



Chair's summary report to Minister (Meeting 21)

8 November 2021

Dear Minister

CommFish NSW met virtually on the 22 October 2021 to further progress the Business Efficiency Program and to receive presentations on several other fishery management issues that required consideration by Council.

DPI Fisheries presented the draft Lobster Harvest Strategy paper to CommFish for endorsement to go out to public consultation. CommFish members supported the draft Harvest Strategy without amendment and agreed it should be released for public consultation as soon as possible.

DPI Fisheries also presented an update on the successful trials on the tagging of mud crab. CommFish agreed that this could be a useful tool in preventing the "black marketing" of mud crabs.

CommFish members were updated on the process for the development of draft management rules for the five mainland marine parks and on the achievements to date of the Marine Estate Management Strategy. CommFish members strongly supported the continuation of funding to support the delivery of the strategy.

Members worked through a number of proposals for the Business Efficiency Program and provided advice to DPI Fisheries on whether to proceed to consultation, defer for the time being or not to proceed further.

CommFish was briefed by DPI Fisheries on Parks Australia's intention to require all commercial fishing vessels transiting Australian Marine Parks to carry an operating vessel monitoring system by 2024 and the grant funding program that is available for fisheries management agencies. Although not all members are totally supportive of VMS it was agreed that DPI Fisheries should apply for a grant and CommFish will work through the finer details in future meetings including data collection and VMS requirements.

A number of issues were discussed under general business including illegal fishing, the mulloway working group, succession planning and training for industry members on advisory committees.

A date has not yet been set for the next meeting with the date being dependent on the progress of 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