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## **PFA REJECTS CALLS FOR MORE NO-FISHING RESERVES**

The PFA has done several TV interviews and newspaper articles responding to recent calls by various lobby groups and ill-informed researchers to increase the number of “no-fishing” reserves and marine parks in NSW. A recent anti-fishing scientific paper and the whale entanglement is being used by pro-MPA lobbyist to push for more Marine Parks and no-fishing zones. The PFA has rejected these statements and their flawed reasoning.

Graham J. Edgar, Trevor J. Ward and Rick D. Stuart-Smith's recent research article, “Rapid declines across Australian fishery stocks indicate global sustainability targets will not be achieved without an expanded network of ‘no-fishing’ reserves. The basic premise of the paper is not supported by any evidence or credible scientific literature on Australia's fisheries or fish-stock levels publicly available. The paper' is based on data related to 190 species, however only 11 of these are commercially caught. With more than 600 species commercially caught in Australia it is impossible to make inferences about the entire commercial fishing industry, from questionable data, which covers not even 2 per cent of the catch.

<https://www.facebook.com/Prime7NewsNorthCoast/videos/2171208889562882/UzpfSTQ0OTczMDc0MTg0NTlyMDoxMDI3Mzk5MjE0MDc4MzY3/>

## **BEWARE SUBMERGED CONTAINERS**

The PFA and Newcastle's Commercial Fishermen's Cooperative (CFC) have been working with RMS and AMSA to highlight the potential hazard that lost containers present to commercial fishing vessels.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) are leading the clean-up and are working closely with the private company contracted by the ships insurers to identify and recover containers and any debris lost from the ship. AMSA's team have had discussions with RMS to track and recover the lost containers, including using the Australian Defence Force's sonar for scanning the sea bottom. So far radar and satellite imagery has not been able to look for the sunken containers – only semi-floating.

After discussions with RMS we also understand they are working with the Navy to deploy some hydrographic capability soon to attempt to pin-point potential obstructions and issue more specific warnings to fishers, before any removal operation. In the meantime, discussions are happening between the vessel's insurers and RMS/AMSA re powers of intervention and investigation.

The PFA and CFC are pushing for urgent salvaging operations to remove the containers from or nearby to commercial fishing grounds. We will keep all members up to date with as much information as we learn more.

## **SOUTHERN FISH TRAWL NEGOTIATIONS**

PFA recently made enquiries to the Minister's Office and Department to clarify statements made by the Recreational Fishing of NSW Alliance that they had negotiated a compensation based closure of the Southern Fish Trawl Fishery. It is clear that the information and deals are coming from the RFA, not the Government. The government has advised the following:

- ***no decisions have been made about the Southern Fish Trawl. We are still awaiting advice from the working group following their final meeting.***
- ***any further consultation on behalf of the Government relating to the Southern Fish Trawl would be undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries.***

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## QUOTA ALLOCATION

The Independent Allocation Panel (IAP) established by the Minister for Primary Industries in October 2017 has today submitted their Final Reports to the Minister's Office providing recommendations on a basis for allocation of quota shares for a range of nominated species in the following commercial fishing share classes in NSW:

- Ocean Trawl – Inshore/Offshore Prawn & Northern Fish Trawl share classes;
- Ocean Trap and Line – Line East share class;
- Ocean Haul – Purse Seine share class; and
- Estuary General – Hand Gathering share classes.

**Please note that the final reports will be disseminated to shareholders and industry by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. This will occur once the NSW Government has time to consider the IAP report and their response.**

## FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVE RENT RELIEF EXTENDED

The NSW Government has announced a deal in which commercial fishing cooperatives across will be offered a deal in which they will receive 50 per cent waiver available until 30 June 2020. It will be conditional on co-ops working closely with the Small Business Commissioner to ensure they are putting best business practices in place for the future. The NSW Government has also extended the Rural Assistance Authority \$30,000 grant on offer to help co-ops obtain independent specialist advice until 30 September 2018.

## DPI DISCUSSION PAPERS

The DPI has released a series of discussion papers. Go to <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/reform> to download the papers. Responses are due this MONDAY! The PFA response will include the following issues raised by our members:

- Concerns re the post landing reporting requirement for within 0.1g of the weight
- Concern re the limitation on Big-eye ocean, ocean reef and orange perch daily take limit in the fish northern zone of 100kg combined and Deepwater Prawn of 100kg combined
- Issues that Trawl post landing report in required within 3 hrs. issues with this include:
  - Prawn trawls forced to return after 24 hr requirement having to wait for coop staff to arrive to offload e.g. may finish fishing at midnight, but staff don't arrive until 5am to offload.
  - Fishers resting at port in between fishing days being forced to offload to report
- Support for the prelanding report requiring "The estimated total weight of each quota species taken on that trip"

Please let us know your thoughts on these issues or any other proposal raised in the papers. Submissions close to DPI Monday, 11 June 2018. PFA will put together a submission on behalf of our members so please let us know your thoughts before Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June. As always, we will provide a draft of our comments to members for feedback prior to this date.

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## NEW TRAINING PACKAGE CONSULTATION

The Seafood industry training package is currently under review. Consultations workshops have been organised for NSW, details are below. Register for face-to-face consultation workshops taking place in July and August, to provide feedback on draft qualifications, skill sets and units.

### Face-to-Face Consultation Workshops

\* 2 Aug 18, 10:00 – 13:00 – Sydney, NSW – register here (<https://skillsimpact.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2281c3aa61660e99d343ac368&id=1d530c7820&e=e566b32a84>)

\* 3 Aug 18, 10:00 – 13:00 – Coffs Harbour, NSW – register here (<https://skillsimpact.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2281c3aa61660e99d343ac368&id=8f694f2b8b&e=e566b32a84>)

### Consultation Webinars

\* 27 Jul 18, 11:00 AEST – Webinar – register here (<https://skillsimpact.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2281c3aa61660e99d343ac368&id=1bc9be43d6&e=e566b32a84>)

\* 27 Jul 18, 14:00 AEST – Webinar – register here (<https://skillsimpact.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2281c3aa61660e99d343ac368&id=ab41dc04d2&e=e566b32a84>)

\* 9 Aug 18, 11:00 AEST – Webinar – register here (<https://skillsimpact.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2281c3aa61660e99d343ac368&id=736c3e2793&e=e566b32a84>)

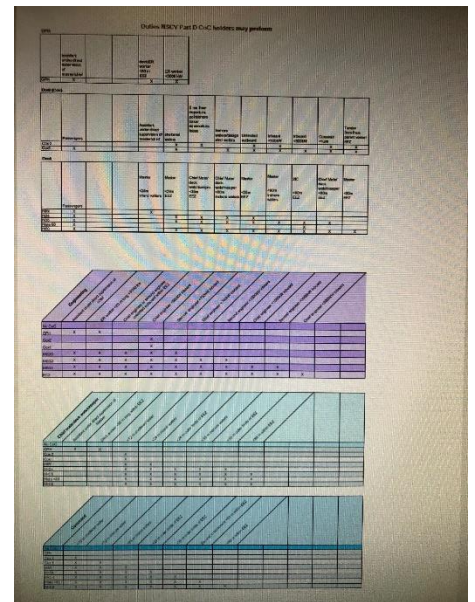
\* 9 Aug 18, 14:00 AEST – Webinar – register here (<https://skillsimpact.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2281c3aa61660e99d343ac368&id=b590653ba8&e=e566b32a84>)

\* 13 Aug 18, 11:00 AEST – Webinar – register here (<https://skillsimpact.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2281c3aa61660e99d343ac368&id=6dc05db76c&e=e566b32a84>)

\* 13 Aug 18, 14:00 AEST – Webinar – register here (<https://skillsimpact.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2281c3aa61660e99d343ac368&id=52aa338674&e=e566b32a84>)

## AMSA QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

AMSA agreed to consider developing an easy to read flow chart for industry around what qualifications are required for a particular type of operation and vessel. We have attached the full version of this document to the email. Please contact the PFA if you wish us to re-email it to you. The attached document should provide some understanding of your certification requirements.



**The following advice has been provided directly by the DPI for the PFA. We intend to constantly have this direct communication from DPI available to our members as we believe it is important to have these DPI statements or reminders. If you have questions re the info please contact DPI directly.**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DPI FISHERIES

### Key dates

- Mon 11 June** Closing date for submissions on DPI consultation papers (see <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/reform/icp>)
- Fri 29 June** IAP final advice due to government for the Southern Fish Trawl Restricted Fishery
- Sun 1 July** Start of new fishing (quota) period for mud crab, blue swimmer crab, spanner crab, eel and eastern sea garfish – annual quota will be issued by this date
- Mon 2 July** Snapshot date for 2018/19 management charges (charges will be calculated based on shareholdings on this date)
- Fri 6 July** Closing date for applications to correct fishing activity records relevant to the Independent Allocation Panel process

### Reminder about services available using FisherDirect

FisherDirect is an online system that allows fishing business owners, commercial fishers, fishing boat licence holders and their appointed agents to complete their own transactions, such as:

- catch and effort reporting
- transfer of shares and fishing businesses
- transfer of quota
- replace licence/fishing business cards
- authorise/revoke fisher
- appoint agents
- post advertisements for sale and trade
- view information on quota, fishing business and licence transactions
- view and pay invoices using a credit card through a secure gateway
- renew a Commercial Fishing Licence or Fishing Boat Licence.

Online self-service is faster and for some transactions, avoids a processing fee.

You can apply for a FisherDirect account by downloading the form on the website:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/fishonline/register-for-fishonline>

### Fishing Business share transfers unavailable 25 June to 1 July 2018

Please be aware that FisherDirect will be unavailable for share and business transfers in the last week of June during the allocation of catch quota for the 2018/19 fishing period (mud crab, blue swimmer crab, eels, spanner crab, eastern sea garfish). Likewise, paper-based fishing business and share transfers will not be processed during this time.

If you wish to make such transfers online, please ensure they are completed before 22 June 2018.

Since paper-based transfers take more time to complete, applications need to be received by FBS no later than 15 June 2018.

### Commercial Fisheries hotline - 1300 726 488

*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.*