

Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council

Communique

Wednesday, 17 June 2020

The Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council held its fourth meeting on Wednesday 10 June 2020.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Tim Whetstone MP, attended the meeting that was facilitated by the Council Chair, Mr Graham Keegan.

Representation decisions

- The MRFAC will undertake a review of feedback received in relation to marine and freshwater boat ramp and fishing platform infrastructure, facilities and amenities to potentially support applications to relevant funding sources for recreational fishing infrastructure.
- The MRFAC will support a review of the spatial restrictions currently in place for spear fishing.
- Based on the outcomes of the Fishing Management Arrangements in Reservoirs Survey, the MRFAC will provide advice to the Fishing in Reservoir Working Group to maintain the current size and daily bag limits for all stocked species.
- Results from all MRFAC facilitated surveys will be made available through the MRFAC website (mrfac.org.au). The first survey results on Recreational Fishing Management Arrangements for Reservoirs will be made available in the near future.
- The MRFAC will be providing two recreational fishing nominations for the upcoming Seafood Advisory Forum. The Forum will consist of representatives from commercial fishing, charter boat fishing, recreational fishing, Aboriginal traditional fishing and aquaculture to facilitate strong and effective communication between all sectors. It will also include expertise-based positions in the areas of marketing and sales, chef/restaurateurs, retail, fish processing, industry development, training and skills. The Forum will outline a 10 year plan for growth of the seafood industry in South Australia.
- In addition to supporting the introduction of a pyramid net as a permitted gear type for the purpose of catching yabbies in South Australia, the MRFAC support the need to phase out the use of the existing 75 mm ringed opera house net by 30 June 2023.

Council notes for future discussion

- The Minister has requested the Council to create a Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia. The strategic plan will be based upon the results of the MRFAC Recreational Fishing Priorities Survey that is open for participation until 15 July 2020.
- The MRFAC will be supporting the review of the 2020 south east Snapper fishing season and providing advice to the Snapper Management Advisory Committee (Snapper MAC) on potential management arrangements for the south east recreational Snapper fishery 2021 open season.

- The MRFAC will support SARDI in undertaking a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funded South Australian recreational fishing catch and effort survey.

The next meeting of the MRFAC is due to take place in September 2020. The MRFAC also has the ability to meet by itself outside of these meetings.

The members of the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council are Chair, Graham Keegan, Peter Teakle, Brian Wheadon, Amanda Whitehorn and Dave Scholefield.

