

## Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW AC) Chair's report to Minister (Meeting 12)

Dear Minister,

CommFish NSW held meeting 12 by video conference on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of June. This meeting was originally planned to be a regional meeting in Eden but that had to be deferred due to the Covid-19 restrictions. CommFish will continue regional meetings when travel restrictions are lifted.

I reported to CommFish on our recent telephone discussion and we have agreed on a method for me to get advice to you directly from the Council in a timely manner and on a way to finalise minutes quickly so they can go to you and then to the CommFish website where they will be available for industry to view.

The Council received an update on the Business Efficiency Program from NSW DPI and from the PFA and was given a general breakdown of the submissions. Council agreed I should write to the Chair of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council and invite him to jointly chair a Working Group with me that would comprise three members from each council plus invited experts to agree on a list of proposals to reduce red tape and increase efficiency in the fishing sector. At our next meeting, CommFish will prioritise submissions to go to the Working Group. Once the joint working group and CommFish has worked this through, proposals will be provided to you for further industry and public consultation.

DPI NSW presented a revised paper on the Commercial Fisheries Management Fee project. Council members had several comments on the draft paper and it was agreed that this issue is too important to get wrong and asked the Department to make some amendments and run several scenario's based on real licence holdings for the next meeting so they can get a better understanding before making a recommendation to you.

The latest draft of the Harvest Strategy Policy was presented to CommFish following comments from MFAC. Members agreed this is a much better version and that it is now in a form that is simple, understandable and relevant and does not appear to be data hungry utilising existing data collection, although this may need to be reviewed in the future to ensure the data is relevant. CommFish agreed with the proposed Terms of Reference for the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy Working Group, that the CommFish Ocean Trawl Fishery member would be a member of the WG and that the WG would report back to the Council. Council also provided advice on future candidate fisheries for a Harvest Strategy.

The Deputy Director General-Fisheries gave an update on progress with the legislative reforms and fisheries management initiatives that are being developed as part of the 'Right to Fish' initiative and Council agreed with the general thrust of the initiatives noting they will come back to Council before being finalised.

The Council will meet in one month (10<sup>th</sup> of July) to further progress the Business Efficiency Program, the Harvest Strategy Policy and the Commercial Fisheries Management Fee Framework and then plans to meet again in early August to continue the momentum in increasing business efficiency following the Fisheries Reform.

Please call me on [REDACTED] if you require clarification or further advice on the contents of this report.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Richey AM  
CommFish NSW Chair