

MEETING	Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council
MEETING NO.	Meeting 8
DATE	28 & 29 March 2018
LOCATION	Lake Burrendong, Tobin Room
ATTENDEES	Johann Bell (Chair), Max Castle, Vic Levett, Chris Cleaver, Jo Starling, Matt Hansen, Matthew Poulton, Paul Lennon, Ray Tang, Steve Samuels, Stan Konstantaras, Peter Turnell
APOLOGIES	Greg Reid, David Rae, Vicki Lear, Karl Mathers

1. Chair's introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the eighth meeting at Lake Burrendong and thanked Matt Hansen for the very conducive arrangements he had made to facilitate the discussions. During his introductory remarks the Chair took the opportunity to remind members about the relatively limited nature of marine fisheries resources in NSW – a situation that is due to the poor primary productivity of the State's waters resulting from the narrow continental shelf, lack of upwelling of nutrient-rich waters, and restricted availability of nutrients from river flows. The Chair encouraged members to inform their networks about the limited nature of our fisheries resources and the need for judicious harvest levels to sustain fisheries production in ways that ensure these resources can be shared equitably among a growing number of stakeholders.

2. Register of interests

The Chair requested that members declare any additions to the Register since the last meeting. Jo Starling advised she has resigned from the Batemans Regional Marine Park Committee. Paul Lennon advised he is now an authorised NSW charter fishing business operator.

3. Agreement on the agenda

RFNSW members agreed on the agenda for the meeting.

4. Adoption of the record of the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of Meeting 7 were accepted without change as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

5. Future meeting schedule

Meeting 9: 7 June (TBC) – The members agreed that it would be important to invite MFAC to hold a joint meeting with RFNSW during the afternoon (3-5pm), as proposed by Stan Konstantaras. The Chair advised that he would not be able to attend Meeting 9 on 7 June due to an overseas speaking commitment. The Chair nominated Steve Samuels as the Deputy Chair for Meeting 9 (DPI to seek Ministerial approval for a Deputy Chair, if required).

Meeting 10: September (date TBC)

Meeting 11: 6 December (date TBC). Council agreed that a potential joint meeting between RFNSW and CommFish, should be arranged during Meeting 11.

A joint meeting with AFAC in 2019 was also proposed.

6. Review of achievements and action items from previous minutes

Council made the following comments on action items from the previous meeting.

Therapeutic fishing programs that benefit mental health issues

Action item: DPI to take the lead to pursue options, in collaboration with other agencies e.g., NSW Health, to identify all potential funding streams and develop a strategy to achieve optimal outcomes for mental health-related fishing programs.

Snowy River Advisory Committee

Action item: DPI to nominate Cameron Westaway as its representative on the committee.

MEMA strategy

Action item: DPI to seek confirmation of legal arrangements for compensation to authorised NSW charter fishing/commercial tourism businesses relating to removal of fishing access and effort, e.g., creation of new marine protected areas as part of the MEMA strategy.

Crown Roads

Surveying requirements to determine status/access arrangements should be submitted to DPI to facilitate surveying. If additional financial resourcing is required over time, a dedicated Trust funding application can be developed.

Lobster bag limit

RFNSW reiterated its position that the lobster bag limit should increase from 2 to 3, noting the TAC for the species has been steadily increasing.

7a. Progressing the top 10 priority issues: reviewing status

Council members have identified details of key issues in their regions, sectors or fields which have been collated into an issues summary document. A 'live' structured RFNSW work plan with specific actions and responsibilities is being maintained. The status of the various actions was discussed and further actions developed where required.

7b. Top 10 issue: Mulloway Recovery Program

Council was advised that the CommFish Mulloway Working Group has met and provided advice to the CommFish Advisory Council. DPI confirmed that advice from each sector needs to be provided to the Minister as soon as possible.

Action item: The Chair to write a letter to the Minister to advise that RFNSW is aware that CommFish has met to develop options relating to the management of Mulloway and to request a formal update on CommFish's current position on Mulloway. RFNSW is able to make any necessary recommendations out of session and prepare further advice as required, for example, bag limit proposals.

8. Snowy Lakes Trout Fishery/Strategy

The December 2017 meeting of the Snowy Lakes Strategy Working Group (SLSWG) put forward a number of initiatives aimed at helping ensure the long-term productivity of the local trout fishery. These included a proposal to ban treble hooks on lures in the Thredbo and Eucumbene Rivers and several smaller streams running into Lakes Jindabyne and Eucumbene, for a month prior to the annual spawning closure in order to limit the potential of "jagging" and/or damaging hooked fish.

The SLSWG also proposed closing a number of 'experimental' spawning streams flowing into the lakes from 1 May to 30 November (i.e., extending the closed season) in order to allow DPI researchers to assess late spawning activity of rainbow trout.

The proposals were provided to Council as out-of-session items for possible implementation for the 2018 season. However, because the proposals are contentious, DPI postponed implementation so that Council could discuss further at the meeting.

Council members agreed that the SLSWG was not a formal DPI Fisheries working group but rather an informal stakeholder/advisory group and that the previous meeting was conducted appropriately. They supported undertaking research on the minor spawning streams prior to considering any closures and supported ongoing education around best practice catch and release rather than implementing any ban on treble hooks at this stage. Council believed that these matters could be considered as part of the Trout Strategy consultation process.

Action item: Letter from the Chair to Steve Williamson advising that RFNSW has considered the Snowy Lakes Strategy Working Group issue raised by him and has provided the above advice.

9. Recreational fishing access update

Council was provided with an update on saltwater recreational fishing access issues, including the draft “Recreational fishing for visitors to NSW National Parks” strategy, details on preliminary results of police patrols on Sydney Harbour wharves, progress on the risk analysis into fishing opportunities into Sydney water storage reservoirs (including that DPI will be proposing suitable dams to Water NSW for inclusion in the risk assessment), information on Stage II of the Eco Fishing Huts program (which has been expanded to include 14 huts across the State with a 30% discount available to recreational fishing licence holders), an overview of DPI’s education campaign to promote responsible fishing around oyster leases and advice on DPI’s response to a request from the Sydney Coastal Councils Group to review spearfishing regulations.

Social media videos on the eco huts, oyster leases and Sydney wharves (produced in conjunction with the RFA) were made available for viewing by Council members on DPI’s Facebook and YouTube pages.

Council was also provided with details of freshwater access issues including DPI’s involvement in the TSR review, production of “Section 38 Access Cards” to be provided to anglers to help inform anglers and landowners of access rights, information on access provisions for disabled or elderly anglers to the Eucumbene River during the annual trout spawning run, an update on the Angler Access website and information on a variety of dams offering potential access, plus an update on a survey planned for Thompsons Creek Dam to assist DPI manage this trophy fishery.

Action item: The Chair to write to the Minister regarding ongoing efforts to negotiate fishing access to Lake Wallace.

10. Top 10 issue: Stock assessments of key species

DPI provided a species case study for proposed consultation on fishing rule changes for key recreational species. A brief outline of lessons learned and proposed strategies for engaging with stakeholders on changes to some fishing rules was provided. This included providing supporting information from NSW and the Status of Australian Fish Stocks (SAFS) resource assessment data.

The Council provided feedback on the proposed layout and composition of the case study paper and ideas on the consultation process. It was suggested that recreational fishing “champions” from different cultural backgrounds be identified and approached to assist with getting key messages out to the community.

Action item: Establish a RFNSW Fishing Rule subgroup, consisting of Matt Poulton, Vic Levett, Paul Lennon, Chris Cleaver and Johann Bell (with input from Stan Konstantaras on Ecologically Sustainable Development issues), to provide input on draft discussion papers and communication actions.

Council was also presented with an update on the abalone commercial fishery. DPI is currently consulting with abalone fishers regarding a proposed increase to the commercial minimum legal length for abalone. This is in response to the decrease in abalone stock abundance due to

declining population productivity over the last 3 to 4 years. As a result, the total allowable commercial catch has been reduced from 130 tonnes to 100 tonnes for the 2018 fishing period.

11. Small Pelagic Fishery

Jo Starling and a DPI representative attended the Small Pelagic Fishery Scientific Panel and Stakeholder Forum held by AFMA on 6 December 2017 in Sydney.

Ms Starling and DPI provided an overview of the Scientific Panel's Chair summary. Council was encouraged that there was a proposal to reduce the TAC trigger in the spatial management arrangements, however there was general concern regarding the fishery and its potential impact on NSW recreational fishers. It was considered that to date there has been little impact or conflict in the fishery with a single boat fishing and apparently plentiful bait. There was concern, however, about the future and what might happen when the bait levels return to 'normal' lower levels, or what might happen if additional boats enter the fishery.

RFNSW discussed the importance of bait availability and gamefishing hotspots along the coast and highlighted the social and economic importance of these fishing hotspots. Council requested that a letter should be sent from the NSW Minister to the Commonwealth Minister to outline the concerns discussed.

Action item: Letter to be drafted from RFNSW to the Minister to request that he writes to his Commonwealth counterpart to highlight the concerns surrounding bait availability and associated gamefishing hotspots to ensure that recreational fishers are considered to be legitimate stakeholders that may be impacted by the operations of the Small Pelagic Fishery.

12. Southern Fish Trawl fishery

RFNSW was advised that a public consultation paper entitled 'Transitioning the NSW Southern Trawl Restricted Fishery to Commonwealth management' had been released by DPI. The public consultation period has been extended by one week to 9 April 2018. The paper outlines the intention to complete the transition by 1 May 2019, which coincides with the start of the 2019-20 Commonwealth Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery season.

RFNSW acknowledged that previous concerns regarding changes to the management of the Southern Fish Trawl fishery had been raised by Council at Meeting 2. It was noted at that meeting that the issue and proposal to change the trip limits was very complex and required further in-depth investigation and consultation.

RFNSW raised concerns about the proposed position in the public consultation paper (PCP), including 1) the lack of full consultation about the best way to manage the trawl fishery in southern NSW; 2) the potential opportunity cost of the plans to NSW described in the PCP for recreational fishing; 3) the apparent strong mismatch between the proposed permitting arrangements within 3 nautical miles (nm) for transitioning the NSW Southern Fish Trawl Fishery to Commonwealth management and the current approach taken by DPI to sustainably manage our fisheries resources for the benefit of the people of NSW; and 4) the flagging of proposed changes to the Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS).

Stan Konstantaras (sub group leader) had facilitated discussion out of session on this issue and presented a summary of comments on the proposed NSW Southern Fish Trawl transition to the Commonwealth.

Action item: The Chair to write a letter to the Minister providing a summary of the concerns and consolidated feedback from RFNSW regarding the public consultation paper entitled 'Transitioning the NSW Southern Trawl Restricted Fishery to Commonwealth management', and requesting a halt to the process until NSW DPI produces a Discussion Paper that fully explores all the implications of the proposed transition, and possible alternative management arrangements, for consideration by RFNSW and other stakeholders.

13. Blue Swimmer Crab Size Limit

The size limit of blue swimmer crabs that may be taken by commercial fishers was previously increased from 6 cm to 6.5 cm, on the recommendation of the Independent Structural Adjustment Review Committee. The increased size limit aimed to increase the protection of the spawning stock and improve the productivity of the stock through time.

Council has been considering various proposals for changes to recreational fishing rules. As part of these deliberations, Council is requested to consider the increase to the size limit of blue swimmer crabs from 6 cm to 6.5 cm for the NSW recreational fishing sector, to achieve consistency. Any change would be done as part of broader rule amendments. Jo Starling highlighted that infographics can be useful to relay essential information to fishers.

Council gave in-principle support for the proposal, subject to feedback from recreational fishing stakeholders as part of a broader consultation process on recreational fishing rule changes.

14. Recreational Fishing Trust matters

RFNSW was advised that an expression of interest calling for Trust applications was widely advertised through various media channels and networks late last year. A total of 70 Saltwater Trust grant applications and 48 Freshwater Trust applications, including some joint applications, were received. The Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committees (RFSTEC and RFFTEC) met on 13-15 March to review the applications. The recommendations form the basis for the next three-year Investment Plan for the Trusts.

A summary of the RFSTEC and RFFTEC recommendations was provided to Council in the agenda. Matt Hansen and Stan Konstantaras declared an interest in some applications under consideration, however, the Chair declared there was no pecuniary interest and requested both members remain in the meeting room. RFNSW noted that RFFTEC had indicated the application titled 'Driving Fish Habitat Action with a Landcare NSW Partnership' had merit and that the applicant may resubmit an application to address the concerns raised by RFSTEC and RFFTEC.

The Chair expressed his appreciation to the Trust expenditure committees for their significant and ongoing efforts in reviewing and considering Trust applications, particularly at the March meetings noting the extensive work load.

Recommendation: Council endorsed the recommendations of RFSTEC and RFFTEC relating to Trust funding applications that were supported, and were not supported, as outlined in Annex 1.

Action item: DPI to provide presentations on the following programs at future meetings: marine stocking, compliance (similar presentation previously provided to Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council) and Game Fish Tagging.

15. Land-based Charter Fishing Activities in the Tweed River

There have been ongoing, localised stakeholder representations regarding the perceived impact of land-based charter fishing activities on the aquatic environment in the Terranora Broadwater area of the Tweed River. Stakeholder photographs of these activities were provided as part of the agenda for Council's information. To address concerns, DPI developed a Code of Practice to oversee these activities. The Code commenced in 2015 and introduced a series of additional controls for two charter operators to ensure these activities are undertaken in a professional and environmentally responsible manner. DPI continues to liaise with stakeholders regarding this issue and makes regular contact with these charter fishing operators to ensure their adherence to restrictions outlined in the Code.

In addition to the Code of Practice, the DPI bait security research project (outlined in item 16 below) includes field-based assessments of nipper populations, including investigating the effects of fishing activity (trampling) on these populations, in the Terranora Broadwater.

Stakeholder meetings are planned soon to discuss research findings and consider future arrangements. Stakeholder feedback and proposed developments will be provided to RFNSW at the next meeting.

16. Bait Security Research Project

Dr Rowan Chick, Senior Fisheries Scientist, DPI, provided a written update to Council about the project, which is due to be completed soon.

The important bait species being investigated are the burrowing shrimp, commonly known as the Ghost Nipper and 'King' beachworms. Large-scale population studies have been completed for both species and more specific manipulative experiments have been completed on Ghost Nippers. More information on the project was provided in the agenda.

The report on the NSW Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust funded project 'Bait Security – Ensuring sustainable and productive NSW invertebrate bait resources' is scheduled for completion in July 2018.

Action item: DPI Research to present research findings on the NSW Bait Security Research program, including the impacts of nipper pumping in the Tweed River and commercial hand gathering of bait species, at the next RFNSW meeting.

17. Marine Estate Management update

Mr Peter Gallagher, DPI Program Leader Marine Operations, provided an overview via teleconference of the outcomes from the NSW Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) assessment of reported conflict between recreational and commercial fishers in Pittwater, in the lower Hawkesbury River estuary. In summary, MEMA recommended:

- Continuing to negotiate with recreational and commercial fishing stakeholders to address specific issues and conflicts that continue to drive political interest in this matter;
- Developing and implementing an education program to address information failure related to the community's understanding of commercial fishing practices and controls to address stakeholder and community concern;
- Enhancing recreational fishing and boating opportunities and infrastructure to address threats and maximise community benefits in Pittwater.

With regards to DPI Fisheries' proposal that RFNSW establish a working group to recommend how to best deliver on MEMA's recommendations, Council preferred re-convening the Pittwater stakeholder working group to progress these discussions in an inclusive manner.

Action item: DPI to advise MEMA that RFNSW has recommended that the stakeholder working group be reconvened, with representatives from CommFish, RFNSW, local recreational fishers and/or fishing groups, and charter and commercial fishers, to progress these discussions in an inclusive manner.

Mr Gallagher also provided an update on the piloting of new management plans for marine parks, commencing with the Batemans Marine Park, during 2018.

Action item: Clarification be sought regarding 'resetting' of timelines for the review of zoning arrangements in marine parks following the making of the Marine Estate Management Act 2014. Information to be provided to RFNSW out of session and, if required, the Chair to then write a letter to the Minister outlining concerns with timelines for review of existing parks, e.g., Batemans Bay and Solitary Islands.

18. PFAS update

This update was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

19. Top 10 issue: Update on Development of Social Licence Strategy for Recreational Fishing in NSW

Jo Starling presented an overview of a social licence strategy developed by a contracted marketing company. This strategy is based on the need to develop a 'brand' for recreational fishing in NSW on which future social licence campaigns can be based. Ms Starling provided details on the strategy, including logo designs, creative concepts and suggested marketing approaches.

Council was advised on the need for any branding exercise to be long-term in nature, for example, a minimum of 3-5 years. Council was informed that the contractor is examining tag line options for use by the recreational fishing sector in NSW. It is proposed that any tag line selected as part of the branding strategy be trademarked to allow control over use. DPI is currently preparing a request for tender to progress and implement the branding and social licence strategy.

20. Social Media Etiquette

DPI presented a social media etiquette training seminar, which highlighted how opinions and judgements cannot be retrieved once they are placed in the public domain via many social media platforms. The seminar included a case study demonstrating how quickly social media can escalate an issue and the potentially dire consequences of an inappropriate, off-the-cuff remark. Members noted the information and agreed to be mindful of these issues at all times when using social media, given their positions on the Council.

21. Lake Macquarie – crab trap rule addition

As previously discussed at Meeting 7, the waters of Lake Macquarie are closed to any method involving the use of a trap, other than a bait trap. However, the closure is now viewed as obsolete.

There has been strong ongoing representation from local recreational fishers for this rule to be reviewed due to the benefits of permitting the use of traps. In particular, this may result in fishers shifting to more environmentally-friendly, low-impact crab traps (compared to witches hats). At Meeting 7, RFNSW supported a rule change to permit crab traps in Lake Macquarie, noting that this may achieve positive environmental outcomes, e.g., reducing ghost fishing from lost witches hats.

This rule change is being progressed. However, to enhance the success of this change and further minimise the risk to turtles associated with this proposal, it is suggested that an additional rule change to crab traps is applied at the same time.

The proposed additional rule is: when using the recreational crab trap, all entrances to the trap do not exceed a maximum internal diameter of 32 cm. This rule change is in-line with the crab trap rules in Port Stephens and will still enable crabs to enter the trap but will restrict entry of non-target species such as turtles. This addition does not impact round traps, but rather large rectangular traps which are known to have relatively high interactions with turtles due to the large opening. This rule change will minimise this risk and complement the planned permitting of crab traps in Lake Macquarie.

The entrance width of wide-mouthed crab traps, such as collapsible rectangular traps, can easily be reduced to a width not exceeding 32 cm using a cable tie, cord or similar device. This will still enable crabs to enter the trap but will restrict entry of non-target species such as turtles.

Recommendation: Council supports the proposal for crab traps in Lake Macquarie, as outlined.

Recommendation: Council supports the introduction of a maximum entrance size of 32 cm for all crab traps used in NSW. DPI should also use platforms such as social media and Newscast to

educate the fishing public on reasons for having maximum entrances of 32 cm on all crab traps, including helpful guides on how fishers can modify the entrances of existing gear.

Action item: DPI to prepare a briefing paper summarising issues relating to environmentally-friendly fishing practices in NSW. The purpose of this paper is to facilitate future stakeholder consultation on potential changes to fishing practices to reduce the impact of recreational fishing activities on non-target natural resources and the aquatic ecosystem.

22. Correspondence

- a. Letter from Minister Blair to RFNSW re: Clyde River bridges. Information noted.
- b. Letter from The Hon Tanya Davies MP, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women and Minister for Ageing to Minister Blair, offering support to explore collaborative opportunities and joint funding partnerships with DPI to develop fishing-related projects to assist people living with a mental illness. Issue addressed in agenda item 6.
- c. Letter from the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers to DPI regarding the decline of Thompsons Creek Dam as a trophy trout fishery.

Action item: DPI to provide a response to the CFA and outline a strategy to address concerns about the Thompsons Creek Dam trophy trout fishery.

- d. Email from Steve Williamson to RFNSW re: Snowy Lakes Trout Strategy. Issue addressed in agenda item 8.
- e. Letter from The Hon Troy Grant MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Emergency Services to Minister Blair, regarding the *Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016*. Information noted. Consultation and negotiation by the recreational fishing sector is ongoing.
- f. Letter from Minister Blair to RFNSW Chair regarding outcomes of Meeting 7. Noted.
- g. Batemans Offshore Artificial Reef – copy of RFNSW letter to the Minister dated 21/3/18 and the Minister's response dated 22/3/18 were tabled.

Action item: The Chair to reply to the Minister to acknowledge and celebrate funding secured from the Regional Growth Fund and advise that this reef proposal will be added to the existing plan for the creation and installation of Offshore Artificial Reefs off the coast of NSW.

23. Compliance sub group

The first meeting of the sub group (comprising of Stan Konstantaras, Matt Hansen, Greg Reid and Peter Turnell) was held on 9 March 2018. A summary of the outcomes were provided in the agenda.

Action item: DPI to investigate 1) the option for infringement notices for non-compliance with the fishing fee to be replaced with a requirement to buy a licence (e.g. three years) and pay a fine that included not on the appropriate penalty but also the cost of the licence plus an associated administration fee; and 2) an opt-in renewal subscription, to provide automatic renewal of 1 and 3 year recreational fishing fee receipts, upon expiry. The Chair to then write a letter to the Minister to outline the proposals and the potential processes on how these options can be implemented.

24. General Business

- a. Update on proposed community consultation on the future use of opera house traps in NSW

A discussion paper, which outlines 3 options, will be released soon.

- b. Marine Aquaculture Research Lease Stakeholder Update

An update regarding the NSW DPI/Huon Yellowtail Kingfish Research Project was provided.

Action item: DPI to advise DPI Aquaculture that RFNSW requests fishing access/amenity around sea cages to be maintained, i.e., no area closures around structures for recreational fishers.

c. Delivery of sector representation, consultation and communication services to the recreational fishing sector

The Request for Tender (RFT) for a service provider to deliver sector representation, consultation and communication services to the recreational fishing sector closed on 9 February. A Tender Evaluation Team has been established and is currently assessing the merits of each tender response, in accordance with the requirements of the Tender Evaluation Plan.

d. Economic benefits of recreational fishing

This issue was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

e. Draft Marine Estate Strategy

The RFNSW sub group prepared a draft submission to the Draft Marine Estate Strategy, which was lodged by the Chair on 14 December. A broad range of issues are currently being considered as part of this process. A member of DPI's Aquatic Environment Unit will be invited to an upcoming meeting to provide an update on the strategy.

f. Progress on Talbingo-Jounama Pondage

This issue was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

g. Yuin Native Title claim

A native title claim, which covers an area from the Royal National Park, south of Sydney, to south of Eden on the far south coast and extends three nautical miles into the ocean, was filed on 3 August 2017 and was accepted as registered on 31 January 2018. Further details about the South Coast Peoples Native Title Claim is available at:

http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/NativeTitleClaims/Pages/details.aspx?NTDA_FileNo=NC2017/003

Information noted.

h. Rock fishing safety

Fines for rock fishers not wearing a lifejacket in the Randwick Local Government Area will now commence on 31 May 2018. The moratorium has been extended by 6 months by the NSW Government to allow an independent assessment of the implementation of the Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016 (RFSA) to be undertaken.

i. Sydney Water's Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment nutrient management project

Sydney Water has recently established 10 Community Reference Groups across the catchment area to seek feedback on local priorities about managing nutrients in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system and discuss solutions for improving waterway health.

Information noted.

j. DPI Procurement

Action item: DPI to advise RFNSW about departmental procurement policies and operational requirements. Advice to be provided at the next meeting due to time constraints.

k. Alpha flag - spearfishing

RFSTEC recommended that adoption of a requirement for spearfishers to display a high-visibility (viz) flag with the mandatory Alpha flag be discussed by Council. This issue was deferred to the next meeting to enable detailed discussion of the issue.

l. Fishing competitions in Recreational Fishing Havens

RFNSW considered correspondence from Mark Williams, Local Lake Mac Fishos organisation, requesting that catch and harvest competitions in recreational fishing havens be encouraged to participate in the DPI Fishing Tournament Program. Council members were supportive of this proposal.

Action item: DPI to approach groups holding large catch and harvest fishing competitions to encourage involvement in the DPI Fishing Tournament Program, particularly in recreational fishing havens.

Issue for next meeting

Action item: DPI Research to provide a scientific presentation on the abalone stock and TAC setting process.

Summary of funding recommendations from RFSTEC and RFFTEC meetings 13-15 March 2018

Projects **RECOMMENDED** for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Bigger fish for Snowy Lakes	NSW DPI	Construct a new hatchery building to augment production of quality trout fingerlings for stocking within the Snowy Mountains region.	FW \$30,000	FW \$200,000	FW \$0
Dollar for dollar native fish stocking program	NSW DPI	To provide funding to match stocking groups in the raising of funds to purchase native fish from private hatcheries to stock into public waterways.	FW \$250,000	FW \$250,000	FW \$250,000
Enhanced Fish Production	NSW DPI	To provide additional operational funding at Government fish hatcheries to increase fish production / stocking capabilities and enhance recreational fishing opportunities.	FW \$388,919	FW \$398,643	FW \$408,530
Fisheries Management Officer (inland recreational fisheries)	NSW DPI	The Fisheries Management Officer is responsible for day to day running of the inland fish stocking programs such as preparation of stocking plans, conducting site assessments, analysis of fish stocking data and facilitating hundreds of stocking permits each year as well as correspondence to stocking groups.	FW \$136,717	FW \$140,135	FW \$143,638
Gaden trout hatchery, operational expenditure	NSW DPI	To provide ongoing operational funding for the Gaden trout hatchery to ensure a continuation in the production and stocking of recreational trout / salmon species to enhance recreational fishing.	FW \$668,266	FW \$684,973	FW \$702,097

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Boosting our fisheries: stocking NSW estuaries with popular species to enhance recreational fishing opportunities	NSW DPI	This marine stocking program involves the breeding and release of mulloway, Eastern king prawns, dusky flathead, blue swimmer crabs and kingfish (on a priority basis) along the coast using the world's best stocking practices to enhance recreational fishing in estuaries. Stockings are guided by a dedicated Fisheries Management Strategy to ensure a responsible approach.	SW \$292,150	SW \$295,000	SW \$299,080
Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) – more places for people to fish	NSW DPI	The FADs program provides reliable offshore fishing locations where recreational fishers can target a variety of popular pelagic fish over spring, summer and autumn. Program operation involves procuring hardware, assembly and installation of FADs, replacement and maintenance where required, removal of all FADs at the close of each season and contractor management. Offshore fishers anticipate FAD installation each spring when the EAC starts pushing and they are kept up to date via a range of media options including email, social media and smartphone Apps.	SW \$248,000	SW \$254,000	SW \$260,000
Recreational Fisheries Enhancement Co-ordination: Making Reefs and FADs happen	NSW DPI	Artificial reefs and fish aggregating devices (FADs) are two of the most popular programs funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts providing new high quality, fishing locations for anglers. This project involves a dedicated fisheries enhancement officer to coordinate and make these programs happen. Past effective coordination of these highly anticipated, large projects has resulted in their timely and successful implementation with great benefits for fishers.	SW \$208,500	SW \$213,500	SW \$219,500

Platform: Enforcement of fishing rules

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
6 inland fisheries officers	NSW DPI	Funding for 6 inland fisheries officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce fisheries rules and regulations including recreational fishing fee requirement across NSW inland areas. Future applications should include community feedback.	FW \$900,584	FW \$923,099	FW \$946,177
9 coastal fisheries officers	NSW DPI	Funding for 9 coastal fisheries officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce fisheries rules and regulations including recreational fishing fee requirement across NSW coastal areas	SW \$1,164,325	SW \$1,193,433	SW \$1,223,269
Coastal recreational mobile squads	NSW DPI	Funding for 3 recreational mobile squad officers maintaining capacity of NSW DPI to enforce saltwater recreational rules and regulations in particular recreational fishing fee requirements whilst patrolling popular fishing areas including recreational fishing havens.	SW \$519,113	SW \$532,091	SW \$545,393

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fisheries Manager (Inland Angler Access)	NSW DPI	The Angler Access Manager position has the responsibility of managing all public access to waterways for inland NSW with stakeholders. The position is responsible for ensuring angler access is maintained at a high level to ensure that anglers can equitably share the states resources and have a variety of areas to fish. The position also oversees the concurrence role for land disposal across the state.	FW \$192,634	FW \$197,133	FW \$201,743
Fisheries Management Officer (Inland Angler Access)	NSW DPI	This position primarily focuses on addressing the high volume of Department of Industry Crown Lands road closures and securing angler access for the future. This position also assists in the inspection of access sites and maintenance of an angler access media.	FW \$148,307	FW \$151,625	FW \$155,025

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Guyra Area Recreational Fishing Plan	Guyra Hotel Anglers Club Inc.	Our club wishes to prepare a 'Plan' of its local recreational fishing assets, supported by its community, to determine the clubs future direction for improving our local rec. fishing opportunities. RFTEC acknowledged the strategic forward planning approach by Council.	FW \$2,050	FW \$0	FW \$0
Small grants program freshwater	NSW DPI	Provides funding towards the development of on-ground recreational fishing facilities and other small, local or regional projects to enhance recreational fishing.	FW \$60,000	FW \$60,000	FW \$60,000
Construction of a shelter over Fitzgerald Bridge fish cleaning table	Port Stephens Council	To construct and install a shelter over the fish cleaning table located by the boat launching ramp at Fitzgerald Bridge, Raymond Terrace	SW \$3,200	SW \$0	SW \$0
Construction of two (2) new accessible fishing Platforms - #1 and #2 - on Nambucca Heads boardwalk	Nambucca Shire Council	Council has works scheduled to upgrade the boardwalk, and construction of accessible fishing platforms at two prime locations, currently used by recreational fishers, is proposed, as part of these works.	SW \$77,325	SW \$0	SW \$0
Installation of Disabled Accessible Fish Cleaning table – Gordon Park, Nambucca Heads	Nambucca Shire Council	This project will provide a new disabled accessible fish cleaning table – relocated position – at Gordon Park, adjacent to the boat ramp, and near to the end of the boardwalk.	SW \$10,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Installation of Disabled Accessible Fish Cleaning table – Stuart Island, Nambucca Heads	Nambucca Shire Council	This project will provide a new disabled accessible fish cleaning table on Stuart Island, Nambucca Heads, as a replacement of older, outdated, and unhygienic, infrastructure.	SW \$10,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Mosquito Bay Fishing Table & Boat ramp solar lighting	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Install 2 x 1000 lumen LED solar powered lights on a powder coated pole on a new structural footing to illuminate the fish cleaning table and boat ramp at Mosquito Bay.	SW \$7,500	SW \$0	SW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
North Haven Boat Ramp Fish Cleaning Table Upgrade	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Replacement of an old cleaning table in poor structural condition with a new facility which will be upgraded to include a roof and solar lighting.	SW \$16,125	SW \$0	SW \$0
Port Macquarie (Kooloonbung) Fishermens Wharf	NSW Department of Industry, Crown Lands & Water	Construction of new Fishermens Wharf (approximately 10m x 15m) at the former Hastings River Fishermens Cooperative building site at Port Macquarie. Support conditional on railing, ladder and boating access issues being addressed i.e. the design must be a designated fishing platform. Liaise with DPI Infrastructure Manager to address issues.	SW \$100,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Provision of an accessible fish cleaning table, Aqua Reserve Lake Cathie	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	This project will provide an accessible fish cleaning table for community use at Aqua Reserve Lake Cathie. This facility will complement other accessible recreational infrastructure at this site.	SW \$10,200	SW \$0	SW \$0
Recreational Fishing Access, Saltwater – maintaining and enhancing land and boat access for fishers along the NSW coast	NSW DPI	This project involves a dedicated coastal access officer tackling situations where fishing access is being compromised. The officer advocates the importance of recreational fishing and negotiates with stakeholders to identify access solutions to achieve the best possible outcomes for recreational fishers. In simple terms, if there's no access, there's no fishing. More access means more fishing opportunities.	SW \$160,590	SW \$162,500	SW \$163,100
Replacement of Tuross Head Wharf fishing table	Eurobodalla Shire Council	This project seeks to replace the existing fishing table at Tuross Wharf with one of more practical width and height to increase use by the recreational fishing community.	SW \$7,500	SW \$0	SW \$0
Small grants program saltwater	NSW DPI	Provides funding towards the development of on-ground recreational fishing facilities and other small, local or regional research, education or enhancement projects to enhance recreational fishing.	SW \$100,000	SW \$100,000	SW \$100,000
Tomago Boat Ramp- Fish cleaning table and shelter	Port Stephens Council	Installation of a fish cleaning table and shelter at the Tomago Boat Ramp. There are no recreational fishing facilities currently at this boat launching site.	SW \$9,950	SW \$0	SW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Unloading Wharf and Accessible Fishing Platform – Tuncurry NSW	NSW Department of Industry – Crown Lands	Crown Lands is undertaking a project to revitalise the existing timber unloading wharf in front of the Wallis Lake Fishermen’s Co-operative in Tuncurry, NSW. The project proposal incorporates an accessible fishing platform as part of the upgrades to the structure. Support conditional on design and location being appropriate specifically for recreational fishing. DPI Infrastructure Manager to seek confirmation and report back to RFSTEC.	SW \$50,000	SW \$0	SW \$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation - Greater Murray NSW	NSW DPI	Provision of fish conservation management services for the Murray, lower Darling and Murrumbidgee catchments of NSW, to enhance key fish habitat protection and recreational fishery involvement in fish habitat protection and management.	FW \$211,392	FW \$215,927	FW \$220,574
Habitat Action Program - making more fish... naturally	NSW DPI	Engagement and support of recreational anglers in fish habitat actions and provision of devolved habitat action grants to enhance fish habitat in NSW and support healthy, resilient recreational fisheries. Incremental increase in grant funding for on-ground works noted.	SW \$657,631 FW \$267,874	SW \$725,974 FW \$306,983	SW \$794,302 FW \$346,084
Flagship Habitat Action	NSW DPI	The Flagship Habitat Action program provides funding for on-ground works for large-scale strategic coastal fish habitat rehabilitation activities to restore highly productive, resilient fisheries.	SW \$448,000	SW \$448,000	SW \$448,000
NSW Fishway Strategy for Fish Passage Remediation at Priority Barriers	NSW DPI	Development of a strategic 20-year statewide fishway infrastructure strategy to remediate the top 160 priority barriers to migrating fish to significantly improve native fish populations and recreational fishing opportunities.	SW \$87,447 FW \$349,788	SW \$89,383 FW \$357,512	SW \$0 FW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation - South Coast NSW	NSW DPI	Provision of fish conservation management services for the south coast, Snowy Mountains and Southern Tablelands of NSW to enhance key fish habitat protection and recreational fishery involvement in fish habitat protection and management.	SW \$188,768	SW \$195,739	SW \$201,393

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Building a stronger more sustainable freshwater recreational fishery in NSW	NSW DPI	This project builds on the long-term recreational fishing research program undertaken throughout the freshwater rivers and impoundments of NSW. The aim is to improve freshwater recreational fisheries in NSW which will result in increased economic, social and environmental benefits.	FW \$684,801	FW \$704,911	FW \$687,470
Pump Fishway Project: Phase 2 - Fish transfer	The University of New South Wales	The Pump Fishway innovation aims to transform fishways' performance and costs. Phase 1 proved the concept; Phase 2 seeks to transfer fish safely over 8m walls, ready for field implementation.	FW \$88,601	FW \$0	FW \$0
Fisheries Enhancement Research and Monitoring Program – Marine Stocking	NSW DPI	This project will address research and monitoring in relation to NSW RFST-funded NSW Marine Fish Stocking Fishery Management Strategy; with a focus on 1) commencing Blue Swimmer Crab and Dusky Flathead stocking; 2) FMS monitoring of Eastern King Prawn and Mulloway stocking programs; and 3) trial estuarine releases of Yellowtail Kingfish (and potentially Yellowfin Bream, if Yellowtail Kingfish are not successful).	SW \$180,410	SW \$186,927	SW \$184,141
Fisheries Enhancement Research and Monitoring Program - Regional plan to monitor NSW offshore artificial reefs	NSW DPI	This project provides essential monitoring for the Offshore Artificial Reefs program. This monitoring is needed as part of the Commonwealth approval conditions for each of the reefs. This monitoring will determine the effectiveness of existing and proposed reefs for the next three years.	SW \$240,014	SW \$258,852	SW \$283,585

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Monitoring and Research on Landed Fish at Game Fishing Tournaments in NSW: 2018/2019	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	The project facilitates and conducts monitoring, sampling and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured and weighed at the major game fishing tournaments in NSW.	SW \$30,500	SW \$0	SW \$0
NSW Game Fish Tagging Program	NSW DPI	The NSW 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 is used to obtain vital information on the biology of highly migratory fish species. The program is an essential component of game fishing in Australia and promotes angler stewardship in the fishery. Over 455,000 fish have been tagged by over 50,000 anglers since the beginning of the program. The program has recently extended to key sportfish species such as mulloway, dusky flathead and snapper.	SW \$159,590	SW \$164,270	SW \$169,600
NSW Game Fish Tournament Monitoring	Ghosn Consulting Services	Collate data to support fisheries research and management of game fish species and to strengthen negotiations between recreational fishers, Government and other interested organisations regarding fishery access and sustainability.	SW \$72,450	SW \$75,150	SW \$78,400
Provision of Annual Report for the Gamefish Tagging Program for 2017/2018	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	Provision of an informative, attractive and readily accessible report on the Gamefish Tagging Program for the year 2017/2018.	SW \$6,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Rock Fishing Safety Survey	Central Queensland University	An analysis of rock fishing deaths in the coronial database supported by observational surveys of rock fishers to enable more effective rock fishing safety messages content and delivery.	SW \$3,629	SW \$0	SW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
The Great Swordfish Race	ANSA/DPI	<p>Use key recreational fishers to deploy satellite tags into 10 swordfish off the NSW coast. The objectives are to provide movement, behaviour and post-release survival of fish tagged in NSW in the newly emerging day time deep-drop fishery. This will provide information on this exciting new recreational fishery including information on the timing and availability of swordfish in NSW, their behaviour and suitability for C&R.</p> <p>A key component of the project will be to establish the world's first "Great Swordfish Race" to engage recreational fishers and the general public in an interactive experience to improve our understanding of the mystical and iconic "gladiator of the ocean" along the east coast of Australia and foster stewardship in this new fishery.</p>	SW \$74,800	SW \$0	SW \$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
2018 Disadvantaged community members engagement in sustainable recreational angling	Hunter Native Fish Incorporated	To educate and promote recreational fishing to members of the public with social, physical and / or intellectual difficulties using theory and practical workshops and supervised outings.	FW \$4,050	FW \$0	FW \$0
Carp We Don't Keepit – Junior Angler Participation	OZfish Northwest	Ozfish Northwest sub – project in partnership with Lake Keepit Family Fishing Club and The Pub Angling Club aim to provide fun, attractive and age appropriate educational materials as a resources pack for junior participants at the Carp We Don't Keepit Carp Muster.	FW \$4,000	FW \$0	FW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fishing lures for responsible fisho's	NSW DPI	When conducting fisheries patrols Fisheries Officers will offer anglers fishing lures as a gift in instances where they are undertaking responsible fishing i.e. using an environet to retrieve legally hooked fish, referring to a fishing guide / brochure to check fishing rules, checking fish lengths with a measuring device, using proper fish handling, using circle hooks, effectively rigging a line, assisting others to fish, releasing fish responsibly, reporting illegal fishing via the fishers watch phone line etc. Support conditional on being extended to inland NSW.	FW \$8,500	FW \$0	FW \$0
Supporting fish hatchery trainees	NSW DPI	Increase the number of fisheries students with practical skills learnt in a native fish hatchery. Improve the number and quality of fish produced at the Narrandera hatchery with the extra staff.	FW \$5,000	FW \$5,000	FW \$5,000
Fishcare – Volunteers and Education Officers proactively undertaking face to face education of anglers across NSW	NSW DPI	The NSW Fishcare Volunteer program is one of the flagship programs of the Recreational Fishing Trusts. It uses a network of five dedicated Education Officers and 250 motivated Fishcare Volunteers across NSW to provide face to face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground. Education Officers and Volunteers use targeted messaging to promote responsible and sustainable fishing ('fish for our future'). Fishcare is also instrumental in the running of the Get Hooked... its fun to fish and fishing workshop programs involving thousands of kids and community members held each year. Our mission is to create a team of fishing stewards that champion, responsible fishing and a sustainable secure fishing future.	SW \$595,000 FW \$170,000	SW \$604,000 FW \$172,500	SW \$613,000 FW \$175,000

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fishcare – Additional Education Officer, North Western NSW	NSW DPI	<p>RFNSW has recommended NSW DPI apply for additional freshwater funding to facilitate a northern EO and new 'Perchy' trailer. The new position will be implemented into the western Fishcare team, which covers the area west of the great divide, and is currently facilitated by one EO, Brett Smith, located in Dubbo. In 2016/17, the region undertook 90 events. Our mission is to create a team of western freshwater based fishing stewards that champion, responsible fishing and a sustainable secure fishing future.</p> <p><i>Note: In Dec 2017, RFNSW identified the need to provide increased coverage of the Fishcare Program in north west NSW and recommended that DPI submits a funding application for an additional north-western Education Officer. It was also recommended that DPI facilitate a review of the Fishcare Program, including why additional education resources may be needed on the inland. Review report included with agenda package.</i></p>	FW \$135,000	FW \$141,000	FW \$143,000
Get Hooked...it's fun to fish – providing a fun, interactive recreational fishing program for school students to learn about sustainable fishing	NSW DPI	<p>Get Hooked is a proactive kid's recreational fishing program aligned to the NSW Curriculum. Our mission is to reach out to students and teachers through fun and interactive fishing programs. We aim to teach kids the importance of sustainability, healthy aquatic life for fish stocks, catch and release skills and safe and responsible fishing behaviours. The basics are taught to equip students for the future. Passionate dedicated Fishcare Volunteers, Trust education officers and teachers run Get hooked class lessons with interactive fishing resource kits provided to schools. Once class lessons are completed, education officers and Fishcare Volunteers run practical fishing workshops for thousands of school students annually to put their new skills into practice.</p> <p>Suggested proposed Get Hooked app to be potentially included in FishSmart app.</p>	SW \$360,000 FW \$53,800	SW \$366,960 FW \$54,840	SW \$371,400 FW \$55,500

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
NSW Fishing Workshops – Fostering new and existing fishers to be the guardians of tomorrow	NSW DPI	Fishing workshops teach responsible fishing practices to children and the community throughout NSW, providing an enjoyable educational experience that aims to teach the basics of fishing to a newcomer giving them the skills to continue in the sport. Our mission is to create the fishing steward’s and champions of tomorrow with over 8,000 new entrants introduced to fishing last year.	SW \$35,000 FW \$21,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$21,000	SW \$35,000 FW \$21,000
NSW Saltwater and Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guides - One stop shop for essential fishing info	NSW DPI	These guides provide an easy to read summary of essential information fishers need before they go fishing. This includes fishing rules, gear descriptions, licences and Recreational Fishing Trusts, sustainable fishing practices and much more. It is proposed to decrease production of the guide by one third to 200,000 per year noting increasing use of electronic media. Nevertheless, the guides still represent a one stop shop for anglers in on publication to access their fishing information. It is especially popular with new or beginner fishos.	SW \$98,000 FW \$42,000	SW \$98,000 FW \$42,000	SW \$98,000 FW \$42,000
Recreational fishing information – enhancing information to fishers	NSW DPI	This project involves boosting production and distribution of recreational fishing information to fishers above and beyond what is provided by DPI to promote sustainable fishing and participation. This includes print media such as signage, brochures, social media videos and infomercials while continuing to produce and distribute traditional products such as brochures, signs, guides and the long standing but highly popular sticky measuring ruler. This project will be guided by the recreational fishing branding communication plan project (in development).	SW \$120,000 FW \$20,000	SW \$120,000 FW \$20,000	SW \$120,000 FW \$20,000

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Servicing our fishers to help ensure our fishing future: Responsible recreational fishing and effective management of fishing competitions	NSW DPI	This citizen program is all about promoting best recreational fishing practice and competition management techniques based on current science and recreational fishing know-how. The project works with novice to keen anglers, fishing clubs and competition (event) organisers to inform and educate best fishing and handling techniques and drive change in behaviour to increase fisheries performance. It works to maintain our social licence for recreational fishing by minimising the environmental impacts of fishing whilst maintaining the positive socio-economic benefits of these events for regional communities who depend on them. DPI to include Snowy Mountains Trout Festival in the program.	SW \$110,320 FW \$36,770	SW \$113,680 FW \$37,890	SW \$116,500 FW \$38,850
Fishing for a future	Lake Macquarie PCYC	The Fishing for a Future program will be conducted at the Lake Macquarie PCYC by Police officers. The program aim is to encourage young offenders and youth at risk into fishing. Through fishing great benefits can be achieved with the overall objective to divert young offenders and youth at risk of Lake Macquarie from crime and anti-social behaviour. Supported in part for \$2,200. Operational funds supported however purchase of capital items is not supported. Applicant is invited to reapply for additional operational funds if required.	SW \$6,400 (Supported SW \$2,200)	SW \$0	SW \$0
Lets Go Fishing – Educating School Children on the Sustainable Benefits of Recreational Fishing : Phase 3	Australian Fishing Trade Association	To re-stock and replace equipment where required in the schools fishing kits distributed during project phases 1 and 2. Provide online educational support and links between industry and schools.	SW \$106,000	SW \$0	SW \$0

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network (fee attributable programs)

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fisheries Manager (inland recreational fisheries)	NSW DPI	The position assists with freshwater legislative review, advisory and policy development. The position co-ordinates the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee, Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Advisory Committee and freshwater recreational grants funded from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust. The position assists in the management of the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program, enhanced fish production program and Gaden trout hatchery operational program.	FW \$187,328	FW \$192,011	FW \$196,811
RFFTEC meeting expenses	NSW DPI	To hold regular meetings of the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) in order to review trust fund applications and make recommendations to RFNSW Advisory Council and the Minister for Primary Industries on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust.	FW \$33,800	FW \$34,600	FW \$35,500
Recreational Fishing Infrastructure Co-ordination – Enhancing The Shore-based Fishing Experience For Coastal and Inland Fishers	NSW DPI	To target stakeholder identified gaps in fishing infrastructure in NSW, including fish cleaning facilities and accessible fishing platforms. To provide support to the Trust Executive Officer for financial and auditing management of Trust programs to ensure timely and quality service delivery. The role provides quality advice to the public on all Trust enquiries and application development.	SW \$144,527 FW \$16,059	SW \$148,795 FW \$16,533	SW \$151,921 FW \$17,732
Recreational Fisher Research Database	NSW DPI	This project involves data entry of 1 and 3 year fishing fee receipt holders by an external consultant onto the Recreational Angling database for research and management purposes. This includes data validation and duplication checks of the database.	SW \$49,000 FW \$21,000	SW \$45,500 FW \$19,500	SW \$42,000 FW \$18,000

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Recreational fishing fee awareness program	NSW DPI	This project seeks to raise awareness amongst the recreational fishing sector of the need for a fishing licence and where licence fees go by using advertising in key fishing magazines, signage, social media and other initiatives (to be identified in the recreational fishing communications plan). Supported for 2018/19 only.	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000 (supported)	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000 (not supported)	SW \$35,000 FW \$15,000 (not supported)
Recreational Fishing Fee Renewal Notice System	NSW DPI	Involves an efficient licence 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.	SW \$86,000 FW \$36,850	SW \$86,000 FW \$36,850	SW \$86,000 FW \$36,850
Recreational Fishing Licensing (Fee) project	NSW DPI	This project provides for the safe and secure collection of recreational fishing licences fees (public money) which are deposited into the Recreational Fishing Trusts on a daily basis. It provides a convenient payment network for anglers using a variety of methods such as a dedicated webpage, sales agents (fishing tackle stores etc) throughout NSW, BPAY, automated telephone, EFTPOS terminals and even mail. It caters for all types of anglers. There is 1) an electronic sales platform run by the OneGov - Government Licensing Service (GLS) and 2) a manual payment system of agents run by DPI. Supported excluding GLS funding in 2019/20 and 2020/21. DPI to continue negotiations with GLS regarding high transaction fees, which are considered excessive.	SW \$1,515,430 FW \$649,470	SW \$1,551,550 FW \$664,950 (Supported SW \$1,044,050 FW \$447,450)	SW \$1,584,310 FW \$678,990 (Supported SW \$1,059,310 FW \$453,990)
Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) consultation and meeting expenses	NSW DPI	RFNSW advises the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishery policy issues including maintaining and improving the quality of recreational fishing opportunities.	SW \$62,500 FW \$26,700	SW \$63,300 FW \$27,100	SW \$64,100 FW \$27,500

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer	NSW DPI	The officer is responsible for the overall coordination and financial management of the Recreational Fishing Trusts to facilitate a transparent and accountable Trust system, on behalf of the recreational fishing community. This includes implementation of good governance processes to ensure collection and transfer of licence revenue to the Trusts, disbursement of funds to Trust projects and ensuring quality delivery of project outcomes to improve recreational fishing.	SW \$186,000	SW \$193,000	SW \$199,000
Recreational Fishing Trust grants administration program – supporting the delivery of Trust funded projects	NSW DPI	To improve the delivery and performance of Recreational Fishing Trust funded projects by assigning essential resourcing to grants administration and management. The position sends funding agreements to applicants, receives milestones reports, processes project invoices and so on. It is an integral position of the Trust management team to facilitate effective governance controls including audits and monitoring to maintain and improve the standard of project delivery and accountability across all Trust funded projects.	SW \$132,941	SW \$136,177	SW \$139,494
RFSTEC meeting expenses	NSW DPI	The Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) is an advisory subcommittee of the Ministerial Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) that reviews applications for funding and makes recommendations on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust.	SW \$33,800	SW \$34,600	SW \$35,500

Table 2: Projects NOT SUPPORTED for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust (CONFIDENTIAL)

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Buckingbong Reserve Improvement	Narrandera Fishing Club	Erect shelter for fishers and campers for safe and hygiene preparation of food etc. Not fisheries specific. Limited benefit to fishers.	FW \$9,400	FW \$0	FW \$0
Dumaresq Dam Fishing/Canoe Jetty	Armidale Regional Council	Armidale Regional Council is seeking partial funding for a fishing/canoe jetty at Dumaresq Dam, which in combination with a bass stocking program and increasing canoe fishing will improve rec. fishing. Lack of detail on kayak versus land based fishing access and budget details on platform construction. DPI Infrastructure Manager to liaise with applicant to address issues and resubmit.	FW \$80,000	FW \$0	FW \$0
Tocumwal Foreshore Fishing/Viewing Platforms	Berrigan Shire Council	This project involves the redevelopment of the Murray River Foreshore at Tocumwal where improved access and facilities will encourage the use of this high profile facility for recreational fishers. RFTEC acknowledges the need for additional fishing platforms. Lack of detail in budget, including contributing funding from Council. DPI Infrastructure Manager to liaise with Council to address applications issues and resubmit.	FW \$286,800	FW \$0	FW \$0
Coffs Harbour fishing platform	NSW Department of Industry, Crown Lands	Conversion of the old WE Smith load out facility (near the boat ramp) in Coffs Harbour. Scope includes making safe the site with import of rock, installation of concrete platform, hand rails and seating. The site will be wheel chair accessible and parking provided accordingly to Australian Standards. Works will be managed by Crown Lands and REF determined by Lands (Part 5 Infrastructure SEP). Resubmit with more technical information. Investigate opportunity to extend the platform. Liaise with DPI Infrastructure Manager on design. Consult with local fishing community.	SW \$29,545	SW \$0	SW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fish Cleaning Table – Joshua Porter Reserve Boat Ramp	Chain Valley Bay Progress Association	Installation of a fish cleaning table adjacent to the boat ramp at the Joshua Porter Reserve, Chain Valley Bay South. Application has merit. Resubmit to address technical issues such as waste, approvals, ongoing maintenance, ownership, etc. Liaise with DPI Infrastructure Manager to facilitate revised application.	SW \$13,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Increasing accessibility of Mossy Point Jetty	Eurobodalla Shire Council	This project seeks to lower the handrail of the Mossy Point jetty and construct approximately 10 metres of pathway to improve access to this fishing location and enable access-restricted people, particularly those confined to a wheelchair, to comfortably fish from this location. Resubmit in consultation with local fishing groups. Inadequate for disabled access due to narrow width. Location has challenging issues and considered not suitable. Liaise with DPI Infrastructure Manager to facilitate revised application.	SW \$7,500	SW \$0	SW \$0
Minnamurra Boat Ramp Fish Cleaning Table	The Council of Municipality of Kiama	Based on community feedback, Council has identified the need for a fish cleaning table at the Minnamurra boat ramp. Council proposes a table with lighting. By providing the cleaning amenities, at the popular fishing location, Council hopes to encourage best fishing practices. Low value for money. Refer back to Kiama Council to revise application and consider smaller table to reduce costs. Over-engineered for proposed location. Liaise with DPI Infrastructure Manager to revise application. Undertake local consultation with fishing clubs.	SW \$28,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Moruya Quarry Wharf – Accessible Path Linkage	Eurobodalla Shire Council	To provide an accessible concrete pathway from the existing wharf to the accessible public toilet facility. Adequate fishing access already. Considered a Council responsibility for general public pathway access.	SW \$16,000	SW \$0	SW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Ringlands Point Jetty Replacement, Narooma	Eurobodalla Shire Council	To re-establish the jetty at Ringlands Point, Narooma that was closed due to safety concerns in April 2013 and has deteriorated to the point that it has collapsed, as a fishing platform. The works include the provision of access stairs and reestablishment of the jetty but as a fishing platform. The location is in a protected bay that would be accessible in a variety of conditions. Remote, isolated location. Shore based access existing around location. Low value for money. Unsuitable location.	SW \$210,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Rosedale Beach Access Steps and Stairs	Eurobodalla Shire Council	To provide safer access, in all weather conditions to Rosedale Beach a popular location for recreational fishers by installing timber stairs with handrails and improving the track by installing formed steps in the steep sections. Questionable about proposal being fishing specific. Remote location. Low contribution of funding support from Council. Project has merit. DPI Infrastructure Manager to liaise and seek further contributing funding from Council.	SW \$38,043	SW \$0	SW \$0
Scylla Bay fishing platform	Sutherland Shire Council	Design and construction of a new fishing platform to replace an aging timber wharf at Scylla Bay, Como. Although Council advise no other alternative suitable locations, RFSTEC still consider the location to be unsuitable.	SW \$350,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
The David Dulhunty Memorial Recreational Fishing Haven at Pambula Lake	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club and Pambula Fishing Club	On behalf of David Dulhunty tragically killed in a road accident; To have the remainder of Pambula Lake established as a Recreational Fishing Haven, by purchase of existing commercial licences. The application refers to buyout of commercial fishing. Current government policy is for no additional RFHs without consensus from all sectors. While concept of additional RFHs is supported by RFSTEC, this represents a policy issue. Refer issue to RFNSW for further consideration.	SW \$0	SW \$0	SW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Wilson Corlis Reserve Jetty	Wilson Corlis Reserve Parkcare Group (proposed)	The construction and re-establishment of a public wharf and jetty in Wilson Corlis Reserve which was previously utilised as a fishing platform by locals and tourists. Primarily for boating. DPI Infrastructure Manager to contact group to discuss proposal further.	SW \$10,000	SW \$0	SW \$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Breathing Life into the Murray	Nyah Nyah West United Football and Netball Club – Fishing Committee	Providing aeration of waters upstream from the Nyah Boat Ramp to help improve the natural ecosystem in times of high stress such as black water events. Project objective has merit. RFFTEC was concerned about the effectiveness of the proposed aerator methodology. More technical information needed on potential effectiveness in future black water events. There is also issue of ongoing management of asset on private land.	FW \$8,000	FW \$0	FW \$0
Driving Fish Habitat Action with a Landcare NSW partnership	OzFish Unlimited	Funding support for 2 OzFish staff which will establish a platform of 45 fish habitat focused groups to deliver fish habitat rehabilitation works in over 60 locations using the resources of recreational fishers and Landcarers across NSW. Project has merit however RFFTEC would prefer to support additional on-grounds works projects sourced by OzFish. RFFTEC prefers to increase funding for on ground habitat works rather than staff facilitation of projects (outcomes can be difficult to measure and previous Trust Habitat liaison officer was unsuccessful and terminated).	SW \$113,250 FW \$120,250	SW \$113,250 FW \$120,250	SW \$113,000 FW \$120,000
Ocean2earth Australia (O2E) Fish Waste Management and Data Collection Pilot Project	Ocean2earth Australia	O2E is a new concept in managing fish waste problems at boat ramps as well as capturing high quality recreational catch data on fish retained by boat ramp users. Significant capital investment for a private enterprise and considered a commercial venture.	SW \$423,190	SW \$0	SW \$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Cooperation between Recreational and Commercial fishers to recover seaweed forests as fish and invertebrate habitat on shallow coast reefs	AANSW	There is evidence that climate change has contributed to large, invasive sea urchins spreading down the east coast of Australia, removing large seaweeds that provide fish habitat on shallow coastal reefs. The loss of large seaweed also leads to greatly reduced biodiversity and impacts on the whole reef ecosystem. Research projects in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania have developed approaches to remove urchins, and encourage recovery of seaweed to provide habitat for fish and invertebrates. This project will involve cooperation between recreational and commercial fishers, to extend existing work in southern NSW that is trying to recover shallow coastal reef, and return habitat for more productive fish and invertebrate populations. RFSTEC recognised the project has merit in contributing to addressing urchin invasion however had concerns about the methodology and lack of scientific rigour in monitoring. Application methodology requires reworking and further collaboration with DPI Fisheries is recommended to discuss approvals and monitoring.	SW \$40,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Clarence River flood plain land care	Land Care	Collection of soil samples of agriculture run off into waterways (chemicals). Analyse record investigate. RFSTEC recognises there may be a need for sampling but there was a lack of scientific rigour to proposed methodology and requires a partnership with the relevant expertise.	SW \$10,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
The stories of recreational fishing: past, present and future	University of Wollongong	The project aims to capture some of the stories of recreational fishing told by fishers. Exploring and disseminating stories related to recreational fishing across culture, gender and fishing method will assist in building social license and addressing user conflict. Considered low priority at this time. RFNSW social licence project underway and prudent to await outcomes from that project.	SW \$91,077	SW \$0	SW \$0

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Gone Fishing Trout style	Redoubt Pty Ltd T/A Eucumbene Trout Farm	Proposed is a fishing for trout open day at Eucumbene Trout Farm to coincide with the "Gone Fishing" day held throughout NSW. Recommended application be made under Gone Fishing Day grants.	FW \$4,000	SW \$0 FW \$0	SW \$0 FW \$0
Fisherman's Mate	ABKaus PTY Ltd	Fisherman's Mate will be the most comprehensive mobile application for the fishing and boating enthusiast. The mobile application provides validated list of Fishing Spots, Boat Ramps, Marina and Fishing Shops. Other features include fishing and boating safety, user education, trip planner, brag wall, leaderboard, comments and likes. Considered to be a commercial venture. Existing FishSmart smartphone application with further enhancements planned.	SW \$39,200 FW \$16,800	SW \$0 FW \$0	SW \$0 FW \$0
The Fly Program Ltd. 'Men In Flight Program'	The Fly Program Ltd.	The purpose of The Fly Program's Men In Flight program is to raise awareness and facilitate engaging programs that address depression, Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicide in the Australian male community, focusing on education and peer support found in environments found in nature and recreational fishing. RFTEC was concerned about the very high participant cost and lack of funding from other sources e.g. NSW Health. RFSTEC recognised benefits of the program but had concerns about the high participant cost. Recommended that the applicant considers co-funding opportunities. RFSTEC also noted that RFNSW has requested co-funding opportunities be sought from NSW Health.	SW \$60,900 FW \$26,100	SW \$0 FW \$0	SW \$0 FW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Development/Expansion of Marine Studies Program at Lake Munmorah High School	Lake Munmorah High School	The marine studies program at the school has been in decline for a number of years. The aim of the re-vamped program is to actively engage students in the recreational use and scientific study of local marine environments including Lake Macquarie, Tuggerah Lakes System and Munmorah State Conservation Area. RFSTEC considered the project has merit but should collaborate with existing programs such as the DPI Get Hooked It's Fun To Fish program, AFTA Lets Go Fishing and/or Gamefish Tagging Program to increase support and overall effectiveness.	SW \$5,000	SW \$0	SW \$0
Community Fishing Project (CFP)	Central Coast Primary Care	Provide better access to a real fishing experience to the Central Coast Community, particularly people with a disability. There is evidence available that suggests fishing can provide tangible health benefits, particularly to people with Mental Health issues. The barrier to fishing is not the desire, it's the access to the equipment, transport, knowledge or locations needed to fish successfully. While the project has merit in providing tangible health benefits, RFSTEC has a preference for supporting operational expenses rather than purchasing capital items. Recommended that the applicant contact AFTA or resubmit for operational costs.	SW \$7,140	SW \$0	SW \$0
Provision of images for publication of the book, "Fishing for the Past"	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	Fund purchase of rights and permissions for essential images for publication of the book: "Fishing for the Past. Casting nets and lines into Australia's early colonial history" by Julian Pepperell. RFSTEC does not support buying of picture rights for a commercial enterprise.	SW \$5,500	SW \$0	SW \$0

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Regional Education Program	World Orphan Fund Inc	<p>There are issues within the Western Sydney community in the understanding of laws, reasoning and practises when it comes to finishing. Our youth in this region do not appreciate nor understand the importance of marine life, environmental conservation, cleanliness, catch limits and other life cycles existing in our water ways. We would like to use this grant with the assistance of NSW Fisheries and NSW maritime police to educate school kids and local communities on the importance of environmental and marine life conservation as well as educate on how to use our water way sustainably.</p> <p>Refer to DPI Fisheries Community Relations Manager for support. More detail required, particularly budget. Worthy cause.</p>	SW \$7,500	SW \$0	SW \$0
Summerland Sporties Bream & Flathead Classic	Committee of Bream & Flathead Classic	<p>This is a 'Catch and Release' competition held in Lake Macquarie. It is a family community event. With approx. 150 anglers. Fisheries have been involved prior with tagging the bream caught for study. The Classic is keen for Fisheries involvement again. All proceeds go to charity, which this year will be in honour of a local that lost her life Leah DeBonno.</p> <p>Recommended to be referred to DPI Tournament Management staff for competition support. Funding for competition prizes is generally not supported.</p>	SW \$5,600	SW \$0	SW \$0
The ultimate fishing trip for disadvantaged students	South Grafton High School	<p>This project will teach high school age kids responsible and sustainable fishing practices. It will also teach them how to rig rods, tie knots, baits, hooks, casting, catch and release fishing and look after the environment.</p> <p>The application should be referred to the Get Hooked and Lets Go Fishing schools programs for support. If additional support is required, a further application can be submitted.</p>	SW \$10,216	SW \$0	SW \$0