

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Council met on Friday 12 March 2021 in Sydney. The following are the key items considered at the meeting:

1. Council finalised its views on the draft Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines, and the draft will now be referred to the other three Councils - Commfish, Recfish and the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council (AFAC) for any comments prior to final consideration by MFAC at its meeting in June 2021. At that meeting, MFAC will provide formal advice to the Minister recommending the Policy and Guidelines for adoption.
2. Council is awaiting final comments from the three other Councils before finalising the Co-management Policy for presentation to the Minister for adoption.
3. Aboriginal Cultural Fishing - this will be progressed following the preparation of an Aboriginal Fishing Strategic Plan by AFAC.
4. Gin Gin Reregulation Weir - further discussion is awaiting finalisation of a Business Plan for the project.
5. Council received a presentation on the Marine Park Network Management Plan - Council also noted that open public consultation will occur on any changes to marine park planning and associated regulations in the future, consistent with the requirements of the Marine Park Management Act.
6. Council received a presentation on the NSW Shark Management Strategy and the NSW Stock Assessment Process.
7. Council was advised that the Fisheries Regulation Reform public consultation process was underway.

Council will next meet on Friday 11 June 2021 in Coffs Harbour.

Richard Stevens
OAM Chair
15 April 2021