



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW AC) Chair's Summary (Meeting 5)

The fifth meeting of CommFish NSW was held in Sydney on the 14th of March 2018 to coincide with a joint meeting between CommFish NSW and the Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC). The meeting provided an opportunity for both Councils representatives to formally meet and consider the benefits of both Councils interacting with each other. Dr Geoff Allan (DDG DPI Fisheries) was also in attendance. Discussions included the role of CommFish, challenges facing the commercial industry, major issues addressed by CommFish in 2017 and the MFAC Chair discussing the role and current focus of MFAC.

Mathew Richardson (Supervising Fisheries Officer) provided an update to MFAC and CommFish members on progress and development of the Penalty Demerit Scheme (PDS), previously discussed within both Councils. Mr Richardson also sought to ascertain members' views regarding the revised serious (Category A) offences within the PDS.

At the Council meeting members provided comment on an early draft of the Annual Report to the Minister. Members indicated that additional inclusions are required to finalise the report by May 2018, including seeking input from the NSW Fisherman's Cooperative Association, and NSW DPI, in regard to progress of the commercial fisheries reform.

Council discussed the outcomes and recommendations made by the Mulloway Recovery Program working group. Council thanked the working group, supported the recommendations and made additional recommendations to assist mulloway recovery within NSW.

Additional topics discussed at meeting 5 included Council members clarifying some of the proposals contained within the draft list of regulations for review, prior to releasing to industry for consultation. Peter Gallagher (Program Leader NSW DPI Fisheries) was in attendance to discuss NSW Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) recommendations in relation to the resource use conflict issue in the Pittwater area. The establishment of a working group was recommended by the Council to further discuss and provide advice to the Council in regard to MEMA recommendations.

The next meeting will be a regional meeting to be held at Ballina, starting on the 5th June 2018.

Stuart Richey
Chair

6 April 2017