

**Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council
Outcomes
Meeting 16, 12 and 13 October 2020
Video conference**

Members Present	Johann Bell Dave Rae Paul Lennon Grahame Williams OAM Justin Duggan Vicki Lear Matt Hansen Karl Mathers Steven Samuels Vic Levett Ian Puckeridge Peter Turnell	Independent Chair Region 1 – Mid and Far North Coast Region 2 – Lower North Coast Region 3 – Sydney & Central Coast Region 3 – Sydney & Central Coast Region 4 – Illawarra Region 6 – North West Inland Region 7 – South West Inland Region 8 – Central & Southern Tablelands Charter Boat Fishing Spear Fishing Nominee of the Secretary – DPI representative
Apologies	Jo Starling Ray Tang	Region 5 – South Coast Region 8 – Central and Southern Tablelands

Day 1 – 12 October 2020

1. Introduction by the Chair

NOTED:

- The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members to the 16th meeting of RFNSW.
- The meeting was held by videoconference due to the current COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

2. Register of Interests

NOTED:

- The Chair requested that members declare any changes or additions to the Register of Interests provided in the agenda.
- Member Steve Samuels advised the Council he has been appointed as the Public Officer for RecFish Australia.
- Member Peter Turnell declared that under the recent DPI restructure, he has been appointed Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management.

3. Agreement on the agenda, adoption of previous meeting record, proposed future meeting schedule

NOTED:

- RFNSW members agreed on the agenda for the meeting.
- The outcomes of the 15th meeting of RFNSW were accepted without change as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
- Council reiterated their ongoing request to hold a joint session with CommFish to discuss cross-sectoral issues.

ACTION: DPI to facilitate a joint session between CommFish and RFNSW at the earliest opportunity.

4. Review of action items from meeting 15 (19 August 2020)

NOTED:

- Council noted the action items from the previous meeting.
- DPI explained that a number of action items were awaiting discussion at the proposed joint session meeting with CommFish, which has been on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Member Matt Hansen requested introduction of a long-term meeting schedule for future meetings to assist members with forward planning.

ACTION: DPI to prepare a draft meeting schedule for 2021 for presentation at the next meeting.

5. DPI restructure

NOTED:

- DPI provided advice to Council on the realignment of a number of Fisheries teams within DPI following the restructure announced in September 2020.
- Member Peter Turnell reiterated that he has been appointed Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and will now oversee management of commercial and recreational fisheries as well as aquaculture.

ACTION: DPI to circulate updated DPI organisational chart when available.

6. Update on previous top 10 priority issues: reviewing status

NOTED:

- RFNSW had previously developed a Top 10 key priority issues list to help guide RFNSW discussion at meetings.
- At the meeting, Council reviewed these priorities to ensure that they still adequately reflected the current focus of the Council on addressing key areas of interest to the recreational fishing sector.
- Members formed three break out groups to provide feedback on current and new issues, and then used the outcomes of the discussions to develop a revised list of priorities.

ACTION: DPI to circulate the revised priority list to members 'out of session'.

ACTION: DPI to request an update from FRDC on the KHV (koi herpes virus) roll out.

ACTION: DPI to facilitate a comprehensive presentation by DPI research on the stock status of Mulloway to inform the joint session with CommFish.

ACTION: DPI to facilitate a presentation by the Murray Darling Basin unit on status and plans for the recovery of Macquarie Perch at meeting 17.

7) Recreational Fishing Strategy

NOTED:

- At the previous meeting, RFNSW identified the need for a 5-10 year NSW Recreational Fishing Strategy. The aim of the Strategy is to implement a range of initiatives to further enhance sustainable recreational fishing, and associated tourism opportunities throughout the State, taking into account the economic and social drivers of recreational fishing, access issues and investment opportunities.
- A sub group was formed to commence preliminary work on the proposed Recreational Fishing Strategy once the Minister has considered and endorsed the development of the Strategy (as requested in the Chair's letter to the Minister following Meeting 15).
- RFNSW noted that DPI may need to assist Council with development of the proposed strategy.

8) Recreational Fishing Trust applications

NOTED:

- Council reviewed advice from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee on two applications for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust and endorsed the recommendations by the Committee.

Day 2 – 13 October 2020

9) Chairs summary of day 1

10) Eastern Australian Salmon presentation

NOTED:

- Council received a presentation on the stock status, growth and movements of Eastern Australian salmon.
- It was noted that the major commercial effort and catch is focused on the south coast of NSW. Total commercial catch was 1008 tonne in 2018/2019. Variations in the occurrence of Salmon in the Sydney/Central Coast area may be due to variations in currents and water temperature.
- It was also noted that the Eastern Australian Salmon stock is shared by NSW, Victoria and Tasmania and is classified as a sustainable stock under the Status of Fish Stocks program (www.fish.org.au).
- There has been a decline in biomass of the entire east-coast stock since the late 1980's.
- Estimated biomass is highly uncertain but is most likely to be around 30% of unfished levels.

ACTION: DPI to provide an update to the Council on the preferred temperature range of Eastern Australian Salmon.

11) Marine park management planning process

NOTED:

- The Council received a further update on the marine park planning process focusing on the development of draft network management plans for the five marine parks along the coast of NSW.
- Members welcomed the focus on stakeholder engagement, including the opportunities to develop solutions in partnership with recreational fishers, and to support the enhancement of recreational fishing experiences in marine parks.

12) Narrandera Fisheries Centre

NOTED:

- Council received an update on the progress of the hatchery pond upgrades at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre.

13) Spearfishing issues

NOTED:

- Member Ian Puckeridge lead a discussion on spearfishing issues including; signage at South West Rocks, a request for a review of a number of current local spearfishing closures and the use of a torch with a speargun during the day.

ACTION: DPI to review the identified signage, closures and the use of a torch with a speargun during the day and report back to Council at meeting 17.

14) Update on artificial reefs and FADs, fish stocking, Gone Fishing Day 2020 and Fish for Life

NOTED:

- The Council received presentations from DPI on the Offshore Artificial Reef and FAD Programs, fish stocking, Gone Fishing Day 2020 and progress on the Fish for Life project.

15) Correspondence received

a) Email from the RFA of NSW re the use of research data collected by Recreational Fishing Trust funded research programs

NOTED:

- DPI provided advice to the Council on the use of research data collected from recreational fishing surveys.

ACTION: RFNSW to write to the RFA in response to their concerns regarding use of research data collected by Recreational Fishing Trust funded-research programs and the Marine Estate Management Act review.

16) General Business

a) NSW Fish Passage Strategy – garnering support from the recreational sector to promote Taskforce activities

NOTED:

- Members expressed interest in supporting and promoting the activities of the Ministerial Taskforce on Fish Passage.
- The Chair to convene a meeting with interested recreational fishing representatives to progress this initiative with the Chair of the Ministerial Taskforce of Fish Passage.

b) Update on cockle regulations and compliance in Lake Illawarra

NOTED:

- DPI notified Council that the NSW Government has reduced the possession limit for Cockles from 50 to 20 per day, effective from 14 October 2020.

c) Assessment panel for additional evaluation of Trust funded Research applications

NOTED:

- The Chair advised that in the recent letter from the Hon, Adam Marshall MP, the Minister was supportive of DPI working with Council to develop a 'streamlined, effective process which can identify complex research applications for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts that may benefit from additional expert assessment on a case by case basis'.
- This was in response to Council's proposal for an additional assessment process for Trust research applications by a potential expert group.
- This would be in addition to the current expenditure committee review process.

ACTION: The Chair to send more information out of session on how the proposed additional assessment process for research applications could work.
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d) Other items

- Due to time constraints, agenda items relating fresh bait supply and Warrell Creek were deferred to the next meeting.

Table 1. Recreational Fishing Trust Grant project supported for funding by RFNSW

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21
Bingara Fish Hatchery upgrade	Bingara Anglers Club	To improve the community Bingara Fish Hatchery facilities to ensure ongoing stockings of native fish in the New England region. The hatchery is run by volunteers and produces fish for stocking in public waterways. SUPPORTED BY RFFTEC.	\$174,905 FW

Table 2. Recreational Fishing Trust Grant project NOT supported for funding by RFNSW

Platform: Recreational fishing enhancement

Project Title	Organisation	Project Summary	2020/21
Cumnock Community Fish re-stock	Cumnock fishing community	To re-stock the local waterways after water conditions killed extensive amounts of fish. NOT SUPPORTED BY RFFTEC. RFFTEC referred the application to DPI Fisheries to incorporate publicly accessible sites with good water quality conditions into the upcoming DPI native fish stocking program to avoid overlap.	\$4,000