

Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council

Communique

Thursday, 4 March 2021

The Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC) held its sixth meeting on Wednesday 3 February 2021. The meeting was facilitated by the Council Chair, Ms Sharon Starick.

Representation outcomes

At Meeting 6, the MRFAC:

- extended thanks to all community groups, including RecFish SA and Gulf Skindivers SA and persons involved in both most recent stocking events for Snapper and Murray Cod. Thanks were also extended to Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Aquatic Sciences for managing the project.
- noted that the results of the recreational fishing priority survey have been published to the website
- are continuing to develop the Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia. The draft strategic plan has been based upon the results of the MRFAC Recreational Fishing Priorities Survey. The strategic plan will be delivered prior to 1 July 2021.
- acknowledged the importance of providing the draft strategic plan to the recreational fishing community for a public consultation period to ensure inclusiveness and broader perspectives throughout the strategic plan. The MRFAC have begun planning and drafting for the public consultation period with the intent to provide a minimum of six weeks for the community to provide feedback.
- have agreed on advice they will provide the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development in relation to the upcoming 2021 MRFAC elections for four new members.
- agreed on advice to provide to the Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group, through the Working Group recreational representative, and MRFAC member, Mr Andrew Smith.
- have made a recommendation for a recreational fishing representative, Mr Vern Leng, to participate in the Lakes and Coorong Fishery Management Advisory Committee (LCFMAC). Mr Leng is a passionate freshwater recreational fisher, former primary producer and local Council member representing the Lower Murray and Lakes and Coorong. He strongly advocates for healthy and productive rivers, coast and Coorong and has served on numerous community, regional, state and national boards.
- are providing a member of the MRFAC to attend the upcoming South Australian Boating Facilities Advisory Committee (SABFAC).
- noted a Marine Scalefish reform update provided by the PIRSA policy and management team.

Council notes for future discussion

- The MRFAC will explore the best way for to assist marine and freshwater regions in accessing funding from the national Boating Camping and Facilities fund.
- The MRFAC noted the RecFish SA South East Lakes proposal for the 'Kakadu of the South' submission to the South East Natura Resources Management Board.
- The MRFAC are continuing to provide advice to the SARDI led national research project to accurately estimate the number of recreational fishers and their catch. The project is in partnership with the University of Tasmania and is co-funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.
- The MRFAC have agreed to continue to seek recognition of Recreational fishing as a sport or recreation.
- The MRFAC will seek further information to base a detailed discussion regarding the Mangrove dieback in St Kilda.
- The MRFAC noted the new date for the World Fisheries Congress is scheduled for 20-24 September 2021.