

MONARO ACCLIMATIZATION SOCIETY MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BIDGEE LODGE, 3 AUG 2024

1.0 Meeting opened at 1.00

2.0 Attendance

K Pfeiffer, B Blair, J Killip, G Wood, B Batho, P Batho, M Sawa, D Collier, P Bourn, J Bray.

(guest) L Sinclair

3.0 Apologies.

R Whiteway, G Verney, R Edwards, F Dunford, S Samuels, F Smith, P Smith, D Flynn, A Allen.

4.0 Previous Minutes.

That the minutes as circulated be adopted, (P Batho/D Collier).

5.0 Business Arising from Minutes.

In Para 9.3 Steve Samuels sought MAS to request catch and release regulations be imposed on those waters subject to the recent stocking bans. Pfeiffer has no yet, but will do so at the next opportunity.

6.0 Correspondence out

A response was sent to a Federal Scientific Committee call for comment on a NSW Fisheries Science Committee proposal for federal assessment of vulnerable status of Murray Crayfish. MAS supported the assessment, but expressed concern over the logic employed and the antitROUT language. These letters are available for viewing on the MAS website.

<https://www.monarofishsociety.org/news.html>

7.0 Correspondence in

Correspondence in – recent donation, see next.

8.0 Treasurers Report;

- The closing balance at 3 Aug 2024 was \$35,173.42.
- Some costs have been incurred since May – catering for the meeting with David Anderson, airflights for Kerry’s talk to NSW Rod Fishers Society.
- Substantial income of \$15,000 has come from a kind donation.
- The Anglers Reach Boat Ramp Project Bank Balance remained at \$24,655.55.

9.0 Trout Allocation Committee Meeting 21/05/2024

- MAS bids were all agreed.
- Kerry raised that rainbows were to be stocked in Geehi Dam, yet the gate seems perpetually locked. MAS will pursue.
- DPI are seeking advice on how many stocking volunteers are carrying PLBs during stocking. They are considering whether to supply PLBs to societies.
- Fuel cards are available for 2024-25 stocking activities and branches/individuals should apply.
<https://forms.office.com/r/DzCK3fD2bk> .
- Kerry had been advised that the latest trout stream report cards have been uploaded. (Subsequent checking was that they aren’t there yet. Chief researcher Nathan Miles advised “*I have completed the 21/22 and 22/23 report cards. We are having to do some updates to our website due to software changes etc so they are not up there yet (I have shared highlights of them in a few talks though). It may take a month or two before those updates are finalised. The 22/23 card is also requiring the appropriate*

approvals before being distributed.” The report cards will always be ‘in arrears’ to allow for scientific peer review and approval by DPI Communications Team.)

- NSW Fisheries has developed a new plan for recreational stocking of impoundments (natives and salmonids) for the 2024-2025 season and seeking feedback by 30 Aug. See <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/.../enhanced-fish-production> .
- The Freshwater Fish Stocking Fishery Management Strategy <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/bfs/aquatic-biosecurity/aquaculture/stocked-fish/freshwater-fish-stocking-eis-and-fms> provide the rules for fish stocking. It is currently in an internal review.
- The Trout Strategy (now NSW Trout Recreational Fishing Enhancement Action Plan) is imminent awaiting Minister to publicly release the overarching Recreational Fishing Action Plan.
- All this, along with the Gaden upgrade, encourages Kerry to believe that DPI are committed to a strong trout fishery.

10.0 Gaden Hatchery Management Advisory Committee Meeting 23/07/2024

- Much discussion was held that that meeting about the \$8M upgrade to the hatchery and the visitor centre. The hatchery operations will be substantially upgraded through a Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and associated water temperature and filtration systems. This reduces water usage and allows faster hatching/growing of the trout.
- The visitors’ centre will include an MAS and Snowy Hydro historical display.
- There will be a Gone Fishing Day/Open Day on Sunday October 13th
 - DPI has asked whether MAS wants to get involved – demos, fly tying etc. D Collier, B Blair and P Bourn expressed interest. Kerry will send out a request to the MAS email list.
 - We need to confirm that participants are covered for public liability.

11.0 Macquarie Perch whole of population (WOP) meeting Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14-15th August. Snobs Creek.

Kerry was invited but, while costs were to be covered, he may not be able to attend in person. Kerry was hoping to use this event to meet all the relevant fish scientists, perhaps next year it will be in NSW.

12.0 General Business

- Meeting with David Anderson – photographer/author for FlyLife and others.
 - MAS approached him with the idea of his writing an article on the stocking bans on the Monaro in response to threatened galaxia.
 - He noted that the bans are not a suitable topic for Fly Life but proposed two other approaches. We will meet him again in Nov and instead fold our concerns into a general story about the strength of the fishing on the Monaro. David also outlined how a video might be prepared to express our concerns.
- NSW CFA report on recent activities:
 - pressing DPI for formal report on outcomes of tiger trout stocking Lake Lyell, Oberon, Thompson Creek Dam
 - continued pressure on DPI in respect to the National Carp Control plan – DPI member Cam Lay to brief in the near future

- continued engagement in respect to trout and cod strategies (supporting MAS)
- engagement with Stan Konstantaras (President of RFA NSW) in respect to his reporting on the recreational angling peak body developments
- continued development of the DPI Angler Access website, corrections to incorrect data and user interface
- continued pressure on DPI and LLS to be better co-ordinated in respect to TSRs/crown roads - some success with a specific Crown Lands staff member identified for fishing matters and regular meetings. Submission to the recent review of crown land management
- supported MAS in respect to stocking changes for roundsnout
- clarification with DPI in respect to carriage of plastic licence
- Trout Cod actions, especially in respect to the Goodradigbee.
 - Greg Wood asked what is currently happening in respect to stocking trout cod.
 - The meeting noted that the Goodradigbee trout stocking program was approved at the TAC unchanged.
 - MAS committee was asked to emphasise to DPI the need for open communications. Kerry will seek advice from DPI on what is planned by way of review/trout cod stocking outcome assessment. Also what plans are afoot in respect to stocking in 2024/2025 season.

Two post meeting items:

- QAC invitation – for any MAS members in Canberra/Queanbeyan, either living there or passing through, you'd be most welcome to come along to the Queanbeyan branch meetings held at Kangaroo's Club – first Wednesday each month. Join them for dinner at 6:30 if you like, before the meeting at 7:30. Great chance to hear and discuss the latest news from MAS or fishing in general.
- MAS embroidered badges are available at Monaro Workwear in Newcastle Street Fyshwick. BYO shirt/cap or buy something through them.

Closed 2.00 pm

Next Meeting, Bidgee Lodge Cooma, 1pm Saturday, November 2 2024.