



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (COMMFISH NSW AC)

Dear Minister,

The Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW) held its 30th meeting on the 26th and 27th of March 2025 in Eden. CommFish also arranged and attended an informal meet and greet with local commercial fishers on the evening of 25 March 2025. The event was very well received, with fishers being able to discuss their issues with CommFish members and NSW DPIRD staff. The attendance of fishers was the largest held to date in regional communities.

CommFish greatly appreciated you finding the time to meet with us by video conference. As discussed, the fish receiver fee waiver has been an outstanding success with over 440 commercial fishers taking advantage of the opportunity. We have also received many success stories of fishers being able to sell their products locally, in the regions, building links with their communities. Once again Council appreciates your support.

I reiterate members' appreciation for the Government's support for north coast fishers following the White Spot outbreaks.

Considerable time was allocated to discuss the Total Allowable Catch and Total Allowable Effort setting process and several of the Total Allowable Fishing Committee (TAFC) previous recommendations. There was a particular focus on the recommendation that suggested to quota manage mullet in Estuary General fishery. This was not supported as a management response, however as a first step members felt that understanding fishers concerns would assist in the TAFC is considering quota setting in the future.

Members were supportive of the proposal presented by the Department to extend the Aboriginal Cultural Fishing Local Management Plans in the Tweed and Hastings regions and were pleased to hear about their success.

As mentioned in our catch-up, members have reviewed the NSW Sustainable Commercial Fishing Strategy 2022-25 and will send you a short summary of their assessment. It was also recommended with your support that a new strategy should be prepared to continually implement actions and record outcomes to improve the sustainability and profitability of family businesses in the NSW commercial fishing sector.

The Council is also looking forward to progressing the Business Efficiency Program.



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Industry members were strongly supportive of continuing the two-day face-to-face format of meetings and were of the view that this was one of the most productive regional CommFish meetings to date. Many other topics were discussed at the meeting. I would be happy to provide a more detailed briefing at a time convenient to you.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Richey AM
Chairman, CommFish NSW