

2016-2020 RECFISHING RESEARCH R&D PLAN

Aim

The aim of Recfishing Research is to improve investment in and the return on investment from research, development and extension activities which benefit Australia's recreational fishing community at a regional or national scale.

About Recfishing Research

Recreational fishing is incredibly socially, culturally and economically important to Australian communities. Whilst recent national statistics are unavailable, it is likely that there are between 4-5 million recreational fishers in Australia, and that their annual contribution to Australia's economy through fishing exceeds \$2.5 billion.

Australia's recreational fishing community share a vision for all Australians to have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a sustainable, healthy, and diverse recreational fishing experience. Pursuit of this vision demands significant investment in Research, Development and Extension (RD&E), often to address issues that are larger in scale than state/territory jurisdictional boundaries. Recfishing Research helps Australia's recreational fishing community to pursue its shared vision by assisting in the identification of national RD&E priorities annually; facilitating the development of strong proposals that address these priorities; aiding in the establishment of co-investment partnerships to make these projects happen; and communicating project results to those who need them.

Recfishing Research also provides advice on proposals submitted to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) and manages national/regional projects funded by the FRDC to ensure they deliver desired outcomes on time and on-budget.

As a subprogram to the FRDC, Recfishing Research provides advice to the FRDC Board to inform investment decisions. Recfishing Research is not involved in the planning of State-Territory RD&E – this is the domain of the Research Advisory Committees (RACs), fishing license expenditure committees, and State/Territory Peak Bodies.

This plan articulates priorities that will be pursued by Recfishing Research during 2016-2020. Long-term, Recfishing Research's five-year plans seek to ensure balanced investment across the environment, development, social and economic R&D, and extension activities.

Strategic drivers 2016-2020

The following drivers have been identified for 2016-2020:

- Recognition
- Public perception
- Environmental health
- People development and capacity building

Investment Strategy

The following table describes Recfishing Research's strategy for investment across strategic areas which benefit Australia's recreational fishing sector.

	Approximate % of total investment	Timing	Criteria
Projects addressing Recfishing Research's strategic research priorities	47%	Any time	*co-investment preferred *must address strategic plan priorities
Co-investment in strategic initiatives not identified within strategic plan	15%	Any time	*co-investment essential *activity addresses strategic drivers, but may not address identified priorities
Sector capacity building	10%	Ongoing	*co-investment preferred *must relate to upskilling/leadership development activities
Develop a shared approach to tackling issues of importance to the future of recreational fishing in Australia.	8%	Ongoing	*co-investment preferred *conferences and other engagement/extension activities.
Emergency response	15%	Any time	*co-investment essential *short-term, <\$50k *addressing urgent issue unable to be planned for

Discussion/policy paper development	5%	Any time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> commission discussion or policy papers to provide guidance on relevant issues
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2016-2020 Investment Priorities

Year 1

Priority	Potential partners
Increasing engagement of Australia's recreational fishers in improving the health of Australian fisheries through habitat restoration.	NGOs Fishing license trusts
Understanding the movement, behavior and post-release survival rates of Broadbill Swordfish to sustainably develop a new large pelagic game fishery off the coast of Tasmania	Fisheries agencies State Peak Body
Development of a national funding model for Australia's recreational fishing sector.	Dept. of Agriculture and Water

Year 2

Priority	Potential partners
National survey of the social and economic importance of recreational fishing.	Fisheries agencies Fishing license trusts Dept. of Agriculture and Water
Upskilling current and emerging leaders within Australia's recreational fishing community.	State and territory peak bodies Fishing license trusts

Year 3

Priority	Potential partners
National Recreational Fishing Conference	Industry Fisheries agencies Dept. of Agriculture and Water
Australian participation in World Recreational Fishing Conference	State and territory peak bodies
Audit of recreational fishing access in Australia	Fishing license trusts
Upskilling current and emerging leaders within Australia's recreational fishing community.	State and territory peak bodies Fishing license trusts

Year 4

Priority	Potential partners
Managing Australia's fisheries to optimise fisher experience	Fisheries agencies
Understanding and positively influencing community perceptions of Australia's recreational fishing community.	State/territory peak bodies
Upskilling current and emerging leaders within Australia's recreational fishing community.	FRDC State/territory peak bodies Fishing License Trusts

Year 5

Priority	Potential partners
National Recreational Fishing Survey	FRDC State Fisheries Agencies Fishing License Trusts Department of Agriculture
Upskilling current and emerging leaders within Australia's recreational fishing community.	FRDC State/territory peak bodies Fishing License Trusts