



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**



Round 12 - RECREATIONAL FISHING INITIATIVE FUND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INFORMATION

Background

Upon the introduction of the Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence in March 2010, the State Government made a commitment that all recreational fishing licence revenue would be spent on recreational fishing-related activities in Western Australia.

These funds, together with other funds contributed by the State Government, are held in the Recreational Fishing Account administered by the Minister for Fisheries. Twenty five per cent of these funds are quarantined into the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF) and made available to selected projects aligned to the priorities of the Recreational fishing sector.

This document provides details of the RFIF process and complements the Round 12 RFIF expression of interest form.

Selection from the RFIF

Grants will be made to projects selected through a competitive application process as described below.

1. Expression of interest (EOI) for Round 12 of the RFIF funding opens on 9th January 2025 and closes at midnight (WST) on Thursday 20th February 2025.
2. The Recfishwest Board selects EOIs to progress to full application.
3. Applicants should develop full applications with input from Recfishwest, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and key stakeholders.
4. Recfishwest and DPIRD provide recommendations to the Minister for Fisheries.
5. The Minister will select projects to receive funding through the RFIF.

To assist with the assessment of projects, where appropriate, Recfishwest may rely upon:

- Input from the RFIF Application Advisory Group and
- Guidance as to strategic priorities from Recfishwest stakeholders and DPIRD.

The Minister has absolute discretion in evaluating all applications and making a final decision in the application of funds. The Minister is not bound to accept any recommendation from Recfishwest.

Expression of interest for Round 12 RFIF project grants

Expression of interest (EOI) for Round 12 of the RFIF must be made on the RFIF Round 12 EOI form. It is important that all sections of the EOI form are completed. Additional information may be added to the EOI form if required.

RFIF Round 12 EOI forms can be downloaded by visiting the grants page on the Recfishwest website <https://recfishwest.org.au/our-services/grants/>

EOI forms cannot be completed online and need to be downloaded, completed and submitted to Recfishwest by e-mailing info@recfishwest.org.au

EOI applications must be received on or before midnight (WST) Thursday, 20th February 2025.

It is recommended applicants contact Recfishwest to discuss potential project ideas prior to developing or submitting an Expression of Interest application.

Applicants

Applicants may be individuals or organisations. Applicants must provide a valid ABN or be sponsored by an organisation with a valid ABN. Applicants must disclose any relationship or association with DPIRD, Department personnel or Recfishwest. It is recommended applicants contact Recfishwest to discuss their project idea.

Quantum of Grants

Grants may be awarded for projects which are considered meritorious. A grant can be spread over a period of up to three years.

10 per cent of the grant may be withheld until after delivery of the final report on the implementation of the project.

In assessing EOI's for Round 12 RFIF, regard will be given to the extent to which projects:

- are likely to deliver a significant or diverse benefit to recreational fishing in Western Australia;
- have synergies with the Recfishwest Strategic Plan;
- have synergies with the [WA Recreational Fishing Development Plan](#) launched by the Minister for Fisheries in 2022;
- have synergies with other initiatives being pursued by the DPIRD or Recfishwest;
- address an identified priority area for RFIF Round 12;
- are proposed by applicants who:
 - are recreational fishers or can demonstrate support by recreational fishers;
 - can demonstrate that they have the expertise to deliver the project;
 - have a track record of timely, cost effective and successful project delivery;
- are funded in addition to the grant, by financial or in kind contributions by the applicant or third parties;
- apply grant funds directly towards project implementation not to indirect costs such as overheads and administration;
- have clear set of project objectives; and
- display a projected financial summary of project;

To ensure RFIF investment benefits recreational fishing in WA, the Recfishwest Board has expressed an interest in receiving EOI's that address one of the seven identified priority areas listed below.

Identified Priority Areas for RFIF Round 12

- Increasing the carrying capacity of freshwater systems to support future stocking activities.
- A feasibility study focused on improving fishing access at Big Brook Dam through the installation of an all-ability floating fishing platform.
- Installation/upgrade of fish cleaning stations at boat ramps and popular fishing locations.
- Installation of habitat enhancement around an existing land-based fishing platform to support better fishing experiences.
- Promoting/showcasing recreational fishing experiences in Western Australia.
- Understanding the future of WA recreational fishing experience in the face of a changing climate.
- Exploring options for greenlip abalone restocking to speed up recovery/reopening of the south coast fishery.

Assessment Criteria

Grants will only be made to projects that promote or benefit recreational fishing in Western Australia. All grant applications should address one or more of the following broad strategic areas:

- Stocking and stock enhancement of recreationally important species;
- Habitat protection, enhancement and ecology with a particular reference to key recreational species;
- Improving recreational fishing safety;
- People development/capacity building / succession planning;
- Management, access, data collection and governance of recreational fishing;
- Extension, communications and promotion of recreational fishing; and/or
- Improving fishing experiences;

*Large projects which result in a state asset such as artificial reefs are likely to be required to progress through a separate process aligned to governmental procurement guidelines. If you believe your EOI fits into this category it is recommended you contact Recfishwest to discuss the likely process pathway for the project prior to completing an EOI.

Grant Agreement

Following the completion of Round 12 RFIF selection process, applicants must sign a grant agreement prior to the release of funds. The Minister for Fisheries reserves the right to vary the terms of the grant agreement, including incorporating grant specific conditions.

Contact

Recfishwest encourages all applicants to contact the Recfishwest office to discuss potential projects before submitting an EOI. For further information is required, please contact the Recfishwest office on 9246 3366 or email info@recfishwest.org.au

Key Dates for RFIF Round 8 applicants

9th January – 20th February 2025 (6 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expression of Interest (EOI) period. The EOI period will open for six weeks on Thursday 9th January 2025 and closing at midnight Thursday 20th February 2025.
17th March – 10th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants advised whether they have been requested to proceed to full application or if their EOI was unsuccessful for this round of funding.• Applicants invited to submit a full application will be provided with advice about essential elements a full application will need to address. Recfishwest and DPIRD will provide guidance in the development of full applications.
June - July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful and unsuccessful applicants informed.• Contracts develop and signed by recipient and Grantor.• Projects can commence and first invoices can be processed.• Minister announces projects chosen to receive RFIF Funding.