

# Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27

January 2025

## Vision

Deliver a wide range of programs to boost recreational fishing opportunities in NSW.

## Goals

- Innovative projects to boost recreational fishing tourism opportunities.
- Promotion of recreational fishing as a healthy, outdoors activity for the whole family.
- Educating fishers to fish responsibly and safely.
- Promoting the sustainable growth of recreational fishing.

## Background

All money raised by the NSW Recreational Fishing Licence Fee is placed into the Recreational Fishing Trusts and spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW.

Over 3,400 projects have been funded from recreational fishing licence fees in NSW since 2001 and many of these have been completed. These include Recreational Fishing, Habitat Action, Community Native Fish Stocking (formerly Dollar-for-Dollar Stocking), Fuel Card Assistance, Gone Fishing Day grants, and DPIRD projects.

This Investment Plan provides a guide on expenditure of funds on projects in key priority areas from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts over the current three-year period (refer to tables 1-7 below). New projects to take account of any new emerging priorities for expenditure of Trust funds are periodically added to this Plan following each funding round.

A range of partners are undertaking the projects in this Plan, including DPIRD, other government organisations, fishing clubs, community groups and universities. The NSW Government also continues to contribute funding from general state revenue every year to manage and improve recreational fishing in NSW.

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The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing [January 2025]. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the DPIRD or the user's independent adviser.

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## Priority areas for funding opportunities

1. Fishing enhancement – e.g. fish aggregating devices, artificial reefs, fish stocking.
2. Education – e.g. fishing workshops, Fishcare volunteers, schools education, fishing advisory, increasing participation in recreational fishing.
3. Fishing access and facilities – e.g. fishing platforms, cleaning tables, safety infrastructure & other facilities, protecting fishing access.
4. Aquatic habitat rehabilitation – e.g. habitat action grants to improve fish habitat.
5. Research on recreational fishing – e.g. fishing surveys, stock assessment, angler catch projects.
6. Enforcement of fishing rules – fisheries officers.

## What have Trust investment plans delivered on?

### Fast facts:

- Boosted stocking in creeks and dams to around 5 million native fish and trout and salmon each year.
- Offshore artificial reefs constructed off Sydney, Shoalhaven Heads, Port Macquarie, Southern Sydney ("JD" reef), Merimbula, Newcastle, Wollongong, Tweed Heads, Batemans Bay, Terrigal and Forster. More reefs to follow soon.
- Fish aggregating devices deployed at 34 locations each year to boost angler catch.
- Around 100 schools and 2,000 kids participating in 'Get Hooked...it's fun to fish' program each year.
- Over 400 fish habitat grants have been provided to remove barriers to fish migration, replanting riverbank vegetation and restoring water flows.
- Fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms constructed each year.
- 125 Fishcare Volunteers out and about promoting responsible fishing.

Previous Investment Plans can be downloaded from -

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work)

## Applying for funding

Two major rounds of funding are advertised each year by DPIRD calling for applications.

Anyone can apply for funding from the Trusts, including fishing clubs, community groups, councils and educational institutions. More information on how to apply for funding can be found at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work/apply-for-funds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work/apply-for-funds)

## Partnerships and linkages

It is recognised that some projects can benefit other sectors such as commercial and Aboriginal fishing, conservation, boating, etc. DPIRD will work with project applicants to identify and leverage

funding where there is overlap of benefits and encourage various sector groups to collaborate to boost potential outcomes of projects. Joint funding arrangements are actively encouraged.

## Assessment

Applications are carefully assessed against a range of general eligibility and assessment criteria, that apply to all applications;

- Funding applications must relate to the improvement of recreational fishing and provide a high level of recreational fishing benefit (including the extent of benefit to recreational fishers against other user groups)
- Projects must show appropriate and adequate expertise within the project team to complete the project including track record of project delivery (where relevant).
- Projects must be technically sound and utilise best practice.
- Projects must have an accurate, cost-effective budget which shows value for money.
- Projects must show stakeholder support for the project (where relevant).
- Project activities must not be of a commercial nature or include commercial ventures or materials developed for a primarily commercial purpose.
- Project budgets must not include contingency funding or costs for purchase of vehicles or fishing vessels to be used for recreational or commercial purposes.

There are also platform specific criteria which are outlined in the 'Recreational Fishing Trusts Funding Guidelines'. Angler committees provide recommendations to the Minister's Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council which in turn provides advice to the Minister for Agriculture. Successful projects are promoted in the media to advise fishers about new and ongoing projects to benefit recreational fishing.

## Financial accountability

It is important that the Trusts are accountable to the community for how Trust funds are spent. DPIRD carries out periodic surveys of recreational fishing licence holders to ensure that the broad funding priorities are in line with angler expectations. Trust financial statements are published on the DPIRD website. Independent audits of the Trusts are also undertaken periodically.

Table 1: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts 2024/25 – 2026/27.

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Note: SW and FW denote the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts, respectively. Amounts shown are the approved funds for each project.

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Allworth Fishing Jetty Refurbishment Major refurbishment of timber jetty including structural components, all past useful life and in urgent need of replacement. These works will complement the scheduled upgrade of the adjoining boat ramp and pontoon (LRCI) funded.	MidCoast Council		\$101,302 SW	\$0	\$0
Berry Jerry Lagoon Track upgrade (Murrumbidgee R) A project to improve a flood damaged track and gate system that leads to a large reserve system at Berry Jerry Lagoon. The improvements will increase access to 2 km of the Murrumbidgee River and provide large boat access to an established earthen boat launch.	Southwest Anglers Association		\$8,350 FW	\$0	\$0
Eight-person Fish Cleaning Table at Apex Park Laurieton The removal of the old, dilapidated table and replacement with a new eight-person fish cleaning table. Includes faucets connected to potable water supply.	Port Macquarie Hastings Council		\$39,250 SW	\$0	\$0
Eight-person Fish Cleaning Table at McInherney Park Port Macquarie The removal of the old, dilapidated table and replacement with a new eight-person fish cleaning table. Includes faucets connected to potable water supply.	Port Macquarie Hastings Council		\$39,250 SW	\$0	\$0
Fishing Upgrade iNfrastructure Across Shoalhaven 2024-26 (FUN-AS 3) Repair, refurbishment and upgrade of <u>FIVE</u> old recreational fishing platforms across the Shoalhaven region for increased resilience to	Shoalhaven City Council		\$375,000 SW	\$0	\$0

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
storms and flooding, with significantly improved accessibility for locals and visiting tourists. The project includes five subprojects.					
<p>Harwood Island Fishing Club Shade Shelter</p> <p>To build a shelter over the existing fish cleaning table that does not have any protection from the sun or inclement weather, and install a stainless steel cover to the existing concrete table top for health reasons.</p>	Harwood Island Fishing Club Inc.		\$7,525 SW	\$0	\$0
<p>Keeping Recreational Fishing Access on Sydney Harbour Wharves &amp; Piers</p> <p>Sydney Harbour's 50 ferry wharves network and Walsh Bay piers are the most valuable access asset to recreational fishers in the Sydney region, providing safe and convenient fishing platforms for everyone. Given their huge popularity, there is unfortunately ongoing anti-social behaviour by some recreational fishers. This project involves facilitating Water Police patrols at night to provide a highly visual deterrent on the wharves and piers and to promote fishers to behave respectfully and to be courteous to ferry commuters and other user groups. The project also involves some cleaning services for the Walsh Bay piers. These funds are disbursed to Transport for NSW which manages the patrols in consultation with Water Police.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries (in partnership with Transport for NSW)	\$250,000 SW	\$250,000 SW	\$250,000 SW
<p>Lake Lyell Fishing Access Upgrade</p> <p>A project to enhance and retain foot-based angler access for recreational fishers with limited ability to the Farmers Creek arm of Lake Lyell.</p>	Wallerawang CAS		\$8,500 FW	\$0	\$0
<p>Maintaining and enhancing angler access in inland NSW</p> <p>Great fishing depends on accessing great places to fish! In order to ensure NSW's 1 million + recreational fishers enjoy great fishing now and into the future, DPIRD's Angler Access team delivers a range of</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$378,251 FW	\$390,322 FW	\$401,530 FW

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
projects to maintain and enhance access to inland NSW recreational fisheries. Key priorities of our two person team include identifying new access opportunities, maintenance and promotion of the Angler Access website, assessment and input into public road and land closures/acquisitions, actively encouraging responsible fishing and stewardship via the Angler Access Code of Conduct, developing and implementing an Angler Access Action Plan and working with land managers and partner agencies to promote the benefits of well-managed access to provide diverse angling opportunities.					
<p>Maintenance of Spencer Park Floating Jetty/Fishing Platform</p> <p>To assist the management of the new Spencer Park Merimbula Floating Jetty adjacent to the Merimbula Big Game &amp; Lakes Angling Club Inc's Club house at Merimbula. The new jetty is a very popular community facility, now used daily by both local and visiting anglers as a fishing platform.</p>	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc.		\$2,890 SW	\$0	\$0
<p>Recreational fishing access – maintaining and enhancing land and boat access for fishers along the NSW coast</p> <p>Great fishing depends on accessing great places to fish! In order to ensure NSW's 1 million + recreational fishers enjoy great fishing now and into the future, DPIRD's Angler Access team delivers a range of projects to maintain and enhance access to NSW recreational fisheries. Key priorities of the Coastal Access Officer include identifying new access opportunities, assessment and input into National Parks plans of management, actively encouraging responsible fishing and stewardship via the Angler Access Code of Conduct, and working with land managers and partner agencies to promote responsible fishing while fishers are interacting with the many other water user groups on our busy coastal waterways.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$208,204 SW	\$214,000 SW	\$219,300 SW

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Replace fishing platform Lintern St Wharf, DAVISTOWN. NSW 2251 To replace an aging wooden fishing platform at Davistown with marine/weather durable material including a pedestrian bridge. The project will enable people with disabilities to better access the facility.	Davistown Progress Association Inc.		\$11,035 SW	\$0	\$0
Sandy Point - Fisherman's Bend Platform To reconstruct a failing retaining wall to allow better and safer access to the Fisherman's Bend Platform and the Sandy Point boat ramp.	Hay Shire Council		\$98,300 FW	\$0	\$0
Tumbulgum village fish cleaning facility To provide the local community & tourists with a quality fish cleaning facility to go alongside the existing boat ramp and jetty with disabled access. This facility will give the village a facility that complies with the DPIRD rules for cleaning fish.	Tumbulgum Fishing Club Inc.		\$26,210 SW	\$0	\$0

Table 2: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts 2024/25 – 2026/27.

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement

Note: SW and FW denote the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts, respectively. Amounts shown are the approved funds for each project.

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
<p>\$2 for \$1 native fish stocking program</p> <p>This highly popular project “doubles down” on volunteer efforts to boost freshwater native fish stocks via an innovative fish stocking program where Trust funding is provided at a rate of \$2 for every \$1 from community groups.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$500,000 FW	\$500,000 FW	\$500,000 FW
<p>Accelerating eastern freshwater cod production in the hatchery and the wild</p> <p>This project builds on recent success with nest box experimentation for eastern freshwater cod. The aim is to improve freshwater recreational fisheries in NSW which will result in economic, social and environmental benefits.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$546,352 FW	\$460,068 FW	\$431,389 FW
<p>Assessing and managing freshwater fish stocking proposals. Boosting recreational fishing opportunities via effective and efficient assessment of freshwater stocking proposals.</p> <p>This project boosts recreational fishing opportunities in inland NSW via the effective and efficient assessment of freshwater fish stocking proposals. This involves the preparation of fish stocking plans, site assessments, analysis of fish stocking data, liaison with fish stocking groups, and issuing fish stocking permits. Regular engagement with stakeholders to discuss options for fish stocking within public waterways and to provide advice on current fish stocking programs is a key aspect of the project.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$161,548 FW	\$166,323 FW	\$170,730 FW
<p>Boosting freshwater fish stocks in NSW with popular species to enhance recreational fishing opportunities</p> <p>Further boost and enhance freshwater fishing opportunities for popular native and salmonid species across NSW by enabling the Dutton, Grafton,</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$713,875 FW	\$736,555 FW	\$758,105 FW



Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Port Stephens and Narrandera fish hatcheries to produce and stock more fish.					
<p>Boosting our fisheries: stocking NSW estuaries with popular species to enhance recreational fishing opportunities</p> <p>This marine stocking program involves the breeding and release of key species including Mulloway and Dusky Flathead along the coast of NSW using the world's best stocking practices to enhance recreational fishing in estuaries. Stockings are guided by a Fisheries Management Strategy to ensure a responsible approach.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$525,204 SW	\$562,000 SW	\$602,300 SW
<p>Cracking the Code on Captive Breeding of Macquarie perch</p> <p>This project will 'crack the code' on captive breeding of Macquarie perch, allowing for the species to be reliably and consistently bred in captivity using hatchery broodstock, rather than relying on harvest of broodstock from dwindling wild populations. This work will save Macquarie perch from extinction and ultimately re-establish recreational fisheries for Macquarie perch across its former range in NSW, Victoria and ACT.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$75,000 FW	\$75,000 FW	\$75,000 FW
<p>Enhancing coastal fisheries: Making reefs and FADs happen</p> <p>Artificial reefs and fish aggregating devices (FADs) are two of the most popular programs funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts providing new high quality, fishing locations for anglers. This project involves a dedicated fisheries manager to manage and coordinate the programs to make them happen. The role facilitates environmental assessments, State and Commonwealth approvals, tenders and monitoring of artificial reefs.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$321,000 SW	\$327,579 SW	\$333,592 SW
<p>Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) – more places for people to fish</p> <p>The FADs program provides reliable offshore fishing locations where recreational fishers can target a variety of popular pelagic fish over the spring, summer and autumn months. This project involves a dedicated FADs officer responsible for procurement of hardware, assembly and installation of FADs, replacement and maintenance where required, removal of all FADs</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$378,366 SW	\$383,449 SW	\$388,097 SW

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
at the close of each season and providing fishers with up-to-date FADs information via a range of media avenues including email, social media and smartphone apps.					
Fuel cards assistance program Assisting community groups with transport costs to and from fish stocking events and other recreational fishing enhancement activities via the management and provision of fuel cards.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$15,000 FW	\$15,000 FW	\$15,000 FW
Funding support to assist with continued operation of the volunteer-run Manilla Native Fish Hatchery To obtain funding support from the Recreational Fishing Trust to enable this long-running volunteer operated community hatchery to continue operations to produce and stock native fish for the benefit of local and visiting anglers to the Manilla region and surrounds.	Manilla Fishing Club & Hatchery Inc		\$10,000 FW	\$0	\$0
Gaden Trout Hatchery - Boosting salmonid fish stocks in southern and central NSW. This project ensures the continued delivery of high-quality fishing via the production and stocking of Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout, Tiger Trout and Atlantic Salmon in rivers, streams and impoundments across NSW's premier salmonid fisheries including the Snowy Mountains, Southern Highlands and Central Tablelands.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$896,842 FW	\$946,436 FW	\$999,013 FW
NSW DPIRD Freshwater Fish Tagging To increase the number of fish tagged and broaden the species included in the current tagging program. This will focus on increasing the number of tagged fish released by NSW DPIRD trout hatcheries and expanding the locations of where these fish are stocked. This would also look at the expansion of the program to include tagging of native species by NSW DPIRD.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$15,000 FW	\$20,000 FW	\$25,000 FW

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Restoring catfish through partnerships – A partnership based traditional approach to restocking and restoring native fish Catfish have significant cultural and recreational value. Restocking catfish populations at crucial traditional creek and wetland locations, is a vital step toward revitalizing the profound cultural and recreational significance that catfish hold for the local and visiting community.	Edward-Wakool Angling Association (EWAA)		\$25,000 FW	\$25,000 FW	\$25,000 FW
Upgrading Water Supply and Filtration Infrastructure for Gaden Trout Hatchery. The current \$8.657M upgrade of the Gaden Trout Hatchery is progressing on program and will deliver a new hatchery building and dedicated refurbished tourist facility. However, the project's construction has highlighted the need to upgrade the ageing water supply infrastructure and water filtration system. Much of the hydraulic infrastructure is 50 years old. Many valves are inoperable, pipework is at end of life and the existing bell filter is inoperable, redundant and bypassed. To future-proof the ongoing operation of the station, an upgrade of main supply line/associated components as well as an advanced filtration system is required. This upgrade would also greatly benefit the proposed Snowy 2.0 concept works that are slated to begin in the coming years.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$600,000 FW	\$0	\$0

Table 3: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts 2024/25 – 2026/27.

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Note: SW and FW denote the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts, respectively. Amounts shown are the approved funds for each project.

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Broken Bay Game Fishing Club Junior fishing Development program Introduction to fishing for parents and children of all ages. Rods and fishing tackle to be provided by Broken Bay Game Fishing Club for all participants to take home and use at later date. Lunch and refreshments provided at end of fishing day. Junior development program to run throughout the year, one day per month. Junior development program open to all juniors with parents wanting to learn the basics of safe boating with all aspects of fishing on board and off board our club boats.	Broken Bay Game Fishing Club \ Division of RMYC		\$4,500 SW	\$0	\$0
Casting and Connecting - Mental Fitness, Recreational Fishing Retreats The 'Casting and Connecting' program will see 36, four-day recreational fishing, mental fitness retreats hosted at both freshwater and coastal fisheries in NSW, supporting 360 NSW community participants over three years.	The Fly Program		\$36,000 SW \$36,000 FW	\$36,000 SW \$36,000 FW	\$36,000 SW \$36,000 FW
Come Fish With Us – Teaching the fishing custodians of tomorrow, instilling passion & drive that encourages continuation in the sport This interactive Come Fish with Us program runs around 90 fishing workshops each year for 8000 kids and adults per year how to fish throughout NSW in a responsible and sustainable manner. Creating a fun, enjoyable educational experience, teaching the basics of fishing so they continue in the sport for life. Our mission is to create the fishing steward's and champions of tomorrow. The workshops are inclusive involving people from diverse backgrounds, including people with disabilities, multicultural communities, the elderly etc and promote the positive physical and mental wellbeing benefits of recreational fishing.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$42,000 SW \$28,000 FW	\$42,000 SW \$28,000 FW	\$42,000 SW \$28,000 FW
Engaging, educating, and empowering at-risk rock fishing communities to fish safely on our coastlines. Delivering targeted rock fishing safety education through the provision of 1,500 lifejackets into community along with rock fishing safety workshops, classroom-	Surf Life Saving NSW		\$298,590 SW	\$0	\$0

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
based education, family targeted school programs, advanced practical skill sessions, lifejacket libraries and rock fishing safety resources.					
<p>Fishcare Grassroots Fishing Education</p> <p>The dedicated and passionate network of Fishcare Volunteers across NSW provides face to face and hands-on education to recreational fishers on the ground. Targeted messaging is used to promote responsible and sustainable fishing ('Fish for Life'). Fishcare also plays a key role in the running of the Get Hooked...its fun to fish schools' program and the many Come Fish with Us sessions held each year. Our mission is to create a team of fishing stewards that champion, responsible fishing and a sustainable secure fishing future for our fishing community. Fishcare Volunteers are serviced by 6 dedicated Recreational Fishing Education Officers based regionally throughout NSW.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	<p>\$840,912 SW</p> <p>\$360,391 FW</p>	<p>\$861,108 SW</p> <p>\$369,046 FW</p>	<p>\$879,575 SW</p> <p>\$376,960 FW</p>
<p>Fishing 4 All</p> <p>Introduce people with disabilities specifically those with Intellectual Impairment to Fishing through education, mentorship and volunteering. The program aims to bring joy and friendship into people's lives through fishing and the outdoors, building networks and support groups for those that can feel isolated and unable to take the first step of wetting a line alone. As an accredited NDIS provider, we will work with local partners to deliver 2x 8 weekly programs with the view that the projects will continue with supported assistance over the next 12 months.</p>	4Titude		<p>\$10,000 SW</p>	\$0	\$0
<p>Fly Fishing Day for people who have experienced breast cancer</p> <p>The exercise of fly fishing is beneficial to all who have experienced breast cancer not only the physical but the mental aspect of joining with people who have much in common. Annual events will be held for people who have experienced breast cancer.</p>	New England Acclimatisation Society		<p>\$2,000 FW</p>	\$2,000 FW	\$2,000 FW

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
<p>Get Hooked It's Fun to Fish! Free schools program</p> <p>This interactive discovery program introduces around 4000 primary school students to freshwater and marine fishing, the significance of aquatic life, catch and release skills and the importance of sustaining a quality fish habitat, while practising safe and responsible fishing behaviours. The program is open to all schools in NSW, including home schools and delivers targeted messaging through a series of practical in class lessons and practical fishing workshops at a local waterway. While the focus has been on primary schools, the high schools program is being launched in the first half of 2024.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$343,819 SW \$147,351 FW	\$353,275 SW \$151,404 FW	\$361,925 SW \$155,110 FW
<p>Gone Fishing Day</p> <p>The annual Gone Fishing Day is run in October each year to celebrate recreational fishing as a fun, healthy, outdoors activity that everyone can participate in. DPIRD continues to run 6 major events across NSW on the Day to celebrate the day with various community-based activities (try fishing sessions, casting competitions, giveaways etc). Fishing clubs and organisations are also provided the opportunity for funding grants or fishing packages to run their own events on the Day. In 2023, over 100 fishing organisations participated in Gone Fishing Day.</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$95,000 SW \$35,000 FW	\$95,000 SW \$35,000 FW	\$95,000 SW \$35,000 FW
<p>NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts Annual Report – Creative design of print and online publications</p> <p>To create an online and print publication for the Recreational Fishing Trust Annual Report, 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 a printable A4 document.</p>		DPI Fisheries	\$28,000 SW \$12,000 FW	\$28,000 SW \$12,000 FW	\$28,000 SW \$12,000 FW
<p>NSW Saltwater and Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guides – One stop shop for all essential fishing information</p> <p>These guides provide an easy-to-read summary of essential information fishers need before they go fishing. This includes important information like fishing rules, gear descriptions, licences and Recreational Fishing Trusts information, sustainable</p>		DPIRD Fisheries	\$87,500 SW \$37,500 FW	\$87,500 SW \$37,500 FW	\$87,500 SW \$37,500 FW

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
fishing practices and much more. It is proposed to produce 200,000 per year. The guides represent a one stop shop for anglers to access their fishing information. It is especially popular with new or beginner fishos, but it is still readily requested by experienced anglers at tackle shops and events.					
Recreational Fishing for Students with a Disability – Morisset High School Development of social skills, engagement with leisure activities and awareness of local waterways through recreational fishing for students with disabilities at Morisset HS.	Morisset High School		\$2,515 SW	\$0	\$0
St Peter’s Anglican College Marine and Aquaculture Technology Purchase and organize fishing tackle, books and equipment to deliver an extensive marine and aquaculture program.	St Peter’s Anglican College Broulee		\$5,500 SW	\$0	\$0
Winter School Holidays Junior Fishing Competition 2024 Run a Winter School Holidays Junior Fishing Competition over the winter school holidays including education workshops and a presentation afternoon, supporting recreational angling and Merimbula’s local businesses.	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club		\$4,100 SW	\$0	\$0

Table 4: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts 2024/25 – 2026/27.

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Note: SW and FW denote the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts, respectively. Amounts shown are the approved funds for each project.

Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation – Greater Murray NSW Provision of fish conservation management services for the Murray, Lower Darling and Murrumbidgee catchments of NSW, to enhance key fish habitat protection and recreational fisher involvement in fish habitat protection, management and rehabilitation.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$237,204 FW	\$243,000 FW	\$249,000 FW
Flagship Habitat Action The Flagship Habitat Action program will continue to engage and facilitate key stakeholders in the development and delivery of large-scale strategic coastal fish habitat rehabilitation activities; restoring highly productive, resilient fisheries.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$447,444 SW	\$448,630 SW	\$449,671 SW
Habitat Action Program – “Making More Fish Naturally” – 2.0 Saltwater - Habitat Action Grants (Sub Program) - Coordination and management of the devolved grant to enhance fish habitat in coastal NSW and support healthy, resilient recreational fisheries (up to \$50,000 per grant with total funds of \$570,000 annually). Freshwater - Flagship Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Program (Pilot Sub Program) -Strengthen partnerships to achieve significant on-ground actions to support the protection and improvement of fish habitat at priority locations across inland catchments (between \$100,000 - \$400,000 per grant with total funds of \$400,00 annually). ‘Fishers for Fish Habitat’ (Sub Program) - The Habitat & Threatened Species Unit will continue to engage with and support recreational anglers across inland and coastal New South Wales in meaningful activities to enhance fish habitat, fish/habitat research activities/citizen science and threatened fish species awareness and recovery, education and capacity building.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$780,493 SW \$490,211 FW	\$784,550 SW \$491,950 FW	\$788,260 SW \$493,540 FW



Projects	Partner Organisation	Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
<p>Otyhuca Pandyl Project (Fish Salvage Project)</p> <p>Over a 2-year co-funded initiative, Traditional Owners, subject matter experts and volunteers collaborate to rescue and relocate native fish to secure refuge areas during the winter shutdown of Murray Irrigation Limited channels.</p>	Western Murray Land Improvement Group		\$25,000 FW	\$25,000 FW	\$0
<p>Stage 2 – Rec Fisher Habitat Capacity: Building the fish habitat capacity, knowledgebase, delivery capability and leadership qualities of NSW recreational fishers.</p> <p>Based on the first 12 months successes and feedback from NSW recreational anglers on what they would like to see in a continued program, OzFish has conceptualized additional leadership and development pathways for training (science and practical) that will further equip NSW recreational fishers with the skills and resources needed to advocate and engage with habitat restoration actions, providing better fishing outcomes and experiences in NSW.</p>	OzFish Unlimited		\$118,000 SW \$79,200 FW	\$118,000 SW \$79,200 FW	\$0

Table 5: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts 2024/25 – 2026/27.

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Note: SW and FW denote the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts, respectively. Amounts shown are the approved funds for each project.

Projects	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Enhancing and monitoring the freshwater recreational fishery in NSW This project builds on the long-term recreational fishing monitoring and research program undertaken throughout NSW. The aim is to improve freshwater recreational fisheries in NSW which will result in economic, social and environmental benefits.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$757,747 FW	\$769,631 FW	\$772,301 FW
NSW Game Fish Tagging Program – the largest of its kind in the world. The NSW DPIRD Game Fish Tagging Program is the largest citizen science tagging program of its kind in the world and has been in operation since 1973. It uses anglers to obtain vital information on the biology of billfish, tunas, sharks and sport fish while encouraging fishers to participate in the management of the fishery.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$225,751 SW	\$234,072 SW	\$238,980 SW
NSW Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program The New South Wales Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program (RFMP) provides regular surveys of recreational fishing activities, which contributes preeminent information to inform evidenced-based decision making and ensure the interests of recreational fishes can be represented in the management of NSW fisheries resources.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$594,146 SW \$254,634 FW	\$692,080 SW \$406,460 FW	\$635,029 SW \$272,155 FW
Research Angler Program – Fish into fillets, frames into facts – A key citizen science initiative The Research Angler Program is a citizen science initiative that enables fishos to donate their fish frames which are used by scientists to obtain essential biological information for stock assessments such as fish age, reproductive status and other life history information. Fishers are also provided feedback		DPIRD Fisheries	\$219,098 SW	\$225,323 SW	\$230,980 SW

Projects	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
about their catch and enables fishers to be involved in the management of their recreational fishery.					
Science-based sustainable and productive fisheries enhancement in NSW This project builds upon previous work, undertaking the required monitoring of DPIRD marine stocking programs. Recreational anglers are engaged through a citizen science program, thereby directly providing information that supports fish stocking in NSW.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$324,926 SW	\$339,890 SW	\$346,528 SW

Table 6: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts 2024/25 – 2026/27.

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Note: SW and FW denote the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts, respectively. Amounts shown are the approved funds for each project.

Projects	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Coastal Fisheries Officers x 9 Funding for 9 coastal fisheries officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPIRD to enforce fisheries rules and regulations including recreational fishing fee requirement across NSW coastal areas.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$1,533,256 SW	\$1,599,418 SW	\$1,668,421 SW
Coastal Rec Mobile Squad Officers x 3 Funding for 3 regional mobile squad officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPIRD to enforce saltwater recreational rules and regulations in particular recreational fishing fee requirements whilst patrolling popular fishing areas including recreational fishing havens.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$511,085 SW	\$533,139 SW	\$555,781 SW
Inland Fisheries Officers x 6 Funding for 6 inland fisheries officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPIRD to enforce fisheries rules and regulations including recreational fishing fee requirement across NSW inland areas.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$1,022,170 FW	\$1,066,279 FW	\$1,112,280 FW

Table 7: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts 2024/25 – 2026/27.

Platform: Licence fee payment system & Trust management

Note: SW and FW denote the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts, respectively. Amounts shown are the approved funds for each project.

Projects	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
RFSTEC and RFFTEC meeting expenses The Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committees (RFSTEC and RFFTEC) are advisory committees that review applications for funding and make recommendations on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater and Freshwater) Trusts.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$39,200 SW \$39,200 FW	\$39,200 SW \$39,200 FW	\$39,200 SW \$39,200 FW
Recreational Fishing NSW (RFNSW) Advisory Council consultation and meeting expenses RFNSW advises the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishery policy issues including maintaining and improving the quality of recreational fishing opportunities.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$62,300 SW \$26,700 FW	\$64,050 SW \$27,450 FW	\$65,800 SW \$28,200 FW
Recreational Fishing Licensing Fee and Customer Services–facilitating a convenient system for the sale of fishing licences and renewal notices for fishers Provides for the safe and secure collection of recreational fishing licences fees (public money) which are deposited into the Recreational Fishing Trusts daily. It provides a convenient payment network for fishers using a variety of methods such as a dedicated webpage, sales agents (fishing tackle stores etc) throughout NSW, BPAY, automated telephone, and mail. It caters for all types of fishers. There is 1) an electronic sales platform provided by Department of Customer Service – Licence NSW which DPIRD uses to manage electronic licences and 2) a manual payment system of agents run by DPIRD. This includes the data entry of 1 year and 3-year paper fishing licences sold at tackle shops into the Licence NSW		DPIRD Fisheries	\$1,534,313 SW \$657,562 FW	\$1,357,935 SW \$581,972 FW	\$1,400,224 SW \$600,096 FW

Projects	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
database. The project also provides an efficient licence renewal notice system (via external contractor) to provide opportunity for recreational fishers to renew their fee when it expires for all 1 year and 3-year fishing licences.					
Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer - ensuring accountability and transparency The Executive Officer is responsible for the overall coordination and financial management of the Recreational Fishing Trusts to facilitate a transparent and accountable Trust system, on behalf of the recreational fishing community. This includes implementation of good governance processes to, disbursement of funds to Trust projects and ensuring quality delivery of project outcomes to improve recreational fishing.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$284,037 SW	\$292,022 SW	\$299,321 SW
Recreational Fishing Facilities and Grants Management Project To target recreational fisher identified gaps in fishing facilities throughout NSW, including fishing platforms, fish cleaning facilities and waterway access infrastructure. To provide support to the Trust Executive Officer for financial and auditing management of Trust programs to ensure timely and quality service delivery. The role provides quality advice to the public on all Trust enquiries and application development.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$170,563 SW \$42,641 FW	\$175,200 SW \$43,800 FW	\$179,440 SW \$44,860 FW
Recreational Fishing Trust grants administration program – supporting the delivery of Trust funded projects To improve the delivery and performance of Recreational Fishing Trust funded projects by assigning essential resourcing to grants administration and management. The position facilitates funding agreements to applicants, receives milestone reports and final reports, processes project invoices and purchase orders for Trust grants etc. It is an integral position of the Trust management team to facilitate effective		DPIRD Fisheries	\$151,812 SW	\$156,023 SW	\$159,873 SW

Projects	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
governance controls including audits and monitoring to maintain and improve the standard of project delivery and accountability across all Trust funded projects.					
Inland fisheries project and policy services and management. This project plays a key role in co-ordinating an array of Trust funded community fishing grants including the two dollars for one-dollar native fish stocking program and the fuel cards assistance program and enables the efficient operation of RFFTEC and its subgroups (fuel card evaluation panel and the Gaden hatchery management advisory committee). Additional behind-the-scenes work involves updating recreational fishing legislation and the development of policies to enhance inland fishing opportunities.		DPIRD Fisheries	\$210,173 FW	\$223,500 FW	\$229,300 FW

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