

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) meeting outcomes

Meeting Number:	69	Date:	5 December 2024	Time:	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Location:	Microsoft Teams Videoconference				
Invitees:	Bruce Schumacher AM (Chair), Paul Connellan (Region 1), David Faircloth (Region 2), Craig Cameron (Region 3), Geoff Shelton (Region 4), Mick Aubrey (Region 5), Sami Omari (Region 6), Ann Garard (Region 7), Micah Adams (Region 8), Grahame Williams OAM (NSW Game Fishing Association), Ryan Lungu (OzFish), Adrian Wayne (Australian Underwater Federation), Darren Reynolds (A/Director DPIRD Fisheries and Aquaculture Management)				

1. Chair's introduction, welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Sami Omari, Darren Reynolds

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 68th RFSTEC meeting held on 25 June 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Mick Aubrey, seconded Ann Garard, carried.**

4. Recreational Fishing Trust items

a. Status of the Saltwater Trust

The financial status of the Saltwater Trust was presented to members.

b. Current Trust funding round

On 6 November 2024, the Minister announced the opening of the next funding round with a closing date of 18 December 2024.

c. Status of Trust projects

A summary of current active and recently completed Trust projects was provided for RFSTEC's information.

d. Update on Licence Holder Survey

The Minister previously announced DPIRD will undertake a licence holder survey to seek feedback on current Trust programs and new priorities for expenditure in the future. The survey commenced

on 4 November 2024 and survey invites are being sent to 350,000 licence holders. An update was provided at the meeting.

e. Recreational Fishing Trust Audit recommendations

An update was provided on implementation of the Audit recommendations.

f. Project variations

A project variation was sought by DPIRD for Project DPIS093 Flagship Habitat Action for \$4000 from the 2024/25 budget to be provided to OzFish's Kalang River Restoration Reach project, previously approved in the 2023/24 program funding round. The funds will enable some road materials to be laid for vehicle access to the site to ensure delivery of the project. RFSTEC supported the project variation. **Moved Paul Connellan, Seconded Grahame Williams OAM, Carried.**

RFSTEC was provided with clarification from DPIRD that there is no overlap in activities and deliverables between DPIRD's recently approved Project DPIJ066 Habitat Action Program – "Making More Fish Naturally" – 2.0 and OzFish Unlimited's previously approved Project LJ012 Fishers for Fish Habitat 2 in response to a past request from the Committee.

5. Project updates

Presentations and project updates were provided for the following projects:

- Using eDNA to assess how estuarine fish communities respond to consecutive extreme events of drought, bushfire, and flood.
- Marine stocking monitoring.
- Clean Safe Wharves program.
- Gamefish Tagging interactive mapping webpage.
- Fish for Life program.
- Gone Fishing Day.