

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing

**Outcomes from Meeting 58 – Friday 31 August 2012
Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence**

Attendance

Bruce Schumacher	Chairperson
John Drew	Estuary Fishing
Neil Ryan	Recreational Fishing Media
Charlie Howe	Estuary & Offshore Fishing
Kevin McKinnon	Freshwater Fishing
John Clarke	Offshore Fishing
Ann Garard	Charter Boat Fishing
Adrian Wayne	Underwater Fishing
Alistair McGlashan	Offshore Fishing and Media
Shane Jasprizza	Estuary Fishing
Ms Jan McLeod	Estuary Fishing
Peter Turnell	Director, Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries

1. Apologies

Max Castle (Estuary Fishing), Susan North (Freshwater Fishing and Fishing Industry Liaison), Pat Jones (Offshore Fishing), Claudette Rechterik (Conservation) and John Humphries (Freshwater Fishing).

2. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members.

3. Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meetings

Motion: The Council accepted the outcomes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 57th ACoRF meeting, held 14 & 14 May 2012. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** John Clarke. **Carried.**

4. Business arising from the minutes

The Council noted those action items from previous council meetings that had been completed or would be dealt with during the meeting.

DPI advised that there has been no further progress on the development of a state-wide policy for recreational fishing in NSW National Parks following initial discussions with NPWS in late 2011 due to the transfer of Terry Bailey, Director Coastal, NPWS. DPI will initial discussion once Mr Bailey's replacement has been finalised. This issue will remain a standing action item and DPI will update the Council on any progress.

DPI advised that further discussions between Recreational Fisheries Managers and the Threatened Species Unit would be held pending the release of the final report from the Recreational Trust funded research project on Freshwater Catfish ecology. DPI will provide an update at the next meeting.

Action Item: DPI to provide council members with a copy of the list of waterways in NSW that are classified as fishing impoundments out of session.

5. Recreational & Indigenous Fisheries Management update

a) Rock fishing safety update

DPI provided an overview of the recently completed Research Review of Rock Fishing Safety in NSW report including the major recommendations and associated action items from the report.

The Council noted the following progress:

1. The NSW rock fishing strategy is being developed by WSAC and its sub-committee RFS.
2. The existing education program is being improved. The NSW Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) has received \$320K in black spot program funding to help expand education networks.
3. WSAC and RFS discussions are continuing on the development of legislation for the mandatory use of life jackets. It was noted that initial proposals have focussed on a requirement to wear an approved Australian Standards PDF.

Council noted that it had not previously stated its position on the issue of mandatory flotation devices for rock fishers. The number of rock fishing fatalities continues to grow despite the increased rock fishing safety education and awareness building campaigns. The Council discussed the possibility of a complete ban on rock fishing if other action such as the mandatory use of flotation devices is not implemented. It was noted that certain fishing activities including spearfishing should be excluded from any proposal for the mandatory use of flotation devices but further consideration is required regarding other rock fishing activities such as hand gathering bait.

Motion: ACoRF supports the introduction of mandatory floatation devices for rod and line rock fishing activities. **Moved:** John Clarke. **Seconded:** Adrian Wayne. **Carried** (Against: Ann Garard, Neil Ryan, Shane Jasprizza, and Kevin McKinnon).

b. Marine Stocking

DPI provided an overview of the marine stocking program. The public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Fisheries Management Strategy (FMS) has now finished. Following the public exhibition phase, DPI has reviewed the submissions received and prepared a draft preferred strategy report. The report discusses the specific issues or concerns raised in the submissions and provides a response to each of those issues.

The Council discussed the report and raised the following questions:

1. Will DPI be in a position to complete the research requirements of the FMS following the loss of scientific staff as a result of the Cronulla Fisheries relocation?
2. Does DPI have an indication of the cost of implementing a marine stocking program and will this program be completely funded by the Recreational Fishing Trust?
3. Will the commercial fishing industry contribute some funding noting that they are likely to benefit from the program?

DPI provided the following response:

1. DPI is confident that it will be capable of completing the required research internally however there are also a number of external organisations capable of undertaking the research component of the FMS including various universities and environmental consultancy companies.
2. The amount of funds required is highly dependent on various factors including the scale of the program and the timeline in which it is implemented. DPI noted that consolidating the research into a single project is likely to keep the costs down but as a general indication the recent genetic projects completed for the freshwater stocking program cost approximately \$150k.
3. DPI noted that the marine stocking project was initiated on the recommendation of the Council and RFSTEC however co-funding arrangements could be discussed as the program is rolled out.

DPI advised that if stocking is undertaken a specific marine stocking plan would be developed similar to that used in freshwater stocking programs.

The Council noted that a copy of the draft preferred strategy report will now be provided to the Minister for Primary Industries for submission to the Minister for Planning.

Motion: ACoRF supports the Marine Stocking EIS and FMS in the current form. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** John Drew. **Carried.**

c. Sydney International Boat Show

DPI and the Chairperson provided a summary of the 45th Sydney International Boat Show held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from 2 to 6 August 2012. The Council noted that the event was a great success with DPI staff, Fishcare Volunteers and the 'Bluey' Advisory trailer in attendance. DPI's Phil Bolton and Steve Thurstan provided daily presentation of fishing education and game fish tagging.

d) Meroo National Park update

The Meroo National Park working group which includes DPI, ACoRF representative Max Castle and NSW RFA representative Malcolm Poole recently held a meeting to discuss strategies of maintaining alternative access for recreational users including anglers. Issues discussed include Indigenous values, new vehicle/trailer parking and boat launching facilities and road maintenance. Following this meeting the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) held a further meeting with a Traditional Owners Group. The Traditional Owners Group have expressed the need to maintain the Indigenous value in the park and did not support the construction of new additional parking or boat launching facilities. The group also suggested that only manual propulsion water crafts should be allowed in Meroo Lake and that only minor road upgrade works should be undertaken.

DPI advised that the working group consultation process is currently on hold pending the outcome of a Parliamentary Amendment Bill introduced by the Shooters and Fishers Party to revoke the ownership of the lake bed from the NPWS back to the Lands Department.

e. Review of NSW Fishing Rules (Bag and Size Limit Review) update

DPI advised that the Bag and Size Limit Discussion Paper will be released following the Mulloway Recovery Program consultation process.

f. Mulloway Recovery Program

DPI advised that a range of proposed management options to promote the recovery of mulloway in NSW have been developed and would be released for public consultation in early September. DPI will release a frequently asked questions and options for management changes paper and the public will have six weeks to provide their submissions. Submissions will be able to be made online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/saltwater/sw-species/mulloway/your-sayand or in writing to NSW Department of Primary Industries Locked bag 21 Cronulla NSW 2230.

The Council discussed the option of buying-out commercial fishing business with Estuary General – Meshing endorsements noting that the EG fishery is the main commercial harvester of mulloway and that the majority of mulloway taken as part of the EG fishery are smaller fish.

The Council noted that the main estuaries of concern are the Hawkesbury River, Clarence River and Shoalhaven River.

g. Harvesting of Marlin - Port Stephens

The Council noted that the NSWGFA President Mr David Litchfield held a meeting with the Port Stephens Mayor regarding the possibility of providing larger bins with lids, as well as additional patrols by Council Rangers during the period (February/March) that marlin carcasses have been left in the vicinity of the Little Beach fish cleaning table.

John Clarke, council member requested that DPI continue to investigate the issue regarding certain fishing groups exceeding their possession limits of large game fish such as marlin in the Port Stephens area.

h. Freshwater recreational fishing issues

DPI provided an update on a range of freshwater recreational fishing programs including, enhanced fish production, dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking, the Gaden trout hatchery and stocking management. So far this year the Department has seen good fish production numbers at all hatcheries including, Gaden, Narrandera, Port Stephens, Jindabyne and Dutton. The Council was advised that existing stocking programs will be adjusted over time to focus on areas where natural recruitment is a limiting factor and to meet the needs of inland fishers. While there are good signs DPI encouraged the Council to remain cautious as native fish production can have significant ups and downs as was seen with the recent disease outbreak in the Australian Bass hatchery stocks. DPI reiterated that the requirements of the Freshwater Stocking FMS and HQAS mean genetics and disease issues are covered to world's best standard.

The Department noted that in general terms the freshwater fisheries continue to improve with in most areas except in those areas where black water events occurred earlier this year and late last year. However these areas are showing some signs of slow recovery of most native species.

i. Spearfishing at Cabbage Tree Bay, Norah Head

DPI advised that following a number of concerns raised by local residence and various anti-spearfishing media reports the Department is working with the Wyong Council regarding the management of spearfishing activities in the area around Cabbage Tree Bay. The Council noted that similar issues have been resolved through an advisory and educational approach with involvement from DPI, local councils, Fishcare volunteers and the Underwater Skindivers and Fisherman's Association (USFA).

Action Item: DPI to consult with ACoRF and USFA representative Adrian Wayne to facilitate a targeted advisory and educational program for local spearfishers.

j. Proposed conservation agreement Taren Point

DPI provided an overview of a proposal from the Office of Environment and Heritage and Sutherland Shire Council to implement a new conservation agreement protect an area of high conservation value for a number of migratory shorebirds in Botany Bay adjacent to Towra Aquatic Reserve.

The Department noted that Office of Environment and Heritage and Sutherland Shire Council had originally proposed to restrict all forms of recreational fishing believing that the disturbance would create a negative impact on the shorebird population. Recognising that this is a Recreational Fishing Haven and the proposed Conservation Area is in one of only three locations in the George's River where nippers are collected, DPI has been consulting with OEH and the Local Council to negotiate alternative options. A consensus has now been reach to erect signage advising of the Conservation Area and asking the public to not disturb feeding birds.

DPI will provide the Council with an update at the next meeting.

Motion: ACoRF supports a non-regulatory approach inline with the current proposal to erect advisory signage around the area. ACoRF does not support any additional bans on recreational fishing and bait collections in Recreational Fishing Havens. **Moved:** Adrian Wayne. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

k. Role of ACoRF and requests for nomination of ACoRF representatives to other committees

DPI advised that the role of ACoRF is clearly defined in *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and more detail is provided in the ACoRF procedures manual. Council members were provided a copy of the ACoRF procedures manual. It was noted that the Councils main function is to provide

advice to the Minister on matters relating to recreational fishing and the Ministers is required to consult with ACoRF on expenditure from the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

Over the years there have been many requests for ACoRF representation on other committees/working groups and requests for ACoRF to provide submissions, input into numerous processes. DPI advised that all future requests should involve review of appropriateness and need of the request (is it within the charter of ACoRF) if so, members will be requested to express their interest for participation and a formal voting process will be undertaken (as per usual meeting processes) and recorded in meeting outcomes.

DPI advised the Council that consultation processes were currently under consideration as a result of the Review of Commercial fisheries and current arrangements may change in future, however the Council should continue to carry out its role at present.

Council members discussed the potential for the Recreational Fishing Trust to help fund a peak industry group and if this was in line with the Act in regard to what trust funds can be used for. DPI advised that as costs of consultation were covered under the Act (Section 234(2)(f), this provided the ability to cover a fairly wide range of matters.

I. Recreational Fishing Communication Plan

DPI advised that the Recreational Fishing Communication Plan working groups has now held a number of meetings and work continues on the development of the recreational fishing communication plan.

The following key challenges were noted by the Council:

- The recreational fishery is a large diverse sector and there are limited resources available
- Any communication strategy needs to get maximum 'bang for our buck'.
- Identifying the issues of different stakeholder groups so key messages can be accurately defined. This may require specific communication strategies for different group.
- Getting messages out to such a large, diverse sector with some difficult to reach groups such as infrequent fishers, and non-english speaking background groups.
- A need to express often complex, complicated scientific and management information in simple, easy to understand language
- Measuring the success of communications campaigns. Easy to measure outputs but difficult to measure uptake and reach.
- Major policy campaigns need to utilise all communication methods to get the message out. This is expensive so it impacts on the frequency of communicating policies.
- Need to continue to utilising a range of communication methods while being realistic that you will never reach everyone!

DPI will provide an update at the next meeting.

6. Recreational Fishing Trust issues

a) Recreational Fishing Trust status

The status of the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts was provided. The Council was advised that it was predicted that around \$14 million would be received by the Trust from recreational licence revenue by the end of the 2012/13 financial year.

b) New Recreational Fishing Trust Applications

The Council considered expenditure recommendations arising from the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC and RFFTEC) meetings held on 23 and 24 August 2012 (refer to tables in Appendix 1). Recommendations for new Trust applications supported by the Expenditure Committees and ACoRF are outlined in Table 1. The Council supported the recommendations of RFSTEC and RFFTEC outlined in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

c) Recreational Fishing Trust Investment Plan

DPI provided a summary of the feedback sessions that were held by the Expenditure Committees at their meeting on 23 and 24 August. These sessions focussed on existing major Trust funded programs (many of which are jointly funded by the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts). Program managers provided presentations on their programs followed by a discussion session where the Expenditure Committees were divided into small groups to discuss and provide feedback on each program. A copy of the feedback collated from each group was provided to the Council members at the meeting for their information.

d. Exemptions regarding the recreational fishing licence

The Council discussed the current exemptions from the requirement to pay the recreational fishing licence fee and made the following comments:

- The current arrangements are consistent with other Government services exemption provisions.
- The recreational fishing fee is fairly modest compared with other sports and social activities.
- No other sports or social activities exempt fees based on age.

Motion: ACoRF does not support changing the recreational fishing fee exemption provisions to allow for self-funded retirees to be exempt from paying the fee. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Neil Ryan. **Carried.**

7. Marine Parks and Conservation issues

a) Marine Bioregional Plan for the Temperate East Marine Region

A/ Executive Director Fisheries, Bill Talbot provided a brief update of the Commonwealth marine reserves network process. It was noted that recreational fishing (including spearfishing) has been allowed to continue with minimal if any impact in the Temperate East Marine Region.

The Council raised concerns that spearfishing was proposed to be restricted in the Habitat Protection Zone near Lord Howe Island. The Council stated that spearfishing should be allowed in all areas where recreational line fishing is allowed.

Some council members also raised concerns regarding the extent of the proposed restrictions to recreational fishing methods in the Coral Sea Marine Region. The Council noted the Commonwealth's previous positions that recreational fishing should only be restricted where there is substantial research and evidence of the impact on environment. The Council noted that the concept of wilderness and non-consumptive fishing areas which have been used in other marine parks internationally may be suitable in some of the proposed no fishing zones.

Motion: ACoRF submit a letter to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities by 10 September 2012 requesting that spearfishing be permitted in the Habitat Protection Zone near Lord Howe Island noting that recreational line fishing is allowed. The letter should also address concerns regarding the extent of recreational fishing restrictions in the Coral Sea and other Marine Regions and suggest the adoption of wilderness and non-consumptive fishing areas (where limited fishing is permitted). **Moved:** Adrian Wayne. **Seconded:** John Clarke. **Carried.**

8. Sydney Harbour Clean, Safe Wharf update

Neil Mudge, Executive Director, Built Environment, NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) provided an overview of the NSW Government's Clean, Safe Wharf initiative. Mr Mudge, advised that the Initiative is a coordinated, consistent approach to the cleaning of all public commuter wharves on Sydney Harbour and involved three main phases including:

Phase 1

Education: Fisheries Officers, RMS Boat and Safety Officers, NSW RFA and Fishcare volunteers have undertaken on-water and land-based advisory campaigns on all major Sydney Harbour

wharves encouraging anglers to avoid anti-social behaviour and clean up their fishing debris. New signage has been erected with responsible fishing messages and new cleaning contracts have been initiated to ensure high traffic wharves are cleaned daily.

Phase 2

Enforcement: NSW Police, Fisheries officers and RMS Boat Safety Officers have continued to focus patrols around Sydney Harbour wharves advising anglers and commuters on the new rules and access arrangements for certain wharves like Cabarita and Canada Bay where fishing bans have been implemented. Infringement notices for littering and other anti-social behaviour have been issued to some serial offenders.

Phase 3

Exclusion: Fishing ban has been implemented on some wharves where major safety issues or high offender rates have been observed. This includes a 24 hour fishing ban at Cabarita wharf and the exclusion of fishing during certain periods of the day at a number of other commuter wharves.

Mr Mudge advised the Council that most anglers and commuters abide by the rules and the RMS don't like shutting off access to recreational fishers and other social users where responsible behaviour is maintained. The RMS has always and will continue to encourage alternative uses at wharves unlike other sole-purpose public transport locations. The Council noted the proposed Huntley's Point wharf upgrade will include a platform that can be used by anglers. The Council was advised that authorities are now starting to see a notable reduction in anti-social behaviour and fishing debris on numerous wharves and the surrounding parks and other public areas. The RMS is happy with the Sydney Harbour based program to date and is interested in expanding the program to other areas where similar issues arise.

Council members were encouraged to contact Mr Mudge to discuss any issues from these areas. John Clarke, Council member noted an increase in the amount of fishing debris at a Port Stephens break wall and requested DPI investigate who has jurisdiction of the area and if a similar initiative could be adopted.

Action Item: DPI Saltwater Access Manager to consult with John Clarke and investigate the issue of excessive fishing debris at Port Stephens break wall.

9. Crab Traps – more environmentally friendly options

Mr Michael Wooden (Oceanwatch Australia) attended the meeting and provided the Council with information on various environmentally friendly crab traps designed that can reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles and minimise ghost fishing.

The Council noted that a number of minor adjustments can be made to current crab trap designs to reduce by-catch and ghost fishing issues including:

- Reducing the trap opening/entrance size to exclude animals larger than crabs from entering.
- Increase the weight of crab traps by adding weights or using a heavier gauge wire frame. Recommended that crabs trap weight at least 3kg as a guide.
- Using coarser mesh to stop turtles and other animals from tearing larger entry holes in the trap.
- Using not buoyant or weighted float rope to reduce entanglement.
- Maintain traps by cleaning, repairing or replacing any damaged components like holes in the mesh or strayed rope.

The Council discussed a number of issues relating to the use of lift/hoop (witches hat) nets noting reports of sea turtles drowning after becoming entangled in these nets. DPI advised that this issue would be addressed in the upcoming Bag and Size Limit Discussion Paper.

10. Fisheries Compliance Update

Glenn Tritton, Director Fisheries Compliance, DPI, provided an overview of compliance activities during 2011/12. This included details on overall client contacts and subsequent compliance rates, major compliance outcomes such as cautions, penalty notices and matters successfully prosecuted in court.

The Council was advised that the Fisheries Compliance section is trialing a new Fishers Watch interactive voice response (IVR) phonenumber system that aims to improve the quality of information gathered from the public on possible offences being committed.

There have also been a number of social media initiatives including the new Fisheries NSW YouTube channel which now has four videos published on illegal cast nets, measuring fish and crabs and the abalone fishing rules. DPI also advised that the NSW Fisheries 'Coastwatch' TV program is expected to be broadcast in 2013.

DPI provided clarification on the possession limit definition noting that the possession limit applies when the person in possession of a species of fish is 'in or on or adjacent to any waters' or 'is transporting or storing the fish', but does not apply to 'fish taken lawfully by commercial fishers and people who obtain those fish'.

DPI also provided a summary of a various compliance operations focussed on the commercial fishery during 2011/12. This included a range of patrols on commercial fisherman's co-ops and seafood outlets suspected of selling undersize fish.

John Clarke asked Glenn Tritton the following questions regarding Pipis:

1. Are you aware of the nine beaches that can be legally harvested as announced by the head of the Food Authority Anthony Zammit? Mr Tritton advised he is not aware of the nine beaches off the top of his head, however, his fisheries officers are.

Note: Mr Zammit's position is Manager Shellfish Program and reports to the Chief Scientist, Ms Lisa Szabo, who reports to Ms Polly Bennett, CEO Food Authority.

2. What are the details of the Pipi bust at Coffs Harbour? Mr Tritton was unable to provide details of this case due to pending court proceedings.

The Council requested an update on the development of a working group for the interim compliance policy of Aboriginal and Cultural fishing. It was noted that the Council had nominated four members to sit on the working group at their last meeting. DPI advised that the next AFAC meeting was scheduled for September and the development of this working group would be discussed at the meeting.

Motion: ACoRF write to the Minister requesting she consider that compliance revenue from unlicensed recreational fishers be allocated back into the Recreational Fishing Trust. **Moved:** Neil Ryan. **Seconded:** Adrian Wayne. **Carried.**

11. Commercial Fisheries Management issues

DPI provided an overview of the final report from the Independent review into commercial fisheries policy, management and administration that the Minister released in May 2012. The Council noted that two of the main recommendations from the review were to; implement a system that linked fishery shares to fishing effort, gear quantity or catch (e.g. quota) and to undertake a \$16 million commercial fishing exit grant scheme. It was noted that the NSW Government had broadly supported the most of the recommendations of the review and will soon release a detailed reformed process for the NSW Commercial Fisheries.

Motion: ACoRF write to the Minister to encourage that Estuary General meshing fishers be given preference as part of the proposed exit grant process. **Moved:** Shane Jasprizza. **Seconded:** Neil Ryan. **Carried.**

12. Iluka and Yamba Sewerage Scheme Ebb Tide Release relocation

The Council noted the proposed amendment to the location of the Yamba sewerage schemes ebb tide release location and agreed that the issue should be raised directly with the local recreational fishing groups concerned.

13. Proposal to amend the Richmond River recreational fishing haven

Motion: The Council reiterated that it does not support the proposal to amend the RFH to increase the area available to commercial fishing. **Moved:** Neil Ryan. Seconded Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

14. Correspondence

a. Letter from ACoRF to Minister for Primary Industries

The Council noted the letter.

b. Invitation to participate in NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers (NSWCFA) meetings

The invitation was distributed to council members at the meeting.

c. Email for G and M Phillips (Fishcare Volunteers)

The Council noted the letter.

Motion: ACoRF supports the retention of the Fishcare Volunteers and the DPI Education Officer at the Cronulla Fisheries Centre. **Moved:** John Drew. Seconded Jam McLeod. **Carried.**

15. ACoRF and Recfish/ARFF update

The Council noted that RecFish looks like it will continue as a member of the ARFF. The Council noted the value in continuing to have a member from ACoRF on RecFish.

Motion: Max Castle to continue as the nominated ACoRF member on RecFish. **Moved:** Neil Ryan. Seconded: Alistair McGlashan. **Carried.**

16. Out of Session

Motion: The Council ratified the OOS agenda items. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. Seconded: Alistair McGlashan. **Carried.**

Action Item: Council members to be sent a copy of the ACoRF submission to the Independent Audit of NSW Marine Parks.

17. General Business

a. Cronulla Fisheries relocation

Council members requested information on the additional costs to the Recreational Fishing Trust resulting from consultation with DPI staff relocated to regional areas. Peter Turnell, Director Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries advised that all of his expenses including travel were core funded and not allocated from the Recreational Fishing Trust. The Department noted that other staff are funded by the recreational fishing trust and that additional expenses may be incurred by regional staff however a costing analysis have not been undertaken at this stage.

b. Foreign super trawler (MV Margiris)

Motion: ACoRF to write to the Minister advising of their concerns that the super trawler MV Margiris will have an unsustainable impact on Australian fisheries resources and should not be allowed to operate in the waters off NSW. **Moved:** John Drew. Seconded: Alistair McGlashan. **Carried.**

c. Research Priorities

DPI requested that the Council provide advice on the recreational fishing sectors research priorities by the end of September. The Council noted the following research projects which have been previously raised as a priority of the recreational fishing sector:

- Charter Boat Fishery observer program (DPI priority)
- Statewide survey of recreational and charter boat fisheries
- Habitat rehabilitation, evaluating success and value for money
- Commercial wobbegong observer program including interaction with Grey Nurse Sharks and other protected species.
- Impact of commercial harvesting on the pipis resource of NSW.

d. ACoRF nomination for representation on the National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council

The Council noted that Susan North had been nominated as the ACoRF representative on the National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council.

18. Next meeting

The dates for the next meeting (ACoRF 59) will be provided out of session.

Action items from 56th ACoRF meeting on 29 November 2011

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Status
6. National Parks Plans of Management, including Meroo National Park	The Department to discuss the proposal for a statewide policy for recreational fishing in NSW National Parks with OEH and advise Council of progress.	Recreational Fisheries Programs	On-going

Action items from 57th ACoRF meeting on 14 & 15 May 2012

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Status
5. Recreational and Indigenous Fisheries Management update	Recreational Management to discuss the current closures of various western rivers and impoundments where large numbers of freshwater catfish are being caught with the Threatened Species Unit.	Recreational Fisheries Programs	Pending

Action items from 58th ACoRF meeting on 31 August 2012

Agenda Item	Action	Team Responsible	Status
4. Business arising from the minutes	DPI to provide council members with a copy of the list of waterways in NSW that are classified as fishing impoundments out of session.	Recreational Fisheries Programs	Pending
5. Recreational & Indigenous Fisheries Management update	DPI to consult with ACoRF and USFA representative Adrian Wayne to facilitate a targeted advisory and educational program for local spearfishers.	Recreational Fisheries Programs	Pending
8. Sydney Harbour Clean, Safe Wharf update	DPI Saltwater Access Manager to consult with John Clarke and investigate the issue of excessive fishing debris at Port Stephens break wall.	Recreational Fisheries Programs	Pending
16. Out of Session	Council members to be sent a copy of the ACoRF submission to the Independent Audit of NSW Marine Parks.	Recreational Fisheries Programs	Pending

Appendix 1

Table 1 - New Trust Project Applications supported by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC for funding

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title and description	Organisation	Funds requested 2012/13
<p>Browns Creek environmental study To undertake a study to determine the viability of Browns Creek as fish breeding habitat and determine the impact of increased recreational activity. Note: RFSTEC supported this program with a condition for the proponent to work in consultation with the Fisheries Conservation Management and Habitat Action Program staff.</p>	Friends of Browns Creek / Manning Landcare	SW \$2,200

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title and description	Organisation	Funds requested 2012/13
<p>Merimbula and Tathra Wharves fish cleaning tables Installation of a fish cleaning table at Merimbula Wharf and removal and replacement of an existing aged fish cleaning table at Tathra Wharf. The table design installed recently at Merimbula Town Jetty wharf will be replicated at these two new sites as this has proven to be a popular and functional design with anglers. Note: RFSTEC supported this program with a condition of water being available to both tables.</p>	Bega Valley Shire Council	SW \$12,000
<p>Replacement of support structure for fish cleaning table, Paddon Park, Evans Head [resubmitted application] The project is the renewal of the existing fish cleaning table at Evans Head boat ramp and will entail the replacement of the timber support structure, taps & pipelines whilst retaining the existing stainless steel table top. The project will also involve moving the fish cleaning table off the boat ramp onto higher ground onto a concrete slab.</p>	Richmond Valley Council	SW \$4,900
<p>Fish cleaning stations Wyangala Dam To install 3 fish cleaning stations at Wyangala Waters State Park at each boat ramp entry.</p>	Wyangala Fishing Club	FW \$17,919
<p>Edward River fish identification signage [resubmitted application] To install fish identification signs at 10 boat ramps along the Edward River between Four Post Camp and Benarca Bend near Stevens Weir. Note: RFTSEC supported this program to the amount of \$3,750 conditional to DPI approval of signage content.</p>	Deniliquin RSL Fishing Club	Funding requested \$5,616 Note-Funding supported FW \$3,750

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title and description	Organisation	Funds requested 2012/13
<p>Assessing post release survival of southern bluefin tuna from recreational fishing in NSW</p> <p>To quantify the post release survival of SBT from recreational fishing and develop a code of practice to improve capture and handling techniques to minimise mortality of released tuna. Note: RFTSEC supported this program to the amount of \$20,000 conditional to DPI approval of project methodology.</p>	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies - University of Tasmania	<p>Funding requested \$82,183</p> <p>Note-Funding supported SW \$20,000</p>

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title and description	Organisation	Funds requested 2012/13
<p>Educating for sustainable recreational fishing – displays and interactive educational activities. [resubmitted application]</p> <p>To construct interactive educational display resources and institute programs to explain, instruct and promote best practice recreational fishing principles and techniques, latest recreational fishing research findings, and the benefits of recreational fishing to around 3000 Centre visitors each year. Note: RFSTEC supported this program with a condition for a monitoring & evaluation plan being developed.</p>	Ballina Marine Discovery Centre	<p>SW \$52,740</p>
<p>Assisting others to enjoy fishing – Narooma fishing clinics 2012-13.</p> <p>To hold 3 junior fishing clinics, 1 two day Camp Quality Clinic and 1 two day CanTeen clinic. Note: RFSTEC supported this program on the condition that the proponent enters into a <i>fishing workshop minimum standards agreement</i> with DPI.</p>	Narooma Sport and Gamefishing Club Inc.	<p>SW \$5,520</p>
<p>Encouraging Kids to fish sustainably – Burringbar Fishing Club</p> <p>The project aims to teach local children how to fish in a sustainable manner and aims to provide the equipment needed so that socio-economic status does not exclude participation. Note: RFSTEC supported this program on the condition that the proponent enters into a <i>fishing workshop minimum standards agreement</i> with DPI.</p>	Burringbar District Fishing Club	<p>SW \$5,980</p>

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title and description	Organisation	Funds requested 2012/13	Funds requested 2013/14
<p>Supporting fish hatchery trainees</p> <p>To continue the capacity development program for work experience students at the Narrandera Fish Hatchery to build expertise in fish breeding technology.</p>	NSW DPI	\$5,000	\$5,000

Table 2: New Trust Project Pre-Proposals supported in principle by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title and description	Organisation	Funds requested 2012/13
NSW Angel Rings Project 2012/13 to 2014/15 Pre-Proposal To continue the Angel Rings Program to 2014/15 Project given In Principle support to provide a detailed application to the next RFSTEC meeting.	Australian National Sportsfishing Association NSW Branch	\$135,000

Table 3 - New Trust Applications *not supported* by ACoRF, RFSTEC and RFFTEC for funding**Platform: Recreational fishing education**

Project Title and description	Organisation	Funds requested 2012/13
Promotion of recreational fishing licences and safety on Cartoscope maps (Joint SW/FW application) To advertise recreational fishing licences and fishing safety on 2 million tourist maps.	Cartoscope Pty Ltd	\$50,000
“Fish for the Future” – Eurobodalla sustainable fisheries education project stage 2 ‘Fish for the future’ will deliver key messages and education at the ‘grass roots’ level in four ways. Firstly we will record a Steve Starling radio message (specific for Eurobodalla) aired at key times; sustainable fishing education clinics will be delivered to Year 6 students from all Eurobodalla’s Primary Schools; a sustainable fishing guide/map of Eurobodalla will be produced and distributed through tourist centres and operators; and the installation and maintenance of fishing tackle and line bins at key recreational fishing sites throughout the shire.	Eurobodalla Shire Council	\$36,355

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title and description	Organisation	Funds requested 2012/13
Australian Bass Tournaments events assistance To provide assistance with two 2012 Australian Bass Tournaments events, the season ending BASS Grand Final (Lake St Clair) and BASS Megabucks teams’ event (Lake Glenbawn). Note: The proposal was to fund a commercial venture.	Australian Bass Tournaments Pty Ltd (ABT)	\$5,000

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title and description	Organisation	Funds requested 2012/13
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<p>Mullumbimby Leagues Club recreational fishing platform To construct a fishing platform on the Brunswick River at Mullumbimby. Note: The proposal needs further project development.</p>	Byron Shire Council	\$36,355
<p>Chifley Dam fishing platform Following feedback from RFFTEC to an earlier pre-proposal, it is now proposed to construct a fishing platform adjacent to the Chifley Dam boat ramp providing access for disabled and able bodied anglers as well as improved access for children anglers. Note: RFFTEC were concerned about potential changes in dam water levels.</p>	Bathurst Regional Council	\$40,000