

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT FOR A MEMBER REPRESENTING RECREATIONAL FISHING OF THE Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

Expressions of interest close 5PM FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### Information Package

Included in this document are details relating to an invitation to submit an expression of interest for membership of the Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council:

- Background
- Role and functions
- Council composition
- Selection criteria
- Time and contribution requirements
- Terms of appointment
- How to apply
- Further information

### Background

The overarching objective of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* is to “conserve, develop and share the fishery resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations”. The primary objectives are to conserve fish stocks, key habitats and threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and to promote ecologically sustainable development. Consistent with these, the secondary objectives of the Act are to:

- promote viable commercial fishing and aquaculture industries;
- promote quality recreational fishing opportunities;
- appropriately share fisheries resources between the users of those resources;
- provide social and economic benefits for the wider community of New South Wales, and
- recognise the spiritual, social and customary significance to Aboriginal persons of fisheries resources and to protect, and promote the continuation of, Aboriginal cultural fishing.

Thus the challenge for the Fisheries program is to support the sustainable development of NSW fishing and aquaculture industries to provide investment and jobs for NSW while protecting the living aquatic resources of this State for present and future generations.

These living aquatic resources (including fish habitats, fisheries productivity and aquatic biodiversity) are subject to various threats and pressures. Harvest by the different fishing sectors (commercial, recreational and indigenous) is one of these pressures. However, actions such as coastal development, water regulation and use, and pollution can also contribute to the pressures placed on fish stocks, the degradation of important fish habitats and the loss of aquatic biodiversity. Climate change is also expected to contribute to these pressures through the increased prevalence of storm frequency and severity, sea level rise, coastal erosion, changes in rainfall, ocean acidification and changes in ocean temperatures and currents.

Many different groups have an interest (directly or indirectly) in the way the State's living aquatic resources are shared and managed. These include the commercial fishing industry; aquaculture industry; post-harvest sector; recreational fishers; charter fishing businesses; businesses providing boats, gear, feeds, bait and other supplies; recreational scuba divers and other 'passive users' of the marine environment; Aboriginal fishers and communities; conservation interests; seafood consumers; and coastal communities that have expectations of access and amenity. Clearly these diverse groups have equally diverse (often competing) expectations about appropriate access to and management of the State's living aquatic resources.

Consultation is a critical part of the Department's work to ensure fair, equitable and sustainable management of the resource between these different groups. In the past consultation occurred mainly with individual fisheries (eg. through the management advisory committees for commercial fisheries) or sectors (eg. through the Seafood Industry Advisory Council, Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing, Land Based Aquaculture Consultative Group). Increasingly, however, there has been the need to address issues which impact across sectors and fisheries, such as resource sharing, management of ecosystems (rather than just individual fish stocks) and recovery of overfished stocks which are targeted by more than one fishery.

In 2011 the NSW Liberals and Nationals Government commissioned an Independent Review of the way the NSW commercial fishing industry is managed. The terms of reference for this Review included examining the effectiveness of existing consultation arrangements. The Review found that SIAC was ineffective and recommended replacing it with a single, cross sectoral Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) to provide the Minister with high level strategic and policy advice, particularly on issues which impact across different sectors and fisheries.

## Role and functions

The Terms of Reference for the Council are to advise the Minister for Primary Industries, as requested, on:

1. the development of strategic policies and goals for the management of fisheries resources, including issues which impact across fisheries and sectors such as resource sharing, co-management, cost recovery and ecosystem based fisheries management;
2. issues relating to the management of Aboriginal cultural fishing, recreational / charter fishing, commercial fishing and aquaculture that are strategic in nature and have cross sectoral implications, including the processes for developing individual fishery management plans or strategies and reviewing them, if appropriate, before approval;
3. the priorities of, and challenges facing, all fisheries sectors;
4. information needs to support effective management of NSW fisheries resources; and
5. any other specific issue referred to the Council by the Minister or the Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries.

## Council composition

The Council is chaired by Mr Richard Stevens OAM with five voting members including:

1. one person who the Minister is satisfied has expertise in commercial fishing or will represent commercial fishing interests,
2. one person who the Minister is satisfied has expertise in recreational fishing or will represent recreational fishing interests,
3. one person who the Minister is satisfied has expertise in aquaculture or will represent aquaculture interests,
4. one person who the Minister is satisfied has expertise in Aboriginal cultural fishing or will represent Aboriginal cultural fishing interests,
5. one person who the Minister is satisfied has expertise in conservation of aquatic resources or will represent those conservation interests.

## Selection Criteria

### Essential

- Significant experience in the recreational fishing sector or recreational fishing interest group, preferably across a substantial portion of the State.
- Excellent understanding of the recreational fishing sector (not limited to a particular fishing activity or region), and of the threats, challenges and opportunities facing the State's fisheries resources.
- Strong sector-based 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 industry associations / peak bodies.
- Recognised contribution to the recreational fishing stakeholder sector.
- From a group traditionally under-represented on boards and committees (eg. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; women).

## Time and contribution requirements

The Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council will meet up to four times per year.

It is also expected that each member will need to contribute additional time individually preparing for meetings and on specific projects according to their areas of expertise.

## Terms of Appointment

Appointments to the Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council are for up to three years.

Remuneration is up to \$5,000 per annum for members.

Additionally, travel to Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council meetings and related expenses will be paid based on actual expenses incurred, in accordance with NSW Public Service Commission maximum daily allowances for part-time members of boards and committees.

The Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council is supported by the secretariat within the Department of Primary Industries who provides administrative services to the Council.

## How to Apply

The government is inviting expressions of interest for one member position with expertise in recreational fishing or will represent recreational fishing interests.

To submit an Expression of Interest please read this information package and provide:

1. Brief cover letter
2. CV
3. Completed nomination form
4. Responses to selection criteria.

Applications should be directed to:

Ms Janine Sakker

A/MFAC Executive Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries

PO Box 4291 Coffs Harbour Jetty NSW 2450

[janine.sakker@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:janine.sakker@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Applications close **5pm Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016**.

Those not successful in being chosen for the recreational fishing member position will be kept on file (unless indicated otherwise) and may be approached for later appointment in the event of a vacancy arising.

## Further Information

For further information please contact Janine Sakker, A/MFAC Executive Officer, on (02) 6691 9686 or [janine.sakker@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:janine.sakker@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Information collected will not be given to any other third party except where required by law. All information provided will be held by Department of Primary Industries of NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development and will be managed in accordance with provisions under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.

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