



**Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council
(CommFish NSW AC)
Meeting 15, 18 September 2020
Via Teleconference**

Members present	Stuart Richey AM	CommFish NSW Chair (Chair)
	Darren Reynolds	A/Group Director – Commercial Fisheries & Aquaculture DPI Fisheries
	Greg Finn	Member – Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC) Commercial Fisher Member – Abalone Share Managed Fishery
	Raymond Saunders	Member – Aboriginal Commercial Fishers
	Mark Cranstone	Member – Lobster Share Managed Fishery
	Tony Virtu	Member – Ocean Hauling Fishery
	Craig Shephard	Member – Sea Urchin and Turban Shell Fishery
	Steve Hounsell	Member – Inland Restricted Fishery
	John Jarvis	Member – Southern Fish Trawl Restricted Fishery
	Geoff Blackburn	Member – Estuary General Share Managed Fishery
	Steve Everson	Member – Estuary Prawn Trawl Share Managed Fishery
	Darren Ward	Member – Ocean Trawl Share Managed Fishery
	Cherie Kirkman	Executive Officer, DPI Fisheries
Invited guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Anders Magnusson – Senior Economist – BDO EconSearch • Mr Julian Morison – Director Econ Search – BDO EconSearch 	
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Virtu – Member – Ocean Hauling Fishery • Mitchell Sanders – Member – Ocean Trap & Line Share Managed Fishery 	

18 September 2020

1. Member Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping

NOTED:

- Chair opened the meeting at 9:30am and welcomed Council members.
- The Aboriginal member acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, past and present.

2. Review of Agenda

NOTED:

Council accepted the agenda.

3. Review, Declarations and update Register of Interests

NOTED:

There were no declarations or updates to the Register of Interest.

4. Discussion - Social and Economic report prepared by Professor Barclay and Government initial response.

NOTED:

- The Economic analysis and Social and Economic monitoring report prepared by Professor Barclay and that it was very hard to comprehend;
- The recommendations of the report:
 - Establish a social and economic framework for NSW commercial fisheries as a matter of high priority and urgency;
 - Investigate further whether the levels of commercial debt incurred as a result of the Business Adjustment Program are damaging industry viability, and if so, consider interventions to alleviate that debt;
 - Consider instituting protections from changes to resource access in commercial fisheries management; and
 - Investigate more effective ways of doing consultation and policy development.
- The NSW Government initial response to the recommendations of the report.

AGREE: CommFish supported:

- The Government's initial responses to the recommendations of the report.

ACTION 15.1: NSW DPI:

1. To work to implement the actions arising from the NSW Government's initial response to the recommendations of the report.

5. Presentation and Discussion – Economic and Social indicator monitoring proposal

A presentation on the BDO EconSearch Economic and Social indicator monitoring proposal was presented to CommFish NSW.

NOTED:

- For this to be successful industry needs to engage and provide input into the social and economic monitoring of NSW commercial fisheries;
- The proposal includes talking to commercial fishers to gain quality data and insight;
- Future benefits for monitoring, will include the provision of data for the development of harvest strategies; to target maximum economic yield and demonstrate the economic contribution of commercial fisheries to NSW and its regions;
- A communication strategy will be key to the success of this monitoring;
- Consideration to fund proposal from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund;
- The monitoring could potentially provide industry with benefits when seeking future financing opportunities; and
- The Inland Fishery will also be included in the proposed social and economic monitoring framework.

AGREE: CommFish supported:

- The social and economic monitoring proposal put forward by BDO EconSearch and recommends that they be engaged to conduct the research as a matter of urgency; and

- The proposal being funded from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund

ACTION 15.2: NSW DPI:

- 1. Engage BDO EconSearch to deliver the Economic and Social indicator monitoring;**
- 2. To recommend funding for the proposal from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund; and**
- 3. Provide CommFish NSW with a balance of the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund.**

6. Letter from the Chair – Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council (MFAC)

NOTED:

- That the discussion held by CommFish NSW at their August 2020 meeting on several initiatives proposed by MFAC Commercial fishery member to invest in the future of commercial fishing has also been presented at the MFAC meeting on 4 September 2020;
- It is key to get the timing for such investment right; and
- The data to support many of the initiatives are not yet available.

AGREE: CommFish supported;

- The proposal in principal to invest in the future of commercial fishing; and
- Delaying the initiatives until further real data can be provided and the current economic climate becomes more stable.

ACTION 15.3: The Chair is to write to the Chair of MFAC advising that whilst CommFish is supportive of the initiatives the timing for such investment should be revisited at a later date.

7. Next meeting

Next meeting date was discussed:

- 2 October 2020

Meeting closed

- 18 September 2020 at 11:40pm

Appendix A – Current Actions & Recommendations List for Meeting 15

Actions

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
8.9	Council members recommend that NSW DPI: 1. Investigate the potential of automatic disqualification for certain high-level offences such as trafficking fish. 2. Provide further information on the topic of automatic disqualification for Council members review at a future meeting.	NSW DPI	Meeting 10: Chair advised no change on timeline on this action. Meeting 11: Pending Red Tape reduction	In Progress
8.17	Meeting 10: Action has been amended to: 1. NSW DPI to work through on-ground examples with a working group comprised of fishers and members to gain a solution. 2. NSW DPI to approve record of possession form and distribute to fishers for use.	Council NSW DPI	Meeting 10: Chair advised that this action is back on the agenda for today. Action 8.17 to be updated Meeting 11: Working with compliance	In Progress
8.19	Council members request that a NSW DPI recreational fishing manager attend a future Council meeting to provide a briefing on the recreational EIS development.	NSW DPI	Meeting 10: Chair advised – NSW DPI Recreational Fishing advised currently in “project planning stage” and to revisit request to attend in May/June 2019. Meeting 11: To arrange for meeting 12 Meeting 12: Waiting for travel restrictions to be relaxed	In Progress
10.5	1. DPI NSW to investigate the link between pre-fish, post-land and catch and effort reports as part of the catch and effort review. Meeting 11: Action amended to included 2. Members to provide EO examples and EO to collate into a list for NSW DPI	NSW DPI Council /EO	Meeting 11: A/g GDCF&Aq advised review progressing	In Progress
10.10	Meeting 11: Action has been amended to: NSW DPI to write to mud crab trappers providing an update on the mud crab tagging trials	NSW DPI	Meeting 11: On today's agenda	In progress
10.12	NSW DPI to investigate how to expand the export list.	NSW DPI	Meeting 11: In progress	In progress
11.2	1. NSW DPI to cancel shares and 2. Implement a policy in relation to surrendered and forfeited shares.	NSW DPI	Meeting 13: 1. Has been completed, 2. Under investigation	1. Completed 2. In progress

11.4	NSW DPI to: 1. Amend the debt recovery process to remove forfeiture. 2. Consider CommFish NSW feedback when writing and implementing a firm policy.	NSW DPI	Meeting 14: 1. Completed forfeiture has been removed	1. Completed 2. In progress
13.3	NSW DPI consult industry on 10-year commercial fishing licences.	NSW DPI		In progress
13.4	NSW DPI consult industry on boat lengths and licences.	NSW DPI		In progress
13.5	NSW DPI to amend the CommFish NSW Charter as per the agreed wording.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.1	NSW DPI to: 1. Proceed with industry consultation on the proposed framework; 2. Consider that the methodology should be reviewed by an independent economist to ensure the most representative GVP figures are being used; and 3. Provide CommFish with the outcomes of the industry consultation.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.2	NSW DPI to consult with industry on Prawn ballots that do not involve re-visiting share linkage.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.3	NSW DPI to consult with industry on reducing the minimum nomination period from 48 hours to 12 hours.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.4	NSW DPI to progress the proposed changes to crew in the Estuary General Fishery to the BEP working group for further discussion.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.5	NSW DPI to consult industry on the proposed changes to real-time reporting.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.6	NSW DPI to: 1. Consult with industry on increasing the maximum shareholding in the Lobster Fishery and changes to endorsements in the Inland Fishery; and 2. Revisit the Fishing business transfer rules.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.7	NSW DPI to go out to EOI for membership of the Lobster Harvest Strategy Working Group.	NSW DPI		Completed

14.8	NSW DPI to facilitate communication with fishers on behalf of OceanWatch when requested.	NSW DPI		In progress
14.9	Executive Officer to: 1. Pass on CommFish comments and thanks regarding the logo to the designer; and 2. Amend all templates and work with members to update profiles on the website.	EO	Meeting 15: All completed except the updating of members profiles on website.	In progress
15.1	NSW DPI: 1. To work to implement the actions arising from the NSW Government's initial response to the recommendations of the report.	NSW DPI		
15.2	NSW DPI: 1. Engage BDO EconSearch to deliver the Economic and Social indicator monitoring; 2. To recommend funding for the proposal from the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund; and 3. Provide CommFish NSW with a balance of the Commercial Fishing Trust Fund.	NSW DPI		
15.3	The Chair is to write to the Chair of MFAC advising that whilst CommFish is supportive of the initiatives the timing for such investment should be revisited at a later date.	Chair		