

## Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

### **Outcomes from Meeting 48 – Wednesday 2 December 2009 Cronulla Fisheries Centre**

#### **Attendance**

Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Sanchia Glaskin, Max Castle, John Clarke, Ann Garard, John Humphries, Adrian Wayne, Ron Croker, Claudette Rechterik, John Drew.

#### *Observers*

Kevin McKinnon, Charlie Howe.

#### **1. Apologies**

Jan McLeod, Peter Cooley, Neil Ryan.

#### **2. Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meeting**

- i) The department confirmed that the approved funding amount for the Gaden Trout Hatchery Tour Guide was \$17,000.
- ii) Ann Garard clarified that she voted against the motion relating to a proposal to ban the use of electric reels by recreational fishers.
- iii) I&I NSW clarified that the total approved funding for the NSW Rock Fishing Safety Workshops program was \$33,175 and the applicant was the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW.

The outcomes from meeting 47 were updated to address these issues.

**Motion:** Following clarification of the two issues outline above, the council accepted the outcomes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 47<sup>th</sup> ACoRF meeting, held 25 August 2009. **Moved:** John Clarke. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

#### **3. Business arising from the minutes**

It was agreed that issues arising from the minutes would be addressed as other business.

#### **4. Empowering Industry - Developing Research & Development to meet Industry's needs**

Chris Calogeras, C-AID Consultants, outlined the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funded project titled: "Empowering Industry R&D: Developing an Industry driven R&D model for the Australian fishing and seafood Industry - partnerships to improve efficiency, profitability and performance (FRDC Project 2009/300)" that he and Dr Ian Knuckey, Fishwell Consulting, are currently undertaking. The council was provided with additional information on this project and encouraged to have input into what the recreational fishing industry wants from their Research, Development and Extension (RD&E), especially those ideas that will improve the 'value' of industry to the various sectors and the community as a whole.

#### **Action item**

Council members to complete the Empowering Industry – Recreational Ideas submission form and forward directly to Chris Calogeras for inclusion in this process.

#### **5. Fisheries Resource Management update**

##### **i) Update on consultation regarding the potential introduction of a minimum size limit for cobia**

The Ocean Trap & Line Management Advisory Committee (OTLMAC) held preliminary discussions regarding this proposal at its meeting on 16 November 2009. OTLMAC members acknowledged the recreational/charter fishing sector's concerns regarding sustainability of the species and supported the proposed recreational bag limit of 5. With regards to a potential minimum size limit, the MAC did not express any objections to the introduction of a sensible size limit, however, MAC members requested the provision of scientific information prior to considering the issue further.

**Motion:** The council supports the introduction of an appropriate minimum legal length, for example, 75cm for cobia consistent with Queensland's minimum size limit and recommends that this position be forwarded to the OTLMAC, along with available scientific information, for further consideration. **Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

**Action item**

I&I NSW Science & Research to provide scientific advice regarding an appropriate minimum legal length for cobia. Advise the OTLMAC of the council's position regarding this issue and provide available scientific information.

**ii) Proposed amendments to the NSW Fisheries Management Act (General) Regulation 2002 as part of the Staged Repeal 2009**

At the last meeting, the department advised council of this legislation review and development process and consulted on a range of proposed amendments. Additional issues raised with the council are:

- 1) Introduce a provision that makes the obstruction of mesh on lawful recreational traps illegal;
- 2) Amendment of the closure boundaries of the current Shellfish closure in Port Hacking from Simpsons Bay Beach to Costens Point.

**Motion:** The council supports the two amendments to the NSW *Fisheries Management Act (General) Regulation 2002* as part of the Staged Repeal 2009, as proposed. **Moved:** Adrian Wayne. **Seconded:** Claudette Rechterik. **Carried.**

**iii) Species Impact Statement for Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT)**

The species was listed as endangered under the NSW *Fisheries Management Act 1994* in December 2004. In order for a determination to be made about ongoing recreational fishing access to the species, an environmental assessment (or Species Impact Statement) is required to be undertaken. The Species Impact Statement (SIS) will be conducted in 2 stages:

- i) a preliminary environmental assessment is required to review available literature and data on the extent and impact of recreational fishing activities on SBT. The preliminary environmental assessment will be used as a basis for drafting the Ministerial order to ensure detrimental impacts are mitigated as far as possible.; and
- ii) Following the preliminary environmental assessment and consultation on the terms of the proposed Ministerial order, a full species impact statement is required to be prepared in accordance with the relevant requirements of the FM Act and Director General's requirements.

The current bag limit for tunas, comprised of any single species or a combination of species, is 5 (less than 90cm) and 2 (90cm or above). The council acknowledged that the recreational arrangements for SBT may have to be adjusted as part of this process.

**iv) Mako sharks**

The council was advised of a proposal by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Australian Government) to list 3 species of shark, including mako sharks, as endangered species in Commonwealth waters (i.e. greater than 3 nautical miles from the coast) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

I&I NSW previously did not support this proposal in 2008. The Department has recently advised DEWHA of the importance of mako sharks to the NSW recreational fishery and that the listing will have a significant impact on game fishers, as makos are one of the main shark species targeted by the sector. DEWHA has been requested to provide further details on the process, particularly relating to impacts on the game fishing sector and any potential measures that could be undertaken to reduce this impact. Council supported the Department's actions on this issue.

v) Gamefish Tagging Program data

The Department advised that a request had been made by an external environment group for information from the NSW Gamefish Tagging database regarding fishing activities in the Coral Sea area. It was confirmed that I&I NSW did not initially release the information, following consultation with the NSW GFA and GFAA, however, the information was subsequently provided as part of a formal Freedom of Information request.

vi) Mimosa Rocks National Park Draft Plan of Management

The Council was advised that consultation between DECCW and I&I NSW, with significant input from Max Castle and Tathra Fishing Club members, had been very positive which should result in some access good outcomes for anglers. Negotiation had centered around retaining Lagoon Trail to the foreshore of Nelson Lake and Cowdroys Baronda Road to the southern end of Nelson Beach.

**6. Recreational Fishing Trust issues**

a) Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure recommendations

Council considered expenditure recommendations arising from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC and RFSTEC) meetings held in mid-November 2009. Refer to tables in Appendix 1. Recommendations for new Trust applications supported by ACoRF are outlined in Table 1. Programs deferred, or not approved by the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF, are summarised in Table 2. Habitat Action Grant applications approved by ACoRF are shown in Table 3.

**Motion:** The council supports the recommendations by the expenditure committees for supported, deferred and not supported new programs and Habitat Action Grants, as outlined.

**Moved:** John Drew. **Seconded:** John Clarke. **Carried.**

With regards to the Recfish funding application, the council reiterated that there was still no long term Recfish business plan with a preferred model of future operation and management, as previously requested by RFSTEC and ACoRF. Therefore, on that basis the funding request could not be supported.

**Motion:** The council supports the recommendation by the expenditure committee not to provide funding for the Recfish application. **Moved:** John Clarke. **Seconded:** Ron Croker. **Against:** Adrian Wayne. **Carried.**

b) Status of the cost of a 1 year recreational fishing fee

The Chairman advised that the Freshwater Trust had been overallocated in 2010/11 and beyond and that RFFTEC had recommended an increase in the annual Freshwater Trust allocation from \$3 million to \$3.5 million. Both expenditure committees had noted that the recreational fishing fee was increased by \$5 for a one year licence on 1 July 2005 in line with CPI. CPI indexing of the fee since 2005 to the end of the 2009/10 financial year would have resulted in a \$5 increase of a one year licence to \$35. The Expenditure Committees therefore recommended that the fee be increased in line with CPI in 2010/11. It was mentioned that some charter fishing boat operators do not support an increase in the fee as it would likely result in an increase to the annual exemption certificate fee. The council discussed that increased licence costs could potentially deter people from going fishing however acknowledged that increases in fees are required from time to time.

**Motion:** The council supports an increase in the cost of a 1 year recreational fishing fee receipt, from \$30 to \$35 (and pro rata changes in the other fees), on 1 July 2010. **Moved:** Adrian Wayne. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Against:** Ann Garard. **Voting - 8 for; 1 against. Carried.**

c) Status of the 3 day fishing fee

At the last meeting, the council recommended that the department investigate options for the 3 day licence, including potential removal of this licence type due to the cost prohibitive nature of

administering this licence type. A number of scenarios relating to the estimated change to revenue generated by removing the 3 day licence were provided, whilst assuming the majority of those anglers would purchase a 1 month licence.

**Motion:** The council supports the removal of the 3 day licence on 1 July 2010 whilst maintaining the current cost of a 1 month licence (i.e. \$12). **Moved:** Adrian Wayne. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

### ***7. Boating and Recreational Fishing Strategy to Reduce the Spread of Marine Pests***

Leslie Diver, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA) provided the council with an overview of current initiatives relating to awareness and reduction of marine pests. The SMCMA commissioned I&I NSW to undertake a risk assessment for assessing the likelihood of marine pest introductions into Sydney's estuaries. The Marine Pest Risk Assessment identified the high risk species most likely to arrive here and the International and domestic ports that are the most likely source of these marine pests.

A survey of over 1600 boat owners was undertaken as part of the risk assessment. It was identified that there is a general lack of awareness about the threat of marine pests and a need for initiatives, including a comprehensive education program, signage at areas for launching, and compulsory wash down requirements. A boating and recreational fishing education strategy on marine pests in the Sydney Metropolitan region was then developed to help reduce the risk of spreading marine pests.

#### **Action item**

The council suggested that marine pest information be added to I&I NSW recreational bag and size limit signs.

### ***8. Australian Government's marine bioregional planning process - East Coast Bioregion***

Martin Russell, Assistant Director (Liaison) East Marine Region, Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, advised the council that Marine Bioregional Plans are currently being developed for each of Australia's five marine regions. The East Marine Bioregion includes all Commonwealth waters from the eastern side of Cape York to just north of the New South Wales-Victoria border, as well as the waters around Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands, and covers an area of some 2.4 million square kilometres of the Coral Sea and Tasman Sea. The Region is bounded inshore by the outer limit of State waters (generally around three nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline) and offshore by the outer limit of the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone. The Region does not include the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park or the Torres Strait. Marine bioregional planning in the East Marine Region is to be completed by the end of 2010.

The marine bioregional planning process involves three key steps:

1. Preparation of a bioregional profile (completed)
2. Development of a draft marine bioregional plan
3. Completion of a final marine bioregional plan

To ensure effective consultation with the NSW recreational fishing industry, the council recommended the establishment of a working group to liaise directly with DEWHA throughout the planning process. The council nominated the following representatives to comprise the ACoRF East Marine Bioregion Sub-Committee: Adrian Wayne, Max Castle, Sanchia Glaskin, Ann Garard.

#### **Action item**

I&I NSW write to Martin Russell to advise DEWHA about the formation and composition of the ACoRF East Marine Bioregion Sub-Committee.

### ***9. Proposed introduction of a Section 8 fishing closure within the HMAS Adelaide Reserve***

The council was advised that the ex-HMAS *Adelaide* vessel has been specifically gifted to NSW for the purpose of creating a dive site. The NSW Land and Property Management Authority is overseeing the project and has established *the HMAS Adelaide Reserve* to enable preparations to commence for the scuttling of the ex-HMAS *Adelaide* and to provide a legislative basis for managing the future artificial reef and dive site. The vessel will be sunk approximately 1.87km off shore from Avoca Beach, on the Central Coast, in a depth of approximately 34m. Deployment of the vessel by the Authority is planned for April 2010.

The Authority has advised that there is no opportunity for fishing at the site as the concept of allowing fishing and diving activities would significantly increase the risk of injury to divers from lost fishing gear. The Department advised the Authority that any proposed closure area should be kept as small as possible to minimize the impacts on fishers. As a result, the Authority has proposed the implementation of a small (250m by 350m) commercial and recreational fishing closure under Section 8 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. The closure site would also have a number of mooring buoys for boats.

**Motion:** The council supports the introduction of a fishing closure under Section 8 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, as proposed. **Moved:** Claudette Rechterik. **Seconded:** Adrian Wayne. **Carried.** .

#### **10. Proposed listing of *Posidonia australis* (strapweed) as an endangered species.**

*Posidonia australis* (strapweed) is a type of seagrass that occurs in several coastal embayments and sheltered estuaries from Port Stephens south in NSW. *Posidonia australis* is of particular concern as it does not readily recolonise areas from where it has been eliminated. A discussion paper was distributed regarding the proposed listing of *Posidonia* as an endangered species.

The listing is unlikely to directly affect recreational fishing activities. Damaging marine vegetation is already an offence under the FM Act, and existing policy prevents the establishment of recreational fishing infrastructure such as artificial reefs over *Posidonia australis* meadows. The FM Act also does not effectively regulate impacts from boats travelling over and temporarily anchoring in seagrass beds, however existing education, awareness and advisory materials deal with this issue, and may be expanded if areas of specific concern are identified. Information noted.

#### **11. Draft Control Plan for carp**

I&I NSW's Aquatic Biosecurity Unit have developed a Draft Control Plan for carp which was released in early November for public comment. The plan provides the most up-to-date information about the biology and impacts of this species and outlines what is being done – or should be done – to stop further spread of carp, control the size of carp populations, better understand the species and increase the understanding and involvement of the community.

Hard copies of the plan are being distributed to relevant stakeholder groups and the plan is also available on the website <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries>. Submissions can be forwarded by email to [aquatic.pests@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquatic.pests@industry.nsw.gov.au) or by mail to Aquatic Biosecurity Unit, Port Stephens Fisheries Institute, Locked Bag 1, Nelson Bay 2315. The closing date for submissions is 29 January 2010. Information noted.

**Action item:** ACoRF members to provide comments on the draft Control Plan for carp out of session.

#### **12. Environmental Impact Statement for marine fish stocking in estuarine waters of NSW**

I&I NSW has a long standing, extensive inland stocking program involving native and salmonid species. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and associated Fisheries Management Strategy for this activity were completed in 2005.

Over the past 5 years, the University of NSW has been undertaking trial stockings of Eastern king prawns and mulloway in selected NSW estuaries. Following these successful pilot programs, the department is now undertaking an EIS for marine stocking in estuarine waters, consistent with the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The following species will be included in the assessment: mulloway, eastern king prawns, mud crabs, blue swimmer crabs, dusky flathead, yellowfin bream and sand whiting. It is anticipated that the proposed marine fish stocking program will be conducted on a much reduced scale compared to the current freshwater program due to cost and demand constraints. However, the EIS will cover 7 potential species and the majority of NSW estuarine waters (excluding marine protected areas) in the assessment process.

#### **Action item**

I&I NSW to forward the list of proposed estuaries to be included in the EIS to members for review. Members to contact Sarah Martin to discuss any notable exceptions.

### **13. Closures**

#### **Cook Island Aquatic Reserve**

A Section 8 fishing closure exists in the Cook Island Aquatic Reserve area, which prohibits the taking of fish by set lines from all waters within 500 metres of the mean high water mark of Cook Island, Tweed Heads. This closure applies to both commercial and recreational fishers. The purpose of the closure is to help protect the marine biodiversity of the Cook Island Aquatic Reserve. The closure expired on 2 July 2009 and was recently renewed in its existing form.

#### **Penrhyn Estuary**

A Section 8 fishing closure banning the taking of all fish and collection of all shellfish by any method in the whole of the waters of Penrhyn Estuary in Botany Bay, being generally east of a line drawn from the eastern side of the Boat Ramp off Penrhyn Road to the beach along Foreshore Drive, passing through the yellow and black NSW Maritime Authority's South Cardinal Marker, expired on 10 November 2009. There will be limited public access to this site as part of the Port Botany expansion, however, it was recommended the closure be renewed for food safety reasons. Information noted.

#### **Amendment to the Penrith Weir fishing closure**

The fish way at Penrith Weir is being modified by the Sydney Catchment Authority as part of an upgrade of the Penrith Weir. ACoRF previously supported the introduction of a fishing closure above and below the weir to preclude fishing at this site while enhancement works were carried out on the fish ladder (currently inoperable) and to protect fish aggregating below the weir wall and at the entrance to Peach Tree Creek. Construction/engineering works on the weir/fish ladder are underway and are expected to be completed soon. The area surrounding the weir is presently 'off limits' while construction/engineering works are taking place. The fishing closure expires on 28 February 2010.

Historically the weir pool below the weir has been popular for shore based angling, particularly catch and release fishing for bass. A public reserve located adjacent to this area provides good access to this site and it is normally readily used by anglers. However the existing downstream fishing closure boundary line excludes recreational fishing at this location. To address this issue, once the fish way/weir works are completed and the area around the weir is re-opened for public use, it is proposed that the downstream closure boundary line be relocated from the entrance to Peach Tree Creek (approximately 132m downstream of the weir wall) to around 30 metres below the weir face. This will allow for a continuation of legal fishing within a majority of the weir pool and will also provide for ongoing protection of fish negotiating the entrance to the fish way.

**Motion:** The council supports the amendment to the fishing closures, as proposed. **Moved:** Ron Croker. **Seconded:** Claudette Rechterik. **Carried.** **Note:** there was unanimous support from the council for this proposal.

#### **14. Fin clipping of recreationally caught fish**

The council previously recommended that I&I NSW consider introducing fin clipping requirements for high value saltwater and freshwater recreational species to reduce black marketing opportunities. Some members expressed support for all retained fish to be fin clipped, however, this was not considered necessary.

The following options and issues were identified for consideration during the development of fin clipping rules:

- All retained saltwater fish that have a size and/or specific bag limit must be fin clipped.
- Freshwater species that must be fin clipped are Murray cod and golden perch/yellowbelly.
- Right pectoral fin required to be clipped, as opposed to both pectoral fins.
- Fish should be fin clipped on board the vessel or at shore/fish cleaning table (i.e. before completion of fishing trip). Animal cruelty issues potentially exist, therefore, a retained fish should not be fin clipped until it has been humanely dispatched – but must be dispatched before completion of fishing trip.
- Retained fish that are caught on a licensed charter fishing boat, that are not mutilated as per the CFB mutilation of fish provisions, are required to be fin clipped.

#### **Action item**

Recreational and Compliance staff to develop a fin clipping proposal for consultation with ACoRF and MERCMAC, prior to seeking support for an amendment to the regulation to formally introduce recreational fin clipping requirements.

#### **15. Out of session items**

##### **Durras Lake *Caulerpa taxifolia* closure renewal**

ACoRF was initially consulted in April this year regarding the renewal of the Durras Lake *Caulerpa taxifolia* closure. A majority of council members expressed support for the closure to be renewed. The expiry date of the closure was originally thought to be June 2009, however, it was actually November 2009. Given the time lapse between the original consultation and actual expiry of the closure, I&I NSW's Aquatic Biosecurity branch provided the opportunity for council members to submit further comment regarding this closure. No dissenting views were expressed during the out of session consultation.

**Motion:** The council supports the closure renewal. **Moved:** Max Castle. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

##### **Maximum size limit for Easter Rock Lobster**

The maximum size limit for Easter Rock Lobster of 180mm carapace length is currently regulated by a section 8 closure notice. This closure was gazetted in 2004 to protect the spawning stock. The expiry date of the closure was 18 November 2009 and it was renewed in its existing form.

**Motion:** The council supports the closure renewal. **Moved:** John Clarke. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

##### **Fishing in Commonwealth Waters project**

Information from Recfish Australia was forwarded to members for review/completion and return to Max Castle (as the NSW ACoRF delegate on Recfish) by 12 November 2009, to enable the council's response to be coordinated and forward to Recfish by the closing date of 14 November. Information noted.

##### **Recfish Australia Communiqué**

An update on major issues from Recfish Australia was distributed to members, at the request of Max Castle (as the NSW ACoRF delegate on Recfish), for information.

##### **Abalone gut (AVG) closure renewal**

The existing Section 8 fishing closure banning recreational and commercial use of abalone viscera as bait or berley is due to expire on 12 December 2009. This ban is an important biosecurity strategy to help minimise disease impacts on the NSW abalone industry. A 5 year renewal (to December 2014) of the fishing closure banning recreational and commercial use of abalone viscera as bait or berley is recommended.

**Motion:** The council supports the closure renewal. **Moved:** Ron Croker. **Seconded:** Sanchia Glaskin. **Carried.**

#### Strategic Framework for Evaluation and Monitoring of NSW Marine Parks & NSW Marine Parks Strategic Research Plan 2005-2010.

The Marine Parks Authority requested that the Marine Parks Advisory Council (MPAC) review the Strategic Framework for Evaluation and Monitoring of NSW Marine Parks (the 'Strategic framework') & NSW Marine Parks Strategic Research Plan 2005-2010 (the 'Research Plan').

An independent team has been established to undertake the review and to provide recommendations on future research and monitoring directions to the MPAC. The review team understands that ACoRF has a strong interest in research and monitoring programs in NSW Marine Parks and could therefore make a valuable contribution to the review process. Accordingly, Max Castle attended a meeting with the review team on 11 November 2009 to present ACoRF's perspectives on current and future research and monitoring directions for NSW Marine Parks. The council thanked Max for his input into this process on behalf of ACoRF.

#### **16. Correspondence received**

##### Possession of fishing equipment in Marine Park Sanctuary Zones

Information has been provided by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water in response to a request by ACoRF for clarification of rules relating to the possession of fishing equipment in Marine Park Sanctuary Zones. Noted.

##### NSW Angler Access Forum and Workshop

A NSW Angler Access Forum & Workshop was held on 26–27 September 2009 in Sydney. A copy of the Recreational Fishing Trust Meeting Report for this project was distributed for information.

##### Response from previous Minister re: DECCW observer at ACoRF meetings

The previous Minister advised that he had forwarded the council's request for a NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW)/Marine Parks Authority (MPA) representative to attend future council meetings to The Hon John Robertson MLC, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. The Minister requested support to enable the council's Executive Officer to invite an observer from DECCW/MPA to attend ACoRF meetings, when requested by the council, to provide information and have input into relevant discussions.

#### **17. Other business**

##### NSW Maritime draft lifejacket discussion paper

NSW Maritime recently released a discussion paper on proposals to extend the compulsory wearing of lifejackets requirements on watercraft. The paper also addresses the issue of rock fishing safety and proposes the mandatory wearing of a lifejacket when rock fishing. Copies of the Ministerial press release and NSW Maritime discussion paper were distributed with the agenda.

**Motion:** The council supports efforts that encourage recreational fishers to wear a lifejacket whilst line fishing from ocean rock platforms. **Moved:** Max Castle. **Seconded:** Adrian Wayne. **Carried.**

**Motion:** The council supports each of the proposals outlined in the NSW Maritime discussion paper. **Moved:** Max Castle. **Seconded:** Sanchia Glaskin. **Carried.**

**Action item**

I&I NSW to forward the council's recommendations to NSW Maritime by Friday 8 January 2010.

**Recfish Australia**

Copies of the 2009 Recfish Workshop outcomes and ACoRF report to Recfish were distributed to members for information.

**Items referred to ACoRF from the 34th RFFTEC meeting held on 11 November 2009**

*Recreational fishing for trout cod*

RFFTEC has requested if there is any capacity to make an application for limited fishing of Trout Cod in stocked impounded waters (i.e. a catch and release Trout Cod fishery) in line with conservation objectives of the National Trout Cod Recovery Plan.

**Action item**

Bill Talbot, Director Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture, advised that he will consider these issues in more detail and report back to ACoRF at the next meeting.

*Proposal by the Albury Paper Mill (Norske Skog) to discharge 3mL of salty effluent into the Murray River daily*

**Action item**

Bill Talbot to provide a copy of I&I NSW's recent correspondence on this matter for member's information.

*Consideration to lift the Murray crayfish closure in Blowering dam*

RFFTEC requested that ACoRF consider lifting the Murray crayfish closure in Blowering dam. This closure was implemented due to low water levels being experienced in the dam which made populations more accessible/more easily targeted leading to an increase in illegal activity. There was considerable consultation with stakeholders at the time and the closure was supported by local fishing clubs and tackle suppliers. It was subsequently rolled into the closure notice as a permanent closure. There remains concern for the overall status of Murray crayfish stocks in the Murray River. The Blowering dam closure provides protection for crayfish outside of the notified trout water areas. I&I NSW advised it was appropriate for this issue to be considered as part of the proposed closure review process, which was supported by Council.

**Grey Nurse Shark Recovery Plan**

The Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts (DEWHA) hosted a workshop on 26 and 27 November to discuss the recovery plan for Grey Nurse Sharks and to present the results of recent census research conducted by Dr Marcus Lincoln-Smith from Cardno Ecology Lab. Adrian Wayne represented ACoRF at the workshop and stated that a major outcome was that the NSW population estimate from this census research (approximately 1300 sharks) is greater than the previous estimate (300-500 sharks). However, the estimated population size is well below the critical species modeling limit of 5000 individuals, which means it is still susceptible to extinction by impacts (e.g. disease, climate change etc) other than fishing.

**Black cod Recovery Plan**

The draft Recovery Plan for Black Cod was recently released for public exhibition. The plan can be viewed at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection/conservation/what/recovery/black-cod>  
Information noted.

### Fishing Competitions in Marine Parks Sub-Committee

John Clarke provided an overview of issues from the first sub-committee meeting. This included discussion of a set of principles that reflected the views expressed by members, such as:

- It was considered that small competitions are not a major issue, and should not be the main focus of any policy.
- The methodology of the competition, both in terms of fishing methods and the competition rules are important (e.g. catch and release versus catch and kill events).
- High grading should be discouraged and no fish should be wasted. There should be encouragement of personal use/consumption.
- Organisers should have the ability to penalise participants (i.e. with disqualification) for breaking marine park rules.
- It was identified that wherever possible the rules for fishing (and fishing competitions) inside and outside the park should be the same.
- It was acknowledged that had generally been a good response by event organisers to take positive steps in improving the environmental and social outcomes of their events.
- There are a number of accreditation systems that could be used to help manage this issue.

The council was advised that all members of the sub-committee support the continuation of fishing competitions in Marine Parks and are currently developing options relating to future fishing competitions. An update on progress of this issue will be provided at the next meeting.

### Appointment of new Primary Industries Minister, the Hon. Steve Whan MP

**Motion:** The council write to the Minister, the Hon Steve Whan MP, to congratulate him on his recent appointment and confirm that the council is committed to maintaining a strong working relationship with Government on behalf of NSW anglers. **Moved:** John Humphries. **Seconded:** Sanchia Glaskin. **Carried.**

#### **Action item**

Letter from Chair to the Minister.

### Minister Ian Macdonald MLC

**Motion:** The council write to the previous Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, to thank him for his efforts and wish him well in his endeavours as Minister for State and Regional Development and Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources. **Moved:** Max Castle. **Seconded:** Sanchia Glaskin. **Carried.**

#### **Action item**

Letter from Chair to Hon Ian Macdonald MLC.

### Select Committee on Recreational Fishing

The NSW Legislative Council has established a select committee to examine recreational fishing in NSW for both coastal and inland fisheries. Further information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/fishinginquiry](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/fishinginquiry). Submissions addressing the terms of reference for this committee can be emailed to: [fishinginquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fishinginquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au). Closing date for submissions is 19 March 2010.

### **18. Next meetings**

The next meeting (ACoRF 49) is scheduled for 18 & 19 May 2010; meeting 50 is proposed for 25 August 2010 and meeting 51 on 8 December 2010.

### Action items from 48<sup>th</sup> ACoRF meeting on 2 December 2009

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Team Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
5. Fisheries Resource Management update – minimum size limit for cobia	I&I NSW Science & Research to provide scientific advice regarding an appropriate minimum legal length for cobia. Advise the OTLMAC of the council's position regarding this issue and provide available scientific information.	Recreational Management/ Science and Research	Pending
7. Boating and Recreational Fishing Strategy to Reduce the Spread of Marine Pests	Investigate potential to add marine pest information to I&I NSW recreational bag and size limit signs.	Recreational Management	Pending development of amended bag and size limit signs.
8. Australian Government's marine bioregional planning process - East Coast Bioregion	I&I NSW write to Martin Russell to advise DEWHA about the formation and composition of the ACoRF East Marine Bioregion Sub-Committee.	Recreational Management	Email sent to Martin Russell 7/12/09. Letter to DEWHA drafted 9/12/09.
11. Draft Control Plan for carp	ACoRF members to provide comments on the draft Control Plan for carp out of session.	Recreational Management	Pending.
12. Environmental Impact Statement for marine fish stocking in estuarine waters of NSW	I&I NSW to forward the list of proposed estuaries to be included in the Marine Stocking EIS to members for review.	Recreational Management	Pending.
14. Fin clipping of recreationally caught fish	Develop a fin clipping proposal for consultation with ACoRF and MERCMAC, prior to seeking support for an amendment to the regulation to formally introduce recreational fin clipping requirements.	I&I NSW (Recreational Management and Compliance staff)	Pending.
17. Other business – NSW Maritime draft lifejacket discussion paper	I&I NSW to forward the council's recommendations to NSW Maritime by 8 January 2010.	Recreational Management	Pending.
17. Other business – recreational fishing for trout cod	Bill Talbot, Director Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture, to consider if there is any capacity for limited fishing of Trout Cod in stocked impounded waters (i.e. a catch and release Trout Cod fishery) at such locations, in line with conservation objectives of the National Trout Cod Recovery Plan.	Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture	Pending next meeting.
17. Other business – Albury Paper Mill (Norske Skog)	Bill Talbot to provide a copy of I&I NSW's recent correspondence on this matter for member's information.	Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture	Pending.
17. Other business – Minister Steve Whan MP	The council write to the Minister, the Hon Steve Whan MP, to congratulate him on his appointment.	Recreational Management/ACoRF Chair	Pending - Letter drafted 9/12/09.
17. Other business – Minister Ian Macdonald MLC	The council write to the previous Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Ian Macdonald MLC, to thank him for his efforts and wish him well in his endeavours as Minister for State and Regional Development and Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources.	Recreational Management/ACoRF Chair	Pending - Letter drafted 9/12/09.

**Appendix 1: Table 1 - New Trust Project Applications supported by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC for funding**

<b>Platform: Fishing access and facilities</b>					
Project Title	Organisation	2009/10 2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
<b>RFA NSW – NSW Crown Lands and Reserves vesting and securing recreational fishing access for the future</b> - The aim of this project is for the RFANSW to employ the services of a Project Officer to identify existing crown reserves or Crown parcels of land, which could be formed into reserves dedicated for recreational usage such as fishing under the Crown Lands Act. It will include the establishment of a RFANSW Crown Lands Trust Board to oversee the application and management process through NSW Lands and arrangements for ongoing maintenance of the Crown Reserves. The RFANSW will be the identified peak body to secure and hold management responsibilities for public lands relevant to recreational fishing access as trustee.	Recreational fishing Alliance of NSW	\$128,695 SW \$55,155 FW			
<b>Coopernook fishing platform with fish cleaning facility, Manning River</b> -The proposed project involves the construction of a fishing platform incorporating fish cleaning facilities on the Lansdowne River Foreshore adjacent to the Coopernook Foreshore Reserve. This project forms part of a larger project which includes improvement of boating facilities in the reserve.	Greater Taree City Council	\$46,185 SW			
<b>Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing</b>					
Project Title	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>Solving bycatch and discard problems in NSW’s recreational mud crab fishery</b> -This project seeks to develop solutions to the problems of bycatch (primarily yellowfin bream) and discarding of undersize mud crabs in recreational traps using experimental manipulations of trap design. A series of experiments will be conducted in NSW estuaries to examine the effects of inserting escape gaps into crab traps and increasing the size of mesh size used in the gear on catches of legal and sub-legal mud crabs and bycatch (primarily yellowfin bream). The final report will recommend the most appropriate measures to reduce bycatch and discarding in the NSW recreational mud crab fishery.	I&I NSW	\$20,281 SW			
<b>Platform: Recreational Fishing Education</b>					
Project Title	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>NSW rock fishing safety workshops</b> –This project will educate non English speaking anglers on safe rockfishing practices using a series of 5 workshops. <b>Note:</b> This application was previously approved by ACoRF and the Minister, however there was an administration error associated with the funding amount and applicant name which has now been rectified (see agenda item 2).	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	\$33,175			

## Small Grants

<b>Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing</b>					
Project Title	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>A complemented angler survey to estimate the recreational catch and effort for wahoo off eastern Australia</b> - This project aims to determine the total recreational catch and effort for wahoo, as well as the total game fishing effort, off eastern Australia through the use of a complemented survey design using off-site and on-site methods. While the catch (i.e. landed and released fish) from recreational fisheries is poorly understood, anecdotal evidence suggests it may contribute significantly to the total catch of wahoo off eastern Australia.	University of Queensland & CSIRO marine and Atmospheric Research	\$9,725 SW			
<b>Status of populations of threatened frog species in the Styx River catchment, New England tablelands, near sites where trout releases occur</b> – This project will continue established transect monitoring for the study of trout impacts on endangered frog demographics in the Styx River catchment which contributes to the management of trout stockings.	University of Newcastle	\$9,990 FW			

**Table 2 – New Trust Project applications *deferred or not supported* by RFSTEC, RFFTEC and ACoRF**

Platform: Platform: Fishing access and facilities	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Project title					
<p><b>Pubic pontoon and associated works for recreational fishing on the Williams River at Seaham, NSW</b> - This project is to construct a public recreational fishing pontoon on the western bank of the Williams River south of Seaham Weir and Jimmy Scott Bridge at Seaham with access to the pontoon from Seaham Park. This structure is modeled on a similar public recreational pontoon recently opened at Eildon, Victoria. An access path and seats and tables will be provided by the Seaham Park Committee as part of the approved management plan for the Seaham Park. <b>Note:</b> RFSTEC requested that the application be deferred to the Infrastructure Grants Manager to seek an additional funding contribution from council.</p>	Seaham Park Committee Incorporated	\$96,000 SW			
<p><b>Rehabilitation works - Paddy's Corner Reserve, Thredbo River, Jindabyne</b> – This project will erect 2 interpretative signs, formalise vehicle and fisher access by installing rock bollards and install a designated concrete walking track at this popular fishing spot. <b>Note:</b> RFFTEC requested that the infrastructure components of this Habitat Action Program application be referred to the angling facilities manager for review prior to resubmission.</p>	Monaro Acclimatisation Society	\$23,400 FW			
<p><b>Welcoming native fish back to Quirindi Creek</b> – This project will construct access/viewing platform and produce 2 educational brochures. <b>Note:</b> RFSTEC requested that the infrastructure components of this Habitat Action Program application be referred to the angling facilities manager for review prior to resubmission.</p>	Quirindi Creek Catchment Committee Inc	\$11,200 SW			
<p><b>Improve the water quality of Walka Water Works Dam to accommodate future use of the dam by recreational fishers</b> – This project will purchase 'Little River Pond Mill' to improve water quality in Walka Dam and reduce occurrences of blue-green algal blooms and stage a carp competition. <b>Note:</b> RFFTEC requested that the application be referred to the angling facilities manager for review prior to resubmission.</p>	Maitland City Council - Lynn Morton	\$10,000 FW			
<p><b>Effective engagement of recreational fishers in the east bioregional Planning Process</b> - This project aims to establish communication channels and share information with NSW fishers to enable meaningful engagement in the bioregional planning process. Recfish Australia is proposing to play a major role in the Australian Government's Bioregional Planning consultation process. <b>Note:</b> RFSTEC was concerned that there was still no long term Recfish business plan with a preferred model of future operation and management.</p>	Recfish Australia	\$33,000 SW			

<p><b>Manning River Recreational Fishing Haven promotion brochure</b> - This project will involve the development of advisory brochures that will provide information and education on the Manning River Recreational Fishing Haven. These brochures are intended to promote the Fishing Haven as an important community resource as well as educate on its sustainable utilisation. <b>Note:</b> RFSTEC noted that I&amp;I NSW is producing an informational Primefact brochure for the Manning River area and will provide Council with this brochure so they can distribute in the region.</p>	Greater Taree City Council	\$3,336 SW			
<b>Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing</b>					
Project Title	Organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<p><b>Finding fish passage for Falls Road</b> – This project will undertake preliminary investigations and community consultation regarding restoring fish passage at moderate barrier on Class 1 system. Future remediation of this barrier will open 36 km upstream habitat, 100 km downstream habitat. <b>Note:</b> RFFTEC agreed that this Habitat Action program application be considered as a small grant by the Committee.</p>	RiverSmart Australia	\$8,000 FW			

**Table 3 – New Trust Habitat Action Grants supported by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC**

**SALTWATER**

<b>Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation</b>		
<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Proponent</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
<p><b>One Tree Reach Wetland Restoration Stage 2</b> Investigate the presence and extent of acid sulphate soils in the wetland, recommend and commence remediation of acid sulphate soils affected areas, install interpretative signage.</p>	Hornsby Shire Council	\$15,063
<p><b>Mangrove and riparian rehabilitation, Scott's Creek, Manning Estuary</b> Reduce bank erosion, protect mangroves: Install rock fillets 400m, erect stock proof fence and replant native riparian rainforest.</p>	Paul and Liz Brennan	\$25,000
<p><b>Breaming with fish habitat - Stage 2 saltmarsh expansion at Pemberton Street, Parramatta</b> Value add to Stage 1 project - Stage 2 to expand area of area of salt marsh (Stage 2) 500 square metres, by removing sediment adjacent to the mangrove zone. Native buffer planting with native grasses 700 square metres.</p>	Parramatta City Council	\$31,450
<p><b>Improving sustainable recreational fishing by protecting and regenerating 0.7 km of the Manning River Estuary</b> Protect and regenerate 0.7 km of mangroves along the foreshore of the Manning Estuary through the exclusion of live-stock and construction of rock fillets.</p>	Peter Brame, administered by Greater Taree City Council	\$9,980
<p><b>Improving sustainable recreational fishing by protecting and regenerating 5 km of Mangrove forest in the Manning River Estuary</b> Protect a 5km continuous width of mangrove forest of up to 50 metres in width (25 ha) by the erection of permanent stock management fencing and lantana weed control.</p>	Ross Anderson administered by Greater Taree City Council	\$9,900
<p><b>Pumpkin Point aquatic habitat restoration</b> Reduce bank erosion through construction of rock fillets 0.1 km, revegetate 0.2 km bank, control weeds along 0.2 km.</p>	Riverside Retreat	\$10,439
<p><b>Brunswick River rehabilitation project</b> Rehabilitation at 3 sites: site 1 construct erosion stabilising rock fillets 400 m, site 2 (opposite site 1) erect 1.3 km stock management fencing, Site 3 restore fish passage at Mullumbimby Weir, remove weir entirely open up full length of creek to fish passage 9km, conduct weed control and revegetation at site.</p>	John Bashforth	\$30,000

<p><b>Restoring fish passage at Dargavilles Crossing, Wallamba River</b> Restore fish passage at high priority barrier, construct a full width rock ramp, opens 3 km of upstream habitat, 47 km total habitat.</p>	Greater Taree City Council - Brett Currie	\$30,000
<p><b>Mullet Creek fishway</b> Improve fish passage at second highest priority barrier in region (only barrier on Mullet Creek) - construct of vertical slot fishway. Open up 20 km habitat for fish.</p>	Lake Illawarra Authority	\$30,000
<p><b>Stewarts River Weir full-width rock-ramp fishway</b> Improve fish passage at second highest priority barrier in region - construct full width rock ramp. Open up 63.5 km habitat for fish.</p>	Greater Taree City Council - Brett Currie	\$30,000
<p><b>Rehabilitating fish habitat at Bimbadeen Avenue, Banora Point in the Lower Tweed Estuary</b> Protect and enhance river bank vegetation - 0.66 km weed management, 0.5 ha wetland rehabilitation, 1 interpretative sign, community field day.</p>	Tweed Landcare Inc on behalf of Bimbadeen Landcare Group	\$22,400
<p><b>Fishing and dairying co-existing at 'Greenway' on the Tuross River</b> Riparian fencing 730 m, riparian revegetation with 500 plants, wetland fencing 570 m, wetland revegetation with 1000 plants, weed management across all fenced zones, erosion protection works on laneway, off-stream water system 5 troughs and pipes.</p>	Greg Matthews & Anabel Blake 'Greenway'	\$19,100
<p><b>Fish habitat improvement in the Pambula River Catchment</b> Improve Pambula and Yowaka Rivers – Pambula: fence (electric) and revegetate 750 m reach, create 40 m wide buffer zone, Yowaka: 50 m erosion works, 500 m riparian rehabilitation through fencing and revegetation.</p>	Southern Rivers CMA	\$14,555
<p><b>Pig Island saltmarsh and mangrove restoration - 'Cows out of water'</b> Reduce effluent and sediment input to Shoalhaven River, erect 4.69 km stock management fencing, 4 km revegetation (mangroves, foreshore), 5 ha wetland rehabilitation, 0.35 km weed management, 3 km erosion control works.</p>	Southern Rivers CMA	\$14,441
<p><b>Fish in, mozzies out</b> Improve tidal flushing of isolated pools in an 18ha mangrove wetland to increase access for fish, reduce habitat suitability for mosquitoes and facilitate more efficient conversion of 'energy' from mangrove growth into fish production. Undertake extensive fish and invertebrate sampling throughout project (conducted by university researchers) to identify impact of remediation on fish communities and habitat use of fish.</p>	Tweed Shire Council	\$59,382
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$351,710</b>

## FRESHWATER

Project Title	Organisation	2009/10
<b>Nundle riverside project: Peel River Riparian Rehabilitation</b> - rehabilitation of 500 m of Peel River, remove 5 ha of invasive vegetation (privet, blackberry, willows), replace with native species, improve access for recreational fishers, establish waterwatch water quality and riparian monitoring program	Nundle Community Development Committee	\$14,670
<b>Enhancement of recreational fishing community and habitat in Lake Canobolas</b> – to improve recreational fishing opportunities by providing additional woody habitat for fish species and aggregation areas to enhance angler catch and interpretative and hazard warning sign for fishers and other lake users.	Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society	\$10,278
<b>Wilson River protection and re-snagging project, stage 2</b> – to introduce six (6) engineered log structures into Wilsons River to alleviate bed lowering and bank erosion, revegetate and exclude stock from the 300 m reach	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	\$30,000
<b>Improving Delegate River recreational facilities and opportunities</b> – to undertake 2 km riparian fencing, 2 km revegetation, 4 km weed management, 2 km erosion protection works around Delegate township, 4 interpretative signs, recreational fishing brochure. Infrastructure works as in-kind to project.	Platypus Pals Inc + Delegate Fishing Club	\$13,600
<b>Aquatic habitat protection and improvement on Cooper's Reserve</b> – to rehabilitate a TSR, install 0.8 km stock management fencing (35 ha), 2 offstream water troughs, formalise entry points for rec fishers and other users, 1 km weed management (Lippia, Noogoora and Bathurst burrs), 2 interpretative signs	North West Livestock Health and Pest Authority	\$14,100
<b>Deua River Australian bass habitat rehabilitation 2009/10</b> - Control invasive exotic weeds privet, willows, wild tobacco, vine weeds), main reach 8 km in length, revegetate 500 plants, other strategic sites will also be targeted, community education campaign	Eurobodalla Shire Council	\$12,100
<b>Improving fish passage in Tucki Tucki Creek</b> - sediment removal in the creek, remove and replace fish passage barrier with box culverts opening 2 km upstream habitat (additional works upstream will remove another barrier resulting in a further 2 km passage), revegetate and weed management 100 m around crossing	Lismore City Council	\$13,500
<b>Rowland's Creek causeway reconstruction</b> - Improve fish passage at causeway, replace with box culvert crossing, opens up 20 km upstream habitat	Ken Rippin	\$30,000
<b>Rehabilitation works - Paddy's Corner Reserve, Thredbo River, Jindabyne</b> – to improve health of fishing reserve, 330m stock management fencing, 300m revegetation, 400m erosion & install stock grid and access gates.	Monaro Acclimatisation Society	\$4,400
<b>Welcoming native fish back to Quirindi Creek</b> – to revegetate 2km creek line, 500m weed control, install 2 snags.	Quirindi Creek Catchment Committee Inc	\$7,700
<b>TOTAL approved</b>		<b>\$150,348</b>

**Table 4: New Trust Habitat Action Grants *deferred* by ACoRF and RFFTEC**

**FRESHWATER**

**Large**

Platform: Platform: Fishing access and facilities	Organisation	2009/10
<p><b>Rehabilitation works - Paddy's Corner Reserve, Thredbo River, Jindabyne</b> - to erect 2 interpretative signs, formalise vehicle and fisher access by installing rock bollards, installing a designated concrete walking track.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> RFFTEC recommended that the infrastructure components of be referred to the angling facilities manager for review prior to re-submission.</p>	Monaro Acclimatisation Society	\$23,400
<p><b>Welcoming native fish back to Quirindi Creek</b> – to construct access/viewing platform and produce 2 educational brochures.</p>	Quirindi Creek Catchment Committee Inc	\$11,200

**Small**

Project Title	Organisation	2009/10
<p><b>Improve the water quality of Walka Water Works Dam to accommodate future use of the dam by recreational fishers</b> – to purchase 'Little River Pond Mill' to improve water quality in Walka Dam, reduce occurrences of blue-green algal blooms. Stage carp competition.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> RFFTEC requested the application be referred to the angling facilities manager for review and future re-submission as it is considered a recreational fisheries infrastructure grant.</p>	Maitland City Council - Lynn Morton	\$10,000
<p><b>Finding fish passage for Falls Road</b> – to undertake preliminary investigations and community consultation regarding restoring fish passage at moderate barrier on Class 1 system. Future remediation of this barrier will open 36 km upstream habitat, 100 km downstream habitat.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> That the application be considered as a small research grant by the Committee.</p>	RiverSmart Australia	\$8,000

**Table 5: New Trust Habitat Action Grants *not supported* by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC**

**SALTWATER**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Proponent</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
Clarence Catchment cries 'SOS' - Save our Saltmarsh	Wetland Care Australia	Identify and enhance minimum of 5 key saltmarsh sites in Clarence, engage with local community regarding saltmarsh, wetlands and fish habitat	\$79,435
Manning River Recreational Fishing Support Project - habitat component only	Greater Taree City Council	Rehabilitate 2 - 5 priority hotspots - bank stabilisation, stock exclusion and revegetation. Conduct field days for landholders at demo sites.	\$100,000
Repairing fish habitat in the Hastings River	Oceanwatch Australia Ltd	Rehabilitate a minimum of 6 sites works to include: stock management fencing, off-stream water installation, riparian rehabilitation, weed control, bank stabilisation. Oyster bay clean up remove derelict oyster equipment	\$82,865
Fish Fillets in the Hastings Catchment	Wetland Care Australia	Restore degraded stream banks using rock fillet work, native vegetation regeneration and the installation of stock management fencing. Sites prioritised according to the Estuary Management Plan and CMA CAP	\$69,994
Protection and enhancement of tidal wetland vegetation, Tweed Heads Pony Club Reserve, Cobaki Broadwater (Horses and weeds out - Fish in)	Tweed Shire Council	Protect saltmarsh from grazing - 750 m fence, 4 hectares weed management, wetlands rehabilitation ( 2ha saltmarsh, 1 ha swamp oak, 1 hectare mangrove),	\$13,260
Clean up west Lake Macquarie foreshore	Koombahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council	Manual removal of rubbish over 65 km of shoreline, coordinate meetings with local fishing clubs regarding fishing related rubbish	\$30,000
Improving acid drain water discharge from the Anna Bay Drainage System	Port Stephens Council	Install water control structures to improve water quality draining from Anna Bay drain	\$30,000
Candalagan Creek and Broulee foreshore habitat rehabilitation 2009/10	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Remove exotic weeds 6km from Broulee/Mossy Pt with focus on Candalagan Ck, replant 100 plants where required, promote community involvement	\$25,000
Creating a fish nursery through mangrove rehabilitation	Nyambaga Indigenous Green Team/Ngurrala Aboriginal Corporation	Value add to previous project - restore 250 m river bank using rock fillets, revegetate 500 m, transplant mangroves if necessary	\$25,000
Fish unlimited - Wooli Wooli River habitat project	Wetland Care Australia	Reduce unauthorised vehicle use and illegal fishing activities in reserve (crab pot and net use), decommission unauthorised camp site, undertake 0.3 km weed control, 0.25 ha targeted revegetation, install educational signage for reserve users.	\$29,909
Holmes Drive reserve riverbank restoration	Hawkesbury City Council	Reduce river bank erosion according to best practice, revegetate 100 m river bank approx 5000 plants	\$30,000

## FRESHWATER

### Large

Program	Proponent	2009/10
<b>Nymboida River project - riparian vegetation for fish</b> Rehabilitate 5 km/10 ha of Nymboida River reach from the Junction of the Nymboida and little Nymboida Rivers to Buccurumbi (value adds to 16.5 km already rehabilitated)	Clarence Landcare Inc	\$58,000
<b>Restoration of Big Bend Wetland on Wolli Creek, Sydney for improvement of fish breeding habitat</b> 0.25 km weed management (primrose willow, alligator weed, privet), 0.5 ha wetland rehabilitation, undertake large amounts of plastic rubbish and debris removal.	Wolli Creek Preservation Society	\$20,100
<b>Restoring riparian vegetation and improving fish habitat in Currowan Creek</b> Remove and treat riparian weeds (bamboo) 1200 square metres, revegetate site with native species, 1200 square metres erosion protection works.	Southern Rivers CMA	\$18,605
<b>Riparian restoration and habitat improvement of the Cudgegong River</b> Value add to Stage 1 works (implemented by Council). Stage 2 - riparian rehabilitation - 0.8 km fencing, 1.4 km weed management (willows), 1.4 km revegetation.	Mid Western Regional Council	\$29,800
<b>Coopers Creek riparian restoration project</b> Protect and enhance 1.6 km Coopers Creek - riparian fencing, weed management, revegetation, offstream water troughs, preparation of weed management plan.	Reconnecting to Country (Coopers Creek sub-group)	\$14,954.50
<b>Warrena Creek Weir overflow</b> Create ponds to alleviate erosion at spillway and provide bypass channel fish way for fish. 0.25 km revegetation (30,000 plants in new wetland area), 1.25 ha wetland rehabilitation/construction, 0.25 km weed management, 3 interpretative signs.	Coonamble Shire Council	\$30,000
<b>Protecting and enhancing fish habitat in Wilsons Creek</b> Undertake 2km of weed management and 2 km revegetation along Wilsons Creek produce a newsletter.	Wilson Creek Huonbrook Landcare Group	\$30,000
<b>Talbragar River restoration near Dunedoo NSW</b> Undertake 5 km riparian fencing, insert 12 snags. Community education to follow the project.	Dunedoo Area Community Group Inc	\$23,400
<b>Brewarrina fishtraps &amp; surrounds</b> Undertake 6km revegetation, 6km of weed control and 6 km of erosion protection works around the Brewarrina fish traps, construct and install recreational facilities.	Brewarrina Business Cooperative (Aboriginal Cooperative)	\$30,000
<b>Kanoona Rocks fish habitat enhancement</b> Protect Kanoona Rocks by erecting 1 km riparian fencing, 2.5 km revegetation, 3.5 km weed management (blackberry, remove willow chokes), 3.5 km fish passage works, 2.5 km erosion protection works.	Southern Rivers CMA/Graeme Schuhkraft (landholder)	\$30,000
<b>Willow removal along Macquarie River at 'Macquarie Park' Bushrangers Creek Rd, Wellington</b> Erect 1.2 km riparian stock management fencing, revegetate 0.5 km (250 plants), weed control 0.5 km (mainly willows), erosion protection works 0.5 km.	Kalnee Pastoral Co, - Alan Hutchison	\$21,818
<b>Holmes Drive reserve riverbank restoration</b> Reduce river bank erosion according to best practice, revegetate 100 m river bank approx 5000 plants.	Hawkesbury City Council	\$30,000
<b>Community consultation for fish passage restoration at Bangalow</b> Engage local community about fish passage at Bangalow weir (high priority structure) , facilitate community	Bangalow Land & Rivercare Group Inc	\$19,600

consultation, secure support for disposition of Bangalow Pool weir.		
<b>Mongarlowe River - The Bank Job</b> Stabilise 8 m high eroding creek bank - 0.15 km erosion protection works, 0.15 km riparian revegetation (500 plants), 1.2 km weed control (blackberry, crack willow, black willow), 0.2 km riparian fencing.	Friends of the Mongarlowe River	\$25,576
<b>Bredbo Bridge - 'Bidgee Habitat Rehabilitation Project</b> Rehabilitate approximately 500 m lower Bredbo River - remove willows and other weeds, revegetation, local community involvement.	Dept Territory and Municipal Services, Parks Conservation & Lands	\$30,000
<b>Dicky Gundi River Reserve Habitat Management Plan</b> Produce habitat management plan for the reserve to assess current habitat condition and identify on ground works for future projects, engage local community in process, install interpretative signage.	Dubbo City Council	\$12,100
<b>Little Plains River - Restoration Stage 5</b> Value add to previous works, enhance riparian zone of Little Plains River - 2km weed management (crack willow and blackberry), remove instream chokes - improve fish passage.	Craigie Landcare Group Inc	\$29,958
<b>Turning the tide - a community partnership replacing fish habitat in Sydney's west</b> Continue rehabilitation works - establish 1000 square metres (5000) native plants along riparian zone and control weeds in this area.	Greening Australia	\$30,000
<b>Resnagging in the Upper Hunter River</b> Restore instream structure control erosion in 3 km priority reach in Upper Hunter – install 7 fish hotels, 4 engineered log jams.	Hunter Central Rivers CMA	\$30,000
<b>Gravel road stabilisation to reduce siltation in the Yowaka River</b> Reduce sediment loads and improve water quality in Yowaka River, seal 1.8 km identified priority road sites.	Bega Valley Shire Council	\$30,000

### Small

Program	Proponent	2009/10
<b>Bringin' back the natives</b> Reduce carp populations through establishing an annual carp muster event and revegetation (1000 plants) of several sites with native vegetation.	Dunedoo Area Community Group Inc	\$2,500
<b>Improving fish habitat through restoration of riparian vegetation and stabilisation of eroding banks at Mullet Creek Dapto</b> Protect and enhance Mullet Creek - 400 m riparian revegetation (750 plants), 160 m woody weed removal, primary weed control 280 m western bank, 140 m eastern bank, stabilise eroding creek banks.	Wollongong Shire Council	\$7,275
<b>Riparian zone protection &amp; stabilisation along Maguires Creek &amp; 2 subsidiary creeks</b> Undertake riparian rehabilitation works including revegetation and weed control along 1.1. km of Maguires Creek, and bank stabilisation along 0.5km.	Margaret Stanger	\$8,400
<b>Sandy Creek habitat regeneration</b> Remove grazing from banks of Sandy Creek, 1 km riparian fencing, 6 km revegetation (3000 trees), off stream water troughs, , 1 km weed control, 1 km erosion protection works, undercover BBQ to be built by fishing club for children's	Greg Lye	\$3,500

fishing clinics.		
<b>Improving aquatic habitat in Slaters Creek</b> Undertake woody weed control (> 2 ha), remove instream build up of aquatic weed, revegetate >2 ha, 475 m wetland rehabilitation, install up to 14 cubic meters woody debris.	Lismore City Council	\$8,500
<b>Baradine Creek Erosion Control Project</b> Reduce run-off to Baradine Ck - 3.5 km stock management temporary electric fencing, 3.5 km revegetation (30 m wide buffers), 3.5 km erosion protection works - reconstruction 20 m of eroding bank.	Epping Pastoral Co Pty Ltd (Slack-Smith)	\$5,605