

**Eighth Meeting of the  
Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee  
Final MINUTES  
13/02/03  
9:30am to 3.30pm  
Cronulla Fisheries Centre  
202 Nicholson Parade, Cronulla**

**Attendance**

**Chair**

Bruce Schumacher

**Committee Members**

Bruce Mahony

Lisa Terry

John Drew

Graham Harrison

Lionel Jones

David Turner

William Heaton

Warren Buchan

Region 1 – Qld border to Evans Head

Region 2 – Evans Head to Woolgoolga

Region 3 – Woolgoolga to Port Macquarie

Region 4 – Port Macquarie to Seal Rocks

Region 5 – Seal Rocks to The Entrance

Region 6a – The Entrance to Wollongong

Region 6b – The Entrance to Wollongong

Region 7 & 8 – Wollongong to Vic border

Geoffrey Woolley

Malcolm Poole

Doug Joyner for John Millyard

Anthony Moore

NSW Game Fishing Association

Recreational Fishing Alliance

Australian Fishing Tackle Association

Nature Conservation Council

**NSW Fisheries (observers)**

John Diplock, Principal Manager, Recreational Fisheries

Bryan van der Walt, Manager, Recreational Fisheries

## **Business**

Welcome by Chair

Apologies

Minutes of RFSTEC meeting 5.12.02

Business arising from the minutes

### **Agenda Items**

- 1) Saltwater trust fund report
- 2) NSW Fisheries program updates
  1. Licence sales
  2. Communications
  3. Recreational harvest of baitfish
  4. Compliance
  5. Licence Research database
  6. Fish Aggregating Buoys
  7. Striped marlin economic survey
- 3) External program updates
  1. Progress reports
  2. Biological sampling at gamefishing tournaments
- 4) National Angling Survey
- 5) Invitation to the community to submit proposals for funding by the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust
- 6) Vision for Clarence River Recreational Fishing.
- 7) Expenditure of the \$20 million fisher buy-out loan
- 8) Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust applications
  - New program applications:
    - 1) Lake Tabourie fishing platform
    - 2) Fish cleaning tables
      - Burrill Lake
      - Lake Tabourie
      - St Georges Basin
      - Shoalhaven Heads
    - 3) Jetty at Silverwater boat ramp
    - 4) Oyster lease in Googleys Lagoon
  - Deferred program applications:
    - 5) Condong Creek Riparian Project
- 9) Action Items from meeting 7
- 10) General Business
- 11) Next meeting

## **Business**

### **Welcome by Chair**

The Chair opened the meeting by greeting members and noting a full agenda for the meeting.

### **Minutes of RFSTEC meeting 6. Held 19.09.02**

The draft minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> RFSTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Lionel Jones. Seconded: David Turner. **Carried.**

### **Business arising from the minutes**

None

**Issue**

Saltwater trust fund report

**Background**

A cashflow table for 2001/02 and 2002/03 has been provided for the Committee's information (see attachment 1).

**Outcome**

The Committee noted that the cashflow table presented at the meeting provided for easy tracking of the financial status of the Saltwater Trust. It was recommended that a similar table be prepared for the Freshwater Trust to facilitate tracking of programs jointly funded by the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts.

**Action item:** NSW Fisheries to prepare a cashflow table for the Freshwater Trust, to be presented to the Committee at each meeting.

**Issue NSW Fisheries program updates****Background**

## 1) Licence sales

The amount of money collected from the recreational fishing fee from 1 July 2002 to 31 December 2002 was \$3.1 million. Please note that agent returns are still being collected. The number of the different types of licences sold during this period are as follows:

Approximately

8,100 three year licences (4.1%);  
95,700 one year licences (48.2%);  
29,800 one month licences (15%);  
59,600 three day licences (30%); and  
5,400 prepaid three day licences (2.7%).

A report of monthly licence sales since the implementation of the licence is provided for the Committee's information (see attachment 2).

## 2) Communications

An update on the community education programs will be presented to the Committee.

## 3) Recreational harvest of baitfish

Collection of slimy mackerel samples from commercial and recreational sectors has commenced. Sampling effort will require more focus on areas north of Port Stephens, which probably reflects the distribution of the commercial fishery and the distribution patterns of this species. Further efforts are being made to establish contacts with charter operators and recreational fishers to supplement samples from the north. Consultation with charter operators and analysis of existing data indicated that the majority of operators have been recording bait use. A series of port meetings were held recently and charter operators were advised of the need to provide information regarding bait use to assist this study.

This program has combined with the Gamefish Tournament Monitoring program to facilitate the collection of data. Tournaments within the program have been surveyed for baitfish use. Club based anglers and tournament organisers have proven to be supportive of the program, providing information and samples.

## 4) Compliance

A report on continuing targeted recreational licence compliance/advisory activities in all coastal districts, including details of specific compliance operations conducted in identified problem areas over the December/January holiday period, will be presented to the Committee. An update on the recruitment of the Recreational Fishery Mobile Squad will also be provided.

#### 5) Licence Research database

The collection and collation of details of the 3-year and 1-year general recreational fishing licences onto the Departmental database. A backlog of data to be entered is developing following the expected increase in the sale of licences over the December/January holiday period. Funds allocated to this program in 2002/03 are fully expended. Recreational Licencing also uses the database on a regular basis to process replacement licences and to respond to queries from Fisheries Officers regarding validity of licences.

#### 6) Fish Aggregating Buoys

The Recreational Fishing Trust has allocated funds of \$230,000 over two years to a Fish Aggregating Buoys program. The program is aimed at improving fishing opportunities for recreational game, sport and offshore anglers. A series of 5 buoys are being deployed along the NSW coast this summer – Byron Bay, Forster, Port Stephens, Batemans Bay and Narooma. The buoys will be removed over the winter months for maintenance. At least 10 buoys will be deployed next summer.

These devices are well known around the world to assist in attracting various pelagic fish species including tunas, dolphin fish, kingfish and billfish. The two-year study is a cooperative program with fishing clubs and organisations. The buoys are being deployed with the aid of local recreational fishing clubs. Regular data collection will be undertaken through the use of angler logbooks to monitor angler catches and to determine the effectiveness of the buoys in attracting pelagic fish. The locations of the first 5 buoys that have been deployed will be provided at the meeting.

#### 7) Striped marlin economic survey

At the seventh Expenditure Committee on 5 December 2002, NSW Fisheries advised that five applicants had submitted proposals to survey the striped marlin fishery following an expression of interest last year. The Committee discussed the evaluation of the five applicants and supported awarding the contract to the preferred applicant. The Committee supported the allocation of additional funds of \$13,000 sought from the Saltwater Trust to secure the preferred applicant.

On 23 January 2003, the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing provided out of session support for the additional \$13,000 to be allocated from the Saltwater Trust to enable the preferred applicant to undertake the economic survey.

### **Outcomes**

#### 1) Licence sales

NSW Fisheries presented a report on licence sales since the implementation of the licence in March 2001. It was noted that sales between July and December 2002 were similar to that recorded during the same period in 2001. A dramatic increase in sales of all licence types is being reported during December, consistent with expectations.

#### 2) Communications

##### Advisory and Education

The Committee was informed that NSW Fisheries had received excellent feedback about the information package, which was recently sent to one year and three year recreational fishing licence holders. The package included a newsletter, licence reminder and new brochures for freshwater and saltwater fishing. The Committee was

advised that the kids' page is ready for the website. It was noted that the recreational fishing homepage was receiving the most hits on the NSW Fisheries website.

The saltwater guides and brochures funded by the Trust are being sent to all licence agents and NSW Fisheries offices for distribution to recreational anglers. Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese versions of the brochures are also being drafted. The Committee was advised that a rockfishing pamphlet was being developed to address rockfishing safety.

The Committee was informed that a tender process was underway for the construction of advisory trailers. The specifications will include a pop up marquee, television and video, display stand and touch tank and will provide for a compact, durable trailer which can be easily moved and towed considerable distances. The trailers will be used by Education Officers, Fisheries Officers and Fishcare Volunteers along the NSW coast.

#### Fishcare Volunteer Program

The Committee was updated on the program and advised that there were currently 221 active volunteers completing at least 8 hours of effort per month in fifteen coastal areas. New meeting points for anglers, including boat ramps and fishing competitions, were being identified to extend coverage by Volunteers and to enhance their advisory and education function.

#### 3) Recreational harvest of baitfish

The Committee was advised that this program was jointly funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. The Corporation was funding this study to investigate the behavioural biology of slimy mackerel with a focus on commercial fishing. The Recreational Fishing Trusts are funding research into the recreational use of the species in NSW. Samples of fish ranging in size from 3 cm to 40 cm have been obtained from recreational anglers.

The gamefishing representative advised the Committee that at the recent tournament at Shellharbour, there was good cooperation between participating gamefishers and NSW Fisheries staff surveying baitfish usage as part of this program.

#### 4) Compliance

The Committee was advised that there were targeted recreational licence enforcement operations over the December/January holidays, especially in problem areas including Sydney and the Central Coast. A summary of statistics from the Recreational Fishing Compliance Strategy will be provided at the next meeting. The Committee was updated on recent specific operations in recreational fishing havens, including:

- the seizing of cockles in excess of the bag limit of 50 from fishers in Lake Macquarie and Botany Bay; and,
- the seizing of a 590 metre meshing net and a boat in Lake Macquarie.

The Committee was also advised that a Fisheries Officer in charge of the recreational mobile squad had been appointed and that recruitment for the remaining two squad Officers will be completed soon.

The region 1 representative advised that he had received good reports from recreational anglers who had been inspected recently by Fisheries Officers in a helicopter and in four wheel drive vehicles in relatively inaccessible areas on the Nymboida and Clarence Rivers. The presence of Officers in these remote areas was acknowledged as an important part of the compliance strategy for remote areas.

#### 5) Licence Research Database

The Committee discussed the importance of maintaining the database of recreational licence holders. It was highlighted that the database has been used in economic surveys, including the Sydney metropolitan recreational fishing survey and the National Angling survey, and for issuing replacement licences. The potential for outsourcing data entry was also discussed.

**Action item:** NSW Fisheries to investigate options for outsourcing data entry of recreational licence holder details.

#### 6) Fish aggregating buoys

The Committee was advised that the program was progressing very well and that the sixth aggregating buoy was being deployed east of South Solitary Island off Coffs Harbour on 13 February 2003. It is planned to deploy four more buoys off Jervis Bay, Terrigal, South West Rocks and Sydney this summer. Locations of the first six buoys have been provided on the NSW Fisheries website for easy access by recreational fishers and also at local Fisheries Offices. The locations are as follows:

#### GPS CORDINATES (WGS84)

Byron Bay	28.35.122 S	153.38.336 E
Forster	32.14.270 S	152.36.950 E
Port Stephens	32.46.021 S	152.15.253 E
Batemans Bay	35.44.574 S	150.20.315 E
Narooma	36.06.915 S	150.09.816 E
Coffs Harbour	30.14.435 S	153.21.439 E

#### 7) Striped marlin economic survey

For information.

#### **Recommendation**

That \$20,000 for the Licence Research Database in 2002/03 **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust. Moved: Malcolm Poole. Seconded: Graham Harrison. **Carried.**



**Information**

External program updates

**Background**

1) Progress reports - NSW Fisheries

At the Committee's request, Trust funded project managers have prepared milestone/progress reports for this meeting. These reports include details on project activities since the last meeting, expenditure to date and any variations to the project. Reports for each program are attached for the Committee's information (see attachment 3).

2) Biological sampling at gamefishing tournaments – Dr Julian Pepperell

Funds of \$5,000 were allocated to the above program in 2001/02. The scientific program was organised for the 2002 Interclub Tournament at Port Stephens and was highly successful.

A host of international and local scientists were involved in a number of studies on gamefish and sharks that were weighed in at the tournament, including:

- A study on how external parasites attach to hosts, especially parasites of marlin;
- Research on the colour vision and visual acuity of billfish;
- Research on the vision of sharks;
- Monitoring and sampling of shark captures (this also occurred at other gamefishing tournaments in NSW);
- Age and growth studies of dolphin fish; and
- Long term patterns of distribution and abundance of marlin.

Dr Julian Pepperell organised and coordinated all of the above research under the Biological Sampling at Gamefishing Tournaments program and will present the results of the research at the meeting.

**Outcomes**

1) For information.

2) Biological sampling at gamefishing tournaments

Gamefish scientist, Dr Julian Pepperell, updated the Committee on the progress of the program. It was explained that the wide-ranging pelagic nature of gamefish and sharks presented huge logistical problems for scientists. However, funding from the Saltwater Trust had enabled a partnership to develop between gamefishing and science in NSW to solve many of these problems. It was explained that studying the life cycles of fish required access to dead animals for dissection and sampling which was being achieved by local and international scientists attending gamefishing tournaments in NSW.

Dr Pepperell advised that the list of organisations that have responded to invitations to conduct research at the NSW Interclub and other gamefishing tournaments was

impressive. It includes the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University, University of Queensland, Sydney University, University of NSW, and Macquarie University. Overseas organisations have included the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the US National Marine Fisheries Service and Oxford University.

It was noted that because tag and release is currently so popular in gamefishing, obtaining biological samples from landed fish is even more difficult. New ways of studying live fish need to be devised.

Some of the major outcomes of this research program include:

- determining stock structure of gamefish throughout their oceanic ranges;
- determining age and growth rates of marlin, tunas, mako and tiger sharks and mahi mahi;
- studies on vision in billfish have indicated that the retina is split into two parts - one for colour vision and the other for blues and purples in deep water.

Dr Pepperell acknowledged the support of the Recreational Fishing Trust and the outstanding cooperation of anglers at tournaments.

**Information**

**Outcomes of the National Recreational Fishing Survey**

**Background**

A national recreational fishing survey was conducted in Australia in 2000-01. The goal of the survey was to obtain fisheries statistics on non-commercial components of Australian fisheries. The survey obtained estimates of the level of participation, fishing effort and catch by recreational fishers. The survey also sought information on the economic activity associated with fishing and the attitude of recreational fishers to prominent fisheries issues. The results of the NSW component of the national survey will be presented to the meeting with a particular emphasis on saltwater fishing.

A significant proportion of the NSW population was surveyed (9,100 households) and a large number of recreational fishers identified (3,700 fishers). A high proportion of these fishers (90 per cent) accepted a diary and participated in the survey for its duration. The resulting recreational fishing database is one of the most comprehensive sets of statistics to be collected on the NSW recreational fishing sector, recording 16,100 fishing trips. These data will be used to support and guide the management of recreational fishing in NSW.

In line with expectations, the NSW recreational fishery involves a large number of people (1 million fishers), using a diverse range of fishing methods to harvest finfish, crustaceans and molluscs from all of the State's regional areas and water body types. Recreational fishers harvested a substantial number of fish (approximately 13 million) of more than 200 different species, with the top 30 species constituting the bulk of the catch. Fishing in freshwater accounted for 24 per cent of the State effort.

While the catch of individual fishers was not large (about 2 fish per event), the recreational sector as a whole has the potential to impact aquatic resources. The recreational catch of a number of common estuarine species is greater than the commercial catch, but for the vast majority of species the commercial catch is substantially greater than the recreational catch. Recreational fishers spend substantial sums of money in pursuit of their sport and this expenditure is likely to be important to regional economies. A copy of the National Survey Interim Report will be provided at the meeting.

**Outcomes**

NSW Fisheries highlighted key outcomes of the survey including the proportion of the NSW population that participated in recreational fishing, which was 17.1%. Almost 24% of the NSW male population went fishing while about 10% of females fished. Although Sydney recorded the lowest (13.1%) fishing participation rate compared to other coastal regions, it had the largest number of recreational fishers (over 480,000 fishers) by virtue of its population size. Almost half the State's recreational fishers lived in Sydney. The Hunter (131,348 fishers), Mid North Coast (74,441 fishers) and Illawarra (73,686 fishers) followed in importance as recreational fishing communities.

Interstate patterns in fishing effort indicated that about 1.5 million fishing events were undertaken in NSW by fishers from other states, while NSW fishers conducted about

500,000 fishing events in states other than NSW. These data indicate that NSW is a net importer of recreational fishing effort. NSW mainly imported fishing effort from Victoria (about 750,000 events), but exported fishing effort to Queensland (about 400,000 events).

Recreational fishing activity was greatest in estuarine waters (47% of total events). Fishing in coastal waters (28% of events), freshwater rivers (15% of events) and lakes and dams (10% of events) followed in importance.

About 200 species were reported in recreational catches from NSW. Flathead, bream, whiting, European carp, tailor and luderick were the most prominent species (by weight). Generally, these species were relatively abundant and broadly distributed, particularly in coastal and estuarine waters adjacent to large urban populations. While the key recreational species tended to be popular fish that were targeted for their edible or sporting qualities, other groups of aquatic animals were also harvested in substantial numbers by recreational fishers. Prawns were harvested in greater numbers than any other recreational species while yabbies and blue swimmer crabs were harvested in larger numbers than most fish species.

The study sought information on the economic activity associated with recreational fishing, i.e. the expenditure of fishers during the course of going fishing. This is not an estimate of the "value" of recreational fishing to the community, rather direct expenditure which helps understand the importance of fishing to regional economies. Recreational fishers in NSW spent more than \$550 million on fishing related items during the survey year. NSW recreational fishers reported in excess of 50 different expenditure items related to their fishing activity. These items ranged from the obvious (fishing gear) to the more obtuse (camping gear). In every case, anglers were asked to nominate the proportion (%) of the expense that should be attributed to fishing. The attribution varied from 100% in the case of fishing gear to 1-2% in the case of some obtuse items.

Boat and trailer (\$276 million) was the largest individual expense for NSW anglers. These items accounted for approximately 50% of the expenditure of NSW fishers. Vehicle and other travel costs related to fishing (\$118 million), accommodation on fishing related trips (\$54 million) and fishing gear (\$46 million) followed in importance. More than \$26 million was spent on the charter/ hire of boats and \$12 million on bait/ burley/ ice. This expenditure pattern may reflect the fishing opportunities and characteristics of NSW recreational fisheries.

**Issue**

Invitation to the community to submit proposals for funding by the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust

**Background**

An invitation to the community to submit proposals for projects to be funded from the Recreational Fishing Trusts via an Expression of Interest process has been advertised. Proposals must enhance recreational fishing. Projects to receive priority will be those where the benefits to geographic areas or numbers of anglers are maximised, where there is matching funding from other sources and where they address a major research, compliance or management need in relation to recreational fisheries.

Proposals for saltwater projects can be submitted either under the small grants program or as a more general project. In terms of the freshwater trust, the community will be invited to submit proposals for freshwater projects via the small grants program only. It was not considered appropriate to invite submissions for more general projects given that the carry-over of existing programs from previous years will mean that the 2003/04 budget for the freshwater trust is likely to be fully expended. Applications will be reviewed by the Committees at future meetings.

**Outcomes**

The Committee was informed that application package and further information can be obtained from the NSW Fisheries website at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au) or by contacting the Department on (02) 9527 8411. Applications must be lodged with NSW Fisheries by April 4, 2003.

For information.

**Issue**

Presentation by Clarence River Amateur Group

**Background**

Mr Paul Zikman is the recreational fishing representative on the Estuary General Management Advisory Committee and the Chairman of the Clarence River Amateur Action Group. Mr Zikman will address the Committee and outline his proposal for recreational fishing in the Clarence River.

**Outcomes**

Mr Paul Zikman advised the Committee that he was representing the Clarence River Amateur Action Group (CRAAG), which had a membership of 130 anglers. The focus of the presentation was Lake Wooloweyah, an important fish and prawn nursery where commercial prawn trawling is allowed. Mr Zikman highlighted the conservation value of the lake and referred to the Healthy Rivers Commission Report. Mr Zikman also informed the Committee of the presence of acid sulphate soils in the area of the lake and other parts of the Clarence River. It was noted that prawn trawl operators still supported continued trawling in the lake, particularly at the beginning of the prawning season, despite Lake Wooloweyah contributing only 5% of the total prawn catch in the estuary.

Mr Zikman recognised that the Clarence River Amateur Action Group had missed the opportunity to be more involved during the formal community consultation process for recreational fishing havens due to a lack of awareness of the implications of not becoming involved. Mr Zikman outlined a proposal from CRAAG for additional buyouts in the Clarence River, to reduce commercial fishing effort in the estuary and in particular banning commercial fishing in Lake Wooloweyah. Part of the proposal is for the southern portion of the Lake Wooloweyah to be protected in an aquatic reserve and be closed to all fishing.

The Committee recommended that the Clarence River Amateur Action Group submit a written application to the Recreational Fishing Trusts for additional buyouts in the Clarence River.

**Note:** Later in the meeting representatives from Bass Kempsey who were already in Sydney took the opportunity to present an argument to the Committee for a recreational fishing haven to be implemented in the Macleay River.

Bass Kempsey presented an argument in favour of an additional haven in the Macleay River and the Committee thanked them for their attendance and agreed that their application should be reviewed at a future budget meeting once advice had been received from the Minister.

The region 8 representative advised that commercial fishers from Moruya and the Far South Coast had requested additional voluntary buyouts.

**Action item:** That the chair write to the Minister for Fisheries advising of the representations from CRAAG, Bass Kempsey and south coast fishers and seeking advice on this matter.

The Committee requested information regarding funds available from the \$20 million advance loan for additional buyouts at a future meeting.

Note: Subsequent to the matter being discussed the Minister has advised that this matter will be referred to the Fisheries Resource Conservation and Assessment Council for advice. No further action is required from RFSTEC until that advice has been considered and RFSTEC has been advised.

**Issue**

Expenditure of the \$20 million fisher buy-out loan

**Background**

At the seventh Committee meeting on 5 December 2002, the Committee recommended that NSW Fisheries investigate options for expenditure of any balances. Claims continue to be received and processed for relocation and retraining expenses and accelerated depreciation of assets. This process is ongoing and fishers have up to 18 months from the buy-out date to make such claims making such work premature at this time.

**Outcomes**

The Committee acknowledged that the retraining and relocation of commercial fishers bought out during the compulsory acquisition process of Botany Bay was ongoing, as well as the opportunity for ongoing court action resulting from the Botany Bay compulsory buy back.



**Issue** Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust applications

**Background**

New program applications:

The following new applications have been received by NSW Fisheries for programs to be funded from the Saltwater Trust:

- 1) Jetty at Silverwater boat ramp – request for a jetty to be built on the Parramatta River to aid the elderly and disabled boarding boats.
- 2) Oyster lease in Googleys Lagoon - Mr William Henry has requested that the Recreational Fishing Trusts buy-out an oyster lease in the Lake Hope/Googleys Lake area to alleviate fishing and navigational obstruction (MF02002453).

No project budgets have been provided for the above programs and only the Committee's in-principle support is sought at this stage.

Small project enhancement program:

- 3) Lake Tabourie fishing platform – The foreshore of the lake is showing signs of degradation resulting from access and a platform would provide easy access (including wheelchairs) for anglers.
- 4) Fish cleaning tables – no fish cleaning facilities exist at any of the locations.
  - Burrill Lake
  - Lake Tabourie
  - St Georges Basin
  - Shoalhaven Heads

Deferred application:

At the seventh Committee meeting on 5 December 2002, the Committee recommended deferring the Condong Creek Riparian Project to the next meeting. There was concern that a significant proportion (\$2,016) of the \$5,000 project budget was allocated to salaries. The Committee requested more details on the salaries component as well as the relevance of the program to recreational angling.

- 5) Condong Creek Riparian Project - this project will improve fish habitat along Condong Creek which flows into the Tweed River.

The total funds requested by each applicant are summarised below:

Title	Proponent	2002/03
Jetty at Silverwater boat ramp	Mr Abdul Harfis	-
Oyster lease in Googleys Lagoon	Mr William Henry	-
Lake Tabourie fishing platform	Shoalhaven City Council	\$7,000
Fish cleaning table at Burrill Lake	Shoalhaven City Council	\$3,250
Fish cleaning table at Lake Tabourie	Shoalhaven City Council	\$3,250
Fish cleaning table at St Georges Basin	Shoalhaven City Council	\$3,250
Fish cleaning table at Shoalhaven Heads	Shoalhaven City Council	\$3,250
Condong Creek Riparian Project	Conservation Volunteers Australia	\$5,000

### Outcomes

The Committee thoroughly discussed and considered each expenditure proposal outlined above. It was noted that 'Sharing Sydney Harbour' is the New South Wales Government's vision and Regional Action Plan for the harbour. As part of the Plan, PlanningNSW and the Waterways Authority have prepared the draft Integrated Land and Water Access Plan. This plan identifies many opportunities to improve public access to foreshores, including recreational boating access and ramps. The plan is on public exhibition and submissions close on 4 April 2003. The Committee recommended that the application for a boat ramp at Silverwater should be submitted to PlanningNSW for inclusion in the Access Plan.

**Action item:** NSW Fisheries to forward the application for a boat ramp at Silverwater to PlanningNSW.

The region 8 representative confirmed that there was evidence of bank erosion on Lake Tabourie as a result of people accessing the lake. The budget of the fishing platform proposal was reviewed and there was agreement that more details were required before a decision on funding could be made. The Committee recommended that Shoalhaven Council provide additional information and deferred the application to the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the erection of fish cleaning tables at four locations on the South Coast and agreed that they would provide direct benefits to recreational fishing.

The region 3 representative advised the Committee that he had received a late application for funding from the Coffs Harbour Game Fishing Club. The Club runs an annual Hot Current Game Fishing Tournament which attracts around 300 anglers around the state. It is a non-profit event and the tournament promotes recreational fishing. The Club has requested funding of \$2,000 from the Saltwater Trust for the printing of brochures to encourage participation. The Committee discussed the proposal and it was noted that a previous application for sponsorship of the 2003 Australian Angling Association Championships was previously not supported by the Committee.

### **Recommendations**

That funding for a jetty at Silverwater boat ramp in 2002/03 **not be supported**. Moved: Malcolm Poole. Seconded: Bill Heaton. **Carried**.

That funding for the oyster lease in Googleys Lagoon in 2002/03 **not be supported**. Moved: Lionel Jones. Seconded: Bruce Mahony. **Carried**.

That funding of \$13,000 (4 x \$3,250) for Shoalhaven Council to erect four fish cleaning tables at Burrill Lake, Lake Tabourie, St Georges Basin and Shoalhaven Heads in 2002/03 **be supported**. Moved: Warren Buchan. Seconded: Graham Harrison. **Carried**.

That funding of \$5,000 for Conservation Volunteers Australia to undertake the Condong Creek Riparian Project in 2002/03 **not be supported**. Moved: John Drew. Seconded: Bruce Mahony. **Carried**.

That funding of \$2,000 for the Coffs Harbour Game Fishing Club to print tournament brochures in 2002/03 **not be supported**. Moved: David Turner. Seconded: Bruce Mahony. **Carried**.

## **9. Action items from last meeting**

(See attached summary)

## **10. General Business**

The region 6a representative proposed the introduction of a lifetime (or 20 year) recreational fishing licence. Such a licence is widely used in the United States and is very popular. The Committee agreed that this proposal should be placed on the agenda and reviewed at the next budget meeting.

The Committee were concerned about the Fisher's Watch hotline (1800 043 536) for reporting illegal fishing activity. It was suggested that the telephone line be manned 24 hours a day to enhance reporting by the public.

**Action item:** NSW Fisheries to review options for improving the Fisher's Watch hotline, to be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the level of service provided to the Expenditure Committee and other sub-committees of the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing by NSW Fisheries. It was acknowledged that the role and work performed by the Recreational Fishery Management team had increased considerably since the introduction of the recreational fishing licence. It was proposed that an Executive Officer's position be established to oversee both Expenditure Committees and the Advisory Council which would provide the service delivery expected by the Committees and ensure transparent reporting. The position could be supported by a small levy on all Trust Funded projects.

**Action item:** NSW Fisheries to develop a position description for a Recreational Fishing Trusts Executive Officer and options for funding the position.

## **11. Next Meeting**

22 May 2003