

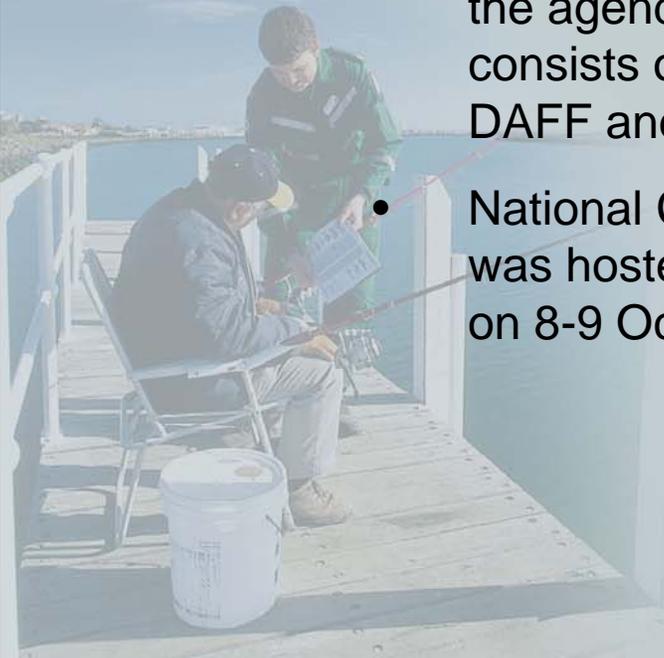
DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE PLAN FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

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National Climate Change and Fisheries Workshop

- At a recent meeting of the Australian Fisheries Managers Forum (AFMF), the need to plan for climate change was discussed. Agreed that a national workshop be held to begin discussions and develop a nationally coordinated approach.
- A Steering Committee was established to develop the agenda for the workshop. Steering committee consists of AFMF representatives, CSIRO, AGO, DAFF and FRDC.
- National Climate Change and Fisheries Workshop was hosted by DPI Fisheries Victoria in Melbourne on 8-9 October 2007.



National Climate Change and Fisheries Workshop

- The workshop consisted of a series of presentations:
 - background on the climate change challenge
 - the national agenda for responding to climate change; and
 - the expectations of fisheries managers from a national action plan.

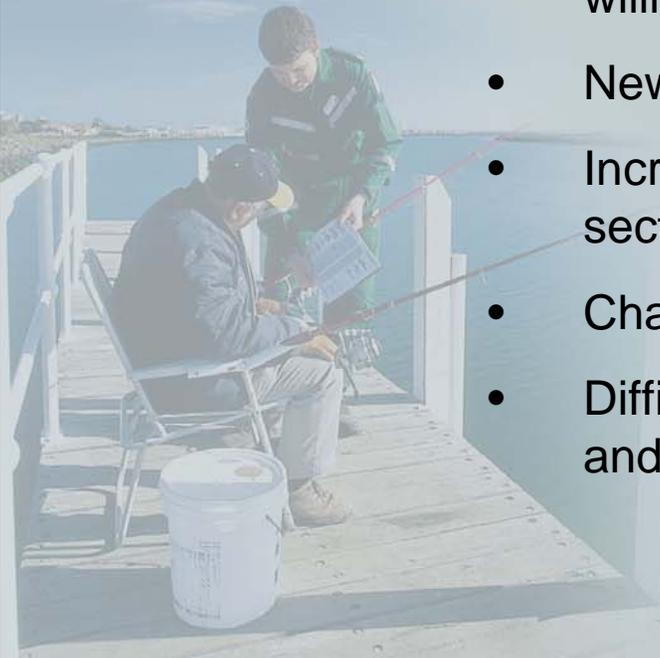


Opportunities and threats from climate change

- From a resource managers perspective, participants were asked to identify threats and opportunities to fisheries and aquaculture from climate change:

1. Threats identified include:-

- Declining stocks/unsustainable fisheries
- Stakeholder adaptive capability – skills, knowledge, willingness to adapt
- New exotic pests and disease
- Increased competition for water and resources between sectors
- Changing spatial distribution of fish stocks
- Difficulty in distinguishing between climate change impacts and fishing impacts



Opportunities and threats from climate change

2. Opportunities identified include:-

- Changes to the geographic range of species may mean new, profitable species enter Australian waters/jurisdiction
- Biological stimulation of current stocks (eg prawns)
- Opportunity to improve management and industry structure overall – driven by increased adaptive capacity
- More efficient industries – driven through adaptation necessity
- Opportunity to target species to market niche (aquaculture)



Outcomes sought

- Participants were asked to describe key features of a 'preferred future' for fisheries management given climate change – what do we want a national action plan to achieve?
- Outcomes sought include:-
 - Improved EBM approach to the management of fisheries
 - Flexible/adaptive regulatory and management framework to facilitate industry adaptation to climate change
 - Predictive modelling capacity to inform fisheries decision making
 - Understand the impacts of climate change on the ecosystem and flow on impacts to stakeholders
 - Improved industry/government partnerships – comanagement



Outcomes sought (cont.)

- Stakeholders understand the need for change and have capacity and knowledge to respond to climate change and make informed, risk-based decisions
- Profitable, resilient and competitive industries
- Stakeholders are looking for and capturing opportunities, as a result of climate change
- Industry takes greater responsibility for their future
- Maintained security of resource access for the fishing and aquaculture sectors.



Principles

- The national workshop developed the following draft guiding principles for a national action plan:
 - Climate change is occurring and is only one of many drivers of change
 - Planning for climate change and implementation of any actions requires a collaborative approach between government, scientists and stakeholders
 - Businesses are best placed to manage their adaptation to climate change. Government's role will be to facilitate this adaptation
 - Government is responsible for managing climate change risks to public assets/including natural resources
- These principles will underpin the development of an adaptive management framework to enable fisheries managers to deliver a timely response to climate change impacts.



National Plan Actions

- The workshop identified the following actions for a national plan:
 - Understand impacts of climate change on fisheries resources and flow on impacts to stakeholders by developing modelling capability and undertaking vulnerability assessments
 - Improve industry's ability to adapt by supporting leadership and providing tools to develop skills, improve knowledge and create a culture of change
 - Create flexible fisheries policy and management frameworks that facilitate adaptation to climate change
 - Explore opportunities to reduce industry energy demand and increase energy efficiency
 - Develop a communication strategy to inform stakeholders about climate change and assist in adaptation.



Next steps

- Steering Committee to finalise draft Fisheries and Aquaculture Climate Change Action Plan by end of November 2007.
- Draft plan to be presented to AFMF for endorsement.
- Draft plan to be presented to MACC in February 2008 seeking support for DAFF to coordinate National Action Plan in consultation with industry.
- Target date for finalisation of Action Plan – September 2008.
- Action Plan to then be presented for endorsement by the Natural Resource Management Standing Committee.

