

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Confirmed Meeting Outcomes – 6 June 2005

**Reception Room (South), L41 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place, Sydney**

ATTENDANCE

John Roach (Chair), Donna Smythe, Ron Firkin, Jim Drinkwater, Don Johnson, Ron Prindable, Bill Litchfield, Tony Troup, Ian Charles, Bill Pearce, Grahame Turk, Nicholas Georgouras, Stephan Schnierer, Megan Kessler, Barry Buffier.

Deputies: Terry Outtrim (for George Davey)

Apologies: Graeme Byrnes (Deputy Chair), George Davey and Paul Sullivan.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI)

Richard Sheldrake	Deputy Director General
Nick Rayns	Director, Fisheries Management
Anthony Hurst	Group Manager, Fisheries Planning and Operations
Dianna Watkins	Principal Manager, Commercial Fisheries
Grant Johnson	Executive Officer, Seafood Industry Advisory Council

Observers

Jamie Gibson (Office of the Minister for Primary Industries)

COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

▪ Seafood Industry Advisory Council Procedures and Communication Processes

Members agreed that:

1. Council outcomes and discussion should be open and available to stakeholders, except for matters specified as being confidential within the Council. DPI is to develop a Communications Strategy for the dissemination of Council outcomes.
2. Agenda and briefing papers are to be distributed to members at least ten (10) days before scheduled meetings, and members would be able to submit papers for Council consideration prior to that. In the case of other documents requiring wider discussion and consideration by industry/stakeholders, distribution to Council members would be a minimum of one (1) month before the relevant Council meeting.
3. Council meetings will be timed to adjoin other relevant meetings (e.g. Peak Oyster Advisory Group and Management Advisory Committee meetings) whenever possible.
4. DPI is to examine and advise the Chairperson regarding options for arrangements when a Council member(s) cannot attend a meeting (eg alternates) noting the need for continuity and efficiency in the Council's business.

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5. Council meetings would be held on average 3-4 times per year and be limited to one day meetings except under specific circumstances. Members noted meetings may have to be more frequent initially.
6. Member's attention would be drawn to any Procedures and/or Codes of Conduct that the NSW Government requires of members appointed to statutory advisory councils.
7. DPI would provide a draft guidelines and procedures document for SIAC consideration at the next meeting.

Action:

1. Executive Officer to work with the Council Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to develop procedures to address a communications strategy, alternates for members, and draft guidelines and procedures for SIAC.

▪ **NSW Seafood Industry Vision Statement – Implementation Update**

Members received an update on the implementation of actions in the Minister's Vision Statement, the NSW Food Authority's Seafood Food Safety Program and the Department of Primary Industries' key programs.

Members noted the following key issues in relation to the Implementation Update:

1. Industry expectations that the recreational fishing sector will be subject to appropriate environment requirements, and that DPI is exploring the most effective way to achieve the intended outcomes.
2. The success of the MAC Workshop held in Sydney on 15-16 November 2004 and the need for this to occur annually.
3. That the potential to integrate the DPI daily logbook reporting and the NSW Food Authority (NSWFA) reporting requirements be examined with a view to simplify reporting requirements for fishers.
4. The critical situation for oyster growers on the Hawkesbury River following the outbreak of Qx disease and the urgent requirement for Government assistance to enable growers to clean-up Qx affected oyster leases.
5. For the Peak Oyster Advisory Group (POAG) to provide an update to Council at its next meeting.

Action:

- a) DPI to provide a paper on progress on the recreational fishing sector meeting environmental requirements for Council's next meeting.
- b) DPI and NSWFA examine ways to integrate their respective reporting requirements.
- c) SIAC Chair to contact Peter Davis (POAG Chair) to provide an update to Council at its next meeting.

▪ **Other issues**

1. Noted that the Fisheries Management Strategies were being progressively implemented and this would occur in consultation with the relevant MACs within the context of the requirements of Commonwealth and State environmental legislation. Members agreed to establish a Fisheries Management Strategy (Implementation) Working Group to oversight cross-fishery implementation and that the Deputy Chair of Council, Mr Graeme Byrnes was nominated to chair this group.

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2. Noted the access constraints for Beach Haul Fishery crews. Members agreed that the Chairperson would write to the Director General, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, seeking clarification of access issues and requesting a briefing on these issues for the next meeting of Council.
3. Noted the need for structural adjustment in commercial fisheries; the need for a well designed and orderly adjustment process developed with the MAC's that takes into consideration potential impacts on fishing co-operatives; and, the procedures for trading shares in share managed fisheries. Agreed to form a Structural Adjustment Working Group, to be chaired by Deputy Chairperson, Mr Graeme Byrnes.
4. Noted the need to develop an appropriate Government pricing and charging framework for aquaculture and commercial fisheries, taking into consideration the economic circumstances of industry (including various government charges). Agreed that a Pricing and Charging Working Group, to be chaired by Mr John Roach, be formed to provide advice on these issues, within an appropriate linkage to the whole of government review to be led by the Food Authority.
5. Noted the importance of industry development issues and the role of DPI in helping industry address profitability and training related issues. Members agreed to form an Industry Development Working Group, to be chaired by Mr John Roach, to advise on these issues.

Action:

- a) Form working groups on (1) Fisheries Management Strategies (to be chaired by Mr Graeme Byrnes); (2) Structural adjustment (to be chaired by Mr Graeme Byrnes); (3) Pricing and Charging (to be chaired by Mr John Roach); and (4) Industry Development (to be chaired by Mr John Roach).
- b) The Chairperson of Council to write to the Director General, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, seeking clarification of access issues and requesting a briefing on these issues to the next meeting of Council.

▪ **Other Business**

Noted the Other Matters carried over from the Seafood Industry Advisory Forum. Members agreed they be provided with more detailed briefing at subsequent meetings of Council. DPI to provide out of session advice to the Chairperson and Mr G. Turk regarding marketing of protected species caught in other jurisdictions in NSW.

Action:

1. Executive Officer to arrange for the Other Matters - Seafood Industry Advisory Forum to be listed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Seafood Industry Advisory Council.
2. Mr Grahame Turk to be provided with advice on the sale of protected species imported from other jurisdictions OOS.

▪ **Next Meeting**

Members agreed that Council should meet another three (3) times during 2005. Dates to be determined.

Meeting closed at 12:30pm.

Grant Johnson
Executive Officer

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