

Barramundi Fishery Management Advisory Committee

Meeting #3

Independent Chair: Mr Ian Cartwright.

Participating Members: Mr Geoff Diver (commercial fishing), Mr David Ciaravolo (recreational fishing), Dr Peter Kyne (environmental science/conservation), Dr Rachel Groom (environmental science/conservation), Mr Murray Knyvett (Aboriginal traditional marine harvest), Mr Brenton Cardona (Aboriginal traditional marine harvest), Ms Tarun Richards (Aquaculture industry).

Permanent Observer: Ms Katherine Winchester (NTSC).

Observers: Ms Ursula Godson (NTGFIA), Mr Will Bowman (DITT), Dr Thor Saunders (DITT), Ms Sandi Mellon (WPS), Dr Leo Guida (AMCS; for agenda items 2.2 to 2.3).

Executive support: Mr Jonathan McPhail (DITT), Ms Eliza Kimlin (DITT).

Apologies: Mr Daniel Keyes (Aboriginal traditional marine harvest), Mr Blane Simmons (NTGFIA).

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The third meeting of the Northern Territory Barramundi Fishery Management Advisory Committee (the Committee) was held on Thursday 28 April 2022 from 10:00 am to 5:15 pm at the NT Fisheries Building, Berrimah, Darwin.

The Committee were informed that meeting 3 was being held to provide members with an update on the review of the Barramundi Fishery management arrangements from each working group, and elements of the draft harvest strategy and accompanying research and monitoring plan.

The Chair paid his respect to the passing of Mr Dennis Sten, a member and representative of the Northern Territory Guided Fishing Industry Association (NTGFIA), and acknowledged his contributions to Committee and more broadly to the Barramundi Fishery.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Changes to the Committee's Membership

The Committee were informed that two Aboriginal traditional marine harvest members had resigned from the Committee. Mr Brenton Cardona from the Northern Land Council and Mr Daniel Keyes from the Anindilyakwa Land Council have been appointed by the Minister for Agribusiness and Aquaculture to replace the two vacancies. The Minister has appointed Ms Katherine Winchester as a Permanent Observer, and Ms Ursula Godson (NTDFIA) and Mr Blane Simmons will be observers until the Minister appoints a replacement for Mr Sten.

Review of Management Arrangements

The department provided the Committee with an overview of the process to review the Barramundi Fishery management arrangements and advised of the remaining steps in the process to complete this review.

The Committee discussed the importance of the review of management arrangements and raised concerns about the process for broader consultation outside the Committee with peak bodies. Members and observers requested that some form of informal feedback from BFMAC to their relevant sectors will be necessary to support and progress the work undertaken by the working

groups. The following steps were determined to finalise the review of the each sectors management arrangements:

1. Advice from the Committee to be discussed at the next Working Groups meeting and used to develop recommendations for stakeholder consultation (where necessary).
2. Recommendations from the Working Groups to be presented to the sectors for a limited period of consultation (where necessary).
3. Working Groups reconvene to discuss outcomes of sector consultation and finalise its recommendations for the next Committee meeting.

Update from the Threatened, Endangered and Protected Species Working Group

The department provided the Committee with an overview of the Threatened, Endangered and Protected Species Working Group (the TEPS Working Group) proceedings and development of a matrix table to capture discussions and advice to the Committee. Dr Kyne provided the Committee with an overview of each potential mitigation measure to address the TEPS risks in the Ecological Risk Assessment. The Committee discussed each potential mitigation measure and provided advice to the TEPS Working Group for consideration at their next meeting.

Update from the Commercial Fishery Management Review Working Group

The department provided the Committee with an overview of the Commercial Fishery Management Review Working Group proceedings and development of a table to capture discussions and provide advice to the Committee. Mr Diver provided the Committee with an overview of the potential management options for the commercial Barramundi Fishery. The Committee discussed each potential management option and provided advice to the Commercial Fishery Management Review Working Group for consideration at their next meeting.

Update from the Recreational/Fishing Tourism Management Review Working Group

The department provided the Committee with an overview of the Recreational/Fishing Tourism Management Review Working Group proceedings and development of a table to capture discussions and provide advice to the Committee. Mr Ciaravolo provided the Committee with an overview of potential management options for the Recreational/Fishing Tourism Barramundi Fishery. The Committee discussed each potential management option and provided advice to the Recreational/Fishing Tourism Management Review Working Group for consideration at their next meeting.

Update on Targeted Species Management

The Committee discussed proposed catchment-level monitoring for management of Barramundi and King Threadfin. The proposed catchments included the Daly River, Murganella/Minimini, Arnhem and Buckingham Bay, Roper River and Greater Darwin region (recreational only). These catchments were informed using a set of criteria that were relevant to the management of these species. The Committee provided in-principle support for proposed catchment-level monitoring, suggested Borroloola be included as a potential management area, and noted that further justification of establishing each management area was required before making a final recommendation.

Update on the development of a Barramundi Fishery Harvest Strategy

The department provided the Committee with a presentation on the elements of a draft harvest strategy. The Committee were informed of potential management objectives, performance indicators, reference points and decision rules for key species in the four key management areas

Chair's summary

and for TEPS interactions. The Committee provided advice on the harvest strategy for consideration and noted that the department will provide a draft harvest strategy at the next meeting.

The department presented an overview of the research and monitoring plan. The Committee were informed that the plan will contain two sections. One section will be the mandatory monitoring that is required to inform the harvest strategy and the other section will be priority research to fill knowledge gaps to improve the harvest strategy.

FRDC Project 2021-098

Dr Groom informed the Committee that she had received notification that the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) application 2021-098: *Incorporating Aboriginal people's perspectives into fishery management review processes, using the NT Barramundi Fishery as a case study* had been approved. Rachel highlighted that the FRDC project will provide an opportunity to further understand the concerns of Aboriginal communities with regards to the management of the fishery and how this can be address through Barramundi Fishery review. It has been placed on the agenda as a standing agenda item.

Next Meeting

21/22 October 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Cartwright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ian Cartwright
Chair, BFMAC

For further information on the issues above, please contact the Mr Jonathan McPhail, Aquatic Resource Manager on telephone number 8999 2100 or via email, jonathan.mcphail@nt.gov.au.