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Newsletter no.4

WE ARE WELL UNDERWAY WITH THE SECOND PHASE OF COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR THE HAWKESBURY SHELF MARINE BIOREGION ASSESSMENT.

This newsletter is to provide an update on the Hawkesbury Assessment and to **remind everyone to provide feedback on the suggested management initiatives by 24 April 2016.**

A **discussion paper** was released on 28 February 2016 outlining:

- » the benefits of the bioregion identified by the community.
- » the priority threats to these benefits identified by the community and the threat and risk assessment (TARA).
- » how current programs and reforms are addressing the priority threats.
- » eight suggested management initiatives to address the priority threats.
- » how to provide feedback on the management initiatives and the TARA:
 - via an **online submission form**
 - by post with submission forms available at all DPI Fisheries offices.

Available online are:

- » **seven background** reports that have informed the Assessment.
- » **frequently asked questions** and answers to assist you with your submission.

Hard copies of the discussion paper and submission form are also available at all **NSW Fisheries Offices**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The community have been advised of the launch of the discussion paper via:

- » media release.
- » the marine estate website, Office of Environment and Heritage, and Transport for NSW's websites and the NSW Government's 'Have your Say' website.
- » an email to nearly 1,400 organisations and individuals including over 40 local councils. All recipients were encouraged to distribute the email to their peers, stakeholders and friends and family.
- » social media – Facebook and Twitter.
- » email via Multicultural NSW *Emailink* to approx. 5000 multicultural contacts, including community organisations, individuals and multicultural media.
- » A letter to local councils asking them to promote the discussion paper via their websites and in their newsletters.

KEY STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

Approximately 166 people attended 5 workshops held across the bioregion for key stakeholders, including peak stakeholder groups, university representatives, and local and state government agencies.



Gosford workshop



Sydney CBD workshop

Peak stakeholder groups included fishing, diving and conservation groups, for example the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Dive Industry Association of Australia, Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, Underwater Skindivers & Fishermen's Association, Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative Limited, Professional Fishermen's Association, Australian Marine Sciences Association, National Parks Association of NSW, Hawkesbury Commercial Fishermen's Association, Wild Caught Fishers Coalition, Australian Marine Conservation Society, and Australian National Sportfishing Association.

The aims of the workshops were to:

- » update stakeholders of the progress to date, the Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA) outcomes and how to review the TARA, the suggested management initiatives, the process from here and how to make a submission.
- » gather stakeholder views and understand stakeholder perspectives on the suggested management initiatives.
- » foster a sense of shared responsibility for management.

The Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) agencies found the workshops to be very informative thanks to the enthusiastic participation of the attendees and their valuable input.

MEETINGS

Agency staff representing MEMA, attended a total of 15 meetings for advisory committees and peak stakeholder groups. Information was provided on the Assessment to date and the opportunity to provide feedback. These included representatives from:

- » the Aboriginal Fisheries Advisory Council,
- » Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council,
- » National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council,
- » Primary Industries Ministerial Advisory Council,
- » NSW Shellfish Committee,
- » Port Authority,
- » Nature Conservation Council,
- » Sydney Water,
- » Joint Expert Maritime Working Group,

- » Australian Marine Conservation Society,
- » National Parks Association and Environmental Defenders Office,
- » Fish Habitat Partnership,
- » Sydney Coastal Councils Group,
- » Maritime Advisory Council,
- » Sydney Institute of Marine Science.

In addition, five meetings were held with Aboriginal groups across the bioregion, led by an independent facilitator from Cox Inall Ridgeway.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are being received **online** and by post. These will be made publicly available.

How will stakeholder and community views be considered?

The information collected from the workshops is being summarised in a report that will be made publicly available. The submissions and workshop information will assist in finalising the recommended management initiatives to Government.

We encourage everyone to provide feedback on the suggested management initiatives by 24 April 2016, to ensure the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion is a place everyone can benefit from and enjoy now and into the future.