

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing
Outcomes - Meeting 41, 26 April 2007

Apologies

Peter Cooley, Neil Ryan.

The Chair advised that Council members may nominate a deputy/proxy to attend ACoRF meeting(s) in the member's absence, however, the appointment has to be approved by the Minister/delegated officer. Therefore, DPI requires considerable notice (i.e. at least 30 days) to ensure approval of the nominated deputy prior to the meeting.

Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meeting

The Council accepted the outcomes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 40th ACoRF meeting, held 14 December 2006. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** Charles Howe.

Carried.

Business arising from the minutes

Nil.

1. Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Trust Expenditure

An expression of interest calling for applications for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts was widely advertised in January 2007. On 2 and 3 April 2007 the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committees (RFSTEC and RFFTEC) held their annual budget meetings with a combined session to review applications for funding for NSW DPI and external programs from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts in 2007/08 and beyond. Tables 1-3 summarise all of the applications recommended for funding by ACoRF in light of the previous recommendations made by RFSTEC and RFFTEC. Table 4 summarises the applications not supported by ACoRF, in light of the previous recommendations made by RFSTEC and RFFTEC.

A draft budget table for 2007/08 was also prepared based on the funding proposals. The budget position was determined from the recommendations and predicted revenue from licence fee sales to ensure appropriate balances were maintained in the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts in 2007/08.

ACoRF determined that the allocation of funding to the Freshwater Trust will be maintained at \$3 million.

Table 1: Ongoing NSW DPI programs recommended for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts

Freshwater Trust

Program Details	Budget 2007/08
Enhanced fish production – provides additional operational funds to boost Government hatchery production of freshwater recreational fish for stocking in public waterways to improve recreational fishing.	\$335,000
Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program – this program provides matching funds for the purchase of native fish by community groups from private hatcheries for stocking into approved waters.	\$230,000
Inland fisheries officers – funding for 5 additional fisheries officers based in inland NSW to enhance compliance and advisory services.	\$670,420
Small grants program – provides seed funding for community groups for recreational fishing infrastructure programs such as fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms.	\$60,000
Effectiveness of stocking program – this research program is investigating the effectiveness of native and salmonid stockings in freshwater rivers and dams to improve stocking practices.	\$166,759
RFFTEC meeting expenses – provides funding for sitting fees, travel fares etc.	\$25,000

*see Other Business for details on the Regional Fish Habitat Program (2 Conservation Managers)

Saltwater Trust

Program Details	Budget 2007/08	Budget 2008/09	Budget 2009/10
Recreational mobile squad - comprised of three Fisheries Officers that are heavily involved in recreational compliance activities. The squad maintains a mobile support group with rapid response capacity.	\$404,960		
ACoRF meeting expenses (additional funding) - provides funding for sitting fees, travel fares etc.	\$12,000	\$12,000	
Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) – provides opportunities for anglers to target migratory pelagic species including mahi-mahi, wahoo and marlin. Involves maintaining the current 21 FADs and seeking approval for an additional 4 FADs.	\$163,000	\$164,000	\$164,000
Estuarine Artificial Reefs –involves expansion of the existing 3 artificial reefs in Lake Macquarie, Botany Bay and St Georges Basin and deployment of new artificial reefs in 4 additional estuaries.	\$193,550	\$339,000	\$320,000

Table 1 (continued): Joint programs from Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts

Program details	Budget 2007/08
<p>Recreational Fishing Fee Administration - involves management of a network of 1,100 fee agents, including the distribution of fishing fee receipt books and advisory material, processing and reconciliation of monthly returns and agent accounts and maintenance of Web and IVR fee payments. Also includes payment of agent commissions. An application for additional top-up funding to reach 10% of fee revenue allocation may be made in 2007/08 (once 2006/07 revenue figure is known). <i>Budget allocations adjusted to reflect a 10% contribution of \$300,000 based on a \$3 million allocation to the Freshwater Trust.</i></p>	<p>FW \$300,000 SW \$750,000 Total \$1,050,000</p>
<p>Recreational fishing awareness raising- raises awareness of fishing rules (including the need to pay the fee) and encourages responsible and sustainable fishing practices. These are promoted through a range of media (newspaper, magazines, radio, billboards) at peak fishing periods.</p>	<p>FW \$15,000 SW \$35,000 Total \$50,000</p>
<p>Fishing workshops - involves holding children's workshops in Sydney, at Government hatcheries and across regional NSW, including workshops for special needs groups and NESB communities. Workshop fees are returned to the Trusts and program sponsorship is being sought.</p>	<p>FW \$31,000 SW \$59,000 Total \$90,000</p>
<p>Fishing Guides - involved the printing and distribution of 200,000 quality Recreational Saltwater Fishing Guides and 100,000 Freshwater Guides in 2007/08.</p>	<p>FW \$40,000 SW \$100,000 Total \$140,000</p>
<p>Recreational Angling Database - the database collects information on the names, addresses, phone details and other demographic information for use in surveys.</p>	<p>FW \$27,000 SW \$63,000 Total \$90,000</p>
<p>Licence Reminder Notice - involves the mailing out of reminder letters (with advisory material) to one and three year receipt holders to ensure anglers renew their receipts as they expire. There is a strong expectation from anglers for this essential service.</p>	<p>SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000 Total \$165,000</p>
<p>Tournament Management Program – involves developing and implementing a Code of Practice for Competition Fishing in NSW so that the organisers and participants operate in a safe and environmentally and socially responsible way.</p>	<p>SW \$98,000 FW \$42,000 Total \$140,000</p>

Motion: The Council supported funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in Table 1. **Moved:** Charles Howe. **Seconded:** Janette McLeod. **Carried.**

Table 2: New large grant programs recommended for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts

Freshwater Trust

Large Grant Program details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Recovering recreational fisheries for freshwater catfish in the Murray-Darling Basin - Will identify patterns of population structure in freshwater catfish and identify suitable reintroduction sites within the Murray-Darling catchment. Will compile all the necessary data required in order to have catfish approved for stocking under the NSW Freshwater Fish Stocking FMS.	NSW DPI	\$196,041	\$133,610	
Rescue and protection of Macquarie perch from Upper Lachlan River system and investigations into captive breeding techniques - will ensure the preservation of Macquarie perch from the Lachlan river catchment by removing a representative portion of the population to secure refuge. Will investigate captive breeding techniques of Macquarie perch.	NSW DPI	\$60,388	\$25,570	\$26,190

Saltwater Trust

Large Grant Program details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Offshore Artificial Reefs STAGE 2: Reef Construction and Monitoring (In principal support only) – pending the successful completion of Stage 1 of the project (involving an Environmental Impact Statement), stage 2 will involve the deployment of up to three pilot offshore artificial reefs over a three year period in metropolitan and regional locations to be determined in the EIS. <i>Note: A detailed funding application for deployment and research monitoring will be submitted following completion of the environmental assessment.</i>	NSW DPI Deployment Research monitoring			\$7-900,000 [2010/11 \$7-900,000 2011/12 \$7-900,000] \$170,000 [2010/11 \$185,000 2011/12 \$165,000]
Get hooked...It's fun to fish – aims to introduce primary school students to recreational fishing while practising safe and responsible fishing. Involves production of an interactive schools kit and a hands-on fishing workshop.	NSW DPI	\$375,250	\$435,500	
Environmental Impact Assessment of a Fishery Management Strategy for Marine Fish Stocking: Provisional allocation – future, ongoing stocking of marine species will require an EIS/FMS.	NSW DPI	\$364,000	\$236,000	
Recreational fishing in the Shoalhaven Region: optimising survey methods and assessing sustainability – involves an investigation of recreational fishing by carrying out surveys in the Shoalhaven River, Will use student scholarships and regional workshops. <i>Note: ACoRF requested that the University investigate if socio-economic aspects can be included in the proposed surveys.</i>	University of Wollongong	\$78,775	\$92,000	\$81,650
Jerseyville Fish Cleaning Table – installation of a fish cleaning table adjacent to a two lane boat ramp.	Kempsey Shire Council	\$9,020		

Table 2 (continued): Saltwater Trust

Large Grant Program details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Recreational Fishing Governance – involves engaging a consultant to develop a scope of work to identify options for enhanced governance of recreational fishing including the nature and ownership of fishing rights, and mechanisms for ownership and trading in rights and property.	NSW DPI	\$150,000		
Monitoring and Research on Landed Fish at Game Fishing Tournaments in NSW - involves ongoing formal research, sampling and monitoring at NSW game fishing tournaments monitoring and reporting to the fishing community.	Pepperell Research & Consulting	\$24,500		

Joint programs from Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts

Large Grant program details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Innovative Monitoring of Recreational Fishing Tournaments in NSW: Development of Fishing Quality Indicators and the Implementation of Contemporary Reporting Systems (previously known as the Recreational Fishing Tournament Assessment Project) - this project will streamline the collection, management and reporting of raw data from recreational fishing tournaments held in both saltwater and freshwater by developing an innovative system to provide secure (i.e. not publicly available) web-based administration and reporting of data from fishing tournaments. <i>Note: RFSTEC and RFFTEC recommended that contributing funding of \$100,000 for the program be sought from the Commonwealth Community Grants Program, with the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the Council of Freshwater Anglers as potential applicants. The Committees determined the revised budget based on the Community Grants funding and additional funding of \$20,000 from DPI. Funding of \$113,978 from each trust in 2008/09 and \$118,802 from each trust in 2009/10 was not supported by the Committees.</i>	NSW DPI	FW \$69,325 SW \$69,325		
NSW socio-economic survey of recreational fishing - involves engaging a consultant to undertake a statewide socio-economic survey of recreational fishing. Such information is essential to deliver long term secure access for recreational fishing stakeholders.	NSW DPI	FW \$30,000 SW \$120,000		
Recreational Fishing Infrastructure Grants manager – involves managing and developing recreational fishing infrastructure projects and on-grounds works throughout NSW.	NSW DPI	FW \$37,200 SW \$86,800		
RFA of NSW Fishing Safely DVD and resource material – involves production of high quality DVD modules on fishing safely in saltwater and freshwater.	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	FW \$18,000 SW \$42,000	FW \$12,000 SW \$28,000	

Motion: The Council supported funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in Table 2 (excluding notes). **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon.
Seconded: Jim Harnwell. **Carried.**

Table 3: New small grant programs recommended for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts (for information only)

Freshwater Trust

Small Grant Program details	Applicant	Amount
Copeton dam fish cleaning table and shelter	Copeton Waters State Park	\$5,000
Macleay catchment fish regulation signs – erection of fishing information signs at various locations along the Macleay River. (to be funded from the previously approved Inland Management Program)	Bass Kempsey	\$550

Saltwater Trust

Small grants-Program details	Applicant	Amount
Fish cleaning table, Scotts Head – involves the construction of a fish cleaning table in a highly popular recreational fishing location.	Scotts Head Recreation & Bowling Club Fishing Club	\$2,325
Gone Fishing, Lake Illawarra - the program is targeted towards youth at risk in the local area and will teach young adults from the local area valuable skills such as casting techniques, fish identification, caring for the environment and healthy social interaction.	Lake Illawarra Police Community Youth Club	\$5,000
Fish Cleaning Table, Biriban Reserve, Coal Point – involves construction of a fish cleaning table in a highly populated reserve in western Lake Macquarie.	Lake Macquarie Council	\$7,500
Catch N Cook Phase III – involves fishing clinics/camps for young indigenous people to learn fishing techniques and sustainable fishing practises.	Koori Communications	\$5,000
Provision of an Annual Report for the Gamefish Tagging Program for the 2005/2006 season – a similar report for the seasons preceding 2005/2006 has been completed and will be distributed to the recreational fishing community.	Pepperell Research & Consulting	\$7,000
Fish cleaning tables at Sans Souci pontoon and Tom Uglies Point, Botany Bay	Kogarah Council	\$4,950

Motion: The Council supported funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in Table 3. **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Jim Harnwell. **Carried.**

Table 4: Grant applications not supported by ACoRF in light of recommendations made by RFFTEC and RFSTEC

Freshwater Trust – Ongoing DPI programs

Program Details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
<p>Regional fish habitat (inland) – renewal of funding for 2 regional conservation manager positions, focused on rehabilitation of degraded fish habitat and liaising on in-stream development applications and projects.</p> <p><i>Note: Funding for this program was not supported because of the uncertainty associated with the proposed Government agency functional changes involving the administration of threatened species conservation, aquatic reserves and marine parks.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$309,000		

Joint programs from Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts - Ongoing DPI programs

Program Details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
<p>Fish Habitat Restoration - Provides funding for fish habitat restoration grants. This seed funding is used to leverage funding from other sources for floodplain and wetland rehabilitation, riparian re-vegetation and fish passage restoration.</p> <p><i>Note: The Expenditure Committees recommended that specific grant applications for fish habitat restoration be submitted at meetings throughout the year for consideration (except the budget meeting).</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$215,000 FW \$200,000 Total \$415,000	FW \$200,000	FW \$200,000

Freshwater Trust – New Large grant programs

Program Details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
<p>Habitat preferences of Australian bass in the Penrith Lakes rehabilitation scheme - will determine whether juvenile or adult Australian bass in Penrith Lakes preferentially use artificial reefs constructed of rock, wood or concrete.</p>	NSW DPI	\$45,200	\$20,800	
<p>Conservation Compliance Fisheries Officer, Inland – involves employment of a specialist fisheries officer to target illegal operations resulting in loss of habitat for freshwater species.</p>	NSW DPI	\$137,719		
<p>The Murray crayfish: Previous and current studies and future management – will build on previous studies and reports by facilitating analyses of data previously unavailable and making the information generally accessible in a resource document and scientific papers.</p>	Access Macquarie Ltd	\$49,359		

Saltwater Trust – New Large grant programs

Program Details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
<p>Enhancing opportunities for sustainable harvest from offshore reefs: the role of artificial habitats – involves the evaluation of potential positive and negative impacts of artificial reefs on natural reef fish assemblages.</p>	University of Technology Sydney	\$139,000	\$96,000	\$89,000
<p>Protecting recreational fishing and fish habitat from inappropriate development in coastal NSW – involves employment of 2 additional conservation project officers to raise awareness of protecting and enhancing fish habitat and to ensure that Local Environmental Plans effectively address public access for recreational fishing.</p>	NSW DPI	\$304,977	\$304,977	\$304,977

Table 4 (continued) Saltwater Trust – New Large grant programs

Estimating catch and fishing effort in the recreational fishery for abalone and rock lobsters – involves screening and diary surveys for quantifying the fishing effort for and catch of abalone and lobster by recreational fishers	NSW DPI	\$223,975	\$319,058	\$234,741 2010/11 \$95,037
Movements and residence times of key recreational fish species determined by acoustic tagging – assesses the suitability of using acoustic tags in a range of key recreational fish species and determines small- and large-movements and residence times of these species.	NSW DPI	\$190,356	\$114,116	
Provision of web based recreational fishing services to regional and country NSW – involves designing a non-commercially aligned recreational fishing portal where anglers can freely exchange ideas about fishing.	Sydney Angler Incorporated	\$17,880	\$2,200	
Ocean Warriors – involves a course for spearfishers and snorkellers to enable the public to understand and appreciate underwater sea life.	Spear-fishing & Snorkeling Down Unda	\$20,000		
Sunshine Boat Ramp and Foreshore Rehabilitation and Improvement Project, Lake Macquarie – involves construction of a fish cleaning table with water supply and the installation of lighting.	Lake Macquarie City Council	\$50,000		
Fishing Platform and Boat Holding Area for the Port Kembla Boat ramp – the platform will be used for fishing and holding boats that are waiting to exit the ramp.	Illawarra Flyfishers & Western Suburbs Fishing Club	\$50,000- \$60,000		
Installation of 6 pylons in Port Kembla Harbour – the pylons will be used as fish attracting devices to catch live bait.	Illawarra Flyfishers & Western Suburbs Fishing Club	\$10,000- \$15,000		
Fish Stocking of Port Kembla Harbour with Jewfish – this will involve re- stocking the harbour with juvenile fish to enhance recreational catch.	Illawarra Flyfishers & Western Suburbs Fishing Club	Proposal only		
Fishing Club Amenities, Nambucca Heads – involves the construction of a covered and fenced site for members, supplying light to the attached toilets and providing signage on Shelley Beach.	Nambucca Heads Offshore Fishing Club	\$12,372		
Community Monitoring of Seagrass Habitats – involves increasing awareness, education and importance of seagrass.	Community Environment Network	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Wooli marine radio base project – construct a marine station to facilitate assistance to recreational fishers who operate out of local waters. <i>Note: RFSTEC recommended that the applicant seek contributing funding from other sources</i>	Wooli Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$25,000		

Table 4 (continued) Saltwater Trust – New Large grant programs

Making a sustainable recreational fishing educational experience relevant to NSW High School students – involves development of a high quality exhibit that engages high school aged students in promoting sustainable recreational fishing	National Marine Science Centre	\$102,000	\$34,500	
Equipping FishCare volunteers to survey recreational fishing issues in NSW – involves investigating the Fish Care Volunteers (FCV) as a flexible survey resource for the management and advisory process.	National Marine Science Centre	\$86,500	\$86,500	\$75,000
Richmond River Rescue – involves minimising toxic discharge into the Richmond estuary by identification of drains and flood mitigation gates in need of remediation. <i>Note: RFSTEC recommended that the applicant seek additional funding, the necessary approvals and provide letters of support for the program.</i>	Northern Rivers ECOfishers	\$30,000		

Joint programs from the Freshwater and Saltwater Trusts

Program Details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Movement patterns of the Australian bass <i>Macquaria novemaculeata</i> in the Clarence River - will aim to quantify spatial and temporal aspects of Australian bass movement patterns in relation to flows, barriers and to locate their estuarine spawning grounds within the northern bioregion.	NSW DPI	FW \$114,985 SW \$114,985	FW \$56,425 SW \$56,425	FW \$43,900 SW \$43,900
Improving Recreational Fishing Consultation in NSW through establishing Representational 'Peak Body' for Recreational Fishers - aims to establish a peak Recreational Fishing Representative Organisation for New South Wales' which would have the recognition and support of, the State Government, NSW Fisheries and all recreational fishers.	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	FW \$12,930 SW \$30,170		
Recreational fishing festival – involves organising a statewide festival of fishing during Easter 2008. <i>Note: The Expenditure Committees requested that DPI seek contributing funding from other sources.</i>	NSW DPI	FW \$15,000 SW \$35,000	FW \$45,000 SW \$105,000	
Innovative Monitoring of Recreational Fishing Tournaments in NSW: Development of Fishing Quality Indicators and the Implementation of Contemporary Reporting Systems Program – see Table 2 for details of partial funding supported by RFSTEC and RFFTEC.			FW\$113,998 SW\$113,998	FW\$118,802 SW\$118,802

Freshwater Trust – New small grant programs

Program Details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Equipment for weighing fish for restocking and competitions – involves purchase of portable fish weighing scales that will be used for competitions.	Tumbarumba Boat Fishing Club	\$858		
Lets Go Fishin – fishing education day held for children from Camp Quality. The day will include providing 50 sets of rods and reels and teaching basic fishing skills with a BBQ lunch.	Bass Kempsey Inc	\$2,000		
Fishing Clinic for Juniors – to assist juniors in the awareness of rules and promote recreational fishing to the future generation	Bass Kempsey Inc	\$500		

Table 4 (continued) Freshwater Trust – New small grant programs

Funding to complete at the World Fly Fishing Championships – providing assistance to enable Chris Dawson, Australian World Fly Fishing Team member to travel to Prague to participate in a three day course in preparation for the World Fly Fishing Championships in June 2007.	Chris Dawson – Member of Australian Team for World Fly Fishing Championships	\$5,000		
Stocking Lake Yarrunga with native Bass – additional stockings of bass. <i>Note: RFFTEC recommended referring this application to the \$ for \$ stocking program.</i>	Southern Bass	\$4,200		
Stocking Impoundments in the Wingecarribee Shire – Bowral/ Mittagong Area. Selected impoundments that have public access will be stocked with native fish to improve local fishing. <i>Note: RFFTEC recommended referring this application to the \$ for \$ stocking program.</i>	Bowral Bass Fishing Club	\$5,000		
Blacktown City Family Fish-In, Mt Druitt/Emerton Leisure Centre – involves stocking a pool with trout and running informative fishing sessions for all ages.	Blacktown City Council	\$6,300		
Freshwater Fisher email newsletter – monthly production of the NSW CFA newsletter and development of a bulk emailing software system.	NSW CFA	\$5,000		
Boat Shed at Gravesend Fishing Club – installation at boat shed to protect fishing club boats and gear that is used by members of the club and the community in general.	Gravesend Fishing Club	\$5,000		

Saltwater Trust – New small grant programs

Program Details	Applicant	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Reunion to pay tribute to the pioneers of the 1960's, 70's and 80's for their efforts in developing recreational fishing in the Coffs Harbour Area.	Coffs Harbour Ex Services Deep Sea Fishing	\$1,100		
Ulladulla Sustainable Aquaculture & Fisheries project - produce a feasibility and business plan for establishing an aquaculture demonstration farm, a recreational fishing centre, a future hatchery and a research and development centre at Ulladulla.	Shoalhaven City Council	\$10,000		
Boat Ramp, South Ballina – involves concreting the boat ramp and the construction of a fish cleaning table and clearing of mangroves.	L.L.C.F Pty Ltd	\$10,000		
Fish Cleaning Table, Smithtown – involves the construction of a fish cleaning table on the river at Yaka Watson Memorial Park. <i>Note: RFSTEC recommended that the applicant provide an itemised budget for the program.</i>	Yaka Watson Memorial Park Committee	\$10,000		
Mooring Poles and Fish cleaning sink, Sussex Inlet – involves the installation of fishing poles to protect the foreshore from mooring boats and installation of a fish cleaning table on the foreshore. <i>Note: RFSTEC recommended that the applicant submits a revised application for the fish cleaning sink only and details of any necessary approvals.</i>	Sussex Inlet Sailfish Fishing Club	\$5,000		

Motion: The Council did not support funding for the programs listed in Table 4. **Moved:** Otto Volz. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon **Carried.**

Action item: The Chair to commend both Expenditure Committees for their thorough review of applications and ongoing assessment of project performance.

1. Proposed development of a business plan for the Recreational Fishing Trusts

The Director, Wild Harvest Fisheries advised that DPI and the Expenditure Committees had discussed the benefits of working together to develop a business plan for the expenditure of trust funds in the longer term. It was generally agreed that it would be useful to establish a more structured approach for planning and expending revenue, noting that:

- the fee receipt and trust arrangements revenue have 'matured' since these were put in place in 2001, and total revenue might be leveling out;
- it would be appropriate to again ask recreational fishers about their priorities for expending the fee revenue (as per the proposal for DPI to conduct a new survey); it would be appropriate to seek the Minister's guidance on government priorities for the expenditure of the fee revenue;
- it would be timely to review the distribution of fee revenue between the saltwater and freshwater trusts;
- it would be timely for NSW DPI to review the full range of its ongoing programs with regard to the benefits that flow to recreational fishing and other community sectors, to clearly identify any relevant cost sharing arrangements, and to improve program reporting on this basis;
- it would be preferable to clearly identify the areas of expenditure that are committed on an ongoing basis versus those that are more discretionary/short term, in order to provide appropriate levels of certainty for program/project delivery; and
- a well developed business plan would provide the basis for consistent decision making and ensure that programs funded by the Trusts reflect the vision of ACoRF.

The planning horizon for a business plan should be at least five years, with sufficient scope to review it to take account of any major emerging major issues. The initial business plan could be developed in consultation with the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF over the coming 12 months.

ACoRF endorsed the proposal for the development of the business plan and supported the establishment of an ACoRF sub-committee, comprising Council/Expenditure Committee members and Departmental staff. The Council nominated Bruce Schumacher, Steven Scott, John Dunphy and Kevin McKinnon as the industry representatives on the sub-committee.

2. Compliance Update (Pat Tully/Glenn Tritton)

The Council was provided with an overview of current compliance operations and activities, including some recent prosecution results. DPI Compliance advised the Council that they operate under the Australian Fisheries National Compliance Strategy (2005-2010).

Council suggested that better reporting to the general public on the number and results of compliance activities may assist with increasing compliance rates by recreational fishers. *Information noted. No recommendations.*

3. Salmon Research (Dr John Stewart)

The Council was provided with an overview of this study, which commenced in January 2007. The aim of the project is to learn more about the biology (including diet), population structure and catch composition of the eastern Australian salmon, to assist with the management of stocks in NSW waters. The project has funding of \$624,000 over 3 years, with \$151,000 from the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust. The study is also funded by NSW DPI, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) and other State agencies.

Preliminary results show that there may be only one fish stock on the east coast. While Council members acknowledge that the distribution range has increased in recent years, there was general consensus that this is a good example of how stocks can re-build if commercial fishing pressure on a species is reduced.

Otto Volz stated that any proposed increase in the commercial take of Australian salmon, resulting from the current study, should not be supported.

Information noted. No recommendations.

5. Fishing Closures

The following closure matters were supported by Council out of session and required formal ratification.

1) Proposal to implement a Section 8 Notice to prohibit the taking of Murray crayfish in Blowering Dam for five years, to provide long term protection of the stock, is supported. **Moved:** Otto Volz. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

2) Proposal to renew the spawning fishing closure of Eucumbene and Thredbo Rivers is supported. **Moved:** Otto Volz. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

3) Inland weir closures

Senior Fisheries Manager – Inland, distributed information on proposed weir closure amendments on the Murray River to protect aggregations of fish and in other areas to improve fishing access.

Motion: That ACoRF support amendments to the proposed weir closures.

Moved: Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Otto Volz. **Carried.**

6. Fishing Tournaments – Code of Practice (Philip Bolton)

Guidelines have been developed to help event organisers improve fishing competition management in NSW. These guidelines are intended to be applicable to a wide range of fishing events including catch and keep and catch and release competitions. The guidelines are voluntary and there has been strong support from event organisers for their development. For enquires as to how the Code of Practice may be applied to a fishing competition, please contact Mark James on (02) 9527 8476 or Mark.James@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Out of session items

Closure issues addressed in agenda item 5.

Other Business

- *Proposed Government agency functional changes*

It was noted that the Freshwater Expenditure Committee did not support funding for the two Inland Conservation Managers at the time of the meeting because of the uncertainty associated with the proposed Government agency functional changes involving the administration of threatened species conservation, aquatic reserves and marine parks (see Administrative Orders in the NSW Government Gazette of 2 April 2007). Bill Talbot, Director Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture, informed the Council that no further advice had yet been received regarding the proposed changes, which may impact on a small number of staff within DPI.

Information noted. No recommendations.

- *Recreational fishing bag and size limits review*

DPI advised that regulatory changes are currently being prepared. Additionally, an extensive advisory campaign is proposed following gazettal of the changes. Members will be advised as soon as the new regulations are in place. *Information noted. No recommendations*

- *Consolidation of freshwater closures*

Addressed in agenda item 5.

- *Appeal lodged in the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal regarding Grey Nurse Sharks*

NSW DPI informed Council that the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales (NCC) has lodged an appeal in the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal in relation to the declaration of the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTLF) as an approved Wildlife Trade Operation by the Commonwealth. The WTO enables product taken in the fishery to be exported.

NSW has already implemented a range of significant measures to protect the grey nurse shark. DPI is continuing to undertake a substantial research program to inform any future decisions about the protection of these sharks. Additionally, NSW DPI has prepared a detailed fishery management strategy and associated environmental impact statement for the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTLF), in accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The NCC's initial appeal lodged several months ago against the Commonwealth Minister's approval sought more rigid protection measures to be applied to the OTLF, including no hook and line fishing within 1500 metres of grey nurse aggregation sites. It is now understood that the NCC has expanded its appeal to seek similar restrictions on recreational fishing. The appeal is currently being heard by the Tribunal.

ACoRF discussed the opportunity for recreational fishers to have input into the proceedings, specifically by Recfish Australia becoming a party to the court case.

Motion: That Recfish Australia represents NSW anglers in the Tribunal process by becoming a party to the court case, and that all funding options be pursued. The Chair will seek to meet with the Managing Director, Sydney Fish Markets, to develop a consolidated approach with the commercial and fishing sector.

Moved: Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** John Dunphy. **Carried**

- *Proposal to increase the travel rate for Committee and Council members*

Motion: That the Chair write to the Minister on behalf of the Advisory Council and Marine and Estuarine Recreational Charter Management Advisory Committee requesting that travel rate payments for members revert back to the official business rate.

Moved: Ann Garard. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried**

- *Indigenous communication and training issues*

The Council's Indigenous representative was not able to attend this meeting, therefore, the new DPI Indigenous policy/extension officer has been invited to attend the next ACoRF meeting to discuss and progress these issues. There will also be discussions out of session to identify priorities.

Information noted. No recommendations

Correspondence received

- Report from John Clarke relating to his recommendations as to how the Council could improve its performance in achieving goals for NSW anglers.

The Council discussed Mr Clarke's opinions on how the Council should operate. With regards to issues raised in the Review of Fisheries management Report, the Chair stated that it appears that DPI is still considering the recommendations made in the Report. Further, DPI confirmed the majority of issues raised relate primarily to the functions of the Council, which are clearly outlined in legislation. There was a general consensus that the Council was doing a very good job on behalf of recreational anglers. A Procedures and Guidelines manual for recreational Committee members is currently being developed by DPI, which will provide orientation for new and current members regarding the function of the Council.

Action item: DPI to provide an action item list for each meeting.

Information noted. No recommendations.

- Letter from Seagulls Fishing Club Inc. requesting size and bag limit changes on Mangrove Jack, Cobia and Moses perch.

Motion: That the Chair write to the Seagulls Fishing Club Inc. advising that ACoRF has asked NSW DPI to consider their proposals for new bag and size limits for Mangrove Jack and Cobia in the next bag and size limit review process.

Moved: Jim Harnwell. **Seconded:** Charles Howe. **Carried.**

- Call for public submissions from Total Allowable Catch Committee regarding the Abalone and Lobster TAC.

Information noted. No recommendations

Other Business

- John Diplock, Program Manager Recreational Fisheries, advised the Council that round five of the Commonwealth Community Grants is now open and the Department is encouraging the submission of proposals.
- The Chair advised that Recfish Australia is launching its "Next Generation of Leaders" initiative. The aim is to provide training to potential future leaders in the recreational fishing industry, to take on roles in administration, advocacy and representational processes. More information can be found on the Recfish Australia website.
- John Clarke advised that the final zoning plan for the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park commenced on 21 April 2007.
- Issues relating to droplining for wobbegong sharks were formally considered during the development of the FMS and EIS for the Ocean Trap and Line (OTL) Fishery. The Council was actively involved in consultation relating to the development of an EIS and FMS for each commercial fishery. Council was advised that DPI is considering a proposal to introduce a 12 carcass trip limit for wobbegong sharks to reduce the risk of the OTL Fishery to wobbegong sharks.
- Members raised the issue of the Trust providing funding for DPI Compliance and Research programs. It was noted that DPI will be reviewing the full range of its ongoing programs with regard to the benefits that flow to recreational fishing and other community sectors, to clearly identify any relevant cost sharing arrangements as part of the development of a Trust business plan.

Motion: That a breakdown of core revenue and Trust funded programs relevant to recreational fishing be provided by NSW DPI during the development of the Recreational Fishing Trusts business plan.

Moved: Steven Scott. **Seconded:** John Dunphy. **Carried.**

- The Senior Fisheries Manager – Inland, requested that consideration be given to introduce a recreational size limit of 30cm in freshwater for short finned eels, to bring this in line with the current saltwater size limit.

Motion: That a size limit of 30cm for short finned eels be introduced.

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

Next meeting

ACoRF meeting 42 (02/2007) is scheduled for Thursday 5 July 2007 at Cronulla Fisheries Centre.

Action items from 41st ACoRF meeting 26/4/07

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Date Due/Status
1	The Chair to commend both Expenditure Committees for their thorough review of applications and ongoing assessment of project performances.	Chair/Recreational Management	Pending
Other business	That Recfish Australia represents NSW anglers in the Tribunal process by becoming a party to the court case, and all funding options be pursued. The Chair will seek to meet with the Managing Director, Sydney Fish Markets, to develop a consolidated approach with the commercial and fishing sector.	Chair/Recreational Management	Pending
Other Business	That the Chair write to the Minister on behalf of the Advisory Council and Marine and Estuarine Recreational Charter Management Advisory Committee requesting that travel rate payments for members revert back to the official business rate.	Chair/Recreational Management	Pending
Correspondence received	DPI to provide an action item list for each meeting.	Recreational Management	Completed
Correspondence received	That the Chair write to the Seagulls Fishing Club Inc. advising that their proposals for new bag and size limits for Mangrove Jack and Cobia will be assessed by DPI for inclusion in the next bag and size limit review process.	Chair/Recreational Management	Pending
Other Business	Notify the Senior Fisheries Manager – Inland of Councils support of the introduction of a size limit of 30cm for short finned eels in freshwater.	Recreational Management	Completed