



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council

MINUTES

Meeting 31

4 December 2025

(Meet and greet 3 December 2025)

Newcastle, 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 (Teleconference)
	Raymond Saunders	Aboriginal Commercial Fishers
	Stephen Bunney	Abalone Fishery
	Steve Everson	Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery
	Ben McCulloch	Lobster Fishery
	Ryan Morris	Sea Urchin and Turban Shell Fishery
	Patrick Richardson	Ocean Hauling Fishery
Mentee	Paul Aquilina and Clare Joblin	
Executive Officer	Cherie Kirkman	
NSW DPI staff	• Tara Black, Deputy Secretary, Fisheries and Forestry (Via Teams) • Heath Folpp, A/Executive Director, Fisheries • Simon Clark, Program Leader Commercial Fisheries • Darren Hale, Senior Fisheries Manager, Commercial Fisheries • Rowan Chick, Research Leader Fisheries Resources • Nick Giles, Senior Fisheries Manager, Harvest Strategies. (Via Teams)	
Invited guests	• The Hon. Tara Moriarty, MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales (Via Teams) • Mr. Neil MacDonald, Chair, NSW Wild Harvest Fishers Inc. (Via Zoom) • Mr. Chris Saunders, CEO, Fishing Industry Training Centre. • Mr. Anders Magnusson, Partner, Advisory Economics, BDO (Via Zoom) • Ms. Jasmine Douglas, Assistant Manager, Advisory Economics, BDO (Via Zoom)	
Apologies	• Taylor Henderson, Inland Fishery – Member • John Jarvis, Southern Trawl Fishery – Member • Jeffery Hunt, Ocean Trawl Fishery - Member • Darren Reynolds, A/Director, Fisheries Management – Secretary Nominee	

3 December 2025 – Meet and greet

CommFish members and DPIRD staff attended a meet-and-greet with fishers. It was an opportunity for CommFish to engage with and learn from local commercial fishers and was appreciated those who were able to make time to attend. Key issues raised were discussed at the CommFish meeting the following day.

4 December 2025 – Meeting

1. Member welcome, introductions, and housekeeping

The Chair welcomed council members, Heath Folpp (A/Executive Director, Fisheries), the two CommFish mentees, and DPIRD staff. The Aboriginal commercial fishing member acknowledged the traditional owners of the lands on which we met.

2. Review of agenda

CommFish accepted the agenda.

3. Register of Interests

The pecuniary interest register was updated prior to the meeting.

4. Confirmation of minutes from meeting 30

The procedure for ensuring the accuracy of meeting minutes was confirmed. NSW DPIRD prepares a draft, which members provide collective feedback, with the Chair finalising the minutes based on the advice received. The discussion focused on ensuring that suggested changes are appropriately considered during the review.

The minutes from meeting 30 were accepted prior to the meeting.

5. Actions from meeting 30

The following actions have been completed: 8.17, 19.3, 27.6, 27.9, 27.12, 28.7, 28.10, 29.4, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, 30.4, 30.5, 30.6, 30.7, 30.8, 30.9, 30.10, 30.11, 30.12, 30.13, 30.14, 30.15, 30.16, and 30.17. All other actions are in progress.

6. Correspondence received

Correspondence received concerning the following was considered operational and forwarded to DPIRD for consideration:

- Removal of weekend and public holiday closure for ocean haul garfish in all regions.

7. Welcome to new CommFish mentee

The Chair welcomed Clare Joblin, the new CommFish NSW mentee. Ms Joblin is a third-generation fisher from a commercial fishing family currently operating out of Ballina harvesting mud crabs, collecting pipis and meshing.

8. Fishing Industry Training Centre update

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chris Saunders, provided an overview of the Newcastle training centre. Significant interest was expressed in the flexibility offered by online modules, which allow participants to complete training remotely, reducing lost fishing time. It was noted; several courses may be delivered at a reduced cost under the NSW Smart and Skilled program.

Noted: CommFish member encourage industry to seek additional information at: <https://maritimesafetytraining.com.au/smart-and-skilled/>

9. NSW Wild Harvest Fishers Inc. (WHFI)

The Chair welcomed Mr Neil MacDonald, the Chair of the NSW Wild Harvest Fishers Inc. to provide an update. Key points included:

- David Hogan has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (commencing January 2026).
- WHFI are seeking DPIRD support through proposed port visits, by accompanying members of the peak body.
- WHFI board see value in meeting with CommFish. CommFish members to explore opportunities for collaboration.
- Several CommFish members recommended WHFI consider extending their communication to include text messaging as an alternative to email to improve engagement.
- Membership fees were discussed with suggestions that WHFI board consider repeating the inaugural fees to encourage membership. Mr. MacDonald noted that this matter rests with the WHFI board for consideration.

Noted: CommFish noted the update.

10. Debrief from the Meet and Greet with Fishers – 3 December 2025

CommFish debriefed on lesson learnt from the meet-and-greet with local fishers. The session provided valuable insights through direct engagement, and CommFish expressed appreciation to all who participated. Members tabled key issues raised during the event, including:

- Harvest of Hairtail
 - Harvest of Whaler Shark in the Ocean Trap and Line fishery
 - Representation (by south coast fishers) on the Kingfish and Snapper harvest strategy.

- Compliance matters
- Items raised about the current rebuilding program, particularly Grey Morwong
- Prawn draw at Myall Lakes

Noted: CommFish members noted the items raised and encourage DPIRD staff to incorporate issues in their program.

11. Acting/Executive Director Fisheries update

- Heath Folpp is currently the Acting Executive Director until the return of David McPherson who will return in early 2026.
- Recognise DPIRD leadership group is being settled.
- DPIRD Fisheries and Forestry are completing their final realigned, and there will be no new changes in 2026:
- Heath is expected to return as Director Fisheries Management once David McPherson returns
- Government commitment to strengthen representation for commercial and recreational fisheries.
- Co-management highlighted as a significant step forward, with progress on policy engagement and collaboration with government.
- Emphasis on building a unified voice for industry to influence decisions effectively.
-

Noted: CommFish noted the update.

12. MFAC member update

The MFAC advised that the Ministerial Fishing Advisory Council is currently in a holding pattern. As the Commercial Fishing representative on MFAC, he noted that he continues to have regular catchups with the Executive Director of Fisheries. At this stage, this is expected to be his final meeting, as his tenure concludes in late January. The Chair and members expressed their appreciation for his contribution and the significant time dedicated to both councils.

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

- The Minister highlighted the opportunities available through the \$20 million Aquaculture Industry Development Program, which is open to commercial fishers. CommFish members conveyed their appreciation on behalf of industry for the support.
- Minister Moriarty commended efforts on the NSW Sustainable Commercial Fishing Strategy 2022-25 and supported the commencement to draft the next strategy.
- The Estuary Prawn Trawl member highlighted the severe social impact of the White Spot control order on local families. Noting that 44 Clarence and (9 Richmond) families are impacted, and the associated mental health concerns are serious, growing and escalating to a level that cannot be ignored. The member stated that

the compensation offered to this long-standing fishery is disproportionate to the level of hardship experienced.

- The Minister acknowledged the stress and uncertainty faced by these families and reaffirmed a commitment to ongoing support.
- Members highlighted significant ecological risks from past and ongoing aquaculture operations, they stressed the need for clear standards to protect ecosystems and the livelihoods dependent on them. Concerns were raised that aquaculture impacts often occur through no fault of the wild-caught sector, reinforcing the importance of safeguarding sustainable wild fisheries.
- Members emphasised the value of face-to-face meetings compared to teleconferencing, noting that in-person engagement fosters more constructive discussions, strengthens collaboration, and provides meaningful opportunities to mentor younger fishers. These interactions build trust, enhance knowledge sharing, and contribute to a more productive and cohesive industry. The Minister agreed that this was important.
- The Abalone representative provided a short update on progress of the Abalone Industry Consultative Working Group. There have been two meetings with the second meeting, held immediately prior to CommFish. Industry has tabled a proposal addressing environmental, economic, and governance needs for sustainable management. The working group will finalise this proposal, for the Minister's consideration.
- The SUTS member raised concerns about the Sea Urchin industry absence in recent Parliamentary event relating to urchins. The Minister clarified that the consultation was organised by lobbyists and offered the member an opportunity to visit Parliament to present their views. The member advised that he would accept this offer.
- Members raised the Business Efficiency Program (BEP), noting concerns about limited visible progress given the investment by industry and CommFish to deliver change. The program commenced in 2020, designed to reduce red tape and improve industry efficiency and viability. The Chair emphasised the importance of moving these proposals forward and sought the Minister's support to ensure timely progress.

14. Deputy Secretary Fisheries and Forestry update

- Tara Black, Deputy Secretary Fisheries and Forestry provided an update on the realignment of DPIRD Fisheries and Forestry.
- Ms Black provided an overview of the compliance review including recommendations. The review highlights were on safety, operating processes, real time data, culture and the review of the Fisheries Management Act 1994.
- The review will also consider body cams surveillance, fit and proper person policy and carrying capsicum spray as a deterrent.
- It was raised that a review of the caution process would be appreciated, as cautions cannot be appealed or challenged and are not expunged from a record.

Consideration could also be given to the publishing of convictions, as a deterrent. It was recommended that the DPIRD Commercial Management team discuss this concern further with compliance.

•

Noted: CommFish noted the update.

Recommendation 31.1: CommFish recommends:

That the DPIRD Commercial Fisheries Management team discuss this concern further with compliance.

15. Social and economic report

CommFish were provided with a presentation on the 2023/24 Social and Economic Report for NSW Commercial Fisheries. Key insights included:

- Significant cost increases: fuel (+47%) and wages (+27%), compounded by flooding and biosecurity challenges.
- Industry performance: Gross Value of Production (GVP) \$88.2 million, 9,837 tonnes landed, across 858 active businesses.
- Economic impact: \$267 million contribution to the NSW economy and 2,393 full-time equivalent jobs.
- Notable trends: Lobster trade ban lifted, prawn sector affected by biosecurity control order and floods, record sea urchin catch, and ongoing illegal, unregulated and unreported abalone harvest.

Concerns were raised regarding the delay in publishing reports on the website. Industry feedback indicates that some fishers may have lost interest due to the absence of these reports.

Noted: CommFish noted the update.

16. Interim approach to new trawl gear pending workshops

The CommFish Estuary Prawn member declared a conflict of interest.

CommFish considered whether DPIRD should approve the conditional use of modified trawls in the Ocean Trawl (OT) fishery prior to completion of workshops and regulatory changes. Key points included:

- Ongoing workshops, with further sessions planned for early 2026.
- Legislative changes will require time due to consultation processes.
- DPIRD research indicates modified nets can improve fishing efficiency while reducing impacts including total bycatch for any given quantity of quota taken along with costs to fish and time spent fishing. Any interim approval would include conditions requiring a minimum quantity of quota to be held, participating in DPIRDs monitoring program as directed by DPIRD, and having an operational vessel monitoring systems onboard.

CommFish discussed broader industry consultation before granting approval to use modified nets on a trial or temporary basis and that further consideration may need to be given to the minimum quota requirement so that fishers with small amounts of quota are not disadvantaged.

Recommendation 31.2: CommFish recommends:

That DPIRD undertake broader industry consultation before allowing modified nets in the ocean trawl fishery on a trial or temporary basis.

17. Resource Management

WTO conditions and Export of NSW product

DPIRD outlined the requirements to maintain Commonwealth export approvals for NSW fisheries and the challenges in meeting Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) conditions.

There are nine approvals in total – six List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS) (10-year, no conditions) and three WTO (3-year, strict conditions). It was noted:

- That there are challenges with WTO conditions as they require independent monitoring, harvest strategies, VMS, TEPS reporting, and ecological risk assessments which require industry input.
- To assist with these approvals there is a need for industry to provide accurate reporting, participation in observer and monitoring programs.
- DPIRD propose to issue an anonymous survey in January 2026 to quantify export activity and prioritise approvals. Results expected March 2026.

Recommendation 31.3: CommFish recommends:

1. That the survey includes the post-harvest sector. .
2. Example additional survey question could be:
 - a) Have you previously or are you considering exporting.
 - b) What is the location where your product has been sourced.

18. Access to the Manning River

The CommFish Aboriginal Commercial Fisher member declared conflict of interest.

CommFish considered a request for commercial access to prawn fishing upstream of the Manning River Recreational Fishing Haven (RFH). CommFish noted:

- The request follows previous unsuccessful attempts under the Resource Sharing Policy.
- Original BEP proposal (2020) for RFH access was deemed out of scope.
- Current request seeks approval for prawn set pocket nets upstream of RFH (prawn hauling already permitted).
- Change in circumstances noted, including river condition post-floods.

CommFish agreed the original BEP proposal should be amended and included in discussions with Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) on 11 December 2025. Further consultation with stakeholders will be required before any decision is

made.

Recommendation 31.4: CommFish recommended that:

1. The original BEP proposal be amended to reflect access to the Manning River outside of the RFH.
2. The matter be included in RFNSW discussions on 11 December 2025.
3. To be included in future Business Efficiency Program consultation.

19. Industry concern regarding OT Prawning

The Estuary Prawn member declared a conflict of interest.

DPIRD presented its perspective on industry concerns about the influx of larger all-weather trawlers in the OT prawn sector. Key discussion points included:

- Industry Concerns: Vessel size and capacity, heavy gear, ability to operate in most conditions, extended sea time, and catch being landed in Queensland rather than benefiting NSW.
- DPIRD Approach:
 - Use stock assessments and Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) to determine if effort or environmental impacts exceed acceptable levels.
 - Manage effort through Total Allowable Effort (TAE) as the primary control mechanism.
 - Conduct a shareholder survey to capture concerns; fishers can also make submissions to the independent TAFC.
- Noted:
 - Section 92 of the Constitution prevents restrictions on interstate trade.
 - Minimum shareholdings will remain but may be adjusted over time.
 - Any new regulation must be justified under government policy to reduce regulatory burden.
- Additional Considerations:
 - Ensure a level playing field across operators.
 - Acknowledge equipment differences between Queensland and NSW vessels.
 - Consider a process to assess vessel utilisation and address concerns about measurement practices that underpin the unit's process.

Recommendation 31.5: CommFish recommends:

That DPIRD consider implementing a process to ensure there is a level playing field, and hull units are representative of a vessels fishing power.

20. Survey to inform TAEs for EG hauling and meshing and OT Prawning

The Estuary General member declared a conflict of interest.

At meeting 30 CommFish resolved to survey shareholders to understand their objectives and preferred approaches for TAE's. A draft survey was tabled for feedback. The survey

focused on the future Total Allowable Effort (TAE) determinations for Estuary General (EG) hauling/meshing and Ocean Trawl (OT) prawning.

CommFish members raised concerns that the survey was too long and complex. Noting that if a fisher operated in several fisheries, it would seem the fisher would be required to complete it several times. There was concern the purpose of the consultation would be misunderstood, and it was important fishers were aware of the Total Allowable Fishing Committee recommendations for the fishery.

Recommendation 31.6: CommFish recommends that DPIRD consider the draft survey, taking into account the feedback provided, and ensure that previous TAC/TAE reports are circulated along with any consultation.

21. Program Leader Commercial Fisheries update

- **Fish Online**
 - Continuing to work on the Fish Online project.
- **RFNSW meeting**
 - Darren Hale and Graeme Byrnes attended.
 - Discuss BEP proposals aim to increase access in certain Estuarine waters, targeting specific commercially dominated species.
 - Proposal to amend trip limits in the Ocean Haul and Southern Fish Trawl fisheries.
 - Access to the Manning River outside of the RFH for prawn pocket set fishing only.
- **Commercial Regulation Pack and Fishing Business Transfer Rules**
 - Update provided
- **Trawl Gear Workshop**
 - It is proposed to hold the next workshop early next year.
- **Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**
 - A focus on managing relevant Government regulations and proposed management rules. Based on voluntary participation, 100 units have been rolled out and are operational.
- **White Spot**
 - Biosecurity control order was renewed; Clarence/Evans and Richmond orders combined.
 - All prawns from affected areas must be cooked.
 - Land-based handling permits available for transport to cooking facilities on request.
- **Abalone Industry Consultation Working Group**
 - Working group has now met twice with the most recent meeting being held yesterday.
- **SUTS Member Paper from meeting 30**
 - A letter will be sent to the SUTS member in due course addressing the paper from meeting 30. A copy will also be sent to CommFish Chair for information.
- **Business Efficiency Program**

- The team is working to categorise proposals for further processing.

22. General Business

The topics proposed for discussion were addressed during the meeting as part of the agenda items

Meeting closed 5:25pm

Appendix A – Current Actions list for Meeting 31

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. Meeting 30: In Progress Meeting 31: Action completed now see action 30.11	Completed
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	Completed

No.	Action	Whom	Comment	Status
			Meeting 30: In progress Meeting 31: Investigated awaiting new look website.	
21.3	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. 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 Meeting 30: In progress Meeting 31: Licensing Agreement with tag provider. IP for new design imminent.	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. Meeting 30: In Progress Meeting 31: In Progress	In Progress

No.	Action	Whom	Comment	Status
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 todays' meeting. Meeting 29: In progress Meeting 30: In progress Meeting 31: In progress	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. Meeting 30: In Progress Meeting 31: Findings under consideration	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 Meeting 30: In progress	In Progress

No.	Action	Whom	Comment	Status
			Meeting 31: 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 Meeting 30: Ongoing action Meeting 31: Noted to provide additional updates when made available	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 DPIRD	Meeting 28: In progress. Meeting 29: In progress Meeting 30: In progress Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to priority tracking list and will be tracked through this process	Completed
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 Meeting 30: In progress Meeting 31: Danish seine research wrapped up	Completed
28.3	The Department to publish the reports on the website once approved.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: In progress Meeting 30: Pending publication Meeting 31: Pending publication	In Progress
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	Completed

No.	Action	Whom	Comment	Status
			Meeting 30: In progress Meeting 31: Update to be provided in the PLCF update today.	
28.10	The Department to: Consider a further update on the BEP to industry.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 29: BEP update to members today Meeting 30: In progress Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the BEP tracking list and will be tracked through this process	Completed
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.	Rick	Meeting 31: Completed – Meeting held date 4 April 2025. Discussions are ongoing	Completed
29.8	DPIRD is to ensure opportunity for CommFish to discuss these issues	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 30: The Commercial fishing trust Investment Plan deferred. Meeting 31: Still deferred	In Progress
30.1	To help inform TAF Committee (or Secretary) fishing determinations for EG hauling (category 1 and 2), EG meshing and ocean trawl prawning from 2026/27: a. DPIRD works with CommFish and relevant shareholder to clarify what shareholders in each share class want to achieve and how to achieve it using the TAEs. b. DPIRD informs the TAF Committee the reasons why effort quotas (and not catch quotas) were introduced for the share	NSW DPIRD NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the BEP tracking list and will be tracked through this process.	Completed

No.	Action	Whom	Comment	Status
	classes concerned. c. CommFish requests DPIRD to investigate whether the Commercial Fisheries Economic and Social Indicator Monitoring Program reports include share values to inform current and ongoing consideration of asset (share) values. d. To initiate this process and to provide guidance and options for industry, DPIRD will engage with CommFish to workshop the issues as raised by TAFC and work on a consultation paper to go out to Shareholders in the Estuary General fishery to gain further insight into their aspirations and objectives for the fishery.	NSW DPIRD NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the BEP tracking list and will be tracked through this process Meeting 31: Yes, the reports include Meeting 31: To be discussed at today meeting	
30.2	DPIRD works with CommFish on a one-page infographic that shows when, by whom and how fishers' advice (written and verbal) is considered during the TAC/TAE setting process to help fishers see the value in attending stock assessment seminars and TAF Committee meetings and to increase fisher participation.	NSW DPIRD and CommFish	Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the priority tracking list and will be tracked through this process.	Completed
30.3	CommFish discusses further the CommFish member suggestion to establish an industry-funded bursary program to remove or redistribute hauling and meshing shares on a voluntary basis and in a way that benefits those who contribute to it.	EG member and CommFish	Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the priority tracking list and will be tracked through this process.	Completed
30.4	DPIRD encourages the TAF Committee to acknowledge in its reports key issues raised by fishers in submissions or during meetings so that fishers know they are being heard and that their advice is being considered.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Action was forwarded to the Resource Management team 1 July 2025	Completed

No.	Action	Whom	Comment	Status
30.5	DPIRD to consider the draft recommendations in the EPTF member paper and report back to CommFish at its next meeting.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the priority tracking list and will be tracked through this process.	Completed
30.6	DPIRD to contact the two fishers with an interest in Yellowtail Kingfish to explain the harvest strategy development process.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the priority tracking list and will be tracked through this process.	Completed
30.7	DPIRD to consider the line (east) issues and maintain contact with CommFish or the fisher (or both) as needed to resolve or close its consideration of the concerns raised.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the priority tracking list and will be tracked through this process.	Completed
30.8	DPIRD to update the draft NSW Sustainable Commercial Fishing Strategy Progress Report based on feedback received and following that, commence preparation of a new draft NSW Sustainable Commercial Fishing Strategy.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Report and Chair letter was sent to the Minister on 19/11/2025	Completed
30.9	DPIRD to report back to CommFish at its next meeting on the SUTS changes requested including access to Red Sea Urchin in closed waters and new rules (e.g., a size limit) for recreational fishers.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: To be discussed as part of the PLCF update	Completed
30.10	DPIRD to amend the byproduct allowance proposed (through the business efficiency program) for the School and Gummy Shark sector to 200kg (daily take and possession limit).	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Attachment A to commercial reg pack amended	Completed
30.11	DPIRD to prepare a Fact Sheet to help registered fisher receivers understand their legal obligations when buying and selling fish and making prescribed records	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Draft underway	In progress
30.12	DPIRD to take to the next online trawl gear workshop increasing the diameter of rubbers (or rollers) on fish trawl nets from four inches (~100 mm) to 7 inches (~180 mm).	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the priority tracking list and will be tracked through this process.	Completed

No.	Action	Whom	Comment	Status
			Earmarked for OTF breakout session	
30.13	Chair to raise members' views on the importance of face-to-face meetings with the Executive Director Fisheries.	CommFish Chair	Meeting 31: Chair will speak to acting ED at meeting	Completed
30.14	DPIRD to investigate the request for access for prawning upstream of the recreational fishing haven in the Manning River.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: On today's agenda	Completed
30.15	DPIRD to contact the recommended person to discuss participation in the mentee program.	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: New mentee will be joining meeting today	Completed
30.16	DPIRD prepares, publishes and hands-out on a needs basis fact sheets that: Educate fishers on the importance of monitoring, reporting and managing TEPS interactions, as per the key points identified by CommFish (meeting 30). Explain to fishers what they can expect from an observer, as per the key points identified by CommFish (meeting 30).	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Item has now been moved to the priority tracking list and will be tracked through this process.	Completed
30.17	DPIRD to consult further with CommFish on proposed changes if formal feedback or support is required	NSW DPIRD	Meeting 31: Resource Management noted	Completed

Appendix B – Recommendations for Meeting 31

No.	Recommendation
31.1	CommFish recommends that the DPIRD Commercial Fisheries Management team discuss this concern further with compliance.
31.2	CommFish recommends that DPIRD undertake broader industry consultation before allowing modified nets in the ocean trawl fishery on a trial or temporary basis.
31.3	CommFish recommends: 1. That the survey includes the post-harvest sector. 2. Example of additional survey question could be: a) Have you previously or are you considering exporting. b) What is the location where your product has been sourced.
31.4	CommFish recommended that: 1. The original BEP proposal be amended to reflect access to the Manning River outside of the RFH. 2. The matter be included in RFNSW discussions on 11 December 2025. 3. To be included in future Business Efficiency Program consultation.
31.5	CommFish recommends that DPIRD consider implementing a process to ensure there is a level playing field, and hull units are representative of a vessels fishing power.
31.6	CommFish recommends that DPIRD consider the draft survey, taking into account the feedback provided, and ensure that previous TAC/TAE reports are circulated along with any consultation.