

Research and Development

Department of Primary Industries Research and Development

Fisheries Trust Fund reports

Commercial Fishing Trust Fund

DPI provides a range of monitoring, scientific, compliance and administrative services to the commercial fishing industry. DPI expenditure on commercial fishing activities is funded from consolidated revenue, with a contribution from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund. Charges are levied for services such as licence administration and management but are not project specific. The Commercial Fishing Trust Fund also contributes to research and uses funds to leverage research and development support from other sources.

The NSW abalone and rock lobster fisheries are subject to cost recovery of attributable costs, although there is still some degree of government contribution and budgets are negotiated in detail with the relevant management advisory committees.

In 2023-24, the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund contributed \$3.071 million to DPI's commercial fishery related programs.

Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund

The Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund provides grants and loans for the enhancement, maintenance and protection of Aboriginal cultural fishing as well as for Aboriginal communities to develop businesses associated with fisheries resources throughout NSW. In 2023-24, the Aboriginal Fishing Trust contributed \$120,000 towards Aboriginal fishing related projects.

Aquaculture Trust Fund

DPI provides a range of monitoring, scientific, compliance and administrative services to the aquaculture industry. The aquaculture industry is subject to full cost recovery for administration charges only and charges are not project specific. DPI's expenditure for aquaculture management and policy development is funded from consolidated revenue, with a contribution from the Aquaculture Trust Fund. The Aquaculture Trust Fund also contributes to research and uses funds to leverage research and development support from other sources (for example, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Seafood Cooperative Research Corporation). In 2023-24, the Aquaculture Fishing Trust Fund contributed \$1.058 million to aquaculture related programs.

Recreational and Charter Fishing Trust Funds

The department received funds from the Recreational and Charter Fishing Trust Funds to undertake various programs during the year as follows:

Table 7: Recreational and Charter Fishing Trust Funds expenditure

Activity	Expenditure
Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund	\$12,079,000
Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund	\$7,491,000
Charter Fishing Trust Fund	\$10,000
Total:	\$19,580,000

In 2023-24 funds from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund were used for the following projects:

Table 8: Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust Fund project allocations

Project	Allocated	Expenses	Carry Forward
Coastal fish habitat protection and management	\$194,000	\$194,000	0
Ecohuts for recreational fishers	\$17,000	\$17,000	0
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	\$22,000	\$22,000	0
External large grants –disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	\$1,423,000	\$1,423,000	0
Flagship habitat program	\$158,000	\$158,000	0
Fish aggregation devices (FADs)	\$308,000	\$308,000	0
Fishcare volunteer program	\$595,000	\$595,000	0
Fisheries officers (9 coastal officers)	\$1,432,000	\$1,432,000	0
Fisheries officers (mobile squads)	\$482,000	\$482,000	0
Gamefish tagging program	\$215,000	\$215,000	0
Great swordfish race	\$15,000	\$2,000	\$13,000
Marine stocking of key recreational fish species in coastal waters	\$401,000	\$401,000	0
Offshore artificial reefs	\$1,940,000	\$1,940,000	0
Recreational fisheries enhancement (artificial reefs and FADs coordination)	\$285,000	\$285,000	0
Recreational fishing access (coastal)	\$202,000	\$202,000	0
Recreational fisheries monitoring program: statewide fishing and charter surveys	\$654,000	\$654,000	0
Recreational fishing trust executive officer	\$227,000	\$227,000	0
Research angler program	\$204,000	\$204,000	0
Research on black bream fishery	\$73,000	\$73,000	0
Research on blue swimmer crabs in Lake Macquarie	\$9,000	\$9,000	0
Research on estuary cockles	\$60,000	\$60,000	0
Research on marine fish stocking	\$277,000	\$277,000	0
Research on fish usage of oyster reefs	\$11,000	\$11,000	0
Small grants –disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	\$42,000	\$42,000	0
Sydney Harbour wharves compliance initiative	\$230,000	\$230,000	0
Trust grants governance enhancement project	\$149,000	\$149,000	0
Total	\$9,625,000	\$9,612,000	\$13,000

* The Allocated column consists of funds from the trust fund in 2023-24, amounts carried forward from projects in 2022-23 and any unused project funds from previous years returned to the trust.

In 2023-24 funds from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund were used for the following projects:

Table 9: Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust Fund project allocations.

Project	Allocated	Expenses	Carry Forward
Dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking program	\$430,000	\$430,000	0
Enhanced fish production at hatcheries for stocking (Port Stephens, Narrandera, Dutton and Grafton)	\$452,000	\$452,000	0
Expansion of Narrandera Fisheries Centre Hatchery	\$200,000	\$200,000	0
Expenditure committee meeting expenses	\$26,000	\$26,000	0
External large grants –disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	\$507,000	\$507,000	0
Fence stiles for facilitating angler access	\$14,000	\$14,000	0
Fish transport tanks for stocking activities from Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries	\$136,000	\$136,000	0
Fishcare volunteer program	\$307,000	\$307,000	0
Fisheries officers (inland)	\$955,000	\$955,000	0
Freshwater recreational management program	\$205,000	\$205,000	0
Fuel cards for fish stocking	\$6,000	\$6,000	0
Gaden trout hatchery	\$644,000	\$644,000	0
Hatchery technician at Narrandera Fisheries Centre	\$160,000	\$160,000	0
Inland stocking management	\$148,000	\$148,000	0
Making more maccas (Macquarie perch research)	\$148,000	\$148,000	0
NSW cold water pollution mitigation strategy	\$112,000	\$112,000	0
Production of estuary perch for stocking in NSW impoundments	\$30,000	\$30,000	0
Production of NSW trout and cod strategies	\$79,000	\$79,000	0
Recirculating aquaculture system to increase trout production at Gaden Trout Hatchery	\$614,000	\$614,000	0
Recreational fishing access (inland)	\$318,000	\$318,000	0
Regional inland fish habitat protection and management	\$213,000	\$213,000	0
Research on freshwater recreational fishery in NSW	\$694,000	\$694,000	0
Small grants –disbursements made to various organisations for approved projects	\$34,000	\$34,000	0
Stocking of advanced Murray cod to assist with post-flood recovery	\$56,000	\$56,000	0
Total	\$6,488,000	\$6,488,000	0

* The Allocated column consists of funds from the trust fund in 2023-24, amounts carried forward from projects in 2022-23 and any unused project funds from previous years returned to the trust.

In 2023-24 funds from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater and Freshwater) Trust Fund were used for the following projects:

Table 10: Recreational Fishing (Saltwater and Freshwater) Trust Fund project allocations.

Project	Allocated	Expenses	Carry Forward
Advisory Council meeting expenses	\$57,000	\$57,000	0
Fish for Life project	\$135,000	\$135,000	0
Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish schools program	\$422,000	\$422,000	0
Habitat action program 2018/19 and beyond	\$661,000	\$661,000	0
NSW Gone Fishing Day	\$83,000	\$83,000	0
NSW fishing workshops	\$70,000	\$70,000	0
NSW fishway strategy for fish passage remediation	\$27,000	\$27,000	0
NSW recreational fishing environmental assessment	\$38,000	\$38,000	0
Recreational fisher research database	\$7,000	\$7,000	0
Recreational fisheries infrastructure management program	\$198,000	\$198,000	0
Recreational fishing fee administration project	\$1,511,000	\$1,511,000	0
Recreational fishing fee renewal notice system	\$107,000	\$107,000	0
Recreational fishing guides	\$116,000	\$116,000	0
Recreational Fishing Trust annual report	\$38,000	\$38,000	0
Total	\$3,470,000	\$3,470,000	0

* The Allocated column consists of funds from the trust fund in 2023-24, amounts carried forward from projects in 2022-23 and any unused project funds from previous years returned to the trust.