

# Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee Outcomes, 40<sup>th</sup> meeting

## Port Stephens Fisheries Institute, Taylors Beach

20 November 2013

### Attendees

Bruce Schumacher (chair), Geoff Shelton (Region 4), Lionel Jones (Region 5), John Paton (Region 6a), Stuart Rhodes (Region 6b), Ann Garard (Region 7), Malcolm Poole (RFA), John Burgess (ANSA), Peter Turnell (DPI).

### 1. Chairs introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

Lisa Terry (Region 2), John Featherstone (Region 3), Greg Liddell (Region 8), David Jones (gamefishing).

### 3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous RFSTEC meeting

The draft outcomes of the 39th RFSTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved: John Burgess. Seconded: John Paton. Carried.

### 4. Action items from previous meetings

The Committee noted the progress on action items from the previous meeting.

### 5. Recreational Fishing Trust Report

The status of the Saltwater Trust was provided at the meeting. The committee was advised that the Recreational Fishing Fees had increased on 1 September.

DPI provided an update on sitting fee and travel expense claims for meetings.

**Action** – DPI to facilitate remittance advices with all payments for sitting fees and travel expenses.

### 6. Review of 2013/14 Habitat Grant funding applications

The status of the Fish Habitat Network program and previously funded Habitat Action Program grants was presented by DPI.

A total of 48 new saltwater habitat grant applications were received this year in response to the expression of interest. The saltwater habitat grants technical assessment panel (TAP) met in October to assess the applications. The TAP developed a list of recommended projects which were reviewed by the committee. Meeting recommendations with respect to each project are provided in Tables 1 and 2.

### 7. Review of new 2013/14 Trust funding applications

The committee reviewed the new and deferred saltwater grant applications. Funding recommendations with respect to each project were forwarded to the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing for subsequent recommendations to the Minister for consideration. Meeting recommendations are provided in Tables 3 - 4.

## 8. Fisheries research strategy

Dr Bob Creese discussed the development of a Strategic Fisheries Research Plan that clearly links with the Fisheries NSW Strategic Plan. This covers: priority programs (7) with indicative themes within each; key research tools that can be used; how science is communicated; and how data can be provided to internal and external stakeholders. The Plan will serve as a framework to guide the development of future research projects. Importantly the Plan can also be used to guide research priority-setting by the recreational sector, which is essential for broader planning and assessment of programs for the expenditure committees and ACoRF. The Committee discussed a process for getting stakeholder input for priority setting. The Chair noted that ACoRF and the committees will develop a list of research priority areas in the near future to be considered within the context of the plan. .

Internal work is also well under way on one aspect of the 'Web Portal' project, including looking at the potential for making data collected from the Resource Assessment System available to external users. DPI also advised the Resource Assessment Workshop was held in October and some priority species identified for research (eg bait species, tailor, blue swimmer crabs). There is also a new FRDC project to examine better integration of data sets into NSW stock assessments approved through the EOI stage.

**Action** – Fisheries Research to provide a copy of the Aquaculture Research Plan as an example, and the framework for the Recreational Fishing Research Plan to the Committee for their input and subsequent identification of research priorities.

An update was also provided of the 13 Recreational Fishing Trust funded research projects currently being carried out by the DPI Fisheries Research branch.

## 9. Tour of research station, including hatchery

A tour of the research and hatchery facilities, including the broodstock holding facility, was undertaken. Intensive and extensive methods of fish cultivation were discussed. Control over environmental influences can be achieved during fertilisation, egg and fry development to achieve successful rearing of species such as bass, kingfish, snapper and mulloway.

## 10. Project Updates – Presentations

### a) Recreational Fisheries Compliance

An overview of 2012/13 compliance actions undertaken across NSW including significant enforcement outcomes was provided. In 2012/13 around 50,000 client contacts were made (powers exercised) including: 3,600 field cautions, Around 2,200 penalty notices and 205 matters successfully prosecuted, including: 108 court imposed fines, 33 gaol sentences (7 individuals), 26 bonds (e.g. good behaviour) and 2 Community Service Orders.

Some of the Compliance highlights in 2012/13 included apprehensions in:

- Coffs Harbour: 3 men in possession 120kg Eastern Rock Lobster. Convicted, \$40,000 fine, boat forfeited;
- Coffs Harbour: 2 men issued multiple Penalty Notices (\$2000) for excess lobster traps - possess 10 Eastern Rock Lobster;
- Central Coast: 48 Penalty Notices issued - Power Station closures;
- Botany Bay: 1 man - 12 charges for set lines totalling (180m-43 hooks);
- Tuross – 1 man with 68m meshing net. 7m punt seized – convicted and boat, motor & trailer forfeited.

### b) Community Education programs

There are currently 280 active volunteers in NSW who attend around 500 events each year. In July 2013, 17 new volunteers were trained. The next round of training of volunteers is planned on 22/23 February 2014. In 2013, 89 NSW primary schools were registered with the Get Hooked program. Get Hooked staff together with Education Officers and Fishcare volunteers conducted school visits and attended the Sydney International Boat Show, Dive Show and Cronulla Spring Fair. Over 5000

contacts were made at these events. A total of 33 schools with around 1,100 children are participating in Get Hooked workshops, being held during October/November. To date the Fishing Workshops program has put 5,200 participants through workshops in 2013/14.

Fishcare Volunteer Russell Spencer has just been awarded the Volunteering Australia, Central Region Volunteer of the Year

**Action** – Chair of RFSTEC to write to Russell Spencer to congratulate him on winning the award.

### c) Fisheries enhancement

*Marine Stocking* – Approval of the Environmental Impact Statement and associated Fisheries Management Strategy is being sought. The Hatchery Quality Assurance System will be amended to include marine aspects and a stocking plan will need to be developed in 2014.

*FADs and artificial reefs* - Deployment of all 25 FADs will be completed in December for the 2013/14 season. New FAD approvals are being sought for the Clarence on the NSW far north coast and Ulladulla and Port Kembla on the south coast. The GPS tracking of the FADs has proven extremely effective and is being continued this season. Monitoring of the Sydney OAR has approximately 1 year to go (to be completed in Oct 2014) and the final report is due by the end of April 2015. The reef is supporting a diverse fish community and experiencing high usage rates by fishers. A preliminary site east of Kinghorn Point was initially identified as a potential location for construction of the Shoalhaven offshore reef. Angler feedback indicated preference for a site north of the Shoalhaven river entrance. A new site has now been identified and further investigations are being conducted to determine its suitability. The draft environmental assessment is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year and tender for the reefs fabrication, transport and deployment is tentatively scheduled to be released in early 2014.

## 11. General business

*Future consultative structures* - The Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) has been established to provide the Minister for Primary Industries with high-level strategic and policy advice on issues relating to the management of fisheries resources in NSW. Expressions of interest have been sought for the appointment of five core members of the MFAC, each with expertise in or ability to represent the interests of commercial fishing, recreational fishing, aquaculture, Aboriginal cultural fishing and conservation of aquatic resources. Changes to consultative arrangements for recreational fishing continue to be developed.

### Next Meeting

The next expenditure committee meeting is scheduled for 7 May 2014 (to be confirmed).

### Action items from previous meetings

Action	Responsibility	Status
A research plan be developed for recreational fishing.	DPI/ ACoRF/ RFSTEC & RFFTEC	Underway
DPI to circulate pecuniary interests declaration to enable members to update their details.	DPI	Completed
The Committee recommended ACoRF write to the Minister to request a Charter Fishing representative on MFAC.	ACoRF	Completed
DPI to provide any available compliance data, including number of fisheries officers from other states, at the next meeting.	DPI	Completed
DPI to send members the web link to the small business registration site.	DPI	Completed
ACoRF to write to Dr Geoff Allan, Executive Director, Fisheries NSW requesting the barotrauma chamber be moved to a DPI research site.	ACoRF	Completed
ACoRF to write to the Minister advising that she write to the Minister for the Environment requesting that the access fee at The Pass boat	ACoRF	Completed

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ramp be waived for the Byron Bay Deep Sea Fishing Club.

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### Action items from this meeting

Action	Responsibility	Status
DPI to facilitate remittance advices with all payments for sitting fees and travel expenses.	DPI	Pending
Fisheries Research to provide a copy of the Aquaculture Research Plan as an example, and the framework for the Recreational Fishing Research Plan to the Committee for their input and subsequent identification of research priorities.	DPI (Fisheries Research)	Pending
Chair of RFSTEC to write to Russell Spencer to congratulate him on winning the Volunteer award.	RFSTEC	Pending

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2014). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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**Table 1: Summary of new Saltwater Trust habitat grant applications recommended for funding by RFSTEC**

Project title	Organisation	Project summary	Nearest town	Location and Catchment	Requested \$	In-kind \$	TAP Recommended \$
Gumma IPA – Nambucca River Estuary Rehabilitation Project	Gumma Indigenous Protected Area	Gumma Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) proposes natural area restoration works to provide more resilient and productive estuary margins in the Nambucca River Estuary. The IPA will achieve this by managing Invasive weeds (6 Ha), regenerating riparian habitats and implementing timber fillets to mitigate eroding riverbanks (0.5 Km) and encourage mangrove propagation.	Nambucca Heads	Nambucca River	\$23,934	\$20,425	<b>\$22,770</b>
Bilambil Creek riparian restoration	Tweed Shire Council	This project will convert a 500m long camphor laurel dominated riparian zone to regenerating riparian rainforest at the interface between the Bilambil Creek estuary and freshwater catchment. The project extends a significant riparian restoration partnership adding 500 m to an existing 5 Km restored estuarine corridor.	Bilambil, Tweed Heads	Bilambil Creek, Terranora Broadwater, Tweed River catchment	\$30,950	\$47,070	<b>\$30,950</b>
Protecting fish habitat along the Lane Cove River Estuary	Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc	This project will focus on increasing the resilience of unique ecological communities that provide vital breeding grounds for fish and other fauna - saline wetlands and their associated buffer zones along Buffalo Creek, Kittys Creek, Pages Creek and Fairylands Creek. 4 Ha weed management, 200 m riparian fencing, 1 Ha revegetation, 0.5 ha wetland rehabilitation, 0.1 km erosion protection works.	East Ryde to Chatswood region, Sydney	Lane Cove River Estuary	\$40,000	\$69,740	<b>\$40,000</b>
Rehabilitating Orara River fish habitat and promoting fish habitat values	Orara Valley Rivercare Groups Management Committee	Stock management (1.25 km) and riparian zone rainforest regeneration (4 km) along the Orara River, Fridays Creek and Walgarah Creek for the enhancement of habitat for the Australian Bass, promoted through an educational video targeted to landholders and fishers.	Coramba, Coffs Harbour	Orara River - Clarence River	\$40,000	\$173,000	<b>\$31,000</b>

Project title	Organisation	Project summary	Nearest town	Location and Catchment	Requested \$	In-kind \$	TAP Recommended \$
A cost effective mangrove regeneration citizen science program in the Hastings with application for broader use across Australia	NSW Farmers Port Macquarie Oyster Branch and Hastings Fly Fishers	Australia's first pilot citizen science project in the Hastings River between oyster farmers and recreational fishers to trial innovative and cost effective ways of mangrove establishment (1 ha) under different environmental conditions using hessian mats rather than expensive rock fillets.	Port Macquarie	Limeburners Creek and Big Bay Hastings estuary	\$12,807	\$28,605	<b>\$9,487</b>
Engaging the community in the protection of saltmarsh along Dora Creek	Lake Macquarie City Council	The project will engage and support existing and new landcare volunteers to remove weeds (3 ha) and regenerate saltmarsh and swamp-oak floodplain forest along Dora Creek (0.5 ha) , protecting fish habitat.	Dora Creek	Dora Creek, Lake Macquarie	\$7,900	\$18,040	<b>\$7,900</b>
Bring back the Tapitallee Fish	Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	To enhance the riparian zone of Tapitallee Creek building on previous fish passage and ecological works. 2.7 km riparian fencing, 1.0 km riparian reveg, weed management and erosion works, 8-10 km fish passage opened.	Cambewarra	Tapitallee Creek, Bomaderry Creek, Shoalhaven River	\$40,000	\$82,034	<b>\$40,000</b>
Stabilizing creek crossing and regenerating surrounds	Manning Landcare Inc	The aim of this project is to bring together local landholders, fisheries, Greater Taree City Council and Landcare, to stabilize a creek crossing and to prevent continual movement of approximately 400 tonne of gravel washing downstream in high flows.	Lansdowne	Barlins Creek, Lansdowne River, Manning Catchment	\$2,755	\$41,980	<b>\$2,755</b>
Lane Cove Australian Bass Habitat project Stage 2	Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc	Improve Australian bass habitat along the Lane Cove river by engaging recreational fishers the Sydney bass Fishing Club Inc, community volunteers, park staff and contractors. This second stage will follow up weeding along the river and continue primary weeding downstream. Another planting site of 500 trees will be established.	Lindfield	Lane Cove River	\$10,000	\$17,775	<b>\$10,000</b>
Coopers Creek fish habitat restoration project Stage 3	Private Landholder	Rehabilitate creek bank for fish habitat. Reduce siltation, improve water quality by fencing of creek bank. Remove cattle and noxious weeds and planting to stabilize the bank. Provide cover for native fish. 300 m fencing, 6,000 cubic metres weed management, 6000 cubic meters revegetation	Corndale via Lismore	Coopers Creek, Richmond River	\$10,060	\$10,200	<b>\$10,060</b>

Project title	Organisation	Project summary	Nearest town	Location and Catchment	Requested \$	In-kind \$	TAP Recommended \$
Lower Lansdowne River Estuarine Habitat Rehabilitation	Private Landholder	Ongoing erosion has degraded the estuarine environment causing loss of instream habitat values. The project aims to restore the degraded estuarine environment and increase local recreational fishing values by installing instream structures 0.1 km and riparian fencing 0.3 km and undertaking revegetation 0.1 km, promoting mangrove recovery.	Cundletown, Taree	Lansdowne River, Manning River Estuary	\$20,800	\$20,985	<b>\$20,800</b>
Neighbours for Natives	Private Landholder	Four landholders with frontage to Skinners Creek will combine forces to improve the health of the creek by removing dominating weed species (0.4 km) and replace them with native vegetation (0.7 ha).	Fernleigh	Skinners Creek, Wilson River, Richmond	\$3,775	\$35,840	<b>\$3,775</b>
Tonbridge Creek rehabilitation	Rockdale City Council	Undertake 0.43 ha of weed management and wetland rehabilitation in the Hawthorne Street Reserve to improve habitat values of Tonbridge Creek.	Ramsgate	Tonbridge Creek, Botany Bay	\$25,000	\$26,440	<b>\$25,000</b>
Onground estuary remediation works at Big Swamp Manning River Estuary	Water Research Laboratory, University of NSW	This project aims to remediate a combined total of 670 ha of Big Swamp floodplain, including approximately 30 km of tidal channels in the Manning River Estuary. This will be achieved by modifying floodgaets and carrying out earthworks to reshape the land and encourage tidal reflooding.	25 km north of Taree	Manning River	\$40,000	\$80,080	<b>\$31,500</b>
Acid sulfate soil prioritisation and remediation works on the Broughton Creek floodplain, Shoalhaven River Estuary	Water Research Laboratory, University of NSW	This project adopts a strategic catchment wide approach to target and remediate high acid contributing drains to improve water quality and fish habitat in the Shoalhaven River estuary. 5 km of tidal channels across the Broughton Creek floodplain will be remediated by modifying floodgates to encourage in-drain tidal buffering of acid by products. Estimated in-drain volume 36,500 cubic metres.	Berry to Bolong	Broughton Creek, Shoalhaven River	\$40,000	\$47,700	<b>\$30,000</b>
Pelican Bay Peninsula - Marine Habitat Enhancement	Manning River Oyster Farmers Association	To stabilise approximately 400 metres of badly eroding foreshore using rock fillets (0.4 km) to provide habitat for mangrove colonization also replant on top of the bank with native trees to also assist in bank stabilization.	Manning Point, Harrington	Manning River	\$40,000	\$41,765	<b>\$40,000</b>
Tuross Head Fishing Club working to protect their own 'patch	Eurobodalla Shire Council and Tuross Fishing Club	Tuross Fishing Club and other volunteers will undertake fish habitat restoration works along the bank of the Tuross River at a popular fishing reserve. Works will include erosion control, consolidation of	Bodalla	Tuross River	\$24,260	\$30,484	<b>\$24,260</b>

Project title	Organisation	Project summary	Nearest town	Location and Catchment	Requested \$	In-kind \$	TAP Recommended \$
		vehicle access, replanting (220 m) and weed control (8 ha)					
Fish @ the Hawkesbury Riverfarm	Univeristy of Western Sydney	Fish @ the Hawkesbury Riverfarm aims to improve riparian health and increase the fish habitat on this Hawkesbury River site (1032 m) by resnagging the riverfront, weed management and revegetating the riparian corridor. Open Bass Club days will increase awareness of aquatic life in the Hawkesbuiry LGA and monitor fish populations.	Richmond	Hawkesbury River	\$23,113	\$24,200	<b>\$21,863</b>
Upper Monkerai Land management partnership - Upper Karuah River riparian project and Lantana Control (Stage 1)	Great Lakes Council	Reduce infestations of invasive environmental weeds, privet and lantana from the Upper Karuah River riparian zone (14 km) through primary controls and landholder support to enhance water quality and fish habitat.	Monkerai	Upper Karuah River, Port Stephens Estuary	\$12,990	\$13,200	<b>\$12,990</b>
Repairing Taylors Arm	Scotts Head Fishing Club and Utungun Landcare	Two bypassed bed control structures installed into Taylors Arm to maintain water levels after gravel extraction caused bed lowering will be reinstated. 0.04 km. Works will maintain bed levels, reduce sediment input (including from eroding banks) and retain valuable fish habitat.	Taylors Arm, Utungun	Taylors Arm, Nambucca River	\$9,540	\$10,340	<b>\$9,540</b>
Saltmarsh south west rocks	SW Rocks Anglers	Protect an area of mangroves and saltmarsh by improving vehicle management	South West Rocks	Macleay River	\$4,350	\$4,480	<b>\$4,350</b>
Hollingworth Creek restoration	Private Landholder	Exotic vegetation control, 1 km, Hollingworth Creek. Replanting with indigenous native trees on the banks and dumped rubbish removal.	South Lismore	Hollingworth Creek, Wilson River	\$1,000	\$47,944	<b>\$1,000</b>
					<b>\$463,234</b>	<b>\$892,327</b>	<b>\$430,000</b>

**Table 2: Summary of new Saltwater Trust habitat grant applications NOT recommended for funding by RFSTEC**

Project title	Organisation	Project summary	Nearest town	Location and Catchment	Requested \$	In-kind \$	TAP Recommended \$
Moruya River mangrove regeneration		Remove rubbish and building waste tipped onto foreshore in order to allow grey mangroves to regenerate in place of rubbish 115 m.	Moruya Heads	Moruya River	6144	9600	6144
Kore Kore Creek fish habitat restoration project - consolidation and extension	Great Lakes Council	Improve and protect fish habitat in the kore Kore Creek including mangroves, saltmarsh and riparian areas through restoration and regeneration works including secondary/follow up weed management (41 km) , ongoing protection and bank stabilisation (0.2 km).	Tea Gardens	Kore Kore Creek, Port Stephens Estuary	14960	15290	0
Gereeba Island restoartion stage 1	Great Lakes Council	Improve and protect fish habitat in the Walllamba River including mangroves, endangered saltmarsh and riparian vegetation through wetland regeneration (35 ha) and restoration works including primary and secondary weed management (6 km/17ha) and revegetation (0.3 km 0.25 ha).	Tuncurry	Wallamba River, Wallis Lake	38570	41255	0
Hexham Swamp fish habitat - saltmarsh improvement project	Conservation Volunteers Australia	Improve fish habitat in Hexham Swamp through removal of Juncus Acutus to enhance and increase saltmarshm which is important for juvenile fish as it provides habitat when inundated at high tide (40 ha).	Hexham	Hexham Swamp, lower Hunter Estuary	40000	41202	0
Wollomombi River fish habitat protection	Rockvale Farms Pty Ltd	The project aims to improve water quality in Wollomombi River for the fish regularly released in the river. The construction of 9km of fencing to remove continual livestock access will reduce erosion and contamination from livestock. The planting of 1000 trees will also help to stabilize banks and reduce erosion and improve water quality.	Armidale	Wollomombi River, Macleay Catchment	40,000	57,750	0
Upper Welby inflow stream enhancement	Berrima District Acclimitisation Soc	Fence off inflow stream to upper Welby dam and plant stream bed with appropriate water plants to filter water flowing into the dam, 0.4 km riparian fencing, 0.01 ha reveg	Mittagong	Welby	2000	3000	0

Project title	Organisation	Project summary	Nearest town	Location and Catchment	Requested \$	In-kind \$	TAP Recommended \$
Harrington River bank erosion stabilisation	Greater Taree City Council	Stabilising an actively eroding bank which is putting soil into the Manning River and Manning river Estuary. Install rock revetment and earth bank treatments to stop erosion and maintain boat access. 0.06 km	Harrington Waters Estate	Manning River	10000	15000	0
Addressing the scourge of the long spined sea urchin in Merimbula bay	Sapphire Coast Underwater Research group Inc	This project aims to carry out monthly dives to reduce the numbers of long-spined sea urchin <i>Centrostephanus rodgersii</i> , from a section of subtidal rocky reef in Merimbula Bay.	Merimbula	Merimbula Bay	11570	11440	0
camden Town Farm habitat enhancement	camden Town Farm - Council	Rehabilitate Camden Town farm lagoon by improving habitat revegetating and addressing weed infestation. Allow rec fishing of the lagoon at community fishing events	Camden	Nepean River	16,683	51	0
Orara River Bass and Eastern Freshwater Cod habitat improvement	Clarence Valley Environment Centre	To remove exotic vegetation from Haywards Crossing on the Orara River and undertake bank stabilisation works at Lanzita Reserve (5 Ha weed management and 40 m erosion control works). Both sites are known to hold remnant populations of Eastern Freshwater Cod.	Small townships of Coarmba, Nana Glen and Glenreagh. Site 1 at Haywards Crossing, Orara Way and Site 2 Lanitza Reserve	Orara River - Clarence River	17800	17300	0
Tyagarah Swamp habitat restoration	Brunswick Valley Landcare	Riparian and wetland restoration works for a section of Tyagarah Swamp to improve water quality, reduce sedimentation and enhance fish habitat. 1.5 ha primary weed control, 0.25 ha revegetation.	Grays lane Tyagarah	Tyagarah Swamp, Simpsons Creek, Brunswick River	19775	19840	0
Protect and restore fish habitat in Evans River	WetlandCare Australia	This project will section of degraded and continually damaged saltmarsh habitat adjacent to the Evanms River, near Evans Head. Illegal vehicle access will be restricte to prevent further damage and rehabilitation works will be undertaken to assist regeneration of saltmarsh. 0.25 ha saltmarsh.	Evans Head	Evans River	23142	25147	0
Improving Habitat at Kerosene Inlet	Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council	Remove environmental weeds (2.2 km) using best practice bush regeneration techniques. To assess areas where natural regrowth will occur and	Fingal	Tweed River	25365	11390	0

Project title	Organisation	Project summary	Nearest town	Location and Catchment	Requested \$	In-kind \$	TAP Recommended \$
		revegetate target areas. Employ an indigenous bush regeneration team.					
Hawkesbury Estuary and Brisbane Waters Clean4shore program	Community Environment Network	Monitor, data record and/or remove litter along the Hawkesbury River foreshore from Bar Island to the Pittwater including Mooney, Mullet and Cowan Creeks and also in Brisbane Water. 30 foreshore field trips with 8-20 volunteers for a period of 3 hourly trips. Plus 2 clean up/education workshops for recreational groups and community members to attend.	Central Coast	Brisbane Waters and Lower Hawkesbury Estuary	26500	59650	0
Restoring fish habitat in the Nambucca River	Nambucca Shire Council	Restore fish habitat on the Nambucca River estuary at Stuart island through erosion protection works, including the construction of rock fillets incorporating artificial reef balls and revegetation. 400 square metres.	Nambucca Heads	Nambucca River	28730	28730	0
Improving Aquatic Habitat along Cabramatta Creek	Fairfield City Council	The project will improve the condition of habitat for many fish species providing shelter, shade and improving woody habitat within cabramatta Creek. 0.17 km 0.68 ha weed management and revegetation works.	Cabramatta	Cabramatta Creek, Georges River	30600	59600	0
Continuing the rehabilitation of Dumaresq Creek - Improving fish habitat and passage	Southern New England Landcare Coordinating Committee Inc	Improve fish habitat and connectivity with 0.5km riparian fencing at Dumaresq Dam to exclude stock; and 0.25km (0.15ha) woody weed removal, 0.25km (0.15ha) riparian revegetation and introduction of 2 snags in Dumaresq Creek in Armidale, NSW. This continues a decade or riparian rehabilitation on Dumaresq Creek.	Armidale	Dumaresq Creek, Macleay Catchment	32,520	31,080	0
Aquatic and terrestrial weed control to improve fish habitat in Marshalls Creek Catchment	Ocean Shores Country Club	The sanctuary zone of marshalls Creek is an important breeding ground for fish. By controlling environmental weeds our project will improve water quality and fish habitat and increase fish populations. 3 ha weed management,	Ocean Shores	Marshalls Creek, Brunswick River	37000	26700	0

Project title	Organisation	Project summary	Nearest town	Location and Catchment	Requested \$	In-kind \$	TAP Recommended \$
Protecting fish habitat along Lane Cove River estuary - east side Ventemans Reach to Lovetts Reserve	Lane Cove Council	Rehabilitate, increase resilience and extent of the mangrove and saltmarsh vegetation communities through best practice bush regeneration including planting indigenous tubestock in buffer zones. 1km weed management, 0.1 ha revegetation, 2 ha wetland regeneration.	Lane Cove	Lane Cove River	39200	82950	0
Milperra Creek restoration project stage 1	Bankstown Bushland Society	Milperra Creek drains from a small wetland near the intersection of Henry Lawson Drive and Milperaa Road into the George River. The BBS have been succesful in securing an ET grant to carry out bush regen works to improve conservation values of the wetlands and surrounding bushland. This proposal aims to link these works with the Milperra Creek corridor. Weed managment and revegetation 4,400 square metres.	Bankstown	Milperra Creek, Georges River	39490	55150	0
Project biodiversity - Creating fish habitat	Shortland Wetland centre Ltd	To stabilize eroding Canoe Channel banks (0.3 km) by using dead casuarina trees, create fish habitat by resnagging parts of our 1.4 km canoe channel, assisting with mangrove recruitment and replacing dead riparian vegetation with salt tolerant species.	Shortland, Newcastle	Ironbark Creek, lower Hunter estuary	39950	64830	0
Tweed River Rehabilitation	Bradley Bush Regeneration	To rehabilitate 500 m of Tweed River through ecological restoration of riparian vegeation. To improve fish habitat by introducing snags.	Murwillumbah	Tweed River	40000	40000	0
Ocean Drive Evans Head incorporating fish friendly rock fillets into landslip	Richmond Valley Council	This application seeks to incorporate fish friendly rock fillets as a component of stabilisation works to be undertaken at evans Head. 0.45 km works.	South Evans Head	Evans River	40000	1461665	0
McCarrs Creek reserve creek bank stabilisation	Pittwater Council	Bank stabilisation through construction of an environmentally friendly seawall for approximately 45 m of foreshore along the northern border of McCarrs Creek Reserve to prevent sediment transport to the wsterway, improve foreshore habitat and public safetye adjacne to embankment edge.	Church Point	McCarrs Creek, Pittwater Estuary	40000	55400	0

Project title	Organisation	Project summary	Nearest town	Location and Catchment	Requested \$	In-kind \$	TAP Recommended \$
Structure, shelter, shade and food: happy and healthy fish in the Nambucca River	Wetland Care Australia	This project will use adjacent areas of good condition riparian zone and recent success with similar projects to rehabilitate a degraded section of river bank. One Km of riverbank habitat will be restored using fencing, erosion control measures and revegetation - providing structure, shelter, shade and food - key elements for a healthy fishery.	Tewinga, 20 km upstream from Nambucca Heads	Nambucca River	40000	40000	0
Middlebrook Road fish barrier remediation project	Greater Taree City Council	Construction of a partial width rock fish ladder at Middlebrook Road on Dingo Creek to enable better fish movement upstream through this site which was previously a barrier to fish movement. Opens up 22 km fish habitat.	SE of Marlee	Dingo Creek, Hunter catchment	40000	75000	0

**Table 3: Summary of new Saltwater Trust grant applications recommended for funding by RFSTEC**

Project Title and Summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15
<p><b>A review and analysis of the determination of two species of hammerhead sharks as threatened in NSW.</b> Review and critique the process which led to the listing of great and scalloped hammerhead sharks as protected in 2012 by the NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee. The research will aim to review the reasons and arguments for the determination, analyse all data available on historic hammerhead shark catches, all relevant overseas data cited in the determinations and assess whether or not there is a basis to apply for a de-listing of either or both species of hammerhead sharks. The project will analyse the conclusions reached during the determination including the declines in catches of 'generic' hammerhead sharks assumed to be equivalent to declines in the populations of the two hammerhead species over their geographic range in NSW/QLD waters. SUPPORTED – out of session support.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$38,500	\$0
<p><b>NSW Fisheries Enhancement Research Program</b> This project combines the research and monitoring requirements of the existing Sydney Offshore Artificial Reef project and the Marine Stocking Program which is currently being set up for implementation in 2014 (as opposed to having 2 separate programs). This provides for a more cost effective approach to ensuring the research requirements are met with these 2 high profile fisheries enhancement projects. SUPPORTED. Moved John Burgess, Seconded Lionel Jones. Carried.</p>	DPI	\$317,330	\$525,330
<p><b>Installation of boom gate at Lagers Point boat ramp, Trial Bay</b> Installation of a boom gate with swipe card (or pin) access at Lagers Point boat ramp to provide boating access to a currently restricted boat ramp during peak holiday periods. SUPPORTED. Moved John Paton, Seconded Malcolm Poole. Carried.</p>	DPI	\$30,000	\$0
<p><b>Angel Rings interim funding (Small Grant No 2 Oct 2013)</b> Additional funding for the ongoing angel rings program. SUPPORTED – out of session support.</p>	ANSA NSW Branch	\$10,000	\$0

**Table 4: Summary of new Saltwater Trust grant applications NOT recommended for funding by RFSTEC**

Project Title and Summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15
<p><b>Development of a Strategic Research Plan for the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Sector of NSW</b>            Through a series of workshops, meetings and drafting sessions, we will deliver a 5 year strategic research plan for the saltwater recreational fishing sector of NSW, against which subsequent research proposals can be assessed so that the major objectives of the sector can be achieved.            NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Malcolm Poole, Seconded John Burgess. Carried.</p>	IC Independent Consulting	\$68,400	\$0
<p><b>An economic survey into recreational fishing in northern coastal NSW</b>            Economic and fishing activity information will be collected from recreational fishers in three coastal towns in northern NSW. This information will be analysed to provide estimates on the value of recreational fishing for these communities.            NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Ann Garard. Carried.</p>	IC Independent Consulting	\$94,800	\$0
<p><b>Evaluation of monitoring coastal charter boat catches for recreational fisheries resource sustainability</b>            Assess the composition and levels of retained and released catches and examine the utility of different ways of monitoring coastal charter boat catches for inclusion in fishery and species resource assessments.            NOT SUPPORTED. Referred to MERCMAC for advice and recommendation. Moved John Paton, Seconded Stuart Rhodes. Carried.</p>	Sydney Institute of Marine Science	\$169,970	\$33,275
<p><b>Independent observer program for the recreational charter boat fishery [Pre-proposal]</b>            The pre-proposal is to gain support for an independent assessment of the charter fishery to assess the accuracy of charter logbook information. It is intended that this program will develop long term solutions that will provide a cost effective means of monitoring the activities of this sector.            NOT SUPPORTED. Referred to MERCMAC for advice and recommendation. Moved Malcolm Poole, Seconded Ann Garard. Carried.</p>	DPI		
<p><b>Recreational Survey Data Internet Portal</b>            Develop a web portal that provides user-friendly access to recreational fishing survey data to the public including graphs and tables on catch and effort by species, location and date.            NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded John Paton. Carried.</p>	systems2serve	\$118,000	\$0
<p><b>Assessment of the tailor stock [Pre-proposal]</b>            Will provide the necessary biological and fishery information to enable an assessment of the tailor stock to be made. Data collected will include size and age compositions and how they vary with latitude, growth rates, reproductive biology including where and at what sizes tailor in NSW spawn, patterns of movement and connectivity with the Queensland stock, what tailor eat and how they interact with other species and recruitment modelling to determine where most of the tailor in NSW may have been spawned. Will utilise a PHd approach. Approximate cost around \$60,000 per year.            NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Malcolm Poole, Seconded Ann Garard. Carried.</p>	DPI		

Project Title and Summary	Organisation	2013/14	2014/15
<p><b>Bait security: Ensuring angler opportunities through effective assessment and understanding of bait species [Pre-proposal]</b></p> <p>The objective of this project is to provide up-to-date life history (age, growth, distribution and potentially abundance) and exploitation-related (mortality) information to enable assessment and effective management of cunjevoi, ghost nippers and beach worms to ensure quality bait resources for recreational fishers.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Malcolm Poole, Seconded Lionel Jones. Carried.</p>	DPI		
<p><b>Sussex Inlet Game Fish Gantry</b></p> <p>To build a fish weighing gantry next to the cleaning tables at Lakehaven Drive, Sussex Inlet. [Resubmitted application with further information provided]</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved John Paton, Seconded Stuart Rhodes. Carried.</p>	Sussex Inlet Bowling Club Fishing Club	\$10,000	\$0
<p><b>Fishing for the Past – Fish catches in Australia in pre and early colonial times.</b></p> <p>The proposal seeks a subsidy for the publication of a completed book: 'Fishing for the Past – Fish catches in Australian waters in pre and early colonial times'.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Geoff Shelton. Carried.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$34,000	\$0