committee.

Issue

Review of applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs

Background**a) Enhanced Departmental Fish Production**

Government hatcheries at Narrandera Fisheries Centre, Gaden Trout Hatchery (Jindabyne), Dutton Trout Hatchery (Ebor) and Port Stephens Fisheries Centre receive funding to boost production of native fish species including trout, salmon, Australian bass, Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch.

Budget 2004/05: \$304,500

Proposed Budget 2005/06: \$335,000

Outcomes

Government hatcheries at Narrandera Fisheries Centre, Gaden Trout Hatchery (Jindabyne), Dutton Trout Hatchery (Ebor) and Port Stephens Fisheries Centre receive funding to boost production of native fish species including trout, salmon, Australian bass, Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch. The program also provides funding for additional hatchery staff at the Gaden trout hatchery, Narrandera Fisheries Centre and Port Stephens Fisheries Centre, to assist in the production of species for recreational stocking programs. The staff at Jindabyne and Narrandera also have an educational role through hatchery tours, clinics and seminars. Funds are also used for fish production consumables such as fish feed and new equipment. During the 04/05 year (to end of March 05), 6.2 million native fish and trout have been stocked with an estimated 90,000 trout and 250,000 native fish yet to be released. Over the past 3 years, the enhanced fish production budget has been fully expended or slightly overspent, as it does not adequately cover salaries for the Port Stephens Fisheries Technician and Gaden Guide attendant at present. In addition, production costs at PSFC have increased as a result of the upgrade of the facility, to address the Nodavirus issue. NSW DPI is seeking a budget increase to meet the increased salary increments and higher production costs.

Recommendation

RFFTEC **supported** the continuation of the 'enhanced fish production program' and recommended that the budget for the 05/06 financial year be increased from \$304,500 p.a. to \$335,000 p.a. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Steve Rudder. **Carried.**

Background

b) Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program

Angling clubs, councils and community groups receive dollar-for-dollar funding to increase the numbers of Murray cod, golden perch and Australian bass stocked in NSW, with fish purchased from private enterprise.

Budget 2004/05:	\$225,000
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$225,000

Outcomes

The program matches funds raised by the community to stock native into public waterways (with fish sourced from private enterprise). During the 04/05 season (till the end of March 05), 800,000 native fish have been released into rivers and streams across NSW. The take up of funds is not likely to reach the allocation for the program in 04/05, however the Committee has previously approved \$5,000 in funds from this program towards essential research on the extent of Nodavirus within the wild and in dollar for dollar bass hatcheries. Contingency funding has been set aside from within the budget in 05/06 should there be a need for any additional research into the extent of the virus in private bass hatcheries.

Recommendation

RFFTEC **supported** the continuation of the 'dollar for dollar native fish stocking program' and recommended that the budget for the 05/06 financial year be maintained at \$225,000 **Moved:** Richard Ping Kee. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.** RFFTEC recommended that contingency funds be set aside from within the budget for any second-phase research requirements relating to Nodavirus in private bass hatcheries.

Background

c) Freshwater Recreational Management

This program includes the employment of an inland recreational fisheries manager responsible for the co-ordination of the community and government fish stocking programs, the small grants program, the freshwater trust expenditure committee, community liaison and correspondence with fishing groups.

Budget 2004/05:	\$160,400
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$161,000

Outcomes

An inland recreational fisheries manager (based at Tamworth) is appointed to manage the Statewide fish stocking programs, the Small Grants Program and to maintain this expenditure committee and associated issues. This position also has an important role in community liaison with peak fishing organisations such as the five acclimatisation societies, the Council of Freshwater Anglers and North and North West Anglers and associated correspondence with these groups.

Recommendation

RFFTEC **supported** the continuation of the 'freshwater recreational management program' during the 05/06 financial year and recommended that the budget for the program be increased to \$161,000. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

Background

d) Inland Fisheries Officers

Six inland fisheries officer's positions are funded at Inverell, Bathurst, Wellington, Cooma/Jindabyne, Albury and Buronga, to enhance the overall effectiveness of inland compliance in NSW.

Budget 2004/05:	\$625,000
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$828,000

The increase in budget is required to meet recent Officer salary increases of 20% (with corresponding increases in associated overheads).

Outcomes

The freshwater committee recommended that the current funding arrangement for the inland Fisheries Officer positions be maintained at \$625,000 and requested that NSW DPI fund the salary increment through consolidated revenue. RFFTEC recommended the six inland fisheries officers continue in their duties but did not support the proposed budget increase. Mr Tony Andrews conducted a presentation on the Fisheries Officers program at the combined freshwater / saltwater meeting (afternoon session). Discussions relating to this proposal are outlined on pages 22 & 23.

Recommendation

RFFTEC **supported** the continuation of the 'six inland fisheries officers program' at the existing funding level of \$625,000. RFFTEC **did not support** funding for the proposed budget increase (to \$828,000) from the Freshwater Trust. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

Background

e) Small Grants Program

This program is designed to provide fishing clubs, councils and other community members with an opportunity to obtain funding for small, local or regional projects, which enhance recreational fishing.

Budget 2004/05:	\$40,000
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$30,000

The budget for this program was doubled in 03/04 to encourage applications for small, regional high quality recreational fishing projects. The current budget is based on average expenditure in previous years.

Outcomes

This program is designed to assist community groups, fishing clubs and individuals with matching funding for worthwhile recreational fishing projects. The budget for this program was doubled in 03/04 due to the large number of projects received. However, while the take up of funds in 04/05 has been strong, project funding is not likely to reach this year's allocation for the program. Therefore, the proposed budget for 2005/06 has been revised based on average expenditure in previous years.

RFFTEC asked that there be some scope within the small grants program for consideration of recreational fishing projects above the \$5,000 threshold. This would include Australian Resource Council (ARC) linkage projects and or those with a dollar for dollar contribution or in-kind equivalent. In the past, larger projects have needed to be deferred to the annual budget meeting, which has caused delays in the contract for and payment of, approved programs and subsequent delays in project starting dates. To address this issue, RFFTEC recommended that larger scale projects of up to \$10,000 be considered under the small grants program in the future (under the special circumstances outlined above) and that the following caption be inserted within the current trust fund application form. "Projects up to \$10,000 may be considered under special circumstances".

Recommendation

RFFTEC **supported** the continuation of the 'small grants program' at a revised funding level of \$30,000. **Moved:** Debbie Lennon **Seconded:** Brian Hale. **Carried.** RFFTEC requested that the \$5,000 threshold per project be maintained but there be a capacity to fund projects above this amount (up to \$10,000) under special circumstances.

Action item: RFFTEC requested that that the following caption be inserted within the current trust fund application form: "Projects up to \$10,000 may be considered under special circumstances".

Background

f) Stocking Success Program

The trust funds a technical officer to provide estimates of mortality and survival rates of stocked fish, the contribution of stockings and percentage returns to the angler. Several impoundments and rivers have been stocked with marked fish including rainbow trout, Murray cod, golden perch and Australian bass.

Budget 2004/05:	\$160,000
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$160,000

Outcomes

The trust funds a technical officer position based at Cronulla. A number of research reports have needed to be written prior to the retirement of the Scientific Officer. This has meant that less time has been spent in the field, resulting in a cost saving within the travel and running expenses aspects of the budget. The field work component is expected to return to normal levels in 05/06 and the budget is predicted to be fully expended. RFFTEC sought

confirmation that these scientific reports will be made available to the general public. NSW DPI advised that a copy of all completed reports on stocking success research will be distributed to RFFTEC and be placed on the NSW DPI website. RFFTEC expressed concern that the Scientific Officer position has not been replaced since the retirement of the former employee. Dr Steve Kennelly advised that the Mr Bob Faragher had accepted a redundancy in January as part of the Government restructure, which means that this specific position cannot be replaced. Dr Kennelly noted that there has been a steady decline in freshwater scientists in recent years, which has reduced the department's capability in areas related to freshwater angling. Cameron Westaway advised that recreational management will work with the freshwater research team and supervisor of the Fisheries Technician to ensure research targets identified within the stocking success program are maintained. Karl Schaerf advised that Central Acclimatisation Society members would be willing to assist the Fisheries Technician with finclipping activities at the Gaden hatchery, if required. RFFTEC requested that a letter be drafted from the Chair to the Minister and Senior Executive in NSW DPI to seek re-instatement of the Scientific Officer position, given it's importance to recreational fishers and fish stocking. Rodney Tonkin advised that the Council of Freshwater Anglers would also be writing a letter to the Minister seeking support for the replacement of this important position.

Recommendation

RFFTEC **supported** the continuation of the 'stocking success program' during the 05/06 financial year at the existing funding level of \$160,000. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

Action item: RFFTEC requested that a letter be drafted from the Chair to the Minister and Senior Executive in NSW DPI to seek re-instatement of the Scientific Officer position, given the contribution of stocking research to recreational fisheries management and the community at large.

Background

g) Inland Conservation Managers

This program supports two inland conservation managers, responsible for management of the habitat grant program, recovery planning for threatened species, impact assessment, coordinating the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Native Fish Strategy, extension and community liaison.

Budget 2004/05:	\$280,000
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$298,000

Outcomes

The program supports two inland conservation managers based in Narrandera and Port Stephens. The conservation managers are responsible for co-ordinating on-ground rehabilitation works to restore freshwater fish habitat, which includes liaison with government and non-government organisations, landholders, catchment management authorities, impact assessment and managing the Habitat Restoration Program. The proposed increase in budget

by \$18,000 is required to meet incremental salary increases (with corresponding increases in associated overheads).

Recommendation

RFFTEC **supported** the continuation of the 'fish habitat protection program' during the 05/06 financial year and recommended that the budget for the program be increased to \$298,000. **Moved:** Richard Ping Kee. **Seconded:** Brian Hale. **Carried.**

Background

h) RFFTEC meeting expenses

The Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee oversees expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust. Expenses associated with the committee meetings included sitting fees, travel to and from meetings and accommodation.

Budget 2004/05:	\$18,000
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$20,000

Outcomes

h) RFFTEC meeting expenses

The Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee has been established to provide advice to the Minister (via the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing) on expenditure priorities from the Freshwater Trust. The proposed budget increase in 2005/06 reflects added costs for air travel, accommodation and sitting fees.

Recommendation

RFFTEC **supported** the continuation of the 'RFFTEC meeting expenses program' during the 05/06 financial year and recommended that the budget be increased to \$20,000 p.a. **Moved:** Steve Rudder. **Seconded:** Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

Background

i) Impoundments Access Program

This program has involved the development of a guidebook on stocked lakes and impoundments to assist anglers and encourage them to visit quality fisheries established in these waterways as a result of stocking recreational fish species. A database of detailed fishing information has been provided to the Australian Fishing Network, which is formatting and printing the book for release. It is proposed to extend the program to develop a second guide on fishing in rivers, including stocked waterways.

Budget 2004/05:	\$23,231 (carryover funds from previous year)
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$30,000

Outcomes

This program involves the development of an access guide on stocked freshwater impoundments in NSW. The guide will provide information on

stocking rates, predominant fish species caught, services and facilities provided and a map of the access arrangements. It will be a quality reference tool for anglers across the state. There is presently a carry over of around \$15,000. Any remaining funds at the end of the program will go back into the trust account and the allocation for 05/06 will be adjusted down accordingly. Following the release of the impoundments guide it is proposed to develop a guidebook on stocked rivers to assist anglers and encourage them to visit quality riverine fisheries. Assistance will be sought from groups such as the five acclimatisation societies and Council of Freshwater Anglers in compiling information for the rivers guide. RFFTEC queried the time line for release of the guide. NSW DPI advised that the guide is in its final stages of completion. It will be launched the fishing tackle show at Darling Harbour in June. The guide will retail as an AFN publication at between \$25.00 and \$29.00. NSW DPI will be issued with 1,000 copies of guide. The method of distribution of guide has yet to be determined. Copies could be forwarded to angling clubs free of charge or on-sold via the NSW DPI website. RFFTEC expressed a preference for the guide to be on-sold on the NSW DPI website and for profits from sale to be returned to the freshwater trust.

Recommendation

RFFTEC **supported** the continuation of the 'impoundments access program' during the 05/06 financial year and recommended a budget of \$30,000 to assist with the finalisation of the guide on stocked freshwater lakes. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

Issue

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Presentation.

Background

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) is a leading Australian agency concerned with planning, funding and managing fisheries research and development. The FRDC does not undertake research itself; rather it identifies research and development needs - and the means of addressing them - through a planning process and by contracting research providers. Stakeholders in the FRDC are the fishing industry; the governments of the Commonwealth, the states and the territories; and the people of Australia. The FRDC plans, invests in and manages fisheries research and development throughout Australia. It is a statutory authority within the portfolio of the federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, jointly funded by the Australian Government and the fishing industry. The FRDC's mission is to increase economic and social benefits for the fishing industry and the people of Australia, through planned investment in research and development, in an ecologically sustainable framework.

The Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust fund a number of research programs that benefit recreational fishing. Some of these research programs also receive funding contributions from the FRDC. Mr John Wilson, Business Manager, from FRDC will address both expenditure committees at the meeting.

Outcomes

Mr John Wilson advised both Committees that the FRDC is keen to engage in meaningful research projects that benefit recreational fishing in NSW. The board of FRDC have also identified research areas of national importance including natural resource sustainability, industry and people development. The FRDC board is particularly interested in investing funds in projects that relate to people development. The Committees were advised that in 2004/05 FRDC provided funding of \$24.5 million for research related to recreational fishing in Australia, including studies that quantified changes in recreational catch and effort of blue swimmer crabs in Cockburn Sound and Geography Bay and evaluation of the recreational fishery management controls of commercially important scale fish species. FRDC fund at least three research projects per year undertaken by the Department. Mr Wilson encouraged the Committee to consider projects that would be suitable for joint funding that could be considered by the FRDC board in May 2006. Mr Wilson also provided copies of various FRDC publications for the Committee's information.

Issue
 Review of joint Trust applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs

Background

a) Recreational Fishing Fee Administration

The licence administration team manages a comprehensive administrative system of 1,100 recreational licence sales agents. It involves the efficient distribution of fishing fee receipt books in a timely manner to agents and the processing and reconciliation of monthly returns and agent accounts. WEB sales and an internal IVR system are also maintained.

The Department is currently preparing a tender with the assistance of the Department of Commerce for the conversion of the manual paper licence system to an electronic system. This will: provide for electronic data and funds transfer minimising the risk of fraud, speed up the sale of licences, ease the administrative burden on agents and staff, and provide for plastic licences and a renewal system. Anglers and agents have repeatedly called for these improvements to be made.

It is expected that the tender for the new system will be advertised in April/May 2005, with the implementation of the electronic system in the new financial year. The new system will be tested with a pilot scheme, which will need to overlap the maintenance of the current manual paper based system for 6 months. Once the pilot phase is complete, the manual system will need to be phased out coupled with the rollout and expansion of the new electronic system statewide. Termination audits for the old system will need to be carried out for every agent once the pilot system has been successfully completed and debt backlog will need to be addressed. The 2005/06 administration budget includes funding for 9 months maintenance of the manual system and carrying out termination audits. A contingency budget (comprised of funds for commissions for the pilot phase and statewide implementation of the new system) separate to the manual licence system budget will also be required.

Manual system:

Budget 2004/05:	\$850,000	
	(\$600,000 Saltwater Trust, \$250,000 Freshwater Trust)	
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$900,000 (10% of 2004/05 licence income)	
	(\$650,000 Saltwater Trust, \$250,000 Freshwater Trust)	

Contingency funding for new electronic system:

Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$300,000	
	(\$210,000 Saltwater Trust, \$90,000 Freshwater Trust)	

b) Fishing promotion

This program raises awareness of fishing rules (including the need for a fishing licence) and aims to encourage responsible and sustainable fishing practices. Responsible fishing is promoted through a range of media (newspaper, magazines, radio, etc) at peak fishing periods. Each advertising campaign is combined with a Departmental media release and newspapers are contacted in order to secure editorial/background coverage.

Budget 2004/05: \$71,100
 (\$49,500 Saltwater Trust, \$21,600 Freshwater Trust)

Budget 2005/06: \$71,000
 (\$50,000 Saltwater Trust, \$21,000 Freshwater Trust)

c) Fishing Workshops

The Trusts subsidise children's fishing workshops (formerly known as fishing clinics) held in the Sydney metropolitan area, at Government hatcheries (in Grafton, Narrandera, Ebor and Jindabyne) and across regional NSW, including clinics for special needs groups and non-English speaking communities. Funds are used to purchase fishing gear, t-shirts, tackle kits etc. The Recreational Management branch is now managing the program. Sponsorship is being sought to offset the costs of the program.

Budget 2004/05: \$88,000
 (\$60,000 Saltwater Trust, \$28,000 Freshwater Trust)

Proposed Budget 2005/06: \$150,742
 (\$87,694 Saltwater Trust, \$63,048 Freshwater Trust)

d) Fishing Guides

This program involved the printing and distribution of 200,000 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Guides and 100,000 Freshwater Fishing Guides in 2004/05. The 2004/05 guides were updated to ensure the most current information is being provided to anglers. Advertising revenue topped up licence funds by over 25%.

Budget 2004/05: \$140,000
 (\$100,000 Saltwater Trust, \$40,000
Freshwater Trust)

Proposed Budget 2005/06: \$140,000
 (\$100,000 Saltwater Trust, \$40,000
Freshwater Trust)

e) Fishcare Volunteers

The Fishcare Volunteer program provides a dynamic volunteer program to provide face-to-face sustainable fishing education to the community and to support community programs, such as fishing clinics and school visits. The Fishcare Volunteer program budget constitutes a state co-ordinator's position

and education officer positions based in Lake Illawarra, Sydney, Coffs Harbour and inland NSW. The education officer position at Bathurst is currently vacant. A carry over from the freshwater budget from 2004/05 is expected as a result of this vacancy.

Budget 2004/05:	\$875,007			
Freshwater Trust)	(\$606,877	Saltwater	Trust,	\$268,330

Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$772,692			
Trust)	(\$564,010	Saltwater Trust	\$208,682,	Freshwater

f) Tournament monitoring program

This program involves the monitoring of angler catch at selected fishing competitions and the analysis of catch rates, species compositions and size distributions and comparisons with previous events. Participating angling clubs and associations receive feedback by way of angling research competition reports. The program supports a technical officer and a scientific officer position. The saltwater program now incorporates the Gamefish Monitoring Program.

Budget 2004/05:	\$300,000	(\$150,000	Saltwater	Trust,
\$150,000 Freshwater Trust)				

Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$328,000	(\$157,000	Saltwater	Trust,
\$142,000 Freshwater Trust)				

g) Fish Habitat Restoration grants

1) Saltwater Clarence Pilot Program

The Clarence Pilot Fish Habitat Rehabilitation program commenced in 2002 with \$120,000 over 2 years of Trust funds spent on rehabilitation works in the Clarence catchment, which was matched by proponent contributions of \$445,000. In addition \$120,000 was received from federal funding through the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, which also received significant proponent contributions. The funding supported over 900 ha of floodplain and wetland habitat rehabilitation, 40 ha of acid soil scald repaired, 4.5 kms of riverbank replanted and 5 kms of waterway restored to fish passage.

2) Freshwater Program

The Freshwater Fish Habitat Rehabilitation program has been funded by the Trust since 2002 with \$300,000 allocated over 3 years for rehabilitating habitat in NSW freshwater catchments. Over the three years matching funding in excess of \$830,000 has been committed as cash and in kind support from project proponents. A total of 134 applications were received over the three years of the program and 41 projects have been funded. The projects approved in the first three rounds supported the rehabilitation of approximately 150 hectares of floodplain and wetland habitat, 80kms of riparian vegetation

and fish passage reinstated for more than 260km of river. In addition over \$2.5 million has been received (2003 to 2005) from various other funding bodies throughout NSW to undertake mapping and assessment of areas for aquatic habitat rehabilitation and for on ground works.

Option 1 (Combined Program)

It is proposed that the Clarence Pilot Fish Habitat Rehabilitation program be expanded to coastal statewide and be amalgamated with the Inland Fish Habitat Rehabilitation program. In this instance it is proposed that funding be allocated on a region-by-region basis. A total of \$575,000 per annum is requested for this program in 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Budget 2004/05:	\$160,000			
	(\$60,000	Saltwater	Trust,	\$100,000
Freshwater Trust)				
Proposed Budget 2005/06:	\$575,000			
	(\$375,000	Saltwater	Trust,	\$200,000
Freshwater Trust)				

Option 2 (Separate Programs)

The Inland Fish Habitat Rehabilitation program to continue on its own merits and the Clarence Pilot Fish Habitat Rehabilitation program to be expanded to coastal statewide. The programs would be managed separately.

Proposed Budget from Saltwater Trust 2005/06:	\$375,000
Proposed Budget from Freshwater Trust 2005/06:	\$205,000

h) Recreational Angling Database

The Recreational Angling Database was developed in March 2001 after the introduction of the general recreational fishing licence. The database collects information on the names, addresses, phone numbers, type of licence and starting date of each licence. It was considered essential that this demographic information on recreational fishers be maintained on an ongoing basis for research (such as the National Angling Survey), expenditure surveys and the reminder notice system, which recently commenced in March 2004.

The service provider contracted to implement and manage the new electronic licence system will be required to maintain a database of licence holders, which will be provided to the Department on a regular basis (negating the need for a separately funded program). A full year of funding will still be required for data entry of licences bought in 2005/06 because data entry is usually 3 months behind time of sale due to submission of returns by Agents.

Budget 2004/05: \$80,000 (\$56,000 Saltwater Trust, \$24,000 Freshwater Trust)

Proposed Budget 2005/06: \$80,000(\$56,000 Saltwater Trust, \$24,000 Freshwater Trust)

i) Licence Reminder Notice

The program involves the mailing out of licence reminder notices (with advisory material) to one and three year licence holders to ensure anglers renew their licences as they expire. Many anglers are unaware that their licences have expired and require a notice as a prompt. There is a strong expectation from anglers for this essential service.

The service provider contracted to run the new electronic licence system will be required to implement a reminder notice system (negating the need for a separately funded program. Therefore a budget has been prepared to support the reminder notice system from July 2005 to March 2006.

Budget 2004/05: \$144,000 (\$100,000 Saltwater Trust, \$44,000 Freshwater Trust)

Proposed Budget \$109,500

2005/06: (\$76,650 Saltwater Trust, \$32,850 Freshwater Trust)

Outcomes

Fisheries Officers

Mr Tony Andrews, Manager Special Operations, spoke to the Committees about the Fisheries Officer programs. Mr Andrews advised that the Recreational Fishing Trusts have been providing funding for fifteen fisheries officers positions, nine coastal and six inland. These positions continue to enhance officer presence and profile in key fishing areas (particularly in closed waters) and detect and deter illegal fishing activity. The Officers form an integral component of the team based in the 28 offices throughout NSW.

Trust funded Fisheries Officers have provided support for a range of targeted operations on illegal activities in various of fisheries and locations. These include operations on abalone and lobster poaching, Murray crayfish protection, trout fishing, the Murray cod closed season and illegal commercial fishing. A range of offences have been detected including use of nets, fish traps, excess set lines, (e.g. long lines being retrieved from Lake Mulwala), shucking of lobster / abalone, fishing during the closed seasons (e.g. for trout and Murray cod) and licensing offences. Statistics for the Easter fishing period show an overall compliance rate for buying the licence at 89.3%, with a higher rate, at around 93%, in freshwater areas.

Members of both Committees expressed some objection to the proposal by NSW DPI to pass on the 20% salary increase in full to the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts. This would result in a significant increase in the budgets for the six inland Officers and the 3 mobile squad Officers. Mr Andrews explained

that the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) approved the salary increase with corresponding increases in disbursements. The salary increases relate to an evaluation process of Officers work responsibilities and accountabilities, which has taken place over many years and has recently been ratified through the IRC by an independent arbitrator. Salary increments will be backdated to 25 February 2005.

The Committees also raised concern about cost recovery levels. The Department noted that a review of on-costs is currently being undertaken. The Committee believed cost recovery levels should be reduced following the amalgamation of the Departments into NSW DPI.

Action item: The Chair on behalf of the Saltwater and Freshwater Expenditure Committees to write to the Minister expressing concern about the level of cost recovery associated with NSW DPI programs.

Mr Rodney Tonkin queried the cost effectiveness of compliance operations to deter illegal activities, in terms of seeking fisher assistance. Mr Tonkin reiterated a need for an illegal fishing reporting card, which can be used by anglers to assist compliance officers in the reporting of fisheries offences. Information recorded on the card can be disseminated to compliance staff through the fishers' hotline. A reporting card system is currently in place for anglers in Victoria and is working very effectively. It was suggested that a similar approach could be adopted in NSW to improve efficiency in compliance. Tony Andrews noted that a 1300 number is in place in NSW for anglers to call should they suspect illegal fishing activity occurring.

Kevin McKinnon sought clarification on the status of employment of inland fisheries officers. Tony Andrews advised that the Macquarie Office is presently carrying a vacancy, which will be advertised shortly.

a) Recreational Fishing Fee Administration

The Department advised that the new electronic system will provide for electronic data and funds transfer which will decrease opportunities for fraud and ease the administrative burden placed on agents. Recently the Department contracted a business analyst to assist with the development of tender specifications that addresses all the requirements, including essential features such as point of sale terminals in agents stores, a renewal process, automatic funds transfer and plastic licences. A sub committee made up of members of the Expenditure Committees, NSW DPI and the Department of Commerce will be formed to review the specification documents and to evaluate the tenders. There will be an implementation period with a pilot scheme involving a sub set of agents. The Department noted the need for contingency funding for the new system. Estimates of the total implementation and ongoing costs for the new system would be provided once the tenders have been received.

The Committees queried whether agents would be required to purchase or rent the sales terminals and the potential cost. The Department advised that pricing for implementation and maintenance of the new system will be negotiated in detail during the development of a contract. Costs for agents for any hardware/software will most likely need to be absorbed by the service provider. The Committees agreed that a new improved licence system with electronic data and funds transfer was essential, including a waterproof plastic licence for anglers.

b) Fishing promotion

The Department noted that the proposed budget for the 'fishing promotion' program for 2005/06 was the same as the previous years budget. The Expenditure Committees raised concern that the methods of the current promotions program may not be achieving the goal to maximise community understanding of the need for a recreational fishing licence and compliance with fishing regulations. RFFTEC / RFSTEC requested that a subcommittee comprised of members of the Expenditure Committees, Recreational Management and Communications staff be formed to develop an improved approach for promoting the licence and recreational fishing regulations.

Action item: NSW DPI to form a sub-committee to develop an improved approach for promoting the licence and recreational fishing regulations.

c) Fishing Workshops

The Recreational Management team aim to provide an enjoyable fishing experience for participants at workshops, where attendees can gain knowledge and understanding of recreational fishing and become equipped with the skills and equipment to enable them to go fishing in the future. The workshops include a theory session on responsible fishing, rigging and casting and a period of supervised practical fishing.

The Committees were advised that a total of 34 events are planned for 2005/06: 3 per hatchery (Narrandera, Ebor, Grafton and Jindabyne), 2 general workshops in each of the three saltwater regions (6) plus 2 additional within the Sydney metropolitan region, 5 workshops for people from a culturally linguistic and diverse background, 2 community engagement clinics per saltwater region (6) and 1 special needs clinic in each saltwater region (3).

The Committees queried the fee structure for fishing workshops. NSW DPI advised that pricing for all clinics will be standardised across all regions in the future and that a system was being developed to return funds received at workshops to the Trusts. Sponsorship is being sought to offset the costs of the program.

d) Fishing Guides

The fishing guides program involves informing and educating the fishing community about responsible fishing practices through the production and broad distribution of freshwater and saltwater fishing booklets. The bag and size limit discussion papers are expected to be released in the near future,

which may result in regulatory changes, which may need to be incorporated prior to the next print run. If significant amendments are required as a result of the reviews, then the numbers of guides produced may need to be adjusted, or additional funds sought from each committee at a later date.

The Committees expressed concern about the number and type (freshwater versus saltwater) of guides received by agents. The Committee suggested that fishing guides be sent with each reminder notice. The Department advised that this option had been considered too costly, however advertising or sponsorship was being investigated as a means of covering this cost.

e) Fishcare Volunteers

Ms Dee McElligott advised that there are currently 352 volunteers operating across NSW and that 86% of these volunteers contribute more than 8 hours per month in angling related activities such as fishing workshops, fishing shows and field days, guided tours, angler surveys, research programs, club presentations, schools programs and tackle shop visits. Saltwater volunteers attended a total of 58 organised events with 12,000 community contacts made. Freshwater volunteers attended a total of 506 organised events and made 53,345 contacts with the general public. The Calendar of Events for volunteers for 2005/06 has been circulated for the information of members. Training has been limited to two intakes per year with the second round of intakes for the western region expected before the end of June.

The education officer position at Bathurst is currently vacant. A carry over from the freshwater budget from 2004/05 is expected as a result of this vacancy. NSW DPI will be re-evaluating the Education Officer positions to ensure they are appropriately graded and that Education Officer staff are operating effectively. The locations where Education Officer's are based will be reviewed to ensure they are working in close proximity to areas where there is high demand for their services and to reduce their travel times and associated running costs. The Department advised that there was a need for an additional part-time Education Officer at Newcastle to assist with Central region activities. Currently the central Officer is almost completely resourced to servicing the Sydney metropolitan area.

A proposal for a part-time Education Officer was provided to the Committee and supported. Officers based on the coast may also need to work in western areas from time to time to assist the inland Education Officer (e.g. the Coffs Harbour Education Officer may run the fishing clinics at the Government trout hatchery near Armidale rather than the Education Officer from Bathurst).

f) Tournament monitoring program

The Committees were advised that approximately 50 freshwater tournaments and 30 saltwater tournaments are being monitored at present and additional creel surveys are being undertaken at boat ramps. The Saltwater program has been expanded to incorporate monitoring of game fish tournaments and spearfishing tournaments. Freshwater results show a dramatic increase in the number of trout cod being caught in the Tocomwal area and significant

declines in numbers of carp in the Lachlan around Hillston. There also appears to be a correlation between fish stocking and improvements in the number of native species being caught in some western rivers. The Committees requested copies of the angling research competition reports sent to participating angling clubs and associations.

Action item: NSW DPI to send to RFSTEC and RFFTEC members angling research competition reports for each tournament recently monitored.

g) Fish Habitat Restoration grants

Mr Craig Copeland, Program Manager, Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation gave a short presentation to the Committees, noting that the success of the Freshwater Habitat Grant program and the Clarence Pilot Program to date indicates that an increasing number of community and angling groups are interested in the rehabilitation of aquatic habitat. The funding allocated from the Recreational Fishing Trusts is a catalyst for other sources of funding, with the funding received from external sources up to seven times the amount from the Trusts.

Both Committees supported the proposal for an expanded habitat restoration program. However, the Saltwater Committee was concerned that the current saltwater proposal represented more than a six fold increase in the program compared to the previous \$60,000 a year pilot Clarence program. The Saltwater Committee recommended reducing the funding allocation from \$375,000 to \$200,000. The Committee advised that the allocation should only be used for grants and that the Department's conservation managers should undertake management of the program.

h) Recreational Angling Database

The Department noted that the service provider contracted to implement and manage the new electronic licence system will be required to maintain a database of licence holders, which will be provided to the Department on a regular basis. This will negate the need for a separately funded program in the future.

i) Licence Reminder Notice

The Department advised that the number of licences sold had increased since the program's implementation and the program has received positive support from anglers. The service provider contracted to run the new electronic licence system will be required to implement a reminder notice system, negating the need for a separately funded program in the future.

Recommendations

Review of joint Trust applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs

That a budget of \$900,000 in 2005/06 (\$650,000 Saltwater Trust, \$250,000 Freshwater Trust) for the 'Recreational Fishing Fee Administration' program **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$300,000 in 2005/06 (\$210,000 Saltwater Trust, \$90,000 Freshwater Trust) for 'Contingency funding for the new electronic system' **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$71,000 in 2005/06 (\$50,000 Saltwater Trust, \$21,000 Freshwater Trust) for the 'Fishing promotion' program **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Robert Bell. **Carried.** This recommendation is subject to an improved approach being developed.

That a budget of \$150,742 in 2005/06 (\$87,694 Saltwater Trust, \$63,048 Freshwater Trust) for the 'Fishing Workshops' program **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Graham Harrison. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$140,000 in 2005/06 (\$100,000 Saltwater Trust, \$40,000 Freshwater Trust) for the 'Fishing Guides' program **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$876,252 in 2005/06 (\$667,570 Saltwater Trust, \$208,682 Freshwater Trust) for the 'Fishcare Volunteer' program **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. **Seconded:** Robert Bell. **Carried**

That a budget of \$299,000 in 2005/06 (\$157,000 Saltwater Trust, \$142,000 Freshwater Trust) for the 'Tournament Monitoring' program **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** Malcolm Poole. **Seconded:** Anthony Moore. **Carried.**

That the Clarence Pilot Fish Habitat Rehabilitation program be expanded to coastal statewide and be amalgamated with the Inland Fish Habitat Rehabilitation program. That a budget of \$400,000 in 2005/06 (\$200,000 Saltwater Trust, \$200,000 Freshwater Trust) for the program 'Statewide Fish Habitat Rehabilitation' **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Anthony Moore. **Carried.** The Committees requested that 100% of the funding be allocated to habitat restoration on-ground works.

Recommendations (continued)

Review of joint Trust applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs

That a budget of \$80,000 in 2005/06 (\$56,000 Saltwater Trust, \$24,000 Freshwater Trust) for the 'Recreational Angling Database' program **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** Bruce Mahony. **Seconded:** Anthony Moore. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$109,500 in 2005/06 (\$76,650 Saltwater Trust, \$32,850 Freshwater Trust) for the 'Licence Reminder Notice' program **be supported** from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts. **Moved:** Anthony Moore. **Seconded:** Greg Liddell. **Carried.**

7 April 2005

Agenda item 5

Cameron Westaway

Issue

Project updates

Background

a) Nodavirus research (Jane Frances). In the 2004 season, Australian bass larval mortalities were recorded at the Port Stephens Fisheries Centre's breeding facilities. This was found to be the result of a Nodavirus outbreak. Nodavirus is known to cause systemic infections in a range of wild, farmed and ornamental marine and freshwater fish and is currently an internationally reportable fish disease. NSW DPI will be conducting research to determine the status of the virus in the wild and in government and private bass hatcheries. RFFTEC has committed \$5,000 in funds (from the existing dollar for dollar stocking program) towards this essential research.

b) Eastern cod research programs (Gavin Butler). Mr Butler will brief the committee on the outcomes of research into distribution of isolated populations of Eastern cod in the upper Clarence and any bass captured during sampling. Mr Butler will also discuss preliminary findings from underwater filming of cod spawning activity.

Outcomes

a) Nodavirus research

Ms Jane Francis advised that Nodaviruses are known to cause systemic infections in many species of wild, farmed and ornamental marine fish overseas. In Australia, Nodaviruses have caused high mortalities in larval barramundi cultured at research and commercial hatcheries in Queensland, Northern Territory and South Australia and in larval striped trumpeter at the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute. Nodavirus infection of fish has not previously been reported in NSW, however no survey work of wild populations has been conducted. Therefore, it is unknown if fish Nodaviruses are endemic to native fish populations in NSW.

The marine fish breeding program at the Port Stephens Fisheries Centre (PSFC) has produced juvenile bass for stocking into public impoundments in NSW annually since 1984. In addition, in 2004 PSFC has been contracted by Fisheries Victoria to produce juvenile bass for stocking into the Gippsland Lakes.

Problems, including chronic and acute mortality were observed in several production runs of Australian bass fingerlings at PSFC in July-August 2004. Various potential causes, including unfavourable water and food quality were suspected and investigated without elucidating any causative agent. Pathology samples were sent for laboratory analysis and a confirmed diagnosis of Nodavirus was received on Thursday 2 September 2004.

Outcomes continued

Immediate precautionary actions taken on site at PSFC included humane destruction of suspect bass larvae, quarantine of marine fish hatchery, relocation of broodstock bass away from the hatchery, disinfection of fish hatchery facilities and pipelines and disinfection of larval rearing waste water.

Sequencing of the Nodavirus from bass samples has shown that the Australian bass Nodavirus is different from the barramundi Nodavirus. Laboratory results showed wild trumpeter whiting, sea mullet and bream caught in the vicinity of PSFC's seawater intake tested positive to Nodavirus. Blood samples of Australian bass and kingfish broodstock held at PSFC also tested positive to Nodavirus. Wild Australian bass from the Williams River tested negative to Nodavirus. Additional testing of wild populations of Australian bass from other regions (Clarence River and Shoalhaven River) as well as marine species from other regions is required to determine if Nodavirus is endemic in at least some wild populations in NSW.

In September 2004, hatchery-produced barramundi from South Australia were imported into NSW in accordance with the barramundi policy. Subsequent to their arrival at three commercial facilities in NSW, the SA hatchery experienced a Nodavirus outbreak concurrent with but not related to the Nodavirus outbreak in Australian bass in NSW. NSW DPI conducted trackings of the ex-SA stock and sent samples for testing. Confirmed results received in October 2004 indicate that barramundi fingerlings, which had previously tested negative, using conventional Nodavirus PCR primers, subsequently tested positive with the Nodavirus PCR primers designed to detect the virus strains infecting Australian bass as well as the barramundi strain. These barramundi at each of the three commercial facilities in NSW remained healthy and showed no clinical signs of infection.

NSW DPI is continuing to undertake an analysis of the epidemiology of the outbreak and undertake a tracing program to identify the likely source of infection. An investigation of the Nodavirus status of some marine species is scheduled for April / May 2005. Investigations of the Nodavirus status of Australian bass broodstock is to be undertaken as part of broodstock collection in May – July 2005. NSW DPI gratefully acknowledges the financial contribution and support of the Recreational Fishing Trust.

In addition, NSW DPI is contributing to a multi-state collaborative research proposal to further investigate Nodavirus status in wild populations in NSW and south eastern Australia.

b) Eastern cod research

Mr Gavin Butler advised that although once abundant throughout the Clarence and Richmond Rivers, populations of Eastern cod plummeted throughout the early 1900's due to a range of factors including illegal fishing, habitat degradation (scouring, infilling, removal of riparian vegetation, water extraction, genetic issues (inbreeding and hybridisation) and man-made and natural pollution e.g. runoff from a major bushfire in the region during the

Outcomes continued

1930's. These contributing factors have caused localised extinctions across the entire range, leaving small populations remaining in isolated tributaries of the Clarence River. The Australian Society of Fish Biology and International Union for Conservation of Nature has listed eastern cod as endangered and the species is totally protected from fishing in NSW.

There has been some recovery of the species over the last decade as a result of conservation measures by NSW DPI. These include an grant for tagging, distribution and habitat restoration works through the Natural Heritage Trust, the drafting of the eastern freshwater cod recovery plan, genetic evaluation, movement patterns, age and growth studies by Southern Cross University and increased community involvement in recovery operations such as restocking (e.g. Project Big Fish).

The current project aimed to determine the pre-spawning, spawning and post-spawning behaviour of adult Eastern freshwater cod (EFC) in the wild by using mobile underwater cameras to locate and quantify nesting site parameters and fixed cameras to study the behaviour of EFC over nesting sites before and after the spawning period. The results of the research would be used to construct a model for spawning behaviour for the species. The study would also investigate the potential effects of angling on nesting EFC.

Preliminary results showed that EFC undergo an initial spawning at 16°C (but also at 20°C) with the spawning period extending from late August into October. Males continually cleaned nesting sites prior to spawning – a courting ritual to attract potential mates. Nesting sites were typically built at a depth of between 0.5 – 4 metres below a hard substrate such as bedrock or boulders. Nesting sites were located in still water at 90° to the direction of the flow of the current. These sites typically had a maximum of two entranceways, which were guarded jealously by males. Cod remain over eggs and larvae for around 22 days. Males rigorously defend nests over this period. Cod larvae disperse from the nest area around 2 weeks post hatch.

Mr Butler showed the Committee video footage of eastern cod guarding their nesting grounds. Cod were observed exhibiting aggressive behaviour towards other species within the vicinity of the nesting site and chasing after any lures that were cast near the entranceway to the nest. This has implications to anglers as the more time cod spend away from spawning sites the greater the potential for egg loss to predators such as Australian bass and eels. Cod will not feed during the nesting period and will become fatigued if continually disturbed, and may also abandon spawning sites altogether. It may be necessary to preclude all types of fishing in the future during the spawning period in areas where eastern cod are found, to ensure the spawning success of the species.

Outcomes continued

RFFTEC queried the status of the eastern cod stocking program. NSW DPI advised that Eastern cod stocking has been temporarily discontinued until a review of the status of present populations is completed and genetic factors relevant to the stocking practice are finalised. Should the review show a need to recommence restocking for eastern cod, NSW DPI would most likely produce the stock at the Grafton Research facility, in accordance with the relevant genetic guidelines, for release into the Clarence and Richmond River catchments. Data from the cod spawning behaviour study would be used to determine the most appropriate sites for restocking.

Recommendation

Noted by the Committee.

Issue

Review of new applications

Background

The Recreational Fishing Trusts fund programs for the benefit of recreational fisheries. An expression of interest for applications was mailed to councils, fishing clubs and organizations and universities to encourage the submission of high profile applications that specifically benefit recreational fishing programs and directly enhance angler catch. The closing date for applications was 11 March 2004. The applications received by the Department are summarised in the table on page 35.

Outcomes

The community has submitted four new small grants proposals and eight general projects for funding to NSW DPI for consideration and comment by RFFTEC. The Committee discussed each application at the meeting and made one of the following recommendations:

1. Program to be supported by the trust,
2. Program not supported by the trust,
3. Program to be deferred.

Small grants projects

1. The Committee supported the following programs: Feasibility study into providing water for Lake Albert and investigation into the genetic structure of Murray cod pre- and post-stocking within the Murray Darling basin and fish passage in the Fish River above Oberon Dam (conditional approval subject to authorisation of modification works by NSW DPI conservation staff). These programs were considered to show direct benefits to recreational fishing.

The Lake Albert fishery is an important recreational fishery for the local community and has been regularly stocked with native fish from the Narrandera Fisheries Centre over the past few years. Over the past 6 months, water levels in the Lake have receded significantly and resulted in some fish kills. A strategy to redress adequate water flows into the Lake was considered a high priority in order to sustain the fishery.

The study by DPI Fisheries Victoria of population structures of Murray cod in the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee catchments would address a knowledge gap on population genetics for the species (as identified within the freshwater research priority plan) and would involve anglers in the collection of data at fishing tournaments.

The project to improve fish passage in the Fish River above Oberon Dam was supported (subject to approval of modification works by NSW DPI) as it will have direct benefits to the recreational trout fishery in the Fish River and

Outcomes continued

Oberon dam, by enabling the passage of trout on their spawning run from the Lake Oberon during periods of low flow.

2. The Committee did not support the Lake Keepit fish out facility. There appears to be some uncertainty surrounding land ownership and future access arrangements to the facility, and whether it would become a commercially based activity in the future. Development consent may be required through Council and NSW DPI regarding the proposed blocking of the gully. The relevance of the fish out facility was also questioned given its proximity to the well-established Lake Keepit recreational fishery. For these reasons, the project was not considered a priority for funding.

3. The Committee recommended that a decision on funding for the Plan of Management for Town Creek (Dungog Shire Council) be deferred. This project should be re-submitted for consideration by NSW DPI conservation management staff as part of the next round of the Habitat Grants program.

General projects

1. The Committee supported the following general projects: Identification of travelling stock routes and other reserves of importance to recreational anglers, conservation genetics and management implications for perch and bass, distribution of threatened species of frog within the Styx River catchment and its tributaries, These programs were considered to show direct benefits to recreational fishing.

The access to stock reserves program will assist in the preservation of recreational angler access to rivers and streams and will enable the publication of access points for recreational anglers. It will also enable representations to be made to the relevant management authorities as well as assist in the monitoring of the status of such reserves.

The threatened frog species program will determine the distribution of Stuttering Frog and Glandular frog within the Styx River and its tributaries, where a potential stocking impact on threatened frogs has been identified. This research is considered high priority for anglers as the draft FMS on fish stocking translates a need to appropriately manage fish stocking in areas where the activity may potentially affect threatened species. Rodney Tonkin abstained from voting on this issue.

The two fish genetics proposals were considered concurrently (conservation genetics and management implications for perch and bass – Macquarie University and population structures and the genetic implications of stocking native fish – Sydney University). The Macquarie University proposal was selected in preference to the Sydney University proposal as this project demonstrated an ability to value-add on existing freshwater research (samples already collected within the tissue library at Narrandera and from the existing daughterless carp project would be utilised), was more relevant in terms of

species selection (inland and coastal species), addressed a conservation knowledge gap relation to Macquarie perch (as identified within the freshwater **Outcomes continued** priorities list) in and showed better value for money overall, with more species to be sampled for an equivalent cost.

2. The Committee did not support the Sydney University fish genetics study (refer to explanatory note under 1).

The Committee did not support the 2 crayfish projects (research and monitoring for an introduced freshwater crayfish species – project 1 and education program for an introduced freshwater crayfish species – project 2). These programs were not considered to be high priority or of relevance for recreational anglers. The Committee noted that these two projects should continue to be co-ordinated through the Southern Cross University.

3. The Committee recommended that a decision on funding for the Faulkland Road Causeway proposal (Gloucester Shire Council) be deferred. This project should also be re-submitted for consideration by NSW DPI conservation management staff as part of the next round of the Habitat Grants program.

A summary of recommendations by RFFTEC for small grants and general programs is provided on pages 36 and 37.

New applications for funding

Small grants

Project Title	Proponent	Description
Feasibility study into providing water for Lake Albert	Wagga Wagga City Council	To determine the best option for providing sufficient water to Lake Albert during times of low water inflows, to ensure the survival of native fish in the Lake.
Investigation into the genetic structure of Murray cod pre- and post-stocking within the Murray Darling basin	Dr Brett Ingram	To develop technologies to manage the production of genetically certified "wild strain" seed stock for Murray cod for recreation and conservation restocking programs.
Improve fish passage in the Fish River above Oberon Dam.	Central Acclimatisation Society – Oberon Branch	To increase spawning grounds for trout in the Fish River above Lake Oberon, at low water levels.
Plan of Management for Town Creek, Clarence Town	Dungog Shire Council	Development of a plan of management for the rehabilitation of the lower Town Creek catchment.

General projects

Project Title	Proponent	Description
Identification of Travelling Stock and other reserves of importance to recreational anglers,	Department of Primary Industries	To identify public reserves of value to recreational anglers and to preserve the access status for fishing, through relevant authorities.
The distribution of threatened frog species within the Styx River catchment.	University of Newcastle	To determine the distribution of Stuttering Frog and Glandular frog within the Styx River and its tributaries above the Armidale/Kempsey road bridge.
Conservation genetics and management implications for perch and bass	Macquarie University	Assess the population genetic structure of perch and bass within NSW (four fish species) and to recommend on zones for broodstock collection and stocking.
Population structures and the genetic implications of stocking native fish	University of Sydney	To preserve the genetic diversity within two fish species and to inform on the genetic implications of stocking
Research and monitoring for an introduced freshwater crayfish species	Southern Cross University	Co-ordinate research programs at Southern Cross University to identify dynamics of population of introduced freshwater crayfish species.
An education program for an introduced freshwater crayfish species	Southern Cross University	Prepare freshwater crayfish educational material and conduct a series of community workshops / training days on crayfish identification.
Keepit Fishing Outdoor Education Program	Lake Keepit Sport and Recreation Centre	Conduct a feasibility study and construct a fish out facility at the Sport and Recreation Centre, Lake Keepit.
Fish passage on the Gloucester River	Gloucester Shire Council	Construction of a rock ramp fishway at Faulkland crossing, Gloucester River

Recommendations

Review of new small grant applications

That a budget of \$5,000 in 2005/06 for the 'Feasibility study into providing water for Lake Albert' **be supported** from the Freshwater Trusts Small Grants Program. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$5,000 in 2005/06 for the 'Investigation into the genetic structure of Murray cod pre- and post-stocking within the Murray Darling basin' **be supported** from the Freshwater Trusts Small Grants Program. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$1,325 in 2005/06 to 'Improve fish passage in the Fish River above Oberon Dam' **be supported** from the Freshwater Trusts Small Grants Program. **Moved:** Karl Schaerf. **Seconded:** Steve Rudder. **Carried.** This recommendation is subject to the assessment and approval of fish passage modification works by NSW DPI.

That a decision on funding for the 'Plan of Management for Town Creek, Clarence Town' **be deferred** until a future meeting. Conservation management staff from NSW DPI will consider this proposal as part of the next round of the Habitat Grants program. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Richard Ping Kee. **Carried.**

Recommendations

Review of new general project applications

That a budget of \$30,000 in 2005/06 for the 'Identification of Travelling Stock and other reserves of importance to recreational anglers' program **be supported** from Freshwater Trust. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$8,705 in 2005/06 for 'The distribution of threatened frog species within the Styx River catchment' **be supported** from the Freshwater Trust. **Moved:** Karl Schaerf. **Seconded:** Dr Steve Kennelly. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$20,000 in 2005/06, \$20,000 in 2006/07 and \$20,000 in 2007/08 (total \$60,000) for the 'Conservation genetics and management implications for perch and bass' program **be supported** from the Freshwater Trust. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

That a decision on funding for 'Fish Passage in the Gloucester River' **be deferred** until a future meeting. Conservation management staff from NSW DPI will consider this proposal as part of the next round of the Habitat Grants program. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Richard Ping Kee. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$20,000 in 2005/06, \$20,000 in 2006/07 and \$20,000 in 2007/08 (total \$60,000) for the 'Population structures and the genetic implications of stocking native fish (Sydney University)' **not be supported** from the Freshwater Trust. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Karl Schaerf. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$4,753 in 2005/06, \$4,800 in 2006/07 and \$4,800 in 2007/08 (total \$14,353) for 'Research and monitoring for an introduced freshwater crayfish species' **not be supported** from the Freshwater Trust. **Moved:** Richard Ping Kee. **Seconded:** Brian Hale. **Carried.**

That a budget of \$5,000 in 2005/06, \$5,000 in 2006/07 and \$5,000 in 2007/08 (total \$15,000) for the 'Education program for an introduced freshwater crayfish species' **not be supported** from the Freshwater Trust. **Moved:** Debbie Lennon. **Seconded:** Rodney Tonkin. **Carried**

That a budget of \$8,000 in 2005/06 and \$32,000 (total \$40,000) for the 'Keepit Fishing Outdoor Education Program' **not be supported** from the Freshwater Trust. **Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** Debbie Lennon. **Carried**

Issue

2005/06 Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust budget

Background

A draft budget table for 2005/06 will be prepared and presented to the Committee for consideration, based on the recommendations of RFFTEC for renewal of funding for existing and new proposals for funding. The budget position predicted from the initial recommendations will be compared against available funds. If necessary, approvals for programs, and or allocations to each program may need to be reviewed in order to achieve an appropriate Trust balance in 2005/06 and thereafter.

Outcomes

The freshwater trust budget table for 2005/06 was developed in consultation with RFFTEC during the course of the meeting. The budget table listed the levels of expenditure for ongoing programs as recommended by the Committee, during deliberations under items 3 (review of freshwater trust applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs), 5 (review of joint freshwater and saltwater trust applications for ongoing NSW DPI programs) and 7 (review of new applications – large projects) of the agenda paper. Budget figures were evaluated against available funds within the freshwater trust and were found to align with a balanced budget.

Recommendation				
Budget and expenditure from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust, 05/06 financial year, as approved by RFFTEC				
Program	04/05 budget (\$'000)	04/05 predicted carryover (\$'000)	05/06 budget (supported) (\$'000)	05/06 allocation (proposed) (\$'000)
Dollar for dollar native fish stocking	225	25	225	200
Enhanced Gov. fish production	304.5	0	335	335
Freshwater recreational mgt	160.4	0	161	161
RFFTEC meeting expenses	18	0	20	20
Fishcare volunteer program	268.1	51.4	208.7	157.3
Licence promotion	21.6	0	21	21
Fishing guides	40	0	40	40
Fishing clinics	28	0	63	63
Licence administration	250	0	250	250
Electronic licensing system contingency	-	-	90	90
Inland fisheries officers	625	40	625	585
Regional fish habitat (inland)	280	0	298	298
Effectiveness of stocking program	160	40	160	120
Freshwater tournament monitoring	150	10	142	132
Small grants program	40	13	30	17
Fish habitat grant program	100	0	200	200
Impoundments access	23.2	0	30	30
Licence reminder notice	44	0	32.8	32.8
Recreational angling database	24	0	24	24
TSR's angler access program	-	-	30	30
Threatened frog research–Styx R	-	-	8.7	8.7
Genetic implications for per & bass	-	-	20	20
Total (\$'000)	2761.8	179.4	3014.2	2834.8

Small Grant programs approved by RFFTEC

Program	Proponent	2005/06
Feasibility study into providing water for Lake Albert	Wagga Wagga City Council	\$5,000
Investigation into the genetic structure of Murray cod pre- and post-stocking within the Murray Darling basin	Dr Brett Ingram	\$5,000
Improve fish passage in the Fish River above Oberon Dam (funding approved subject to consideration of works by NSW DPI)	Central Acclimatisation Society – Oberon Branch	\$1,325

Agenda Item 8

Cameron Westaway

Issue

Other programs – Annual Reports

Background

Program managers of all other trust funded projects not presenting at this budget meeting have prepared annual progress reports for the Committee's information. These reports include details on project objectives and progress against these objectives.

Outcomes

For information.

Agenda Item 9

Bruce Schumacher

Issue

Action items from meeting 20

Outcomes

Action items arising from the previous meeting are detailed in the action status table, included at the back of the agenda. All issues arising from the previous meeting have been addressed. Noted by the Committee.

10. General Business

Issue

Spread of Banded Grunter in north coast rivers

Background

Rodney Tonkin expressed concern that banded grunter has now become established in the Clarence River catchment (as a result of a fish translocation from south eastern Qld) and poses a potential threat to native fish populations, in particular Australian bass and eastern cod. Banded grunter (a small predatory fish native to northern Australia) has been previously translocated from northern Queensland into south east Queensland where it now dominates the recreational fishing catch in some dams. The species has the potential to establish reproducing populations across the entire Clarence catchment and other north coast rivers, if its spread is not curtailed. It could also severely compromise the eastern cod recovery program if it moves into the upper parts of the catchment, as it may interrupt spawning activities and predate on cod eggs and larvae.

Outcomes

Mr Tonkin requested that NSW DPI undertake strategies to halt the spread of this noxious predator. Dr Steve Kennelly advised that he would investigate this issue and report back to the committee at next meeting.

Issue

Aquarium industry regulatory controls

Background

Mr Rodney Tonkin requested clarification on legislative controls for the aquarium industry and the quarantine procedures surrounding the importation of aquarium species and associated disease control measures.

Outcomes

Dr Steve Kennelly advised that the aquarium trade is a difficult issue, given the size of industry and complexities in control. High-risk species are classed as noxious fish, which cannot be kept or sold and there have been some prosecutions for possession and sale of noxious fish. Discussions with the aquarium industry are ongoing with a view to strengthening present management arrangements for noxious fish. NSW DPI has established a Biosecurity Unit at Port Stephens, responsible for investigation of aquatic pests and control of viruses. Dr Steve Kennelly advised that he would investigate these issues and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Issue

Continuation of Aquatic Veterinary Officer position within NSW DPI

Background

Mr Richard Ping Kee expressed concern over a proposal to annul the Aquatic Veterinary Officer position within NSW DPI. The Aquatic Veterinary Officer provides high-level technical support to Government and industry on issues associated with fish diseases, extension and disease emergency response, highlighted in recent times by the Nodavirus outbreak at Port Stephens and associated quarantining of the hatchery facility.

Outcomes

Mr Ping Kee noted that recreational anglers regard this Government role as vital to the long-term health of recreational fisheries as outbreaks of disease in our wild fish populations have the potential to decimate our fisheries and without specific aquatic disease expertise, identification and containment will be extremely difficult (since the RFFTEC meeting the Aquatic Veterinary Officer has confirmed that he will be withdrawing from the position).

Recommendation

RFFTEC recommended that a letter be written to the Minister seeking clarification on the status of the Veterinary Officer (Aquatic Animal Health) position and seeking confirmation that the position will be maintained in the future.

Issue

Updating of NSW DPI website

Background

Bryan van der Walt advised that NSW DPI is updating the website as part of the amalgamation of the four separate departments. Improvements will be made to the saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing pages. NSW DPI is seeking representatives from this Committee to provide input on amendments to the structure and content of the site.

Outcomes

Rodney Tonkin and Kevin McKinnon were nominated to assist with amendments to the recreational fishing website.

Issue

Expanding the impoundments access program

Background

NSW DPI advised that funding for this program involved the development of a guidebook on impoundments to encourage anglers to visit these fisheries as a result of stocking recreational fish species. However, further work is needed to manage access to new waters (e.g. Umberumbka Dam, Broken Hill) to seek the reopening of areas recently closed to fishing (e.g. Cochrane Dam, Sooley Dam, Goulburn), to maintain existing access (e.g. Thompsons Creek Dam, Lithgow, Googong Dam, Queanbeyan) and to resolve access conflicts (e.g. Lake Crackenback, Crackenback Resort, Malpas Dam, Armidale).

Outcomes

John Diplock noted that the manager of the project will need to work closely with governing authorities to open up public waters currently out of bounds to, or under utilised by recreational fishers, and enhance opportunities for private fish-out operations adjacent to large population areas and popular tourism localities. As such, negotiating impoundments access is a full time position. An inventory of existing arrangements at dams will also need to be prepared to assist with negotiations at any new sites. Cameron Westaway advised that this role will link-in with the TSR access program supported by RFFTEC at this meeting. Mr Karl Schaerf noted that the function of the project manager should extend to access at lesser-known small dams, identified by the general community through the annual native fish stocking planning process.

Issue

Combined RFFTEC / RFSTEC meetings

Background

The Chair advised that this is the first time a combined session has been arranged between the two committees, so that members can review programs jointly funded by the freshwater and saltwater trusts concurrently.

Outcomes

RFFTEC were highly supportive of the combined meetings concept and recommended that the joint meetings continue once per year at the annual budget meetings.

Issue

Appointment of Dr Steve Kenelly to RFFTEC

Outcomes

The Committee discussed the appointment of Dr Steve Kennelly (NSW DPI Chief Scientist) to RFFTEC. Members were concerned that the appointment of a NSW DPI staff member to the Committee (with voting capacity) may discredit the excellent reputation of this previous angler based Committee.

Action item: The Chair on behalf of RFSTEC to write to the Minister to express the Committee's concern about the appointment of a NSW DPI staff member to the expenditure committee.

Next Meeting

The next RFFTEC meeting was scheduled for Thursday 18th of August at the Cronulla Fisheries Centre. The meeting closed at 3.00pm.

RFFTEC Meeting – 14 April 2005
ACTION ITEMS

Action item	Agenda items	Action	Status / Comments	Team responsible
1	3f: Review of ongoing NSW DPI programs (Stocking success)	Letter from the Chair to the Minister and Senior Executive in NSW DPI, seeking re-instatement of the Scientific Officer position.	Completed	Chair / Rec. Management
2	5: Review of jointly funded programs (Fishing Promotion program)	That a RFFTEC / RFSTEC subcommittee be formed to develop an integrated approach to advertising the recreational fishing fee	Pending	Chair / Rec. Management
3	7: Review of new applications	Correspondence to applicants on the outcomes of their funding proposals.	Pending Ministerial approval of supported programs	Rec. Management
4	7: Review of new applications	Correspondence to applicants on the outcomes of their funding proposals.	Pending Ministerial approval of supported programs	Rec. Management
5	8: Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust budget.	Budget recommendations to be forwarded to ACoRF for ratification on 13 April 05. Ministerial briefing seeking endorsement of the recommendations from ACoRF regarding expenditure of funds from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust for the 05/06 year.	Budget recommendations to ratified by ACoRF on 13 April 05. Ministerial briefing on budget expenditure pending.	Rec. Management
6	11: General Business (aquarium industry)	Investigation into the aquarium industry quarantine and disease control measures	Pending	Dr Steve Kenelly
7	11: General Business (banded grunter)	Investigation of control measures to be adopted by NSW DPI to prevent the spread of banded grunter in north coast rivers.	Pending	Dr Steve Kenelly
8	11: General Business (aquatic veterinarian)	Letter from the Chair to the Minister seeking clarification on the status of the Veterinary Officer (Aquatic Animal Health) position and confirmation that the position will be maintained in the future	Completed	Chair / Rec. Management

RFFTEC Meeting – 14 April 2005
ACTION ITEMS (continued)

Action item	Agenda items	Action	Status / Comments	Team responsible
9	11: General Business (website upgrade)	That the delegates selected from the freshwater and saltwater trust expenditure committees provide input into the development of the new NSW DPI website.	Pending	RFSTEC / RFSTEC designates for website upgrade / Rec. Management
10	-	Thank you letter from the Chair to the Director of Fisheries Management regarding hospitality at the Greek Restaurant on evening of 6 th of April.	Completed	Chair / Rec. Management