

Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council

Communique

Friday, 12 July 2019

The Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (Council) held its second meeting today in the Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) office at Largs North.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Tim Whetstone MP opened the meeting. The Minister then handed the Chairing of the meeting over to the Council Chair, Mr Graham Keegan who facilitated the discussions of the various agenda items.

Key actions

- MRFAC to progress discussion regarding the options for the recreational fishing sector to contribute to the management, scientific monitoring, stock assessment and compliance for the State's shared access fisheries.
- Regional Recreational Fishing Committees (RFCs) to be contacted by the Council Chair and asked how they want to engage with the Council, initial suggestions are:
 - RFCs to write directly to the Chair or PIRSA secretariat on issues that are raised through RFCs (state-wide or regional concerns);
 - RFCs to be consulted on relevant Council issues raised as they arise; and
 - A number of MRFAC meetings to be held in the regions and invite local fishers and groups to meet with the Council.
- Established a steering committee of the Council to develop initial content and a process of public consultation for a South Australia Recreational Fishing Strategy.
- The majority of Council members endorsed a wording change to Chapter 6 of the *Management Plan for Recreational Fishing in South Australia* to ensure the MRFAC is acknowledged as the main advisory body to the State Government on recreational fishers.
- The Council endorsed support for introduction of pyramid nets as a permitted gear type in South Australia and continued use of yabby pots (opera house nets) in South Australia.
- The Council noted varied concerns have been raised across South Australia regarding Razorfish. Regional communities will be contacted by PIRSA and asked to provide regional feedback about Razorfish issues.
- The Council agreed to hold a dedicated Council workshop to discuss the review of the Fisheries Management Act and to provide more input into a review of the operations of the Act.
- The Council discussed the latest information regarding research, science and management of Snapper and agreed it was a high priority for the Council and to put in a submission on possible management options and opportunities through to the Minister.

The members of the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council are Chair, Graham Keegan, Ian Fitzgerald, John Thomas, Tracey Tito, Peter Teakle, Brian Wheadon, Amanda Whitehorn, Shane Mensforth and Dave Scholefield.

Ian Fitzgerald has tendered his resignation and it took effect at the close of this meeting.