



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish)

Chair's Summary

The newly formed Commercial Fishing Industry Advisory Council Commfish held its first meeting in Sydney on the 25th and 26th of May 2017.

The Minister, the Hon Niall Blair welcomed Commfish members to Parliament House and thanked all members for their participation in the newly formed Council. The Minister advised that he was looking forward to receiving advice from the Council on NSW Commercial Fishing Industry issues.

Members received a comprehensive briefing on:

- Guidelines for Boards and Committees and the role of Commfish
- Responsibilities of members
- Operating openly, accountably and transparently
- Dealing with Conflict of Interest

Members also endorsed the draft Commfish NSW AC Charter, which will be published on the NSW DPI website, and had a general discussion on the formation of Working Groups as and when they are required. NSW DPI indicated that some funds are available for the provision of expert advice to assist Working Groups if needed.

The Minister has sought the advice of the Council on number of items and these were noted, prioritised and placed on the Strategic Agenda to be discussed in coming meetings. The Council plans to have a further three meetings this year and dates have been set for July, September and November with the next two meetings to be held in Sydney and the November meeting being scheduled for Coffs Harbour. Meetings next year will be held in other regional locations.

The members also discussed how the Council could communicate with the NSW industry in an open and transparent manner through regional meetings and the publication of documents on the NSW DPI website.

Members made a number of recommendations in relation to the Review of the Business Adjustment Program Regulation Consultation Process and these recommendations will be forwarded to the Minister.

Minutes of the meeting will be available on the NSW DPI website once they have been approved and the Minister has received advice on the recommendations.

The next meeting will be held in Sydney on the 11th/12th of July 2017 and the agenda will include items on the Marine Aquaculture Strategy, Compliance and Catch and Effort Online Reporting.

Stuart Richey
Chair
2 June 2017