



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 21 November 2014

NSW CELEBRATES WORLD FISHERIES DAY

The Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson has today recognised World Fisheries Day, by celebrating the remarkable achievements and enhancements in the recreational, commercial and Indigenous fishing sectors in NSW.

“More than one million anglers wet their lines every year in this State, generating \$1.6 billion in fishing related expenditure,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“World Fisheries Day is a great opportunity to highlight the importance of maintaining the world's fisheries resources and this State’s contribution towards this shared goal.

“Sustaining our aquatic resources is crucial and the recent passage of the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* specifically provides for sustainable and integrated management of the whole marine estate for the first time in NSW.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government allocates around \$16 million from the sale of the Recreational Fishing licences to freshwater and saltwater projects – such as offshore artificial reefs, fish stocking and fishing platforms.

“The NSW Government has released over five million fish, including trout, salmon and native fish into our inland waterways over the past year, giving a welcome boost to our recreational fishers,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“In addition to this, this summer will see the stocking of more than three million Eastern king prawns in estuaries up and down the NSW coast for the first time.

“Development of four additional offshore artificial reefs at Shoalhaven Heads, Port Macquarie and offshore from Botany Bay has continued at pace, following the first highly successful artificial reef located off Sydney's South Head.

“We’ve now deployed over 20 fish aggregating devices (FADs) at various locations along the NSW coast to provide new target locations for warm water fish species.”

The Minister said funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts continue to be directed to many of these projects and ongoing programs that have seen both the inland and saltwater recreational fishing experience enhanced.