



**Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council
(CommFish NSW Advisory Council)
Meeting 23 19 May 2022
Sydney and Teleconference**

Members present	Stuart Richey AM	Chair
	Craig Shephard	Sea Urchin & Turban Shell Fishery
	Darren Ward	Ocean Trawl Fishery
	Greg Finn	Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council
	Geoff Blackburn	Estuary General Fishery
	Peter Turnell	Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management
	Raymond Saunders	Aboriginal Commercial Fishers
	Stephen Bunney	Abalone Fishery
	Steve Hounsell	Inland Fishery
Executive Officer	Cherie Kirkman	
DPI staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Clark, Program Leader, Commercial Fisheries 	
Invited staff and guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Sloan, Deputy Director General, DPI Fisheries • Ian Knuckey – Director, Fishwell Consultancy (both present for relevant presentations only) 	
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Everson, Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery member • Patrick Richardson, Ocean Hauling member • John Jarvis, Southern Fish Trawl member • Mark Cranstone, Lobster Fishery member • Mitch Sanders, Ocean trap and Line Fishery 	

1. Member Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping

Meeting opened 08:45am

NOTED:

- The Chair welcomed Council members and NSW DPI staff.
- The traditional owners of the land, past, present, and emerging were acknowledged.

2. Review of Agenda

NOTED:

Council accepted the agenda.

3. Review, Declarations and update Register of Interests

NOTED:

It was noted the SUTS Member provided an update to the pecuniary interest record, prior to the

meeting. The register will be circulated to members.

ACTION: Executive Officer to update pecuniary interests register and circulate (permanent action).

4. Confirmation of Minutes from Meeting 22

NOTED:

The committee discussed the general business item "BEP item considered" from meeting 22. The Chair sought feedback on the general business item with the majority of members present agreeing the minutes required no change. The minutes for meeting 22 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Current actions arising from Meeting 22

NOTED:

- The following actions have been completed: 20.5, 20.6, 20.7, 21.1, 21.2, 22.3 and 22.10.
- All other actions are in progress.

6. Correspondence received

NOTED:

One letter was received outside the timeframe for this meeting. The Chair directed the correspondence to be sent to DPI for consideration, on the basis it referred to an operational issue.

7. Meeting with Minister

The opportunity to meet with the Minister in the morning prior to the meeting was welcomed by those in attendance. There was positive discussion on key issues such as the driving changes through the Business Efficiency program, supporting consultation on a review of the Fish Receiver program, and importance of long-term access security for industry to improve investment and participant's wellbeing.

All topics discussed aimed to provide insight into the support needed for the commercial fishing industry to move forward on improving, investment, growth, productivity, and welfare.

8. Framework for Aboriginal cultural fishing in harvest strategies

Ian Knuckey (Fishwell Consultancy) provided a presentation on a project to develop a framework for Aboriginal cultural fishing harvest strategies and the processes to integrate them with other harvest strategies being developed.

ACTION 23.1: Executive officer to share CommFish member contact details with Fishwell Consultancy.

9. Update from the Program Leader Commercial Fisheries (PLCF)

Harvest Strategies

The Spanner crab Harvest Strategy Working group have supported the concept to develop a co-

management approach to managing seasonal closures. The Program Leader Resource Management has been engaged to provide harvest strategy working group progress updates at future CommFish meetings.

Spanish mackerel

Queensland are reviewing their Spanish Mackerel management strategies and are currently consulting on proposed new arrangements.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

The Program Leader for Innovation and Development has advised that NSW DPI has been successful in securing the VMS grant from the Commonwealth for the project, noting the Commonwealth's Marine Park regulatory amendments have not been amended.

Woolworths

Woolworths are currently not sourcing fresh prawn product from NSW. DPI are in discussion with relevant stakeholders, relating to the third-party certification of fisheries.

10. Development of a Commercial Fishing Strategy

The Hon. Dugald Saunders MP, Minister for Agriculture, wishes to engage CommFish NSW to develop a Commercial Fishing Strategy (the Strategy) for NSW and for CommFish to facilitate broader industry input and consultation on the draft strategy.

The overall aim of the proposed Strategy is to provide a strategic roadmap for the industry to drive productivity, reduce regulatory burden, promote innovation, improve community support and strengthen the industry as a whole.

NOTED:

- CommFish members are provided an opportunity to provide input.
- the broader industry feedback will be sought on the draft document.
- members advised it is important that the BEP is finalised.

ACTION 23.2: All members to provide feedback via the executive officer, who will coordinate a draft with the Chair.

11. Update from the Deputy Director General Fisheries

The Deputy Director General provided a general update on the proposed rolling out of the pending nine BEP changes, including the new management fee changes.

Provided context to the development of the Commercial Fisheries strategic plan.

12. General Business

12.1. Increase in Drumlines

With the increase in drumlines many are interested in knowing the number of sharks and other species that have been caught, if it is publicly available. It was also mentioned that the ability for boats to get a notification when a tagged shark is in the vicinity would assist in safe work protection.

<p>ACTION 23.3: Program Leader Commercial Fisheries to investigate whether the capture statistics from the drumline program are publicly available.</p>
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12.2. Licensed Fishing Boats (LFB's)

Discussion was had on the removal of LFB's. Members were advised no fixed date had been set, however the department was working towards implementation early in the next financial year. There were concerns by several Members that those purchasing a LFB within this period may not be aware of the proposed removal or it could hinder others from increasing their business within this timeframe due to the cost to purchase now knowing that they will be removed soon. The committee were advised that business services were notifying persons who were trading boat licences of the pending change through the application process.

12.3. Setting of quota

A concern was raised that quotas were not set at the right level in some fisheries. Whilst the foundation of setting quota is based primarily on the science, it was noted that the Total Allowable Fishing Committee also take other factors into account, such as natural disasters, markets, and other factors that could influence effort in the fishery.

It was also reaffirmed that harvest strategies for key species will assist with quota setting in the future.

13. Meeting Closed

Closed at 11:30am

Appendix A – Current Actions & Recommendations List for Meeting 22

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
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
14.2	NSW DPI to consult with industry on Prawn ballots that do not involve re-visiting share linkage.	NSW DPI		In Progress
14.6	NSW DPI to: 2. Revisit the Fishing business transfer rules at a later date	NSW DPI	Meeting 18: 1. Completed, 2 In progress	2. In Progress
17.4	Item 6.10: (Refer to appendix B) NSW DPI to investigate further and consider amending the regulations.	NSW DPI		In Progress
17.5	Item 6.15.2 (Refer to appendix B) NSW DPI to prepare a paper for CommFish consideration	NSW DPI		In Progress
17.8	Item 7.6: (Refer to appendix C) NSW DPI to write to the proponent to request further information.	NSW DPI		In Progress

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
18.6	Appendix G - Item 11.1.2 - NSW DPI to write to the proponent to request further information on trap size.	NSW DPI		In Progress
18.7	Appendix G Items 11.3, 11.4, 11.5 and 11.7. - To revisit at a later date.	NSW DPI		In Progress
19.2	CommFish recommend: 1. NSW DPI to consult with fishers and existing registered fish receivers on the four options. 2. NSW DPI and Industry work to improve compliance with existing record-keeping and reporting requirements.	NSW DPI NSW DPI		In Progress
19.3	NSW DPI to investigate the sending of links to industry members.	NSW DPI		In Progress
19.4	The EG member is to provide an example of a proposed industry standard with the assistance of the EO and revert back to CommFish for further discussion.	EG & EO	Meeting 20: Update – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EG member has raised with NSWSIC as the appropriate body. • It was resolved to draw up an Industry standard that NSWSIC would endorse. Meeting 21: Update – EG member advised that a draft has been prepared and is with the Chair of NSWSIC.	In Progress

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
19.7	Item 1.2 DPI to work with proponent and report back to CommFish (refer to appendix C).	NSW DPI		In Progress
19.9	The following items from the BEP are recommended for further discussion with RFNSW Item 2.5 and 2.9 (refer to appendix D)	NSW DPI		In Progress
19.10	Item 4.1 from the BEP is to be considered at a later date. (refer to appendix F)	NSW DPI		In Progress
19.11	Item 5.1 from the BEP is for DPI to investigate and report back to CommFish on amending the Act or regulation. (refer to appendix G)	NSW DPI		In Progress
19.13	Item 7.2 from the BEP is for DPI to work with relevant shareholders and revert back to CommFish for further consideration (refer to appendix I)	NSW DPI		In Progress
20.2	1. NSW DPI to release the Trawl Whiting Harvest Strategy for public consultation. 2. NSW DPI to investigate why quota could not be transferred prior to the end of the fishing period between fishing business with the same business owner.	NSW DPI	Meeting 22: 1. Completed 2. In Progress	1. Completed 2. In Progress
20.5	The following items from the BEP are to be revisited after seeking feedback from relevant fishers: (Refer to appendixes B; Items 1.1, 1.2,	NSW DPI		In Progress

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
	1.3, and 1.5).			
20.6	The following items from the BEP are recommended to progress to the next step - BEP working group (Refer to appendixes B, C, D, E and F; Items 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2 3.3, 3.4.1, 4.2 and 4.3).	NSW DPI	Meeting 23 – Approved and confirmed progressing to BEPWG.	Completed
20.7	The following items from the BEP are recommended as no change (Refer to appendixes D, E and F; Items 3.4.2, 4.1, 4.5, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.1, 5.5, 5.6.1, and 5.7).	NSW DPI	Meeting 23: Completed – Approved and confirmed not to progress.	Completed
20.8	NSW DPI to seek further information from the proponents. (Bait nets various waters; Item 4.4.)	NSW DPI		In Progress
20.9	Dive members to consider an alternative approaches to enhance diver safety (Item 5.3.2)	CFNSW		In Progress
20.10	NSW DPI to investigate post catch reconciliation of quota and report back to CommFish (Item 5.4)	NSW DPI		In Progress
20.11	Regulations are amended to clarify that hanging of SUTS species is not permitted (Item 5.6.2)	NSW DPI		In Progress

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
21.2	1. NSW DPI to release the draft NSW Lobster Harvest Strategy for public consultation. 2. NSW DPI to provide CommFish with a summary of the public feedback and the final draft harvest strategy for review.	NSW DPI	Meeting 23: Letter sent Chair to DPI on the 8 April 2022 after out-of-session meeting providing endorsement	Completed
21.3	1. NSW DPI to proceed with public consultation on the implementation of a mud crab tagging program and to seek feedback on a tagging management framework. 2. If after public consultation it is viewed that tagging is to be implemented, NSW DPI is to seek approval for funding from the Commercial Fishing Trust fund. 3. NSW DPI is to consider any potential future income going back into the Commercial Fishing Trust fund.	NSW DPI		In Progress
21.5	NSW DPI to make a grant application to the Commonwealth and provide CommFish with an update on its progress.	NSW DPI	Meeting 22: DPI have submitted grant application. Meeting 23: Development and Innovation team now standard item on agenda.	Completed
21.6	The EO is to investigate training opportunities available within DPI to table at the next meeting.	EO	Meeting 22: EO advised that an induction package is being developed.	In Progress
21.9	The following items from the BEP are recommended as no change (Refer to appendixes B) Items 5.8.1, 5.10 and 5.11.1.	NSW DPI		In Progress

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
21.10	DPI to pilot co-management with Clarence School Prawn Committee.	NSW DPI		In Progress
21.11	That Item 5.9 (Appendix B) move to the next step (BEP working group).	NSW DPI		In Progress
21.12	A separate review of rights of priority be revisited at a later date.	NSW DPI Council		In Progress
22.1	EO to provide member contact details to the digital restart team so that the team may arrange to check-out the Commonwealth's electronic reporting system and to contact any member of CommFish should expert industry advice be required.	EO	Meeting 23: Complete email sent on the 10 March 2022 with members details	Completed
22.2	DPI to consider the request, subject to any directions given by the Minister.	NSW DPI		In Progress
22.3	DPI to consider the concerns of Hawkesbury EPT fishers, subject to any directions given by the Minister.	NSW DPI	Meeting 23: CommFish provided advise out of session	Completed
22.4	DPI to provide further updates, including before the EA and RFMS are finalised.	NSW DPI		In Progress
22.5	DPI to provide further updates, including before each plan is finalised.	NSW DPI		In Progress

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
22.6	Chair to write to the Director of Compliance with the advice (recommendations) of the Council.	Chair		In Progress
22.7	Chair to include in the letter above (refer previous action) council's gratitude for the recent recruitment of additional Fisheries Officers and the need for more along with the emerging fisheries compliance issue identified by members.	Chair		In Progress
22.8	The following items from the BEP are recommended to progress to the next step - BEP working group (Refer to appendixes B and C Items 1.1, 1.5, 2.2, 2.3.2 and 2.7)	NSW DPI		In Progress
22.9	The following items from the BEP are recommended as no change (Refer to appendixes B - E items 1.2.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6.1, 2.4, 2.8.1,3.1, 3.2, 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.2)	NSW DPI		In Progress
22.10	1.2.2 EO to forward email to relevant DPI staff.	NSW DPI	Meeting 23: Email sent 13/5/2022 to Fisheries Manager	Completed
22.11	1.6.2 EO to refer issue to NSW DPI compliance.	NSW DPI		In Progress
22.12	DPI to investigate and refer to CommFish for further consideration. (Refer to appendixes B and C Items 1.7, 2.1.1, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8.2)	NSW DPI		In Progress

No.	Action	Whom	Comments	Status
22.13	2.1.2 EO to refer issue to NSW DPI compliance.	NSW DPI		In Progress
22.14	2.3.1 DPI to consider engaging industry on a region by region basis to gauge interest in standardising weekend closures regionally.	NSW DPI		In Progress
23.1	Executive officer to share CommFish member contact details with Fishwell Consultancy.	EO		In Progress
23.2	EO to provide survey to members and co-ordinate responses back to the Chair.	EO		In Progress
23.3	PLCF to investigate and provide update to members.	PLCF		In Progress