



## **Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW AC) Chair's Summary (Meeting 9)**

The ninth meeting of CommFish NSW was held in Sydney on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018.

Despite the many items for discussion, Council members were once again very productive in their commitment to working through the agenda items.

Council members indicated unanimous support for NSW DPI's proposal to seek submissions on the commercial fishing regulations and to open it to the industry and the broader community.

Time was well spent with Council members also reviewing how to set fair and reasonable management charges, in relation to cost recovery. With CommFish NSW providing their feedback to NSW DPI to allow progression of further cost modelling.

Consequently low interest loans for all fishers in the fishing industry were discussed, with a further action to write to the Minister in more detail.

Council has also been working with NSW DPI Compliance, to review work practices and the need for further resources.

One of the main highlights of the two day meeting was the first joint meeting held between CommFish NSW and Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW AC).

Collaboration was sought from both Councils in relation to the prevention of black marketing of fish, consistent size limits and the list of regulations (red tape reduction).

Both Councils indicated support for a joint working group consisting of representatives from the Councils to review ways of reducing red tape and fishing regulations.

Additionally the joint meeting was very constructive, with both groups positively acknowledging that they equally share the same issues and the need to work together to maintain a sustainable resource for all sectors.

The next CommFish NSW AC meeting will be held in Sydney, on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Stuart Richey  
Chair

15 January 2019