

Dear Minister

The Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW) held its 28th meeting on the 26th and 27th of June in Port Macquarie. In keeping with our normal practice with regional meetings CommFish members and DPI staff met with local fisheries the evening before the meeting to hear their issues and concerns and to provide advice wherever possible.

CommFish welcomed two new members to the Council, Jeffrey Hunt representing the Ocean Trawl Share Managed Fishery and Ben McCulloch representing the lobster fishery. An induction for new members and a refresher for existing members was conducted to ensure Council members understand their roles and responsibilities and the operation of CommFish.

Council members were briefed on:

- Harvest Strategy update and TAFC determinations.
- Update on the 2-year trial of the Hastings and Tweed Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plans.
- An update on the implementation of Vessel Monitoring Systems and Commercial Fisheries Data Requirements
- Beyond Fossil Diesel at Sea project aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of fishing vessels using a blend of renewable diesel.
- An update on the Draft Aboriginal cultural fishing regulation, the Aboriginal Fisheries Business Development Program, management plans and rules review for NSW marine parks, Marine Park Advisory committees and recent work with commercial fishers and the local Aboriginal community at Menindee.
- Recreational Fishing Environmental Assessment and the Rec Fishing Management Strategy
- FishOnline Modernisation Project

The Council provided advice to NSW DPI on several Business Efficiency Program proposals, along with potential ways to increase diversity in CommFish.

The Council noted a paper on the Commercial Fishing Trust Investment Plan and will have an opportunity to provide further advice out of session.



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (COMMFISH NSW AC)

With the reduction in TAC for some fisheries, Council strongly supported reducing the fee for the Registered Fish Receiver to the transactional cost of issuing the licence to enable fishers to sell locally whenever possible to reduce the costs and environmental impact of transporting fish to market and then returning them to the regions.

Council members have asked to write to Deputy Secretary Fisheries and Forestry requesting that the fee change be implemented.

Other issues discussed included the white spot outbreak near Ballina, Mulloway recovery, the Lobster Working Group, Declared Species, and the new internal structure of NSW DPI.

I am happy to provide a more detailed briefing on any of the issues discussed at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Richey AM, Chairman
CommFish NSW