



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council
MINUTES
Meeting 28, 27 June 2024
(Meet and greet 26 June 2024)
Port Macquarie, and teleconference

Members present	Stuart Richey AM	Chair
	Greg Finn	Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council
	Graeme Byrnes	Estuary General Fishery
	John Jarvis	Southern Fish Trawl Fishery
	Mark Cranstone	Ocean Trap and Line Fishery
	Patrick Richardson	Ocean Hauling Fishery
	Raymond Saunders	Aboriginal Commercial Fishers
	Stephen Bunney	Abalone Fishery
	Steve Everson	Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery
	Ben McCulloch	Lobster Fishery
	Jeff Hunt	Ocean Trawl Fishery
	Simon Clark	A/Director, Fisheries & Aquaculture Management
Mentee	Paul Aquilina	
Executive Officer	Cherie Kirkman	
NSW DPI staff	• Aimee Cavanagh, Program Leader Business Analytics • Darren Hale, Senior Fisheries Manager, Commercial Fisheries • Shane McGrath, A Program Leader, Commercial Fisheries (via Zoom) • Nick Giles, Senior Fisheries Manager, Harvest Strategies (via Zoom) • Anthony Harding, Senior Fisheries Manager (Via Zoom) • Sarah Fairfull, Director Aboriginal Fishing & Marine Conservation (via Zoom) • Carl Bevilacqua, Senior Manager, Aboriginal Economic Development (Via Zoom)	
Invited guests	• Mr. Michael Cashen, Research Officer Beyond Fossil Diesel, Climate Branch, DPI, Agriculture • Mr. Anders Magnusson, Senior Economist – BDO Australia (via Zoom) • Mr. Wayne Anderson, Aboriginal Fishing (NSW) Advisory Council member and Hasting Aboriginal Local Management Plan Steering Committee member	
Apologies	Taylor Henderson, Inland Fishery CommFish member	

26 June 2024 – Meet and greet

CommFish NSW members, DPI staff and Mr. Cashen attended a meet and greet with fishers. Council appreciated the effort by fishers to come along to talk to members and staff and Mr. Cashen on his project concerning renewable fuels which was well received.

27 June 2024 – Meeting opened 08:00am

1. Member welcome, introductions, and housekeeping

The Chair welcomed Council members, NSW DPI staff, and the mentee.

The Chair acknowledged the MFAC member would be dialling in and out of the meeting, the Abalone member would be online, and the Ocean Trawl member would be in person for part of the meeting and dial in for the rest. The Inland member was an apology.

The Aboriginal Commercial Fishers member acknowledged the traditional owners of the lands on which we met.

2. Review of agenda

Council accepted the agenda.

3. Register of interests

The pecuniary interest register was updated prior to the meeting.

4. Confirmation of minutes from Meeting 27

The minutes for meeting 27 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Actions from Meeting 27

The following actions have been completed and all others are in progress: 27.1, 27.2, 27.3, 27.4, 27.5, 27.7, 27.10, 27.11.

6. Correspondence

CommFish noted that correspondence on the following topics addressed to CommFish were deemed by the Chair to be operational and forwarded to NSW DPI to address:

- A late nomination to be on CommFish received outside of the EOI period.
- The TAC for Spanner crab.
- A matter relating to Welks.
- A cease-and-desist letter.

8. Member induction

Members sat through the CommFish members induction, providing new members and reminding other members their role and responsibilities and Council's current focus.

9. Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) – CommFish and Compliance network group

CommFish welcomed the formation of a group to build a more cohesive working relationship between fishers and fisheries officers and noted that improving education and awareness of rules is a matter of interest to DPI that the group will discuss.

It was noted the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) were process focussed and that the first meeting could be used to draft new ToR reflecting what the group would like to achieve.

10. Resource Management update

Council received an update on the following.

TACs and TAEs

A transition period, including transitional (TAC and TAE) fishing determinations, was introduced under the Business Adjustment Program (BAP) for some fisheries – where quota shares or quota were based on shares only – to give fishers time to adjust.

These determinations have (or will soon) be redetermined for the first time, by the independent Total Allowable Fishing Committee (TAFC).

Other fisheries, where new quota shares were allocated based on shares held and reported catch, proceeded directly to annual fishing determinations.

For fishing determinations made by the TAFC, the TAFC prepares a report that is published on the DPI website. The reports give the reasons for the TAFC's determination and sometimes include recommendations for consideration by fishers and government.

Harvest Strategies (HS)

- Trawl Whiting, Lobster and Spanner Crab HSs have been completed and adopted.
- The draft Mulloway HS and an options paper concerning new management arrangements will be referred to relevant Advisory Councils for review soon.
- The Line and Trap HS working group is currently focused on a Snapper HS and a Yellow Kingfish HS.
- The DPI Resource Management Team is developing animations to help fishers and the public understanding what a HS is.
- The Abalone association has prepared its own harvest strategy and has referred it to DPI for consideration.

11. Further diversity within CommFish NSW

Council discussed ways to increase female representation on CommFish and resolved to expand its mentoring program by inviting a female industry participant to be part of it, to observe first-hand what CommFish does and if needed to learn new skills and to build confidence to join the group in the future.

12. Hastings and Tweed Aboriginal Cultural Local Management Plans (LMP)

Council welcomed and received an update from Carl Bevilacqua (DPI) and Mr. Wayne Anderson (in person) on the Hastings and Tweed LMPs, almost 2 years after their inception. Mr. Anderson is a respected member of the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council (AFAC) and Hastings LMP Steering Committee. Key messages included:

- Encouraging cultural learning and respect for country are focal points for the LMPs.
- The LMPs are supported locally and cultural fishing under them is running smoothly.
- Next steps include completing the current trials and evaluation, and potentially extending the trial period for a further 5 years.

Council recognised the LMPs are not for commercial gain and heard that take under the LMP has been in small quantities only and presents no risks to industry.

Council was most pleased to hear of the success of the LMPs and grateful for the update, including to Mr Anderson for taking his time to talk to Council in person.

13. Fisheries Innovation & Development update

Commercial Fisheries Data Requirements

The Department is reviewing the data collected from the commercial fishing industry to inform and underpin fisheries stock assessments and management decisions, including TAC and TAE determinations where relevant.

Council considered the following proposed changes to reporting and supported them to improve future management:

Estuary General Fishery – Meshing – for each net used

- Catch data – weight of each species (in kg) taken
- Effort data:
 - mesh size of net (in mm),
 - the method of meshing (splashing, 3 hr set, or >3 hour set),
 - number of shots or sets (no.), and
 - net length (in m).

Various fisheries and endorsements – crew numbers

Report number of crew in the following fisheries or sectors:

- Estuary General – meshing, category one & two hauling, prawning, handline and hand gathering.
- Ocean Trap & Line – line fishing eastern & western zones and school & gummy shark.
- Ocean Hauling – hauling net (general purpose), garfish net (hauling) and pilchard, anchovy & bait net (hauling).

Various fisheries and endorsements – processing codes

Reduce the number of processing codes from fourteen into 6 and remove the processing codes for filleted, shark liver, shark fin and heads.

Ocean Trap & Line – Spanner crab northern and southern zones

Replace the previous proposal to report numbers of male and female Spanner crabs discarded with a requirement to report the estimated combined weight (male and female) of legal-sized Spanner crab discards.

RESOLUTION 28.1: CommFish supported the suggested changes.

Vessel Monitory System (VMS)

Parks Australia have announced that all Australian commercial fishing vessels will require a VMS when transiting through or operating in an Australian Marine Park.

- For jurisdictions that already have VMS, this mandate begins 1 July 2024.
- For NSW, the mandate will begin mid-2028.
- Presently, NSW is the only jurisdiction that does not have a mandatory VMS requirement (Abalone has an endorsement condition requiring data loggers).
- NSW DPI has secured grant funding to assist NSW commercial fishers with the Parks Australia VMS mandate.
- NSW DPI is currently trialling a range of VMS units and need more commercial fishers to be part of the trail to select the best units to be used once mandated.
- Considering data security and intellectual property (IP) ownership is an important part of the project.

The Department noted members' concerns that "harvest mapping" could be sold and advised such matters will be considered when investigating data security and ownership.

14. Trust ownership

In response to industry interest registering shares in the name of a trust, NSW DPI advised the restriction (under section 92 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*) is not unique to NSW fisheries and applies because a trust is not a legal entity.

NSW DPI confirmed that section 92 does not prevent a person from using a trust as part of their business structure, provided, as with other types of property, the shares are registered to the trustee as the legal owner of the shares.

It was noted that anyone who wishes to use a trust as part of their business structure should seek their own independent legal and financial advice.

ACTION 28.1: The Estuary General member to consider seeking independent advice and drafting a communique to inform fishers their options when registering shares for further consideration by CommFish.

15. Commercial Fishing Trust Investment Plan

The Department presented the 2024/25 – 2026/27 investment plan for the commercial fishing trust.

The Chair welcomed the Departments open and transparent approach in tabling the plan and viewed it as more of the budget for the next 3 years.

It was agreed that further discussion on the investment plan would take place before CommFish provides its advice on it.

ACTION 28.2: CommFish members are to review the investment plan further prior to making any recommendation.

16. Beyond Fossil Diesel at sea

Council was given a presentation on the use of renewable fuels, including past focus on the agriculture industry and a new opportunity to trial decarbonated fuel in the commercial fishing sector.

Council heard the benefits of the decarbonated fuel held by DPI including reduced carbon build up, reduced engine maintenance, opportunity to support net zero emissions, and that major engine manufacturers have confirmed that engine warranties would not be voided.

Council also heard that the Department's project to trial decarbonated fuel has been publicised at community events and in the media and that this would continue as the program extends to the commercial fishing sector.

The Department has a store of decarbonated fuel available to trial in commercial fishing boats and asked Council for commercial fishers to participate in the project.

RESOLUTION 28.2: CommFish members supported the initiative and would consider being part of the project or would reach out to other industry members to consider it.

17. MFAC member update and insight – MFAC meeting held 21 March 2024

Prior to the meeting the Executive Officer circulated the MFAC member's update.

Members appreciated the update and noted that MFAC is aware of most of the following contemporary industry issues:

- Industry concerns with the illegal/unregulated take of Abalone and the impact this is having on shareholders' investing in the fishery with confidence.
- A reduction in funding though the Department of Education for the Wildcatch sector education and training, noting that training is still available and that industry participants can contact Chris Saunders, NSW Fishing Industry Training Council, on 0477 212 226 for advice, including on upskilling crew.
- TAC and TAE setting and changes to fishers' quota is a concern for many fishers.
- The Minister will be meeting with the Abalone Association in early August.

Council also heard that MFAC is interested in updates on the Business Efficiency Program and market restrictions, such as the Fish Receiver Program, impacting business profitability.

18. NSW Commercial Fisheries Economic Indicators 2021/22 results

Anders Magnusson, BDO Australia, provided Council with an overview of the 2021/22 economic indicators, which showed that:

- Industry input costs have increased significantly, with the fuel price index being a major contributor.
- Statewide there has been a decline on the rate of return.
- There was also a decline in catch, GVP and export prices.

ACTION 28.3: The Department to publish the reports on the website once approved.

19. Director, Aboriginal Fishing & Marine & Marine Conservation update

Draft Aboriginal cultural fishing regulation – update on progress

Council heard that the Department is seeking Government approval to consult the public on the draft Aboriginal Fishing regulation later this year and that an important part of this will be increasing the boarder community's understanding of what cultural fishing is.

The Department is considering a three month consultation process and has contracted an Aboriginal engagement specialist to assist.

Aboriginal Fisheries Business Development Program

Council heard that the Department has been working with a range of partners to establish 3 new Aboriginal operated commercial enterprises, managed and owned by Aboriginal community organisations.

A statewide expression of interest was completed early last year with sixteen applications received that have been narrowed down to 3 successful initiatives:

- A commercial fishing enterprise to be developed with the Yaegl Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation on the North Coast.
- A Walbunja Aboriginal Fishing Cooperative to be developed with Joonga Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation on the South Coast.
- A recirculated aquaculture and aquaponics enterprise to be developed with the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation in the Upper Hunter region.

Representatives from the three groups have now joined a steering committee that will work through governance structures, feasibility assessments and business planning over the next six months to support their ventures. Leveraging additional funding from the private and public sectors is also being considered.

Management planning and management rules review for NSW marine parks

The draft ten-year plan for the five Mainland Marine Parks and outcomes from the public consultation process in 2021 / 2022 have been submitted to Ministers responsible for the Marine Estate and are under active consideration.

The Department is also progressing work to inform the development of a new ten-year Lord Howe Island Marine Park Management Plan. The next step involves developing, in the second half of 2024, an evidence based threat and risk assessment.

With respect to the review of management rules for the Batemans Bay and Port Stephens – Great Lakes Marine Parks, the Department is now moving to review all management rules for all marine parks and aquatic reserves on the basis the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* requires all of them to be reviewed within 10 years and the 10-year anniversary for each is fast approaching.

Marine Park advisory committees – update on committee status

Membership on some Marine Park Advisory Committees expired early this year and the Department is seeking approval to fill those positions. This does not include the Lord Howe Island and Cape Byron Marine Park Advisory Committees because all positions are filled with appointments until November 2026.

20. Recent work with local Aboriginal community at Menindee

Council heard about recent collaboration between DPI, the local Menindee Aboriginal community, and commercial fishers to upskill the community to assist with future needs including water sampling and responding to fish kills.

The training program was well received by the local community, including training sessions by two experienced inland commercial fishers using commercial nets and handling fish. Council was also informed one of the attendees has been offered a traineeship with these fishers.

21. Recreational Fishing Environmental Assessment (EA) and Recreational Fishing Management Strategy (RFMS).

CommFish received and welcomed an update of the progress of the EA and RFMS for the recreational fishing sector, and offered the following suggestions for consideration as part of the process:

1. An investigation into soft plastics that are biodegradable.
2. A ban on using milk bottles as trap floats, as they can leak and sink causing loss of fishing gear and pollution.
3. A protocol for recreational fishers to help stop spread of invasive aquatic weeds.
4. Educating recreational fishers on the commercial fishing activities that occur in the same waters, through local signage.
5. Including as part of the process of obtaining a recreational fishing (or boating) licence, education to enhance awareness and appreciation for other users of the State's waterways including (or specifically) commercial fishers.

Action 28.4: CommFish Executive Officer to provide CommFish feedback to the recreational fisheries management team.
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22. Business Efficiency Program (BEP)

CommFish paper 50 - Business Efficiency Program (BEP) update

Council received an update on the progress of the BEP and related matters, including:

- The BEP Working Group, consisting of representatives of CommFish and RFNSW, has been replaced with a new approach expected to achieve similar outcomes in a more cost-effective and expedient way.
- Council was briefed on a further package of regulation amendments proposed for public consultation, includes changes as a result of the BEP.
- Council noted that research remains underway on Danish seine nets and has commenced for fish trawl nets and that the results of this research will feed into the upcoming trawl gear workshops.

CommFish Paper 51 - Trawl gear workshops

Council considered and supported a proposal by DPI to hold a series of online workshops to bring together government and industry experts to deliver best-practice trawl gear supported by fit-for-purpose regulation. Council also supported the proposed invitees, subject to including the CommFish mentee.

ACTION 28.5: CommFish supported the proposed process and invitees, subject to adding Mr. Paul Aquilina (mentee) to the invitee list.

CommFish Paper 52 - Eels taken in fish and crab traps

Council revisited a matter relating to the BEP and fish and crab traps used in the Estuary General Fishery and resolved to include for the purpose of public consultation allowing Pike eel, Short-finned conger eel and Southern conger eel to be taken as incidental catch (i.e., byproduct) from fish and crab traps.

Council considered extending the above to eels that are quota managed but was concerned this may results in the use of fish and crab traps, which are not designed to exclude or minimise mortality of TEPS, in the upper reaches of some estuaries where TEPS are prevalent.

ACTION 28.6: Amend the BEP proposal to include the species of eel agreed.

CommFish Paper 53 - RFNSW and commercial access to estuarine species

Council considered further its approach to increased estuarine access and enhancing and resolved to:

- Meet with RFNSW in person,
- Use the background paper drafted by DPI and considered by CommFish,
- Develop a PowerPoint presentation for the meeting, and for
- CommFish to be represented by the Estuary General member, Mr. Hale (DPI) and the Chair of CommFish (via VC).

ACTION 28.7: The Department to arrange time on the RFNSW agenda to deliver the commercial access to estuarine species presentation.

23. FishOnline Modernisation Project

Council was given an update on the project, including examples of what some of the transaction screens will look like, and heard that the project is progressing well and should be rolled-out by around the end of 2024. In response to a concern raised, the project manager agreed to revisit the approach proposed to transferring quota online while a fishing trip is underway.

ACTION 28.8: Project manager to revisit the approach to transferring quota online while a fishing trip is underway.

24. Commercial Fisheries Management update.

Members were provided the following updates by Mr. Clark, A/Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management.

New department name, structure and roles

Council heard that from 1 July the department will be known as the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and that internal structural change is underway with Mr. Sean Sloan appointed as the new Deputy Secretary and Mr. Peter Turnell acting in Mr Sloan's former role until it is filled.

White Spot

Following a positive white spot detection in ocean waters off Evans Head a new biosecurity zone has been established, separate to the Clarence River biosecurity zone so that the current 'proof of freedom' program, which is halfway through, can continue. Further details are available on the Department's biosecurity website.

Depleted species

Council heard that the Department is working on a program to rebuild depleted species including Grey Morwong, Spanish mackerel, Pearl perch and Redfish, across all relevant commercial fisheries and stakeholder groups.

Lobster Industry Working Group (LIWG)

Council was informed that The LIWG held their meeting in May 2024 and that the new Lobster Fishery member on CommFish would be invited to join that group.

ACTION 28.9: Arrange for the new Lobster Fishery member to join the LIWG.

Budget

The DPI budget remains tight with restrictions on staff travel continuing.

Southern Fish Trawl Fishery (SFT)

A decision on the future on the SFT is yet to be determined.

25. General Business

Communications to fishers

Two issues concerning communication were discussed including:

- Benefits providing updates on the Business Efficiency Program (BEP) to fishers.
- Adjusting the timing and communication of TAE and TAC determinations to give fishers more time to plan, like Commonwealth fisheries where TACS are known around one month before the quota season starts.

ACTION 28.10: The Department to:

1. Consider a further update on the BEP to industry.
2. Consider the future timing of the TAE and TAC announcements.

Fish Receiver

Council members remain concerned that no action has been taken on the fish receiver program and agreed that a letter to the A/Director General including the following (and previously agreed points) is needed:

- Promoting a profitable industry is an object of the Act.
- Fishers' costs including fisheries fees continue to increase, including because of CPI, at a greater rate than the prices received for fish sold.
- Reducing costs to sell fish will help fishers who's quotas have been reduced.
- Transport costs and the industry's carbon footprint (food miles) may be reduced if catch can be sold direct to consumers.
- Consumers may benefit from lower prices at times if industry costs can be reduced.
- To deliver a more equal footing for NSW producers, on the basis permits are not required when purchasing imported seafood or purchasing seafood direct from interstate fishers.

CommFish also discussed that pending any review of the program, a fee waiver or a new transaction fee would be more appropriate than the current fee requirements.

ACTION 28.11: The Chair is to write to the A/Director General in relation to fish receiver.

Mulloway recovery and environmental matters

A report supplied by the Estuary General member titled 'From pristine to polluted' and circulated prior to the meeting lead to a suggestion that Mr. Duncan Leadbitter, Director Fish Matter, be invited to talk to CommFish about the report and the impacts of pollution on fish recruitment, including important species such as Mulloway.

ACTION 28.12: Chair to consider an invitation for Mr. Leadbitter to discuss the finding of the paper 'From pristine to polluted' at a later CommFish meeting.

NSW Sustainable Commercial Fishing Strategy

It was discussed that an update on the progress of the strategy is needed, along with a review of its content to bring it up to date for publication if needed.

ACTION 28.13: The Department to review the strategy and provide CommFish with an update and a way forward.

26. Next meeting – Via teleconference DTBC

Appendix A – Current Actions & Recommendations List for Meeting 28

No.	Action	Whom	Comment	Status
8.17	Meeting 10: Action has been amended to: 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	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. Meeting 27: In progress Meeting 28: In progress	In Progress
19.3	NSW DPI to investigate the sending of links to industry members.	NSW DPI	Meeting 26: NSW DPI is working to improve the website once completed will revisit request and liaise with OH member. Meeting 27: In progress Meeting 28: In progress Commercial Mgt team are reviewing website.	In Progress
21.3	1. NSW DPI to proceed with public consultation on the implementation of a mud crab tagging program and to seek feedback on a tagging management framework. 2. If after public consultation it is viewed that tagging is to be implemented, NSW DPI is to seek approval for funding from the Commercial Fishing Trust fund. NSW DPI is to consider any potential future income going back into the Commercial Fishing Trust fund.	NSW DPI	Meeting 26: In progress Meeting 27: In progress Meeting 28: In progress	In Progress

21.10	DPI to pilot co-management with Clarence School Prawn Committee.	NSW DPI	Meeting 26: Still in progress 5.8 prawn count (size limit) program - wrap into working group under CommFish Meeting 27: In progress Meeting 28: In progress – waiting on adoption of co-management policy.	In Progress
22.4	DPI to provide further updates, including before the EA and RFMS are finalised.	NSW DPI	Meeting 25: Update presented at meeting. Meeting 26: Still in progress Meeting 27: In progress, EO provided a short update at the meeting. Meeting 28: To be discussed at today's meeting.	In Progress
24.7	NSW DPI to review fishing business transfer rules and advise if changes are required.	NSW DPI	Meeting 26: Still in progress Meeting 27: In progress Meeting 28: In Progress – Will be reviewed as part of the general regulation review.	In Progress
26.11	NSW DPI to discuss with the Inland member the proposal for research to reduce bycatch (traps already have a 90 mm ring) and its link with the 48-hour rule.	NSW DPI	Meeting 27: In progress Meeting 28: In progress – pending further investment.	In Progress

27.1	DPI to publish meeting dates on the CommFish NSW web page as soon as practical once a date has been confirmed.	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: Tentative date has been published on website, will be a standard process in future.	Completed
27.2	The Chair to write to the DDG Fisheries indicating the councils support for the project and seek assistance to ensure there are minimal delays.	Chair	Meeting 28: This was sent as part of the Chair summary to the Minister. DDG was Cc'd	Completed
27.3	The Program Leader Commercial Fisheries to investigate options for a process for a working group from CommFish to engage with the DPI Compliance.	PLCF	Meeting 28: To be discussed at todays' meeting.	Completed
27.4	NSW DPI to prepare feedback to CommFish with respect to section 92 and the use of trusts for fishing businesses.	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: To be discussed at todays' meeting.	Completed
27.5	CommFish supported the process tabled by DPI to pursue further consultation with prawn endorsed fishing business owners in region 4.	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: In progress – Pending consultation.	In Progress
27.6	DPI to keep CommFish and Inland member updated with DPI strategies with respect to managing European Carp in the Menindee Lakes system as appropriate.	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: In progress – ongoing.	In Progress
27.7	Items 1 & 4 Move to the next step (BEP working group). Refer to Appendix B	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: In progress – Pending consultation. Moved to the BEP project tracking sheet.	Completed

27.8	Item 2 -Return to the BEP working group for advice on high-risk hotspots. Refer to Appendix B	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: In progress – Pending consultation. Moved to the BEP project tracking sheet.	Completed
27.9	Item 3 -NSW DPI to liaise with relevant proponents and deliver a revised proposal for further consideration by CommFish. Refer to Appendix B	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: In progress.	In Progress
27.10	Item 5 – Move to the next step (public consultation). Refer to Appendix B	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: In progress – Pending consultation. Moved to the BEP project tracking sheet.	Completed
27.11	Item 6 - The ‘25-metre rule’ proposal is considered under the electronic reporting project. The EG trap proposals, modified as agreed or noted in this meeting, move to the next step (public consultation).	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: To be referred to the Lobster Industry Working Group. Pending consultation. Moved to the BEP project tracking sheet.	Completed
27.12	NSW DPI to continue this research and issues permits as needed to support it.	NSW DPI	Meeting 28: In progress	In Progress
28.1	The Estuary General member to consider seeking independent advice and drafting a communique to inform fishers their options when registering shares for further consideration by CommFish.	EG Member		
28.2	CommFish members are to review the investment plan further prior to making any recommendation.	Council		

28.3	The Department to publish the reports on the website once approved.	EO		
28.4	CommFish Executive Officer to provide CommFish feedback to the recreational fisheries management team.	NSW DPI		
28.5	CommFish supported the proposed process and invitees, subject to adding Mr. Paul Aquilina (mentee) to the invitee list.	NSW DPI		
28.6	Amend the BEP proposal to include the species of eel agreed.	NSW DPI		
28.7	The Department to arrange time on the RFNSW agenda to deliver the commercial access to estuarine species presentation	NSW DPI		
28.8	Project manager to revisit the approach to transferring quota online while a fishing trip is underway.	NSW DPI		
28.9	Arrange for the new Lobster Fishery member to join the LIWG.	NSW DPI		
28.10	The Department to: 1. Consider a further update on the BEP to industry. 2. Consider the future timing of the TAE and TAC announcements.	NSW DPI		

28.11	The Chair is to write to the A/Director General in relation to fish receiver.	Chair		
28.12	Chair to consider an invitation for Mr. Leadbitter to discuss the finding of the paper 'From pristine to polluted' at a later CommFish meeting.	Chair		
28.13	The Department to review the strategy and provide CommFish with an update and a way forward.	NSW DPI		

Appendix B – Resolutions for Meeting 28

No.	Resolution
28.1	CommFish supported the suggested changes.
28.2	CommFish members supported the initiative and would consider being part of the project or would reach out to other industry members to consider it.