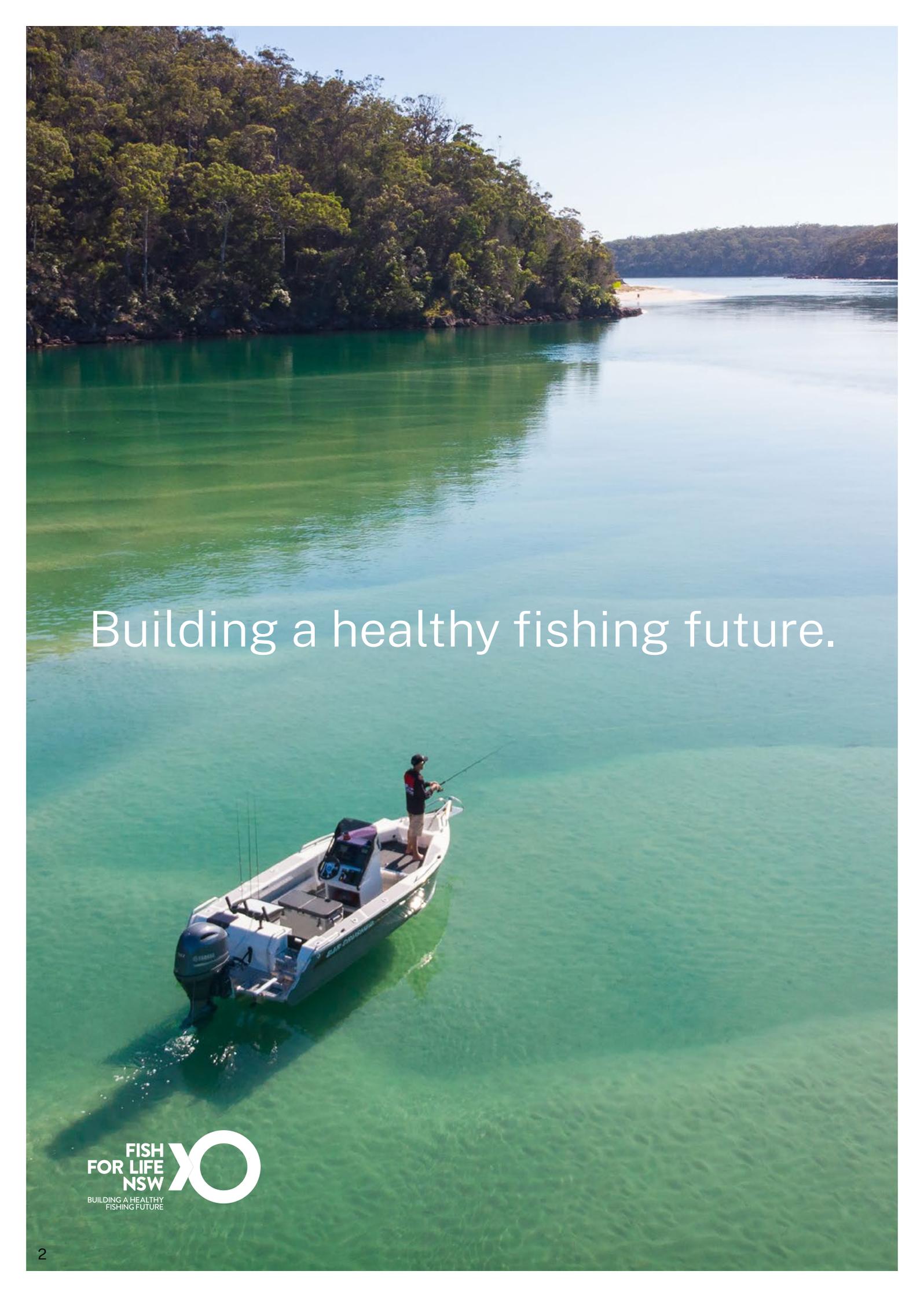




NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts

Annual Report 2022/23





Building a healthy fishing future.

Foreword



Fishing is a pastime that everyone can enjoy. Its diversity is what makes fishing so unique and attractive to so many people in our community.

The equivalent of one in every eight residents in NSW fishes recreationally, with the benefits of recreational fishing flowing throughout communities particularly towards regional areas.

Fish stock sustainability is at the centre of everything we do and goes hand in hand with environmental sustainability. If we have healthy habitats, we invariably have healthy fish populations. We are continuing to support projects that improve our understanding of fish stocks and to restore habitats in order to enhance the capacity of our wild fish populations to replenish naturally and to thrive.

In 2022/23 we have implemented more projects just as diverse as those delivering them. These important projects provide opportunities for all members of our community to access fishing spots, as well as a breadth of research into fish species and habitats, both inland, coastal and offshore to provide us with better knowledge about our fish stocks.

It is terrific to see projects instilling a love of fish, fishing and the natural environment in a whole new generation of fishers as they take up the challenge to care for and be stewards of the ecosystems and fish habitats we all value.

In 2022/23, more than 390,000 recreational fishing licences were sold, allowing over \$18.4 million to flow to projects aimed at protecting and improving fisheries habitats and fishing opportunities. 135 projects were approved for funding in 2022/23, bringing the total number of projects underway to 351.

In 2022/23 we stocked more than 5.7 million freshwater fish and close to 240,000 fingerlings of marine species to enhance fishing opportunities and boost fish populations across NSW.

34 offshore locations between Tweed Heads and Eden now benefit from the installation of fish aggregating devices (FADs) which are placed in NSW coastal waters each year to attract pelagic fish for recreational fishing and are extremely popular amongst fishers. This is in addition to nine large scale artificial reefs which have been deployed between Tweed Heads and Merimbula since 2011 to provide new, quality recreational fishing opportunities with more to come.

Fishing not only provides an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy nature, but also a chance to relax and unwind, spend time with family and friends, or for the enjoyment of catching fish while also contributing an estimated \$3.4 billion to our economy each year.

Recreational Fishing Trust funding is instrumental in allowing us to deliver quality recreational fishing for everyone, forever. It has led to some amazing partnerships being formed between like-minded organisations and individuals, who all aim to make an impact.

A number of positive mental health and physical health outcomes from recreational fishing are well recognised, and using funding from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust, we continue to work with the entire recreational fishing community, both fresh and saltwater, to ensure we continue to build a healthy fishing future.

I want to thank fishing clubs, community groups, the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council, the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure Committees and all the project partners who have come together to deliver the projects outlined in this report for the benefit of recreational fishers.

I'm sure you'll enjoy reading about these projects funded with funds from the Recreational Fishing Trust, and begin to plan your next fishing trip, to any one of our truly spectacular fishing spots all over NSW.

Sean Sloan
Deputy Director General, DPI Fisheries



Contents



Foreword	3	3.4 Education and promotion	26
Contents	5	3.4.1 Fishcare	26
Introduction	6	3.4.2 Come Fish with Us	27
Highlights	8	3.4.3 Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish schools education program	28
1 Background	10	3.4.4 Gone Fishing Day	29
1.1 Recreational fishing sector in NSW	10	3.4.5 Forge Through Fishing Program	29
1.2 Objectives of the Recreational Fishing Trusts	11	3.4.6 Fish For Life –Building a Healthy Fishing Future	30
2 Recreational Fishing Trusts financial summary	12	3.4.7 Surf Life Saving NSW rock fishing safety and skills program	31
2.1 Licenses sold	12	3.5 Research	32
2.2 Licence sale channels	13	3.5.1 Game Fish Tagging Program	32
2.3 Financial accountability	13	3.5.2 Where do Kingfish go to spawn?	34
3 Recreational Fishing Trusts programs	16	3.5.3 Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program	35
3.1 Fisheries enhancement	17	3.5.4 Research Angler Program	36
3.1.1 Fish aggregating devices	17	3.5.5 Monitoring and research on landed fish at game fishing tournaments	37
3.1.2 Offshore artificial reefs	17	3.5.6 The Great Swordfish Race	38
3.1.3 Fish stocking	18	3.5.7 Building a Healthy Freshwater Fishery	39
3.2 Fishing facilities and access	19	3.5.8 Making more Maccas	39
3.2.1 Fishing facilities	19	3.5.9 Effectiveness of freshwater and marine fish stocking	40
3.2.2 Enhancing angler access	20	3.5.10 Fish Screens Australia	41
3.3 Aquatic habitat rehabilitation	21	3.6 Fisheries officers	42
3.3.1 Habitat Action Grants	22	3.7 Trusts management and administration	43
3.3.2 Flagship Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Grant program	22	3.7.1 Recreational fishing fee –facilitating fishing licenses for fishers	43
3.3.3 Landcare NSW & OzFish Unlimited community partnership driving fish habitat action	23	3.7.2 Trusts program delivery	43
3.3.4 Cold water pollution mitigation	24	4 Appendices	46
3.3.5 Tangaroa Blue –Look after your Tackle –fishers tackling litter in local waterways	24	Appendix 1: RFNSW and Expenditure Committee membership	46
3.3.6 Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation	25	Appendix 2: Recreational Fishing Trusts funds summary by project	48
		Appendix 3: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts in 2022–23	50

Introduction

Some amazing projects have again been delivered using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts in 2023. Your fishing fees are of huge importance in continuing to make funding available for projects to improve recreational fishing experiences in NSW, and provide quality recreational fishing for everyone, forever.



Projects continued to be delivered across the state, offering opportunities and benefits for all types of fishers. From the deep blue offshore hotspots where experienced game fishers chase the big fish and help scientists learn more about fish movements and populations; the aquamarine waters of coastal estuaries, home to some favoured recreational fishing species and top spots for families to gather and pass on skills; to the chilly waters of alpine lakes and streams that offer remote escapes and the technical challenge sought by fly fishers.

This year has seen more new partnerships with universities, both local and international, community groups and fishing clubs. Funding support has been provided to veterans and first responders recovering their mental health and cancer survivors recovering their physical health through fishing. We have worked with landholders to improve access opportunities for recreational fishing across the state, and with diverse communities to improve fishing safety. Fish science continued to be explored in depth, with more learnt about the amazing lives and habits of a range of freshwater and marine species. And, perhaps most importantly, a love of fish, fishing and the natural environment has been instilled in a new generation of fishers as they take up the challenge to care for and be stewards of the ecosystems, we all value.

Your fishing fees are vital in supporting the delivery of this interesting and diverse range of projects. In 2022–23, more than \$18.4 million was provided to support projects that improve fishing experiences, opportunities and habitats. More than 390,000 recreational fishing licenses (fishing fees) were sold, and 135 projects worth \$23.8 million were approved for funding, bringing the total number of projects underway to over 350.

Recreational fishing is unique in the opportunities it provides to people of all levels of skill and ability – from beginners who have never held a rod, to experienced game fishers and adventurers seeking their next big challenge, recreational fishing can be enjoyed from childhood through to one’s senior years. It provides opportunities for family time, social engagement and peer support, intergenerational interaction and sharing of knowledge.

With all the different ways that recreational fishing allows people to come together, it is no wonder that recognised benefits include improvements in physical and mental health. The interaction with the natural environment also encourages fishers to take up the responsibility for environmental stewardship, which helps ensure the ongoing protection of NSW’s natural assets.

Your licence fees continue to work hard for you, and we would love for you to Come Fish With Us and help Build a Better Fishing Future.



Quality recreational fishing
for everyone, forever.

Highlights

390,146

Recreational fishing licenses sold

376,363 in 2021–22

\$14.7M

Revenue received from fishing fees

\$15.7 million in 2021–22

\$18.4M

Drawn from the Trusts to fund projects

\$15.5 million in 2021–22

351

Projects underway

135

New projects approved for funding

\$23.8M

The 135 projects are worth \$23.8 million

6M

Fish stocked

5.3 million in 2021–22

34

Offshore FAD Locations

34 FAD locations in 2021–22

Forster and Central Coast

Planning completed for construction of offshore artificial reefs

Eurobodalla reef installed 2021–22

\$850K

Made available for on-ground rehabilitation activities to improve fish habitat

\$850,000 in 2021–22

10,860

Fish tagged and recorded in the tagging database

9,580 in 2021–22

370

Fishcare community events held

350 in 2021–22



14

Fishing facility
projects approved

32 in 2021-22

33,194

Recreational
compliance checks
undertaken

34,524 in 2021-22

91%

Compliance
rate for the
recreational sector

90% in 2021-22

95%

of fishers found
Trust projects
beneficial¹

¹ Figures indicate sentiments of recreational fishing licence holders surveyed about how licence fees are spent. Australian Survey Research Group Pty Ltd (February 2023) NSW DPI Fisheries Recreational Fishing Licence Fee Survey 2022, Report of results.

1 Background

The Recreational Fishing (Saltwater and Freshwater) Trusts (the Trusts) provide funding for projects that enhance, maintain or protect recreational fishing, undertake research into fish and their ecosystems, manage recreational fishing, and support compliance with recreational fishing rules.



Across NSW, thousands of projects have been supported with funds from the Trusts, which were established in 2001 under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (the Act). Recreational fishers are required to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee (fishing licence fee) when fishing in NSW waters, with all money from these fees placed into the Trusts.

Under the Act, all money raised from fishing licence fees must be spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW. The Trusts are regulated by law and overseen by committees of recreational fishers — one for saltwater and one for freshwater.

1.1 The recreational fishing sector in NSW

Recreational fishing is a popular leisure activity across NSW and attracts participants from all walks of life. It is an important pastime for Australians of all ages and backgrounds and has significant economic, social, health and wellbeing benefits for the wider community. With some of the best fishing locations in Australia on our doorstep, recreational fishers range from families with children seeking quality family time, to serious game fishers targeting their next big challenge, and everyone in between.

A range of recreational fishers (long-term licence holders) contributed to the latest statewide survey of recreational fishing, which was undertaken during 2021–22. Participants provided information on who went fishing, how much fishing was done, where fishing occurred, and what was caught. The results of this survey will be released in early 2024 and will build on the knowledge and time series gained from previous surveys.

The previous survey², conducted in 2019–20, estimated that fishers within active recreational fishing licence holder households fished for 1.7 million days. While the majority (85%) were NSW residents, fishers also travelled from ACT, Queensland and Victoria. Seventy-five per cent of all fishing occurred in saltwater, primarily in estuaries (49% of the total), followed by inshore and offshore marine waters (26%). Most freshwater fishing took place in rivers (16%), with less occurring in lakes and dams (9%).

To coastal and inland regional communities, the recreational fishing industry is extremely valuable, with expenditure by recreational fishers supporting these communities through a range of economic benefits. The sector contributes over \$3.4 billion into our NSW economy each year.

However, it is not just in economic impacts that NSW benefits from recreational fishing. As a leisure pastime, access to recreational fishing sites and popular species contribute to the wellbeing derived from the recreational fishing experience and valued by anglers. Motivations include pleasure, sport, food, cultural engagement and social (fishing with family and friends, passing on knowledge to children and grandchildren).

² NSW Department of Primary Industries (March 2022) Survey of recreational fishing in NSW, 2019/20 – Key Results. NSW DPI – Fisheries Final Report Series No. 161.

1.2 Objectives of the Recreational Fishing Trusts

The objectives of the Trusts and the projects they support through funding aim to provide the high-quality experiences desired by anglers; they also drive a range of outcomes that benefit the environment, individuals and communities. The wide range of projects supported with funding from the Trusts aim to deliver:

- innovative projects that enhance recreational fishing tourism opportunities
- promotion of recreational fishing as a healthy, outdoors activity for the whole family
- education of fishers about fishing responsibly and safely
- promotion and growth of recreational fishing in a sustainable manner.

A range of partners are essential for the delivery of Trust funded projects, including fishing clubs, community groups and universities, as well as the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and other government organisations. The NSW Government continues to contribute funding from general state revenue every year to manage and improve recreational fishing in NSW.

To make sure that Trust project activities are achieving their objectives, periodic surveys are undertaken of recreational fishing licence holders to seek their views on how licence fees are spent.

The latest survey was completed during 2022–23³ by an external research company in compliance with market and social research ISO quality standards. Licence holders were asked about activities undertaken under each Trust priority area, the benefit they perceived from the activities in improving recreational fishing, and the extent to which the activities should be conducted.

On average, across all funded activities surveyed, 95% of respondents indicated that the activities were beneficial. Moreover, on average, 61% of respondents believed they were not only just of benefit but of major benefit (helps a lot) to the recreational fishers of NSW, with 12 activities across a variety of funded areas scoring more than 95% for benefit.

Fifty per cent or more of respondents wanted more of each activity to be done.

With recreational fishing enjoyed in NSW by one million anglers every year across some of the best fishing locations of anywhere in the country, support remains strong for Trust projects that improve fishing opportunities and enjoyment across NSW and drive a range of outcomes that benefit individuals and communities.



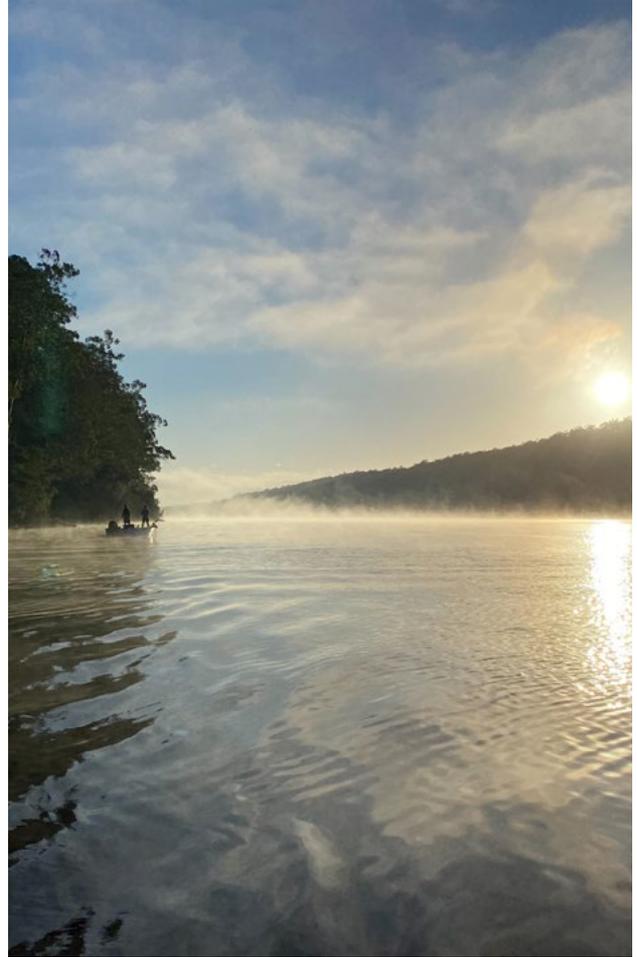
³ Australian Survey Research Group Pty Ltd (February 2023) NSW DPI Fisheries Recreational Fishing Licence Fee Survey 2022, Report of results.

2

Recreational Fishing Trusts financial summary

Funding of \$18.4 million was drawn from the Trusts in 2022–23 to support a wide range of projects that improve recreational fishing (compared with \$15.5 million in 2021–22). Revenue received in 2022–23 from fishing fees (licenses) totalled \$14.7 million (compared with \$15.7 million in 2021–22).

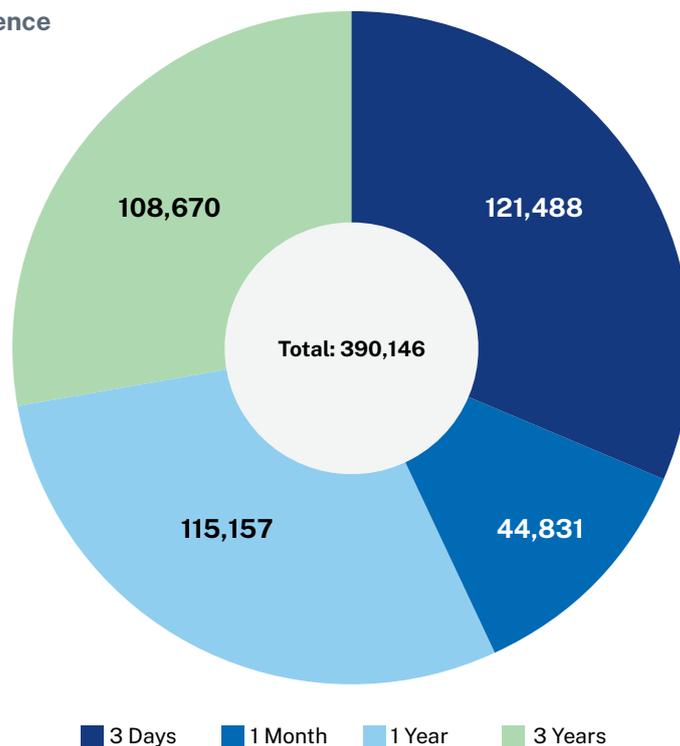
The closing balance for the Trusts at 30 June 2023 was \$18.5 million (compared with \$20.7 million at 30 June 2022). Closing balance also includes additional revenue other than licence sales (such as interest).



2.1 Licenses sold

Recreational fishing licence sales (new and renewals) increased to 390,146 during 2022–23, compared to 376,363 in 2021–22.

Recreational fishing licence types sold



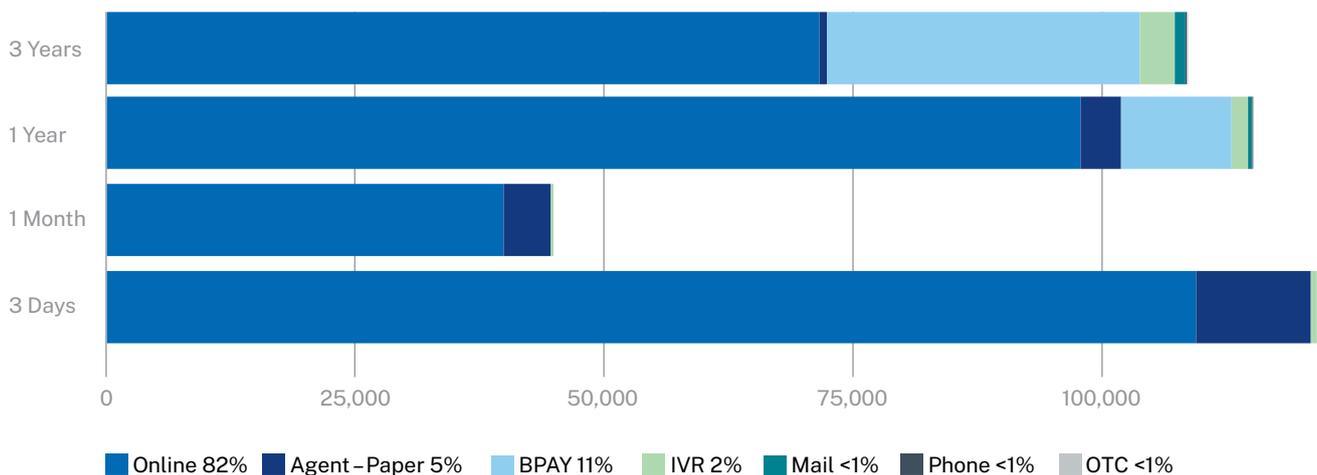
2.2 Licence sale channels

Recreational fishers can make use of a range of channels which are available for the purchase of licenses. These include agent network (paper licenses), integrated voice recognition (IVR) automated phone numbers, online, over the counter (OTC), mail and BPAY. Online sales remain by far the most popular option, accounting for 82% of sales (compared with 82% in 2021–22).

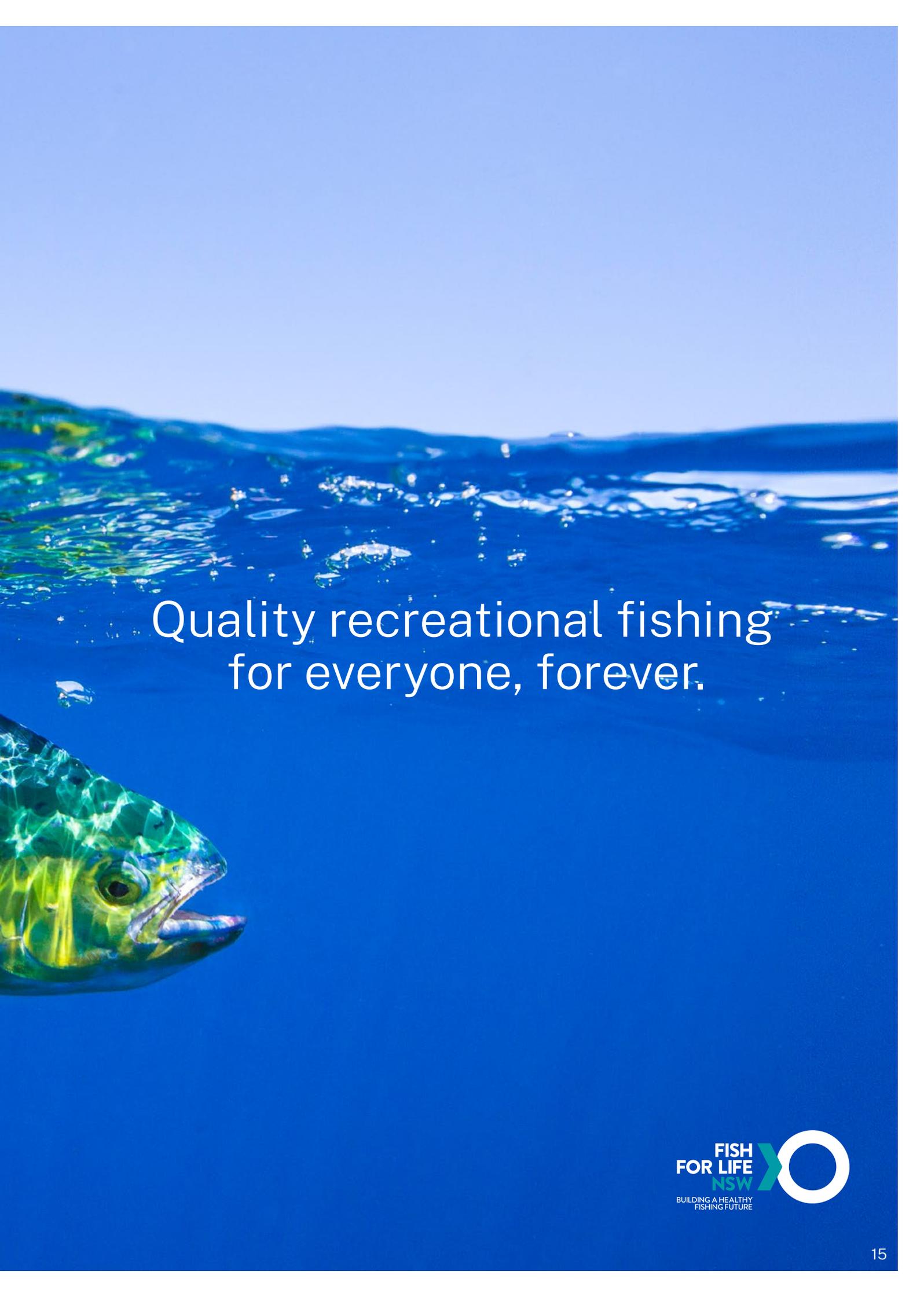
2.3 Financial accountability

It is important that funds managed through the Recreational Fishing Trusts are accounted for transparently. Financial statements on the Recreational Fishing Trusts are included in the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) Annual Report. A special purpose financial report on the Fisheries Trust Funds is prepared annually by the Audit Office of New South Wales, and audits are also undertaken periodically as part of the DRNSW Internal Audit Program on Recreational Fishing Trusts funds and programs.

Recreational fishing licence sales by channel







Quality recreational fishing
for everyone, forever.

3

Recreational Fishing Trusts programs

The Recreational Fishing Trusts have provided funding for more than 3,300 large and small projects since the commencement of the Trusts in 2001, with almost 3,000 projects completed.

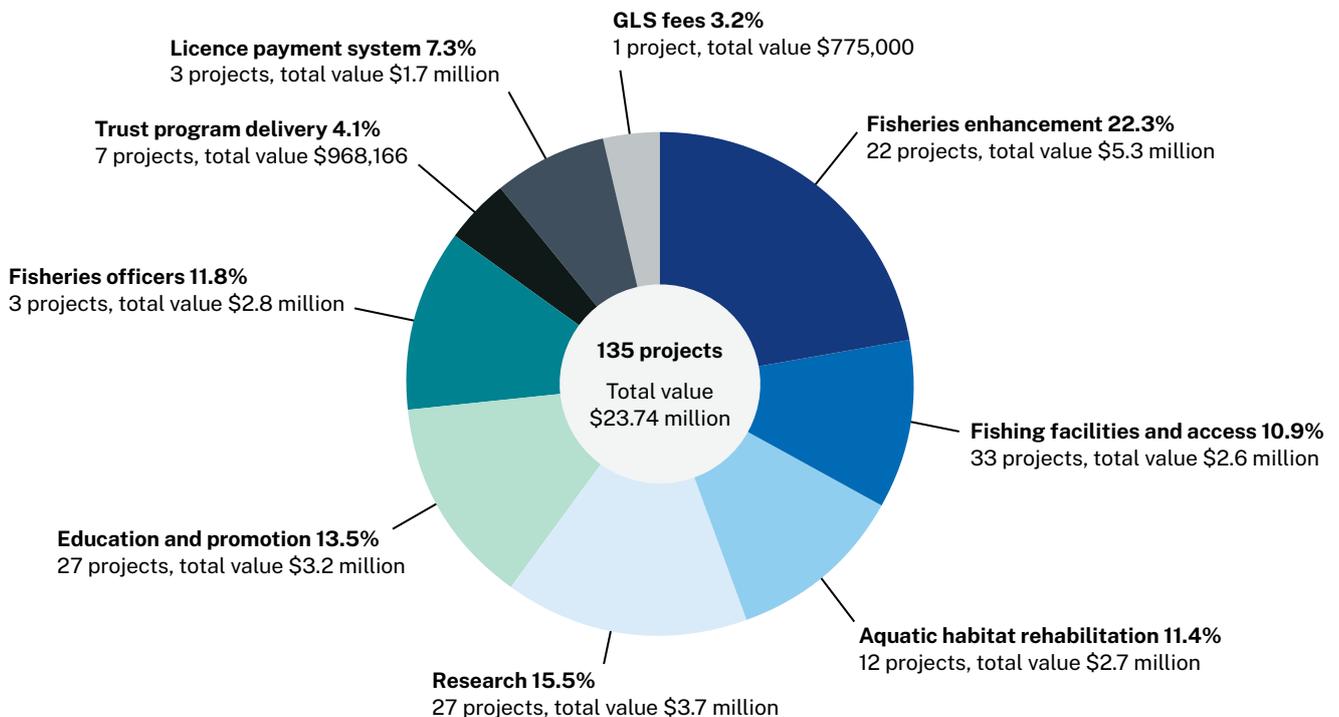
During 2022–23, more than \$18.4 million was provided to support projects currently underway (including ongoing programs). Of the 351 existing projects, 135 projects worth \$23.8 million were approved for funding in 2022–23 and will be completed in coming years.



Priority areas for funding are:

- fisheries enhancement (e.g. fish aggregating devices, artificial reefs and fish stocking)
- fishing access and facilities (e.g. fishing platforms, cleaning tables, safety infrastructure and other facilities, and protecting fishing access)
- aquatic habitat rehabilitation (e.g. habitat action grants to improve fish habitat)
- research on recreational fishing (e.g. fishing surveys, stock assessment, and angler catch projects)
- education (e.g. fishing workshops, Fishcare Volunteers, school education, fishing advice, and increasing participation in recreational fishing)
- enforcement of fishing rules (Fisheries officers)
- Trust management and administration, including program delivery and the licence payment system and associated fees.

Projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts



Highlights and achievements delivered under each of these priority areas are outlined on the following pages.

3.1 Fisheries enhancement

Each year, a range of projects operate in coastal and inland regions to enhance fish stocks and recreational fishing opportunities. These include fish stocking activities including native marine and freshwater species, and salmonids, and the installation of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and artificial reefs.

3.1.1 Fish aggregating devices

Fish aggregating devices or FADs are large buoys moored to the seabed at strategic locations along the NSW coastline. The FADs are made available to recreational fishers throughout the warmer months of the year and provide reliable fishing for warm water pelagic species, such as Dolphinfish, which arrive with the East Australian Current.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- FADs deployed at 34 offshore locations between Tweed Heads and Eden
- very high retrieval rate of adrift FADs aided by real time satellite tracking, which ensured rapid replacement.



3.1.2 Offshore artificial reefs

The artificial reefs program provides new, quality recreational fishing opportunities through the installation of complex, designed reef modules in carefully selected coastal locations. Nine large-scale artificial reefs have now been deployed between Tweed Heads and Merimbula since 2011 with more to come.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- completion of planning, approvals and fabrication of the Forster and Central Coast offshore artificial reefs, with assembly of the steel reef modules underway for installation in late 2023

- preliminary investigations and consultation underway for the state's next two artificial reefs to be delivered in the Ballina and Coffs regions in 2024
- information on the NSW artificial reefs and FADs program presented at the World Recreational Fishing Conference, where partnerships were formed with artificial reef managers from other jurisdictions.



Research reveals the value of artificial reefs

Recent scientific studies by DPI revealed that recreationally targeted fish species frequent up to more than 100 metres from steel artificial reef structures, and that concrete reef fields can create biologically productive fishing areas up to three times the size of the reef footprint.

Following the completion of the Forster and Central Coast reef projects, the NSW offshore artificial reefs program will have contributed more than 775,000 square metres of productive fishing area, which equates to nearly 50 Sydney Cricket Grounds.



3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23

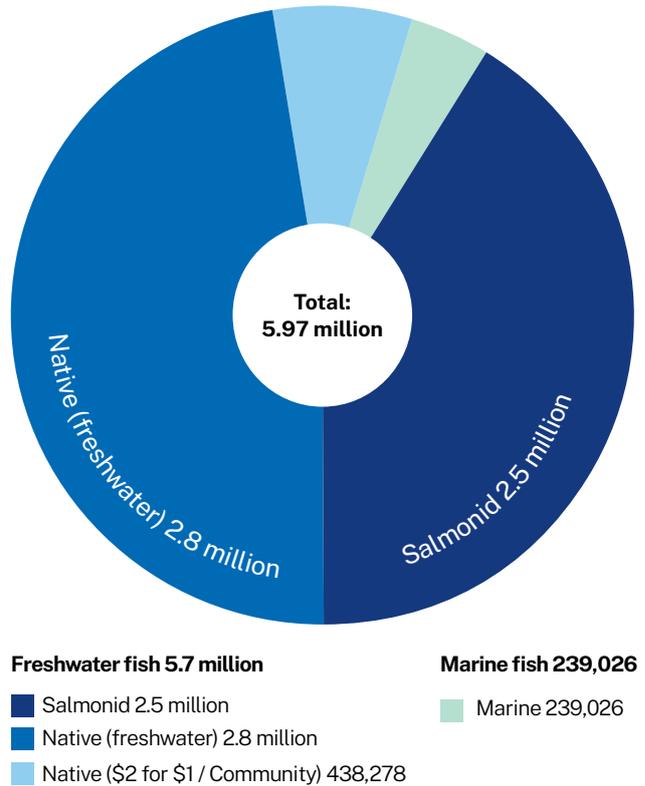
3.1.3 Fish stocking

Fish stocking involves producing fish fry or fingerlings and releasing them into NSW waters at approved sites to create new fisheries or augment existing ones. Fish stocking is carried out under permits that ensure appropriate environmental controls and protection of our unique biodiversity. Events are carried out by DPI, and by angling clubs and other community groups who stock fish produced by private hatcheries under the popular \$2 for \$1 Native Fish Stocking Program. Stocking provides community benefits through improved recreational fishing quality, conservation outcomes, employment and subsequent economic benefits.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- almost six million fish stocked into waterways across NSW, including 239,026 marine fish species and more than 5.7 million freshwater fish
- record production and stocking of Murray Cod (1.286 million fish) at DPI's Narrandera Fisheries Centre for the second year running
- a record 556,767 Australian Bass produced by DPI's Port Stephens Fisheries Institute and stocked into popular impoundment fisheries including Glenbawn Dam, Tallowa Dam and Lake St Clair
- successful release of 54,350 juvenile Dusky Flathead into three key Recreational Fishing Havens along the NSW coast for the third year running
- more than 2.467 million salmonids produced by DPI's Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries and stocked into key trout fishing lakes, rivers and streams
- a record of 184,621 Mulloway fingerlings produced by DPI's Port Stephens Fisheries Institute for the Marine Stocking Program successfully released into Recreational Fishing Havens
- 165,967 Murray Cod, 121,743 Golden Perch and 110,040 Australian Bass released by fishing clubs and other community groups as part of DPI's popular community-based native fish stocking program, which now involves \$2 invested by the Trust for every \$1 contributed by fishing clubs and other community groups.

Number of fish stocked



Bumper numbers of Mulloway stocked

For the third consecutive year, the dedicated team at DPI's Port Stephens Fisheries Institute successfully reared thousands of healthy Mulloway fingerlings as part of the DPI Marine Stocking Program.

A record breaking 184,621 Mulloway were released into three key Recreational Fishing Havens (the Hastings River, Lake Macquarie and the Georges River) in 2022–23, eclipsing the previous record of 90,000 in 2021. This includes 400 advanced-size, externally tagged Mulloway, which were released into the Georges River to complement the fingerling releases.

The Marine Stocking Program focuses fish releases into Recreational Fishing Havens along the NSW coastline, ensuring anglers enjoy the benefits of enhanced fish stocks.

Second year of record Murray Cod stocking

Record numbers of native Murray Cod were produced and stocked for the second year running by the expert hatchery team at DPI's Narrandera Fisheries Centre. A total of 1.286 million Murray Cod were produced in the 2022–23 season, eclipsing the previous record set in 2021–22, and will help maintain strong populations of these iconic native sportfish in key impoundments and associated river systems. As with previous stocking seasons, the Murray Cod fingerlings produced included progeny of fish rescued in a joint operation involving DPI Fisheries and volunteer fishers during the 2019 drought, as part of the NSW Government's \$10 million Native Fish Drought Response.

DPI also partnered with the inland aquaculture sector and local recreational fishing groups to trial the stocking of advanced-sized juvenile Murray Cod, which measure 200 to 300 millimetres compared to a traditional fingerling of about 30 to 50 millimetres. This has been undertaken to assess the effectiveness of selectively releasing larger sized Murray Cod to help fast track recovery of inland waterways affected by natural disasters. The tagged fish will be monitored by DPI researchers using state-of-the-art electronic tracking systems.



3.2 Fishing facilities and access

Projects that protect access to waterways for recreational fishing and which provide new or upgraded recreational fishing facilities in coastal and inland environments receive funding from the Trusts. In addition to providing dedicated fishing access officers, projects include fish cleaning facilities, access upgrades, fishing platforms and safety infrastructure, and are implemented by a range of groups including local councils and fishing clubs.

3.2.1 Fishing facilities

New or upgraded fishing facilities are installed by local councils, fishing clubs, community groups and others to provide quality amenities for recreational fishers.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- fourteen fishing facility projects approved for funding, including accessible fishing platforms, fish cleaning facilities, light watercraft launching facilities, fence stiles and other related infrastructure.

3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23

New fish cleaning facility at Port Macquarie

Port Macquarie Hastings Council recently installed a four person fish cleaning table at the newly constructed Fisherman's Public Wharf. The stainless-steel cleaning table is fitted with taps connected to the potable water supply. The facility complements the recent replacement of the adjacent wharf, which also includes a fishing platform previously supported with funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts.



New jetty for Merimbula fishers

Merimbula fishers now have a new shore-based fishing option with a new fishing jetty installed at Spencer Park. The Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club replaced an old wooden structure built in 1959 with an accessible floating pontoon jetty. The Club received grants from the Recreational Fishing Trusts and the Commonwealth Building Better Regions Fund to complete the project.

3.2.2 Enhancing angler access

The Angler Access Program involves maintaining, managing, and enhancing access for recreational fishers in inland and coastal locations across NSW. The program not only enhances and maintains access locations but also identifies new recreational fishing and regional tourism opportunities and facilitates fisher access to new locations.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- working with partner agencies and stakeholders to promote responsible access to shared urban facilities such as Sydney's ferry wharves and the Walsh Bay piers
- responding to more than 150 plans of management, land acquisition proposals, crown road disposals and other land use proposals to maintain coastal and inland recreational fishing access for the future
- continuing the popular Eco Hut Program in association with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- continuing production and distribution of the popular Go Fishing Guide handbook series, which currently covers 19 coastal and inland locations with more editions planned
- facilitating collaborative access agreements between private land managers/holders, recreational fishing groups, government agencies, local councils, and other stakeholders across NSW
- Providing information via the Angler Access website to recreational fishers on thousands of locations across NSW where rivers, streams and lakes can be accessed for fishing. Expansion of the website is planned for coastal access locations.

Securing angler access at Thompsons Creek Dam

Thompsons Creek Dam (TCD) is a water supply dam for the Mt Piper power station near Lithgow. As a privately owned dam, angler access is managed through an agreement with the owner, Energy Australia, to provide fishing opportunities for anglers of all abilities.

Over the past year a new deed of access for TCD has been prepared to enable ongoing access and to manage angler safety, amenity and conditions of entry.

TCD is also a trophy trout fishery. DPI stocks the fishery annually with Brown and Rainbow Trout from the Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries. Tiger Trout is also being stocked as part of a trial into the effectiveness of stocking this species into suitable waterways to develop new fishing opportunities.

The TCD project is an ongoing partnership with the Wallerawang branch of the Central Acclimatisation Society. The TCD fishery is popular with local and visiting fishers.



South Coast trophy bass fishery

The Angler Access Program has been successful in working with Shoalhaven City Council to open Porters Creek Dam, inland from Ulladulla on the NSW South Coast, as a trophy bass fishery.

Originally constructed in 1967, Porters Creek Dam is part of the Shoalhaven water supply network. Treatment plant upgrades in 2016 now mean it can safely be used for managed recreation, including fishing and kayaking.

DPI has worked with the local council to develop this pristine waterway as a catch and release fishery for hard fighting native Australian Bass. The dam has a population of trophy-sized bass, which will be enhanced by regular stockings as part of DPI's Freshwater Stocking Program.

To maximise the dam's productivity as a trophy fishery, the dam is strictly catch and release with only lures and flies permitted for use. No bait fishing is allowed.

Stay tuned to the DPI website and social media channels for more news on this exciting new native sport fishery.

3.3 Aquatic habitat rehabilitation

Aquatic habitat rehabilitation initiatives aim to make more fish, naturally, through projects that improve environmental conditions. By repairing past damage, removing barriers to fish passage, reinstating snags and riparian vegetation, and improving water flows, fish habitat is protected and enhanced.

3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23

3.3.1 Habitat Action Grants

Habitat Action Grants fund a range of stakeholders to undertake on-ground fish habitat rehabilitation initiatives that, in turn, support fish populations and improve recreational fishing opportunities across NSW.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- \$850,000 made available to fishing clubs, community groups, individuals, local councils and natural resource management groups in freshwater and saltwater environments to conduct practical on-ground rehabilitation activities to improve fish habitat
- on-ground activities undertaken included management of stock access to waterways, revegetation with native plants, erosion control, reintroduction of woody habitat into rivers and estuaries, weed control, wetland rehabilitation and the reinstatement of fish passage.



Bent on fish habitat

Assisted by local recreational fishers, OzFish used a Habitat Action Grant to identify areas along the Lower Murray River that were lacking in fish habitat. To rehabilitate these areas, 15 large timber snags were installed, more than 1,000 native trees and shrubs were planted along the riparian areas, and community activities targeted rubbish removal within the Bottle Bend Reserve. With the assistance of the Sunraysia River Repair Bus and local volunteers, the site will be monitored and maintained into the future.

Murray Cod are just one fish species that will benefit from the timber habitat, which will provide a place for breeding, shelter, and a spot from which to ambush prey.

Orara riverbank stabilisation for cod

The Orara Valley Rivercare Group Management Committee took on the challenge to stabilise significant bank erosion along the Orara River, home to the Eastern Freshwater Cod. A series of pin logs and log deflectors were installed to help riparian tree and grass species to establish at this site. Rivercare volunteers helped plant species including Lomandra, river oak and water gum, which will dominate the riverbank and help long-term stabilisation. The vegetation will also filter runoff, improving water quality, riparian biodiversity and fish habitat.



3.3.2 Flagship Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Grant program

The Flagship Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Grant program builds on the success of the Habitat Action Grant Program to address major habitat-related issues affecting the viability of coastal fisheries, improve resilience and deliver better recreational fishing opportunities. Funding provided through these grants enables large-scale aquatic habitat rehabilitation projects to be undertaken.

Achievements in 2022-23 included:

- Tweed Shire Council completed more than 100m of riverbank stabilisation and installed 13 fish hotels, leading to improved water quality and enhanced fish habitat. The site was identified in

the erosion management plan developed in stage one of the project and targeted for stage two on-ground works in consultation with local fishers and stakeholder groups

- Byron Shire Council completed the remediation of a second causeway on the lower Brunswick River. This causeway was the final barrier to fish passage in the lower Brunswick River.



Bringing back the Brunswick

Byron Shire Council has reinstated fish passage in the lower Brunswick River. This flagship project replaced 2 causeways with bridges. The causeways were the final barriers preventing fish from accessing 25 kilometres of river during periods of low water flow. Fish passage is now possible from the ocean almost to the village of Main Arm.

This means good things for fish in the Brunswick River. Native fish populations including Australian Bass and Mullet will benefit, which means improved fishing opportunities for recreational anglers.

Photo: A new bridge in the Brunswick River near the village of Main Arm has replaced a causeway that was obstructing passage for native fish.

3.3.3 Landcare NSW & OzFish Unlimited community partnership driving fish habitat action

OzFish Unlimited and Landcare NSW established 30 partnership projects across NSW in 2022-23 that led to improvements in fish habitat. Projects were split equally between fresh and coastal waters in the third and biggest year for the partnership so far.

Achievements in 2022-23 included:

- reaching a total of 60 community driven partnership projects established across NSW over three years
- attracting almost \$1 million of extra funding from a wide variety of sources
- improvements to fish habitat including planting 15,750 native trees and shrubs, weed control measures across 24 hectares riparian zone, the installation of 81 in stream woody habitat structures and 460 tonnes of rocky habitat and the removal of 1.5 tonnes of rubbish
- fourteen community education workshops conducted, two translocations of threatened native fish and eDNA sampling for threatened species.



Styles Point saltmarsh restoration

The Styles Point saltmarsh project restored 180m² of precious saltmarsh along the banks of Lake Macquarie. Removing buffalo grass and planting 850 native saltmarsh and endemic species will promote natural expansion from existing pockets of saltmarsh.

The OzFish Lake Macquarie chapter worked with the Lake Macquarie Volunteer Landcare Network, Lake Macquarie City Council, and the Rathmines Sustainable Neighbourhood Group to improve shoreline stability, water quality, and increase productivity in the aquatic food web. A saltmarsh cleanup crew will ensure that this important fish habitat is maintained into the future.

3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23

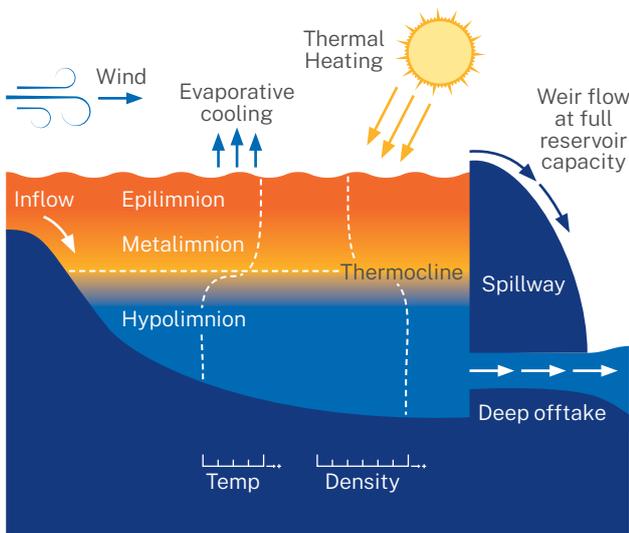
3.3.4 Cold water pollution mitigation

Cold water pollution (CWP) is caused by cold water being released into rivers from large dams during warmer months and is one of the key factors behind the reduction in the range and abundance of native freshwater fish species in NSW. It is estimated that up to 2,000 kilometres of lowland mainstem river habitat in NSW is affected by CWP. The NSW Government is revising and updating the Cold Water Pollution Mitigation Strategy, which aims to reduce the significant effect that CWP discharges from major dams have on downstream receiving waterways.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- Initiation of the Cold Water Pollution Working Group to guide development and implementation of the Revised Cold Water Pollution Mitigation Strategy. The Working Group includes key representation from NSW Government agencies, water asset authorities, and industry / university experts.
- Production of the draft Revised Cold Water Pollution Mitigation Strategy for finalization in early 2023-24.
- Strategic funding acquired for the Pindari Dam Bubble Plume Destratification Program for Stage 1 activities (system design and purchase). The Pindari Dam Bubble Plume Destratification Program aims to assess the cost-effectiveness of bubble plumes in mitigating CWP and associated reservoir water quality issues.

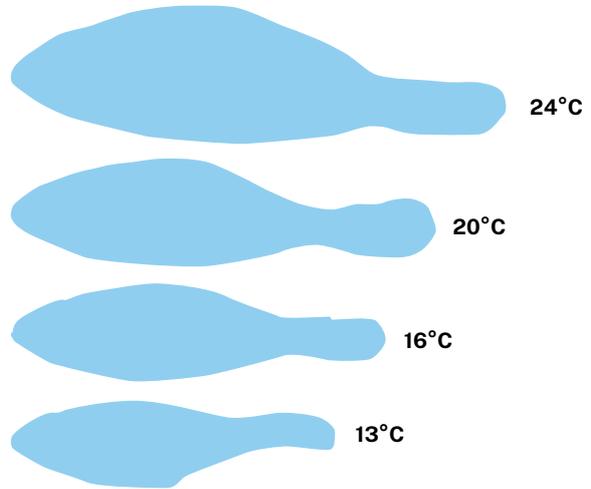
Stratification and Mixing Processes



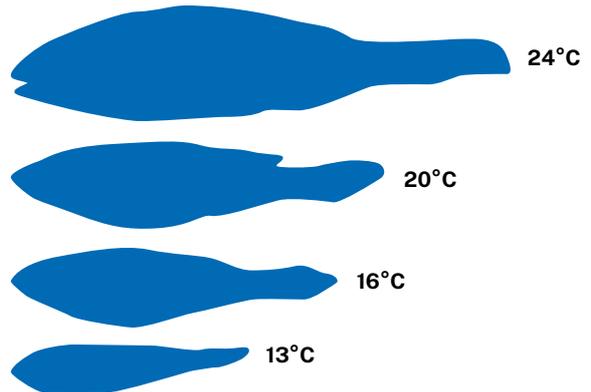
Thermal stratification results in the release of cold water from deep-level offtakes at large dams from September to April (Chaaya and Miller 2022).

Impact of cold water pollution on native fish that are the same age but reared at different temperatures

Golden perch



Trout cod



3.3.5 Tangaroa Blue – Look after your Tackle – fishers tackling litter in local waterways

This project involves Tangaroa Blue tackling fishing and waterway litter at its source to raise awareness, collect valuable data, change behaviours and take action that prevents and removes litter across NSW’s waterways. The Rig Recycle program is an Australian-first coordinated by Tangaroa Blue Foundation that collects selected recreational fishing and packaging items and diverts them from landfill through an innovative repair, reuse and recycle framework. The project connects recreational fishers, community clean-up participants, recreational fishing retailers and suppliers, social enterprises and community partners in a holistic and truly circular program that fills a current recycling gap.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- Rig Recycle bins at 40 locations across the state including tackle stores and local councils with more to come
- engaged with recreational fishing industry members on ways to reduce packaging, slack-filling in packaging and increase recycling rates.



3.3.6 Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation

This program provides fish conservation management services for the Greater Murray (Murray, Lower Darling and Murrumbidgee catchments), and Southern (Snowy Mountains, Southern Tablelands and Southern Highlands catchments) regions to enhance the protection of key fish habitat and increase recreational fisher involvement in fish habitat protection and management. A key responsibility of this program is to assess development proposals with potential impacts on fish habitat and provide development conditions that ensure no net loss of fish habitats.

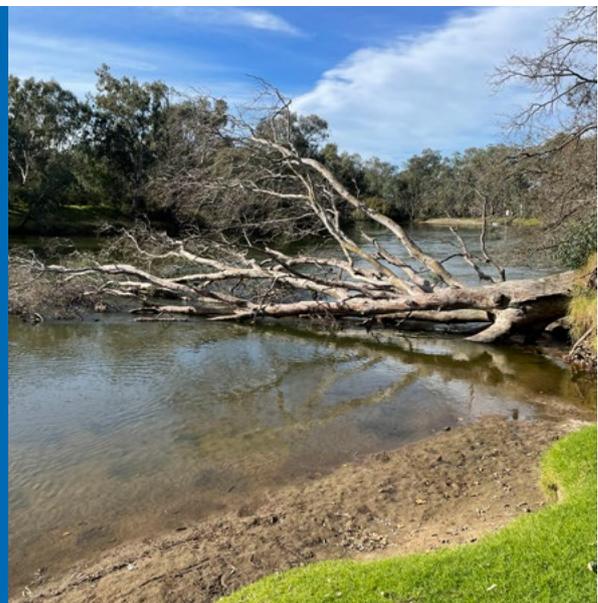
Achievements in 2022–23 in the Greater Murray region included:

- more than 220 development proposals with potential adverse impacts on key fish habitat were assessed and conditions applied to ensure “no net loss” of fish habitats from development activity
- developments and worksites on waterways were inspected by Fisheries officers, and follow up action undertaken where necessary to ensure compliance with remediation orders to restore damaged fish habitat
- involvement in community and media engagements that promote fish habitat conservation, including the Tirkandi Inaburra fishing workshop alongside Fishcare Volunteers at Narrandera Fisheries Centre.

Protecting large woody habitats after floods

Large woody habitats, or ‘snags’, are trees that have fallen into waterways. They provide vital habitat for native fish to rest, hide, feed and breed. Historically snags were removed from waterways, adding to aquatic habitat degradation across NSW. Recent flooding across the Greater Murray region has resulted in many trees falling into waterways. Depending on the location and size of the snag, they can cause navigation and safety issues. By working collaboratively with landowners, local councils, Local Land Services, the Soil Conservation Service, and NSW Maritime, the program has ensured that these large woody habitats are safely realigned and retained in the waterway as essential fish habitat.

Photo: Large woody habitat prior to realignment in the Murray River at the popular swimming location Noreuil Park, Albury.



3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23

Achievements in 2022–23 in the Southern region included:

- more than 205 development proposals and 50 permit applications with potential adverse impacts upon key fish habitat were assessed and conditions imposed that ensured “no net loss” of key fish habitats from development activity across South East NSW
- four new priority fish passage blockages were identified in South East NSW through development assessment work and negotiations initiated to rehabilitate these
- presentations on the importance of saltmarsh, seagrass and mangroves as fish habitat were delivered at community engagement events in recreational fishing havens – Curralo Lake and Merimbula Lake
- representation of the environmental, social and economic values of fish habitat and recreational fishing in the preparation of Coastal Management Plans and Water Sharing Plans on the South Coast.



From blockage to bridge

Following the destruction of a timber bridge in Cobargo by bushfires, a proposal to replace it with a single box culvert was considered not ideal for fish. Negotiations between DPI Fisheries, Transport for NSW and Bega Valley Shire Council resulted in a far better outcome for fish with a new bridge being built. A bridge is the gold standard for fish passage and was important for fish colonisation after the bushfire.

Photo: A *Galaxias maculatus* (common-Jollytail Galaxiid) recolonising the Murrabrine Creek post bushfire

3.4 Education and promotion

An important focus for Trusts funding is recreational fishing education and promotion to build awareness and stewardship of our aquatic resources. Education programs also aim to increase voluntary compliance with the NSW Fisheries rules and regulations. Programs like Fishcare, Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish, Come Fish With Us and Gone Fishing Day, among others, are supported each year.

3.4.1 Fishcare

A team of six Education Officers manage and facilitate the NSW Fishcare Volunteer program and its 200 dedicated and motivated Fishcare Volunteers. Providing face-to-face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground, the team promotes responsible and sustainable fishing. Fishcare also plays a key role in running sub programs such as Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish and Come Fish With Us workshops. The mission is to create a team of fishing stewards that champion responsible fishing and a sustainable, secure fishing future. Fishcare is one of the flagship programs of the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

Achievements in 2022–23 included::

- 370 events held, involving 210,000 people and 20,000 volunteer hours (2,800 days)
- spotlight events included Tocal and Mudgee Field days, Sydney Royal Easter Show, The Harvest Festival, and the Sydney International Boat Show
- Fishcare Volunteers helped at more than 86 Come Fish With Us events attended by 2,000 people
- two new education trailers purchased for the southwest and northwest Fishcare regions to better promote the program and wider Trust initiatives.



Tocal Field Days get the thumbs up from anglers

More than 200 keen anglers joined in some fishing fun at the Tocal Field Days in 2023. The try fishing sessions held across three days were a fantastic opportunity for individuals and families to learn the basics of fishing with help from staff and our dedicated Fishcare Volunteers.

One lucky angler even managed to catch a 69 centimetre carp weighing 4 kilograms. Hundreds of other fish were landed making for some great fishing moments and huge grins for many first-time anglers. Giveaways included rod and reel combos, sunglasses, and tackle boxes to take home for anglers to continue their fishing adventures.



Fishcare fishing for flood recovery

In early 2023 Fish for Life Flood Recovery Days were held at Keepit Dam and Forbes. Organised by our Fishcare team for the local communities, the events celebrated all things fishing after some challenging times following the rains of 2022. Fishing, tips, casting competitions, face painting and lots of giveaways were on offer and every child went home with a fishing pack. The events were supported by the Forbes Shire Council, Boys from the Bush, Wilsons Fishing and NSW Maritime.

DPI's Fish on Show stand reels in a crowd

Over 12 days, 180,000 visitors came to learn all things fishing at DPI's Fish on Show stand at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

What a fun-filled, hectic and educational event it was. More than 15,000 people per day visited the stand. Children and adults tried their hand at knot tying and casting a line, which was the most popular activity, while learning about safe and sustainable fishing in NSW.



3.4.2 Come Fish with Us

Come Fish With Us events teach adults and children how to fish in a responsible and sustainable manner. All events are free and include fishing workshops, try fishing sessions, and partnered events. The program provides fun, enjoyable educational experiences that teach the basics of fishing to new entrants giving them the skills to continue in the sport for life, mentoring the fishing stewards and champions of tomorrow.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- 86 organised Come Fish With Us events – fishing workshops, try fishing days, and open fishing days
- 2,000 anglers cast a line with DPI
- around 1,100 days spent fishing at a local waterway with Fishcare
- new partnership with Fortem Group Australia that uses fishing to support mental health outcomes for first responders.

3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23



Fishing holiday fun

Easter fishing fun was on the cards across NSW, with fish and plenty of smiles experienced across DPI's Come Fish With Us sessions held over the two weeks of school holidays.

With 14 sessions on offer, more than 300 children and adults got to wet a line at a local waterway as part of a fishing workshop or try fishing session, with many winding in their very first catch.

3.4.3 Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish schools education program

The Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish program introduces students to fishing and teaches the basics about sustaining aquatic habitats by practising safe and responsible recreational fishing. The program provides in-class lessons and practical outdoor fishing workshops that are aligned to the Australian Curriculum and meet syllabus outcomes across all key learning areas.

Achievements in 2022-23 included:

- 85 schools registered and 2,800 students participated in workshops and in-class sessions
- Feedback from Zoe (homeschool): "The kids all had a wonderful learning experience and the adults were all very impressed with how well organised and engaging the whole workshop was".
- Feedback from Grania (The Armidale School): "The staff were phenomenal and very professional. The students learnt so much about the breeding process, sustainability, treating fish and marine life humanely, being aware of fish sizes and times of year to fish and not to mention how to correctly use fishing rods and to cast a line".



Fishing for breast cancer recovery

In June 2023, the Fishcare team was privileged to spend a few hours fishing with a group of inspirational and resilient ladies in Forbes with the help of the McGrath Foundation. The ladies from around the local area got to try their hand at fly fishing (which they loved) and wet a line, with a few lucky enough to land a fish. Although everyone came together to fish, the underpinning aim of the day was to allow the ladies to socialise, connect, enjoy good company and share a laugh, while hopefully catching a fish or two.

Staff and volunteers remarked on how wonderful it was to see all the smiles and hear chatter and laughter all day. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for their help on the day.



Ulmarra Public School students Get Hooked

Students from Ulmarra Public School were keen and ready to fish at the Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish schools fishing workshops on the North Coast in December at their local waterway.

The students landed lots of great catches including some good-sized bream and a few slippery eels. Local student Carter was all smiles when he reeled in his catch of the day.



Get Hooked ... It's Fun to Fish across the state

The Get Hooked ... It's Fun to Fish program worked with 85 schools and 2,800 students across NSW in 2022-23.

Fishing for Sport under the Get Hooked program was also very popular in Sydney and about 800 students attended. DPI is looking to expand this program to other regions.

3.4.4 Gone Fishing Day

Gone Fishing Day is for everyone; it celebrates our love of fishing and encourages everyone to get out on the water. It doesn't matter if you haven't fished before or if you are the keenest of anglers, everyone is welcome. Funding grants and fishing packages are provided to fishing clubs to hold events while the DPI Fishcare Program also hosts a series of events across NSW.

Coastal anglers out and about for Gone Fishing Day

During October and November 2022, Ballina, Lake Macquarie, Sydney and Batemans Bay anglers celebrated a weekend of sunshine at DPI's Gone Fishing Day celebrations. Families turned out in droves to learn a few tips, try their hand at hitting a few targets at casting lessons, and wet a line in their local waterway. Ballina celebrated as part of the Taste of Seafood festival, while DPI Fisheries joined the local Summerland Sporties fishing club for the Central Coast event.



3.4.5 Forge Through Fishing Program

The Forge Through Fishing Program encourages social engagement within the veteran and first responder community. The aim is to support those suffering from mental health conditions as a result of their service to socialise and engage in meaningful relationships while enjoying fishing outings and activities.

Achievements in 2022-23 included:

- a series of individual fishing trips for veterans and first responders in both fresh and salt water (ranging from tuna to trout fishing) to introduce individuals to fishing as a meaningful activity to help in their wellbeing
- annual Forge Through Social Fishing Day held in December, which attracted 27 teams
- a range of opportunities outside the standard suite of treatments offered to participants to improve their mental health.

3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23



Improving mental health outcomes through fishing

The growing engagement in the Forge Through Fishing Program and attendance at events has shown the willingness of veterans and first responders to use fishing as a therapeutic activity to improve mental health outcomes. An observed change in participant demeanour is evident after a day of walking a remote trout stream or drifting around the sand flats of an estuary. Watching family relationships grow through fishing as a shared experience has been evident on several trips and many families have continued their fishing experiences together as a result of the skills they learnt during the program.

3.4.6 Fish For Life – Building a Healthy Fishing Future

Fish For Life – Building a Healthy Fishing Future aims to improve the social licence of recreational fishing, increase participation, and inspire increased stewardship and responsibility among the recreational fishing community.

Through collaborations with partners and grassroots fishers, DPI is implementing on-ground and online initiatives that directly involve and benefit fishers and the sector.

Achievements in 2022-23 included:

- presented the Fish For Life strategy at the World Recreational Fishing Conference
- created high-quality social media content to raise awareness among recreational fishers about the impact of fishing-related litter, in partnership with the Marine Estate Management Strategy program
- established a partnership with OzFish to coordinate and promote a series of community events throughout NSW focused on encouraging recreational fishers to actively participate in cleaning up their local fishing areas, promoting sustainability and stewardship.



Fish For Life, Keep It Clean

Under the subprogram Keep It Clean, DPI developed high quality and engaging videos, social media content and a guide about fishing-related litter. This content was designed to promote key messaging to recreational fishers, helping them understand the impacts of fishing-related litter and proactively care for fish habitat and aquatic wildlife.

The content is being promoted by NSW DPI and various partner organisations across a variety of social media platforms in 2023 and 2024.

3.4.7 Surf Life Saving NSW rock fishing safety and skills program

Focused on rock fishing safety education, this project provided more than 1,000 lifejackets and lifejacket education to the community. Through a combination of rock fishing safety workshops, classroom-based education, family targeted school programs, multilingual rock fishing safety resources, and newly developed information targeting at-risk communities, this program aims to create change by improving community knowledge, awareness, and behaviour change.

Project events and programs were targeted to at-risk communities and high-risk locations. Many of the participants were migrants to Australia who spoke languages other than English, with an average of 20 nationalities represented at each of the coastal safety events.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- 10 coastal rock fishing workshops sessions with 1,722 attendees
- 1,080 life jackets provided to local communities
- 203 education sessions, reaching 4,912 community members
- 18 TAFE classroom sessions
- 55 early childhood and family sessions.



North Bondi rock fishing safety

The final coastal safety workshop held at North Bondi saw 282 members from the community, representing 19 nationalities, learn about rock fishing safety. Participants joined workshops run by NSW DPI, Maritime NSW, SLSNSW and rock fishermen Spyros, Hadi, and Amr as they learned about safe rock fishing and coastal safety. Bondi lifesavers and lifeguards ran an afternoon hazard awareness session and in-water demonstrations to showcase rescue techniques and local conditions. At the end of the day, 164 lifejackets were fitted and handed out to participants.



3.5 Research

Funding is provided from the Trusts for fish and recreational fishing research projects, many of which involve citizen scientists in observations and data collection. This research provides essential scientific information to help ensure the sustainable use of our fisheries resources.

3.5.1 Game Fish Tagging Program

The Game Fish Tagging Program provides information on the biology of billfish, tunas, sharks and other recreationally important sports fish. It encourages fishing clubs and anglers to participate in the management of the fishery.

Tags are issued to anglers and when an angler catches a fish it is tagged and released, and the details of the capture are recorded on a tag card with the corresponding tag number. The card tag is returned to NSW DPI.

When a tagged fish is recaptured, catch information is linked to the original tag and release and compared to the recapture information. Details of the distance that the fish travelled, and its growth are sent to the anglers who first tagged the fish and the anglers who recaptured it.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- 10,860 tag cards received and entered and around 460 reported recaptures, demonstrating that fish tagging for the program has returned to pre-Covid levels
- distribution of 10,550 pelagic, 12,200 billfish, 4,050 shark, 600 flathead and 695 Snapper tags to game fishing clubs and individual anglers
- continued growth and participation of recreational anglers tagging key sportfish like Mulloway, Snapper and flathead
- continued use of data from the program utilised in several research publications, harvest strategy development, and other reports and articles
- increased participation from Game Fishing Clubs in the South Pacific
- continued development of the game fish tagging database.

Black Marlin recaptures

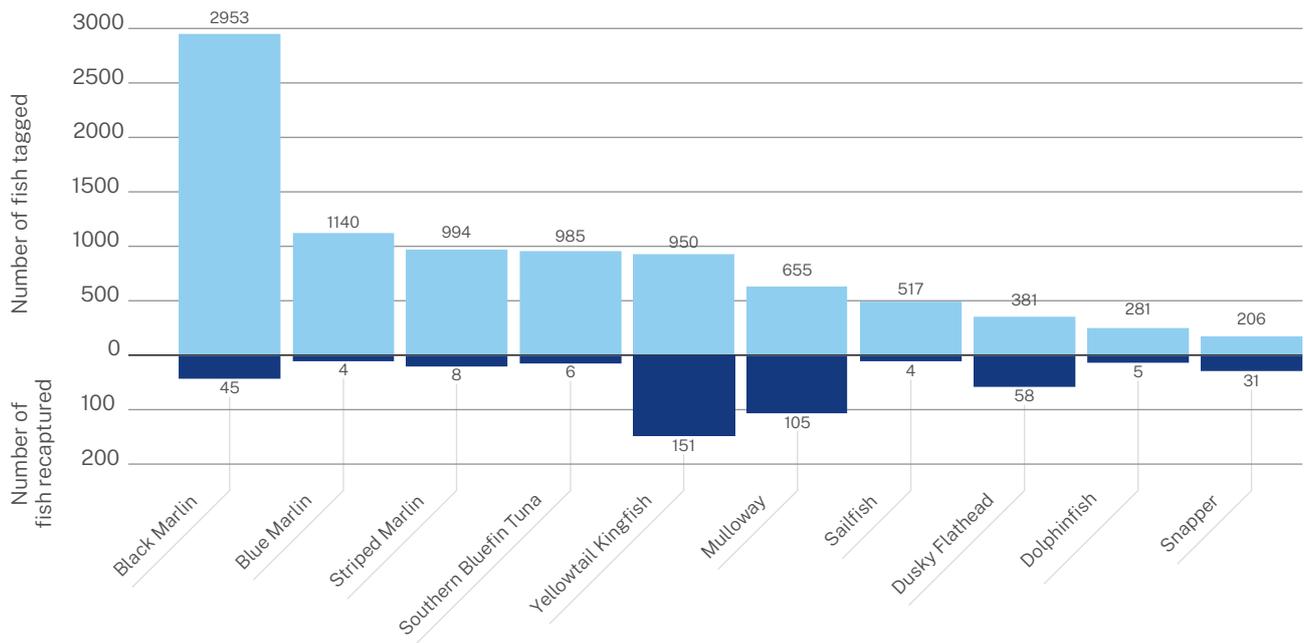
With favourable environmental conditions and fantastic inshore fishing opportunities up and down the coast, many boats and anglers had the opportunity to target, catch and tag juvenile Black Marlin. With large numbers of fish being tagged (2,953), there was also a significant number of recaptures, with 45 Black Marlin recaptured for the season, the highest tally for the species in more than 22 years. While many were fish caught close to their original tag location, there were some incredible examples of long-distance movements.

One was a recapture form submitted by a fish processor in the Philippines. The fishmonger had received a tag from an international longline vessel deckhand who had returned from a long-distance fishing voyage throughout the Pacific Islands. During this trip, the commercial vessel captured a Black Marlin while fishing an area known as the Brumer Trench, south of Baxter Harbour, Papua New Guinea.

The Black Marlin had originally been caught and tagged on 25 February 2023 by Matt Millauro offshore from Seal Rocks, NSW. When initially tagged the fish was estimated at 40 kilograms. Upon recapture it weighed 58 kilograms, highlighting an impressive growth rate. In only 79 days at liberty, the fish was caught more than 1,247 nautical miles (~2,310 kilometres) from its original release location.



Top 10 tagged and recaptured fish in 2022-23



3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23

3.5.2 Where do Kingfish go to spawn?

Project Kingfish uses a multi-disciplinary approach to gain new insights into the movements, spawning habitats and key recruitment areas for Kingfish off Eastern Australia. The project aims to help increase quality fishing opportunities for this iconic species into the future.

Led by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science in collaboration with Macquarie University, the University of New South Wales, Deakin University and NSW DPI, an extensive field campaign has been running since the start of 2022 in partnership with specialist recreational anglers to catch and satellite tag mature Kingfish at key sites across NSW and south-eastern Australia.

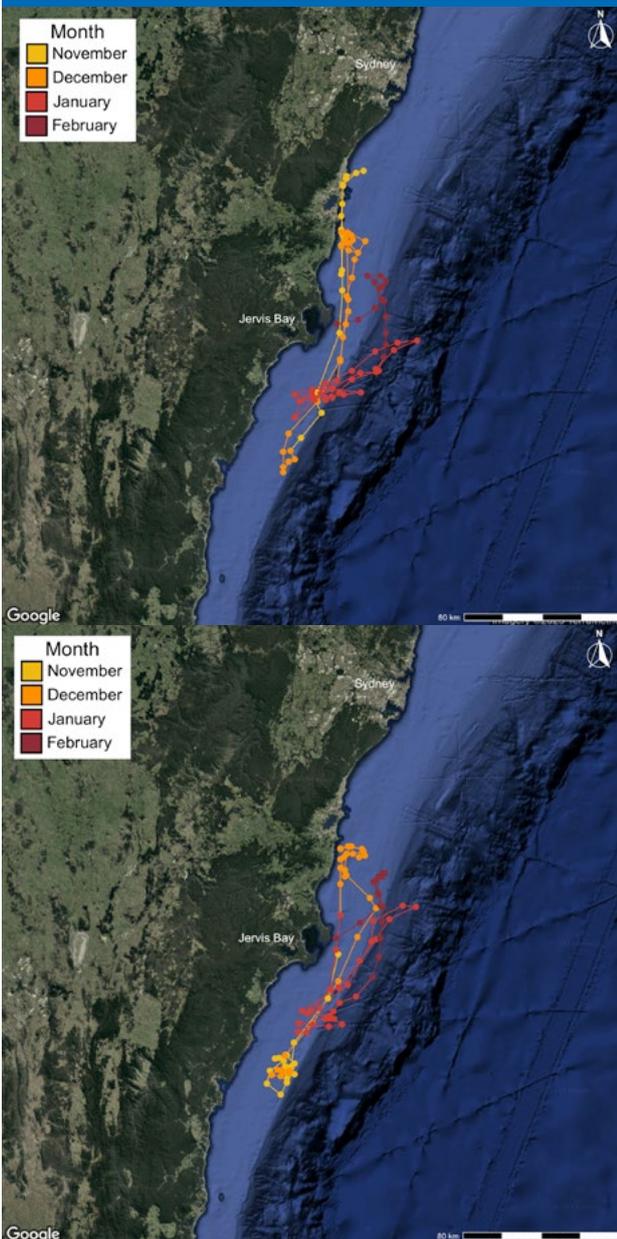
Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- more than 3,000 recreational anglers regularly engaged with Kingfish fishing and biology through Project Kingfish social media channels
- five Kingfish tag-and-release tournaments across NSW were hosted or sponsored, promoting tag-and-release fishing practices and enhancing data collection via the NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging program
- successful collaboration with 15 expert anglers to satellite tag 23 sexually mature Kingfish: So far, 18 have detached providing broad-scale insights into Kingfish movement, five tags are still attached and collecting data, with more to deploy in coming weeks
- analysis of 50 years (1973 to 2022) of Kingfish tag-recapture data from the DPI Game Fish Tagging Program completed, revealing movement patterns and population structure of Kingfish across Australia and exploring connectivity between fishery jurisdictions
- analysis of 102 Kingfish otoliths (ear bones) sourced from the NSW Research Angler Program, using stable isotope microchemistry to determine spawning temperatures of Kingfish caught off NSW.



What happens when two Kingfish from the same school are tagged?

A pair of Kingfish satellite tagged by expert anglers Ian Osterloh and Simon Pender off Jervis Bay were caught as a double hook-up and released only minutes apart. For the first few weeks, it seems the two Kingfish split up, with one fish heading north and the other south. However, after a short time apart, the two Kingfish seem to have reunited or moved following the same cues. Both Kingfish then spent the rest of the three months seemingly swimming together or in the same area until both tags detached in roughly the same spot off Jervis Bay. This provides exciting new insights into the schooling behaviour of Kingfish, as well as their habitat preferences.



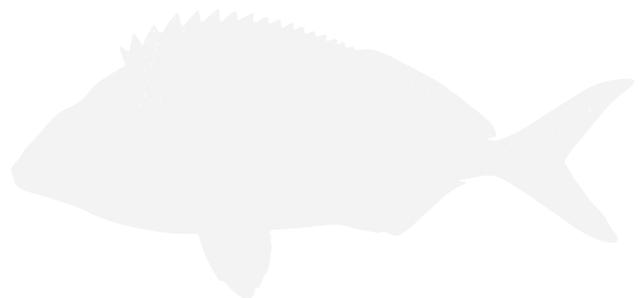
3.5.3 Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program

The Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program (RFMP) uses a telephone-diary survey to collect information on recreational catch, effort and participation across NSW. These surveys provide biennial snapshots of catch, effort and participation of long-term (one and three year) licensed recreational fishers within NSW. The RFMP also includes an on-board observer and logbook program to collect similar information for the recreational charter fishery. Information from the RFMP is used in resource assessments, status determinations, quota setting, investigation of the impacts of management changes, and helps ensure sustainable fishing into the future.

Surveys of recreational fishing were completed in 2013-14, 2017-18 and 2019-20. Information from the 2021-22 survey will be released in 2023 and will build on the knowledge gained from previous surveys.

Achievements in 2022-23 included:

- analysis of the 2019-20 charter monitoring program revealed that 82 licensed marine charter businesses operated statewide, undertook more than 3,600 trips and hosted almost 25,000 recreational fishers
- analysis of charter monitoring data revealed that more than 100,000 fish of 130 different species were caught, with the top five species being Bluespotted Flathead, Snapper, Blue Mackerel, Yellowtail Scad and Grey Morwong
- the successful completion of the 2021-22 telephone-diary survey, with more than 1,200 households involved in the 12-month diary program.



3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23

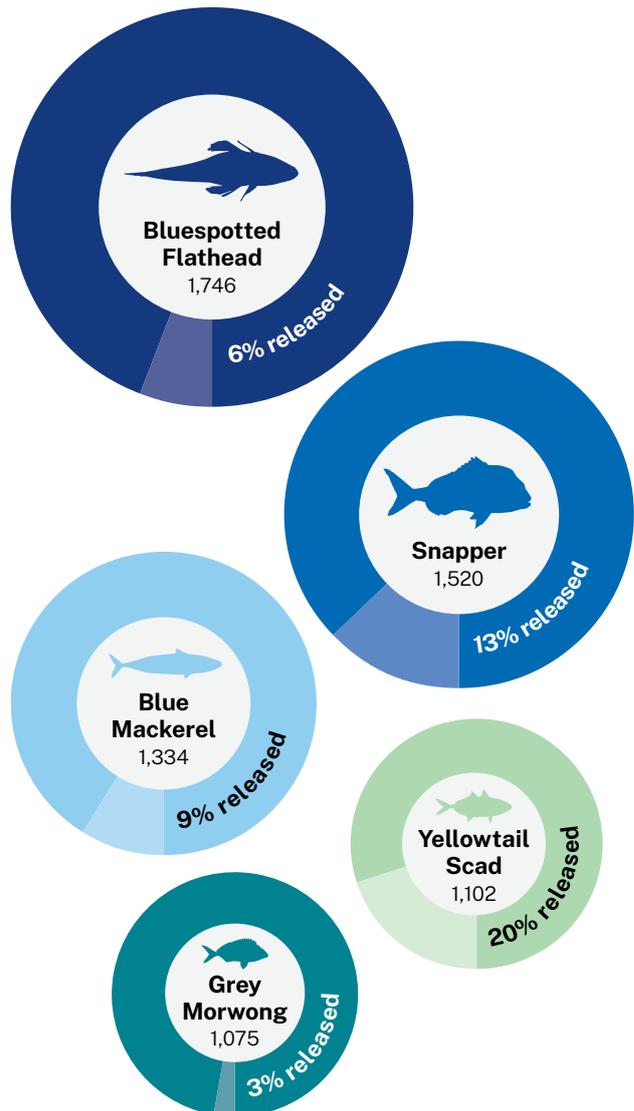


Charter Fishery observer monitoring

Monitoring of the NSW Charter Fishery during 2020–21 involved trained fishery observers being voluntarily hosted by more than 30 operators on almost 250 nearshore marine charter trips statewide. As well as recording data on fishing catch and effort, observers collected information on wildlife observations and data on charter clients. Almost 10,000 seabirds, marine mammals and other marine species were observed in the vicinity of charter vessels in 2020–21, but very few interactions with the fishery were recorded. Recreational charter clients ranged from 2 to 92 years of age, with 35% coming from regional areas, interstate or overseas.

Photo: A happy fisher with a pair of freshly caught Ocean Leatherjackets, 2 of almost 600 recorded by on-board observers monitoring the NSW Charter Fishery.

Top 5 Finfish Species – Charter Observer



Top 5 finfish species (and release rates) recorded from January 2020 to June 2021 through the Charter Fishery observer program

3.5.4 Research Angler Program

The Research Angler Program (RAP) enables anglers, as citizen scientists, to contribute to the scientific knowledge and stock assessment of key recreational species in NSW by donating fish frames. The frames are processed and the earbones (otoliths) are removed and used to determine the age of the fish.

Age data is used to build a picture of the age structure of the species population and provides information on how many fish there are of each age in the stock, which helps evaluate the health of the species. Collecting this data over time can reveal how fish populations in NSW may be changing.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- increased angler participation in the program, which resulted in more than 110 anglers donating 1,620 fish frames or otoliths
- three new drop off locations (tackle businesses in regional areas) have increased the number of frame collection locations across NSW to 37
- community engagement events to promote fisher participation
- added deep water species to the frame collection list including Bass Groper, Banded Rock Cod (Bar Cod) and Hapuka.

RAP collaborative research

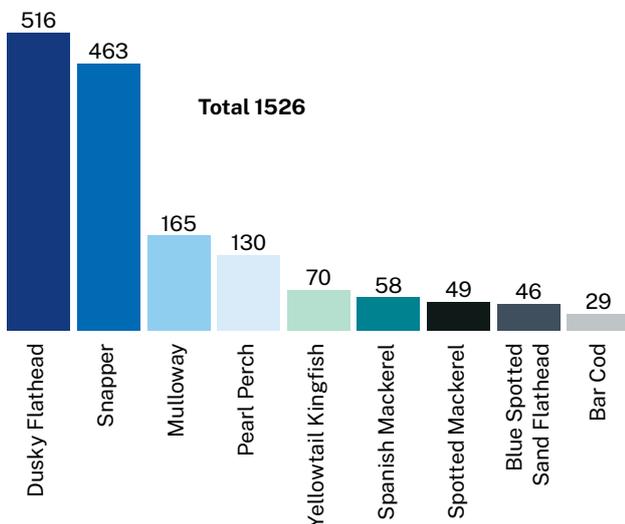
Not only is RAP data useful for the regular monitoring of important NSW species, but the frame collection program is also used for collaborative research projects. This year, the RAP helped collect:

- gut and gonad specimens for a study on the movements and spawning patterns of Kingfish – Sydney Institute of Marine Science and NSW DPI
- gut specimens for a gut content study on Snapper – University of Newcastle
- tissue samples for a genetics study on Spanish Mackerel – Queensland Fisheries
- tissue samples for a study on the life history and genetic population structure of key deep-water species – University of Queensland and Queensland Fisheries.

The program collected 30 deep-water fish including a 130 centimetre Bass Groper. These contributions are particularly valuable because deep-water fish specimens are difficult to acquire.



Number of fish donated in 2022-23



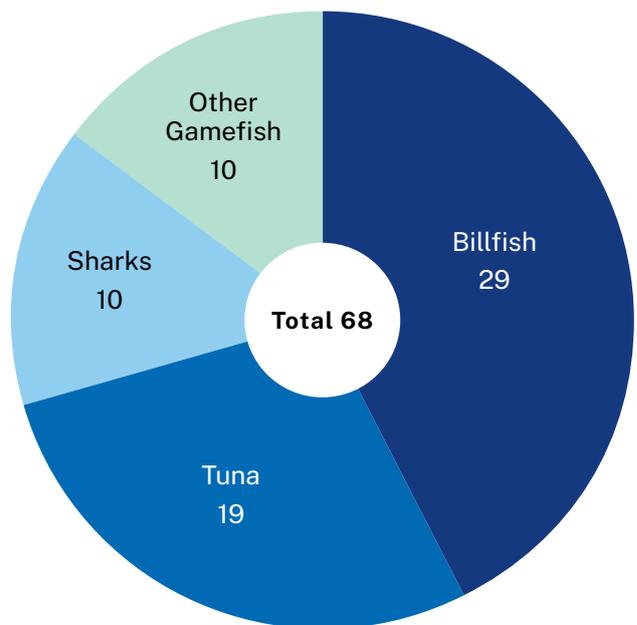
3.5.5 Monitoring and research on landed fish at game fishing tournaments

Undertaken by Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd, this project conducts monitoring, sampling and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured and weighed at major game fishing tournaments in NSW.

Achievements in 2022-23 included:

- Pepperell Research staff attended eight tournaments from Port Stephens to Shellharbour
- 68 landed fish were measured, examined and sampled, which included 29 billfish, 19 tuna, 10 sharks and 10 other gamefish
- scientists and postgraduate students from NSW DPI, Macquarie University, University of the Sunshine Coast and Pepperell Research used organs, tissues and parasites sampled at these tournaments for their research
- all sampled tissues were added to frozen and preserved tissue banks for use in future local and global research projects.

Fish sampled at tournaments during the 2022-23 NSW game fishing season



3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23



Local tournaments supporting international research

Fifty-one subsamples of flesh taken this year and from archived frozen samples from previous years were sent to Texas A&M University, USA as part of a global study on the occurrence of microplastics in pelagic fish. The muscle samples were from 10 Blue Marlin, 10 Mako Sharks, 10 Dolphinfin Tuna, 6 Blue Sharks and 5 Wahoo. The study is being conducted in conjunction with the University of the Sunshine Coast.

3.5.6 The Great Swordfish Race

Swordfish are large, migratory, predatory fish with a long and flat bill. They are an elusive and prized recreational sportfish found throughout the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Along the NSW coast there is a newly emerging deep drop fishery where recreational anglers specifically target Swordfish during daylight hours. The Great Swordfish Race Project provides data and research on movement, availability, distribution and post-release survival of fish caught along the NSW coast through the use of pop-up satellite tags deployed by experienced recreational anglers. The tags are externally attached to the fish and log information on location, depth, light levels and temperature. This project is being undertaken by NSW DPI in collaboration with the Australian National Sportfishing Association (NSW) and the NSW Game Fishing Association.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- one Swordfish tagged with a pop-up satellite tag deployed by an angler off NSW – fish and tag recovered by commercial vessel
- continued education on best practice handling techniques for Swordfish.

Satellite tag recovered

A satellite tag deployed on 24 July 2022 by Cooper & Al McGlashan while fishing off Bermagui was retrieved by a NSW south coast longline vessel fishing off the Bass Canyon area, in Victorian waters on 27 September 2022. The tag streamed data to NSW DPI from the vessel, and after making some enquiries, the tag was tracked down and kindly provided to us by the boat owner. The fish was estimated to have been around 20 kilograms on release and on its recapture.

This recapture reinforces the current thinking on survival of angler released Swordfish that Swordfish that are showing good colour, tail and eye movement, and are not deeply hooked or exhibiting barotrauma or bleeding, are likely to be good candidates for release.

As with previous satellite-tagged Swordfish, the depth data shows that the fish carried out the typical pattern of diving deep during the day and rising near to the surface after sunset. This is believed to be linked to the Swordfish foraging for food in the Deep Scattering Layer. The normal daytime diving depth was around 400 to 700 metres plus with some shallower and deeper dives over time.

Upon tagging, it appears that the fish moved steadily east for around 90 nautical miles before moving in a general south westerly direction and towards the entrance of Bass Canyon where it was caught by a longline vessel in September.

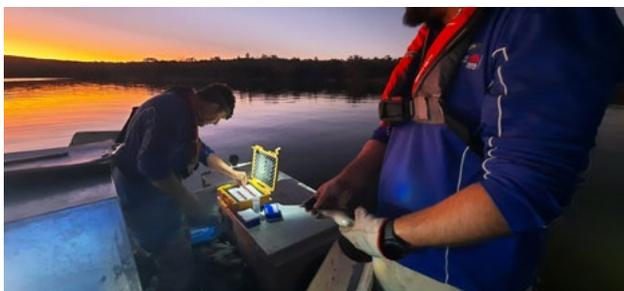


3.5.7 Building a Healthy Freshwater Fishery

Building a Healthy Freshwater Fishery is a long-term program incorporating monitoring and research of freshwater recreational fisheries throughout the state. The program provides regular data on fishery status, assessment of management interventions and targeted research that will benefit recreational fishers by providing fishery managers with relevant and up-to-date information.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- completion of annual trout fishery monitoring in the Snowy Lakes and streams, with data shared through the trout fishery report cards, live fish counter, and the project website
- development and continuation of tagging studies monitoring Murray Cod habitat usage and movements in Copeton Dam and the upper Murray River
- monitoring of NSW impoundment fisheries for Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Australian Bass and salmonids through age and growth studies (using otoliths), hydroacoustic surveys, and genetic analyses.



Copeton Dam – where do the big Cod live?

This program tracks the movements of Murray Cod in Copeton Dam using telemetry tags and listening stations. The goal is to provide sustainable angling opportunities in the future by gathering information on habitat requirements, movements, and carrying capacity of the dam. This information will allow impoundments like Copeton Dam to be managed to provide angling opportunities for trophy-sized fish in Murray Cod over one metre. To date, more than 30 receivers have been deployed and a range of large Murray Cod tagged in collaboration with local anglers, the Fish Habitat Network and Ozfish Unlimited.

Photos: The project team getting ready to tag a large Murray Cod

3.5.8 Making more Maccas

Macquarie Perch, or Maccas, were once a common and highly-prized recreational fishing species in southeastern Australia. However, due to habitat loss, introduced species, disease, barriers to movement and altered flow patterns they are now listed as an endangered species and are gone from most of their former range.

Under the Making more Maccas project, targeted actions are taken to rebuild Macquarie Perch populations, with the goal of re-establishing a recreational fishery for this unique species.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- supporting ongoing captive breeding of Maccas at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre with the production of more than 7,000 Macca larvae
- continued stocking of Maccas into the Winburndale Dam and Rivulet, with monitoring showing great results with Maccas establishing well in both the dam and rivulet
- more than 1,000 trout translocated from Winburndale to the Millpond and made accessible to recreational fishers
- eDNA surveys of the Kangaroo and Shoalhaven Rivers undertaken to establish if Maccas are still present
- eDNA surveys undertaken of the upper Murrumbidgee River to determine the extent of Redfin Perch invasion
- monitoring of translocations in the Abercrombie and Retreat Rivers, with detection of recent recruitment in both systems.



3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23

3.5.9 Effectiveness of freshwater and marine fish stocking

Marine and freshwater stocking programs release native fish and salmonids into rivers, inland lakes and estuaries to increase recreational fishing opportunities. These long-term monitoring and research programs evaluate the success of these initiatives and provide scientific evidence to ensure the release of fish is sustainable, benefits the NSW recreational fishing community, and supports adaptive management of the fisheries (e.g. when and where stocking is required).

Achievements in 2022–23 for the marine stocking program included:

- more than 600 Dusky Flathead DNA samples (fin clips) provided by citizen scientists from stocked south-coast estuaries to help scientists monitor the contribution of released fish in these systems
- stocking of 1,500 tagged juvenile Dusky Flathead into Lake Macquarie allowing NSW DPI to track their growth and movement throughout the estuary
- tracking of hatchery reared juvenile Mulloway, tagged with acoustic transmitters, showed they preferred deep water habitat compared to wetland creeks within the Hunter River.

Achievements in 2022-23 for the freshwater stocking program included:

- development of a monitoring program to examine the effectiveness of stocking sub-adult Murray Cod (e.g. fish above 30 centimetres)
- development of a program to evaluate the success of Brook Trout, Tiger Trout and Atlantic Salmon stocking to create boutique and unique fishing opportunities in NSW. This included providing rapid feedback on Atlantic Salmon to key stakeholders, managers and hatcheries to allow an informed decision to be made on production
- continued monitoring of the stocking effectiveness of warm water Rainbow Trout in the Snowy Lakes.

Advanced Mulloway tagged and released into the Georges River

NSW Fisheries released 400 advanced Mulloway averaging 1 kilogram (45 centimetre) into the Georges River in February this year. This provided a unique opportunity to tag fish and monitor their movements, growth, and contribution to the local recreational fishery. In only four months, 14 of these fish have been recaptured by anglers and released in a healthy condition. Fish were released in the Revesby/Beauty Point region of the river; however, tagged fish have been caught as far upstream as Chipping Norton and downstream to Taren Point. Stocked fish have joined schools of wild Mulloway and are growing well. This tagging program adds another layer to our research and monitoring of stocked Mulloway, which also includes a citizen science program collecting DNA samples to track the impact of released fingerlings from both the Georges and Hastings Rivers.





Boutique salmonid fisheries

NSW DPI has been exploring the role and feasibility of boutique fisheries for species such as Atlantic Salmon, Brook Trout and Tiger Trout. The already established stocking regimes for Atlantic Salmon needed re-evaluation to inform hatchery operations in 2023 due to planned hatchery upgrades. Using conventional tagging techniques, returns for sub-adult salmon were shown to be similar to those for sub-adult Rainbow Trout. This provided valuable information to the trout allocation committee (acclimatisation societies) and managers, which ensured a research informed decision could be made on the hatchery production of these species into the future.

Photos: Tagged sub-adult Atlantic Salmon ready for release (top); Adult Atlantic Salmon caught from the Thredbo River (bottom).

3.5.10 Fish Screens Australia

The roll-out of modern fish protection screens for irrigation pumps and channels has continued this year. This technology protects fish and farms, by keeping fish in waterways and debris out of water infrastructure. Fish Screens Australia is supporting adoption and uptake, as irrigators and other water users transition to this new, best practice for accessing water. The support of recreational anglers has been instrumental.

Key achievements in 2022–23 included:

- water users in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin responded enthusiastically to an Expression of Interest for screen installations across the Mehi River and Barwon-Darling upstream from Wilcannia. More than 49 pumps across 16 sites are being assessed for screen installations to protect nearly one million native fish annually
- new social research, in partnership with Charles Sturt University, into the attitudes, motivations and abilities of water users allowed the development of targeted engagement strategies to support incentive programs for modern screens
- modern fish-protection screens have been integrated in major policy instruments in NSW, including the Murray Darling Basin Authority’s Native Fish Recovery Strategy, the NSW Water Strategy, the NSW Ministerial Taskforce for Fish Passage and the Northern Basin Toolkit.

Trangie-Nevertire Irrigation Scheme

The Trangie-Nevertire Irrigation Scheme on the Macquarie River is fully screened. On the left is an array of four cone screens. On the right is a T-shaped cylinder screen. These screens protect 33 farms from the impacts of debris and save the Scheme \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month in electricity costs.



3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2022–23

3.6 Fisheries officers

Funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts support nine coastal, three coastal mobile squads and six inland Fisheries officers, and build NSW DPI's capacity to enforce fisheries rules and regulations.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- more than 33,000 recreational fisher checks, across NSW waterways by Fisheries officers, including those in Trusts funded officer roles
- the detection of 3,767 offences (resulting from recreational compliance checks), which led to 2,069 written warnings, 1,437 penalty notices totalling \$460,850 in value, 72 prosecution actions and 189 other sanction types
- attendance of Fisheries officers at 82 educational events resulting in 1,982 contacts.

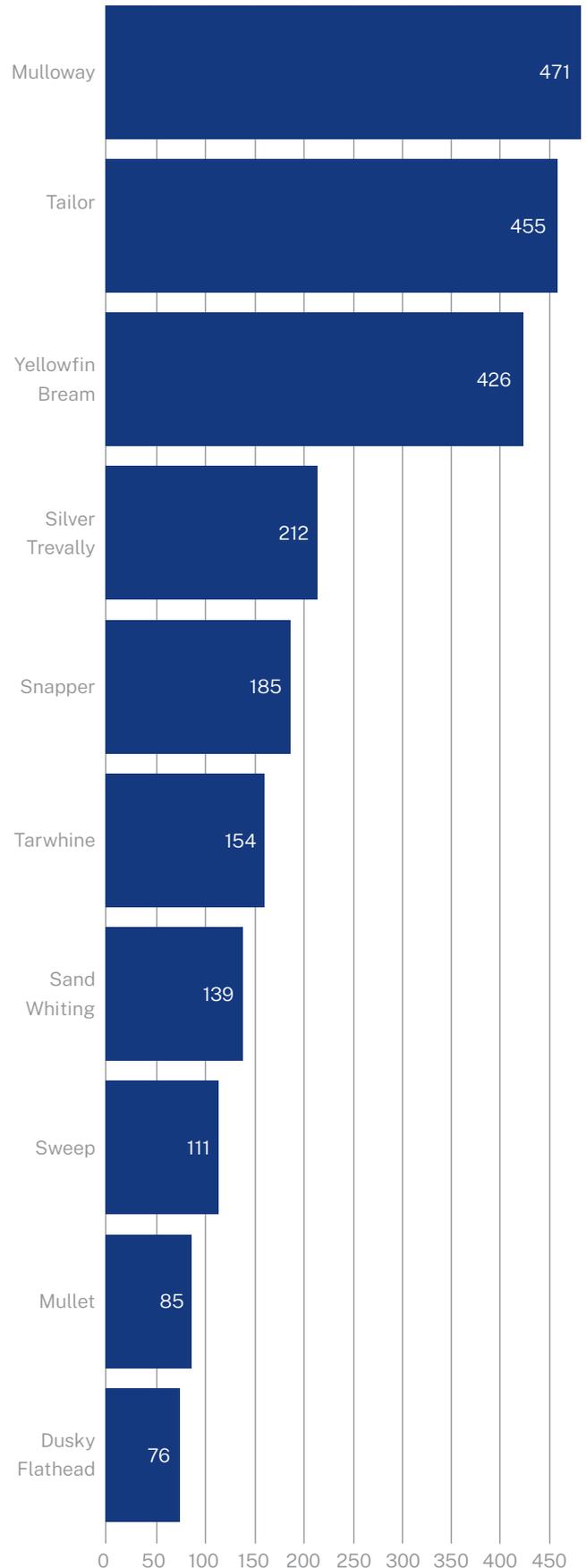


Howlong man charged for illegal fishing

In July 2022, Fisheries officers apprehended a man for using two unlawful wire traps in the Murray River near Howlong to take 27 Murray Crayfish, including 13 that were of a prohibited size and nine that were carrying eggs. In March 2023 the man appeared in Corowa Local Court and pled guilty to all charges. He was placed on a conditional release order and received fines and costs totalling \$9,714.

Top Ten seized fin fish

Over 69,000 fish and invertebrates including:



Compliance Statistics	
Total recreational contacts	33,194
Compliance rate for recreational sector	91%
Recreational field hours	40,302
Recreational offences	3,767
Recreational written warnings	2,069
Recreational penalty notices	1,437
Value of recreational penalty notices	\$460,850
Recreational prosecution actions commenced	72
Value of recreational prosecution fines	\$98,730
Operations conducted (all sectors)	35
Recreational fish and invertebrates seized	31,539
Recreational fishing gear and other items seized	1,175
Vessel patrol hours (all sectors)	4,407
Educational events attended (all sectors)	82

3.7 Trusts management and administration

The administration of the recreational fishing fee (licenses) and the management of the Trusts, including hundreds of grants each year, is supported by funds from the Trusts. The Trusts are managed to a high standard to ensure transparent and accountable governance.

3.7.1 Recreational fishing fee – facilitating fishing licenses for fishers

NSW DPI facilitates the safe and secure collection of recreational fishing fees (public money) in partnership with Service NSW. All fishing fees are deposited into the Trusts, as required by law.

Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- continued provision of a convenient payment network for anglers that includes online, more than 423 regional and metropolitan sales agents (fishing tackle stores, etc.), BPAY, interactive telephony, and mail options
- the transition into a new whole of government licensing platform by the end of 2023. With a new customer-centric approach, the platform will make purchasing a fishing licence more convenient
- ongoing promotion of recreational fishing including advisory services that ensure knowledge of fishing rules and sustainable fishing practices
- promotion of the ease of licence renewals and delivery of an efficient licence renewal notice system that makes it easy for fishers to keep their licence current. Reminder notifications via SMS and email will also be available under the new licensing platform.

3.7.2 Trusts program delivery

Since 2001, almost 3,000 projects have been completed using funds from the Trusts, including small and large grants projects, fish stocking and fuel card grants, Gone Fishing Day grants, Habitat Action Grants as well as DPI projects. DPI has worked to ensure accountability of these projects, including implementing good governance arrangements to promote transparency and good business performance.

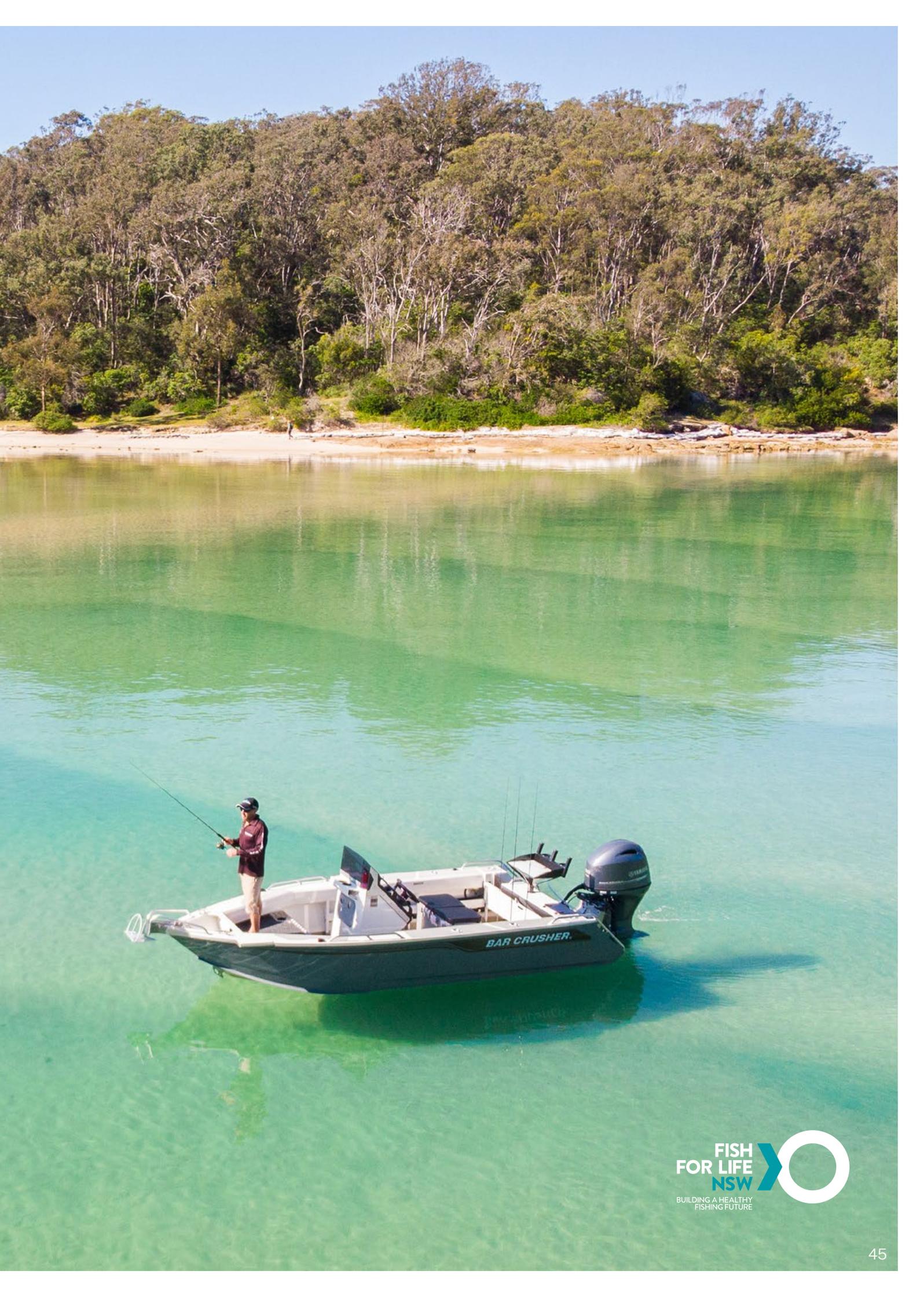
Achievements in 2022–23 included:

- working closely with the community and project partners to identify and develop new project applications to improve recreational fishing
- monitoring hundreds of the Trusts' projects to facilitate the delivery of outcomes and benefits for recreational fishers.



A scenic view of a coastal area. In the foreground, there is clear, turquoise water with gentle ripples. The middle ground shows a sandy beach leading to a dense, lush green forest of trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Quality recreational fishing
for everyone, forever.



4 Appendices

Appendix 1: RFNSW and Expenditure Committee membership

Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council

The Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) provides advice to the Minister for Primary Industries on key recreational fishing issues in NSW.

To ensure that the views of regional fishers from across the state are conveyed, RFNSW includes representation from eight regional areas, two members with expertise in spearfishing and charter boat fishing and other representatives that significantly benefit its function.

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* provides that all members of advisory councils are to be appointed by the Minister in accordance with the Fisheries Regulations.

RFNSW members	
Independent Chair	Professor Johann Bell
Region 1 – Mid & Far North Coast	Mr Patrick Linehan
Region 2 – Lower North Coast	Mr Paul Lennon
Region 3 – Sydney & Central Coast	Mr Grahame Williams OAM
Region 3 – Sydney & Central Coast	Prof Anna Clark
Region 4 – Illawarra	Ms Vicki Lear
Region 5 – South Coast	Mr Dean Hamilton
Region 6 – North West Inland (and MFAC representative)	Mr Matt Hansen OAM
Region 7 – South West Inland	Mr Karl Mathers
Region 8 – Central & Southern Tablelands	Mr Ray Tang
Region 8 – Central & Southern Tablelands	Mr Bill Blair
Charter Boat Fishing	Mr Peter Dugan
Spear Fishing	Mr Ian Puckeridge
Social benefits of recreational fishing	Mr Matt Tripet
Nominee of Secretary	Mr Peter Turnell, DPI

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee

Made up of freshwater anglers from eight regions in NSW and a representative from a recreational fishing organisation, the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) assists the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) in setting the Trust's expenditure priorities, including the assessment of Trust applications.

Freshwater regions east of the Great Dividing Range extend to the upper limits of tidal waters, and the western regions are west of the Great Dividing Range. The dividing line between the inner west and the far-west regions is east of the Newell Highway until Dubbo and then west of the Newell Highway from Dubbo south.

The RFFTEC was established in line with DRNSW policy – Fisheries advisory groups: Establishments and Governance (TI-O-146).

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee members	
Chair	Mr Bruce Schumacher AM
Region 1 – North Coast	Mr Max Graham
Region 2 – Central Coast	Mr Ron Butler
Region 3 – South Coast	Mr Ron Croker
Region 4 – North inner west	Mr Michael Davey
Region 5 – Central inner west	Mr Paul Mullen
Region 6 – South inner west	Ms Debbie Lennon
Region 7 – North west	Mr Jasen Ramien
Region 8 – South west	Mr Troy Bright
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative – Professional Fishing Instructors & Guides Association	Mr Brett Richards
DPI Representative – Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management	Mr Peter Turnell

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee

Made up of saltwater anglers from eight regions in NSW and representatives from three recreational fishing organisations, the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) assists the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) in setting the Trust's expenditure priorities, including the assessment of Trust applications. The regions extend from Tweed Heads to the Victorian border.

The Committee was established in line with DRNSW policy – Fisheries advisory groups: Establishments and Governance (TI-O-146).

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee members	
Chair	Mr Bruce Schumacher AM
Region 1 – Qld to Evans Head	Mr Paul Connellan
Region 2 – Evans Head to Woolgoolga	Mr David Faircloth
Region 3 – Woolgoolga to Port Macquarie	Mr Craig Cameron
Region 4 – Port Macquarie to Seal Rocks	Mr Geoff Shelton
Region 5 – Seal Rocks to The Entrance	Mr Michael Aubrey
Region 6 – The Entrance to Wollongong	Mr Sami Omari
Region 7 – Wollongong to Narooma	Ms Ann Garard
Region 8 – Narooma to Victoria	Mr Micah Adams
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative – NSW Game Fishing Association	Mr Grahame Williams OAM
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative – OzFish Unlimited	Mr Ryan Lungu
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative – Australian Underwater Federation	Mr Adrian Wayne
DPI representative – Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Management	Mr Peter Turnell



4. Appendices

Appendix 2: Recreational Fishing Trusts funds summary by project

In 2022–23, funds from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust supported the following projects:

Project	Available (\$'000)	Expenses (\$'000)	Carry Forward (\$'000)
Coastal fish habitat protection and management	143	143	0
Ecohuts for recreational fishers	13	13	0
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	20	20	0
External large grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	1,874	1,874	0
FADs and artificial reefs program boat motor and trailer replacement	46	46	0
Fishcare advisory trailers	39	39	0
Flagship habitat program	133	133	0
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)	304	304	0
Fishcare volunteer program	630	631	-1
Fisheries officers (9 coastal officers)	1,398	1,398	0
Fisheries officers (mobile squads)	471	471	0
Gamefish tagging program	202	202	0
Great Swordfish race	17	2	15
Marine stocking of key recreational fish species in coastal waters	237	237	0
Offshore artificial reefs	122	122	0
Recreational fisheries enhancement (artificial reefs and FADs coordination)	277	277	0
Recreational fishing access (coastal)	196	196	0
Recreational fisheries monitoring program: statewide fishing and charter surveys	692	692	0
Recreational Fishing Trust executive officer	190	190	0
Research angler program	200	201	-1
Research on Black Bream fishery	5	5	0
Research on Blue Swimmer Crabs in Lake Macquarie	13	13	0
Research on Estuary Cockles	60	60	0
Research on marine fish stocking	273	273	0
Research on fish usage of oyster reefs	26	26	0
Small grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	88	88	0
Sydney Harbour wharves compliance initiative	230	230	0
Trusts grants governance enhancement project	127	127	0
Total	8,026	8,013	13

* The Available column consists of funds from the Trust fund in 2022–23, amounts carried forward from projects in 2021–22 and any unused project funds from previous years returned to the Trust.

In 2022–23, funds from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust supported the following projects:

Project	Available (\$'000)	Expenses (\$'000)	Carry Forward (\$'000)
Dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking program	220	220	0
Enhanced fish production at hatcheries for stocking (Port Stephens, Narrandera, Dutton and Grafton)	413	413	0

Project	Available (\$'000)	Expenses (\$'000)	Carry Forward (\$'000)
Expansion of Narrandera Fisheries Centre Hatchery	600	600	0
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	16	16	0
External large grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	648	648	0
Fishcare volunteer program	331	331	0
Fisheries officers (inland)	932	932	0
Freshwater fish tagging	10	10	0
Freshwater recreational management program	198	198	0
Fuel cards for fish stocking	6	6	0
Gaden trout hatchery	694	694	0
Hatchery technician at Narrandera Fisheries Centre	70	70	0
Inland stocking management	118	118	0
Making more Maccas (Macquarie perch research)	97	97	0
NSW cold water pollution mitigation strategy	133	133	0
Recreational fishing access (inland)	300	300	0
Regional inland fish habitat protection and management	185	185	0
Research on freshwater recreational fishery in NSW	676	676	0
Screens for streams	184	184	0
Small grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	44	44	0
Stocking of advanced Murray Cod to assist with post-flood recovery	8	8	0
Update of NSW trout strategy	38	38	0
Total	5,921	5,921	0

* The Available column consists of funds from the Trust fund in 2022–23, amounts carried forward from projects in 2021–22 and any unused project funds from previous years returned to the Trust.

In 2022–23, funds from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater and Freshwater) Trusts supported the following projects:

Project	Available (\$'000)	Expenses (\$'000)	Carry Forward (\$'000)
Advisory Council meeting expenses	62	62	0
Fish for Life project	83	83	0
Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish schools program	458	462	-4
Habitat action program 2018–19 and beyond	1,090	1,094	-4
NSW Gone Fishing Day	85	85	0
NSW fishing workshops	55	55	0
NSW recreational fishing environmental assessment	70	70	0
Recreational fisher research database	18	18	0
Recreational fisheries infrastructure management program	189	189	0
Recreational fishing fee administration project and Government Licensing Service transactions fees	2,164	2,164	0
Recreational fishing fee renewal notice system	93	93	0
Recreational fishing guides	120	120	0
Recreational Fishing Trusts annual report	29	29	0
Total	4,516	4,524	-8

* The Available column consists of funds from the Trusts funds in 2022–23, amounts carried forward from projects in 2021–22 and any unused project funds from previous years returned to the Trusts.

4. Appendices

Appendix 3: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts in 2022–23

Note: SW and FW denote the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts, respectively. Amounts shown are the approved funds for each project. All projects listed below that are valued at \$10,000 or less receive funding through the Small Grants Program.

Platform: Fisheries enhancement

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022–23
Enhancing coastal fisheries: Making Reefs and FADs happen: Artificial reefs and fish aggregating devices (FADs) are 2 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 enhancement officer to project manage and coordinate the programs to make them happen. The role facilitates environmental assessments, Commonwealth approvals, tenders and monitoring of the reefs. Both programs continue to deliver with proposed expansion of the FADs program and recent deployment of the Tweed Artificial Reef.		DPI	SW \$271,621
Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) – more places for people to fish: The FADs program provides reliable offshore fishing locations where recreational fishers can target a variety of popular pelagic fish over spring, summer and autumn. 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 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.		DPI	SW \$303,969
Boosting our fisheries: stocking NSW estuaries with popular species to enhance recreational fishing opportunities: This marine stocking program involves the breeding and release of species such as Mulloway, Dusky Flathead and Kingfish 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.		DPI	SW \$315,455
Assessing freshwater fish stocking proposals in NSW to boost our recreational fisheries: Preparation of fish stocking plans, conducting site assessments, analysing fish stocking data, liaising with fish stocking groups, and issuing fish stocking permits to enhance recreational fish stocks.		DPI	FW \$149,271
Boosting freshwater fish stocks in NSW with popular species to enhance recreational fishing opportunities: Provide more operational funds for the Dutton, Grafton, Port Stephens and Narrandera fish hatcheries to stock highly valued native and salmonid species, to enhance freshwater fishing opportunities across NSW.		DPI	FW \$484,211
Community \$4\$ native fish stocking grants to boost local fisheries: Matching funds provided from the Recreational Fishing Trusts to community groups to purchase native fish to stock local waterways for the benefit of anglers.		Community grants – administered by DPI	FW \$250,000
Fuel cards for community fish stocking, fish rescue and fish habitat work: Issue fuel cards to community groups to assist with transport costs to/from fish stocking, fish rescue and fish habitat.		Community grants – administered by DPI	FW \$15,000
Future Fish Stocking Stewardship Fund – Government fish hatcheries: Assists with travel and accommodation expenses for university students learning fish hatchery techniques at Government hatcheries to develop future leaders in fish production and aquaculture.		Student funding – administered by DPI	FW \$5,000
Gaden Trout Hatchery – Boosting salmonid fish stocks in southern and central NSW: Provides operational funds for the Gaden Trout Hatchery for the stocking of highly valued salmonid species, to enhance recreational fishing opportunities in the Snowy Mountains, Houthern Highlands and Central Tablelands.		DPI	FW \$746,563
Investigations of nodavirus infection in aquaculture reared euryhaline fish produced for stocking and in wild freshwater fish populations in NSW coastal catchments: This project will provide a continuation of screening of euryhaline fish produced in commercial hatcheries (including under the dollar-for-dollar program) for stocking into freshwater impoundments in NSW for nodavirus. This testing program will ensure only nodavirus free fish are stocked into freshwater NSW impoundments. Any remaining funds will be used to test wild fish collected in freshwater reaches of coastal catchments in NSW for nodavirus. The data collected will be used to determine if nodavirus is present or absent in wild fish and will inform future nodavirus screening requirements of fish produced for stocking.		DPI	FW \$20,000

Platform: Fisheries enhancement

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
Expansion of the Narrandera Fisheries Centre hatchery: Additional funds to complete the redevelopment of the hatchery at Narrandera to provide a state-of-the-art fish production facility to enhance capacity and provide resources for breeding and stocking of recreational and threatened species across the Murray Darling Basin.		DPI	FW \$285,376
Enhancing coastal recreational fishing opportunities by installing two new offshore artificial reefs: A recent NSW Government expression of interest survey identified more artificial reefs as a high priority for 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 fish habitat for recreationally targeted species. This project will involve the delivery of two new offshore artificial reefs.		DPI	SW \$1,100,000
2021-22 Reserve BBDSFC FAD: The club will acquire materials and pre-build a FAD for rapid deployment in the event that the club's current recreational fishing FAD (fish aggregating device) becomes missing at sea.	Byron Bay Deep Sea FC		SW \$1,510
Boosting our fisheries: expanding the stocking of NSW estuaries with popular species: The marine stocking program involves the breeding and release of species including but not limited to Mulloway, Dusky Flathead and Kingfish using world's best stocking practices to enhance recreational fishing opportunities. This funding application aims to build on the success of the current program to expand marine stocking activities even further along the NSW coast, involve more anglers and angling clubs in opportunities to stock their local waters and increase the production efficiency of marine hatcheries, including the private hatchery sector.		DPI	SW \$100,000
Stocking of Estuary Perch within Brogo Dam and to investigate stocking Estuary Perch within Danjera Dam, Glennies Creek and Lake Toolooma: The aim of this project is to continue to stock up to 20,000 Estuary Perch fingerlings within Brogo Dam and to investigate the potential release of a further 20,000 Estuary Perch into Danjera Dam (Nowra), Glennies Creek Dam (Singleton) and Lake Toolooma (Waterfall), to provide anglers with exciting new high quality recreational fishing opportunities.		DPI	FW \$25,000
Review and update the NSW trout strategy and design a framework for the development of management strategies for other key NSW freshwater sportfish: This project will review the structure, content and progress of the existing NSW trout strategy framework and develop a 5-year trout strategy including recommendations relating to research, stocking strategies, management action, enhancement and promotional opportunities for the NSW recreational trout fishery. The review and development of the trout strategy will be used as a framework to develop a Murray Cod species management strategy. The Murray Cod and trout strategies will inform the future development of similar management initiatives for other key species including Golden Perch and Australian Bass.		DPI	FW \$50,000
FADs and artificial reefs boat motor and trailer replacement: Nine offshore artificial reefs and 34 fish aggregating devices are deployed along the NSW coastline, providing high quality fishing opportunities for anglers. These projects continue to expand requiring fit for purpose and safe boat equipment for DPI staff to maintain and monitor fishing enhancement assets. Involves replacement of FADs and artificial reefs boat motor and trailer (which is done periodically).		DPI	SW \$45,500
Trial \$2 for \$1 native fish stocking scheme – doubling down on community fish stockings to boost freshwater native fish stocks: To trial the doubling of the matching amount of funds provided from the Recreational Fishing Trust to community stocking groups to purchase fish to boost freshwater native fish stocks, following drought, fish kills, floods and Covid restrictions.		DPI	FW \$250,000
Fish transport tanks and lease vehicles for Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries: Purpose built fish transport tanks that can be mounted to leased trucks to increase carrying capacity and ability to transport and stock fish.	Monaro Acclimatisation Society & Central Acclimatisation Society	DPI	FW \$150,000
Restoring catfish through partnerships – A partnership based traditional approach to restocking and restoring native fish: The Edward-Wakool Angling Association, the Joint Indigenous Group and Western Murray Land Improvement Group are working in partnership to restore catfish population through stocking and education activities in the Murray-Edward-Wakool region. Catfish have significant cultural and recreational value but are almost locally extinct. Restocking of catfish in 3 key traditional wetlands will take place.	Edward-Wakool Angling Association (EWAA)		FW \$10,000

4. Appendices

Platform: Fisheries enhancement

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
<p>Recirculating Aquaculture System for Gaden Trout Hatchery as part of major upgrades: Involves acquisition and installation of 4 x Recirculating Aquaculture Systems at Gaden Trout Hatchery. This will enable holding and production of larger fish, which have been identified as a priority for successful “advanced fingerlings” Trout stocking in Redfin affected waters. It will also provide protection from summer temperature spikes and low flow conditions. This will substantially boost production capacity at Gaden and will be completed as part of a larger \$8.657 million major development. The current tender process has shown rapid inflation in materials and construction costs, which have increased to a level beyond the initial budget. Savings in the project have been identified and made but this application for additional funding has been made to ensure the project can still deliver the best infrastructure outcome for recreational fishing in NSW.</p>		DPI	FW \$614,460
<p>Trial stocking of advanced Murray Cod fingerlings to assist with post-flood recovery: Involves a trial stocking of advanced Murray Cod fingerlings as part of a recovery response following expected blackwater events and fish kills as a result of recent flooding across NSW. As well as involving the purchase of required stock from an approved private hatchery provider, the trial will include a research component to assess the suitability of targeted stocking of sub-adult fish – along with mass stocking of fingerlings produced by DPI’s Narrandera Fisheries Centre – as a recovery response option for future significant fish kill events.</p>		DPI	FW \$100,000

Platform: Fishing facilities and access

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
<p>Recreational fishing access (coastal) – maintaining and enhancing land and boat access for fishers along the NSW coast: This project involves a dedicated access officer managing saltwater fishing access, which is under threat or at risk of being compromised. A key aspect of this role involves highlighting the socio-economic importance of recreational fishing to land managers and other relevant entities to ensure access is retained and where possible enhanced. This involves negotiation with stakeholders to identify access solutions to achieve the best possible outcomes for recreational fishers. Put simply, more access means more fishing opportunities.</p>		DPI	SW \$195,911
<p>Small Grants Program: Provides funding towards the development of on-ground recreational fishing facilities and other small, local or regional research, education or enhancement projects to deliver recreational fishing benefits.</p>		Community grant funds administered by DPI	SW \$100,000 FW \$60,000
<p>Recreational fishing access (inland) – Publication of angler access locations and developing new angler access opportunities in NSW: The project prepares agreements with landholders to secure angler access to fishable waters, develops a comprehensive webpage so that anglers are aware of their rights and access opportunities and oversees the concurrence role for land disposal, to secure future angler access across the state.</p>		DPI	FW \$199,412
<p>Securing angler access for the future: The project reviews the high volume of Crown Lands Road closures, Aboriginal Land Claims and other public land disposals to secure angler access for the future. The project will also assist in the inspection of angler access sites and maintenance of an angler access website due to be launched soon.</p>		DPI	FW \$149,271
<p>Allworth floating pontoon: The club and the wider fishing community of Allworth encompassing Stroud, Dungog and Gloucester propose to install a floating pontoon adjacent to the existing boat ramp jetty at the Allworth NSW picnic grounds to increase safety and usability by fishers.</p>	The Allworth and District Social Fishing Club Inc		SW \$78,000
<p>Mylestom pontoon access repair & Enhancement: The existing pontoon shoreline access slab and walkway has been dangerously undermined by shoreline erosion. A new erosion-proof shoreline access slab and walkway will be installed aligning with the floating pontoon.</p>	Bellingen Shire Council		SW \$32,500
<p>New Mylestom fish cleaning table: Construction of a new covered fish cleaning table adjacent to the Mylestom boat ramp, including bins for fish waste and bins for waste fishing line.</p>	Bellingen Shire Council		SW \$18,106
<p>Fishing Upgrade infrastructure across Shoalhaven 2022-23 (FUN-AS): Construction, upgrade and repair of old/outdated recreational fishing infrastructure across the Shoalhaven region for improved usability and accessibility for local communities and visitors.</p>	Shoalhaven City Council		SW \$150,000

Platform: Fishing facilities and access

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022–23
Cattai Creek kayak launch facility: To provide a publicly accessible kayak launch facility to enable fishers to access Cattai Creek. The facility will be multi-level to accommodate tidal heights and allow safe access at all times. Riparian vegetation will be enhanced through weed control and revegetation with local native species.	Hawkesbury City Council		SW \$175,835
St Georges Basin – Basin Rd Jetty: This project aims to improve the fishing experience in the St Georges Basin Recreational Fishing Haven for land-based fishers by renewal of the existing fishing jetty off Basin Rd, St Georges Basin.	Shoalhaven City Council		SW \$252,000
Repair our existing sea wall and improve safe access to the water for boats and other user groups by widening our existing ramp by 1m x 8m: Ben Buckler Amateur Fishing Club propose to repair the sea wall on which boats are kept and expand the ramp by 1m x 8m to improve access to the water and help create a safer point of entry. The ramp is situated on the rock platform at North Bondi Point and is a convenient rock platform access point.	Ben Buckler Amateur Fishing Club		SW \$9,500
Brierleys Fish Cleaning Table Renewal: Install a replacement fish cleaning table at Brierleys boat ramp for the fishing community. These works will align with Council's overall plan for the facilities including a new boat ramp.	Eurobodalla Shire Council		SW \$9,905
South Durras extension of access stairs: This project will extend the current staircase access to the lower rock platform at South Durras with timber steps and handrails to provide safer access for anglers to access the rock platform in all weather conditions.	Eurobodalla Shire Council		SW \$9,950
Fish cleaning table on fisherman's public wharf – Port Macquarie town centre: This project will install a 4-person fish cleaning table on the edge of the main deck of the fisherman's public wharf. The wharf has recently been constructed and is now a popular fishing location. The table will be connected to the nearby potable water supply.	Port Macquarie Hastings Council		SW \$9,930
Too Good to Lose. Water Police patrols to help keep Sydney Harbour ferry wharves open to fishing (2022–23 season): This project has been jointly funded by Transport for NSW 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 complements the long-running Clean, Safe Wharves program. NSW Police Marine Area Command patrols at the more than 50 commuter ferry wharf locations and Walsh Bay piers to provide an effective enforcement presence to help manage issues involving rubbish, noise and anti-social behaviour from a minority of irresponsible recreational fishers. Police reports and Transport for NSW information indicates the patrols significantly reduce public complaints and help increase public acceptance of recreational fishing activities at these locations. It is proposed to continue the patrols into the 2022–23 summer fishing season.		DPI Fisheries/ Transport for NSW	SW \$180,000
Kyffins Reserve Boat Ramp Project (KRBRP): This project will construct a concrete single boat ramp to replace the current sand ramp at Kyffins Reserve. This will attract more recreational fishing users, and also ensure greater accessibility for those accessing the site using a wheelchair.	Federation Council		FW \$80,000
Lake Burrendong recreational fishing boat ramp upgrade: The Lake Burrendong concrete boat ramp used by thousands of inland recreational fishers is narrow, aged, and desperately in need of improvement. It is proposed to widen the existing boat ramp to make it more user friendly while improving safety.	Reflections Holiday Parks		FW \$170,000
Essential angler access enhancements for the Swampy Plain River: To provide essential access and amenities below Khancoban Pondage to encourage recreational fishers to enjoy this fantastic fishing location.	Khancoban Angling Club		FW \$8,900
Seymour Street Laurieton fish cleaning table: Removal of the existing fish cleaning table and the installation of a new fish cleaning table at Seymour Street Reserve, Laurieton, providing a safe and hygienic facility and encouraging increased participation by boaters and shore-based fishers.	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		SW \$25,500
Hawks Nest fishing platform upgrade: This project will result in the revitalisation of a prominent fishing platform within Hawks Nest to provide a safe and accessible facility for the recreational fishing community.	MidCoast Council		SW \$53,268
Shelter and solar sensor light for existing fish cleaning table, Lintern St Wharf, Davistown NSW: Project involves purchase and installation of a shelter with solar sensor light to go over an existing fish cleaning station adjacent to the boat ramp at Davistown NSW.	The 3 Villages Community Group Inc		SW \$9,492
Preddy's Wharf fishing platform: Provision of a fishing platform to the west of the boat ramp at Preddy's Wharf marine facility (part of overall facility upgrade project).	Eurobodalla Shire Council		SW \$35,000
The Loop boat ramp marine facility minor works: Remove gabion rock from one side of the boat ramp to create a small beach, install more tie down points on ramp for boaters and undertake minor concrete works at fish cleaning table for improved and safer operation.	Eurobodalla Shire Council		SW \$20,000

4. Appendices

Platform: Fishing facilities and access

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
Cattai Creek kayak launch facility – shortfall funding request: Funding to provide a publicly accessible kayak launch facility to enable fishers to access Cattai Creek has been previously approved. A shortfall in funding has been identified due to increases in material and labour costs since the original application was submitted. To successfully deliver the project, Council requests extra funds to cover these increases.	Hawkesbury City Council		SW \$36,000
Manning River recreational access upgrade project – Moores Road, Bootawa: Upgrade of the existing public road access to the Manning River at Moores Road, Bootawa to improve access to a strategic section of the river for recreational use.	MidCoast Council		SW \$172,835
Light watercraft launching facility, Lugarno: This project involves the design and construction of a light watercraft launching facility at Lugarno for use by recreational fishers at a popular fishing location.	Georges River Council		SW \$250,000
Quarantine Bay timber jetty renewal (shortfall funding): Provide shortfall funding to cover unforeseen costs identified during a structural condition assessment for the previously Trust funded Quarantine Bay timber jetty renewal project in order to successfully deliver the project. This project will refurbish the existing timber jetty into a level, accessible platform for recreational fishing	Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC)		SW \$62,370
Police on ferry patrols and police boats to help keep Sydney Harbour ferry wharves open to fishing by promoting responsible fishing – a key initiative of the Clean, Safe Wharves program: A trial of covert police onboard ferries to patrol recreational fishing on wharves last summer was successful in further promoting responsible fishing and deterring irresponsible, anti-social behaviour at the 50 commuter wharves. It is proposed to continue the covert ferry vessel patrols over the next 2 summers.		DPI / Transport for NSW	SW \$50,000
The pergola at the jetty: The Jerilderie Fishing Club plans to construct a small pergola (6m x 6m) above their jetty and boat ramp built about 5 years ago to provide shade for users.	Jerilderie Fishing Club		FW \$7,500
Inclusive fishing platform – 10th Dam: To build a platform that will enable all recreational fisher people, including those with mobility issues, to access Tenth Dam Guyra in a safe and appropriate manner.	Guyra Anglers Club Inc		FW \$13,835
Carcoar Dam – boat ramp improvements: To install an all-weather bitumen seal to and from the boat ramp and install a carpark for vehicle and boat trailers to improve the current outdated amenities.	Blayney Shire Council		FW \$59,400
Supply and Installation of 2 x 60W LED solar powered lights: Supply and Install 2 x 60W LED solar powered lights on powder coated pole to illuminate boat ramp at Bingara boat ramp.	Gwydir Shire Council		FW \$9,211
Keeping trout anglers on the right track: To rehabilitate major informal tracks that provide access to the foreshores of Lake Eucumbene, Lake Jindabyne and Thredbo River.	Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc		FW \$30,000
Fence stiles for facilitating angler access into Travelling Stock Reserves, Crown Lands, Crown Reserves & Council Reserves: Angler access to public land (Travelling Stock Reserves, Crown Reserves and Council Reserves) is at times restricted by gates being locked as a result of misuse from other user groups, the need to secure stock, or the preservation of the environment. In most instances access for fishing is still a permitted and legal activity; however, fences and locked gates make access difficult and pose a risk of injury for anglers who try to navigate through or over them. The installation of fence stiles in collaboration with landowners at these locations will enable safe and convenient angler access to these locations.		DPI	FW \$23,400

Platform: Aquatic habitat rehabilitation

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation – South Coast and Greater Murray: Provision of fish habitat protection and enhancement in Murray, Lower Darling and Murrumbidgee catchments and South East NSW using 2 dedicated fisheries conservation managers. Increases awareness of fish habitat among stakeholders and land use managers, to ensure management outcomes that improve fish habitat and promote fisher and community engagement in fish habitat management, protection and rehabilitation.		DPI	SW \$210,912 FW \$220,912

Platform: Aquatic habitat rehabilitation

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
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.		Community flagship grants administered by DPI	SW \$448,066
Habitat Action Program – “Making more Fish Naturally”: Engagement and support of recreational anglers in fish habitat actions and provision of devolved Habitat Action Grants to enhance fish habitat in NSW and support healthy, resilient recreational fisheries.		Community flagship grants administered by DPI	SW \$754,971 FW \$362,941
City of Canada Bay tackle bin project: This project will install 4 tackle bins in popular fishing locations in the Canada Bay Council area to encourage anglers to protect the marine environment from fishing debris and pollution.	Individual		SW \$1,060
Fish salvage in Murray Irrigation channels during winter shutdown: Traditional owners, subject matter experts and volunteers will rescue and relocate native fish to suitable refuge areas during the Murray Irrigation Limited winter shutdown channel maintenance period.	Edwards Wakool Angling Association (EWAA) Inc		FW \$85,228
Mann River Rehabilitation 2022: This project will remove lantana and other noxious weeds to provide areas for use by recreational fishers and clean the riparian areas of Coombadjha Creek and the confluence with the Mann River to improve access to the river and campgrounds for fishers.	Coombadjha		FW \$4,000
Rec Fisher Habitat Capacity: Building the fish habitat capacity, knowledge base, delivery capability and leadership qualities of NSW recreational fishers: OzFish now has 22 chapters of fishers across NSW willing and interested in taking action to improve the habitat and health of their local waterways. This program will pilot a one-year program to support recreational fishers in these chapters to take action and be leaders in aquatic habitat restoration and improve fishing outcomes in their local waterways.	OzFish Unlimited		SW \$138,600 FW \$59,400
Revegetation of Bellingen River Estuary, Yellow Rock Road: This project will focus on pollution removal and weed removal from 2 property boundaries that front the Bellingen River estuary system. Once weed species are moved, they will be replaced with endemic plant species to allow the riverbank to repair itself between flood events.	Latsyrc Project Management		SW \$1,695
Fishers for Fish Habitat 2: This project will continue and enhance the current Fishers for Fish Habitat program providing information on fish and fish habitat to NSW recreational fishers and the broader community through a yearly Fishers for Fish Habitat forum, 4 issues of Newstreams per annum and the maintenance of the Fish Habitat Network website.	OzFish Unlimited		SW \$12,950 FW \$5,550
Engaging recreational fishers to recycle opera house yabby traps to restore fish habitat: A project to reduce the impacts of illegal yabby traps by engaging recreational fishers to hand in their traps, have them recycled and turned into useful products, with proceeds going to fish habitat restoration.	TierraMar Ltd		FW \$177,420
NSW Cold Water Pollution Mitigation Strategy – Phase 1 Development: Finalisation of Phase 1 of the NSW Cold Water Pollution Mitigation Strategy will deliver a coordinated plan to proactively improve water quality and temperatures at high priority dams across NSW to benefit native fish. It will also involve development of a demonstration cold water pollution case study at a suitable dam site.		DPI	FW \$236,387

Platform: Education and promotion

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
Fishcare – Proactively undertaking face-to-face education of anglers across NSW: The NSW Fishcare volunteer program uses a network of 6 dedicated education officers and 230 motivated Fishcare Volunteers across NSW to provide face-to-face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground. Education officers and volunteers use targeted messaging to promote responsible and sustainable fishing (‘Fish for Life’). Fishcare also plays a key role in the running of the Get Hooked...It’s Fun to Fish schools program and the many fishing workshops involving thousands of kids and community members held each year. Our mission is to create a team of fishing stewards that champion, responsible fishing and a sustainable secure fishing future. Fishcare is one of the flagship programs of the Recreational Fishing Trusts.		DPI	SW \$630,000 FW \$400,000

4. Appendices

Platform: Education and promotion

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022–23
<p>Get Hooked...It's Fun to Fish. A fun, interactive recreational fishing program for junior and senior school students to learn about sustainable fishing: Get Hooked is a student recreational fishing program aligned to the NSW Curriculum. Our aim is to teach sustainable fishing skills for life, how to maximise catch and release, and how to fish safely and responsibly. Passionate dedicated Fishcare Volunteers, Fishcare Education Officers and teachers run Get Hooked class lessons with interactive fishing resource kits provided to schools. Once class lessons are completed, Education officers and Fishcare Volunteers run practical fishing workshops for thousands of school students each year, allowing them to put new skills into practice at a local waterway. The program has now been extended to senior schools and plays a part in career development.</p>		DPI	SW \$320,600 FW \$137,400
<p>NSW fishing workshops – Fostering new and existing fishers to be the guardians of tomorrow: Fishing workshops teach adults and children how to fish throughout NSW in a responsible and sustainable manner. The program provides a fun, enjoyable educational experience that aims to teach the basics of fishing to new entrants giving them the skills to continue in the sport for life. Our mission is to create the fishing stewards and champions of tomorrow. Each year, an average of 8,000 new entrants are introduced to fishing under the program.</p>		DPI	SW \$42,000 FW \$28,000
<p>NSW Saltwater and Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guides – One stop shop for essential fishing info: These guides provide an easy-to-read summary of essential information fishers need before they go fishing. This includes fishing rules, gear descriptions, licenses and Recreational Fishing Trusts information, sustainable fishing practices and much more. It is proposed to decrease production of the guide by one third to 200,000 per year noting the increasing use of electronic media. Nevertheless, the guides still represent a one stop shop for anglers to access their fishing information. It is especially popular with new or beginner fishos.</p>		DPI	SW \$84,000 FW \$36,000
<p>Casting for Recovery – a Weekend Fly Fishing Retreat for Women with Breast Cancer: ACT Fly Fishers provide a free Fly Fishing Retreat, which includes tuition on a one-to-one basis, weekend accommodation and care, for up to 14 women who have had breast cancer.</p>	ACT Fly Fishers Inc.		FW \$10,000
<p>NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Annual Report – creative design of print and online publications: To create online and print publications 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 both a website and printable A4 document.</p>		DPI	SW \$50,000 FW \$20,000
<p>Forge Through Fishing Program: The Forge Through Fishing Program has been developed to assist veterans and first responders who are suffering mental health issues to socialise and engage in meaningful relationships while learning to fish.</p>	Forge Through Limited		SW \$4,875
<p>A rock fishing safety & skills program, contributing to reducing rock fishing fatalities in NSW: This project will deliver targeted rock fishing safety education through the provision of 1,000 lifejackets, rock fishing safety workshops, classroom-based education, family-targeted school programs, multilingual rock fishing safety resources and newly developed media targeted at at-risk communities.</p>	Surf Life Saving NSW		SW \$204,030
<p>Fostering environmental custodianship through fishing: Ballina is often described as a fisher person's paradise, yet many young locals prefer to play on their devices inside their homes. The EAC Marine Science program will foster teenagers' interest in fishing in a responsible and environmentally friendly way such that students will become custodians of this remarkable ecosystem.</p>	Emmanuel Anglican College		SW \$2,539
<p>Phase 1 – Gadigal, Bidjigal and Dharawal fish harvesting, sustainability and the community: Phase one of this project will bring together Gadigal, Bidjigal and Dharawal Elders to capture and record traditional fishing knowledge, and fully develop a project plan for Phase two for future delivery.</p>	Stingray Workers Cooperative		SW \$9,775
<p>Fly fishing rods for the Greenwells Fly Fishing Club, fly fishing course: This project will purchase 6 fly fishing rod, reel and line sets to train people in the sport of fly fishing and for use in community-based activities.</p>	Greenwells Fly Fishing Club		FW \$2,916
<p>Carp we don't Keepit, Carp Muster 2022: This project will provide an opportunity for the general public and recreational anglers to come together and catch a Carp, win a prize and learn about protecting and enhancing native fish habitat and abundance in and around Keepit Dam and the Namoi River.</p>	Lake Keepit Family Fishing Club		FW \$6,000
<p>Long Reef Fishing Club – Winches Restoration Project: Long Reef Fisherman's Club is the oldest fishing club in NSW. Its publicly accessible historic winches would be preserved, and a storyboard created about the history of fishing in the area for the public to view</p>	Long Reef Fisherman's Club Committee		SW \$29,500

Platform: Education and promotion

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
Botany Bay Kids Gone Fishing: An opportunity to get children outdoors and away from electronic devices. The project will aim to provide some basic fishing skills and safe handling of fish and promoting catch and release techniques.	Botany Bay Game Fishing Club Inc		SW \$5,250
Fish For Life (FFL) Stage 2 – strengthening recreational fishing through sector growth, more diversity, enhanced fisheries sustainability, improved social licence and stewardship: Following the launch of the FFL (Stage 1) brand in 2021, DPI plans to team up with external partners to deliver a range of new on-ground and online initiatives under the FFL banner as part of Stage 2 campaign. Five subprograms will align with the core values of the FFL brand –sector growth, diversity, sustainability, social licence and stewardship –and will be delivered in close partnership with the recreational fishing industry and community (through government tender processes). This approach and the next stage are a recommendation from RFNSW following review of Stage 1 FFL outcomes.		DPI	SW \$459,084 FW \$153,028
Angling skill transfer and compendium for Merimbula fishers: At the beginning of each month, the Club proposes to utilise in-house and visiting experts to present an educational tutorial to members and guests on how to target fish (different species each month) by means of suitable equipment and written text. The goal is to practise sustainable fishing and transfer fundamental angling skills applicable to a variety of fish species. The outcome will be angling skill transfer and creation of a manuscript on how to target and catch and release a variety of local fish species.	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc		SW \$5,500
Let's Go Fishing – Educating school children on the sustainable benefits of recreational fishing: Phase 5: AFTA has successfully completed Phases 1, 2 & 3 of the “Let's Go Fishing” schools program in partnership with the Marine Teachers Association and is in the process of finalising Phase 4. Now, it is time to progress to Phase 5 for educational continuity for the 2023 academic year. Phase 5 will comprise restocking and replacing equipment where required in the existing school's fishing kits and providing fishing equipment to 20 new schools. This follows on from Phase 4 and provides continuity for schools and teachers in delivering quality education and engagement in recreational fishing.	Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA)		SW \$115,000
Rock fishing safety signage: This project will involve the purchase and installation of rock fishing safety signage, reflecting the requirement to wear life jackets at rock platforms, as per the Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016.	Wollongong City Council		SW \$30,000
FishSmart for Mighty Mulloway – Improve recreational fishing catch data for Mulloway through 'real time' reporting via the FishSmart app: Improving data collection and monitoring for Mulloway through mandatory reporting of recreational catch data, facilitated through enhancements to the FishSmart app and development of a new web portal. 'Real time' reporting would provide for accurate, instantaneous data collection of Mulloway recreational fishing harvest to contribute to stock recovery assessment and monitoring, which has been identified as a key priority by the Mulloway Harvest Strategy Working Group.		DPI	SW \$165,000
Fly fishing rods for the promotion of fly fishing: Purchase 6 robust fly fishing rods with reels and lines for use of members of the public interested in trying fly casting and potentially taking up the sport.	Sydney Fly Rodders Club		SW \$3,600
Lake Cargelligo Central School fishing for recreation and learning: This project plans for students to be more involved in fishing for sport and recreation while learning about their local area and requirements involved in sustaining our local environment.	Lake Cargelligo Central School		FW \$3,538
Boys to the Bush (BttB) Fishing for Connection: Fishing education and social inclusion for disadvantaged youth: This project will enable youth and community development organisation BttB to purchase fishing equipment to provide one-on-one mentoring, schools programs and holiday camps across 6 NSW locations.	Boys to the Bush Ltd		FW \$10,000
Brag mats for when you don't feel like bragging: Purchase brag mats with educational fishing information and mental health resources for distribution at the Darlington Point Riverina Classic Catch and Release Fishing Competition, via Rural Outreach Counselling and our sponsor. Funds requested for brag mats only.	Apex Club of Coleambally/ Darlington Point Inc.		FW \$4,800
Collingullie Fishing Comp: To encourage local residents to engage in local recreational fishing around the region. To provide information on the legality of fishing and boating in local waterways.	Collingullie Fishing Comp		FW \$4,000
Winter School Holidays Junior Fishing Competition and Fishing Workshops 2023: The Winter School Holidays Junior Fishing Competition was instigated in 2020 by the Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club to support junior angling, local Merimbula fishing tackle stores and tourism during the slower winter period. During the 3-week event, the club runs children's fishing workshops, which include tuition from experienced anglers and provision of suitable fishing tackle to child participants.	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc.		SW \$4,120

4. Appendices

Platform: Education and promotion

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022–23
<p>FishSmarter, tag smarter – Bringing 50 years of the NSW Game Fish Tagging Program into the digital world: 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 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>		DPI	SW \$90,000
<p>NSW Gone Fishing Day 2023 – Promoting participation and celebrating the benefits of recreational fishing, while supporting local organisations and industries in NSW: In collaboration with the annual national Gone Fishing Day, DPI has been running promotional activities and events in NSW since 2015 with funding support from the Trusts. The day is all about promoting fishing as a fun, healthy, outdoors activity for the whole family. Each year 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 6 major community events across NSW. Future Gone Fishing Day events and activities are proposed for 2023.</p>		DPI	SW \$95,000 FW \$35,000

Platform: Research

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022–23
<p>Screens for Streams: Boosting native fish stocks through improved water extraction practices: Will showcase effectiveness of innovative fish screens on irrigation pumps at selected sites across NSW and will facilitate broad -scale uptake of fish screening technologies on irrigation infrastructure across the Murray-Darling Basin, to prevent large scale fish losses from water extraction practices.</p>	Charles Sturt University	DPI	FW \$100,000
<p>Flow-on benefits to recreational fishers following habitat repair: Habitat repair is a key priority, however, flow-on benefits for recreational fishers are unknown. This project will measure recreational fishery enhancement resulting from substantial habitat repair in Burrill Lake.</p>	University of Newcastle		SW \$40,700
<p>Marine stocking – Science-based sustainable and productive fisheries enhancement in NSW: The marine stocking program relies upon scientific evidence to underpin its success and sustainable growth into the future. This project outlines the ongoing research required as large-scale stocking of new species is commenced.</p>		DPI	SW \$288,975
<p>NSW Game Fish Tagging Program – the largest of its kind in the world: The NSW DPI 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.</p>		DPI	SW \$209,773
<p>NSW Gamefish Tournament Monitoring: Collate data to support fisheries research and management of game fish species and to strengthen negotiations between recreational fishers, Government and other interested organisations regarding fishery access and resource sustainability.</p>	Ghosn Consulting Services		SW \$84,000
<p>Research Angler Program – Fish into fillets, frames into facts: The Research Angler Program is a citizen science initiative that aims to provide fishos with interesting and useful information relating to their catch while contributing valuable biological information to stock assessments and the management of key recreational fish species.</p>		DPI	SW \$199,710
<p>The economic contributions of recreational fishing to NSW: A range of economic contributions by recreational fishing will be estimated via a survey of anglers, estimating the economic benefits of recreational fishing to both fishers and to the NSW regional economy.</p>	University of Wollongong		SW \$57,765 FW \$24,757
<p>Where are the big Yellowtail Kingfish? Satellite-tracking sexually mature Kingfish caught in New South Wales to reveal spawning habitats and recruitment 'hotspots': This project will reveal the movements and location of spawning habitats for the NSW Kingfish stock, as well as potential key recruitment areas, to address urgent knowledge gaps and increase quality recreational fishing opportunities.</p>	Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS)		SW \$258,016
<p>Building a stronger more sustainable freshwater recreational fishery in NSW – Phase 2: 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.</p>		DPI	FW \$755,679

Platform: Research

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
Developing genetic tools to improve management of captive Mulloway broodfish for stock enhancement: This research will develop hatchery and molecular techniques to select genetically diverse hatchery-reared Mulloway fingerlings (F1) of known sex and to on grow them to maturity in tanks. A breeding plan will be developed that will ensure fingerlings produced from the first generation broodfish will satisfy the essential genetic diversity criteria required for ongoing stocking into estuaries to boost recreational fishing. Mulloway remains a high priority for stocking in NSW.	University of the Sunshine Coast		SW \$83,871
Informing sustainable multi-sector harvest of NSW Estuary Cockles: Informing the sustainable management of NSW Estuary Cockles, including the burgeoning recreational harvest, filling critical knowledge gaps in their reproductive biology and ecology and in understanding resource use among sectors.		DPI	SW \$60,000
Statewide recreational fishing survey and charter boat monitoring: The project seeks continuation of funding for the statewide recreational fishing survey program, which includes 1) an ongoing time series of statewide 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.		DPI	SW \$645,927 FW \$71,770
Using eDNA to assess how estuarine fish communities respond to consecutive extreme events of drought, bushfire, and flood: This project will utilise weekly environmental DNA (eDNA) samples collected from NSW estuaries between 2018 and 2020 to explore how recreational fish assemblages were impacted by consecutive extreme events.	Charles Sturt University		SW \$156,525
Smart approaches to surveying recreational fishing facilities: This project will monitor fish cleaning tables and associated boat ramps using high-definition video and leverage artificial intelligence to extract information about recreational fishing catches and facility use.	Macquarie University		SW \$191,403
Monitoring of changes in Lake Macquarie Blue Swimmer Crab populations following the recent regulation change: The project will monitor for potential changes in the Blue Swimmer Crab population following the removal of the crab traps closure in Lake Macquarie, comparing data collected following the regulation change with independent surveys from 2018 to 2021 and a reference estuary monitored over the same time frame.		DPI	SW \$19,468
Monitoring and research on Landed Fish at Game Fishing Tournaments in NSW: 2022/23: The project facilitates and conducts monitoring, sampling and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured and weighed at the major game fishing tournaments in NSW.	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd		SW \$32,500
Fishery biology and ecology of the marine snail, Turbo militaris: This research addresses critical knowledge gaps on the biology and ecology of the recreationally and culturally harvested turban snail, Turbo militaris for sustainable management.	National Marine Science Centre		SW \$8,000
Long-term security and archiving of tissue samples collected from billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish at NSW tournaments from 2015 to 2022: Biological samples of these recreationally caught fish collected at game fishing tournaments continue to be stored and utilised for various scientific studies in NSW and around Australia. Due to the growing number of samples, this project insures against loss by dividing all tissue samples collected from billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish since 2015 into 3 sets frozen at -20°C, -80°C and the third set in liquid in preserving fluid.	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd		SW \$8,950
Provision of annual report for the Gamefish Tagging Program for 2021/22: Provision and publication of an informative, attractive and readily accessible report on the Gamefish Tagging Program for the year 2021-22. The report is widely distributed throughout the game fishing community each year.	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd		SW \$6,700
Drilling down into spawning locations for wild Yellowtail Kingfish (Seriola lalandi) using otolith oxygen isotopes: This project will validate the relationship between water temperature and oxygen isotopes in Kingfish otoliths and use this to bracket the likely habitat within which NSW Kingfish were born.	Sydney Institute of Marine Science		SW \$9,994
Making More Maccas: This project will augment the current Macquarie Perch recovery actions by providing support for genetic enhancement, population monitoring, relocation of introduced species, eDNA surveys and captive breeding efforts.		DPI	FW \$76,971
DPI freshwater fish tagging: This project will 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 DPI trout hatcheries and expanding the locations of where these fish are stocked. Tagging of native species is also proposed.		DPI	FW \$10,000

4. Appendices

Platform: Research

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
Impacts of parasites on larval fish of the Murray Darling Basin: This project will assess the impacts of parasites and other pathogens on the growth and survival of larval freshwater fish in the Murray Darling Basin, which will inform future hatchery breeding technology for Murray Cod and Golden Perch and potentially boost stocking production.	Charles Sturt University		FW \$102,656
Extending knowledge of the development of fish survival behaviour to inform re-stocking programs: night-time behaviour of Murray Cod and Rainbow Trout survival: This project will extend the research findings from a previous Recreational Fishing Trust project on evaluation of survival behaviour of fish by examining the survival behaviour of Rainbow Trout and Murray Cod under night-time conditions. This research will support the economic and environmental benefits of re-stocking practices.	Charles Sturt University		FW \$39,407
Utilisation of modified habitats, rehabilitated sites and conservation areas by fishes in Kamay (Botany Bay): This project seeks to provide a quantitative understanding of the movement patterns and habitat usage of recreationally and commercially important fish species within Kamay (Botany Bay).	University of Sydney		SW \$85,444
Parasites of Rainbow Trout: impact on fish survival, other fish and human health: To examine hatchery-reared Rainbow Trout for parasites. Parasites can influence the ability of fish to avoid predation and can pose a risk to other fish and human health. This research will support the economic, environmental and community health benefits of re-stocking practices.	Charles Sturt University		FW \$39,965
Oyster reef restoration boosts recreationally important fish: 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.		DPI	SW \$32,110

Platform: Fisheries Officers

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
Coastal fisheries officers x 9: Funding for 9 coastal fisheries officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce fisheries rules and regulations including recreational fishing fee requirement across NSW coastal areas.		DPI	SW \$1,397,536
Coastal recreational mobile squad officers x 3: Funding for 3 regional mobile squad officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce saltwater recreational rules and regulations in particular recreational fishing fee requirements whilst patrolling popular fishing areas including recreational fishing havens.		DPI	SW \$470,620
Inland fisheries officers x 6: Funding for 6 inland fisheries officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce fisheries rules and regulations including recreational fishing fee requirement across NSW inland areas.		DPI	FW \$931,690

Platform: Trust Management and Administration

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
RFFTEC/RFSTEC meeting expenses: The Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committees (RFSTEC and RFFTEC) are advisory sub-committees of the Ministerial Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) that review applications for funding and make recommendations on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing Trusts.		DPI (on behalf of RFFTEC & RFSTEC)	SW \$37,300 FW \$37,300
Recreational Fishing Trust executive officer: The 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 ensure collection and transfer of licence revenue to the Trusts, disbursement of funds to Trust projects and ensuring quality delivery of project outcomes to improve recreational fishing.		DPI	SW \$262,973

Platform: Trust Management and Administration

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2022-23
Recreational Fishing NSW (RFNSW) 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.		DPI (on behalf of RFNSW)	SW \$64,750 FW \$27,750
Recreational fishing facilities and grants management: To target angler 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.		DPI	SW \$173,620 FW \$19,291
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 governance controls including audits and monitoring to maintain and improve the standard of project delivery and accountability across all Trust funded projects.		DPI	SW \$145,770
Recreational fisher licence research database (tender administered by NSW DPI): This project involves data entry of fishers' details from 1 and 3-year paper fishing licenses by an external consultant onto the Recreational Angling database for research and management purposes. Angler details on paper licenses sold at fishing tackle stores are required to be data entered, which enables electronic transfer of this data to the main database of licence holders. The data is used to send out licence renewal notices but is also in angler research surveys. This data entry project includes data validation and duplication checks of the paper licence information.		DPI (external contractor with tender administered by DPI)	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000
Recreational fishing fee renewal notice system: Involves an efficient licence renewal notice system (via external contractor) to provide opportunity for recreational fishers to renew their fee when it expires. The notice gets sent out to around 250,000 licence holders per year and has a range of licence payment options to make it convenient for fishers to renew their licence.		DPI (external contractor with tender administered by DPI)	SW \$86,000 FW \$36,850
Recreational fishing licensing (fee) project – facilitating fishing licenses for fishers: Provides for the safe and secure collection of recreational fishing licence fees (public money), which are deposited into the Recreational Fishing Trusts on a daily basis. It provides a convenient payment network for anglers 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 anglers. There is 1) an electronic sales platform provided by Service NSW – Government Licensing Service (GLS), which DPI uses to manage electronic licenses and 2) a manual payment system of agents run exclusively by DPI.		DPI	SW \$1,088,347 FW \$466,000
Recreational fishing licensing – government licensing service (GLS) fees: This project provides for payment of licence transaction fees to Service NSW for recreational fishing licenses processed through the GLS database platform. The GLS platform is utilised by DPI and other government agencies to provide a convenient payment network for the recreational fishing licence and transfer of revenue into the Recreational Fishing Trusts. This application covers transaction fees payable to GLS on a quarterly basis.		DPI (transaction fees payable to Service NSW)	SW \$542,500 FW \$232,500
Inland fishing services for anglers – coordinates grants for Dollar-for-Dollar stocking and Fuel Cards, RFFTEC and associated sub-groups and develops fishing policies and regulations, to enhance fishing opportunities: This project coordinates Trust funded fishing grants for community fuel cards and the Dollar-for-Dollar native fish stocking program. It also coordinates the running of RFFTEC and its various subgroups such as the Fuel Card Evaluation Panel, Gaden Hatchery Management Advisory Committee, as well as the Snowy Lakes Working Group and Trout Allocation Committee. The program also plays a key role in developing fishing strategies and plans to enhance fishing access and amenity.		DPI	FW \$199,412



Ensuring NSW has great
fishing opportunities for
generations to come.



Building a healthy fishing future.



11058-08/23