

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC)
MEETING NO.	Meeting 51
DATE & TIME	15 November 2017, 9.00am – 4.00pm
LOCATION	St George Rowers Club, 1 Levey Street, Wolli Creek
ATTENDEES	Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Lisa Terry (Region 2), Geoff Shelton (Region 3), Adrian Wayne (Region 4), Lionel Jones (Region 5), John Paton (Region 6a), Stuart Rhodes (Region 6b), Ann Garard (Region 7), Micah Adams (Region 8), John Burgess (ANSA NSW Branch), Grahame Williams (NSW GFA).
APOLOGIES	Peter Turnell (DPI), Mark Berg (Region 1), Stan Konstantaras (RFA NSW).

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 50th RFSTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting (Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded Ann Garard, Carried).

3. Action items from previous meeting

The Committee noted the progress on action items from the previous meeting (Table 1).

4. Recreational Fishing Trust update

The status of the Saltwater Trust was presented to members.

5. Review of new Saltwater Trust grant applications

A total of 8 saltwater applications were received. Expenditure recommendations are provided in Tables 3 to 4. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration.

6. Habitat Action Grants

a) An update on previously supported habitat projects and the status of the Habitat Action Grants program was presented to RFSTEC by DPI

b) A total of 43 saltwater habitat action grant applications were received. The Technical Assessment Panel (TAP) met in October to consider the applications and provided recommendations for consideration by RFSTEC. 21 projects are recommended for funding (18 large grants and 3 small grants).

Following the TAP meeting the applicant from the previously supported project "Iron Cove riverbank stabilisation and creation of saltmarsh habitat" cancelled the grant offer (details below). RFSTEC supported a reallocation of \$40,000 of grant funds to this round and supported the recommendation for funding of the 21 projects listed in table 5. Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded Lisa Terry, Carried.

7. Presentations

NSW DPI provided presentations to RFSTEC on the following programs:

- a) Fishcare, Get hooked...its fun to fish schools program and fishing workshops
- b) Offshore artificial reefs and FADs
- c) Gone Fishing Day 2017

8. Next meeting

13 -14 March 2018

9. Action items

Table 1 - Action items - previous meeting

Action	Status
DPI to investigate options for revised meeting fees.	Pending
That stakeholder research priority areas be developed to encourage funding applications which address specific knowledge gaps on recreational fish species and issues. DPI to coordinate a facilitated workshop with RFFTEC, RFNSW and CFNSW.	Pending
That a communication plan to promote trust programs / initiatives be developed. Committee members Ann Garard, Mark Berg and Micah Adams nominated for participation. DPI to facilitate development of a combined sustainability/Trust promotion/fishing communications plan with RFFTEC, RFSTEC and RFNSW participation.	Pending
DPI to provide regional and national development and extension priorities for recreational fishing research and a list of recently funded FRDC projects.	Completed.
Amend the Recreational Fishing Trust funding guidelines to permit funding for footpaths and landscaping around recreational fisheries infrastructure, to facilitate disabled access to/from angling facilities.	Completed.
RFSTEC recommended that the adoption of a mandatory Alpha flag for all spearfishers in NSW waters be discussed at the next RFNSW meeting.	Completed. Referred to RFNSW.

Table 2 – Action Items this meeting

Action	Status
The Chair to write to the chair of RFNSW to advise that RFSTEC supports a ban of the commercial fishing method of mesh netting in NSW estuaries.	Completed.
DPI to analyse licence sales figures to determine any trends following Gone Fishing Day.	Pending.



10. Project assessment recommendations

Table 3 - Projects **SUPPORTED** for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
NSW Gone Fishing Day 2018	DPI	The 2017 NSW Gone Fishing Day was a great success with 20,000 people attending 6 DPI events across NSW with thousands more attending the 42 fishing club events from Evans Head to Eden and out to Broken Hill. It is proposed to run the 4 th Gone Fishing Day in 2018. The day will continue to promote the importance of recreational fishing as a healthy, fun, outdoors activity. The NSW event has grown significantly and early planning of the many coordinated fishing activities, engagement of partners and fishing club involvement in the grant EOI process is required. Supported: Moved John Paton, Seconded Grahame Williams, Carried.	\$182,000		
Assisting others to Enjoy Fishing	Narooma Sport and Game Fishing Club	Hold two junior Fishing Clinics and 1 CanTeen Cancer Kids visit. Teach how to rig rods, tie knots, bait hooks, cast rods, gather bait from inter tidal zones, cast, catch and release fish and look after the environment. Supported: Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded Adrian Wayne, Carried.	\$3,950		

Fisheries enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
2017/18 Byron Bay Deep Sea Fishing Club FAD replacement	Byron Bay Deep Sea Fishing Club Inc	A financial RFT contribution to help cover materials purchased and construction of a reserve BBDSFC, Commonwealth licensed FAD located at S28 37 002 E153 43 759 Supported: Moved Adrian Wayne, Seconded Grahame Williams, Carried.	\$1,991		

Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Forster Marina, Fish Cleaning Tables	MidCoast Council	Remove existing 3 x (2 m x 2 m) outdated fish cleaning tables at Forster. Fabricate 2 x 4 person new fish cleaning tables as per DPI guidelines with a new slab and adjustment of existing plumbing and install new tables. Supported: Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Lisa Terry, Carried.	\$25,340		

Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Fishing Line Debris Recovery Program	Tweed Shire Council	To reduce fishing line & tackle littering of Tweed Shire waterways by installing 10 debris bins in 'hotspot' areas. Bins display message 'Dispose of fishing line responsibly' and contact numbers for wildlife rescue groups. Supported: Moved John Paton, Seconded Lisa Terry, Carried. Condition: Council commitment required to continue project support with the removal of rubbish from bins in the event that the schools involvement in the project ceases in the future.	\$5,000		

Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Recreational Fishing Fee Administration project – Government Licensing Service (GLS) fees	DPI	This project supports the administration and functioning of the recreational fishing licence and provides for a convenient payment network for the licence and transfer of revenue into the Recreational Fishing Trusts. The network includes an electronic platform run by the OneGov - Government Licensing Service (GLS) for payment of licence fees and backend management of the licence system. This application covers GLS transaction fees for 2017/18 which are payable by DPI. Supported: Moved John Paton, Seconded Lionel Jones, Carried.	SW \$750,000		

Table 4 - Projects NOT SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Port Macquarie Wharf Construction	NSW Department of Industry, Lands & Forestry	<p>Construction of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public wharf (approximately 10 m x 15 m) • New moorings • Unloading wharf • Boardwalk <p>It is intended that the public wharf be used as a fishing platform. Not Supported: Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess Carried. The committee raised concerns over the amount of boating traffic likely to occur in front of the wharf and that boats are likely to moor to the wharf which would impede fishing activities. A committee member noted that the nearby Lady Nelson Wharf caters for anglers and is rarely used by boats. It was also noted there was no reference to support from anglers for the application.</p>	\$500,000		

Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Pelagic fish numbers between Ballina and Evans Head fads	Individual	<p>Statistics of pelagic fish caught trolling on the 5 nm bathymetric line between the Ballina and Evans Head FADs during the 2017/18 summer period. Ocean data via Fishtrack used in statistics. Not Supported: Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded Lionel Jones, Carried. The committee noted there was no scientific methodology and the project lacked clear objectives.</p>	\$5,150		

Table 5 - Saltwater Habitat Action Grant projects SUPPORTED for funding from the Technical Assessment Panel & RFSTEC

Project	Organisation	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Macleay estuary marine and riparian vegetation protection Install 1.5km of fencing to exclude cattle from 16.5ha of riparian and intertidal zones (saltmarsh) of Spencer's Creek and Tidal Creek in addition to weed control in saltmarsh and re-establishing native riparian vegetation.	North Coast Local Land Services (NCLLS)	\$25,000		
Russell St, Emu Plains riverside rehabilitation (Phase 2) Continued rehabilitation of the Nepean River riverbank at Emu Plains, weeding and revegetating another 500m of riverbank.	Bass Sydney Fishing Club Incorporated	\$4,000		
Repairing Taylors Arm downstream structure (redressing an existing site) Remediation work on a bed control structure (previously funded for remediation in 2015) to prevent further bank degradation following flood damage experienced earlier in 2017.	Nambucca Valley Landcare Inc	\$5,178		
Kangaroo Point mangrove restoration Implement best practice riverbank stabilisation techniques - rock fillets, stock exclusion fencing, planting and weeding - to promote saltmarsh and mangrove regeneration along 1.6km of eroding riverbank at Kangaroo Point on the Manning River.	MidCoast Council	\$40,000		
Scotts Creek fish habitat improvement project Implement best practice riverbank stabilisation techniques - rock fillets, stock exclusion fencing, planting and weeding - to promote saltmarsh and mangrove regeneration and improve fish habitat along 320m of eroding riverbank at Scotts Creek on the Manning River.	MidCoast Council	\$26,715		
Coopers Creek landslip restoration Addressing a landslip that has occurred along the Coopers Creek embankment near previous revegetation works. Earthworks and revegetation will be undertaken.	Private Landholder	\$12,250		
Kyogle Gardens to river – Stage 1. Fawcetts Creek riparian restoration in the heart of Kyogle Rehabilitation of 500m of Fawcetts Creek adjacent to Kyogle's Recreation Reserve through weed removal, destocking (fencing), and revegetation with native species.	Private Landholder	\$29,405		
Jingi Walla Farm – Frenchs Creek restoration Restoration of Frenches Creek riparian zone (part of the Richmond River catchment) with 300m stock exclusion fencing and 1.3km of weeding and revegetation.	Jingi Walla Farm	\$5,822		
Newry Island foreshore rehabilitation Stage Two, Kalang River estuary, Urunga Rehabilitation of a priority erosion site in the Kalang River estuary, by improving bank stability and riparian vegetation installing rock and timber fillets and re-using timber materials from Pacific Highway upgrade clearing.	BPE Contractors Pty Ltd	\$39,984		

Project	Organisation	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<p>Riparian rehabilitation of Back Creek and Boundary Creek through cattle exclusion fencing and weed control. Fencing and weed control across a 1.65km reach of Back and Boundary Creek's in the Lismore LGA to exclude stock access, alleviate stream bank erosion and regenerate native riparian vegetation.</p>	Private Landholder	\$15,891		
<p>Muscle Creek fishway and crossing Remove an old footbridge across Muscle Creek that is inhibiting fish movement and constructing a fishway to promote the movement of native fish into 10km of upstream habitat. Stepping-stones will also allow people to cross the creek.</p>	Muswellbrook Shire Council	\$40,000		
<p>Enhancing fish habitat through riparian bank protection on the Hunter River Reduce bank erosion and restore fish habitat on the Hunter River through 100m of river bank stabilisation works and 400m of stock exclusion fencing and revegetation activities.</p>	Hunter Local Land Services	\$40,000		
<p>Busting Brunswick and Byron's barriers Removes 5 redundant causeway crossings that obstruct fish passage in the Brunswick River and Byron Creek. It will create improved access for native fish to 7km of key upstream habitat.</p>	Byron Shire Council	\$40,000		
<p>Bringing back the Tapitallee Fish part 2 Consolidation of previous works in the catchment by stabilising 1km of creek bank and installing four bed control structures to improve fish passage and habitat. Weed control and revegetate for 3ha of degraded creek frontage.</p>	South East Local Land Services	\$40,000		
<p>Enhancing fish highways, riparian restoration at the junction of the Richmond and Wilsons rivers Coraki NSW (stage 1) Enhance 890m of riparian habitat at the confluence of the Richmond and Wilsons Rivers through weeding and revegetation. Actions will build community awareness of the aquatic and riparian environments as its location is between 2 popular boat ramps.</p>	Richmond Valley Council	\$19,996		
<p>Bellingen vine weed control and education for riparian rehabilitation Strategic weed control will be undertaken systematically within 2.3km of the Bellingen River catchment.</p>	EnvITE	\$39,900		
<p>Wheeny Creek riparian fencing and wetland regeneration The riparian zone of Wheeny Creek will be fenced from stock, providing protection and allowing for weed control works to begin and rehabilitation of a 3.2ha wetland.</p>	Private Landholder	\$10,809		
<p>Pages River Murrurundi weed eradication program Invasive weed species including periwinkle, privet and blackberries will be removed and native species planted in a 500m section of the Pages River between Bush's Bridge and the Swinging Bridge.</p>	Murrurundi Landcare Group (Murra County Inc)	\$2,000		

Project	Organisation	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Controlling Chinese Celtis and vine weeds in Findon Creek, upper catchment of the Richmond River Control of Chinese Celtis and vine weeds impacting 200m of riparian zone of Findon Creek and planting of native trees.	Findon Creek Cottage	\$1,792		
Lot 34 stock and riparian zone management Fencing 300m of Clarence River frontage from stock and replanting the riverbank with native trees and shrubs to protect the riverbank.	Private Landholder	\$1,997		
Enhancing fish habitat Maguires Creek Over 1.9 km along Maguires Creek will be restored through control of woody weeds and planting 1000 riparian plants. Field days will raise awareness about fish habitat restoration.	Private Landholder	\$40,000		