

## **Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing**

### **Outcomes from Meeting 42 – Tuesday 11 December 2007**

#### ***Attendance***

Bruce Schumacher (Chair), John Dunphy, Janette McLeod, Kevin McKinnon, Ann Garard, Peter Cooley, Otto Volz, John Clarke, Charles Howe, Bill Childs (deputising for Steve Scott) and Nick James (Departmental nominee).

#### ***Observers***

Adrian Wayne, Max Castle.

#### ***Departmental Observers***

Renata Brooks (Deputy Director General Primary Industries Agriculture and Fisheries – morning session), Anthony Hurst (Director Wild Harvest Fisheries), Laura Best (Departmental Liaison Officer, Minister's Office – afternoon session) John Diplock, Bryan van der Walt and Alistair McBurnie.

#### ***Apologies***

Neil Ryan, Jim Harnwell (Council members), Sanchia Glaskin, Ron Croker and Claudette Rechterik (invited as observers).

#### ***Confirmation of minutes from previous ACoRF meeting***

The Council accepted the outcomes as a true and accurate record of discussions from the 41<sup>st</sup> ACoRF meeting, held 26 April 2007. **Moved:** Kevin McKinnon. **Seconded:** Charles Howe.

#### **Carried.**

Note: John Clarke did not agree with the record of discussions regarding the status of recommendations from the Stevens Report. The Director Wild Harvest Fisheries confirmed that a number of these recommendations have been considered and implemented by the Government.

#### ***Business arising from the minutes***

Charles Howe noted that scientific information was not the main reason for the re-allocation of Australian salmon in 2001 (i.e. introduction of commercial fishing/netting restrictions). DPI confirmed that it was a Government election commitment at that time.

#### **1. Recreational Fishing Update**

*Request for the review of the recreational bag limit for oysters to address issues raised by the NSW Seafood Industry Conference.*

The Council noted that this issue is not related to the sustainability of oyster stocks which is usually regulated through bag and size limits, closures etc. Council was informed that DPI had met with NSW Food Authority representatives regarding this issue on 12 October 2007. It was proposed to boost the food safety advisory message regarding the recreational harvest of shellfish. In particular, the NSW Food Authority fact sheet on recreational harvesting of shellfish would be included in the saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing guides with an annual print run of 300,000 copies.

#### **Action item**

DPI to advise the NSW Seafood Industry Conference about the enhanced recreational campaign regarding the recreational harvest of shellfish.

#### **Motion:**

The Council recommended that the current bag limit of 50 oysters be retained. **Moved:** Charles Howe. **Seconded:** Ann Garard. **Carried.**

*Announcement for Nodavirus sampling for 2007 – intention to produce Australian bass.*  
Information noted. No recommendations or action items.

*Meroo and Termeil Lake Access.*

Mr Alistair Henschman/nominee from the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) was unable to attend the meeting to discuss issues relating to access through National Parks, particularly with respect to providing ongoing access for recreational fishers.

The Council expressed concern about the limited number and deterioration of access roads in these areas. It was noted that the Minister for Primary Industries wrote to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water on 27 July 2007 regarding access to Meroo Lake. There was unanimous agreement that suitable access must be retained for anglers throughout all parks in NSW. Renata Brooks offered to consult with Ms Sally Barnes, the new Deputy Director General, DECC, regarding this issue and also extend an invitation for Ms Barnes to attend the next Council meeting.

**Action item**

The Council write to the Minister for Primary Industries to request that a letter be forwarded to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water, to follow up the previous letter sent from the Minister for Primary Industries seeking continued access for recreational fishers through all reserves and parks in NSW.

*Correct way to measure crab trap mesh size.*

The Council was advised that a regulatory change may be needed to clarify the legal requirements for crab traps with entanglement mesh.

**2. Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure**

On 13 and 14 November 2007 the Recreational Fishing Saltwater and Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committees (RFSTEC and RFFTEC) held meetings to review progress of Trust funded programs and to review new applications for funding received by NSW DPI since the annual budget meetings in April 2007 and external programs from the Saltwater and Freshwater Trusts in 2007/08 and beyond. Tables 1-3 summarise all of the applications recommended for funding by ACoRF

Motion: The Council supported funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the programs in Tables 1 and 2 in light of the previous recommendations made by RFSTEC and RFFTEC.

**Moved:** Charles Howe. **Seconded:** Janette McLeod. **Carried.**

**Table 1: New large grant programs recommended for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts**

<b>Large Saltwater Grants</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
<b>Investigating the behavioural response to grey nurse sharks to recreational lure and baited lines</b> – involves a three year study to examine and address potentially negative interactions between particular fishing methods and endangered species.	NSW DPI – Science & Research	\$228,570	\$185,946	\$28,176
<b>Monitoring of Gamefish and inland native fisheries in NSW via competition-based angling</b> – aims to sample catch and effort from selected inland fishing competitions and gamefishing tournaments in NSW in support of the assessment of freshwater native fish and billfish, tuna and sharks.	NSW DPI - Science & Research	SW \$75,996 FW \$32,569	SW \$80,359 FW \$34,439	SW \$86,422 FW \$37,038
<b>Artificial structures for the enhancement of recreational fishing</b> – involves ongoing research monitoring of deployed artificial reefs and new estuarine reefs as required by approving Authorities and extension of the monitoring program into offshore waters.	NSW DPI - Science & Research	\$47,664	\$165,659	\$164,559
<b>Richmond River Rescue</b> - involves minimising toxic discharge into the Richmond estuary by installation of 5 flood mitigation gates.	Northern Rivers ECOfishers	\$30,000		
<b>Erection of Replacement Radio Tower with Safe Access to maintain 24 hour operation</b> - involves installation of a 18m tower to improve safety for recreational fishing boaters while travelling on Swansea Channel and crossing the hazardous Swansea Bar.	Australian volunteer coast Guard – Swansea Flotilla	\$35,300		
<b>Predicting hazardous conditions for rock fishing</b> - aims to characterise the behaviour of wave groups impacting coastal rock platforms and provide practical information that will help educate and warn the fishing community of potentially hazardous conditions.	Water Research Laboratory (WRL), University of New South Wales	\$39,000		
<b>New South Wales Young Leaders 2008 - Supporting the Future of Recreational Fishing</b> - This project will bring together and establish the next generation of recreational fishing leaders in a forum where they will be educated and mentored by current experienced and recognised leaders in recreational fishing advocacy and management.	Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	\$23,500		

**Table 2: New small grant programs recommended for funding from the Recreational fishing Trusts**

<b>Small Saltwater Grants</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2007/08</b>
<b>Wooli Marine Radio Base Project</b> – involves the construction of a two-story accredited marine radio base to be operated by Wooli VRA volunteer personnel. Will promote the safety of boaters, including anglers, in the region.	Wooli Volunteer Rescue Squad Inc	\$9,800
<b>Strategic research plan for the sustainable resource use of Longtail Tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) in Australian waters</b> – involves the implementation of a 12 month study to assess the status of Longtail Tuna stocks internationally and in Australia and resource use of Longtail Tuna by commercial and recreational fisheries in Australia.	Recfish Australia	\$5,000
<b>Assisting others to enjoy fishing</b> – involves conducting fishing clinics for Camp Quality, junior anglers and adults.	Narooma Sport and Game Fishing Club	\$2,754
<b>Crowdy Head Boat Ramp Lighting</b> – involves the installation of lighting at the popular ramp to improve safety standards and identify hazards in the early morning and night.	Harrington Hotel Blue-water Fishing Club	\$6,123
<b>Sunshine Foreshore Improvement Project – Fish Cleaning Facility</b> – involves construction of a fish cleaning table where fish can be cleaned in safety with available water supply.	Lake Macquarie City Council	\$6,000
<b>Fishing with TLC</b> – involves conducting fortnightly clinics/activities for people with an intellectual disability at various sites on the Tomaree Peninsula, Port Stephens.	Tomaree Links to the Community (TLC)	\$5,000
<b>Cookies Beach Boat Ramp Reconstruction</b> – aims to reconstruct a deteriorating boat ramp to improve recreational fishing access at Durras Lake.	Durras Progress Association (DPA)	\$10,000
<b>Smithtown fish cleaning table</b> – involves the construction of a fish cleaning table which will benefit the recreational community.	YAKA Watson Memorial Park Committee	\$8,290
<b>Gerringong Boat Harbour fish cleaning bench</b> – involves the construction of a fish cleaning bench which will benefit the recreational community.	Kiama Shire Council	\$7,000
<b>Replication of the Learn to fish DVD</b> – involves replication of an additional 18,000 copies of this popular DVD for distribution to new entrants to the sport.	DPI-Fishcare	\$10,000
<b>Small Freshwater Grants</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2007/08</b>
<b>Movement patterns of the eel tailed freshwater catfish in the Nymboida River</b> - aims to describe the movement patterns of the poorly understood eastern freshwater catfish in relation to flows and barriers.	NSW DPI - Science & Research	\$9,900
<b>Kremer Street Reserve Upgrade</b> – installation of a fish cleaning table on the Murray River at Kremur Street, West Albury.	Albury City Council	\$4,000
<b>Supporting fish hatchery trainees</b> – involves providing funds for fisheries students to learn practical skills in a native fish hatchery at Narrandera.	NSW DPI – Wild Harvest Fisheries	\$5,000
<b>Balranald Ex-servicemens Anglers Club fishing cleaning station</b> – involves installation of a fishing cleaning station at Balranald boat ramp.	Balranald Ex-servicemens Anglers Club	\$5,000

### 3. Fishing Closures

#### 1. Emergency *Caulerpa taxifolia* closures

##### a) Durras Lake

An amendment to the existing recreational netting (prawn) closure in Durras Lake was gazetted on 14 November 2007 due to the recent identification of 2 additional areas infested by *Caulerpa*.

##### b) Wallagoot Lake

*Caulerpa* was identified in Wallagoot Lake in July 2007 and a recent survey indicated that the area infested is relatively contained. An emergency recreational and commercial fishing closure was implemented on 2 October 2007 to minimise risks of these activities spreading the weed. The Council supported the proposal to extend this emergency closure for up to two years to further reduce the risk of spreading *Caulerpa* from this area.

#### **Action item**

The Council noted the *Caulerpa* closures and requested information/statistics regarding the revocation of *Caulerpa* closures following eradication from particular areas/waterways.

*Steven Kay, Aquatic Biosecurity Officer, NSW DPI, was contacted on 19 December 2007 and provided the following information:*

*To date there has been no revocation of any *Caulerpa* closures in NSW. All *Caulerpa* closures will be reviewed by DPI's Aquatic Biosecurity and Risk Management Unit by January 2008. It is envisaged that the Lake Macquarie closure will continue for approximately 6 months to enable DPI Research staff to investigate and map the Lake. If no *Caulerpa* is found in Lake Macquarie during this process then the closure will be lifted. Therefore, revocation of these closures will occur over time in areas where *Caulerpa* has definitely been eradicated.*

#### 2. Renewal of Wattamolla Lagoon netting and trap closure

The existing closure prohibits the taking of fish from the lagoon by means of all nets and traps, except the landing net. The closure was Gazetted on 17 August and commenced 23 August 2007, for a period of 5 years. The Council supported the continuation of this closure.

#### 3. New proposed closures

##### *Request by Waverley Council for a spearfishing closure in Bondi Bay*

Extensive consultation was conducted by the department with relevant stakeholders regarding this proposal and the Advisory Council was provided with information that demonstrated the majority of respondents did not support the proposal in any form. It was noted that spearfishers mainly use the north and south headlands as entry and exit points only and that little or no spearfishing actually occurs in the proposed closure area. No reports of injuries arising from spearfishing had been recorded. Members expressed their reluctance to introduce closures where there is minimal support from relevant stakeholders.

#### **Motion:**

The Council does not support the proposed spearfishing closure in Bondi Bay. **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

#### **Action item**

The Deputy Director General write to Waverley Council to advise of the Advisory Council's position regarding this proposal, based on feedback from stakeholders consulted.

The following three closure proposals were submitted by Commercial Fisheries Management, Wild Harvest Fisheries. The department confirmed these closures form part of a broad review of saltwater fishing closures, similar to the recent review, revocation and/or consolidation of freshwater fishing closures.

*a) Proposed amendment to Port Stephens Estuary Closure*

The proposed amendment would allow the use of a dip or scoop net (prawns) by recreational fishers and prawn net (hauling) by a limited number of commercial fishers to target greasyback prawns (*Metapenaeus benettae*). The commercial fishers would operate under a fee paying permit system, to help fund departmental research to assess the environmental, economic and social impact of the change. It was confirmed that sustainability of the species was not the reason for the closure in this estuary. It was also acknowledged that the possibility of gaining additional fishing access in a Marine Park was a positive outcome and could have broader implications over time.

**Motion:**

The Council supported the amendment to the Port Stephens Estuary closure, as proposed. **Moved:** John Clarke. **Seconded:** Charles Howe. **Carried.**

*b) Proposed amendment to Belmore River Closure*

The proposed amendment would allow the use of a landing net, dip or scoop net and bait trap by recreational fishers and the use of landing nets and eel traps (from the road bridge at Gladstone upstream to the Belmore River floodgate) by commercial fishers. The intent of the closure is to protect stocks of Australian Bass and these species are not captured in eel or bait traps, therefore the use of these methods in the river poses no threat to this species and satisfies the original intent of the closure. Likewise, dip or scoop nets may only be used for taking prawns under current regulation.

**Motion:**

The Council supported the amendment to the Belmore River closure, as proposed. **Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

*c) Proposed amendment to a Pittwater fishing closure*

This closure prohibits the use of mesh nets by commercial fishers in specific waters of Pittwater between 1 January and 30 June. As the historical hauling grounds of Pittwater are now closed to hauling nets of every description, due to *Caulerpa taxifolia* and strapweed seagrass (*Posidonia australis*) closures, the original purpose of the closure has become redundant. The proposed amendment would prohibit the use of mesh nets between 1 January and 28 February. It was confirmed that further restrictions could be imposed, including (i) limiting to a 3 hour set time or (ii) limiting to splashing (set and immediate retrieve) only.

The Council was provided with a copy of a submission from a local charter fishing boat operator, who strongly opposed any change to the current closure. DPI recommended that this issue be deferred to enable further consultation between ACoRF and the Seafood Industry Advisory Council.

**Motion:**

The Council confirmed that this issue be deferred until the next meeting, to enable further consultation and consideration of the issue. **Moved:** John Clarke. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

#### **4. Compliance update**

The Council was provided with an overview of current compliance operations and activities, including some recent prosecution results and efforts to improve reporting to the general public on the number and results of compliance activities. Compliance with the fishing rules by recreational fishers was 89.9% during the period 10 July 2006 – 8 July 2007. The majority of infringements related to fishing without a licence/not having the licence in possession, while freshwater fishers had a higher compliance rate than saltwater anglers. It was acknowledged that improved reporting/feedback may assist with increasing the compliance rates by recreational fishers.

There was also discussion regarding the Compliance Restructure proposal, which was forwarded to members in September. A significant change proposed relating to the recreational fishing sector is that the Recreational Mobile Squad, which is currently 1 squad of 3 staff based on the Central Coast, be split into 3 separate squads of 2 persons and based on the North, Central and South Coasts. One Trust funded Officer would form part of each team. Information noted. No recommendations.

#### **Action item**

The department consider ways to disseminate outcomes of compliance activities to Fishcare Volunteers to help advise the general fishing public about these operations and results of major prosecutions.

#### **5. Proposed increase to the minimum legal length (MLL) of snapper**

The Council was provided with a historical overview of this issue by the Commercial Fisheries representative. An increase from 28 to 30cm was introduced during the previous review of fishing rules (2000-2001), which proposed an increase to 32cm at that time. It was determined that there would be a staged increase to 32cm over time, to reduce impacts on commercial fishers. The Council confirmed that it had supported increasing the MLL from 28 to 35cm at that time. The Council was advised that the Ocean Trap and Line Management Advisory Committee does not support the proposed increase to 32cm.

#### **Motion:**

The Council supported an increase in the minimum legal length of snapper from 30 to 32cm.

**Moved:** Ann Garard. **Seconded:** Kevin McKinnon. **Carried.**

#### **Out of Session items**

- Council was consulted out of session on 29 October 2007 regarding the proposal to ban the use of abalone viscera (gut) as bait in recreational and commercial fishing, in order to reduce the risk of disease (abalone viral ganglioneuritis – AVG) transmission. There was majority support from Council members to implement the one year ban, as proposed, followed by a review of the situation. Members were provided with a copy of a submission from Malcolm Poole regarding this issue, for information.
- Council was forwarded information in late October and asked to provide comments on the new proposals regarding the harvest of large shark species by NSW Ocean Trap and Line fishers. No comments were received.
- Council was consulted on 4 October 2007 and asked to provide input on the proposal developed by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) regarding resource allocation arrangements in the East Coast Tuna and Billfish Fishery. The majority of Council members did not support the proposal in its current form, and supports NSW DPI surveying gamefishers.

#### **Motion:**

The Chair write to the Minister on behalf of the Advisory Council regarding concerns about the sustainability of baitfish stocks and, as a result, request the cancellation of all State bait endorsements. **Moved:** John Dunphy. **Seconded:** Otto Volz. **Carried.**

#### **Action item**

Letter from the Chair to the Minister regarding baitfish sustainability issues.

- Council was consulted on 23 August 2007 regarding a proposed contribution of \$75,000 from the Charter Fishing Trust towards the NSW Socio-economic Survey of Recreational and Charter Fishing. The Marine and Estuarine Recreational Charter Management Advisory Committee (MERCMAC) supported the allocation of funds on 31 July 2007. There was majority support from Council on this issue.
- Council was consulted out of session on 31 August 2007 regarding the proposed renewal of the Evans River (expiry 9 October 2007), Lady Denman Heritage Complex Fish

Enclosure – Huskisson (expiry 1 October 2007) and Woody Bay (expiry 31 October 2007) Section 8 fishing closures. There was majority support from the Council to renew the closures in their current format. These closures have been renewed.

- Council was consulted out of session on 14 June 2007 regarding the \$1.3 million remaining from the \$20 million Recreational Fishing Haven Treasury loan. There was majority support from Council members for the remaining money to be given back to Treasury to reduce the amount of interest payable on the loan.
- Council was consulted out of session on 30 May 2007 regarding an application from RecFish Australia for funding to assist with covering its costs in joining the proceedings brought by the Nature Conservation Council in the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal with regards to banning recreational and commercial fishing at Grey Nurse Shark sites. MERCMAC reviewed the application for funding from the Charter Fishing Trust and supported the allocation of funds (up to \$10,000) to assist RecFish. There was majority support from the Council for \$10,000 to be allocated from the Trust.

**Motion:**

The Council confirmed its out of session support for the above recommendations.

**Moved:** Charles Howe. **Seconded:** John Dunphy. **Carried.**

***Correspondence received***

- Letter from Ms Tracey McVea, Executive Officer to the Chief Scientist, distributing the following report to Council members: NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries Final Report Series No. 94: “NSW Gamefish Tournament Monitoring – Angling Research Monitoring Program” by Tim Park (ISSN 1449-9967) as well as a covering letter and report summary. Information noted.
- Email from Mr Peter Hughes concerning pipi stocks in the Stockton area. The Committee noted that the decline in pipi numbers was most likely due to overfishing. This issue should therefore be addressed through changes to the current harvesting regimes.

**Action item**

DPI to forward this issue regarding low pipi abundance to EGMAC for response.

- Letter from the Minister in response to the Chair’s correspondence regarding mileage rates for Council and Committee members. Issue pending. Information noted.
- Email from Mr Dave Gaden regarding a proposal for a sewer outfall at the mouth of the Clarence River at Yamba. It was confirmed that DPI’s Fisheries Conservation Branch has been significantly involved in the decision making process since the commencement of the proposed project. The Council noted this information and requested that it be kept informed of developments.
- Letter from Mr Bill Hassen, Responsible Fishing Association (RFA) of NSW, requesting more active management in Lake Macquarie. The Council was advised that the Minister and Department have corresponded with the RFA on a number of occasions regarding these issues.
- Email from Mr Parker regarding the bag limit for seagrass being 20kg/day for recreational fishers. DPI advised that this issue would be considered for inclusion in the next bag and size limit review.
- Letter from the Minister regarding the Council’s recommendations from meeting 40. Information noted.
- Letter from Mr Alan Osborne expressing concern about the amount of Australian Salmon on the far north coast. Historical information on the distribution of salmon along the east coast of Australia since European settlement, researched and collated by Dr Julian Pepperell, was distributed for Council’s information.



### **Action item**

DPI to advise Mr Osborne about the current research program on Australian salmon and provide a copy of Dr Pepperell's historical information on the distribution of salmon along the east coast of Australia.

### ***Other Business***

- Concerns regarding the de-snagging of a large portion of the Murray River for the development of an ecotourism resort. DPI Compliance informed the Council that formal action has been taken regarding the unauthorised de-snagging as part of this development.
- Implementation of new bag and size limits for recreational fishers and charter boat operators. Charles Howe wished to have it recorded that he does not support the bag limits for baitfish species or the baitfish exemption for licensed charter fishing boat operators, as it does not apply to all recreational fishers.
- Proposal: Annual Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing Award for outstanding contributions to Recreational Fishing. Recipient to be selected by the Council. The department will seek support for the award to be presented by the Minister on an annual basis.

### **Action item**

The department develop & distribute a nomination form to the Council - members to submit nominations prior to the next meeting.

- Artificial Reefs – John Diplock provided the Council with a presentation on a recent trip to Japan and Korea, to gain further information and knowledge about offshore reefs, including issues such as the need for different structures to target specific species, possible locations and materials for construction.

The Council was also advised about the proposals to expand the existing Artificial Reef in Lake Macquarie and establish additional reef systems in Lake Conjola and Merimbula Lake, as well as the scope for Artificial Reefs in freshwater to promote breeding environments.

The Council expressed a high level of support for the proposed Artificial Reef projects.

### ***General Business (around the table)***

- There was general agreement that size limits and more restrictive bag limits be considered for cobia (75cm – same as QLD) and mangrove jack. It was confirmed that these proposals have been supported by the Marine and Estuarine Recreational Charter Management Advisory Committee and will be considered during the next formal review of fishing rules. Hairtail was also mentioned as a species that should be reviewed at that time.

### **Action item**

DPI provide the Council with the risk assessment information from the last review of fishing rules for these species.

### **Action item**

Update the Council on the status of the letter sent to the Minister in 2007 regarding commercial dropline fishing and grey nurse shark issues.

- Anthony Hurst suggested that the nominated sub-committees of SIAC and ACoRF (Bruce Schumacher, John Dunphy and Neil Ryan) meet in the near future to discuss cross sector issues).

***Meeting dates for 2008***

- ACoRF meeting 43 (1/2008) – Thursday 22 May at Cronulla Fisheries Centre.
- ACoRF meeting 44 (2/2008) – Thursday 28 August at Cronulla Fisheries Centre.
- ACoRF meeting 45 (3/2008) – Thursday 11 December – venue to be determined.

**Action items from 42nd ACoRF meeting 11/12/07**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Due date - if applicable</b>	<b>Team Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Recreational fishing update	DPI to advise the about the NSW Seafood Industry Conference about the enhanced recreational campaign regarding the recreational harvest of shellfish.		Recreational Management	Pending
1. Recreational fishing update	The Council write to the Minister for Primary Industries requesting that a letter be sent to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water, to confirm obligations under the NSW State Plan and seek continued access for recreational fishers through all reserves and parks in NSW.		Chair/Recreational Management	Pending
3. Fishing closures	The Council requested information/statistics regarding the revocation of <i>Caulerpa</i> closures following eradication from particular areas/waterways.		Recreational Management	Completed. Information provided by DPI's Biosecurity Unit & included in the Outcomes.
3. Fishing closures	The Deputy Director General write to Waverley Council to advise them of the Advisory Council's position regarding this proposal, based on the feedback of stakeholders consulted.		Recreational Management	Briefing & letter being drafted by Adam Welfare (action requested following meeting)
4. Compliance update	The department to consider ways to disseminate outcomes of compliance activities to Fishcare Volunteers to help advise the general fishing public about these operations and results of major prosecutions.		Recreational Management	Pending. State Coordinator Community Programs to determine strategy.
Out of Session – ETBF proposal	The Chair write to the Minister on behalf of the Advisory Council regarding concerns about baitfish stocks.		Chair/Recreational Management	Letter drafted 20/12/07 & forwarded to the Chair (& John Dunphy) for review /signature.
Other Business – Recreational Fishing Award	The department develop & distribute a nomination form to the Council - members to submit nominations prior to the next meeting.		Recreational Management/ Council members	Pending. Nomination form drafted by NJ 03/01/08.
General Business – size and bag limits (cobia, mangrove jack and hairtail)	DPI provide the Council with the risk assessment information from the last review for these species.		Recreational Management	Pending - request info from Environmental Assessment team.
General Business – commercial dropline fishing	Update the Council on the status of the letter sent from the Chair to the Minister in 2007 regarding commercial dropline fishing and grey nurse shark issues.		Recreational Management	Letter not recorded in TRIM (searched by NJ 24/12/07).