

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)

MOBILE APP TRAINING FOR FISHERS

Free training workshops are scheduled to assist fishers transition to the new online new quota usage reporting requirements and to familiarise new and existing users with changes that will apply. Find out more information and book a [FishOnline Training workshop \(PDF, 132.55 KB\)](#).

Location	Date	Venue	Type	Time – Beginners 1 ½ hour; Experienced 1 hour
Tweed	Monday 1st April	Twin Towns Services Club, 2 Wharf St Tweed Heads NSW	Beginner	10.30am - 12pm & 2:00pm - 3.30pm
			Experienced	4.00pm - 5.00pm
Ballina	Tuesday 2 April	Ballina Kentwell Community Centre, 20 Bangalow Rd, Ballina NSW	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am
			Beginner	10.30am -12.00pm
Yamba	Tuesday 2 April	45 Woolli St, Yamba NSW	Experienced	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Yamba	Wednesday 3 April	45 Woolli St, Yamba NSW	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am & 2:00pm - 3.00pm
			Beginner	10.30am -12.00pm
Coffs Harbour	Thursday 4 April	Country Comfort - 353 Pacific Highway Coffs Harbour NSW	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am & 2:00pm - 3.00pm
			Beginner	3.30pm - 5.00pm
Port Macquarie	Monday 8 April	Mercure Centro Port Macquarie, 103 William St, Port Macquarie	Experienced	9:00am -10am & 2:00pm - 3.00pm
			Beginner	10.30am - 12.00pm & 3.30pm - 5.00pm
Forster	Tuesday 9 April	Forster Bowling Club, Strand Street Forster NSW	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am & 2:00pm - 3.00pm & 4:00pm - 5pm
			Beginner	10.30am -12.00pm
Batemans Bay	Tuesday 9 April	Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, 6 Beach Road Batemans Bay	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am & 2:00pm - 3.00pm
			Beginner	10.30am-12.00pm
Nelson Bay	Wednesday 10 April	West's Nelson Bay Diggers, 88 Shoal Bay Road, Nelson Bay	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am & 2:00pm - 3.00pm
			Beginner	10.30am -12.00pm
Nowra,	Wednesday 10 April	Nowra Golf Club, 86 Fairway Drive, Nth Nowra NSW	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am & 2:00pm - 3.00pm
			Beginner	10.30am-12.00pm
Newcastle	Thursday 11 April	Newcastle Fishermen's Co-op, 97 Hannell St Wickham NSW	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am & 2:00pm - 3.00pm
			Beginner	10.30am-12.00pm
Wollongong	Thursday 11 April	Novotel Wollongong Northbeach, 2-14 Cliff Rd, North Wollongong NSW	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am
			Beginner	10.30am-12.00pm
Gosford	Friday 12 April	Central Coast Leagues Club 1 Dane Dr, Gosford NSW	Experienced	9am -10am & 2:00pm - 3.00pm
			Beginner	10.30am-12.00pm
Sydney	Friday 12 April	Sydney Fish Market, Bank Street & Pyrmont Bridge Road NSW	Experienced	10:30am -11:30am & 2:30pm - 3.30pm
			Beginner	12:00pm – 1:30pm & 4:00pm - 5:30pm
Eden	Tuesday 23 April	Eden Fishermen's Recreation Club, 217 Imlay St Eden NSW	Experienced	11:00am -12:00pm & 3:00pm - 4.00pm
			Beginner	12:30pm – 2:00pm
Bermagui	Wednesday 24 April	Bermagui Country Club, Tuross Street Bermagui NSW	Experienced	9:00am -10:00am
			Beginner	10.30am-12.00pm

Each session is capped at 30 participants. Reserve your seat by contacting the toll-free number or email
 Phone: Toll free number 1800 973 318 (24/7 service) Email: rego@wildfishservicesnsw.com.au
 You will need your fishing business number or registration number to register, so have it ready when you ring or email. Fishers are welcome to bring their smartphones/tablets but are not needed to attend the workshop.

LOAN ASSISTANCE

The NSW Government have announced that they will make loans of up to \$250,000 at 2.4% with up to 20 years to pay back to allow fishers to capitalise on:

- Programs/equipment to help adapt to changing seasonal conditions
- Environment – equipment/infrastructure that minimises impact on the marine, estuarine and land environment
- Fishing/aquaculture farming equipment and assets – replacing unsafe or inefficient assets
- Transport and logistics – using new technologies and new equipment to improve the product value getting to markets e.g. new holding tanks, new market software, new transport systems

Applications forms will be made available late March for fishers to complete – PFA can provide these forms to our members once they are available.

This has come about through concerns expressed by both the PFA and Sydney Fish Market over fishers not able to upgrade their boats to meet AMSA safety survey requirements and inability to

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improve their efficiency to reduce their rising business costs. PFA has been inundated by members concerned about making ends meet after the impact of reform and being unable to meet safety requirements due to their inability to access capital to improve their business. We recognise there are those who do not want to go further into debt and do not want the loans but we also recognise that there are many who do want to invest into improvements in their businesses and just needed help in accessing that much needed capital.

PFA MEETING WITH ELECTION PARTIES

We have been meeting with the political parties this week and will provide out a comprehensive outline of the commitments made and discussion points by next week. The NSW State elections are scheduled for Saturday, 23 March 2019 from 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM. [apply to use iVote online](#) or by calling 1300 2 iVote (1300 24 86 83) within Australia

AMSA DISCUSSIONS

The PFA is a member of the AMSA Fishing Industry Advisory Council and has been in meetings in Canberra to discuss industry concerns regarding safety requirements. Specifically, discussions were had on:

Level floatation

Recently it has been noticed that the non-survey permit issued to 3D/3E estuary fishing vessel for any NEW vessel that does not meet the LEVEL FLOATATION requirements requires that all crew must wear lifejackets. PFA has questioned AMSA on this requirement and told that it is not a new requirement. Options are that the vessel put in floatation or you can apply for an exemption through AMSA if you believe you can demonstrate that a lifejacket would impinge on your safety. PFA has noted very strongly with AMSA our issues regarding this decision and asked that they reconsider the requirements.

General Boating Licence (Estuary Fisheries) transition to Coxswain

It is being proposed that, to transition those within our industry into a National accreditation, those that hold the Recreational fishing licence will transition to a Coxswain Grade 3. This will go out for discussion with industry was the draft has been agreed to and finalised.

Survey Safety Equipment Requirements

Members have expressed concern of private surveyors telling that they need to EPIRBs in estuary or ocean haul vessels – The NSCV states that EPIRB carriage only applies to vessels that proceed more than 2nm seaward from land and thus would not apply to ocean haul vessels restricted to 0.5nm from the beach. We will provide a checklist of safety equipment for members shortly.

NSW FISHERIES BOAT MARKING REQUIREMENTS

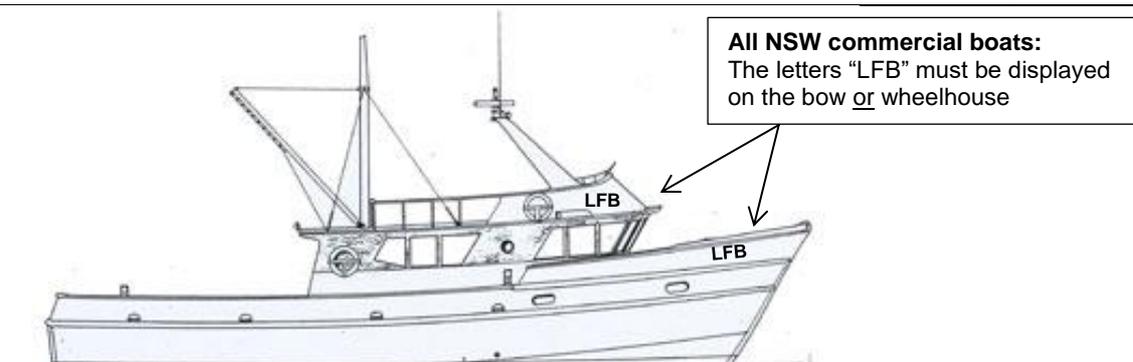
An update by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) included in last week's PFA newsletter (22 February 2019) contained incorrect information relating to NSW Fisheries boat marking requirements. Following are the current NSW Fisheries requirements. These are in addition to any AMSA requirements.

Displaying "LFB" (all boats):

All boats used for commercial fishing must display the letters "LFB" on both sides of the outside of the bow or wheelhouse.

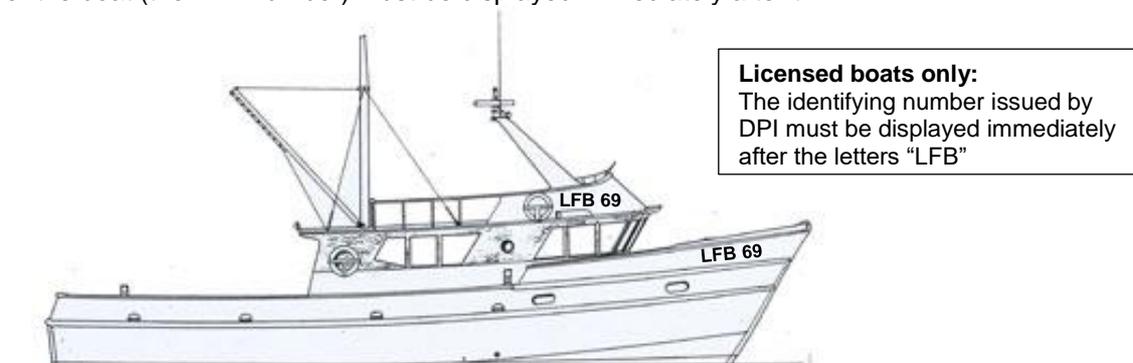
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Displaying identifying numbers issued by DPI (licensed boats only):

If a boat is used for commercial fishing activities for which a licence is required, the identifying number issued by DPI for the boat (the LFB number) must be displayed immediately after the letters "LFB".



Marking a dingy:

A dingy or similar that is carried on a boat that must be licensed must display the letter "D" followed by the identifying number issued by DPI (the LFB number) for the main boat.

Additional marking for lobster and abalone boats:

Lobster boats must display "RL" before "LFB". Abalone boats must display "A" followed by the home port initials before "LFB".

Size of numbers and letters:

The markings must consist of clearly visible letters and figures that are of a colour that contrasts with that of the boat or dingy, and:

- in the case of a boat that is more than 7.5 metres long and is used in ocean waters—not less than 300 mm in height and 150 mm in width
- in the case of a dinghy or other vessel carried on any boat—not less than 50 mm in height
- in the case of any other boat—not less than 150 mm in height.

Illegal marking of boats:

It is an offence for:

- the owner of a boat to cause or permit the letters "LFB" to be displayed on a boat if the boat is not being used for commercial fishing
- a person to use a boat that displays the letters "LFB" if the boat is not being used for commercial fishing

NEXT PFA COM MEETING

The next PFA Committee of Management (CoM) meeting is scheduled for Friday 5th April at Maclean Services Club. PFA members are encouraged and invited to attend the meeting and discussions from 11am onwards. Lunch will be provided. Presentations from AMSA and DPI Fisheries will be in the afternoon.

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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



MOBILE APP TRAINING FOR FISHERS

FishOnline: FREE training workshops are being held during April 2019 to assist fishers' transition to the new online new quota usage reporting requirements and to familiarise existing users with changes that will apply. There are two types of free workshops available.

Workshop 1 (Beginner, 1 and half hours) - for fishers that are new to the FisherMobile App and real time reporting (includes the new process for multiple species reporting).

Workshop 2 (Experienced, 1 hour) - for fishers already using the FisherMobile App for real time reporting - this workshop will cover the new process for multiple species reporting and a range of other online services available via FisherMobile and FisherDirect.

Details will be available on the DPI website for locations, venues and times.

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/reform>

PREPARING FOR THE NEW OCEAN TRAWL PRAWNING EFFORT QUOTA

From 1 May 2019, before a boat is used for ocean trawl prawning the owner of the fishing business must provide information on the boat to DPI. A form was mailed to relevant fishing business owners last week.

Please return completed forms to DPI by Friday 29 March 2019 to ensure that your business is compliant from 1 May 2019.

If your fishing business will not be used in the inshore/offshore prawn trawl fishery after 1 May 2019, you do not need to do anything.

NSW FISHERIES BOAT MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Additional information will be supplied shortly for this item, just awaiting additional content.

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.