

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

OUTCOMES

Wednesday 28 October 2009

Parliament House – Waratah room

SIAC Members

Hans Heilpern	Chairman, Seafood Industry Advisory Council
Graeme Byrnes	Deputy Chairman, Seafood Industry Advisory Council
Jim Miller	Representative, Abalone Management Advisory Committee
Jim Drinkwater	Representative, Estuary General Management Advisory C'tee
Don Johnson	Representative, Estuary Prawn Trawl Management Advisory C'tee
David Mitchell	Representative, Ocean Hauling Management Advisory C'tee
Darren Ward	Representative, Ocean Trawl Management Advisory Committee
Gary Braithwaite	Representative, Ocean Trap & Line Management Advisory C'tee
Ian Charles	Aquaculture Industry
Grahame Turk	Wholesale Fish Industry
Tony Puglisi	Commercial fisherman
Garry Joblin	Commercial Fishers Co-op
Don Burgoyne	Aquaculture Industry
Russ Collison	Nominee of Minister
John Harrison	Professional Fisherman's Association
George Davey	Deputy-Director General, Industry and Investment NSW

Observers: Peter Offner, Representative, Lobster Management Advisory Committee
Kelly Collins, NSW Food Authority (representing Alan Coutts)

Apologies: Ben Birt, Stephan Schnierer

Absent: Nicholas Georgouras

Industry and Investment NSW

Paul O'Connor	Principal Director, Fisheries and Compliance
Peter Turnell	Director, Fisheries Resource Management
Bill Talbot	Director, Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture
Andrew Goulstone	Manager, Fisheries Management
Doug Ferrell	Acting Manager, Resource Planning
Belinda Lucas	Fisheries Relations Coordinator

Meeting declared open 9:20 am.

Item 1 Chairperson's welcome

The Chairman advised that the Minister Ian Macdonald would be joining the meeting to talk about the reform of the commercial fishing industry and to answer questions from members.

Item 2 Apologies

Ben Birt and Stephan Schnierer

Item 3 Confirmation of outcomes of SIAC meeting 10

Draft outcomes attached to the Agenda and published on the web on 22/12/08 were approved.

Item 4 Reform of Commercial Fisheries

The Chairman and the Deputy Chair reported on the outcome of the meeting between the members of SIAC working Group and DII with each of the MAC's and the 16 port meetings. Each meeting supported the eight components of the Pymont Pact.

The Minister joined the Council and reaffirmed his support for the reform of the commercial fisheries through the eight components of the Pymont Pact. He undertook to expedite the implementation of agreed reforms.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister for his support and the meeting resumed.

Resolution:

That SIAC adopt the recommendation of the structural adjustment working group as follows:-

1. That SIAC notes the advice of the working group that each of the MAC's and each of the 16 port meeting held between July and August 2009 supported the eight components of the Pymont Pact
2. That SIAC approves and adopts the communication strategy attached which has been developed between the working group and Industry and Investment NSW
3. That SIAC approves and adopts the action plan set out in the attached schedule
4. That SIAC expresses its appreciation to the Department of Industry and Investment NSW for its effort in the consultation process and in the preparation of the action plan
5. That SIAC advise the Minister of the above and recommends that the Minister
 - (a) direct the Department of Industry and Investment NSW to ensure the implementation of the actions set out in the action plan within the respective timeframes nominated in that plan
 - (b) direct the Department to establish a commercial fishing reform implementation group comprising 3 full time staff with appropriate experience and capabilities answerable to the Director of Fisheries Resource Management. That group to be subject to the direction of a steering committee consisting of the Deputy Director-General, Director, Fisheries Resource Management, Principle Director, Fisheries and Compliance, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of SIAC and another member of SIAC nominated by SIAC. Grahame Turk is the nominated representative.
 - (c) direct the steering committee to report to the Minister at least every two months on the progress of the implementation of the action plan referred to above

Item 5 Research priorities

The Council noted the report from Dr Steve Kennelly. The Council was advised by the Department that SIAC could send an updated list of research priorities to the Department at any time and that there will be an updated list of research priorities sent out in January 2010.

Resolution:

1. That an item relating to research be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of SIAC and that DII be asked to prepare a paper setting out current processes and policies for establishing research priorities in NSW.
2. That a review committee be established consisting of Renata Brooks, Charlie Gray, John Harrison, Don Johnson and Graeme Byrnes to review the operations of Fisheries Research Advisory Body (FRAB) and report to the next meeting of SIAC.
3. The Council appointed John Harrison and Tony Puglisi to attend the upcoming FRAB meeting, with existing FRAB member Don Johnson.

Item 6 Expenditure from commercial trust

Report by Deputy Chairperson on changes to protocol in relation to the expenditure from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund was noted, as was a report from the Department on current policies, priorities and processes in the preparation of the budget expenditure was noted.

The Department also tabled a draft Aquaculture and Commercial Fishing Trust Funds 2009/10 budget for consideration by Council members.

The Council noted the reports.

Resolution:

1. That SIAC establish a Budget Working Group (BWG) comprising of the Chair and the Deputy Chair, 3 industry members of SIAC (including 1 Aquaculture representative) and a representative of I & I NSW. Don Johnson, Tony Puglisi and Ian Charles to be the three industry members.
2. Each year the BWG is to make recommendations to SIAC in relation to the expenditure from the Commercial Fishing Trust and the Aquaculture Trust.
3. That the BWG is to make such recommendations to SIAC at the next meeting as well as recommendations relating to cost recovery as outlined in the draft budget circulated by the department at the meeting on the 28th October 2009.

Action Items:

- The Council requested that Departmental charges and management fees on invoices to industry be itemised in order to provide a full expenditure breakdown.
- The Council requested that the wording of the 2009/10 Project Expenses be changed from SIAC Secretariat to SIAC administration.

Item 7 Fish receiver licensing

The report from the Deputy Chair regarding the undesirability of having three levels of licensing for selling fish in NSW was noted as was the Department's response.

Resolution:

This item was adjourned for the next meeting of SIAC. It was noted, however, that the Department intended to convene an ad-hoc Working group in November 2009 to discuss the issue. The Working Group would comprise the Department, NSW Food Authority and industry representatives (Sydney Fish Market, Newcastle Fishermen's Cooperative, Master Fish merchants Association, Restricted Registered Fish Receivers and Graeme Byrnes) to discuss the

issues regarding the licensing of fish receivers. The Working Group will report progress to SIAC at the next meeting.

General Business

A. Offshore Constitutional Settlement Negotiations

Departmental response noted.

Resolution:

That SIAC supports the establishment of the working group to progress the discussions as set out in the second paragraph of the departmental response.

“Under this proposal, NSW would maintain jurisdiction inside 3 miles south of Barrenjoey and agree to a global stock assessment/allocation process for species that will continue to have shared management responsibility. Rumours that OCS is currently nearing agreement are untrue. A working group to progress OCS discussions is to be established including;

- one operator holding a NSW authority (State-only operator);
- one operator holding a NSW and Commonwealth authority (dual operator);
- one operator holding a Commonwealth authority (Commonwealth-only operator);
- two Commonwealth Government representatives – one each from DAFF and AFMA; and
- two State Government representatives – both from NSW DII”

B. Withdrawal of endorsements/shares under the licence splitting policy

Resolution:

This item was deferred until the next meeting of SIAC.

C. Industry representation - levy funding

Resolution:

That Grahame Turk and John Harrison be asked to prepare draft terms of reference to enable a consultant to be instructed to prepare a report on the establishment of a voice for the commercial fishing industry.

D. Marine pests – European Shore Crab

Resolution:

SIAC noted that the Department has classified the European shore crab as a noxious fish on 19.10.09 making this species illegal to sell in NSW.

E. Fisheries Management Act – Amendment Bill & Legislative Changes

Resolution:

The Departmental response was noted and SIAC accepts the assurances from the Department that in future every effort will be made to ensure that all relevant bills are referred to SIAC.

F. Marine parks and current reviews of Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay

Resolution:

This item was adjourned for the next meeting of SIAC prior to which a strategic working group comprising Bill Talbot, Paul O'Connor, Grahame Turk and Jim Drinkwater will meet to prepare a report on the future action to be taken by SIAC.

G. Revised catch and effort reporting requirements

Resolution:

SIAC noted the Departmental report.

H. Marine Park abalone buyouts

Resolution:

This item was deferred until the next meeting of SIAC.

I. Environmental Impact Statement for marine fish stocking in estuarine waters of NSW – I & I NSW

Action item: Bryan van der Walt will provide information to the council out of session.

Action Item: Peter Turnell will send John Harrison regional information.

Resolution: SIAC members Jim Drinkwater and Garry Joblin be requested to provide comments to the Department (Bryan van der Walt) on the EIS.

J. Aquaculture and ground water entitlements

Resolution:

That SIAC resolves to seek comment from the Minister on the assurance sought by the Silver Perch Growers Association (outlined in the second last paragraph under general Business item J).

"There are many points worth considering when assessing future needs for this industry

- *Bio security plays a large roll in the success of aquaculture. Ground water is free of disease causing pathogens. The cleanliness of this type of water has played a roll in the long term success of many freshwater aquaculture operations.*
- *With the introduction of the HQAS for freshwater finfish hatcheries in NSW, access to pathogen free water has become more important.*
- *Aquaculture is a special case as it involves a high level of expenditure on permanent infrastructure. This infrastructure is industry specific and cannot be used for other purposes, nor can pond based aquaculture farms be easily rehabilitated for other agricultural purposes.*
- *Aquaculture is a highly efficient industry in terms of income produced per megalitre of water used, especially compared to other industries such as rice, cotton etc.*
- *Aquaculture provides more jobs per megalitre of water used than most other industries.*
- *The amount of groundwater allocated for use in aquaculture would be a minute percentage of the overall groundwater allocated for irrigation in NSW. "*

K. Roles of other fisheries advisory committees

Resolution:

SIAC noted the Departmental report.

L. Indigenous fishing issues

Resolution:

This item is to be deferred until the next meeting of SIAC.

M. Climate change

Resolution:

DII was requested to provide a detailed presentation on climate change at the next SIAC meeting

N. Introduction and overview of new fishonline system and industry communication plan for CFSA– year 1 project

Resolution:

The Council noted the Departmental report and nominated John Harrison as the SIAC representative to act as the primary contact through Year 1 of the CFSA Project.

O. Illegal net size (for advice by SIAC)

Resolution:

This item was deferred until the next meeting of SIAC.

P. Potential listing of certain populations of posidonia as endangered

Resolution:

This item was deferred until the next meeting of SIAC.

Meeting Close 4:30 pm.