



Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The NSW Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) held its first meeting in Sydney on Friday 4 April 2014. Key outcomes from that meeting were as follows:

1. The Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP attended the meeting to congratulate Council Members on their appointment and to emphasise the key role the Council will play in policy development across a range of fisheries and aquaculture issues. The meeting was also attended by the new Director-General of Primary Industries, Mr Scott Hansen.
2. The Council signed off on the Charter for the conduct of its meetings, including endorsing its terms of reference. Specifically, the Council is to advise the Minister for Primary Industries, as requested, on:
 - (a) the development of strategic policies and goals for the management of fisheries resources, including issues which impact across fisheries and sectors such as resource sharing, co-management, cost recovery and ecosystem based fisheries management;
 - (b) issues relating to the management of Aboriginal cultural fishing, recreational / charter fishing, commercial fishing and aquaculture that are strategic in nature and have cross sectoral implications, including the processes for developing individual fishery management plans or strategies and reviewing them, if appropriate, before approval;
 - (c) the priorities of, and challenges facing, all fisheries sectors;
 - (d) information needs to support effective management of NSW fisheries resources; and
 - (e) any other specific issue referred to the Council by the Minister or the Executive Director, Fisheries NSW.
3. The Council received a briefing and update on major issues from each of the DPI Fisheries Division Directors covering commercial fishing, recreational and indigenous fishing, aquaculture, research and compliance.
4. The Council considered a draft MFAC Strategy which establishes a work program of key issues and outcomes as the focus of its work over the next 3 years. Initial items will be the development of a draft policy on Resource Sharing and the identification of priorities and key challenges facing all fisheries sectors.
5. The Council agreed to invite key sector leaders for informal discussions at each of its meetings so that it can hear from these leaders about the challenges facing their sectors and also to hear of potential policy options which might deal with these challenges. The Council also agreed to hold two of each of its 4 meetings per year outside Sydney to provide the opportunity for informal engagement with invited stakeholders about priority issues. In this regard, meetings will be held in Coffs Harbour and Nowra during 2014.
6. The next meeting of Council will be held in Sydney on 27 June 2014.

Richard Stevens
Chair
10 April 2014