

*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)*

## MANDATORY FIRST AID CERTIFICATE REQUIRE ON BOARD!

AMSA has advised that ALL COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS MUST have someone onboard that has a first aid qualifications – this includes single operators. Exemption from first aid requirement due CoVid-19

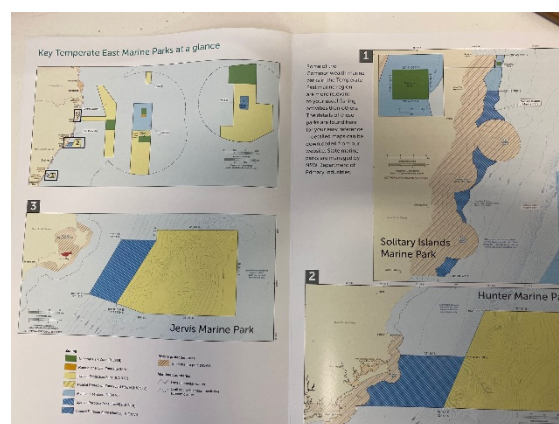
**An owner is exempt from any condition that requires the master or crew to have a current first aid certificate equivalent to HLTAID003 Provide first aid if:**

- (a) the person performing duties or functions held a first aid certificate. and**
- (b) the certificate was expressed to expire between 26 March 2020 and 1 October 2020; and**
- (c) less than 6 months has passed since the certificate expired.**

<https://www.amsa.gov.au/sites/default/files/exemption-43-2020.pdf>



**COMMONWEALTH MARINE PARK INFO BROCHURES** – the PFA has been working with Parks Australia to develop user-friendly information for commercial fishers on Commonwealth Marine park zones and rules. The Brochures have arrived so let us know if you want them sent to you. We will be posting them out to Coffs, Wallis Lake, Newcastle Coops and anyone who asks for them.



## PFA RESPONSE TO MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT ACT REVIEW

Invited stakeholder responses were due today for the Review of the *NSW Marine Estate Management Act*. The PFA provided a response that supported the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014's* commitment to the *Purposes of the Act*.

- Providing for the management of the NSW marine estate that is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- Requiring the development of a Marine Estate Management Strategy to address priority threats identified through threat and risk assessment.
- Facilitating the maintenance of ecological integrity, and economic, social, recreational, cultural and scientific opportunities.

## WHAT IS HIGH RISK

With another death in NSW due to the sinking of their boat and a lack of lifejackets its important to re-evaluate when is the best time to wear your lifejackets and what your safety situation is like. Over 2 weeks ago on Wallis Lake a man has died from hypothermia after his boat went down. Although not a commercial fisher, he was known to many – as a commercial dredge operator he knew what he was doing and was a fit healthy man. Unfortunately, a quick trip on his boat with a mate before dusk turned into a tragedy. So often people in our industry say that they should only have to wear lifejackets when they are far out to sea and only in rough weather. But in the June 2013 on Coila Lake a commercial fisherman drowned and now another well experienced fisher, although not a commercial fisherman, has died on a lake in bad weather. It brings attention to the fact that not all high risk situations occur far out to sea – tragedy can occur on a simple lake. We urge all fishers to re-evaluate what you think is a “high-risk” situation and wear your life jackets!!

## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELLING

PFA, SIA, SFM, as well of the other state industry bodies from across Australia have made numerous submissions in response to the Federal Government's evaluation of Australia's country of origin food labelling (CoOL). However, the standard does not apply to the food service sector (restaurants, retailers etc.) for the labelling of the origin of seafood served which has resulted in both hardship for our seafood industry as well as an mis-informed consumer. The PFA's response focused on highlighting the issues regarding: Studies show that over 50% of consumers assume that the seafood purchased was Australian if the Country of Origin (CoOL) was not identified

- All other fresh 'centre plate' proteins in Australia – beef, lamb, pork, chicken – are from Australia and are not imported.
- The Australian seafood industry is subject to very stringent compliance regulations, unlike some of the countries importing into Australia, which disadvantages our local fishermen and places them on an uneven playing field.
- A [2014 Senate inquiry](#) report said the Northern Territory approach demonstrated that "seafood labelling would benefit consumers, the local industry and the national economy".
- Evidence provided by Northern Territory fish and chip shop, restaurant and bar proprietors suggested that while there was initial antagonism amongst some restaurant and take away owners at the prospect of additional compliance responsibilities, **such concerns fell away when they realised that labelling provided an opportunity to actively market seafood on their menus.**
- 94% of NSW respondents believe it is important to produce seafood domestically and reduce reliance on seafood imports
- 72% of respondents in NSW feel it is 'very important' or 'extremely important' to know where their seafood comes from.

- Many respondents were not very sure about the origin of their seafood. 36% of NSW respondents report not knowing whether their seafood was produced 'locally' (town or state as well as Australia).

<https://www.accc.gov.au/business/advertising-promoting-your-business/country-of-origin-claims/country-of-origin-food-labelling>. Responses are due today.

## CHECK OUR RECENT SAFETY VIDEO

Some of our PFA members were concerned that automatic life jackets can inflate if hit with a wave of water or in rain etc. We were able to demonstrate on the video that this doesn't happen. You must have the jacket fully submerged in the water before it will automatically inflate. We released the video on Wednesday afternoon and already over a 1,000 views!

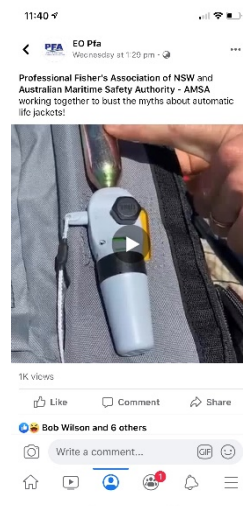
## PROPOSED New safety equipment lists for commercial fishing single operators in warm waters (Qld to Ballina)

AMSA is **proposing** practical changes to the safety equipment you need to carry on certain fishing vessels operating in parts of Queensland, the Northern Territory and **northern** New South Wales (to Ballina). More information is available on their website: <https://www.amsa.gov.au/news-community/consultations/have-your-say-new-safety-equipment-lists-single-handed-fishers>

## SEAFOOD INDUSTRY MENTAL HEALTH PILOT FOR NEWCASTLE

It's a big shout out from Jo at SIA this week.

As many of you know yesterday was R U Ok? Day. Research suggests that suicide rates in the Seafood Sector are higher than the average of the population. So, we need to be asking each other how we are going. Someone asked me yesterday, 'what happens if I ask someone R U Ok? And they answer that they are not?' It's a really good question. The biggest key is listening and offering support. If someone wants to talk – listen. Ask them how you can support them... they can answer that better than you. And finally encourage them to talk to an expert. There's plenty of numbers on the SIA website, and I've listed some



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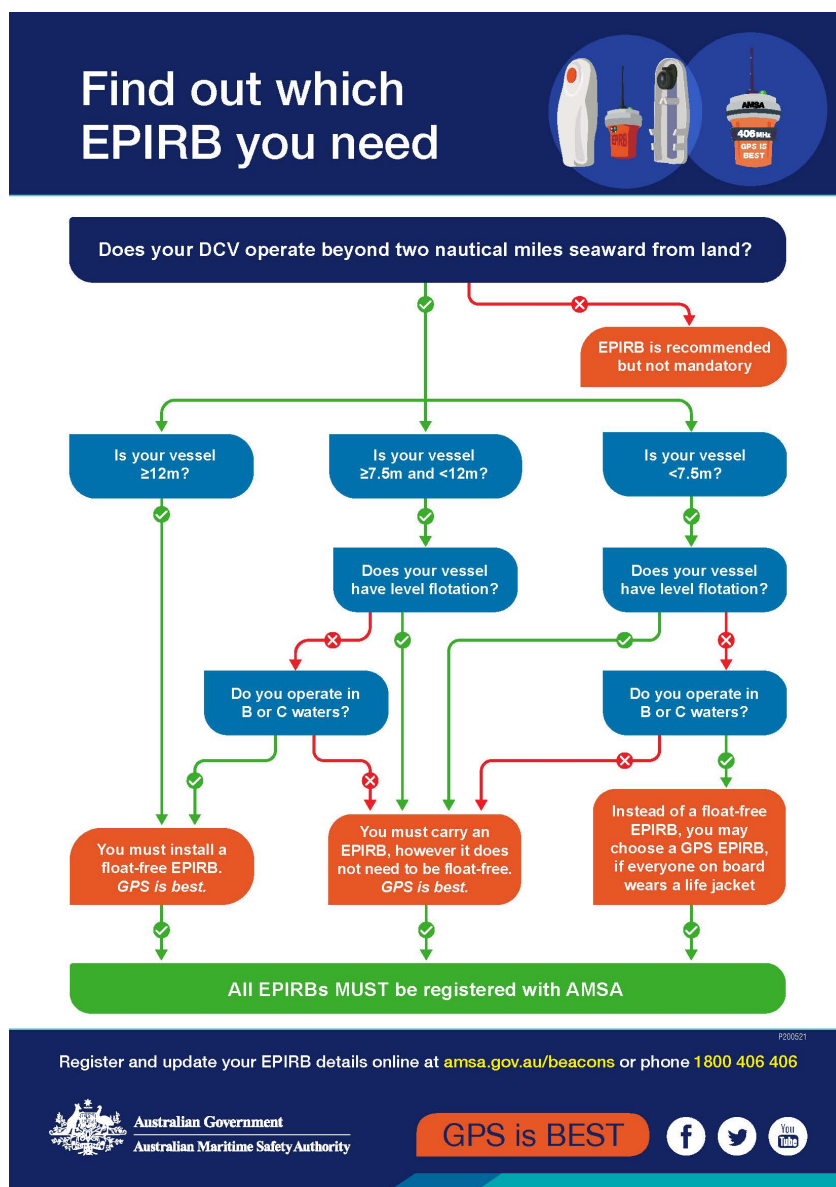
below. And if you're really worried about a person's safety, but they are reluctant to act, many of the services below will be able to offer you advice too.

For more information on SIA's mental health pilot program please contact Program Manager Jo Marshall via [jo@seafoodindustryaustralia.com.au](mailto:jo@seafoodindustryaustralia.com.au) or 0408 008 344.

If you, or someone you know, needs help or support please call:

- Lifeline – 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline – 1800 551 800
- Beyond Blue – 1300 22 46 36
- Mens Lines – 1300 78 99 78

If there is immediate danger, please call 000 or visit your nearest hospital emergency department



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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.*



**Department of  
Primary Industries**

PFA Newsletter content - Week ending 13 September 2020

## **DPI COVID-19 update**

DPI teams are continuing their work, in-line with government guidelines and advice from health authorities. Our essential services continue working across the state's primary industries sector. There may be some delays; however, we are working to minimise any disruption. For the latest advice on the NSW Government's response to COVID-19 visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)  
The DPI COVID-19 Advice Portal contains further information and links to assistance and resources available for primary producers including the Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture sector. You can access the Portal at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/home/covid-19>  
Any fishing business owner that may be experiencing problems repaying concessional loans through the Rural Assistance Authority should contact them on 1800 678 593 to discuss repayments.

## **Harvest strategies to drive NSW fishing management decisions**

The NSW Government will provide fishers with greater certainty and transparency in fisheries management decisions, through the development of tailored harvest strategies in direct partnership with commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fishers.  
More information: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/media-centre/releases/2020/harvest-strategies-to-drive-nsw-fishing-management-decisions>

## **Catch reporting tip**

Fishers and Fishing Employers who make their catch and effort records using the paper logbooks should keep their paper copy in a safe and secure accessible place. Records of sale need to be kept for a minimum of 5 years as required by the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

If you have any questions about Catch & Effort records, quota reporting, records of sale/possession, European Community Catch Certificates or registered fish receivers please contact the Catch Records team on 1800 994 850 or [catch.records@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:catch.records@dpi.nsw.gov.au). **If you need to pick up/drop-off anything to the Catch Records Office at Coffs Harbour, you must first call 1800 994 850 to arrange an appointment.**

## **Quota usage season snapshot**

The Quota Usage Season Snapshot for the current fishing period can be found at:  
[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/1195228/Industry-Update-7-September-2020.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1195228/Industry-Update-7-September-2020.pdf)

## **New Biller Code if paying invoices by BPAY**

If paying your invoices by BPAY please note there is a new Biller Code for Department of Regional NSW – Primary Industries. The new Biller Code is listed on all new invoices but if you have saved the previous Biller Code in your internet banking, we advise that you delete and add the new **BPAY Biller Code 57133**. Your reference number remains the same.