

Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council

Communique

Monday, 24 May 2021

The Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC) held its seventh meeting on Tuesday 11 May 2021. The meeting was facilitated by the Council Chair, Ms Sharon Starick.

Representation outcomes

At Meeting 7, the MRFAC:

- discussed the results of the public consultation on the draft Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia that ran from 18 March to 30 April 2021. The MRFAC considered all of the feedback including the open-ended comments received in response to the draft document and distilled constructive feedback to incorporate into, and finalise the Recreational Fishing Strategy for South Australia
- agreed to publish the results of the public consultation to the MRFAC website. The first report will contain the figures and the second will contain all feedback received through the open-ended comments sections on each of the 'Pillars'.
- noted that several comments received referred to the potential introduction of a fishing licence or registration. All comments received were acknowledged in the review process, however, as the plan does not propose to establish a licence or registration, but more so an investigation of funding and resources, the comments were not considered to be suitable to incorporate into the plan.
- have provided advice to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development in relation to the upcoming 2021 MRFAC election for four new members. The MRFAC will continue to provide advice on the MRFAC election where required.
- reviewed the Terms of Reference to address and clarify the process in which nominated recreation fishing representatives for advisory bodies are selected, and the expectations required of those who are endorsed by the MRFAC to fulfill an advisory role.
- Noted federal funding that will be provided to South Australian local councils to improve, maintain or build new boating, marine rescue, fishing and camping facilities with the aim to improve river and coastal fishing opportunities for locals and visitors. MRFAC provided initial advice on potential assessment criteria??
- noted the verbal update from PIRSA on the progress of the risk assessment on Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary dolphin and recreational fishers' interactions. MRFAC recommended that the work needs to be completed prior to YTK season.
- noted a Marine Scalefish reform update provided by the PIRSA policy and management team.

Council notes for future discussion

- The MRFAC will provide advice to PIRSA regarding criteria to guide the application process for the federal Boating Camping and Facilities fund.
- The MRFAC supports both Recreational fishing as a sport and or recreation and will work to address this recognition process
- The MRFAC are continuing to provide advice to the SARDI led national research project to 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 noted the World Fisheries Congress is scheduled for 20-24 September 2021.