

**Advisory Council on
Recreational Fishing**

FINAL MINUTES

26th MEETING (02/2003)
9:30am, 3 June 2003

Conference Room, Cronulla Fisheries Centre
202 Nicholson Parade, Cronulla

Attendance

Chair

Bruce Schumacher

Members

Elaine Garvey
Peter Goadby
Mark Umbers
Lionel Jones
Neil Ryan
Anthony Moore
Scott Mitchell
Margaret Dodson
Terry Maloney
Mel Brown
Graham Moore
Ann Lee

Observers

John Diplock, Principal Manager Recreational Fisheries
Cameron Westaway, Senior Fisheries Manager
Nick James, Manager Recreational Fisheries
Bryan van der Walt, Manager Recreational Fisheries
Peta Mackenzie, A/Fisheries Management Officer Recreational Fisheries

Business

Welcome by Chair

Apologies

Lisa Terry, Steve Dunn and the Hon. Ian McDonald, MLC, Minister for Fisheries.

Minutes of previous meeting

Recommendation:

The minutes are a true and accurate record of discussions at the 25th meeting, held 20 February 2003.

Moved: Ann Lee

Seconded: Elaine Garvey

Carried

Business arising from the minutes

Nil.

Agenda Items

1. Cross Cultural Awareness Training (Caspinal Consultants)
2. Fish Aggregation Buoys – program overview
3. Expenditure recommendations from the 9th RFSTEC meeting
4. Regional Services (compliance) report
5. Commercial fishing update
6. Wonboyn River Closure renewal
7. Wapengo Lake Closure renewal
8. General Trout Closure renewal
9. Expenditure recommendations from the 16th RFFTEC meeting

Other Business

- Expression of Interest for Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing positions
- Out of session item – Blowering Dam

Correspondence received

- Mr John “Stinker” Clarke – proposal to increase the minimum size limit for blue swimmer crabs
- Mr Wayne Perry – concern regarding the spearing of stingrays in Little Lake, Warilla
- Mrs Betty Thatcher – request for a spearfishing closure at Shelly Beach reef, near Tathra
- Mr John Gallagher – proposal for a fishing closure at the southern Burns Point ferry approach ramp on the Richmond River
- Woronora River Life Saving and River Patrol Club
- Ms Judith Snellenburg - Shelly Beach Lagoon

Around the table

Next meeting – Thursday 25 September 2003 (the Minister will endeavour to attend the morning session - subject to availability on the day).

Issue

Cross Cultural Awareness Training

Background (provided by NSW Fisheries)

An important outcome of the Indigenous Fisheries Strategy is the need for NSW Fisheries to conduct cross cultural awareness training for staff, in particular those who have contact with indigenous people/communities.

Background (provided by Caspinal Consultants)

Dear participant,

Caspinal Consultants Pty Ltd are very excited at being given the opportunity to provide Cross Cultural Awareness Training for NSW Fisheries representatives and associated Advisory Committee/Council members.

Your trainers will be Craig Aspinall and Phil Duncan – we are experienced Aboriginal trainers from very diverse backgrounds. We aim to provide an informative and entertaining session using an interactive ‘team delivery’ that has proven a highly successful method of training delivery for Cross Cultural Awareness Training. Our style is non-confrontational and we are not ‘blame-layers’. Whilst we follow a formal agenda incorporating various activities, we also provide some entertaining story-telling and encourage group discussion on any related issue that is of interest to the participants.

The following outcomes will be achieved from the training:

- Participants will be able to understand, respect and consider the wisdom and views of Aboriginal people with respect to fisheries management decisions.
- Participants will be able to follow acceptable protocols in engaging Aboriginal people and community representatives.
- Participants will recognise and adapt appropriate, best practice information delivery methods and communication strategies in dealing with Aboriginal communities.
- Participants will be able to foster better working relationships between NSW Fisheries and Aboriginal communities.

I encourage you to attend the NSW Fisheries Cross Cultural Awareness Training and both Phil and I look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Aspinall
Managing Director

Outcomes

Craig Aspinall and Phil Duncan introduced themselves/backgrounds. It was highlighted that this would be a communication/information session. Cultural awareness booklet distributed to members for information.

Topics/issues discussed:

- Kamberri incident/Waterloo Creek/Brewarrina fish traps
- K.O.O.R.I - IQ test
- Differences between Native Title and Land Rights in NSW
- Native Title Act 1993; Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NSW) 1983
- Cultural differences
- Communicating with Indigenous People

Issue

Fish Aggregation Buoys - program overview

Background (NSW Fisheries)

Fish attraction buoys have been installed along the NSW coast under a \$230,000 project funded by the NSW recreational fishing licence. The buoys, to be trialed over two years, have been installed at 10 sites along the coast with the aid of charter fishing operators and local recreational fishing clubs, to provide better fishing for recreational sport and game anglers. The trial will include surveys to monitor what species anglers are catching near the devices.

Fish attraction buoys are well known around the world to assist in attracting various pelagic fish species including tuna, dolphin fish, kingfish and billfish. These surface dwelling fish are drawn to the structure of the buoy and the mooring rope, which they use as a reference point in clear ocean water.

Fish attraction buoys have been installed at Byron Bay, Coffs Harbour, Port Stephens, Forster, Terrigal, Jervis Bay, Narooma, Batemans Bay, South West Rocks and Sydney. Because the buoys attract large quantities of fish during the summer months, they'll be installed for the summer fishing season and serviced during the winter months to ensure longevity.

Locations GPS CORDINATES (WGS84) of fish attraction buoys

Byron Bay	28.35.122 S	153.38.336 E
Coffs Harbour	30.14.843 S	153.21.625 E
Forster	32.14.270 S	152.36.950 E
Port Stephens	32.46.021 S	152.15.253 E
Terrigal	33.26.933 S	151.34.206 E
Jervis Bay	35.05.535 S	150.50.987 E
Batemans Bay	35.44.574 S	150.20.315 E
Narooma	36.06.915 S	150.09.816 E
South West Rocks	30.50.988 S	153.06.940 E
Sydney	33.58.915 S	151.21.134 E

The location of the fish attraction buoy may fluctuate slightly depending on wind, swell and current direction. The buoys are not designed as mooring devices - tying off to the buoy may cause the anchor to drag or the buoy to break free. Fines of up to \$5500 apply.

An overview of the program will be provided at the meeting.

Outcomes

An update of the program was given detailing the deployment of the ten buoys, their locations and success of the program to date.

A decision was made not to exclude commercial fishers from using the FADs, as their exclusion could cause further animosity between recreational and commercial fishers. It was explained that commercial fishers were consulted prior to the deployment of all ten buoys to limit the possibility of the buoys being placed in areas where they may impact upon commercial fishing practices. To date there has not been any documented case of conflict between commercial and recreational fishers in relation to the FADs.

The committee discussed the impact of FADs on dolphin fish (mahi mahi), in particular the lack of bag and size limits for the species. It was confirmed that dolphin fish do have a bag limit of 20 per person per day, however no legal size limit currently exists. The introduction of a size limit and a reduction in the bag limit was suggested. Size and bag limits for dolphin fish, as well as other species, will be addressed in the Recreational FMS. Spearfishing clubs will be included in the FMS consultation.

Safety concerns were raised regarding excessive use of the FADs, such as the increased possibility of an accident (for example, a collision between vessels). It was highlighted that no such incidents had been reported to date. Further, the Manly Hydraulics waverider buoys have been used as FADs by anglers for a number of years without major incident, which led to the introduction of a regulation allowing the use of waverider buoys as fishing grounds.

Issues regarding the design of the radar reflector and the cost of the program were raised. The design of the radar reflector will be reviewed, to limit its use for mooring purposes and increase its effectiveness. The full cost of the program was explained, emphasising that funding for the program covers the salary of the program coordinator, travel, consumables, printing (logbooks, envelopes etc) and marine running costs, in addition to the purchase of the actual buoys. The council expressed considerable support for this program, however, it was noted that some information appearing in the media regarding costs is not correct. It was suggested that NSW Fisheries clarify the cost of the buoys and the overall program in media releases etc.

The annual removal of the FADs was raised with concern expressed regarding the loss of growth on the structure and rope, hence loss of effectiveness of the buoys. It was explained that to limit the loss of the buoys, they would be removed annually and replaced with a new buoy. This process will be completed through the winter months when the buoys are not regularly fished, giving time for the mooring lines and buoys to attract significant growth by the following summer fishing season.

It was explained to the council that a number of fishing clubs and charter operators were instrumental in the initial selection of sites and the deployment of the FADs. One member stated that he had gained very positive feedback from a charter boat operator from the South West Rocks area regarding the success of their local FAD.

For information.

Issue

Recommendations from the 9th Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee meeting regarding expenditure from the Saltwater Trust.

Background (NSW Fisheries)

With a view to assisting consultative arrangements with recreational fishers and to increase transparency in the trust fund application process, an invitation to the community to submit proposals for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts was advertised in March 2003. NSW Fisheries conducted an extensive advertising campaign across a wide variety of mediums to promote the expression of interest process. A press release was forwarded to media agents throughout NSW, including radio, newspapers and magazines, and the advertisement was subsequently aired on a number of radio stations.

The expression of interest invited applications for programs to be funded from the freshwater and saltwater trusts. The expression of interest advised that proposals must enhance recreational fishing and would receive priority where: the benefits to geographic areas or numbers of anglers were maximised; there was matching funding from other sources; and where programs addressed a major research, compliance or management need in relation to recreational fisheries. This year, the community was invited to submit proposals for saltwater projects under the small grants program or as a more general project. Only programs via the small grants program were considered for freshwater projects. This was because 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 2002/03 budget for the freshwater trust is likely to be fully expended.

A total of 18 applications were received for funding from the Saltwater Trust. A further 19 applications were received for funding under the small grants program.

Outcomes

NSW Fisheries presented a summary of the saltwater trust cashflow for 2002/03, for Council's information. The Council was informed that NSW Fisheries had successfully negotiated with Kmart to sell the licence. The Committee also requested that NSW Fisheries investigate the potential for Big W to sell the licence.

The Council was advised that at the 8th RFSTEC meeting on 13 February 2003, the Committee recommended that an additional \$20,000 for the Licence Research Database program in this financial year be supported from the Saltwater Trust. These funds will be used to maintain data entry for the remainder of this financial year and into the next financial year.

NSW Fisheries advised that the Expenditure Committee had approved the allocation of funds for a Recreational Fishing Trusts Executive Officer. 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. This position would oversee the Saltwater Expenditure Committee and the Advisory Council and provide the service delivery expected by the Committees and ensure transparent reporting. As well as supporting the committee the position would have responsibility for communicating the work of the committee to clubs and the broader community, and provide a conduit for anglers' views into the committee.

A brief update on the compulsory acquisition of 10 Botany Bay prawn trawl businesses was provided. It was noted that this process had been completed, including the review of all 10

matters by a Compensation Review Panel formed for that purpose. Ongoing claims for accelerated depreciation, retraining and relocation costs are being received and processed. Council was informed that funds of \$198,261 will be carried over into 2003/04. However, the total budget required for 2003/04 is \$102,550. A budget is provided in the attached progress report for this program (see Attachment 4). It was recommended that funds of \$91,521 be returned to the Saltwater Trust for allocation to other programs.

Council was informed that the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee considered all the applications received by NSW Fisheries on 22 May 2003 and the following recommendations were made:

Table 1: Proposed expenditure allocations from the Saltwater Trust for NSW Fisheries ongoing programs as recommended by the Expenditure Committee.

Program	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Recreational Fishing Trusts Executive Officer	\$132,255	\$135,834	\$141,178
Fish aggregating buoys	\$48,779	\$138,403	
Fishcare Volunteer Program	\$623,572	\$611,230	\$609,630
Recreational mobile squad	\$240,000	\$351,000	\$351,000
RFSTEC meeting expenses	\$22,000		
Saltwater Anglers Catch Research Program	\$29,178		
Small grants program	\$27,000		
Advisory and Education			
1) Advertising	\$79,000		
2) Fishing guides	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
3) Advisory trailers	\$39,000		
4) Fishing clinics	\$64,000		
Total	\$1,404,784	\$1,336,467	\$1,201,808
Recreational Fishing Havens administration	*\$91,521		

*RFSTEC recommended that funds of \$91,521 for the Recreational fishing havens program be returned to the Saltwater Trust for allocation to other programs.

Table 2: New programs recommended by the Expenditure Committee to be funded from the Saltwater Trust.

Program	Proponent	2003/04	2004/05
Importance of recreational fishing to the economies of two coastal towns in NSW	Dominion Consulting	\$88,760	
Reconciling and validating existing recreational fishing survey information in NSW	Pepperell Research & Consulting	\$38,400	
Monitoring and Research on landed fish at game fishing tournaments in NSW	Pepperell Research & Consulting	\$22,000	
Maximising the survival of released line-caught fish	NSWF	\$152,769	\$146,574
Total		\$301,929	\$146,574

Table 3: Programs recommended by the Expenditure Committee to be funded under the small grants program.

Program	Proponent	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Brunswick Heads fish cleaning table and facilities upgrade	Brunswick Angling and Deep Sea Fishing Club	\$2,500		
Balmoral boat ramp-fish cleaning table	City of Lake Macquarie	\$2,500		
Belmont South boat ramp-fish cleaning table	City of Lake Macquarie	\$4,000		
Outdoor display centre for recreational fishers at Harrington	Harrington/Crowdy Head Chamber of Commerce	\$2,500		
Fish cleaning table-Marine Drive, Tea Gardens	Great Lakes Council	\$2,500		
Narrawallee Inlet Boat Ramp Light and fish cleaning table	Narrawallee Inlet Social Fishing Club	\$3,500		
Improving fish passage and restoring riparian vegetation, Brooks Creek, Kanahooka	Wollongong City Council	\$5,000		
A genetic and experimental assessment of the frequency and importance of hybridisation of black and yellowfin bream	University of Wollongong	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total		\$27,500	\$5,000	\$5,000

Council thoroughly discussed and considered the expenditure proposals for ongoing NSW Fisheries programs (outlined in table 1) and new programs (detailed in table 2 and 3), as recommended by RFSTEC. Council recommended that funding for the Communications programs be deferred and requested that NSW Fisheries provide more details on the program budget.

Council requested that more detailed explanations of the Trust Expenditure Committee budget recommendations be provided.

Action item: NSW Fisheries to provide a brief summary of proposals for funding at the next ACoRF budget meeting.

Recommendations

Ongoing programs

That \$20,000 for the Licence Research Database in 2002/03 **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Lionel Jones Seconded: Ann Lee **Carried**

That \$132,255 in 2003/04, \$135,834 in 2004/05 and \$141,178 in 2005/06 for the Recreational Fishing Trusts Executive Officer **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Lionel Jones Seconded: Andy Moore **Carried**

That additional funding of \$48,779 in 2003/04 and \$138,403 in 2004/05 for the Fish Aggregating Buoys program **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Scott Mitchell Seconded: Lionel Jones **Carried**

That funding of \$623,572 in 2003/04, \$611,230 in 2004/05 and \$609,630 in 2005/06 for the Fishcare Volunteer Program budget **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Margaret Dodson Seconded: Andy Moore **Carried**

That funding of \$240,000 in 2003/04 and \$351,000 in 2004/05 and 2005/06 for the recreational mobile squad **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Neil Ryan Seconded: Andy Moore **Carried**

That funding of \$29,178 in 2003/04 for the Saltwater Anglers Catch Research Program **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Andy Moore Seconded: Graham Moore **Carried**

That funding of \$27,000 in 2003/04 for the small grants program **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Andy Moore Seconded: Scott Mitchell **Carried**

That funding of \$22,000 in 2003/04 for RFSTEC meeting expenses **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Andy Moore Seconded: Scott Mitchell **Carried**

That funding of \$91,521 for the Recreational Fishing Havens program **be returned** to the Saltwater Trust for allocation to other programs. Supported by the Council.

New Programs

That funding of \$88,760 in 2003/04 for the study on the importance of recreational fishing to the economies of two coastal towns in NSW **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Andy Moore Seconded: Lionel Jones **Carried**

That funding of \$38,400 in 2003/04 for the reconciliation and validation of existing recreational fishing survey information in NSW **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Mark Umbers Seconded: Neil Ryan **Carried**

That funding of \$22,000 in 2003/04 to monitor and research landed fish at game fishing tournaments in NSW **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Neil Ryan Seconded: Elaine Garvey **Carried**

That funding of \$152,769 in 2003/04 and \$146,574 in 2004/05 to study the survival of released line-caught fish **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Lionel Jones Seconded: Elaine Garvey **Carried**

Small grants

That funding of \$27,500 in 2003/04, \$5,000 in 2004/05 and \$5,000 in 2005/06 for the small grant programs outlined in Table 3 **be supported** from the Saltwater Trust.

Moved: Andy Moore Seconded: Margaret Dodson **Carried**

Issue

Regional Services (compliance) update.

Background (NSW Fisheries)

A general overview of NSW Fisheries' current education and compliance programs related to recreational fishing will be provided.

Outcomes

Some recent compliance activities:

Easter weekend (licences, bag and size limits etc)

Saltwater (estuaries)

4193 anglers checked; 496 did not comply

89% compliance

Inland

3069 anglers checked; 133 did not comply

96% compliance

ANZAC long weekend

Offshore - boat based anglers were generally pleased to see Fisheries Officers checking offshore fishing activities.

The new Recreational Mobile Squad has conducted a number of patrols in Lake Macquarie and Botany Bay. Squad members are currently being kitted out in Recreational Fishing Trust shirts, hats etc to recognise the source of funding and to clearly identify the squad.

An overview of some of the current offences/prosecutions was provided to members. For example:

- An angler was caught with a 123m mesh net in Botany Bay (RFH)
- A \$52,000 trawler was seized for illegally operating in the Clarence River.

12 trainee Fisheries Officers have been recruited recently (6 women, 6 men - 2 of these are indigenous officers)

The council would like to see a percentage of the fines from offenders go back into the Trust Funds if possible, especially if they are caught by the mobile squad. Money from offenders currently goes to Treasury, except if the judge awards moiety to NSW Fisheries.

Eastern freshwater cod operation – a helicopter and 4 vehicles were used to access remote areas eg Guy Fawkes National Park. The council discussed how people talk about this operation because a helicopter was used – no longer “safe” in remote areas.

The indigenous representative inquired about compliance issues relating to cultural events and education/training. Glenn provided the contact details for Roy Mills, Regional Manager – South, to discuss specific issues on the south coast.

For information.

Issue

Commercial fishing update.

Background (NSW Fisheries)

Ms Dianna Watkins, Principal Manager, Commercial, will provide an overview of current commercial fishing issues, including: Fishery Management Strategies; recent developments in key commercial fisheries - Estuary General, Estuary Prawn Trawl, Ocean Hauling, Ocean Trap and Line and Ocean Trawl fisheries; and the introduction of Category 2 Share Management.

Outcomes***Fishery Management Strategies***

- An FMS/EIS has been completed for Estuary General, Estuary Prawn Trawl and Ocean Haul fisheries and management responses are being implemented.
- Commencement of FMS/EIS for Ocean Trawl (fish and prawn trawl combined), Ocean Trap and Line, Lobster and Abalone (outsourced to a consultant at request of abalone industry). EISs are due for public exhibition in 2003.
- Management responses to be applicable to all fisheries including Codes of Conduct (develop or revise) and threatened species reporting.

Recent developments in key commercial fisheries***Estuary General***

The management responses identified in the FMS have been implemented. Regulation amendments (commenced 17 January 2003) have:

- Prohibited the use of spikes, clubs etc that harm fish when sorting catch.
- Prohibited discarding of cooked (riddled) prawns.
- Prohibited the use of hauling nets over strapweed seagrass beds.
- Reduced the maximum allowable length of General Purpose hauling nets to 500m (previously allowed to use up to 1000m nets in some estuaries) and use of the net is limited to 1 shot per day.
- Species that can be taken in the estuary general fishery are now specified.
- Implemented zoning scheme and confirmed which estuaries are open to commercial fishing in each zone.

A freeze on new nominations in the Estuary General fishery was introduced on 31 January 2003 to control effort, other than for deceased estates, short term illness and partnerships/companies.

Estuary Prawn Trawl

The management responses identified in the FMS have been implemented. Regulation amendments (commenced 17 January 2003) have:

- Prohibited the use of spikes, clubs etc that harm fish when sorting catch.
- Prohibited discarding of cooked (riddled) prawns.
- Prohibited trawling over seagrass beds (*Zostera* and *Posidonia*).
- Prohibited trawling in all EPT estuaries (Port Jackson, Hawkesbury, Hunter and Clarence Rivers) on weekends and public holidays.

It is now mandatory for by-catch reduction devices (BRDs) to be used in all estuaries (including the Hawkesbury) other than in the lower Hawkesbury (Broken Bay), where squid are targeted on weekdays (sunrise to sunset) – any prawns taken are to be released alive.

Ocean Hauling

The management responses identified in the FMS have been implemented. Regulation amendments (commenced 17 January 2003) have:

- Prohibited the use of general purpose hauling nets over strapweed seagrass beds.
- Prohibited the taking of garfish on weekends (midnight Friday to midnight Sunday) and public holidays (midnight to midnight).
- Implemented new zoning rules for garfish fishers (removed multi-zone access).
- Restricted hauling within 200m of certain beaches (over 50 NSW beaches now closed to ocean hauling activities).
- Restricted the use of the general purpose hauling net so that it must be deployed from, and hauled to, a beach.

Major tasks for 2003:

- Develop and implement a policy to manage the harvest of bait for the Commonwealth Tuna fishery in NSW waters.
- Develop a garfish recovery plan.

Ocean Trap and Line

- Operators who use a lift net to take bait to target tuna in state waters, now require a permit to use the lift net for this purpose. Bait caught by use of a lift net can only be used for targeting tuna. The taking of bait is an issue for both commercial and recreational fishers, and that a collaborative approach is needed across fisheries and jurisdictions.
- Mapping of fishing grounds is considered a priority by industry and will be part of the FMS implementation (with industry assistance).
- Gemfish have been nominated for listing as endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The public comment period has now closed and the Threatened Species Scientific Committee will consider the nomination.
- Environment Australia has recently released a discussion paper on protection of grey nurse sharks at the Cod Grounds site (near Laurieton).
- Negotiations between NSW Fisheries and AFMA regarding jurisdictional arrangements for tuna and tuna like species under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements are continuing. Industry are supporting NSW Fisheries in retaining management for tuna and tuna like species in waters inside 3nm. The Commonwealth is considering removing size restrictions on vessels in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish fishery.

Ocean Trawl

- Development of a trawl whiting fishery is being considered under FMS. This is an attempt to minimise the impact that ongoing improvement of BRDs in prawn trawl nets would have on the catch rates for red spot and stout whiting. Whiting consultation paper to be drafted.
- The Angourie Point juvenile king prawn closure has been renewed for a further 12 months until 1 March 2004. Consultation will take place with local fishers on opening part of the closure for the taking of school prawns should a flood occur.
- NSW Fisheries is collating and considering industry's responses to the OCS consultation paper on jurisdiction for Fish Trawling south of Barrenjoey Headland. Proposed transfer to Commonwealth with closed areas within 3nm.
- A recovery plan for silver trevally will be developed as a part of the Ocean Trawl FMS. A minimum legal length of 30cm (total length) has been suggested. A review of bag and size limits is to be addressed in the Recreational and Charter FMS.

Category 2 Share Management

- The six main restricted fisheries were included in Schedule 1 of the Fisheries Management Act as category 2 share management fisheries in March 2001.
- Two industry consultation papers were distributed seeking industry views on options for eligibility of category 2 shares.
- Shares will be the primary tool to manage effort levels and restructure at the fishery and/or endorsement level.
- Submissions to these papers indicate a majority support for an equal allocation of shares or a combination of equal allocation and additional shares based on Validated Catch History (VCH), with preservation of VCH for possible use at a later date if required.
- NSW Fisheries is considering industry's responses to the most recent consultation paper on share allocation criteria and undertaking preparatory work to allocate shares.

Website – Commercial Fisheries

New updated commercial fishery home pages are being progressively placed on the NSW Fisheries website.

Members are encouraged to read the commercial fishing fisheries management strategies as they are produced and be directly involved in the consultation process. Strategy and overview papers will be available as produced.

The commercial fishing sector continue to express concern regarding the use of spider wire and electronic winches by recreational fishers.

One member confirmed that ocean beach closures have been introduced for ocean hauling activities, based on previous Regional Liaison Committee work.

It was also mentioned that there is currently a freeze on the issue of permits for Commonwealth tuna operators to catch bait for own use from state waters. There are also greater restrictions on the use of lift nets for bait collection by commercial fishers.

For information.

Issue

Renewal of the Wonboyn River closure due to expire on 1 October 2003.

Background (NSW Fisheries)

The closure was first implemented in 1963 to allow the targeting of prawns and Australian salmon, while protecting all other fish species. In 1978 the closure was amended to prohibit the net used to capture Australian salmon.

The closure currently prohibits the use of all nets except the dip or scoop net, the push or scissor net, the hand hauled prawn net and the landing net from the whole of the waters of the Wonboyn River. A copy of the current closure is attached.

A Recreational Fishing Haven was implemented at Wonboyn Lake, River and Beach on 1 May 2002, therefore prohibiting commercial fishing in Wonboyn Lake.

The Eden fisheries office supports the renewal of the closure and state that they have not received any complaints about the closure and that it has been successful in protecting fish stocks and providing good recreational fishing opportunities.

Outcomes

Witches hats are not allowed to be used in this area – it was mentioned that if they were able to be used then this could form a standard closure throughout RFHs.

It was confirmed that public debate should occur on the issue of standardised closures in RFHs during the development of the recreational FMS.

Recommendation

The council recommends the renewal of this closure, as outlined, for a period of five years.

Moved: Graham Moore Seconded: Scott Mitchell **Carried**

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1994

Notification under section 8 - fishing closureWonboyn River (County of Auckland)

I, Bob Martin, prohibit the taking of fish by the methods of fishing described in Column 1 of the schedule to this notification, from the waters described in Column 2 of the schedule. This prohibition will be effective for a period of five (5) years from the date of publication of this notification.

BOB MARTIN MP
MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES AND
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES

Schedule
Wonboyn River netting closure

Column 1 Methods	Column 2 Waters
By means of nets of every description, except the dip or scoop net , the push or scissor net and the hand hauled prawn net (as prescribed by clauses 50, 49 and 48 respectively, of the <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 1995</i>) and the landing net , as prescribed by Regulation.	The whole of the waters of Wonboyn River, including Broadwater, together with all its tributaries upward to its source from its confluence with the waters of the South Pacific Ocean (73-2423).

Issue

Renewal of the Wapengo Lake closure due to expire on 27 August 2003.

Background

The closure was first implemented in 1940 to allow free movement of fish to and from the Lake and to prevent the breaking up of shoals of salmon before they reached the Lake. In 1978 the closure was amended to permit the use of the dip or scoop net as the Lake contains some areas of shallow sand flats where the use of these nets by recreational fishers would not contravene the intention of the closure. In 1998 the closure was amended to permit the use of the landing net.

The closure currently prohibits the use of all nets except the dip or scoop net and the landing net from the whole of the waters of Wapengo Lake, therefore prohibiting all commercial fishing from the Lake. A copy of the current closure is attached.

The reference points of the closure - Oyster Farm No. 57-122 and Oyster Farm No. 69-332 - have been checked by the Eden fisheries office and are both still current.

The Eden fisheries office supports the renewal of the closure and state they have not received any complaints relating to the closure and that it has been successful in protecting fish stocks.

Recommendation

The council recommends the renewal of this closure, as outlined, for a period of five years.
Moved: Scott Mitchell Seconded: Andy Moore **Carried**

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1994
Notification under section 8 - fishing closure
Wapengo Lake (County of Dampier)

IN accordance with the provisions of section 8 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, I, Bob Martin, prohibit the taking of fish by the methods of fishing described in Column 1 of the schedule to this notification, from the waters described in Column 2 of the schedule. This prohibition will be effective for a period of five (5) years from the date of publication of this notification.

BOB MARTIN MP
 MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES AND
 MINISTER FOR FISHERIES

Schedule
Wapengo Lake netting closure

Column 1 Methods	Column 2 Waters
By means of nets of every description, except the dip or scoop net (when used for the capture of prawns only) and the landing net , as prescribed by the <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 1995</i> .	The whole of the waters of that part of Wapengo Lake, its creeks, tributaries and inlets, from a line drawn across the entrance to the Lake at its confluence with the South Pacific Ocean, upstream to a line drawn from the north-eastern (foreshore) corner of Oyster Farm No. 57-112, to the south-eastern (foreshore) corner of Oyster Farm No. 69-332.

Issue

Renewal of the General Trout closure due to expire on 28 September 2003.

Background

Closures have existed in trout waters dating back to the mid 1900s to protect Atlantic salmon and trout species during the spawning season.

The general trout closure (a copy of the current closure is attached) currently provides for bag and size limits for the fish species Atlantic salmon, brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout, specified areas for catch and release as well as open and closed seasons for salmon and trout. The open season is from the Saturday of the October long weekend to the Monday of the June long weekend, inclusive. The closure is for the remainder of the year and covers all trout waters, Statewide and also outlines the methods of fishing permitted.

The closure also provides for a possession limit of 200 freshwater yabbies, at any time during the year from the waters of Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene.

An additional closure for the Thredbo and Eucumbene Rivers also exists which effectively starts the closed season for these rivers on 1 May of each year (closure attached, for information).

The general trout closure and other inland closures will undergo review/consultation during the Regulation Review and the development of the Fishery Management Strategy for recreational fishing.

The local Fisheries office supports the renewal of the closure and state that they have not received any complaints about the closure and that it has been successful in protecting fish stocks and providing good recreational fishing opportunities.

Outcomes

This is a major closure that will be thoroughly considered during the development of the FMS/EIS for fish stocking.

It was highlighted that some Powerbait products can be used in motion. Fisheries Officers will use their discretion.

It was confirmed that Section 8 closures can be amended at any time (not restricted to FMS deliberations).

Recommendation

The council recommends the renewal of this closure, as outlined, for a period of five years.
Moved: Scott Mitchell Seconded: Neil Ryan **Carried**

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1994
Section 11 and Section 8 Notification – General Trout Closure

I, Edward Obeid, revoke the Notification titled General Trout Closure, published in NSW Government Gazette **No. 127 of 29 September 2000**, and all amendments thereto, which prohibited the taking of all species of fish from the waters specified in Schedules A-F of that Notification, except as specified under those Schedules. This revocation is effective from 29 September 2001.

I do now, by this Notification, prohibit the taking of all species of fish from the waters specified in Schedules A-G from 29 September 2001 for a period of two years, inclusive, except that as specified under the Schedules, the methods of fishing may be used to take the bag limit and possession limit of trout, salmon and other fish, during the open season described, from those waters listed.

For the purposes of this Notification the following conditions apply:

- (1) A rod is deemed to be attended if it is within ten (10) metres and in the sight of the person in possession of that rod.
- (2) An artificial lure or artificial fly, whether fitted with one or more hooks, is deemed to be a single hook
- (3) A person must not be in possession of more than one rod and line with hooks attached, in on or adjacent to any of the waters included in Schedules A, B and C of this Notification.
- (4) A person must not be in possession of any rod and line with hooks other than artificial flies or artificial lures attached, in on or adjacent to the waters included in Schedules A and B of this Notification.
- (5) A person must not be in possession of more than two rods and line with hooks attached, in on or adjacent to any of the waters included in Schedules D, E and F of this Notification.
- (6) A person must not be in possession of more than five hoop or lift nets, in on or adjacent to any of the waters included in Schedule G of this Notification. Schedule G of this Notification is an exception to Schedule F of this Notification.

The Hon Edward Obeid OAM, MLC
Minister for Mineral Resources
Minister for Fisheries

SCHEDULE A
(Blue Ribbon Streams)

Daily Bag and Possession Limit

A daily bag limit of 2, and possession limit of 4, comprised of a single species or a combination of the species Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). For other fish species no bag and possession limits apply unless specified in the Table to Division 3, or protected under Division 1 (Clause 5), of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 1995*.

Permitted Method

One attended rod and line with not more than two hooks, being artificial flies or artificial lures, attached.

Open Season

Saturday of October (Labour Day) long weekend to Monday of June (Queen's birthday) long weekend, inclusive.

Waters

All the waters listed below and the tributaries upstream from where they enter the backed-up waters, of all impoundments contained therein. The backed-up waters of those impoundments are not included (see Schedule D).

(l) Southern NSW Trout Waters:

BOBUNDARA CREEK	County of Wellesley. The whole of the waters of Bobundara Creek and its tributaries upstream from the Maffra Cooma Road crossing.
EUCUMBENE RIVER	County of Wallace. The whole of the waters of the Eucumbene River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the dam wall of Lake Eucumbene and including Providence Portal.
KYBEYAN RIVER	County of Beresford. The whole of the waters of the Kybeyan River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Numeralla River.
MACLAUGHLIN RIVER	County of Wellesley. The whole of the waters of the MacLaughlin River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction, but not including, the Snowy River.
MOWAMBA RIVER	County of Wallace. The whole of the waters of the Mowamba River (or Moonbah River), its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction, but not including, the Snowy River.
SWAMPY PLAINS RIVER	County of Selwyn. The whole of the waters of the Swampy Plains River, its creeks and tributaries downstream of the southern (upstream) boundary of Khancoban Station and upstream from its junction, but not including, the Murray River.
THREDBO RIVER	County of Wallace. The whole of the waters of the Thredbo River (or Crackenback River), its creeks and tributaries upstream from where it enters the backed-up waters of Lake Jindabyne, but not including that portion of the Thredbo River from the upstream extremity of the public reserve known as "Paddy's Corner", upstream for a distance of 2.4 kilometres (being those waters immediately adjacent to the Gaden Trout Hatchery or the waters of Sawpit Creek).

(II) Central NSW Trout Waters:

BELL RIVER	County of Wellington. The whole of the waters of the Bell River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the Belgravia Road crossing.
MEADOW CREEK	County of Wellington. The whole of the waters of the Meadow Creek (or Molong Creek) and its tributaries upstream from its junction, but not including, Borenore Creek.

SCHEDULE B
(Catch and Release Areas)

Daily Bag and Possession Limit

A daily bag limit of 0, and possession limit of 0, comprised of a single species or a combination of the species Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). All of the trout and salmon species listed above must be immediately returned to the water with the least possible injury. For other fish species no bag and possession limits apply unless specified in the Table to Division 3, or protected under Division 1 (Clause 5), of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 1995*.

Permitted Method

One attended rod and line with not more than two hooks, being artificial flies or artificial lures, attached.

Open Season

Saturday of October (Labour Day) long weekend to Monday of June (Queen's birthday) long weekend, inclusive.

Waters

All the waters listed below and the tributaries.

BOBUNDARA CREEK	County of Wellesley. The whole of the waters of Bobundara Creek and its tributaries downstream of the Maffra Cooma Road crossing and upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Snowy river (note: upstream section listed under Schedule A).
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SCHEDULE C
(General Trout Rivers)

Daily Bag and Possession Limit

A daily bag limit of 5, and possession limit of 10, comprised of a single species or a combination of the species Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). For other fish species no bag and possession limits apply unless specified in the Table to Division 3, or protected under Division 1 (Clause 5), of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 1995*.

Permitted Method

One attended rod and line with not more than two hooks.

Open Season

Saturday of October (Labour Day) long weekend to Monday of June (Queen's birthday) long weekend, inclusive.

Waters

All the waters listed below and the tributaries upstream from where they enter the backed-up waters, of all impoundments contained therein. The backed-up waters of those impoundments (see Schedule D) and the waters listed in Schedules A and B are not included.

(I) Southern NSW Trout Waters:

BEMBOKA RIVER	County of Auckland. The whole of the waters of Bemboka River, its creeks and tributaries upstream its junction with, and including, Tantawangalo Creek.
GOODRADIGBEE RIVER	County of Buccleuch. The whole of the waters of the Goodradigbee River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from where it enters the backed-up waters of Burrinjuck Dam.
INGEEGOODBEE RIVER	County of Wallace. The whole of the waters of the Ingeegoodbee River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the Victorian border.
MACPHERSONS SWAMP CREEK	County of Buccleuch. The whole of the waters of the Macphersons Creek and tributaries upstream from where it enters the backed-up waters of Burrinjuck Dam.
MOLONGLO RIVER	County of Murray. The whole of the waters of the Molonglo River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the railway bridge at Burbong.
MURRAY RIVER	County of Selwyn. The whole of the waters of the Murray River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the road bridge at Tintaldra.
MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER	County of Cowley. The whole of the waters of the Murrumbidgee River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, including, the Bredbo River.
QUEANBEYAN RIVER	County of Murray. The whole of the waters of the Queanbeyan River, its creeks and tributaries upstream of the fence boundary of the Googong Dam Reservoir (about 1 kilometres downstream of the wall of Googong Dam).
SHOALHAVEN RIVER	County of Murray. The whole of the waters of the Shoalhaven River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, the Mongarlowe River.
SNOWY RIVER	County of Wallace. The whole of the waters of the Snowy River, its creeks and tributaries upstream of the Victorian border.
TUMUT RIVER	County of Buccleuch. The whole of the waters of the Tumut River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Murrumbidgee River.
TUROSS RIVER	County of Dampier. The whole of the waters of the Tuross River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the Tuross Falls.

(II) Central NSW Trout Waters:

BELL RIVER	County of Wellington. The whole of the waters of the Bell River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, the Molong River.
BELUBULA RIVER	County of Bathurst. The whole of the waters of the Belubula River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the Cherry Tree Falls low level road bridge near Canowindra.
BOREE CREEK	County of Ashburnham. The whole of the waters of the Boree Creek and its tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, Mandagery Creek.

COXS RIVER	County of Westmoreland. The whole of the waters of the Coxs River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, Little River (note: there is an exclusion zone of 3 kilometres around Lake Burragorang).
CUDGEGONG RIVER	County of Phillip. The whole of the waters of the Cudgegong River, its creeks and tributaries downstream of the wall of Windermere Dam and upstream from the Lawson Park Weir (Mudgee).
GUINECOR CREEK	County of Argyle. The whole of the waters of Guinecor Creek and its tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Wollondilly River.
KOWMUNG RIVER	County of Westmoreland. The whole of the waters of the Kowmung River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Morong Creek (note: there is an exclusion zone of 3 kilometres around Lake Burragorang).
LACHLAN RIVER	County of Bathurst. The whole of the waters of the Lachlan River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the Cowra-Young road bridge.
MACQUARIE RIVER	County of Bathurst. The whole of the waters of the Macquarie River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Lewis Ponds Creek.
WOLLONDILLY RIVER	County of Argyle. The whole of the waters of the Wollondilly River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, the Tarlo River (note: there is an exclusion zone of 3 kilometres around Lake Burragorang).

(III) Northern NSW Trout Waters:

APSLEY RIVER	County of Vernon. The whole of the waters of the Apsley River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, the Tia River.
BARNARD RIVER	County of Hawes. The whole of the waters of the Barnard River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Gulf Creek.
BARRINGTON RIVER	County of Gloucester. The whole of the waters of the Barrington River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, the Moppy River.
BEARDY WATERS	County of Gough. The whole of the waters Beardy Waters, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Furracabad Creek.
BLICKS RIVER	County of Fitzroy. The whole of the waters of the Blicks River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the road bridge at Dundarrabin.
CARTERS BROOK	County of Durham. The whole of the waters of Carters Brook, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Stewarts Brook.
CHANDLER RIVER	County of Clarke. The whole of the waters of the Chandler River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, the Wollomombi River.
COBARK RIVER	County of Gloucester. The whole of the waters of the Cobark River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, the Dilgry River.
COOPLACURRIPA RIVER	County of Hawes. The whole of the waters of the Cooplacurripa River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, the Mummel River.
DEEPWATER RIVER	County of Gough. The whole of the waters of the Deepwater River, its creeks and tributaries upstream of the New England Highway road bridge near Deepwater.

DUNGOWAN CREEK	County of Parry. The whole of the waters of Dungowan Creek and its tributaries upstream from the road crossing near Ogunbil Station.
GEORGES CREEK	County of Hardinge. The whole of the waters of Georges Creek and its tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Louisa Creek.
GLOUCESTER RIVER	County of Gloucester. The whole of the waters of the Gloucester River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Sharpes Creek.
GUY FAWKES RIVER	County of Gresham. The whole of the waters of the Guy Fawkes River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Aberfoyle River.
GWYDIR RIVER	County of Hardinge. The whole of the waters of the Gwydir River, its creeks and tributaries upstream of the road bridge at Torryburn.
GWYDIR RIVER	County of Hardinge. The whole of the waters of the Gwydir River, its creeks and tributaries downstream of Copeton Dam and upstream of its junction with, but not including, Dingo Creek.
HORTON RIVER	County of Murchison. The whole of the waters of the Horton River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Cut Road Creek.
HUNTER RIVER	County of Brisbane. The whole of the waters of the Hunter River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, Pages Creek.
LAURA CREEK	County of Hardinge. The whole of the waters of Laura Creek and its tributaries of the ford at Baldeslie Station.
MACDONALD RIVER	County of Vernon. The whole of the waters of the Macdonald River, its creeks and tributaries upstream of the New England Highway road bridge at Bendemeer.
MCINTYRE RIVER	County of Gough. The whole of the waters of the McIntyre River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the road bridge at Elsmore.
MANNING RIVER	County of Gloucester. The whole of the waters of the Manning River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from the Gummi Trail crossing.
MOONAN BROOK	County of Durham. The whole of the waters of Moonan Brook and its tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Hunter River.
MOREDUN CREEK	County of Hardinge. The whole of the waters of Moredun Creek and its tributaries upstream of the ford immediately below its junction with Limestone Creek.
MULLA MULLA CREEK	County of Parry. The whole of the waters of Mulla Mulla Creek and its tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Cockburn River.
MYALL CREEK	County of Hawes. The whole of the waters of Myall Creek and its tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Tuggolo Creek.
NOWENDOC RIVER	County of Hawes. The whole of the waters of the Nowendoc River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from Nowendoc Falls.
NYMBOIDA RIVER	County of Sandon. The whole of the waters of the Nymboida River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Wild Cattle Creek.
OAKY RIVER	County of Clarke. The whole of the waters of the Oaky River, its creeks and tributaries upstream from where it enters the backed-up waters of Oaky River Dam.
OBAN RIVER	County of Clarke. The whole of the waters of the Oban River (or Ann River), its creeks and tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Sara River.
OMADALE BROOK	County of Durham. The whole of the waters of Omadale Brook

	and its tributaries upstream from its junction with, and including, Polblue Creek.
STYX RIVER	County of Clarke. The whole of the waters of the Styx River, its creeks and tributaries upstream of the road crossing on the Armidale-Bellbrook road, but not including that portion of the Serpentine River upstream from Serpentine Falls to the Point Lookout road crossing (being those waters immediately adjacent to the Dutton Trout Hatchery).
SWANBROOK CREEK	County of Gough. The whole of the waters Swanbrook Creek and its tributaries upstream of the Kings Plain road crossing near Inverell.
WELLINGROVE CREEK	County of Gough. The whole of the waters of Wellingrove Creek and its tributaries upstream from the Gwydir Highway road bridge.

SCHEDULE D
(General Trout Dams)

Daily Bag and Possession Limit

A daily bag limit of 10, and possession limit of 20, comprised of a single species or a combination of the species Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). For other fish species no bag and possession limits apply unless specified in the Table to Division 3, or protected under Division 1 (Clause 5), of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 1995*.

Permitted Method

Two attended rods each with a line with not more than two hooks attached.

Open Season

All year.

Waters

The backed-up waters, of all impoundments contained in those waters listed in Schedules A, B and C including Beardy Waters, Pejar Dam, Geehi Dam, Carcoar Dam, Lake Canobolas, Cochrane Dam, Lake Lyell, Oberon Dam, Tooma Dam, Tumut Ponds, Malpas Dam, Googong Dam, Guthega Lake, Happy Jacks Pondage, Ben Chifley Dam, Red Ground Dam (Crookwell water supply), Jounama Pondage, Captains Flat Dam, Khancoban Pondage, Talbingo Dam, Tantangara Dam, Three Mile Dam, Lake Wallace, Island Bend Dam, Tumut 2 Pondage, Murray 2 Pondage. The backed-up waters of Fitzroy Falls Dam, Wentworth Falls Lake, Sheba Dams and Dumaresq Dam are included. The backed-up waters of Black Lake (see Schedule E), Wyangala Dam and Blowering Dam are not included.

SCHEDULE E
(Trophy Trout Dams)

Daily Bag and Possession Limit

A daily bag limit of 2, and possession limit of 4, comprised of a single species or a combination of the species Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). For other fish species no bag and possession limits apply unless specified in the Table to Division 3, or protected under Division 1 (Clause 5), of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 1995*.

Permitted Method

Two attended rods each with a line with not more than two hooks attached.

Open Season

All year.

Waters

BLACK LAKE	County of Wellesley. The whole of the waters of Black Lake.
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Permitted Method

Two attended rods using artificial lure or artificial fly fishing only, from shore areas only (the use of Powerbait or any other artificial or manufactured bait product is not permitted), fishing is not permitted from any vessel or floating platform.

Open Season

All year during the period from an hour before sunrise to 3 hours after sunset each day only.

Waters

THOMPSONS CREEK DAM	County of Cook. The whole of the waters of Thompsons Creek Dam (near Lithgow).
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SCHEDULE F
(Snowy Trout Strategy - Lakes)

Daily Bag and Possession Limit

A daily bag limit of 5, and possession limit of 10, comprised of a single species or a combination of the species Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). For other fish species no bag and possession limits apply unless specified in the Table to Division 3, or protected under Division 1 (Clause 5), of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 1995*.

Permitted Method

Two attended rods each with a line with not more than two hooks attached.

Open Season

All year.

Waters

The whole of the waters of Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene.

Condition: The waters, methods, time period, bag and possession limits listed below in Schedule G are an exception to Schedule F of this Notification.

SCHEDULE G

(Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene)
Exception to Schedule F of this Notification

Daily Bag and Possession Limit

A daily bag limit of 200, and possession limit of 200, for the freshwater yabby (*Cherax destructor*). For other fish species no bag and possession limits apply unless specified in the Table to Division 3, or protected under Division 1 (Clause 5), of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 1995*.

Permitted Method

Five (5) hoop or lift nets, per person, as per clause 47(1)(a) and (c) of the Regulation, if the net complies with the description specified in the Table of clause 47 of the Regulation.

Open Season

All year.

Waters

The whole of the waters of Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbene.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 1994
Section 8 Notification - Fishing Closure
Thredbo and Eucumbene Rivers
Spawning Closure

I, Ian Macdonald, prohibit the taking of fish by the methods of fishing described in Column 1 of schedules A and B of this notification, from the waters described in Column 2, during the period specified in Column 3, respectively, of those schedules.

Fishing will be further subject to the 'conditions' as set out by this Notification.

This prohibition is effective until 2005 inclusive.

- (1) For the purposes of this Notification:
 - (i) A rod is deemed to be attended if it is within ten (10) metres and in the sight of the person in possession of that rod.
 - (ii) An artificial lure or artificial fly, whether fitted with one or more hooks, is deemed to be a single hook.
- (2) No person must be in possession of any rod and line with hooks other than artificial flies or artificial lures attached in on or adjacent to the waters permitting fishing activity in Schedules A and B of this Notification.
- (3) No person must be in possession of more than one rod and line with hooks attached, in on or adjacent to any of the waters permitting fishing activity in Schedules A and B of this Notification.

The Hon Ian Macdonald, MLC
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

For clarification the use of products such as "Powerbait™" or any other similar artificial or manufactured bait product is excluded from the definition of artificial lure or artificial fly.

Schedule A

Spawning Season Daily Bag and Possession Limit

Specified Waters of the Eucumbene River

<i>Column 1</i> Methods	<i>Column 2</i> Waters	<i>Column 3</i> Period
By means of all methods.	All tributaries of the Eucumbene River upstream of the dam wall, including the main channel of the river upstream of the flying fox, but not including those waters described below.	1 May each year until the Queens Birthday Public Holiday weekend, inclusive.
By means of all methods, except one attended rod and line with not more than two hooks, being artificial flies or artificial lures, attached, in accordance with the condition attached to this schedule.	The flowing waters of the main channel of the Eucumbene River upstream of the dam wall to the flying fox and including the Providence Portal. (The waters prescribed are exclusive of the backed up waters of Lake Eucumbene).	1 May each year until the Queens Birthday Public Holiday weekend, inclusive.
<p>Condition: A daily bag limit of 1, provided the fish is at least 50cm in length and possession limit of 2, during the time period specified above, comprised of a single species or a combination of the species Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), brook trout (<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>), brown trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) and rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>), in the area specified above which permits fishing activity. Other species may be taken in accordance with the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994 and Regulations</i>. Once the daily bag limit and possession limit has been reached catch and release fishing may be undertaken.</p>		

Schedule B

Spawning Season Daily Bag and Possession Limit

Specified Waters of the Thredbo River

<i>Column 1</i> Methods	<i>Column 2</i> Waters	<i>Column 3</i> Period
By means of all methods.	The signposted 2.4 km reach of Thredbo River at Gaden Trout Hatchery.	All year.
By means of all methods, except one attended rod and line with not more than two hooks, being artificial flies or artificial lures, attached, in accordance with the condition attached to this schedule.	The whole of the Thredbo River except for a signposted 2.4km reach at Gaden Trout Hatchery.	1 May each year until the Queens Birthday Public Holiday weekend, inclusive.
<p>Condition: A daily bag limit of 1, provided the fish is at least 50cm in length and possession limit of 2, during the time period specified above, comprised of a single species or a combination of the species Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), brook trout (<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>), brown trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) and rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>), in the area specified above which permits fishing activity. Other species may be taken in accordance with the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994 and Regulations</i>. Once the daily bag limit and possession limit has been reached catch and release fishing may be undertaken.</p>		

Note: All notified trout streams, including the above waters, are closed to fishing from the June Long weekend to the October long weekend. Both the Eucumbene and Thredbo Rivers are classified as blue ribbon streams as defined in trout schedule A of the general trout closure notice.

Issue

Recommendations from the 16th Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee meeting regarding expenditure from the Freshwater Trust.

Background (NSW Fisheries)

The Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee considered expenditure proposals for funding from the Freshwater Trust on 29 May 2003.

Cameron Westaway, Senior Fisheries Manager – Inland, will present the freshwater trust expenditure committee's recommendations for expenditure at the meeting.

Outcomes

Table 1: Proposed expenditure from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Fund in 2003/04.

Program	02/03 predicted carryover (\$'000)	03/04 supported budget (\$'000)	03/04 allocation (\$'000)
Purchase of native fish from private enterprise	57	200	143
Enhanced Government fish production	0	304.5	304.5
Freshwater recreational management	11	217	206
Fishcare volunteer program	0	280	280
Licence administration	0	250	250
Inland fisheries officers	18	625	607
Regional fish habitat (inland)	24	308	284
Weir removal / fish passage	0	0	0
Effectiveness of stocking program	127	160	33
Angler catch monitoring	120	150	30
Angler expenditure survey	65	0	-65
Small grants program	14	20	6
Impoundment access / fishouts	25.05	0	0
Bass habitat mapping	18	0	0
Fish habitat grant program	0	100	100
Eastern cod stocking program	12	20	8
Fish stocking fisheries management strategy contingency	0	280	280
Recreational fishing fisheries management strategy contingency	125	250	125
Gaden trout hatchery	N/A	50	50
Total (\$'000)	616.05	3,214.5	2,641.5

Expenditure proposals for funding from the Freshwater Trust in 2003/04 were considered on an individual basis and supported by a majority vote from the Council.

Motion: That NSW Fisheries use the \$8,000 from the Eastern cod stocking program for an independent review of eastern cod stocking; and no stocking be funded this year while the review is carried out.

Moved: Andy Moore Seconded: Neil Ryan **Carried**

Action item: Bill Talbot, Principal Manager Threatened Species, to be advised of these concerns and asked to report back to council at the next meeting.

Table 2: Programs recommended for funding from the small grants program in 2003/04.

Project title	Project proponent	Recommended funding level, 03/04 year	Funding conditions
Tamworth Native Fish Hatchery (non profit community fish hatchery)	Mr Geoff Simpson	A rate of 50% up to a maximum of \$5,000 based on the number of fish stocked, over the 03/04 season.	Funding for this project to be incorporated into the pre-existing Dollar-for-Dollar Native Fish Stocking program (purchase of fish from private hatcheries).
Manilla Fishing Club Hatchery (non profit community fish hatchery)	Mr Ian Ward	A rate of 50% up to a maximum of \$5,000 based on the number of fish stocked, over the 03/04 season.	Funding for this project to be incorporated into the pre-existing Dollar-for-Dollar Native Fish Stocking program (purchase of fish from private hatcheries).
Repairs to pontoon, boat ramp, BBQ facilities & amenities block Bells Bay Camping Area, Toonumbar Dam	Kyogle Fish Acclimatisation Society	\$2,000	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement Funding to be used for boat ramp and pontoon maintenance works only (funds not to be used to repair BBQ or picnic shelters), with a provision that matching funds are sourced from the Kyogle Shire Council.
Marsden weir re-development project	Phil Hunter, Goulburn City Council	\$5,000	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Eastern freshwater cod sampling	Anthony Moore, Southern Cross University	\$4,800	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement. Project to provide information on the extent of wild bass populations in the upper Clarence system, as part of this research

Table 3: Programs recommended for funding from the Fish Habitat grants program in 2003/04.

Project title	Project proponent	Recommended funding level, 02/03 year	Funding conditions
Goobang and Bumbergan Creeks (Lachlan River) – Willow removal	Mid-Lachlan & Wallamundry Creek Water Users (Alan Strange)	\$10,000	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
McIntyre River weed removal	Masterman Range Landcare Group / Graman Fishing Club	\$8,085	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Shoalhaven rehabilitation	Shoalhaven City Council	\$9,996	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Peel River riparian rehabilitation, Tamworth	Tamworth City Council	\$8,400	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Pelican Creek rehabilitation	Lismore City Council (Gary Hernsworth)	\$10,000	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Wilson River rehabilitation	Rollands Plains Landcare Group	\$6,610	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
South Creek rehabilitation	Greening Australia	\$10,000	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Vertical slot fishway research proposal	Rex Glencross, Andrew Boulton & Richard Faulkner	\$10,000	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Murrumbidgee River riparian rehabilitation, Hay	Nari Nari Tribal Council	\$4,450	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Coolongbook River rehabilitation	Great Lakes Council	\$10,000	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Macquarie River riparian rehabilitation, Narromine	Ross Bignall	\$1,300	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Clarence River riparian rehabilitation	Stephen Ross	\$4,770	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement
Murrumbidgee River riparian rehabilitation, Narrandera	David Coddington	\$260.50	As per guidelines of recreational fishing trusts project funding agreement

Recommendations

1. That the proposed budget and expenditure from the Freshwater Trust in 2003/04, as outlined in Table 1, **be supported**.
2. That funding from the small grants program in 2003/04, as outlined in Table 2, **be supported**.
3. That funding from the Fish Habitat grants program in 2003/04, as outlined in Table 3, **be supported**.

Moved: Andy Moore Seconded: Ann Lee **Carried**

Other Business

Expression of Interest for Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing positions

The terms of five ACoRF members expire in August 2003. An Expression of Interest for these positions was advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald on Saturday 26 April 2003. Members whose terms are expiring have received an information package in the mail. These members are eligible for re-appointment and are encouraged to submit an expression of interest for their position. Applications close on Friday 20 June 2003. A table outlining the terms of ACoRF members is attached for information – members whose terms expire in August are marked in grey.

For information – existing members are encouraged to re-apply.

Out of session issue

The Blowering Dam closure relating to Murray Crayfish was supported by Council out of session and commenced on 1 May 2003. A copy of this closure was recently sent to members for information.

NSW Fisheries appreciates the council's consideration of this issue in such a short time frame. This has been a well received closure and there has been good compliance.

Correspondence received

- Mr John "Stinker" Clarke – proposal to increase the minimum size limit for blue swimmer crabs

Mr Clarke has been advised that an increase of the minimum size limit for blue swimmer crabs will be considered as part of the review of bag and size limits for recreational species, as part of the development of a fishery management strategy for recreational and charter fishing.

Noted – to be considered in the FMS.

- Mr Wayne Perry – Concern regarding the spearing of stingrays in Little Lake, Warilla

Mr Perry has expressed concern regarding the spearing of stingrays in Little Lake, which was outlined in an article in the Lake Times (Shellharbour) of 12 March 2003. A copy of this article will be distributed at the meeting for the council's consideration.

It was confirmed that a number of complaints have been received by NSW Fisheries about these activities. The council discussed whether this issue should be covered by local closures or a statewide closure.

Motion: That NSW Fisheries consider the introduction of a statewide regulation, to prohibit the needless killing of rays, during development of the FMS.

Moved: Peter Goadby Seconded: Elaine Garvey **Carried**

- Mrs Betty Thatcher – Request for a spearfishing closure at Shelly Beach reef, near Tathra

Mrs Betty Thatcher wrote to the Minister in response to information sent to her on the protection of Black Cod and the Grey Nurse Shark. Mrs Thatcher enclosed copies of previous correspondence she received from the former Minister for Fisheries, the Hon Bob Martin, MP as well as correspondence from the Mayor of Bega Valley Shire Council and letters she had sent to the local Fisheries Officer. Mrs Thatcher indicates that she has local

area support for the proposed closure and requests NSW Fisheries' action to protect Shelly Beach reef, near Tathra.

Advice from the local fisheries officer is being sought to investigate the potential for a spearfishing closure over the reef and also to determine how many spearfishers would be affected by a closure.

Mrs Thatcher has been advised that the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing will consider the issues she has raised. A copy of this correspondence will be distributed at the meeting.

The council confirmed that this issue will be covered by the previous proposal to give qualified protection to rays throughout the state.

Action item: Write to Mrs Thatcher to advise the council has recommended that NSW Fisheries consider the introduction of a statewide regulation, to prohibit the needless killing of rays, during development of the Fisheries Management Strategy for recreational and charter fishing.

- Mr John Gallagher – Burns Point ferry closure

Proposal by Mr John Gallagher for a fishing closure at the southern Burns Point ferry approach ramp on the Richmond River, northern NSW.

Mr Gallagher met with the Director, Mr Steve Dunn, on Wednesday 5 February 2003 to outline his proposal for a closure to all fishing within a 100 metre radius of the southern Burns Point ferry approach ramp. Mr Gallagher has established an informal fish-feeding program in this area, which forms part of the existing Richmond River recreational fishing haven.

Mr Gallagher advises that this activity has become a valuable tourist attraction, promoting the region's quality angling opportunities and an educational experience for local primary and high school children.

Letters supporting Mr Gallagher's proposed fishing closure have been received from the Ballina Fishermen's Co-op, the Ballina Marine Discovery and Resource Centre, the Ballina Visitor Information Centre, and Sustainable Fishing and Tourism Incorporated.

The council was concerned that this proposal would result in recreational fishers being excluded from a Recreational Fishing Haven that was bought with recreational licence funds.

The council understands the intent of Mr Gallagher's proposal, however, it was stated that the majority of estuaries have informal "fish feeding programs". The council was concerned that support for this proposal would set a precedent with flow-on effects in many other estuaries. It was suggested that Mr Gallagher try to get the area recognised as a formal fish feeding area by the Ballina Council.

The advisory council does not support an exclusion zone for an "informal" feeding area.

Action item: Write to Mr Gallagher to explain that this proposal would set an open ended precedent for anyone to close areas where people feed fish. Mr Gallagher should be encouraged to get the area recognised as a formal fish feeding location by the Ballina Council.

- Woronora River Life Saving and River Patrol Club
The council does not support a closure to bait gathering in the area.

Action item: Write to the Woronora River Life Saving and River Patrol Club to advise that the council does not support a closure to bait gathering in the area.

- Ms Judith Snellenburg - Shelly Beach Lagoon
The council confirmed that this issue will be covered by the previous proposal to give qualified protection to rays throughout the state.

Action item: Write to Mrs Snellenburg to advise the council has recommended that NSW Fisheries consider the introduction of a statewide regulation, to prohibit the needless killing of rays, during development of the Fisheries Management Strategy for recreational and charter fishing.

Around the table

- A species of trevally caught around Lord Howe Island is classified as silver trevally, however, it grows up to 30 pounds. It was suggested that research should be conducted on this species.
- It was mentioned that there is still uncertainty about the distribution and numbers of grey nurse sharks.
- Striped marlin – Council believes the resource would be worth more as a recreational only species – economic survey is progressing.
- Indigenous Fishing Strategy and Communication strategy.

Action item: Request Tom Smith's attendance at the next meeting to discuss the IFS and related issues.

- A breakdown of NSW Fisheries positions funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts was requested.

Action item: NSW Fisheries to provide the Council with information on Trust funded positions at the next meeting.

- Recreational fishing access – a proposal has been sent to the Sydney Catchment Authority requesting minimal fishing access to Prospect Reservoir. The SCA has advised that a risk assessment should be conducted for the activity.
- Impoundment access – a freshwater fishing publication, similar to the QLD publication previously distributed to Council members, is being progressed.
- Rock fishing safety – The Bureau of Meteorology's Marine Weather Committee and NSW Fisheries are working together to reinforce warnings about rock fishing safety issues.

Next meeting - Thursday 25 September 2003.

Terms of appointment - Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

Position/Representation	Expiry of term	Current member
* Chair	August 2003	Bruce Schumacher
Offshore fishing	August 2003	Peter Goadby
Estuary, Offshore fishing	August 2003	Elaine Garvey
Freshwater fishing	August 2003	Terry Maloney
Recreational fishing media	August 2003	Neil Ryan
Tackle industry	August 2003	Mark Umbers
# Indigenous fishing	September 2003	Graham Moore
Underwater harvesting	January 2004	Mel Brown
Nature Conservation Council	January 2004	Anthony Moore
Freshwater fishing	January 2004	Ann Lee
Freshwater/Tackle	February 2005	Scott Mitchell
Marine Biology	February 2005	Lisa Terry
Charter boat fishing	February 2005	Margaret Dodson
Estuarine habitat	February 2005	Lionel Jones

* Please note that an Expression of Interest has been advertised for the Chairperson's position – applications close on 13 June 2003.

Please note that the Indigenous fishing position will be advertised in the near future.