



Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Council held its 13th meeting in Sydney on Friday 7 April 2017. The following are the key outcomes from this meeting:

1. Aboriginal Cultural Fishing

Council received a presentation on a pilot program of cultural awareness training for DPI Fisheries staff. Council supported the proposed program and looks forward to receiving a report of progress at its next meeting 2 June 2017.

Council supported the development of management strategies for Aboriginal cultural fishing under the Fisheries Management Amendment Act 2009 and a draft discussion paper identifying key issues is to be presented at Council's next meeting on Friday 2 June 2017.

Council agreed to keep communicating with the Aboriginal Fisheries Advisory Council (AFAC) on this matter.

2. Draft Policy Co-Management of Fisheries

Council commenced work on the development of a draft policy on Co-management of Fisheries for consideration by the Minister for Primary Industries prior to potential release for public consultation and feedback to the Council. The Council agreed to take account of policy work in other jurisdictions in drafting a policy for NSW.

In addition to the above, the Minister has sought the Council's advice on two other issues: the first is improvements to Fisheries Compliance, incorporating consideration of a penalty points system, particularly for commercial fishers and aquaculture farmers; the second is input into the development of a cost recovery policy, noting that this policy will only be considered following the full implementation of the Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program and expiry of the guarantee restricting fee increases for commercial fishers.

Council received an update on various issues affecting the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in NSW, including the Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program, progress on establishing the Commercial Fishing Advisory Council, the Productivity Commission Report into Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Ministerial Fisheries meeting held in March 2017 and the fish health issues associated with the Williamstown Defence contamination.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council will be held at Port Stephens on Friday 2 June 2017.

Richard Stevens OAM

Chair

11 May 2017

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