

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW  
"Promoting Sustainable Fishing"

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**RECREATIONAL FISHING PROJECT FUNDING NEARS \$250,000 FOR  
RFA of NSW**

The Recreational Fishing Alliance and NSW Fisheries were pleased to be informed that their joint NSW Future Leaders Project was fully supported by the Federal Government with \$84,000 of assistance, announced in the latest round of the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme.

This is the next project the Alliance will tackle, following on from its highly successful Rock Fishing Safety initiatives and DVD which has received \$146,000 to date through various funding grants, with the in-kind and volunteer support now exceeding \$100,000. The RFA Rock Fishing Safety DVD has been included on the NSW Fisheries Trust Fund DVD and is to be included in the new AFTA Fishing DVD series. The RFA of NSW is proud to be associated with these bodies and involved in an initiative that will hopefully see a reduction in rock fishing deaths in NSW.

It is envisaged that the NSW Future Leaders project will bring together and establish the next generation of recreational fishing leaders in a forum where they will be educated and mentored by current experienced and recognised leaders in recreational fishing advocacy, fisheries management, and promoting sustainability for the future. The recreational fishing sector in New South Wales is facing a major task to establish a truly focused representational structure that is able to speak for the fishers of this State. This proves to be a challenge for many member organisations to find people willing and able to assume positions in management structures which require the additional skills in advocacy and representation at all levels, due to the increasingly complex political and environmental environment for which the sector is associated. This project will develop the sectors ability to achieve its full capacity in future years. The program will draw in aspiring young leaders from within the recreational fishing sector who show a passion for their chosen recreation. The willing volunteers will be able to contribute to fisheries management, development, education and awareness in recreational fishing within New South Wales.

The selection process for participants and mentors, as well as project updates will be communicated through various media and bulletin updates in the very near future. So please keep your eyes and ears open, so you don't miss your chance to make a difference and apply for one of the positions.

The Alliance will continue to develop their professional relationships with the Tackle Industry and the State Government Departments working towards establishing a fundamental representative framework required to collectively represent all NSW fishers in fresh and salt water, utilising a coordinated relationship between established Government appointed committees and an independent recognised representative group.