

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting 9 – 29 February 2008

Draft Outcomes

ATTENDANCE

Hans Heilpern (Chairman), Graeme Byrnes (Deputy Chairman), Garry Braithwaite, Ian Charles, Jim Drinkwater, Ron Firkin, Don Johnson, Stephan Schnierer, Grahame Turk and Darren Ward.

Deputies: Jim Miller for Gary Warren, Steven Rosskelly for Ron Prindable and Peter Sutherland for George Davey and Giselle Firme for Megan Kessler.

Grant Johnson, Executive Officer.

Apologies: The Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, Richard Sheldrake, Director-General, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Bill Pearce, George Davey, Gary Warren, Kel Henry, Ron Prindable.

Absent: Nicholas Georgouras and Jonathan Yee.

Observers: Tony Puglisi, commercial fisher, Renata Brooks, Deputy Director-General, Agriculture, Fisheries & Regional Relations, DPI; Nick Milham, Director, Policy & Legislation Coordination, DPI; Anthony Hurst, Director, Wild Harvest Fisheries, DPI; Charles Gray, Research Leader, Wild Fisheries, DPI; Dr Steve Kennelly, Director Systems Research and Chief Scientist; Peter Turnell, Fisheries Coordinator, DPI (part meeting) and Barry Daus, Policy Officer, DPI, Laura Best, Office of the Minister for Primary Industries.

1. Commercial Fishermen's Co-operatives

Action 9.1:

- i. The Chairman to assist in arranging the meeting between the Association of Fishermen's Co-operatives and the Minister as soon as possible.
- ii. Chairman to write to Bill Pearce thanking him for his service to Council and wishing him well for the future.

2. Food Safety Implications of Charity Fish Auctions

Action 9.2: Executive Officer to circulate pro forma Charity Fish Auction Permit to members. [Completed copies circulated at meeting]

3. Nomination of previously bought-out fishermen

Action 9.3: NSW DPI to provide information on the process for selecting abalone businesses bought-out via the marine park process.

4. Draft Promotional document

Action 9.4: NSW DPI to develop a draft promotional document to build on the NSW DPI market research and the implementation of the SFM proposal.

5. Draft Vision Statement

Action 9.5: Chairman to send the Vision Statement, as endorsed by the Council, to the Minister for his consideration and ultimately for wide circulation.

6. Observer Program Commercial-In-Confidence Data

Action 9.6: NSW DPI to advise on indemnity arrangements for commercial fishers hosting observers on their fishing vessels.

7. Beach Access Issues

Action 9.7: NSW DPI to arrange a meeting with Sally Barnes of DECC to discuss issues of mutual interest.

8. Eastern Sea Garfish Recovery Program Update

Action 9.8:

- i. Council to establish a new Technical Working Group to advise on the Eastern Sea Garfish Recovery Program and the possibility of an early re-opening of the fishery.
- ii. The TWG to be composed of Graeme Byrnes, Jim Drinkwater, Steven Rosskelly, and ACoRF, NCC and NSW DPI representatives.

9. Industry Governance and Capacity Building and FRDC Research Funding

Action 9.9: Patrick Hone to be invited to the next meeting of Council to brief Council on industry governance and capacity building and FRDC research funding.

10. Implementation of the Indigenous Fishing Strategy Update

Action 9.10: The Indigenous Fishing Strategy to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of Council.

11. SIAC Environmental Working Group

Action 9.11:

- i. The suggested Terms of Reference to be amended to include reference to biodiversity.
- ii. Council to establish a new Environmental Working Group with membership to include the Chairman, the NCC representative, two MAC representatives, one aquaculture, the Indigenous representatives of Council, NSW DPI and one OceanWatch representative. Also recommended for membership are Mary Howard and Barry Casson.

12. Stevens Review into Structural Adjustment -in NSW Commercial Fisheries

Action 9.12:

- i. Members to provide comments for consideration by the meeting of the new Stevens Review Structural Adjustment Working Group to NSW DPI (Nick Milham) by Monday, 17 March 2008.
- ii. The new working group to be composed of: Hans Heilpern, Graeme Byrne, Grahame Turk, Jim Drinkwater, Don Johnson, Stephan Schnierer, Tony Puglisi and Anthony Hurst.

- iii. The new Working Group to meet by the end of March 2008 and make OOS recommendations to SIAC on a proposed response to the Minister's letter.
- iv. That the Minister be requested to confidentially release the Stevens' Report to members of the Liaison Group/new Working Group.

13. Commercial Catch Records Reform Project

Action 9.13: Council to advise NSW DPI on the suggested membership of the proposed Commercial Fisher's Reference Group.

14. Policy on Professional Fishing Access through DECC Land

Action 9.14: NSW DECC to be invited to brief Council on the new Professional Fishing Access Policy at its next meeting.

15. Commercial Fishing Fees And Charges

Action 9.15:

- i. That NSW DPI to provide a detailed report on commercial fishing fees and charges to Council for OOS consideration by the end of March 2008.
- ii. P&CWG to consider the suggestion that Council endorse adoption of an independent and accountable process for the setting of fees and charges similar to the Fees and Charges Standing Committee in Victoria for all NSW fisheries, and advise SIAC prior to its next meeting.

16. Effort Displacement Review:

Action 9.16: The Stevens Review Working Group to work with NSW DPI on the methodology for further action in relation to the Effort Displacement Review and then for this to be referred back to SIAC for OOS endorsement.

17. Report on the Increase in the Minimum Legal length of Snapper

Action 9.17: SIAC and ACoRF representatives to meet and discuss the *Report on the Increase in the Minimum Legal length of Snapper* and provide OOS advice to Council.

18. Improving Safety in the Commercial Fishing Industry

Action 9.18: To be listed on the agenda for Council's next meeting.

19. Removal of Native Fish From Drying Lakes

Action 9.19: NSW DPI to follow-up on the issue of removal of broodstock from drying lakes for commercial hatchery operators.

20. National Interim Climate Change Response Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Action 9.20: NSW DPI to provide six monthly updates on climate change issues to Council.

21. Diffuse Source Water Pollution Strategy

Action 9.21:

- i. Members to advise the Executive Officer of their comments, if any, on the Diffuse Source Water Pollution Strategy by Friday, 7 March 2008.

- ii. Council's Environmental Working Group to consider members comments and provide advice on the outcomes of the above strategy by end March 2008.

22. Peak Oyster Advisory Group Request for Review of the Recreational Taking of Oysters and Possible Food Safety Concerns

Action 9.22: NSW DPI and the Food Authority to discuss the recreational taking of oysters and possible food safety concerns.

23. Report on Aquatic Diagnostic Capacity

Action 9.23: Aquatic Diagnostic Capacity within NSW DPI to be on the agenda of Council's next meeting.

24. Proposal for indictable offences relating to illegal catch and theft of abalone or other fish species,

Action 9.24: Chairman to follow-up with the Minister the proposal for indictable offences relating to illegal catch and theft of abalone or other fish species, and advise Council accordingly.

Note: It was with regret that the Chairman accepted Mr Bill Pearce's resignation and expressed his appreciation for his services to the Council.

Council was concerned to learn of NSW DPI research which found a perception in the community that the fishing industry is essentially selfish and profit driven. Council noted the need for industry and Government strategies to correct this perception.

For further information contact Barry Daus, Acting Executive Officer, Seafood Industry Advisory Council, 02 8437 4901, barry.daus@dpi.nsw.gov.au