

MEETING	<b>Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC)</b>
MEETING NO.	Meeting 54
DATE & TIME	7 November 2018
LOCATION	Pacific Bay Resort, Cnr Pacific Hwy and Bay Drive, Coffs Harbour
ATTENDEES	Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Lisa Terry (Region 2), Adrian Wayne (Region 4), John Paton (Region 6a), Stuart Rhodes (Region 6b), Ann Garard (Region 7), Micah Adams (Region 8), Stan Konstantaras (RFA NSW, RFNSW), John Burgess (ANSA NSW Branch), Grahame Williams (NSW GFA), Damian Kerves (AFTA).
APOLOGIES	Mark Berg (Region 1), Geoff Shelton (Region 3), Lionel Jones (Region 5), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI).

### 1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

### 2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 53rd RFSTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved John Paton, Seconded Lisa Terry, Carried.

### 3. Register of interests

No new interests were declared.

### 4. Action items from previous meeting

The progress of action items from the previous meeting was discussed.

### 5. Recreational Fishing Trust update

The status of the Freshwater Trust was presented to members. Statistics and trends of licence revenue were discussed.

### 6. Review of new Saltwater Trust grant applications

A total of 14 saltwater applications were received. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration (refer to Table 1).

#### Habitat Action Grants

Following the 2018/19 annual advertising process, a total of 35 saltwater habitat action grant applications were received. The Technical Assessment Panel (TAP) met on 29 October 2018 to consider the applications. Recommendations arising from the TAP meeting were presented to RFSTEC for consideration (refer to Table 2). A total of 20 projects of combined value \$451,026 were supported for funding. Projects recommended for funding are provided in Table 2. Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Grahame Williams, Carried.

A total of \$31,375 of unspent or returned funds from the 2016/17 and 2017/2018 financial year budgets was noted. The Committee recommended that unallocated funds from 17/18 and 18/19 should be returned to the Trust noting it is not proposed to expend the full 18/19 budget. If additional HAG program funds are needed in the future for suitable projects, the committee invited the program to request more funding at that time. Moved Ann Garard, Seconded John Paton, Carried.

## **7. Presentations**

DPI provided updates on the following programs:

a) Gone Fishing Day 2018 - The NSW Gone Fishing Day (GFD) was held on 14 October 2018 at various sites across NSW. GFD events were located in highly visible/accessible locations in coastal and inland areas. Inland events were held at Queanbeyan and Forbes. A range of partner organisations were involved in the GFD to create a carnival-type atmosphere. Overall the GFD was highly successful although rain affected some locations, particularly Grafton. A total of 63 fishing clubs also ran GFD events across the State.

b) Marine fish stocking – RFSTEC was updated on the recent kingfish stockings undertaken in Lake Macquarie and Botany Bay. Planning is also underway for potential stocking of dusky flathead in the future.

## **8. Presentations**

Southern Cross University staff provided committee members with a site tour of the National Marine Science Centre and its associated hatchery facilities.

**Table 1. Summary of funding recommendations**

**Projects SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust**

**Platform: Fishing access and facilities**

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Accessibility Upgrades to Gwandalan Jetty – Gwandalan Bowling Club Foreshore Reserve	Central Coast Council	Upgrades to accessibility of jetty at Gwandalan Foreshore including a designated fishing area to allow for accessible and recreational fishing activities. <b>SUPPORTED Moved Micah Adams, Seconded John Paton, Carried.</b>	SW \$24,300	SW \$0	SW \$0
All Abilities Fishing Platform – Marmong Point	Lake Macquarie City Council	This project involves the construction of a purpose built fishing platform structure on the foreshore of Lake Macquarie at Marmong Point. <b>SUPPORTED Moved Micah Adams, Seconded Grahame Williams OAM, Carried.</b> <b>Funding condition: RFSTEC supports \$67,925 for the fishing platform and handrail components only. RFSTEC did not support funding for design and contingencies as these were deemed to be a council responsibility.</b>	SW \$100,000 applied <b>\$67,925 supported</b>	SW \$0	SW \$0
BVSC Fish Cleaning Table Upgrades Phase 1	Bega Valley Shire Council	Provision of fish cleaning tables at ramps where presently unavailable; and to upgrade existing facilities at frequently used ramps. <b>SUPPORTED Moved Micah Adams, Seconded John Burgess, Carried.</b> <b>Funding condition: RFSTEC supports \$110,005 for Bermagui Harbour, Bermagui River, Pambula River and Quarantine Bay fish cleaning tables. RFSTEC did not support funding for fish cleaning facilities at Blackfellows Lake and Beauty Point as these were deemed to be located in lower usage areas with expensive additional services required for construction. RFSTEC did not support funding for project management, contingency and design as these were deemed to be Council's responsibility.</b>	SW \$186,399 applied <b>\$110,005 supported</b>	SW \$0	SW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<p>They're too good to lose! – More Water Police patrols to help keep Sydney Harbour ferry wharves open to fishing.</p>	<p>NSW DPI / RMS</p>	<p>This project commenced last year in Sydney Harbour which complements the long-running Clean, Safe Wharves initiative which involves education and maintenance programs that encourage responsible recreational fishing behaviour on the 50 Sydney Harbour ferry wharves. Continuation of the Water Police patrols to the 2018-19 summer fishing season provides for an effective enforcement presence to manage issues involving rubbish, noise and anti-social behaviour from anglers. Results from the 2017-18 patrols indicates the water based patrols contributed significantly to reducing complaints about irresponsible fisher behaviour on ferry wharves and increased public perception of recreational fishing activities at these locations. It is proposed to continue the patrols into the 2018/19 summer fishing season.</p> <p><b>Note: Previously supported out of session and subsequently endorsed by RFNSW. Moved John Burgess, Seconded Lisa Terry, Carried.</b></p>	<p>SW \$180,000</p>		

**Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation**

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Driving Fish Habitat Action with a Landcare NSW/OzFish Unlimited community partnership	OzFish Unlimited	Sixty (60) fish habitat restoration sites will be established by OzFish and Landcare combining resources across NSW, building a network of skilled volunteers to continue the work well into the future. <b>SUPPORTED Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Paton, Carried.</b> <b>Funding condition: funding supported for one year only so that outcomes can be assessed. The funding agreement must stipulate a deliverable of 15 projects in the first year, as stated in the Trust application (along with other stated deliverables and milestones).</b>	SW \$114,050 FW \$90,700 <b>SW Supported</b>	SW \$105,050 FW \$84,700 <b>SW Not Supported</b>	SW \$174,500 FW \$131,000 <b>SW Not Supported</b>

**Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing**

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Integrated Monitoring Program (IMP): Comprehensive ongoing assessment of recreational fishing in NSW – 2019/2021 – using state-wide diary surveys and biological sampling from the charter boat fishery.	NSW DPI	The IMP is the largest recreational fishery citizen-science project in NSW providing a cost-effective platform for collecting high quality information for assessment of recreational fisheries. This methodology provides reliable catch and effort estimates for key recreational species, along with opinions and satisfaction levels of recreational fishers. Such information has already been collected for 2013/14 and currently, for 2017/18. This proposal is seeking to extend and expand the coverage of the IMP on an ongoing biennial basis (every 2 years) for the years 2019/20 and 2021/22. <b>SUPPORTED Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Stan Konstantaras, Carried.</b> <b>Funding condition: Noting that RFSTEC supports the option for the RAP to continue as a citizen science program to be run by the Recreational Fisheries Management Group, the RAP will still require scientific input to provide strategic advice to the program. This input must be provided by the Fisheries Research Group and include assistance with developing a funding application, ongoing provision of scientific input to the running of the revised program, provide opportunities for linkage to other research programs, undertaking scientific interpretation that may be needed for extension activities undertaken by the Management Group and any other essential requirements as identified by the Management Group, RFSTEC and RFNSW. Resourcing of at least 0.1 FTE of the biological sampling scientific officer in the IMP would need to be allocated to the above requirement.</b>	SW \$573,569	SW \$900,957	SW \$626,512

**Platform: Recreational fishing education**

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fish For Life campaign to strengthen social licence and grow recreational fishing in NSW	NSW DPI	RFNSW has identified the need for recreational fishing in NSW to strengthen its social licence with the wider community. A marketing consultant has advised this is best achieved by developing a “brand” for fishing and then using that brand to promote the positive aspects of fishing in order to ensure fishing in NSW retains public support. A logo and tagline - Fish For Life – Building A Healthy Fishing Future – has been developed. <b>SUPPORTED Moved John Paton, Seconded Micah Adams, Carried.</b> <b>Funding condition: A sub-committee be formed to liaise with regarding the tender process and marketing decisions during project implementation. Subcommittee to be comprised of RFNSW, RFSTEC and RFFTEC representatives. Micah Adams, Damian Kerves and John Paton were nominated as RFSTEC representatives.</b>	SW \$400,000 FW \$100,000 <b>SW Supported</b>	SW \$0	SW \$0
The Fly Program – Men In Flight Program	The Fly Program Ltd.	The purpose of The Fly Program's Men In Flight program is to contribute toward futureproofing the State's recreational fishing industry through the implementation of a second year of intensive programs, aimed at increasing participation and promoting the significant health and socio-economic benefits recreational fishing has directly on participants and the wider community of family, friends and co-workers that surround that participant. <b>SUPPORTED Moved Adrian Wayne, Seconded Lisa Terry, Carried.</b>	SW \$57,876 FW \$24,804 <b>SW Supported</b>	SW \$0	SW \$0

## Projects **NOT SUPPORTED** for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

### Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Bermagui South Saltmarsh Rehabilitation Project	Bega Valley Shire Council	This project will remove impacts from and rehabilitate a 42 hectare area of protected Coastal Saltmarsh within a recreational fishing haven. A combination of best practice erosion control, rehabilitation and education will be used to protect and enhance the area while raising awareness of the importance of this vanishing habitat to maintaining healthy fish stocks. <b>NOT SUPPORTED Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded John Burgess, Carried</b> <b>RFSTEC did not support the project as the proposed site was deemed to be in a general use area of low angler use.</b>	SW \$19,040	SW \$0	SW \$0
Magic Point Rock Shelf Access Structure	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Nielsen Park Office	Construction of a boardwalk and staircase structure to allow rock anglers to access Magic Point (Malabar Headland National Park) from the existing Boora Point walking track. <b>NOT SUPPORTED Moved John Burgess, Seconded Grahame Williams OAM, Carried</b> <b>RFSTEC did not support the project due to the high cost and limited access due to the location and operations of the rifle range.</b> <b>Recommend that the applicant discuss cheaper alternative options for access to the rock shelf with ANSA (NSW).</b>	SW \$228,633	SW \$0	SW \$0
Moruya Quarry Wharf – Accessible Path Linkage	Eurobodalla Shire Council	To construct an accessible concrete pathway from the existing wharf to the accessible public toilet facility, to benefit both able-bodied and mobility impaired fisher men and women, (as well as those that are interested in the sport, but are yet to try their hand), to have clear, unrestricted access from the fishing platform to the toilets. <b>NOT SUPPORTED Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded Micah Adams, Carried</b> <b>RFSTEC did not support the project as a sealed pathway already provides access from the car park to the fishing platform. A sealed pathway from the fishing platform to the toilet facilities is not essential for fishing and deemed to be a Council responsibility.</b>	SW \$16,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Restoration of fishing club rooms	Eden Amateur Fishing Club Inc	Have had an infestation of borers & white ants throughout the building. <b>NOT SUPPORTED Moved Ann Garard, Seconded Grahame Williams, Carried</b> <b>RFSTEC did not support the project as private club facilities are not the responsibility of the Recreational Fishing Trusts. RFSTEC have suggested the applicant apply for funding under the NSW Community Building Partnership Program and Community Grants.</b>	SW \$1,782	SW \$0	SW \$0

**Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing**

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Understanding regulatory non-compliance among NSW recreational fishers: informing communication-based management interventions	University of Wollongong	To explore the motivational factors influencing regulatory non-compliance among different segments of the NSW recreational fishing community, with the aim of developing targeted communication-based management interventions. <b>NOT SUPPORTED Moved Micah Adams, Seconded Ann Garard, Carried</b> <b>RFSTEC considered this to be a lower priority and indicated the proposed review of existing marine parks (Batemans and Solitary Islands) should be completed prior to considering the application further.</b>	SW \$82,308	SW \$0	SW \$0

**Platform: Recreational fishing education**

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Drowning Prevention Rock fishing	Maroubra Surf Lifesaving Club Incorporated	To reduce the rock fishing drowning rate within the Waverly, Randwick and Cronulla Local Government Area. <b>NOT SUPPORTED Moved Micah Adams, Seconded Stuart Rhodes, Carried</b> <b>RFSTEC did not support the project as there are pre-existing programs in place including the Old4New and Angel Rings programs and plans for other programs underway.</b>	SW \$10,000	SW \$0	SW \$0

**Table 2: Habitat Action Grants - summary of projects recommended for funding (following review by the habitat technical assessment panel).**

**RFSTEC**

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19
Hyams Creek Riparian Management Project Stage 1	Kiama Municipal Council	Conservation Volunteer Australia bush regeneration teams will rehabilitate around 450m of riparian area on Hyams Creek in Jamberoo. Activities will include weed control and planting of trees and shrubs to provide bank side cover to fish within the creek.	\$5,763
Reducing sediment loads into Wagonga Inlet	South East LLS	Unstable severely eroded banks on Punkally Creek dump tons of sediment after intense rainfall events into Wagonga Inlet. A process study to guide works and initial gully stabilisation is required to reduce sedimentation impacts for oyster farmers and fish habitat. 300m fencing, 0.4ha revegetation, 300m erosion protection.	\$37,670
Regenerating 350m of the Manning River and 940m of its Tributaries to Improve Fish Habitat and Biodiversity	Manning Landcare Inc.	This project will showcase riparian management to enhance fish habitat. 350m of the Manning River and 940m of its tributaries will be fenced and 1500 native tube stock will be planted. An educational day will be held to engage community.	\$13,607
Rock and Three Veg – A Recipe for Great Fish Habitat!	Sapphire Coast Wilderness Oysters (SCWO)	'Rock and Three Veg – A Recipe for Great Fish Habitat' stirs Rocks, rootballs (Veg 1), riparian (Veg 2) and estuarine vegetation (Veg 3) together to treat 80m of eroding bank and ultimately creates a staple (stable!) dish for all Merimbula water-users. 750m fencing, 0.4ha weeding and revegetation.	\$25,070
Roots, Shoots and Leaves Great Fish Habitat!	Joint Application – TJ and JM Bunn (landowners)/ Sapphire Coast Wilderness Oysters (SCWO)	'Roots, Shoots and Leaves Great Fish Habitat!' ties stakeholders together (recreational fishers, oyster farmers, landholders) to secure fish habitat. Stabilising (Root)balls, rocks (130m) and 0.5ha vegetation (Shoots, Leaves) will reduce sedimentation and promote saltmarsh recovery at a priority site in Wapengo Estuary.300m fencing.	\$37,980
Hooka Point Saltmarsh Expansion	Wollongong City Council	Historically coastal saltmarsh has been undervalued and is now listed as an endangered ecological community. We aim to restore 1.4ha of important but degraded area of saltmarsh at Hooka Point, Lake Illawarra to provide improved habitat for fish and other fauna.	\$6,000
Orara River McPhersons Crossing Restoration Project	Private landholder	This project aims to improve the riparian zone and fish habitat of this popular fishing area at McPhersons Crossing on the Orara River, with a 2km livestock exclusion fence, coordinated with a program of weeding (2ha) and replanting 1ha.	\$8,900
Restoring South Arm Creek at the Bowraville recreation area	Nambucca Valley Landcare	The 'Enhancing fish habitat in South Arm Creek for the Bowraville community' project will seek to restore approximately 150m of South Arm Creek through installing rock bed controls and revetment, removing invasive weeds and planting native vegetation.	\$36,124

Restoring Lowland Rainforest and Wetlands on the Leyster Creek Floodplain, Lismore Stage 2	South Lismore Duck Pond Landcare	Stage two of works addressing 1.2ha. Strategic weed control, improving fishing access to riverbanks. Planting 1000 riparian plants to reduce erosion and improve bank stabilisation, decrease sedimentation and improve aquatic habitat. Field days will raise community awareness about fish habitat restoration.	\$29,800
Boomerang Creek Regeneration @ 636 Dorrroughby Rd, Dorrroughby	Private landholder	We will use best practice techniques to restore riparian habitat on Boomerang Creek, linking identified high conservation value habitat either side of the site through targeted removal of weed species and revegetation of 1.04ha and 270m stock exclusion fencing.	\$13,380
Coronation Park Riparian Rainforest Regeneration	Tuntable Creek Landcare Inc	The Channon community, led by Tuntable Landcare, is restoring and expanding 0.3ha riparian rainforest and fish habitat along Rocky Creek below Coronation Park. While improving aquatic condition they are providing access for public enjoyment and promoting engagement in caring for our creeks.	\$5,600
Dumaresq Island Riparian Vegetation Restoration and Bank Stabilisation Project	MidCoast Council	We will implement best practice riverbank stabilisation techniques - rock fillets, stock exclusion fencing, planting and weeding - to promote the regeneration of saltmarsh and mangroves along 350m of aggressively eroding riverbank on Dumaresq Island, Manning River.	\$40,000
Controlling riverbank erosion on Nulla Nulla Creek	Macleay Landcare Network	River bank erosion impacts on fish habitat in our waterways and threatens productive grazing land. The collaboration between the Recreational Fishing Trust, the Macleay Landcare Network, and the landholder demonstrates the value of partnerships in caring for the land. Fencing 2.6km, 350m weeding and revegetation.	\$39,900
The Toorumbie Creek to Belgrave Falls Reach Plan Implementation project.	Macleay Landcare Network	The Recreational Fishing Trust, Macleay Landcare Network, North Coast Local Land Services, and landholders address river bank erosion in the Macleay valley guided by The Toorumbie Creek to Belgrave Falls Reach Plan Implementation project, demonstrating the value of effective partnerships. Fencing 2km, weed 10ha and revegetate 1km.	\$39,868
Targeted improvement of the Georges River estuarine food web	Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers Australia	Recent research has identified the saltmarsh species <i>Sporobolus virginicus</i> as a primary food source of commercial and recreational fish species. The project will expand populations of <i>S. virginicus</i> into the man modified foreshores of the Georges River estuary in southern Sydney.	\$31,004
Healthy Fish Habitat - Healthy Community	Gagu Land Services Aboriginal Corporation	Gagu Land Services Aboriginal Corporation, with other local Gumbaynggirr traditional custodians will work to eradicate non-native species (privet, camphor laurel and more) and stabilise 400m of the South Arm riverbank at Bowraville with native plants, to improve water quality and fish habitat.	\$36,302
Muscle Creek Lower Reaches Removal of Exotic Vegetation and Native Riparian Plant Replacement Program	Muswellbrook Shire Council	We will remove weed species and plant endemic riparian native plants along a 580m section of Muscle Creek. Removal of weed species will increase the success of work already undertaken in Muscle Creek. Supplementary riparian plantings will also occur nearby.	\$38,000
Leycester Creek rejuvenation project in Larnook	Just Lovett	This grant will help rejuvenate and protect 1km of degraded areas of the Leycester creek bank and help to reduce further erosion, providing habitat for native aquatic life and maintain a waterway full of diversity for all to enjoy.	\$1,860

Meona Farm Riparian Fencing & Rehabilitation	Private landholder	“Meona Farm” Clarenza NSW has approx. 310m of Clarence River frontage that would benefit from regenerative works. By fencing off this area from stock and replanting with native trees and shrubs, it will provide the riverbank the protection it needs.	\$1,998
Innovations for Reducing Costs in Erosion Control	South Lismore Duck Pond Incorporated	The innovations in this trial should lay the ground work for a very cheap and very effective way to reduce the erosion of the river banks. Grass self propagates unlike concrete.	\$2,200