



**Recreational  
Fishing Trusts**

*Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust  
Expenditure Committee*

DRAFT MINUTES

**22<sup>nd</sup> RFFTEC MEETING**  
24 August, 2005

**CRONULLA FISHERIES CENTRE**  
202 Nicholson Parade, Cronulla

**Twenty Second Meeting of the NSW  
Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee  
Draft Minutes  
24.8.05, 9:30am to 3:30pm  
NSW Department of Primary Industries, Cronulla Fisheries Centre, 202 Nicholson  
Parade, Cronulla**

**Attendance**

**Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee Members**

Bruce Schumacher	Chair
Max Graham	Region 1
Karl Scharf	Region 2
Ian Ward	Region 4
Rodney Tonkin	Region 5
Debbie Lennon	Region 6
Kevin McKinnon	Region 8
Dr Steve Kennelly	Chief Scientist, NSW DPI
Brian Hale	AFTA

**NSW Department of Primary Industries (observers)**

Mr John Diplock, Principal Manager, Recreational Fisheries  
Mr Bryan van der Walt, Senior Fisheries Manager, Recreational Fishing Trusts  
Mr Cameron Westaway, Senior Fisheries Manager (Inland)  
Mr Alistair McBurnie, A/Fisheries Manager Recreational Fisheries  
Dr Robert Creese, Principal Conservation Scientist  
Mark Stimson, Fisheries Technician Narrandera  
Tim Park, Scientific Officer  
Lesley Diver, Senior Conservation Manager

**Apologies**

Richard Ping Kee	Region 7
Robert Bell	Region 3

## **Business**

- Chair's introduction – and welcome to new members.
- Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting (6-7 April, 2005)
- Action Items from previous minutes

## **Agenda Items**

1. Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust financial report (Bryan van der Walt / Cameron Westaway)
2. Review of Habitat Restoration Programs - (Lesley Diver)
3. Enhanced fish production – (Mark Stimson)
4. Current status of freshwater research - (Dr Robert Creese)
5. Angling Research & Tournament Monitoring (Tim Park)
6. 2005-2006 Fish stocking programs (Cameron Westaway / Alistair McBurnie)
7. Report on the review of NSW Recreational Freshwater and Saltwater Rules (Discussion paper) - (Cameron Westaway / John Diplock)
8. Freshwater trust fund award proposal - (Bryan van der Walt)
9. New trust fund project proposals and proposals for funding through the existing Small Grants Program (Cameron Westaway / A McBurnie)

## **Other business**

- Nodavirus research pre-proposal – Letter from Jane Francis (Cameron Westaway)
- Funding Priorities
- Freshwater trust project account reports (Cameron Westaway)
- Amendment to CAS- Oberon small grant
- Project milestones reports (A McBurnie)
- Next meeting
- Date and location

## **Meeting close**

### **Chair's welcoming**

The Chair welcomed members to the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC). The Chair noted a full agenda for the meeting. The Chair introduced members to Mr Ian Ward, approved designate for (Region 4) and Mr Max Graham (Region 1). The Chair requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the previous committee members Mrs Elizabeth Brodbeck and Mr Steve Rudder for their contributions to the committee and recreational fisheries.

<p><b>Action item:</b> a letter of thanks be sent to the previous committee members Mrs Elizabeth Brodbeck and Mr Steve Rudder.</p>
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### **Apologies**

Richard Ping Kee (Region 7).

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

<p><b>Recommendation</b></p>
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<p>The draft minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> RFFTEC meeting were accepted by RFFTEC as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>
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### **Business arising**

Mr Tonkin raised the issue of the appointment of a DPI representative (Dr Steve Kennelly) holding seat on the RFFTEC committee and asked that his objection be noted. The Chair advised that he has discussed the issue with the Minister and believed that the position was an observer only. Written confirmation will be sought on the status of the position.

### **Action items of the previous meeting**

Action items arising from the previous meeting are detailed in the action status table, included with the draft minutes.

**Issue**

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust financial report.

**Background**

The Committee was advised that total income received in the Saltwater Trust up until 30 June 2005 was \$10.03 million which was over \$1 million more compared to last financial year (\$8.999 million in 2003/04). Currently the funding level to the Freshwater Trust is \$2.5 million in 2005/06. The freshwater expenditure committee allocated a total of \$2.4 million to a range of compliance, research, management and education programs to improve recreational fishing in 2004/05 leaving a balance of \$814,000 (as of 30 June 2005).

At the recent budget meeting in April 2005, the Freshwater committee supported a total budget of over \$3.05 million in 2005/06. Allocations to meet this budget based on predicted carryovers from 2004/05 will be confirmed at the meeting. On 1 July 2005, the cost of a 3-year licence increased from \$70 to \$75, a one-year from \$25 to \$30, a one-month licence from \$10 to \$12 and a three-day licence from \$5 to \$6. The increase in the licence is expected boost total income levels, however, the exact level of increase will only become apparent when licence sales figures for at least 6 months become available. Other studies in the US have shown, for example, that a ten percent price increase does not always translate into a ten percent revenue boost. Currently, the Freshwater Trust allocation is set at \$2.5 million in 2005/06. This allocation will be increased once licence sales data for the current year become available Freshwater priorities for funding

A freshwater priorities list is being compiled to assist applicants when applying for funds from the Freshwater Trust. The list will be attached to the annual expression of interest for Trust applications and the Trust application package to ensure priorities are addressed. A draft list has been compiled and will be provided at the meeting for discussion.

**Outcomes****Current Trust Fund Position**

Mr Bryan van der Walt outlined the financial position of the Freshwater Trust. The Trust financial tables showed a breakdown of the budgets for all of the 2005/06 Trust funded programs. And were provided to the committee members.

Mr Van der Walt stated that overall the trust is in a healthy state It should be noted that the balance of the Trust for the next 3 years will increase at a slight rate but it is not predicated that the increase in the recreational fee will see a direct increase in revenue for some time. Mr Van Der Walt advised that determining any increase in funds for the freshwater trust would only become possible when licence sales figures for 6 months are generated.

The status of the Freshwater Trust is at follows:

**Summary of current Trust Fund position**

Balance at end of 2004/05	\$814,000
Predicted income 2005/06	\$2,500,000
Approved allocations 2005/06	\$2,400,000
Predicted balance at end of 2005/06	To be assessed in the new year

**Recreational fishing licensing system**

Mr Diplock advised that the improvement of the licensing system is still being investigated but an electronic system has been accepted as the preferred method over the current manual system. A consultant has reported on the licensing process. A total of three Tenders have been received for the licensing system and are currently under review. The review process will involve a review committee that will evaluate all tenders. Mr Diplock advised that information on the tenders was unable to be disclosed. A steering committee will oversee the license conversion process and will make recommendation on the system.

The Chair noted 10% administration ceiling, which may need review.

Mr Diplock advised that there is a possibility that the administration costs may actually increase with the new system.

A \$300,000 contingency fund is required to cover potential transitional costs across both trusts.

Mr VanDerWalt stated that as of 1 July 2005, the Minister announced that the recreational fishing fee would increase to be in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of a 3-year licence increased from \$70 to \$75, a one-year from \$25 to \$30, a one-month licence from \$10 to \$12 and a three-day licence from \$5 to \$6. To date the increase in the fee was accepted by the community and largely without objection.

Mr VanDerWalt present the committee with a copy of the NSW Impoundments guide for their perusal. To date the sale of the guide has seen revenue of \$1000 raised for the trust. It is anticipated that as Christmas approaches book sales will increase.

The Chair noted that the funding of compliance officers may not be the responsibility of the trust. He stated that it is a legislative requirement of the DPI that they provide the compliance officers. The Chair felt that the funding could be used in house for projects such as hatchery improvement.

Rodney Tonkin raised the issue of the 80% DPI loading . Mr VanDerWalt advised that this issue has previously been addressed and was being further investigated.

**Recommendation**

A motion was made by Mr Rodney Tonkin that the committee give thanks to John Diplock and Bryan VanDerWalt for the development of the impoundment guide. **Moved:** Chair. **Seconded:** Mrs Debbie Lennon. **Carried.**

**Action item:** The Chair requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Minister for bringing the Recreational fishing fee in line with the consumer price index.

**Issue**

Review of Habitat Restoration Programs

**Background**

Successful Freshwater Habitat Grant applicants (third round) have been notified and funding is being distributed. Progress reports have been received and projects are well underway. An update on the progress of previous projects (Rounds 1 & 2) will be provided and final project reports for completed programs will be distributed at the meeting.

The Fish Habitat Grant Program (Freshwater combined with Saltwater) has been announced by the Minister for 2005/06. This year \$360,000 has been allocated for onground works with individual grants of up to \$30,000 available. A general mail out of application forms has been undertaken for fishing clubs and local councils in NSW.

The closing date for applications has been set for Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The EOI reflects the wishes of the Committee, in particular benefits to recreational anglers, public access areas, dollar for dollar value, technical expertise, the inclusion of a map and photos and a prerequisite for the applicants to contact the local Conservation Manager (Department of Primary Industries) prior to submitting an application. Again advertisements will be targeted in areas that have not yet received funding, in particular the Far West regio. A general advertisement has been placed with NSW Fishing Monthly

The selection process will begin once all applications have been received. Recommendations for successful projects will be submitted to RFFTEC in December, so that expenditure of funds can take place prior to the end of the 05-06 financial year.

An update will also be provided on the activities undertaken by the Conservation Managers funded by the trust.

**Outcomes**

Ms Leslie Diver (acting Senior Conservation Manager) provided an overview of round 1, round 2 and round 3 projects. So far 12 of 13 projects from round 1 have been completed and final project reports have been received, 6 of the 13 projects from round 2 have been completed and milestone reports have been received and 3 of the 14 projects from round 3 have been completed and milestone reports have been received. Leslie advised that project summaries are available on the NSW DPI website ([www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)).

Ms Diver outlined the launch of the next round of Fish Habitat Grant program for the 2005/06 year; a general mail out of application forms has been undertaken for fishing clubs, local councils and previous applicants. The



closing date for applications has been set for Friday, 28th October 2005. A general advertisement has been placed with NSW Fishing Monthly and targeted advertising in the Far West region of NSW. The forthcoming round would allow for grants up to \$30,000 made available with in kind contributions.

Mr Tonkin commented that the timing of monies made available to approved grants needs to be addressed due to delays in the commencement of projects. It was discussed that payment be made on milestone achievements and that the grant payment should be based on a payment schedule following an initial payment.

There were several amendments to be made on three separate current projects requiring approval from the committee, they include;

1. Locketts Crossing (Great Lakes Council) due to the complexity of the site and cost of fish passage at Locketts crossing the it was recommended that the funding be allocated to another crossing, Clarkson's crossing has been nominated as the alternative site as it offers the ability to remediate within a shorter timeframe with remaining funding. Request that the committee approve the project change.

2. Duckmaloi River (Rivercare and Lithgow-Oberon landcare) request of extension due to the supply of plant stock and staffing issues.

3. Goobarragandra River (Riverina Highlands Landcare Network), extension has been requested due to ongoing drought issues.

4. Bombala River, Snowy interstate Landcare Group extension requested due to the delay in the death of willows before they can be removed.

5. Gloucester River, (Gloucester Shire Council) requested an extension due to staffing issues.

6. Skinners Creek Crossing (Ballina Shire Council) requested and extension as the shire is still awaiting approvals from the Byron City Council.

Ms Diver also advised the committee of a Federal grants program that could work in partnership with applicants under the Habitat grant program. The Chair commented that the federal funding could enhance the habitat funding offered by the Trust .

Ms Diver also outlined several other habitat grant programs and advised the committee of aspirations of the Aquatic habitat unit to introduce the concept of "Fish Friendly Farms". The Aquatic habitat unit would like to introduce the concept of Fish Friendly Farms through advisory material and demonstration sites. Funding is currently being sourced for the project. Leslie requested more time at the next meeting to give the committee a full overview of the Fish Friendly Farms concept.

**Recommendation**

RFFTEC recommended that the proposed extensions be approved .

**Moved:** Chair. **Seconded:** By All. **Carried.**

**Action item:** investigate the possibility of accessing the federal grant funding in partnership with the Council of Freshwater Anglers.

**Issue**

Enhanced Fish production

**Background**

Mark Stimson, Assistant Hatchery Manager at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre will give a presentation on the native fish breeding program, highlighting production techniques for Murray cod, trout Cod, Golden perch and Silver Perch. The overall native fish stocking program will be discussed as well as recent technical improvements in pond management and larval rearing. The Narrandera Fisheries Centre produced 2.7 million native fish last year with a record 543,000 Murray Cod.

The Centre is supported by the Trust Fund through the Enhanced Fish Production Program, which provides the salary for the Assistant Manager as well as contributing to operating costs.

**Outcomes**

Mark Stimson from DPI - Fisheries provided the committee an overview of the native fish breeding program and breeding methods for inland native fish species at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre. The production techniques for breeding and behaviour of these species were discussed.

Mr Stimson thanked the committee for the funding support and the opportunity to give a presentation on his work on the Enhanced Fish production based at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre.

**The Narrandera Fisheries Centre**

The Narrandera Fisheries Centre breeds mainly four native fish species; Murray cod, trout cod, golden perch and silver perch, for conservation and stock enhancement purposes.

The Centre has developed into a facility that comprises staff from the recreational, research, aquaculture, compliance and conservation management divisions.

The fish at the Narrandera Centre are stocked in earthen ponds, which recreate as much as possible their natural brood style environment. There are approximately 20 brood ponds, 11 rearing ponds, a 4ML storage pond and three food production ponds. The hatchery ponds all require annual maintenance to prevent parasites and fish diseases. The centre also has a

hatchery breeding shed containing facilities for rearing eggs and larvae and a brood fish holding shed.

The Narrandera hatchery is supplied from water sourced from the Murrumbidgee River and groundwater via a bore. Fish are transported in a large, custom-built tank. The fish are fed on a diet of yabbies and gudgeons that live in the ponds. The larger Murray cod are fed a diet of carp and are fed by hand in a spectacular display.

### Breeding Process

Female golden perch, silver perch and trout cod are injected with a hormone to make them spawn in the hatchery. Murray cod naturally spawn in specially constructed drums located in the brood ponds. The drums have a mesh liner designed for the eggs to adhere to when the fish spawn they lay deposit their eggs on the liner. This is checked each day and, when the eggs are deposited and fertilized, the liner is removed from the drum and the ova taken to the hatchery.

Once the ova hatch the larval fish are fed on zooplankton and rotifers, which are grown on site. Once hatched the larval fish are stocked in rearing ponds, which also contain zooplankton and other, larger food sources, before being harvested several months later. The hatchery reaches a success rate of between 60 and 95% fish survival. Climatic conditions can have an affect on the numbers of fish produced. It is estimated that 2.7million fish will be produced at the hatchery this year.

The majority of brood fish come from local catchments. Some species, such as Murray cod, breed in pairs, so the ratio of males to females must be equivalent. Approximately 20 per cent of brood stock is replaced from wild populations annually so the genetic pool is increased.

### **Recommendation**

Noted. RFFTEC asked NSW Fisheries to promote the important role that large Murray cod play in the inland rivers in a future NSW Fisheries "Newscast", including the contribution large cod make to reproduction of the species. My Scharf made comment that the DPI should promote the hatchery to a higher degree.

**Issue**

Current status of freshwater research

**Background**

Dr Bob Creese, Research Leader, Aquatic Ecosystems will give a presentation on current freshwater research projects and results from recently completed projects and discuss priorities for future research.

**Outcomes**

Dr Creese outlined the role of freshwater research within the DPI. By conducting monitoring and research programs scientists have the means to provide the necessary information to better manage the states aquatic resources. DPI scientists have direct involvement providing scientific advice in the management of a sustainable and genetically diverse aquatic ecosystem.

Sustainable Rivers Audit (SRA). The MDBC has developed a robust methodology as a measure of river health at a large basin scale. The DPI has been included in the survey of sites under the SRA in partnership with other government agencies. Under the survey program approximately 28 sites will be surveyed in each river valley. The aim of the survey is to offer better insight into the variation of river health by developing indicators over the basin. In time this information will help to monitor and evaluate the condition and health of rivers within the basin.

The Audit will also identify potential trends. The SRA utilises indicators such as fish, macro invertebrates and hydrology. The DPI is looking to further expand on the SRA concept but requires further funding.

**Research Sampling**

The species targeted in the sampling process allow the DPI to make a specific evaluation of fish diversity and aid in the management of the fishery.

Current research partnerships have seen the utilisation of sampling to develop project-monitoring indicators. Currently research is used to measure change after a project has been implemented and a measure of the success of the project is possible. To date the development of demonstration reach projects have utilised research to record diversity prior to a rehabilitation project and again will be used to measure the success of the project.

As an example the introduction of fish ways to storage systems can be evaluated by conducting research into successful fish migration. In many cases a pit-tagging program has been developed to measure the success of a fish way.

Habitat Associations. Research in conjunction with Aquatic Habitat have developed GIS habitat mapping processes that when used in conjunction with fish sample data, can be used to develop a indicator of riverine health. To date extensive work has been undertaken in the Murray and lower Murray darling systems utilising this concept. Habitat priorities can then be made from the findings developed by habitat associations.

Didson Sonar. The DPI is investigating the use of new technology whereby fish sampling can occur by using sonar to record a video image of fish in turbid water. The Didson sonar has been trailed by the DPI with encouraging results. Mr Crease played video footage of the Didson with a recording of a variety of fish species swimming. The Didson is an effective way of non-destructive sampling and is simpler to operate. The only drawback is the prohibitive cost to hire the unit at approximately \$800 a day.

Banded Grunter. Mr Crease gave an update on research into the banded grunter. The DPI has conducted some sampling into the distribution of the banded grunter but it was noted that additional research and funding is required. To date sampling conducted by the DPI suggests that the species has started to reproduce.

Dr Creese also suggested that more research projects with a more specific recreational fishing focus should be considered.

**Issue**

Angling Research & Tournament Monitoring (Tim Park)

**Background**

Anglers at fishing competitions across NSW are continuing to contribute to the better knowledge of the state of our fisheries. NSW DPI researchers are collecting angling catch and effort data at selected events in freshwater areas. The information collected will assist fisheries managers to evaluate the success of strategies in place that benefit recreational fishing. A list of events attended will be distributed to members at the meeting.

This research commenced in freshwater regions in 1999. Approximately 50 freshwater tournaments are monitored each year. Anglers at selected competitions are issued with a "Fishing Report Kit". They then record all their fishing activities during the event including the length of each fish they catch as well as the time they spent fishing. This allows for the calculation of a catch rate (number of fish caught per angling hour or angling trip), which can be compared from year to year and between different waterways.

So far more than 9,500 individual anglers at freshwater competitions have taken part in this research. This equates to over 47,000 angler days for over 97,000 fish captures recorded by anglers. This is the only direct information on the quality of angling in many of the states waterways and provides important data that is used directly for stock assessment on recreationally important endemic and stocked species. Mr Park will discuss these aspects.

**Outcomes**

The Anglers Catch Research Program was originally established to collect catch, effort and fish size information at fishing tournaments. The collection of this data can be used to measure the quality of recreational fishing, for use in stocking assessments and to measure fisheries management strategies.

To date there has been an extensive amount of data collected from tournaments held throughout the state. The Anglers Catch Research Program has attended 71 events with 45 000 angler days of effort with 97, 000 fish captures recorded. Data is collected from approximately 40-50 events annually. During the 2004/2005 season 57 events were monitored encompassing 7500 angler days for a total catch of 15,000 fish.

The data recorded from these tournaments offers fisheries Managers and Researchers data on a broad scale as well as an intensive survey in some areas. The data along with other research data can be utilised in the management of the fishery by providing data on species diversity, distribution, catch rate and size.

In doing so the research provides a Relatively cheap sampling method for fishing effort, it allows direct involvement by angling community and it has been found that the angling community develops ownership of the program if provided with feedback.

There is some debate over the use of this data as a quantifiable identifier for use in scientific research as it generally targets recreational species over a broad spectrum or species as an indicator of diversity. It was noted by Cameron Westaway that records from a recent tournament on the Murrumbidgee revealed that the recreational catch rate of Trout Cod was 33%. A survey held at the same site utilising electro fishing survey equipment resulted in no Trout Cod been found. The data therefore can provide testimony of other sampling techniques.

Examples of results based on catch rate were given by Tim and in particular the use of the data to monitor catch rates given for the Hillston area indicates while some species remain constant many have either decreased or increased.

## Time trends

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004
Carp	77.7%	63.9%	54.4%	38.0%
Golden perch	14.0%	19.6%	24.3%	31.5%
Murray cod	6.1%	15.7%	19.4%	27.5%
Redfin	0.9%	0.2%	1.0%	0.9%
Silver perch	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%
Catfish	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%	1.2%
Bony Bream				0.2%

***Hillston catch composition trends show reduced carp problem and improving native populations over time.***



**Issue**

2005-2006 Fish stocking programs

**Background**

Enhanced government stocking provides for the supply of high priority freshwater recreational species including Trout, Salmon, Australian Bass, Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Silver Perch. Many of the impoundments do not support adequate levels of native fish breeding, thus the stocking of fish in these impoundments supports significant recreational fishing activity.

The Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program involves stocking of native fish into rivers and dams in NSW on a dollar-for-dollar basis, with fish sourced from private industry. Typically, 80% of funds are used to stock inland native fish (Murray Cod and Golden Perch) with the other 20% used to stock Australian bass. During 04/05 Dollar for Dollar program, 530,000 golden perch, 250,000 Murray cod and 100,000 bass were stocked. Currently there are over 283 Dollar for Dollar applications totalling \$233,000 awaiting approval. This is an increase of 25 new applications (pending Approval) and \$38,000 up on last year. Note up to \$5,000 for Noda virus testing has also been committed from the \$4\$ program.

Despite some areas continuing drought conditions on the inland, we will continue to see record numbers of fish stocked. The number of fish stocked in 2004/05 (\*both Government and dollar for dollar) totalled 7.98 million comprising 3.73 million native fish and 4.25 million salmonids. Currently there are 860 sites to be approved for stocking. Of those through the Enhanced government stocking program the DPI aims to release a total of 6.1 million fish.

**Outcomes** dollar for dollar Stocking

Stocking for the 2005/2006 season is about to commence with the approval process in accordance with the new Fisheries Management Strategy (FMS). With the success of the program since its implementation and good angler catch results, community participation in the program has also increased and groups are now increasing the amount of revenue they allocate to the program. This in turn has seen RFFTEC increase the funding allocation for the program to \$225,000 for the current stocking year. With the increase in monies made available by the stocking groups, we currently hold applications for approximately \$233,000 this accompanied with \$5,000 allocated by the committee for Noda Virus sampling may see a shortfall of funds under the dollar for dollar program for the 2005/2006 stocking year.

Mr Westaway requested that the committee look at further increasing the dollar for dollar funding for the 2005/2006 stocking year as part of a contingency. It was noted by Cameron that stocking has run over budget on a previous occasion and attempts were made to reduce each stocking group

proportionately. This led to dissatisfied angling groups and Native fish hatcheries. Mr Scharf noted that the increase in funding should be scrutinised, as the increase may not be in the interest of the fishery if funding allows for excessive stocking. Mr Westaway acknowledged this. It was moved by the Chair that the committee support allocating an additional \$15,000 for the 2005/2006 dollar for dollar program. This was approved by all members.

Mr Westaway advised that the Gaden Trout Hatchery re-development is on track with the visitor centre refurbishment complete. Due to some minor delays it is expected that the final construction of the hatching shed will commence when this season's production is finalised in early December, this will allow full-scale production with a new shed and fingerling production facilities for the next season. The question of operation costs of the hatcheries was raised by Mr Tonkin. Mr Westaway advised that there has been not been a concise breakdown of hatchery operation costs to date but this could be assessed and made available.

#### **Recommendation**

- RFFTEC recommended that the committee support the increase in allocating \$15,000 for the 2005/2006 dollar for dollar program.  
**Moved:** by the Chair **Seconded:** By All. **Carried.**
- A **motion** to investigate federal funding sources for RFFTEC projects.  
**Moved:** by the Chair **Seconded:** by all. **Carried.**

**Agenda Item 7****Cameron Westaway/ John Diplock****Issue**

Report on the review of NSW Recreational Freshwater and Saltwater Rules (Discussion paper)

**Background**

The Discussion paper was released on 29 July with a closing date for submissions of 30 September. Over 200 written and electronic submissions have been received of which slightly less than 50% have been freshwater submissions.

**Outcomes**

Mr Westaway advised that the responses to date from the Freshwater Saltwater Rules (Discussion paper) have been generally supportive of most proposed changes. The DPI is mindful that there may be a late response from fishing groups with regards to the proposed changes. Some concerns were raised with the format that was used for responses to the paper. Many anglers have requested a tick box or web based form. The DPI has developed a response form and distributed these to licensing outlets and DPI offices. Mr Westaway advised that the DPI is after a concise and thought out response to the proposed changes for this reason a quick response "Tick box" form was not initially developed.

Mr Westaway advised that at this stage the implementation of any of the proposed changes was still some time off. A report will be made available to the Minister prior to any changes taking place.

**Recommendation**

The Chair requested that, in addition to the formal consultation process through the Planning Committees, in future the DPI consult ACoRF with the format and proposed changes prior to circulation of the Discussion Papers.

**Agenda Item 8****Bryan van der Walt****Issue**

Freshwater trust fund award proposal - (Bryan van der Walt)

**Background**

It was proposed by the Chair that the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts Expenditure Committee implement an award for contribution to recreational fishing in NSW. It was noted that the Recreational Fishing Trusts could fund the administration of the award. The Chair requested members to consider concepts for the award out of session.

**Outcomes**

Mr Van Der Walt outlined the concept of a Recreational freshwater fishing trust award for the recognition of contribution to recreation or fisheries management within NSW. The Chair noted that this award was also under review by the Saltwater Trust and was conceived as a way of recognising achievements made to NSW recreational fishing by individuals.

**Recommendation**

The Chair asked that the committee members consider the idea and assist in developing selection criteria, a suitable name and assist in progressing the progress the concept further. The Chair asked that this be done out of session.

## Agenda Item 9

Alistair McBurnie/ Cameron Westaway

### Issue

New trust fund project pre-proposals and proposals for funding through the existing Small Grants Program

### Background

An expression of interest inviting submissions for projects funded by the small grants program was conducted in early 2005. The small grants program enables fishing clubs, councils and other community members to submit freshwater and saltwater proposals for small, local or regional projects to enhance recreational fishing.

Funding proposals are broken into two categories, Small grants for projects limited to a maximum of \$5,000 and Large Grants for projects that exceed \$5,000

Small grant funding proposals are limited to \$5,000 and encouraged that they are matched by funds or in-kind support from the applicant or other sources. Small grant applications can be submitted at any time during the year. Requests for funding up to \$10,000 will be considered in special circumstances throughout the year.

Applications for large grants are will be considered at the annual budget meeting of The Expenditure Committee (generally held in April each year). The Expenditure Committees will consider pre-proposals throughout the year and will provide advise to the applicant before submission of a detailed application.

The small grants program allocation has been set at \$30,000 per annum.

### Outcomes

Mr Westaway discussed the small amount of grant applications received to date. While some applicants were still in the early stages of application only two applications have been received since the previous meeting. Of these two one application which was to develop a breeding program for Macquarie Perch was deferred due to a request from DPI research.

Mr Westaway Outlined the sole application submitted by NSW DPI for the development of a Recreational Fishing Trusts video DVD. Educating the public on the role of the recreational Fishing Trusts.

The DVD will be made in conjunction with the Recreational Saltwater expenditure committee. My VanDerWalt explained that members of the community have made the assumption license fees are a form of government

tax. The aim of the DVD is to outline the role of the trust and to inform the community how and where funds raised from the recreational fishing fee are spent. In addition the DVD will be used as a tool to aid in the acceptance of the recreational fishing fee and recent fee increases.

**Recommendation**

RFFTEC recommended that the educational and advisory DVD project be supported and \$2000 be allocated from the trust.

**Moved:** Rodney Tonkin. **Seconded:** By All. **Carried.**

Table: Current Small grant applications for funding from the Freshwater Trust

<b>Small grants – Programs</b>					
	<b>Education and advisory programs</b>	<b>Proponent</b>			
1	To produce a quality 30 minute Recreational Fishing Trusts video DVD. Educating the public on where license fees are spent with the aim To increase acceptance of the recreational fishing fee.	Bryan van der Walt NSW DPI Fisheries & Liquid Focus Services	<b>\$2,000</b>		

## **Other business**

### **Issue**

Nodavirus research pre-proposal – Letter from Jane Frances (Cameron Westaway)

### **Background**

Jane Frances has written to the Chair of RFFTEC seeking a letter of support for a FRDC pre-proposal to address research needs for Noda-Virus in 2006-2008. The specific objective of the pre-proposal is to develop improved diagnostic methods for reliable screening of broodstock and facilitate the production of nodavirus-free broodstock, to demonstrate the reliability of new diagnostic methods, and to further investigate the epidemiology of nodavirus. A primary aim of this research pre-proposal is to support restocking programs for Australian bass, enabling them to proceed with the knowledge that these programs were not contributing to the further spread of nodavirus in Australian bass. The tools will also be useful in testing the presence of Noda-virus in other species to determine the species specificity and extent of Noda-virus in the wild. Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) has indicated that written expressions of support from key stakeholders would assist the favourable consideration of any pre-proposals. Therefore I request that RFFTEC review the attached pre-proposal and consider providing a letter of support.

### **Outcome**

Mr Westaway presented the committee with a letter from Jane Frances, Biosecurity Manager NSW DPI . Ms Frances is seeking a letter of support from RFFTEC to the Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) on a pre-proposal to address Noda-Virus research needs in 2006-2008. The FRDC has indicated that any support would assist the proponent favourably in consideration of a pro proposal by the FRDC.

### **Recommendation**

That RFFTEC with a letter of recommendation to ACORF support the pre-proposal.



**Issue**

Funding Priorities - Cameron Westaway

**Background**

A freshwater priorities list is being compiled to assist applicants when applying for funds from the freshwater trust. This list will be attached to expressions of interest for Trust applications and the Trust application package to ensure that priorities are being addressed. This should also reduce applications for projects, which are not likely to be supported. A draft list has been compiled and will be provided at the meeting for discussion.

**Outcomes**

Mr Westaway advised that applicants applying for funding require more direction when making an application. It is important that an applicant has an understanding of what the committee is seeking in a project before they make application. This will save the committee time when making assessments of the applications and refusals often lead to explanation and criticism.

**Recommendation**

That at the next Meeting a list of funding priorities is made available for comment.

**Action**

Distribute a form style format to be sent out of session for members to identify funding priorities.

**Issue**

Freshwater trust project account reports -Cameron Westaway

**Background**

Print outs of 04/05 financial year expenditure for trust funded projects will be handed out at the meeting for members to consider out of session.

**Outcomes**

Mr Westaway distributed the freshwater trust project account reports for consideration by the member out of session.

**Issue**

RFFTEC agenda

Amendment to CAS- Oberon small grant – Alistair McBurnie

**Background**

The design submitted for a fish way on the Fish River, Oberon as submitted by CAS Oberon branch was deemed to be inadequate for fish passage. Through research conducted in Scotland on fish passage for salmonids a design was developed and has been resubmitted. The current grant application is for \$1325.00 the amended design has a Materials cost of \$1060 and in kind support of \$1350.

**Outcomes**

Mr McBurnie outline that the fish way has been redesigned to be more fish friendly. As a result the project has been reduced in cost.

**Recommendation**

Noted by the Committee.

**Issue**

Project milestone reports, April to July – Alistair McBurnie

**Background**

Trust fund project managers have prepared milestone/progress reports for the Committees information. These reports include details on project objectives and activities since the last meeting and any variations to the project. Project milestone reports will be presented to the Committee at the meeting.

**Outcomes**

Mr McBurnie outlined that the milestone reporting collation process was labour intensive but acknowledged that the process was a contractual requirement of project managers. Mr VanDerWalt recommended that the Freshwater trust adopt a Gant style reporting process for the committee. The saltwater trust has adopted this methodology and found the reporting process to be time saving and cost effective.

**Recommendation**

That the committee adopts a Gant style-reporting sheet for the reporting of Project Milestones.

**Action:**

Develop Gant style-reporting sheet for the reporting of Project Milestones and purchase Microsoft project to manage projects.

**Issue**

Illegal fishing Reporting Cards

**Outcomes**

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 fisheries hotline. The reporting card system is currently in place for Victorian anglers. It was suggested that a similar approach could be adopted in NSW to improve efficiency in compliance.

**Action item:** Investigate and progress on the development of a reporting card and have a response prepared for the next meeting.

**Issue**

Exotic Plants

**Outcomes**

Mr Rodney Tonkin raised the issue of exotic aquatic plant control within NSW. It was requested that RFFTEC write to the Minister on this issue requesting a formal position from the DPI on the matter.

**Action item:** Prepare letter to the Minister requesting information on the control of exotic aquatic plants.

**Issue**

Kevin McKinnon raised the issue of Liability and Camping on Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR's)

**Outcomes**

The issue was raised on liability issues and camping within TSR's. Mr Westaway advised that this issue would be addressed in the TSR access program already supported by RFFTEC.

**Action item:** Contact Rural Lands protection Board and request information on the issue of camping and liability within TSR's.

**Issue**

Karl Scharf made a general enquiry into the stocking of Glenbrook Lagoon with Australian Bass.

**Outcomes**

Mr McBurnie advised Karl that the issue of stocking Bass into the lagoon has been addressed and it was concluded that due to poor water quality it is not feasible to stock the lagoon.

**Issue**

Dee McElligott and Bryan Van Der Walt addressed the Committee with progress on new fishing equipment for distribution to participants of fishing clinics as part of the clinic package. The package consists of a Shimmano rod and reel combination with Tasmanian devil lures with RFFTEC insignia. The outfits costs approximately \$40 and was deemed to be good value.

**Outcomes**

Brian Hale advised that AFTA would like to support the trust in providing RFFTEC with the fishing equipment through their organisation at little cost. This would be considered by AFTMA but under a sponsorship style relationship. Mr John Diplock stated that he supported sponsorship, however the DPI has strict policy on such support through sponsorship agreements and the matter would need to be looked at further.

**Action item:** Letter to the Minister regarding requesting the Ministers position with regards to sponsorship policy within the DPI and RFFTEC.

## RFFTEC Meeting – 24 August, 2005

### ACTION ITEMS

<b>Action item</b>	<b>Agenda items</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status / Comments</b>	<b>Team responsible</b>
1	Chair's welcoming	Letter of thanks from the Chair be sent to the previous committee members Mrs Elizabeth Brodbeck and Mr Steve Rudder.	Completed	Chair / Rec. Management
2	1. Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust financial report.	Prepare letter of congratulations to the Minister on the decision to increase the Recreational Fishing fee	Completed	Chair / Rec. Management
3	2. Review of Habitat Restoration Programs	Investigate the possibility of accessing the federal grant funding in partnership with the Council of Freshwater Anglers to assist in RFFTEC Programs.	Pending	Chair / Rec. Management
4	7: General Business (Nodavirus research pre-proposal)	Correspondence to ACORF recommending the support of the proposal.	Completed	Rec. Management
5	Funding Priorities	Distribute a form style format, to be sent out of session for members to identify funding priorities.	Sent out awaiting reply	Rec. Management
6	General Business (Milestone reporting)	I Develop Gant style-reporting sheet for the reporting of Project Milestones and purchase Microsoft project to manage projects.	Pending	Rec. Management
7	Business Arising (Illegal fishing Reporting Cards)	Investigate and progress on the development of a reporting card and have a response prepared for the next meeting.	To be addressed by G Tritton at meeting 23	Compliance
8	Business Arising (Exotic Plants)	Prepare letter to the Minister requesting information on the control of exotic aquatic plants.	Letter sent awaiting reply	Chair / Rec. Management
9	Business Arising (Liability and Camping on Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR's))	Investigate and request information on the issue of camping and liability within TSR's.	Complete	Rec. Management
10	Fish care Sponsorship	Letter to the Minister regarding requesting the	Letter sent awaiting reply	Chair / Rec.

		Ministers position with regards to sponsorship policy within the DPI and RFFTEC.		Management
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.	Complete For Discussion	RFSTEC / RFSTEC designates for website upgrade / Rec. Management