



Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council held its fifth meeting in Sydney on 13 March 2015. Key outcomes from that meeting were as follows:

1. Council Strategy 2014-17

The Council reviewed its Strategy to reflect the completion of the draft Resource Sharing Policy and the statement on Priorities and Challenges facing the NSW fisheries sector - this latter document will be reviewed again early in 2016. The Council agreed to invite Mr Ian Lyall, Manager Aquaculture to Council's next meeting in July 2015 to inform Council on current aquaculture strategies, recent achievements with 3 commercial shellfish aquaculture leases in Jervis Bay and the NSW oyster industry strategy plan focussing on production and profitability. In addition, the Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries will be asked to provide a preliminary report at Council's next meeting on the current status of individual fishery management and aquaculture plans and/or strategies, including the process and associated timeframes for developing, finalising and/or reviewing those plans.

2. Regulation of Aboriginal Cultural fishing

The Council received a report from Mr Danny Chapman, Chairman, Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council (AFAC) and Mr Mika Malkki, Manager Licensing & Policy, DPI Fisheries on the consultation process and the progress of the regulation of Aboriginal cultural fishing. A key point is that Cultural fishing regulations will prescribe separate take and possession limits for cultural fishing purposes along with other rules. Limits proposed for consultation purposes were developed in consultation with AFAC and were along the lines of the interim access arrangement put in place at the time of amendment to the objects of the Act – essentially being double the recreational bag and possession limits except for Abalone which is 10.

3. Presentations

The Council received presentations from

- Dr Patrick Hone, Executive Director, Fisheries Research & Development Corporation
- Dr Bob Creese, Director Fisheries Research DPI Fisheries
- Dr Wendy Craik, Independent Chair, Marine Estate Management Authority

4 Next meeting

Council's next meeting will be held in Nowra on 3 July 2015.

Richard Stevens
Chair
9 April 2015