

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) meeting OUTCOMES

Meeting Number: 63 **Date:** 26 July 2022 **Time:** 9:00am – 3:45pm
Location: Branksome Hotel, 60 Robey St, Mascot, Sydney
Invitees: Bruce Schumacher AM (Chair), Paul Connellan (Region 1), Lisa Terry (Region 2), Geoff Shelton (Region 3), Karl Attenborough (Region 4), Michael Aubrey (Region 5), Anna Clark (Region 6), Ann Garard (Region 7), Micah Adams (Region 8), Cassie Price (OzFish), Adrian Wayne (AUF), Grahame Williams OAM (NSW GFA), Damian Kerves (AFTA), Peter Turnell (NSW DPI)

1. Chair's introduction and welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Lisa Terry, Michael Aubrey, Adrian Wayne, Peter Turnell

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 62nd RFSTEC meeting on 2 February 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Ann Garard, Seconded Micah Adams, Carried**

4. Recreational Fishing Trust items

a. Status of the Saltwater Trust

The financial status of the Saltwater Trust was presented to members. Statistics and trends of licence sales for the various licence types were discussed

b. Review of new Saltwater grant applications

A total of 31 Saltwater Trust grant applications were received following a widely advertised call for applications released in May 2022. Funding recommendations with respect to each project will be forwarded to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration prior to submission to the Minister for approval (Tables 1 & 2).

c. Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program

A total of \$4.2 million was provided to DPI under the Commonwealth Government's recreational fishing and camping facilities program to administer and distribute grants to local councils for fishing and camping infrastructure projects. A total of 25 fishing, boating and camping infrastructure grants were recently approved for funding under the Commonwealth funded program.

5. Presentations

Dr Jamin Forbes, Strategic Partnership Manager presented FRDC priorities and discussed future collaboration opportunities between the FRDC and the Recreational Fishing Trusts across the fishing and aquaculture sectors.

DPI provided an update on DPI's management initiatives, in collaboration with Transport for NSW, RMS, Marine Area Command (Water Police), Fishcare volunteers and precinct managers, to ensure ongoing access to Sydney's ferry wharf network and Walsh Bay piers.

6. Project variation – Flagship Habitat Action

DPI advised of significant program savings of \$179,470 for previously approved projects at Coopersnook and Yeramba Lagoon from 2019. Byron Shire Council's 2018 project 'Bringing back the Brunswick' has recently recommenced after length delays. Re-costing has revealed significant increases in materials, construction and labour for the causeway at Johnstons Lane to be replaced with a new bridge with a shortfall of in excess of \$120,000. It was requested that \$125,200 of unspent program funds be redirected within the program to contribute to the Brunswick project which will open up >25 km of habitat from Brunswick Heads to near the village of Main Arm.

Supported, Moved Grahame Williams, Seconded Micah Adams, Carried.

7. General business

The next World Recreational Fishing Conference will be held in Melbourne from 19-22 February 2023. A RFSTEC committee delegate can nominate to attend the conference.

Table 1 Summary of new Saltwater Trust grant applications SUPPORTED for funding by RFSTEC

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Seymour Street Laurieton Fish Cleaning Table	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Removal of existing fish cleaning table and installation of a new fish cleaning table at Seymour Street Reserve, Laurieton, providing a safe and hygienic facility and encouraging increased participation by boaters and shore-based fishers. SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Grahame Williams OAM, Carried.	SW \$25,500	
Hawks Nest Fishing Platform Upgrade	MidCoast Council	This project will result in the revitalisation of a prominent fishing platform within Hawks Nest to provide a safe and accessible facility for the recreational fishing community. SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Geoff Shelton, Carried. RFSTEC queried the longevity of the timber quality in the proposed infrastructure and was supportive of additional funds being allocated to ensure longevity if required. ACTION: DPI to contact Council regarding this issue.	SW \$53,268	
Shelter and solar sensor light for existing fish cleaning table Lintern St Wharf Davistown NSW	The 3 Villages Community Group Inc	Project involves purchase and installation of a shelter with solar sensor light to go over an existing fish cleaning station adjacent to the boat ramp at Davistown NSW. SUPPORTED. Moved: Ann Garard, Seconded: Grahame Williams OAM, Carried.	SW \$9,492	
Preddy's Wharf Fishing Platform	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Provision of a fishing platform to the west of the boat ramp at Preddy's Wharf marine facility (part of overall facility upgrade project). SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Ann Garard, Carried. Condition: the applicant commits to a design with railing prior to proceeding with the project to ensure safe land based fishing access.	SW \$35,000	
The Loop Boat Ramp Marine Facility Minor works	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Remove gabion rock from one side of the boat ramp to create a small beach, install additional tie down points on ramp for boaters and undertake minor concrete works at fish cleaning table for improved and safer operation. SUPPORTED. Moved: Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded: Ann Garard, Carried.	SW \$20,000	

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Cattai Creek kayak launch facility - shortfall funding request	Hawkesbury City Council	<p>Council's proposal to provide a publicly accessible kayak launch facility to enable fishers to access Cattai Creek has been previously approved at \$175,835. A shortfall in funding has been identified due to increases in material and labour costs since the original application was submitted. In order to successfully deliver the project, Council requests an additional \$36,000 to cover these increases. Total cost of project is now \$211,835 for materials and labour.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Damian Kerves, Seconded: Ann Garard, Carried.</p>	SW \$36,000	
Manning River Recreational Access Upgrade Project – Moores Road Bootawa	MidCoast Council	<p>Upgrade of the existing public road access to the Manning River at Moores Road Bootawa to facilitate easier access to a strategic section of the river for recreational use.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Cassie Price, Seconded: Micah Adams, Carried.</p>	SW \$172,835	
Light Watercraft Launching Facility Lugarno	Georges River Council	<p>This project involves the design and construction of a light watercraft launching facility at Lugarno for use by recreational fishers at a popular fishing location.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ann Garard, Seconded: Anna Clark, Carried.</p>	SW \$250,000	
Quarantine Bay Timber Jetty Renewal (shortfall funding)	Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC)	<p>Provide shortfall funding to cover unforeseen costs identified during a structural condition assessment for the previously Trust funded Quarantine Bay timber jetty renewal project in order to successfully deliver the project. This project will refurbish the existing timber jetty into a level, accessible platform for recreational fishing.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.</p>	SW \$62,370	

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Police on ferry patrols and Police boats to help keep Sydney Harbour ferry wharves open to fishing by promoting responsible fishing– a key initiative of the Clean, Safe Wharves program.	NSW DPI	<p>A trial of having covert Police onboard ferries to patrol recreational fishing on wharves last summer was successful in further promoting responsible fishing and deterring irresponsible, anti-social behaviour at the 50 commuter wharves. It is proposed to continue the covert ferry vessel patrols over the next 2 summers. An extension of the overt Police boat and land based patrols to June 2024 is also proposed.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.</p>	SW \$50,000	SW \$230,000

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Long Reef Fishing Club – Winches Restoration Project	Long Reef Fisherman's Club Committee	<p>Long Reef Fisherman's Club is the oldest fishing club in NSW. Its publicly accessible historic winches would be preserved and a storyboard would be created about the history of fishing in the area for the public to view.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded: Geoff Shelton, Carried.</p>	SW \$29,500	
Botany Bay Kids Gone Fishing	Botany Bay Game Fishing Club Inc	<p>An opportunity to get children of the local community outdoors and away from electronic devices. The project will aim to provide some basic fishing skills and safe handling of fish and promoting catch and release techniques.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Damian Kerves, Seconded: Geoff Shelton, Carried.</p> <p>Comment: RFSTEC member Grahame Williams OAM declared a potential conflict of interest as he is affiliated with the club and left the room during discussion of the application.</p>	SW \$5,250	

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Fish For Life Stage 2 – strengthening recreational fishing through sector growth, more diversity, enhanced fisheries sustainability, improved social licence and stewardship.	NSW DPI	<p>Following the launch of the Fish For Life (Stage 1) brand in 2021, DPI plans to team up with external partners to deliver a range of new on ground and online initiatives under the Fish For Life banner as part of Stage 2 campaign. Five subprograms will align with the core values of the Fish For Life brand – sector growth, diversity, sustainability, social licence and stewardship – and will be delivered in close partnership with the recreational fishing industry and community (through government tender processes). This approach and next stage is a recommendation from RFNSW following review of Stage 1 FFL outcomes.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Geoff Shelton, Carried.</p>	SW \$459,084 FW \$153,028	SW \$261,175 FW \$87,058
Angling Skill Transfer and Compendium for Merimbula fishers	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc.	<p>Each month the Club will allocate a different fish species to target. At the beginning of each month utilising in-house and visiting experts the Club will present an educational tutorial to members and guests on how to target each species by means of suitable equipment and written text. The goal is to practice sustainable fishing and transfer fundamental angling skills applicable to a variety of fish species. The outcome will be angling skill transfer and creation of a manuscript on how to target and catch and release a variety of local fish species.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Damian Kerves, Seconded: Geoff Shelton, Carried.</p>	SW \$5,500	
Let's Go Fishing – Educating School Children on the Sustainable Benefits of Recreational Fishing: Phase 5	Australian Fishing Trade Association	<p>AFTA has successfully completed Phases 1, 2 & 3 of the "Let's Go Fishing" Schools Program in partnership with the Marine Teachers Association and is in the process of finalising Phase 4. Now, it is time to progress to Phase 5 for educational continuity for the 2023 academic year. Phase 5 will comprise of restocking and replacing equipment where required in the existing school's fishing kits and providing fishing equipment to an additional 20 new schools. This follows from Phase 4 and provides continuity for schools and teachers in delivering quality education and engagement in recreational fishing.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Cassie Price, Seconded: Grahame Williams OAM, Carried.</p> <p>Comment: RFSTEC member Damian Kerves declared a potential conflict of interest and left the room during discussion of the application.</p>	SW \$115,000	

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Rock Fishing Safety Signage	Wollongong City Council	<p>This project will involve the purchase and installation of rock fishing safety signage, reflecting the requirement to wear life jackets at rock platforms, as per the Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.</p>	SW \$30,000	
FishSmart for Mighty Mulloway - Improve recreational fishing catch data for Mulloway through 'real time' reporting via the FishSmart app	NSW DPI	<p>Improving data collection and monitoring for Mulloway through mandatory reporting of recreational catch data, facilitated through enhancements to the existing FishSmart App and development of a new web portal. 'Real time' reporting would provide for accurate, instantaneous data collection of Mulloway recreational fishing harvest to contribute to stock recovery assessment & monitoring, which has been identified as a key priority by the Mulloway Harvest Strategy Working Group.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Geoff Shelton, Seconded: Grahame Williams OAM, Carried.</p>	SW \$165,000	
Fly Fishing Rods for the promotion of Fly Fishing	Sydney Fly Rodders Club, a registered not for profit organization	<p>Purchase 6 robust fly fishing rods, with reels and lines for the use of members of the public interested in trying fly casting and potentially taking up the sport.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Ann Garard, Seconded: Micah Adams, Carried.</p>	SW \$3,600	

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Boosting our fisheries: expanding the stocking of NSW estuaries with popular species.	NSW DPI	<p>The marine stocking program involves the breeding and release of species including but not limited to mullet, dusky flathead and kingfish using world's best stocking practices to enhance recreational fishing opportunities. This funding application aims to build on the success of the current program to expand marine stocking activities along the NSW coast, involve more anglers and angling clubs in opportunities to stock their local waters and increase the production efficiency of marine hatcheries, including the private hatchery sector.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded: Geoff Shelton, Carried.</p>		SW \$100,000
FADs and artificial reefs boat motor and trailer replacement	NSW DPI	<p>Nine offshore artificial reefs and 34 fish aggregating devices are deployed along the NSW coastline, providing high quality fishing opportunities for anglers. These projects continue to expand requiring fit for purpose and safe boat equipment for DPI staff to maintain and monitor fishing enhancement assets. Involves replacement of FADs and artificial reefs boat motor and trailer (which is done periodically).</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Grahame Williams OAM, Carried.</p> <p>COMMENT: The committee support an increase in the project budget by \$5,000 (subject to a revised quote process) to enable purchase of a longer lasting alloy trailer rather than the proposed galvanised steel trailer.</p>	SW \$40,500 Requested SW \$45,500 Approved	
Enhancing coastal recreational fishing opportunities by installing a new offshore artificial reef	NSW DPI	<p>A recent Ministerial expression of interest survey has highlighted the need for more artificial reefs as a high priority among recreational fishers. Stakeholder expectations of this program continue to remain high as artificial reefs are well accepted as an excellent way to maximise recreational fishing opportunities while providing high quality, cost effective fish habitat along the NSW coast. This project will involve the delivery of a new offshore artificial reef in 2024.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded: Ann Garard, Carried.</p>		SW \$1,500,000

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Rec Fisher Habitat Capacity: Building the fish habitat capacity, knowledgebase, delivery capability and leadership qualities of NSW recreational fishers	OzFish Unlimited	<p>OzFish now has 22 chapters of fishers across NSW willing and interested in taking action to improve the habitat and health of their local waterways. This program will pilot for one year, provision of the support and resourcing sought after by the recreational fishers in these chapters to take action and be leaders in aquatic habitat restoration and improve fishing outcomes in their local waterways, across NSW.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Micah Adams, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.</p> <p>RFSTEC member Cassie Price declared a potential conflict of interest and left the room during discussions of the application.</p>	<p>SW \$138,600 FW \$59,400</p>	
Revegetation of Bellingen River Estuary, Yellow Rock Road	Latsyrc Project Management	<p>This project will focus on pollution removal and weed removal from 2 property boundaries that front the Bellingen River estuary system. Once weed species are moved, they will be replaced with endemic plant species to allow the riverbank to repair itself between flood events.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Geoff Shelton, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.</p>	<p>SW \$1,695</p>	
Fishers for Fish Habitat 2	OzFish Unlimited	<p>This project will continue and enhance the current Fishers for Fish Habitat program providing information on fish and fish habitat to NSW recreational fishers and the broader community through a yearly Fishers for Fish Habitat forum, 4 issues of Newstreams per annum and the maintenance of the Fish Habitat Network website.</p> <p>SUPPORTED. Moved: Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.</p> <p>RFSTEC member Cassie Price declared a potential conflict of interest and left the room during discussions of the application.</p>	<p>SW \$12,950 FW \$5,550</p>	<p>SW \$12,950 FW \$5,550</p>

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Provision of Annual Report for the Gamefish Tagging Program for 2022/2023	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	Provision of an informative, attractive and readily accessible report on the Gamefish Tagging Program for the year 2022/2023. SUPPORTED. Moved: Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried. Condition: RFSTEC requested the report must be finalised by mid-December 2023 to ensure timely publication.		SW \$7,000
Monitoring and Research on Landed Fish at Game Fishing Tournaments in NSW: 2023/24	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	The project organizes, facilitates and conducts monitoring, sampling and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured and weighed at the major game fishing tournaments in NSW. SUPPORTED. Moved: Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded: Damian Kerves, Carried.		SW \$34,200
Utilisation of modified habitats, rehabilitated sites and conservation areas by fishes in Kamay (Botany Bay)	University of Sydney	This project seeks to provide a quantitative understanding of the movement patterns and habitat usage of recreationally and commercially important fish species within Kamay (Botany Bay). SUPPORTED. Moved: Cassie Price, Seconded Damian Kerves, Carried.	SW \$85,444	SW \$89,077 SW \$68,853 (2024/25)

Table 2. Summary of new Saltwater Trust grant applications NOT SUPPORTED for funding by RFSTEC

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Wheelchair Access Sports Fishing Boat	Guns Out Spinal Foundation	<p>To adapt an existing sports fishing boat to allow access and use by users of both manual and electric wheelchairs.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded: Micah Adams, Carried.</p> <p>RFSTEC was concerned with ongoing accountability with use of the vessel as well as the potential reach of the program. RFSTEC suggested a more cost-effective method would be for the applicant to consider using licensed charter boat operators which would have existing appropriate safety processes, including vessel survey, charter fishing licences and licenced experienced operators e.g. coxswains. The need for current charter licensing requirements in NSW was also noted.</p>	SW \$108,000	
Sussex Inlet – Lakehaven Drive – Lions Park - Fish cleaning facility / retaining wall renewal	Shoalhaven City Council	<p>Design and construction required to replace / repair storm damaged foreshore retaining wall and fish cleaning table shelter.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Damian Kerves, Seconded: Geoff Shelton, Carried.</p> <p>RFSTEC noted the stormwater foreshore retaining wall damage was a Council responsibility and suggested the NSW Government's Coastal and Estuary Grants Program would be a more suitable program to apply for funding.</p> <p>https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/coasts/coastal-and-estuary-grants</p>	SW \$245,000	

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Fishing Education – Refugees, Asylum seekers and Migrants	Mayfield Mosque	<p>The mosque has had a large influx of refugees in our locality (around 250 Afghan families) and we are seeing many new migrants and asylum seekers. We aim to teach them how to fish, the rules associated with catch sizes, quantities etc and show them that fishing is a good relaxing therapy, considering the not somewhat ideal circumstances they have left behind that have led them to bring relocation to Australia. Providing transport, food, fishing equipment, etc. will be the main expenses we would be facing.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved Micah Adams, Seconded: Geoff Shelton,</p> <p>RFSTEC recognised the significant merit of the proposal but noted the application had significant gaps, including budget details. It was recommended that the applicant contacts DPI's Fisheries Community Relations Manager to provide advice and support and also assist with resubmission of the application.</p>	SW \$5,000	

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
Fund required for the improvement of the recreational fishing	Community Youth & Development Organisation Incorporated	<p>Recreational fishing is a tourist activity and the best exercise, especially for elderly individuals. It improves physical abilities as well as cognitive abilities. Fisheries also play an important role in employment and nutrition. By adopting management strategies, we maintain supportable yield and ensure that fish are available in the future and now.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Cassie Price, Seconded: Ann Garard, Carried.</p> <p>RFSTEC noted the application lacked clear objectives and methodology therefore benefits to recreational fishing could not be assessed.</p>	SW \$30,000	

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2022/23	2023/24
St George & Sutherland Shire Anglers Club Boat Channel Dredging	St George & Sutherland Shire Anglers Club	<p>Proposed maintenance dredging of the club's boat ramp channel and sea walls adjacent to the club's premises in Woollooware Bay Taren Point. The dredging involves pump removal of built up sand and silt in the navigation channel.</p> <p>NOT SUPPORTED. Moved: Cassie Price, Seconded: Ann Garard, Carried.</p> <p>RFSTEC noted the application was submitted to enhance access to a launching ramp for club members only, that is, there are public access limitations. The Committee noted there may be opportunity to liaise with local Council regarding funding opportunities through the NSW Government Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.</p> <p>https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/coasts/coastal-and-estuary-grants</p>	SW \$96,432	