

MFAC Chair's Summary

Council met in Port Stephens on 17 June 2022.

The following were the key matters discussed at the meeting:

1. MFAC members considered and discussed the draft Fisheries Co-management Policy. Council supported the draft Policy, with minor revision suggested to consider aquaculture where appropriate. It was noted that any future consideration of delegating management responsibility must be carefully managed, with selected industries having the appropriate governance, maturity, and processes in place.
2. Marine Estate Management Strategy Update and Draft Marine Park Network Management Plan Update - MFAC members were provided with an update by the DDG Fisheries on the current progress in reviewing the marine park network management plan and supporting regulations. Members were also informed of the media release of that morning (Friday 17 June 22) on a joint Ministerial announcement of \$180 million over six years for the Marine Estate Management Strategy Stage 3, available [here](#).
3. MFAC noted a briefing on Blue Carbon presented by the Office of Environment and Heritage and indicated MFAC's support for the work being undertaken and acknowledged this as a key part of work undertaken in the MEMS Strategy.
4. MFAC also noted a presentation from Tonia Clarkson, Senior Manager, Marine Estate on the Marine Estate Economic Contribution Report.
5. Harvest Strategy Policy & Guidelines - A verbal update was provided by DDG DPI Fisheries highlighting that harvest strategies have been adopted for eastern rock lobster and trawl whiting and have been used to inform TAC setting for 2022/23 and harvest strategies are under development for mullet and spanner crab.
6. MFAC noted the verbal updates on Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Strategy provided by Aboriginal Cultural Fishing member Stephan Schnierer and DDG DPI Fisheries Sean Sloan. A Draft Aboriginal Fishing Policy Support Paper (version dated 2020) was referred to MFAC by Mr Schnierer for information, with the Council noting MFAC's continued support for AFAC in developing the Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Strategic plan.
7. Deputy Director General Fisheries, Sean Sloan, provided MFAC with an update on the 2019/20 BDO Economic and Social Indicator Reports for NSW commercial fisheries, which have been introduced for the first time in NSW.
8. MFAC discussed impact of the recent flooding, including the impact on the oyster industry alongside the parallel impact of QX disease, the impact on Commercial Fishing, including trawl fishing closures implemented with support of operators, and habitat loss and recording of fish kills due to flooding across local councils. The long-term recovery timelines were noted, and importance of allowing for resilience in the biomass.
9. MFAC members were joined by DDG Fisheries, Sean Sloan, in recognising the contribution of Richard Stevens to the MFAC since its inception in 2013. With MFAC meeting #27 being Mr Steven's final meeting before the expiry of his tenure, MFAC thanked the Chair for his dedication to the Council and contributions to NSW Fisheries. MFAC also recognised the



Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

OAM received by Matt Hansen for his work restoring native fish populations and their habitat in the Central West.

Richard Stevens OAM
Chair
Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council