

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) meeting OUTCOMES

Meeting Number: 64 **Date:** 2 November 2022 **Time:** 9:00am – 12:00pm
Location: Videoconference
Invitees: Bruce Schumacher AM (Chair), Paul Connellan (Region 1), Lisa Terry (Region 2), Geoff Shelton (Region 3), Karl Attenborough (Region 4), Mick Aubrey (Region 5), Anna Clark (Region 6), Ann Garard (Region 7), Micah Adams (Region 8), Grahame Williams OAM (NSW Game Fishing Association/RFNSW), Cassie Price (OzFish), Damian Kerves (AFTA), Adrian Wayne (Australian Underwater Federation), Peter Turnell (DPI)

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Karl Attenborough, Ann Garard, Micah Adams, Cassie Price, Adrian Wayne, Peter Turnell

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 63rd RFSTEC meeting held on 26 July 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Damian Kerves, seconded Geoff Shelton, carried.**

4. Recreational Fishing Trust items

a. Status of the Saltwater Trust

The financial status of the Saltwater Trust was presented to members. DPI advised expressions of interest are being sought for upcoming vacancies on the Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure Committees (RFSTEC and RFFTEC).

b. Review of new Saltwater grant applications

A total of seven Saltwater Trust grant applications were received since the last meeting. Funding recommendations with respect to each project (Tables 1 and 2) will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration prior to submission to the Minister for approval.

5. Presentations

Presentations and project updates were provided for the following programs: Fish for Life program (DPI); Recreational fishing licence administration enhancements project (DPI); Surf Life Saving NSW – rock fishing safety and skills program (Surf Life Saving NSW); Driving fish habitat action with a Landcare NSW / OzFish community partnership (OzFish); and Artificial reefs, FADs and fish stocking (DPI).

6. General business

Geoff Shelton has been nominated to attend the World Recreational Fishing Conference in Melbourne in February 2023 as the RFSTEC representative.

Table 1 Summary of new Saltwater Trust grant applications SUPPORTED for funding by RFSTEC

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2022/23	2023/24
FishSmarter, tag smarter – Bringing 50 years of the NSW Game Fish Tagging Program into the digital world	NSW DPI	<p>To celebrate 50 years of the NSW Game Fish Tagging Program, it is time to take Australia’s first citizen science program into the digital world and straight into angler’s hands using the established FishSmart app. It is proposed to develop a quick and slick electronic function for anglers to not only directly enter their tag information, but also provide access to their own history of tagged and recaptured fish on their fisher profile. This will not only provide a great new age service to fishers and organisations, but will streamline the manual entry process and store data in a secure and modernised way.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded Damian Kerves, Carried.</p>	SW \$90,000	SW \$10,000
NSW Gone Fishing Day 2023 and 2024 – promoting participation and celebrating the benefits of recreational fishing, while supporting local organisations and industries in NSW	NSW DPI	<p>In collaboration with the annual national Gone Fishing, DPI has been running on-ground and virtual activities in NSW since 2015 with funding support from the RFT. The day is all about promoting fishing as a fun, healthy, outdoors fishing activity for the whole family. Each year small funding grants or fishing packages are made available to fishing clubs and organisations to host local events, while the DPI Fishcare Program hosts up to six major community events across NSW. Future Gone Fishing Day events and activities are proposed for 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded Geoff Shelton, Carried.</p>	SW \$95,000 FW \$35,000	SW \$95,000 FW \$35,000
Winter School Holidays Junior Fishing Competition 2023	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc.	<p>The Winter School Holidays Junior Fishing Competition was instigated in 2020 by MBGLAC to support junior angling, local Merimbula fishing tackle stores and tourism during the slower winter period. Looking now to its fourth year, the competition has become entrenched in the calendar with over 120 registered entrants for 2022 plus their parents. Projections for 2023 is for 150 entrants.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved Mick Aubrey, Seconded Geoff Shelton, Carried.</p>	SW \$4,120	

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Driving Fish Habitat Action-a Landcare NSW/OzFish community partnership	OzFish Unlimited	Forty new (40) waterways will have their local community taking action to improve their health, with fish habitat restoration sites established by OzFish and Landcare combining resources across NSW, building a network of skilled volunteers to continue the work well into the future. SUPPORTED. Moved Damian Kerves, Seconded Anna Clark, Carried.		SW \$169,200 FW \$112,800	SW \$169,200 FW \$112,800

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Laying the foundation for Mulloway stock recovery through filling critical knowledge gaps and modelling	NSW DPI	This project will inform rebuilding efforts and future management to recover the NSW Mulloway stock within the species' harvest strategy by filling critical knowledge gaps and population modelling. SUPPORTED. Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded Paul Connellan, Carried.		SW \$125,000	SW \$125,000	SW \$125,000
Oyster reef restoration boosts recreationally important fish	NSW DPI	NSW DPI is restoring historically lost oyster reefs throughout NSW. In doing so, oyster reef restoration will provide habitat for more fish and improve waterway health. While oyster reef restoration is generally well received and expanding in NSW, a better understanding is needed of how recreationally important species use these reefs and the specific benefits they provide. This will be done by acoustically tracking juvenile and adult Bream and Dusky Flathead around restored oyster reef habitat in Port Stephens. SUPPORTED. Moved Anna Clark, Seconded Paul Connellan, Carried.	SW \$32,110	SW \$4,480		

Table 2 Summary of new Saltwater Trust grant applications NOT SUPPORTED for funding by RFSTEC

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project summary	2022/23	2023/24
Crowdy Head Harbour fishing platform	Transport for New South Wales	<p>To remove the redundant and unsafe jetty 2 within Crowdy Head Harbour and replace it with a dedicated fishing platform. The platform will provide for persons of all abilities and be of traditional timber construction.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded Damian Kerves, Carried.</p> <p>RFSTEC recommended the applicant resubmits with a reduced budget. The platform design in the revised application must include railings around the entire structure with signage to deter boaters from tying to the structure.</p>	SW \$216,583	