

## SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Confirmed Meeting Outcomes – 28 July 2005

Reception Room (South), L41 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place, Sydney

#### **ATTENDANCE**

John Roach (Chair), Graeme Byrnes, Donna Smythe, Ron Firkin, Jim Drinkwater, Don Johnson, Ron Prindable, Paul Sullivan, Tony Troup, Ian Charles, Bill Pearce, Grahame Turk, Nicholas Georgouras, Megan Kessler

Barry Buffier, Director-General, NSW Department of Primary Industries  
George Davey, Director-General, Food Authority of NSW

**Deputies:** Terry Outtrim (part meeting for George Davey)

**Apologies:** The Hon Ian Macdonald, Minister for Primary Industries, Stephan Schnierer, Richard Sheldrake.

#### **NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI)**

Nick Rayns	Director, Fisheries Management
Anthony Hurst	Group Manager, Fisheries Planning and Operations
Dianna Watkins	Principal Manager, Commercial Fisheries
Tony Andrews	Manager, Special Operations
Mika Malkki	Manager, Agriculture, Fisheries & Aboriginal Policy
Grant Johnson	Executive Officer, Seafood Industry Advisory Council

#### **Presenter**

Peter Davis, Chair Peak Oyster Advisory Group (POAG)

#### **COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **Strategic Planning Workshop**

Council met in a workshop format to consider the elements of a whole-of-chain strategic plan to be developed for the NSW seafood industry. A draft outline of the strategic plan, including key performance areas, is being developed in co-operation with NSW DPI. Council agreed that the draft outline of the strategic plan would be distributed to members for their consideration and comment.

##### **General Business Items**

1. Minutes for the Seafood Industry Advisory Council meeting, Monday 6 June 2005, to be amended to reflect the concerns raised by members and that these amendments would be approved with the concurrence of the Chairperson. A copy of the revised Minutes for Council's first meeting are at Attachment 1.
2. Member's noted the Vision Statement Update provided by NSW DPI and the NSW Food Authority.

**- NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY -**

3. Council agreed that the Chairperson, Mr John Roach, would continue as Council's representative on the NSW Food Authority Seafood Conference and that this arrangement would be discussed at the next meeting of Council.
4. Council agreed that it's current representation to the Fisheries Research Advisory Board (FRAB), consisting of John Roach, Ian Charles and Don Johnson, would continue and that this representation would be considered at the next meeting of Council.
5. Council agreed that its FMS (Implementation) Working Group would report on the implementation of completed EIS/FMS documentation to Council. Council would then provide advice, as appropriate, to the Minister.
6. Council agreed that individual members are encouraged to provide comment on draft FMS/EIS documentation. Where a member has significant concerns with such documentation that member may raise their concerns with Council.
7. Council agreed that members are to provide any comments on the draft Charter to the Executive Officer, within 14 days of Council's meeting on the 28 July 2005.
8. The Executive Officer to consult with the Chairperson regarding the preparation of a draft list of Member's deputies for the consideration of members on an OOS basis.

Note: The Executive Officer consulted with the Chairperson on Monday, 1 August 2005, and was subsequently directed to advise members that consistent with c357 of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002* deputies may be appointed by a member with the approval of the Minister (see Additional Information at Attachment 2). As such, the Chairperson has directed the Executive Officer to write to members seeking their nomination of deputies for approval by the Minister.

9. Council agreed that the Executive Officer would provide members with a list of members contact details.
10. Council agreed that the Chairperson would prepare a draft Communications Strategy within 14 days for the consideration of Council.
11. Council agreed to accept the report of the Commercial Fisheries Structural Adjustment Working Group and that the report would be distributed with the Outcomes.
12. Council agreed to accept the report of the Pricing and Charging Working Group and that the report would be distributed following approval by the working group members.
13. Council agreed that John Roach, Graeme Byrnes and Don Johnson would be its representatives to the High Level Working Group on Voluntary Buyouts using Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Funds.
14. Council supports the recommendation of the Fish Receivers Consultative Group to undertake a review of the NSW Fish Receivers Permit System, and that the outcomes of this review would be considered by the Pricing and Charging Working Group.

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15. Council supports the NSW DPI proposal to develop a mechanism to allow for the marketing of protected species caught legally in other states, as outlined in the agenda paper.
16. NSW Food Authority to provide briefing to the next meeting of Council regarding funding arrangements for the NSW Food Authority Shellfish Program.
17. Council agreed that it would nominate a commercial fisher to present a paper at the Sharing the Fish Conference. That the Executive Officer would email members OOS on this matter.
18. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 28 September 2005.

Meeting closed at 3:30pm.

**Grant Johnson**  
**Executive Officer**

## **SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Amended Meeting Outcomes – 6 June 2005**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

John Roach (Chair), Donna Smythe, Ron Firkin, Jim Drinkwater, Don Johnson, Ron Prindable, Bill Litchfield, Tony Troup, Ian Charles, Bill Pearce, Grahame Turk, Nicholas Georgouras, Stephan Schnierer, Megan Kessler, Barry Buffier.

**Deputies:** Terry Outtrim (for George Davey)

**Apologies:** Graeme Byrnes (Deputy Chair), George Davey and Paul Sullivan.

#### **NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI)**

Richard Sheldrake	Deputy Director General
Nick Rayns	Director, Fisheries Management
Anthony Hurst	Group Manager, Fisheries Planning and Operations
Dianna Watkins	Principal Manager, Commercial Fisheries
Grant Johnson	Executive Officer, Seafood Industry Advisory Council

#### **Observers**

Jamie Gibson (Office of the Minister for Primary Industries)

#### **COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS**

##### **▪ Seafood Industry Advisory Council Procedures and Communication Processes**

Members agreed that:

1. Council outcomes and discussion should be open and available to stakeholders, except for matters specified as being confidential within the Council. DPI is to develop a Communications Strategy for the dissemination of Council outcomes.
2. Agenda and briefing papers are to be distributed to members at least ten (10) days before scheduled meetings, and members would be able to submit papers for Council consideration prior to that. In the case of other documents requiring wider discussion and consideration by industry/stakeholders, distribution to Council members would be a minimum of one (1) month before the relevant Council meeting.
3. Council meetings will be timed to adjoin other relevant meetings (e.g. Peak Oyster Advisory Group and Management Advisory Committee meetings) whenever possible.
4. DPI is to examine and advise the Chairperson regarding options for arrangements when a Council member(s) cannot attend a meeting (eg alternates) noting the need for continuity and efficiency in the Council's business.

**- NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY -**

5. Council meetings would be held on average 3-4 times per year and be limited to one day meetings except under specific circumstances. Members noted meetings may have to be more frequent initially.
6. Member's attention would be drawn to any Procedures and/or Codes of Conduct that the NSW Government requires of members appointed to statutory advisory councils.
7. DPI would provide a draft guidelines and procedures document for SIAC consideration at the next meeting.

**Action:**

1. Executive Officer to work with the Council Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to develop procedures to address a communications strategy alternates for members, and draft guidelines and procedures for SIAC.

▪ **NSW Seafood Industry Vision Statement – Implementation Update**

Members received an update on the implementation of actions in the Minister's Vision Statement, the NSW Food Authority's Seafood Food Safety Program and the Department of Primary Industries' key programs.

Members noted the following key issues in relation to the Implementation Update:

1. That there are serious issues affecting the future commercial viability of the NSW seafood industry, including:
  - a. The perilous financial state of the industry from capture to retail, as a result of escalating costs of fuel, labour, insurance and compliance with FMS, Food Authority and other requirements.
  - b. The delay in implementing the recommendations of the Palmer Report.
2. Industry expectations that the recreational fishing sector will be subject to appropriate environment requirements, and that DPI is exploring the most effective way to achieve the intended outcomes.
3. The success of the MAC Workshop held in Sydney on 15-16 November 2004 and the need for this to occur annually.
4. That the potential to integrate the DPI daily logbook reporting and the NSW Food Authority (NSWFA) reporting requirements be examined with a view to simplify reporting requirements for fishers.
5. The critical situation for oyster growers on the Hawkesbury River following the outbreak of Qx disease and the urgent requirement for Government assistance to enable growers to clean-up Qx affected oyster leases.
6. For the Peak Oyster Advisory Group (POAG) to provide an update to Council at its next meeting.

**Action:**

2. DPI to provide a paper on progress on the recreational fishing sector meeting environmental requirements for Council's next meeting.
3. DPI and NSWFA examine ways to integrate their respective reporting requirements.
4. SIAC Chair to contact Peter Davis (POAG Chair) to provide an update to Council at its next meeting.

**- NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY -**

▪ **Other issues**

1. Noted that the Fisheries Management Strategies were being progressively implemented and this would occur in consultation with the relevant MACs within the context of the requirements of Commonwealth and State environmental legislation. Members agreed to establish a Fisheries Management Strategy (Implementation) Working Group to oversight cross-fishery implementation and that the Deputy Chair of Council, Mr Graeme Byrnes was nominated to chair this group.
2. Noted the access constraints for Beach Haul Fishery crews. Members agreed that the Chairperson would write to the Director General, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, seeking clarification of access issues and requesting a briefing on these issues for the next meeting of Council.
3. Noted the need for structural adjustment in commercial fisheries; the need for a well designed and orderly adjustment process developed with the MAC's that takes into consideration potential impacts on fishing co-operatives; and, the procedures for trading shares in share managed fisheries. Agreed to form a Structural Adjustment Working Group, to be chaired by Deputy Chairperson, Mr Graeme Byrnes.
4. Noted the need to develop an appropriate Government pricing and charging framework for aquaculture and commercial fisheries, taking into consideration the economic circumstances of industry (including various government charges). Agreed that a Pricing and Charging Working Group, to be chaired by Mr John Roach, be formed to provide advice on these issues, within an appropriate linkage to the whole of government review to be led by the Food Authority.
5. Noted the importance of industry development issues and the role of DPI in helping industry address profitability and training related issues. Members agreed to form an Industry Development Working Group, to be chaired by Mr John Roach, to advise on these issues.

**Action:**

5. Form working groups on (1) Fisheries Management Strategies (to be chaired by Mr Graeme Byrnes); (2) Structural adjustment (to be chaired by Mr Graeme Byrnes); (3) Pricing and Charging (to be chaired by Mr John Roach); and (4) Industry Development (to be chaired by Mr John Roach).
6. The Chairperson of Council to write to the Director General, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, seeking clarification of access issues and requesting a briefing on these issues to the next meeting of Council.

▪ **Other Business**

Noted the Other Matters carried over from the Seafood Industry Advisory Forum. Members agreed they be provided with more detailed briefing at subsequent meetings of Council. DPI to provide out of session advice to the Chairperson and Mr G. Turk regarding marketing of protected species caught in other jurisdictions in NSW.

**Action:**

7. Executive Officer to arrange for the Other Matters - Seafood Industry Advisory Forum to be listed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Seafood Industry Advisory Council.

**- NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY -**

8. Mr Grahame Turk to be provided with advice on the sale of protected species imported from other jurisdictions OOS.

▪ **Next Meeting**

Members agreed that Council should meet another three (3) times during 2005. Dates to be determined.

Meeting closed at 12:30pm.

**Grant Johnson**  
**Executive Officer**

**Additional Information**

**“357 Deputies**

- (1) A member may, from time to time, appoint a person to be the deputy of the member, and may at any time revoke any such appointment.
- (2) Such an appointment may be made only with the approval of the Minister. The Minister may revoke such approval at any time.
- (3) In the absence of a member, the member’s deputy may, if available, act in the place of the member.
- (4) While acting in the place of a member, a person:
  - (a) has all the functions of the member and is taken to be a member, and
  - (b) is entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowances) as the Minister may from time to time determine in respect of the person.”