



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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FISHERS URGED TO WET A LINE FROM TWEED TO EDEN THIS SUMMER

Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water Niall Blair announced today that Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs) have been deployed off the NSW coastline, ready for recreational fishers to try their luck at the start of the summer fishing season.

Sixteen FADs have been strategically placed at key fishing spots off the Far North, Mid North and Hunter coasts, ranging between nine and 32 kilometres off shore, including three near Coffs Harbour.

“These devices are deployed each year as it starts to warm up to enhance recreational fishing opportunities by attracting surface dwelling fish such as mahi-mahi for sport and eating,” Mr Blair said.

“This means recreational fishers can venture out to sea, drop a line near a FAD buoy and have a greater chance of hooking a big one.

“I love ‘wetting a line’ and I encourage those keen on sea fishing to look up a FAD near them and head out for a great day of fishing.”

Member for Coffs Harbour, Andrew Fraser said “more than \$130 million has been spent on projects like this to improve recreational fishing for the one million fishers who drop a line every year.

“There are three FADs which have been deployed near Coffs Harbour, one north at Wooli, one at Coffs Harbour itself and one at Nambucca to the south,” Mr Fraser said.

FADs are yellow, spherical buoys with a flashing beacon for safe navigation. Thirty buoys will eventually be deployed off the NSW coast for the summer fishing season.

NSW Recreational Fishing Fees are reinvested into freshwater and saltwater projects that improve recreational fishing, like the state’s FADs program.

Recreational fishing is a \$1.6 billion industry, which employs about 14,000 people.

Full details of where each FAD is located can be found [online](#).