

**Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council
Outcomes
Meeting 18, 17 December 2020
Zoom videoconference**

Members Present	Johann Bell Dave Rae Paul Lennon Grahame Williams OAM Justin Duggan Matt Hansen Karl Mathers Steven Samuels Ray Tang Matt Tripet Ian Puckeridge Ian Lyall	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 6 – North West Inland Region 7 – South West Inland Region 8 – Central & Southern Tablelands Region 8 – Central & Southern Tablelands Social benefits of recreational fishing Spear Fishing A/DPI representative
Apologies	Vicki Lear Vic Levett Peter Turnell	Region 4 – Illawarra Charter Fishing Nominee of the Secretary - DPI representative

1) Member Welcome, Chair Introduction

NOTED:

- The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members to the 18th meeting of RFNSW via zoom video conference.
- The Chair also welcomed Mr Ian Lyall A/Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management to the meeting.

2) Register of Interests

NOTED:

- The Chair requested that members declare any changes or additions to the Register of Interests provided in the agenda.
- No changes or additions were requested at the meeting.

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 17th meeting of RFNSW were accepted without change as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

4) Review of action items from meeting 17 (27 November 2020)

NOTED:

- Council noted the action items from the previous meeting.

5) Recreational Fishing Trust funding applications

NOTED:

- An update on the status of Recreational Fishing Trust funds was provided to members at the meeting.
- The Chair took the opportunity to express gratitude to the two Expenditure Committees for the tremendous task of reviewing the large number of submissions received by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) from the most recent call for Trust fund applications
- Council reviewed advice from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committees on the applications for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trust, following a recent Ministerial expression of interest process.
- Council supported the advice from the Expenditure Committees and will now pass this advice on to the Minister for consideration.
- During discussion on the Trust applications, the Committee discussed the current spearfishing prohibition within the Lord Howe Island Marine Park. Members supported further discussion on this issue at the next Council meeting.

ACTION 1: DPI to request a presentation from the Lord Howe Island Marine Park Manager to Meeting 19 to discuss the spearfishing prohibition in the Lord Howe Island Marine Park.

6) Debrief from joint meeting with CommFish

NOTED:

- Council discussed outcomes from the previous joint session, including the proposal to set up joint CommFish NSW and RFNSW sub groups to identify any options to further prevent the black marketing of fish and to further assist with Mulloway Recovery.
- At the meeting, the Chair requested members to consider their rationale for an appropriate size limit for Kingfish for discussion at the next joint session meeting with CommFish.

7) Draft NSW Fisheries Co-Management Policy

NOTED:

- At the meeting, DPI sought feedback from members on the draft NSW Fisheries Co-Management Policy.
- RFNSW recognised the merit of developing a co-management approach that would progressively enable recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fishers to participate much more actively in governance of the State's fisheries resources and build their capacity to assume this responsibility.

- A sub group was formed to consolidate initial feedback on the draft Policy for the Chair to pass on to DPI in the week beginning 21 December.

ACTION 2: RFNSW to prepare a response on the draft Co-Management Policy for submission to DPI.

8) Harvest strategy update

- DPI provided an update on the progress of Harvest Strategies following the release of the draft policy and guidelines in late November 2020.
- It was noted that meetings had commenced for the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy Working Group and that the first meeting of the Lobster Harvest Strategy Working Group would occur in January 2021.
- RFNSW has a keen interest in the development and implementation of Harvest Strategies, which will encompass recreational fishing activities and associated management arrangements for the main fish species targeted by recreational fishers. Members requested that Harvest Strategies be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting to enable further in-depth discussion.

ACTION 3: Discussion on Harvest Strategies to be placed on agenda for meeting 19.

9) Correspondence

a) Email correspondence from Mr G Palmer re Rock Blackfish

NOTED

- Mr Palmer had written to RFNSW seeking advice dissemination of outcomes on the Recreational Fishing Trust funded project titled: "Profiling the biology and fishery of rock blackfish (*Girella elevata*) in the Sydney Region".
- DPI advised that the project outcomes had been published via the Fishing World website (two articles) and via the DPI website. The outcomes had also been published in scientific journals.

ACTION 4: On behalf of the Chair, DPI to provide a response to Mr Palmer regarding his query on Rock Blackfish.

b) Email from Mr R Thompson re Council advice on Recreational Fishing Trust recommendations

NOTED

- Mr Thompson had written to both RFNSW and the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales regarding concerns about dusky flathead bag limits.
- Council noted Mr Thompson had written to the Minister and requested DPI to update RFNSW on the progress of the Minister's response to Mr Thompson.

c) Letter from Minister to Mr Brett Richards, PFIGA re support measures available to professional fishing guides and instructors in NSW

NOTED

- The President of the Professional Fishing Instructor and Guiding Association (PFIGA) had written to the Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW requesting for the

consideration of a licencing scheme for the inland freshwater fishing charters and professional shore based guiding sector similar to the Marine Charter Fishing boat licencing arrangement.

- RFNSW noted the Minister had advised Mr Richards in his letter that given the low impact on the resource from the inland charter sector, the NSW Government is not considering plans to change the operating arrangements at this time, however, requested that RFNSW be provided with a copy of Mr Richard's letter for consideration.
- Members identified there were some issues associated with irresponsible operators, such as lack of insurance, inappropriate behaviour at inland access points and poor client service delivery, which had flow on impacts on the social licence of the inland charter sector and recreational fishing more broadly.

ACTION 5: DPI to prepare background information on the inland charter sector issues raised by RFNSW and to place on agenda for meeting 19 for further consideration by Council.

10) Spearfishing issues

NOTED:

- DPI provided an update on the current spearfishing related matters being considered by RFNSW, including two spearfishing closures, signage and the prohibition on the use of by spearfishers.
- Member Paul Lennon identified the need for better spearfishing signage in the Port Stephens region.

ACTION 6: DPI to provide a further update on the RFNSW spearfishing matters at the next meeting.

11) General Business

NOTED:

a) Working with the expenditure committees to identify priority research topics for Trust funding

- The Chair led discussion on the need for the Council to work with the expenditure committees to identify priority topics to be included in any future calls for research proposals for Trust funds, which will provide more direction to applicants and also potentially address recreational fishing research gaps.

b) Concerns raised over Warrell Creek

NOTED:

- At meeting 17, RFNSW discussed concerns regarding commercial fishing operations in Warrell Creek, a tributary of the Nambucca River.
- A further update was provided by a Council member on concerns with seagrass damage from boat propellers during commercial operations in the Creek.

ACTION 7.1: The Chair to raise the concerns relating to fishing operations in Warrell Creek with the Chair of CommFish.

ACTION 7.2 : On behalf of the Chair, DPI to raise the concerns relating to fishing operations in Warrell Creek with the Professional Fisher's Association for consideration.

ACTION 7.3 : DPI to place the issue of Warrell Creek and discussion on the management of small fragile waterways along the NSW coast on the agenda for Meeting 19.

c) Other items

- The agenda items relating fresh bait supply and Million Dollar Kingfish competition were deferred to the next meeting.

CLOSE