



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW AC) Chair's Summary (Meeting 8)

The eighth meeting of CommFish NSW was held in Sydney on the 11th September 2018, as an additional meeting to the scheduled November 2018 meeting.

The main focus of this meeting was the review of the Compliance Penalty Demerit System (PDS), including submissions received and the revised NSW DPI proposals. NSW DPI introduced each section, provided a summary of the submissions received from industry and advised of the proposed way forward. NSW DPI indicated that some proposals had changed as a result of consideration given to industry submissions received and previous Council input.

Topics discussed included revision of the demerit point offences including:

- The lifetime of the demerit point expiry period
- Length of the disqualification period and inclusions
- Time allowed to transfer shares if a person is disqualified
- Share suspension inclusions
- Review and appeal process (Licence disqualification and share suspension)
- Access to demerit point information
- Timing of implementation of the PDS

Additional concerns identified by Council members included potential risks that disqualified individuals from other jurisdictions could enter NSW fisheries. The Council also discussed the potential for automatic disqualification to be incurred for certain high level offences.

The Council members were provided with an update and presentation on the Marine Estate reforms by Sarah Fairfull (Director of Aquatic Environments). The presentation included an overview of current and proposed marine estates, the strategy undertaken in developing these, and the relationship to harvest strategies. It was also identified that the submission period is currently still open and that fishers and Council members should consider completing a submission in order to identify their concerns related to commercial fishing.

As previously indicated Council members remain firm that with new rules coming in, old rules should be revisited immediately to ensure the benefits of the new rules are realised, noting the importance of removing red tape prior to the commencement of the PDS scheme.

Council members support retaining a meeting in November; to be held in Sydney on 21/22 November 2018.

Stuart Richey
Chair

14 September 2018