

INDUSTRY CONTAINER MEETING

An industry meeting has been organised for fishers affected by the submerged containers off Newcastle. DWF Lawyers would like to ascertain possible claims by fishers due to the containers off Newcastle.

Purpose: To plan future direction of legal action to recover losses and determine claimants.

Date: Thursday 28th February 2019

Time: 3 – 4.30pm

Location: Commercial Fishermen's Cooperative

More info? Contact Robert Gauta at the Coop or Tricia Beatty at the PFA

COMMONWEALTH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

The Fisheries Assistance and User Engagement Package (the Package), funded through the Department of the Environment and Energy contributes to the Portfolio Budget Statement:

Outcome 1: Conserve, protect and sustainably manage Australia's biodiversity, ecosystems, environment and heritage through research, information management, supporting natural resource management, establishing and managing Commonwealth protected areas, and reducing and regulating the use of pollutants and hazardous substances.

Five new Australian Marine Park management plans covering 44 Australian Marine Parks came into effect on 1 July 2018. **To assist industries and communities' transition to the new management arrangements, the Australian Government has committed \$35 million to a Fisheries Assistance and User Engagement Package to provide:**

- **Fishing Business Assistance grants** — assistance to affected commercial fishers with a recent history of fishing in Australian Marine Parks as they adjust their business to the new operating environment
- **Our Marine Park grants** — to help marine users and industries engage in marine park management
- **Vessel Monitoring System Assistance** — support to encourage uptake of vessel monitoring systems. This element will be progressed through direct discussion between Parks Australia and fisheries management agencies
- **Coral Sea Fishery Licence Buy-out** — direct assistance to commercial fishers holding either trawl or trap endorsements in the Commonwealth managed Coral Sea Fishery through a voluntary licence buy-back based on the closure of 99.8 per cent of the fishery to these methods.

NOTE: the funds do NOT apply to state marine parks.

There are two Marine Parks Grants:

- The first granting opportunity is available to industry level fishing organisations – of which the PFA is one.
- The second granting opportunity will be open to a wider range of marine users – this as not been released as yet.

IF you have an idea for the grant funds please contact the PFA so we can work with you to apply for the funds. Applications are due by 12 March.

For this grant opportunity up to \$5 million GST exclusive is available from 2018-19 to 2019-20.

The minimum grant amount is \$50,000 GST exclusive.

The maximum grant amount is \$1,000,000 GST exclusive.

The length of projects should be up to 14 months

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include, but are not limited to:

- Marketing of locally and sustainably caught seafood
- Fisheries certification
- Research into improved fishing gear types or practices that further reduce interactions with Australian Marine Park values
- Fishery wide transition to improved fishing gear types or practices
- Industry training programs increasing awareness and understanding of Australian Marine Park management arrangements, including class approvals and zoning rules
- Industry training programs on minimising the impacts of fishing on non-target species, including

protected species identification and handling; and bycatch handling

- Research into the effects of fishing practices and technologies on Australian Marine Park values
- Tools to improve the ability of fishers to easily and effectively comply with Australian Marine Parks rules or increase awareness of Australian Marine Park values
- Citizen science projects that contribute to the knowledge of Australian Marine Parks
- Costs associated with transitioning fishing practices impacted as a result of implementation of Australian Marine Parks

BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

The NSW Government are investing in new and improved boating infrastructure, and to do this, they need to better understand your needs. Your input is very important and will help inform these investment decisions.

And anyone who completes the survey has the chance to win one of three \$200 gift cards.

[Click here to complete the survey.](#)

The survey will take around 10 to 20 minutes to complete.

It would be appreciated if you could please forward the above link through to your respective groups and encourage them to complete this survey so they can have their say about future boating infrastructure. For other enquiries, please contact Transport for NSW on 1800 684 490.

NOMINATING A FISHER

We've had a few members asking us about how they nominate a fisher to work their boat when their sick etc. You can either download the nomination form from https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/631779/Form-4a.pdf . As soon as it sent then it covers you **but remember that the 48 hour restriction on nominations still apply.** We understand that this arrangement will be reviewed as part of a consultation process later this year on a range of complex regulations. Also there is an application that you can access from FisherDirect. <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/fishonline/fisherdirect> The FisherDirect technology is better suited to PCs (home computers), but can also be accessed via an iPad or a mobile phone. Note: advice received is that it may be a bit 'clunky' when accessed via a mobile phone. We understand that once you apply, the nominated fisher can start fishing immediately upon both of the following being complied with:

1. The nominated fisher is in possession of the FB card for the business concerned, AND
2. The FB owner has advised DPI who the nominated fisher is for the FB

Note: in the case of an ocean going business with a single large boat that is always used in connection with the FB, business owners will sometimes leave the card on the boat (or screw it to the wheel house wall) so that the skipper (endorsement holder), whoever that may be, can produce it as needed and so that it does not get lost. Its up to you.

In either case, the FB owner does not need to wait for DPI to confirm anything. The key requirement is that DPI has been advised who the new nominated fisher is. Important to note is that you can only nominate someone who holds a commercial fishing licence.

Note: FB owners should satisfy themselves that their email or fax etc., where relevant, has gone through. This is easily achieved by checking that the email did not bounce or by checking the fax transition report. If doing it online, the user (FB owner or agent) can simply view the appropriate screen to check that the new nominated fisher is recognised in the system (i.e. that it was done successfully)...

ELECTIONS

The PFA has been running media to seek support from all the major political parties for our industry.

https://www.facebook.com/professionalfishermensassociation/posts/1225849824233304?notif_id=1550565851536652¬if_t=page_post_reaction

AMSA CLARIFICATION



Australian Government
Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Update for NSW Professional Fishing Association

Australian Maritime Safety Authority – update

We understand that NSW Fisheries no longer requires certain fishing vessels to be marked with a fishing boat licence number.

The 'boat licence' referred to in the NSW Fisheries fact sheet is related to the right to fish, and not crewing requirements, for example General Boat License or unique vessel identifier (also previously known in NSW as registration number).

A unique identifier under the National Law stays with the vessel throughout its life as a domestic commercial vessel. Unless exempt, every domestic commercial vessel must have and display a unique vessel identifier.

Vessels may continue to use an 'old' unique vessel identifier as a National Law unique vessel identifier, if it was not the kind of number issued to a fishing vessel that would have to be removed if the vessel ownership was transferred, or if the fishing licence ceased to apply to the vessel.

The fishing boat licences referred to in the fact sheet are related to the right to fish, and do not stay with the vessel throughout its life. NSW fishing boat licences used to start with the letters 'LFB' followed by a string of numbers and they would need to be displayed while the licence was current but removed from the boat once that licence was withdrawn or transferred.

Example 1

A vessel has a fishing boat licence issued by Fisheries 'LFB 1234', and a unique vessel identifier issued by RMS '1234'. The vessel was also issued a unique identifier by AMSA of '987654'. This vessel must now display either '1234' (by removing 'LFB'), or '987654'

Example 2

A vessel has a fishing boat licence issued by Fisheries 'LFB 1234' and a unique vessel identifier issued by RMS '5678'. The vessel is using '5678' as their National Law unique vessel identifier and have been displaying both numbers. This vessel must now remove 'LFB 1234' and continue to display '5678'.

Example 3

A vessel has an AMSA unique vessel identifier '987654' and a fishing boat licence 'LFB 1234' and has been displaying both numbers. This vessel must remove 'LFB 1234' but continue to display '987654'.

Example 4

A vessel has a fishing boat licence issued by Fisheries 'LFB 1234'. RMS never issued a unique vessel identifier because the operator was not aware that they needed one, and RMS did not identify that the vessel did not have one. This vessel must remove 'LFB 1234', and obtain and display an AMSA unique vessel identifier.

If your operation includes human powered vessels, exemptions may apply.

Visit www.amsa.gov.au to find out more about unique vessel identifiers or phone AMSA Connect on 1800 627 484.

STATE CANDIDATE FARMING FORUM

The PFA and our members have been invited to the State Candidate Farming Forum.



Meeting Notice

Coffs Harbour Branch Meet the Local Candidates Forum

The NSW Farmers Coffs Harbour branch invites all farmers to hear from local candidates for the upcoming state election and ask questions about how they would support the future of local food and fibre production.

DATE: Tuesday, 26 February 2019
VENUE: Nana Glen Hall
TIME: 7.00 pm- 9.00 pm

Please join us from 6.00pm for a sausage sizzle.

Candidates invited to attend so far are:

- Gurmesh Singh- Nationals
- Tony Judge- Labor
- Dr Sally Townley- Independent
- Jonathon Cassell- Greens
- Stuart Davidson- Shooters, Fishers and Farmers
- Ann Leonard- Independent

For more information please contact:

Michael Burt | NSW Farmers | RSM- North Coast

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