



Chair's summary report to Minister (Meeting 20)

27 September 2021

Dear Minister

CommFish NSW held its 20th meeting via teleconference on 17 September 2021 and although originally proposed to be a face to face meeting Covid19 restrictions required members to access the meeting virtually.

Council members welcomed NSW DPI's new Program Leader for Commercial Fisheries, Simon Clark to the meeting. Simon brings extensive experience in working with the commercial fishing sectors, co-management, and the management of marine parks which was gained whilst working in South Australia.

CommFish NSW were pleased to hear their recommendations to progress the proposed regulation amendments relating to commercial fishing has been supported for NSW DPI to commence the steps to progress the changes as proposed.

NSW DPI presented the final draft of the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy for review. CommFish supported the final draft harvest strategy going out to public consultation. Council heard from several that were part of the working group and how the process has given them a better understanding of the importance of providing accurate data for harvest strategies so to ensure the future of a sustainable resource.

Members continued to work their way through the Business Efficiency Program papers and made recommendations on:

- Estuary General Prawning temporal and spatial controls
- Estuary General Trapping temporal and spatial controls
- Ocean Hauling temporal and Spatial controls
- Estuary General Hauling temporal and spatial controls
- Various proposals and Fisheries

There were several proposals that Council has recommended to revisit at a later date as further information was requested to make an informed recommended.

The 22 October 2021 has been set for the next meeting where Council will be considering further Business Efficiency Program proposals.

Please contact me if you require further elaboration on any of the items discussed at this meeting.

Regards

Stuart Richey AM, Chairman
CommFish NSW