



## **Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW AC) Chair's Summary (Meeting 2)**

The second meeting of CommFish NSW was held in Sydney on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2017. Dr Geoff Allan, Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries attended on day 1 and the Minister, the Hon Niall Blair attended for part of day 2.

CommFish NSW members received a comprehensive Compliance Overview presentation from Patrick Tully, Director Fisheries Compliance, and provided some comments and suggestions on future compliance issues that may arise as much of the industry moves towards output controls.

Members agreed to establish a working group to investigate and provide advice to CommFish on what the commercial sector can do to improve the future of Mulloway stocks. The working group will look at the science supporting the Mulloway fishery and look at possible management responses to improve the outcomes. The working group will include mulloway fishers, fisheries managers and researchers as well as 2 members of CommFish NSW and will be seeking expressions of interest from mulloway fishers from various regions to fill three positions on the group.

Doug Ferrell, Director Fisheries Analysis, provided a brief update on the Share Trading Market results and Senior Business Analyst Heath Calder, provided a live demonstration of *FisherMobile* and sought comment from members on its ease of use, possible simplifications and future additions to its functionality. Members also provided advice on industry training, online training products and how to engage with industry to achieve the best training outcomes.

Minister Blair discussed a number of issues relating to the development of a pathway to a profitable and sustainable NSW fishing industry and CommFish provided comment to the Minister on several current issues including compliance, OCS arrangements, Mulloway and some current regulations that appear to be holding industry back for no good reason. The Minister advised he is keen to remove as much unnecessary red tape as possible.

The members also received a briefing from Ian Lyall, Manager Aquaculture, on the draft NSW Marine Waters Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy.

The next meeting will be in Sydney on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 and will include a workshop on developing an Investment Plan for the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund and also reviewing a list of Regulations that may be able to be amended to improve fisher profitability.

Stuart Richey  
Chair

13 July 2017