

Minutes

Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park Advisory Committee Meeting 1 - 2022

Details

Location:	Port Stephens Fisheries Institute and via Zoom
Date/time:	Thursday, 13 October 2022 5:00 – 7:00pm
Chairperson:	James McLeod, Marine Park Manager NSW DPI - Fisheries

People present

Members present

1. Iain Watt	Marine Conservation
2. James McArthur	Maritime industry
3. Paul Lennon	Recreational boating

Members via Zoom

4. Lorraine Lilley	Aboriginal culture
5. Brad Verdich	Aquaculture
6. Cr Leah Anderson	Local government
7. Prof Troy Gaston	Marine science
8. Allan Freihaut	Recreational fishing
9. Margo Smith	Recreational water use
10. Marisha Ewart	Tourism

Alternate members present

11. Frank Future	Tourism
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Alternate members via Zoom

12. Elizabeth McEntyre	Aboriginal culture
13. Kathleen Cheers	Commercial fishing
14. Chris Taylor	Marine conservation
15. Kate Akkerman	Marine science
16. Jamie Culver	Recreational fishing

NSW DPI Fisheries staff

17. Sarah Fairfull, Director AF&M&CE
18. Peter Gallagher, Program Leader Marine Operations (17:30)
19. Rodney James, Program Leader Marine Planning
20. Tanya Whiteway, Senior Manager Marine Planning
21. Kerry O'Shea, District Fisheries Officer - PSGMLP
22. James McLeod, Marine Park Manager (Chair)
23. Melinda Anderson, Marine Park Officer (Minutes)

Apologies

Members

1. Robert Gauta	Commercial fishing
2. Gregory Finn	Spearfishing

Alternate Members

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Daniel Aldrich | Maritime industry |
| 2. Robert Bailey | Recreational boating |

Previous Meeting/s

Action	Responsible	Status
21.4: The Committee request a future presentation from Transport for NSW on vessel safety	Marine Park Manager (MPM)	Pending

This Meeting

No	Issue	Action	Responsible
1	Acknowledgement of Country and welcome (introduction for new members) The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country, an introduction to new members and noted one resignation. New standing members: Brad Verdich – Aquaculture Member Cr Leah Anderson – Local government (PSC) Prof Troy Gaston – Marine science Introduction of new alternate members Dr Elizabeth McEntyre – Aboriginal culture Kate Akkerman – Marine science Resignations Assoc Prof Chris Fulton resigned in July 2021 from the Advisory Committee and wished all the best to the committee.		MPM
2	Apologies	Refer to above	MPM
3	Outstanding actions As per the table above (Action 21.4: Discussion to clarify committee interest in a presentation from Transport for NSW (TfNSW). The matter relates to concerns such as: an increase in personal watercraft (PWC) and other recreational vessels, PWCs prohibited in other areas possibly contributing to an increase locally, speed limits	Outstanding action 21.4: See table above	MPM

	(speed restrictions in Port Stephens for commercial vessels but not for private recreational vessels), negative interactions with marine fauna (including avoidance behaviour of dolphins), risk to swimmers, negative impact on future tourism and behaviour of dolphins, turtles and penguins). Committee seeking information from TfNSW in relation to their management of waterways including enforcement, regulations, visitors with boats not aware of speed limits and responsibilities when using the waterway	New action Action 22.1: Contact Irukandji Shark & Ray Encounters to facilitate advice on injured wildlife and collate information regarding impacts.	MPM
4	Adoption of minutes from meeting 2: 14 October 2021 The committee was asked to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion: That the minutes of the 14 October 2021 meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record: Moved: Margo Smith Seconded: James McArthur Carried unanimously		MPM
5	Nominations and process for appointment of Advisory Committee Chair The Chair provided information and outlined the requirements for the process of nominating and appointing a new Chair for the advisory committee, as per Section 9 of the Advisory Committee Handbook.	Action 22.2: Use an out-of-session process to facilitate the nominations, voting, recommendation, and appointment of a new Chair for the PSGLMPAC, prior to the end of 2022	MPM
6	Update on Marine Park Planning Reforms The Program Leader Marine Planning (PLMP) provided an update on the draft Mainland Marine Park Network Management Plan (NMP) including: A brief overview was provided on the preparation of the draft NMP for Cape Byron, Solitary Islands, Port Stephens-Great Lakes, Jervis Bay and Batemans marine parks, and the detailed input provided during this process by the advisory committees of each of these five marine parks, marine estate agencies and the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel.		SMMP, PLMP

	• The draft NMP was released for public consultation during a period of 3 months from 1 November 2021 to 31 January 2022, with a detailed information package made available and consultation primarily focused online due to Covid-19 issues at that time. • The draft NMP is currently with government for consideration. The Program Leader Marine Operations (DPI) provided an update on the preparation of draft management rules for marine parks, including: • A recap of the workshop held with advisory committees for the five mainland marine parks and the further workshop held with advisory committee members for Batemans and Port Stephens-Great Lakes marine parks, with the latter including the sharing of consolidated feedback • Advice received from the advisory committees for Batemans and Port Stephens-Great Lakes marine parks, together with advice from marine estate partner agencies and the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel which is currently being considered within government • Draft management rules must be exhibited for a period of not less than 2 months before being finalised. During this time all members of the community will have the opportunity to make submissions, including members of marine park advisory committees • Further workshops are planned with advisory committees for Cape Byron, Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay marine parks in the coming weeks to share their consolidated feedback and summary of community submissions related to the management rules, and to seek further advice. Non-related matter: A query was raised in relation to offshore wind farms and their possible impact on marine parks. General points of discussion included Commonwealth and State waters, local government planning instruments and development approval pathways, and potential issues relating to construction and shipping.		PLMO
7	Prioritising actions in the Network Management Plan The Senior Manager Marine Planning (SMMP) noted that the approach to implementing the NMP was being		SMMP

	progressed while the draft NMP plan is being considered by government. The committee was offered the opportunity to consider how it may like to be involved in prioritising actions, e.g. at the level of objectives or for each of the actions individually, and whether it may like to do this collectively or individually. The meeting discussed the above, with a mix of both avenues suggested as being appropriate, and that any workshops held would require a facilitator.		
8	Fisheries Compliance update The Chair introduced Kerry O'Shea who started as the District Fisheries Officer (DFO) for the Marine Park in early 2022. The DFO provided a summary of activities, common offences and the busiest months for the park. Clarification was also provided in relation to the two teams of Fisheries Officers and Compliance Officers who work in the area, and the two pieces of legislation administered by DPI Fisheries.	Action 22.3: Provide committee with Fishers Watch contact details	DFO and MPM
9	Other business a) Questions on notice for Advisory Committee from Iain Watt – Decoupling of Marine Parks from DPI Fisheries b) Proposal from Iain Watt re Artificial reefs for PSGLMP, consideration for support by PSGLMPAC		
	Iain Watt spoke to two documents tabled with the meeting papers as Attachment B and Attachment C on: - the issue of threatened species, the management of marine parks as part of NSW Fisheries, the importance of sanctuary zones, and the little difference between habitat protection zones and general use zones (Attachment B) - pressures on natural reefs and the benefits of establishing a network of artificial reefs (Attachment C) Some members strongly disagreed with parts of the presentation that suggested there was little difference between HPZ and GUZ as figures referenced were not relevant to estuarine waters where commercial gill and haul netting is prohibited in HPZ of PSGLMP. The members felt that estuarine HPZ are highly valued as net	Action 22.4: Provide committee with links to DPI web pages on artificial reefs	MPM

	free zones offering improved recreational fishing experiences. There was a general discussion amongst those present in relation to sand movement, fisheries compliance, different zone types and purposes, fisheries and marine estate legislation, budget allocation and resourcing, marine waters being open-access resources, and artificial reef work being undertaken by the department. c) Other matters Chris Taylor referred to a sailing related interview with Paul O'Rourke, CEO of Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club and requested that a link to the podcast be distributed to committee members.	Action 22.5: Provide committee with link to the interview	MPM
10	Next meeting Quarterly meetings are preferred by the committee. Anticipated to use MS Teams for next meeting.		
11	Close The Chair thanked members for their time and attendance.		

Next Meeting:

Early 2023 (TBC)