

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)

BUYERS WALKOUT OF SFM OVER FEES

Fishers across NSW were upset and potentially left out of pocket today when the seafood buyers conducted another walkout of the Sydney Fish Market. A group of buyers walked out of the markets today in protest of a new buyer service fee to help contribute to the increasing operating costs of the SFM site. As you know, fishers pay fees as well as the tenants but, to date, the seafood buyers have not paid any additional contribution to use the market services. SFM has implemented a charge of 2% – the walkouts are in protest of the new charge.

SFM advised that over the last 5 years, their costs have significantly increased:

- the repairs and maintenance costs have gone up by 54% (because of the aging facility).
- Council rates have gone up by 88%,
- land taxes have gone up by 556%,
- waste disposal costs have gone up 279%.

Previously, these costs have been absorbed but SFM believe that costs will increase further and that they must seek ways to address it now. The 2% fee (capped at max of \$20,000) to the merchants was preferable to increasing the charges on the seafood suppliers - who already significantly contribute through commission charges. SFM have assured us that sales are still occurring through private negotiations – they are doing everything they can to sell the product on behalf of the suppliers. If it can't be sold today it will be looked after and sold early next week. If any supplier has concerned please contact SFM directly (phone 02 9004 1104). It is disappointing to see that while SFM and buyers negotiate over this the fishers are the ones that suffer the most. However, SFM has assured the PFA that management and staff doing everything they can to minimise the impact on suppliers. We will keep members informed as we learn more.

PFA EELS INDUSTRY MEETING - MARKET STUDY

Two industry meetings are planned to provide a briefing on the PFA project: Developing a Niche Market for Australian Wild Caught Eels into China and gather information to help start the market research for the project. This first meeting is open to all eel fishers (both PFA and non-PFA) but the project beneficiaries will be the PFA eel fishing members.

DATE: Friday 11 August 2017
TIME: 10am
VENUE: Newcastle Commercial Fishermen's Cooperative,

DATE: Friday 18 August 2017
TIME: 11am
VENUE: Clarence Valley - TBA,
RSVP: PFA admin@pfai.com.au or 02 6652 7374

PFA response - Dusky Shark, Blue Sharks and White Spotted Guitarfish

PFA has been advised that there is a proposal to include Dusky Sharks on the new CMS listings as Matters of National Environmental Significance under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). We have immediately protested this inclusion. We will be coordinating with Seafood Industry Australia our response and understand that the NSW DPI has already protested the listing.

PFA & NSWIC Response to Pinkeye Mullet

The PFA and NSW Seafood Industry Council worked together to respond to the Commonwealth's Dept. of Environment & Energy's invitation to comment on the proposal to list pinkeye mullet as a threatened

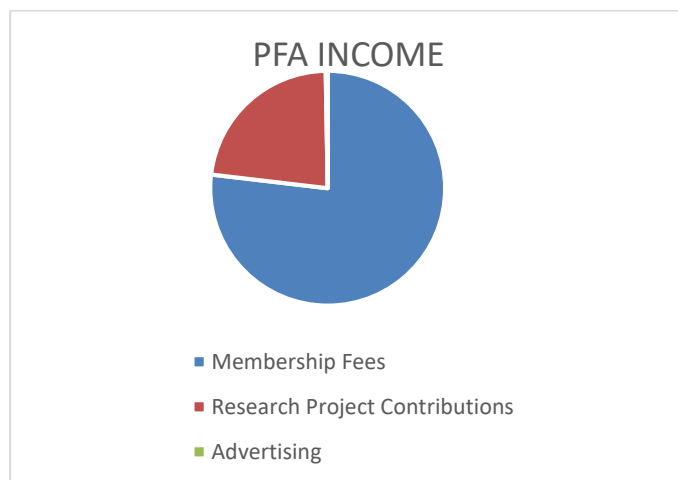
species under the EPBC Act threatened species list. Based on the information provided in the Consultation Document it is obvious that Pinkeye Mullet should not be further considered for listing. The actual whole process was concerning as the information was heavily lacking and yet still required a full consultation, resource draining exercise to protest an obvious – we have certainly made complaints to the Commonwealth Government regarding the listing process and its use against our industry.

SEIMSIK SURVEY

The Environment Impact Plan for the PEP11 Seismic Survey off Newcastle, submitted by Advent Energy, was protested by both PFA and the Newcastle Commercial Fishermen's Cooperative. The National overseeing body for petroleum activities, NOPSEMA, advised that the Environment Plan has been rejected due to its "deficiencies". We will continue to be involved in this process. The PFA will also continue to lobby for the licence to be cancelled or bought back as it is completely inappropriate for there to even be a site off the Newcastle/Sydney coastline for petroleum exploration.

PFA FINANCES

We've had a couple of concerned members contact us due to rumours about the PFA finances – specifically that we receive payments from DPI. The only time PFA has received any payments from DPI was for reimbursement of travel expenses – nothing more. The research project contribution is provided through the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC is a statutory corporation based in Canberra that provides leadership and coordination of seafood research) and Advent Energy (Seismic surveys). I have also prepared a chart featured here based on last our income for the last financial year 2016/17. I also invite members to attend the AGMs in which our financial records are available for viewing.



PFA and the Australian Institute of Marine Surveyors

As you would remember, the PFA has aligned with the Australian Institute of Marine Surveyors (AIMS) to provide better services to members. PFA members can register their vessel details and receive assistance and notifications from AIMS when the vessel is due for survey etc. The info page is live and can be found on the home page of their AIMS website or here <https://www.aimsurveyors.com.au/PFA-Membership-Info>. There is a drop-down tab from the PFA MEMBERSHIP INFO bar if you want to register your info.

IMPORTANT INFO re REFORM KEY DATES

Adjustment Subsidy Program - Upcoming key dates

31 August - transfer forms must be received by DPI if you wish to transfer any of the following shares:

- Estuary general – meshing – Regions 1 – 7**
- Estuary general – mud crab trapping – Regions 1 – 7**
- Estuary general – trapping – Regions 1 – 7**
- Estuary general – category one hauling – Regions 1 – 7**
- Estuary general – eel trapping – Regions 1 – 7**
- Ocean hauling – garfish net (hauling) – Regions 1 - 7**
- Ocean trap and line – spanner crab north**
- Ocean trap and line – spanner crab south**

30 September - shareholder eligibility for new quota shares determined

31 October - snapshot date to determine management fees for share managed fisheries

1 December - new share linkage arrangements commence, and applications for fishing business buyout payments and low interest rate loans close

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.