

## Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW)

### Chair's Summary (Meeting 18)

The 18th meeting of RFNSW was held via zoom videoconference on 17 December 2020. The key purpose of the meeting was to consider the advice provided by the Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committees on the latest round of Recreational Fishing Trust Fund applications. The Chair took the opportunity to express the gratitude of RFNSW to the two Expenditure Committees for the tremendous task of reviewing the large number of submissions received by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) from the most recent call for Trust fund applications.

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

#### Recreational Fishing Trust expenditure

An update on the status of Recreational Fishing Trust funds was provided to members at the meeting. Council reviewed advice from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committees on the applications for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust. Council endorsed the advice provided by the Expenditure Committees and will now pass this advice on to the Minister for consideration.

#### NSW Fisheries Co-Management Policy

At the meeting, DPI sought feedback from members on the draft NSW Fisheries Co-Management Policy. RFNSW recognised the merit of developing a co-management approach that would progressively enable recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fishers to participate much more actively in governance of the State's fisheries resources and build their capacity to assume this responsibility. A sub group was formed to consolidate initial feedback on the draft Policy for the Chair to pass on to DPI in the week beginning 21 December.

#### DPI Fisheries Harvest Strategy update

DPI provided an update on the progress of Harvest Strategies following the release of the draft policy and guidelines in late November 2020. It was noted that meetings had commenced for the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy Working Group and that the first meeting of the Lobster Harvest Strategy Working Group would occur in January 2021. RFNSW has a keen interest in the development and implementation of Harvest Strategies, which will encompass recreational fishing activities and associated management arrangements for the main fish species targeted by recreational fishers. Members requested that Harvest Strategies be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting to enable further in-depth discussion.

#### Next RFNSW meeting

The next meeting of RFNSW will be held on 24 February 2021 (location to be confirmed). The meeting will be held at the same time and location as the CommFish meeting so that a joint session can be organised to progress action items from the combined meeting of both councils in November 2020.



Professor Johann Bell (Chair)  
21 December 2020