



**PIRSA**

Fisheries and Aquaculture

# Consultation Paper

Establishing a Minister's  
Recreational Fishing  
Advisory Council in SA





South Australia's recreational fishing sector is an important economic and social contributor to the state's economy with tens of thousands of anglers throwing a line in annually. The recreational fishing sector includes individuals but also a raft of community businesses, such as tackle shops, charter and tourism operators.

The Marshall Government made an election commitment to establish a new body for recreational fishers to ensure they have better representation.

We committed that this body would:

- Include representatives from Recfish SA, RecfishCENTRAL, the South Australian Fishing Alliance and FishinSA;
- Work in partnership with Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) to manage and promote recreational fishing;
- Receive administrative support from PIRSA but be able to act independently of the South Australian Government.

This consultation paper seeks the views of recreational fishers on the proposed establishment of a new Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council.

For some time there has been a need to improve dialogue and communication between recreational fishers and the South Australian Government, which is what this group aims to achieve.

We are committed to working with South Australia's diverse and active recreational fishers to improve the fishing experience.

## Consultation details

The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development is seeking the views of recreational fishers in relation to the establishment of the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council as proposed in this document.

**Please complete the consultation form at [www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/fishing](http://www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/fishing) by 5pm AEST 21 September 2018.**

The Minister will consider feedback on this proposal before establishing the Council.

## Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council

### Establishment

The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development intends to establish the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (Council) using a Memorandum of Understanding.

### Role

It is proposed that the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council is established as an advisory group to directly engage with the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development on recreational fishing issues.

The Council would provide feedback and advice to government on recreational fishing development issues and initiatives and big picture policies that impact the recreational fishing sector, as well as any other matter referred to the Council by the Minister.

## Membership

Membership of the Council would comprise a suitable representative of each of the following groups:

- FishinSA
- RecfishCENTRAL
- RecFish SA
- South Australian Fishing Alliance.

The Council membership would also include five individual members with expertise in recreational fishing, including at least one female member, one inland fisher and one person with knowledge of the recreational fishing retail/trade sector.

The Minister would also appoint two government officials as observers for meetings of the Council and the Minister:

- A PIRSA staff member to provide expertise in fisheries management when requested.
- A South Australian Research and Development Institute staff member to provide expertise in fisheries research when requested.

Secretariat support would be provided by PIRSA at meetings attended by the Minister.

Additional meetings of the Council (without the Minister) can be called by the Chair, however such meetings would not be supported by PIRSA secretariat.

The Chair would be selected by the Council's membership from one of their number. The Chair would preside over all meetings, ensure each meeting has an effective agenda to cover issues that are consistent with the scope and role of the Council, coordinate the members of the Council on key issues and be responsible for reporting to the Minister.

No remuneration would be payable for attendance at Council meetings held with the Minister; however, reasonable travel expenses would be considered for regional members.

Members would be appointed for two-year terms.

## Selection Criteria

### *Required Criteria*

Prospective members of the Council need to demonstrate that they:

- Are a fit and proper person to be appointed by the Minister to be a member of the Council;
- Conduct themselves with respect and integrity, and respect the diversity of views of members;
- Are able to put views clearly and concisely and be prepared to negotiate to achieve acceptable outcomes and compromises where necessary;
- Act in the best interests of the fishery as a whole rather than as an advocate for any particular organisation, interest group or regional concern;
- Are prepared to exercise tact and discretion when dealing with sensitive issues;
- Are able to contribute to discussion in an objective and impartial manner and avoid pursuing personal agendas or self-interest;
- Are prepared to voluntarily participate and make the necessary commitment of time to ensure that they are fully across matters which are the subject of consideration at Council meetings;
- During the course of Council meetings, are prepared to disclose all interests, pecuniary or otherwise, in matters to be considered by the Council before those matters are discussed, and abide by the decisions of Council in relation to their participation in those discussions; and
- Have the confidence of recreational fishing stakeholders and be able to undertake their functions as a member of the Council and be prepared to consult with recreational fishing stakeholders as necessary to effectively contribute to Council discussions.

### *Desirable criteria*

It is desirable that the candidate be able to show a knowledge of fisheries management and have a track record of working constructively with government agencies or similar bodies.

## **Nomination and selection process – Fishing group representatives**

FishinSA, RecfishCENTRAL, RecFish SA and the South Australian Fishing Alliance would each nominate three suitable representatives from their respective groups to become members of the Council. At least one candidate of each group must be female. Each nomination would be required to be accompanied by a statement from the group detailing how they selected the candidates.

All candidates would be required to submit an application addressing specific selection criteria and detailing their expertise and experience in recreational fishing by the required due date to allow for a proper assessment of their suitability to be appointed to the Council by the Minister.

Once the nominations have been received, a Nominations Panel established by the Minister would assess them and provide advice about the applicant's abilities to meet the selection criteria to the Minister for consideration.

In assessing applications for membership of the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council, the Nominations Panel would take into account an applicant's ability to perform all duties associated with their position diligently, impartially, conscientiously, in a civil manner and to the best of their ability. The Nominations Panel would strictly adopt the merit principle in assessing applications, to avoid any suggestion of favouritism, nepotism, or patronage.

The Nominations Panel would provide the fishing group representative position nominations from each fishing group to the Minister for consideration, with advice about the applicants' abilities to meet the selection criteria.

The Minister would consider the representative position nominations from FishinSA, RecfishCENTRAL, RecFish SA and the South Australian Fishing Alliance and appoint one member from each fishing group.

## **Nomination Process – individual representatives**

Recreational fishers interested in one of the five other membership positions on the Council would nominate through the State Government's YourSAy website.

All candidates would be required to submit an application addressing specific selection criteria and detailing their expertise and experience in recreational fishing by the required due date. Candidates would also be asked to indicate their gender, whether they are an inland recreational fisher and whether they have knowledge of the recreational fishing retail/trade sector.

Once the nominations have been received, a Nominations Panel established by the Minister would assess them and those candidates considered to meet the selection criteria would be transferred to the selection process.



## Selection process (democratic vote) – Individual representatives

Basic information regarding the candidate would be uploaded to the YourSAy website to enable a democratic voting process to determine the successful candidates for the Council. All South Australian recreational fishers would be invited to vote for their representatives. Voters would be asked to declare that they are a recreational fisher.

The validity of the voting process is essential to the democratic engagement of recreational fishers. As such, a robust three-phase voter validation method would include:

- Recreational fishers wanting to vote for a candidate to be elected to the Council would be required to create an account with YourSAy, includes completing a short profile form which would include identifying and contact information. Users would also be required to verify their email address to ensure they use a genuine email address to which they have access.
- The second stage of the verification process requires the user to enter a mobile phone number which would be linked with their account using an SMS code. The mobile phone number can only be connected with one account or email address.
- This verification process, linking three key pieces of data to create a digital fingerprint of each user – the user profile, email address and mobile phone number, provides a robust control which aims to prevent users from voting multiple times in the ballot process.
- As a third and final verification process, YourSAy administrators would audit the voting data to look for anomalies to provide an additional control against manipulation of the voting process. Any anomalies in the voting data would be investigated by the YourSAy administrators.

Users located outside of SA would not be able to vote.

Recreational fishers without a home computer or internet access are encouraged to visit a local library to submit their vote.

A guide would be provided on how to vote, to assist stakeholder participation in the process.

Touch-screen public computers are also available for public use in the reception area of PIRSA offices at Kingscote, Mt Gambier and Port Lincoln, with assistance available from PIRSA staff.

Of the five successful candidates there must be at least one inland fisher, at least one person with knowledge of the recreational fishing retail/trade sector and at least one female recreational fisher. Candidates having these skills, experience or backgrounds with the highest number of votes would be appointed to the Council in the first instance.

The successful candidates would be considered and appointed by the Minister.



Photo Credit: South Australian Tourism Commission/Adam Bruzzone

## Government Advisory Bodies

Consistent with the Government's election commitment, the Government will seek advice from the Council on the process to be followed after 1 July 2019 for selecting recreational fishing representatives to official government advisory committees established under section 20 of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* where required. It is proposed that the Council provides advice to the Minister by 31 May 2019 on the recommended process to be undertaken. The Council could recommend that representatives be selected from:

1. Direct recommendations of individuals from the Council to the Minister;
2. A recognised recreational fisher group recommended by the Council which would nominate individuals directly to the Minister;  
or
3. Another method proposed by the Council.

## Additional information

The procedures to be observed in relation to the conduct of the business of meetings of the Council with the Minister would be determined by the Minister under the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Council would meet with the Minister three times per year, or as otherwise determined by the Minister.

The Minister's meeting agenda would be set between the Minister and the Chair.



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