

Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) Chair's Summary Meeting 34



The 34th meeting of RFNSW was held at the Branksome Hotel, Mascot, Sydney on 9 May 2025. Members welcomed the opportunity to provide advice on a range of recreational fisheries management matters. The key outcomes from meeting discussions are summarised below.

Recreational Fishing Trust Funding Round

Council members reviewed advice from the Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure Committees regarding the latest applications received for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. Council considered the advice provided by the expenditure committees and will now pass this advice onto the Minister.

Development of rebuilding programs for key species

DPIRD outlined proposals to develop rebuilding programs for five key species, including four currently classified as *depleted* and one as *recovering*. Council considered a range of management arrangements presented by DPIRD which aim to rebuild the stocks to more sustainable levels. Council provided feedback on various management options and noted that further consultation on these programs will be undertaken, including a future community consultation phase.

Update on harvest strategies

DPIRD provided an update on the public consultation process for the draft Mulloway Harvest Strategy and associated management options. DPIRD encouraged the council to promote the public consultation process through its member networks with public submissions closing on 25 May 2025. RFNSW was supportive of the harvest strategy and associated management options to maintain recreational and commercial harvest of Mulloway against catch levels determined under the harvest strategy and its objectives. RFNSW welcomed the opportunity to review the summary feedback from public consultation and further consideration of the proposed harvest strategy framework.

An update was also provided on the implementation of digital reporting for recreational fishing in Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia. RFNSW remained supportive of the need for additional data collection on Mulloway catch but raised the significant challenges for the real-time catch reporting as proposed for Mulloway and outlined in the current consultation paper. DPIRD also provided a brief update on the development of the Line and Trap Harvest Strategy, noting that recent meetings focused on defining reference and trigger points.

Snowy Hydro 2.0 Project

Members received a presentation from Snowy Hydro, which outlined the significant progress on the Snowy Hydro 2.0 project and the associated Recreational Fishing Management Plan, which aims to mitigate risks to the trout fishery at Tantangara Reservoir and Lake Eucumbene. It was noted the Plan includes proposed increased production works at Gaden Trout Hatchery.

Shark Depredation

Dr. Jonathan Mitchell, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provided a presentation on a current research project investigating shark depredation and potential mitigation methods in Australian line fisheries. Council noted shark depredation is becoming more frequent in NSW waters, particularly on the north coast and can have significant socio-economic and ecological impacts including loss of gear and additional target species mortality. RFNSW members provided input on the various mitigation methods which are being tested as part of the project

Mr Karl Mathers (Deputy Chair)