

*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)*

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## **OUTCOMES OF PFA COM MEETING**

The PFA COM met today to review its activities for the last quarter and discuss future possible issues. We met with representatives from the productivity commission, Sydney Fish Markets and the Coalition of Wildcaught Fishers. Specifically, we spoke with the Coalition on industry representation, and issues surrounding the MEMA proposals and the Reform. The Coalition and PFA agreed to work together on issues in common so industry can provide a strong unity voice. Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of this meeting in further detail.

## **WILLIAMTOWN CONTAMINATION COMPENSATION MEETING**

To ALL affected fishers.

Where: Newcastle Co-op meeting room.

When: Tuesday 5th April at 3pm

Report on meeting with Defence Council regarding possible compensation held 31/03.

## **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REVIEW OF FISHERIES**

The Commission would like to hear from commercial fishers on the specific problems and/or opportunities for improvement that you have observed in relation to the regulation of commercial fishing. Your answers to the questions will inform the Commission's recommendations to the Australian Government. The PFA is preparing its submission and welcomes member's input into this or you can go to the following website directly. An extension of a further 2 weeks has been given. <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/fisheries-aquaculture/commercial-fishers-have-your-say>

If you want further information on this survey, you can contact Troy Podbury on 02 6240 3257 or [troy.podbury@pc.gov.au](mailto:troy.podbury@pc.gov.au).

## **INVITATION TO 2ND MEETING ON THE HAWKESBURY SHELF MARINE BIOREGION ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION PAPER - SYDNEY FISH MARKETS, WED 6 APRIL 9.30AM-12.30PM**

To commercial fishing shareholders in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion (Hunter River south to Lake Illawarra)

The NSW Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) is progressing with the assessment of the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion (the Assessment). The Assessment is identifying options to enhance marine biodiversity conservation balanced with multiple uses of the bioregion, including boating, fishing, diving, shipping, swimming, education and research. The Assessment area extends from Newcastle to Shellharbour, and includes the coastline, estuaries, coastal lakes and lagoons, beaches and ocean waters to three nautical miles.

An initial round of stakeholder and community engagement was carried out in mid-2015 to identify the NSW community's environmental, social and economic values and benefits derived from the bioregion, and threats to those benefits, and to nominate sites for consideration in the assessment. A second round of engagement is currently underway between 29 Feb – 24 April 2016 and a Discussion Paper has been released (see [www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au)).

A first meeting with commercial fishers with shares in the bioregion was held in Newcastle on 22 March (approx. 12 attendees). DPI Fisheries, on behalf of MEMA, is hosting a **second meeting** with commercial fishers with shares in the bioregion to:

- provide you with an update on the Assessment including the findings of the threat and risk assessment (TARA) for the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion based on input from the community and technical experts
- seek your feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the eight suggested management initiatives and additional or alternative initiatives
- answer any questions you may have regarding the Assessment and the process followed.

**The second meeting is planned on Wed 6 April from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the Sydney Fish Markets Exhibition Room, Pyrmont.**

Please **RSVP by 5pm Monday, 4 April 2016** to Joyce Paterson on (02) 4916 3919 or email [joyce.paterson@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:joyce.paterson@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and advise if you are attending the meeting. Further background information on the Assessment and the Discussion Paper and supporting background reports is available at: [www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment)

If you have any enquiries regarding this email please contact Peter Gallagher, Program Leader, Marine Environment on (02) 4916 3875 or 0408 499 071 or email [Peter.Gallagher@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Gallagher@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

## **SEAFOOD FORUM TO CONSIDER FUTURE PEAK BODY REPRESENTATION (FED)**

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Anne Ruston, yesterday opened an industry forum that will consider the establishment of a national seafood industry peak body. Minister Ruston said the forum would allow the commercial seafood sector to consider and agree on the next steps toward the development of a national peak body-an initiative the Coalition Government has supported by committing \$535,000 to assist in its formation. "Australia's fisheries and aquaculture production is forecast to reach a value of \$2.9 billion in 2015-16. It makes an outstanding contribution to our national economy, particularly when you consider that more than half of our national production-or \$1.7 billion-is forecast to be exported this year," Minister Ruston said.

For further information, please visit the United Seafood Industries project website [www.unitedseafoodindustries.com.au](http://www.unitedseafoodindustries.com.au), or contact Katherine Winchester on 0488 030 429.

## **PFA EO LEAVE**

Just a reminder – I will be on leave from 11 April through to 17 May 2016 to visit family overseas and will therefore only be contactable through email. The PFA Directors and I are working closely together to ensure there is only minimal disruption to the services we provide during my absence.

*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.*