

*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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## **COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SUBSIDY PROGRAM - Preview share trading market**

Fishers registered to participate in the preview share trading market will receive an email early next week with information on how the subsidy will be allocated. In particular you will learn more about how the trading program will prioritise bids to buy placed by 'active' businesses with a share deficit and without a share deficit, how package offers will be dealt with, and bids to buy placed by 'inactive' businesses in each share class.

Of real interest to fishers is that active fishers with a deficit (meaning that you don't have the minimum shareholding level) will be prioritised in terms of subsidy and share allocation.

This information will be provided in two attachments, a 'Market principles' brochure and an updated 'Things you need to know' brochure. The preview share trading market will commence Monday 17 October 2016. If you have any questions call the Business Adjustment Program information hotline on 1300 726 488.

## **PFA PIPI WORKSHOP**

The DPI has agreed for the PFA to hold a workshop to discuss the interim management arrangements for the pipi fishery. This workshop needs to be held prior to the regular date of the pipi closure so that workshop participants can discuss the latest stock results and management arrangements to be able to put forward an industry position to DPI.

Dates and venue for the workshop are being sorted but will likely be in November - we will advise members as soon as its settled. Places will be limited to attend the workshop. DPI have agreed to cover the cost of the workshop venue, food and a facilitator/expert, so all attendees need to cover their own costs of travel and accommodation.

Please contact the PFA if you would like to be involved in the workshop.

## **WILLIAMTOWN CONTAMINATION**

We are currently working with a range of stakeholders to progress a promotional strategy for marketing Hunter Seafood and address any consumer concerns regarding contamination issues. The Coop & Sydney Fish Market are all contributing funds towards the strategy and are awaiting advice from the Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding possible contributions. DPI Fisheries has also kindly agreed to provide further funding to the project - the first meeting to discuss this will be held shortly. No response so far from Department of Defence regarding any contributions. In the meantime, PFA has requested the FRDC (Fisheries Research and Development Corporation) for funding to conduct independent market research to identify the feeling of the Seafood consuming public, so as to be able to target any marketing as best as possible. We await the outcome.

## **NSW Research Advisory Council**

The first meeting of the NSW Fisheries Research Advisory Council was held yesterday in Sydney. This committee advises the Fisheries Research Development Corporation regarding research funding priorities and related matters for NSW. PFA submitted a number of research funding priority ideas that were discussed and the following will be submitted to FRDC as high priorities for the development of full research applications.

- Investigation into the mortality and downgrading in the quality of crabs and lobster due to transport and handling (extension element to be incorporated)
  - Barriers in uptake of safety gear/PPE in the NSW commercial fishing industry (research, redesign and extension)
  - Investigation into the impact of the parasite (Kudoa) that degrades flesh quality of Mahi Mahi and Kingfish when cooked and ways to either mitigate or identify its presence.
  - Quantifying the value of community engagement (Oceanwatch, supported by PFA)
  - Urgent research study to assist target seafood marketing campaign to restore consumer confidence after Hunter River fishing closure due to contamination.
- Agreed to be Deferred for further discussion by the NSW RAC pending more information**
- Investigation into live eel export and garfish stock structure proposals from the PFA were agreed to be deferred pending more information.

## 1<sup>st</sup> AID COURSES

**Please make sure that your First Aid Certificates are up to day** – First Aid training certification are for 3 years and it is far easier to “refresh” and existing certification than it is to have to redo the whole course because too much time has elapsed. ALSO There has been a request from a number of PFA members in the Coffs region to hold a First Aid Training Course. Could you please contact the PFA office if you are interested in be included in this course in Coffs Harbour or would like one organised for your area?

## Clarence EPT Early Opening Consultation - Early opening and late closing

A number of shareholders have expressed interest in opening the river early this season. The general consensus by these shareholders is that conditions to catch prawns will be good and that the river should be opened the full 15 days early. Your views on opening the river early may be provided verbally or in writing direct to a local DPI Fisheries Officer. All views will be collated and considered. DPI may also engage the local industry-established EPT committee for further advice, if needed. Phone or email the local DPI Fisheries Office on:

T: 02 6645 0500 | M: 0419 185 533 E: [stephen.ward@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen.ward@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Or Contact the PFA

## BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION OF CLARENCE RIVER

The PFA has requested a meeting with Harwood Pacifico and other stakeholders to discuss the potential loss of access of fishing grounds on the Clarence River both permanently and during construction. The meeting with Harwood Pacifico representatives will be held at Yamba on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Both myself and Glenn Dawson will attend on behalf of PFA. Places are very limited but if you are also interested in attending please contact me ASAP.

## AMSA COST RECOVERY

Please add your voice **against** the proposed two options for the introduction of a length-based levy on Domestic Commercial Vessels as a form of cost recovery for the services AMSA will deliver to industry under the National System. The PFA has made a number of submissions strongly against the proposed levy options, as will industry associations around Australia, but to have the most impact we need as many of our industry members as possible to make their own submissions – **numbers matter!** If you have any questions or need help completing the form or accessing the online submission process, please contact Nicole at the PFA Office (tel 6652 7374). Hard copies are also available at the PFA Office.

**Here's what to do** – Submit the AMSA online questionnaire:

<https://www.ivvy.com/event/YNMMKR/> **by Monday 10 October 2016**