



# Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

## MFAC Chair's Summary

Council met in Coffs Harbour on 11 June 2021 – the following were the key matters discussed at the meeting:

1. In accordance with its terms of reference, Council agreed on a list of Challenges and Priorities for each of the sectors represented on Council – aboriginal fishing, aquaculture, commercial fishing, conservation and recreational fishing.
2. The Council agreed that the implementation of the Marine Estate Management Strategy and accompanying management plan represented its top priority.

This is in recognition of the critical issues being addressed, including decisions being taken over past decades (e.g., pollution, coastal development, acid sulphate soils) which have had an adverse impact on the marine environment, habitats and water quality. At the same time, the initiatives presented in the Strategy designed to restore and repair damaged habitat and benefit a productive seafood industry were essential in achieving the full potential of the Strategy and Management Plan.

3. Draft Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines - Council endorsed the policy and guidelines as drafted, subject to the inclusion of most of the amendments proposed by Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Committee (AFAC) and recommended their adoption for the Minister's consideration.
4. MFAC noted the presentation from Senior Principal Research Scientist, Dr Matt Broadhurst on the scientific research, assessment, development of fishing technology and techniques (including trawl and haul net reform).
5. The Director General, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Mr Scott Hansen, provided a presentation on DPI's draft new Strategic Plan. MFAC members provided feedback on the initiatives contained in the Strategic Plan, along with additional comments reflecting individual sector challenges and priorities.

Richard Stevens OAM

Chair

July 2021