



Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program

Terms of Reference - Economic analysis & social and economic

Purpose

The NSW Government has made a commitment to review the socio-economic impacts of the NSW Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program (BAP).

This project will assess economic and socio-economic impacts through:

- Economic analysis of the BAP;
- Refinement and initiation of social and economic monitoring; and
- A survey of the commercial fishing industry.

The review will provide independent advice to the NSW Government on whether the Commercial Fishing Reforms of the NSW Government have been effective in;

- ensuring the long-term viability of the NSW commercial fishing industry;
- improving the strength and value of shareholders' access rights; and
- providing shareholders with improved opportunities and flexibility to tailor their access.

Economic analysis

The aim of the economic analysis is to survey available data, from the period 2009/10 onwards, to assess the impacts of the BAP on the security, viability and value of the commercial fishing industry.

The tasks include but are not limited to:

- Reviewing reported commercial fisheries catch and effort data;
- Reviewing all available relevant economic, financial, investment and pricing information;
- Considering potential trends under a 'without intervention' scenario;
- In light of the above, assess the impact of the new commercial fisheries management framework implemented as part of the BAP, on the security, viability and value of the commercial fishing industry, having regard to the objects of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*; and

- Report on the effectiveness of existing governance and consultation processes in facilitating consultation and communication between Government and Industry.

Social and economic monitoring

The aim is to refine and conduct a commercial fisheries stakeholder survey suitable for monitoring social and economic impact on an ongoing basis.

The aim of social and economic monitoring is to survey commercial fishers, who through the BAP:

- have entered (fishers who became commercial fishing business (FB) owners)
- have exited (no longer own a fishing business or shares)
- have adjusted (purchased or sold shares to tailor their businesses), or
- did not engage

The focus of the survey will be on collecting information that the NSW Government can:

- use to better understand and monitor the social and economic impact of the reforms
- usefully respond to, and/or
- use to inform decision making.

Survey design and analysis should consider any factors unrelated to the BAP that may have had a social or economic impact on the commercial fishing industry or individual fishers.

The focus of this survey is commercial fishers. Aboriginal fishers will not be surveyed separately, but respondents will have the opportunity to identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI), which will enable distinction of results (and allow for follow up if results indicate this to be necessary).

The final report will be delivered to the NSW Government by the end of the year.

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