

## **Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) Chair's Summary Meeting 29**

The 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of RFNSW was held in Sydney on 23 and 24 October 2023. Council considered a range of recreational fishing issues, including digital tagging and reporting systems for key recreational species, the draft RFNSW Recreational Fishing Action Plan, complimentary actions relating to carp control, and the proposed offshore wind farm areas off the Illawarra and the Hunter coastlines. The Council also held a joint session with CommFish NSW to discuss a number of cross-sectoral issues. The key meeting outcomes are summarised below.

### **Digital tagging and associated reporting system for key recreational species**

Council received a further update on DPI's investigation of options to support a digital near-real-time solution for a tagging and associated reporting system for Mulloway and Lobster for recreational fishers. A brief overview of recreational fisher digital solutions being developed and implemented in other states for key species, including Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, was also provided to members. DPI also provided further details about how a digital tagging and data collection system could be applied, RFNSW was supportive of the proposal. Two members of the Council attended a presentation from DPI to CommFish regarding the FishOnline Modernisation Project. The members were impressed with the project and the potential to develop the platform to allow for enhanced recreational catch data collection into the future.

### **Joint session with CommFish NSW**

Members welcomed the opportunity to meet with CommFish NSW to discuss several issues of common interest. The Councils received a presentation from the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) on the process for declaring areas for offshore wind farms, including an update on the plans to establish the Hunter and Illawarra areas. Members were advised that DCCEEW was currently undergoing community consultation to identify key impacts. The Councils also received an update from NSW DPI on the development of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Regulation and the Draft Network Management Plan for NSW Mainland Marine Parks.

### **Draft Trout Cod Action Plan 2023 to 2033**

DPI advised RFNSW that it is seeking community feedback on the draft Trout Cod Action Plan, designed to help guide recovery of the species in NSW. The Plan outlines short, medium and long-term priority actions to transition towards potentially delisting Trout Cod as a threatened species in the future. RFNSW expressed a strong interest in providing input on the draft Plan.

### **Project updates**

DPI also provided an update on the progress of the Line and Trap (including Snapper and Kingfish) and the Mulloway Harvest Strategies. Members also requested and received presentations on Commercial Fishing Management, the Recreational Fisheries Monitoring Program, major upgrade works at the Gaden Trout Hatchery and the Narrandera Fisheries Centre and recent research on nesting Eastern freshwater cod disturbance and predation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johann Bell'.

Professor Johann Bell (Chair)