

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee

Outcomes, 43rd meeting

Hotel Mercure, Wolli Creek, Sydney

19-20 March 2015

Attendees

Bruce Schumacher (Chair), Lisa Terry (Region 2), Adrian Wayne for John Featherstone, (Region 3), Geoff Shelton (Region 4), Lionel Jones (Region 5), John Paton (Region 6a), Stuart Rhodes (Region 6b), Ann Garard (Region 7), Stan Konstantaras (Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW), John Burgess (Australian National Sportsfishing Association , NSW Branch), Grahame Williams OAM for David Jones (NSW Gamefishing Association), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI)

1. Chair's introduction

The chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

John Featherstone (Region 3), Greg Liddell (Region 8), David Jones (NSW Gamefishing Association)

3. Confirmation of outcomes from RFSTEC meeting 42 – 18 September 2014

The draft outcomes of the 42nd RFSTEC meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Moved: John Paton Seconded: Geoff Shelton

4. Confirmation of outcomes from RFSTEC teleconference meeting - 2 December 2014

The draft outcomes of the RFSTEC Habitat Action program teleconference meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Moved: Lionel Jones Seconded: Ann Garard

RFSTEC reviewed a proposal to allocate funds from 2 formerly approved habitat projects that did not proceed to a revised project application "Restoring Fish Habitat on the Nambucca River". Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess – Supported.

5. Action items from previous meetings

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

6. Potential conflicts of interest

The chair reminded committee members of the process for declaring conflicts of interest.

7. Out of session items

The Committee ratified the following out of session recommendation. Moved John Burgess, Seconded Geoff Shelton.

Coffs Jetty Foreshores Fish Cleaning Table application (\$25,912) – RFSTEC recommended funding of \$20,000 for the project out of session in January 2015.

8. Recreational Fishing Trust report

The status of the Saltwater Trust was presented.

The current Recreational Fishing Trust investment plan finishes on 30 June 2015. It is proposed that a new three year investment plan be developed for the 2015/16-2017/18 period allowing for greater flexibility and to improve ability to account for emerging priorities.

A community expression of interest for Trust funded programs was advertised in October 2014 and widely circulated to invite anglers, fishing clubs and councils to apply for Trust funding. The expression of interest was also advertised in Newscast and on the DPI website and through various other grant networks. The closing date for submission of new applications was Tuesday 9 December 2014. A total of 108 applications were received by DPI.

9. Review of new Saltwater Trust applications

The committee reviewed new Saltwater Trust grant applications. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to ACoRF for subsequent recommendations to the Minister for consideration (refer to Tables 1 and 2).

10. General business

a) New recreational fishing advisory council

DPI advised a new recreational fishing advisory body “Recreational Fishing NSW” will be set up to replace the current Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing. Recreational Fishing NSW will include eight regional members, and two members with expertise in spearfishing and charter boat fishing, all of whom will be selected by an Expression of Interest process, as well as an appointed independent Chairperson. The regions include: Mid and Far North Coast, Lower North Coast, Sydney and Central Coast, Illawarra, South Coast, Northwest Inland, Southwest Inland, Central and Southern Tablelands. ACoRF and its expenditure committees will continue to operate under existing terms until the new body is established.

b) National recreational fishing conference

The 3rd National Recreational Fishing Conference will be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on 25 July 2015. The theme for the conference is ‘Managing our Fishing Future’ and will feature a range of presentations by experts from around the world on various issues relating to recreational fishing and discussion forums to engage participants on key recreational fishing issues. It is proposed for one RFSTEC member to attend the conference. The cost of conference registration, travel and accommodation expenses will be provided to one committee delegate. The nominated representative will need to provide a report on the outcomes of the conference at a future expenditure committee meeting.

Action item: NSW DPI will contact expenditure committee members to determine which members would like nominate to attend the 2015 National Recreational Fishing Conference as a RFSTEC delegate. The successful representative will then be selected by a random draw.

11. Next meeting

Wed 19th August 2015. Committee members requested the meeting have a focus on project feedback.

12. Action items

Action item	Responsibility	Status
DPI to collect committee nominations for National Recreational Fishing conference and draw 1 random person to attend.	DPI	Completed

Action item	Responsibility	Status
Next meeting to focus on updates from major projects, including Compliance, Aquatic Habitat and Conservation, Recreational Fishing Access, NSW Research Angler Program and Fisheries Enhancement Research and Monitoring program.	DPI (coordination)	To be included in next agenda.
Project status reports, updates and final reports to be posted securely online for viewing by RFSTEC members	DPI	Pending
Provide committee members with the option to opt out of paper versions of applications and agenda papers and receive electronic versions instead	DPI	Pending

More information

Recreational Fishing Trusts Executive Officer

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2015). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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Table 1: Summary of new projects recommended for funding by RFSTEC**Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation**

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>One Tree Reach weir management investigation to improve water quality and fish habitat A hydrological investigation at One Tree Reach wetland will optimise weir management in order to improve wetland processes, water quality and vegetation condition. In doing so fish stocks will also be enhanced. <i>Stan Konstantaras declared a potential COI as RFA had provided a letter of support, no pecuniary interest determined. Supported - Moved Stuart Rhodes, Seconded John Burgess.</i> <i>Condition – applicant to approach commercial sector to seek contributing funds or in-kind support</i></p>	Hornsby Shire Council	SW \$35,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation - South Coast NSW Provision of fish conservation management services for the south coast of NSW to enhance key fish habitat protection and recreational fishery involvement in fish habitat protection and management. <i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Lisa Terry</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$173,398	SW \$177,693	SW \$182,108
<p>Habitat Action Program - making more fish... naturally The Program provides community grants to Councils, recreational fishing groups etc, to undertake fish habitat restoration projects, such as replanting and protecting river bank vegetation, removing barriers to fish migration, restoring water flows for fish populations etc. These projects support the improvement of recreationally important fish stocks. <i>Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Lisa Terry</i> <i>Condition – RFSTEC recommended funding proposed for the Fish Habitat Network and Fishers for Fish Habitat be allocated to community habitat action grants.</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$525,000	SW \$526,300	SW \$528,050

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Stocking prawns and mullet to enhance recreational fishing opportunity This project involves the stocking of 2 popular fish species (Eastern king prawns and Mullet) along the coast (in recruitment limited situations) as part of an ongoing program to enhance recreational fishing opportunities. <i>Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$279,776	SW \$281,836	SW \$283,507

<p>Offshore artificial reef #5</p> <p>Involves construction of the fifth offshore artificial reef in NSW to provide a new quality recreational fishing location. This builds on the success of the Sydney and Shoalhaven offshore reefs, which are very popular with recreational fishers. The Port Macquarie artificial reef will be constructed later this year followed by the two Port Botany reefs. The location of the fifth reef is to be determined.</p> <p><i>Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Paton</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$440,000	SW \$510,000	\$0
<p>Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)</p> <p>Involves installation of 30 devices (floating buoy structures) in offshore waters. The FADs create new highly productive fishing locations by attracting dolphinfish, marlin and tunas. The program is very popular with recreational fishers. More FADs in new locations will be deployed in 2015/16.</p> <p><i>Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Geoff Shelton</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$244,150	SW \$247,469	SW \$250,833
<p>Recreational Fisheries Enhancement (Artificial reefs, FADs and marine stocking coordination)</p> <p>Involves planning, facilitation of approvals (from the Commonwealth) and ongoing project management of NSW Fisheries Enhancement initiatives, including FADs, artificial reefs and marine stocking.</p> <p><i>Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Ann Garard</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$193,187	SW \$198,552	SW \$203,185
<p>Developing mangrove jack as a key new species for freshwater recreational fishing in NSW – Phase 3: Maintenance of broodstock through 2015/16.</p> <p>Mangrove jack, a popular recreational fishing species, were bred and stocked into Clarrie Hall Dam for the first time in NSW in March 2015. This project will cover the costs of maintaining the mangrove jack broodstock at the Southern Cross University (National Marine Science Centre – Coffs Harbour) through 2015/16 for future breeding and stocking.</p> <p><i>Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Lionel Jones</i></p>	Southern Cross University	SW \$7,750	\$0	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Governor Phillip Reserve Fish Cleaning Table</p> <p>This project will install a fish cleaning table to improve facilities for the recreational fishing community at Governor Phillip Reserve, Windsor.</p> <p><i>Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Lisa Terry</i></p>	Hawkesbury City Council	\$15,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Small grants program – Saltwater</p> <p>These funds are set aside for small community based recreational fishing projects to enhance recreational fishing. Projects are limited to \$10,000. <i>Note – projects funded by this program are listed as “Small Grants” in the relevant platforms.</i></p> <p><i>Mel Bradbury, Infrastructure Manager, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Geoff Shelton.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

<p>Recreational Fishing Access, Saltwater The Saltwater Access Fisheries Manager role works closely with stakeholders to preserve and enhance long term recreational fishing access, including negotiating with Government agencies, recreational fishing groups and other non-government organisations on behalf of recreational fishers. The role also identifies and facilitates new fishing locations and areas. <i>Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Lisa Terry</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$145,050	\$148,680	\$152,400
<p>FishAbility: Lake Cathie Accessible Fishing Platform Construction of an accessible fishing platform and connected pathway to the wheelchair accessible car parking space, picnic tables, BBQ shelters and amenities at Lake Cathie. <i>Supported – Moved Ann Garard, Seconded Lisa Terry</i></p>	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	\$140,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Lets Go Fishing – educating school children on the sustainable benefits of recreational fishing This project provides fishing gear and other resources to enable high school teachers from the Marine Teachers Association to involve students in fishing through supervised practical fishing activities. <i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess</i></p>	Australian Fishing Trade Association	SW \$110,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Fishing competitions and events: responsible recreational fishing promotion and effective management The project works closely with anglers from fishing clubs, fishing competitions and their organisers to help them improve the environmental performance of their events whilst helping to promote the positive benefits of fishing for the community. The program promotes best practice recreational fishing and competition management techniques. <i>Peter Turnell, Director, Recreational & Indigenous Fisheries and Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a potential COI, no pecuniary interest determined Supported – Moved Stan Konstantaras, Seconded Graham Williams</i> <i>Condition – Engagement with spearfishing competitions to be enhanced</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$101,505	SW \$103,618	SW \$105,624
<p>Get Hooked...its Fun to Fish This involves an interactive and discovery based recreational fishing program for primary schools, which meets the NSW Department of Education and Training Environmental Education Policy and curriculum. Primary schools register for the program and receive a comprehensive resource kit free of charge so that teachers can teach about recreational fishing fish species, the importance of healthy aquatic life for fish stocks and responsible fishing. In term 4, fishing workshops are held throughout NSW where the students can put their new skills and knowledge into practice. Over 100 schools and 5,000 participate in the program each year. <i>Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded John Burgess</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$396,000	SW \$396,000	SW \$396,000

<p>Sydney International Boat Show 2015 – attendance of Fishcare trailer ‘Bluey’ This program purchases retail space at the Boat Show for ‘Bluey’ the Trust recreational fishing advisory trailer. DPI staff and Fishcare Volunteers attend the trailer promoting safe and responsible recreational fishing to the general public attending the Show. <i>Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Geoff Shelton</i> <i>Comment – Secure and book prime spot early</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$18,000	\$0	\$0
<p>NSW Fishing Workshops Each year, DPI runs around 70 regional fishing workshops where children are taught responsible fishing practices and how to fish. The program provides an enjoyable educational experience that aims to teach the basics of fishing to new entrants to the sport. <i>Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Lionel Jones</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$36,310	SW \$37,000	SW \$37,740
<p>Fishcare Program Around 300 Fishcare Volunteers are supported by 5 DPI regional Education Officers to provide face to face education of recreational fishers at 500 events each year. Volunteers and Education Officers make over 50,000 contacts with recreational fishers each year promoting responsible and safe fishing. <i>Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Lionel Jones and Lisa Terry declared a potential COI. Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Stan Konstantaras</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$595,200	SW \$610,000	SW \$625,300
<p>Recreational Fishing Guides The program involves the printing of 300,000 comprehensive saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing guides each year. The guides have a wide range of information, including fishing rules, sustainable fishing practices, where fishing fee revenue is spent etc. The guides are distributed to fishers free of charge. <i>Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded John Paton</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$135,000	SW \$135,000	SW \$135,000
<p>Fishing fee awareness This program raises awareness of the need to pay the fishing licence fee and where licence fees are spent using advertising and promotion in fishing magazines and videos. <i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Ann Garard</i> <i>Condition – DPI to provide a project management plan at next meeting.</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$35,000	SW \$35,000	SW \$35,000

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Coastal recreational mobile squads</p> <p>There are 3 mobile compliance squads with two Fisheries Officers in each, which enforce saltwater recreational fishing regulations, in particular recreational fishing fee requirements whilst patrolling popular fishing areas including recreational fishing havens. This project provides funding for three of the six mobile Fisheries Officers.</p> <p><i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Stuart Rhodes</i> <i>Condition – RFSTEC recommends funding the project without the operational overheads component of \$115,200 per year.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$495,261 requested SW \$380,061 supported	\$500,754 requested SW \$385,554 supported	\$506,452 requested SW \$391,252 supported
<p>9 coastal fisheries officers</p> <p>This project provides funding for 9 coastal fisheries officers which maintain capacity of DPI to enforce fisheries rules and regulations, including the recreational fishing fee requirement across NSW coastal areas.</p> <p><i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Stuart Rhodes</i> <i>Condition – RFSTEC recommends funding the project without the operational overheads component of \$295,000 per year.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$1,105,641 requested SW \$810,641 supported	\$1,120,614 requested SW \$825,614 supported	\$1,135,927 requested SW \$840,927 supported

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>NSW Game Fish Tournament Monitoring</p> <p>This project collects catch and fishing effort research information from around 25 game fishing tournaments each year, which is used to support management of the game fishery and assist with negotiations with Commonwealth agencies on fisheries issues.</p> <p><i>Graham Williams OAM declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Stan Konstantaras</i> <i>Condition - Note – RFSTEC recommended funding for 1 year only at this stage and requested DPI to arrange a peer review during that period to review the extensive time series data for this project to determine if there is an ongoing need for the project. A data sharing/ownership agreement between Ghosn Consulting Services and DPI needs to be established prior to project commencement.</i></p>	Ghosn Consulting Services	\$63,000	\$66,250 requested \$0 supported	\$69,700 requested \$0 supported
<p>Bait Security – Ensuring sustainable and productive NSW invertebrate bait resources</p> <p>This new research project will contribute to our understanding of bait population dynamics to support sustainable management and identify opportunities for population enhancement or recovery of pipis, nippers and beach worms. Project outcomes will secure NSW bait species for recreational fishers through: 'Best practice' harvest guidelines'.</p> <p><i>Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Stuart Rhodes</i> <i>Condition – Terranora nipper issue to be integrated as part of this project.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$112,180	\$106,380	\$104,880

<p>Game Fish Tagging Program The NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program of Australia is the largest saltwater 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, tunas, sharks and sport fish and encourages fishers to participate in the management of the fishery through fish tagging initiatives. Thousands of fish are tagged each year by anglers as part of the program. <i>Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Graham Williams</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$145,101	\$148,390	\$151,950
<p>The New South Wales Research Angler Program – Saltwater Biological knowledge gaps for some of NSW's key recreational fish species can be filled by utilising fishers to collect biological information (e.g. otoliths or earbones for fish ageing) on the fish they catch. This 'citizen science' project allows fishers to actively contribute to stock assessment and better management of their favourite species. The project has previously focussed on Mulloway but will expand to other species such as snapper, kingfish, tailor and flathead. <i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess</i> <i>Condition – Program to be expanded in 2015 to include 4 species as indicated in project application plus 2 additional priority species.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$300,646	\$316,440	\$335,372
<p>NSW Fisheries Enhancement Research and Monitoring Program This project addresses the research and monitoring requirements (as determined by the Commonwealth) of the offshore artificial reefs and marine stocking programs. As part of the approvals for these two programs, there are a range of monitoring requirements which are undertaken under this program. The program also furthers our understanding of the effectiveness of these fisheries enhancement project. <i>Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Lisa Terry</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$492,192	\$519,248	\$550,998
<p>Enhancing estuary perch spawning habitat in the Clyde River: Trial and evaluation This project will monitor the efficacy of enhancing estuary perch spawning habitat (funded separately under a Habitat Action Grant) at strategic locations within the lower Clyde River (where estuary perch spawning habitat is limited). Spawning habitat will be enhanced via the deployment of reef balls (artificial reefs) and snags. <i>Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Stuart Rhodes</i> <i>Condition – remove 3.25% project support levy from budget.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$38,864 requested \$37,639 supported	\$25,327 requested \$24,527 supported	\$0
<p>Monitoring and Research on Landed Fish at Game Fishing Tournaments in NSW: 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 This project facilitates sampling of billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured and weighed at the major game fishing tournaments to obtain biological information, which contributes to a range of studies in Australia and worldwide. <i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess</i> <i>Condition – RFSTEC recommended funding for 1 year only at this stage and requested DPI to arrange a peer review during that period to review the data collected under this project since 2002 to determine if there is an ongoing need for the project.</i></p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$29,000	\$29,500	\$0

<p>Recreational fish biodiversity assessments will direct on-grounds remediation works to reduce threats to key estuarine habitats in northern NSW</p> <p>The Group will use in-water estuarine video and observational surveys to determine the presence of key recreational fish species and identify critical habitat that they rely upon. Seagrass and complex habitats will be mapped and seasonal patterns of fish habitat utilisation will be recorded. Threats to key fish habitats will be identified for future habitat restoration work.</p> <p><i>Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Paton</i></p> <p><i>Condition - RFSTEC recommended that habitat restoration components (\$23,760 per year in years 2 and 3) be removed from the project budget and for the applicant to apply to the Habitat Action Grants Program once the survey work has been done.</i></p>	<p>Solitary Islands Underwater Research Group Inc. (SURG)</p>	<p>\$22,970</p>	<p>\$35,960 requested \$12,200 supported</p>	<p>\$31,400 requested \$7,640 supported</p>
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Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Advisory Council meeting expenses</p> <p>The Advisory Council advises the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishery issues as well as priorities for expenditure of recreational fishing fee funds on programs that benefit recreational fishing.</p> <p><i>Supported – Moved Graham Williams OAM, Seconded Lisa Terry</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$40,000	SW \$40,000	SW \$40,000
<p>Expenditure committee meeting expenses</p> <p>The Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee is a sub-committee of the relevant Ministerial recreational fishing advisory council. The committee reviews applications for funding and makes recommendations on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing Trust.</p> <p><i>Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Ann Garard</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$33,000	SW \$33,000	SW \$33,000
<p>Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer</p> <p>This role is responsible for the overall coordination of the Recreational Fishing Trusts to facilitate a transparent and accountable Trust system, which is supported by the recreational fishing community. The responsibility includes implementation of good governance processes to ensure collection and transfer of licence revenue to the Trusts and disbursement of funds to Trust projects.</p> <p><i>Peter Turnell, Director, Recreational & Indigenous Fisheries and Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Lisa Terry</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$172,000	SW \$177,000	SW \$182,000
<p>Recreational Fisheries Infrastructure and Grants Management Program</p> <p>This role identifies gaps in fishing infrastructure in NSW, including fish cleaning facilities and quality accessible fishing platforms. It also produces the newsletter Newscast sent regularly to 150,000 recreational fishers and oversees project management of all external grant projects funded by the Recreational Fishing Trust.</p> <p><i>Bryan van der Walt, Trust Executive Officer, and Mel Bradbury, Infrastructure Manager, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported John Paton, Seconded Geoff Shelton</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$134,799	SW \$137,252	SW \$139,754

<p>Recreational fishing information – enhanced production for fishers</p> <p>This project involves production and distribution of Recreational Fishing Trust recreational fishing advisory brochures and information (your fishing licence at work brochures, recreational fishing haven signage, catch and release guides, sticky rules etc). All funds are spent on printing and distribution. <i>Supported – Moved Ann Garard, Seconded Geoff Shelton</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$142,500	SW \$142,500	SW \$142,500
<p>Recreational Fishing Trust grants governance enhancement and improvements program</p> <p>Given there are over 100 'active' projects funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts, this role ensures the performance of Recreational Fishing Trust funded projects by maintaining milestone reporting requirements for all projects. Regular audits of projects are undertaken to ensure good governance of the expenditure of Recreational Fishing Trust funding. <i>Mel Bradbury, Infrastructure Manager, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported - Moved Geoff Shelton, Seconded Ann Garard</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$122,943	SW \$126,171	SW \$134,804
<p>Recreational Fisher Research Database</p> <p>This project involves data entry of 1 and 3-year fishing fee receipt holders onto the NSW DPI Recreational Angling database for research and management purposes. This includes data validation and duplication checks of the database. <i>Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Paton</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$49,000	SW \$49,000	SW \$49,000
<p>Recreational Fishing Fee Renewal Notice System</p> <p>Involves an efficient recreational fishing licence fee renewal notice system to encourage recreational fishers to renew their fee when it expires. The notice gets sent out to around 250,000 licence holders per year. <i>Supported – Moved Graham Williams OAM, Seconded John Burgess. DPI to investigate opt-in system to receive renewals.</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$86,000	SW \$86,000	SW \$86,000
<p>Recreational Fishing Fee Administration project</p> <p>This program is responsible for maintenance of a convenient payment network for the recreational fishing fee. DPI maintains a network of around 900 retail outlets (fishing tackle stores, service stations etc.) where fishers can purchase their fee receipt. Purchase of recreational fishing fees has also been amalgamated with the Government Licensing Service, which provides a web based 'one stop shop' for all government licensing functions. The Service provides for a range of payment functions for the Recreational Fishing Fee and charges DPI a set fee per transaction, which is included in the project budget. Each year, there are around 500,000 fee payments and a host of associated transactions e.g. address changes, refunds etc. <i>Peter Turnell, Director, Recreational & Indigenous Fisheries, declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting. Supported - Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess</i> <i>Conditions – Note - RFSTEC raised concern about the high level of Government Licensing Service transaction fees projected to be charged to DPI in 2015/16 and beyond. Transaction fee levels have increased in recent years beyond CPI and are projected to increase to between \$800,000 and \$850,000 per year over the 3 next years. RFSTEC supported full funding for the project in year 1 but did not support the Government Licensing Service transaction fees in years 2 and 3 at this stage. RFSTEC has recommended to the Minister that senior DPI staff negotiate a better transaction fee arrangement with the Government Licensing Service for the Recreational Fishing Fee to achieve efficiency savings.</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$1,573,952	SW \$1,616,799 requested \$791,799 supported at this stage	SW \$1,660,282 requested \$810,282 supported at this stage

SMALL GRANTS – note these are sub-projects of the Small Grants Program listed earlier.

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Improving fishing opportunities at Bohnock on the Manning River – Small Grant The project proposes to replace ageing facilities with a new fishing pontoon (including disabled access) and a modern fish cleaning station. <i>Supported – Moved Geoff Shelton, Seconded John Burgess</i> <i>Condition - \$5,000 provided for the fish cleaning table component only. It was recommended the applicant apply to RMS for the pontoon funding component.</i></p>	Greater Taree City Council	\$70,000 requested SW \$5,000 supported	\$0	\$0
<p>Queens Wharf Morpeth - fish cleaning station and river bank revegetation – Small Grant The project proposed to supply and install a stainless steel fish cleaning station including water service, concrete slab and path and undertake revegetation of the river bank. <i>Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Burgess</i> <i>Condition - \$10,000 offered for the construction of the fish cleaning shelter. Council to liaise with DPI Angling Facilities Manager to utilise DPI standard fish cleaning station designs</i></p>	Maitland City Council	\$12,125 requested SW \$10,000 supported	\$0	\$0
<p>Management of Merimbula Fish Cleaning Pontoon – Small Grant Funding for the management and maintenance of the Merimbula Fish Cleaning Platform. <i>Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Burgess</i></p>	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club	SW \$870	SW \$870	SW \$2,620
<p>Fishing for refugees – Small Grant This project will teach high-school aged refugee new arrivals to Australia responsible and sustainable fishing practices. <i>Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Paton</i></p>	Intensive English centre, Warrawong	SW \$3,406	\$0	\$0
<p>Assisting others to enjoy fishing – Small Grant The club will hold 3 junior fishing clinics and 1 canTeen Cancer Kids visit. The clinics teach how to rig rods, tie knots, bait hooks, gather bait from intertidal zones, cast, catch and release fish and how to look after the environment. <i>Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Ann Garard</i></p>	Narooma Sport and Gamefishing Club Inc	SW \$5,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Warrawong High School's - Project Neptune – Small Grant The high school began Project Neptune in 1998, which involves running a fishing workshop for students and finishing the school term with an annual deep sea charter. <i>Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Lisa Terry</i></p>	Warrawong High School	SW \$4,596	\$0	\$0
<p>Provision of an informative, attractive and readily accessible report on the Gamefish Tagging Program for the year 2014/2015 – Small Grant This project will provide a quality angler Annual Report for the Gamefish Tagging Program for 2014/15 <i>Supported – Moved Graham Williams, Seconded John Burgess</i></p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	SW \$6,000	\$0	\$0

Table 2: Summary of new projects NOT recommended for funding by RFSTEC**Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation**

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Clarence Floodplain Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Project Lawrence to Southgate This project aims to eradicate Cockspur Coral Tree from three locations on the Clarence River Floodplain. Following control the riparian areas will be planted with local riparian plant species and maintained to support a range of beneficial ecosystem functions including food and habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species. <i>Not Supported – Moved Geoff Shelton, Seconded John Burgess. Comment – refer to Habitat Action Grants</i></p>	Clarence Valley Council	\$38,460	\$0	\$0
<p>Remediation of river bank along the Brunswick River at Vallances Rd., Mullumbimby Remediation works of approximately 200m along the Brunswick River at Vallances Rd, Mullumbimby are required. The site had previously been rehabilitated however severe slumping has occurred since these works have been completed. <i>Not Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Geoff Shelton. Comment – refer to Habitat Action Grants</i></p>	Australian Wetlands Consulting & Byron Shire Council	\$54,700	\$0	\$0
<p>Woolgoolga Lake Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project The Project will improve the condition and continuity of the riparian and aquatic vegetation around Woolgoolga Lake, a crucial element to improving fish stocks within the Lake. <i>Not Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Burgess. Comment – refer to Habitat Action Grants</i></p>	Coffs Harbour City Council	\$26,600	\$0	\$0
<p>Pre-proposal - Improving Fisheries NSW smartphone App by including geolocation and fish habitat data collection tool Extending the scope, reach and productivity of the Fisheries NSW App by providing geolocation capabilities and a user-friendly Fish Habitat Tool for fish habitat data collection and fisher engagement. <i>Not Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Burgess. Comment – support the inclusion of this habitat information in the recreational fisheries app currently in development</i></p>	NSW DPI	SW \$14,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Increasing the capacity of recreational fishers to undertake habitat projects Recreational fisher understanding of the importance of fish habitat for healthy fisheries will improve as fish habitat remediation projects are encouraged and facilitated, increasing recreational fishing opportunities and habitat stewardship <i>Not Supported – Moved Graham Williams, Seconded John Burgess. Comment – the Committee acknowledged the benefits of the project, but did not consider the program as an ongoing priority at this time.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$175,630	\$179,840	\$184,160

<p>OceanWatch Australia Marine NRM delivering the NSW Habitat Action Grants for the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust</p> <p>OceanWatch Australia - Marine NRM, an NGO, will devolve saltwater trust funds across coastal NSW - funding actions that improve fish habitat. OceanWatch's Tide to Table model of engagement would include a steering committee of NSW Fish Habitat Partnership members to guide the process. <i>Not Supported – Moved Adrian Wayne, Seconded Lionel Jones. The committee noted that the current Habitat Action Grants Program has been operating well and recommended that both DPI and Oceanwatch should investigate opportunities for how Oceanwatch can be further involved in the Habitat Action program.</i></p>	OceanWatch Australia	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
<p>Fishing for a Clean Rock Platform</p> <p>Avoca Beach rock platform is a popular fishing destination. Incorrect disposal of recreational fishing litter has created a significant visual and environmental pollution issue. Take 3 and local recreational fishers will implement solutions to address this. <i>Not Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Geoff Shelton. Comment – appreciate the need for the project but questions raised about the methodology and cost.</i></p>	Take 3	\$21,050	\$0	\$0
<p>Navigation Aids in Narrabeen Lagoon</p> <p>The lagoon has many shallow areas containing fragile seagrass beds. Council will install directional markers in the lagoon and develop educational material to direct anglers, kayakers and boaters to the deep channels thus avoiding shallow areas. <i>Not Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Lisa Terry. Comment – The committee noted the potential flow of benefit to other user groups while the potential direct benefits to recreational fishers was considered low. Insufficient evidence of liaison with Roads and Maritime outlining the different party responsibilities.</i></p>	Warringah Council	\$20,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Kianga/Dalmeny Artificial Reef</p> <p>Plan and construct an approved artificial reef structure in ocean waters between Kianga and Dalmeny. <i>Not Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded John Burgess. Comment – This location will be added to the priority list for the DPI reefs program. Application methodology not technically sound. Location to be included in DPI existing program for future consideration.</i></p>	Club Narooma Fishing Club	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Port Stephens Artificial Reef – pre proposal</p> <p>To construct an artificial fishing reef at Port Stephens <i>Not Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess. Comment – Location to be included in DPI existing program for future consideration.</i></p>	Individual	\$0	\$0	\$0
<p>FADs for South West Rocks & Hat Head</p> <p>Provide & install Bait and Fishing FADs at both Hat Head and South West Rocks <i>Not Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded John Paton. Comment – 2 of the 3 proposed new FADs</i></p>	ECOfishers	\$10,000	\$0	\$0

will be included in the DPI FADs program.

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>ECO Fishers - Commercial fishers buy-out ECOfishers suggest \$2,000,000 be allotted to a buyout of a number of businesses with the condition that those people not be permitted to re-enter the commercial fishing industry. It is our understanding that this \$2,000,000 could be matched dollar for dollar by funds already collected from commercial fishers which now forms part of the \$16,000,000 set aside for exits grants through the CFRP. <i>Not Supported – Moved Graham Williams OAM, Seconded John Paton. Comment - The committee noted that a component of the current commercial fishing reform program reform involves assisting commercial fishing businesses to either exit or remain in the industry using \$16 million of committed government funding. It would be prudent for this exit program to be completed prior to allocating funds to any additional buyout program to determine if any gaps still remained, which would maximise the benefits for recreational fishers. The Committee also noted that the proposed methodology was based on the premise that total commercial catch will be reduced by a corresponding catch of bought out fishers, which may not necessarily occur..</i></p>	ECO Fishers	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Everlasting Swamp Fishing Access and Resnagging Improve fishing access and habitat by installing a small craft (kayak) access point and riparian resnagging along creeks within Everlasting Swamp, connected to Sportsmans Creek branch of the Clarence River in Northern NSW. <i>Not Supported – Moved Ann Garard, Seconded John Burgess. Comment - The committee encouraged the Service to resubmit the project application with further detail on kayak access and an associated budget which focussed on kayak access.</i></p>	National Parks and Wildlife Service	\$35,000	\$0	\$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Education stage at the 2015 Sydney International Boat Show Using its central education stage, the Sydney International Boat Show delivers positive messages in an informal and entertaining environment. The show has an impressive and successful history with the event first running in 1968. It attracts a highly qualified boating audience with over 50% having a primary interest in Fishing. <i>Not Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Lisa Terry. Comment – the committee indicated its preference for allocating funding to the purchase of retail space only, which worked well at last year's show.</i></p>	Boating Industry Association	SW \$61,325	\$0	\$0

Using innovative communication tools to improve waste management and protect access for rec fishers in Sydney Harbour

OceanWatch Australia Ltd. SW \$25,870 \$0 \$0

Addressing fishing-related debris at hotspots within Sydney Harbour. Using info-graphic signage and online whiteboard animations as simple, innovative tools to communicate environmental issues in terms that resonate with rec fishers.

Not Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded John Paton. Comment – The Committee noted the existing Clean Safe Wharves program which is run collaboratively by RMS, the Recreational Fishing Alliance and DPI. RFSTEC encouraged Oceanwatch to resubmit the project after liaising and collaborating with current Clean Safe Wharves campaign partners to ensure coordination of efforts and avoid any duplication..

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
A quantitative assessment of the health benefits and social importance of recreational fishing in New South Wales In a world's first, this project will use benchmarked indicators from the health sciences to quantify the health, well-being, quality of life and social functioning of recreational fishers in NSW, compared to population norms of the general Australian public. <i>Not Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded John Burgess. Comment – The expenditure committee noted a current similar Trust project is being completed and it is appropriate to review the outcomes of that study to determine any gaps.</i>	CSIRO	SW \$68,040	\$0	\$0
Fish Stock Survey Assessment of the current available stocks of various species of fish in the Mid North Coast area of N.S.W. <i>Not Supported – Moved Geoff Shelton, Seconded Lionel Jones. Comment - Lack of methodology and sampling plan. Insufficient evidence of expertise</i>	East Coast Research	\$49,680	\$0	\$0
Empowering recreational fishers – evidence-based engagement in the Marine Estate zoning process will lead to better outcomes for the recreational sector This project seeks to empower recreational fishers by providing the detailed analyses and tools needed to support their position during any consultation process for zoning within a Marine Park <i>Not Supported – Moved Adrian Wayne, Seconded Lionel Jones. Comment - The committee noted the existing bioregional assessment is currently underway and due for completion in Feb 2016. It is prudent to allow this assessment to be completed which may provide information on gaps and priorities.</i>	Fishing Survey Solutions Pty Ltd	\$65,000	\$35,000	\$0

<p>Over and under: engaging recreational fishers and underwater users in citizen science to answer key questions on large predatory fish The project will investigate the diversity, distribution and abundance of key predatory fish in offshore and inshore waters using data from recreational fishers above and below water, divers and snorkelers <i>Not Supported – Moved Lisa Terry, Seconded Stan Konstantaras. Comment - Lack of methodology information. Insufficient information about recreational angler involvement</i></p>	National Parks Association of NSW Inc (NPANSW)	\$58,800	\$0	\$0
<p>The ecosystem impacts and the impacts on recreational fishing of marine ecotourism activities in the Terranora Broadwater The project plans to provide independent information on the ecosystem impacts of yabby harvesting associated with ecotourism activities in Terranora. This is a high profile issue for local recreational fishers. <i>Not Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Adrian Wayne. Comment – DPI currently developing a code of practice for this area. RFSTEC noted that an alternative research approach covering this issue is proposed.</i></p>	Bond University Limited	\$168,732	\$0	\$0
<p>See for yourself: baited underwater video of fish assemblages at rocky reefs along the NSW coast Recreational fishers will be provided with an easy-to-use web-based platform to view high definition videos of fish and habitat on 30 NSW rocky reefs. <i>Not Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Stan Konstantaras. Comment – Low priority at this stage.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$70,000	\$0	\$0
<p>Developing environmentally friendly recreational fishing gears and practices for NSW coastal areas (phase 2) The project is developing environmentally friendly recreational fishing practises—initiated by a ministerial request. Two thirds of the initial funding request was approved (for what was effectively phase 1). Phase 1 will extend into the first half of the 2015-2016 financial year. The final year of funding (phase 2) is required to meet the previously agreed objectives. <i>Not Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded John Burgess. Comment – the Committee acknowledged the benefits of the project, but considered the project as a lower priority given significant research has been undertaken in this area in recent years in NSW.</i></p>	NSW DPI	\$264,433	\$0	\$0
<p>Expanding angler involvement in fisheries research and monitoring in NSW through the use of interactive smartphone technology Assess and trial interactive web based and smartphone technology for its value in engaging anglers in monitoring and assessment of recreational fisheries in NSW. Produce a) field trialled design specifications for web hosted, interactive smartphone app and database technology for regular use in monitoring and assessment of recreational fisheries b) recommendations and a series of practical approaches for increasing engagement of recreational anglers in fisheries research and monitoring through the use of angler assisted approaches and innovative technology. <i>Not Supported – Moved John Burgess, Seconded Geoff Shelton. Comment - Low value for money. Good concept but expensive.</i></p>	University of Wollongong	SW \$96,600	\$0	\$0

Determination of key biological parameters of saltwater recreational fish species for setting appropriate recreational fishing rules and regulations in NSW	WildFish Research	\$296,880	\$296,880	\$25,000
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By sampling the catches of average recreational anglers, this project will provide the biological parameters necessary to set size and bag limits, and other management measures, for recreationally caught species in NSW

Not Supported – Moved John Paton, Seconded Geoff Shelton. Comment – The committee noted the project application objectives are a current core role of DPI and that there is a major, existing DPI data collection program on key fish species, which is used to manage our fisheries resources. To avoid any duplication, any similar new contributing project would require collaboration, integration and coordination with DPI.

Evaluating the use and success of offshore artificial reefs to recreational anglers	WildFish Research	\$88,800	\$0	\$0
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This study will determine the effects of the recently installed Shoalhaven offshore artificial reef on the fishing behaviour, fishing effort and catches of recreational anglers

Not Supported – Moved Graham Williams OAM, Seconded Lionel Jones. Comment - The committee noted the proposed catch methodology may result in data with high natural variability which may make interpretation of results difficult i.e. fisheries independent methods may be more useful. RFSTEC also noted an existing monitoring program was underway..

Do offshore artificial reefs provide enhanced business opportunities for the NSW Recreational Fishing Charter Boat Industry?	WildFish Research	\$67,900	\$0	\$0
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Charter boat catches from artificial reefs and natural fishing areas will be compared and operators interviewed to determine what impacts and opportunities the reefs have had and will have on their current and future businesses

Not Supported – Moved Lionel Jones, Seconded Stuart Rhodes. Comment – The proposal was considered low priority from a charter perspective.

NOTE – the following project received a split vote from RFSTEC. The motion was to support limited funding of \$10,000 for the project. The motion received 5 votes for and 5 votes against. Questions related to how relevant this issue was to NSW recreational fishers.

Project	Organisation	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Post-release survival of Broadbill Swordfish Understand post-release mortality rates of Broadbill Swordfish as well as promote the opportunities and best practices relating to large game fish species in Australia	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies	\$52,200	\$0	\$0
