



Chair's summary report to Minister (Meeting 19)

17 June 2021

Dear Minister

CommFish NSW held its 19th meeting in Newcastle on 28 May and although originally proposed to be a face to face meeting last minute Covid19 issues in Victoria meant that some members had to access the meeting virtually.

CommFish members considered public feedback on the first round of proposed regulation amendments relating to commercial fishing and will be providing detailed advice to you on the recommendations.

Generally, CommFish supported that all proposals proceed as a matter of priority.

The DDG Fisheries briefed the Council on a number of issues including progress in establishing the Mulloway Harvest Strategy Working Group, an update on the Harvest Strategies currently under development and comment on the Minderoo Foundation's assessment of fisheries.

Members continued to work their way through the Business Efficiency Program papers and made recommendations on:

- Further gear changes
- Spatial and temporal controls on meshing in the Estuary General fishery
- Mud Crab and Eel trapping spatial controls
- Estuary Prawn Trawl spatial and temporal controls
- Spanner Crab temporal controls
- Ocean Trawling spatial controls

DPI Fisheries provided an update on Registered Fish Receivers and the Abalone member briefed the Council on the latest outbreak of the AVG disease and its devastating impact on the abalone industry. The members also noted an update from RecFish NSW relating to proposed recreational fishing management arrangements for Dusky Flathead and Lobster.

A date has not yet been set for the next meeting with the date being dependent on progress with the Council's previous recommendations on Business Efficiency Program proposals.

Please contact me if you require further elaboration on any of the items discussed at this meeting.

Regards

Stuart Richey AM, Chairman
CommFish NSW