

Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) Chair's Summary Meeting 32



The 32nd meeting of RFNSW was held online on 18 September 2024. The key outcomes from discussions of the agenda items are summarised below.

Draft Mulloway Harvest Strategy

The Department provided a re-cap of the recent RFNSW out-of-session meeting on the draft Mulloway Harvest Strategy and proposed recreational fishing management arrangements. An opportunity was then provided for members to give any further feedback they had on the draft Strategy. RFNSW has been a strong advocate for the prioritisation of improved management arrangements for this iconic species for many years and commended the Department on development of a draft Mulloway. Council also acknowledged the efforts of the Mulloway Harvest Strategy Working Group and Dr James Findlay (Chair) and thanked them for their dedication and expertise in developing the draft Harvest Strategy. The Council also took the opportunity to reiterate its support for the introduction of real time reporting of Mulloway catch to enhance harvest estimates and ensure accurate assessments to better inform the Harvest Strategy process. A copy of RFNSW's final feedback on the draft Harvest Strategy will be submitted to DPIRD following the meeting.

Overview of the stakeholder forum on establishing a peak NSW recreational fishing body

A brief overview of the recent online stakeholder forum on the establishment of a peak NSW recreational fishing body was provided by Dr James Findlay, facilitator of the Peak Body Working Group and Karl Mathers. Council welcomed the news that consultation with key recreational stakeholder groups was well underway to determine the preferred governance model prior to wider community consultation on establishment of a peak recreational fishing body in NSW.

Recfishwest presentation

Council enjoyed a presentation by Mr Andrew Rowland, CEO of Western Australia's peak recreational fishing body, Recfishwest. The presentation examined the role, responsibilities and objectives of the organisation and how they advocate on behalf of their stakeholders to ensure quality fishing experiences in Western Australia. Mr Rowland provided several examples of co-management of fishery resources undertaken by Recfishwest and the Western Australian Government. Council thanked Mr Rowland for his time and insightful presentation.

Departmental updates

Members were briefed on a number of proposed amendments to the Fisheries Management General Regulation related to recreational fishing matters. Members also received an update from the DPIRD Aboriginal Fisheries team on the excellent progress being made with the Tweed and Birpai Barray (Hastings) Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plan (LMP) trials.

Professor Johann Bell (Chair)