



Chair's summary report to Minister (Meeting 16)

5 October 2020

Dear Minister,

CommFish NSW continued the series of regular meetings to progress the Business Efficiency Program and met again by video conference on the 2nd of October.

Members received a briefing on progress with Marine Park by planning from the Senior Manager, Marine Planning and commented favourably on the on a number of aspects, particularly that marine parks are not for fisheries management, that there must be a justification for prohibiting activities and that the rules must make sense. CommFish requested regular briefings and offered to assist wherever possible.

CommFish had a look at of the Abalone and Spanner Crab Harvest Strategy Working Group TOR and agreed to recommend that they be approved. Members also recommended that the final draft of the paper on a New System of Management Charges for five multi-species share management fisheries should be released for consultation.

Members discussed a number of issues related to species restrictions for quota species and also in relation to the permitted species list that had been raised in response to the Business Efficiency Program and put forward a number of recommendations to further progress these issues.

CommFish discussed a proposal and budget to work with Ocean Watch and Ocean Haul fishers to develop signage that would explain the operations of beach fisheries and hopefully lead to less conflict with other beach users. CommFish members agreed to recommend that Five Thousand dollars from Commercial Fisheries Trust Fund should be made available to assist in the production of the signage.

The terms for several members of CommFish will be expiring at the end of November so we are planning to have the next meeting prior to that to have some continuity with work on the Business Efficiency Program in the event that they are not returned or choose to retire.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Richey AM
CommFish NSW Chair