



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council

OUT18/5642

The Hon Niall Blair, MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

I am writing to provide you with recommendations from the CommFish NSW meeting no. 5, 14 March, in relation to the legal minimum length (LML) for blue swimmer crabs in NSW.

The recent increase in the LML for blue swimmer crabs caught by commercial fishers (from 6 to 6.5cm) was discussed at this meeting in response to correspondence received from the Wild Caught Fishers Coalition (WCFC). Council discussed the recent increase in LML applying to commercial fishers, and the economic and ecological benefits of harvesting larger size crabs. Council also noted the potential short-term impacts that a size increase may have on the commercial industry, particularly in Region 4 given that it takes the majority of the catch for this species in NSW.

The Council also discussed the current size restrictions applying in other states for this species, and to the recreational sector in NSW. Members noted that the LML is generally larger in most other states than in NSW.

Having weighed up the issues on both sides, the Council unanimously recommends that the LML should remain as current for commercial fisheries (6.5 cm).

For the same reasons that the LML was increased for the commercial sector, the Council would suggest that the LML applying to the recreational sector (currently 6cm) should also be increased so that the LML is consistent between sectors.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

STUART RICHEY
CHAIR

Date: 12 April 2018

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