

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) meeting OUTCOMES

Meeting Number: 61 **Date:** 3 August 2021 **Time:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Location: Videoconference
Invitees: Bruce Schumacher AM (Chair), Paul Connellan (Region 1), Lisa Terry (Region 2), Geoff Shelton (Region 3), Karl Attenborough (Region 4), Michael Aubrey (Region 5), Anna Clark (Region 6), Ann Garard (Region 7), Micah Adams (Region 8), Cassie Price (OzFish), Adrian Wayne (AUF), Grahame Williams OAM (NSW GFA), Damian Kerves (AFTA), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI)

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Lisa Terry, Adrian Wayne

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 60th RFSTEC meeting on 30th March were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded Ann Garard, Carried**

4. Action items from previous meeting

The progress of action items from the previous meeting was noted.

5. Recreational Fishing Trust items

- a. The financial status of the Saltwater Trust was presented to members. Statistics and trends of licence sales for the various licence types were discussed.
- b. A total of 8 Saltwater Trust grant applications were received by DPI since the last meeting in March. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration prior to submission to the Minister for approval (Table 1).
- c. **Project variation - NSW Fishway Strategy for Fish Passage Remediation at Priority Barriers**

A project variation was sought to reallocate remaining carryover funds to the development of industry standards for fishway operations and maintenance, policy and guidelines for fishway installation and a website to promote the fishway strategy and achievements.

6. Project updates

Presentations were provided on the following programs:

- NSW Fishway Strategy
- Marine Fish Stocking
- Great Swordfish Race
- Artificial Reefs

Table 1. Summary of Saltwater Trust grant applications SUPPORTED for funding.

Platform: Fishing Access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Too Good To Lose! Water Police and Police on ferry patrols to help keep Sydney Harbour ferry wharves open to fishing	NSW DPI	<p>The Marine Area Command water patrols has been jointly funded by Roads and Maritime Services and the Recreational Fishing Trusts since 2017 and promotes responsible fishing behaviour on Sydney Harbour's wharves and piers during the key summer fishing season. The project provides an effective enforcement presence to help manage issues involving rubbish, noise and anti-social behaviour on more than 50 commuter ferry wharves and Walsh Bay piers. This project also includes an additional new component with Police officers onboard ferries at peak fishing times to further combat ongoing issues recently encountered ensuring continued recreational fisher access and improved public perception of fishing on the wharves.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Paul Connellan, Carried.</p>	SW \$230,000	SW \$0	SW \$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Enhancing coastal recreational fishing opportunities by installing two new offshore artificial reefs	NSW DPI	<p>A recent Ministerial expression of interest survey has identified the need for more artificial reefs as a high priority among recreational fishers. Stakeholder expectations of this program continue to remain high as artificial reefs are well accepted as an excellent way to maximise recreational fishing opportunities along the NSW coast. Installation methods and reef design continue to improve as the program evolves, resulting in high quality, cost effective fish habitat for recreationally targeted species. This project will involve the delivery of two new offshore artificial reefs in 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Paul Connellan, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.</p>	SW \$0	SW \$1,100,000	SW \$1,100,000

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
NSW Recreational Fishing Strategy – Creative document design	NSW DPI	To create engaging communications approaches across a range of media (print, online and social) for the NSW Recreational Fishing Strategy, which will identify and highlight “key selling points” to effectively engage NSW recreational fishers and promote the overall vision for the recreational fishing sector. SUPPORTED. Moved: Ann Garard, Seconded: Mick Aubrey, Carried.	SW \$15,000 FW \$5,000	SW \$0 FW \$0	SW \$0 FW \$0
NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Annual Report 2021 and beyond – Creative design of print and online publications	NSW DPI	To create online and print publications for the <i>Recreational Fishing Trust Annual Report 2021</i> , which promotes the achievements of programs supported by the Recreational Fishing Trust. The publication will be highly graphic (including photographs and infographics) and high profile, available as both a website and printable A4 document. Subsequent reports will also be prepared. SUPPORTED. Moved: Anna Clark, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.	SW \$50,000 FW \$20,000	SW \$50,000 FW \$20,000	SW \$50,000 FW \$20,000
Two new saltwater Fishcare advisory trailers	NSW DPI	Involves two new advisory trailers for the Fishcare Program to replace the existing North Coast and South Coast trailers, which after extensive advisory use are becoming unsightly and not suitable for ongoing use (e.g. rust, wrapping, breaking parts etc). The trailers are both over 10 years of age and ongoing patch-up and repair is no longer cost effective or feasible. Each trailer attends over 50 events per year, with 60% being 2 days or more. There are currently six advisory education trailers in use across the state with two trailers being replaced last year. SUPPORTED. Moved: Mick Aubrey, Seconded: Karl Attenborough, Carried	SW \$48,598	SW \$0	SW \$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Developing genetic tools to improve management of captive Mulloway broodfish for stock enhancement	University of the Sunshine Coast	<p>This will develop hatchery and molecular techniques to select genetically diverse hatchery-reared mullocky fingerlings (F1) of known sex and to ongrow them to maturity in tanks at PSFI. A breeding plan will be developed that will ensure fingerlings produced from the F1 broodfish will satisfy the essential genetic diversity criteria required for ongoing stocking into NSW estuaries.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Damian Kerves, Seconded: Paul Connellan, Carried</p>	SW \$96,257	SW \$83,781	SW \$93,486
Informing sustainable multi-sector harvest of NSW Estuary Cockles	NSW DPI	<p>This project will inform the sustainable management of NSW Estuary Cockle, including the burgeoning recreational harvest, filling critical knowledge gaps in their reproductive biology and ecology and in understanding resource use among sectors.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ann Garard, Seconded: Mick Aubrey, Carried</p> <p>RFSTEC noted hand gatherers are recreational fishers and are required to pay a licence and there is a fisher expectation for any rule changes related to sustainability to be based on good science. The Committee noted there is an apparent data deficiency for cockles in NSW.</p>	SW \$60,000	SW \$60,000	SW \$60,000
Statewide recreational fishing survey and charter boat monitoring	NSW DPI	<p>The project seeks continuation of funding for the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program (RFMP), which includes 1) an ongoing time series of state-wide recreational fisheries catch, effort, and socioeconomic data, and 2) ongoing monitoring of the Charter Boat Fishery. The information collected is essential for monitoring, assessment and management of recreational fisheries, and broader fisheries resources within NSW.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.</p>	SW \$266,609 FW \$29,623	SW \$645,927 FW \$71,770	SW \$862,663 FW \$95,851