

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Purick to Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources

Barramundi Management Advisory Group

1. When was the Barramundi Management Advisory Group established?

A: *Members were appointed to the current Barramundi Fishery Management Advisory Committee (BFMAC) on 1 September 2010.*

2. Who are the members on the group?

A: *The members of BFMAC are:*

- *Mr Gilbert Hanson (Indigenous representative)*
- *Mr Peter Manning (commercial fishing representative)*
- *Mr Mike Fraser (commercial fishing representative)*
- *Mr Chris Makepeace (recreational fishing representative)*
- *Mr Graeme Williams (charter fishing representative)*
- *Department of Resources' Director of Aquatic Resources*
- *Officer in Charge, Water Police*

Ms Katherine Sarneckis, Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Territory (NT) Seafood Council is a permanent observer. Mr Richard Stevens is an independent Chair.

3. What are the terms of reference for the group?

A: *The role of BFMAC is to:*

- *consider and provide advice on matters referred by the Executive Director (ED) of Fisheries; and*
- *provide the ED of Fisheries with information and advice to enable timely decisions to be made to conserve, enhance, protect, utilise and manage the fish and aquatic life resources of the Territory in accordance with the objectives of the NT Fisheries Act.*

4. How many times did the group meet in 2011?

A: *BFMAC met in December 2010 and met two times in 2011, March and June. Out of session work on some matters was also conducted.*

5. Has the group produced any reports, if so, how many, what are they about and are they available for public distribution?

A: BFMAC has developed a draft document entitled "Framework for Resource Allocation in the NT Barramundi Fishery". This was endorsed at its last meeting and recommended to the ED of Fisheries and the Minister for consideration. The framework is intended to provide guidance and a transparent decision-making process for delivering advice on future resource sharing arrangements in the Barramundi Fishery.

6. Has the Minister directed the group to investigate any matters and if so, what?

A: In appointing members to BFMAC, the Minister communicated a request for advice on the strategic direction and management objectives for the fishery, including potential future closures to commercial barramundi fishing. Members were unable to reach agreement on future commercial fishing closures.
