



# Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

## CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The NSW Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) held its second meeting on 27 June 2014 in Sydney. Key outcomes from that meeting were as follows:

### 1. Commercial Fisheries Reform Program

The Council received a presentation from the Structural Adjustment Review Committee (SARC) on progress. In response to the presentation and an update on other aspects of the Reform Program, the Council resolved to write to the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, advising the following:

- (a) Due to the complexity of the share management system, coupled with the need to carefully consider public submissions in response to the publication of share linkage options for each fishery, the Council supports the Minister's decision to extend the period of time allowed for the commercial fisheries reform process, as this will help ensure that the objectives of the reform process can be achieved.
- (b) Council supports the SARC's recommendation that the proposal to introduce commercial mesh netting into estuaries where it is currently not permitted (as proposed by shareholders or share linkage working groups) be taken off the table. The reform process should not disadvantage or limit the future development of the recreational fishing sector.
- (c) Council has recommended to the SARC that it considers the impact of the commercial fisheries reform program on small scale Aboriginal commercial fishing operations, with a view to determining the nature and extent of any negative impacts along with how they may best be addressed.
- (d) Council supports the need for a clear signal to commercial fishers about future cost recovery arrangements. Specifically, Council supports the principle of a two tier cost recovery system: in the first instance, a base charge for all shareholders, irrespective of the number of shares, that reflects a substantial proportion of the fixed costs of management, incorporating compliance and research; and secondly, a variable charge based on the number of shares held. The Council notes that this approach is used in NSW water and elsewhere.

### 2. Fisheries Compliance

The Council received a briefing from the Director of Fisheries Compliance, Mr Glen Tritton, on the Department's approach and strategies used for fisheries compliance in NSW.

### **3. Discussion Paper on Priorities and Challenges**

Subject to final input provided by Members following the meeting, the Council agreed to circulate a draft Discussion Paper on Priorities and Challenges facing all fisheries sectors for comment and suggestions prior to the next Council meeting in September 2014. The Council will then provide co-ordinated advice to the Minister.

### **4. Draft Resource Sharing Policy**

The Council considered a first draft of a Resource Sharing Policy, and agreed that it required further informal discussion prior to consideration at the next meeting in September 2014.

The Council's next meeting will be held in Coffs Harbour on Thursday 18 September 2014.

Richard Stevens  
Chair  
23 July 2014