

Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW)



Chair's Summary (Meeting 23)

The 23rd meeting of RFNSW was held on 17 February, 2022, in Newcastle. The Council welcomed the Hon. Dugald Saunders, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, and the Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries, Mr Sean Sloan, to the meeting. The key outcomes from the meeting are summarised below.

Session with the Hon. Dugald William Saunders, MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW

The meeting opened with an introduction from the Minister, who provided a warm welcome to members. The Minister indicated that he looked forward to working closely with RFNSW members and to receiving their advice on recreational fishing matters. He expressed his desire to further enhance recreational fishing opportunities in NSW and his keen interest in promoting greater participation in recreational fishing. The Minister was also supportive of the many programs currently underway that boost recreational fishing. The Council took the opportunity to highlight a number of key recreational fishing priority areas with the Minister and thanked him for making time to meet with so quickly after his appointment to cabinet.

Update from DPI Fisheries Deputy Director General

Mr Sean Sloan informed Council about the progress of various issues within DPI, including the development of Harvest Strategies. He advised that the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy had recently been finalised and the another three strategies were underway – Lobster, Spanner Crab and Mulloway. Mr Sloan also acknowledged Council's involvement in the development of the Recreational Fishing Strategy – Driving Recreational Fishing Forward, and summarised the progress of the Fisheries Co-Management Policy and the Draft National Fisheries Plan to be released this year.

Cold Water Pollution from NSW impoundments

Matt Gordos from DPI made a presentation on Cold Water Pollution (CWP) stemming from impoundments and the associated impacts on downstream native fish populations and fish habitats. The presentation emphasised there have been some challenges with existing technology aimed at mitigating CWP impacts. For example, a trial of a temperature control curtain in Lake Burrendong has had limited success due to being offline for extended periods after large rainfall events. As an alternative option, DPI is developing a proposal to investigate 'Bubble Plume' technology to potentially mitigate CWP in some trial impoundments. DPI will keep RFNSW updated on the proposal.

Consultation on Proposed Regulatory Amendments

DPI updated the Council on a series of proposed compliance and enforcement amendments to the Fisheries Management (General) Regulation. These proposed amendments target illegal fishing and trafficking, and aim to increase protection of shared fisheries resources. Council supported the proposed amendments.

Recreational Fishing Trust expenditure

Council reviewed advice from the Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure Committees regarding Saltwater and Freshwater Trust applications made to the Recreational Fishing Trust. Council considered the advice provided by the Expenditure Committees and will now pass this advice on to the Minister for consideration.

Professor Johann Bell (Chair)