

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING 10 – 18 NOVEMBER 2008 SYDNEY FISH MARKETS

OUTCOMES

SIAC Members

Hans Heilpern	Chairman, Seafood Industry Advisory Council
Graeme Byrnes	Deputy Chairman, Seafood Industry Advisory Council
Ron Firkin	Representative, Lobster Management Advisory Committee
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
Stephan Schnierer	Aboriginal Representative
Tony Puglisi	Commercial fisherman

Observer: Benjamin Birt, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Apologies: Richard Sheldrake, George Davey, Garry Joblin, Don Burgoyne, Russ Collison

Absent: Nicholas Georgouras

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI)

Doug Hocking	Executive Director, Fisheries, Compliance and Reg'l Relations
Paul O'Connor	Director Compliance Operations
Peter Turnell	Director Fisheries Operations
Graeme White	Project Leader Structural Adjustment
Laura Best	Departmental Liaison Officer
James Scanlon	Scientific Officer
Doug Ferrell	Senior Scientific Officer, Fisheries Biology
Jackie Gerard	Executive Officer, Seafood Industry Advisory Council

Agenda Item 1

Chairperson's Welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting, and Council agreed to the Chairman's recommendation to suspend normal business and consider Agenda Item 7.

Agenda Item 7

The Chairperson advised that the Stevens Review Structural Adjustment Working Group (SRSAWG) met earlier today, prior to the SIAC meeting, and adopted amendments to the Recommendations to SIAC which were agreed to at the previous Working Group meeting on 7 November 2008.

SIAC considered the recommendations from the Working Group and made further amendments, and has forwarded its advice to the Minister.

The Chairperson then asked Council to resume normal business.

Agenda item 2**Apologies**

Richard Sheldrake, George Davey, Ron Firkin, Garry Joblin, Don Burgoyne, Russ Collison.

Agenda item 3**Correspondence**

Noted.

Agenda item 4**Draft outcomes SIAC Meeting 9 – 29 February 2008**

Moved Don Johnson, seconded Stephan Schnierer, that these be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Agenda item 5**Action items from Meeting 9**

See attached table noting further actions where required.

SIAC noted the actions taken.

Agenda item 6**Revised arrangements for catch effort reporting**

Peter Brown, Manager Systems Reform, NSW DPI gave a presentation regarding the catch records reform project, providing an update of project progress so far. He advised that the project was on schedule to implement new catch and effort reporting arrangements across all fisheries in July, 2009. He further advised that a document describing the new arrangements that incorporates changes arising from the consultation process will be released before Christmas 2008 and that DPI plans to run a pilot program in February, 2009 to test the new arrangements in the field.

Agenda item 8

Marine Parks Authority – Draft Cultural Resource Policy

Council noted the presentation by Andrew Read, Operations Unit Manager, Aquatic Protection Areas Section, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

Agenda item 9**Commercial and Aquaculture Fishing Trusts**

(This item is to be dealt with out of session) SIAC noted the report from DPI.

Agenda item 10

Dr Patrick Hone, FRDC, will be invited to a subsequent meeting.

Agenda item 11**Working Groups – Planning of meetings**

The Chairperson will address this issue in the New Year.

Agenda item 12**Indictable offences – update by DPI**

There are 6 FTE (full time equivalent) compliance officers working on abalone currently. If, as the abalone MAC requests, more resources are directed to abalone issues, then less resources would be available for other fisheries. In addition, DPI works constructively with a number of other agencies, which provides a greater deterrent to fisheries crime.

SIAC noted the Report

Agenda item 13**NSW DPI response to the threat of abalone viral ganglioneuritis**

SIAC noted DPI's report.

Agenda item 14**Use of Electronic Data Entry**

Jim Miller advised SIAC that the Abalone MAC raised concerns about the OH&S risk of forcing deckhands to record catch data at a 300m scale while the diver is in the water. The MAC recommends that because most divers have data loggers which will record data at a finer scale, that the proposed paper based system is unnecessary.

DPI advised that deckhands will not be forced to undertake unsafe reporting practices. When industry has the new electronic system set up, and the information gained is provided to the department, industry will not be required to complete a second spatial information collection. The current paper based system supports, and is an integral part of, the quota based system, and DPI will work with the MAC on this.

Mr Miller moved that the following resolution be adopted.

The Abalone MAC does not support the finer scale reporting changes proposed by the Catch Records Project and that the priority for Departmental funds should be to be able to enter the data electronically, as in most other states, because of the cost recovery environment.

The resolution lapsed through want of a seconder.

Item 15**Other Business**

- A copy was tabled of a speech by Professor Bob Kearney on Science and Marine Parks in NSW.
- SIAC agreed that, subject to meeting privacy legislation requirements, the Executive Officer is to distribute on a confidential basis the personal details of all SIAC members to Council members who request those details.
- A request was made to discuss protocols for the consultation process at the next meeting.
- The Chairman reiterated the need for members to avoid any conflict of interest, and to maintain confidential the information discussed at meetings.
- Members discussed the recent Regulation changes which were enacted following legal advice that the section 8 closures needed to be included in legislation following the Share Management process.
- Members were advised of Stakeholder Consultation meetings on Pilot Offshore Artificial Reefs on 25.11.08 in Newcastle, 27.11.08 in Sydney and 8.12.08 in Wollongong. This information was also circulated to all the MACs.
- Doug Hocking announced that George Davey will become the new Deputy Director-General and Executive Director Fisheries Compliance and Regional Relations in NSW DPI, effective immediately. He also advised members that he will be retiring in February.
- The Chairperson requested that a vote of thanks to Doug Hocking be recorded in the minutes for his contribution.

Item 16**Next Meeting and Meeting Close**

The next meeting will be a combined meeting of SIAC and the commercial fishery Management Advisory Committees on a date yet to be determined.