

MEETING 2 OUTCOMES

1. Welcome by chair

The chair welcomed members to the second meeting.

2. Apologies

Jo Starling, Chris Cleaver

3. Register of Interests

The chair requested any additions to the Register as required.

4. Adoption of the record of the previous meeting

The draft outcomes of Meeting 1 were accepted without change as a true and accurate record of the first meeting on 20 June 2016.

5. Adoption and recording of out of session items considered by RFNSW

a) Funding recommendations from RFSTEC and RFFTEC – RFNSW reviewed funding recommendations from the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committees during an out-of-session teleconference on 8 July. The recommendations identified 45 projects worthy of funding (commencing in 2016/17). RFNSW endorsed the projects recommended for funding by RFSTEC and RFFTEC, which cover a wide range of activities to improve various aspects of recreational fishing in NSW (see Attachment 1).

b) Advice on renewal of a current fishing closure which provides for trip limits for tailor in the Ocean Hauling and Estuary General Fisheries – RFNSW considered a proposal for DPI to renew the fishing closure notification continuing the existing trip limits for tailor (i.e., maintain current commercial fishing restrictions).

There was majority support from Council members that responded out of session for the closure to be renewed in its current form. Additionally Council members noted the following:

- Council considered the socio-economic value of a recreationally-caught tailor would significantly outweigh the value of a net-caught, commercially taken tailor (given poor market prices for net-caught tailor).
- More recent changes to the Australian salmon closure (also implemented in 2001) enabling further catch provisions by the commercial sector appeared to have resulted in declines in availability of salmon to recreational fishers and flow-on local economic impacts on the north coast.
- It was noted that recent tailor closures had been implemented in Queensland for sustainability reasons.
- It was recognised that tailor have very soft flesh and need to be handled carefully. Anecdotal accounts of ocean hauled tailor catches going to waste because of a lack of ice had been observed.
- One member requested that tailor be made a recreational only species.
- Council requested provision of any data on the use of tailor for bait versus human consumption.
- Concern was expressed about the high level of the Estuary General commercial catch, given the current bycatch provisions.

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- More biological and assessment information on the tailor stock was required, preferably within a three-year period. Council requested a DPI research summary on current tailor stock assessment information at the next meeting.
- Ideally, up-to-date stock assessment information would assist greatly with future closure reviews.

6. Key current member issues

At the first Council meeting, members provided details of key issues in their region, sector or field which were collated into an issues summary document. Members were requested to identify their top five issues, which were then workshopped into a priority issues list. This enabled Council to commence development of a structured and achievable RFNSW work plan with specific actions and responsibilities. The work plan will be a 'live' document for members to access online to keep track of current issue and actions underway.

As a result of a workshop process led by DPI staff, members collectively identified a list of the initial top 10 priorities for Council. These are: 1) stock assessments of key recreational species to address perceived decline in fish stocks; 2) the mullocky recovery program; 3) concerns regarding commercial netting in estuaries, including intermittently closed and open lakes and lagoons; 4) recreational fishing as part of the Hawkesbury bioregion assessment; 5) redfin pest control; 6) Crown road disposal program and other key access issues; 7) creation/promotion of a recreational fishing social licence (and improving messaging on sustainable fishing to youth in western NSW; 8) developing a strategic plan for recreational fishing; 9) fish associated impacts of Macquarie River pipeline; and 10) review of lobster and abalone recreational fishing rules.

Other issues from the list compiled from the top five issues identified by each member will be prioritized at future meetings and added to the work plan.

7. Trophy fishery

Following the first Council meeting on 20 June, members requested background information on the angler-driven proposal to create trial trophy fisheries for dusky flathead in St Georges Basin and Tuross Lake presented at the meeting. The concept involves implementation of a voluntary code of practice involving release of all flathead over 70 cm and an associated advisory campaign. Council discussed the importance of having baseline data, followed by data collection during the trial, to evaluate its effectiveness over time.

DPI staff proposed that baseline data could be obtained from the previous Tuross Lake recreational fishing haven survey and Tuross Lake and St Georges Basin fishing club records. During the trial, data could be obtained from dedicated angler surveys to measure changes in fishing behavior, an angler catch diary program, a new fish tagging program in the Lakes, and surveys of tourism businesses (e.g., caravan parks).

Council was supportive of implementing the trial together with data collection and evaluation methods, and the exploration of ideas about how best to do the necessary monitoring.

Council also requested that DPI write to all fishing clubs in NSW to advise them about the trial and organize a media campaign about the trial to promote angler awareness.

8. Consideration of change of name of recreational fishing havens to recreational fishing areas

RFNSW was provided with a history of the previous name change from “area” to “haven” back in 2002. Members were advised that the Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) had requested consideration of a name change back to “area” instead of “haven”. RFNSW indicated a preference to retain “haven”, noting that name had been used for many years and was well accepted by the community. Council also noted that a further name change could create confusion within the recreational fishing community.

9. Access issues

DPI provided an update on the assessment of road closure applications as part of the Crown Roads Disposal Program. DPI Fisheries has an established process working with the Crown Lands road disposal group and after some teething problems, the process is working well in assessing these roads for closure. It was also noted that the Minister for Primary Industries made a presentation on this issue at the recent parliamentary inquiry into Crown Land.

DPI also provided a presentation outlining other access issues and highlighted areas requiring improvement, including access in the western division, NPWS plans of management, land disposals and acquisitions, and the role of the access manager in providing comment on Aboriginal Land Claims. The need for DPI to better promote existing access opportunities for anglers in an easily accessible format was also raised.

10. Advice on renewal of a current fishing closure which restricts commercial harvesting of Australian salmon using trip limits in the Ocean Hauling and Estuary General Fisheries

The taking of Australian salmon by commercial fishers in NSW waters north of Barrenjoey headland is restricted by a fishing closure made under section 8 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994. The closure specifies that appropriately endorsed ocean haul fishers are limited to 3,000 kg of Australian salmon per day in the specified waters. An overall total catch trigger limit policy of 224 tonnes (north of Barrenjoey Headland) was also implemented, i.e., if the total catch approaches 224 tonnes a review of the closure will be undertaken.

Council noted Australian salmon remains a highly regarded sportfish for recreational fishers. While salmon stocks appeared to benefit and extend prolifically up the central and north coast following implementation of the original closure arrangements in 2001 with no commercial take, amendments to the closure such as the introduction of the 3,000 kg trip limit had appeared to reduce levels of salmon available for recreational fishing.

RFNSW supported the renewal of the closure in its current format but recommended that the trigger limit in the associated policy be amended to 100 tonnes, with a view to recommending that Australian salmon becomes a recreational only species north of Barrenjoey Headland within the next five year period.

Council also requested that DPI provide information on the potential to use alternatives (e.g., mullet, waste fish from co-ops) to using salmon as trap bait. Council noted that if alternative bait supplies could be used to reduce the reliance by commercial fishers on salmon for bait,

anglers along the whole coast could benefit from improved stocks of salmon for recreational fishing.

11. Recreational Fishing Trust issues

DPI gave a presentation on the Recreational Fishing Trusts in response to a series of questions previously presented by the Recreational Fishing Alliance. Information was provided on the history of the licence administration project and associated budget; ongoing DPI programs; expenditure committee operation and assessment of Trust applications; management of Trust projects to ensure quality delivery; and Trust auditing and accountability requirements.

One funding recommendation was received from the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee. The project application involved the installation of a fish cleaning table at Grays Point, Sutherland. Due to a lack of detail in the funding application, RFNSW supported the expenditure committee recommendation for DPI to work with Sutherland Shire Council to facilitate a Council application for the cleaning table.

RFNSW previously requested a report from the expenditure committees on the operation of the Recreational Fishing Trusts based on their experience of the Trust assessment process to assist with Council's understanding of the process and any potential improvements to the assessment process.

Reports from both expenditure committees were provided to members. It was noted that:

- RFSTEC has met 47 times and RFFTEC 50 times.
- More than 1,200 project applications have been assessed since the beginning of the Trust grants and 590 have been recommended for funding.
- 451 projects have been successfully completed so far.
- Virtually all project funding recommendations had received Ministerial approval over the years, which demonstrates the excellent quality of advice.
- The Trust assessment process currently operates as an autonomous process involving recreational fishers.
- There is extensive committee experience of application assessment which provides for fair and consistent decision-making.
- Technical advice is currently provided for habitat and fishing infrastructure applications which has worked well. Extension of technical advice to research applications should be considered.
- There is a need to encourage and facilitate further innovative projects from new applicants.
- Previous overlap in membership between Advisory Council and the expenditure committees has worked well and should be continued.
- One main funding round per year can be challenging when considering a large number of applications.

DPI advised that current vacancies on the expenditure committees will be filled by a community expression of interest. Noting the importance of having overlap between the expenditure committees and RFNSW, an expression of interest for RFNSW members on the committees can also be undertaken. This would have the benefit of expanding committee experience even further. RFNSW also noted that a process for provision of independent

technical research advice to expenditure committees will be considered at the next Council meeting. DPI also advised reimbursement for 'application pre-assessment time' will be investigated for implementation.

12. Presentation on Hawkesbury Bioregion Assessment

The Council was provided with an update on the Hawkesbury Bioregion assessment. The Assessment has so far:

- identified community benefits of the bioregion
- identified threats and risks to the community benefits of the bioregion
- evaluated current management arrangements
- developed suggested management initiatives to address threats to marine biodiversity while maximising community benefits (including spatial management)
- provided stakeholders and the community with an opportunity to comment on the suggested management initiatives, nominate new initiatives and provide additional evidence for threat and risk assessment.

The Authority has assessed 15 pre-identified sites and is now considering an additional 44 sites nominated by the community for the spatial management initiative. It was confirmed that further community engagement will be undertaken before any proposals for marine protected areas or other types of spatial closures are adopted by the NSW Government. RFNSW noted the additional upcoming community consultation and would provide further advice at this time.

13. Presentation on Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment program

The Council was provided with an update on the Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program. DPI advised some commercial fishers will need to purchase more shares to secure their level of business activity, while others may choose to sell their shares and exit the industry. The Adjustment Subsidy Program is a \$16 million package provided by the NSW Government to assist commercial fishers in the transition to the new share linkage arrangements. It has two components: fishing business buyouts and a share trading market where funds will be used to help active fishers purchase shares they need.

14. Proposal to amend a fishing closure to change the NSW commercial fishery (trawl and trap and line) trip limits in primarily Commonwealth waters

Since 1993, a series of commercial fishing trip limits currently apply to the commercial trawl and trap and line fisheries that operate in Commonwealth waters (beyond 3 nm) under the quota management scheme overseen by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. The commercial industry has indicated ongoing issues with the closure given that if their catch of a given species exceeds the relevant trip limit, the excess fish must be discarded – even if of a legal size, marketable and suitable for consumption. The commercial industry has requested revisions to the current trip limit fishing closure.

Council noted that the overall issue and proposal to change the trip limits was very complex. RFNSW was not supportive of the proposal at this stage and raised the following issues and requirements for additional information before further consideration of the proposal:

- Concerns by local recreational fishing groups on the south coast about current trawl operations and a perceived negative impact on flathead availability to recreational fishers with associated anecdotal economic impacts on recreational fishing tourism. There was also concern that proposed changes to trip limits would exacerbate any such impacts. The recent recreational bag limit reduction for bluespotted flathead was also noted.
- The need to examine the report from the recently completed DPI trawl observer survey to enable Council to assess the potential impact of the proposed changes, including current variation in the level of bycatch and discarding.
- The potential for the new (significant) 500 kg limit to provide a lucrative incentive for operators to increase their intensity of trawl effort on flathead to reach the new trip limit. Additional effort could also lead to potential new or lesser-used trawl grounds, further raising concerns by local recreational fishers.
- The justification that fish are being wasted by being discarded is unacceptable because a similar justification was used to support the implementation of the mulloway bycatch provision for commercial mesh netting as part of the recovery program management arrangements. While RFNSW does not endorse the wastage of fish, it points out that the mulloway bycatch provision has resulted in a targeted mesh net fishery for mulloway, rather than an incidental bycatch.
- Constitutional settlement negotiations are currently underway to facilitate future single jurisdiction management of some Australia's southern fisheries. Council requested more information on the process to facilitate assessment and further understanding of the proposal.
- Bluespotted flathead currently has an uncertain status classification. The classification means a significant amount of evidence has been collected and considered for the species, however, there are inconsistent or contradictory signals in the data that preclude determination of exploitation status. Council requested further information on these contradictory signals, which may help with assessment of the proposal.

15. Social media guidelines

It is recognised that members may wish to seek feedback from their established networks on various policy development issues. Social media provides one of a variety of media channels to obtain feedback. Council was presented with recommended guidelines for using social media to seek feedback from regional stakeholders.

16. Other business

Macquarie River to Orange pipe line

Council members raised the issue of the Macquarie River to Orange pipe line, highlighting the native fish diversity of the site, and the potential effects of a low trigger/commence to pump levels rule during droughts. DPI provided advice that it did not support the consultant's assessment regarding low native fish diversity. DPI conditions regarding screening had been implemented but due to the low usage of the pipeline to date, research into impact of screening would now be conducted at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre. RFNSW agreed to form a sub-committee to develop advice for Council.



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Email guidelines

In order to manage email correspondence between members and DPI, Council members were presented with some simple protocols and guidelines for sending group emails. While it is not intended to discourage or limit communication between Council members, it was considered important to ensure the exchange of ideas and information sharing is both organised and efficient.

Correspondence received

Council of Freshwater Anglers (CFA) – Council has written to request representation of the CFA on the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee – see agenda item 11 for more information regarding vacancies.

17. Next meeting

2 Dec 2016 (Sydney). Meetings dates in March, June, September and December 2017 will be determined at the next meeting.

Attachment 1

RFNSW out of session consideration of funding recommendations from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee meetings

RFNSW members considered the funding recommendations, and supported the recommendations, as outlined in Table 1. This included:

- 27 new, large projects (commencing in 2016/17) were recommended for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. These projects cover a wide range of activities to improve various aspects of recreational fishing in NSW, including: promoting fishing access, recreational fishing education, fishing infrastructure, new research initiatives and fisheries enhancement. There is also a new, major 'Flagship Habitat Action' project aimed at large-scale coastal fish habitat rehabilitation.
- A further 18 small projects were recommended for funding under the Recreational Fishing Trusts Small Grants Program.
- Twenty one projects were considered low priority for funding because they had little or no benefit to recreational fishing.

RFNSW also requested that during development of future funding priorities, further work on education and advisory services for recreational fishers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is required e.g. translations of fishing rules. RFNSW also requested to view habitat action program funding recommendations from the habitat Technical Assessment Panels and the Expenditure Committees at future meetings.

Table 1: New Recreational Fishing Trusts applications supported by RFSTEC and RFFTEC

Note: FW denotes funding from the Freshwater Trust and SW denoted funding from the Saltwater Trust

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement programs

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Research trial stocking of Estuary Perch fingerlings within Brogo Dam To undertake a research trial stocking of up to 20,000 Estuary Perch fingerlings within Brogo dam over 2 years to provide NSW anglers with an exciting new high quality recreational fishing opportunity.</p>	NSW DPI	FW \$40,000	\$0
Small Grants			
<p>Give the fingerlings more air - Bingara Hatchery – Small Grant To renew the airline set up to provide more air for the fingerlings at Bingara hatchery.</p>	Bingara Anglers Club and Hatchery	FW \$4,479	\$0

Platform: Recreational Fishing Education

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Civic Disability Services fishing program, Sutherland Shire To allow delivery of a weekly fishing activity for low-to-high needs individuals with intellectual disability who have an interest in fishing and nature.</p>	Civic Disability Services	SW \$16,400	\$0
<p>Go Fishing NSW Day 2016 – promoting fishing as a healthy, fun, outdoors activity Following the success of the NSW Go Fishing NSW Day in December last year, it is proposed to hold the second day on 16 October 2016. The day will recognise and promote the importance of recreational fishing as a healthy, fun, outdoors activity. The day will coincide with the inaugural National Recreational Fishing Day, which is being run by the Australian Fishing Trade Association.</p>	NSW DPI	SW \$133,000 FW \$57,000	\$0
<p>Communicating more effectively with recreational fishers from Chinese speaking backgrounds To better understand how communications with Chinese speaking recreational fishers can be improved. Comment. NSW DPI to discuss possibility of including broader range of languages for the study</p>	University of Wollongong (UoW)	SW \$81,039	\$0

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Inland Fishing Summit</p> <p>Empowering existing recreational fishing groups, by exposing them to highly successful models of fundraising, better enabling them to increase community support and contribute back to the fishery through habitat management.</p> <p>Condition -The workshop is to present a range of recreational fishing projects (e.g. recreational fishing competition management, guidelines for running a successful fishing club, recreational fisheries research programs, Fishcare program, best catch and release procedures etc.), to broaden the scope of the discussion.</p>	OzFish Unlimited	FW \$39,500	\$0
Small grants			
<p>Fish Port Stephens - digitally interactive educational display on recreational fishing in Port Stephens at the Visitor Information Centre – Small Grant</p> <p>To develop content and partnerships to create a dedicated digitally interactive educational display on all aspects of recreational fishing in Port Stephens at the Visitor Information Centre Nelson Bay, including mobile friendly web content and comprehensive user-friendly information on recreational fishing in the Port Stephens region. The project will be supported by a communications and marketing campaign to promote Port Stephens as a great destination for fishing – for locals and visitors.</p> <p>Condition – NSW DPI Fisheries to review content of digital interactive educational display before release</p>	Destination Port Stephens	SW \$10,000	\$0
<p>Warrawong Intensive English Centre – Fishing for Refugees (additional funding sought for existing project) – Small Grant</p> <p>This submission is an extension to SS004 (\$3,406). The objective is to teach refugee new arrivals to Australia responsible and sustainable fishing practices through funding for transport to different fishing locations.</p>	Intensive English Centre, Warrawong	SW \$6,500	\$0
<p>Assisting others to enjoy fishing 2016/2017 – Small Grant</p> <p>Hold three junior Fishing Clinics and 1 CanTeen Cancer Kids visit. Teach how to rig rods, tie knots, bait hooks, cast rods, gather bait from inter tidal zones, cast, catch and release fish and look after the environment.</p>	Narooma Sport and Gamefishing Club Inc	SW \$5,000	\$0
<p>Warrawong High School – Project Neptune 2016/17 – Small Grant</p> <p>Project Neptune began in 1998. Fishing is a school sport. Weather permitting, sport is Thursday afternoons. Terms 1 & 4 The highlight is the program’s annual deep sea charter.</p>	Warrawong High School	SW \$1,920	\$0
<p>Traditional Fish – Small Grant</p> <p>The project aims to prevent isolation with Aboriginal men with a disability, using fishing and talking group (yarning circle) whilst engaging in recreational fishing.</p> <p>Comment - The project is also supported by the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council.</p>	Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council	FW \$5,435	\$0

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Moree Lions Club kids fishing day – Small Grant</p> <p>To promote correct fishing methods with kids under 12 years of age with their families, whilst conducting a community event.</p> <p>Condition – That the DPI Fisheries Education Officer provides assistance to the applicant to provide a format for running community fishing events.</p>	Lions Club of Moree	FW \$9,800	\$0
<p>Lithgow High School aquaculture and fishing sustainability project – Small Grant</p> <p>Determining growth rates and displacement of natural species. Fingerlings to be nurtured at LHS aquaculture facility, transferred to temporary holding dam where growth rates are measured and fish tagged before being released locally to be caught and monitored.</p> <p>Condition – That fish are <u>not</u> stocked into the river and are either utilised or released into a local farm/school dam upon completion of the project.</p>	Lithgow High School	FW \$10,000	\$0
<p>Engaging young recreational fishers in the importance of river health – Small Grant</p> <p>This project aims to provide fun, attractive and age appropriate educational materials in the resources pack for competitions at the annual Namoi River Carp Muster at Narrabri.</p> <p>Condition – That the DPI Fisheries Education Officer provides additional advisory / education material for the carp muster resource packs.</p>	Narrabri Amateur Fishing Club Inc.	FW \$2,000	\$0
<p>Tenterfield Shire fishing information leaflet for visitors and local residents – Small Grant</p> <p>To provide visitors to the Tenterfield Shire information about locations and regulations related to fishing in the area.</p> <p>Condition – Brochure to be reviewed by DPI prior to publication</p>	Ratepayers Association of Tenterfield Shire	FW \$1,000	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Construct a fishing platform at ANZAC Park, Nambucca Heads Construct a large 6.8 x 12.5 metre fishing platform with a disability ramp from the edge of Anzac Park over the Nambucca River with steps leading to the river. Condition – Funding of \$50,000 for construction fishing platform. Lions Club of Nambucca Heads to consult with council to fund peripheral works. Railing to be included on front of fishing platform to prevent boats docking.</p>	Lions Club of Nambucca Heads	SW \$71,250 Requested \$50,000 Supported	\$0
<p>Eco Fishing Huts – Wilderness Fishing Access - Stage 1 Pilot (2 huts) Develop a system of basic “fishing eco huts” in coastal and inland areas to provide opportunities for anglers to access remote areas for short stays in purpose designed overnight accommodation.</p>	NSW DPI	SW \$193,500	\$0
<p>Clean, Safe Wharves initiative – keeping Sydney Harbour ferry wharves open to fishing This project contributes to the Clean, Safe Wharves campaign which involves a series of education and maintenance initiatives aimed at encouraging responsible recreational fishing behaviour on the 50 Sydney Harbour ferry wharves and ensuring fishing access is maintained. These funds will contribute to signage, advertising and associated other new initiatives as fisher issues arise.</p>	NSW DPI	SW \$60,000	\$0
<p>Bawley Point heritage fishing platform Upgrade to a historically significant heritage gantry at Bawley Point to create a safe ocean fishing platform. The existing platform is a popular ocean fishing spot, but is currently unsafe due to deterioration and weathering of materials.</p>	Shoalhaven City Council	SW \$60,000	\$0
<p>Warrena Weir, Coonamble fish cleaning tables Provision of 2 fish cleaning shelters at Warrena Weir, Coonamble to enhance facilities for all recreational fishers and other users of the Warrena Weir. Condition - Funding allocated towards the construction of 1 fish cleaning shelter only and the recommended budget revised to suit.</p>	Coonamble Shire Council	FW \$31,120 Requested \$14,558 Supported	\$0
<p>Improving access to the Lachlan River at Forbes for the disabled, elderly and infirm To construct a disabled accessible fishing platform at Cottons Weir on the Lachlan River at Forbes.</p>	Forbes Shire Council	FW \$60,000	\$0
<p>Morley’s Creek, Gundagai fishing platform To construct a 6 meter long fishing platform on Morley’s Creek for use by recreational anglers. The jetty will be</p>	Gundagai Shire Council	FW	\$0

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
particularly useful for those teaching kids to fish as it will be a flat and level base away from branches and other obstacles that can make learning to cast difficult.		\$61,600	
Risk assessment for recreational fishing in Sydney water supply dams To conduct a risk assessment regarding potential recreational fishing activities in water supply reservoirs (including in the Sydney catchment area), which are currently closed to fishing.	NSW DPI	FW \$30,000	\$0
“Our River – Regatta Park, Emu Plains” large fishing platform To construct a large fishing platform, pedestrian access and enhancement of riparian vegetation in accordance with the progressive implementation of the “Our River” Master Plan. Condition – That funding is allocated for construction of the fishing platform component only. That a hand rail is incorporated into the design of the fishing platform.	Penrith City Council	FW \$90,620 Requested \$55,000 Supported	\$0
Glenriddle Reserve Barraba recreational fishing upgrade – fish cleaning station To install a Curved Roof Fish Cleaning Station with pressurised water beside the new boat ramp at Glenriddle Reserve on the top end of Split Rock Dam (10km south of Barraba).	Tamworth Regional Council	FW \$14,660	\$0
Small Grants			
Provision of roof for fish cleaning table at Callala Bay – Small Grant To provide a roof to the existing fish cleaning table located adjacent to the boat ramp at Callala Bay.	Callala Bay Community Association	SW \$6,358	\$0
Hat Head beach 4WD accessway – Small Grant To provide a 4WD vehicle accessway for a length of 20 meters to provide safe access across the soft, unstable foredune for fishermen using their vehicles to access the beach. This vehicle accessway is the only access to the southern end of the 13 km Smokey Beach. The beach is an important and very popular fishing location and is accessed by many local and tourist fishers throughout the year.	Hat Head Dune Management Trust	SW \$9,550	\$0
Relocation of Fitzgerald Bridge fish cleaning station, Raymond Terrace – Small Grant Relocation of the existing fish cleaning station to a more suitable nearby location to eliminate the problem of poor drainage and stagnant water.	Port Stephens Council	SW \$2,750	\$0
Creating access - Lake Centenary fishing precinct, Temora – Small Grant To enable access to Lake Centenary for recreational fishing in an area currently inaccessible due to biosecurity considerations of a neighbouring facility by constructing a security fence between the facilities and installing physical access.	Temora Shire Council	FW \$9,820	\$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Flagship Habitat Action</p> <p>The Flagship Habitat Action program will work with key stakeholders and attract matching investment to deliver large-scale coastal fish habitat rehabilitation; restoring highly productive fisheries.</p> <p>Condition - \$400,000 finding each year for large habitat grants only. Flagship Habitat Action project to utilise existing assessment process for Habitat Action Grants including Technical Assessment Panel.</p>	NSW DPI	SW \$400,000	SW \$400,000

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Developing mangrove jack as a new key species for freshwater recreational fishing in NSW – Phase 4: Fishery survey of Clarrie Hall dam and continuation of stocking</p> <p>The development of a recreational fishery based on mangrove jack in Clarrie Hall Dam is well underway, but now requires a post-stocking survey (24 months post first fingerling release), and further stocking effort. This application will cover the costs of a comprehensive post-stocking survey by electrofishing, netting and trapping, and the production of a further batch of 8,000 fingerlings for release in the 2016/17 summer.</p>	Southern Cross University	SW \$26,279 FW \$26,279	\$0
<p>NSW Game Fish Tournament Monitoring</p> <p>Support fishery sustainability and quality recreational fishing opportunities for game fish species and strengthen negotiations between recreational fishers, Government and other interested organisations regarding threats to fishery access.</p> <p>Condition – Funding for 1 year only. Review of project to be carried out.</p>	Ghosn Consulting Services	SW \$66,250	SW \$69,700 Requested \$0 Supported

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Integrated Angler Monitoring Program: Comprehensive ongoing assessment of recreational fishing in NSW to get better angler catch information quicker and more reliably</p> <p>Currently recreational surveys and assessments have been carried periodically providing snapshots of patterns of recreational catch and effort (e.g. 12 years between statewide surveys). This proposal outlines an alternative to the current piecemeal approach by integrating a regular assessment of the NSW angler population, including getting information from key industry stakeholders (such as charter fishers).</p> <p>Condition – Requires successful consultation with charter operators prior to commencement.</p>	NSW DPI	SW \$322,700	SW \$397,100
<p>Monitoring and Research on Landed Fish at Game Fishing Tournaments in NSW: 2016/2017 & 2017/2018</p> <p>The project facilitates and conducts monitoring, sampling and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured and weighed at major game fishing tournaments in NSW.</p> <p>Condition – Funding supported for 1 year only. Review of project to be carried out.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	SW \$29,500	SW \$30,000 Requested \$0 Supported
<p>Rock fishing safety monitoring camera</p> <p>Provide a camera system for the monitoring of anglers and their safety equipment use on rock platforms, and determining the characteristics of dangerous rogue waves on the platforms.</p>	UNSW Australia Water Research Laboratory (WRL)	SW \$45,000	\$0
<p>Macquarie perch refuge project</p> <p>The continued monitoring and management of the Retreat River Macquarie Perch refuge population and the continued holding of Lachlan Macquarie perch bred at Narrandera for future possible captive breeding.</p>	NSW DPI	FW \$36,000	\$0
<p>Fishing for answers: unlocking the secrets of spawning and recruitment for Murray-Darling recreational species</p> <p>This project will identify and map spawning and recruitment zones for Murray cod, silver perch and golden perch. Condition - Initial tranche provided over 2 years, subject to the applicant securing remaining funding to implement the project.</p>	Charles Sturt University	FW \$50,000	FW \$50,000
<p>Providing vital information necessary to enhance and manage the iconic Murray crayfish recreational fishery</p> <p>The project will monitor the recovery of blackwater affected populations and the status of open areas as well as undertake stock enhancement to aid the management of the recreational fishery.</p>	Nature Glenelg Trust	FW \$95,000	\$0

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Monitoring the Australian bass fishery in NSW: “Bass Catch”</p> <p>This project aims to: a) undertake a series of workshops to determine the perceived long-term needs of the Australian bass fishery, b) continue the collection of data from angler tournaments 2016-18, c) continue the entry and analysis of data as it comes in 2016-18.</p> <p>Funding for 1 year only. Review of project to be carried out.</p>	NSW DPI	FW \$71,616	FW \$63,655 Requested \$0 Supported
Small Grants			
<p>Environmental drivers of spawning migration in Australian Bass in the Hunter River, NSW – Small Grant</p> <p>Acoustic tracking of Australian bass in the Hunter river to determine natural and artificial drivers and impediments of movement behaviour and spawning migration.</p>	Deakin University	SW \$9,750	\$0
<p>Laying the foundations for shellfish reef restoration: Review of available ecosystem services data for Sydney rock oysters – Small Grant</p> <p>Desktop review of the ability of Sydney rock oysters to improve water quality and fisheries production to estimate the extent of lost ecosystem services in our estuaries and inform efforts to restore shellfish reefs in NSW.</p>	DigsFish Services	SW \$10,000	\$0
<p>Provision of Annual Report for the Gamefish Tagging Program for 2015/2016 – Small Grant</p> <p>Provision of an informative, attractive and readily accessible report on the Gamefish Tagging Program for the year 2015/2016.</p>	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	SW \$6,000	\$0
<p>Habitat use and movements between estuaries and the coastal ocean by Hairtail – Small Grant</p> <p>Gather information on the movements of hairtail in different life stages between estuaries and the coastal ocean using chemical analysis of fish ear bones (otoliths) collected under an existing student project.</p>	Western Sydney University, School of Science and Health	SW \$9,912	\$0

Platform: Fishing fee coordination and payment network

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) consultation and meeting expenses</p> <p>RFNSW will advise the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishery issues including maintaining and improving the quality of recreational fishing opportunities and access, and recommendations regarding allocation of recreational fishing fee funds to programs that benefit recreational fishing. Condition - Funding for 1 year only, application to be resubmitted for second years funding to both fresh and saltwater committees as a joint funded project.</p>	NSW DPI	SW \$48,000	SW \$48,500 Requested \$0 Supported
<p>Recreational Fishing Fee Administration project – Government Licensing Service (GLS) fees</p> <p>This project supports the administration and functioning of the recreational fishing licence and provides for a convenient payment network for the licence and transfer of revenue into the Recreational Fishing Trusts. The network includes an electronic platform run by the Government Licensing Service (GLS) for payment of licence fees and backend management of the licence system. This application covers GLS fees for 2016/17 and 2017/18. Condition – Funding for 1 year only noting there may be pending changes in transaction fees by Service NSW.</p>	NSW DPI	SW \$825,000	SW \$850,000 Requested \$0 Supported

Table 2: New Recreational Fishing Trusts applications NOT supported by RFSTEC & RFFTEC

Platform: Recreational fishing education

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>“Fishing for Facts “ - promoting sustainable recreational fishing education and awareness</p> <p>To resource two additional interactive digital display for the National Marine Science Centre’s sustainable recreational fishing exhibit thus further maximising opportunities for visitors to gain insight into key concepts regarding sustainable recreational fishing as well as promoting the work of the Recreational Fishing Trust.</p> <p>Comment – applicant to be encouraged to resubmit with further detail, justification and evidence of effectiveness of previously funded display and current proposal.</p>	Southern Cross University, National Marine Science Centre	SW \$44,440 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>Spearfisher increased surface visibility</p> <p>To provide free to all spearfishers a measure of hi-vis reflective tape to apply to their snorkel tips, increasing their visible presence on the water to all watercraft users.</p> <p>Comment – applicant to be encouraged to resubmit a more developed program addressing the issue of spearfisher visibility and increasing the uptake of existing initiatives and building on those.</p>	Underwater Skindivers and Fishermen’s Association (USFA)	SW \$4,000 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>Strengthening the lines of communication – An approach for sustainable development of recreational fishing</p> <p>This project will develop state-of-the-art tools, such as a smartphone app and website, to help government in collecting data critical to recreational fishing while supporting recreational anglers to make the best out of their fishing experience and contribute effectively to sustainable development of the recreational fishing industry.</p> <p>Comment – a previously funded project is currently underway undertaking this work</p>	CrowdData Pty. Ltd	SW \$76,636 FW \$32,844	\$0
<p>Nepean River fishing area signage</p> <p>To provide appropriate educational signage to inform users of the Nepean River for fishing activities. Work in partnership with NSW District Fishing Officers to identify appropriate signs with current relevant information at the known popular hand held craft launching sites and also known used public reserve sites. Signage will focus primarily on bass fish as the Nepean is a very popular bass fishing location.</p> <p>Comment – DPI to contact the applicant to provide relevant signage for installation.</p>	Camden Council	FW \$770 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Upgrade 3 existing boat ramp's by installing information signs</p> <p>Upgrade 3 existing boat ramps with the installation of information signs (catch and release, safe use of the river, and other fish related information).</p> <p>Comment – DPI to contact the applicant to provide relevant signage for installation. DPI to provide the applicant contact details for NSW Maritime in regards to funding for boat ramps.</p>	Nangiloc Fishing Club Inc.	FW \$9,000 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>Smart Fisherman: using technology for better management of the fish and riverine environment</p> <p>This project will utilise a smart phone app to help monitor, record and analyse fish numbers and localities to improve the overall management of the Namoi River and better engage fishers.</p> <p>Comment – a previously funded project is currently underway undertaking this work</p>	Narrabri Amateur Fishing Club Inc.	FW \$38,000 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0

Platform: Fishing access and facilities

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Improving canoe access to Berowra Creek while enhancing riparian mangrove forests at Crosslands Reserve</p> <p>Crosslands Reserve is a popular community recreational area offering passive boating, fishing and swimming. A canoe launching area is required to improve the environmentally sensitive mangrove community and improve water access.</p> <p>Comment – Not used as a recreational fishing location, low benefit to recreational fishing.</p>	Hornsby Shire Council	SW \$26,500 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>Jerseyville fishing platform</p> <p>Refurbishment and enlargement of old fishers wharf into a modern fishing platform with block seating to improve access & comfort for fishers of all abilities with car parking space(s) provision.</p> <p>Comment – Not a high value recreational fishing location, low benefit to recreational fishing. Lack of support from local recreational fishers. DPI to work with Council to develop other high value recreational fishing infrastructure projects.</p>	Kempsey Shire Council	SW \$75,090 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>New Entrance Road fishing platform (Old Coal Wharf) – South West Rocks</p> <p>Refurbishment and enlargement of old fishers platform into a modern fishers platform with block seating to improve access & comfort for fishers of all abilities with car parking space(s) provision.</p> <p>Comment - Not a high value recreational fishing location, low benefit to recreational fishing. Lack of support from local recreational fishers. DPI to work with Council to develop other high value recreational fishing infrastructure projects.</p>	Kempsey Shire Council	SW \$60,745 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>South West Rocks - Back Creek Sandbar Ramped Access</p> <p>To provide safe pedestrian access for recreational fishers to the back creek tidal sand bar for fishing and bait collection by providing a disabled accessible ramped access point. This will also provide canoe/kayak access for recreational fishers. Currently access to the sandbar is limited and hard to negotiate from the primary road and fishers have approached Council to improve their access.</p> <p>Comment - Low benefit to recreational fishing. Lack of support from local recreational fishers. DPI to work with Council to develop other high value recreational fishing infrastructure projects.</p>	Kempsey Shire Council	SW \$40,610 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>Kennedy Drive recreational boating facility – fish cleaning facility</p> <p>Upgrade a length of the existing rock revetment, ~35m, to stabilise the river bank in the immediate vicinity of the existing fish cleaning facility, preventing collapse.</p> <p>Comment – Low value for money.</p>	Tweed Shire Council	SW \$25,500 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>Yowani Beach access steps, North Rosedale</p> <p>To provide safer access to anglers in all weather conditions to Yowani Beach, a popular recreational fishing location at North Rosedale.</p> <p>Comment – applicant to be encouraged to resubmit with further costing and design detail</p>	Eurobodalla Shire Council	SW \$20,000 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>Hill 60 Port Kembla - Point Perpendicular Jervis Bay Radio Link</p> <p>Marine Rescue Port Kembla is the only manned 24 - 7 radio base in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven Region, the proposed VHF radio link between Port Kembla and Point Perpendicular will enhance the unit's ability to cover the waters between Sydney and Batemans Bay including the Coastal Lakes and Rivers within that area.</p> <p>Comment – DPI to provide the applicant contact details for NSW Maritime in regards to funding for marine rescue activities and infrastructure.</p>	Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW	SW \$6,679 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Value Capture</p> <p>A research project to identify ways in which water utility companies can capture extra value from water infrastructure (dams, lakes, reservoirs), including fishing, sailing, adjacent land development, tourism (caravan parks, yachting), higher education (marine biology, aquaculture, etc.), preventative health (fitness training) and professional rowing and other sporting clubs, electricity generation and any others identified through the course of this project. This is in addition to those traditional purposes normally identified (water infrastructure for mining, agriculture and to mitigate flooding).</p> <p>Comment - Low demonstrated benefit to recreational fishing. Lack of support from recreational fishing organisations</p>	Australian Water Association	FW \$35,000 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>Boat ramp and disabled jetty access to the Billabong Creek at Jerilderie</p> <p>Install a 4 x 4.8m floating fishing platform with disabled access and a concrete boat ramp. Located behind the Jerilderie Sports Club Tennis courts allowing back access from the Jerilderie Caravan Park and General Public.</p> <p>Comment – Project not technically sound, DPI to provide the applicant contact details for NSW Maritime in regards to funding and technical support for boat ramps.</p>	Jerilderie Fishing Club / Sports club	FW \$10,000 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0

Platform: Aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Designing and developing an innovative habitat mooring for recreational fishers</p> <p>The project aims to develop and test a cost effective recreational boat mooring solution that increases fish biomass in recreational fishing hotspots.</p> <p>Comment – effort should be focussed on increasing the uptake of existing environmentally friendly moorings before developing further types</p>	The University of New South Wales	SW \$207,541 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0

Platform: Research on fish and recreational fishing

Project	Organisation	2016/17	2017/18
<p>Addressing marine debris in NSW recreational fisheries: effects of soft-plastic ingestion on key fish species</p> <p>Numerous non-biodegradable and biodegradable soft-plastic baits are widely used in recreational fishing, but there are virtually no data (anywhere) describing individual or population-level effects on fish after ingestion. Such data are required to both support and provide direction for the ongoing use of soft-plastic baits in NSW.</p> <p>Comment – Project does not address priority marine debris issues (fishing line and lead sinkers)</p>	NSW DPI	\$51,000 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>The role of spatial protection measures in mitigating effects of Mulloway bycatch in the NSW Ocean Trawl Fishery</p> <p>This project seeks a small amount of co-funding (~10% of project costs) for a large FRDC application which is examining interactions between inshore trawlers and juvenile Mulloway, in a bid to better manage post-flood bycatch issues.</p> <p>Comment – Committee considered the flow of benefits to recreational fishers was too low for the level of potential risk the project posed by investing in it.</p>	NSW DPI	\$30,000 Requested \$0 Supported	\$30,000 Requested \$0 Supported
<p>Measuring the success of offshore artificial reefs by understanding patterns of angler activity</p> <p>To monitor angler use and fish biomass at NSW's offshore artificial reefs 24-7 using land-based radar and sonar, to understand angler requirements and the cost effectiveness of reef infrastructure.</p>	University of New South Wales	\$176,871 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>ANGFA NSW waterway survey and education program</p> <p>ANGFA NSW surveys of waterways within NSW to promote the study, conservation and culture of Native Freshwater Species of Australia, and provide a forum for the exchange of information.</p> <p>Comment - The project was not considered to be recreational fisheries specific.</p>	ANGFA NSW Waterway Survey and Education Program	\$7,121 Requested \$0 Supported	\$0
<p>Enhancing the quality of recreational fishing and improving perceptions of the recreational fishing community in NSW through Carp biocontrol</p> <p>Biological control of Carp to transform the health of waterways and fisheries in NSW, and nationally. The project will facilitate active participation of recreational fishers in NSW in Australia's carp biocontrol program. Cameron Westaway declared a potential COI and left the room during discussion and voting.</p> <p>Comment - A significant commonwealth grant has been provided to implement the program. Should the commonwealth funding not cover the required NSW consultation process, the applicant should reapply.</p>	NSW DPI	\$129,724 Requested \$0 Supported	\$46,880 Requested \$0 Supported