

MEETING	Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC)
MEETING NO.	Meeting 50
DATE & TIME	16 August 2017, 9.00am – 4.00pm
LOCATION	St George Rowers Club, 1 Levey Street, Wollie Creek
ATTENDEES	Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Mark Berg (Region 1), Lisa Terry (Region 2), Geoff Shelton (Region 3), Adrian Wayne (Region 4), Lionel Jones (Region 5), John Paton (Region 6a), Stuart Rhodes (Region 6b), Ann Garard (Region 7), Micah Adams (Region 8), John Burgess (ANSA NSW Branch), Stan Konstantaras (RFA NSW), Grahame Williams (NSW GFA), Allan Hansard (AFTA).
APOLOGIES	Peter Turnell (DPI)

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of outcomes from the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 49th RFSTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting (Moved John Paton, Seconded Lionel Jones, Carried).

3. Action items from previous meeting

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

4. Recreational Fishing Trust update

The status of the Saltwater Trust was presented to members.

5. Review of new Freshwater Trust grant applications

A total of 11 saltwater applications were received. Expenditure recommendations are provided in Tables 1-2. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration.

Project variation request – Bawley Point heritage fishing platform: The Minister approved funding for the reconstruction of the platform in July 2016 following recommendation from RFSTEC and the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Committee. A local benefactor completed the construction of the platform in kind prior to successful notification of the grant and issue of a funding deed. Shoalhaven City Council has requested to vary the scope of the project to enable the grant funding to be spent on improving the adjacent fishers' carpark and manoeuvring areas that provides access to the fishing platform. **NOT SUPPORTED – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess, Carried.** The committee noted the benefactors support to the completion of the project, however the committee believed the project variation to be outside of the scope of the Recreational Fishing Trusts funding guidelines.

6. Presentations and project updates

RFSTEC received updates on the following projects from Mr Jim Harnwell (NSW DPI):

- Sydney Harbour (with input from RFA) - ferry wharves and Piers 2/3/ and 4/5, Harbour fishing guide plan
- Ecohuts program
- Recreational fishing around oyster leases communication plan
- Implementation of trophy fishery concept for flathead in recreational fishing havens
- Recreational fishing for visitors in NSW national parks – Strategy
- Risk assessment of recreational fishing opportunities in Sydney impoundments
- NPWS plans of management

RFSTEC received an update on the "Gone Fishing Day" event preparations - advisory field day to be held on 15/10/17; communication plan for promotion of Recreational Fishing Trust initiatives; and development of stakeholder research priorities.

DPI provided an update on the fishing infrastructure program and highlighted that 192 infrastructure projects had received funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts over the years. These projects were typically undertaken by local councils and other community organisations. It was noted that one Council had recently requested consideration of funding for ongoing maintenance of infrastructure given many councils have considerable maintenance responsibilities for boating and fishing related infrastructure as well as many other assets. DPI advised the Trust application guidelines currently stipulate that projects will not receive favourable consideration for ongoing maintenance and that projects should represent value for money by incorporating other contributing funding or 'in-kind' contribution by the applicant. RFFTEC recommended that this policy should be retained although funding should be considered for footpaths to platforms and landscaping around facilities (once large machinery has left the site) as these were viewed as legitimate construction costs.

7. Promotion of Recreational Fishing Trust initiatives

The Committee discussed methods to develop a communication strategy for the promotion of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and Trust programs. The RFSTEC committee moved an action for the formation of sub-committee be established to develop the communications strategy. Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded John Paton, carried.

8. Next meeting

Wednesday 15 November 2017



Project assessment recommendations

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

Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Woollamia regional boat ramp cleaning table upgrade	Jervis Bay Game Fishing Club	"Repair and refurbish the 8 person fish cleaning table and add new shelter with lights. Woollamia regional boat ramp is Jervis Bay's main access ramp. The table will address ongoing access, efficiency and public health issues plus cater for expected increases in usage due to growing population and tourist numbers. The upgrade will also coincide with the new \$500,000 infrastructure upgrade being carried out to the boat ramp and car park by RMS and Shoalhaven City Council." Supported, Moved Mark Berg, Seconded Ann Garard, carried. Condition: Picnic table indicated in council supplied concept drawings not to be included in design under the fish cleaning table shelter area.	SW \$37,100	\$0	\$0
Provision of roof for fish cleaning table at Callala Bay - shortfall funding	Callala Bay Community Association	Shelter has been installed, but design had to be changed because of utilities location. This change has incurred extra costs including lighting. Supported, Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded Lionel Jones, carried.	SW \$1,511	\$0	\$0
Wharf compliance trial 6 month initiative – Water Police patrols to help keep Sydney Harbour ferry wharves open to fishing	DPI, Recreational Fishing Alliance	This project complements the Clean, Safe Wharves initiative run by DPI and the RFA, which involves education and maintenance programs that encourage responsible recreational fishing behaviour on Sydney Harbour ferry wharves. The proposed Water Police patrols is a 6 month trial to provide an enforcement capacity to manage issues involving rubbish, noise and anti-social behaviour. This will contribute to the short term effective management of this issue while longer term solutions are developed and implemented. Bryan van der Walt declared a conflict of interest and left the room during voting. Supported, John Paton, Seconded Lionel Jones, Carried.	SW \$120,000	\$0	\$0

Fisheries enhancement

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Merimbula offshore fishing reef (contingency funding)	DPI	<p>Planning for the Merimbula offshore artificial reef is on track with a specific location identified and preparation of the environmental assessment. Deployment is scheduled for the first half of 2018. Funding of \$950,000 has been previously approved from the Trust. There is a current window of high demand for large barge operations in NSW and Queensland which is impacting availability of barges in NSW. This has escalated barge rental costs. Contingency funding is being sought for the fifth reef tender process in light of the current barge rental market.</p> <p><i>Supported, Moved Adrian Wayne, Seconded John Paton, Carried.</i></p>	SW \$150,000	\$0	\$0
Developing mangrove jack as a new key species for freshwater recreational fishing in NSW – phase 5, Stocking in the summer of 2017/18	National Marine Science Centre	<p>The project to develop of a recreational fishery of Mangrove Jack in Clarrie Hall dam has stocked approximately 7000 juveniles. This project will attempt a further stocking of mangrove jacks in the 2017/18 season.</p> <p><i>Supported, Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Micah Adams, Carried.</i></p>	SW \$9,996 FW \$10,000	\$0	\$0
Rearing blue swimmer crabs for stocking to boost NSW recreational fishing opportunities	National Marine Science Centre	<p>Blue swimmer crabs (BSC) are keenly targeted by recreational fishers. Commercial landings are in decline and similar declines for recreational fishers are likely. This pilot project will produce BSC post-larvae in a hatchery. The practical and economic opportunities and limitations of producing crab post-larvae for stocking for recreational fishing in NSW will be assessed.</p> <p><i>Supported, Moved Geoff Shelton, Seconded John Paton, Carried.</i></p>	SW \$38,295	\$0	\$0

Table 2 - Projects NOT SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust
Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Scylla Bay fishing platform	Sutherland Shire Council	Design and construction of a new fishing platform to replace an aging timber wharf at Scylla Bay. Not Supported. Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded John Paton, Carried. Following a site visit by a RFSTEC member, the fishing platform location was not deemed ideal for productive fishing due to shallow water. Committee noted a need for fishing platform/s in the area and encourages council to liaise with fishing clubs and DPI to develop a new application with revised locations and project budget.	SW \$50,000	SW \$250,000	\$0

Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Spearfishing Safety Awareness	Sans Souci Dolphins Spearfishing Club	The focus of this Grant is to promote Safety Awareness in the form of Personal Responsibility of boat skippers to watch out for divers and for divers to make themselves seen. John Burgess declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest. Not Supported, Graham Williams, Seconded Ann Garard, Carried. The committee believed the provision of safety equipment to club members should be the responsibility of the club.	SW \$4,460	\$0	\$0

Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Assessing post-release survival, movement and behaviour of recreationally caught Swordfish	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies - University of Tasmania	Utilise satellite tag technology to assess the post-release survival, movement and behaviour of recreationally caught Swordfish off the NSW coast. The data will be included into part of a larger project with the same objectives already funded in Tasmania and Victoria. Not Supported, Moved Grahame Willams, Seconded John Burgess, Carried. The committee provided in principle support for the project but considered it low value for money involving only 3 satellite tagged fish. The committee suggested the applicant re-submit the application with a partnered approach with support and contributions from ANSA, NSW GFA and DPI, including an increased sample size and using the expertise of partners to deploy tags.	SW \$30,645	\$0	\$0

Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Effective reduction of marine debris sourced from shore-based recreational fishing.	Cardno NSW/ACT	<p>Effective reduction of marine debris sourced from shore-based recreational fishing.</p> <p>RFNSW previously recommended that this project application be reconsidered by RFSTEC.</p> <p><i>Not Supported, Moved Lisa terry, Seconded John Burgess, Carried.</i></p> <p><i>The committee was supportive of objective 1 of the application and identified that the application in its current format could not be supported. RFSTEC recommended that the applicant be requested to submit a revised application and budget for the following process: 1) Undertake a desktop study of available published research on recreational fishing marine debris to identify sources of debris and associated flow on impacts 2) Undertake a risk assessment of sources identified to identify high risk impacts 3) Hold a stakeholder workshop to present findings of risk assessment and develop potential mitigating strategies to identified high risk impacts (note: some of these strategies may then require testing in the field which can be subject to a further funding application if needed). component only.</i></p>	SW \$104,392	\$0	\$0
Flagship Habitat Action (management and administration)	NSW DPI	<p>The Flagship Habitat Action program Manager will continue to work with key stakeholders, build partnerships and attract matching investment to deliver large-scale coastal fish habitat rehabilitation; restoring highly productive fisheries.</p> <p><i>Not Supported, Moved Micah Adams, Seconded Mark Berg, Carried.</i></p> <p><i>The committee believed this to be an excessive amount of staff resourcing for administrative support for only two projects. The committee believes the Flagship Habitat projects should be managed under the current Habitat Actions Grants processes, which already includes funding for project management resourcing.</i></p>	SW \$77,800	\$0	\$0