



MEETING	Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC)		
MEETING NO.	Meeting 45	DATE	25 November 2015
LOCATION	St George Rowers Club 1 Levey Street, Wollie Creek	TIME	9:00 am – 3:00 pm
ATTENDEES	Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Lisa Terry (Region 2), Geoff Shelton (Region 4), Lionel Jones (Region 5), Stuart Rhodes (Region 6b). John Paton (Region 6a), Stan Konstantaras (RFA), John Burgess (ANSA), Grahame Williams for David Jones (Gamefishing) and Micah Adams for Greg Liddell (Region 8).		
APOLOGIES	John Featherstone (Region 3), David Jones (Gamefishing), Ann Garard (Region 7), Greg Liddell (Region 8), John Featherstone (Region 3), Peter Turnell (DPI).		
PREPARED BY	Craig Mercier		

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 44th RFSTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: John Paton, Seconded: John Burgess, Carried

3. Action items from previous meeting

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

4. Status of the Saltwater Trust

The status of the Saltwater Trust was presented. Licence revenue generated for the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the 2014/15 financial year totalled \$15 million. DPI advised that the number of electronic licence sales continues to increase with a corresponding decrease in manual methods, such as licence agents. Three day recreational fishing licence sales were still the most popular form of licence in 2014/15 year, with one month licences the least popular.

5. Review of new Saltwater Trust habitat grant applications

The status of the Fish Habitat Network program and previously funded Habitat Action Grants (HAG) program was presented by DPI.

A total of 50 new saltwater Habitat Action Grant applications were received this year in response to the expression of interest. The saltwater habitat grants technical assessment panel (TAP) met in November to assess the applications. The TAP developed a list of recommended projects which were reviewed by the committee. Two projects (Pump Fishway Project and Coastal debris reduction for improved fish health) were deferred to general Saltwater Trust applications for review. Meeting recommendations with respect to each project are provided in Tables 1 and 2.

5.1 Reallocation of unspent Habitat Action Grant funds

The Committee was advised that two previously funded grant applications have not proceeded: Shannon Brook weir removal \$36,113 and Dyers Crossing removal \$39,300. Two previously completed projects funded under by the HAG program were underspent:

- Brunswick River Rehabilitation project Stage 2 - \$11,250 returned
- Currowan Creek Rehabilitation - \$7,398.75 returned

It is proposed to reallocate these total funds of \$94,128 to the HAG program for additional 2015/2016 grants. Supported. Moved Lionel, Jones, Seconded Lisa Terry.

6. Review of new Saltwater Trust applications

The committee reviewed 7 new and 2 deferred Saltwater Trust applications received by DPI. Funding recommendations with respect to each project are provided in Tables 3 - 4.

7. Improving access for fishers with limited physical ability – special grant round

Six applications were received for consideration of funding under a special grants round to improve access for fishers with limited physical ability. A two week extension to the closing date of 13 November was granted for applications. Applications were ranked according to priority as high, medium or low, and this advice was forwarded to the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing.

8. Internal Audit Grants Administration

An internal audit of grants administration across the Department of Industry has recently been undertaken, which included a review of Recreational Fishing Trust grants management and administration of some specific freshwater and saltwater grants. The report proposes a number of actions to streamline / standardise grants administration across the whole Department.

9. Presentation and project updates

a. State-wide survey of recreational fishing in NSW and development of novel methods – analysis and final reporting

The 2013/14 survey of recreational fishing in NSW and the ACT was designed to provide detailed 'big picture' information for recreational fishing in NSW and ACT waters, by residents aged five years and older. Data elements included:

- fishing participation levels (numbers of persons who fished and % of the population) – by age, gender and residential region;
- detailed annual catch and effort information – by fishing method, platform (boat or shore), water body type (e.g. ocean waters, estuaries, rivers and lakes/dams) and for eight defined fishing zones;
- boat ownership levels and profiling of the recreational fishing 'fleet'; and
- the opinions of recreational fishers and other attitudinal information.

All survey results have been expanded to population estimates as at June 2013, from data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Also, optimum comparability has been achieved with results from the National Recreational Fishing Survey (NRFS, 2000/01), thereby enabling direct comparison of key survey results between the two surveys.

b. Marine stocking update

DPI is proposing to stock Wallagoot Lake and Tabourie Lake with prawn juveniles in December 2015. Approximately 4.3 million prawns will be stocked into the two lakes at a stocking density trial of 0.9 prawns per m².

10. Next meeting

TBC.

11. Actions

Previous meeting

Action	Status
RFSTEC requested the Director Fisheries Operations to attend the next meeting to present and discuss GLS fees and licensing issues to the committee	Due to a clash of dates and commitments the relevant Director was unable to attend this meeting. Pending.
Update list of registered charter boat operators on NSW DPI website	Completed, list updated and new web page layout pending.
Charter Boat Economic Survey to be uploaded on NSW DPI webpage	Completed.

This meeting

Item	Issue	Action
1.	Charter Vessel NSW DPI webpage list	DPI to consider including all NSW Charter vessel CFB numbers to the charter boat webpage list, including active and non active licences.
2.	New recreational fishing guides	Distribute new recreational fishing guides to RFSTEC members.

Table 1: New 2015/16 Habitat Grant funding projects supported by RFSTEC for funding

<i>Project</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>2015/16</i>
Lower Nambucca Fish Habitat and River Foreshore Restoration Project	Nambucca Valley Landcare Inc.	360m - timber cleared from highway used in composite rock fillets, riparian plantings and install signage.	\$40,000
Biodiversity for Bass – Marom Creek Riparian Corridor Planting 3	Roots Down	Fence 100m of creek bank, plant new 300m area, weed existing 300m of planting and plant new species into gaps	\$3,660
Caring for Fish Habitat and Farming at Dungay Creek, Macleay River Catchment	MacLeay Landcare Network Inc	Long term fish habitat will be reinstated with Large Woody Debris bank protection structures, riparian zone fencing, weed control and extensive revegetation.	\$39,300
Lane Cove River Australian Bass Habitat Project – Stage 3	Friends of Lane Cove National Park	Improve Australian Bass habitat in the Lane Cove River by weeding and riparian revegetation - extends on previous works	\$10,000
Restoring Way Way Creek's river banks, water health and fish habitat	Nambucca Valley Landcare Inc.	Stock fencing 1km of Way Way Creek and Warrell Creek to the property boundary. Strategic re-vegetation between existing remnant native vegetation and off stream water installed.	\$15,590
Sunnycorner Fish Habitat and River Foreshore Restoration Project	Private Landholder	Recycled highway clearing products to be used in 150m of composite rock fillets. Revegetation with native species.	\$31,930
Restoring Native Fish Habitat on Mullet Creek	Conservation Volunteers Australia	Weeding and revegetation in highly visible part of Mullet Creek. Area covers more than 2000m ² of weeds and 3000 native plants.	\$27,950
Macleay River Landholders Unite to Protect and Restore Fish Habitat	Macleay Landcare Network Inc	Four riparian landholders on the Macleay River implementing recommendations of 2014 DPI Fisheries Management Plan. Controlling stock access, addressing bank erosion, and revegetating with native tubestock.	\$38,360
Bungwahl Creek wetland and riparian restoration	Great Lakes Council	Targeted removal of invasive and environmentally damaging weeds over 26 hectares of land adjoining Bungwahl Creek (Wallamba River) at Failford.	\$16,810
Rock fillets and riparian revegetation to improve fish habitat, Wallamba River/ Wallis Lake	Great Lakes Council	Improve the ecological condition of Wallamba River by addressing bank erosion through construction of rock fillets, mangrove recruitment, riparian revegetation and weed control.	\$39,060
Protecting Fish Habitat Along the East side of the Lane Cove River- Ventemans Reach	Lane Cove Council	In Ventemans Reach Reserve restore and protect saltwater wetlands and saltmarsh over approx. 6ha mangrove and saltmarsh through best practice bush regeneration techniques.	\$33,560
Fish habitat creation and river bank restoration on the Cooks River	Marrickville Council	Builds on restoration and buffer works along a 150m section of the Cooks River Marrickville. Weed removal, local native riparian and saltmarsh enhancement, bank stabilisation and fish habitat creation (using sandstone rock fillets, tree snag).	\$29,285

<i>Project</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>2015/16</i>
Restoring underwater forests along the Sydney coastline	Sydney Institute of Marine Science	Restore underwater forests of the locally extinct, key habitat-forming seaweed ("crayweed" <i>Phyllospora comosa</i>) along Sydney's coastline.	\$39,686
Oxley Island Manning River Bank Stabilisation	Greater Taree City Council	Rock fillets, stock exclusion fencing, protection and enhancement of salt marsh/ mangrove areas and riparian zone weeding and revegetation along 550m of actively eroding riverbank.	\$39,045
Dumaresq Island Manning River Bank Stabilisation	Greater Taree City Council	Rock fillets, stock exclusion fencing, riparian zone weeding and revegetation, enhancing mangrove habitat along 1.1km of actively eroding riverbank on the Manning River at Dumaresq Island.	\$37,520
Numbaa Island Bank Stabilisation	Shoalhaven Riverwatch Inc.	Continue bank stabilization, re-establishment of mangroves along 200m of riverbank at Numbaa Island.	\$7,932
Restoring Fish Habitat on the Nambucca River – Congarinni North Stage 2	Nambucca Shire Council	Restore fish habitat on the Nambucca River through erosion protection works, including rock fillets incorporating root balls and timber pins, revegetation and riparian fencing.	\$40,000
Protecting Watt Creek - Nambucca Estuary	North Coast Local Land Services	4.4km of cattle fencing to protect 40 ha of estuarine habitat, remove a derelict floodgate, improve fish passage, install culvert into levee to improve tidal flushing and in-fill a paddock drain.	\$40,000
Eastern Creek Weir Removal	Blacktown City Council	Remove a fish barrier and construction of engineered log jams on Eastern Creek to improve fish passage and create habitat for native fish to improve recreational fishing opportunities.	\$40,000
Coopers Creek Fish Habitat Restoration Project	Private Landholder	To plant secondary stage trees throughout previous stages 1 and 2. These stages mainly consisted of pioneer short lived trees.	\$2,000

Table 2: New 2015/16 Habitat Grant funding projects not supported by RFSTEC

<i>Project</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>2015/16</i>
Fish friendly rock fillet Chickiba Creek, Ballina	Ballina Shire Council	This project incorporates fish friendly rock fillets as a component of bank stabilization works to be undertaken at Chickiba Creek Ballina. Bank erosion is impacting riparian vegetation at the subject site.	\$15,000
Restoring and Protecting Fish Habitat in Tucki Tucki Creek	Private Landholder	1km of native vegetation along Tucki Tucki Creek will be protected and restored, through stock exclusion fencing, weed control of invasive species and revegetation with native species. Outcomes include improved water quality, better aquatic habitat and bank stabilisation.	\$39,100
Habitat the Point at Sandy Point Reserve	Wilson's River Landcare Inc	To reclaim the crown reserve on Sandy point road from coral tree and ipomea and replace this with native vegetation, providing habitat for fish and koalas. It will also improve public access, currently limited to 1 mower width track	\$7,500
Restoring the aquatic and riparian habitat of Our (Nepean) River, Penrith	Penrith City Council	The project will seek to improve fish habitat through the restoration of the Nepean Rivers riparian corridor in Penrith. This will be achieved by undertaking bush regeneration to control weeds as well as the reinstatement of native vegetation.	\$40,000
Improving Fish Habitat in Cockle Creek, Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie City Council	Fish habitat will be improved by restoring 80m of eroding stream-bank on Cockle Creek. Five rock fillets will be constructed and the riparian zone planted with local provenance vegetation; value-adding to existing Estuary Management Grant works completed in 2013/14.	\$40,000
Riparian Rehabilitation on the Wilsons River	Wetland Care Australia	Native vegetation will be restored along 800 m of the Wilsons River, through exclusion of stock from riparian zone, weed control of invasive species and revegetation with native species. Outcomes include bank stabilisation, improved water quality and better aquatic habitat.	\$34,600
Reinstating Fish Habitat in Glendon Brook	Hunter Local Land Services	This project aims to construct 2-3 bank attached log jams (number subject to detailed design) and incorporate rock toe protection on a bench system along with revegetation and fencing out of the stream by the landholder on Glendon Brook.	\$40,000
Durroby Creek Estuary Riparian Restoration	Tweed Shire Council	This project will increase the quality and connectivity of native riparian vegetation in the Durroby Creek estuary by weeding and revegetating 700m/2.5ha of creek bank. Durroby Creek is key fish habitat and includes an extensive complex of tidal wetlands.	\$40,000

Project	Applicant	Summary	2015/16
Working together to restore Candlagan Creek banks	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Community groups including fishers will work to rehabilitate Candlagan Creek which provides valuable seagrass, saltmarsh and mangroves fish habitat. The banks contain sites of cultural heritage. The project will reduce erosion and sedimentation, by sandbagging, weed control and revegetation.	\$34,560
Fingal Road Culverts Replacement	Tweed Shire Council	We aim to replace a culvert bridge with a single span bridge, enhancing fish connectivity between two water bodies, and install a bed control structure for the purpose of maintaining seagrass and other ecological values within a shallow estuarine lake.	\$40,000
From Dirty Swamp to Fish Habitat - Mongarlowe River	David Hilhorst and Cindy Druett	Construction of rock ramp to halt active bed erosion (80cm deep). Removal of woody weed infestations (Willow, Scotch Broome and Blackberry) from site. Revegetation using native tubestock and direct seeding.	\$15,960
Improving fish passage and habitat at Cordwells Creek	Coffs Harbour City Council	This project involves the removal of an existing weir, bank stabilisation and revegetation at the tidal interface along Cordwells Creek. The removal of the weir will open up 1 km for fish passage.	\$22,500
Re-Snagging the Richmond	Richmond River Chapter - OzFish Unlimited	To improve fish populations in the Richmond River recreational fishing haven by resnagging and replanting the riparian zone.	\$18,250
Upper Monkerai Land Management Partnership - Upper Karuah River Riparian Weed Eradication Program (Stage 2)	Great Lakes Council and Upper Monkerai Land Management Group	The project aims to reduce significant infestations of invasive environmental weeds, Privet, Lantana, Cats Claw Creeper and Madeira Vine from the Upper Karuah River riparian zone through primary controls and landholder support to enhance water quality and fish habitat.	\$39,250
Benefitting Bountiful Bellinger River Bass Habitat	Bellinger River Freshwater Habitat Working Group	Stock management and Lowland Subtropical Rainforest regeneration along the Bellinger River freshwater riparian zone between Thora Bridge and Gordonville Crossing, for the enhancement of habitat for the recreationally important Australian Bass and Eel Tailed Catfish	\$40,000
Reinstating Fish Habitat in Paterson River	Hunter Local Land Services	This project aims to construct 2-3 bank attached log jams (subject to detailed design), along with revegetation and fencing out of the river by the landholder on the Paterson River.	\$40,000
Restoring Lowland Rainforest and Wetlands on the Leicester Creek floodplain, Lismore	Wilson's River Landcare	Treat Indian Coral Tree and exotic vines on 15,000m ² . Revegetate floodplain, wetland and river banks with appropriate native species to increase habitat, improve bank stability, shade, leaf and insect fall and ultimately provide large woody debris.	\$20,590
Caring for aquatic habitat in Coobah Reserve	Rockdale City Council	Aquatic habitat at Coolibah Reserve will be improved with weed control and erosion control measures, and revegetation with native sedges, rushes, groundcovers, shrubs and trees	\$19,041

Project	Applicant	Summary	2015/16
Cemetery Creek Riparian Rehabilitation	Bellingen High School	Bellingen High aims to rehabilitate the riparian zone adjacent Cemetery Creek, a tributary to Bellingen River, a popular location for recreational fishing. The proposal is to use contractors, staff and students to undertake weed control, revegetation, fencing and rubbish removal.	\$19,390
Jim Walsh Park Creek Restoration & Improvement Project	City of Ryde Council	This project will assist in the rehabilitation of the severely degraded Jim Walsh Park, Terrys Creek. Works will combine creek rechanneling, bank stabilisation and riparian restoration works to improve water quality and provide habitat.	\$40,000
Enhancing riverine habitat in the Urumbilum River through riparian and in-stream rehabilitation	Orara Valley RiverCare Groups Management Committee (OVRGMC)	Enhancement of riparian and in-stream habitat, and associated water quality on the Urumbilum River through rehabilitation of the riparian zone adjacent to and downstream of Bindarri National Park, improving habitat for the endangered Eastern freshwater cod and Australian bass.	\$37,500
Clean4Shore: Foreshore debris removal and restoration of fish habitat in Gosford Waterways	Clean4Shore	School and community group volunteers will improve fish habitats in the Brisbane Waters Estuary by removing litter and marine debris from foreshores and mangroves, increasing fish stocks for recreational fishers and their access to and enjoyment of the foreshores.	\$36,082
Installing in-stream fish habitat, restoring riparian biodiversity and implementing educational initiatives at Menangle River Reserve, Nepean River	Campbelltown City Council	Rehabilitation of the riparian zone at the Menangle River Reserve on the Nepean River, including targeted weed removal, riparian vegetation re-planting, re-snagging, and re-stocking with Australian Bass. One recreational fishing floodmarker and two educational signs (created in-house) will be installed.	\$34,640
Woolgoolga Lake Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project	Coffs Harbour City Council	Restoration of Woolgoolga Lake riparian ecosystem to improve ecological habitat value; crucial to improving fish stocks within the Lake and associated tributaries. Weed control throughout the fringing riparian vegetation, revegetation of cleared areas, installation of signage and community engagement.	\$38,400
Stage 1 of off creek watering system, Buffer Creek Road, Belingen	Private Landholder	Stage 1 of creating an "off-creek" watering system - build a culvert stock crossing, with a narrow, graveled, fenced corridor for stock to water, fence off the easily accessible and eroded creek bank and restore it with native vegetation.	\$2,000
Holding the Bank	Roots Down	Stabilise erosion gully on riverbank with rock placed into the bank then plant out with lomandra and sandpaper figs and lillypilly to hold bank together.	\$1,980

<i>Project</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Summary</i>	<i>2015/16</i>
Referencing the Wollombi Brook	Wakool Indigenous Corporation	The enclosure permit fenceline and gates at Ellis Street have been damaged by flooding, stock and vandals. They are now a hazard for swimmers, stock and native animals. We wish to replace the old fenceline and gates from Wollombi Brook.	\$1,977
Coastal debris reduction for improved fish health <i>Deferred to RFSTEC for consideration</i>	Underwater Research Group of NSW Inc (URG)	Underwater and beach clean-ups of fish habitat to reduce the amount of harmful debris. Scientifically rigorous collection will produce valuable data to inform management decisions and increase public awareness.	\$3,700
Pump Fishway Project <i>Deferred to RFSTEC for consideration</i>	Harris Research	The Pump Fishway concept has potential to transform the poor performance and prohibitive costs of NSW fishways. Establish proof-of-concept through physical-model development, with hydraulic laboratory observations and experimental trials using hatchery fish.	\$38,550

Table 3: Summary of new projects recommended for funding by RFSTEC

Platform: Recreational fishing education

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p>Improving access to educational information on humane dispatch for fish species encountered by recreational fishers in New South Wales. Upgrading the www.ikijime.com website and phone applications to improve user access by allowing fishers based in NSW to search from a list of species that only occur in NSW, rather than the whole database. <i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess</i> <i>Conditions: Hyperlink to be included on the DPI website.</i></p>	DigsFish Services	SW \$6,300 FW \$2,700		
<p>Delivery of industry representation and consultation services to the NSW recreational fishing sector. Proposed tender process to seek appointment of an Executive Officer for a NSW recreational fishing organisation, to enhance representation and consultation with the NSW recreational fishing sector. <i>John Burgess and Stan Konstantaras declared a conflict of interest and left the room prior to voting.</i> <i>Supported – Moved Lisa terry, Seconded Geoff Shelton</i></p>	NSW DPI			

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p>Implementing the NSW Fish Habitat Partnership 2015-2017 Strategic Plan for improved fish habitat outcomes for NSW This project will implement Strategy 1 and 4 of the 2015-2017 NSW FHP Strategic Plan. This includes the development of a stakeholder driven 10 year Fish Habitat Action Plan for the state, through extensive consultation and engagement of key stakeholders. <i>John Burgess declared a non- pecuniary conflict of interest and left the room prior to voting. Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Grahame Williams.</i> <i>Conditions: Additional contributing funds should be applied for including from the Conservation Trust.</i></p>	Fish Habitat Partnership Inc.	SW \$20,000 FW \$10,000		

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Pump Fishway Project The innovative Pump Fishway concept has potential to transform the poor performance and prohibitive costs of NSW fishways. The project will establish proof-of-concept through physical-model development of this promising design, with hydraulic laboratory observations and experimental trials using hatchery fish. <i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Lisa Terry</i></p>	Harris Research	SW \$26,985 FW \$11,565		

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Developing cost-effective recreational angler data collection and survey methods in NSW through the use of interactive smartphone technology. Develop and trial interactive web based and smartphone technology as a monitoring and assessment tool for recreational fisheries in NSW, in particular recording angler effort, catch and harvest. <i>Supported – John Paton, Seconded Lisa Terry</i> <i>Conditions: Tagging component to be included within the application.</i></p>	Field GIS Australia	SW \$34,230 FW \$14,670		
<p>Teaching predator avoidance skills in hatchery yellowfin bream and mangrove jack fingerlings to improve efficiency of stock enhancement programmes. This project aims to boost survival rates of hatchery-reared fish in stock enhancement programmes by developing methods to teach predator avoidance behaviours fingerlings prior to release. <i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess.</i></p>	Southern Cross University	SW \$9,950 FW \$9,950		

Table 4: Summary of new projects NOT recommended for funding by RFSTEC

Platform: recreational fishing education

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p>Rock Fishing & Lifejackets Safety Enhancement Package 2015/16. This Package is designed to support current efforts to reduce rock fishing drowning deaths in NSW waters by implementing new enhancements to boost and further promote the need to wear a lifejacket whilst rock fishing in NSW, such as CALD newspapers advertising, a professional short video, an innovative social media campaign, a 'fresh' brochure in multiple languages and targeted fishing safety workshops. <i>Not Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Grahame Williams.</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$120,000		
<p>Sydney Rock Fishing Safety App This app will help rock fishers observe safety protocols while fishing, to reduce the number of incidents resulting in death. The application is for \$8,000 to provide a multilingual capability. <i>Not supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Lisa Terry</i> <i>The committee noted that NSW DPI is currently developing a Smartphone app that will incorporate rock fishing safety awareness information.</i></p>	Surf Life Saving Sydney	SW \$8,000		

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

<i>Project</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>
<p>Coastal Debris reduction for improved fish health This project will improve the quality of fish habitats through underwater and beach clean-ups to reduce the amount of harmful debris. Debris will be collected in a scientifically rigorous way, and produce valuable data to inform environmental management decisions, while increasing public awareness of marine debris issues. <i>Not supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess.</i></p>	Underwater research Group of NSW Inc (URG)	SW \$3700		