



Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council held its 10th meeting in Sydney on Thursday 2nd June 2016. Key outcomes from that meeting were as follows:

1. Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program

Council received a briefing on the outcome of the Program, and acknowledged the significant work undertaken by the Minister, the Structural Adjustment Review Committee and the staff of DPI Fisheries in often challenging and difficult circumstances. Council was advised that now that the Minister had made his decision on the Program, steps would be taken to establish the Commercial Fisheries Advisory Council via the appointment of an Independent Chair and Members.

2. Spearfishing

Council considered a letter from Mr Adrian Wayne on spearfishing in NSW in which he provided a list of their top 5 priorities. Council will be providing a response to Mr Wayne setting out its views as to how these matters might best be progressed.

3. MFAC Strategy and Priorities and Challenges

Council reviewed its Strategy along with the priorities and challenges facing the seafood sector in NSW, and as a result, these will be redrafted to reflect current issues identified by the 5 key sectors - Conservation, Aquaculture, Recreational, Commercial and Aboriginal Cultural Fishing - and published on Council's website.

4. Aboriginal Cultural Fishing

Assoc Professor Stephan Schnierer gave a short presentation on the context and development of the eleven key research development and extension principles and outputs for Indigenous fisheries that were developed at a national Indigenous fisheries research forum in Cairns in 2011 and endorsed at a second forum 2012. The forum was funded by the FRDC and attended by Indigenous fishers, policy makers, researchers and government agency representatives.

Next Meeting

Council's next meeting will be in Bermagui on 15 September 2016.

Richard Stevens OAM
Chair
10 June 2016