

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 Chief Executive Officer (0429303371)

NOTICE OF PFA AGM

All PFA members are advised that the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will take place on **Friday the 30th of November** at the **Maclean RSL**. The AGM will be your opportunity to hear firsthand from Directors on the progression of PFA over the past 12 months. We ask you to keep a look-out for additional information which will be sent to you in the next week.

QUOTA ALLOCATION

We are taking the following approach on this issue for our members:

1. We are currently assisting members in validating their catch records and preparing their appeals through the Government Appeal Process.
2. We are organising to meet with the Minister to discuss impacts to fishers of the quota arrangements, industry viability issues and to seek additional assistance measures for fishers.
3. We are discussing with the DPI scientists the justification for the TAC levels of specific species. DPI has adhered to their processes and everything has been approved by the NSW Government – we now need to understand and investigate the justifications and organise to provide further information to increase the TAC for the following years.
4. We recognise that there are fishers calling for legal action – as PFA is a representative body it is unable to support a member's legal dispute contrary to other members. Unfortunately, the linkage arrangements have significantly divided the industry in its allocation methods and processes.

NOMINATION TO PFA COM

As members of the PFA you have the opportunity to nominate a fellow PFA member from your region to a position on the PFA Committee of Management. In accordance with the PFA Constitution, each position is **elected alternatively**. The following positions are up for re-election and nominations are being called:

PFA Region	Current PFA Directors	Positions Currently Available for nomination
1	Gary Bordin	Gary Bordin's position available
2	Troy Billin & Glenn Dawson	Glenn Dawson's position
3	Geoff Blackburn & Heath Little	Heath Little's position
4a	Vacant	1 position available
4b	Ross Fidden & Brett Bollinger	Brett Bollinger position
5	Richard (Diego) Bagnato & Gary Howard	Gary Howard's position
6	NA	1 position available
7	NA	1 position available

The CoM will meet a minimum of four times per year and this can be by teleconference or face to face meetings. Access to emails is an essential component of the Director being able to adequately represent his/her region. The role of the CoM is one of managing the strategic and operational direction of the PFA with the day to day work of the association undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer. Nominations are now called for the aforementioned positions on the PFA's CoM. A

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minimum of **2 PFA nominations** must be received for that person to be eligible to run. If there are more than 2 nominees for the region an election process will be held (e.g. election or postal ballot depending on costs). Nominees must come from the specific region. The elected Director for each region will be accepted at the PFA's AGM, to be held on Friday 30 November 2018 at the **MACLEAN RSL**.

Please contact Tricia Beatty if you would like more information and enclosed is the nomination form for the 2016 election process. Nominations must be received by the PFA office by **Monday 12th November 2018**. Forms can be emailed to admin@pfai.com.au or posted to 69 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES

At the PFA AGM, members will vote on seven (7) proposed special resolutions to amend and update the PFA Constitution. Specifically, changes are required to the PFA constitution to both update it and to provide clarification. A copy of the proposed amendments has been emailed to members or posted to those without email addresses. Proxy forms are available.

- Amendment 1: Section 2.A Membership qualifications
- Amendment 2: Part 2.B: Affiliated Member
- Amendment 3: S11 Disciplining of members.
- Amendment 4: S26 (2) Quorum for general meetings
- Amendment 5: S38 Inspection of books
- Addition 1. Allowance for electronic and postal ballots
- Addition 2. Allowance for Use of Technology at General Meetings

CARP MAPPING

Community help is needed to map carp populations. CARPMAP <https://carpmap.org.au> is an online survey tool to support community surveillance of carp aggregations. Launched by the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP), CARPMAP is being developed by YOU.

WHITE'S SEAHORSE

Public submissions are invited during the consultation period for the proposed determination to list White's Seahorse (*Hippocampus whitei*) as a threatened species. The independent NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee (FSC) has reviewed information on White's Seahorse and found that it is facing a very high risk of extinction in the near future and is eligible to be listed as endangered. By listing White's Seahorse as a threatened species, it will provide additional protection, and priorities for supporting the recovery of the species will be established. White's Seahorse is a small seahorse known to occur in estuaries from Lake Illawarra on the NSW South Coast to Hervey Bay in Queensland. The listing of White's Seahorse as a threatened species will have no impact on recreational or commercial fishers in NSW as this species is already listed as a protected species and cannot be taken without a permit. Copies of the proposed determination are available at the Department's head office, district fisheries offices, or on the DPI website <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/threatened-species/fsc/proposed-determinations>. The proposed determination is on exhibition from Wednesday 24 October to Monday 26 November.

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Spot anything unusual?

Share with **REDMAP** your photos of marine life that aren't usually found at your local fishing, swimming or diving spots.

Help REDMAP track marine species that may be shifting into new areas in response to changes in your local seas, such as ocean warming. Check out all the fish, rays, sharks, octopus, turtles and more spotted by Australians around the country at:

Download the **FREE** App at:

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CREWING REQUIREMENTS FROM AMSA

Guidance on crewing of domestic commercial vessels as per Schedule 1 Clause 6— Resources and personnel of *Marine Order 504 (Certificates of operation and operation requirements – national law)*. Schedule 1 applies to all vessels other than class 4 vessels.

<https://www.amsa.gov.au/vessels-operators/domestic-commercial-vessels/crewing-guidance-domestic-commercial-vessels>

Can a vessel be operated with one crew member?

A vessel may be operated with only one crew member if:

- the vessel is less than 12 metres in length, and
- the owner has determined—through a documented crewing evaluation—that one person is sufficient to manage all on board procedures and risks associated with the operation.

Example 2

The owner of a 9 metre fishing vessel operating on the Brisbane River for up to 10 hours at a time, has determined that the appropriate crewing for the vessel consists of one person.

This evaluation took into account all factors affecting the operation of the vessel, including the area of operation, duration of voyages, fatigue, duties required of the crew, the equipment carried by the vessel, the emergency procedures in place, and the support available to the vessel.

The minimum crewing for this vessel is **one certified crew member**—the master. In this case the appropriate crewing and the minimum crewing are the same.

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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.

MESSAGE FROM NSW DPI FISHERIES

Key dates

- 5 Nov 2018 New Determination Certificates will be sent to estuary general prawning shareholders to notify the number of ballots (votes or nominations) available for priority determinations
- 7 Nov 2018 Closing date for submissions on existing developmental commercial fishing activity applications (see www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/fisheries/developmental-commercial-fisheries)
- 20 Nov 2018 New linkage commences - Estuary General prawn running net determination
- 23 Nov 2018 New linkage commences - Estuary General prawn set pocket draw and determination
- 28 Nov 2018 Closing date for appeals to the Share Appeal Panel against the number of quota shares issued to a shareholder

Assistance measures open – for shareholders who have received new quota shares

From 1 November 2018 to 31 May 2019, shareholders who have received new quota shares may apply for assistance measures to help transition their businesses to the new arrangements. These assistance measures include low interest rate loans, business advice grants and free advice from the Office of the Small Business Commissioner, fishing business buyouts and retraining grants.

See <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/reform/assistance-measures> or application forms on the Rural Assistance Authority website: <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/bap>

New Guidelines and fact sheets for estuary general prawning

New guidelines and fact sheets for estuary general prawning and priority determinations will be available on the DPI website this afternoon at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/fisheries/eqf>

Interim Fishing Activity Reports

Since 1 December 2017, over 23% of the 433 commercial fishing offences detected by DPI Fisheries officers related to failing to real-time report quota usage. In an effort to improve compliance, in particular, the use and submission of Interim Fishing Activity Reports (IFAR), DPI Fisheries Officers will now ask commercial fishers to produce their IFAR logbooks during quality inspections.

IFARs are an alternative real-time report that fishers use to report quota usage when the FisherMobile system is not available. Fishers should have their IFAR logbook with them while they are fishing, not only so they can produce it to a fisheries officer, but more importantly, so they can use it to declare their quota usage when they are unable to do so on the FisherMobile system. Heavy penalties apply for not declaring quota usage.

Fisheries officers may give a commercial fisher an opportunity to produce their IFAR logbook within 24 hours if the fisher doesn't have the IFAR with them. Fishers should not rely on fisheries officers giving them repeated opportunities to produce the IFAR. Failing to produce an IFAR when required may result in the fisher being issued with a fine in the first instance.

Fisheries Compliance will monitor IFAR activity over the coming months and may modify the enforcement response based on improved fisher behaviour.

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Reminder – updated share class fact sheets on website

For information you need to know to operate in each share class, see updated fact sheets on the DPI website at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/commfish/shareclasses

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.