

Lobster Industry Working Group

Terms of Reference 2024 -2027

1. Purpose of Working Group:

To provide advice to NSW DPI on matters relating to Total Allowable Commercial Catch Determinations and other policy and operational issues relating to the NSW Lobster Fishery as required.

2. Chairperson

Fisheries Manager (other than the Lobster Fishery Manager) or alternate nominee of the Director Fisheries & Aquaculture Management.

3. Executive Officer

Lobster Fishery Manager or alternate nominee of the Director Fisheries & Aquaculture Management.

4. Membership

Five lobster industry members, one Recreational member, one Conservation member, and one Aboriginal member. The Lobster Fisheries Manager, one DPI Compliance Officer and one DPI Science and Research member will also form part of the group.

5. Industry members

One shareholder member from each of the following regions:

1. Queensland border to Smoky Cape
2. Smoky Cape to Seal Rocks
3. Seal Rocks to Swansea
4. Swansea to Bundeena
5. Bundeena to Victorian border

6. Selection criteria

- Industry member positions are only open to lobster shareholders that reside in the relevant region, Preference will be given to shareholders that are currently active fishers, and have been active in the fishery for a period of at least 3 years.
- Ability to communicate effectively with industry and government, including capacity to consult with, and communicate, the general views of shareholders within the relevant region or relevant stakeholder sectors.
- Capacity to undertake required duties, for example reading and other preparation for meetings and review and/or provision of information and advice out of session.
- Understanding of issues regarding the NSW Lobster Fishery, and the commercial fishing industry and fisheries resources in NSW in general.

- Where possible, members will include larger and smaller industry shareholders (over/under 100 shares), and shareholders from the inshore and offshore sectors.

7. Term of membership

Member appointments shall be made for a 3 year period, unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries. Industry appointments shall be staggered to ensure continuity of industry knowledge.

8. Selection process

A call for expressions of interest (EOI) for appointment will be made available to lobster fishery shareholders who reside in relevant regions, and to relevant Recreational, Conservation and Aboriginal bodies. EOIs must address the selection criteria.

Where multiple EOIs are received, they will be assessed and ranked based on response to the selection criteria and the need to achieve an appropriate mix of skills and experience on the Working Group.

Appointment is subject to approval and discretion of the Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries.

Where an industry EOI is not received in seeking a member for a particular region, an eligible fisher from another region may be appointed to that position until an EOI is received for the relevant region. In the event of resignation of a member, a suitable member may be directly appointed for the remaining term of the resigning member.

9. Procedures

Term of Reference will be available on the NSW DPI website for industry and stakeholder awareness of the functions of the working group.

The NSW Lobster Industry Working Group will meet once a year for a meeting around May/June, with additional meetings as required. Location of meetings will be at sites suitable to the cost efficient travel of members (predominantly Sydney). Meeting summary outcomes will be made available on the DPI website.

Appointed non-government members will be paid a sitting fee to attend the annual meeting and/or other issue specific meetings, and travel arrangements including accommodation will be made if required.

The annual meeting will be scheduled for the day prior to the TAC meeting where possible. Working Group members are welcome and encouraged to attend the TAC meeting however a sitting fee will not be paid for the extra day/s.

Members will be registered on the Payroll system for payment of sitting fees and expenses incurred in attending meetings. Operating costs will be debited against the Lobster Industry Working Group budget component.

Should a member miss two consecutive meetings, the Working Group reserves the right to call for new EOIs for that member's position.

Observers may attend working group meetings in person, but must refrain from contributing to agenda item discussions, unless invited to by the chair.

Observers may only present items for discussion if endorsed by a majority of appointed members prior to the start of any meeting.

While the committee will work towards a consensus position, where any issues require a vote, each member will hold one vote and the DPI position shall be considered one vote. The DPI vote may be cast if required to establish a majority under a hung vote. In the case of a hung vote, dissenting views regarding an issue will only be documented at the request of the relevant member/s.

10. Review

Terms of Reference will be reviewed after 3 years.