



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW) Chair's Summary (Meeting 11)

The eleventh meeting of CommFish NSW was held in Sydney on the 25th & 26th February 2020. Council members worked through a very full two-day agenda, with healthy discussions throughout.

The vacant positions that were announced previously have now been filled and members welcomed those new to their positions.

With public consultation on commercial fisheries regulations imminent, Council welcomed the approach to call for open submissions and for industry liaison officers be available to assist fishers in submitting their suggestions on regulations for possible removal or change.

Several presentations were received on day one, including one on the implementation of a fairer system of management charges for NSW commercial fishers. The Council agreed that a more fair and equitable system is required and is making progress on its development.

A proposed debt recovery policy was discussed and there was general agreement that action needs to be taken to ensure that all fishers are up to date with their management charges.

An update was provided on the development of Harvest Strategies with NSW DPI tabling a draft Harvest Strategy policy for Council feedback.

The Council also discussed the fate of shares that have been surrendered to the Government or forfeited because of compliance action.

On day two the Professional Fishermen's Association (PFA) presented several topics including the NSW Seafood & Aquatic Resources Strategic Intent and Roadmap, Marine Stewardship Council accreditation and the whale entanglement mitigation program.

It was noted that the Coronavirus was impacting the commercial fishing industry significantly, especially those fisheries that are reliant upon export markets.

The next CommFish NSW AC meeting date and location is currently being considered.

Stuart Richey
Chair

Date