



Stan Konstantaras  
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Dear Stan

I hope you are doing well. Thank you for your previous letter to RFNSW regarding the use of research data collected by Recreational Fishing Trust funded research programs, which was tabled at Council's Meeting 16 on 12-13 October 2020.

RFNSW understands the RFA's main area of concern was the use of the Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey data set for the Marxan work in the previous Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion project. RFNSW is aware that the Statewide Survey project received funding from DPI and also the Recreational Fishing Trust.

Council has been advised that numerous data sets were used in the Marxan work to inform the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion project, including marine habitats, fishing, aquaculture, dredging, shipping and diving activities, use of the region by marine wildlife, existing aquatic reserves etc. Recreational fishing data used included: community survey and consultation data, information from Fisheries Officers and scientific studies, and the current network of Recreational Fishing Havens, and that this information was used in the Marxan work to avoid selecting key recreational fishing sites to attempt to minimise social impacts.

As noted in the Minister's letter to the RFA on 31 July 2020, all projects receiving funds from the Trusts have been considered by Expenditure Committees and RFNSW. In some cases, the Committees have advised that conditions on proposed project activities be imposed by DPI to address any concerns associated with project deliverables.

RFNSW recognises that the above process has been effective for many Trust projects in the past where conditions have been applied. No conditions on the use of the data were previously stipulated for the Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey by the Expenditure Committees however, future conditions can certainly be applied to any future project funding applications, if considered necessary by the Committees and RFNSW.

It is important to note that re-use and publication of research data is a common practice and is generally promoted in the scientific community. This is because extension of research data and outcomes usually increases the benefits to stakeholders, groups and organisations within that industry or the broader community.

Thank you for raising this matter with RFNSW.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Johann Bell'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Johann Bell  
Chair, RFNSW