

Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW)



Chair's Summary (Meeting 14)

The 14th meeting of RFNSW was held by videoconference on 26 May 2020 from 9:30 to 12:00 due to the current COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. The Chair noted that it was previously proposed for the meeting to include a joint session with CommFish NSW in Eden and reiterated support for the joint meeting to be held at the earliest opportunity.

The key outcomes from discussions of the agenda items are given below.

Mulloway recovery program. Council recognised there was a drive amongst the recreational fishing sector for additional management action to ensure the recovery of Mulloway. RFNSW considered it essential that any additional management initiatives needed to strengthen the recovery program would need to be developed jointly with CommFish NSW. Members agreed to form a sub-group to develop possible initiatives for discussion with CommFish during the proposed joint session.

Proposed revisions to regulations for dusky flathead. RFNSW revisited its previous recommended management changes for dusky flathead, which involve a proposed reduction in the bag limit and introduction of a slot limit for recreational fishers. Council members also agreed that these proposed changes should also be discussed with CommFish.

Trust fund expenditure. Council reviewed advice from the Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure Committees on 11 applications for funding from the Trusts. Advice from the Charter Fishing NSW Working Group on two applications for funding from the Charter Fishing Trust was also considered. Council agreed with the advice provided and will now pass this advice on to the Minister for consideration.

COVID-19 crisis. DPI provided an update on recovery plans following COVID, the drought, floods and bushfires. An industry working group has been set up to help DPI identify key priorities for assisting the tackle and charter sectors to recover as quickly as possible.

Commercial Fisheries Business Efficiency Program. RFNSW set up a sub-group to provide feedback on this important program.

Kamay Ferry Wharf Project in Botany Bay. Another subgroup was also created to provide initial feedback on maximising the benefits for recreational fishing during the planning of the proposed wharfs on the northern and southern sides of the Botany Bay.

Snowy Hydro 2.0. DPI and Council member, Steve Samuels (on behalf of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society), provided an update on the recently released Main Works Assessment Report for Snowy Hydro 2.0. It was noted that the approval conditions include development of a five-year, \$5 million Recreational Fishing Management Plan to further enhance and maintain trout stocks in the Snowy Mountains.

Next RFNSW meeting. Council reiterated the need to include a joint session with CommFish and is proposing to hold that meeting on a mutually convenient date to be decided in late August 2020 in Sydney (COVID-19 restrictions dependent).

Professor Johann Bell (Chair)
3 June 2020