

Draft Minutes

Lobster Industry Working Group (LIWG) Meeting 12.3.2025

Details

Location: Zoom

Date/time: 12 March 2025
1pm-2:45pm

Chairperson: Simon Clark (DPIRD)

Additional DPI Staff

1. Josie Krause (DPIRD Commercial Management)

Observers

1. Scott Westley – arrived 1:55pm

Members Present

1. Daniel Stewart (Industry R1)
2. Noel Gogerly (Industry R2)
3. Lee Monin (Industry R3)
4. Mark Horne (Industry R5)
5. Oliver Wady (Recreational) arrived 1:20pm – 2:15pm
6. Geoff Liggins (DPIRD Research Scientist)
7. Damian Young (DPIRD Executive Officer)
8. Ben McCulloch (CommFish)
9. Matt Cartwright (DPIRD Compliance) arrived 2:35pm

Apologies

1. Mark Cranstone (Industry R4)

Previous Meeting

1. Welcome, apologies and introductory remarks

The Chair welcomed members, observers and DPIRD representatives, and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land. Noted no apologies were received for the meeting.

2. Confirmation of final minutes from previous meeting

The draft minutes from meeting held 29 October 2024 were emailed to members 19 November 2024 and reviewed out of session. DPIRD advised members the 2025 stock assessment report will include small changes due to systems limitations accessing data and reports whilst the FishOnline Modernisation Project is rolled out.

RESOLUTION Members confirmed the minutes from meeting 29 October 2024 as accurate.

The Chair reviewed the following outstanding actions from the 29 October 2024 meeting with the group.

4.5 – Deferred until face-to-face meeting

4.11 – Deferred until FishOnline modernisation project has been rolled out.

4.17 – Pending

4.18 – Program Leader Business Analytics will not be attending this meeting.

The Chair advised actions 4.8, 4.10, 4.16, 4.19 and 4.22 have been completed and that actions 4.7, 4.9 4.14, 4.15, 4.20, 4.21, 4.23, 4.24 and 4.25 are included for discussion on today's meeting agenda.

3. Tags for the 2025/29 fishing periods

Members were advised DPIRD has contracted Mega Fortris Pty Ltd to provide lobster tags for a further 4 years (i.e., the 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 fishing periods) at a cost of 21c per tag.

Members questioned opportunities to use left-over tags into the following fishing period and were advised to refer to the outcomes for the 22nd of May 2024 meeting.

RESOLUTION DPIRD to provide members with a copy of the 22 May 2024 meeting minutes.

4. General Business

a. MSC

Members were advised DPIRD is now the client or holder of the Marine Stewardship Certification for the fishery and that through the Marine Estate Management Strategy as an interim measure has provided funding for the first surveillance audit, due 18 March 2025.

Members discussed options to fund future costs associated with MSC including auditing and inclusion of MSC logo on tags. DPIRD presented members with a breakdown of what the 2024/25 management charge would have been with the (1) cost of the MSC surveillance audit cost and (2) the MSC logo inclusion on the tags. Members reiterated their disappointed that associated MSC costs were not being supported as originally indicated.

Members discussed the opportunity to join the new industry peak body and how this could benefit industry moving forward, including the potential for the peak body to hold the certification into the future. DPIRD committed to provide members contact details for the CEO of the Wild Harvest Fisher's Incorporated, Mr Christopher Melham's following the meeting.

Members discussed the complexities of the Commonwealth South Coast Native title claim and potential future implications for the NSW lobster fishery.

ACTION DPIRD to provide members with the contact details for the CEO of the Wild Harvest Fisher's Incorporated, Mr Christopher Melham

ACTION DPIRD to extend an offer to a member of the Aboriginal Fisheries team to attend the May 2025 working group meeting

ACTION The working group to continue future funding options for maintaining MSC at the next meeting.

b.Face to Face LIWG meeting Wednesday 21 May 2025

DPIRD provided members with costings for alternate locations to hold the annual face-to-face meeting. Members discussed the opportunity to hold meet and greets with industry members prior to the annual face to face meeting.

Members again raised their preference for TAFC meetings to be face to face rather than Video Conferencing, noting that all TAFC processes across all fisheries were being conducted via videoconference.

DPIRD advised members of the process required to claim sitting fees and meeting expenses.

ACTION Members to provide their preferred meeting location out of session.

c.Seafood Trade Advisory Group and National Working Group

Scott Westley, the NSW industry representative on the national working group for the Seafood Trade Advisory Group provided members with an update on recent exports of NSW lobsters into China. He also committed to seeking approval from the STAG (pending confidentiality requirements) to provide the results from the hepatopancreas and ovarian tissue testing funded by FRDC to members at a future meeting.

DPIRD requested industry provide beach price and volume estimates of exported NSW lobsters for the 2024/25 fishing period so they can be included in this years management report to the TAF Committee.

NOTED.

d.2-hour catch report timeframe

Members discussed a shareholder request to temporarily increase his catch report timeframe from 2 to 2.5 hours to enable him to comply with the requirement whilst the highway bypass is completed. Members agreed this would be consistent with a concession applied previously for another shareholder and supported DPIRD taking steps to facilitate the shareholders request as an interim measure.

ACTION DPIRD to take steps to facilitate the shareholders request as an interim measure.

e.Other business

Members reminded the group the Trans-Tasman Lobster Conference is being held in Melbourne 19-21 August 2025 and encouraged participation.

Meeting closed 2:46pm.

ACTION TABLE

No.	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
12 March 2025			
4.5	Discuss the benefits and costs of lowering the minimum shareholding to support new entrants at the next meeting.	All	Ongoing
4.7	LIWG to provide DPI with export sales and price information for inclusion in next year's management report.	LIWG	Ongoing
4.9	DPIRD to request a face-to-face LIWG meeting in conjunction with the TAFC meeting for May 2025.	DPIRD	Resolved
4.11	DPI to invite a DPI fisheries service's staff member to the next meeting to discuss options to streamline the process for issuing additional tags.	DPIRD	Deferred
4.14	The 2-hour catch report timeframe to be discussed further at the next meeting.	All.	Resolved
4.15	Discussion on the MSC accreditation to be included as agenda item at the next meeting	All	Ongoing
4.17	DPIRD to share the octopus Identification guide compiled by Karina Hall with industry.	DPIRD	Pending
4.18	Program Leader Business Analytics to be extended an invitation to the next LIWG meeting to provide an update on development of the new online reporting interface.	DPIRD	Resolved
4.20	DPIRD to provide a draft budget that includes costs attributed to the annual MSC audit and inclusion on the MSC logo on the tags for consideration.	DPIRD	Completed
4.21	The NSW Lobster fishery representative on the STAG to provide DPIRD with an update to send out to members.	DPIRD	Completed
4.23	DPIRD to investigate authorisation provided under the previous permit and confirm if this option is legally permitted under the current regulations.	DPIRD	Completed
4.24	DPIRD to reach out to the stakeholder to provide additional background regarding their circumstances.	DPIRD	Completed
4.25	DPIRD to amend the regulation to require the fishing business number followed by the letter "L" to be used to mark the position of a Lobster trap.	DPIRD	Pending

4.26	DPIRD to provide members with the contact details for the CEO of the Wild Harvest Fisher's Incorporated, Mr Christopher Melham	DPIRD	Pending
4.27	DPIRD to extend an offer to a member of the Aboriginal Fisheries team to attend the May 2025 working group meeting	DPIRD	Pending
4.28	DPIRD to take steps to facilitate the shareholders request as an interim measure.	DPIRD	Pending

Next Meeting:

21 May 2025 – face to face
