

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

Outcomes from Meeting 57 – Monday 14 & Tuesday 15 May 2012 Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence

Attendance

Bruce Schumacher	Chairperson
John Drew	Estuary Fishing
Max Castle	Estuary Fishing
Susan North	Freshwater Fishing and Fishing Industry Liaison
Charlie Howe	Estuary & Offshore Fishing
Kevin McKinnon	Freshwater Fishing
John Clarke	Offshore Fishing
John Humphries	Freshwater Fishing
Pat Jones	Offshore Fishing
Ann Garard	Charter Boat Fishing
Adrian Wayne	Underwater Fishing
Alistair McGlashan	Offshore Fishing and Media
Claudette Rechterik	Conservation
Shane Jasprizza	Estuary Fishing
Lionel Jones	Deputy for Ms Jan McLeod
Peter Turnell	Director, Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries

1. Apologies

Neil Ryan (Recreational Fishing Media).

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members.

3. Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meetings

Motion: The Council accepted the outcomes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 56th ACoRF meeting, held 29 November 2012. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Charlie Howe. **Carried.**

4. Business arising from the minutes

The Council noted that the Department is in the process of developing the schedule of waterways in NSW that are classified as fishing impoundments.

The Department met with NPWS in December 2012 for initial discussions in formalising arrangements on a state-wide policy for recreational fishing in NSW National Parks. The Council requested this remain a standing action item and for the Department to provide advice of any progress.

The Council requested an update on the Fisheries Compliance investigation into the alleged sale of undersize fish at some commercial fishing co-operatives.

Action Item: Fisheries Compliance to provide an update at the next meeting including further information in regard to these allegations.

5. Recreational & Indigenous Fisheries Management update

a) Rock fishing safety update

The Department provided an overview of the recently completed Research Review of Rock Fishing Safety in NSW report including the major recommendations and associated action items from the report.

b. National peak recreational fishing committee

Max Castle (ACoRF representative on RecFish Australia) advised that he had been attending the recent meetings in Canberra where various recreational fishing industry representatives had agreed to the formation of a peak national body representing all anglers and angling groups called the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF). The Council noted that this was a positive move forward for recreational fishing throughout Australia.

The Council asked if Recfish had submitted a progress or final report in relation to their Recreational Fishing Trust funded project. The Department noted that Recfish had advised that a final report was pending.

c. Fisheries Research Advisory Board (FRAB) – ACoRF representative nomination

Motion: The Council nominates Bruce Schumacher (Chairperson) as the ACoRF representative on the FRAB for 2012/13. John Clarke will act as Mr Schumacher's deputy when required.

Moved: Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Pat Jones. **Carried.**

d) Freshwater recreational fishing issues

i) Proposed legislation amendments

The Council considered the proposed amendments to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2010* relating to freshwater recreational fishing. The Council expressed general support to the proposed amendments.

The Council noted anecdotal reports of high numbers of freshwater catfish in some western rivers and impoundments where they cannot currently be taken from.

Motion: Recreational Management to discuss the current closures of various western rivers and impoundments where large numbers of freshwater catfish are being caught with the Threatened Species Unit. **Moved:** John Drew **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

ii) Use of hoop or lift nets in Googong Dam to take yabbies

Motion: The Council supports the proposal to allow hoop or lift nets in Googong Dam and suggested this be included in the Bag and Size Limit Review discussion paper. **Moved:** Max Castle. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

iii) Review of fishing arrangements below the Googong Dam wall

Motion: The Council did not support the proposal to introduce an area of no fishing below the Googong Dam Wall and Spillway because fish congregating in this area were likely to be stocked fish and that the Googong cascades are not usually accessible to the general public during high flow periods. **Moved:** Shane Jasprizza. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

iv) Increased protection for Murray crayfish and other spiny crayfish species

As the new fishing season commenced on 1 May 2012, the Department requested out of session feedback from council members regarding a range of proposed management measures to increase protection for Murray crayfish and other spiny crayfish species in April 2012. The Council confirmed their out of session recommendation that no change be made to the management arrangements for Murray crayfish for the 2012 season and that further consultation with the broader community be undertaken prior to any changes being made.

Motion: ACoRF supports the following options to be included in the bag and size limit review discussion paper: 1) increase the size limit from 9cm to 10cm and 2) extend the seasonal closures by 1 month to include the period from September to May to address sustainability concerns. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Charles Howe. **Carried.**

v) Blackwater Events

The Department provided an update on the health of the freshwater fishery following a number of flooding and subsequent 'blackwater' event in 2011 and 2012. It was noted that a number of freshwater species including Murray Cod, which were considered to be in high abundance prior to these events, appear to have been severely impacted by the events in many areas. Although the remediation efforts of these events still needs to be assessed it is likely that additional stocking projects will be required to assist with the recovery of some freshwater species.

e) Recreational Fishing Communication Plan

An update on the Recreational Fishing Communication Plan working group and development of the communication plan will be provided to the Council out of session.

f) Harvesting of Marlin – Port Stephens

The Department advised that a number of reports had been received regarding the dumping of large Marlin in the Port Stephens area. These reports claim that multiple carcasses and frames of large game fish species were regularly dumped in the vicinity of the cleaning table during the peak fishing period in February and March.

Some council members expressed concern about certain groups of fishers that visit the area during the peak fishing period and fish for multiple days. A Council member suggested some fishers may be exceeding their possession limits. The Department advised that local Fisheries Officers had not recorded any bag limit or possession limit breaches relating to Marlin over the past few seasons.

Council members noted that NSW Game Fishing Association tournaments rules require anglers to tow any large fish such as Marlin and Sharks that are not taken for human consumption, out to sea for disposal. These fish cannot be dumped on or near the shore.

It was further noted that all reports of littering such as the dumping of fish frames and waste should be forwarded to the Local Council for further investigation. The Council suggested that more adequately sized bins should be provided at popular boat ramp during the peak fishing period.

6. Recreational Fishing Trust issues

a) Recreational Fishing Trust status

The status of the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts was provided. The Council was advised that it was predicted that around \$13.5 million would be received by the Trust from recreational licence revenue by the end of the 2011/12 financial year.

b) New Recreational Fishing Trust Applications

The Council considered expenditure recommendations arising from the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC and RFFTEC) meetings held on 1 and 2 May 2012 (refer to tables in Appendix 1). Recommendations for new Trust applications supported by the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF are outlined in Table 1. The Council supported the recommendations of RFSTEC and RFFTEC outlined in Tables 1 and 2 except for the following program:

i) The New South Wales Research Angler Program – Mulloway

The Council recommended that the application titled: The New South Wales Research Angler Program – Mulloway be **supported** from the Recreational Fishing Trust. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Charles Howe. **Carried.**

RFSTEC had previously recommended that this application not be supported at this stage. Council reiterated its concerns about the status of mulloway stocks in NSW and noted the importance of this research project to gain more information on the recreational catch. At the meeting, Council requested an update on mulloway recovery arrangements. DPI confirmed that the Department will be running a public consultation process on mulloway recovery options very soon and that consideration and implementation of future management arrangements for mulloway will follow shortly thereafter. The consultation process for mulloway will involve a DPI website outlining the relevant facts and options, with the facility to lodge online comments.

Max Castle declared a potential conflict of interest relating to the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) Recreational Fishing Safety Officer Project application due to his affiliation with the RFA. The chairperson requested that he abstain from voting on the issue.

ii) Risk Assessment on impacts of fishing in Prospect Reservoir to drinking water quality

The Council noted the recommendation regarding the Trust application from the Sea Bees Boating Club to undertake a risk assessment on the impacts of fishing in Prospect Reservoir including the potential benefits of limited recreational fishing access to the waterway.

The Council noted that the NSW Governments Response to the Legislative Council Select Committee on Recreational Fishing Report December 2011 identified Prospect Reservoir as an integral part of Sydney's drinking water supply system and an emergency supply in time of high demand and during planned and unplanned maintenance shutdowns at Warragamba.

However, the Council reiterated that some limited form of recreational fishing (in a controlled manner) would not pose a significant risk to water quality and the security of Sydney's available raw drinking water supply given many other drinking water impoundments are open to fishing throughout NSW. The associated risks to water quality and public health such as campsites, vehicle access, rubbish disposal and human waste could potentially be controlled through a negotiated access agreement to mitigate any risks.

Action Item: ACoRF write to Minister for Primary Industries regarding limited recreational fishing access to the Prospect Reservoir.

c) Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan

The Department provided an update on planning for the Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan beyond 2012/13 noting that the current 5 year Investment Plan finishes 30 June 2013.

The Council reiterated the Trust Committee's views that the current Plan has been working well allowing for long term planning of ongoing programs as well as catering for new tactical programs, which have been included in the Plan over time.

The Council also noted the proposal to hold two day expenditure committee meetings later in the year to appraise all existing programs (many of which are jointly funded by the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts) and identify any new directions or new priorities prior to development of a new Plan.

d) Recreational Fishing Trust Audit

The Department provided a summary of the recent audit. It was noted that overall the outcomes of the audit were very positive with some relatively minor issues identified as low or medium risk. The Department advised that steps have been put in place to address identified issues.

e) Recreational Fishing Fee

The Department advised that the proposed increase in the Recreational Fishing Fee for 1 July 2012 was likely to be delayed.

7. Review of NSW Fishing Rules (Bag and Size Limit Review) 2011/12 update

a) Draft discussion paper - Review of NSW Fishing Rules

The Department advised that the draft discussion paper is nearing completion. There has been ongoing review of the paper during drafting taking into account feedback from a variety of groups including ACoRF and the internal and external expert working groups. A public consultation and communication campaign is also being prepared for the distribution of the paper.

b) Resource Planning Group Process

The Department provided an update on the Resource Planning Group process for Mulloway. The Mulloway Resource Planning Group (RPG), which includes representatives from the recreational sector, charter sector, commercial sector, Aboriginal sector and conservation interests, had identified a number of options but had been unable to reach a consensus on an agreed proposal.

NSW DPI had identified a range of options, noting each has different implications relating to the rate of recovery of the resource and impacts on harvest levels. A draft discussion paper was nearing completion. The consultation process will involve a DPI website outlining the relevant facts and options, with the facility to lodge online comments.

8. Marine Parks and Conservation issues

a) Independent Marine Parks Audit

The Department provided a summary of the independent scientific audit report into Marine Parks in NSW.

Action Item: The existing ACoRF Marine Parks sub-committee develop a submission on behalf of ACoRF out of session, noting that submissions close 30 June 2012.

b) Marine Bioregional Plan for the Temperate East Marine Region

The Chairperson advised that he had attended a recent meeting with the Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Tony Burke and representatives from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC), regarding progress with the Marine Bioregional Plan for the Temperate East Marine Region. It was noted that a further opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed plan would be provided soon. The Chairperson noted the importance of ACoRF and NSW recreational fishers putting forward their comments on the draft plans.

Council member John Clarke expressed concerns about commercial trawling activities off Port Stephens. Mr Clarke requested ACoRF consider writing a submission to SEWPAC requesting they investigate a potential buyout of commercial trawlers in the Port Stephens area.

c) Management of fishing and diving at Grey Nurse Shark (GNS) aggregation sites workshops

A major review of Grey Nurse Shark protection has been underway since May 2011 commencing with the release of a discussion paper and analysis of public submissions. This was followed by a recent peak stakeholder workshop at Coffs Harbour and review of the recommendations of the independent audit of marine parks. Changes for the future management of recreational fishing and diving activities at Grey Nurse Shark aggregation sites are currently being considered which will be announced in the near future.

d) Recreational Fishing for stocked Trout Cod in specified impoundments

The Department advised that a letter containing a Ministerial Order and draft Species Impact Statement (SIS) for recreational fishing for stocked Trout Cod in specified impoundments would be sent to ACoRF in the near future. This letter would outline the Councils opportunity to comment on the Order. Comments would not be sought on the SIS until it is released for public consultation which is expected to occur in the next few months.

e) Southern Bluefin Tuna Species Impact Statement (SIS)

The Department advised that the draft Ministerial order and SIS for Southern Bluefin Tuna is expected to be provided to the Council for preliminary consultation in the next few months prior to wider public consultation.

9. Proposal to amend the Richmond River recreational fishing haven

The Council considered the proposal from the Ballina Fishermens Cooperative and ECOfishers to extend the current area of the mullet hauling shot in Shaws Bay at Missingham Bridge in the Richmond River by a further 250m, up to and including the oyster shed on North Creek.

It was noted that this area includes a popular recreational fishing location for Whiting and Garfish as well as bait gathering for saltwater nippers and marine worm species. The area is also very popular for swimmers and snorkelers during high swell and rough conditions on local coastal beaches.

Council noted the government's position on recreational fishing havens that any proposals regarding adjustments or the creation of additional fishing havens, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Changes will only be made where there is strong consensus to do so. Council recognised that much broader consultation was required and recommended the Department undertake further consultation and report back to Council.

Motion: The Council does not support the current proposal to extend the current area at this stage given the need for further consultation. **Moved:** John Drew. Seconded Lionel Jones. **Carried.** (Charles Howe abstained from the vote)

10. Crab Traps – more environmentally friendly options

This agenda item was not discussed due to the early closure of the meeting. The issues will be deferred to the next ACoRF meeting.

11. Improve protection for seagrasses and Little Penguins in North Sydney Harbour – Issues Paper.

The Council noted the joint DPI, Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) issues paper to investigate options for the greater protection of seagrass populations in the North Harbour area. The paper also addresses concerns for the endangered Little Penguin population off North Harbour. The Council made the following recommendations:

i) Quarantine Beach

Motion: The Council supports the introduction of the preferred option for each location that has been identified in the issues paper. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. Seconded Alistair McGlashan. **Carried.**

ii) Manly Cove

Motion: The Council supports the introduction of the preferred option for each location that has been identified in the issues paper. **Moved:** Adrian Wayne. Seconded: Max Castle. **Carried.**

12. Commercial Fisheries Management issues

a) Proposal for pilot program of new Red Morwong and Banded Morwong fishery

Tim Crane attended the meeting and provided an outline of his proposal to undertake a limited program of experimental fishing to evaluate the potential for establishing a viable targeted Morwong fishery in NSW.

Motion: The Council did not support the proposal for the following reasons:

- i) Red and Banded Morwong are a popular recreational species especially for spearfishers.
- ii) Anecdotal reports from recreational fishing groups on the south coast suggest that many demersal species such as Red and Banded Morwong are already subject to high fishing pressure.
- iii) Demersal species such as Red and Banded Morwong can be susceptible to over-fishing due to their association with specific reef habitats.
- iv) The risk of by-catch mortality of other popular recreational and commercial species is probably high given the non-selectivity of gill nets even when actively fished.

- v) Although not directly targeted Red and Banded Morwong can be legally taken in NSW by trap fishers in the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery and Estuary General Fishery.
- vi) Allowing this new commercial fishing method could result in further increases in fishing effort on the fisheries resources of NSW.

Moved: Adrian Wayne. Seconded Claudette Rechterik. **Carried.**

b) Pipsis management update

Doug Ferrell, Manager Resource Planning, Commercial Fisheries, provided an update on the management of pipsis in NSW.

The Council noted that the current six month closure on the commercial harvest of pipsis from NSW Beaches will expire on 1 June 2012. The Department advised that preliminary surveys of pipsis stocks on various NSW beaches had been undertaken during the closure period. These surveys had indicated some stock recovery on various beaches.

The Department advised it was proposed for commercial harvesting to resume on some NSW beaches in June 2012 under new fishing rule arrangements. These include an increase in the minimum legal length to 4.5cm to provide further protection for juveniles, application of a 40kg trip limit (24 hour period) and a targeted monitoring survey.

The Council expressed ongoing concerns about the impact of commercial harvesting on pipi stocks and reiterated its support for beaches to be closed on an ongoing basis until there is a complete stock recovery.

John Clarke and Charlie Howe advised that Port Stephens Shire Council and Ballina Shire Council had both recently voted in support of a proposal for all beaches within their council areas to remain completely closed to pipi harvesting on an ongoing basis until a population survey and long-term management plan are completed.

c) Danish Seine

Council member John Clarke raised concerns that an allegedly modified Danish seine (trawl) net was still in operation in the Port Stephens area. The Department advised that a review on the selectivity and associated discard issues of this fishing method had been undertaken and would be available on the DPI website.

Action Item: DPI to provide an update on the review of the Ocean Trawl - Danish Seine.

13. Correspondence

a) Letter to ACoRF members regarding the Interim Compliance Policy for Aboriginal Cultural Fishing

The Department provided a summary of the policy development and consultation process associated with the Interim Compliance Policy for Aboriginal Cultural Fishing.

It was noted that the original compliance policy came into effect in January 2010 following an agreement between the government, the NSW Aboriginal Land Councils and the Native Title Services Corporation. Since then the Interim Policy has been amended to better reflect Aboriginal community needs until proposed regulation amendments are subject to broader consultation.

It was noted that 34 submissions had been received by the Department during wider community consultation with abalone being raised as a significant issue. The Department noted that an overview of all submissions indicated general support for the concepts detailed in the interim policy, however a number of compliance, resource sharing and access equality issues were raised.

A working group with representatives from recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fishing will now be set up to discuss issues raised and progress the development of the proposed regulations for cultural fishing.

The Council nominated council members, Adrian Wayne, Ann Garad, John Clarke and Kevin McKinnon as recreational fishing representatives on this working group. Claudette Rechterik was nominated as a reserve representative, if required.

b) Various correspondence regarding Recreational Fishing Havens (RFH) in the Clarence River, Shoalhaven, Port Stephens and the Macleay River

Action Item: ACoRF write to Minister for Primary Industries advising of their support for more Recreational Fishing Havens where there is strong consensus.

Action Item: The Department provide a plain English definition of the possession limit rule.

c) Media Release regarding abalone fishing from the Hunter to Sydney

The Council noted the media release.

d) Letter regarding concerns about fishing around Sydney

The Council did not support the implementation of a spearfishing ban at Little Bay and Long Bay at this stage. It was noted that spearfishing is a popular form of recreational fishing which is recognised for its selective fishing practices and which can be a very safe activity when appropriate safety practices are used. The Council recommended that DPI and the Underwater Sport Fishing Association (USFA) work closely with Randwick City Council to identify possible non regulatory solutions such as improved education and awareness about safe and responsible spearfishing practices. The Department in collaboration with the USFA will contact the Randwick City Council to discuss increased awareness and education measures that may be implemented in Little Bay and Long Bay.

14. Recreational Fishing Trust planning beyond 2012/13

The current Recreational Fishing Trust Investment plan extends to 30 June 2013.

14. General Business

a) Proposal by NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) for a Snapper Island Nature Reserve

The Department advised that additional information regarding future access arrangements had been requested from OEH.

b) Proposed change to NSW Road Rules - Time limit parking of boats and all trailers

The Council noted the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) response regarding the parking of vehicles and boat trailers. The Chairperson noted that this was a road safety issue and should be deferred to the Minister for Roads and Maritime.

Action Item: ACoRF write to the Minister for Primary Industries requesting that she writes to the Minister for Roads and Maritime expressing concern about the impact of the current road rules on boating and recreational fishing.

d) Identifying the health and well-being benefits of recreational fishing

The Council noted this project.

e) National Recreational Fishing Conference

The Council discussed the possibility of attending the National Recreational Fishing Conference on 17-19 August 2012 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. The purpose of the conference is to provide an international perspective on the future of recreational fishing. Delegates will have the opportunity to visit a range of presentations from keynote speakers from across Australia and to establish business relationships with supporting organisations. The following council members were randomly selected to attend: Kevin McKinnon and Max Castle. Each attending members is required to provide a conference report back to the Council at the next meeting. The chairperson will also be attending.

It was noted that DPI would be providing presentations on the artificial reefs and Fishcare Volunteers programs at the conference.

15. Out of Session

The Council noted the following out of session agenda items:

- a) Government's response to the Recreational Fishing Select Committee report
 - b) Increased protection for Murray crayfish and other spiny crayfish species
 - c) Fisheries Scientific Committee – Final Determination
 - d) ACoRF nomination for representation on the National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council
- Some council members expressed concern about the EOI nomination process for representation on the National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council and other committees.

Action Item: DPI to clarify and provide details of Council's role and process for future nomination and representation at the next meeting.

16. Next meeting

The dates for the next meeting (ACoRF 58) will be provided out of session.

Action items from 56th ACoRF meeting on 29 November 2011

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Status
5. Recreational Fisheries Management update	The Department develop a schedule of all waterways in NSW that are classified as fishing impoundments.	Freshwater Fisheries Management	Pending
6. National Parks Plans of Management, including Meroo National Park	The Department to discuss the proposal for a statewide policy for recreational fishing in NSW National Parks with OEH and advise Council of progress.	Recreational Fisheries Programs	Pending

Action items from 57th ACoRF meeting on 14 & 15 May 2012

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Status
4. Business arising from the minutes	Fisheries Compliance to provide an update on the alleged sale of undersize fish at some commercial fishing co-operatives.	Fisheries Compliance	Pending
5. Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries Management update	Recreational Management to discuss the current closures of various western rivers and impoundments where large numbers of freshwater catfish are being caught with the Threatened Species Unit.	Recreational Fisheries Programs	Pending
6. Recreational Fishing Trust issues b) New Recreational Fishing Trust Applications	ACoRF write to Minister for Primary Industries regarding limited recreational fishing access to the Prospect Reservoir.	ACoRF	Pending
8. Marine Parks and Conservation issues a) Independent Marine Parks Audit	The existing ACoRF Marine Park sub-committee develop a submission on behalf of ACoRF out of session, noting that submissions close 30 June 2012.	ACoRF	Pending
12. Commercial Fisheries Management issues c) Danish Seine	DPI to provide an update on the review of the Ocean Trawl - Danish Seine.	Commercial Fisheries Management	Pending
13. Correspondence b) Various correspondence regarding Recreational Fishing Havens (RFH) in the Clarence River, Shoalhaven, Port Stephens & the Macleay River	ACoRF write to Minister for Primary Industries advising of their support for more Recreational Fishing Havens where there is strong consensus.	ACoRF	Pending
13. Correspondence b) Various correspondence regarding Recreational Fishing Havens (RFH) in the Clarence River, Shoalhaven, Port Stephens & the Macleay River	The Department provide a plain English definition of the possession limit rule.	Fisheries Compliance	Pending

14. General Business b) Proposed change to NSW Road Rules - Time limit parking of boats and all trailers	ACoRF write to the Minister for Primary Industries requesting that she writes to the Minister for Roads and Maritime expressing concern about the impact of the current road rules on boating and recreational fishing.	ACoRF	Pending
14. General Business d) ACoRF nomination for representation on the National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council	DPI to clarify and provide details of Council's role and process for future nomination and representation at the next meeting.	Recreational Fisheries Management	Pending

Appendix 1

Table 1 - New Trust Project Applications supported by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC for funding

SALTWATER

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Regional Offshore Artificial Reefs (Stage 1) This project aims to construct the first regional concrete design-specific offshore artificial reef (>800 m3) in NSW to enhance recreational fishing opportunities (Stage 1) following the success of the deployment of the first metropolitan steel artificial reef off Sydney.	NSW DPI	\$397,500	\$557,500	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Upgrading and expansion of fish cleaning tables at South Durras, Tuross River Bridge and Tomakin. To provide improved cleaning facilities for recreational anglers at South Durras, Tuross River and Tomakin.	Eurobodalla Shire Council	\$16,500	\$0	\$0
South Durras Headland Stairway To construct a timber and platform stairway from the headland at South Durras to the rock platform below to provide safe and secure access for recreational anglers.	Eurobodalla Shire Council	\$15,000	\$0	\$0

Small Projects

Harrington riverside fish cleaning table replacement and provision of water supply Replace the outdated fish cleaning table on the riverside at Harrington and establish a permanent and reliable town water supply to the recreational facility.	Greater Taree City Council	\$4,750	\$0	\$0
Fish cleaning facility – Rowland reserve, Bayview To construct a fish cleaning table at Rowland Reserve, Bayview, Pittwater.	Pittwater Council	\$8,200	\$0	\$0
Fish cleaning facility – Clifton Gardens Wharf To construct a fish cleaning table on the Clifton Gardens Wharf	Mosman Council	\$6,837	\$0	\$0
Shelter Construction – Hat Head fish cleaning facility – To construct a shelter for the fish cleaning table at Hat Head boat ramp.	Hat Head Bowling & Recreational Club Ltd. (Hat Head Amateur Fishing Club)	\$7,900	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Sydney International Boat Show 2012 – Entertainment and Education Centre featuring the Fishing Clinic and Better Boating Lounge. The Fishing Clinic has run at the Sydney International Boat Show on a yearly basis. Over the last 10 years, average visitation has been 80,000 people. Of those that attend 51% have an interest in fishing. This is the largest interest group that visits the show. The Fishing Clinic will grow further in 2012 to become the Education and Entertainment Centre. The new Education and Entertainment Centre will include 11 to 13 daily 30 minute fishing presentations. Note: RFTSEC supported this program to the amount of \$40,000.</p>	Boating Industry Association of NSW Ltd	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Fishing 4 Therapy – Recreational fishing workshops for the physically and mentally disabled Involves running 50 fishing days of fishing clinics for the disabled at Centennial Park Lake.</p>	Australian National Sportfishing Association – NSW Branch	\$21,500	\$0	\$0
<p>Recreational Fishing Safety Officer Project The ongoing promotion of fishing safety, from coastal rock platforms, beaches, rivers or alpine lakes is essential so that all recreational fishers are aware of advancements in technologies around personal or fishing related safety and equipment. Involves recruitment of a dedicated safety officer to run a series of fishing safety programs. Note: RFTSEC supported this program to the amount of \$126,000.</p>	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	\$126,000	\$0	\$0
Small Projects				
<p>Fishing for Family Fun Fishing for Family Fun will work to build family relationships with hard to reach families in the disadvantaged communities of Raymond Terrace and Karuah using recreational fishing as a culturally appropriate entry point into Family Support Services.</p>	Port Stephens Family Support Service Inc	\$7,500	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>An economic survey of the recreational fishing charter boat industry in NSW (additional funding) The project is evaluating the economic expenditure and contribution of the recreational fishing sector in NSW and determine the most cost effective approach for future expenditure surveys. Additional funding is required to adequately sample the charter industry.</p>	Dominion Consulting Pty Ltd	\$37,500	\$0	\$0
<p>Monitoring and Research on Landed Fish at Game Fishing Tournaments in NSW: 2012/2013 The project facilitates monitoring and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured at major game fishing tournaments in NSW.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$27,500	\$0	\$0
Small Projects				
<p>Provision of Annual Reports for the Gamefish Tagging Program for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 Provision of informative, attractive and readily accessible reports on the Gamefish Tagging Program for the years 2010/2011 and 2011/2012.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Increasing the capacity of recreational fishing clubs to undertake habitat projects (Coastal Pilot) The project will employ an officer to provide the necessary technical advice and support to recreational fishing clubs to improve their understanding of issues and threats facing native fish and how they can apply for funds and manage habitat action projects. The officer will also provide any training and assistance required to enable proponents to successfully complete their projects.</p>	NSW DPI	\$167,267		
<p>Restoration of missing underwater forests in Sydney [stage 2] Habitat-forming crayweed has gone extinct along the Sydney metropolitan region, impacting abalone, lobsters and key fish species. We will restore populations of these missing algal forests in an ecologically sensible way, enhancing local diversity of fish and other marine organisms. This will improve opportunities for recreational spear and line fishing adjacent to Sydney, an area which contains almost 50% of NSW's fishers.</p>	University of New South Wales (UNSW) and Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS)	\$44,060	\$0	\$0

FRESHWATER

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Burrinjuck Waters State Park fishing shelter project Proposal to provide a fish cleaning shelter at each of the 3 entry boat ramps to Lake Burrinjuck.	Burrinjuck Waters State Park	\$17,919	\$0	\$0
Small Projects				
Replacement of fish identification and advice signage at Lake St Clair To provide a replacement fish identification / advice sign at Lake St Clair.	Singleton Fly Fishing Club	\$620	\$0	\$0
Angler access improvements on the Gungarlin River The installation of two fence stiles and signage to allow for and promote access for recreational anglers fishing the Gungarlin River.	Illawarra Flyfishers' Club	\$4,260	\$0	\$0
Lake Cargelligo "Lets Get Fishing" To construct a fish cleaning table on the shores of Lake Cargelligo and to work with the community to organise a fishing tournament and promote fishing in a safe, environmentally and socially responsible way (supported funding for fish cleaning table component only).	Lake Cargelligo Amateur Anglers Club Incorporated	\$8,000	\$0	\$0
Provide fish cleaning station, Darlington Point To provide a fish cleaning station for fishers by installing fish cleaning tables with shelters for a better facility	Murrumbidgee Shire Council	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
The NSW Angler Access Signage project To initiate an angler access signage strategy for the installation of angler access signage to assist anglers in identifying legal angler access locations. In addition the application is for the printing of angler access brochures, section 38 plastic cards and sundries as part of a stakeholder awareness initiative.	NSW DPI	\$9,411	\$0	\$0
Nyah Recreational Reserve fish cleaning table To build a new fish cleaning table with lighting on the banks of the Murray River at the Nyah Recreation Reserve adjacent to the Football/ Netball/ Cricket/ Harness Racing clubs and next to the local boat ramp.	Nyah Nyah West United Football/Netball Club	\$5,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Small Projects				
<p>Fish Festival (and 50 year celebrations) The Fish Festival event is a celebration of the importance of fish to people living within the Murray-Darling Basin. It provides an opportunity for stakeholders to see first-hand, the work conducted by fisheries researchers, hatchery managers and compliance officers within NSW DPI. It will also help to celebrate the 50th birthday of the Narrandera Fisheries Centre which opened on the 3rd February 1962.</p>	NSW DPI	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Distribution of free Fishing Safety DVDs to freshwater fishing groups, community groups, agencies and other organisations Distribution of bulk copies of fishing safety DVDs to community and angling organisations and other distribution channels (subject to distribution of DVD's by NSW DPI through existing communication networks)</p>	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Murray cod project – an assessment of Murray cod, fish communities and the effects of stocking in the Border Rivers region of the Murray-Darling River System. The aim of this current project is to quantify the potential effects and benefits of fish stocking, particularly Murray cod, and of the effects of regulated flows on the behaviour of key fish species in a number of rivers within the Border Rivers region (funding support to continue the Border Rivers Murray cod project).</p>	NSW DPI	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Resource assessment of the Murray crayfish fishery in NSW and estimation of angler harvest rates Undertake a status assessment of the Murray crayfish fishery in NSW in order to improve fishery management using fishery dependant and independent surveys (funding support to conduct the fishery independent survey component only within the range of the current recreational fishery. No funding support for the dependent survey using log books or the survey component of the independent survey outside of the range of the current fishery).</p>	NSW DPI	\$40,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Small Project

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Keeping the fish ladders working To clean out the fish ladders in the local area rivers to ensure that local native fish can travel to spawning grounds and back again.	Gloucester Bowling Club Fishing & Social Club	\$2,240	\$0	\$0

JOINT PROJECT**Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network**

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Recreational fishing licence fee administration 2012-13 Provision of a cost-effective and efficient licensing administration system integrated to the Government Licensing Service. The system provides a convenient network for payment of the recreational fishing licence fees and distribution of plastic licence cards to anglers.	NSW DPI	\$528,000 FW \$1,232,000SW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Recreational Fishing Guides: additional funding for removal of advertising To remove paid advertising content from the saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing guides which is currently spread throughout the publication. This will create a more appealing / easier to read publication. Removal of advertising from the body of the publications will require an increase to the program budget to compensate for the loss of the major portion of advertising revenue.	NSW DPI	\$15,000 FW \$35,000 SW	\$0	\$0
Recreational Fishing Safety Officer Project The ongoing promotion of fishing safety, from coastal rock platforms, beaches, rivers or alpine lakes is essential so that all recreational fishers are aware of advancements in technologies around personal or fishing related safety and equipment. Involves recruitment of a dedicated safety officer to run a series of fishing safety programs.	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	\$79,000 FW \$316,000 SW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Developing mangrove jack as a new key species for freshwater recreational fishing in northern NSW impoundments – a pilot program. The aim of this project is to provide NSW anglers with an exciting new high quality recreational fishing opportunity – mangrove jack in Clarrie Hall Dam.	National Marine Science Centre (NMSC), Southern Cross University	\$10,000 FW \$25,312 SW	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
NSW Recreational Fishing Environmental Assessment and Fisheries Management Strategy To carry out a structured and thorough Environmental Assessment of recreational fishing in NSW and develop an associated Fisheries Management Strategy (FMS) to address the environmental risks and guide the future management of the recreational fishery.	NSW DPI	\$0	\$97,000 FW \$291,000 SW	\$107,500 FW \$322,500 SW

Table 2 - New Trust Applications *not supported* by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC for funding

SALTWATER

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Rock Fishing Drowning Prevention Action Plan (Randwick and Sutherland) SLSNSW have been recommended to receive funding from the NSW Government's Black Spot Fund to conduct a Coastal Public Risk Assessment for beaches and rock platforms in NSW. As a result of completing these risk assessments, a number of risk treatment options will be recommended to council/land owners and stakeholders. SLSNSW is applying to the Recreational Fishing Trust to be able to support councils, land owners and wider stakeholders in the implementation of the recreational fishing treatment options at 2 of the top rock fishing drowning locations in NSW; Randwick and Sutherland.	Surf Life Saving NSW	\$60,000	\$0	\$0
Replacement of fish cleaning table, Paddon Park, Evans Head Construct a new fish cleaning table at Paddon Park, Evans Head to relocate the fish cleaning table off the boat ramp and to provide shelter and lighting.	Richmond Valley Council	\$20,226	\$0	\$0
Brunswick Heads boat ramp pontoon Install a pontoon at Brunswick Heads boat ramp. Note: RFSTEC supported the proposal but recommended this project be referred to the NSW Maritime 'Better Boating Program' in consultation with the DPI Angling Facilities Manager.	Ocean Shores Fishing Club	\$0	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Parramatta Fishing Project This project seeks to increase angler knowledge, educate and engage young people to improve sustainability, health and promote interest in rehabilitating fish stocks in the Parramatta River.	Parramatta City Council	\$14,500	\$0	\$0
Educating for sustainable recreational fishing – Ballina Marine Discovery Centre The project will explain and promote the principles and benefits of sustainable use of fish resources and habitats to 4000 visitors to the Centre each year.	Ballina Marine Discovery Centre	\$77,750	\$0	\$0
Oasis Hunter Sustainable Recreational Fishing Education Program The program will provide practical education to youth enabling skills important to the promotion of Sustainable Recreational Fishing via in-house training and field activities in using best practice promoted by NSW Fisheries.	The Oasis Hunter Youth Network – Salvation Army	\$9,710	\$0	\$0
Assisting others to enjoy fishing To hold four one day junior clinics and one two day CanTeen clinic.	Mystery Bay Fishing Clinics	\$5,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education continued...

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Research on a suitable LED light for boat and trailer To research and advise on appropriate LED lighting for boats and trailers for promotion in the fishing media column "Catch & Kiss" for The Northern Star newspaper.</p>	William Goode	\$1,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Wild shark social networks: impacts of human interventions [Project pre-proposal] Using the Port Jackson shark as a model species the project aims to employ a combination of modern analytical, molecular and novel acoustic techniques to assess shark social structure; and assess the impacts of placing artificial refuge sites on the spatio-temporal structure of shark aggregations.</p>	Dr Tristan Guttridge	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
<p>Promoting fish survival by mitigating deep hooking and associated impacts The project will provide ongoing, clear and applied solutions for maximising the survival of released fish and, in doing so, promote the sustainability of recreational fishing to the broader community.</p>	NSW DPI	\$218,607	\$111,588	\$0
<p>Using fishers' knowledge and historical archives to establish baseline abundances and distribution of recreationally fished species in New South Wales The project aims to reconstruct long-term changes in New South Wales fisheries, gear technology and fishing methods using questionnaires and oral history interviews from recreational fishers.</p>	University of Queensland	\$65,100	\$18,470	\$0
<p>The New South Wales Research Angler Program – Mulloway The project will establish a network that facilitates anglers contributing to biological and fishery assessments for key recreational species in NSW. The program will start with mulloway because information is urgently needed for the mulloway recovery program and is the highest priority for management.</p>	NSW DPI	\$182,094	\$185,362	\$183,229
<p>Molecular tools for the assessment of genetic variation in NSW estuarine fishes to support marine restocking Develop molecular tools (primers) to assess the genetic diversity and strength of connections between populations of estuarine fish of key recreational importance.</p>	University of Wollongong	\$57,000	\$37,000	\$32,000

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Small Projects				
NSWFCA Convention fishing spots cleanup To conduct a clean up activity in association with the NSWFCA Convention in Forster in April 2012. Note: No Longer relevant as event date has passed.	NSW Fishing Clubs Association Inc.	\$2,000	\$0	\$0

FRESHWATER**Platform: Fishing access and facilities**

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Camden Town Farm lagoon accessible fishing platform Install a fully accessible fishing platform and footpath at the Camden Town Farm lagoon to improve access for recreational fishers and the removal of introduced carp and noxious weeds.	Camden Council	\$28,000	\$0	\$0
New fishing platform for Wee Waa Lagoon Improving the fishing facilities at Wee Waa Lagoon through the construction of a fishing platform.	Narrabri Shire Council	\$59,675	\$4,080	\$0
Upgrade Sepoy Boat Ramp To upgrade current granite ramp to give access to all fisherman (not only 4x 4 owners) to the excellent fishing and water sports that Copeton Waters provides. Note: RFFTEC supported the proposal but recommended this project be referred to the NSW Maritime 'Better Boating Program' in consultation with the DPI Angling Facilities Manager.	Copeton Waters State Park	\$53,340	\$0	\$0
Deniliquin Recreational Fishing Educational Park The project seeks to improve the Deniliquin Lagoon to provide a key educational facility to aid in supporting and promoting recreational fishing within the area; to provide training and education of local fish species; to provide a facility for practise and training of recreational fishing in safe and secure area; and showcase the area for recreational fishing opportunities.	Deniliquin RSL Fishing Club	\$60,000	\$0	\$0
Bridge to provide 10km's recreational fishing access Construct footbridge over Flanagan's Creek to Browns Island to provide recreational anglers with access to 10km's of Crown water frontages along the Murray River, Flanagans Creek and snag-filled Wodonga Creek.	Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd	\$40,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities (continued)

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
<p>Public access to inland rivers in the Western Division The aim of the project is to identify Crown Land sites along the inland rivers of NSW that will allow access for the public to undertake a range of recreational activities. Specifically the Murray, Darling, Bogan, Macquarie, Castlereagh, Barwon, Bokhara, Culgoa, Birrie, Narran, Great Darling Anabran, Lachlan, Willandra Creek, Warrego, Wakool, Cuttaburra Creek, Paroo and Murrumbidgee rivers contained within the Western Division of NSW. In addition, signage will be erected for selected sites and a publication produced that provides site details, available infrastructure and facilities.</p>	Crown Lands (NSW DPI)	\$41,081	\$30,825	\$61,271
<p>Fishing Platform (Floating Pontoon) at Darlington Point on the Murrumbidgee River Using a floating pontoon, provide a fishing platform for residents and tourists adjacent to the town beach and other riverside recreational areas.</p>	Murrumbidgee Shire Council	\$34,950	\$0	\$0
Small projects				
<p>Edward River fish identification signage To install fish identification signs at 10 boat ramps along the Edward River between Four Post Camp and Benarca Bend near Stevens Weir (application deferred, field inspection to be undertaken by Region 8 Trust representative).</p>	Deniliquin RSL Fishing Club	\$5,616	\$0	\$0
<p>Enhancing the Lachlan– Improving recreational fisheries in the Lachlan River adjacent to the Cowra CBD The project will enhance recreational fisheries in the Lachlan River adjacent to the Cowra CBD. It will also improve access to the site for both anglers and recreational visitors (application referred to the Habitat Action Program).</p>	Cowra Shire Council	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Welby Dams 1 & 2 reinstall balustrade to dam walls Re-affix balustrading to dam walls at Welby 1 & 2 to facilitate angler / hiker access (application deferred – more information required).</p>	Berrima District Acclimatisation Society (BDAS)	\$7,500	\$0	\$0
<p>Narrandera Anglers ‘Get in Touch’ In line with the anglers access program this project will identify legal angler access locations and promote freshwater fishing sites in Narrandera. This will be achieved through a site verification conducted on behalf of Fisheries NSW and development of a brochure with associated map which will be downloadable from the internet.</p>	Narrandera Shire Council	\$8,300	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
'Do it for the Fish' Develop and deliver a comprehensive targeted education program to assist recreational fishers to identify and report aquatic weeds that interfere with recreational fishing and avoid spreading them between fishing spots.	Wetland Care Australia	\$78,000	\$19,500	\$0
Small Projects				
Native fish, habitat, and endangered species awareness cards Repeat production of native fish awareness cards (co designed by the DPI) to be further distributed to schools, clubs, the local fisheries education trailer, and into hospitality based venues across much of central NSW.	Inland Waterways Rejuvenation Association	\$4,202	\$0	\$0
The Mathoura educational freshwater aquarium The project involves the establishment of a freshwater aquarium in Mathoura, to raise awareness and educate fishermen, visitors and students about native fish and sustainable recreational fishing.	Mathoura Visitor and Business Centre / Murray Shire Council	\$7,216	\$0	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Small Projects				
Risk Assessment on impacts of fishing in Prospect Reservoir to drinking water quality This application and subsequent funding will allow the Sea Bees to engage a company to conduct a Risk Assessment on the impacts of fishing to the drinking water quality of Prospect Reservoir. Sea Bees Boating Club wishes to propose to the NSW Government and the Sydney Catchment Authority to grant limited access to Prospect reservoir for the purposes of fishing.	Sea Bees Boating Club	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Trout fry/fingerling transporter units Acquisition of two live fish transporter units that will help the thirteen Monaro Acclimatisation Society branch members to successfully carry out transportation and release of trout fingerlings and fry supplied by Gaden Trout Hatchery.	Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc.	\$10,255	\$0	\$0
Small projects				
Euabalong Lachlan River rejuvenation and education project To assist in eradicating carp from the Lachlan River. The Club will replace the fish by purchasing various fingerlings native to this area (Stocking component referred to the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program).	Euabalong Amateur Anglers Club	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

Replenish fish stocks Murray Downs The local waterways have been badly affected by recent black water events, following severe flooding. It is proposed to buy fingerlings and release them into the Murray River to help replenish stock of Murray Cod and Golden Perch (referred to the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program).	Murray Downs Angling Club	\$10,000	\$0	\$0
Fish stocking fuel support program To subsidise members of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society for fuel expenses incurred during fish stocking events	Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc	\$2,100	\$0	\$0
Restocking Billabong Creek, Jerilderie with native fish The Jerilderie Fishing Club has undertaken to restock the local waterways. In November 2011 the club released 5000 Murray Cod fingerlings into the Billabong Creek. This restocking is part of larger plan and the Club are applying for funding to release a further 10,000 fingerlings in 2012 into the Billabong Creek and Yanko Creek (referred to the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program).	Jerilderie Sports Club	\$6,000	\$0	\$0
Walbundrie District Anglers Association Restocking 2012 To restock the Billabong Creek with Murray cod and golden perch at 3 locations between Walbundrie and Bulgandra (referred to the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program).	Walbundrie District Anglers Association	\$5,000	\$0	\$0

JOINT PROJECT

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2012 / 13	2013 / 14	2014 / 15
Australian Boater Survey Proposed is a NSW state module of a national research project called the Australian Boater Survey. The NSW module will establish the economic value of recreational boating and fishing in NSW.	Boating Industries Alliance Australia and the Marina Industries Association of Australia	\$16,250 FW \$48,750 SW	\$16,250 FW \$48,750 SW	\$18,250 FW \$54,750 SW
Never miss a bite: Development of strong, ultra-sharp, inexpensive fish hooks from new patented metal alloys. To build and mechanically test prototypes of fish hooks using new metal alloys. The project will potentially lead to the development of the world's first surgically-sharp hook leaving no environmental contamination.	University of New South Wales	\$15,098 FW \$45,294 SW	\$0	\$0