



NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21





# THIS REPORT SETS A NEW BENCHMARK IN ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY.

**Sean Sloan**  
Deputy Director General Fisheries

## FOREWORD



Fishing is one of our State's favourite pastimes, with more than one million anglers taking to our waterways annually, and contributing \$3.4 billion into our economy each year.

Every year fishers pay their licence fees, and every single dollar goes back into supporting the recreational fishing industry.

Over the last 20 years, we have seen millions of dollars put toward fantastic projects, which have improved and promoted the recreational fishing industry. Projects as diverse as fish cleaning facilities, boat ramp upgrades, floating pontoons, fish restocking efforts, improving fish habitat and educational programs.

We've had a tough couple of years, with COVID-19 restrictions affecting our ability to get out and travel to our favourite fishing spots or explore new ones. But rest assured the good work supported by recreational fishing fees has continued, with outcomes that enhance your fishing experience and protect the rights of recreational fishers.

I look forward to when we can once again freely explore the exceptional recreational fishing experiences NSW has to offer. I thank fishing clubs, community groups, the scientists and educators, the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council, the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure Committees and all the project partners who have come together to deliver the projects outlined in this report for the benefit of recreational fishers.

**The Hon. Adam Marshall, MP**  
Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW



I am constantly impressed by the depth and diversity of recreational fishing outcomes that are delivered with support from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. For 20 years now, partnerships have been formed under the Trusts and relationships established which have seen hundreds of beneficial projects delivered for the recreational fishing community of NSW.

The priorities established under the Trusts in 2001 encompass fishing enhancement, facilities and access, research, education and promotion, habitat rehabilitation, and compliance with fishing rules. The priorities remain as relevant today as they were 20 years ago and while the process of delivering projects has worked tremendously well, this new Recreational Fishing Trusts Annual Report sets a new benchmark in accountability and transparency and highlights the diversity of initiatives supported by your fishing fees.

DPI will continue to work together in partnership with the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council and the recreational fishing community to ensure we manage our fish stocks sustainably well into the future.

**Sean Sloan**  
Deputy Director General Fisheries,  
NSW Department of Primary Industries



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# INTRODUCTION

**NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts are invaluable to improving recreational fishing in NSW and ensuring we have great fishing opportunities for generations to come.**

**From alpine lakes and streams to coastal estuaries, from inland dams to offshore hotspots, NSW offers fantastic fishing opportunities. Whether you're a family out to wet a line, teach the kids the basics and catch some quality time, an experienced game fisher chasing some sport, or you're seeking some time to connect with nature and take home a feed, NSW offers something for everyone.**



Through the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts, we're partnering with community organisations, fishing clubs, research institutions, local councils, environmental groups and more. We're working in alpine environments, inland dams, river systems, coastal wetlands and estuaries, and offshore. We're reaching school and university students, disadvantaged members of our communities, experienced fishers, researchers, and everyone in between. We're creating a community of fishers passionate about fishing, and ensuring that we have **quality recreational fishing for everyone, forever.**

Fishing fees (licences) are channelled through the Recreational Fishing Trusts to support a huge variety of projects that are all aimed at protecting and improving fishing opportunities and fisheries habitats for future generations. These fees make a huge impact.

In 2020–21, over 470,000 recreational fishing licences were sold, and more than \$16 million was provided to support recreational fishing projects. With a total of 227 projects underway, 89 of these were approved in 2020–21 worth more than \$19 million.

This Recreational Fishing Trusts Annual Report 2020–21 is the first in what will be a series of reports that will detail how NSW fishers' fishing fees are used for the benefit of NSW recreational fishers. The outcomes and achievements of 2020–21 are presented in this report, including highlights from a variety of specific projects.

# QUALITY RECREATIONAL FISHING FOR EVERYONE, FOREVER.



# HIGHLIGHTS

**474,517**

RECREATIONAL  
FISHING  
LICENCES SOLD

429,117 in 2019-20

**\$17.7M**

REVENUE RECEIVED  
FROM FISHING FEES

\$16.1 million in 2019-20

**\$16.8M**

DRAWN FROM  
THE TRUSTS TO  
FUND PROJECTS

\$15.3 million in 2019-20

**227**

TRUST FUNDED  
PROJECTS  
UNDERWAY

**89**

NEW TRUST FUNDED  
PROJECTS WERE  
APPROVED IN 2020-21

**\$19M**

THE 89 PROJECTS  
ARE WORTH MORE  
THAN \$19 MILLION

**5.3M**

FISH STOCKED

3.3 million in 2019-20

**32  
FADS**

OFFSHORE FADS  
DEPLOYED

30 FADs in 2019-20

**TWEED  
REEF**

OFFSHORE ARTIFICIAL  
REEF DEPLOYED

Newcastle and Wollongong  
reefs installed in 2019-20

**\$850K**

MADE AVAILABLE  
FOR ON-GROUND  
REHABILITATION  
ACTIVITIES TO  
IMPROVE FISH  
HABITAT

\$755,000 in 2019-20

**10,500**

FISH TAGGED AND  
RECORDED IN THE  
TAGGING DATABASE

11,200 in 2019-20

**336**

FISHCARE  
COMMUNITY  
EVENTS HELD

309 in 2019-20

**14**

FISHING FACILITY  
PROJECTS APPROVED

9 in 2019-20

**49,251**

RECREATIONAL  
COMPLIANCE  
CHECKS  
UNDERTAKEN

48,385 in 2019-20

**90%**

COMPLIANCE  
RATE FOR THE  
RECREATIONAL  
SECTOR

89% in 2019-20



# 1 BACKGROUND

**Recreational Fishing Trust Funds (saltwater and freshwater) were established in 2001 under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (the Act). Under the Act, fishers must pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fees (fishing fees) when fishing in NSW waters. All money raised from these fees is placed into the Recreational Fishing Trusts (the Trusts) and spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW.**

Recreational Fishing Trusts are regulated by law and administered by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries. The Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) (Appendix 1) provides advice to the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishing issues in NSW, including priorities for funding from the Trusts. Two committees made up of fishers from across NSW – the Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committees – consider expenditure proposals for the Trusts with advice provided to the Minister through the RFNSW Advisory Council. This model ensures that recreational fishers from regions across the State are represented.

The fishing fees provide funds to help enhance, maintain or protect recreational fishing, carry out research into fish and their ecosystems, manage recreational fishing, and ensure compliance with recreational fishing regulatory controls.

## 1.1 THE RECREATIONAL FISHING SECTOR IN NSW

Recreational fishing is one of NSW's most popular recreational activities and has significant economic, social, health and wellbeing benefits for the wider community. It is a part of life for Australians of all ages and from all socio-economic backgrounds, from Mum and Dad fishers who may fish once a year, to game fishers who may invest thousands of dollars into boats and fishing equipment.

The industry is an extremely valuable one to coastal and inland communities. Fishers spent an estimated \$2,138 million on recreational (\$2,117 million) and charter (\$21.5 million) activities in 2019–20. This expenditure supports regional communities and generates a range of social and economic benefits.

During 2019–20, a fourth statewide survey of recreational fishing was undertaken of long-term licence holders. Participants provided information on who went fishing, how much fishing was done, where fishing occurred and what was caught. The results of this survey will be released in 2022 and will build on the knowledge gained from previous surveys.

The 2017–18 survey estimated that fishers within active recreational fishing licence holder households fished for 2.2 million days. While the majority (80%) were NSW residents, fishers also travelled from ACT, Queensland and Victoria. Sixty-nine per cent of all fishing occurred in saltwater, primarily in estuaries, followed by inshore and offshore marine waters. The majority of freshwater fishing took place in rivers, with less occurring in lakes and dams.

Just as recreational fishers come from all ages and backgrounds, they are also motivated by a range of factors to go fishing. These include being outdoors and enjoying nature, relaxing and unwinding, spending time with family and friends, for the enjoyment of catching fish, and to take home dinner.

The benefits that fishers derive from recreational fishing are similarly diverse, and encompass social and cultural benefits, as well as physical and mental health benefits

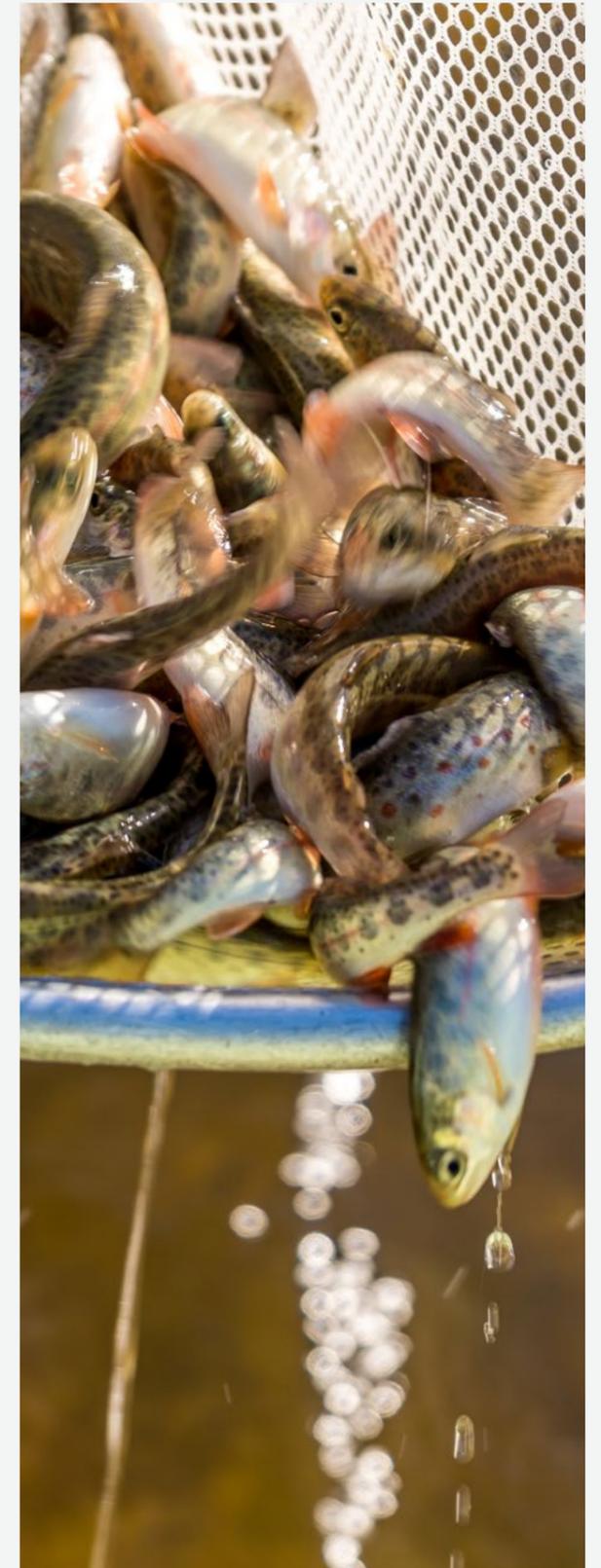
The recreational fishing sector in NSW is extremely important, with a range of benefits flowing to broader communities, especially in regional areas. The objectives of the Trusts and the projects they support, is to further not only fishing opportunities and enjoyment, but to drive a range of outcomes that benefit individuals and communities

## 1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUSTS

The Trusts were established to deliver a wide range of programs to boost recreational fishing opportunities in NSW, and aim to deliver:

- promotion of recreational fishing as a healthy, outdoors activity for the whole family
- innovative projects to enhance recreational fishing access and tourism
- education of fishers to fish responsibly and safely
- promotion of the sustainable growth of recreational fishing.

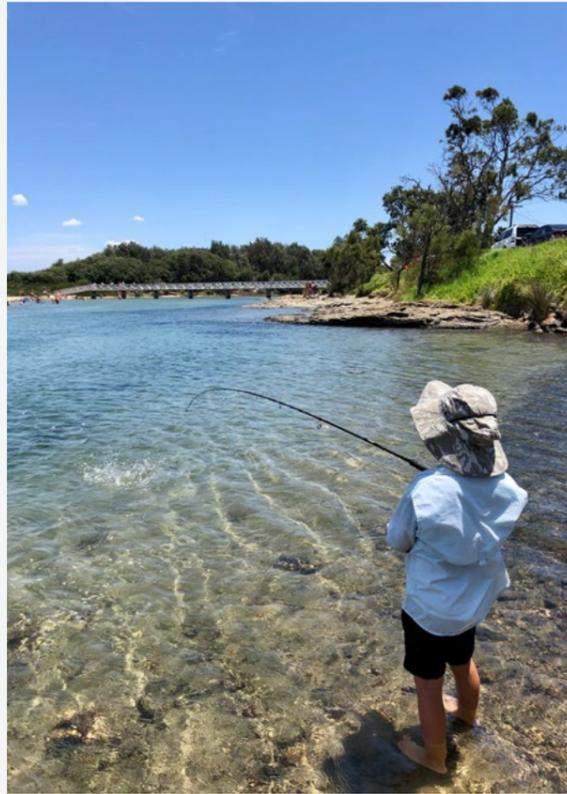
A range of partners are involved in delivering projects supported by the Trusts, including fishing clubs and organisations, community groups, universities as well as the DPI and other government organisations. The NSW Government also continues to contribute funding from general State revenue every year to manage and improve recreational fishing in NSW.



# 2 RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUSTS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Funding of \$16.8 million was drawn from the Trusts in 2020–21 to support a wide range of projects that improve recreational fishing. Revenue received in 2020–21 from fishing fees (licences) totalled \$17.7 million (compared with \$16.1 million in 2019–20).

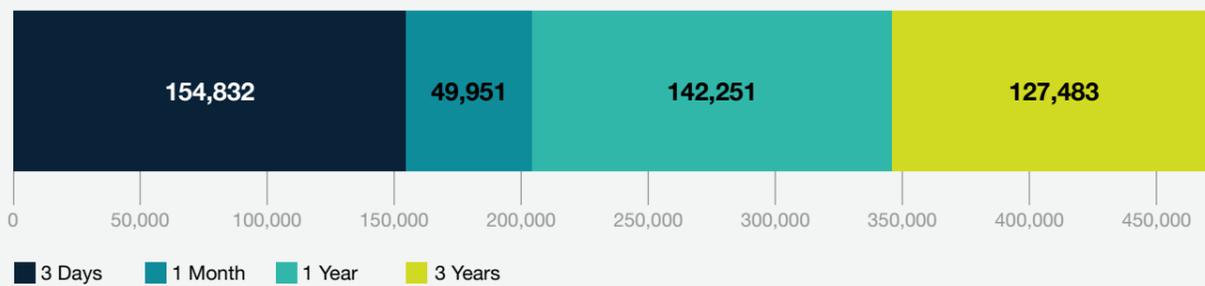
The closing balance for the Trusts at 30 June 2021 was \$20.6 million.



## 2.1.1 LICENCES SOLD

A total of 474,517 recreational fishing licences (new and renewals) were sold during 2020–21 (compared with 429,177 in 2019–20).

### RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE TYPES SOLD IN 2020–21



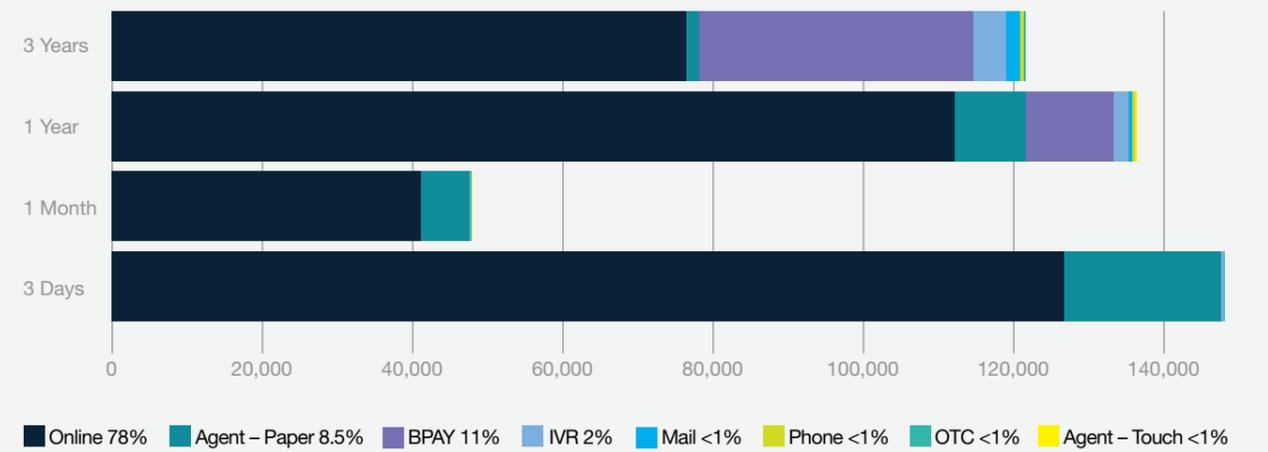
## 2.1.2 LICENCE SALE CHANNELS

Recreational fishers are able to purchase licences through different channels, including Agent Network (paper licences), Touch Agent (EFTPOS terminal licences), Integrated Voice Recognition (IVR) automated phone numbers, online, over the counter, mail and BPAY. Online sales are by far the most popular option, accounting for 78% of sales.

## 2.1.3 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Financial statements on the Recreational Fishing Trusts are included in the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) Annual Report. A special purpose financial report on Fisheries Trust Funds is also prepared annually by the NSW Audit office. Audits are also undertaken periodically as part of the DRNSW Internal Audit Program on Recreational Fishing Trust funds and programs.

### RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE SALES BY CHANNEL



# 3 RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUSTS PROGRAMS

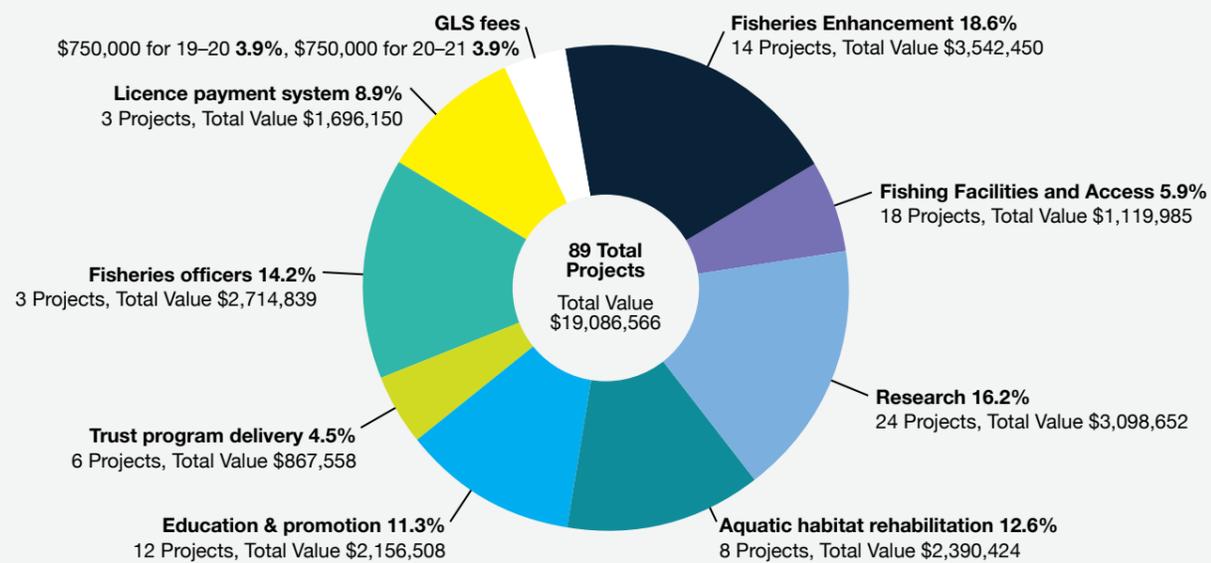
More than 2900 large and small projects have been approved for funding from the Trusts since 2001, with over 2700 projects completed.

In 2020–21, funding of \$16.8 million was provided to support projects currently underway (including ongoing programs).

Of the 227 existing projects, 89 were approved for funding in 2020–21 worth \$19.1 million (see below).

## Priority areas for funding are:

1. Fisheries enhancement (e.g. fish aggregating devices, artificial reefs and fish stocking)
2. Fishing access and facilities (e.g. fishing platforms cleaning tables, safety infrastructure and other facilities, and protecting fishing access)
3. Aquatic habitat rehabilitation (e.g. Habitat Action Grants to improve fish habitat)
4. Research on recreational fishing (e.g. fishing survey stock assessment and angler catch projects)
5. Education (e.g. fishing workshops, Fishcare volunteers, schools' education, fishing advice, and increasing participation in recreational fishing)
6. Enforcement of fishing rules (Fisheries Officers)
7. Trust management and administration, including program delivery and the licence payment system and associated fees.



Note: funding for GLS fees in 2019–20 was also approved in 2020–21

Highlights and achievements under each of these priority areas are provided on the following pages.

## 3.1 FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT

Fish stocks and recreational fishing opportunities in coastal and inland regions are enhanced each year through a range of projects. These include the installation of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and artificial reefs, and fish stocking activities including native freshwater species, salmonids and marine species.

### 3.1.1 FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES

Fish aggregating devices are large buoys deployed in strategic positions along the NSW coast during the warmer months each year. They provide reliable offshore fishing locations where fishers can target popular pelagic fish over spring, summer and autumn.

#### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- deployment of FADs at 32 offshore locations between Tweed Heads and Eden
- expansion of the NSW FAD network, with four new locations identified based on feedback from fishers and key stakeholders
- Real time satellite tracking of FADs, which provided rapid information flow to fishers through the FishSmart app and DPI website and allowed for the speedy recovery and replacement of lost devices.



#### New FAD for Bermagui

The coastal town of Bermagui on the Far South Coast became the latest location for a new FAD in February 2021. A site located 17 kilometres off

the coast of Bermagui was chosen following collaborative discussions with relevant stakeholders. It didn't take long until reports filtered through of quality catches of dolphinfish to 15 kilograms, showing just how effective FADs can be with careful site selection.

### 3.1.2 OFFSHORE ARTIFICIAL REEFS

The artificial reefs program provides new, quality habitat for aquatic organisms and fish, which in turn enhances recreational fishing opportunities and participation. The reef building program uses innovative, state-of-the-art designs to deflect currents, and create eddies and upwellings, providing intricate habitats for a variety of species.

#### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- installation of the Tweed offshore artificial reef
- completion of planning and approvals for the Batemans region offshore artificial reef and
- state-wide expression of interest undertaken to identify suitable locations for the State's next artificial reef projects.

#### New large-scale reef for Tweed coast

Completion of NSW's eighth large-scale, offshore artificial reef took place off the Tweed coast in October 2020. The reef, located about 7.5 kilometres south-east of the Tweed River entrance between Cook Island and Kingscliff, is at a depth of 25 metres. The centrepiece of the reef is a massive steel 'Fish Grotto' towering 10 metres tall and surrounded by 32 five-metre-high concrete modules. The reef provides a fishing drawcard to the region with Mulloway, Giant Trevally, Kingfish, Snapper and large schools of baitfish already reported.



### 3. RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST PROGRAMS 2020-21

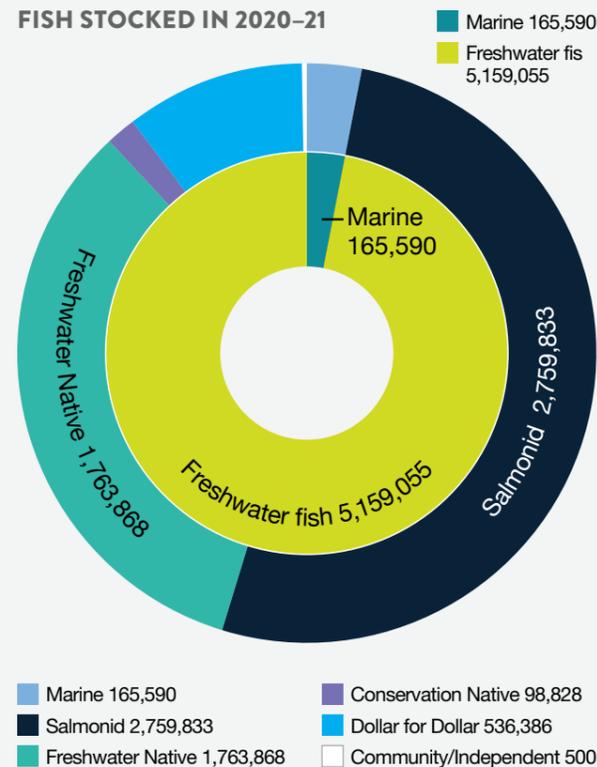
#### 3.1.3 FISH STOCKING

Fish stocking in NSW involves producing fish fry or fingerlings and releasing them into approved sites across the State. All stocking events in NSW are carried out under permits issued by DPI and are managed by Fisheries Management Strategies to ensure appropriate environmental controls. Stocking activities are undertaken by DPI as well as by angling clubs and other community groups who stock fish produced by private hatcheries under the popular 'Dollar-For-Dollar' program.

##### Achievements in 2020-21 included:

- first large-scale stocking of Dusky Flathead (75,000 fish) (produced by Narooma Aquaculture) into three South Coast Recreational Fishing Havens
- first stocking of Tiger Trout (produced by DPI's Gaden Trout Hatchery) in NSW as part of a three-year trial in Thompsons Creek Dam, Lake Lyell and Lake Wallace
- 90,000 Mulloway fingerlings (produced by DPI's Port Stephens Fisheries Institute) stocked into two key Recreational Fishing Havens (Georges River/Botany Bay in southern Sydney and the Hastings River near Port Macquarie).

##### FISH STOCKED IN 2020-21



#### Dusky Flathead stocking success

To enhance fishing opportunities for Dusky Flathead, the marine stocking program worked with the Port Stephens Fisheries Institute, DPI researchers, a private hatchery (Narooma Aquaculture) and recreational fishers to develop flathead breeding procedures, collect broodstock, produce fingerlings, develop research and monitoring programs and successfully stock 75,000 fingerlings into the St Georges Basin, Burrill Lake and Lake Conjola Recreational Fishing Havens. With significant interest and support from the NSW recreational fishing sector, these events reached more than 100,000 people on social media and attracted coverage from fishing magazines and mainstream media outlets. The stocked Dusky Flathead will be of catchable size over the coming season.



#### 3.2 FISHING FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Funding from the Trusts is used to protect or enhance recreational fishing access and provide new or upgraded facilities for recreational fishers in both inland and coastal environments. Projects funded include fish cleaning facilities, fishing platforms, access upgrades and fishing safety infrastructure, and dedicated fishing access officers.

##### 3.2.1 FISHING FACILITIES

New or upgraded fishing facilities are installed by local councils, fishing clubs, community groups and others to provide quality amenities for recreational fishers.

##### Achievements in 2020-21 included:

- two accessible fishing platform and eight fish cleaning facility projects completed
- another eight fishing platforms and 19 fish cleaning facility projects underway.



#### New Lake Wallace fishing platform

Lake Wallace, near Wallerawang, will now be more popular with

fishers chasing stocked Rainbow trout, Brown Trout, Tiger Trout and Australian Bass following the recent installation of a new modular, floating fishing platform. It is the first of its kind in inland NSW constructed for recreational fishers, including those with mobility impairments. Community groups and businesses including the Central Acclimatisation Society, Lithgow City Council, Energy Australia and other organisations worked to deliver the project.

#### Upgrades to Gwandalan jetty in Lake Macquarie

Fishers of all abilities can now safely fish at the Gwandalan jetty following upgrades

by Central Coast Council. The project, made possible by local fishers and Council working together, provides safe, accessible fishing in Lake Macquarie. All timber decking was removed from the old structure and replaced with fibre reinforced plastic along with new railings and kerb protection. The jetty provides a key location for future fishing workshops for children, elderly and disabled participants.



#### New fish cleaning facility at Copeton Dam

Reflections Holiday Parks partnered with the Royal Hotel Fishing Club to install a new fish cleaning facility at Fireball

Point on the south-western side of Copeton Dam. The new facility includes a stainless steel fish cleaning table, running water and solar lighting fitted to a shelter. Complementing an existing fish cleaning table at the eastern end of the dam, it caters for fishers who target native fish in this popular dam in the Inverell region.

#### New solar LED lighting for fish cleaning tables across Port Stephens

Cleaning fish across Port Stephens has been made much easier following the installation of solar LED lighting at fish cleaning tables by the Port Stephens Council. To provide sustainable, environmentally friendly lighting to benefit many fishers, solar panels were mounted on the top of existing shelters and LED batten lighting was installed on the underside of shelters at Shoal Bay, Nelson Bay, Soldiers Point, Lemon Tree Passage, Karuah, Raymond Terrace and Tomago.



### 3. RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST PROGRAMS 2020–21

#### 3.2.2 ENHANCING ANGLER ACCESS

Enhancing angler access involves identifying, protecting and enhancing land and boat access for fishers along the NSW coast and in inland NSW. There are more than 200,000 locations where rivers, streams and lakes can be legally accessed for recreational fishing. The NSW Angler Access Project aims to identify and protect essential access locations in perpetuity for generations of anglers to come.

##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- facilitation of collaborative access agreements between private land managers/holders, recreational fishing groups, government agencies, local Councils, and other relevant stakeholders, both in high interaction coastal areas and inland NSW
- undertaking access projects in key fishing destinations to maintain and enhance access, such as the Clean, Safe Wharves program (in collaboration with Transport for NSW and fishing groups) and Walsh Bay project, the Millpond (The Foundations Portland) and Splitters Creek (Albury)
- assessment of plans of management, land acquisition proposals, crown road disposals and other land use proposals to ensure recreational fishing access into the future.



#### Record booking year for the Eco Fishing Huts Program

The Eco Fishing Huts Program is a unique initiative developing wilderness fishing opportunities in national parks and other areas. In partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, DPI developed a network of Eco Fishing Huts at inland and coastal locations that provide affordable access to a range of fresh and saltwater sportfishing opportunities. During 2020–21, an extra two sites were added to the network, which now includes 21 quality sites for fishers to choose from at a discounted rate. 2020 was a record booking year for the Eco Huts, demonstrating the ongoing popularity of the program.

#### Four new Go Fishing guides

These handy magazine style guides are available FREE in both print and online versions and are extremely popular and useful resources for fishers, especially the downloadable online guide that can be viewed on a smart phone whenever you want. Launched in 2016, the growing series includes a diverse array of salt and freshwater locations. With four additions during 2020–21, there are now 14 Go Fishing guides available online under the Go Fishing tab.



#### 3.3 AQUATIC HABITAT REHABILITATION

Aquatic habitat rehabilitation initiatives encompass a range of projects targeted at protecting and enhancing fish habitat, along with creating improved environmental conditions to build fish populations naturally.

##### 3.3.1 HABITAT ACTION GRANTS

Habitat Action Grants provide funding to a range of stakeholders (including angling clubs, individuals, community groups, local councils and organisations) to undertake on-ground fish habitat rehabilitation initiatives that support fish populations and, in turn, improve recreational fishing

##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- \$850,000 made available to fishing clubs, community groups, individuals, local councils and natural resource management groups in freshwater and saltwater environments to conduct practical on-ground rehabilitation activities to improve fish habitat
- a range of on-ground activities undertaken, including management of stock access to waterways, revegetating areas with native plants, erosion control, reintroduction of woody habitat into rivers and estuaries, weed control and wetland rehabilitation.

#### Mid Coast Council making fish habitat a priority

Fish habitat got a boost in the Manning River with Mid Coast Council installing more than 400 metres of rock fillets along the riverbanks, which will not only help stabilise an eroding bank but also provide direct benefits to fish and increase the growth and availability of important food sources including crustaceans and molluscs. Rock fillets still allow movement of tidal water through the structure and help with the deposition of sediments to enable recolonisation of mangroves and a diversity of fish habitat. The project also included more riparian fencing, revegetation and ongoing weed control.



#### 3.3.2 FLAGSHIP FISH HABITAT REHABILITATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Flagship Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Grant program began in 2017 and supports projects that improve fish habitat and recreational fishing opportunities within the coastal catchments of NSW. The program, which builds on Habitat Action Grants, seeks to tackle much larger scale projects that need more funding assistance.

##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- Tweed Shire Council developed a Tweed River estuary erosion management plan to provide a proactive (rather than reactive) approach to erosion management through robust engineering solutions that maintain and enhance fish habitat within the estuary

#### Long-term benefits for fish in the Upper Richmond River

The Border Rivers Richmond Valley Landcare Network successfully completed a project on the Upper Richmond River. Activities included instream installation of large woody habitat, establishment of 300 native plants and ongoing weed control. The project will provide long-term benefits for fish in an area renowned for its quality Australian Bass fishing.



### 3. RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST PROGRAMS 2020–21

- Nambucca Valley Landcare implemented riparian restoration activities in the Nambucca River and South Creek at Bowraville, including the design and construction of erosion control works to manage riverbed and bank erosion
- North Coast Local Land Services undertook Clybucca Wetland on-ground restoration activities to control acid sulfate runoff as recommended during Stage 1 of the project (also funded by this program) and initiated investigations into nearby Swanpool Wetlands.



#### Removal of weir reinstates tidal exchange to Yeramba Lagoon

After years of community consultation, investigations, and weed management, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the City of Canterbury Bankstown Council removed an old weir from Yeramba Lagoon. In the 1960s, the construction of Henry Lawson Drive in Sydney and the associated installation of a concrete weir, sealed the estuarine lagoon from the Georges River. Tidal exchange was prevented, and the lagoon's condition deteriorated, leading to a heavy weed infestation. The removal of the weir has reinstated tidal exchange for the first time in 80 years, with fish already entering the lagoon.

#### 3.3.3 LANDCARE NSW & OZFISH UNLIMITED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP DRIVING FISH HABITAT ACTION

OzFish Unlimited and Landcare NSW have combined forces to work on activities that restore locally important waterways and fish habitat across inland and coastal NSW. The network of skilled volunteers will continue the work well into the future.

##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- development of strong working partnerships between Landcare NSW and OzFish in 12 catchments with the ability to take the lead on identifying, planning and delivering fish habitat projects on their local rivers
- close to \$1 million of habitat restoration work achieved by the partnership in the first 12 months, with 16 community driven, on-ground fish habitat restoration projects established
- 14,300 more trees planted along NSW riverbanks to provide shade, stable water temperatures, insect fall and eventually snags for fish; 60 more snags installed in rivers to provide instant homes, shelter and food for fish; along with 30 kilometres of riverbank weeded, cleaned up and restored.

#### Restoration along the Hunter River at Luskintyre

The OzFish Hunter River Chapter is working with Lower Hunter Landcare to restore the riparian vegetation along 500 metres of riverbank on the Hunter River, removing the problematic Balloon Vine and replacing weeds with a corridor of native vegetation set to provide shade, insects and habitat for the fish in this reach. The next stage of the project will include the installation of snags along this stretch of river for immediate fish habitat benefits.



#### 3.3.4 FISH PASSAGE

DPI Fisheries is implementing Phase 1 (2020–25) of the NSW Fish Passage Strategy, a coordinated 20-year plan to restore unimpeded fish passage to 165 high priority weirs, which will significantly improve native fish access to 8,885 kilometres of mainstem rivers and key off-channel habitats below all major storage dams in the state, leading to significant improvements in native fish populations and recreational fishing opportunities.

##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- fish passage restored to three priority sites improving native fish access to nearly 300 kilometres of river
- Commonwealth and NSW government funding committed to 25 priority fishways totalling more than \$60 million
- funding pathways explored for the delivery of an extra 18 priority fishways by 2025.



#### Removal of Walgett Town Weir

To improve the security of Walgett's town water supply, Walgett Weir was raised in 2020, triggering the construction of a vertical slot fishway. The fishway improves native fish access to nearly 90 kilometres of the Barwon River. As part of the weir raising, Walgett Town Weir was also removed, which further improved native fish access to 160 kilometres of the Namoi River.

#### 3.3.5 AQUATIC HABITAT PROTECTION AND FISH CONSERVATION

This program provides essential fish conservation management services for the Greater Murray (Murray, Lower Darling and Murrumbidgee catchments) and Southern (eastern draining catchments from Wollongong to Victoria) regions in NSW to enhance the protection of key fish habitats and increase recreational fisher involvement in fish habitat protection and management. A key responsibility of this program is to assess development proposals with potential impacts on fish habitat, and provide development conditions that ensure "no net loss" of fish habitats.

#### Macquarie Perch back in the Macquarie River Catchment

Macquarie Perch were reintroduced to the Macquarie River Catchment, where they have been extinct for the past 70 years. In March 2021, 7,500 Macquarie Perch fingerlings, bred at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre, were released into the Winburndale Dam and Rivulet with the aim of re-establishing a population in the Macquarie River Catchment.

Involving ground-breaking, innovative research, persistent dedication and collaboration across research, conservation, compliance, recreational management and the local community, the event was a major step forward in the long-term recovery of this species.





**Community groups protect saltmarsh on the South Coast**

Partnerships were formed with coastal communities to protect and value saltmarsh located within high use recreational areas. Community ParkCare groups have worked to remove mowing and harm impacts in saltmarsh located within parklands. More than 5000 square metres of saltmarsh habitat has been protected and is regenerating along one kilometre of foreshore in Sussex Inlet and Burrill Lake.

**3.4 EDUCATION AND PROMOTION**

A range of projects receive funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts each year to promote awareness and stewardship of our aquatic resources, the goal being to increase voluntary compliance associated with the NSW fisheries rules and regulations. Programs include Fishcare, Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish, Fishing Workshops and Gone Fishing NSW Day, among others.

**3.4.1 FISHCARE**

Fishcare is one of the flagship programs of the Recreational Fishing Trusts and uses a network of six dedicated Education Officers and 200 motivated Fishcare Volunteers across NSW to provide face-to-face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground and promote responsible and sustainable fishing. Fishcare also plays a key role in the Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish and Fishing Workshop programs. The mission is to educate fishers and encourage fishing stewards that champion responsible fishing and a sustainable, secure fishing future.

**Achievements in 2020–21 included:**

- 336 Fishcare community events undertaken, contacting 13,500 people in the field
- introduction of new Try Fishing sessions, with more than 1500 participants
- introduction of Clean Up Your Local Fishing Spot activities, inviting local anglers to participate and take greater stewardship of local areas, and
- purchase of two new advisory trailers, to help boost education of fishers.



**New Clean Up Your Local Fishing Spot activities across NSW**

Across coastal and inland NSW, the Fishcare team have been busy out and about, hard at it on Clean Up Your Local Fishing Spot activities, a new and ongoing initiative from DPI aimed at involving fishers in clean-up activities at their local fishing spots. The western region undertook five events, including two on-water clean-ups at impoundments in the north of the State. The coastal teams have also been busy with 10 locations undergoing a clean-up from Coffs Harbour in the north to Port Kembla in the south. Fishcare are working with local clubs where possible and have also undertaken events with the Ozfish River Repair Bus volunteers.



**3.4.2 GONE FISHING DAY**

Gone Fishing Day celebrates our love of fishing and encourages everyone to get out on the water. It doesn't matter if you haven't fished before or if you're the keenest of anglers, Gone Fishing Day is for everyone. In 2020, although Gone Fishing Day was celebrated virtually due to COVID-19, fishers still hit the water to cast a line. A free, virtual Gone Fishing Day session was held to help all newcomers to the sport get started, with lots of prizes on offer.

**3.4.3 GET HOOKED... IT'S FUN TO FISH SCHOOLS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish program introduces students to fishing and teaches the basics about sustaining aquatic habitats by practicing safe and responsible recreational fishing. The program provides in-class lessons and practical outdoor fishing workshops that are aligned to the Australian Curriculum and meet syllabus outcomes across all key learning areas.

**Achievements in 2020–21 included:**

- 75 schools registered with 3,500 students
- more than 900 students participated in fishing workshop and in-class fishing activities, with 16 fishing workshop excursions delivered
- expansion of the program into high schools, with scope to deliver online resources for teachers.



**School students eager to learn responsible fishing skills**

Thousands of school students across NSW have been eager to explore and participate in Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish activities. The program teaches the basics of recreational fishing with lessons on rules and regulations, knot tying and learning how to cast. Putting these skills into practice during fishing excursions has been a highlight with the students, with catches of snapper, bream and trout among the many species caught and released.

### 3. RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST PROGRAMS 2020-21

#### 3.4.4 FISHING WORKSHOPS

Fishing workshops teach adults and children how to fish in a responsible and sustainable way, with our mission being to create the fishing stewards and champions of tomorrow. The program provides an enjoyable experience that aims to teach the basics of fishing to new entrants, giving them the skills to continue in the sport for life. Each year, thousands of new entrants are introduced to fishing under the program.

##### Achievements in 2020-21 included:

- 56 free fishing workshops held across NSW involving some 1,400 children and parents
- introduction of new Try Fishing sessions, with more than 1,500 participants.

#### FREE Try Fishing sessions for everyone

Our new Try Fishing sessions, which are held both inland and on the coast, saw the Fishcare team welcome crowds a-plenty, with around 1,500 people wetting a line to learn all things fishing. Children, parents and grandparents all had a go at casting, knot tying and wetting a line with the help of our dedicated Fishcare volunteers and local staff.



#### 3.4.5 THE FLY PROGRAM'S MEN IN FLIGHT PROGRAM

The Men In Flight program is an authentic, non-threatening pathway to deliver well-being and mental fitness support for men from across NSW who may have, or are currently facing mental health adversity. Hosted in the Snowy Mountains, and focused on recreational fishing activities, the program provides close proximity to green spaces and time on the water with friends – activities which are associated with reduced prevalence of depression, have long-term benefits for physical, social, and emotional development, and foster a sense of identity, feelings of autonomy, psychological resilience and healthy behaviours.

##### Achievements in 2020-21 included:

- twelve, multi-day recreational fishing and outdoor retreats hosted by The Fly Program and situated around NSW's most beautiful waterways to help build participant's confidence and empathy using recreational fishing in the natural environment
- continued remote learning for participants, with post-retreat modules including prescribed mental and physical health activities, such as recreational fishing, to help their continued journey of recovery with the close support of The Fly Program crew.



#### 3.4.6 ACT FLY FISHERS' CASTING FOR RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Casting for Recovery program seeks to enhance the quality of life for women recovering from breast cancer treatment through the sport of fly fishing. Provided by the ACT Fly Fishers, this project offers free fly fishing retreats at NSW waterways, including one-on-one tuition, weekend accommodation and care for women who have breast cancer.

##### Achievements in 2020-21 included:

- participation by 12 women with breast cancer in the three-day retreat held during March 2021.

#### Casting for Recovery, March 2021 event

Casting for Recovery retreats provide a new outlet in fly fishing as a counterbalance from the everyday stresses and challenges of living with cancer. Fly fishing and the casting motion provide a movement for joint and soft tissue stretching and a range of body movements to help post-surgery recovery. On a social level, the retreat gives women the opportunity to experience a new activity in a safe environment among a supportive group of peers. This year's weekend retreat provided an introduction to fly fishing, memorable experiences and new friendships for everyone involved.



### 3.5 RESEARCH

Funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts is used to support a large range of research projects on fish and recreational fishing.

#### 3.5.1 RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MONITORING PROGRAM

The Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program uses a telephone-diary survey to collect ongoing, accurate and up-to-date information on recreational catch, effort and participation across NSW, as well as an on-board observer and logbook program to collect this information for the recreational charter fishery. The most recent surveys of recreational fishing were completed in 2017-18 and 2019-20, providing biennial snapshots of effort, catch and participation for the households of long-term (1 and 3 year) licensed recreational fishers within NSW. This information is used in stock assessments and helps ensure sustainable fishing into the future.

**Achievements in 2020-21 included:**

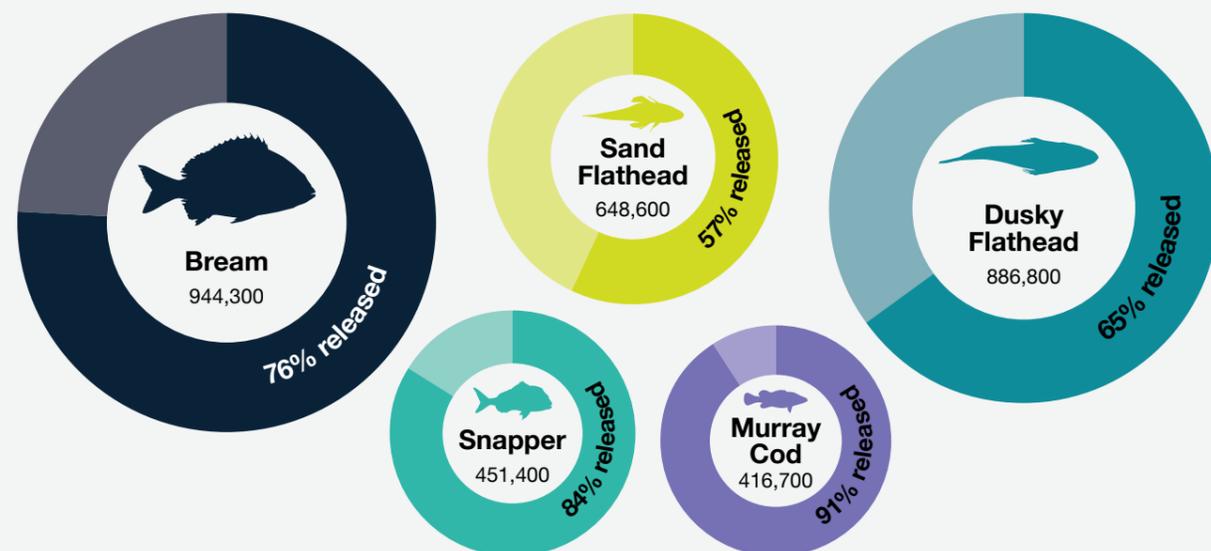
- the successful conclusion of the 2019-20 survey period, with almost 1,100 households completing the 12-month diary survey program
- analysis of the 2017-18 survey was finalised with information from 11,000 fishing events recorded, indicating that licensed households undertook 2.2 million days of fishing and caught 9.3 million individual organisms across 131 species.

#### Charter Fishery Monitoring

Monitoring of the NSW Charter Fishery in the 2019-20 survey involved observers on more than 400 nearshore charter trips with about 50 operators between Ballina and Eden. More than 28,000 individual organisms representing over 100 species were captured during observed trips, with more than one-third released alive. The top five species caught were Bluespotted Flathead, Blue Mackerel, Snapper, Longspine Flathead and Yellowtail Scad.



#### TOP FIVE FINFISH SPECIES CAUGHT IN 2017-18



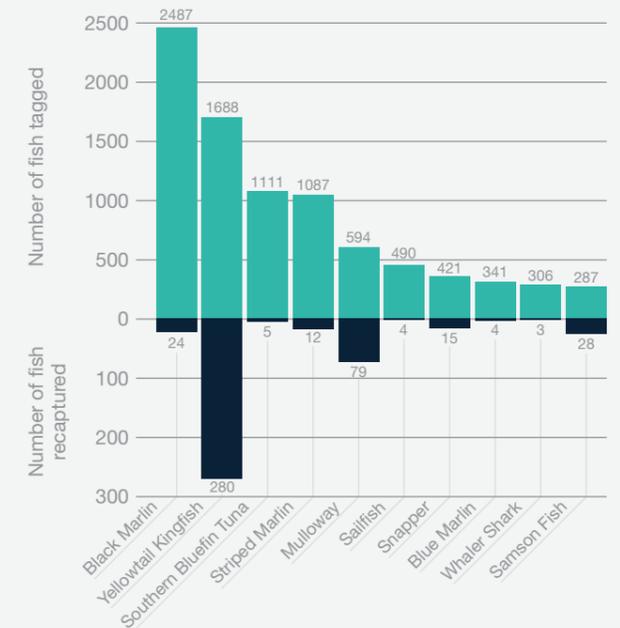
#### 3.5.2 GAME FISH TAGGING PROGRAM

The Game Fish Tagging Program is the largest citizen science tagging program of its kind in the world and has been in operation since 1973. It involves anglers getting vital information on the biology of fish (primarily billfish, tunas, sharks and sport fish) through tagging, while encouraging fishers to participate in the management of the fishery.

**Achievements in 2020-21 included:**

- more than 10,500 fish tagged by anglers and recorded in the tagging database, with 535 reported fish recaptures (program record for a financial year)
- 8,810 pelagic, 7,920 billfish, and 2,980 shark tags distributed to game fishing clubs and individual anglers
- continued growth in tagging participation for more readily accessible species including, Mulloway, Snapper and Kingfish.

#### TAGGED AND RECAPTURED FISH IN 2020-21



#### Striped Marlin recaptured in New Zealand

For the first time in the program's history, a Striped Marlin originally tagged on the east coast of Australia was recaptured in New Zealand waters. The fish was originally tagged by angler Nick Dillion while fishing wide off the Gold Coast, QLD, in September 2019. The fish was recaptured 521 days later 1,175 nautical miles (~2,175 kilometres) away, offshore from Manukau Harbour, on the north island of New Zealand, by angler Courtney Lightfoot.

Important recaptures like these continue to build our understanding of stock structures, population mixing and genetic diversity of this recreationally important species.



#### 3.5.3 RESEARCH ANGLER PROGRAM

The Research Angler Program enables anglers, as citizen scientists, to contribute to the scientific knowledge and stock assessment of key recreational species in NSW by donating fish frames.

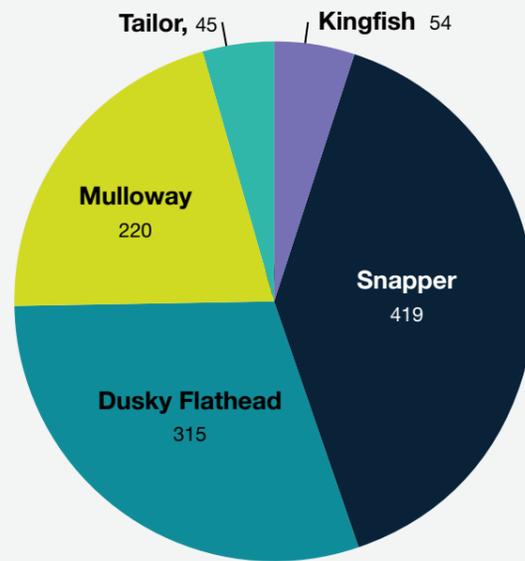
**Achievements in 2020-21 included:**

- angler participation in the program increased through the use of a variety of incentives, resulting in more than 150 anglers donating 1,202 fish frames or otoliths
- expansion in the number of frame collection locations through the involvement of local tackle businesses in regional areas. There are now 31 drop off locations across NSW
- continued increase in knowledge, contributing to stock assessment data for key recreational species, with many large fish providing new data.



### 3. RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST PROGRAMS 2020–21

#### FISH DONATED IN 2020–21



#### Record Snapper donated to the Research Angler Program

A range of notable donations were received over the 2020–21 season, providing new data on growth rates. A record aged Snapper, donated at McCullum's Tackle World Nowra, was caught from the waters surrounding Port Kembla. The fish measured 79 centimetres and was estimated to be an astonishing 28 years of age, making it the second oldest Snapper donated to the program. Coincidentally, the oldest Snapper recorded for the RAP also came from the waters surrounding Port Kembla.

Donations like this one are highly valuable for researchers to build a picture of the age structure of these important recreational species.



#### 3.5.4 BUILDING A HEALTHY FRESHWATER FISHERY

Building a Healthy Freshwater Fishery is a long-term program for monitoring fishery indicators, assessing management interventions and undertaking targeted research that will benefit recreational fishers by providing fishery managers with relevant and up-to-date information.

##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- development and deployment of fish counters in the Snowy Lakes trout fishery to better understand migratory spawning runs of salmonids
- completion of annual stream trout fishery monitoring and production of the 2020 trout fishery report cards
- development of Codcatch, a citizen science program focused on collecting recreational fishing catch and effort data for Murray Cod across the state.



#### Live fish counters help monitor seasonal spawning migration

The Snowy Lakes Trout fishery is worth up to \$70 million annually. However, monitoring of seasonal spawning migrations has been problematic due to conditions experienced in winter and the expense of surveying during the entire migration season. To combat these problems, new technologies — fish counters have been introduced. The fish counter in the upper Eucumbene River recorded more than 10,000 fish detections and over 20,000 view by stakeholders of the live fish counter website in 2020, and provides improved data to monitor long-term trends and improve management of the fishery.

#### 3.5.5 GAME FISH TOURNAMENT MONITORING

The Game Fish Tournament Monitoring Program has been in operation for 28 years. Ghosn Consulting Services continue to collect and analyse catch and effort information for iconic game fish species at tournaments in NSW. Over the years this data has been used to support research and fisheries management for important species such as tuna, billfish, sharks and many others.

##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- successful collection of data from 14 events during the 2020 game fishing year, representing 29 fishing days totalling 1290 boat fishing trips. Unfortunately, the year was affected by bush fires, flooding, some bad weather conditions and the COVID-19 pandemic, with 16 events cancelled between Coffs Harbour and Eden
- a successful 2021 game fishing season, with data collected from 24 of 27 events planned for monitoring at the start of the season
- production of an annual summary of the recreational catch and catch rates for 15 key species for the game fish fishery.

#### 3.5.6 EFFECTIVENESS OF FRESHWATER AND MARINE FISH STOCKING

Native fishes and salmonids are stocked into rivers, inland lakes and estuaries throughout NSW to increase recreational fishing opportunities. This program evaluates the success of these initiatives and aims to increase the effectiveness of future stockings.

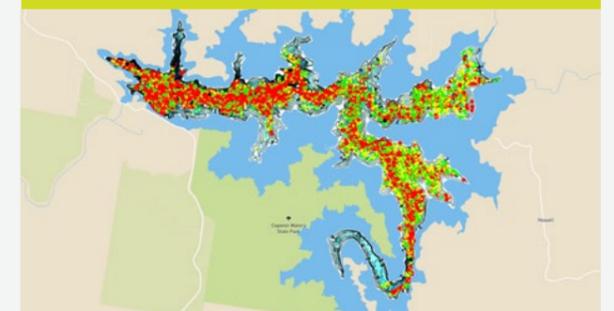
##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- fish numbers and biomass were estimated in the Snowy Lakes Trout fisheries and all major impoundments stocked with native fishes using hydroacoustic surveys.

- a range of salmonid stocking protocols were evaluated, showing higher survival rates of fish reared in optimal temperatures and fingerlings stocked at larger sizes (e.g. 12 to 18 centimetres)
- 40 hatchery reared Dusky Flathead were tagged with acoustic transmitters and released into Lake Macquarie. Tracking their movements will determine habitat needs and optimal release locations
- recreational fishers within the Sydney region provided researchers with genetic samples (fin clips) from their catches to help monitor growth and movement of Kingfish stocked into Botany Bay.

#### Hydroacoustic surveys increase knowledge of fish populations

Copeton Dam, a premier recreational fishery for Murray Cod, has minimal or no natural recruitment and relies on stocking of native fish from the Narrandera Hatchery. However, information on fish numbers and biomass in the impoundment were poorly understood. To address this lack of information, hydroacoustic surveys were undertaken during 2020 using Biosonics scientific fish finders (in collaboration with Infofish). The data was used to generate a map showing the distribution of fish in the dam by size (Yellow = 20–49 cm, Green = 50–69 cm, and red = 70 cm+).



### 3. RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST PROGRAMS 2020–21

#### Research into Dusky Flathead populations

In partnership with recreational fishers, genetic samples (fin clips) of 236 Dusky Flathead from eight estuaries along the NSW coastline were collected to determine the structure of the population. This research showed that Dusky Flathead from different estuaries comprised a single population and led to the stocking of juvenile Dusky Flathead within NSW.



- the launch of a new stakeholder information website [www.fishscreens.org.au](http://www.fishscreens.org.au) in partnership with OzFish, and engagement with anglers and water users via Water NSW Customer Advisory Groups, OzFish “Talking Fish” series and other events
- the development of specifications, using DPI research, to help manufacturers build screens that work. This means native fish stay in the river to boost populations and improve recreational fishing.

#### Trangie-Nevertire Irrigation Scheme fish screen

The Trangie-Nevertire Irrigation Scheme pump site on the Macquarie River was fitted with modern fish screens. These have reduced debris and power consumption at the site, meaning cleaner water for 33 farms. Sixty-seven people from regional NSW were employed in the design, construction and installation of the screen.



#### 3.5.7 FISH SCREENS AUSTRALIA

Modern fish screens protect native fish and farms. They keep fish and debris in waterways and out of water infrastructure, delivering benefits to biodiversity and businesses. The Fish Screens Australia program (formerly known as Screens for Streams) is accelerating the adoption of modern fish screen technology by water users, using showcase sites to provide real-world examples that inspire uptake. This generates win-win outcomes for the environment and local economies.

##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- the installation of 22 screens at showcase sites through partnerships with early adopters, protecting thousands of native fish and supplying thousands of megalitres of clean water to water users
- major investment was secured by leveraging Recreational Fishing Trusts funding. A total of \$1.8 million from partners for showcase sites led to a \$26 million Commonwealth investment assigned to screening under the Northern Basin Toolkit

#### 3.5.8 MONITORING AND RESEARCH ON LANDED FISH AT GAME FISHING TOURNAMENTS

Undertaken by Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd, this 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.

##### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

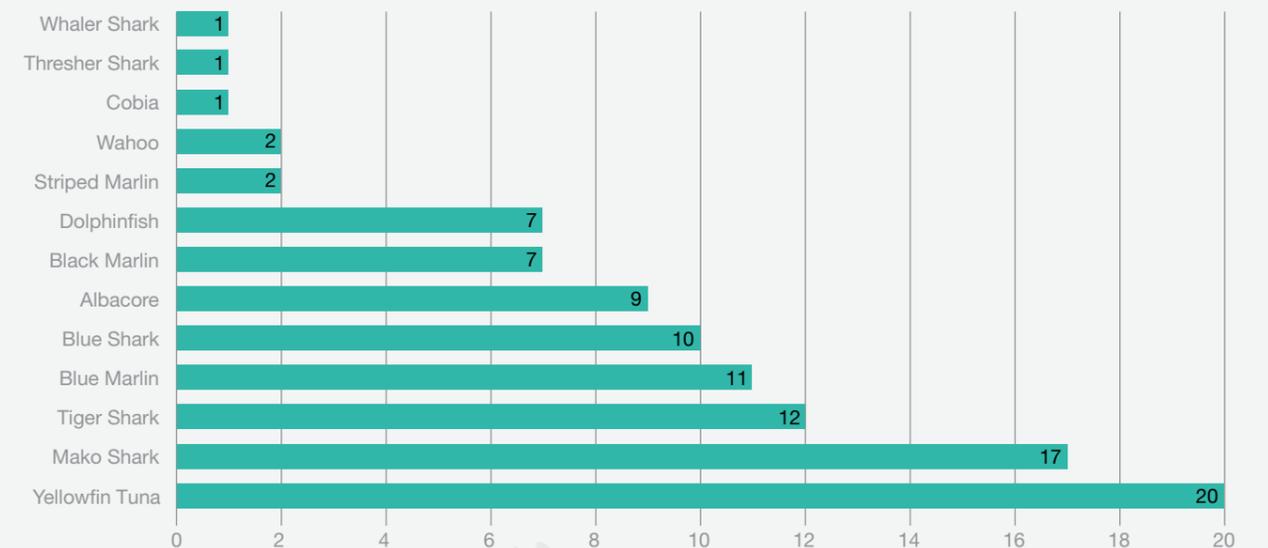
- the attendance by Pepperell Research staff at a record 13 tournaments from Port Stephens to Jervis Bay
- a total of 100 landed fish were measured, examined and sampled, including 41 sharks, 29 tuna, 20 billfish and 10 other gamefish
- the use of organs, tissues and parasites sampled at these tournaments for research conducted by scientists and students from Macquarie, Charles Sturt and Sunshine Coast Universities.

#### Award for game fish research

Macquarie University Ph.D. student Tristan Guillemain won the FRDC prize for Best Oral Presentation at the 2021 Australian Marine Science Association’s annual conference for his presentation: “Deciphering marlin trophic ecology using stable isotopes”. This ongoing project derives entirely from sampling tissue from marlin at NSW tournaments over the past several seasons.



#### FISH SAMPLED AT TOURNAMENTS DURING 2020–21 NSW GAME FISHING SEASON



### 3. RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST PROGRAMS 2020–21

## 3.6 FISHERIES OFFICERS

Funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts support nine coastal, three coastal mobile squads and six inland Fisheries Officers, and enhance DPI's capacity to enforce fisheries rules and regulations.

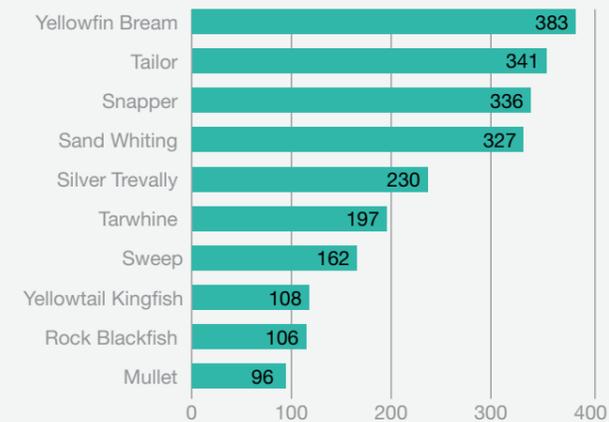
### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- 52,688 compliance checks undertaken, including 49,251 recreational fisher checks, across NSW waterways by DPI Fisheries Officers
- the detection of 6,694 offences (resulting from recreational compliance checks), which led to 3,910 written warnings, 2,526 penalty notices totalling \$790,500 in value, 119 prosecution actions and 139 other sanction types
- attendance of DPI Fisheries Officers at 98 educational events.

Compliance Statistics	
Total Recreational Contacts	49,251
<b>Compliance Rate for Recreational Sector</b>	<b>90%</b>
Recreational Field Hours	48,481
Recreational Offences	6694
Recreational Written Warnings	3910
Recreational Penalty Notices	2526
Value of Recreational Penalty Notices	\$790,500
Recreational Prosecution Actions Commenced	119
Recreational Prosecution Fines	40
Value of Recreational Prosecution Fines	\$33,700
Operations Conducted (All Sectors)	42
Recreational Fish and Invertebrates Seized	69,263
Recreational Fishing Gear and Other Items Seized	1957
Vessel Patrol Hours (All Sectors)	6417

### OVER 69,000 FINFISH & INVERTEBRATES SEIZED DUE TO NON-COMPLIANCE

#### Top 10 finfish seized were:



### Cockle limits targeted by Operation Stingray

For the second year running, Fisheries Officers ran Operation Stingray, tackling cockle related offences around Lake Illawarra from September 2020 to April 2021. More than 1,560 inspections of collectors and fishers resulted in the detection of 255 offences. This led to 165 written warnings, 77 penalty notices totalling \$31,000 in value, the start of 13 prosecution actions and the seizure of 9,593 cockles, many of which were returned live to the waters of Lake Illawarra. One of the most significant offences involved the seizure of 522 cockles at Berkeley on the foreshore of Lake Illawarra.



## 3.7 TRUST MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts are used to support the administration of the recreational fishing licence fee and the management of the Trusts, including management of grants, to ensure transparent and accountable governance arrangements.

### 3.7.1 RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSING (FEE)– FACILITATING FISHING LICENCES FOR FISHERS

DPI facilitates the safe and secure collection of recreational fishing licence fees (public money) in partnership with Service NSW. All licence fees are required by law to be deposited into the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

#### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- continued provision of a convenient payment network for anglers using a variety of methods such as a dedicated webpage, more than 700 sales agents (fishing tackle stores, etc.) throughout NSW, BPAY, automated telephone, and mail
- ongoing delivery of an efficient licence renewal notice system to make it easy for fishers to renew their licence before it expires.



### 3.7.2 TRUST PROGRAM DELIVERY

Since 2001, more than 2,700 projects have been completed using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts, including small and large grants projects, fish stocking and fuel card grants, Gone Fishing Day grants, Habitat Action grants as well as DPI projects. DPI has worked to ensure accountability of these projects, including implementing good governance arrangements to promote transparency and good business performance.

#### Achievements in 2020–21 included:

- working closely with the community and project partners to identify and develop new project applications to improve recreational fishing
- monitoring hundreds of Trusts' projects to facilitate the delivery of outcomes and benefits for recreational fishers.

**ENSURING NSW  
HAS GREAT FISHING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
GENERATIONS TO COME.**



# 4 APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1: RFNSW AND EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

### RECREATIONAL FISHING NSW ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) has been established to provide advice to the Minister for Primary Industries on key recreational fishing issues in NSW.

The Advisory Council is based around a modern representative model, ensuring the views of regional fishers from right across the State are communicated. RFNSW includes representation from eight regional areas, two members with expertise in spearfishing and charter boat fishing and other representatives that significantly benefit the function of the Advisory Council.

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* provides that all members of advisory councils are to be appointed by the Minister in accordance with the Regulations. Current members of RFNSW were appointed on 1 December 2019 for a period of 3 years following the Minister for Primary Agriculture calling for expressions of interest and appointing an assessment panel. The Chair of RFNSW was re-appointed on 19 August 2019 for a period of 3 years.

RFNSW Council members	
Independent Chair	Professor Johann Bell
Region 1 – Mid & Far North Coast	Mr David Rae
Region 2 – Lower North Coast	Mr Paul Lennon
Region 3 – Sydney & Central Coast	Mr Justin Duggan
Region 3 – Sydney & Central Coast	Mr Grahame Williams OAM
Region 4 – Illawarra	Mrs Vicki Lear
Region 5 – South Coast	Mrs Jo Starling
Region 6 – North West Inland	Mr Matt Hansen
Region 7 – South West Inland	Mr Karl Mathers
Region 8 – Central & Southern Tablelands	Mr Steve Samuels
Region 8 – Central & Southern Tablelands	Mr Ray Tang
Charter Boat Fishing	Mr Vic Levett
Spear Fishing	Mr Ian Puckeridge
Social benefits of recreational fishing	Mr Matt Tripet
Nominee of Secretary	Mr Peter Turnell, DPI

### RECREATIONAL FISHING FRESHWATER TRUST EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE

The Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC), made up of freshwater recreational fishers from 8 different regions from around the State, a representative from a recreational fishing organisation and a RFNSW member, was formed to assist the RFNSW in providing advice on Trust expenditure priorities.

Freshwater regions east of the Great Dividing Range extend to the upper limits of tidal waters, and the western regions are west of the Great Dividing Range. The dividing line between the inner west and the far-west regions is east of the Newell Highway until Dubbo and then west of the Newell Highway from Dubbo south.

Members of the RFFTEC are appointed for three year terms. The terms of all current members expire on 15 April 2023. The Committee was established in line with DRNSW policy – Fisheries advisory groups: Establishments and Governance (TI-O-146).

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee members	
Chair	Mr Bruce Schumacher AM
Region 1 – North Coast	Mr Max Graham
Region 2 – Central Coast	Mr Ron Butler
Region 3 – South Coast	Mr Ron Croker
Region 4 – North Inner West	Mr Michael Davey
Region 5 – Central Inner west	Mr Paul Mullen
Region 6 – South Inner West	Ms Debbie Lennon
Region 7 – North West	Mr John Erskine
Region 8 – South West	Mr Troy Bright
NSW Recreational Fishing Organisation Representative – NSW Game Fishing Association	Mr Peter Johnson
NSW Recreational Fishing Organisation Representative – NSW Rod Fishers' Society	Mr Peter Johnson
RFNSW Advisory Council representative	Mr Karl Mathers
NSW DPI Representative – Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Management	Mr Peter Turnell

### RECREATIONAL FISHING SALTWATER TRUST EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE

The Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC), made up of coastal recreational fishers from 8 different regions from around the State, four representatives from recreational fishing organisations and a RFNSW member, was formed to assist the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) in providing advice on Trust expenditure priorities. The regions extend from Tweed Heads down to the Victoria border.

Members of the RFSTEC are appointed for three year terms. The terms of all current members expire on 15 April 2023. The Committee was established in line with DRNSW policy – Fisheries advisory groups: Establishments and Governance (TI-O-146).

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee members	
Chair	Mr Bruce Schumacher AM
Region 1 – Qld to Evans Head	Mr Paul Connellan
Region 2 – Evans Head to Woolgoolga	Ms Lisa Terry
Region 3 – Woolgoolga to Port Macquarie	Mr Geoff Shelton
Region 4 – Port Macquarie to Seal Rocks	Mr Karl Attenborough
Region 5 – Seal Rocks to The Entrance	Mr Michael Aubrey
Region 6 – The Entrance to Wollongong	Associate Prof. Anna Clark
Region 7 – Wollongong to Narooma	Ms Ann Garard
Region 8 – Narooma to Vic	Mr Micah Adams
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative – NSW Game Fishing Association	Mr Grahame Williams OAM
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative – Australian Fishing Trade Association	Mr Damian Kerves
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative – OzFish Unlimited	Ms Cassie Price
NSW recreational fishing organisation representative – Australian Underwater Federation	Mr Adrian Wayne
NSW DPI Representative – Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Management	Mr Peter Turnell



## 4. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 2: RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUST FUNDS SUMMARY BY PROJECT

Financial statements on the Recreational Fishing Trusts are included in the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) Annual Report. A special purpose financial report on Fisheries Trust Funds is also prepared annually by the NSW Audit office. Audits are also undertaken periodically as part of the DRNSW Internal Audit Program on Recreational Fishing Trust funds and programs.

In 2020–21 funds (\$'000) from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund were used for the following projects:

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Artificial reefs (offshore)	1,043	1,050	-7
Coastal fish habitat protection and management	201	182	19
Coastal fish habitat restoration grants program (prior to 2018/19)	16	6	10
Ecohuts for recreational fishers	40	43	-3
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	29	29	0
External large grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	550	446	104
Flagship habitat program	599	527	72
Fish aggregation devices (FADs)	252	243	9
Fishcare volunteer program	613	592	21
Fisheries officers (9 coastal officers)	1,223	1,162	61
Fisheries officers (mobile squads)	434	426	8
Gamefish tagging program	169	163	6
Integrating recreational fishery data into harvest strategies for multi-species fisheries	74	59	15
Marine stocking of key recreational fish species in coastal waters	293	292	1
Recreational fisheries enhancement (artificial reefs and FADs coordination)	217	216	1
Recreational fishing access (coastal)	163	163	0
Recreational fisheries monitoring program : statewide fishing and charter surveys	771	903	-132
Recreational fishing trust executive officer	199	197	2
Research angler program	193	189	4
Research on offshore artificial reefs	252	227	25
Research on marine fish stocking	184	169	15
Research on recreational bait species: worms, pipis and yabbies	64	53	11
Small grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	80	59	21
Sydney Harbour wharves compliance initiative	180	180	0
Trust grants governance enhancement project	139	135	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,978</b>	<b>7,711</b>	<b>267</b>

\* The total available 2020–21 consists of grants from the trust fund in 2020–21 and amounts carried forward from grants in 2019–20.

In 2020–21 funds (\$'000) from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund were used for the following projects:

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Bigger fish for Snowy Lakes	6	6	0
Dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking program	194	177	17
Emergency native fish rescue and drought recovery	40	35	5
Enhanced fish production at hatcheries for stocking (Port Stephens, Narrandera and Dutton)	395	379	16
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	31	30	1

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
External large grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	190	185	5
Fish transportation vehicle	250	208	42
Fishcare volunteer program	321	316	5
Fisheries officers (inland)	914	634	280
Freshwater recreational management program	194	193	1
Fuel cards for fish stocking	12	3	9
Gaden trout hatchery	623	621	2
Inland fish habitat restoration grants program (prior to 2018/19)	9	7	2
Inland stocking management	130	121	9
Nodavirus testing for fish stocking	20	20	0
Open top pyramid net program	24	23	1
Recreational fishing access (inland)	245	234	11
Regional inland fish habitat protection and management	220	211	9
Research on freshwater recreational fishery in NSW	660	657	3
Screens for streams	100	99	1
Small grants – disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	55	35	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,633</b>	<b>4,194</b>	<b>439</b>

\* The total available 2020–21 consists of grants from the trust fund in 2020–21 and amounts carried forward from grants in 2019–20.

In 2020–21 funds (\$'000) from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater and Freshwater) Trust Fund were used for the following projects:

Project	Total Available	Expenses	Carry Forward
Advisory Council meeting expenses	83	78	5
Fish for Life project	125	136	-11
Fishing competitions and events: responsible recreational fishing promotion	100	101	-1
Get Hooked...its Fun to Fish schools program	427	427	0
Habitat action program 2018/19 and beyond	627	618	9
NSW gone fishing day	0	4	-4
NSW fishing workshop	56	39	17
NSW fishway strategy for fish passage remediation	102	106	-4
NSW recreational fishing environmental assessment	155	169	-14
Recreational fisher research database	60	59	1
Recreational fisheries infrastructure management program	170	166	4
Recreational fishing fee administration project and Government Licensing Service transactions fees #	2,267	2,479	-212
Recreational fishing fee renewal notice system	123	125	-2
Recreational fishing guides	110	108	2
Recreational fishing publications program	119	119	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,524</b>	<b>4,734</b>	<b>-210</b>

\* The total available 2020–21 consists of grants from the trust fund in 2020–21 and amounts carried forward from grants in 2019–20.

# A carry forward of -\$750,000 for Government Licensing Service transaction fees from 2019–20 was balanced in 2020–21.

#### 4. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING FROM THE RECREATIONAL FISHING TRUSTS IN 2020–21

Note: SW and FW denote the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts, respectively. Amounts shown are the approved funds for each project. All projects valued at \$10,000 or less listed below receive funding through the Small Grants Program.

#### PLATFORM: FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2020–21
<b>Batemans Bay offshore artificial reef:</b> Involves implementation of a new offshore artificial reef to maximise benefits and fishing opportunity for recreational fishers.	External contractor	Tender administered by NSW DPI	SW \$600,000
<b>Dollar for dollar native fish stocking program:</b> To provide funding to match stocking groups in the raising of funds to purchase native fish from private hatcheries to stock into public waterways.	Various fishing clubs, councils, community groups	Grants administered by DPI	FW \$250,000
<b>Enhanced Fish Production:</b> To provide additional operational funding at Government fish hatcheries (Narrandera, Jindabyne, Ebor & Port Stephens) to boost fish production / stocking capabilities and enhance recreational fishing opportunities.		NSW DPI	FW \$408,530
<b>Fisheries Management Officer (inland recreational fisheries):</b> The role prepares 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.		NSW DPI	FW \$143,638
<b>Gaden trout hatchery:</b> To provide operational funding for the Gaden trout hatchery to ensure a continuation in the production and stocking of trout to enhance recreational fishing.	Approx. 40 fishing organisations assist with stocking	NSW DPI	FW \$702,097
<b>Boosting our fisheries: stocking NSW estuaries with popular species to enhance recreational fishing opportunities:</b> This marine stocking program involves the breeding and proposed release of dusky flathead, kingfish mullocky, Eastern king prawns and other species along the coast using the world's best stocking practices to enhance recreational fishing in estuaries.		NSW DPI	SW \$299,080
<b>Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) – more places for people to fish:</b> Involves assembly and installation of FADs (large buoys) to provide reliable offshore fishing locations where recreational fishers can target a variety of popular pelagic fish over spring, summer and autumn.		NSW DPI	SW \$260,000
<b>Recreational Fisheries Enhancement Co-ordination: Making Reefs and FADs happen:</b> 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 coordinates these programs to ensure their timely implementation with great benefits for fishers.		NSW DPI	SW \$219,500
<b>Investigations of nodavirus infection in aquaculture reared Australian bass – dollar for dollar (\$4) hatcheries:</b> Testing of Australian bass and estuary perch produced at marine commercial hatcheries for the purposes of public fish stocking.		NSW DPI	FW \$20,000
<b>Extra operational funds for emergency native fish rescue and drought recovery activities:</b> Undertake native fish recovery operations to protect and restore native fish populations impacted by the drought across the Murray Darling Basin.		NSW DPI	FW \$180,000
<b>Stocking of Estuary Perch within Brogo, Danjera and Glennies Creek dams:</b> Continue to stock up to 20,000 Estuary Perch fingerlings within Brogo Dam over the next 2 years and to commence Estuary Perch stockings within Danjera and Glennies Creek Dams (up to 90,000 Estuary Perch fingerlings), to provide anglers with exciting new high quality recreational fishing opportunities.		NSW DPI	FW \$25,000
<b>Purchase of an additional fish transportation vehicle for drought response and hatchery expansion activities:</b> Purchase a new fish transportation vehicle as part of recovery operations for critical drought response and the expansion of the Narrandera Fisheries Centre Hatchery.		NSW DPI	FW \$250,000
<b>Manilla Native Fish Hatchery structure and operations:</b> Provides operational funding support for the not-for-profit Manilla Native Fish Hatchery to enable golden perch breeding and stocking into local public waterways to continue. The hatchery is run by community volunteers.	Manilla Fishing Hatchery Inc		FW \$9,700
<b>Bingara Fish Hatchery upgrade:</b> To improve the community Bingara Fish Hatchery facilities to ensure ongoing stockings of native fish in the New England region. The hatchery is run by volunteers and produces fish for stocking in public waterways	Bingara Anglers Club		FW \$174,905

#### PLATFORM: FISHING ACCESS AND FACILITIES

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2020–21
<b>Recreational Fishing Access Project:</b> This project involves dedicated access officers tackling situations where fishing access is being compromised. The officers advocate the importance of recreational fishing and negotiate 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.		NSW DPI	SW \$163,100 FW \$201,743
<b>Fisheries Management Officer (Inland Angler Access):</b> This position primarily focuses on addressing the high volume of Crown Lands road closures and securing angler access for the future. The project also assists in the inspection of access sites and maintenance of an angler access media.		NSW DPI	FW \$155,025
<b>They're too good to lose! – More Water Police patrols to help keep Sydney Harbour ferry wharves open to fishing:</b> Provide water police patrols on Sydney Harbour's 50 ferry wharves during summer to deter littering, excessive noise and anti-social behaviour from anglers.		RMS/Water Police	SW \$180,000
<b>Quarantine Bay Timber Jetty Renewal:</b> Refurbish the existing timber jetty at Quarantine Bay into a level, accessible platform for recreational fishing and associated uses.	Bega Valley Shire Council		SW \$90,280
<b>Accessibility Upgrades to Gwandalan Jetty – Gwandalan Bowling Club Foreshore Reserve (contingency funding):</b> Provide contingency funding to cover unforeseen costs encountered with the previously Trust funded Gwandalan Jetty accessibility upgrades in order to successfully complete the project.	Central Coast Council		SW \$22,000
<b>Collarenebri Recreational Fishing Upgrade – Fish Cleaning Station:</b> Install a custom orb curved roof fish cleaning station with lighting and pressurised water on the Barwon River at Collarenebri adjacent to the newly developed boat ramp and recreational area.	Collarenebri Fishing Club		FW \$13,730
<b>Hanging Rock Fish Cleaning Tables Cover:</b> Provide a single, structural cover and lighting over the four fish cleaning tables at Hanging Rock boat ramp.	Eurobodalla Shire Council		SW \$14,336
<b>Mill Bay Fish Cleaning table replacement:</b> Remove an existing fish cleaning table at Mill Bay, Narooma, which is situated in an area suffering erosion and replacing it with a new fish cleaning table in a more suitable location nearby.	Eurobodalla Shire Council		SW \$9,005
<b>Northern River Fish Cleaning Station (contingency funding):</b> Provide contingency funding to cover unforeseen expenses encountered due to a relocation of the proposed location of the previously Trust funded fish cleaning station to the northern breakwater of the Evans River mouth bringing it into deeper water.	Evans Head Business & Community Chamber		SW \$5,000
<b>Accessible Fishing Platform Lake Wallace:</b> Install a relocatable floating accessible fishing platform at Lake Wallace, Wallerawang, to enable fishers in wheelchairs or with mobility restrictions to fish at this popular and well stocked fishing waterbody.	Lithgow City Council		FW \$53,062
<b>Management of Merimbula Fish Cleaning Pontoon – 3 year extension of SS003 which concludes 30 June 2020:</b> The Merimbula fish cleaning pontoon is situated near the entrance of Merimbula Lake and provides essential services for fishers. Funding will ensure ongoing management and maintenance of the facility by the club.	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc.		SW \$7,370
<b>Jabiru Fish Cleaning Table:</b> Install a new fish cleaning table at Jabiru Reserve, Lake Cathie providing a safe and hygienic facility and encouraging increased participation by boating and shore-based fishers.	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council		SW \$18,255
<b>Installation of Solar LED Lighting at Fish Cleaning Tables across Port Stephens:</b> Install solar LED lighting at various fish cleaning tables across the Port Stephens LGA.	Port Stephens Council		SW \$8,750
<b>Fish Cleaning Table – Copeton Dam:</b> Install a fish cleaning table at Fireball Point, Copeton Dam.	Reflections Holiday Parks		FW \$9,800
<b>Erowal Bay – Fish Cleaning Table Relocation:</b> Relocate and provide a new fish cleaning table closer to deeper water to better manage waste disposal and amenity issues for the purposes of mitigating community and neighbour complaint.	Shoalhaven City Council		SW \$7,500
<b>Heimdall House Jetty Restoration – an original recreational fishing facility for the Sussex Inlet Community:</b> Restore the jetty in front of the site of the original Heimdall House built on the Sussex Inlet estuary. This will enable the jetty to meet safety standards, enhance physical appearance and ensure continued use for fishing, tourism and educational activities.	Sussex Inlet and District Chamber of Commerce Inc		SW \$63,811
<b>The Mill Pond – A New Public Fishery:</b> Wallerawang CAS was approached by a private company who has offered free access to anglers to the Mill Pond, one of their water storages located at the old Portland cement quarries. DPI Fisheries has negotiated a legal deed of access to the waterbody securing managed public access for anglers to the site. The agreement has some access conditions to ensure public safety and requires installation of some infrastructure.	Wallerawang branch CAS		FW \$78,418
<b>Wee Waa Recreational Fishing Upgrade – Fish Cleaning Station:</b> Install a custom orb curved roof fish cleaning station with lighting and pressurised water on the Namoi River at "Yellowbanks" Wee Waa adjacent to the newly developed boat ramp, recreational and camp area.	Wee Waa Fishing Club		FW \$18,800

#### 4. APPENDICES

##### PLATFORM: AQUATIC HABITAT REHABILITATION

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2020–21
<b>Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation – Greater Murray NSW:</b> 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.		NSW DPI	FW \$220,574
<b>Habitat Action Program – making more fish... naturally:</b> Provides habitat action grants to the community to enhance fish habitat in NSW and support healthy, resilient recreational fisheries.	Various fishing clubs, councils, community groups	Grants administered by DPI	SW \$794,302 FW \$346,084
<b>Flagship Habitat Action:</b> 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.	Various fishing clubs, councils, community groups	Grants administered by DPI	SW \$448,000
<b>Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation – South Coast NSW:</b> 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.		NSW DPI	SW \$201,393
<b>Restoring fish habitat off Merimbula Fishing Platform (Wharf):</b> Reduce sea urchin densities by culling to restore weedy habitat and fishing opportunities in fishing areas adjacent to Merimbula wharf.	Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club Inc.		SW \$6,000
<b>Tackle Bin Project (formerly known as Fishing Line Debris Recovery Program):</b> Purchase additional debris bins to extend project to other identified hotspots for interactions between fishers and wildlife and update and re-print Tide Times brochure promotional material.	Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers Inc. (TVWC)		SW \$3,097
<b>Driving Fish Habitat Action with a Landcare NSW/OzFish Unlimited community partnership – Years 2 and 3:</b> This project involves OzFish working with Local Landcare Coordinators to develop and facilitate priority fish habitat rehabilitation projects throughout NSW. The first phase of the project in 2019/20 saw the development of 15 habitat restoration projects during the first 12 months. Funding for years 2 and 3 will enable 60 fish habitat restoration sites to be established by OzFish and Landcare combining resources across NSW. The project will build a network of skilled volunteers to continue the work well into the future. The project complements the DPI Habitat Action Grants program (although there is no overlap between projects).	OzFish Unlimited		SW \$105,000 FW \$84,700
<b>NSW Fish Passage Strategy – Finalise Phase 1 Development:</b> The NSW Fish Passage Strategy is a coordinated 20-year plan to proactively restore unimpeded fish passage to 165 high priority weirs, which will significantly improve native fish access to 8,885 km of mainstem rivers and key off-channel habitats below all major storage dams in the State. This will significantly improve native fish populations and recreational fishing opportunities. This stage of the project will finalise development and secure funding for fish passage remediation at 47 of the highest priority sites in NSW.		NSW DPI	SW \$90,612 FW \$90,612

##### PLATFORM: EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2020–21
<b>Supporting fish hatchery trainees:</b> This project supports fisheries students with practical skills learnt in a native fish hatchery to improve the number and quality of fish produced at the Narrandera hatchery.		NSW DPI	FW \$5,000
<b>Fishcare – Volunteers and Education Officers proactively undertaking face to face education of anglers across NSW:</b> The NSW Fishcare Volunteer program is one of the flagship programs of the Recreational Fishing Trusts. It uses a network of six dedicated Education Officers and 25 motivated Fishcare Volunteers across NSW to provide face to face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground. Our mission is to create a team of fishing stewards that champion, responsible fishing and a sustainable secure fishing future.	250 Fishcare Volunteers	NSW DPI	SW \$613,000 FW \$318,000
<b>Get Hooked...it's fun to fish – providing a fun, interactive recreational fishing program for school students to learn about sustainable fishing:</b> 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. 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.	100 primary schools	NSW DPI	SW \$371,400 FW \$55,500

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2020–21
<b>NSW Fishing Workshops – Fostering new and existing fishers to be the guardians of tomorrow:</b> 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. Various non-government organisations in partnership e.g. PCYC, Sydney International Regatta Centre, Guides and Scouts, Landlearn, etc.	Various non-government organisations in partnership e.g. PCYC, Sydney International Regatta Centre, Guides and Scouts, Landlearn, etc	NSW DPI	SW \$35,000 FW \$21,000
<b>NSW Saltwater and Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guides – One stop shop for essential fishing info:</b> These guides provide an easy to read summary of essential information fishers need before they go fishing. The guides are distributed by tackle shops and Fishcare Volunteers.	Distribution by tackle shops and Fishcare Volunteers	NSW DPI	SW \$98,000 FW \$42,000
<b>Recreational fishing information – enhancing information to fishers</b> 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.		NSW DPI	SW \$120,000 FW \$20,000
<b>Servicing our fishers to help ensure our fishing future: Responsible recreational fishing and effective management of fishing competitions:</b> 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.	Around 100 fishing tournaments	NSW DPI	SW \$116,500 FW \$38,850
<b>CASTING FOR RECOVERY – a Weekend Fly Fishing Retreat for Women with Breast Cancer. An ACT regional project with vision of it becoming an Australian National Project with regional branches:</b> Provide a free fly fishing retreat including tuition on a one-to-one basis, weekend accommodation and care for up to 14 women who have breast cancer.	ACT Fly Fishers		FW \$7,338
<b>Walcha Bowling Club Fishing Club – Kids Fishing Workshop:</b> The Club proposes to introduce recreational fishing to the youth of Walcha and surrounding communities by sponsoring children to attend DPI's kids' fishing workshops at the Dutton Trout Hatchery where participants will be educated by DPI staff. It is expected that three events each supporting up to 10 children will be held each year for an initial period of two years.	Walcha Bowling Club Fishing Club		FW \$1,920
<b>Gone fishing – Supporting Student Learning Through Fishing:</b> Involves students disengaged in learning and with low literacy levels to participate in a program where they will actively learn to fish (including using the services of a charter operator) and understand the importance of sustainable fishing. They will also engage in reading in relation to fishing and sustainability and make connections in their community and develop resilience.	Granville Boys High School		SW \$5,000
<b>Convene a 'Screens for Streams' stakeholder forum to investigate options and pathways for adoption of fish screening technology:</b> This project has been developed by RFNSW and involves convening a stakeholder forum to provide an opportunity for knowledge and ideas exchange between local irrigation districts, water managers, the broader scientific and engineering communities and other regional stakeholder communities, including recreational fishing groups. The inclusive forum will discuss and investigate options and potential pathways on how best to promote adoption of fish screening technology across the wide range of gravity and pumped irrigation offtakes. Key organisation contacts could include Water NSW, Cotton Australia, the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Environment, Energy and Science (formerly OEH), Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water, Fisheries Research Development Corporation and other relevant groups. Following the forum, an implementation and options strategy will be developed for fish screening initiatives in partnership with industry, which will have demonstrable benefits to native fish stocks but also screening outcomes for irrigators.		NSW DPI (on behalf of RFNSW)	FW \$148,000
<b>Gone Fishing Day 2020:</b> Five annual NSW Gone Fishing Days have now been held and last year, over 20,000 people attended over 50 DPI and fishing club events across NSW. The Day is all about promoting fishing as a fun, healthy, outdoors fishing activity for the whole family. Funding grants or fishing packages are made available to fishing clubs to hold events in regional NSW while our DPI Fishcare Program hosts six major events across NSW. The DPI events have a wide range of fun activities with many other partner organisations attending the events. The national date for Gone Fishing Day has been set for 18 October.		NSW DPI	SW \$40,000 FW \$100,000

## 4. APPENDICES

### PLATFORM: RESEARCH

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2020–21
<b>Building a stronger more sustainable freshwater recreational fishery in NSW:</b> 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.		NSW DPI	FW \$687,470
<b>Screens for Streams: Boosting native fish stocks through improved water extraction practices:</b> Will showcase effectiveness of innovative fish screens on irrigation pumps at selected sites across NSW and will facilitate broad-scale uptake of fish screening technologies on irrigation infrastructure across the MDB, to prevent large scale fish losses from water extraction practices.	Charles Sturt University	NSW DPI	FW \$100,000
<b>Fisheries Enhancement Research and Monitoring Program – Marine Stocking:</b> This project will address research and monitoring in relation to Marine Fish Stocking activities to determine effectiveness of stockings.		NSW DPI	SW \$184,141
<b>Fisheries Enhancement Research and Monitoring Program – Regional plan to monitor NSW offshore artificial reefs:</b> This project provides essential monitoring for the Offshore Artificial Reefs program as part of the long term management plan for each reef.		NSW DPI	SW \$283,585
<b>NSW Game Fish Tagging Program:</b> 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. 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.	NSW GFA	NSW DPI	SW \$169,600
<b>NSW Game Fish Tournament Monitoring:</b> This project collates 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.	Ghosn Consulting Services		SW \$78,400
<b>Robust resource assessment and stock enhancement for the iconic Murray Crayfish recreational fishery:</b> The project will provide (a) targeted and benchmarking monitoring to allow robust resource assessment and (b) consolidation of stock enhancement for this important recreational fishery.	Nature Glenelg Trust		FW \$136,000
<b>Integrating recreational fishing information into harvest strategies for multi-sector fisheries in NSW:</b> The project will develop defensible methods and a framework for including recreational fishing data into harvest strategies being developed for NSW fisheries.		NSW DPI	SW \$99,903
<b>Integrated Monitoring Program (IMP): Comprehensive ongoing assessment of recreational fishing in NSW – 2019/2021 – using state-wide diary surveys and biological sampling from the charter boat fishery:</b> The IMP is the largest recreational fishery citizen-science project in NSW providing a cost-effective platform for collecting high quality information for assessment of recreational fisheries. This program provides reliable catch and effort estimates for key recreational species for stock assessment purposes.	Kewagama Research	Administered by NSW DPI	SW \$626,512
<b>NSW Research Angler Program:</b> The Research Angler Program (RAP) is an important, established citizen science and extension project involves collection of fish frames from fishers for a range of important recreational species age, which are then processed to provide essential age information for stock assessments.		NSW DPI	SW \$192,600
<b>Evaluation of survival behaviour of fish to inform re-stocking programs for recreational fisheries and conservation of wild fish:</b> To examine the behaviour of larval and juvenile fish to improve survival of recreational and conservation in stocking programs.	Charles Sturt University		FW \$48,883
<b>What can ectoparasites tell us about apex marine predators? A marlin's story:</b> Investigate feeding patterns and movement characteristics of striped, black and blue marlin caught in recreational fishing tournaments through ectoparasite taxonomy, morphometrics and stable isotope patterns.	Macquarie University		SW \$9,900
<b>Citizen Science BRUV Artificial Reef Monitoring Program:</b> Develop a pilot citizen science program designed to determine the potential for incorporating citizen science based on baited remote underwater video (BRUV) for artificial reefs. Members of the community who have expressed an interest in participating will be inducted into the project.		NSW DPI	SW \$34,350
<b>Managing the black bream fishery in southern NSW – understanding genetic spatial distribution:</b> Evaluate the genetic spatial distribution of the black bream fishery in southern NSW. This data will form the basis for a future stock assessment and potential stocking activities.		NSW DPI	SW \$65,303

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2020–21
<b>Enhance and upgrade the Gamefish Tagging Program's recapture database through an online GIS platform:</b> Recapture information for billfish, tuna and sharks will be verified and migrated to user-friendly online GIS platform. Visualising recaptures on maps with embedded data will greatly enhance the Program's utility for all stakeholders.	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd		SW \$19,800
<b>Monitoring and Research on Landed Fish at Game Fishing Tournaments in NSW: 2020/2021:</b> Facilitate and conduct monitoring, sampling and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other gamefish captured and weighed at the major game fishing tournaments in NSW.	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd		SW \$31,000
<b>Provision of Annual Report for the Gamefish Tagging Program for 2019/2020:</b> Provision of an informative, attractive and readily accessible report on the Gamefish Tagging Program for the year 2019/2020.	Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd		SW \$6,500
<b>Fish and fish habitats around the estuarine artificial reefs (Reef Balls) in Botany Bay:</b> The artificial reefs deployed in 2006–2009 in Botany Bay have not been recently surveyed for fish or seagrass. This project will monitor fish abundance, diversity at rocky reef, sea grass and reef ball habitats to assist in environmental assessments for the proposed cruise ship terminal which may threaten biodiversity, fish habitats and fisher access.	Sydney Institute of Marine Science		SW \$20,685
<b>Literature review on fish habitats in Botany Bay with respect to the proposed cruise ship terminal:</b> Extensive fish populations support large recreational fisheries in Botany Bay. However, knowledge about the habitats supporting stocks is outdated and urgently needed given the proposed cruise ship terminal in Yarra Bay.	Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS)		SW \$80,500
<b>Quantifying the benefits of fish friendly seawalls:</b> Quantify the benefits of seawall greening to fish. It will document changes in the community structure and behaviour of seawall-associated fish following interventions adding complexity and seaweeds.	Sydney Institute of Marine Science		SW \$159,975
<b>Valuing Recreational Spearfishing Competitions – Pilot Study:</b> Pilot project to calculate the economic value of two regional recreational spearfishing competitions using an economic analysis technique (travel cost method) based upon surveys of participants.	Sydney Institute of Marine Science		SW \$9,944
<b>Research observations of water temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH values on trout waters in the Barrington Tops:</b> Conduct a 3 year program compiling a detailed log of key indices on varying sites in streams and dams on the Barrington Tops, including the Upper Manning, Hunter and Barrington Rivers and their tributaries with a view to confirm suitability for trout stocking for recreational fishing opportunities.	The Barrington Club Inc.		FW \$3,766
<b>Restoring Lake Macquarie's Posidonia australis meadows:</b> Use recent innovations in restoration to revegetate meadows of the endangered seagrass <i>Posidonia australis</i> in Lake Macquarie while actively involving local recreational fishers. Donor shoots will be collected by volunteers following storms to avoid damaging existing meadows, transferred to growing tanks or ponds until there are enough for restoration, replanted in unvegetated habitat adjacent to environmental friendly moorings and monitored for associated fish and invertebrates.	UNSW Sydney		SW \$39,935
<b>Citizen science fish monitoring at Leeton Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition:</b> The project involves anglers measuring, photographing and recording Murray Cod and Golden Perch caught during the Leeton Bidgee Classic catch and release fishing event held on the Murrumbidgee River above Gogeldrie Weir. The data is provided to DPI Fisheries scientists for monitoring fish stocks. The fund will support purchase of receivers and boosters as well as incentives for catch and release reporting.	Leeton Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition – MIA		FW \$9,900

### PLATFORM: FISHERIES OFFICERS

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2020–21
<b>6 inland fisheries officers:</b> 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.		NSW DPI	FW \$946,177
<b>9 coastal fisheries officers:</b> 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.		NSW DPI	SW \$1,223,269
<b>Coastal recreational mobile squads:</b> 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.		NSW DPI	SW \$545,393

## 4. APPENDICES

### PLATFORM: TRUST MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Project	Partner Organisation	Government Agency	2020-21
<b>RFTEC/RFSTEC meeting expenses:</b> Supports regular meetings of the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committees 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 Trusts.	RFSTEC/ RFTEC		FW \$35,500 SW \$35,500
<b>Recreational Fishing Infrastructure Co-ordination – Enhancing The Shore-based Fishing Experience For Coastal and Inland Fishers:</b> 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.		NSW DPI	SW \$151,921 FW \$17,732
<b>Fisheries Manager (inland recreational fisheries):</b> The program assists with freshwater legislative review, advisory and policy development. The role co-ordinates the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee and Gaden Trout Hatchery Management Advisory Committee, management of the dollar for dollar native fish stocking program, enhanced fish production program and Gaden trout hatchery operational program.		NSW DPI	FW \$196,811
<b>Recreational Fisher Research Database:</b> 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.	External contractor	Tender administered by NSW DPI	SW \$42,000 FW \$18,000
<b>Recreational Fishing Fee Renewal Notice System:</b> 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.	External contractor	Tender administered by NSW DPI	SW \$86,000 FW \$36,850
<b>Recreational Fishing Licensing (Fee) project:</b> This project provides for the safe and secure collection of recreational fishing licences fees (public money) which are deposited into the Recreational Fishing Trusts. It provides a convenient payment network, catering for all types of anglers using a variety of payment methods such as: a dedicated webpage, BPAY, automated telephone, EFTPOS terminals, mail and a manual payment system of sales agents (fishing tackle stores etc) throughout NSW, run by DPI.		Agent network administered by NSW DPI	SW \$1,059,310 FW \$453,990
<b>Recreational Fishing Licensing – Government Licensing Service (GLS) fees:</b> This project is part of the licensing system that provides for a convenient payment network for the recreational fishing licence and transfer of revenue into the Recreational Fishing Trusts. The payment network system includes an electronic platform run by Service NSW – Government Licensing Service (GLS) for payment of licence fees electronically as well as for backend management of the licence system. This application covers transaction fees payable to GLS on an annual basis. <small>*Note: funding of \$750,000 for GLS fees in 2019-20 was also approved in 2020-21.</small>		Department of Customer Service (Service NSW) / NSW DPI	SW \$525,000 FW \$225,000
<b>Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) consultation and meeting expenses:</b> Supports regular meetings of RFNSW which advises the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishery policy issues including maintaining and improving the quality of recreational fishing opportunities.	RFNSW		SW \$64,100 FW \$27,500
<b>Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer:</b> The role 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.		NSW DPI	SW \$199,000
<b>Recreational Fishing Trust grants administration program – supporting the delivery of Trust funded projects:</b> To improve the delivery and performance of Recreational Fishing Trust funded projects by assigning essential resourcing to grants administration and management. The role facilitates funding agreements to applicants, receives milestones reports, processes project invoices etc. 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.		NSW DPI	SW \$139,494



# QUALITY RECREATIONAL FISHING FOR EVERYONE, FOREVER.

