

# Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council

## Expression of interest information package

May 2015

### Introduction

Recreational fishing is one of our most popular leisure activities and about one million people enjoy this healthy, outdoors sport every year (i.e. around 13% of the population in NSW).

The NSW Liberals and Nationals Government is proud to support the recreational fishing industry in NSW, which generates about \$3.4 billion in economic output into the NSW economy each year and creates the equivalent of about 14,000 fulltime jobs.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has the responsibility to manage fish stocks on behalf of the community for current and future generations. DPI works in close consultation with the recreational sector to develop and implement fisheries policies and management plans.

The Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) is being established to provide advice to the Minister for Primary Industries on key recreational fishing issues in NSW, including high level priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing Trust.

The new Advisory Council will be based around a modern representative model, ensuring the views of regional fishers from right across the State are communicated. RFNSW will be represented by eight regional members and two members with expertise in spearfishing and charter boat fishing. A senior officer from NSW DPI and the recreational fishing representative from the Ministerial Advisory Council will also be members of the new Council.

Regional recreational fishers and members of recreational fishing organisations are encouraged to nominate for appointment to RFNSW. The new Council will replace the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing.

### Draft Terms of Reference and Role of the Council

The proposed functions of the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council are to advise the Minister, as requested, on:

- a) the development of strategic policies and goals for the recreational fishery;
- b) issues relating to recreational and charter fishing, including the processes for developing fishery management plans or strategies;
- c) the priorities of, and challenges facing the recreational fishery, including communication with the recreational fishing sector;
- d) information needs to support the NSW recreational fishery; and
- e) any other specific issue referred to the Council by the Minister or the Deputy Director General, DPI Fisheries NSW.

### Composition of the Council

#### Legislation

The Council is established under section 229 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

#### Membership

The Council will be comprised of eight regional members (see Figure 1) and two members with expertise in spearfishing and charter boat fishing, all selected via the expression of interest process. A senior officer from NSW DPI and the recreational fishing representative from the Ministerial Advisory Council will also be members of the new Council.

The Minister will appoint an independent inaugural Chairperson of the new Council with significant standing, experience and expertise on fisheries management issues, who has no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the fisheries concerned, does not represent the Department or any sectoral interest, and is not a member of the Council

### Terms of office

Terms of appointment for members will be up to three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment if otherwise appropriately qualified.

## Selection criteria for membership on the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council

### Essential

- Significant experience in the recreational fishing sector in at least one of the eight specified regions of the state, and a sound understanding of the particular issues relevant to that region.
- Excellent understanding of the recreational fishing sector (not limited to a particular region), and of the threats, challenges and opportunities facing the State's fisheries resources.
- Strong recreational fishing consultation experience and communication skills.
- Sound analytical skills and demonstrated capacity to engage with complex issues.
- Knowledge of legislation and policy relating to fisheries management in NSW, or the ability to rapidly acquire such knowledge.
- Willingness to participate in constructive discussion in an objective and impartial manner and serve the best interests of the Council in accordance with the objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.
- Capacity to attend up to four Council meetings per year and undertake required preparation for meetings (*this includes not being over-burdened with positions on other groups and committees*).

### Desirable

- Leadership experience within recreational fishing industry associations.
- Recognised contribution to a stakeholder sector.
- From a group traditionally under-represented on boards and committees (e.g. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; women)

To progress the Government's commitment to increasing the percentage of women, people of culturally diverse backgrounds and people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent on Government boards and committees, DPI will consult with the Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding its register of people who have expressed an interest in board or committee appointment. Potential applicants on the register will be invited to respond to the expression of interest processes. Applications from these groups have also been encouraged in the selection criteria (see above).

## How to submit an application

Regional recreational fishers and members of recreational fishing organisations are encouraged to nominate for appointment to the Council, to ensure strong representation across the recreational fishing sector.

Please provide the following information as part of your Expression of Interest application:

- 1) An up-to-date Résumé/Curriculum Vitae
- 2) A description of how you address the above Essential and Desirable Selection Criteria
- 3) Letters of support from reputable referees are also recommended to be provided.

Note: Submission of an incomplete application, for example, failure to address the Selection Criteria, may result in your application not being considered.

Please send your Expression of Interest application to:

- Email: [rfnsw.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rfnsw.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au); or
- Post: NSW Department of Primary Industries, c/o Nick James, PO Box 7526, Silverwater, NSW, 1811

### **Expressions of interest close 7 July 2015.**

Following the expression of interest process, members will be appointed by Cabinet on the nomination of the Minister for Primary Industries.

## Operating procedures

The Council will meet up to 4 times per year. Members will be expected to undertake some preparation before each meeting, reading background papers and reports, acquainting themselves with the issues involved, asking questions of Fisheries staff, and consulting with other fishers in their region or sector (as required), in order to expedite discussion and resolution of issues within the meeting proper.

The Council will focus on policy issues relating to the management of recreational fishing, including development of high level priorities for expenditure of funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. These priorities will be guided by regular, independent licence holder surveys done in consultation with the Council.

DPI Fisheries NSW will provide secretariat services for the conduct of Council meetings, as well as providing appropriate background information and materials such as agenda papers, relevant statistics, options papers, etc.

More detailed operating procedures for the Council, covering roles and responsibilities, meeting protocols, conduct, communication, finance and administration, will be outlined in a Members Handbook.

The Independent Chairperson and Council members will also be bound by the NSW Trade and Investment Code of Conduct – Schedule 1 (Code of Conduct for members of advisory committees/boards, contractors and consultants to the NSW Department of Trade and Investment).

## Remuneration

Members on the new Council will be entitled to an annual stipend payment of \$2,500 per annum. Members will also be reimbursed for travel expenses to and from meetings and any associated accommodation expenses. In line with Government policy, members of Recreational Fishing NSW who are NSW Government employees cannot receive remuneration fees.

## Is the new Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council different to the Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council?

Yes. The Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) was previously established to provide the Minister for Primary Industries with high-level strategic policy advice on issues relating to the management of fisheries resources in NSW across all sectors/interests, including commercial fishing, recreational/charter fishing, Aboriginal cultural fishing, as well as aquaculture and conservation. MFAC is comprised of 5 voting members, including commercial fishing, recreational fishing, aquaculture, Aboriginal cultural fishing and conservation representatives.

## More information

For further information about the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council:

- Email: [rfnsw.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rfnsw.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au); or
- Call: (02) 9741 4722

**Expressions of interest close 7 July 2015.**

## Warning

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (May 2015). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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Figure 1: Map of the eight representative regions for membership on the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council.

