



**Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council
(CommFish NSW AC)
Meeting 16, 2 October 2020
Via Teleconference**

Members present	Stuart Richey AM	CommFish NSW Chair (Chair)
	Darren Reynolds	Fisheries & Aquaculture Management
	Greg Finn	Member – Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) 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
	Geoff Blackburn	Member – Estuary General Share Managed Fishery
	Darren Ward	Member – Ocean Trawl Share Managed Fishery
	Cherie Kirkman	Executive Officer, DPI Fisheries
Invited guests	Peter Turnell, Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Darren Hale, Senior Fisheries Manager Nicole Strehling, Senior Manager, Marine Planning	
Apologies	Tony Virtu – Member – Ocean Hauling Share Managed Fishery Craig Shephard – Member – Sea Urchin and Turban Shell Fishery John Jarvis – Member – Southern Fish Trawl Restricted Fishery Steve Everson – Member – Estuary Prawn Trawl Share Managed Fishery	

2 October 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 accepted the agenda.

3. Review, Declarations and update Register of Interests

NOTED:

Several members indicated that they required to update their pecuniary interest.

ACTION 16.1: CommFish members to email EO with any updates for register.

4. Confirmation of Minutes from Meeting 14 and 15

NOTED:

Minutes from meeting 14 and 15 accepted without change, as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Current actions arising from Meeting 14 and 15

NOTED:

- Action 10.10 sent and marked as completed;
- Action 14.7 EOI has gone out for membership and marked as completed;
- Actions 14.9 marked as completed except for updating members profile on website; and
- All other actions in progress.

6. Marine park planning update

NOTED:

- The development of a draft network management plan for the five mainland marine parks and the approach;
- Opportunity to develop solutions in partnership with commercial fishers; and
- That the language used is easy to understand and approachable to commercial fishers.

AGREE: CommFish:

- Supported the proposed marine park planning approach and being involved in planning discussions and feedback;
- Any proposed signage for marine parks should include commercial fishing;
- Noted the importance of engaging Aboriginal fishers in the process; and

ACTION 16.2: EO to provide member contact numbers to Senior Manager, Marine Planning.

7. Abalone and Spanner Crab Harvest Strategy Working Group ToR.

NOTED:

- The draft Abalone and Spanner Crab Harvest Strategy Working Groups Term of Reference.

AGREE: CommFish supported;

- The Terms of Reference for both the Abalone and Spanner Crab Harvest Strategy Working Groups; and
- NSW DPI going out to Expression of Interest (EOI) for membership of the Working Groups.

ACTION 16.3: NSW DPI to go out to EOI for membership of the Abalone and Spanner Crab Working Groups.

8. New system of management charges for five multi-species share management fisheries.

NOTED:

- Previous discussions on the topic; and
- The draft industry consultation paper for the new system of management charges.

AGREE: CommFish supported NSW DPI's consultation paper on a new system of management charges.

ACTION 16.4: NSW DPI to proceed with industry consultation using the recommended paper.

9. Business Efficiency Program (BEP)

CommFish NSW reviewed the following papers:

9.1. Species restrictions (quota species)

NOTED:

- The papers on size limits for Blue swimmer crab, Silver trevally, Tiger and Bluespotted flathead;
- The Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council has supported that the size limit of Blue swimmer crabs for recreational fishers be increased to 6.5 cm;
- CommFish had considerable discussion on the concern of some Wallis Lake fishers regarding the sustainability of the Blue swimmer crab fishery in the lake.
- New stock assessments are imminent;
- The paper on prawn trawl nets in the Ocean Trawl Fishery (south of Smoky Cape);
- Lobster and Ocean Trap & Line members declared interest in relation to Lobster take and possession;
- The papers on take and possession of Gemfish, Australian Sardine and Lobster in the Ocean Trawl and Ocean Trap & Line fisheries.

AGREE: CommFish:

- Supported that the size limit for Blue swimmer crab remain at 6.5 cm for now and that the latest stock status report be made available to members when finalised;
- Recommended that the size limit for Bluespotted flathead remain unchanged;
- Recommended that the daily bag and possession limits for Gemfish and Australian sardine in the Ocean Trawl fishery remain unchanged;
- Recommended that DPI further investigate (i) allowing lobsters to be taken in a demersal fish trap and (ii) a small bag limit for Lobsters incidentally taken in the Ocean Trawl fishery, subject to tagging and real-time reporting requirements; and
- Recommend the following proposals to progress to the joint working group:
 - A reduced size limit of 28 cm for Silver trevally taken in the Ocean Trawl fishery, noting that the minimum mesh size of 115 mm in the body of a fish trawl net should be considered at the same time;
 - A reduced size limit of 30 cm for Tiger flathead;
 - Allowing quota species subject to a size limit to be retained in prawn trawl nets in the Ocean Trawl fishery south of Smoky Cape.

ACTION 16.5: NSW DPI to:

- 1. Provide CommFish members with the latest stock assessment report on Blue swimmer crabs for further consideration;**
- 2. Revert back to CommFish in relation to Lobster take and possession in demersal fish traps and the Ocean Trawl fishery; and**
- 3. Progress the following proposals to the joint working group for consideration:**
 - a. A reduced size limit of 28 cm for Silver trevally taken in the Ocean Trawl fishery, noting that the minimum mesh size of 115 mm in the body of a fish trawl net should be considered at the same time;**
 - b. A reduced size limit of 30 cm for Tiger flathead;**
 - c. Allowing quota species subject to a size limit to be retained in prawn trawl nets in the Ocean Trawl fishery south of Smoky Cape.**

9.2. Species restrictions (permitted species lists)

NOTED:

- The pros and cons of moving away from a permitted species list; and

- The papers on the Estuary General fishery – permitted species and Estuary Prawn fishery – target and by-product species lists.

AGREE: CommFish:

- Recommended the retention of the permitted species (Estuary General) and target and by-product species (Estuary Prawn Trawl) lists;
- Recommended that the addition of certain species to the permitted species (Estuary General) and by-product species (Estuary Prawn Trawl) lists progress to the joint working group for consideration.
- Recommended that the proposed addition of certain species to the permitted species (Estuary General) and by-product species (Estuary Prawn Trawl) not progress due to the species being quota managed in other commercial fisheries, shared with other commercial or recreational fisheries and/or having a depleting or depleted stock status.

ACTION 16.6: NSW DPI to:

- 1. Retain a permitted, target and by-product species lists for the Estuary General and Estuary Prawn Trawl fisheries, respectively; and**
- 2. Progress the following proposed changes to these lists to the joint working group for consideration:**
 - a. Estuary General permitted species list – add Wirrah, Diamond fish, Oxeye and Giant herring, Bigeye, Giant and Brassy trevally, Common pony fish, Barred/spotted grunter, Giant salmon catfish, Eastern shovelnose, Moses perch, Greenback flounder, Queenfish, Stargazer, Sweetlip, Slaty bream, Rock cod and Black spotted cod.**
 - b. Hunter EPT by-product list – add Silver biddies, Carp and Herring.**
 - c. Hawkesbury EPT by-product list – add Cuttlefish, Southern calamari, John dory, Giant boarfish, Scat, Diamond fish, Tripletail, Fantail mullet, Catfish, Black trevally, Tounge sole, Stingrays, Pike, Coral crab, Common pike eel, Eastern fiddler ray, Eastern shovelnose and Herring.**

10. Other business

10.1. Networking with Recreational Fishing

NOTED:

- The Inland Fishery member advised that he caught a tagged Yellowbelly that was originally released at Lake Burrendong for the 9th annual recreational fishing Easter fishing classic two years ago.
- Since advising the Inland Waterways OzFish committee the CommFish member has had a positive article written by the Recreational Fishing NSW committee member for North West Inland regarding his catch and release of the Yellowbelly.
- Article can be found at [Tagged-yellowbelly-found-two-years-on-from-easter-burrendong-classic](#)

AGREE: CommFish supported;

- The positive feedback and acknowledged the importance of networking.

10.2. Ocean Beach Haul signage materials

NOTED:

- The signage will provide several key outcomes:
 - Provide the general public with an awareness of safety whilst commercial operations are being conducted on the beach;

- The use of QR code will enable the community to learn more about how the fishery is carefully and sustainably managed;
- Reduce the perception that the operation is acting illegally; and
- The proposed cost to implement.

AGREE: CommFish;

- Recommended \$5000 be sought from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund to contribute to the cost of the signage.

ACTION 16.7: NSW DPI to seek \$5000 from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund to contribute to the cost of the signage.

11. Next meeting

Next meeting date was discussed:

- 27 November 2020

Meeting closed

- 2 October 2020 at 12:45pm

Appendix A – Current Actions & Recommendations List for Meeting 16

Actions

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
8.9	Council members recommend that NSW DPI: 1. Investigate the potential of automatic disqualification for certain high-level offences such as trafficking fish. 2. Provide further information on the topic of automatic disqualification for Council members review at a future meeting.	NSW DPI	Meeting 10: Chair advised no change on timeline on this action. Meeting 11: Pending Red Tape reduction	In Progress
8.17	Meeting 10: Action has been amended to: 1. NSW DPI to work through on-ground examples with a working group comprised of fishers and members to gain a solution. 2. NSW DPI to approve record of possession form and distribute to fishers for use.	Council NSW DPI	Meeting 10: Chair advised that this action is back on the agenda for today. Action 8.17 to be updated Meeting 11: Working with compliance	In Progress
8.19	Council members request that a NSW DPI recreational fishing manager attend a future Council meeting to provide a briefing on the recreational EIS development.	NSW DPI	Meeting 10: Chair advised – NSW DPI Recreational Fishing advised currently in “project planning stage” and to revisit request to attend in May/June 2019. Meeting 11: To arrange for meeting 12 Meeting 12: Waiting for travel restrictions to be relaxed	In Progress
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. Meeting 11: Action amended to included 2. Members to provide EO examples and EO to collate into a list for NSW DPI	NSW DPI Council /EO	Meeting 11: A/g GDCF&Aq advised review progressing	In Progress
10.10	Meeting 11: Action has been amended to: NSW DPI to write to mud crab trappers providing an update on the mud crab tagging trials	NSW DPI	Meeting 11: On today's agenda Meeting 16: Sent	Completed
10.12	NSW DPI to investigate how to expand the export list.	NSW DPI	Meeting 11: In progress	In progress
11.2	1. NSW DPI to cancel shares and 2. Implement a policy in relation to surrendered and forfeited shares.	NSW DPI	Meeting 13: 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	Meeting 14: 1. Completed forfeiture has been removed	1. Completed 2. In progress
13.3	NSW DPI consult industry on 10-year commercial fishing licences.	NSW DPI		In progress
13.4	NSW DPI consult industry on boat lengths and licences.	NSW DPI		In progress
13.5	NSW DPI to amend the CommFish NSW Charter as per the agreed wording.	NSW DPI	Meeting 16: Approval has been given to amend Charter.	In progress
14.1	NSW DPI to: 1. Proceed with industry consultation on the proposed framework; 2. Consider that the methodology should be reviewed by an independent economist to ensure the most representative GVP figures are being used; and 3. Provide CommFish with the outcomes of the industry consultation.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.2	NSW DPI to consult with industry on Prawn ballots that do not involve re-visiting share linkage.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.3	NSW DPI to consult with industry on reducing the minimum nomination period from 48 hours to 12 hours.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.4	NSW DPI to progress the proposed changes to crew in the Estuary General Fishery to the BEP working group for further discussion.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.5	NSW DPI to consult industry on the proposed changes to real-time reporting.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.6	NSW DPI to: 1. Consult with industry on increasing the maximum shareholding in the Lobster Fishery and changes to endorsements in the Inland Fishery; and 2. Revisit the Fishing business transfer rules.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.7	NSW DPI to go out to EOI for membership of the Lobster Harvest Strategy Working Group.	NSW DPI	Meeting 16: EOI has gone out for membership	Completed

14.8	NSW DPI to facilitate communication with fishers on behalf of OceanWatch when requested.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.9	Executive Officer to: 1. Pass on CommFish comments and thanks regarding the logo to the designer; and 2. Amend all templates and work with members to update profiles on the website.	EO	Meeting 16: All completed except the updating of members profiles on website.	In progress
15.1	NSW DPI: 1. To work to implement the actions arising from the NSW Government's initial response to the recommendations of the report.	NSW DPI		In progress
15.2	NSW DPI: 1. Engage BDO EconSearch to deliver the Economic and Social indicator monitoring; 2. To recommend funding for the proposal from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund; and 3. Provide CommFish NSW with a balance of the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund.	NSW DPI		In progress
15.3	The Chair is to write to the Chair of MFAC advising that whilst CommFish is supportive of the initiatives the timing for such investment should be revisited at a later date.	Chair		In progress
16.1	CommFish members to email EO with any updates for register.	Council		
16.2	EO to provide member contact numbers to Senior Manager, Marine Planning.	EO		
16.3	NSW DPI to go out to EOI for membership of the Abalone and Spanner Crab Working Groups.	NSW DPI		
16.4	NSW DPI to go out to industry consultation using the recommended paper.	NSW DPI		
16.5	NSW DPI to: 1. Provide CommFish members with the latest stock assessment report on Blue swimmer crabs for further consideration; 2. Revert back to CommFish in relation to Lobster take and possession in demersal fish traps and the Ocean	NSW DPI		

	<p>Trawl fishery; and</p> <p>3. Progress the following proposals to the joint working group for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A reduced size limit of 28 cm for Silver trevally taken in the Ocean Trawl fishery, noting that the minimum mesh size of 115 mm in the body of a fish trawl net should be considered at the same time; b. A reduced size limit of 30 cm for Tiger flathead; c. Allowing quota species subject to a size limit to be retained in prawn trawl nets in the Ocean Trawl fishery south of Smoky Cape. 			
16.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain a permitted, target and by-product species lists for the Estuary General and Estuary Prawn Trawl fisheries, respectively; and 2. Progress the following proposed changes to these lists to the joint working group for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Estuary General permitted species list – add Wirrah, Diamond fish, Oxeye and Giant herring, Bigeye, Giant and Brassy trevally, Common pony fish, Barred/spotted grunter, Giant salmon catfish, Eastern shovelnose, Moses perch, Greenback flounder, Queenfish, Stargazer, Sweetlip, Slaty bream, Rock cod and Black spotted cod. b. Hunter EPT by-product list – add Silver biddies, Carp and Herring. c. Hawkesbury EPT by-product list – add Cuttlefish, Southern calamari, John dory, Giant boarfish, Scat, Diamond fish, Tripletail, Fantail mullet, Catfish, Black trevally, Tounge sole, Stingrays, Pike, Coral crab, Common pike eel, Eastern fiddler ray, Eastern shovelnose and Herring. 	NSW DPI		
16.7	NSW DPI to seek \$5000 from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund to contribute to the cost of the signage.	NSW DPI		