



Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

Minutes

MEETING	Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council		
MEETING NO.	18	DATE	8 June 2018
LOCATION	Sydney	TIME	8:34am
ATTENDEES	Richard Stevens (Chair) Geoff Allan Mark Bulley Graeme Byrnes Assoc Prof Stephan Schnierer Stan Konstantaras Aimee Cavanagh – DPI Fisheries (Executive Officer)		
APOLOGIES	Minister Niall Blair DPI DG Scott Hansen Dr Sally Townley		
INVITED SPEAKERS	Natalie Moltschaniwskyj - Director Fisheries Research Mika Malkki – Director Fisheries Operations		
PREPARED BY	Aimee Cavanagh		

AGENDA	Confirmed
DRAFT MINUTES MEETING 17	Draft Minutes accepted without change as a true and accurate record of discussions from the meeting held on 15 March 2018 <i>Moved:</i> Graeme Byrnes <i>Seconded:</i> Mark Bulley
REGISTER OF INTERESTS	The Chair and Members reviewed the Register of Interests providing amendments as required: <u>Richard Stevens OAM</u> SA Marine Scale Fishery Strategy Working Group – Independent Chair <u>Stephan Schnierer</u> - FRDC Indigenous Capacity Building project

Welcome and introductory comments by the Chair

The Chair welcomed all members, and invited guest.

The Chair paid his respects to the Elders past and present.

MFAC Strategy – Outcomes

Objective	Issue	Outcome
1.	Identify the priorities of, and the challenges facing all fisheries sectors by firstly, drafting a background Discussion Paper, and then releasing the Discussion paper for input from stakeholder groups	MFAC to review at every quarterly meeting
2.	To provide input to an initial draft policy on Cost Recovery, and consider approaches taken to Cost Recovery in other jurisdictions. Provide advice to the Minister prior to public release for consultation and feedback to MFAC.	MFAC to continue to work with the Department to develop the policy following the implementation of the Business Adjustment Program.
3.	Commission a report from the DDG DPI Fisheries on the current status of individual fishery management and aquaculture plans and/or strategies, including the process and associated timeframe for developing, finalising and /or reviewing those plans. This will include a strategy for the implementation of ecosystem based fisheries management	Provide a plan incorporating process and timelines for discussion with MFAC in 2019
4.	Assist DPI Fisheries to identify the information needs to support the effective management of NSW Fisheries resources by reviewing the research programs plans provided by the Department and other R&D plans/priorities	Provide advice to the DDG DPI Fisheries as required
5.	Develop a draft Policy on Co-management of Fisheries for consideration by the Minister prior to public release for consultation and feedback to MFAC. Draw on experience from other jurisdictions and the FRDC	Draft Policy developed / to be distributed for consultation with CommFish.
6.	Review expenditure from Fisheries Trusts	Report to be presented June 2018
7.	Support the work of AFAC in ongoing activities aimed at further development of management strategies that support Aboriginal cultural fishing under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> .	Council received two briefings on developments relating to Aboriginal cultural fishing, and recognised the need to adequately resource engagement on the ground with communities along with capacity building and recognition of cultural fishing.
8.	Consider a Recreational Fishing Policy framework	This will be driven through the Recreational Fishing NSW Council A Vision & Strategy which includes the top 10 issues has been implemented to start conversation amongst Recreational Fishing NSW Council
9.	Consider evidence based advice and options relating to issues impacting in fish habitat	Mr Konstantaris to provide a report at each quarterly meeting
10.	Consider proposals from DPI Fisheries Compliance and a Penalty Point System	Complete
11.	Provide input into draft Harvest Strategy Policy	

Objective	Issue	Outcome
12.	Develop draft guiding principles on ecosystem based fisheries management	Mr Richards and Prof Schnierer to draft paper

Challenges & Priorities

Challenges and Priorities 2018 identified:-

- Cost Recovery Policy
- Cultural Fishing
- Marine Estate Management
- Co-Management Policy

Members to review and update Challenges and Priorities (NSW Fishing Sectors) for relevant fishery, for discussion at June 2018 meeting.

8. Invited Speakers

Natalie Moltschaniwskyj – Director Fisheries Research presented a paper and discussed Harvest Strategies, data needs and Research Branch priorities.

Mika Malkki, Director Fisheries Operations – Discussed response from Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council on MFAC paper.

9. Business items

Item	Topic	Outcomes
1	Cultural Fishing	Council discussed the draft “Aboriginal Fishing – Policy Support Paper” after copy was provided to AFAC. Draft paper to be provided to the Minister for comment. Council expressed its appreciation to the department, particularly Mika Malkki and Geoff Allan, for their work on the Cultural Awareness Program
2	NSW Co-Management Policy	Council agreed to wait for comment from CommFish and want to see if it can be applied more broadly.
3	NSW Cost Recovery Policy	Council are awaiting comment from CommFish
4	Fisheries Research – Resource Assessment	Natalie Moltschaniwskyj attended the meeting and provided a presentation and answered questions on Harvest Strategy. A copy of the presentation will be provided to members.

Item 10: Deputy Director General, DPI Fisheries Report

Geoff briefly reported on:-

- Progress with IAP process
- Progress with consultation on NSW Marine Waters Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy
- Information on 83 containers which fell overboard a container ship. The clean up is being coordinated by RMS and debris is being retrieved.
- Progress with Ministerial Taskforce on Fish passage
- PFAS and DPI Fisheries’ role

Item 11: Members Reports / Other Business

Stan Konstantaras – Recreational Fishing

- Summarised issues being discussed at RFNSW including:

- Mullet management arrangements
- Southern Fish Trawl
- Rock fishing

Stephan Schnierer – Aboriginal Cultural Fishing

- Progress of AFT and the sustainability of the trust.
- LMP update
- AFAC membership
- Cultural awareness workshops
- Indigenous Fisheries research
- FRDC capacity building project

Mark Bulley – Aquaculture

- Provided a brief update and referred to the aquaculture report provided.
- Water quality

Graeme Byrnes – Commercial Fishing

- Provided a brief update and referred to the document provided.

Item 13: Chair's Summary

The Chair will consider the drafting of an Annual Report for Council.

Following clearance of the draft minutes of this meeting the Chair will prepare a summary for posting on the DPI Website.

Item 14: Next meeting

The next meeting of the Council, scheduled for 21 September 2018, will be confirmed closer to the date. This meeting may be cancelled or occur by teleconference.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.15pm and thanked the Members for their contribution.

Action Arising List

Meeting #	Action #	Action	Status
14	5	Recreational Fishing Policy Framework. Stan to liaise with EO MFAC with a view of providing a presentation to MFAC at the June 2018 meeting	Stan Konstantaras Christine Rae June 2018
16	9.2	Geoff to obtain feedback from other relevant committees to build a policy for NSW (Co-Management Policy)	Policy drafted and provided to CommFish NSW for comment.
17	5	All members to review Challenges & Priorities for discussion and update where relevant June 2018	All Members June 2018 Geoff Allan to ask Director Aquatic Environment to discuss conservation and aquatic environment challenges and priorities with Sally Townley (MFAC Conservation Representative)
17	9.1	Mika Malki to contact all AFAC Members to provide an overview of the Draft Aboriginal Fishing Policy Support Paper that will be distributed for discussion/comment.	Mika Malki <i>Completed</i>
17	9.3	Geoff Allan to provide comments from CommFish NSW on the Draft Co-management Policy to MFAC and subsequently to discuss with other Advisory Committees..	Geoff Allan
17	13	EO MFAC to liaise with Miranda Pade, Policy Advisory Minister Primary Industries Office regarding the Minister attending the June 2018 meeting.	Christine Rae Email sent 19/03/18 <i>Completed</i>
18	14.1	Geoff Allan to provide an update on water quality issues and what government initiatives are in place to handle it. Information is to include the lead agency and allocation of funds.	Geoff Allan
18	14.2	Extraordinary meeting scheduled to discuss water quality issues.	All Members
18	15	Draft paper on potential new MFAC priority – Preparation of paper on <i>Guiding Principles of Ecosystem Based Fisheries</i>	Richard Stevens Stephan Schneider
18	16	Richard Stevens to write to Minister Blair regarding the Cultural Fishing discussion paper	Mika Malkki to draft
18	17	A copy of Director Fisheries Research presentation will be provided to members.	Aimee Cavanagh