

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the outcomes from the Council meeting held in Sydney on Friday 22 November 2019.

At the commencement of the meeting, Council agreed that the Chair write to Dr Geoff Allan, former Deputy Director General, Fisheries, to acknowledge his considerable contribution to MFAC over the past 6 years, and to wish him well for the future.

The Chair informed the meeting that along with other Members and invited guests, he had attended the National Ag Day and World Fisheries Day in the Speakers Garden, NSW Parliament on Thursday 21 November 2019, with both events presenting valuable networking opportunities as well as promoting contributions made by the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in NSW.

The Council meeting was provided with updates on progress with four current matters - Cost Recovery policy, Co-management policy, Aboriginal Cultural Fishing policy and a progress report on the possible implementation of a Penalty Points system. These would be considered further at the Council meeting to be held in Coffs Harbour on 20 March 2020, along with the Council's 2020-23 Strategic Plan incorporating the top 5 priorities and challenges nominated by each of the 5 sector members represented on Council.

The Council undertook an extensive discussion of key strategic and policy issues as part of its review of its Strategic Plan. As a result, it was agreed that Co-management, Harvest Strategy implementation, Review of Regulations and possible options to assist financial investment for the purchase of shares in commercial fisheries would be key priorities, and would involve consultation with CommFish in particular as a first step.

The next meeting of Council will be held in Coffs Harbour on 20 March 2020.

Richard Stevens OAM
Chair
17/01/2020