

## **Marine and Estuarine Recreational Charter Management Advisory Committee**

### **Outcomes from the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting - Thursday 16 March 2006**

#### **Apologies**

Mr Keith Appleby

#### **Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting**

The Committee accepted the draft minutes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 8<sup>th</sup> MERCMAC meeting, held 18 October 2005. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** Mark Flanagan. **Carried**

#### **1. Consultation with NSW Maritime Authority regarding Part D of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels**

Mr John Dikkenberg, Mr Tony Pengilly and Mr Jack Hannan, NSW Maritime Authority representatives, attended the meeting to discuss/negotiate proposed changes to crewing arrangements with the Committee.

#### **Action item**

The Chair write to the Minister to confirm the position of the NSW charter fishing industry on this issue and re-iterate the concerns of operators regarding the proposal put forward by the NSW Maritime Authority.

*Completed.*

#### **2. Recreational management issues**

NSW DPI provided an update on the following issues: the review of NSW recreational fishing rules; Sydney Harbour - dioxins; Recreational Fishing Trusts; Fish Aggregating Devices and Artificial Reefs). Information noted.

#### **3. Determining appropriate harvest sizes for species shared by the commercial trap and recreational fisheries in NSW**

Dr John Stewart, Research Scientist, provided an overview of this research program. Information noted.

#### **4. Resource Assessment and Monitoring**

Dr James Scandol, Research Scientist, provided the Committee with an overview of the charter fishing logbook/monitoring program. Information noted.

#### **Action item**

Forward copies of the draft consolidated logbook to MERCMAC representatives (operators) to trial/provide feedback on the new logbook.

*Completed.*

#### **5. Marine Parks Authority update**

Information was distributed to the Committee to provide an overview of the major Marine Parks issues, as well as imminent management arrangements, including the declaration of the Batemans Marine Park (on 7 April 2006) and release of the draft zoning plan for the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park (submissions close 21 August 2006). Information noted. No recommendations.

## 6. Issues raised by industry

- *NSW Maritime Authority - Part D of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels.*

Addressed in agenda item 1.

- *Bag & Size Limits Review*

Addressed in agenda item 2.

- *Marine Park issues*

Addressed in agenda item 5.

- *Mutilation of Fish*

Charter fishing representatives have requested greater flexibility for licensed charter fishing boat operators to mutilate fish on board the vessel, to enable a higher level of service to clients with regards to the preparation of fish. Pending approval/amendment to cl.131 of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002*. The introduction of an interim policy will be progressed with the Compliance team.

- *CFB Logbook information*

Addressed in agenda item 4.

- *East Coast Tuna & Billfish (ETB) technical working group meeting*

The Committee requested an update on recent discussions, particularly relating to ongoing resource sharing issues for tuna and billfish.

Information noted. No recommendations.

- *Variations in CFB Numbers*

The Committee queried why some CFB identification numbers have changed over time.

### **Action item**

Recreational Management to forward advice provided by NSW DPI's Licensing section regarding variations in CFB numbers to MERCMAC members for information.

*Completed.*

- *Charter Fishing Boat Licences – buyouts*

Charter fishing Boat operators have requested clarification of the position of licensed charter fishing boat operators in relation to 'buy outs'. Operators have expressed concern that NSW DPI Licensing was accepted/introduced based on the industry becoming a separate and clearly defined sector under the Fisheries Management Act 1994, so that should any adverse changes be made to the industry, operators would be entitled to adequate compensation from the Government. Operators are under the impression that they should have the same rights under common law, as do other professional groups such as commercial fishers/LFBs.

### **Action Item**

The Chair write to the Minister to: i) highlight the industry's concern at the discrepancy between compensation arrangements for commercial fishers and charter fishing boat operators, particularly with regards to exclusions as a result of Marine Park Sanctuary Zones and ii) request the Minister's consideration of compensation for disaffected charter fishing boat operators.

### **Other business**

- *Report on the Review of Fisheries Management in NSW, for information.*

Information noted. No recommendations.

- *Update on CFB FMO position, for information.*

Expression of Interest advertised internally (within DPI) – applications close 31 May 2006.

- *MERCMAC - Elections 2006*

The following MERCMAC positions expire in July 2006: Region 1 (Peter Bolic); Region 3 (Jim Booth); Region 4 (Peter Sayre); and Region 6 (John Stevens).

### **Out of Session items**

Nil.

### **Correspondence received**

- *Letter from the Hon Eric Roozendaal, MLC, in response to the Minister's representations on behalf of MERCMAC/CFB operators regarding Part D of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels, for information.*

Information noted. Consultation/negotiations are ongoing.

- *Letter from Mr Brian Hutchinson, CFB operator, regarding the future status of non-transferable charter fishing boat licences, for consultation with operators prior to consideration of the issue at the next meeting.*

The status of non-transferable charter fishing boat licences will be considered as part of ongoing industry development. Information noted. Consultation with operators - to be considered at the next meeting.

**Next meeting** – Meeting 10 (02/06) scheduled for 9 November 2006.