

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

Outcomes from Meeting 43 – Thursday 5 June 2008

Attendance

Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Janette McLeod, Kevin McKinnon, Neil Ryan, Charles Howe, Adrian Wayne, Ronald Croker, Sanchia Glaskin, Max Castle, Claudette Rechterik, John Clarke, Ann Garard, John Humphries and John Drew.

Departmental Observers

Anthony Hurst (Director, Wild Harvest Fisheries), Bill Talbot (Director, Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture), John Diplock, Bryan van der Walt, Cameron Westaway and Nick Hannaford.

Apologies

Council members: John Dunphy, Jim Harnwell, Peter Cooley and Nick James (NSW DPI representative).

Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meeting

Motion: The council accepted the outcomes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 42nd ACoRF meeting, held 11 December 2007. **Moved:** Charles Howe. **Seconded:** Neil Ryan. **Carried.**

Business arising from the minutes

Nil.

1. Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure

1. NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts Investment Plan

ACoRF and DPI have previously identified the benefits of developing an Investment Plan to guide expenditure of funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts in the longer term. An Investment Plan provides for a more structured approach for planning and expending revenue over a five year period, with sufficient scope for review to take account of significant emerging issues. The Committee was presented with a draft of the Investment Plan with the agenda.

A key part of the Investment Plan development process involved surveying recreational fishers about their priorities for expenditure. A representative sample of 37,000 recreational fishing licence fee holders were surveyed by an external research consultant. Key outcomes of the survey were:

- Most fishers were aware of the many Trust funded programs, either knowing some or all of the details of the programs.
- Most fishers indicated that all Trust funded programs were of major benefit to recreational fishing.
- Most fishers indicated that all Trust programs were worth doing to improve recreational fishing.
- Ranking of the seven platforms of Trust funded programs indicated that all platforms are considered important by recreational fishers (see below).

Platform	Saltwater	Freshwater	Mix of salt and freshwater
Recreational fishing education	100	100	100
Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation	96	94	93
Recreational fishing enhancement programs	92	92	91
Research on fish and recreational fishing	89	91	88
Fishing access and facilities	88	88	87
Enforcement of fishing rules	87	89	86
Buyouts of commercial fishing businesses	85	-	82

These results indicate there is community support for the many programs currently funded by the Trusts. Ranking scores for the seven platforms of programs were high indicating all platforms of Trust funded programs are considered important by recreational fishers. The results also provide accountability for previous Trust decision making. A detailed presentation of the survey results was presented at the meeting.

DPI widely advertised an expression of interest calling for applications to be funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts in January 2008. All applications were assessed by the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committees on 23 and 24 May 2008. ACoRF reviewed the recommendations of the Expenditure Committees and details as outlined in Appendix 1 and 2.

DPI advised that the Investment Plan would be subject to annual review to account for any variations in revenue and to direct funds towards new emerging priorities, if required. The committee endorsed the draft framework of the Plan.

The Freshwater Trust was previously allocated an annual allocation of \$3 million (or approximately 30% of total revenue). ACoRF recommended maintaining the annual allocation of \$3 million to the Freshwater Trust.

Action item

DPI to provide council members with a copy of the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee Survey.

2. Recreational Fishing Update

a) Implementation of recommendations from the Abalone Recovery Group

Mr Doug Ferrell, Senior Scientific Officer, Fisheries Biology (NSW DPI) provided an overview of the issues associated with the minimum size limit increase of abalone from 11.5cm to 11.7cm. The increase will take effect from 1 July 2008. Mr Ferrell also discussed the Section 8 and Section 11 Notification - Fishing Closure for Abalone – Regions 1 & 2 and the structured fishing program for the commercial fishery.

Information Noted. ACoRF supported the renewal of the closure in its current format.

b) Update of Termeil/Meroo Lake Access

Council was advised that the Department is negotiating with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) to provide access to the lakes. The DECC plan of management for the lakes will not be approved until there is joint approval from the Ministers of both departments (DECC and DPI). NSW DPI is continuing to support angler access to the lakes.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

c) Snapper size limit review

The Department proposes to seek advice from a joint ACoRF and Seafood Industry Advisory Council (SIAC) meeting regarding the proposed change to the current size limit.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

3. Fisheries Enhancement Update

Mr Heath Folpp, Manager, Recreational Fisheries Enhancement (NSW DPI) provided an update of the fish aggregating devices (FADs), estuarine and offshore artificial reef programs, including details of the comprehensive environmental assessment requirements and the extensive approvals process for the artificial reef proposals. DPI confirmed the deployment of two new FADs (Batemans Bay and Newcastle) in the 2009/10 season.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

4. Fishing Closures

a) Section 8 – Fishing Closure *Caulerpa taxifolia* in Narrawallee Inlet, Burrill Lake, Lake Conjola, Pittwater, Lake Macquarie and St Georges Basin

The council was consulted out of session on 11 January 2008 regarding the renewal of this closure for a period of up to 12 months. There was majority support to renew the closure in its current format. The closure was renewed on 5 February 2008.

b) Section 8 – Fishing Closure in Hawkesbury River, Brisbane Water and Pittwater and their tributaries

The council was consulted out of session on 3 April 2008 regarding the renewal of this closure. There was majority support for this closure to be renewed in its current form. The closure was renewed for a period of 12 months and is due to expire on 19 March 2009.

c) Section 8 – Fishing Closure in Kogarah Bay and tributaries

The council was consulted out of session on 21 April 2008 regarding the renewal of this closure. There was majority support for this renewal from council. The closure was renewed on 6 May 2008.

d) Section 8 – Wapengo Lake netting closure

This closure expires on 28 August 2008. It is proposed to consolidate this closure by incorporating it into the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002*, however, the amendment process may not be finalised before the closure expires.

e) Section 11 and 8 – Fishing Closure Pipis, Cockles and Whelks from Simpson's Bay to Costens Point

This closure expires on 17 August 2008. It is proposed to consolidate this closure in regulation, however, this process may not be finalised before the closure expires.

Motion: The Council supports the renewal of the Wapengo Lake netting closure. **Moved:** John Drew. Seconded: Ronald Croker. **Carried**

Motion: The Council supports the renewal of the Pipis, Cockles and Whelks from Simpson's Bay Beach to Costens Point closure. **Moved:** John Humphries. Seconded: Max Castle. **Carried**

Out of Session items

- The council was consulted out of session on 11 February 2008 regarding an application from Tamworth Anglican College, Calrossy Primary Campus for funding of \$2,080 to assist with a Native Fish Awareness Project. There was majority support from the council for these funds to be allocated from the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

Motion: The Council support funding for the Native Fish Awareness Project Program. **Moved:** Neil Ryan. Seconded: Max Castle. **Carried**

- Renewal of the following Section 8 Fishing Closures:
 - *Caulerpa taxifolia* in Narrawallee Inlet, Burrill Lake, Lake Conjola, Pittwater, Lake Macquarie and St Georges Basin,
 - Hawkesbury River, Brisbane Water and Pittwater and their tributaries, and
 - Kogarah Bay and tributaries

Note: renewal of Section 8 fishing closures are addressed in agenda item 4.

Correspondence received

- Letter from EcoNetwork – Port Stephens Inc raising concerns with fishing tournaments.

Council was advised that the trailer boat event, to which this letter is mainly referring to, recently has introduced some improved management techniques, including a small catch and release

section in the 2008 event to reduce the take of fish. The event has a limited eligible species list and only the top 3 fish in each species category are eligible for points. Also eight species have minimum size limits larger than regulatory requirements. It is advised that many anglers return their catch to the water alive after weigh-in, and this behaviour is reportedly encouraged by the organisers.

There is some concern however over the size of the event and the total numbers of fish harvested over the tournament period. This may be linked to the large numbers of people competing in the event also harvesting incidental fish for food rather than for the tournament. This results in a significant number of fish being taken from a localised area, particularly on occasions when the weather is bad and available fishing area is limited.

This is the first complaint received regarding Port Stephens fishing events. The Recreational Management Unit and the local ACoRF member, John Clarke, will arrange to meet with local stakeholders, including the EcoNetwork group and local competition organisers to investigate further methods to reduce the environmental impact of the events.

ACoRF acknowledges that there is an issue with some poorly run fishing competitions throughout the state which will be addressed by the Tournament Management Program. The council reaffirmed its position that it does not encourage large fish kills.

- Letter from Mr Charles Howe requesting the council's support to impose a size limit on mangrove jack and a size limit and reduced bag limit for cobia.

DPI advised that resource assessments on mangrove jack and cobia have not been completed in NSW. QLD DPI is currently undertaking a bag and size limit review, which will be finalised in early 2009. NSW DPI will consider both processes in determining the need for bag and size limit amendments for these species.

Motion: ACoRF requests that NSW DPI implement bag and size limits on mangrove jack and cobia following consultation with QLD DPI regarding new rules for these species. **Moved:** John Humphries. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

Action Item

DPI to develop a proposal for bag and size limit changes for cobia and mangrove jack.

- Letter from Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol requesting the council's support for the proposal to unify three existing Volunteer Marine Rescue agencies into a single organization.

Motion: ACoRF supports the amalgamation of these groups and will consider the proposal further following the release of the NSW Maritime Report. **Moved:** John Humphries. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

Other Business

- Bruce Schumacher represented ACoRF/recreational fishers at the following meetings:
 1. RecFish Australia, Safety Scoping Paper Workshop on 6 February 2008.
 2. Maritime Ministerial Advisory Committee on 13 February 2008
 3. National Climate Change and Fisheries Action Plan 2008-2012 Consultation Workshop on 7 May 2008.
 4. 9th National FRAB & Stakeholder Workshop on 8-9 May 2008
 5. Maritime Ministerial Advisory Committee on 20 May 2008
 6. From Ecologically Sustainable Development to EBFM – future directions for fisheries management on 21 May 2008

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

- ACoRF nominated Max Castle to represent ACoRF on the Technical Working Group for the Eastern Sea Garfish Recovery Program.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

- A collated submission from ACoRF members has been submitted to the Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay Marine Park reviews.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

- Max Castle – Information provided regarding the Nature Conservation Council's online submission for the Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay Marine Parks reviews.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

- Max Castle – request for an update on the uranium contamination at Hunters Hill.

NSW DPI's Aquatic Biosecurity and Risk Management Branch advised that this issue is being managed by NSW Health and no advice regarding impacts on fisheries had been received.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

- Steven Scott (former ACoRF member) has requested that DPI investigate seeking access to impoundments (especially in Sydney and then Newcastle metropolitan areas) for approved fishing clubs to use these water bodies on pre-determined dates, as long as the club can provide all insurances and demonstrate compliance with the code of practice.

NSW DPI is currently negotiating with the Sydney Catchment Authority to gain some form of access to impoundments and to consider stocking impoundments with bass. The department is also working on gaining access to many impoundments west of the Great Divide.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

- Charles Howe reported on the large number of bycatch juvenile mulloway caught by prawn trawlers on the Far North Coast (near Ballina) in recent months and asked what the impact of prawn trawling has on mulloway stocks.

DPI advised that the Chair of ACoRF had written to the Minister about this issue.

Information noted. No Recommendations or action items.

- Mr Steven Dunn, A/CEO, NSW Maritime advised Council that it plans to implement a 10 year plan for rebuilding and maintaining ferry wharfs in Sydney Harbour when NSW Maritime assumes responsibility of this infrastructure later this year from local Councils. Mr Dunn advised that the cause of most complaints in Sydney Harbour is fishing on ferry wharfs. NSW Maritime proposes to maintain the current Council fishing bans (prohibiting fishing from ferry wharfs). However, it would prefer to have the fishing closures implemented under fisheries regulations to aid compliance activities. NSW Maritime also advised there may be scope to work with ACoRF and DPI to implement a code of practice for fishing on some ferry wharfs during times when ferries do not run. This may involve erecting signage and bins that address issues such as litter and discarded fishing line.

Council is supportive of recreational fishers accessing ferry wharfs in a safe and responsible way. Council advised that a recreational fishing area should be constructed on any new ferry wharf that is constructed by NSW Maritime.

General Business (around the table)

- A freshwater charter boat operator has sought the extension of charter boat management arrangements to cover freshwater operators. Fishing guides have also requested NSW DPI to investigate the potential for implementation of a registration scheme. The Department will present proposals on each issue to the council at the next meeting. DPI will also consult with the Marine and Estuarine Recreational Charter Management Advisory Committee.

- Ann Garard requested that the boat limit of 10 gemfish be removed in light of the Fisheries Scientific Committee's recommendation that it not be listed as an endangered species.

Motion: ACoRF support the removal of the boat limit of 10 gemfish. **Moved:** Ann Garard.
Seconded: Sanchia Glaskin. **Carried.**

- NSW DPI Commercial and Recreational Fisheries Managers and key stakeholder representatives plan to meet again to investigate a proposal to amend the current Section 8 – Fishing Closure (in Hawkesbury River, Brisbane Water and Pittwater and their tributaries) which will benefit recreational and commercial fishers. The council supported the renewal of the closure in its current form (refer to agenda item 4).

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

Action item: Provide council members with a progress summary of Recreational Fishing Trust funded project reports (which was provided to the Expenditure Committees).

- Sanchia Glaskin requested ACoRF reaffirm its position that striped marlin should be a recreationally only species. The Chair advised that the council has not changed its position in this issue.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

- Janette McLeod requested that ACoRF support the listing of luderick as a recreational only species. The council did not support the request.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

Action item: Provide council members with the catch and effort working group species list.

Action item: Provide council members with Pepperell Research's report "The Good Old Days? Historical insights into coastal NSW on fishing history in NSW".

- Cameron Westaway advised that Lake Mulwala is going to be drained. Out of session advice may be sought from the council on the implementation of a possible closure, from August for the lake, and the trout cod protection area below the lake downstream to Tocumwal, if Lake Mulwala does not refill by the end of July.

Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

Next meeting

- ACoRF meeting 44 (2/2008) – Tuesday 9 September at Cronulla Fisheries Centre.

Action items from 43rd ACoRF meeting 5/06/07

Agenda Item	Action	Due date - if applicable	Team Responsible	Status
1	DPI to provide council members with a copy of the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee Survey.		Recreational Management	Pending
Correspondence received	DPI to develop a proposal for bag and size limit changes for cobia and mangrove jack.		Recreational Management	Pending
General Business	Provide council members with a progress summary of Recreational Fishing Trust funded project reports (which was provided to the Expenditure Committees).		Recreational Management	Pending
General Business	Provide council members with the catch and effort working group species list.		Recreational Management	Pending
General Business	Provide council members with Pepperell Research's report "The Good Old Days? Historical insights into coastal NSW on fishing history in NSW".		Recreational Management	Pending

Appendix 1: Summary of programs approved by ACoRF under each Platform in the Trust Investment Plan

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recreational fishing fee administration – provides for the convenient payment of the fishing fee at most fishing tackle stores and via the web and phone. <i>Note: An application for top-up funding to reach 10% of revenue allocation will be made in 2008/09, if required.</i>	DPI	SW \$750,000 FW \$300,000	SW \$750,000 FW \$300,000	SW \$750,000 FW \$300,000	SW \$750,000 FW \$300,000	SW \$750,000 FW \$300,000
Fee research database – this database collects information on the details of fee receipt holders and other demographic information for use in research surveys.	DPI	SW \$63,000 FW \$27,000	SW \$63,000 FW \$27,000	SW \$63,000 FW \$27,000	SW \$63,000 FW \$27,000	SW \$63,000 FW \$27,000
Licence fee renewal facility – facilitates the renewal of recreational fishing fee receipts by anglers.	DPI	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000	SW \$115,000 FW \$50,000
Trust Executive Officer – this position coordinates the Recreational Fishing Trusts and associated projects to ensure quality service delivery, accountability and transparency.	DPI	SW \$150,590	SW \$157,000	SW \$164,000	SW \$164,000	SW \$164,000
Recreational fishing havens – involves repayment of a loan used for the buyout of commercial fishing entitlements to create 30 recreational fishing havens.	DPI	\$2 million	\$2 million	\$2 million	\$2 million	\$2 million
Expenditure Committee meeting expenses – the saltwater committee of expert anglers reviews Trust funding applications and ongoing progress of programs.	RFSTEC/ RFFTEC	SW \$35,000 FW \$30,000	SW \$30,000 FW \$30,000	SW \$31,000 FW \$31,000	SW \$32,000 FW \$32,000	SW \$33,000 FW \$33,000
9 Coastal Fisheries Officers (fee compliance) – this contribution of 9 coastal Officers ensures compliance with the requirement to pay the recreational fishing fee. This program complements the other 77 Fisheries Officers funded by DPI and other sources. <i>Note: program funding was capped at previous levels.</i>	DPI	SW \$1,053,476	SW \$1,053,476	SW \$1,053,476	SW \$1,053,476	SW \$1,053,476
ACoRF meeting expenses (Saltwater Trust) – the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) provides high quality advice to the Minister for Primary Industries on issues relating to recreational fishing.	ACoRF	SW \$28,500	SW \$28,500	SW \$29,000	SW \$29,500	SW \$30,000
Freshwater Recreational Management – this position coordinates the following Trust programs: Enhanced fish production, \$ for \$ stocking, freshwater grants and expenditure committee coordination.	DPI	FW \$166,000	FW \$166,000	FW \$166,000	FW \$166,000	FW \$166,000

 - previously approved funds

Motion: The council supports funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in the platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation in the south west region – a conservation manager based in Albury will manage fish habitat protection and aquatic threatened species management issues in south west NSW amongst government and non-government organisations, landholders, catchment management authorities and recreational fishing groups.	DPI	FW \$158,646	FW \$158,646	FW \$162,623	FW \$162,623	FW \$162,623
Habitat Action Program...Making more fish naturally – involves development of a series of on-grounds works programs to improve habitat rehabilitation and fish stocks in consultation with the CMAs. <i>Note: These funds will be reserved for habitat grants from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. All applications to be submitted to RFSTEC and RFFTEC for review prior to funding from the Trusts.</i>	DPI/ Community groups	SW \$200,000 FW \$200,000	SW \$200,000 FW \$200,000	SW \$200,000 FW \$200,000	SW \$200,000 FW \$200,000	SW \$200,000 FW \$200,000
Small Grants						
Durroby Creek Weir Removal – this project will remove the barrier to fish passage, restoring efficient tidal flow and increasing the habitat available (increase of 6km) for fish in this system. <i>Note: To be funded under Habitat Action Program.</i>	Tweed Shire Council	SW \$10,000				
Northern Rivers Water Quality - aims to purchase a water quality analyser for use over 10 years to monitor and enable tidal flushings in identified drains to dilute toxic water. <i>Note: To be funded under Habitat Action Program. Program funding was reduced to \$2,000 to provide for more cost effective water sampling equipment.</i>	ECOfishers NSW	SW \$2,000				
Barrington River fishway, Rocky Crossing – construction of a fishway on the Barrington River at Rocky Crossing causeway to improve spawning / migration of fish through a barrier to fish passage. <i>Note: To be funded under Habitat Action Program.</i>	GSC	FW \$10,000				
Brogo Bass Rescue – to excavate a small channel from a waterhole below the Brogo dam wall to the main river, to allow bass to escape into the river when water levels recede and to install advisory signage. <i>Note: To be funded under Habitat Action Program.</i>	FSCBSA	FW \$4,532				
Raised crossing over Williams River - to allow improved fish passage upstream of Melbury Causeway by reconstructing a causeway to provide a higher level crossing that allows uninhibited fish passage underneath. <i>Note: To be funded under Habitat Action Program.</i>	Dungog Shire Council	FW \$10,000				

Motion: The council supports funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in the platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation. **Moved:** Charles Howe. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Saltwater Trust


Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Fish aggregating devices (FADs) – a series of fish aggregating devices (FADs) are placed in coastal waters from Byron Bay to Eden to attract pelagic fish such as mahi-mahi and even tunas and marlin.	DPI	\$194,000	\$209,000	\$212,000	\$220,000	\$223,000
Building artificial reefs in estuaries- artificial reefs have been built in Lake Macquarie, Botany Bay and St Georges Basin as part of a research project to create new fish habitat for recreational fishing. More reefs are being deployed in other estuaries along the coast including Lake Conjola, Merimbula Lake, Port Hacking, Sydney Harbour and Pittwater.	DPI	\$441,000	\$543,000	\$580,000	\$590,000	\$591,000
Building artificial reefs in ocean waters - DPI proposes to deploy 3 large, purpose built, steel artificial reef units to create large offshore fishing locations off Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. The design of the structures will use the worlds best artificial reefs technology to maximise their effectiveness for over 30 yrs. <i>Note: This program has previously been approved in principle by the Minister.</i>	DPI	\$961,000	\$933,000	\$949,000	\$188,000	
Eastern king prawn stocking in Wallagoot Lake: An experimental manipulation of stocking density and its effect on initial mortality and dispersal – involves an additional stocking of prawns in 2008 as an extension of the current research prawn stocking program, which is investigating the effectiveness of stocking prawns to enhance recreational fishing.	University of NSW	\$95,000				
Marine stocking of important recreational fish species in coastal waters – involves implementation of a marine stocking program of key recreational species in NSW to enhance recreational fishing in NSW following completion of the Environmental Impact Statement and Fisheries Management Strategy for marine stocking.	DPI			\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000

Freshwater Trust

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Fish stocking: enhanced fish production - DPI operates five hatcheries that produce native fish and trout for stocking in freshwater impoundments throughout NSW. Trust funds boost production at the hatcheries, which has led to record numbers of fish being stocked and better fishing.	DPI	\$346,458	\$346,458	\$359,053	\$359,053	\$359,053
Fish stocking: dollar for dollar program - funding provided for fishing clubs to buy native fingerlings for stocking in rivers and dams and for ongoing Nodavirus testing at the private bass hatcheries.	DPI/ Community groups	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs (continued)
Freshwater Trust (continued)

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Management of fish stocking to ensure responsible stocking practices – one position to undertake environmental assessments of fish stocking programs in NSW to ensure they are carried out in an ecologically sustainable way.	DPI	\$96,171	\$104,809	\$108,543	\$108,543	\$108,543

 - previously approved funds

Motion: The council supports funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in the platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs. **Moved:** Adrian Wayne. **Seconded:** Sanchia Glaskin. **Carried.**

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Saltwater Trust

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Scientific data collection from recreational fishing tournaments in NSW – aims to sample the catch and effort from Basscatch and other freshwater native fish events and club-based gamefishing in NSW in support of the assessment of billfish, tuna and sharks and freshwater native fish.	DPI	SW \$80,359 FW \$34,439	SW \$86,422 FW \$37,038	SW \$151,426 FW \$37,857	SW \$161,074 FW \$40,268	SW \$175,852 FW \$43,963
Improving survival of released fish after catch and release – involves research to develop fishing gears and practices that improve the survival of released fish in saltwater.	DPI	\$126,903 Phase 2 \$88,700 Phase 3	\$181,300	\$198,100	\$240,900	
Gamefish tagging - provides valuable scientific information on the movement and growth of billfish, tuna, sharks and sportfish and encourages anglers to participate in fisheries management and research.	DPI	\$120,000	\$124,330	\$129,020	\$133,590	\$136,910
Enhancing recreational fisheries through conservation of iconic recreational trophy fish – this project aims to create a spatial model for the presence, distribution and movements of mulloway, bream and flathead in 4 estuaries. <i>Note: Program funding is subject to UNSW securing ARC linkage funding to tag these target species and to undertake satisfactory engagement and consultation with DPI Science & Research Division (Dr Charles Gray).</i>	University of NSW	\$133,000	\$70,300	\$35,900		
Examination of recreational fishing fatalities in NSW 2002-2007- aims to identify, describe and compare all fish related drowning deaths in NSW.	Royal Life Saving Society	\$67,000				
Development and implementation of a cost-effective statewide survey of recreational fishing in NSW – the project objectives are to develop a methodology to conduct a state-wide survey of recreational fisheries in NSW using a combination of on-and-off site studies in conjunction with DPI Victoria (in principle support). <i>Note: Program funding was reduced to provide seed funding to leverage additional funds from other sources.</i>	DPI	\$100,000	\$200,000		-	
Development of cost-effective methods for monitoring and assessing spatial management options for recreational fisheries in NSW – this project will use cutting edge technology to develop a cost effective way of monitoring recreational boat-based fishing effort over large geographical scales and development of a GIS system for integrating habitat distributions within the Greater Sydney Region.	DPI	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000		

 - previously approved funds

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing (continued)

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Offshore Artificial Reefs Monitoring Program – this program involves the monitoring of Offshore Artificial Reefs and communication of the results to the scientific community and the angling public. <i>Note: This program has previously been approved in principle by the Minister.</i>	DPI		\$82,234	\$276,880	\$268,798	\$265,698
Monitoring and research of landed fish and game fishing tournaments in NSW 2008/09 – this project will organise, coordinate and report on biological research and sampling at NSW game fishing tournaments.	Pepperell Research & Consulting	\$25,500				
Provisions of an Annual Report for the Gamefish Tagging Program for the 2007 season. <i>Note: Program funding to be included in Gamefish Tagging program.</i>	Pepperell Research & Consulting	\$7,000				

Freshwater Trust

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Effectiveness of freshwater stockings & recreational freshwater fishing assessments in New South Wales – involves completion of scientific studies on western drainage freshwater fish stockings to develop cost-effective stocking procedures for large-scale releases of fish (Phase 1). Phase 2 involves determining areas to be stocked, optimal stocking sizes and methods, the impacts of stocked fish on resident species, the effectiveness of size limits on selected fisheries, and to investigate the effectiveness of fishing closures.	DPI	\$184,439 Phase 1	\$190,978 Phase 2	\$204,923	\$218,245	\$228,999
Maximising the post release survival of angler caught native freshwater fish – research to develop fishing gears and practices that improve the survival of released fish in freshwater (Phase 2).	DPI	\$81,900	\$199,900	\$199,300	\$101,500	
Small Grant						
Monitor native bass in the Shoalhaven River – re-imburement of club expenses for PIT tagging activities to date, purchase of additional PIT tag readers and GPS applicators to continue the PIT tagging of bass and estuary perch within the Shoalhaven River and to install advisory signage regarding the PIT tagging program and procedure for return of tags.	Southern Bass	\$4,620				

Motion: The council supports funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in the platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** John Clarke. **Carried.**

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Coastal recreational mobile squad (enhancement activities) - three fisheries officers conduct a range of activities to enhance voluntary compliance with fishing rules by providing advisory and education services and creating effective deterrence to illegal activity by undertaking patrols and enforcement operations.	DPI	SW \$414,577	SW \$428,024	SW \$442,008	SW \$456,552	SW \$471,678
6 Inland Fisheries Officers (enhancement activities) - six inland fisheries officers conduct a range of activities to enhance voluntary compliance with fishing rules by providing advisory and education services and creating effective deterrence to illegal activity by undertaking patrols and enforcement operations	DPI	FW \$700,824	FW \$727,717	FW \$755,685	FW \$874,773	FW \$815,026

Motion: The council supports funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in the platform: Enforcement of fishing rules. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Max Castle. **Carried.**

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recreational Fishing Promotion and Event Management – involves working with fishing tournament organisers and the community to promote events that operate in a safe and environmentally and socially responsible way. This also includes implementing codes of practice for recreational fishing in NSW. <i>Note: This program was not supported by the Expenditure Committees.</i>	DPI	SW \$108,110 FW \$27,030	SW \$109,780 FW \$27,440	SW \$109,780 FW \$27,440	SW \$109,780 FW \$27,440	SW \$115,760 FW \$28,940
Fishcare Volunteers – this is the flagship program of the Trusts. Over 300 trained volunteers are involved in face to face education with anglers to help them to be familiar with fishing rules and to promote responsible fishing practices.	DPI	SW \$620,201 FW \$175,771	SW \$594,100 FW \$169,500	SW \$595,200 FW \$170,000	SW \$595,200 FW \$170,000	SW \$595,200 FW \$170,000
Get hooked...Its fun to fish - this schools education program is designed to teach children at an early age about the importance of aquatic habitats and to introduce them to safe and responsible fishing practices.	DPI	\$435,500	SW \$364,600 FW \$40,000	SW \$386,000 FW \$38,000	SW \$361,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$396,000 FW \$39,000
Recreational fishing awareness raising - provides information on fishing rules to anglers and encourages responsible and sustainable fishing practices through a range of media (newspaper, magazines, radio, billboards) at peak fishing periods.	DPI	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000
Fishing workshops – a series of fishing workshops for children are held in Sydney, at Government hatcheries and across regional NSW, including workshops for special needs groups and NESB communities.	DPI	SW \$36,250 FW \$19,750	SW \$36,250 FW \$19,750	SW \$36,310 FW \$19,780	SW \$36,310 FW \$19,780	SW \$36,310 FW \$19,780
Recreational Fishing Guides – 300,000 Freshwater and Saltwater fishing guides are produced each year to help recreational anglers identify their catch and summarise the fishing rules.	DPI	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$40,000
World Recreational Fishing Conference 10-13 November 2008, Dania Beach, Florida USA – this conference is held every three years and is a key meeting for exchange on recreational fisheries management issues.	DPI	SW \$28,604 FW \$13,802				
Recreational fishing information - a range of fishing brochures and stickers are produced every year to help anglers keep up-to-date on the latest fishing rules and good practices. Large print runs are distributed free of charge to anglers.	DPI	SW \$142,500	SW \$142,500	SW \$142,500	SW \$142,500	SW \$142,500
Recreational Fishing Trusts Promotional Freshwater Fishing Calendar – to produce a recreational fishing trusts calendar promoting recreational fishing rules and to run a recreational fishing photo competition allow recreational anglers to submit photos they have taken for display in the calendar.	DPI	FW \$15,000				

Platform: Recreational fishing education (continued)

Program	Proponent	2008/09	2009/10	Budget		
				2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Small Grants						
Catch N Cook youth camp– aims to conduct a joint 4 day fishing camp for indigenous youths from La Perouse and Nambucca Heads.	Koori Comm.	SW \$5,000				
Junior fishing clinic, Taree – aims to hold a fishing clinic for juniors to teach responsible fishing	Old Bar Fishing Club	SW \$3,000				
Assisting others to enjoy fishing – to conduct fishing clinics for Camp Quality, Canteen, junior anglers and greypower community groups.	Narooma Sports Fishing Club	SW \$2,424				
LaPerouse Youth Fishing Trip - involves a 5 week fishing course for youths in the eastern beaches area to promote a healthy lifestyle.	NSW Police	SW \$6,000				
Australian Society for Fish Biology 2008 Workshop: Assessing recreational fisheries: current and future challenges – provides sponsorship at this recreational fishing conference to promote the Trusts.	DPI	SW \$4,400 FW \$2,200				




- previously approved funds

Motion: The council supports funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in the platform: Recreational fishing education. **Moved:** Adrian Wayne. **Seconded:** Charlie Howe. **Carried.**

Motion: The council supports funding for the Recreational Fishing Promotion and Event Management program that was previously not supported by the expenditure committees. **Moved:** Neil Ryan. **Seconded:** John Clarke. **Carried.**

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Recreational fishing infrastructure grants manager – this position facilitates the development of quality recreational fishing infrastructure in key locations for use by recreational fishers, identifies key gaps in the availability of existing infrastructure and develops a list of potential works to guide the preparation of funding applications.	DPI	SW \$86,800 FW \$37,200	SW \$113,348 FW \$13,000	SW \$121,559 FW \$13,000	SW \$124,645 FW \$14,000	SW \$128,645 FW \$14,000
Recreational fishing access – 2 fisheries managers work closely with government agencies and other landowners to maintain and improve current access to popular local fishing spots. A major focus is to identify and open new access points for fishing.	DPI	SW \$118,000 FW \$127,954	SW \$125,400 FW \$149,059	SW \$133,700 FW \$158,623	SW \$138,145 FW \$159,123	SW \$138,145 FW \$160,623
Small grants program - provides seed funding for community groups for recreational fishing infrastructure programs such as fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms.	various	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000
Recreational fishing and habitat map for the Lower Hawkesbury – involves the production of maps that educate and inform recreational fishers on fishing locations and seagrass habitats.	Hornsby Shire Council	\$12,000				
Small Grants						
Fish Cleaning table – Reddall Reserve, Lake Illawarra – aims to construct a fish cleaning table at a popular recreational fishing location.	Lake Illawarra Authority	SW \$3,000				
Fish Cleaning Table, Mummaga Lake boat ramp – aims to construct a fish cleaning table at a popular recreational fishing location.	Dalmeny Sporting Fishing Club	SW \$700				
Angler Access Forum and Workshop – to conduct a recreational fishing access forum and workshop to establish recommendations to clarify, improve and safeguard angler access in NSW.	NSW RFA/ CFA	SW \$4,790 FW \$4,790				
Guy Fawkes River Fishing Trail, Ebor Village Link – aims to construct a footbridge to create public access to a fishing trail next to the Guy Fawkes River, Ebor Town Common.	EBLVVPRC / Ebor PA	FW \$9,560				
Pallamallawa fish weighing, measuring and cleaning table and shelter – aims to construct a fish weighing, measuring and cleaning table and shelter at the Pallamallawa Public Recreation Reserve adjacent to the Gwydir River.	PFC	FW \$3,566				

 - previously approved funds

Motion: The council supports funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in the platform: Fishing access facilities. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Max Castle. **Carried.**

Appendix 2: Programs not supported by ACoRF in light of recommendations made by RFFTEC and RFSTEC

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Enhancing oyster leases as fish habitat for recreational fishing in NSW estuaries – aims to assess the importance of oyster leases as habitat for recreational fish species in NSW estuaries.	NMSC, UNE & SCU	SW \$79,255	SW \$150,521	SW \$107,165		
Aquatic habitat rehabilitation for enhanced recreational fisheries – a senior Conservation Manager based at Port Stephens will enhance external funding for recreational fisheries-focussed habitat rehabilitation and co-ordinate the Fish Friendly Farms Program, the Namoi Aquatic Habitat Initiative, the Wetlands on Farms project and the Recreational Fishing Habitat Officer network.	DPI	FW \$88,264	FW \$88,264	FW \$90,497	FW \$90,497	FW \$92,822
Yass railway weir management project – aims to remove willows from the banks of the Yass River and to re-stabilise the river bank with native tree species. <i>Note: Program deferred to provide additional information.</i>	YLG	FW \$17,000				
Small grants						
Monitoring the rehabilitation of the Yarrhapinni Wetland (Macleay River) – aims to develop water quality and level distribution plots for the wetland area for the tidal range.	University of New England	SW \$4,560				
Habitat improvement in the Indi River - protection of water quality by building of 2 diesel pump sites and fuel storage tanks on properties adjacent to the Indi River.	MCMA	FW \$4,960				
Habitat improvement in the Indi River – restoration of 250m stretch of the Indi River by removal of willows, stock management and revegetation with native plants.	MCMA	FW \$9,960				
Habitat improvement in the Indi River – control bank erosion at a 20m site using rock fill.	MCMA	FW \$9,000				

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Freshwater Trust

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Upper Snowy River Native Fish Stocking Program – aims to rebuild native fish stocks in the Snowy River by re-stocking 50,000 Australian Bass into the upper portions of the catchment in accordance with the Snowy River Native Fish Management Strategy. <i>Note: Application referred to \$ for \$ stocking program.</i>	SRCMA	\$25,000				
Small grant						
Restocking top and bottom weir at Boorowa – aims to restock the top and bottom weir at Boorowa with native fish. <i>Note: Application referred to \$ for \$ stocking program.</i>	BE&CFC	\$2,500				

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Evaluating the recreational fisheries and fishing resources of Recreational Fishing havens and other estuaries in NSW – involves surveying and reporting on longer term changes in recreational fishing and fish populations in estuaries throughout NSW, focusing on Recreational Fishing Havens.	DPI	SW \$189,505	SW \$191,888	SW \$194,343	SW \$196,879	SW \$189,490
5 year study of Coastal Rock Fishing Drownings – to undertake a study of drowning deaths that occur while rock fishing in NSW. <i>Note: A similar application submitted by the Royal Lifesaving Society was supported by RFSTEC.</i>	Surf Life Saving - NSW	SW \$20,000				
Small grant						
Control populations of invasive mosquito fish (<i>Gambusia holbrook</i>) – to conduct an experiment at University of New South Wales ponds, involving the conditioning of mosquito fish to gather at a feeding station in response to an environmental stimulus, for subsequent capture by lift net.	UWS	FW \$7,120				

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Personal Data Assistant (PDA) Project for checking recreational fishing licence database – this project will provide access to the Recreational Fishing Licence database for fisheries officers to use when on patrol.	DPI	SW \$75,000				

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Program	Proponent	Budget				
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Educating High School students to get hooked on sustainable recreational fishing- involves development of a high quality exhibit that engages high school aged students in promoting sustainable recreational fishing. <i>Note: The Committee considered that the program provided limited benefit to recreational fishers because of the expected small localized audience that the program would reach.</i>	National Marine Science Centre	SW \$36,000				
Mapping the recreational fishing closures in NSW for delivery on the internet – aims to assist recreational fishers in NSW by establishing a simple yet comprehensive mapping system allowing members of the public to access and view fishing restrictions in NSW.	DPI	SW \$82,448				
Recreational fishing species in their habitat: Live fish displays that inspire recreational fishers – involves design and development of 5 tank exhibits to engage high school aged students and the public in recreational fishing. <i>Note: The Committee considered that the program provided limited benefit to recreational fishers because of the expected small localized audience that the program would reach.</i>	National Marine Science Centre	SW \$65,000				
Anglers' Action Newsletter – aims to write, produce and distribute four newsletters each year for three years. The newsletters will provide information on recreational fishing issues.	Anglers Action Group	SW \$4,000	SW \$4,000	SW \$4,000		
Myimbarr Koori Coast Mentoring – to conduct one fishing clinic per month over one year to mentor 'at risk' aboriginal youths and teach them about cultural and environmental respect and an understanding of fishing rules.	Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation	SW \$19,840				
CFA electronic newsletter publication - monthly production of the NSW CFA newsletter and development of a bulk emailing software system.	CFA	FW \$5,280	FW \$5,460			
Small Grants						
Preparation and distribution of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Recreational Rock Fishing Safety Resources – aims to co-ordinate, design, print and distribute rock fishing safety information to fishing outlets and suppliers in 2008/09.	Surf Life Saving - NSW	SW \$5,000				
Adults Educational Fishing Clinics – to conduct two adult fishing clinics per annum in the ACT to provide fishing skills to equip adults to teach fishing to children.	Andrew McGovern	FW \$5,280				
Introduction to fly fishing –involves purchase of an overhead projector, screen and accessories to assist the Greenwell Fly Fishing Club in presenting fly-fishing courses to anglers.	GFFC	FW \$2,000				

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Program	Proponent	2008/09	2009/10	Budget		
				2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Hickey Island Yamba upgrade of boat ramp car park, boat wash down area and boat ramp	Clarence Valley Council	SW \$150,000				
Fish cleaning tables, measuring stations and signage at seven Tweed Coast holiday parks - to be installed by Tweed Coast Holiday Parks Reserve Trust.	Reserve Trust	SW \$28,000				
Accessible fishing platform, Stockton Foreshore – this project will improve opportunities for recreational fishing for older people and people with a disability from Stockton Foreshore by building a cantilevered platform which will extend over the rocks and permit fishing in the deep water of the harbour entrance.	Newcastle City Council	SW \$45,000				
Upgrading and expansion of fish cleaning tables at Hanging rock Boat Ramp – aims to provide improved fishing facilities such as new bench tops on the existing fish cleaning table and to construct additional tables with improved drainage.	Eurobodella Shire Council	SW \$20,000				
Rock fishing high risk areas – aims to purchase and install 4 Emergency Response Beacons at priority locations to be determined.	Surf Life Saving	SW \$20,000	SW \$20,000			
Rock fishing high risk areas: safety surveillance - aims to improve the ability of Lifesaving Emergency response Services to attend to rock fishing incidents to save lives by installing 2 coastal cameras at priority locations.	Surf Life Saving	SW \$11,620				
Small Grants						
Fish Cleaning table, Moruya Town Ramp – aims to construct a fish cleaning table at Moruya town ramp. <i>Note: Program deferred to provide additional budget information.</i>	Moruya Bowling Fishing Club	SW \$10,000				
Fish Cleaning table – Reddall Reserve, Lake Illawarra – aims to construct a fish cleaning table at a popular recreational fishing location. <i>Note: A similar application submitted by the Lake Illawarra Authority was supported by RFSTEC.</i>	Save Lake Illawarra Action group	SW \$3,000				
Lower Hawkesbury boat ramp upgrades to improve recreational fishing access and safety at Kangaroo Point and Parsley Bay, Brooklyn. <i>Note: Program to be referred to the Maritime Infrastructure Program.</i>	Hornsby Shire Council	SW \$10,000				
Bellingen Eel fishing championships – aims to provide hooks and trophies for a popular fishing competition for children in the Bellingen district. <i>Note: DPI to provide hooks to the applicant.</i>	Wal Tyson	SW \$300	SW \$300	SW \$300		
Enhancement of Mannus Lake – involves installation of seating, benches, a water tank and a fish cleaning table at Mannus Lake Reserve and to conduct a fishing education “Fishorama” clinic at Mannus Lake. <i>Note: Program deferred to provide additional budget information.</i>	TSC	FW \$9,500				

Motion: The Council supports funding the CFA electronic newsletter publication program that was not previously supported by the expenditure committees. **Moved:** John Humphries. **Seconded:** Rodney Croker. **Motion lost.**