

Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW)

Chair's Summary (Meeting 16)

The 16th meeting of RFNSW was held by videoconference over two sessions on 12 and 13 October 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

The key outcomes from discussions of the agenda items are given below.

NSW Recreational Fishing Strategy.

At the previous meeting, RFNSW identified the need for a 5- to 10-year NSW Recreational Fishing Strategy. The aim of the Strategy is to implement a range of initiatives to further enhance sustainable recreational fishing, and associated tourism opportunities throughout the State, taking into account the economic and social drivers of recreational fishing and considers access issues and investment opportunities. A sub group was formed to commence preliminary work on the proposed Recreational Fishing Strategy once the Minister has had the opportunity to consider the proposal for development of the Strategy sent to his office following Meeting 15. RFNSW requested resourcing from DPI to assist Council with development of the proposed strategy.

Trust fund expenditure. Council reviewed advice from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee on 2 applications for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust. Council endorsed the advice provided by the Expenditure Committee and will now pass this advice on to the Minister for consideration.

Review and re-prioritisation of RFNSW Top 10 priority issues

RFNSW had previously developed a list of the Top 10 priority issues to help guide discussions at RFNSW meetings. Council reviewed the list to ensure that it still adequately reflected the current focus of RFNSW on addressing key areas of the recreational fishing sector. Members formed three break-out groups to provide feedback on current and new issues, which was then used to develop a revised list.

Marine Park Management Planning Processes

The Council received a further update on the marine park planning process focusing on the development of draft network management plans for the five marine parks along the coast of NSW. Members welcomed the focus on stakeholder involvement, including the opportunities to develop solutions in partnership with recreational fishers, and support the enhancement of recreational fishing experiences in marine parks.

DPI presentations

The Council received presentations from DPI on the following issues: 1) upgrades to the Narrandera Fisheries Centre fish hatchery, 2) progress on development of the Fish for Life campaign, 3) stock status, growth and movements of Australian Salmon, and 4) progress on the Offshore Artificial Reef Program, FADs and fish stocking.

Next RFNSW meeting. Council reiterated their ongoing request to hold a joint session with CommFish to discuss cross-sector issues and requested DPI to facilitate a joint session as soon as possible. It was noted the next MFAC meeting was proposed for 4 December.