



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council
MINUTES
Meeting 29, 20-21 November 2024
Sydney 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
	Raymond Saunders	Aboriginal Commercial Fishers
	Stephen Bunney	Abalone Fishery
	Steve Everson	Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery
	Ben McCulloch	Lobster Fishery
	Jeffrey Hunt	Ocean Trawl Fishery
	Ryan Morris	Sea Urchin and Turban Shell Fishery
	Darren Reynolds	A/Director, Fisheries & Aquaculture Management
Mentee	Paul Aquilina	
Executive Officer	Cherie Kirkman	
NSW DPI staff	Darren Hale, Senior Fisheries Manager, Commercial Fisheries. Ian Stockton, A/Senior Fisheries Manager, Commercial Fisheries. (Via Zoom) Damian Young, Senior Fisheries Manager, Commercial Fisheries. (Via Zoom) Nick Giles, Senior Fisheries Manager, Harvest Strategies. (Via Zoom) Simon Clark, Program Leader, Commercial Fisheries Management. Sarah Fairfull, Director, Aboriginal Fishing and Marine and Coastal Environments. (Via Zoom) Daniel Johnston, Senior Fisheries Scientist. Darren Reynolds, A/Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management. Ian Lyall, Program Leader Aquaculture. (Via Zoom) Anthony Zammit, Manager Shellfish Program. (Via Zoom) Mitch Brakenridge, Product Manager, Digital Projects. Aimee Cavanagh, Program Leader Business Analytics, Fisheries Services.	
Invited guests	The Hon. Tara Moriarty, MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales. (Via Teams) Sean Sloan, Deputy Secretary Fisheries and Forestry (Via Teams)	

	John Wilson, Chair, NSW Wild Harvest Fishers Inc. Chris Melham, CEO, NSW Wild Harvest Fishers Inc. Michael Cashen, Research Officer Beyond Fossil Diesel, Climate Branch, DPIRD, Agriculture. Joc O’Conner, Research Officer Beyond Fossil Diesel, Climate Branch, DPIRD, Agriculture. Kris Cooling, Extension Officer (NSW) Fisheries Research and Development Corporation – FRDC. (Via Zoom) Ali Kenard, CEO, Pinpoint Earth. (Via Zoom) Duncan Leadbitter, Director, Fish Matter. (Via Zoom)
Apologies	20 and 21 November 2024 Taylor Henderson, Inland Fishery – Member Patrick Richardson, Ocean Hauling Fishery – Member Peter Turnell A/Executive Director, Fisheries. 21 November 2024 Greg Finn, Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council - Member Ben McCulloch, Lobster Fishery - Member Stuart Richey, Chair

20 November 2024 – Meeting opened 08:30am

1. Member welcome, introductions, and housekeeping

The Chair welcomed Council members, including the new member for the Sea Urchin and Turban Shell Fishery, Mr Ryan Morris, the CommFish mentee and NSW DPIRD staff.

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 28

The minutes for meeting 28 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Actions from Meeting 28

The following actions have been completed and all others are in progress: 28.1, 28.4, 28.5, 28.6, 28.8, 28.9, 28.11, 28.12, 28.13.

6. Update on mud crab tagging and lobster industry working group

Members considered DPIRD advice that the current mud crab tag prototype can be easily removed and were not supportive of requiring fishers to use a crimping tool to address this because it would be labour intensive and could damage crabs.

It was noted QLD Fisheries is interested in trialling the NSW prototype and if adopted may be a potential source of revenue for NSW to offset NSW costs.

It was noted the new Lobster member on CommFish attended the most recent Lobster Industry Working Group meeting, and that the group is considering amending its Terms of Reference to include him and that MSC certification is a key contemporary issue.

RESOLUTION 29.1: CommFish supported the department working with the tag manufacturer to investigate a tag like those used for lobsters (instead of requiring fishers to use a crimping tool).

7. Introduction to FRDC and current projects

Members were provided a presentation on FRDC and its current priorities. Projects likely to be of interest to members were presented and briefly discussed.

Members were encouraged to consider the following projects underway or commencing soon, particularly the first project (project 2024-005) and noted that the final project below conducted in NSW is complete and a report published (2019-049):

- 2024-005: [External review of independent data validation options, uses and opportunities](#)
- 2023-154: [Fish LIGHT - Low Impact Gears and innovative Harvest Technologies](#)
- 2023-021: [National Fish Habitat and Climate Response Partnership](#)
- 2022-104: [Review and quantify the cumulative effects of expanding industrial coastal developments and emerging offshore renewable energy on the fishing industry in WA](#)
- 2019-049: [Developing and testing a cultural change process in the NSW wild harvest sector: a case study to facilitate a process towards co-management in the NSW Northern Fish Trawl](#)

8. Business Efficiency Program (BEP)

Members were provided an update on the BEP, including additions by DPIRD to the package of commercial regulation changes proposed for public consultation (subject to Ministerial approval) and work underway on other proposals since CommFish last met.

Three of the additions to the package of commercial regulation changes were discussed in greater detail:

1. It was agreed the department will consider further the proposal for entrance funnels in estuary fish traps to be no greater than 320 mm wide (to reduce turtle mortality), specifically, how it will be measured and whether it is appropriate in the case of the larger wire fish traps used in some estuaries.

2. The Estuary General, Abalone, Lobster SUTS and MFAC members did not support the Secretary (or delegate) making TAC and TAE determinations for their fisheries. They prefer this remain the role of the independent Total Allowable Fishing Committee.

The department clarified the reason for the proposal is to give the Minister flexibility to determine from time to time who should make the determinations, not to lock this in one way or the other.

3. In response to two amendments to simplify law (with no substantive change for industry), it was questioned why estuary prawn trawl (EPT) fishers cannot retain Blue Swimmer Crab if they hold quota. The department clarified the EPT and EG fisheries are different fisheries, and quota only applies in the EG fishery.

ACTION 29.1:

1. DPIRD is to consider further the proposal relating to entrance funnels in estuary fish traps (issue 1 above) and report back to CommFish for discussion.

2. DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss further the TAC and TAE determination matter (issue 2 above) before any changes to regulation are made.

9. Meet and greet, NSW Wild Harvest Fishers Inc.

Members were introduced to the CEO, Chris Melham, and Chair, John Wilson, of the NSW Wild Harvest Fishers Inc.

Mr Melham provided insight into the growing membership of the peak body and advised he was confident they would have enough members from each region to proceed to the next step of electing board members around March 2025.

Mr Melham expressed his interest working with CommFish NSW and the Chair responded by welcoming Mr Melham to engage with CommFish NSW as needed.

The MFAC member advised he looks forward to seeing how the new peak body may be able to support industry by promoting it and the wild caught seafood produced.

10. Beyond Fossil Diesel at sea

CommFish were presented a video on the recent trial of renewable diesel at sea ([watch a video of the trial here](#)) – to reduce the fishing industry’s carbon footprint – and informed the trial has been a success.

It was agreed the challenge for Government will be to make the fuel more affordable if there is to be uptake.

The project team thanked the Estuary Prawn Trawl member and CommFish mentee for participating in the trial and to CommFish for its ongoing support.

11. Inland Fishery update

Members were provided an overview of the Inland Restricted Fishery, including several key contemporary issues:

- Access to waters through private property and government land (National Parks) is sometimes challenging for fishers, and the department has been working hard to help fishers maintain access. Respect and appropriate behaviour are important.
- Domestic markets for cooked yabbies have been strong, and the domestic market for carp is small. Most carp are being used for fertiliser or bait.
- Due to the large geographic area of the fishery, transport (cost and availability) has been a deciding factor in the sale of both species.
- Improvements to fishers' catch and effort reporting, including interactions with threatened and protected species if any, is needed to help support the fishery moving forward.
- The commercial management team has commenced work to streamline the process for authorising access to gear and waters (using section 37 permits), but finalising this work will take time.
- There has been significant work underway in the Menindee Lakes area including on improving fish passage.

12. Observer program update

Daniel Johnston, Senior Fisheries Scientist, gave a comprehensive presentation on the department's observer program focusing mostly on recent work in the Ocean Trawl, Ocean Trap and Line, and Estuary General fisheries. Highlights from the presentation and discussions included:

- Recognition of the importance of independent observer work to satisfy legal and community expectations, to address knowledge gaps, to reduce uncertainty when determining TACs and TAEs, to inform and potentially reduce risk ratings under upcoming Ecological Risk Assessments, and to help maintain export approval.
- Observer coverage has been more than adequate to be representative of the fisheries concerned, helping to defend the integrity of the results and low impacts from fisheries concerned.
- Coverage in each fishery substantiates low interactions with threatened and protected species.
- The program would benefit from increased fisher participation in certain sectors, and improved industry reporting of threatened and protected interactions is needed. These are some of the matters that CommFish will need to further discuss.

ACTION 29.2: DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss further the outcomes from the observer program.

13. Resource Management update

Members were provided an update on resource management work underway, including progress on the development of harvest strategies for Kingfish and Snapper and upcoming fishing determination (TAC and TAE setting) for the 2025/2026 season.

The next meeting of the Kingfish and Snapper Harvest Strategy Working Group will be in March 2025 with a view of having a draft strategy for CommFish to consider soon after.

In response to member concerns in meeting 28, CommFish was pleased to hear the resource management team will endeavour to finalise future fishing determinations earlier (by ~2 weeks) so that shareholders have more time to plan for upcoming quota seasons. It was however noted the Total Allowable Fishing Committee (TAFC) is independent of Government and DPIRD cannot dictate its timeframes.

The Estuary General member raised the TAFC's most recent TAE determinations and recommendations for estuary general hauling and meshing and sought advice on how and when they will be dealt with. It was agreed that discussion is needed, and sufficient time be set aside at a future meeting to give these issues proper consideration.

ACTION 29.3: DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss the TAFC's 2024 determinations and recommendations for estuary general meshing and hauling.

14. Catch up with the Deputy Secretary Fisheries and Forestry

The Deputy Secretary, Sean Sloan, provided CommFish the following insights into contemporary commercial fishing management issues.

Fish receiver fee waiver: Around 130 commercial fishers have taken up the fee waiver, and DPIRD is meeting with the Fishing Co-operative Association the following week to discuss it and other matters. DPIRD is also committed to work with CommFish on the review of the two-year fee waiver trial.

Southern Fish Trawl Fishery (SFT): Preliminary discussions have been held with the CEO of AFMA and further discussions will take place mid-December.

During ensuing discussions:

- Members gave examples of the benefits of the fish receiver fee waiver including fresh local seafood available to NSW consumers direct from boats in regional ports, in fruit shops, and alongside gourmet cheeses in bottle shops. Opportunities for direct sales to hotels and restaurants are also being explored.
- The Estuary Prawn Trawl member requested a White Spot meeting with Clarence fishers in the new year regardless of the results of ongoing sampling as some fishers are at a crossroad and advised the current unsafe navigation into Lake Wooloweyah due to sedimentation and the need for it to be dredged.
- The Estuary General member raised concern with the TAFC's most recent TAE determinations and recommendations – as per Item 13 (and Action 29.3) above.

- **ACTION 29.4: DPIRD and the Estuary Prawn Trawl member are to maintain contact concerning a meeting with Clarence fishers early next year, and in the meantime consider how industry may respond including if a further positive detection occurs.**

15. Catch up with the Minister for Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales

The Chair welcomed the Minister, and members and DPIRD staff introduced themselves.

The Chair, on behalf of Council, thanked the Minister for her attendance and for:

- the two-year waiver of fish receiver fees, and highlighted how important it has been for reducing fishers' costs and increasing market access, and
- supporting Clarence River fishers endure White Spot, and encouraged similar for far north coast fishers following recent detections,

and then informed the Minister that:

- CommFish met with the CEO and Chair of the new peak body and that CommFish looks forward to working with them,
- intention to prepare a new NSW Sustainable Commercial Fishing Strategy, to set the direction to strengthen the sector in the coming years,
- council's support for fit and proper person testing for existing and new fishers and the benefits it presents for the industry reputations and stewardship of fisheries resources,
- councils support for the renewable fuels program and members' involvement, and the low carbon footprint producing wild caught seafood compared to other animal proteins,
- CommFish and DPIRD have been working hard on a further package of regulation changes under the Commercial Fisheries Business Efficiency Program, and her support to consult the community and amend law would be appreciated, and
- there is uncertainty for fishers in the Southern Fish Trawl and Abalone fisheries, for different reasons, and that resolution of these for industry certainty is important.

16. FishOnline Modernisation Project

Council was given a demonstration showing that completing quota reports using the new FisherMobile system is significantly quicker than the current system, and informed upcoming important steps in the process including:

- Migration to a new server environment in November 2024.
- Opportunity to opt-in for hands on industry and DPIRD testing in December 2024.
- Final testing in January 2025.
- Launch of the new system in February 2025.

17. Aboriginal Cultural Fishing regulation

Council was advised public consultation on the draft cultural fishing regulation is on hold for now, while the Government decides the preferred time to proceed.

18. Pinpoint Earth – VMS

DPIRD and representatives of Pinpoint Earth provided members insight into two potential VMS units and their capabilities, including a smaller portable unit that can be easily moved between boats.

Both units have a battery life of 5 years, have solar panels and demonstrated to be physically durable. Battery replacement would be in Australia, and the units provide for fishers to access to their own data and to receive alerts when entering closed waters.

Privacy and intellectual property remain issues of interest to CommFish and remain under active consideration by DPIRD.

Members suggested that a light to indicate if the unit is on or off with be useful given experiences in other jurisdictions.

19. Fisheries Innovation & Development

Update on Vessel Monitoring System (VMS): Public consultation on VMS in NSW remains underway and the closing date for submissions is 12 December. DPIRD is also sourcing a further 20 units from Pinpoint Earth and is looking for industry volunteers to trial them.

Economic and social indicators monitoring: Members were advised the most recent reports are pending release and sought Council support for ongoing monitoring including an additional element to capture the seafood and bait supply chain.

RESOLUTION 29.2: CommFish supported the ongoing monitoring of economic and social indicators and capturing the seafood and bait supply chain, funded from the commercial fishing trust if needed.

20. Fit and proper person

CommFish was again briefed on and supported fit and proper person testing for existing and new licence holders (not crew), provided it is not used to exclude fishers for minor matters or fishers that are generally compliant and that police reports supplied by applicants are only used for intended purposes by DPIRD staff administering it.

It was discussed that any proposed refusal or suspension or cancellation of a licence is subject to natural justice requirements including ‘opportunity to be heard’, by the department or the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal if a decision is challenged.

RESOLUTION 29.3: CommFish support the Government pressing ahead with the fit and proper person program but would appreciate opportunity to consider any supporting policies or procedures for peace of mind.

21. MFAC member update and insight

The MFAC member provided insight into his role on MFAC for the benefit of new members and that his primary focus in industry access, whether related to access to fisheries resources, market access or access to training. Council noted a date has not yet been set for the next MFAC meeting.

22. General Business

2024 TAFC determinations for the EGF – meshing and hauling (category 1 & 2)

The Estuary General member reiterated the need to discuss the TAFC's most recent TAE determinations and recommendations for estuary general hauling and meshing and sought confirmation this would occur.

Note: refer Item 13 of these minutes and Action 29.3, where this was agreed.

White Spot

The Estuary Prawn Trawl member reiterated the need to meet with Clarence fishers in the new year to discuss where to from here for fishers affected by White Spot.

Note: refer Item 14 of these minutes and Action 29.4, where this was agreed

Influx of boats from QLD into the NSW Ocean Trawl Fishery

Members raised the recent influx of large trawlers from QLD into the NSW trawl fishery and the impact this may have on local industry. Members noted significant recent reforms in NSW and exceptional catches since and do not want this not be compromised.

ACTION 29.5: DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss this issue.
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Shareholdings utilising trust funds (self-managed superannuation)

Following on from previous discussions and consideration given to extending advice to broader industry, the Estuary General member suggested, and Council agreed, it is best that fishers seek their own independent financial advice because every person's situation is different.

Red Sea Urchin

The SUTS member identified opportunity to improve profits in the fishery from Red Sea Urchin (even if it means new rules such as a size limit) and encouraged engagement with former staff involved when the urchin closures were first negotiated and implemented.

ACTION 29.6: DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss this issue.
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Council meeting time allocation

Council and DPIRD agreed future meetings should be more focussed on matters of direct important to industry and that more time is required on each issue.

21 November 2024 – Meeting opened 08:00am

Note: Day 2 was chaired by DPIRD because the Chair was unavailable due to illness. The MFAC and Lobster members were also unavailable.

23. Joint meeting with RFNSW – focussing on estuarine water quality

RFNSW and CommFish NSW held a joint session to discuss the important issue of improving water quality in NSW estuaries to boost fish stocks and how the commercial

and recreational sectors may be able to work together to lift the profile and investment in this important issue.

The two Councils received a presentation from Duncan Leadbitter (Visiting Fellow University of Wollongong) who provided a short video on the impacts of acid sulphate soils on water quality on floodplains.

RFNSW and CommFish discussed how they could advocate for and play a role in new water quality projects in partnership with DPIRD and other government agencies.

ACTION 29.7: RFNSW and CommFish to consider a joint communique to the Minister on this important matter.

24. Staged Repeal, including fishing business transfer rules

Council was informed that most regulations are subject to statutory review requirements 5 years (unless an extension is granted), and that the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2019* is due to be reviewed and remade by 2026.

Council was informed there will be at least two opportunities for stakeholder input into any proposed changes.

DPIRD advised the commercial and recreational changes under consideration and members provided helpful insight into several of these, including challenges with some (changes to mutilation provisions and removing fish from fishing gear) for reasons including workplace safety, long standing industry practice, safe food requirements, and value adding.

There was insufficient time to discuss the opportunities Stage Repeal presents for reforming the fishing business transfer rules, which are also the subject of several BEP proposals.

25. Deferred to next meeting:

It was agreed the following be deferred and discussed at a future meeting:

- Fishing business transfer rules discussion.
- The Commercial Fishing Trust Investment Plan.

ACTION 29.8: DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss these issues.

26. Meeting closed 11am, next meeting DTBC.

Appendix A – Current Actions & Recommendations List for Meeting 29

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 Meeting 29: Consideration given for this action to be resolved as part of the General Regulation review	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. Meeting 29: In progress	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 Meeting 29: Update at today's meeting	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. Meeting 29: Co-management policy being redrafted.	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

			Meeting 29: 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. Meeting 29: NSW DPIRD to present paper next meeting.	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. Meeting 29: Resource allocated to investigate further.	In Progress
27.5	CommFish supported the process tabled by DPI to pursue further consultation with prawn endorsed fishing business owners in region 4.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 28: In progress – Pending consultation. Meeting 29: In progress	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 DPIRD	Meeting 28: In progress – ongoing. Meeting 29: Presentation at today's meeting – ongoing action	In Progress
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 DPIRD	Meeting 28: In progress. Meeting 29: In progress	In Progress

27.12	NSW DPI to continue this research and issues permits as needed to support it.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 28: In progress Meeting 29: 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	Meeting 29: Insight to be provided at today's meeting	Complete
28.2	CommFish members are to review the investment plan further prior to making any recommendation.	Council	Meeting 29: Pending further discussion	In Progress
28.3	The Department to publish the reports on the website once approved.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: In progress	In Progress
28.4	CommFish Executive Officer to provide CommFish feedback to the recreational fisheries management team.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: Email sent to the recreational fisheries management team 9/8/2024	Completed
28.5	CommFish supported the proposed process and invitees, subject to adding Mr. Paul Aquilina (mentee) to the invitee list.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: Mentee added to invitees for workshop	Completed
28.6	Amend the BEP proposal to include the species of eel agreed.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: Proposal updated in department tracking sheet	Completed
28.7	The Department to arrange time on the RFNSW agenda to deliver the commercial access to estuarine species presentation	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: EO has reached out to RFNSW EO. This topic will be added to the next joint meeting in 2025	In Progress

28.8	Project manager to revisit the approach to transferring quota online while a fishing trip is underway	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: Project Manager will discuss at today's meeting	Completed
28.9	Arrange for the new Lobster Fishery member to join the LIWG	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: Terms of reference has been updated for consideration and CommFish Lobster member has attended last meeting.	Completed
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 DPIRD	Meeting 29: 1. BEP update to members today 2. Will discuss at today's meeting	1. In progress 2. Completed
28.11	The Chair is to write to the A/Director General in relation to fish receiver.	Chair	Meeting 29: The Chair wrote to the A/Director General in relation to fish receiver on 29/8/2024	Completed
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	Meeting 29: Mr. Leadbitter will present at the joint meeting on 21/11/2024	Completed
28.13	The Department to review the strategy and provide CommFish with an update and a way forward.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: To be discussed at today's meeting	Completed
29.1	1. DPIRD is to consider further the proposal relating to entrance funnels in estuary fish traps (issue 1 above) and report back to CommFish for discussion. 2. DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss further the TAC and TAE determination matter	NSW DPIRD		

	(issue 2 above) before any changes to regulation are made.			
29.2	DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss further the outcomes from the observer program.	NSW DPIRD		
29.3	DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss the TAFC's 2024 determinations and recommendations for estuary general meshing and hauling.	NSW DPIRD		
29.4	DPIRD and the Estuary Prawn Trawl member are to maintain contact concerning a meeting with Clarence fishers early next year, and in the meantime consider how industry may respond including if a further positive detection occurs.	NSW DPIRD EPT Member		
29.5	DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss this issue.	NSW DPIRD		
29.6	DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss this issue.	NSW DPIRD		
29.7	RFNSW and CommFish to consider a joint communique to the Minister on this important matter.	RFNSW CommFish		
29.8	DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss these issues.	NSW DPIRD		

Appendix B – Resolutions for Meeting 29

No.	Resolution
29.1	CommFish supported the department working with the tag manufacturer to investigate a tag like those used for lobsters (instead of requiring fishers to use a crimping tool).
29.2	CommFish supported the ongoing monitoring of economic and social indicators and capturing the seafood and bait supply chain, funded from the commercial fishing trust if needed.
29.3	CommFish support the Government pressing ahead with the fit and proper person program but would appreciate opportunity to consider any supporting policies or procedures for peace of mind.