



Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW AC) Chair's Summary (Meeting 10)

The tenth meeting of CommFish NSW was held in Sydney on the 6th March 2019.

Council members worked through a very full one day agenda, with robust discussions throughout the day.

In preparation for NSW DPI's release of a call for submissions on the review of commercial fishing regulations, Council members agreed with the NSW DPI's proposed prioritisation and categorisation process for submissions.

Council agreed that collaboration should be sought with the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council, to form a joint working group, to review prioritised submissions once received.

Presentations were received on the day, including an update on changes that will come into place from 1 May 2019 in the FisherMobile application, an update on the progress of Harvest Strategies, and information on the barriers to work health and safety in the fishing industry.

Council members were advised that six positions on Council will become vacant in May this year. NSW DPI will seek direction from the newly appointed Minister on the filling of these positions.

Issues raised by fishers in the purse seine fishery were discussed, including small incidental catch of trawl whiting and the reporting of accurate weights of mixed quota/non-quota species taken in this fishery. Council members provided feedback and agreed with NSW DPI's approach on both these issues.

It was also noted that some fishers may experience difficulty in meeting reporting timeframes for certain reasons. This was discussed and it was agreed that NSW DPI should continue to work proactively with fishers to resolve such issues.

Council also reaffirmed their support for the minimum 6.5cm size limit for blue swimmer crabs.

The next CommFish NSW AC meeting will be held in Sydney, with a date to be advised.

Stuart Richey
Chair

8 May 2019