

The PFA represents its members' interests. If you need our help on any issue, please do not hesitate in contacting the PFA head office (6652 7374) &/or the Executive Officer (0429303371)

Minister's Visits

The Minister's office has advised that they are currently working on the Minister's visits - It will be a busy week and the Minister's office have advised that may not be able to go to all places that we have recommended but we will do as much as we can to ensure it is successful.

Catcher's Trust Elections for Region 3

Each Catcher's Trust Region 3 Unit Holders will be receiving their letters which invites them to vote on their Region 3 representative. The confirmed valid nominees for Region 3 are:

Mr Geoffrey Blackburn (current representative); and Mr David Kim Poole

Ballots must be received by the Returning Officer no later than **5:00pm Friday 5 February 2016:**

The Returning Officer/Catchers Trust, Level 14, 309 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Each nominee was given the opportunity to explain their case for election as Director for Region 3 – which is included in your ballot papers.

Crown Lands

Crown Lands has put out a White Paper that summaries Issues related to Crown Lands responsibilities. PFA is in the process of putting together a response to this submission that outlines the issues concerning Crown Lands faced by fishermen – infrastructure for fishers, slipway issues etc. Please contact the PFA to ensure your issues and specific area concerns are included within our submission.

Williamstown Contamination

Based on discussions that we have had with the Department of Defence, I have created some initial **DRAFT** compensation claim templates that we have sent to the Department for their Lawyers advice – THIS DOES NOT COMMIT FISHERS TO ANYTHING. It is simply seeking advice regarding what information is required by the Department of Defence's lawyers if fishers were to seek financial compensation directly from the Department. The PFA still **STRONGLY** recommends you speak to your own lawyers before deciding on any action you may take. PFA is also awaiting the Report from the Senate Committee Inquiry – this information is expected in February.

Your Input to Seafood Direction Conference 2017

Seafood Directions is the premier seafood industry conference **is an opportunity for stakeholders of the seafood industry to come together and to discuss current and strategic issues and opportunities at a national forum.** The 2017 Seafood Directions is taking place in Sydney, New South Wales under the guidance of the NSW SIC. The 2017 Seafood Directions Organising Committee has commenced discussions about next year's conference and is seeking your input to help guide the planning process and **ensure attendees get value out of the event.** We would appreciate less than five minutes of your time in completing the following short survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZYB2YWL>

AUTOTETHER Marine Wireless Safety Lanyard

Unfortunately, the sole Australian Supplier for the Autotether has decided to no longer supply these devices. The PFA is trying to source and encourage other suppliers of the device. As soon as this is finalised we shall advise members of the new contact for this important, life saving device.

Productivity Commission: new inquiry - Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture

The PFA is preparing its response to the Productivity Commission regarding their Inquiry into Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture. The Commission has invited interested parties to register their interest into the inquiry. The inquiry will focus on opportunities to increase productivity and competitiveness, and assess if there is scope to improve fisheries regulation without compromising on environmental or fishery policy objectives. The Commission will produce both a draft and final report, and will hold public hearings. More information is available from the Commission's website: <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/fisheries-aquaculture>

Call for 2017 Industry Research Priorities

The PFA has been asked to provide advice to the FRDC on industry's Research priorities. Commercial fishing industry RD&E priorities for the 2017 round need to be based on its **future information needs**. Therefore, the PFA is seeking the following advice from all fishers: **Project description; Need for the project; and Planned outcomes of the project**. Please provide your responses to the PFA before COB on **Monday 29th February 2016**.

PFA/AMSA SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WORKSHOPS

Region	Date	Location	Time	Venue
Far North Coast	Wed 17 Feb	Yamba	0900-1400	TBC – Ballina RSL
	Thurs. 18 Feb	Ballina	0900-1400	TBC – Yamba Bowling Club
	Friday 19 Feb	Tweed	0900-1400	TBC – Twin Towns RSL
Metro	Thurs 25 Feb	Hawkesbury	0900-1400	TBC – Brooklyn Community Hall
	Fri 26 Feb	Sydney	0900-1400	Sydney Fish Markets
South Coast	Tues 1 Mar	Ulladulla	0900-1400	TBC – Ulladulla Fishermen's Co-Op
	Wed 2 Mar	Bermagui	0900-1400	TBC – Bermagui Fishermen's Co-Op
	Thurs. 3 Mar	Eden	0900-1400	TBC – Southland Fish Supplies
North Coast	Fri 11 Mar	Coffs Harbour	0900-1400	TBC – Yacht Club
Mid North Coast	Tues 22 Mar	Newcastle	0900-1400	Newcastle Fishermen's Coop
	Wed 23 Mar	Foster-Tuncurry	0900-1400	TBC – Tuncurry Bowling Club
	Thurs 24 Mar	Port Macquarie	0900-1400	TBC

The content of this update is provided for information purposes only. The information on these updates are provided on the basis that all persons accessing the information undertake their own responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of it.