



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Council held its 16th meeting in Sydney, Tuesday 20 February 2018.

The meeting provided Council opportunity to receive fisheries management updates and general information on various Government initiatives and ongoing programs. Council provided input on matters with relevance to the Aboriginal community.

Council was pleased to hear that there had been a lot of positive public interest in the inaugural funding round of Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund program, the development of which has been a specific focus for the Council. The Council looks forward to working with the newly appointed members of the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Expenditure Committee to review applications and make its recommendations to the Minister.

Another area of ongoing focus for the Council is the trialling of Aboriginal cultural fishing Local Management Plans. The Council was updated on the progression of the program, including levels of engagement with the three communities, as well as aspirational timelines for getting the plans operational.

Council was provided with an aquaculture update, which included explanation of the Draft NSW Marine Waters Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy. Aquaculture is a subject of much interest to the Council with it reiterating its particular interest in identifying and supporting opportunities for Aboriginal people to take advantage of aquaculture enterprises in NSW.

The Executive Officer of the Professional Fisherman's Association (PFA) also attended the meeting to introduce what the PFA does and, to discuss broadly any matters of interest to the Council. Discussion focussed on Aboriginal participation in the commercial fishing industry, and ways for the Council to work with the PFA to address this and other relevant issues.

Council was also reminded that all AFAC membership terms expire on 21 June 2018, and advised that an expression of interest process will take place soon to fill the 10 regional positions.

Danial Chapman

Chair

19 March 2018