

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)

LABOR INTRODUCES BILL FOR SEAFOOD ORIGIN LABELLING

In yesterday's NSW Parliament, David Mehan MP, Labor Member for The Entrance, tabled an important bill to introduce compulsory seafood origin labelling to thereby provide consumers with a greater understanding of where their seafood produce comes from and promote Australian seafood. The PFA welcomes this bill and fully supports its introduction. We have been involved in long negotiations with both the Federal and NSW Government regarding seafood origin labelling over the last few years. Earlier in the year the Deputy Premier Troy Grant announced that they would instigate Seafood Origin Labelling in NSW however, this has still been undergoing discussions. We hope that the bill will have the support it needs in the NSW Parliament to be passed and legislated. It is now time for the Government, restaurants, seafood suppliers and professional fishers to work together on the most cost-effective way of providing Seafood Origin labelling. A sensible lead-in period is supported by the PFA to avoid unreasonable costs being passed on to fishers and seafood consumers.

NATIVE TITLE – ADVICE RE YA EGL DETERMINATION

On 25 June 2015 and 31 August 2017, the Yaegl People's native title rights were formally recognised through orders of the Federal Court. The two native title claims (Yaegl #1 NSD6052/1998 and Yaegl #2 NSD168/2011 (Part A)) covered land and waters on the north coast of NSW including the estuarine waters of the Clarence River in and around Yamba and Iluka and in areas between Woody Head in the north and Wooli in the south, and extending westward to (but not including) Ulmarra. Native title rights over the seaward extent of the original Yaegl #2 claim, which was excluded from the determination made in 2015, were later recognised on 31 August 2017 (Yaegl #2 NSD168/2011 (Part B)). **This is the first time that native title rights over sea country have been recognised in NSW.** The range of native title rights now formally recognised for the Yaegl People includes the right to "fish and gather resources in the determination areas in accordance with traditional laws and customs for **non-commercial use**. These native title rights are **non-exclusive**, meaning others are able to continue to undertake and enjoy fishing activities in accordance with the rules applicable to their activities from time to time. Where the Yaegl People's right to fish and gather resources have been recognised, this means that they can do so for non-commercial use according to their traditional laws and customs, with recognition that traditional ways of fishing evolve over time and use of modern materials and methods exists. Although much of the fishing activities will be in accordance with NSW fishing laws, the Yaegl People **are not bound by all of these laws when exercising their native title right to fish and gather resources for non-commercial use.** For example, where non-prescribed fishing gear is used for a traditional purpose or extensions to catch limits are necessary to fulfil cultural needs. **A determination of native title rights over water is not exclusive and allows the waters and natural resources to be shared with other rights and interests in the same area.**

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/735640/Yaegl-Native-Title-and-Fishing.pdf

PFAs PFOA ALERT FOR TUGGERAH

NSW EPA Preliminary sampling has shown PFAS detections at Munmorah and Colongra Power Station sites. Fishing in these canals is not permitted. Additional testing to be undertaken will include fish sampling around the power stations and in the wider Tuggerah Lakes System.

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/community/Munmorah-and-Colongra-Power-stations-PFAS-Sept-2017.pdf>

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Southern Fish Trawl Transition Meeting

The meeting will provide advice and seek information re the integration process of the NSW Southern Fish Trawl Fishery into the Commonwealth Trawl Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.

DATE: Tuesday 26th September 2017
TIME: 4pm (after PFA COM meeting)
VENUE: Sydney Fish Market

For more information regarding the process please go to

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/consultation/working-groups/-southern-fish-trawl-transitioning-working-group>

PFA & DPI EEL MEETING RE QUOTA REPORTING

The PFA requested a meeting today with DPI and some eel fishers to seek clarification on the quota reporting arrangements determined for the NSW Commercial Eel Fishery.

We raised concerns regarding:

- reporting requirement via smartphones vs reception issues for our phones
- validating scales' weight and issues of marks on the eels due to additional handling
- returning unmarketable eels to waters

The DPI identified a couple of pathway forwards in dealing with these issues and PFA is preparing an advisory note for our members about how to tackle some of these issues (how to weigh the eels, how to validate your weights, improving mobile phone reception etc.) The main thing is that eel fishers will be required to provide a report via smart phone (or alternate) before landing or transferring the eels to their holding pen etc. PFA is urging a common-sense approach to compliance and will discuss further with the DPI. The meeting also identified some possible solutions to members' concerns which we will be working with DPI on how to resolve (returning eels and marking it off quota etc).

PFA COM MEETING

Reminder the next PFA Committee of Management (CoM) meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 26 September** at the Sydney Fish Markets. PFA members are invited to attend the meeting and discussions from 11am onwards. Lunch as always is provided. The meeting will include presentations from DPI Fisheries, AIMS, Biosecurity NSW and AMSA.

The meeting will be open to non-PFA members from noon onwards – all welcome

The Southern Fish Trawl Transition Meeting will be held straight afterwards.

FOR SALE/TO BUY

Wanted OFFSHORE PRAWN TRAWL SHARES OR INSHORE PRAWN TRAWL SHARES WITH 1 Share attached to endorsement. Contact 0414 865 495 – jasper88@live.com.au

SEAFOOD DIRECTIONS CONFERENCE

For those of you who cannot attend SEAFOOD DIRECTIONS 2017

I'm pleased to advise that the Live Streaming link is now live! Information, terms and conditions is available on their website. So just follow the link to register

<http://www.seafooddirectionsconference.com/pages/live-streaming.html>

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.