

**Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council
(CommFish NSW AC)
Meeting 12, 12 June 2020
Via Teleconference**

Members present	Stuart Richey AM	CommFish NSW Chair (Chair)
	Darren Reynolds	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
	Craig Shephard	Member – Sea Urchin & Turban Shell Restricted 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"> • Sean Sloan, Deputy Director General, DPI Fisheries • Rebecca Chapman, Senior Project Officer, DPI Fisheries • Patricia Beatty, Chief Executive Officer, Professional Fisher's Association • Joel Wilson – Principal Policy Officer, DPI • Simon Vincent – Director Policy and Reform, DPI 	
Apologies	Tony Virtu – Member – Ocean Hauling Share Managed Fishery Mark Cranstone Member – Lobster Share Managed Fishery	

12 June 2020

1. Member Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping

NOTED:

- Chair opened the meeting at 9:35am and welcomed Council members and guests.
- 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:

- The Ocean Trap & Line member declared that he is no longer owns line east shares.

ACTION 11.1:

DPI to amend the Pecuniary Interest Register and circulate.

4. Confirmation of Minutes from Meeting 11

NOTED:

Minutes from meeting 11 accepted without change, as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Current actions arising from Meeting 11

NOTED:

Actions were acknowledged

6. Business Efficiency Program (BEP)

NOTED:

- The BEP had progressed since last meeting and the call for submissions has now closed.
- Over 300 submissions were received from at least 140 participants.
- The submissions are now being collated in preparation for review by CommFish at the next meeting.
- A joint CommFish and RecFish Working Group is to be co-chaired by the Chairs of CommFish and RecFish.
- The Working Group will have three members from each advisory council.
- The PFA provided a summary of their industry consultation.

AGREE: CommFish supported:

- The proposed next steps regarding the review, prioritisation and consultation on BEP proposals.
- The Chair write to the Chair of RFNSW with an invitation to co-chair a joint CommFish and RecFish Working Group and nominate three members to sit on the Working Group to finalise a list of proposals for public consultation.

ACTION 8.2 to be updated to:

The Chair is to write to the Chair of RFNSW with an invitation to co-chair a Working Group to invite their Chair to jointly chair the focus group and for the nomination of members to sit on the focus group.

7. Commercial Fisheries Management Fee Framework

NOTED:

- Consideration was given to the two options presented.
- Maintaining diversity in fishing businesses is important, and the framework should not disadvantage those fishers who own diverse businesses.
- Opinions varied on which option would be preferable.
- Members requested that real examples be provided of how the options impact fishing business owners' fee liability, especially fishers with diverse fishing businesses.

AGREE: CommFish supported that:

- DPI provide real examples of how the options impact the fee liability of some fishing business owners, including examples of diverse fishing businesses.

ACTION 9.3 to be updated to:

DPI provide examples of how the options impact the fee liability of some fishing business owners, including examples of diverse fishing businesses.

8. Harvest Strategies

NOTED:

- The revised draft NSW Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines.
- The Terms of Reference for the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy Working Group was discussed.
- Members noted that the Working Group will provide its advice on a recommended Harvest Strategy to CommFish for consideration.
- CommFish Ocean Trawl fishery member will be on the working group
- Expressions of Interest for the remaining members of the Working Group will be invited soon.
- The Total Allowable Fishing Committee has consistently recommended the development of harvest strategies for species for which they have determined Total Allowable Catches.

AGREE: CommFish supported:

- The revised draft NSW Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines.
- The Terms of Reference for the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy Working Group.
- Prioritising Trawl whiting, Lobster, Abalone, Pipi and Spanner crab as species for Harvest Strategy development.

9. Fisheries Management Initiatives in NSW

NOTED:

- DPI is currently consulting with key fisheries stakeholders and Advisory Councils on three key initiatives to improve fisheries management in NSW.
 1. Amendments to the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* - strengthening rights to access the resource, simplifying the regulatory environment, increasing business security and strengthening transparency.
 2. Policy development in partnership with industry to increase certainty of access to the resource – Harvest Strategy, Resource Sharing, Co-management and Bycatch policies.
 3. Amendments to Fisheries Regulations - to streamline and better manage the regulatory environment by removing unnecessary fishing restrictions and rules.
- A list of possible Act amendments was tabled for discussion.
- The Minister will be updated on the feedback received from this consultation.

AGREE: CommFish welcomed the proposed legislative and policy development initiatives.

10. Other business

The Chair suggested that the CommFish Charter requires amendment to clarify that the attendance and participation by observers at CommFish meetings is at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair will table an amendment at the next meeting.

11. Next meeting

Next meeting date was discussed:

- 10 July 2020

Meeting closed

- 12 June 2020 at 12:54pm

Appendix A – Current Actions & Recommendations List for Meeting 12

Actions

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
8.2	<p>Meeting 12: Action has been amended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	NSW DPI	<p>Meeting 10: 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>Meeting 11: Update to be provided at today's meeting</p> <p>Meeting 12: Update provided today; action updated</p>	In progress
8.4	<p>Meeting 10: Action has been amended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Letter and paper to be sent from the Chair to the Minister. 	EG/SUTS & AB; NSW DPI	<p>Meeting 10: Chair advised</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Completed <p>Action 8.4 to be updated</p> <p>Meeting 11: 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"> Investigate the potential of automatic disqualification for certain high-level offences such as trafficking fish. Provide further information on the topic of automatic disqualification for Council members review at a future meeting. 	NSW DPI	<p>Meeting 10: Chair advised no change on timeline on this action.</p> <p>Meeting 11: Pending Red Tape reduction</p>	In Progress
8.17	<p>Meeting 10: Action has been amended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NSW DPI to work through on-ground examples with a working group comprised of fishers and members to gain a solution. NSW DPI to approve record of possession form and distribute to fishers for use. 	Council NSW DPI	<p>Meeting 10: Chair advised that this action is back on the agenda for today. Action 8.17 to be updated</p> <p>Meeting 11: 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>Meeting 10: Chair advised – NSW DPI Recreational Fishing advised currently in "project planning stage" and to revisit request to attend in May/June 2019.</p> <p>Meeting 11: To arrange for meeting 12</p> <p>Meeting 12: Waiting for travel restrictions to be relaxed</p>	In Progress

9.3	Meeting 12: Action has been amended to: DPI provide examples of how the options impact the fee liability of some fishing business owners, including examples of diverse fishing businesses.	NSW DPI	Meeting 10: Chair advised -This will be an agenda item for next meeting. Meeting 11: On today's agenda. Meeting 12: Discussed today. Action to be amended	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	In progress
10.12	NSW DPI to investigate how to expand the export list.	NSW DPI	Meeting 11: In progress	In progress
11.1	DPI to amend Pecuniary Interest Register and circulate	EO	Meeting 11: waiting on further information	In progress
11.2	NSW DPI to cancel shares and implement a policy in relation to surrendered and forfeited shares.	NSW DPI		In Progress
11.3	CommFish NSW members to provide comments on the draft Harvest Strategy Policy by 7-4-2020 to EO.	Council		Completed
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
11.5	1. NSW DPI to review General Business and those relating to the Business Efficiency Program (BEP) are recorded on the list for review. 2. EO to ensure all correspondence received since the last meeting have been actioned to advise that Submissions will be held as part of the BEP	NSW DPI		Completed