



Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Council held its ninth meeting in Port Macquarie on Friday 18 March 2016. The following are the key outcomes from that meeting:

Council was provided with an update on progress with the Commercial Fishing Business Adjustment Program by Dr Geoff Allan, Deputy Director General, DPI Fisheries.

Council received a briefing on developments relating to Aboriginal Cultural fishing, and recognised the need to adequately resource engagement on the ground with communities along with capacity building and recognition of cultural fishing.

Council received a briefing on the Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion Assessment and noted that decisions relating to resourcing of agreed priorities and policies would ultimately rest with the NSW Government. Council agreed to lend its support to any initiatives that would improve the health of fish stocks and the marine environment.

Council considered a proposal to draft a Co-management Policy for NSW fisheries based on a policy developed by the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions. Council agreed that further consideration of such a policy in NSW should await the Government's decision on the Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program.

Council received a report from DPI on recent compliance activity along with detailed statistics relating to compliance rates in various fisheries and sectors.

Council received an update on the contamination at the RAAF Williamstown base and the serious implications for the local fishing industry adjacent to that base. Particular concerns raised included the issue of compensation for affected commercial fishers along with additional fishing pressure being placed on areas outside the areas closed to commercial fishing as a result of affected fishers shifting fishing effort to these areas.

Council's next meeting will be held in Sydney on Thursday 2 June 2016.

Richard Stevens OAM
Chair
19 April 2016