



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council

OUT18/5641

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

Dear Minister

I am pleased to report that CommFish NSW, at Council meeting 5 in Sydney on 14 March 2018, reviewed the outcomes and recommendations of the Mulloway Recovery Program working group. Please find the working group's recommendations attached.

The Council supports the recommendations as an important continuing step toward mulloway recovery within NSW.

In response to several concerns raised by Council members and the working group, additional recommendations (also attached) made by the Council include:

- a request for further research to be undertaken,
- a peer review of available science,
- monitoring of the specific changes introduced to ensure they are contributing to improvements,
- improved catch reporting,
- documentation of external influences on stock recovery (such as environmental conditions), and
- the matter should remain as a standing item on the Council's agenda.

Please note that in regard to recommendation three of the working group, Council recommends that a size limit of 70cm should apply to all fisheries. The Council recognises that there will continue to be interactions with juvenile mulloway below the proposed new 70cm size, if this proposal is implemented.

I believe that both the working group and CommFish NSW have made significant progress, and that these recommendations are an important step towards restoring mulloway stocks.

Notwithstanding this, if you support the recommendations Council suggests that consideration should also be given to the potential impact that these recommendations may have on individuals.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact me at your convenience.

Yours sincerely



**STUART RICHEY
CHAIR**

Date: 12 April 2018



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The recommendations made by the Mulloway Recovery Program working group and supported by CommFish NSW are as follows:-

1. Remove the requirement to register a meshing net.
2. Remove the meshing net by product limit of 10 fish between 45 and 70 cm.
3. Implement a size limit of 60 cm for meshing net operations only or apply the 70 cm size limit to all fishers.
4. Ensure more is done to minimise the bycatch of mulloway in estuarine and ocean trawl fisheries.
5. Implement a system whereby commercially caught mulloway can be differentiated from other mulloway at the point of landing.
6. Improve the collection of catch and effort information, including the number of individuals retained and discarded from fishing operations.
7. Investigate meshing net configurations, technologies and deployments that assist to minimise interaction of the fishery with juvenile mulloway.

CommFish NSW made the following additional recommendations at meeting 5:-

1. Thanking Mulloway Recovery Program working group for the recommendations made to the Council.
2. Council members recommend that the 70cm size limit apply to all fisheries.
3. Additional research be undertaken (if not currently available), including stock assessment and success of recovery in areas previously closed to commercial operators.
4. Peer review of all available science, including support to include recreational data available.
5. Historical catch records reviewed and to include numbers, effort and area caught if available.
6. External influences documented that have impacted on commercial landings, including environmental impacts and other restrictions that have reduced commercial fishers' access to mulloway.
7. Full stock assessment and trigger points determined for management when mulloway are listed as fully recovered.
8. NSW DPI to provide an update at future Council meetings and provide a research proposal addressing the above recommendations.