



Chair's summary report to Minister 3 & 4 August 2022 (Meeting 24)

15 August 2022

Dear Minister

CommFish NSW held a regional meeting at Tweed Heads on the 3rd and 4th of August and preceded the meeting with an informal get together with local industry members. The get together was very successful in that some issues raised by industry were able to be dealt with the next morning by DPI.

Members discussed a paper presented relating to the Estuary General prawn ballot and in particular the Myall Lakes ballot. Members reaffirmed the principle that "the more access rights fishers owned, the more they could catch and the more they would pay towards management". Concerns have been raised that short term movements of shares may be distorting the ballot and CommFish asked DPI to provide more data to ascertain if the issue is real or perceived and also to consult with Myall Lakes fishers to provide nominations for a person(s) to be endorsed to coordinate the draw.

CommFish discussed the feedback received from regional meetings held to discuss the NSW Sustainable Commercial Seafood Strategy and agreed that with minor amendments to the name and branding the strategy should be released for further consultation. The meeting received a briefing from Sydney Fish Market relating to their new online seafood trading platform. Members supported the concept as an additional means of improving seafood sales.

Members discussed and agreed with the draft Co-management policy developed by DPI and recommended the draft be released for discussion.

CommFish industry members strongly reiterated their previous concerns regarding delays to the review of the Registered Fish Receivers program.

The meeting also received presentations and were able to ask questions on:

- FRDC on workplace health and safety in fisheries and aquaculture and also on the SeSAFE project
- An update from the Program Leader, Commercial Fisheries
- An update from the Deputy Director General
- An overview on the Shellfish Committee and topics of concern
- An update from the Program Leader, Resource Management and in particular a discussion on progress with the Mulloway Harvest Strategy

CommFish NSW recognises that there is a shortage of people coming through that are willing or equipped to take on a representative role for the commercial fishing industry and agreed to provide a program designed to assist male or female, young or older participants with some of the skills necessary for them to feel comfortable representing their industry. This would include "shadowing" senior DPI managers, attending a CommFish meeting and receiving mentoring from CommFish members once they had completed an online training module that has been developed by several state representative bodies and the Australian Maritime & Fisheries Academy.

The next meeting will be another regional meeting with an informal gathering with industry beforehand and is scheduled to be held at Merimbula on 24 – 25 November.

Regards

Stuart Richey AM, Chairman
CommFish NSW