



Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The NSW Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) held its fourth meeting in Sydney on Friday 5 December 2014. Key outcomes from that meeting were as follows:

1. The Council received presentations from Mr Grahame Turk, President of the NSW Seafood Industry Council, and Mr Allan Hansard, President of the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation. Both provided an overview of issues being dealt with by these key fishing sectors.
2. After consulting widely with the key stakeholder groups represented on the Council - commercial, recreational, aquaculture, indigenous and conservation - the Council signed off on a paper setting out the priorities of, and challenges facing, all fisheries sectors in NSW. This paper has now been submitted to the Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, for her consideration.
3. The Council finalised a draft Policy on Fisheries Resource Sharing in NSW following an extensive consultation process with key stakeholder groups, and taking account of the provisions of the NSW Fisheries Management Act. The Policy encompasses a participatory process to deliver factual advice to Government on sharing the State's sustainably exploitable fisheries resources between the various commercial, recreational, charter and Aboriginal cultural fishing sectors. Guiding Principles that will underpin decisions on how best to share fisheries resources between these user groups and criteria to evaluate sharing options are also outlined in the Policy. The draft policy has now been submitted to the Minister for Primary Industries for her consideration.
4. The Council received a briefing and update on major issues from the Acting Executive Director of the DPI Fisheries Division covering commercial fishing, recreational and indigenous fishing, aquaculture, research and compliance.
5. The Council reviewed the MFAC Strategy which establishes a work program of key issues and outcomes as the focus of its work over the next 3 years. Two new items covering Aboriginal cultural fishing and a policy framework for recreational fishing were added to the Strategy.
6. The Council will continue to invite key sector leaders for informal discussions at each of its meetings so that it can hear from these leaders about the challenges facing their sectors and also to hear of potential policy options which might deal with these challenges. Speakers invited to the next Council meeting include Dr Wendy Craik, Chair of the Marine Estate Management Authority, Dr Patrick Hone, Executive Director of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, and Dr Bob Creese, Research Director, DPI. The Council will also hear from Mr Danny Chapman (Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council) and Mr Mika Malkki from DPI on the regulation of cultural fishing.
7. The next meeting of Council will be held in Sydney on 13 March 2015.

Richard Stevens
Chair
22 December 2014