

# Barramundi Fishery Management Advisory Committee

## Meeting #2

**Participating Members:** Mr Ian Cartwright (independent Chair), Mr Geoff Diver, Mr David Ciaravolo, Mr Dennis Sten, Dr Peter Kyne, Dr Rachel Groom, Mr Murray Knyvett, Ms Tarun Richards, Dr Ian Hollingsworth (proxy), Mr Brenton Cardona (proxy).

**Observers (for the full meeting):** Mr Will Bowman (DITT), Dr Mark Grubert (DITT), Mr Anthony Clarke (WPS), Mr Troy Harris (WPS), Ms Joanne Rudd (AFANT), **(for agenda items 2.3 – 2.4):** Mr Leo Guida (AMCS).

**Invited guests:** Dr Brien Roberts (DITT) **(for agenda item 2.3.3)**, Mr Blake Taylor (DITT) **for (agenda item 2.4)**.

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

### Preliminary Business

The second meeting of the Northern Territory Barramundi Fishery Management Advisory Committee (the Committee) was held on Friday 10 December 2021 from 10 am to 3:30 pm at the NT Fisheries Building, Berrimah, Darwin.

The Committee noted the correspondence between the Chair and the Minister, specifically the clarification from the Minister regarding the changes to the Terms of Reference (ToR) and the timeframe to deliver the draft Barramundi Fishery Management Framework (the draft framework). The Chair advised the Committee that he met with the Minister to discuss the development of the draft framework and timeline for delivery, with August 2023 as an objective to work towards to deliver a draft framework for public consultation.

### General Business

#### Long-term fishery goals

The Committee were informed by the recreational member of proposed amendments to the draft long-term goals, following a targeted meeting with his members. Committee members discussed and agreed to the amendments and endorsed the final draft long-term fishery goals. Members were advised that these final draft long-term fishery goals are only draft, can be revisited through the process, and will be reviewed through the public consultation period.

#### Review of Management Arrangements

The Committee commenced the third stage of developing the draft framework, which is to review the management arrangements of the Barramundi Fishery. The Committee noted that the review of management arrangements would be undertaken in the following staged approach:

1. Threatened, Endangered and Protected species (TEPs) – Developing options to address the high-level TEPs and Species of Concern risks in the Barramundi Fishery ERA and to align them with the long-term fishery goals.
2. Target species management arrangements – To address the ERA moderate risk rating for Barramundi and King Threadfin stocks.
3. Other management arrangements – Review the outdated management arrangements.

The Committee discussed a draft project timeframe and timing of each stage, noting that there will be some overlap between the stages and stage 3 (other management arrangements) may need to commence following the TEPs and targeted species management arrangements.

## Chair's summary

The Committee discussed and endorsed the establishment of an expertise based TEPs Working Group and finalised a ToR for the Working Group to provide consolidated advice to the Committee on a set of potential options to address the risks identified in the ERA for TEPs and Species of Concern (SoC).

The Committee discussed and endorsed the establishment of a Recreational Fishing/Fishing Tourism Working Group and a Commercial Fishery Working Group, and finalised the ToR for both of these working groups. The objective of these working groups is to provide advice to the Committee on the management arrangements required to align with the long-term fishery goals. This may occur through modifying existing arrangements or developing new or additional arrangements

To inform the discussion on target species (Barramundi and King Threadfin) management, the Committee were provided with a presentation from Dr Brien Roberts on the outcomes of his PhD project 'Ecological Drivers of Barramundi Migration in the Top End'. Dr Mark Grubert presented on the basic biology (i.e. growth, size at maturity), stock structure (i.e. understanding of current biological stocks), stock status, climate and river geomorphology (catchment productivity) and how this drives productivity of Barramundi and King Threadfin, and current management controls that exist in the fishery.

The Committee discussed the presentations and criteria developed by the Department to address the ERA moderate risk rating for Barramundi and King Threadfin stocks. The Committee supported the development of catchment-level monitoring and management for target species and noted that NT Fisheries will progress with the development of catchment-level monitoring and management for target species.

### **Harvest Strategy development**

The Department provided the Committee with a presentation on the key components of a Harvest Strategy. The Harvest Strategy is a key element of a management framework as it provides an overarching framework for the fishery and allows for clarity and certainty to all users regarding management decisions and furthering the objects of the NT *Fisheries Act 1988*. The Committee noted that elements of the draft Harvest Strategy would be developed by NT Fisheries and presented at the next Committee meeting.

### **Other Business**

The Committee were provided a management and research update by the Department and the Water Police informed of their compliance activities during 2021.

### **Next Meeting**

TBA

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](mailto:jonathan.mcphail@nt.gov.au).