

Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) meeting outcomes (draft)

Meeting Number: 70 **Date:** 8 April 2025 **Time:** 9:00am – 3:45pm

Location: The Branksome Hotel, 60 Robey Street, Mascot

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), Simon Clark (A/Director DPIRD Fisheries and Aquaculture Management)

1. Chair's introduction, welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Paul Connellan, Micah Adams, Simon Clark

3. Confirmation of outcomes from previous meeting

The draft outcomes of the 69th RFSTEC meeting held on 5 December 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. **Moved Geoff Shelton, seconded Grahame Williams OAM, carried.**

4. Recreational Fishing Trust items

a. Status of the Saltwater Trust

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

b. 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 is now complete and a summary of survey results was provided to the Committee by DPIRD.

c. Status of Trust projects

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

d. Current Trust funding round

A total of 67 new Saltwater Trust grant applications were received following the Minister's announcement of the Recreational Fishing Trust funding round on 6 November 2024. The funding round included the \$2 million recreational fishing small infrastructure grants program for projects such as fishing platforms, fish cleaning tables, fishing access tracks, kayak launching platforms and other fishing facilities. Recommendations for funding with respect to each project will be provided to the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council for consideration prior to submission to the Minister for approval.

e. Project variations

A project variation was sought by DPIRD for Project DPIS039 The Great Swordfish / Striped Marlin Race. A total of 4 swordfish and 7 striped marlin were satellite tagged and collection of all tracking data completed. A project variation was proposed for approximately \$10,000 of unspent project funds to be used on a consultant to analyse the data and compile a summary report covering the results from both species rather than just swordfish. RFSTEC supported the project variation. **Moved Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded Mick Aubrey, Carried.**

The 2024/25 Habitat Action Grants (HAG) funding round (under Project DPIJ066 Habitat Action Program) had not yet opened due to delays caused by several factors. DPIRD sought a project variation for any unused 2024/25 grant allocation to be made available for HAG projects in 2025/26 and 2026/27 within the current 3-year life of the program if the annual HAG budget is fully subscribed and excess quality proposals identified. RFSTEC did not support the project variation. **Moved Grahame Williams OAM, Seconded Geoff Shelton, Carried.**

5. General business

Members requested an update on the Minister's consideration of additional information for some Trust applications. DPIRD advised these Trust applications were still under consideration.

Action item: RFNSW to write to the Minister regarding the applications that are still under consideration. **Moved Grahame Williams OAM, seconded Ann Garard, carried.**