

## Recreational Fishing initiatives Fund: Round 1

In 2012/13 nine projects were funded to a value of \$2 583 948 (incl GST).

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Program for providing recreational crabbing information</b>		
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>The Western Australian Department of Fisheries</b>		
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>Blue Swimmer Crabs represent one of the most important recreationally fished species in terms of participation rate in southwest Western Australia. This proposal provides a valuable opportunity for the Department of Fisheries to engage with the local crabbing community to develop ongoing, cost-effective programs to deliver annual information on recreational crabbing and stock dynamics in the recreationally important blue swimmer crab fisheries of the Swan-Canning Estuary, the Leschenault Inlet and Geopraphe Bay.</p> <p>Community stewardship for the crab resource will be enhanced through the direct engagement of recreational fishers in this project. This information will be valuable to assess the annual status of the stocks.</p>		
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$ 99,578,	Year 2 - \$101,140,	Year 3 - \$ 96,842, <b>TOTAL - \$297,560</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Biological data collection for Black bream in WA</b>		
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Murdoch University</b>		
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>Black Bream is an iconic recreational species of the west and south coast temperate estuaries.</p> <p>This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate the extensive biological data collected for black bream in Western Australia over several decades by research teams at Universities and the Department of Fisheries.</li> <li>• Collect contemporary biological data for black bream in selected estuaries and compare these with existing data to determine how the biology has changed and the factors involved.</li> <li>• Involve the community in a tagging study to elucidate seasonal patterns of movement.</li> <li>• Explore relationships between relative recruitment strength and key environmental variables.</li> <li>• Produce, for scientists and the community, a book on the biology of black bream in Western Australia.</li> </ul>		
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$158,722,	Year 2 - \$164,847,	Year 3 - \$153,746 , <b>TOTAL - \$477,315</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Blackwood River Black Bream</b>		
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Western Australian Fish Foundation</b>		
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>The stocking of the Blackwood River with black bream in 2001 and 2002 was deemed a huge success and is seen as a world class stock restoration project. This new project aims to reconnect the community with the original restocking events. It aims to determine whether subsequent natural recruitment of black bream has occurred following the initial restocking in the Blackwood River. To undertake a community/stakeholder workshop in Augusta to provide updated information on the state of black bream in the system. To update on progress of the 2001/02 year classes of restocked fish and to update the growth performance of both stocked and wild fish in the system. To identify the need for any future restocking.</p>		
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$ 48 850	<b>TOTAL - \$ 48 850</b>	

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Growing community engagement by growing prawns</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Western Australian Fish Foundation</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project will attempt to address the decline of the recreational fisher for the Western School Prawn and in doing so engage fishers in the stewardship of the fishery and the Swan and Canning rivers.</p> <p>The project will pilot the production and release of Western School Prawns over a 3 year period and engage fishers through a community prawn watch program.</p> <p>Improving prawn stocks over a short period will make river prawn fishing more accessible to the wider community, facilitating their connection to the river and its health.</p>
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$120,000, Year 2 - \$105,000, Year 3 - \$105,000, <b>TOTAL - \$330,000</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Determining the dynamics of WA squid populations through research and recreational fishing.</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Murdoch University/ Curtin University</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>Southern calamari (<i>Sepioteuthis australis</i>) have become an iconic species for recreational fishers in south-western WA.</p> <p>An increased interest in squid fishing over recent years, following a decline in the abundance of scalefish and increased fishing restrictions, and recent advancements in highly specialised and efficient fishing methods has raised questions regarding the sustainability of <i>S. australis</i> stocks on south-western WA. With assistance from the recreational fishers, this project aims to fill knowledge gaps on the biology and provide vitally important data on the stock structure of this species in south-western WA which will act as a benchmark for future reference.</p>
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$157,133, Year 2 - \$131,491, Year 3 - \$ 88,949 <b>TOTAL - \$377,573</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Stocking mulloway</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Western Australian Fish Foundation</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>Mulloway are a large species targeted by both shore based and boat fishers. They were once abundant in the Swan River and along the lower west coast.</p> <p>Mature West Coast mulloway are currently available at the Australian Centre of Applied Aquaculture Research (ACAAR) facility and it is proposed to use this conditioned broodstock for the project.</p> <p>It is proposed that the project will produce and stock mulloway fingerlings into the lower estuary of the Swan River and Owen Anchorage.</p> <p>Stocked fish will be dye marked for monitoring purposes and a program will be undertaken to investigate the survival of restocked fish and compare their biological performance with previously collected data for wild fish.</p> <p>The future research and fishery management strategies for this species will subsequently determine any need for any further restocking requirements.</p> <p>Upon completion a project review and assessment workshop will be held to validate the outcomes and promulgate the findings of the restocking project.</p>
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$ 130 000, Year 2 - \$ 110 000, Year 3 - \$ 40 150, <b>TOTAL - \$280 150</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Development of new industry-research partnerships and data collection</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>Investment into the development of new industry-research partnerships and data collection methods to underpin the future management of recreational fisheries.</p> <p>This project aims to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address need for continuous improvement in data collection, community engagement and empowerment.</li> <li>• develop cost-effective methods to determine recreational catch information</li> <li>• Enhance and expand the cooperative research relationships between Recfishwest as the peak body, the community and fisheries researchers.</li> <li>• Improve education and extension of research related to recreational fishing including that focused on fish handling, data collection, stock assessments, movement, growth, biology and survival of important recreational species..</li> </ul> <p>This project will also see the development of regional recreation fishing information sessions based on current research affecting recreational fishing and fish resources.</p>
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$ 118,000, Year 2 - \$ 105,000, Year 3 - \$ 105,000, <b>TOTAL - \$328,000</b>

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council</b>
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Young Future Leaders Course</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project consists of three major components:</p> <p>The first component involves running a future leaders course for young people interested in taking on roles in areas such as management, research and advocacy. Recfishwest has previously run two successful future leaders courses, resulting in an injection of youth capable of taking on these roles.</p> <p>The second component involves the granting of bursaries to three future leader graduates to attend the national recreational fishing conference, to be held on the Gold Coast in August 2012. These travel bursaries would come conditional to an ongoing commitment to attend the future leader roundtable forums outlined in component three.</p> <p>The third component involves hosting a series of Young Future Leader roundtable forums. These forums would be run every three months, and would allow discussion of relevant recreational fishing issues with graduates of previous future leader courses. Recfishwest would seek feedback and input into prominent issues, as well as providing attendees with education and training on extending their leadership capabilities.</p>
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$ 88,000, Year 2 - \$ 30,000, <b>TOTAL - \$118,000</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>YouTube Videos</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Mad Phil Media</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>The Recfishwest communications and policy teams will produce 25 You Tube videos in a similar format to the pilot video on fishing recreationally for blue swimmer crabs. The videos will be produced for the following purposes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To promote recreational fishing as a safe, healthy and enjoyable pastime;</li> <li>2. To educate recreational fishers about sustainability issues concerning certain species;</li> <li>3. To inform recreational fishers of accepted practices and customs regarding recreational fishing in Western Australia.</li> </ol> <p>Recfishwest will broadcast the videos on its own YouTube channel as soon as each video is produced as well as through its new website, email distribution list and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>Each video will be of 1.5 to 2.5 minutes duration.</p> <p>In addition to the purposes listed above, the videos will serve as a quick reference guide for recreational fishers. Each video will be shot in a high quality format, enabling their use on television. Recfishwest will also keep a copy of these in a video library for future use.</p> <p>To View these videos visit the Recfishwest YouTube Page or click on the following link <a href="#">Recfishwest - YouTube</a></p>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$ 55,000, Year 2 - \$ 55,000,	<b>TOTAL - \$ 110 000</b>

## Recreational Fishing initiatives Fund: Round 2

In 2013/14 eight projects were funded to a value of \$1 178 170 (incl GST).

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Artificial reef in Mandurah / Dawesville</b>	
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Hamata Pty Ltd.</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>The project will deliver approval for a third artificial reef in the South West of WA as well as the purchase of thirty artificial reef modules. The reef will be constructed of the same 3x3m concrete cubes used in the reefs off Bunbury and Busselton and will be of a similar size (30 modules). This project will provide quality recreational fishing within easy access of existing boat ramps as well as providing another fishing location within easy reach of the greater metropolitan area.</p> <p>Once all the necessary approvals have been obtained Recfishwest will look to source funds for the deployment of this reef.</p>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$ 330 000, Year 2 - \$ 100 000, This amount is in addition to \$183,500 of reallocated funding from a 2012 RFIF project.	<b>TOTAL - \$430 000</b>

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council</b>	
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Metropolitan Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) deployment</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project looks to purchase and deploy eight purpose built FADs for deployment in Perth metropolitan waters. This project would contain a mixture of surface and subsurface FADs. These FAD's would relieve competing use pressure at the existing FADs resulting in a safer fishing environment. Collection of catch Data by fishing clubs will assist in assessing the effectiveness of these FADs. These FADs are purpose built by a world leading company and would represent a first for Western Australia.</p> <p><b>The project will:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enable an more robust assessment of FAD design;</li> <li>2. Increase fishing opportunities in Perth metropolitan waters;</li> <li>3. Allow year round FAD fishing;</li> <li>4. Ease competing resource use at existing FADs;</li> <li>5. Provide fishing opportunities closer to shore</li> <li>6. Improve fishing safety by dispersing effort and proximity of fishing activity;</li> <li>7. Provide a means of monitoring for the Southerly movement of tropical pelagic species</li> </ol>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$ 160 000,	<b>TOTAL - \$160 000</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Fishing Safety Officer</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project would look to employ a fishing safety officer to co-ordinate consistent fishing safety messages across WA. The role of the person in this position would be to communicate to stakeholders and coordinate the implementation, education and evaluation of fishing safety strategies developed by Recfishwest and partner organisations.</p> <p><b>This project will:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve awareness of the dangers associated with recreational fishing;</li> <li>2. Provide regular safety messages across the state and liaise with all parties to ensure that fishing safety messages are consistent</li> <li>3. Co-ordinate rock fishing safety strategy announced as part of current government policy.</li> <li>4. Ensure that there are linkages with national and local fish safety programs.</li> <li>5. Co-ordinate with regional representatives to ensure local community needs are addressed.</li> <li>6. Improve the penetration of safety messages into the recreational fishing sector.</li> </ol> <p><b>This project compliments the \$300,000 over three years that the Western Australian Government is currently spending on a state wide safety strategy aimed at improving rock fishing safety outcomes for recreational fishers.</b></p>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$ 330 000, Year 2 - \$ 100 000, Year 3 - \$85,951	<b>TOTAL - \$250,417</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Can recreational fishers provide a cost effective means of monitoring artificial reefs?</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Murdoch University</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project will provide recreational fishers with underwater video cameras to collect data showing how artificial reef communities develop and are eventually utilised by recreationally important fishers. The results will be used to determine whether the deployment of underwater video cameras by recreational fishers can provide data that can be used to monitor the secession ecology of artificial reefs. Hence it will provide a proof of concept trial for a cost effective means for monitoring artificial reef communities. This project will also provide post graduate research opportunities.</p> <p>This project will be focused in Geographe Bay and will engage the community in science on <i>their</i> reef. It will foster the development of a relationship between recreational fishers and biologists that culminates in the development of a cost effective monitoring program for habitat enhancement schemes.</p>
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$29,700, Year 2 - \$13,200, Year 3 - \$14,300, <b>TOTAL - \$57,200</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Monitoring and research on landed and released fish during game fishing tournaments and activities in Western Australia</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Pepperell Research &amp; Consulting Pty Ltd</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>The project will facilitate and conduct monitoring and biological research on billfish, tuna, sharks and other game fish captured and weighed at the major game fishing tournaments in Western Australia, and during normal game fishing club activities. It will also facilitate non-lethal DNA sampling of some of these species. Initial workshops will be held to train club officials and University students to undertake such work.</p> <p><b>This project will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the profile of Western Australia as a game fishing destination</li> <li>• Provide training to fishers allowing them to aid future research</li> <li>• Improve the conservation credentials of the game fishing sector</li> <li>• Provide post graduate opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$55,770, Year 2 - \$39,050, Year 3 - \$40,150, <b>TOTAL - \$134,970</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Post graduate scholarship program</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Western Australian Recreational and Sportfishing Council</b>
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project would provide support for Western Australian postgraduate studies focused on recreational fishing projects. This funding could be used for honours, masters or PhD studies, e.g. (5 x \$10,000 honours). The topics of study would be determined after consultation with Recfishwest, Department of Fisheries, local universities and the community.</p> <p>This project would be a pilot program that if successful could form the basis of a permanent Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund scholarship program</p> <p>This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide cost effective research to benefit the recreational sector</li> <li>• Engage the community in determine topics for study and communicating findings back to the community</li> <li>• Build capacity in researchers to recognise the recreational fishing sector</li> <li>• Provide a funding avenue for research into recreational fishing related topics</li> </ul>
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$50,000, <b>TOTAL - \$50,000</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Mapping disabled fishing locations</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Fishers with Disabilities</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project aims to identify, map classify (e.g., type of disabled fishing; learning impaired, aged impaired, wheelchair, sight impaired etc.) and publicise current sites that are suitable for disabled people to conduct recreational fishing activities in WA. These locations will include shore, jetty, river and lake locations and sites that have potential for development based on criteria to be documented for the purpose of future advocacy.</p> <p>Through the consultation process an increase in local government and wider community awareness of the needs to provide and adequately plan for the provision of disabled fishing facilities will occur.</p> <p>This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower fishers with disabilities to and build capacity to enable greater participation in recreational fishing.</li> <li>• Allow local councils and developers to have a clear understanding of the requirements of the disabled fishing community</li> <li>• Provide a map of current accessible locations for fishers with disabilities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$50,000,	<b>TOTAL - \$50,000</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Investigating the impact of recreational fishing on the health and wellbeing of Western Australians.</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Curtin University</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project aims to quantify the health and wellbeing benefits of recreational fishing in Western Australia using a validated questionnaire previously developed and trialled in WA. The value of recreational fishing has traditionally been calculated based on boat sale, the value of the catch and even the amount of tourism generated. It is widely recognised that recreational fishing benefits health and wellbeing but no research, within Australia or internationally, has substantiated evidence based of benefit. Without further research that substantiates and quantifies benefit to health, recreational fishing is likely to remain undervalued.</p> <p>This project will also be used to leverage commonwealth funding as the health and wellbeing benefits of recreational fishing has previously been identified as a priority area for research by the FRDC. Recent changes to commonwealth funding methodology for the recreational fishing sector make this project highly likely to receive matching contributions from the Commonwealth.</p>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$50,000,	<b>TOTAL - \$50,000</b>

## Recreational Fishing initiatives Fund Projects: Round 3

In 2014/15 five projects were funded to a value of \$1 183 370 (incl GST).

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Metropolitan offshore artificial reef pelagic fish towers</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Subcon</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>Subcon's Fish Towers are two purpose built metal structures each weighing 50t that incorporate the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 440m<sup>3</sup> internal volume per tower.</li> <li>• Locally assembled standardised modules with export potential.</li> <li>• Vertical relief design to attract the pelagic fish species.</li> <li>• Cost-effective installation via removable buoyancy modules.</li> <li>• Tanks can be filled to provide on bottom stability and crypted spaces to attract demersal species.</li> </ul> <p><b>The project will achieve:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A first for recreational fishing in Western Australia.</li> <li>• Support for recreational fishing enterprise in Perth.</li> <li>• Improved options for tourism and fishing charter activities.</li> <li>• Advancement of Perth based Artificial Reef expertise and innovations with export potential.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$416,033, Year 2 - 437,435,	<b>TOTAL - \$853,468</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Snapper egg collection</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research (Challenger Tafe)</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project will collect fertilised snapper eggs from spawning aggregations, culture these eggs and release fingerlings back into the wild. If successful this concept could be used to smooth out recruitment variability and ensure sustainability.</p> <p><b>The project will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop protocols for egg capture.</li> <li>• Determine genetic implications of culturing snapper from wild-spawned and captured fertilised eggs.</li> <li>• Develop otolith marking techniques for snapper.</li> <li>• Possible release of 100,000 snapper juveniles</li> </ul> <p><b>If successful this egg collection method can be adopted as a new fisheries management tool.</b></p>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$130,000,	<b>TOTAL - \$130,000</b>



<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Live Transport trailer and Mulloway broodstock collection</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Western Australian Fish Foundation</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>This project will involve the collection of broodstock required to enable a large scale future stocking project of mulloway based on the funding of the previous RFIF funded Mulloway Pilot Project.</p> <p><b>The project will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction of a specialist broodstock collection trailer that can retain and transport larger specimens as well as fingerling delivery to release sites.</li> <li>• The trailer will be tested in a mulloway broodstock collection operation that will help underpin future Mulloway stocking in Western Australia.</li> </ul> <p><b>This project will aid any programs involving restocking and supports the Governments \$2.4million restocking election commitment.</b></p>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$48,158, Year 2 - \$14,459	<b>TOTAL - \$62,617</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Development of a Preliminary Assessment Tool for Determining the Suitability of Water bodies and Aquatic Fauna for Impoundment Stocking.</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Indo-Pacific Environmental Pty Ltd</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>The project aims to develop a risk-assessment based process for investigating the suitability of a water body for the introduction of aquatic fauna. and will provide guidance on the type of fauna which may be best suited to that locality.</p> <p>Benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing recreational fishing opportunities.</li> <li>• Increasing the amenity value of a water body.</li> <li>• Providing genetic refuge for fish species.</li> <li>• Attracting economic benefit for regional communities.</li> </ul> <p>This project will produce an assessment tool which incorporates a clear and transparent process for assessing a water body for its suitability to introduce fauna, and provides guidance on the species that might be introduced.</p>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$126,138	<b>TOTAL - \$126,138</b>

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Developing a Citizen Science culture among WA recreational fishers</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Infotish Australia</b>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>A workshop with fishers, researches and fisheries managers to determine the long term direction for Citizen Science and tagging programs in Western Australia.</p> <p>This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide direction and guidance for future applications of Citizen Science/tagging programs.</li> <li>• Determine the baseline data needs for Citizen science programs</li> </ul> <p>Promote and legitimise low cost citizen science data collection.</p>	
<b>Cost</b>	Year 1 - \$16,000	<b>TOTAL - \$16,000</b>