

Communiqué 4

4 March 2010

This communiqué provides updates on:

- Consultation activities between December and March
- Latest draft
- Processes for tabling the strategy
- Stakeholder endorsement

Consultation activities

A draft of the strategy was widely distributed on the 23rd December. Feedback, comments and submissions were invited with a closing date of 15th February 2010. A large number of stakeholders provided valuable comment and advice.

Teleconferences were held during February with the Strategy leadership group, the Tasmanian FRAB, and a number of industry peak bodies. The draft strategy was discussed at Australian Fisheries Management Forum and with officers of DAFF during February.

Latest draft

The strategy development team has been working to incorporate submissions, comments and advice. A new version (1st March 2010) has been posted on the FRDC's website. www.frdc.com.au/research/national-framework

The major changes between this version and the one distributed for comment on the 23rd of December include:

- a stronger executive summary
- greater detail around the implementation structure including regional approaches
- more detail around the principles of major-support-link, and how changes may be progressed
- additional capability data received, and assessments of adequacy of capability have been tested

The draft final reports for the capability audit/analysis and sector overview are currently being reviewed and finalised.

Major Highlights

The strategy has been a significant step in creating a common vision, and commitment to a national and unified way of doing things

An R&D Plan has been developed that describes the national strategic research priorities for the fishing and aquaculture industry

An RD&E system designed that enhances government and industry relationships, and integrates a regional and national approach

The strategy acknowledges the importance of extension and adoption

Tabling the Strategy

The draft strategy was presented at the R&D Subcommittee of Primary Industries Standing Committee on the 10th February, and members provided advice to the working group.

The draft was endorsed by the R&D sub-committee to be tabled at Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) on the 18th March 2010 prior to tabling at Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) 17 in April.

Stakeholder Endorsement

Endorsement for the strategy is being sought from State (and the NT) and Commonwealth fisheries agencies, DAFF, FRDC, CSIRO, National Aquaculture Council, Commonwealth Fisheries Association, Recfish Australia and the National Seafood Industry Alliance.