

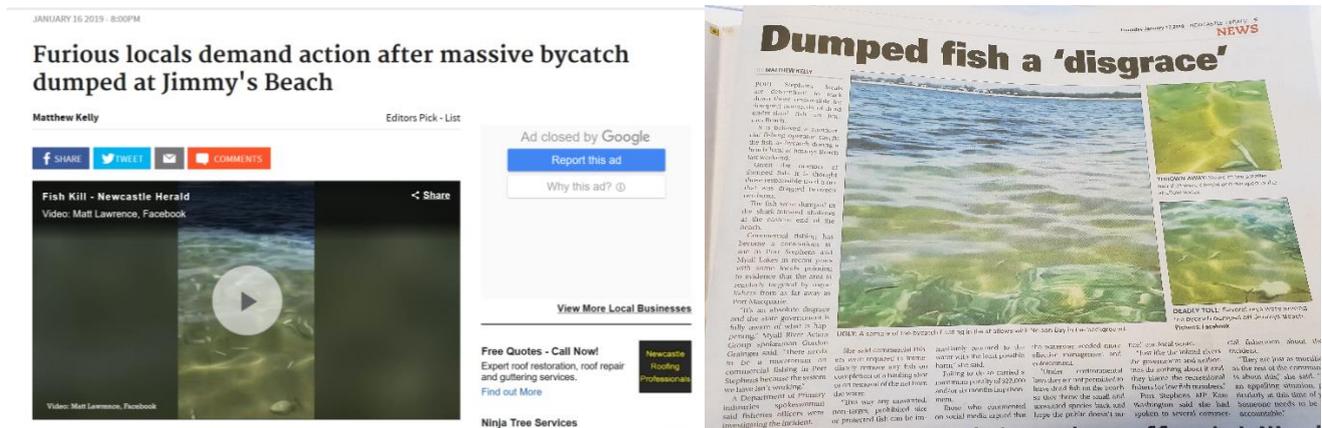
The PFA represents its members' interests. If you need our help on any issue, please do not hesitate in contacting the PFA head office (6652-7374) &/or the Chief Executive Officer (0429303371)

## RESPONSIBLE FISHING

NSW Commercial fishers are licensed by the NSW Government to harvest seafood that is defined as a **community resource** (in other words, its OWNED by the community and the Government manages it on behalf of the community). As such, our ability to access that fish can be revoked at **any time** by the NSW Government. The only legal requirement is that we are compensated for market value of our entitlements **IF** the entitlements are cancelled...not if areas are closed.

We have seen the repercussions of an angry community demanding the closure of commercial fishing, remember Lake Macquarie, Shoal Bay (6 Net) etc. We must act responsibly and be conscious of the communities around us – dumping and wastage of fish and animal welfare issues will only see a strong negative backlash from the local communities and the demand for a closure of commercial fishing. We have all seen how quick a government can react to media/community pressure. There are already strong community calls to ban commercial fishing in Port Stephens and Myall Lakes, Yamba, Macleay River, Tuggerah Lakes, Hawkesbury River and Shoalhaven – and those are the ones that we are aware of.

As we are coming into an election with more and more demands from certain sectors to continue to restrict commercial fishing, the PFA strongly urges our fishers to take care in your activities and be mindful of your local communities. I understand that these are tough times for so many fishers but there is so much more that can be taken from us or denied to us by the Government. Please be careful.



## SEAFOOD PROMOTION GRANTS

If you need help in putting together a grant application for the NSW Supporting Seafood Futures Program, please contact the PFA – only too happy to help. Grant ideas:

- Seafood festival for your local area or pop-up events like a seafood BBQ,
- Regatta or Blessing of the Fleet

The PFA is putting together an information guide for members to use in putting together to organise a seafood celebration event.

### Please note:

- There are 2 rounds of grant funding worth \$500,000 each
- The funding is to be met dollar for dollar - does not include “in-kind” support.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> round of funds must be spent in this financial year – applications due on 25<sup>th</sup> February. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding must be spent in the next financial year – applications due on 5<sup>th</sup> August.
- Unspent funds from the 1<sup>st</sup> round will NOT be added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round.

## NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF DECLARED FOR CLARENCE VALLEY, MID NORTH.

In response to the recent weather event on 20 December 2018 the DPI have advised that the Natural Disaster Declarations have been extended to include Clarence Valley and Mid North Coast Local government areas. The full list of declared areas and details of disaster assistance can be found at: <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/natural-disaster-relief/declarations>  
To apply for a concessional loan or freight subsidy, contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or visit <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/natural-disaster-relief>

## EXPORT TO CHINA

During December, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources worked with the Chinese Government's GACC to provide additional information to support our application for additions to the Approved Species List for Export from Australia. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, the Department obtained an updated list ([click here for the list](#)) and were advised that three Australian species have been added to the list:

- Australian Scampi - *Metanephrops australiensis*
- Gould's Squid - *Nototodarus gouldi*
- Southern School Whiting - *Sillago bassensis*

The Australian submission had requested all school whiting species, but this was not accepted. Please note that the Department has not had any formal response to their submission or received formal advice from GACC that the list has been updated. It appears that according to the GACC's latest requirements, a history of trade will not form part of consideration for addition of species to the list. All previously traded species will need to meet the same requirements as new species (i.e. risk assessment to support their submission). In summary - it is good news that we have three more species included on our list, given we have not had any additions since April 2017. However, it is unfortunate that it appears there is no basis to present other species with a history of trade. Given this information, the PFA will continue to assist the Seafood Trade Advisory Group (STAG) to refocus on species to prioritise with consideration of inclusion of the species with a prior history of trade, and then begin the process of preparing risk assessment submissions to support the first nominated species.

## PIPI CLOSURE REMINDER

The Department proposed two possible options for the seasonal fishing closure in 2019:

1. Implement the fishing closure for six months, **1 January to 30 June 2019**, or
2. Implement the fishing closure for five months, **1 February to 30 June 2019**.

We are still waiting for confirmation on the approved dates... **yes I know, its already January.**

## AMSA - float-free EPIRB consultation

AMSA is seeking feedback on alternative options to carrying a float-free EPIRB on domestic commercial vessels **less than 7.5 metres long without level flotation, operating in [offshore or restricted offshore](#) waters**. It may not be practical or feasible to carry of float-free EPIRB on these kind of vessels and have proposed several alternative options. AMSA would also like feedback on any other alternative options that operators consider will achieve an equivalent or acceptable level of safety. The options proposed include:

- Option 1: carry a float-free EPIRB (no alternative)
- Option 2: wear a personal locator beacon (PLB), in addition to carrying a manually activating EPIRB
- Option 3: carry a manually activating EPIRB and wear a lifejacket
- Option 4: carry a manually active ting EPIRB in a buoyant storage device

The consultation is open until Thursday 28 February 2019.

**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

- 1 May 2019 Annual fishing period commences for quota managed species in Purse Seine, Line East, Inshore and Offshore Prawn Trawl and Fish Trawl North as well as effort quota in Inshore and Offshore Prawn Trawl
- 31 May 2019 Closing date for assistance measures for shareholders who received new quota shares. See <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/reform/assistance-measures>
- 1 July 2019 Annual fishing period commences for quota managed species in Estuary General Hand Gathering (regions 1 to 7)

### Renewal of Commercial Fishing Endorsements

Current endorsements for the five Share Managed Fisheries (SMF) and all Restricted fisheries expire 4 February 2019.

Under the Regulations, Restricted Fishery (Inland, SUTS, Southern Fish Trawl) endorsement holders must have all outstanding fees paid in full, before the endorsement is issued. Letters have been sent to each endorsement holder with debt indicating that payment is required prior to the expiry date.

For the past four years the government has been lenient in pursuing debt for endorsement holders in the 5 SMF. This approach was taken as an assistance measure during the reforms. No decision has yet been made to continue this approach.

### Positive news on levels of compliance from commercial fishers

Since 1 December 2017, NSW DPI Fisheries officers have conducted over 2,260 quality inspections of endorsement holders and post-harvest premises. These inspections have occurred on the water, at landing points, at fishing co-operatives, other retail outlets and the Sydney Fish Markets. The overall level of compliance has been good, reflected by a compliance rate of 81% and trending upwards over the thirteen months. 584 commercial fishing offences have been detected across that time, the majority of which were for rules that were in place before December 2017.

Almost 20,500 hours of officer field time have been dedicated to advising and assisting fishers as well as detecting and deterring illegal fishing activities, equivalent to almost 540 weeks of focused work. NSW DPI Fisheries Compliance thanks those fishers who are managing their businesses compliantly. Fisheries officers are focussing on those who aren't.

### Supporting Seafood Future

The NSW Government wants more local seafood on more NSW plates and is launching a new program to boost the value of the NSW seafood industry up to \$1million dollars, through grants program.

The Supporting Seafood Future (SSF) grants program is designed to build marketing and promotion capability within seafood businesses through small-scale (less than \$10,000 including GST) and large-scale (\$10,000 to \$200,000 including GST) grants.

# PFA Update *18 January 2019*

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The purpose of the campaign is to increase consumption of NSW seafood, drive the value of NSW seafood through increased awareness and consumption, and build industry capabilities and cohesiveness.

Strategic objectives of the campaign are to:

- Increase value, through consumption of farmed and wild caught NSW seafood
- Increase shopper options across a broader variety of NSW seafood
- Drive awareness and build social licence of the NSW seafood community

The Supporting Seafood Future grants program aligns with the [NSW Marine Estate Strategy](#).

For more information go to <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/consultation/supporting-seafood-future>

**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.*