

APPENDIX 10: Fisheries trust fund reports

Fisheries trust fund reports

Commercial Fishing Trust Fund

The NSW Department of Primary Industries provides a range of monitoring, scientific, compliance and administrative services to the commercial fishing industry. The department's expenditure on commercial fishing activities is funded from consolidated revenue, with a contribution from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund. Charges are levied for services such as licence administration and management but are not project specific. The Commercial Fishing Trust Fund also contributes to research and uses funds to leverage research and development support from other sources. The NSW abalone and rock lobster fisheries are subject to cost recovery of attributable costs, although there is still some degree of government contribution and budgets are negotiated in detail with the relevant management advisory committees.

In 2019-20, the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund contributed \$3.605 million to the department's Commercial Fishery-related programs.

Aquaculture Trust Fund

The department provides a range of monitoring, scientific, compliance and administrative services to the aquaculture industry. The aquaculture industry is subject to full cost recovery for administration charges only and charges are not project specific. The department's expenditure for aquaculture management and policy development is funded from consolidated revenue, with a contribution from the Aquaculture Trust Fund. The Aquaculture Trust Fund also contributes to research and uses funds to leverage research and development support from other sources (for example, Fisheries Research & Development Corporation, Seafood CRC).

In 2019-20, the Aquaculture Fishing Trust Fund contributed \$1.024 million to the department's aquaculture related programs.

Fish Conservation Trust Fund

In 2019-20, the Fish Conservation Trust contributed \$0.245 million toward fisheries conservation projects to enhance, maintain or protect fish habitats.

Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund

The Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund provides grants and loans for the enhancement, maintenance and protection of Aboriginal cultural fishing as well as for Aboriginal communities to develop businesses associated with fisheries resources throughout NSW.

In 2019-20, the Aboriginal Fishing Trust contributed \$0.203 million towards fisheries conservation projects.

Recreational and Charter Fishing Trust Funds

The Department of Regional NSW received grants from the Recreational and Charter Fishing Trust Funds to undertake various programs during the year as follows:

Table 28. Recreational and Charter Fishing Trust Grants Received

Fish trust fund	Grant received by Department of Regional NSW 2019-20 (\$'000)
Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund	9,944
Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund	
Charter Fishing Trust Fund	0

From 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, funds from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund were used for the following projects:

Table 29. Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Projects Funded

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Offshore artificial reefs	1,531	1,483	48
Coastal fish habitat protection and management	196	188	8

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Coastal fish habitat restoration grants program (prior to 2018/19)	180	161	19
Ecohuts for recreational fishers	40	0	40
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	18	25	-7
External large grants	514	495	19
Flagship habitat program	479	424	55
Fish aggregation devices (FADs)	254	262	-8
Fishcare volunteer program	602	596	6
Fisheries officers (9 coastal officers)	1,193	1,059	134
Fisheries officers (mobile squads)	506	545	-39
Gamefish tagging program	164	165	-1
Great swordfish race	20	3	17
Integrated monitoring program: statewide fishing and charter surveys	703	699	4
Integrating recreational fishery data into harvest strategies for multi-species fisheries	0	22	-22
Marine stocking of key recreational fish species in coastal waters	295	301	-6
Recreational fisheries enhancement (artificial reefs and FADs coordination)	213	216	-3
Recreational fishing access (coastal)	144	143	1
Recreational fishing trust executive officer	193	190	3
Research angler program	191	171	20
Research on offshore artificial reefs and stocking	446	447	-1
Research on recreational bait species: worms, pipis and yabbies	35	37	-2
Research on variable nature of blue swimmer crabs	50	50	0
Small grants program	39	31	8

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Trust grants governance enhancement project	136	134	2
Total	8,142	7,847	295

* The total available 2019-20 consists of grants from the trust fund in 2019-20 and amounts carried forward from grants in 2018-19.

From 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 funds from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund were used for the following projects:

Table 30. Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Projects Funded

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Bigger fish for Snowy Lakes	30	24	6
Dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking program	141	141	0
Enhanced fish production at hatcheries for stocking (Port Stephens Narrandera and Dutton)	400	402	-2
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	17	21	-4
External large grants	171	190	-19
Fishcare volunteer program	308	299	9
Fisheries officers (inland)	892	785	107
Freshwater recreational management program	186	185	1
Fuel cards for fish stocking	0	3	-3
Gaden trout hatchery	685	673	12
Inland fish habitat restoration grants program (prior to 2018/19)	44	35	9
Inland stocking management	114	98	16
Nodavirus testing for fish stocking	4	4	0
Open top pyramid net program	29	26	3
Population status of native fish, trout and threatened frogs in the Central Tablelands	11	11	0

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Recreational fishing access (inland)	321	315	6
Regional inland fish habitat protection and management	171	171	0
Research on freshwater recreational fishery in NSW	698	725	-27
Screens for streams	100	100	0
Small grants program	55	51	4
Supporting fish hatchery trainees	2	1	1
Total	4,379	4,260	119

* The total available 2019-20 consists of grants from the trust fund in 2019-20 and amounts carried forward from grants in 2018-19.

In 2019-20 grant funds from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater and Freshwater) Trust Fund were used for the following projects:

Table 31. Recreational Fishing (Saltwater and Freshwater) Trust Projects Funded

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Advisory Council meeting expenses	28	36	-8
Fishing competitions and events: responsible recreational fishing promotion	151	123	28
Fishing fee awareness	11	11	0
Government Licensing Service transaction fees	0	750	-750
Get Hooked...it's Fun to Fish schools program	398	388	10
Habitat action program 2019/20	667	633	34
NSW gone fishing day	237	237	0
NSW fishing workshops	56	49	7
NSW fishway strategy for fish passage remediation	412	401	11
NSW recreational fishing environmental assessment	260	135	125
Recreational fisher research database	49	38	11
Recreational fisheries infrastructure management program	165	156	9

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Recreational fishing fee administration project	1,335	1,331	4
Recreational fishing fee renewal notice system	123	122	1
Recreational fishing guides	80	80	0
Recreational fishing publications program	137	158	-21
Total	4,109	4,648	-539

* The total available 2019-20 consists of grants from the trust fund in 2019-20 and amounts carried forward from grants in 2018-19.