

Dear Minister,

CommFish NSW met by video conference on Friday 10 July 2020 to progress the Commercial Fisheries Management Fee Framework and the Business Efficiency Program.

CommFish received further information on the Commercial Fisheries Management Fee Framework and after much discussion agreed to recommend that the Framework should go out for consultation with the majority of members supporting "Option 1" where each fishing business would pay \$1,000.00 plus a per share charge for every share class. CommFish agreed that prior to finalising the discussion paper for consultation further work needed to be done on GVP calculations for trawl whiting, some possible inequities between different offshore trawl operations and a further check to ensure there are no unintended consequences from adopting option 1.

CommFish was advised of progress with dealing with submissions to the Business Efficiency Program and agreed to a method of prioritising proposals for review by the joint CommFish NSW / RFNSW working group. Members agreed that there are several proposals that are outside the scope of the BEP, including the review of the Fish Receiver Requirements Process, that should be addressed as a matter of urgency. Further prioritisation will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Director of Aquatic Environment, NSW DPI provided a comprehensive report on NSW Marine Park Planning. Members agreed that the current process is far superior to the previous arrangements and that they could see benefits for the commercial fishing industry.

The industry members of CommFish NSW have asked me to pass on their gratitude to you and the Government for the assistance provided to the fishing industry through the recently announced \$9 million support package for NSW Seafood Industries. The industry is going through tough times at the moment and the package will greatly assist operators.

In order to continue the momentum, CommFish NSW will meet again in one month, the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2020, to further progress issues related to Fisheries Management Initiatives in NSW

Please call me on [REDACTED] if you require clarification or further advice on the contents of this report.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Richey AM  
CommFish NSW Chair