

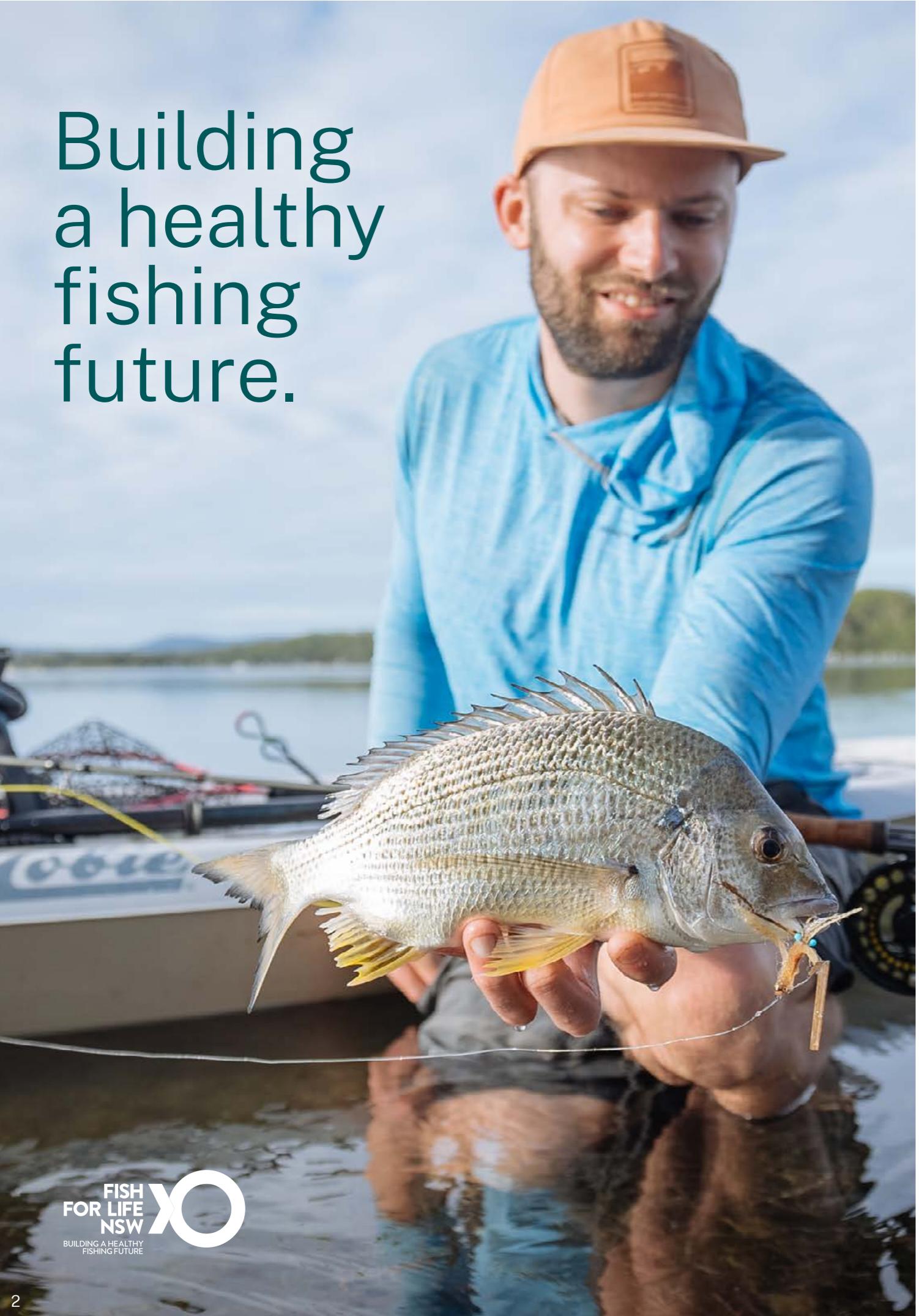


NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts

Annual Report 2021/22



Building a healthy fishing future.



Foreword



Recreational fishing continues to provide some much-needed respite from day-to-day life after a tough few years battling natural disasters and world-wide pandemics.

NSW is renowned for having some of the best fishing locations in Australia. As a popular pastime and a part of life for Australians of all ages and from all socioeconomic backgrounds, recreational fishing has significant economic, social and well-being benefits for the wider community.

Approximately one in every eight NSW residents fishes recreationally, and it represents the third highest annual participation rate of all physical activities, with the benefits of recreational fishing flowing throughout communities, especially in regional areas.

The industry proves to be an extremely valuable one to coastal and inland communities, with expenditure by recreational fishers supporting regional communities and generating a range of social and economic benefits. Recreational fishing also contributes a huge \$3.4 billion to our economy each year.

Every year, fishers pay their licence fees, and every single dollar goes back into supporting the recreational fishing industry.

The objectives of the Trusts and the projects they support aim to further not only fishing opportunities and enjoyment but to drive a range of outcomes that benefit individuals and communities.

\$15.5 million was drawn from the Trusts in 2021-22 to support a wide range of projects that improve recreational fishing.

I'm sure you'll enjoy reading about these projects funded by the Trusts, and begin to plan your next fishing trip, to any one of a number of our magnificent fishing spots dotted so regularly throughout NSW. I might even see you there!

The Hon Dugald Saunders, MP
Minister for Agriculture,
and Minister for Western New South Wales



2021-22 has seen recreational fishing maintain its popularity with many fishers choosing to drop a line in locally given the COVID restrictions last year.

It is one of the few nature-based recreational activities that can be enjoyed throughout childhood and adolescence, through to senior years, with opportunities for all levels of ability.

Fishing not only provides an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy nature, but also a chance to relax and unwind, spend time with family and friends, for cultural reasons, provide a feed for the family or for the enjoyment of catching fish.

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

The objectives of the Trusts and the projects they support, aim to further not only fishing opportunities and enjoyment, but to drive a range of outcomes that benefit individuals and communities across NSW.

In 2021-22, 5.3 million fish have been stocked into NSW freshwater and, estuarine waterways, providing enhanced fishing opportunities for recreational fishers. NSW now has nine artificial reefs, with the new Eurobodalla reef installed in late 2021 and further reefs planned for Forster and the Central Coast in the coming year. These initiatives, combined with the flagship Fish Aggregation Devices program, our Fish For Life program and a variety of specific projects are improving fishing opportunities for everyone.

Sean Sloan
Deputy Director General Fisheries
Department of Primary Industries



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Introduction

The Recreational Fishing Trusts (the Trusts) have continued to deliver sensational outcomes for recreational fishers across NSW. An incredibly important tool in improving recreational fishing experiences, the Trusts are instrumental in allowing us to deliver **quality recreational fishing for everyone, forever.**



The Trusts have led to some amazing partnerships being formed between like-minded organisations and individuals, who all aim to make an impact. From researchers and universities, community groups and fishing clubs, to local councils and environmental organisations, we're all coming together. With projects just as diverse as those delivering them, we are restoring habitats to make more fish naturally, providing opportunities for all members of our community to access fishing spots, diving deep into the science of fish populations and sustainability, and teaching the next generation of fishers to fish responsibly and care for the beautiful natural environments that NSW has to offer.

In 2021–22, more than 376,000 recreational fishing licenses (fishing fees) were sold, allowing over \$15.5 million to flow to projects aimed at protecting and improving fisheries habitats and fishing opportunities. 129 projects were approved for funding in 2021–22 worth \$21 million, bringing the total number of projects underway to 281.

Managed through the Trusts, your licence fees support projects such as research into the movements of game fish in offshore waters, provide better knowledge of key estuarine fish species, rehabilitate habitats such as wetlands and riverbanks and provide new habitats such as artificial reefs, assess stocking success in waterways from coastal estuaries to inland dams and alpine streams, and mobilise an army of volunteers to pass on knowledge and skills to new fishers. These projects have all been made possible with your licence fees.

It doesn't matter if you are a family taking some time together and teaching the kids to catch a feed, whether you're an adventurer searching for the next remote 'hot spot', an experienced game fisher chasing iconic sportfish, or if you are simply taking some quiet time to connect with nature — you can rest assured your licence fees are working hard for you and delivering opportunities for the generations to come.



Quality recreational fishing for everyone, forever.

Highlights

376,363

Recreational fishing
licenses sold

474,517 in 2020-21

\$15.7M

Revenue received
from fishing fees

\$17.7 million in 2020-21

\$15.5M

Drawn from the
Trusts to fund
projects

\$16.8 million in 2020-21

281

Projects
underway

129

New projects
approved for funding

\$21M

The 129 projects
are worth
\$21 million

5.3M

Fish stocked

5.3 million in 2020-21

34

Offshore FAD
Locations

32 FAD locations in 2020-21

Eurobodalla

Offshore artificial
reef deployed

**Tweed reef installed
in 2020-21**

\$850K

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

\$850,000 in 2020-21

9,580

Fish tagged and
recorded in the
tagging database

10,500 in 2020-21

350

Fishcare community
events held

336 in 2020-21

32

Fishing facility
projects approved

14 in 2020-21

34,524

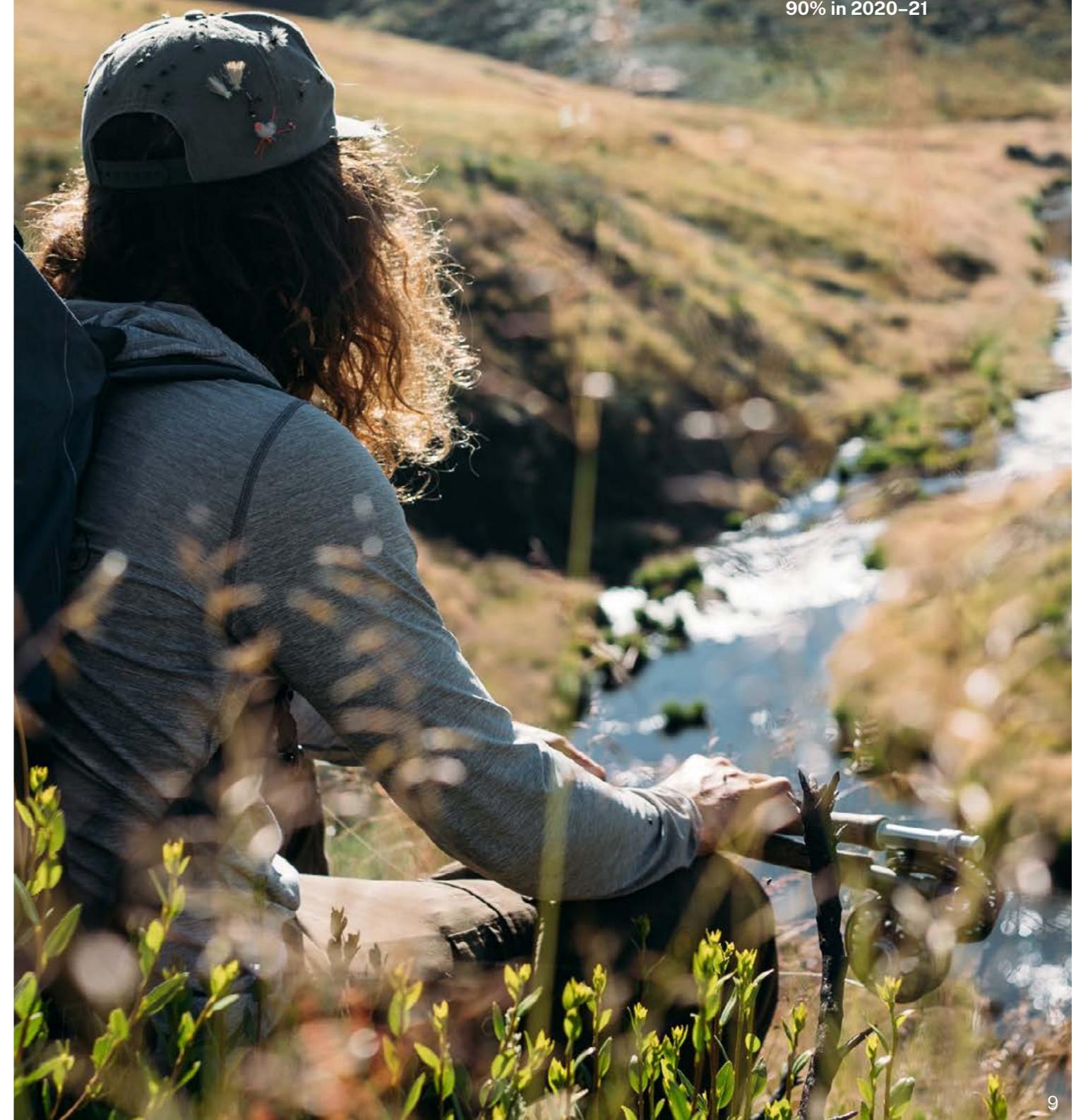
Recreational
compliance checks
undertaken

49,251 in 2020-21

90%

Compliance
rate for the
recreational
sector

90% in 2020-21



1 Background

Across NSW, thousands of projects have been supported using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts that assist in enhancing, maintaining or protecting recreational fishing, carrying out research into fish and their ecosystems, managing recreational fishing, and ensuring compliance with recreational fishing regulatory controls.



With fishers required to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee (licence fee) when fishing in NSW waters, all money from these licence fees is placed into the Recreational Fishing (saltwater and freshwater) Trusts (the Trusts).

The Trusts were established in 2001 under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (the Act). Under the Act, all money raised from licence fees must be spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW. The Trusts are regulated by law and overseen by committees of recreational fishers – one for saltwater and one for freshwater.



1.1 The recreational fishing sector in NSW

NSW is renowned for having some of the best fishing locations in Australia. As a popular pastime and a part of life for Australians of all ages and from all socio-economic backgrounds, like Mum and Dad fishers who may fish once a year, to game fishers who may invest thousands of dollars into boat and fishing equipment, recreational fishing has significant economic, social, health and wellbeing benefits for the wider community.

The industry is an extremely valuable one to coastal and inland communities, with expenditure by recreational fishers supporting regional communities and generating a range of social and economic benefits. In 2020–21, it is estimated that fishers spent \$2.051 billion on recreational and charter fishing activities. Enjoyed by one million anglers in NSW every year, it is one of NSW's most popular recreational activities.

A fifth statewide survey of recreational fishing was undertaken during 2021–22 of long-term licence holders and other members of their households. Participants provided information on who went fishing, how much fishing was done, where fishing occurred and what was caught. The results of this survey will be released in 2023 and will build on the knowledge gained from previous surveys.

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

An important pastime for approximately one in every eight NSW residents, recreational fishing represents the third highest annual participation rate of all physical/recreational activities. Motivated by a range of factors, including being outdoors and enjoying nature, to relax and unwind, spending time

with family and friends, cultural reasons, or for the enjoyment of catching fish, the benefits that fishers derive from fishing are similarly diverse.

It is one of the few nature-based recreational activities that can be enjoyed throughout childhood and adolescence, through to senior years, with opportunities for all levels of ability. Recreational fishing provides opportunities for individual, group based and family activities, and supports intergenerational interaction and transfer of knowledge. With the physical health benefits and positive mental health outcomes of recreational fishing well recognised, the interaction with the natural environment also fosters environmental stewardship and encourages the public to take an active interest in the health of environmental assets.

With the benefits of recreational fishing flowing throughout communities, especially in regional areas, it is an important sector in NSW. The objectives of the Trusts and the projects they support, aim to further not only fishing opportunities and enjoyment, but to drive a range of outcomes that benefit individuals and communities.

1.2 Objectives of the Recreational Fishing Trusts

The Trusts were established to deliver a wide range of programs to boost recreational fishing opportunities in NSW, and aim to deliver:

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

A range of partners are involved in delivering projects supported by the Trusts, including the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), other government organisations, fishing clubs, community groups and universities. The NSW Government also continues to contribute funding from general state revenue every year to manage and improve recreational fishing in NSW.



Recreational Fishing Trusts financial summary

Funding of \$15.5 million was drawn from the Trusts in 2021–22 to support a wide range of projects that improve recreational fishing (compared with \$16.1 million in 2020–21). Revenue received in 2021–22 from licence fees totalled \$15.7 million (compared with \$17.7 million in 2020–21).

The closing balance for the Trusts at 30 June 2022 was \$20.7 million (compared with \$20.6 million at 30 June 2021).

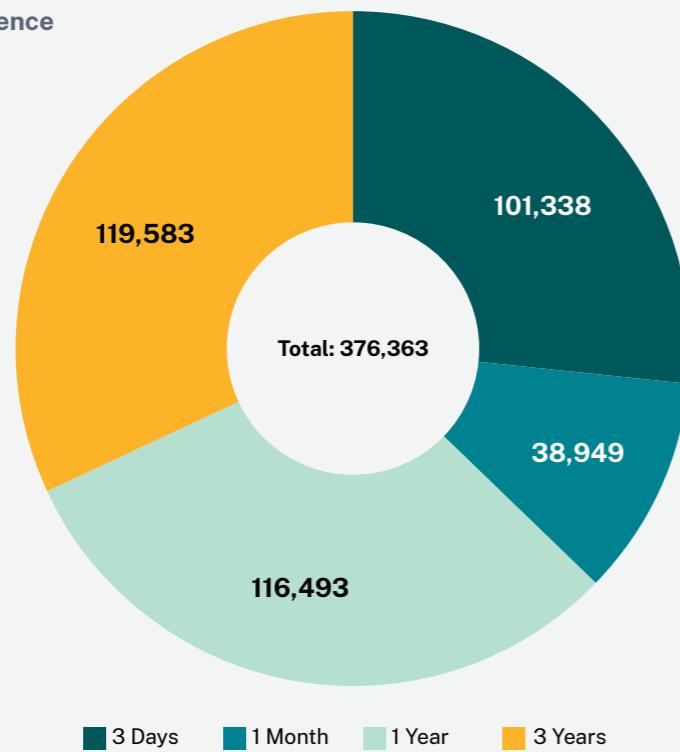


2.1.1 Licenses sold

A total of 376,363 recreational fishing licenses (new and renewals) were sold during 2021–22 (compared with 474,517 in 2020–21).



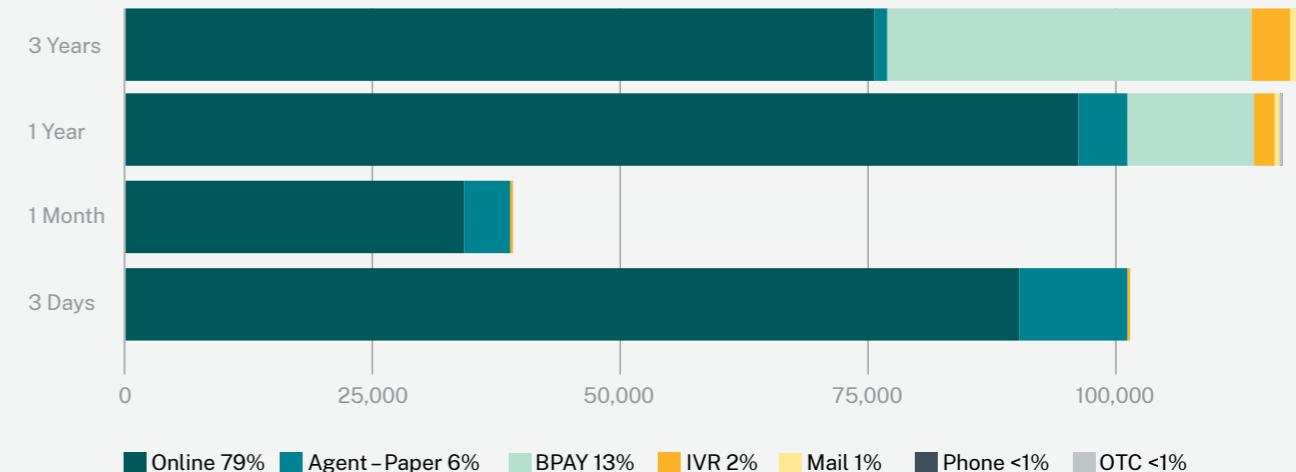
Recreational fishing licence types sold



2.1.2 Licence sale channels

Recreational fishers can make use of a range of channels which are available for the purchase of licenses. These include agent network (paper licenses), integrated voice recognition (IVR) automated phone numbers, online, over the counter (OTC), mail and BPAY. Online sales remain by far the most popular option, accounting for 79% of sales (compared with 78% in 2020–21).

Recreational fishing licence sales by channel



2.1.3 Financial accountability

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



3

Recreational Fishing Trusts programs

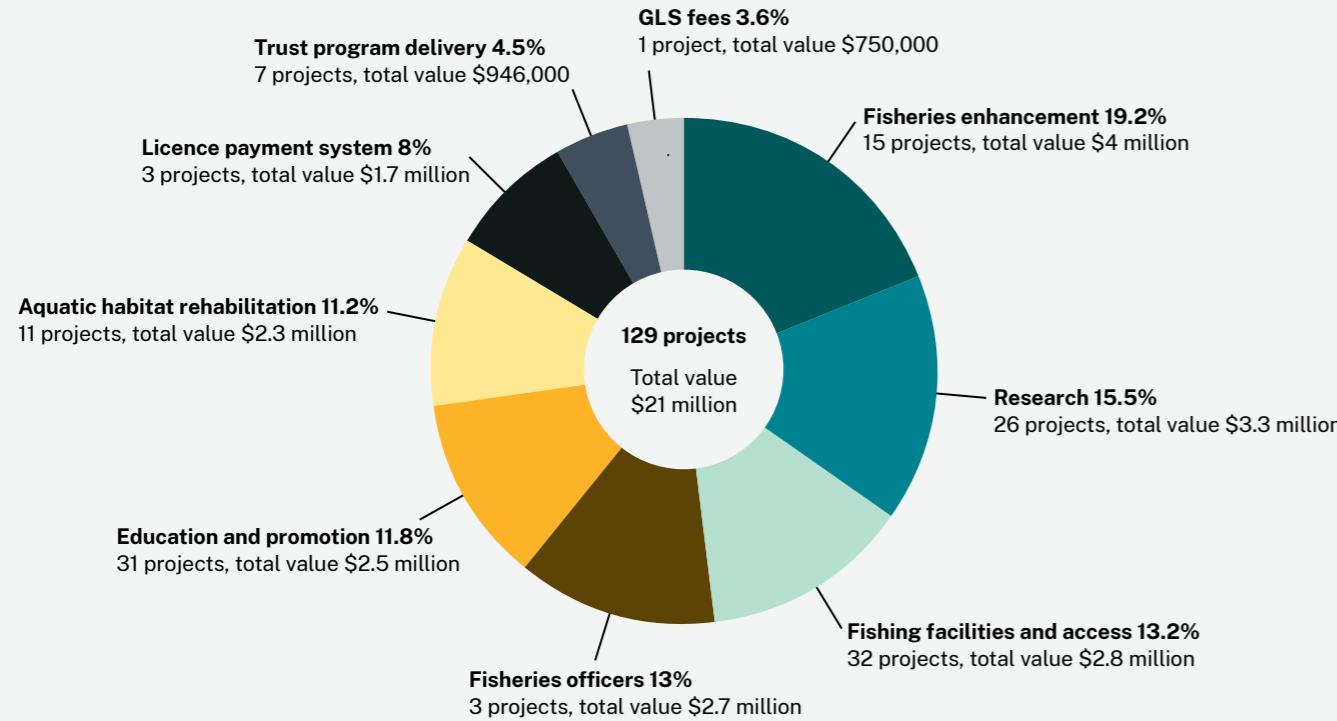
Since the commencement of the Trusts in 2001, funding has been provided from the Trusts for more than 3,000 large and small projects, with over 2,800 projects completed. Funding of \$15.5 million was provided to support projects currently underway (including ongoing programs) in 2021–22. Of the 281 existing projects, 129 projects worth \$21 million were approved for funding in 2021–22. These will be completed in coming years.



Priority areas for funding are:

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

Projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts



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

3.1 Fisheries enhancement

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

3.1.1 Fish aggregating devices

Fish aggregating devices, or FADs, are moored structures strategically placed along the NSW coast for the purpose of aggregating pelagic fish. They provide reliable, seasonal, offshore fishing locations for species whose arrival off our coast coincides with the warm water that is delivered by the East Australian Current over summer and autumn.

The FADs have been designed and tested to withstand the harsh sea conditions experienced off the NSW coast. They are installed for the summer fishing season and serviced during the winter months.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- deployment of FADs at 34 offshore locations between Tweed Heads and Eden
- expansion of the NSW FAD network with new FADs deployed off Hat Head and Port Stephens.

3.1.2 Offshore artificial reefs

Artificial reefs are used worldwide to enhance fishing opportunities and increase participation. Artificial reefs create additional habitat for local aquatic organisms and fish using innovative and state-of-the-art reef designs that deflect currents, create eddies and upwellings, and provide intricate habitats for a variety of fish species.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- installation of the Eurobodalla offshore artificial reef in December 2021
- Forster and the Central Coast announced as the next regions to receive offshore artificial reefs in 2023
- planning and approvals for the Forster and Central Coast projects are underway.



Eurobodalla offshore artificial reef

Two giant steel tower modules 12 m high with an overall footprint of 13 x 13 m and weighing more than 50 tonnes each were deployed approximately 3.5 km off Moruya Heads at a depth between 41 to 43 m. This was the first time an offshore artificial reef has been located within a NSW marine park general use zone. After only six months, the metal structures were completely covered with turfing algae, encrusting sponge and other invertebrates. Large schools of Kingfish and Yellowtail Scad converged around the structures, and Eastern Nannygai, Morwong, Yellowfin Pike and Bar Cod had found refuge within the framework, highlighting that a highly productive ecosystem had already established. The structures have been exposed to several weather events to date, including an east coast low event in April 2022 when maximum wave height exceeded 12 m, with no compromise to structural integrity found during subsequent in-water assessments.



3.1.3 Fish stocking

Fish stocking involves producing fish fry or fingerlings and releasing them into NSW waters at approved sites to create new fisheries or augment existing ones. It also provides community benefits through improving recreational fishing quality, conservation outcomes, employment and subsequent economic benefits.

Fish stocking is conducted responsibly to conserve and protect our unique biodiversity. Stocking events in NSW are carried out under permits ensuring appropriate environmental controls.

Stocking activities are undertaken by DPI as well as by angling clubs and other community groups who stock fish produced by private hatcheries under the popular Dollar For Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- 5.335 million fish stocked into waterways across NSW, including 83,400 marine and 5.25 million freshwater fish
- record production and stocking of Murray Cod (1.268 million fish) at DPI's Narrandera Fisheries Centre.
- more than 370,000 Australian Bass produced by DPI's Port Stephens Fisheries Institute and stocked into popular fisheries including Glenbawn Dam, Tallowa Dam and Lake St Clair
- successful stocking of 76,500 Dusky Flathead into five key Recreational Fishing Havens along the NSW coast
- more than 2.7 million salmonids produced by DPI's Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries and stocked into lakes, rivers and streams across key NSW trout fishing locations
- 1,200 advanced Mulloway fingerlings produced by DPI's Port Stephens Fisheries Institute for the Marine Stocking Program and successfully released in Lake Macquarie.



Record Murray Cod stocking

A record 1.268 million Murray Cod were produced and stocked in 2021–22 by the dedicated hatchery team at DPI's Narrandera Fisheries Centre, eclipsing the previous record of 780,000 fish in 2006–07. Stocking more than a million fingerlings into NSW

waterways is crucial to strengthening Murray Cod populations following years of crippling drought. The Murray Cod fingerlings produced at the Narrandera hatchery included progeny of fish rescued in a joint operation involving DPI Fisheries and volunteer fishers during the 2019 drought, as part of the NSW Government's \$10 million Native Fish Drought Response. DPI Fisheries is committed to breeding millions of native fish each year, including Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Australian Bass, as part of the Native Fish Stocking Program, to keep NSW lakes and rivers well stocked.

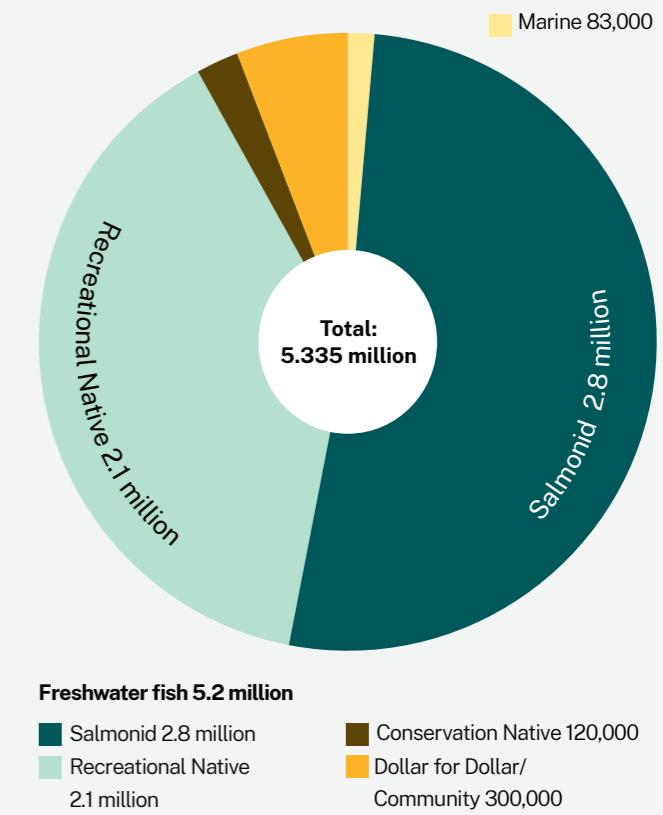


Dusky Flathead stocking success

Success with Dusky Flathead stocking has continued. For the second consecutive year Dusky Flathead were stocked into St Georges Basin, Lake Conjola and Burrill Lake from fish produced at Narooma Aquaculture. In another exciting development, a second batch of fish was produced at DPI's Port Stephens Fisheries Institute and released into Lake Macquarie and the Camden Haven River.

In total, 76,500 Dusky Flathead were released during 2021–22 as part of the expanding Marine Stocking Program, which has seen new estuaries stocked for the first time. Volunteer fishers are helping DPI monitor the success of these releases. The Marine Stocking Program focuses fish releases into Recreational Fishing Havens along the NSW coastline, ensuring recreational anglers enjoy the benefits of enhanced fish stocks.

Number of fish stocked



3.2 Fishing facilities and access

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

3.2.1 Fishing facilities

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

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- 32 fishing facility projects approved for funding, including for accessible fishing platforms, fish cleaning tables and other related infrastructure.





The Millpond – a great new public fishery

The Millpond, located at The Foundations precinct in Portland, across the Blue Mountains to the west of Sydney, has been opened for public fishing access.

To ensure public safety, infrastructure including two bridges, fencing, a pedestrian entrance and signage were installed at the site. DPI has also stocked the fishery with 6,200 Brown and Rainbow Trout from the Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries.

This project received contributing funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts following a successful application by the Wallerawang branch of the Central Acclimatisation Society.

Improved fish cleaning facilities on the Mid North Coast

Great news for anglers on the mid north coast, with upgrades to fish cleaning facilities at Hawks Nest and Coomba Park being completed by Mid-North Coast Council.

At each location the tables were replaced with a more robust design and additional space, with a dedicated smaller table for junior anglers at Hawks Nest.

To accommodate the lack of town water services in Coomba Park, the new facilities also include a solar powered pump to allow water from the lake to be circulated up to the table, which anglers are sure to enjoy.



3.2.2 Enhancing angler access

Identifying, managing and enhancing land, boat, canoe and kayak access for recreational fishers in inland and coastal locations across NSW remains a high priority for DPI and partner fishing organisations. The NSW Angler Access project not only works on protecting essential access locations but also identifies new recreational fishing and regional tourism opportunities and facilitates fisher access to new locations. There are more than 200,000 access points where recreational fishers can access rivers, streams and lakes throughout NSW.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- launch of the NSW Angler Access website and interactive map featuring more than 4,000 freshwater fishing locations for fishers to view when planning their trips

- enhancing the Clean, Safe Wharves Program in Sydney Harbour and Walsh Bay, in close collaboration with Transport for NSW and fishing groups, to ensure ongoing access to these iconic land-based fishing spots

- assisting the development of a new quality land-based fishing opportunity at The Foundations Portland near Lithgow, including trout stocking
- working closely with various land managers such as Crown Lands, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, local councils and private land managers to facilitate collaborative fishing access agreements.



Upgraded Angler Access website launched

This handy website provides detailed information on thousands of locations across inland NSW where rivers, streams and lakes can be legally accessed for fishing.

Thanks to the assistance of key stakeholders such as the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers, the website provides an easy-to-use map to more than 4,000 verified sites to fish for native species including Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Australian Bass, as well as other freshwater sportfish such as Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout.

The map helps all fishers find their own secret spot, provides directions to each fishing spot, lets you download maps, and allows fishers to search by species, reserve type, recommended vehicle for access and suitability for disabled access.

Over time, more sites will be added to the access map, providing additional opportunities to explore new and exciting locations across NSW.

Responsible fishing on Sydney's wharves

Sydney Harbour's network of ferry wharves primarily provide safe and convenient access for commuters. However, the wharves are also popular land-based fishing locations.

DPI Fisheries works with partner agencies to manage the use of these shared public facilities through the Clean, Safe Wharves initiative, which promotes safe and responsible fishing.

During 2021–22, funding from the Trusts supported DPI and Transport for NSW to work with NSW Police Marine Area Command and run targeted on water patrols of key locations on the ferry wharf network and on ferry services to deter irresponsible fishing practices.

DPI Fishcare volunteers also promoted responsible fishing during wharf clean ups. These initiatives are key to ensuring access is maintained at these harbourside locations.



3.3 Aquatic habitat rehabilitation

Aquatic habitat rehabilitation initiatives aim to make more fish, naturally. By repairing damage from the past, removing barriers to fish passage, reinstating snags and riparian vegetation and improving water flows, fish habitat is protected and enhanced, and improved environmental conditions build fish populations naturally.

3.3.1 Habitat Action Grants

Habitat Action Grants fund on-ground actions by angling clubs, individuals, community groups, local councils and other organisations that rehabilitate freshwater and saltwater environments to improve fish habitat and recreational fishing in NSW.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

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



New home for fish on the Nepean River

Penrith City Council undertook two significant re-snagging projects along the Nepean River near Penrith at Fowler and Emu Green Reserves. Not only were new homes created for the iconic Bass, but the riverbanks were also transformed with 500 native trees planted. The vegetation will assist in bank stabilisation, shading and provide a food source of bugs and grubs for the resident fish.

Trelawney riverbank rehabilitation, Peel River

The Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council has successfully undertaken willow control, riparian fencing, and planting of more than 800 native trees and shrubs along the banks of the Peel River, home to the mighty Murray Cod. These works will assist in the recovery of fish habitat and stabilisation of the banks. Their long-term goal is to look after this piece of river and continue to improve fish habitat and riparian biodiversity.



3.3.2 Flagship Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Grants

The Flagship Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Grants Program builds on the success of the Habitat Action Grants to address major habitat-related issues affecting the viability of coastal fisheries. Supporting larger scale projects that require higher levels of funding assistance, the program delivers enhanced fish habitat, water quality and resilience, and improved recreational fishing opportunities.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- completion of investigations into Swanpool Wetlands, part of the Macleay River estuary, by North Coast Local Land Services (LLS), which will assist resource managers to determine acid sulfate management options in order to improve estuarine health

- Nambucca Valley Landcare completed riparian restoration activities, including erosion control works, to protect important fish habitats in the Nambucca River and South Creek at Bowraville
- completion of the Tweed River Estuary Erosion Management Plan by Tweed Shire Council, providing a proactive rather than reactive approach to erosion management through robust engineering solutions that maintain and enhance fish habitat within the estuary.



Swan Pool remediation feasibility study

By identifying feasible remediation options in consultation with major stakeholders, this study has produced a staged roadmap to address acid generation and runoff entering the Macleay River.

The approximately 800 ha Swan Pool is part of the Kinchela backswamp on the floodplain south of the Macleay River. The largest of the few semi-permanent freshwater backswamp wetlands remaining on the NSW coast, it has been impacted by extensive wetland drainage that has resulted in significant acid sulfate runoff entering the Macleay River.

Image: Deoxygenated blackwater from Kinchela swamp flowing to the Macleay River.

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

OzFish Unlimited and Landcare NSW continue to empower communities to restore locally important waterways and fish habitat across inland and coastal NSW. With a focus on river restoration projects that improve the health of fish habitats, the network of skilled volunteers will continue the work well into the future.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- further development of the strong working partnership between Landcare and OzFish, with 25 different Landcare and OzFish groups working together
- another 16 community driven, on-ground fish habitat restoration projects established, with funding from a range of sources totalling more than \$350,000 and at least \$300,000 in-kind value. With investment from the Trusts, that is almost \$1 million worth of habitat restoration in NSW
- 12,000 trees planted, 19.9 km of riverbank restored, 1.5 km of protective fencing installed, 18 more woody snags and 10 more rocky reefs installed, two cultural engagement site plans completed and eDNA sampling used.



Wambuul-Macquarie riverbank restoration project

In partnership with Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo Rivercare and various community groups, OzFish has been controlling weeds and planting more native vegetation along a section of the Wambuul-Macquarie River owned by Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

With 11 community groups and a local school working together, 143 volunteers have planted 2,011 native trees.

Increasing the number of native trees and shrubs on the riverbank has a direct positive impact on fish in the area by creating a shade corridor, enabling the fish to move more freely, and providing a source of food from the insects that drop from the trees.



Saving saltmarsh in Salt Bay and Black Neds Bay

OzFish Hunter Chapter has partnered with Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network, Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Lake Macquarie City Council to improve the health of the coastal saltmarsh in Lake Macquarie.

Focusing on improving the health of the estuary by replanting 1,200 native tree species, the project will improve the terrestrial and estuarine environments while incorporating cultural understanding and awareness.

Salt Bay and Black Neds Bay are home to coastal saltmarsh, which provides shelter for fish and protects shorelines from erosion by buffering waves and trapping sediments. Rehabilitating this habitat will help keep these areas vibrant with fish – great news for recreational fishers.

3.3.4 Fish passage

Barriers that prevent the migration of native fish along waterways can have severe impacts on fish populations by impeding their ability to survive and reproduce. To significantly improve native fish access to nearly 9,000 km of mainstream rivers and key off-channel habitats below all major storage dams in NSW, DPI is implementing the NSW Fish Passage Strategy. Supported by the Trusts, the strategy is a 20-year plan to restore unimpeded

fish passage to 165 high priority weirs. DPI is also focusing on mitigation options for cold water pollution from NSW storage dams.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- removal of Cookes Weir on the Richmond River in collaboration with WaterNSW, providing native fish access to more than 250 km of upstream fish habitat
- more than \$140 million in funding from the Commonwealth and NSW Governments committed to 43 priority fish barriers. Major funding programs include the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism and the Northern Basin Toolkit
- a Golden Perch tagged in the Darling (Baaka) River near Wilcannia was caught by a recreational angler on the Macintyre River near Goondiwindi. The fish had travelled more than 1,700 km in 12 months when high flows completely submerged all weirs. Planned fish passage remediation on existing Barwon-Darling weirs listed under the strategy aims to permanently restore this movement.



Image: Precast rock ramp fishway at Homestead Dam on the Warrego River.

Warrego River fish passage restored

Fish passage along the Warrego River has been enhanced through the removal of Peebles Dam, and the construction of a precast rock ramp fishway at Homestead Dam and a vertical slot fishway at Boera Dam. The works were part of the Toorale Water Infrastructure Project, led by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and funded by the Commonwealth government, and were listed in Phase 1 of the Fish Passage Strategy. The fishways opened up a combined 48 km of upstream fish passage and provided a critical step towards fish passage connectivity between the Warrego and Barwon-Darling Rivers.

3.3.5 Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation

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

Achievements in the Southern region in 2021–22 included:

- assessment of more than 265 development proposals with potential adverse impacts on key fish habitat, ensuring no net loss of fish habitats from development activity in southern NSW
- negotiation of four projects to offset unavoidable loss of habitat from regionally significant infrastructure projects, achieving rehabilitation of more than 4.5 ha of key fish habitat
- representing the environmental, social and economic values of fish habitat and recreational fishing in the preparation of Coastal Management Plans and Water Sharing Plans on the South Coast.

Achievements in the Greater Murray Region in 2021–22 included:

- assessment of more than 230 development proposals with potential adverse impacts on key fish habitat to ensure no net loss of fish habitats from development activity in the Greater Murray region
- inspection of developments and worksites on waterways in collaboration with Fisheries officers, supporting follow-up action where necessary, and ensuring compliance with remediation orders to restore damaged fish habitat
- involvement in community and media engagements to promote fish habitat conservation including the Pollack Wetlands community day, showcasing wetland rehabilitation and indigenous foods sourced from wetlands.



Restoring historical impacts to saltmarsh

Habitat restoration activities were successfully negotiated as part of the environmental offset for the Merimbula Airport upgrade project. Restoration activities to be undertaken by Bega Valley Shire Council will improve tidal flows to a 4 ha area of coastal wetland habitat and will include removal of a disused haul road that crosses the wetland, saltmarsh and mangrove rehabilitation, and fencing to protect an area of saltmarsh impacted by vehicles.

Works will commence once relevant approvals have been obtained. While harm to mangroves and saltmarsh during the upgrades cannot be avoided completely, they have been reduced through the negotiation process.



Rehabilitation works in Kosciuszko National Park

Works commenced to rehabilitate a degraded site in Kosciuszko National Park, with plans for it to become a future translocation site for the critically endangered Stocky Galaxias. A series of ponds have been connected with purpose built flowing habitat, and a solar pump circulating water through the system is now operational. A recent advisory event included an information session, planting of streamside vegetation, invertebrate surveys, and eDNA water sampling to detect the presence of trout. With works continuing, it is hoped that in future the site will be suitable not only for Stocky Galaxias, but a range of other aquatic species.

This collaborative project involves DPI Fisheries, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, South East Local Land Services, NSW Waterwatch volunteers, anglers, and community members, and is supported by the Australian Government's bushfire recovery for wildlife and their habitat grants.

3.4 Education and promotion

Recreational fishing education and promotion is an important focus for funding from the Trusts. Programs such as Fishcare, Get Hooked... it's Fun to Fish, Come Fish with Us and Gone Fishing Day, among others, are supported each year. They promote awareness and stewardship of our aquatic resources, and aim to increase voluntary compliance with the NSW Fisheries rules and regulations.

3.4.1 Fishcare

A team of six education officers manages and facilitates the NSW Fishcare Volunteer Program and its 180 dedicated Fishcare volunteers to provide face-to-face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground across NSW. The team uses targeted messaging to promote responsible and sustainable fishing (Fish for Life). Fishcare also plays a key role in running subprograms such as Get Hooked...it's Fun to Fish and fishing workshops. The mission is to create a team of fishing stewards who champion responsible fishing and a sustainable, secure fishing future. Fishcare is one of the flagship programs of the Trusts.



Field days get the thumbs up from anglers

Fishcare education teams attended field days across NSW over the June long weekend.

Fishcare embraces the opportunity to chat to hundreds of grassroots fishers at events like these on all aspects of fishing, from freshwater and saltwater rules, to promotion and demonstrations about using fishing gear sustainably, and the various fisheries programs in NSW.

Many families were lucky enough to get involved in some free casting clinics, winning some epic prizes.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- 350 events undertaken, which involved 11,000 people
- Fishcare volunteers helped more than 5,000 families to take part in Come Fish With Us events
- distribution of Clean for Life kits to Fishcare litter legends who spent 47 days cleaning up popular local fishing spots to facilitate greater stewardship of areas
- purchase of two new education trailers for the North and Central coasts, to better promote the program and wider trust initiatives.



Fishcare walk on the reef side

Long Reef Fishcare volunteers lead free guided walks onto rock platforms to discuss and explore marine life in the rockpools, bird life and geology. The guided walks last two hours and are a great family outing. Participants enjoy the marvels that can be found on the famous Long Reef reserve, getting a chance to meet all the critters up close and personal.

The Long Reef guided walks have been led by Fishcare volunteers for more than 15 years and are proudly supported by the Recreational Fishing Trusts.



Clean Up Your Fishing Spot

The past year has seen our dedicated Fishcare volunteers out and about at more than 47 local fishing spots, picking up rubbish and promoting the 'do the right thing' message as part of DPI's Clean Up Your Fishing Spot initiative. Volunteer John McPherson commented "how good it feels when you leave a place much cleaner than you found it!"

Thanks to our Fishcare volunteers for making a great contribution to their local fish habitat. Together, we can do our part to keep our local fishing spots clean by always remembering to take and properly dispose of all rubbish (even when it's not ours) and old fishing gear at the end of every fishing session. Keep a keen eye out for discarded fishing line and hooks when packing up, to prevent harm to our wildlife.

3.4.2 Come Fish with Us

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

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- more than 4,000 people took part in Come Fish with Us events assisted by dedicated Fishcare volunteers. Of these, 1,000 were involved in partnered events (fishing for sport, club nights etc), 2,000 were part of a try fishing session, and 1,000 were involved in a fishing session
- 31 registered workshops were held across NSW involving some 450 children and parents.



Fishing a-plenty at Tocal field days Try Fishing Day

An amazing 300 people over three days joined the fun sessions at this year's Tocal Field Days Try Fishing Day, providing a great opportunity for families to learn the basics of fishing with assistance from staff and our dedicated Fishcare volunteers.

More than 62 fish were caught making for some great fishing moments and huge grins for many first-time anglers. Children also received awesome giveaways, such as fishing rods, sunglasses and tackle boxes to take home to continue their fishing adventure. Another great example of your fishing fees at work.



Fishing for bait

Our Central Coast Fishcare team partnered with Jamie Donovan from the Department of Education for an alternate lesson on bait catching as part of the Department's Brospeak Program with year six students from Wauchope Public School. The outing was all about the art of bait collection, and eight very energetic boys were taught the essentials on how to catch beach worms. In no time they mastered the technique and have now gained an invaluable lifelong fishing skill. No need for frozen bait when you can catch worms and it's lots of fun too.

3.4.3 Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish

The Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish schools education program introduces students to fishing and teaches the basics about sustaining aquatic habitats by practicing safe and responsible recreational fishing. Providing in-class lessons and practical outdoor fishing workshops, the program is aligned to the Australian Curriculum and meets syllabus outcomes across all key learning areas.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- 81 schools with 1,100 students registered with the program
- more than 310 students participated in workshops and in class sessions
- expansion of the program into secondary schools is underway.



Gaden Hatchery hosts fishing for students

DPI's Gaden Hatchery hosted two fun-filled Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish workshops for students from Jindabyne Central School in March, assisted by a team of dedicated Fishcare volunteers.

Forty-five eager students attended the two fast-paced workshops, with sessions on casting practice, rules and regulations, and knot tying followed up by on-site fishing practice. More than 200 feisty Rainbow Trout were caught in two hours of fishing.



Asphalts across NSW turn into fishing classrooms

Across NSW enthusiastic students have been learning all things fishing in the classroom as part of the Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish in-school incursions. At the Jannali Public School, the quadrangle open area was turned into an outdoor classroom, where 90 eager students had fun learning about local fishing rules and regulations, responsible fishing, and knot tying. The asphalt was then turned into a 'casting how to' session, with students trying hard to outcompete one another and hit the targets. The day was filled with lots of great questions and smiles all round. A big thank you to our Fishcare volunteers once again for giving us a hand.



Anglers out and about for Gone Fishing Day

Many anglers were able to get out and about for the 2021 Gone Fishing Day (although some areas were still affected by COVID-19 restrictions), with Fishcare volunteers and education officers handing out goodie bags and chatting to anglers about all things fishing. DPI also ran a family fishing video on the Gone Fishing Day weekend, featuring Social Fishing's Rhys Creed with plenty of fishing tips and tricks.

3.4.4 Gone Fishing Day

NSW Gone Fishing Day is for everyone. It celebrates a love of fishing and encourages everyone to get out on the water – it doesn't matter if you haven't fished before or if you are the keenest of anglers. Funding grants and fishing packages are provided to fishing clubs to hold events and the Fishcare Program team visited locations across NSW to chat to anglers directly and promote the joys of fishing.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- 13 fishing clubs and organisations successfully applied for Gone Fishing Day grants to run their own events
- a further 19 clubs and organisations were successful in applying for Gone Fishing Day fishing packages to help assist with running their own events.

3.4.5 ACT Fly Fishers' Casting for Recovery

Aiming to enhance the quality of life and aid with rehabilitation for women recovering from breast cancer, the ACT Fly Fishers' Casting for Recovery program provides treatment through the sport of fly fishing. The project offers free fly fishing retreats at NSW waterways, including one-on-one tuition, and weekend accommodation, and encourages the women to consider fishing, and fly fishing in particular, as an ongoing sport or hobby.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- a three-day retreat for nine women with breast cancer, held during March.



Casting for breast cancer recovery

The 2022 Casting for Recovery retreat provided nine women with relief from the everyday stresses and challenges of living with breast cancer, and the chance to share experiences in a supportive environment.

Essential to the retreats is the opportunity to use a new activity, flyfishing, to allow women to enjoy the outdoors and form friendships in a supportive setting. The casting motion of flyfishing provides joint and soft tissue stretching and helps post-surgery recovery.

With participants introduced to flyfishing at the Rainbow Springs Fly Fishing School and given one-on-one tuition, some caught fish on their second day of ever holding a fishing rod and may continue the sport.

3.4.6 Let's Go Fishing

Let's Go Fishing, delivered by the Australian Fishing Trade Association in partnership with the Marine Teachers Association, aims to provide NSW schools with fishing gear and facilitate quality education on recreational fishing.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- expansion of the program to include 42 new schools in NSW, while providing top-up fishing kits to schools already involved
- commencement of the development of an intermediate level six part video series for schools, with fishing guests currently finalising the script and production. This series will be delivered to schools later in 2022.

3.5 Research

A large range of research projects on fish and recreational fishing are supported with funding from the Trusts. This research provides essential scientific information to ensure the sustainable use of our fisheries resources.

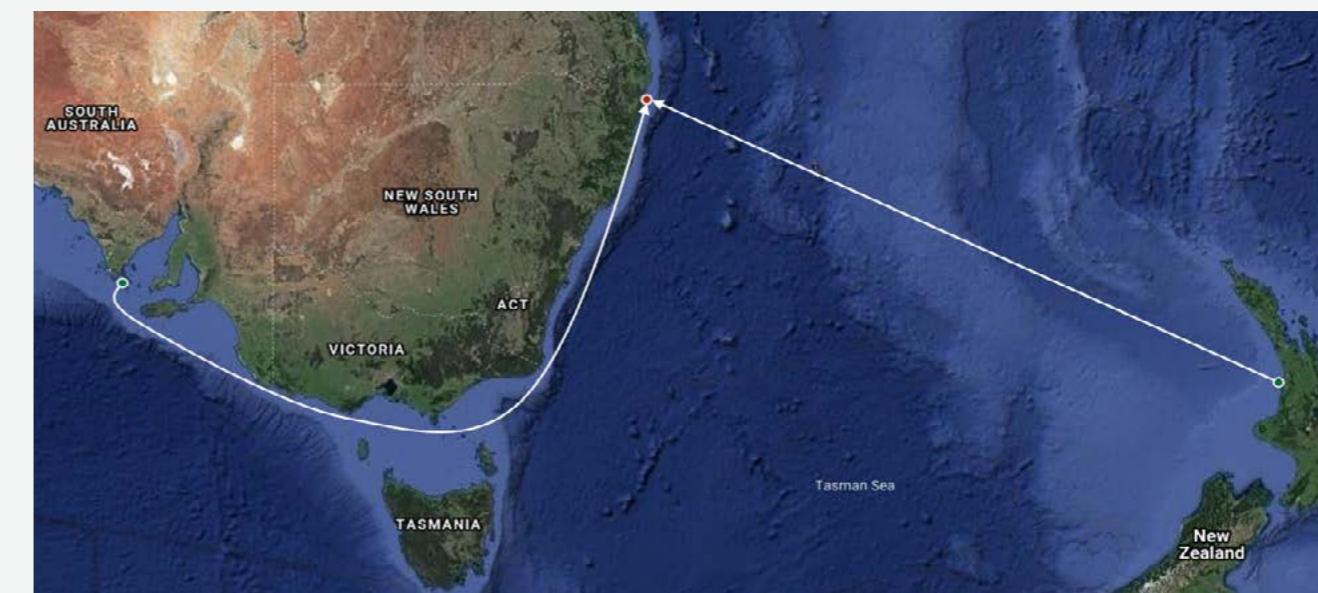
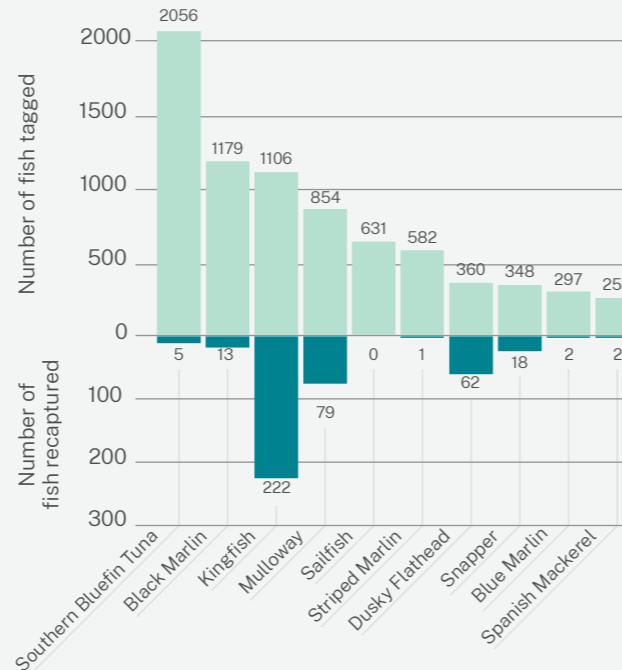
3.5.1 Game Fish Tagging Program

The Game Fish Tagging Program obtains information on the biology of billfish, tunas, sharks and other recreationally important sportfish, and encourages both fishing clubs and anglers to participate in the management of the fishery. When an angler catches and tags a fish prior to its release, the capture details and tag number are recorded and returned to DPI. When a fish is recaptured, information is compared to the original capture, providing details on the distance that the fish travelled and its growth, with data from the program used in research publications and reports.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- reaching the incredible milestone of 500,000 fish tagged since the program began
- more than 9,580 tagged fish reported with over 445 reported recaptures
- 12,140 pelagic, 10,240 billfish, 3,820 shark, 710 flathead and 680 Snapper tags distributed to game fishing clubs and individual anglers
- additional estuaries (Richmond, Bellinger and Hastings) added to the Trophy Flathead Tagging Program.

Top 10 tagged and recaptured fish



Kingfish connectivity

Two Kingfish originally tagged in very different locations have been recaptured off Yamba on the same day by the same fisher. They highlight the dynamic and variable movement patterns of Kingfish and provide an insight into the potential for genetic mixing between different populations.

The first Kingfish was tagged on 27 December 2020 by angler Scott Lihou, offshore of Port Lincoln, SA. The fish was 126 cm long and approximately 14.5 kg. Fast forward 249 days to 2 September 2021 and the fish was recaptured by a commercial fisher near Yamba, NSW, weighing 22.5 kg. The fish had travelled some 1,300 nm (approximately 2,405 km).

The second fish, surprisingly, had a New Zealand gamefish tag. Originally tagged at Gannet Island, New Zealand, on 14 February 2018 by angler Richard Hart, it measured 97 cm with an estimated weight of 10 kg. Upon recapture 1,296 days later, and more than 1,165 nm (approximately 2,155 km) away, the fish weighed 20.8 kg.



3.5.2 Where are all the big Kingfish?

Project Kingfish, which uses satellite-tracking of sexually mature Kingfish to reveal spawning habitats and recruitment 'hotspots', will give crucial insights to address urgent knowledge gaps, by providing information about Kingfish movements, spawning locations and potential key recruitment areas. The project aims to help increase quality fishing opportunities for this iconic recreational species.

Led by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science in collaboration with Macquarie University, UNSW and DPI, an extensive field campaign using specialist recreational fishers to catch and deploy satellite tags on mature Kingfish at key sites in NSW commenced in 2022.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

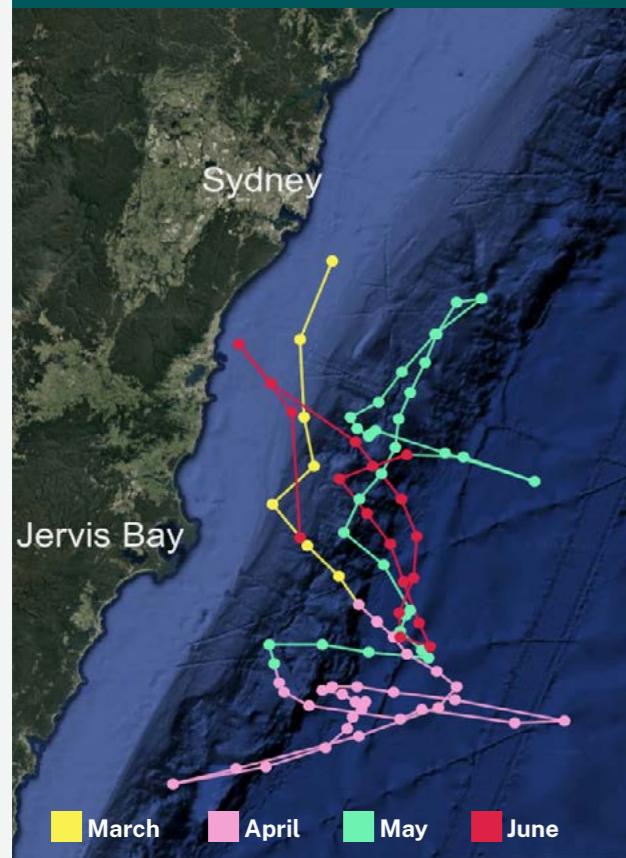
- more than 900 recreational anglers successfully engaged with through @project_kingfish social media channels (Facebook and Instagram)

3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2021–22

- analysis of data from the Game Fish Tagging Program (consisting of almost 40,000 Kingfish tagged and 3,000 recaptured since 1973), which revealed common migratory routes for Kingfish in eastern Australia as well as champion anglers in the community who have dedicated their time to contributing invaluable citizen science data
- sponsorship by Project Kingfish of the Biggest Kingfish Prize at the Lord Howe Island Annual Fishing Tournament, with a number of Kingfish tagged and released during the event.

Adventures of a satellite-tagged Kingfish

Fascinating insights into Kingfish movements off eastern Australia have been provided from a satellite tag deployed on a 108 cm Kingfish caught off Sydney in March 2022 as part of Project Kingfish. The tag collected location, temperature, depth and activity data for 85 days before releasing off Jervis Bay in June 2022. During this time, the fish travelled more than 1,000 km, spending considerable time in waters off the continental shelf and up to 100 km from the coast. The data from this one fish provides a tantalising glimpse into the incredible knowledge to be gained from tag deployments into Kingfish movement dynamics in the region.



3.5.3 Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program

The Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program uses a telephone-diary survey to collect ongoing, accurate and up-to-date information on recreational catch, effort and participation across NSW, as well as an on-board observer and logbook program to collect this information for the recreational Charter Fishery.

With surveys completed in 2017–18 and 2019–20, and the 2021–22 survey currently underway, they provide biennial snapshots of effort, catch and participation for the households of long-term (1 and 3 year) licensed recreational fishers within NSW. This information is used in stock assessments and helps ensure sustainable fishing into the future.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

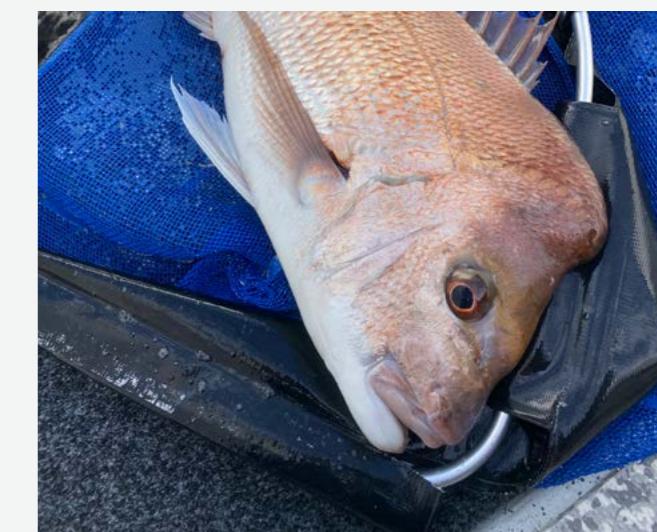
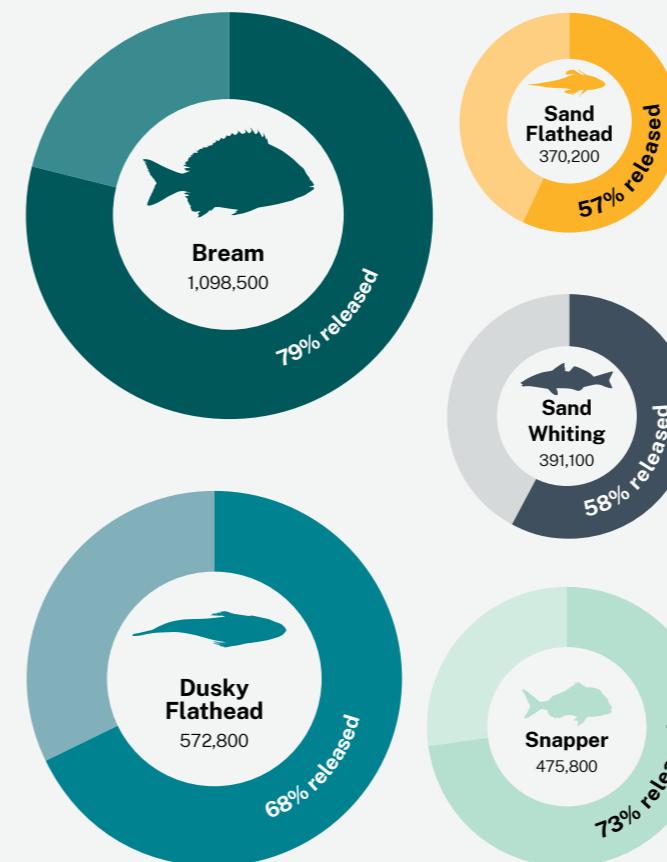
- analysis of the 2019–20 survey finalised with information from 7,400 individual fishing events recorded, indicating that licensed households undertook 1.7 million days of fishing and caught 7.9 million individual organisms across 128 species
- the successful commencement of the 2021–22 survey, with more than 1,200 households involved in the 12-month diary program.

Charter Fishery monitoring

Monitoring of the Charter Fishery during 2019–20 involved trained fishery observers who were voluntarily hosted by more than 30 operators on almost 250 nearshore charter trips statewide. As well as recording data on fishing catch and effort, observers also collected information on wildlife observations and data on charter clients. Of the more than 1,800 charter clients interviewed by observers, 20% came from regional NSW, interstate or overseas.



Top five finfish species caught in 2019–20



Record Red

Many important donations were made in 2021–22, but none more significant than a 68 cm Snapper caught in the Illawarra region. When aged, the fish was estimated to be 40 years old, meaning it hatched in 1981. This fish is significant as it is not only the oldest Snapper aged by the Research Angler Program, but also the oldest Snapper recorded in NSW.

Donations like this are highly valuable for researchers to help build a picture of the age structure of important recreational species.

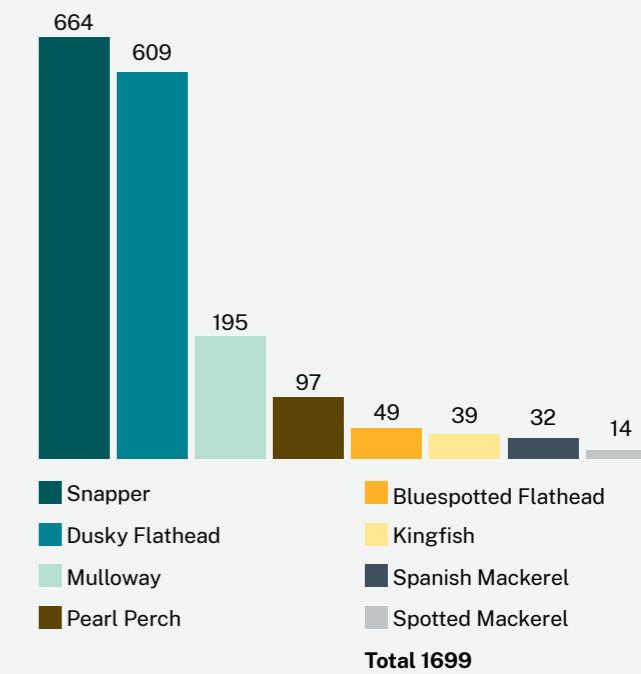
3.5.4 Research Angler Program

The Research Angler Program enables anglers, as citizen scientists, to contribute to the scientific knowledge and stock assessment of key recreational species in NSW by donating fish frames.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- increased angler participation using a variety of incentives, resulting in more than 135 anglers donating 1699 fish frames or otoliths
- increased the number of frame collection locations by using local tackle businesses in regional areas. There are now 34 drop off locations across NSW—an increase of 10% from last year
- inclusion of two new species—Pearl Perch and Bluespotted Flathead—collected by the program to help address knowledge gaps for these two species and enable more fishers to participate.

Fish donated



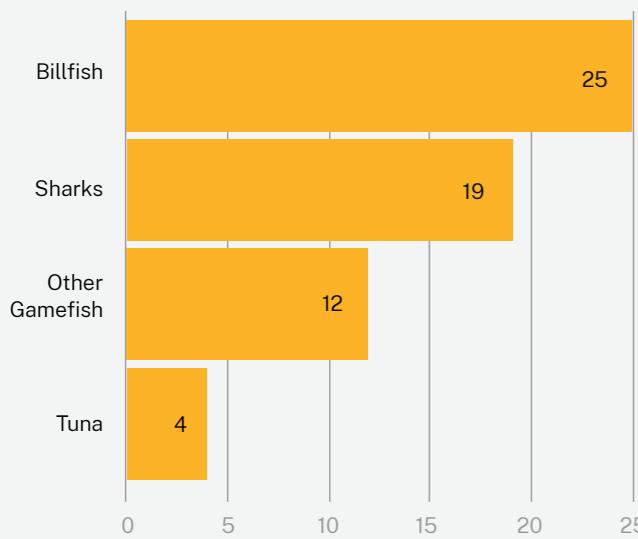
3.5.5 Monitoring and research on landed fish at game fishing tournaments

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

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- Pepperell Research staff attended eight tournaments during 2021–22, from Port Stephens to Shellharbour
- a total of 60 landed fish were measured, examined and sampled, and included 25 billfish, 19 sharks, 4 tuna and 12 other gamefish
- scientists and post-graduate students from DPI, Macquarie University, CSIRO and Pepperell Research used organs, tissues and parasites sampled at these tournaments for their research. All sampled tissues were added to frozen and preserved tissue banks for use in future local and global research projects.

Fish sampled at tournaments



Pacific Bluefin excitement!

An unusual capture of a 197.5 kg Pacific Bluefin Tuna off the Central Coast during the Broken Bay Invitational Tournament in March 2022 excited the scientific community. A flesh sample from the fish was couriered to the CSIRO in Tasmania where, for the first time, the entire genome for this species will be sequenced. The otoliths (ear bones) were extracted and also sent to CSIRO to determine the age of the fish.

3.5.6 The Great Swordfish Race

Swordfish are large, migratory, predatory fish with a long and flat bill. They are an elusive and prized recreational sportfish that are found throughout the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Along the NSW coast there is an emerging and increasingly popular deep drop fishery where recreational anglers specifically target swordfish.

The Great Swordfish Race Project provides data and research on movement, availability, distribution and post-release survival of fish caught along the NSW coast through the use of pop-up satellite tags deployed by experienced recreational anglers. The tags are externally attached to the fish and log information on location, depth, light levels and temperature. This project is being undertaken by DPI in collaboration with the Australian National Sportfishing Association (NSW) and the NSW Game Fishing Association.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- two satellite pop-off tags deployed by recreational anglers
- continued education on best practice handling techniques for Swordfish.



Latest Swordfish satellite tag has released

A satellite tag deployed by Al McGlashan and his son Cooper, on a Swordfish estimated at 90 kg off Mallacoota in early July 2021, released well offshore of Batemans Bay at the end of September.

The depth data shows that the fish carried out the typical pattern of diving deep during the day (to around 500–650 m plus) and rising near to the surface at night. There was a minor change to the behaviour around early-to mid-September where the daytime dives are not as deep as normal (300–450 m plus) before the normal pattern of dives to more than 500 m resumed.

The Swordfish appeared to travel east from its tagging location and then north to a point east of Sydney before moving west towards the bottom of the continental slope. It then tracked back south towards the border with Victoria before moving northeast to the point of release.



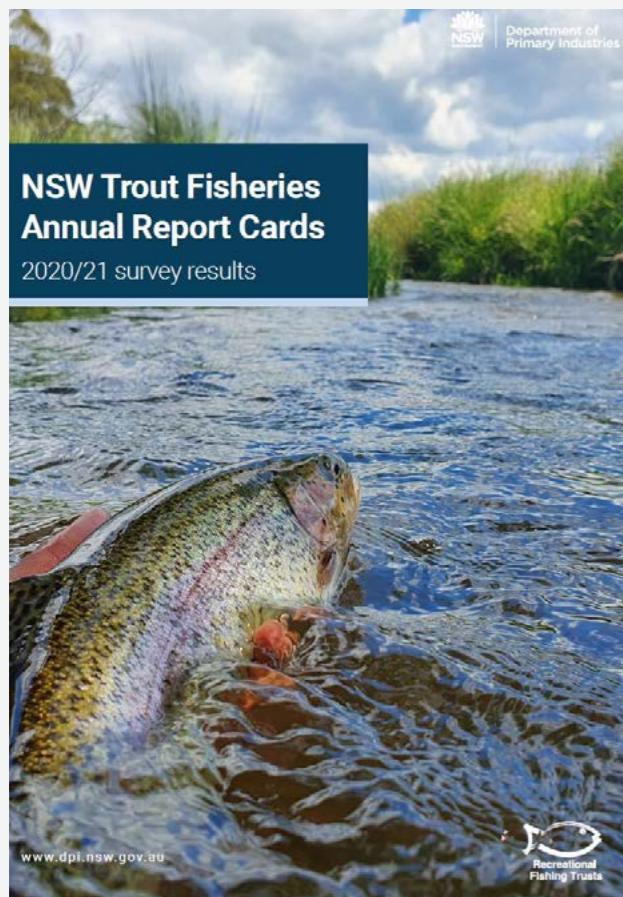
3.5.7 Building a Healthy Freshwater Fishery

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

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- completion of annual trout fishery monitoring in the Snowy Lakes and streams across NSW. This included data sharing through the annual trout fishery report cards and live fish counter (and project) website
- development and continuation of tagging studies monitoring Murray Cod habitat usage and movements in Copeton Dam and the upper Murray River
- initial trial and development of a monitoring and reporting program for the NSW Bass fishery.

3. Recreational Fishing Trust programs 2021–22



NSW trout fisheries report cards

The NSW trout fisheries have begun to bounce back following the impacts of drought and bushfires in 2019–20. The trout stream surveys conducted for the annual report cards has been an important tool in monitoring the status of the fishery and it has allowed managers, anglers and other stakeholders to track improvement. The 45 indicator sites were selected in the initial trout strategy meetings through a public consultation process with anglers, managers and scientists. Sampling for the 2021–22 report card has been completed with the report cards to be released in late 2022 and will be available on the DPI Fisheries website.

3.5.8 Effectiveness of freshwater and marine fish stocking

Native fishes and salmonids are stocked into rivers, inland lakes and estuaries throughout NSW to increase recreational fishing opportunities. This program evaluates the success of these initiatives and is beginning to provide information to managers that allows adaptive management of the fisheries (e.g. when and where stocking is

required). Scientific evidence is provided to ensure the release of fish is sustainable and achieves maximum benefits for the NSW recreational fishing community.

Achievements in 2021–22 for the marine stocking monitoring program included:

- Dusky Flathead stockings during 2022 were guided by findings from a study tracking juvenile fish in Lake Macquarie. As the study showed that juvenile Dusky Flathead prefer the edges of seagrass beds, stocking activities focused on patchy seagrass/sand habitats in five estuaries along the NSW coast
- the collection of hundreds of DNA samples from hatchery reared Dusky Flathead and Mulloway to ensure fish releases maintained the genetic structure and diversity currently present in wild populations.

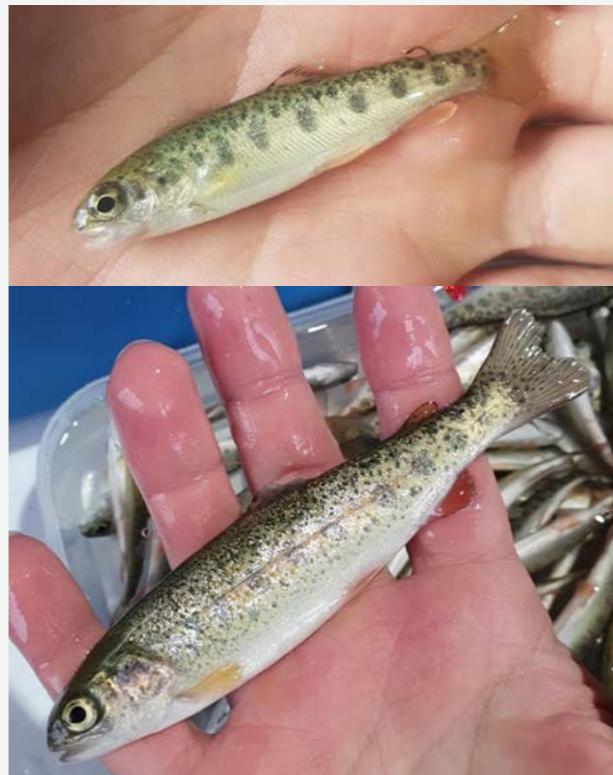


Citizen scientists help DPI researchers monitor Dusky Flathead releases

Monitoring of the 2021 Dusky Flathead releases began in partnership with citizen scientists. The first batch of kits were delivered allowing fishers to collect tissue samples (fin clips), which will provide the genetic data that DPI scientists use to determine the contribution of stocked fish to recreational catches, as well as the growth and movements of the released fish. Anglers have already collected samples from St Georges Basin, Lake Conjola and Burrill Lake with plans for the citizen scientist program to expand to include estuaries stocked in 2022.

Achievements in 2021–22 for the freshwater stocking monitoring program included:

- estimation of fish numbers and biomass in all major impoundments stocked with salmonids and native fishes using hydroacoustic surveys. Further validation and survey work also commenced, allowing improved species identification
- continuation of salmonid stocking protocol evaluations, which showed strong returns for fish grown in warmer water (optimised growth)
- initiation of a program using DNA (FishGen) for age studies and determination of origin (stocked verse natural recruitment) to examine stocking success for native fish in key NSW impoundments.



Warm water rainbows

As cool river water temperatures at Gaden Hatchery can result in slow growth rates of trout fingerlings throughout winter, hatchery staff have experimented with increased water temperatures. Not only has warmer water resulted in faster growth and bigger fish at their time of release, but when compared with fish raised in normal river water, more of those fish raised in warmer water migrated to spawn in the Thredbo River in 2020 and 2021. They also reached

spawning size within two years, promoting quick recovery of the fishery and improved angler catches.

Researchers have been able to monitor the fish through the use of coded wire tags (a small piece of wire with a numeric code injected into the cartilage of a fish), allowing them to be identified when recaptured.

Photo: Size variation in fish raised in ambient river (top) and warmer waters (bottom).

3.5.9 Fish Screens Australia

Modern fish screens offer significant benefits for native fish, fishing and farms. However, turning these potential benefits into reality requires a good understanding of the motivations and abilities of water users. What drives them to install a screen? What are the barriers to adoption? What support might they need to install a screen sooner rather than later?

Research funded by the Trusts is answering these questions. The goal is to catalyse uptake of modern screens across NSW, to protect millions of native fish every year and deliver cleaner water to farms in the process. More fish in our waterways means better fishing for anglers to enjoy. This research has helped attract new funding and more research in the screening space.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- a new \$13.5 million investment made by the NSW Government for fish screens in the Macquarie River valley. This program aims to screen up to 50 pumps, covering 70% of the water extracted downstream from Burrendong Dam, and protect 2 million native fish every year
- an Expression of Interest program was launched for the \$20 million fish-screening component of the Northern Basin Toolkit in NSW, funded by the Commonwealth Government. This will help farmers install screens along the Barwon-Darling and lower Mehi Rivers
- a new joint research project was funded by the Fisheries and Cotton Research and Development Corporations. This will document both the economic and ecological cost-benefits of modern screens. Some water users are already reporting energy savings of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month.

Farmer wants a screen

Water users share three key motivations when it comes to modern fish screens: to protect native fish, to save money, and to enhance their reputation.

Most water users have strong institutional, technical and social capacity, but their financial capacity varies.

A range of barriers to adoption have also been identified. These include a limited understanding of screening technology, and concerns around pump efficiency and ownership. Fortunately, good information is already available to address many of these barriers — modern screens do not impact pumps or water supply.

Find out more at www.fishscreens.org.au



3.6 Fisheries officers

The Recreational Fishing Trusts support DPI to enforce fisheries rules and regulations. Nine coastal, three coastal mobile squad, and six inland fisheries officers are supported by the Trusts, enhancing capacity to enforce recreational rules and regulations (including licence fee requirements) while patrolling popular fishing areas including Recreational Fishing Havens.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- more than 34,000 recreational fisher compliance checks across NSW waterways by fisheries officers, including those in Trusts funded officer roles
- recreational compliance checks resulted in the detection of 4,742 offences, which led to 2,554 written warnings, 1,875 penalty notices totalling \$595,150, 180 prosecution action types and a range of other sanctions
- the seizure of 24,997 fish and invertebrates, along with 1,394 items of fishing gear and other equipment.



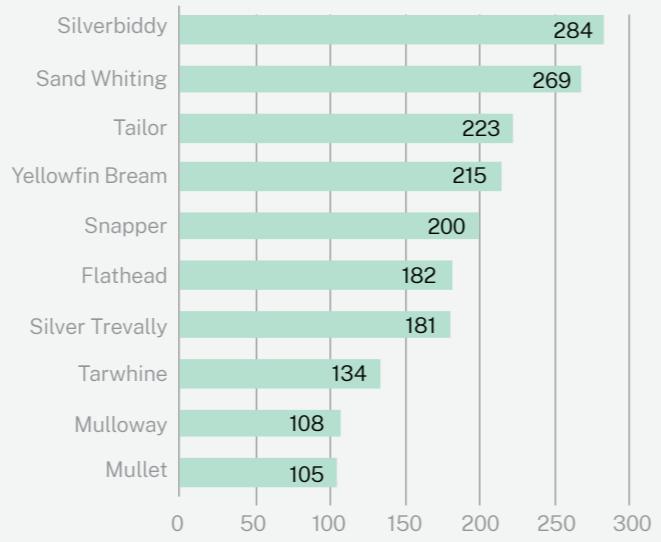
Operation Turbo Reef

Operation Turbo Reef runs year-round with a focus on the unlawful collecting of intertidal invertebrates. For the ninth year in a row, officers from across the state assisted with surveillance on the Australia Day public holiday and weekend across Sydney in late January 2022.

Many of the headlands of the Sydney region are Intertidal Protected Areas (IPAs) or Aquatic Reserves. These areas are closed to collecting invertebrates (except for lobster and abalone in some locations) to protect the diversity of marine life and also set aside areas for research and education. The IPA and Shellfish closure within Sydney Harbour also protects people from dioxins that occur in shellfish in the Harbour as a result of historical industrial practices.

This year Operation Turbo Reef detected 304 offences, with 3,598 invertebrates and 25 finfish seized and returned to the water over the four-day period. Offences resulted in 85 cautions and 119 penalty infringement notices totalling more than \$43,000.

Top 10 finfish seized



Compliance Statistics

Total recreational contacts 34,524

Compliance rate for recreational sector **90%**

Recreational field hours 42,602

Recreational offences 4,742

Recreational written warnings 2,554

Recreational penalty notices 1,875

Value of recreational penalty notices \$595,150

Recreational prosecution actions commenced 180

Recreational prosecution fines 117

Value of recreational prosecution fines \$141,300

Operations conducted (all sectors) 50

Recreational fish and invertebrates seized 24,997

Recreational fishing gear and other items seized 1,394

Vessel patrol hours (all sectors) 5,463

Educational events attended (all sectors) 108

3.7.1 Recreational fishing licence fee – facilitating fishing licenses for fishers

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

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- continued provision of a convenient payment network for anglers that includes online, more than 430 regional and metropolitan sales agents (fishing tackle stores, etc.), BPAY, interactive telephony, and mail options
- commencement of a project that will transition licence sales to new whole of government licensing platform. With a customer-centric approach, the new platform will make purchasing your fishing licence more convenient
- ongoing promotion of recreational fishing including advisory services that ensure knowledge of fishing rules and sustainable fishing practices
- promoting the ease of licence renewals and delivering an efficient licence renewal notice system that makes it easy for fishers to keep their licence current.

3.7.2 Trusts program delivery

Since 2001, more than 2,800 projects have been completed using funds from the Trusts, including small and large grants projects, fish stocking and fuel card grants, Gone Fishing Day grants, Habitat Action grants as well as DPI projects.

DPI has worked to ensure accountability of these projects, including implementing good governance arrangements to promote transparency and good business performance.

Achievements in 2021–22 included:

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

3.7 Trusts management and administration

Funds from the Trusts are used to support the administration of the recreational fishing licence fee and the management of the Trusts, including management of hundreds of grants, to ensure transparent and accountable governance arrangements.



Ensuring NSW
has great fishing
opportunities for
generations
to come.



4 Appendices

Appendix 1: RFNSW and Expenditure Committee membership

Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council

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

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

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

RFNSW Council members

Independent Chair	Professor Johann Bell
Region 1-Mid & Far North Coast	Mr David Rae
Region 2-Lower North Coast	Mr Paul Lennon
Region 3-Sydney & Central Coast	Mr Justin Duggan
Region 3-Sydney & Central Coast	Mr Grahame Williams OAM
Region 4-Illawarra	Ms Vicki Lear
Region 5-South Coast	Ms Jo Starling (term ended 9 May 2022)
Region 6-North West Inland	Mr Matt Hansen OAM
Region 7-South West Inland	Mr Karl Mathers
Region 8-Central & Southern Tablelands	Mr Steve Samuels
Region 8-Central & Southern Tablelands	Mr Ray Tang
Charter Boat Fishing	Mr Vic Levett
Spear Fishing	Mr Ian Puckeridge
Social benefits of recreational fishing	Mr Matt Tripet
Nominee of Secretary	Mr Peter Turnell, DPI

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee

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

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

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

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee members

Chair	Mr Bruce Schumacher AM
Region 1-North Coast	Mr Max Graham
Region 2-Central Coast	Mr Ron Butler
Region 3-South Coast	Mr Ron Croker
Region 4-North inner west	Mr Michael Davey
Region 5-Central inner west	Mr Paul Mullen
Region 6-South inner west	Ms Debbie Lennon
Region 7-North west	Mr John Erskine
Region 8-South west	Mr Troy Bright
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative - NSW Rod Fishers' Society	Mr Peter Johnson
RFNSW Advisory Council representative	Mr Karl Mathers
DPI Representative - Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management	Mr Peter Turnell

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee

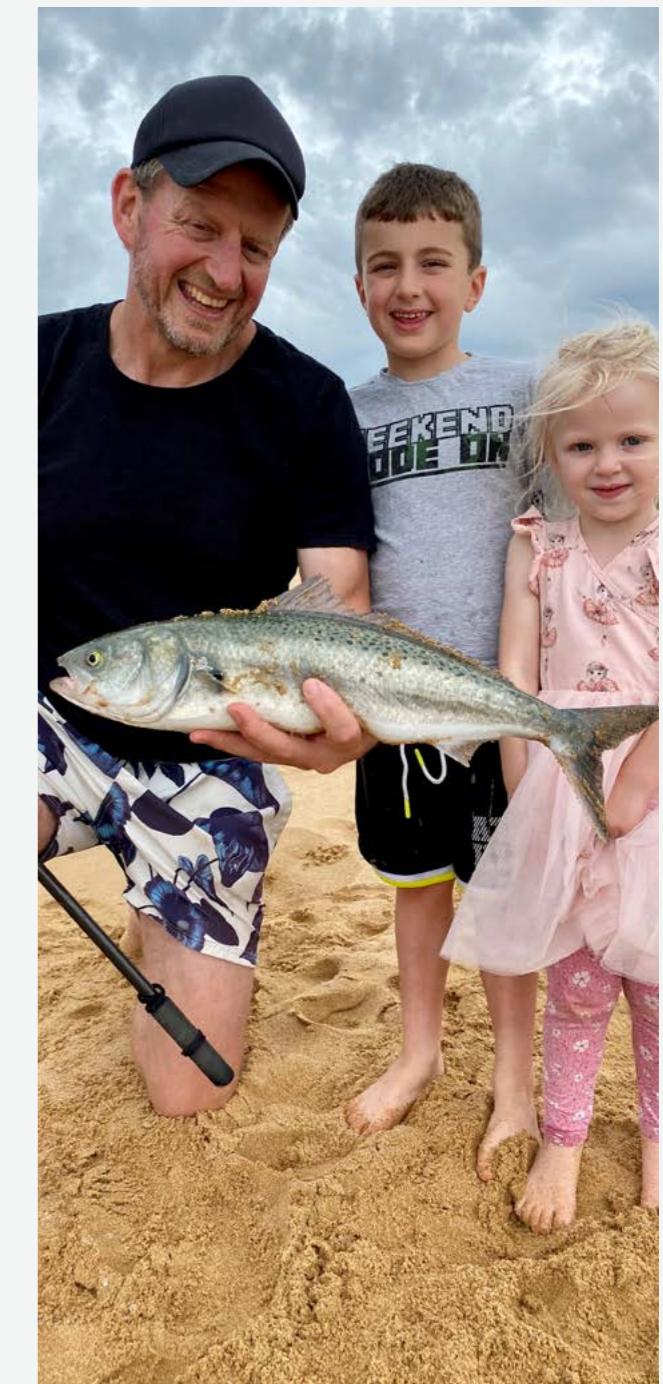
Made up of saltwater anglers from eight regions in NSW, representatives from recreational fishing organisations and a RFNSW member, the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) assists the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) in setting the Trust's expenditure priorities, including the assessment of Trust applications.

The RFSTEC was formed to provide advice to the RFNSW and assist with identifying expenditure priorities. The Committee includes coastal recreational fishers representing eight different regions, four representatives from recreational fishing organisations and a RFNSW member. The regions extend from Tweed Heads to the Victorian border.

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

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee members

Chair	Mr Bruce Schumacher AM
Region 1-Qld to Evans Head	Mr Paul Connellan
Region 2-Evans Head to Woolgoolga	Ms Lisa Terry
Region 3-Woolgoolga to Port Macquarie	Mr Geoff Shelton
Region 4-Port Macquarie to Seal Rocks	Mr Karl Attenborough
Region 5-Seal Rocks to The Entrance	Mr Michael Aubrey
Region 6-The Entrance to Wollongong	Associate Professor Anna Clark
Region 7-Wollongong to Narooma	Ms Ann Garard
Region 8-Narooma to Victoria	Mr Micah Adams
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative - NSW Game Fishing Association	Mr Grahame Williams OAM
RFNSW Advisory Council representative	
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative - Australian Fishing Trade Association	Mr Damian Kerves
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative - OzFish Unlimited	Ms Cassie Price
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative - Australian Underwater Federation	Mr Adrian Wayne
DPI representative - Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Management	Mr Peter Turnell



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Appendix 2: Recreational Fishing Trusts funds summary by project

In 2021–22, funds (\$'000) from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund were used to support the following projects:

Project	Total Available (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Carry Forward (\$)
Coastal fish habitat protection and management	88	88	0
Coastal fish habitat restoration grants program (prior to 2018–19)	6	2	4
Ecohuts for recreational fishers	2	2	0
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	16	16	0
External large grants-disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	912	912	0
Flagship habitat program	25	25	0
Fish aggregating devices (FADs)	300	300	0
Fishcare volunteer program	549	549	0
Fisheries officers (9 coastal officers)	1,363	1,363	0
Fisheries officers (mobile squads)	459	459	0
Gamefish tagging program	192	192	0
Integrating recreational fishery data into harvest strategies for multi-species fisheries	23	23	0
Marine stocking of key recreational fish species in coastal waters	313	313	0
Offshore artificial reefs	31	31	0
Recreational fisheries enhancement (artificial reefs and FADs coordination)	259	259	0
Recreational fishing access (coastal)	185	185	0
Recreational fisheries monitoring program: statewide fishing and charter surveys	785	785	0
Recreational Fishing Trusts executive officer	237	237	0
Research angler program	195	195	0
Research on Black Bream fishery	23	23	0
Research on marine fish stocking	295	295	0
Research on recreational bait species: worms, pipis and yabbies	11	2	9
Small grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	79	79	0
Sydney Harbour wharves compliance initiative	410	410	0
Trust grants governance enhancement project	132	132	0
Total	6,890	6,877	13

* The total available in 2021–22 consists of grants from the Trust fund in 2021–22 and amounts carried forward from grants in 2020–21.

In 2021–22, funds (\$'000) from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund were used to support the following projects:

Project	Total Available (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Carry Forward (\$)
Dollar for dollar native fish stocking program	118	118	0
Emergency native fish rescue and drought recovery	140	140	0
Enhanced fish production at hatcheries for stocking (Port Stephens, Narrandera and Dutton)	441	441	0
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	14	14	0

Project	Total Available (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Carry Forward (\$)
External large grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	419	419	0
Fishcare volunteer program	328	328	0
Fisheries officers (inland)	909	909	0
Freshwater recreational management program	185	185	0
Fuel cards for fish stocking	9	5	4
Gaden Trout Hatchery	683	683	0
Inland stocking management	141	141	0
Nodavirus testing for fish stocking	8	8	0
Recreational fishing access (inland)	273	273	0
Regional inland fish habitat protection and management	127	127	0
Research on freshwater recreational fishery in NSW	590	590	0
Screens for streams	98	98	0
Screens for streams stakeholder forums	116	116	0
Small grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	38	38	0
Supporting fish hatchery trainees	2	2	0
Total	4,639	4,635	4

* The total available in 2021–22 consists of grants from the Trust fund in 2021–22 and amounts carried forward from grants in 2020–21.

In 2021–22 funds (\$'000) from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater and Freshwater) Trusts Fund were used for the following projects:

Project	Total Available (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Carry Forward (\$)
Advisory Council meeting expenses	90	89	1
Fish for Life project	88	88	0
Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish schools program	448	448	0
Habitat action program 2018–19 and beyond	938	938	0
NSW Gone Fishing Day	60	60	0
NSW fishing workshops	41	41	0
NSW fishway strategy for fish passage remediation	85	85	0
NSW recreational fishing environmental assessment	127	127	0
Recreational fisher research database	26	26	0
Recreational fisheries infrastructure management program	173	173	0
Management of licence agent network, Government Licensing Service transactions fees, and provision of licence and recreational fishing customer support line, including distribution of recreational fishing advisory information to fishers	2,212	2,212	0
Recreational fishing fees renewal notice system	101	101	0
Recreational fishing guides	101	101	0
Recreational Fishing Strategy	20	20	0
Recreational Fishing Trusts annual report	65	65	0
Total	4,575	4,574	1

* The total available in 2021–22 consists of grants from the Trusts' funds in 2021–22 and amounts carried forward from grants in 2020–21.

4. Appendices

Appendix 3: Summary of projects approved for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts in 2021–22

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

Platform: Fishing Access And Facilities

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Bendalong & Kioloa – Fishing Access Improvements: Provide safer access to existing fish cleaning tables located on intertidal rock platforms.	Shoalhaven City Council	SW \$40,490	
Chipping Norton boat ramp wharf: To build a new wharf adjacent to the boat ramp, to re-concrete ramp as current ramp is very slippery to walk down to launch boats at low tide.	Liverpool Fishing Club	SW \$12,821	
Cover over fish cleaning table at Allworth NSW: To install a cover over the fish cleaning table at Allworth.	Allworth & District Social Fishing Club Inc.	SW \$3,775	
Fish cleaning table with a sheltered pitched roof: Construct a four-person fish cleaning table with a concrete flooring at ground level that allows disabled access. The structure will be of metal fabrication material with pitched roofing and solar lighting.	Brooms Head Holiday Park/ Clarence Valley Council	SW \$9,951	
Fishing Platform – Mosman Rowers: Mosman Rowers urgently needs a fishing platform to access Mosman Bay, Sydney Harbour. This will facilitate recreational fishing for the club's 1,500 members, visitors and the general public.	Mosman Rowers Limited	SW \$105,261	
Replacement Jetty Spencer Park Merimbula: The Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc. maintains a public jetty at its club site in Spencer Park, Merimbula. The jetty is dilapidated. It is proposed to replace with a modern floating pontoon style jetty which will be much safer and wheelchair accessible.	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc.	SW \$203,610	
Grafton District Anglers Club boat ramp access: Repair potholes and level boat ramp, access road and re-bitumen surface of the boat ramp for use by members and the public.	Grafton District Anglers Club	SW \$9,872	
Install a solar floodlight adjacent to boat ramp and fish cleaning table at Joshua Porter Reserve: Supply and install an intelligent solar floodlight on a 6 metre pole, adjacent to the boat ramp and fish cleaning table at Joshua Porter Reserve, Lloyd Avenue, Chain Valley Bay.	Chain Valley Bay Progress Association Inc.	SW \$7,810	
Installation of two separate fishing platforms at the Nambucca Heads V-Wall: Upgrade works at the Nambucca Heads V-Wall are nearing completion, and new raised and separate platforms for recreational fishers at this very popular location are proposed to ensure safety for all users of this iconic landmark.	Nambucca Valley Council	SW \$153,000	
Jack Buckley Memorial Park Fishing Platform: Construct a concrete fishing platform over the existing rock wall.	Eurobodalla Shire Council	SW \$9,865	
Jervis Bay/Currumbene Creek/Myola - Fishing access improvements: Construction of a fish friendly boardwalk and fishing platform(s) on the Currumbene Creek/ Myola training wall to make access safer and more user friendly for fishers.	Shoalhaven City Council	SW \$78,140	
Kennedy Drive Boat Ramp – recreational fishing upgrade: The existing fish cleaning table is unstable. The table needs to be replaced and the revetment stabilised. Fishing from the jetty is popular, however, various aspects require addressing to move towards universal access.	Tweed Shire Council	SW \$69,619	
Lord Howe Island Boat Ramp – Install new load line: To install a mooring and rope system adjacent to the Lord Howe Island Boat Ramp for fishers and other boat users to tie up boats.	Lord Howe Island Game Fishing Club	SW \$9,775	
Recreational fishing access (coastal) – maintaining and enhancing land and boat access for fishers along the NSW coast: This project involves a dedicated access officer managing saltwater fishing access, which is at risk of compromise. A key aspect of this role involves highlighting the socio-economic importance of recreational fishing to land managers and other relevant entities to ensure access is retained and where possible enhanced. This involves negotiation with stakeholders to identify access solutions to achieve the best possible outcomes for recreational fishers. Put simply, more access means more fishing opportunities.	DPI	SW \$191,256	

Platform: Fishing Access And Facilities

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
St Georges Basin –fishing access improvements: This project will improve the fishing experience in the St Georges Basin Recreational Fishing Haven for boat-based and land-based fishers by: renewal and improvement of the existing popular fishing jetty located off Island Point Road; renewal of the existing fishing jetty off Basin Road and provision of a fish cleaning table and rod holders; and upgrading fenders on the Sanctuary Point and Erowal Bay jetties to make more user friendly for boat-based fishers.	Shoalhaven City Council	SW \$145,965	
Anglers Reach Boat Ramp: Construct a 70 metre long by 3 metre wide all weather concrete boat ramp and gravel parking area at Anglers Reach, Lake Eucumbene.	Adaminaby Fishing Club (Sub-branch of Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc)	FW \$40,900	
Dumaresq Dam fishing jetty: Install a fishing jetty at Dumaresq Dam, which will improve fishing opportunities to an area of the Dam previously inaccessible to land-based fishers.	Armidale Regional Council	FW \$144,000	
Lake St Clair replacement of fish cleaning table: To replace the existing fish cleaning table with an undercover table offering two people shelter in all weather conditions.	Belgravia Pro	FW \$8,650	
'Pelican' restoration: Pelican is a 7-metre fishing platform at Fort Courage. The pontoons of this vessel need urgent replacement and will add to the superstructure refurbishment recently undertaken by the club.	Wentworth Angling Club	FW \$5,868	
Recreational fishing access (inland) –publication of angler access locations and developing new angler access opportunities in NSW: The project prepares agreements with landholders to secure angler access to fishable waters, develops a comprehensive webpage so that anglers are aware of their rights and access opportunities, and oversees the concurrence role for land disposals, to secure future angler access across the state.	DPI	FW \$194,256	
Securing angler access for the future: The project reviews the high volume of Crown Lands road closures, Aboriginal land claims and other public land disposals to secure angler access for the future. The project will also assist in the inspection of angler access sites and maintenance of a soon-to-be launched angler access website.	DPI	FW \$145,337	
Tenterfield Dam Recreational Precinct – Stage 1: Stage 1 of the Tenterfield Dam Recreational Precinct includes a floating disability accessible fishing platform to be located off Ottobeuren Park at the Tenterfield Dam.	Tenterfield Shire Council	FW \$250,000	
Too Good To Lose! Water Police and Police on ferry patrols to help keep Sydney Harbour ferry wharves open to fishing: The project helps to ensure continued recreational fisher access on ferry wharves. Water Police patrols have been jointly funded by Roads and Maritime Services and the Recreational Fishing Trusts since 2017 and promote responsible fishing behaviour on Sydney Harbour's wharves and piers during the summer fishing season. The project provides an effective enforcement presence to help manage issues involving rubbish, noise and anti-social behaviour on more than 50 commuter ferry wharves and Walsh Bay piers. This project also includes police officers onboard ferries at peak fishing times.	DPI/RMS/ Water Police	SW \$230,000	
Allworth floating pontoon: The club and the wider fishing community of Allworth encompassing Stroud, Dungog and Gloucester will install a floating pontoon adjacent to the existing boat ramp jetty at the Allworth picnic grounds to increase safety and usability by fishers.	Allworth & District Social Fishing Club Inc	SW \$78,000	
Fishing upgrade infrastructure across Shoalhaven 2022–23 (FUN-AS): Construction, upgrade and repair of old/outdated recreational fishing facility infrastructure across the Shoalhaven region for improved usability and accessibility for local communities and visitors.	Shoalhaven City Council	SW \$150,000	
Cattai Creek kayak launch facility: To provide a publicly accessible kayak launch facility to enable fishers to access Cattai Creek. The facility will be multi-level to accommodate tidal heights and allow safe access at all times. Riparian vegetation will be enhanced through weed control and revegetation with local native species.	Hawkesbury City Council	SW \$175,835	
St Georges Basin - Basin Rd Jetty: This project will improve the fishing experience in the St Georges Basin Recreational Fishing Haven for land based fishers by complete renewal of the existing fishing jetty off Basin Rd, St Georges Basin.	Shoalhaven City Council	SW \$252,000	

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Platform: Fishing Access And Facilities

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Repair our existing sea wall and improve safe access to the water for boats and other user groups by widening our existing ramp by 1 metre x 8 metre: Ben Buckler Amateur Fishing Club will repair the sea wall on which boats are kept and expand the ramp by 1 metre x 8 metre to improve access to the water and help create a safer point of entry. The ramp is situated on the rock platform at North Bondi Point and is a convenient rock platform access point.	Ben Buckler Amateur Fishing Club		SW \$9,500
Brierleys fish cleaning table renewal: Install a replacement fish cleaning table at Brierleys boat ramp for the fishing community. These works will align with Council's plan for the facilities including a new boat ramp.	Eurobodalla Shire Council		SW \$9,905
South Durras extension of access stairs: This project will extend the current staircase access to the lower rock platform at South Durras with timber steps and handrails to provide safer access for anglers to access the rock platform in all weather conditions.	Eurobodalla Shire Council		SW \$9,950
Fish cleaning table on Fishermen's Public Wharf - Port Macquarie town centre: This project will install a four-person fish cleaning table on the edge of the main deck of the Fishermen's Public Wharf. The wharf has recently been constructed and is now a popular fishing location. The table will be connected to the nearby potable water supply.	Port Macquarie Hastings Council		SW \$9,930
Essential angler access enhancements for the Swampy Plain River: To provide essential access and amenities below Khancoban Pondage to encourage recreational fishers to enjoy this fantastic fishing location.	Khancoban Angling Club		FW \$8,900

Platform: Fisheries Enhancement

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Enhancing coastal fisheries: making reefs and FADs happen: Artificial reefs and fish aggregating devices (FADs) are two of the most popular programs funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts providing new high quality, fishing locations for anglers. This project involves a fisheries enhancement officer to project manage and coordinate the programs to make them happen. The role facilitates environmental assessments, Commonwealth approvals, tenders and monitoring of the reefs. Both programs continue to deliver with proposed expansion of the FADs program and recent deployment of the Tweed Offshore Artificial Reef.	DPI		SW \$259,196
Fish aggregation devices (FADs) – more places for people to fish: The FADs program provides reliable offshore fishing locations where recreational fishers can target a variety of popular pelagic fish over spring, summer and autumn. This project involves a dedicated FADs officer responsible for procurement of hardware, assembly and installation of FADs, replacement and maintenance where required, removal of all FADs at the close of each season and providing fishers with up-to-date FADs information via a range of media avenues including email, social media and smartphone apps.	DPI		SW \$299,984
Boosting our fisheries: stocking NSW estuaries with popular species to enhance recreational fishing opportunities: This marine stocking program involves the breeding and release of species such as muloway, Dusky Flathead and Kingfish along the coast of NSW using the world's best stocking practices to enhance recreational fishing in estuaries. Stockings are guided by a Fisheries Management Strategy to ensure a responsible approach.	DPI		SW \$313,128
Lord Howe Island FADs: Provide two FADs in zoned State Marine Park waters surrounding Lord Howe Island to improve recreational fishing activities.	Lord Howe Island Game Fishing Club		SW \$12,904
Assessing freshwater fish stocking proposals in NSW to boost our recreational fisheries: Preparation of fish stocking plans, conducting site assessments, analysing fish stocking data, liaising with fish stocking groups, and issuing fish stocking permits to enhance recreational fish stocks.	DPI		FW \$145,337
Boosting freshwater fish stocks in NSW with popular species to enhance recreational fishing opportunities: Provide more operational funds for the Dutton, Grafton, Port Stephens and Narrandera fish hatcheries to stock highly valued native and salmonid species, to enhance freshwater fishing opportunities across NSW.	DPI		FW \$473,743

Platform: Fisheries Enhancement

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Community dollar for dollar native fish stocking grants to boost local fisheries: Matching funds provided from the Recreational Fishing Trusts to community groups to purchase native fish to stock local waterways for the benefit of anglers.	Community grants – administered by DPI	Community grants – administered by DPI	FW \$250,000
Fuel cards for community fish stocking, fish rescue and fish habitat work: To issue fuel cards to community groups to assist with transport costs to/from fish stocking, fish rescue and fish habitat.	Community grants – administered by DPI	Community grants – administered by DPI	FW \$15,000
Future Fish Stocking Stewardship Fund – Government fish hatcheries: Assists with travel and accommodation expenses for university students learning fish hatchery techniques at Government hatcheries to develop future leaders in fish production and aquaculture.	Student funding – administered by DPI	Student funding – administered by DPI	FW \$5,000
Gaden Trout Hatchery – Boosting salmonid fish stocks in southern and central NSW: Provides operational funds for the Gaden Trout Hatchery for the stocking of highly valued salmonid species, to enhance recreational fishing opportunities in the Snowy Mountains, Southern Highlands and Central Tablelands.	DPI	DPI	FW \$723,294
Investigations of nodavirus infection in aquaculture reared euryhaline fish produced for stocking and in wild freshwater fish populations in NSW coastal catchments: This project will provide a continuation of screening of euryhaline fish produced in commercial hatcheries (including under the dollar for dollar program) for stocking into freshwater impoundments in NSW for nodavirus. This testing program will ensure only nodavirus-free fish are stocked into freshwater NSW impoundments. Any remaining funds will be used to test wild fish collected in freshwater reaches of coastal catchments in NSW for nodavirus. The data collected will be used to determine if nodavirus is present or absent in wild fish and will inform future nodavirus screening requirements of fish produced for stocking.	DPI	DPI	FW \$20,000
10th Dam Aeration – Guyra Anglers Club Inc: Provide a reliable sustainable aeration system to oxygenate the 10th Dam in Guyra to ensure increased health of fish stocks and ongoing recreational fishing opportunity.	Guyra Anglers Club Inc.	Guyra Anglers Club Inc.	FW \$10,008
Expansion of the Narrandera Fisheries Centre hatchery: More funds to complete the re-development of the hatchery at Narrandera to provide a state-of-the-art fish production facility to enhance capacity and provide resources for breeding and stocking of recreational and threatened species across the Murray Darling Basin.	DPI	DPI	FW \$400,000
Enhancing coastal recreational fishing opportunities by installing two new offshore artificial reefs: A recent NSW Government expression of interest survey has identified more artificial reefs as a high priority for recreational fishers. Stakeholder expectations of this program are high as artificial reefs are well accepted as an excellent way to maximise recreational fishing opportunities along the NSW coast. Installation methods and reef design continue to improve as the program evolves, resulting in high quality fish habitat for recreationally targeted species. This project will involve the delivery of two new offshore artificial reefs in 2022.	DPI	DPI	SW \$1,100,000
2021–22 Reserve BBDSFC FAD: The club will acquire materials and pre-build a FAD for rapid deployment in the event that the club's current recreational fishing FAD (fish aggregating device) becomes missing at sea.	Byron Bay Deep Sea Fishing Club	Byron Bay Deep Sea Fishing Club	SW \$1,510
Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Byron Bay High School Fishing Education: Byron Bay High School backs onto Cape Byron National Park and Tallow Beach. This project will provide beach fishing educational materials and equipment for the Commercial and Recreational Fishing component of the school's Marine Studies course. The course is non-ATAR and appeals to students usually from a low socio-economic background.	Byron Bay High School	Byron Bay High School	SW \$1,965
Family Fishing and Seafood Trails – Developing new opportunities for fishing-related tourism which the whole family can enjoy: This project involves engaging a suitably qualified contractor to develop and implement an advertising campaign involving fishing trails to promote the unique fishing and lifestyle tourism opportunities offered at key south and north coast regions. This will involve identifying a range of fishing options for the keen angler while also providing non-fishing members of the family with opportunities to explore regional NSW with a focus on enjoying fresh local seafood. The trails aim to promote the socio-economic benefits of recreational fishing by promoting regional locations, fishing hotspots (including RFHs) and local fishing and culinary enterprises.	DPI	DPI	SW \$105,000 FW \$45,000

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Platform: Recreational Fishing Education

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Fishcare - Proactively undertaking face to face education of anglers across NSW: The NSW Fishcare Volunteer program uses a network of six dedicated Education Officers and 230 motivated Fishcare Volunteers across NSW to provide face to face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground. Education Officers and Volunteers use targeted messaging to promote responsible and sustainable fishing ('Fish for Life'). Fishcare also plays a key role in the running of the Get Hooked...its fun to fish schools program and the many fishing workshops involving thousands of kids and community members held each year. Our mission is to create a team of fishing stewards that champion, responsible fishing and a sustainable secure fishing future. Fishcare is one of the flagship programs of the Recreational Fishing Trusts.		DPI	SW \$620,000 FW \$390,000
Fishing for the elderly: Provide an opportunity for elderly persons to learn the basics of fishing using known techniques.	Nambucca Heads U3A (University of the Third Age)		SW \$2,340
Fishing Lake Mac - Youth Clinics: This project will encourage youth to participate in recreational fishing. Fishcare volunteers and older residents of our community will provide mentoring and socialisation to divert away from participating in anti-social behaviour.	Swansea Community Cottage Inc		SW \$3,043
Get Hooked with CASPA: To educate and skill up young people living in foster and residential care on how to fish for food sustainably through an 8-week program visiting different fishing locations each week.	CASPA Services Ltd		SW \$8,520
Get Hooked...it's fun to fish. A fun, interactive recreational fishing program for junior and senior school students to learn about sustainable fishing: Get Hooked is a proactive student recreational fishing program aligned to the NSW Curriculum. Our aim is to teach sustainable fishing skills for life, how to maximise catch and release, and how to fish safely and responsibly. Passionate dedicated Fishcare Volunteers, Fishcare Education Officers and teachers run Get hooked class lessons with interactive fishing resource kits provided to schools. Once class lessons are completed, Education officers and Fishcare Volunteers run practical fishing workshops for thousands of school students each year, allowing them to put new skills into practice at a local waterway. The program has now been extended to senior schools and plays a part in career development for students.		DPI	SW \$313,600 FW \$134,400
Junior lake & river fishing & fun day: Encourage local juniors in the Pambula area to acknowledge the sport of fishing and increase membership and participation in the fishing club using current members to mentor and host.	Pambula Fishing Club Inc		SW \$3,560
Let's Fish NSW - Recreational Fishing awareness & engagement media campaign program: The "Let's Fish NSW" is a project campaign targeted at those who go, or have been in the past, recreational fishing. Reports though AFTA's network of retail fishing tackle outlets have shown a massive reduction in the number of people engaging in recreational fishing pursuits. AFTA will develop and supply a series of targeted "Let's Fish NSW" short message videos with the aim and objective to engage and encourage people of all ages, backgrounds and genders to make a return to recreational fishing in a post restricted environment.	Australian Fishing Trade Association		SW \$110,000
Let's Go Fishing – Educating School Children on the Sustainable Benefits of Recreational Fishing: Phase 4: To progress with Phase 4 of the "Let's Go Fishing" Schools Program in partnership with the Marine Teachers Association following the successful completion of Phases 1, 2 and 3. Phase 4 will comprise of re-stocking and replacing equipment where required in the school's fishing kits, provide fishing equipment to an additional 25 schools and produce and deliver an "intermediate" level online educational support in the form of a six-part video series with supporting Q & A sheets. The project will provide continuity for schools and teachers from Phase 3 in delivering quality education on recreational fishing.	Australian Fishing Trade Association		SW \$105,000
Mindfulness through fishing: The project intends to take in seven groups of people, consisting of six individuals per group, totalling 42 people who have been clinically diagnosed with depression, anxiety, and PTSD, along with their treating clinical psychologist. The group will be taken fishing by Southern Sydney Fishing Tours, which provides fully guided fishing trips on both Botany Bay and Port Hacking hosted by fishing expert Scotty Lyons.	Psychological Health Assessment and Counselling Services		SW \$7,800
NSW Fishing Workshops - Fostering new and existing fishers to be the guardians of tomorrow: Fishing workshops teach adults and children how to fish throughout NSW in a responsible and sustainable manner. The program provides a fun, enjoyable educational experience that aims to teach the basics of fishing to new entrants giving them the skills to continue in the sport for life. Our mission is to create the fishing steward's and champions of tomorrow. Each year, an average of 8,000 new entrants are introduced to fishing under the program.		DPI	SW \$42,000 FW \$28,000

Platform: Recreational Fishing Education

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
NSW Saltwater and Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guides - One stop shop for essential fishing info: These guides provide an easy-to-read summary of essential information fishers need before they go fishing. This includes fishing rules, gear descriptions, licenses and Recreational Fishing Trusts information, sustainable fishing practices and much more. It is proposed to decrease production of the guide by one third to 200,000 per year noting the increasing use of electronic media. Nevertheless, the guides still represent a one stop shop for anglers to access their fishing information. It is especially popular with new or beginner fishers.		DPI	SW \$84,000 FW \$36,000
Project LLaP: Look, Learn and Protect: Long Reef is an important feeding ground for fish. The protection of the reef and intertidal zone through education is crucial. A microEYE Discovery Microscope will address this and Fishcare Volunteers will also utilise this resource.	Individual		SW \$5,665
Recreational fishing waste management education program: Developing an education campaign to encourage recreational fishers to ethically and responsibly dispose of their fish frames and other waste in the Bega Valley Local Government Area.	Ocean2earth Australia		SW \$9,500
The Fishing Club – Studio ARTES: A group for individuals with a disability to engage in recreational fishing activities in a safe and supported environment including learning to fish safely and sustainably. The project would be run over the funding period with regular sessions at different locations along the Hawkesbury River, Narrabeen Lakes, Cooks River and Georges River.	Studio ARTES Northside Inc		SW \$10,000
Upgrade of website database and phone app for humane dispatch of fish species encountered by recreational fishers in NSW: The www.ikijime.com website and ikijime tool phone applications are world's leading fish welfare tools that improve recreational fisher's access to information on humane dispatch of finfish. However, the mobile phone applications require updates following recent operating system changes by phone manufacturers. This project will deliver those updates.	DigsFish Services		SW \$9,000
UTS Outdoor Adventure Club (UTSOAC) Recreational Fishing Project: This funding will buy fishing tackle for the UTS Outdoor Adventure Club (UTSOAC) acting under ActivateUTS LTD to add recreational fishing to the suite of activities provided for UTS students and affiliates on an ongoing basis. It will also deliver free basic training in estuary and beach fishing to allow fishing outings under a wide range of weather and sea conditions and allow the Club to establish a syllabus for future inhouse training.	ActivateUTS		SW \$3,240
Warrawong High School – Project Neptune: Project Neptune began in 1998 and involves fishing as a school sport on Thursday afternoons, weather permitting. The highlight is the program's annual deep sea charter.	Warrawong High School		SW \$2,840
Canberra Anglers Association (CAA) – Equipment to Support Community Introduction to Fly Fishing: To refresh CAA's stock of aging fishing equipment that it uses for public engagement events such as their signature free fly-casting instruction for the public event and instruction to new club members.	Canberra Anglers Association Inc		FW \$5,899
Casting for Recovery - a Weekend Fly Fishing Retreat for Women with Breast Cancer: ACT Fly Fishers provide a free Fly Fishing Retreat which includes tuition on a one to one basis, weekend accommodation and care, for up to 14 women who have had breast cancer.	ACT Fly Fishers Inc.		FW \$9,034
Trailer to assist in events and activities in the Albury community: Involves obtaining a versatile, durable, reliable trailer so the Lavington Anglers Club can hold events in locations to promote recreational fishing.	Lavington Anglers Club		FW \$4,533
NSW Recreational Fishing Strategy – Creative document design: To create engaging communications approaches across a range of media (print, online and social) for the NSW Recreational Fishing Strategy, which will identify and highlight "key selling points" to effectively engage NSW recreational fishers and promote the overall vision for the recreational fishing sector.		DPI	SW \$15,000 FW \$5,000
NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Annual Report 2021 and beyond – creative design of print and online publications: To create online and print publications for the Recreational Fishing Trust Annual Report 2021, which promotes the achievements of programs supported by the Recreational Fishing Trust. The publication will be highly graphic (including photographs and infographics) and high profile, available as both a website and printable A4 document. Subsequent reports will also be prepared.		DPI	SW \$50,000 FW \$20,000
Two new saltwater Fishcare advisory trailers: Two new advisory trailers for the Fishcare Program to replace the existing North Coast and South Coast trailers, which after extensive advisory use are becoming unsightly and not suitable for ongoing use (e.g. rust, wrapping, breaking parts etc). The trailers are both over 10 years of age and ongoing patch-up and repair is no longer cost effective or feasible. Each trailer attends over 50 events per year. There are currently six advisory education trailers in use across the state with two trailers being replaced last year.		DPI	SW \$48,598

4. Appendices

Platform: Recreational Fishing Education

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Forge Through Fishing Program: The Forge Through Fishing Program has been developed to assist veterans and first responders who are suffering mental health issues to socialise and engage in meaningful relationships whilst learning to fish.	Forge Through Limited		SW \$4,875
A Rock Fishing Safety & Skills program, contributing to reducing rock fishing fatalities in NSW: This project will deliver targeted rock fishing safety education through the provision of 1,000 lifejackets, rock fishing safety workshops, classroom-based education, family targeted school programs, multilingual rock fishing safety resources and newly developed media targeted at at-risk communities.	Surf Life Saving NSW		SW \$204,030
Fostering Environmental Custodianship through Fishing: Ballina is often described as a fisher person's paradise, yet many young locals prefer to play on their devices inside their homes. The EAC Marine Science program will foster teenagers' interest in fishing in a responsible and environmentally friendly way such that students will become custodians of this remarkable ecosystem.	Emmanuel Anglican College		SW \$2,539
Phase 1 – Gadigal, Bidjigal and Dharawal Fish Harvesting, Sustainability and the Community: Phase one of this project will bring together Gadigal, Bidjigal and Dharawal Elders to capture and record traditional fishing knowledge, and fully develop a project plan for Phase 2 for future delivery.	Stingray Workers Cooperative		SW \$9,775
Fly Fishing Rods for the Greenwells Fly Fishing Club, Fly Fishing course: This project will purchase six fly fishing rod, reel and line sets to train people in the sport of fly fishing and for use in community-based activities.	Greenwells Fly Fishing Club		SW \$2,916
Carp We don't Keepit, Carp Muster 2022: This project will provide an opportunity for the general public and recreational anglers to come together and catch a carp, win a prize and learn about protecting and enhancing native fish habitat and abundance in and around Keepit Dam and the Namoi River.	Lake Keepit Family Fishing Club		SW \$6,000

Platform: Aquatic Habitat Protection And Rehabilitation

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation – South Coast NSW: Provision of fish habitat protection and enhancement in South East NSW via a fisheries conservation manager. Increases awareness of fish habitat among all stakeholders and land use managers, to ensure management outcomes that improve fish habitat and promote fisher and community engagement in fish habitat management, protection and rehabilitation.	DPI		SW \$206,255
Flagship Habitat Action program: The program will continue to engage and facilitate key stakeholders in the development and delivery of large-scale strategic coastal fish habitat rehabilitation activities; restoring highly productive, resilient fisheries.	Community flagship grants administered by DPI		SW \$445,632
Habitat Action Program – Making more Fish Naturally: Engagement and support of recreational anglers in fish habitat actions and provision of devolved Habitat Action Grants to enhance fish habitat in NSW and support healthy, resilient recreational fisheries.	Community flagship grants administered by DPI		SW \$751,712 FW \$361,543
Look after your Tackle – fishers tackling litter in local waterways: OzFish and Tangaroa Blue have joined forces to tackle fishing and waterway litter at its source, combining their expertise and resources to raise awareness, collect valuable data, change behaviours and take action that prevents and removes litter across NSW's waterways.	Tangaroa Blue Foundation		SW \$161,268
Tackle Bin Project (formerly known as Fishing Line Debris Recovery Program): Purchase more debris bins to extend the project to other identified hotspots for wildlife injury/deaths and update and re-print Tide Times brochure.	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers Inc. (TVWC)		SW \$4,002
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation – Greater Murray NSW: Provision of fish conservation management services for the Murray, Lower Darling and Murrumbidgee catchments of NSW, to enhance key fish habitat protection and recreational fisher involvement in fish habitat protection and management.	DPI		FW \$216,255
Numeralla Shore... It's time to restore and enjoy fish galore: The Badja Reserve is a popular recreation area at the junction of two rivers. This junction is very much the focal point of all activities and now the bank needs repair.	Numeralla Landcare Inc.		FW \$15,510

Platform: Aquatic Habitat Protection And Rehabilitation

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Tuckean Swamp Project Stage 3 – Design and cost/benefit of rehabilitation options: This stage of the Tuckean Swamp project will complete identified information gaps including a cost/benefit analysis, design and costing of necessary infrastructure changes, and a toolkit of options to incentivise land use change.	OzFish Unlimited		SW \$90,000
City of Canada Bay tackle bin project: This project will install four tackle bins in popular fishing locations in the Canada Bay Council area to encourage anglers to protect the marine environment from fishing debris and pollution.	Individual		SW \$1,060
Fish salvage in Murray Irrigation Channels during winter shutdown: Traditional owners, subject matter experts and volunteers will rescue and relocate native fish to suitable refuge areas during Murray Irrigation Limited winter shutdown channel maintenance period.	Edwards Wakool Angling Association (EWAA) Inc		FW \$85,228
Mann River Rehabilitation 2022: This project will remove lantana and other noxious weeds to provide areas for use by recreational fishers and clean the riparian areas of Coombadjha Creek and the confluence with the Mann River to improve access to the river and campgrounds for fishers.	Coombadjha		FW \$4,000
Platform: Research	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Screens for Streams – boosting native fish stocks through improved water extraction practices: Will showcase effectiveness of innovative fish screens on irrigation pumps at selected sites across NSW and will facilitate broad-scale uptake of fish screening technologies on irrigation infrastructure across the Murray-Darling Basin, to prevent large scale fish losses from water extraction practices.	Charles Sturt University	DPI	FW \$100,000
Ciguatera toxins in NSW Spanish Mackerel: Where, when and how much? To determine the factors affecting the amount of Ciguatera toxins in Spanish Mackerel caught recreationally in NSW over two fishing seasons.	University of Technology Sydney		SW \$45,473
Flow-on benefits to recreational fishers following habitat repair: Habitat repair is a key priority, however, flow-on benefits for recreational fishers are unknown. This project will measure recreational fishery enhancement resulting from substantial habitat repair in Burrill Lake.	University of Newcastle		SW \$43,200
Identification of the larvae of recreationally important fish species for long-term monitoring: Larvae of many recreationally important NSW fish species are not identifiable. Aligning traditional morphology and photographs of larval fish with modern genetics will reveal spawning habitats and changes in distributions.	Sydney Institute of Marine Science		SW \$9,761
Marine stocking – science-based sustainable and productive fisheries enhancement in NSW: The marine stocking program relies upon scientific evidence to underpin its success and sustainable growth into the future. This project outlines the ongoing research required as large-scale stocking of new species is commenced.	DPI		SW \$295,546
Monitoring and research on landed fish at game fishing tournaments in NSW, 2021–22: The project facilitates and conducts monitoring, sampling and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured and weighed at the major game fishing tournaments in NSW.	Pepperell Research and Consulting Pty Ltd		SW \$32,000
NSW Game Fish Tagging Program: The program is the largest citizen science tagging program of its kind in the world and has been in operation since 1973. It uses anglers to obtain vital information on the biology of billfish, tuna, sharks and sport fish while encouraging fishers to participate in the management of the fishery.	DPI		SW \$205,337
NSW Game Fish Tournament Monitoring: Collate data to support fisheries research and management of game fish species and to strengthen negotiations between recreational fishers, Government and other interested organisations regarding fishery access and resource sustainability.	Ghosn Consulting Services		SW \$81,000
Game Fish Tagging Program report for 2020–21: Provision of an informative, attractive and readily accessible report on the Game Fish Tagging Program for 2020–21.	Pepperell Research and Consulting Pty Ltd		SW \$6,500
Research Angler Program – Fish into fillets, frames into facts: The program is a citizen science initiative that aims to provide fishers with interesting and useful information relating to their catch while contributing valuable biological information to stock assessments and the management of key recreational fish species.	DPI		SW \$194,733

4. Appendices

Platform: Research

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021–22
The economic contributions of recreational fishing to NSW: A range of economic contributions by recreational fishing will be estimated via a survey of anglers, estimating the economic benefits of recreational fishing to both fishers and to the NSW regional economy.	University of Wollongong		SW \$151,752 FW \$65,036
The impacts of physiological stress on visual function in fishes: This project will assess the physiological changes due to capture stress on the impacts of visual function in fish, with a view to improve post-capture survival.	Macquarie University		SW \$9,885
Where are the big Yellowtail Kingfish? Satellite-tracking sexually mature Kingfish caught in New South Wales to reveal spawning habitats and recruitment 'hotspots': This project will reveal the movements and location of spawning habitats for the NSW Kingfish stock, as well as potential key recruitment areas, to address urgent knowledge gaps and increase quality recreational fishing opportunities.	Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS)		SW \$256,291
Building a stronger more sustainable freshwater recreational fishery in NSW – Phase 2: This project builds on the long-term recreational fishing monitoring and research program undertaken throughout NSW. The aim is to improve freshwater recreational fisheries in NSW, which will result in economic, social and environmental benefits.	DPI		FW \$754,559
Cost-effective social-economic monitoring for NSW inland recreational fisheries: This project will develop a cost effective, scalable approach to social and economic monitoring in inland recreational fisheries to provide managers and anglers with information at regular intervals	University of Technology Sydney		FW \$118,125
Mapping Rainbow Trout spawning habitat in the Eucumbene and Thredbo rivers: This is a proof-of-concept project that will trial the use of UAVs (drones) to identify and map preferred spawning sites for Rainbow Trout in selected areas of the Thredbo and Eucumbene Rivers. UAVs will be flown in pilot reaches to collect spot point survey data and high-resolution video imagery of predicted Rainbow trout spawning areas. The information will be analysed and mapped using GIS and will present important information including area of spawning habitat. Data will be used to support research on Rainbow trout spawning location preferences and will inform the development of management initiatives to improve the Rainbow trout fishery.	Anthony Simpson		FW \$19,640
Phase 3: Installing experimental tube fishways at NSW weirs to develop fish passage design guidelines for new or rehabilitated barriers: This project will develop engineering and ecological guidelines for permanent tube fishways through field trials at strategically important sites across NSW.	The University of New South Wales		FW \$295,748
Research observations of water temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH values on trout waters in the Barrington Tops. SF026 continuing: To continue a second year of a programme, compiling a detailed log of key indices on varying sites in streams and dams on the Barrington Tops, including the Upper Manning, Hunter and Barrington Rivers and their tributaries with a view to confirming suitability for Trout stocking for recreational fishing opportunities.	The Barrington Club Inc.		FW \$1,366
Developing genetic tools to improve management of captive Mulloway broodfish for stock enhancement: This research will develop hatchery and molecular techniques to select genetically diverse hatchery-reared Mulloway fingerlings (F1) of known sex and to grow them to maturity in tanks. A breeding plan will be developed that will ensure fingerlings produced from the first generation broodfish will satisfy the essential genetic diversity criteria required for ongoing stocking into estuaries to boost recreational fishing. Mulloway remains a high priority for stocking in NSW.	University of the Sunshine Coast		SW \$96,257
Informing sustainable multi-sector harvest of NSW Estuary Cockle: Informing the sustainable management of NSW Estuary Cockle, including the burgeoning recreational harvest, filling critical knowledge gaps in their reproductive biology and ecology and in understanding resource use among sectors.	DPI		SW \$60,000
Statewide recreational fishing survey and charter boat monitoring: This project seeks continuation of funding for the statewide recreational fishing survey program, which includes an ongoing time series of statewide recreational fisheries catch, effort, and socioeconomic data, and ongoing monitoring of the Charter boat fishery. The information collected is essential for monitoring, assessment and management of recreational fisheries, and broader fisheries resources within NSW.	DPI		SW \$266,609 FW \$29,623

Platform: Research

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021–22
Monitoring of changes in Lake Macquarie Blue Swimmer Crab populations following the recent regulation change: This project will monitor for potential changes in the Blue Swimmer Crab population following the removal of the crab traps closure in Lake Macquarie, comparing data collected following the regulation change with independent surveys from 2018–2021 and a reference estuary monitored over the same time frame.	DPI		SW \$19,468
Fishery biology and ecology of the marine snail, Turbo militaris: This research addresses critical knowledge gaps on the biology and ecology of the recreationally and culturally harvested turban snail, Turbo militaris for sustainable management.	National Marine Science Centre		SW \$8,000
Drilling down into spawning locations for wild Yellowtail Kingfish (<i>Seriola lalandi</i>) using otolith oxygen isotopes: This project will validate the relationship between water temperature and oxygen isotopes in Kingfish otoliths and use this to bracket the likely habitat within which NSW Kingfish were born.	Sydney Institute of Marine Science		SW \$9,994
Making more maccas: This project will augment the current Macquarie Perch recovery actions by providing support for genetic enhancement, population monitoring, relocation of introduced species, eDNA surveys and captive breeding efforts.	DPI		FW \$76,971
Impacts of parasites on larval fish of the Murray-Darling Basin: This project will assess the impacts of parasites and other pathogens on the growth and survival of larval freshwater fish in the Murray-Darling Basin, which will inform future hatchery breeding technology for Murray Cod and Golden Perch and potentially boost stocking production.	DPI		FW \$102,656

Platform: Fisheries Officers

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021–22
Coastal fisheries officers x 9: Funding for nine coastal fisheries officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce fisheries rules and regulations including recreational fishing fees requirement across NSW coastal areas.	DPI		SW \$1,363,457
Coastal recreational mobile squad officers x 3: Funding for three regional mobile squad officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce saltwater recreational rules and regulations in particular recreational fishing fees requirements whilst patrolling popular fishing areas including Recreational Fishing Havens.	DPI		SW \$459,144
Inland fisheries officers x 6: Funding for six inland fisheries officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce fisheries rules and regulations including recreational fishing fees requirement across NSW inland areas.	DPI		FW \$908,971

Platform: Trust Management And Administration

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021–22
RFSTEC meeting expenses: The Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) is an advisory sub-committee of the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) that reviews applications for funding and makes recommendations on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust.	DPI (on behalf of RFSTEC)		SW \$36,400
RFFTEC meeting expenses: The Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) is an advisory sub-committee of the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) that reviews applications for funding and makes recommendations on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust.	DPI (on behalf of RFFTEC)		FW \$36,400
Recreational Fishing Trusts Executive Officer: The officer is responsible for the overall coordination and financial management of the Recreational Fishing Trusts to facilitate a transparent and accountable Trusts system, on behalf of the recreational fishing community. This includes implementation of good governance processes to ensure collection and transfer of licence revenue to the Trusts, disbursement of funds to Trusts projects and ensuring quality delivery of project outcomes to improve recreational fishing.	DPI		SW \$256,560

4. Appendices

Platform: Trust Management And Administration

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2021-22
Recreational Fishing NSW (RFNSW) consultation and meeting expenses: RFNSW advises the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishery policy issues including maintaining and improving the quality of recreational fishing opportunities.	DPI (on behalf of RFNSW)	SW \$63,910 FW \$27,390	
Recreational Fishing Facilities and Grants Management: To target angler identified gaps in fishing facilities throughout NSW, including fishing platforms, fish cleaning facilities and waterway access infrastructure. To provide support to the Trusts Executive Officer for financial and auditing management of Trusts programs to ensure timely and quality service delivery. The role provides quality advice to the public on all Trust enquiries and application development.	DPI	SW \$169,430 FW \$18,825	
Recreational Fishing Trusts grants administration program – supporting the delivery of Trusts funded projects: To improve the delivery and performance of Recreational Fishing Trusts funded projects by assigning essential resourcing to grants administration and management. The position facilitates funding agreements to applicants, receives milestone reports and final reports, processes project invoices and purchase orders for Trusts grants etc. It is an integral position of the Trusts management team to facilitate effective governance controls including audits and monitoring to maintain and improve the standard of project delivery and accountability across all Trusts funded projects.	DPI	SW \$142,337	
Recreational Fisher Licence Research Database (tender administered by NSW DPI): This project involves data entry of fishers' details from 1- and 3-year paper fishing licenses by an external consultant on to the Recreational Angling database for research and management purposes. Angler details on paper licenses sold at fishing tackle stores are required to be data entered, which enables electronic transfer of this data to the main database of licence holders. The data is used to send out licence renewal notices but is also included in angler research surveys. This data entry project includes data validation and duplication checks of the paper licence information.	DPI (external contractor with tender administered by NSW DPI)	SW \$38,500 FW \$16,500	
Recreational fishing fees renewal notice system: Involves an efficient licence renewal notice system (via external contractor) to provide opportunity for recreational fishers to renew their fee when it expires. The notice gets sent out to around 250,000 licence holders per year and has a range of licence payment options to make it convenient for fishers to renew their licence.	DPI (external contractor with tender administered by NSW DPI)	SW \$86,000 FW \$36,850	
Recreational fishing licensing (fishing fees) project – facilitating fishing licenses for fishers: Provides for the safe and secure collection of recreational fishing licence fees (public money) which are deposited into the Recreational Fishing Trusts on a daily basis. It provides a convenient payment network for anglers using a variety of methods such as a dedicated webpage, sales agents (fishing tackle stores etc) throughout NSW, BPAY, automated telephone, and mail. It caters for all types of anglers. There is an electronic sales platform provided by Service NSW - Government Licensing Service (GLS), which DPI uses to manage electronic licenses, and a manual payment system of agents run exclusively by DPI.	DPI	SW \$1,056,291 FW \$452,000	
Recreational fishing licensing – Government Licensing Services (GLS) fees: This project provides for payment of licence transaction fees to Service NSW for recreational fishing licenses processed through the GLS database platform. The GLS platform is used by DPI and other government agencies to provide a convenient payment network for the recreational fishing licence fees and transfer of revenue into the Recreational Fishing Trusts. This application covers transaction fees payable to GLS on a quarterly basis.	DPI (transaction fees payable to Service NSW)	SW \$525,000 FW \$225,000	
Inland fishing services for anglers – coordinates grants for dollar for dollar stocking and fuel cards, RFFTEC and associated sub groups and develops fishing policies and regulations, to enhance fishing opportunities: This project co-ordinates Trusts funded fishing grants for community fuel cards and the dollar for dollar native fishing stocking program. It also coordinates the running of RFFTEC and its various subgroups such as the Fuel Card Evaluation Panel, Gaden Hatchery Management Advisory Committee, as well as the Snow Lakes Working Group and Trout Allocation Committee. The program also plays a key role in developing fishing strategies and plans to enhance fishing access and amenity.	DPI	FW \$194,256	



Building a healthy fishing future.



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