

**Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council  
(CommFish NSW AC)  
Meeting 13, 10 July 2020  
Via Teleconference**

Members present	Stuart Richey AM	CommFish NSW Chair (Chair)
	Darren Reynolds	A/Group Director – Commercial Fisheries & Aquaculture DPI Fisheries
	Greg Finn	Member – Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council Commercial Fisher Member – Abalone Share Managed Fishery
	Raymond Saunders	Member – Aboriginal Commercial Fishers
	Mark Cranstone	Member – Lobster Share Managed Fishery
	Mitchell Sanders	Member – Ocean Trap & Line Share Managed Fishery
	Steve Hounsell	Member – Inland Restricted Fishery
	John Jarvis	Member – Southern Fish Trawl Restricted Fishery
	Geoff Blackburn	Member – Estuary General Share Managed Fishery
	Steve Everson	Member – Estuary Prawn Trawl Share Managed Fishery
	Darren Ward	Member – Ocean Trawl Share Managed Fishery
	Cherie Kirkman	Executive Officer, NSW DPI Fisheries
Invited guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Chapman, Senior Project Officer, DPI Fisheries</li> <li>• Darren Hale, Senior Fisheries Manager</li> </ul>	
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tony Virtu – Member – Ocean Hauling Share Managed Fishery</li> <li>• Craig Shephard -Member Sea Urchin &amp; Turban Shell Restricted Fishery</li> </ul>	

**13 July 2020**

**1. Member Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping**

**NOTED:**

- Chair opened the meeting at 9:30am and welcomed Council members.
- The Aboriginal member acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, past and present.

**2. Review of Agenda**

**NOTED:**

Council members were happy with the agenda.

**3. Review, Declarations and update Register of Interests**

**NOTED:**

Members to review the register for any updates.

**ACTION 13.1:**

**Members to advise the Executive Officer of any amendments to the register.**

#### 4. Confirmation of Minutes from Meeting 12

**NOTED:**

Minutes from meeting 12 accepted without change, as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### 5. Current actions arising from Meeting 12

**NOTED:**

Actions 8.2, 9.3, 11.1 and 11.2.1 were acknowledged as completed, all other actions in progress.

#### 6. NSW Marine Park planning

**NOTED:**

- New approach to Marine Park planning.
- Work together to look at opportunities for commercial fisheries within marine parks (e.g. new technologies, approaches to sustainable fisheries management, education, marketing).
- Marine Park draft management plans will go out for consultation.
- Further information can be found at:

<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/advisory-bodies/marine-park-advisory-committees>

<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/marine-estate-programs/marine-park-management-pilots>

**AGREE:** CommFish NSW supported:

- The proposed consultative approach to Marine Park planning and can see benefits for the commercial fishing industry.
- Providing input into the draft marine park management plan.

#### 7. Commercial Fisheries Management Fee Framework

**NOTED:**

- Three options were presented and considered.
- The majority of members supported further consultation on option 1.
- Further investigation is required on the price per share on trawl whiting.

**AGREE:** CommFish supported industry consultation on option 1 as the basis of the management fee framework.

**ACTION 13.2: NSW DPI to:**

**Report to CommFish with further information on GVP calculations for trawl whiting and any inequities between different share classes (e.g. offshore trawl operations) prior to finalising the industry consultation paper.**

## 8. Business Efficiency Program (BEP)

CommFish NSW reviewed the following papers:

### 8.1. Submissions and approach

**AGREE:** CommFish supported the proposed approach.

### 8.2. Proposals that may be out-of-scope

#### **NOTED:**

CommFish reviewed the out-of-scope submissions.

**AGREE:** CommFish supported the recommended actions for those submissions that are out-of-scope of the BEP.

### 8.3. Potential longer-term proposals

#### **NOTED:**

- The redefinition process for potential longer-term proposals.
- CommFish members noted that “majority shareholder support” definition has already been determined at CommFish meeting 1.

**AGREE:** CommFish supported that the longer-term proposals should be considered at a future date.

### 8.4. Commercial fishing licences

**AGREE:** CommFish supported NSW DPI consulting industry on 10-year commercial fishing licences.

**ACTION 13.3: NSW DPI consult industry on 10-year commercial fishing licences.**

### 8.5. Boats and boat licensing

#### **NOTED:**

- The Ocean Trap and Line member made comment regarding industry concerns on potentially losing OG1's and boat licences.
- Consultation would allow industry to have input in the changing maximum boat lengths for example in the Ocean Trap and Line fishery and the grandfathering of boats over the recommended maximum length.
- The topic of the Fish Receiver process was also considered to be a priority.

**AGREE:** CommFish supported NSW DPI consulting industry on boats and boat licences.

**ACTION 13.4: NSW DPI consult industry on boat lengths and licences.**

## 9. Other business

### 9.1. Amendment to the CommFish NSW Charter

**NOTED:** CommFish members considered the change to the CommFish NSW Charter.

**AGREE:** CommFish supported that the CommFish NSW Charter be changed to the suggested content submitted by the Chair. This will provide clear direction going forward in relation to Observers attending a CommFish NSW meeting.

**ACTION 13.5: NSW DPI to amend the CommFish NSW Charter as per the agreed wording.**

## 9.2. Update from NSW DPI

### **NOTED:**

- Expression of interest will be going out on 10 July 2020 for the Trawl Whiting harvest strategy working group. The CommFish Ocean Trawl member has been nominated to take part of this working group.
- A Lobster Harvest Strategy Working Group will be formed that will utilise the existing members of the Lobster Fishery Working Group. The Terms of Reference is being finalised for CommFish endorsement. The Lobster fishery member will be appointed to the Harvest Strategy Working Group. An independent Chair, Scientist and Economist will also be appointed.
- The proposed Mud crab tag which incorporates a QR code has now progressed with NSW DPI now at the stage of engaging with Mud crab trappers to seek who wishes to trail the new tag.

## 9.3. Seafood Retailers

**NOTED:** It is important to support seafood retailers in these challenging times.

## 9.4. Commercial Fishing Trust

**NOTED:** CommFish are able to recommend funding out of the trust consistent with the Commercial Fishing Trust Investment Statement.

## 10. Next meeting

Next meeting date was discussed:

- 7 August 2020

### **Meeting closed**

- 10 July 2020 at 12:30pm

## Appendix A – Current Actions & Recommendations List for Meeting 13

### Actions

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
8.2	<p><b>Meeting 12: Action has been amended to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair is to write to RFNSW to invite their Chair to jointly chair the Working Group and nominate three members to sit on the Working Group.</li> </ol>	NSW DPI	<p><b>Meeting 10:</b> Chair advised - An update to be provided by NSW DPI and a paper for discussion is on the agenda for today. Actions 8.2 to be updated</p> <p><b>Meeting 11:</b> Update to be provided at today's meeting</p> <p><b>Meeting 12:</b> Update provided today; action updated</p> <p><b>Meeting 13:</b> Completed Chair has sent letter to RFNSW Chair</p>	Completed
8.4	<p><b>Meeting 10: Action has been amended to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter and paper to be sent from the Chair to the Minister.</li> </ol>	EG/SUT S & AB; NSW DPI	<p><b>Meeting 10:</b> Chair advised;1.Completed 2. Completed Action 8.4 to be updated</p> <p><b>Meeting 11:</b> Further discussion with NSW DPI required to complete Compliance paper.</p>	3. In Progress
8.9	<p>Council members recommend that NSW DPI:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the potential of automatic disqualification for certain high-level offences such as trafficking fish.</li> <li>Provide further information on the topic of automatic disqualification for Council members review at a future meeting.</li> </ol>	NSW DPI	<p><b>Meeting 10:</b> Chair advised no change on timeline on this action.</p> <p><b>Meeting 11:</b> Pending Red Tape reduction</p>	In Progress
8.17	<p><b>Meeting 10: Action has been amended to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW DPI to work through on-ground examples with a working group comprised of fishers and members to gain a solution.</li> <li>NSW DPI to approve record of possession form and distribute to fishers for use.</li> </ol>	Council NSW DPI	<p><b>Meeting 10:</b> Chair advised that this action is back on the agenda for today. Action 8.17 to be updated</p> <p><b>Meeting 11:</b> Working with compliance</p>	In Progress
8.19	<p>Council members request that a NSW DPI recreational fishing manager attend a future Council meeting to provide a briefing on the recreational EIS development.</p>	NSW DPI	<p><b>Meeting 10:</b> Chair advised – NSW DPI Recreational Fishing advised currently in "project planning stage" and to revisit request to attend in May/June 2019.</p> <p><b>Meeting 11:</b> To arrange for meeting 12</p> <p><b>Meeting 12:</b> Waiting for travel restrictions to be relaxed</p>	In Progress

9.3	<b>Meeting 12: Action has been amended to:</b> DPI provide examples of how the options impact the fee liability of some fishing business owners, including examples of diverse fishing businesses.	NSW DPI	<b>Meeting 10:</b> Chair advised -This will be an agenda item for next meeting. <b>Meeting 11:</b> On today's agenda. <b>Meeting 12:</b> Discussed today. Action to be amended <b>Meeting 13:</b> On today's agenda action completed	Completed
10.5	1. DPI NSW to investigate the link between pre-fish, post-land and catch and effort reports as part of the catch and effort review. <b>Meeting 11: Action amended to included</b> 2. Members to provide EO examples and EO to collate into a list for NSW DPI	NSW DPI  Council /EO	<b>Meeting 11:</b> A/g GDCF&Aq advised review progressing	In Progress
10.10	<b>Meeting 11: Action has been amended to:</b> NSW DPI to write to mud crab trappers providing an update on the mud crab tagging trials	NSW DPI	<b>Meeting 11:</b> On today's agenda	In progress
10.12	NSW DPI to investigate how to expand the export list.	NSW DPI	<b>Meeting 11:</b> In progress	In progress
11.1	DPI to amend Pecuniary Interest Register and circulate	EO	<b>Meeting 11:</b> Waiting on further information <b>Meeting 13:</b> Sent to Members	Completed
11.2	1. NSW DPI to cancel shares and 2. Implement a policy in relation to surrendered and forfeited shares.	NSW DPI	<b>Meeting 13:</b> 1. Has been completed, 2. Under investigation	1. Completed 2. In progress
11.4	NSW DPI to: 1. Amend the debt recovery process to remove forfeiture. 2. Consider CommFish NSW feedback when writing and implementing a firm policy.	NSW DPI		In progress
13.1	Members to advise the Executive Officer of any amendments to the register.	Council		
13.2	NSW DPI to: Report to CommFish with further information on GVP calculations for trawl whiting and any inequities between different share classes (e.g. offshore trawl operations) prior to finalising the industry consultation paper.	NSW DPI		
13.3	NSW DPI consult industry on 10-year commercial fishing licences.	NSW DPI		

13.4	NSW DPI consult industry on boat lengths and licences.	NSW DPI		
13.5	NSW DPI to amend the CommFish NSW Charter as per the agreed wording.	NSW DPI		