

# PFA Update 4 September 2020

*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)*

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## PFA COM MEETING

Thanks to everyone for joining us at today's PFA COM meeting!

A lot of information presented from DPI Fisheries on their plan of moving forward with regulatory reform for the Act and regulations. There was over 800 submissions to the Review of Complex Regulations and there are multiple different matters that need to be addressed (closure lines, administration structures, gear use, permitted species). Some matters are a simple consultation process while others might require more complex consultation (involving other stakeholders or changes to the Act etc). We were advised that DPI will go out to consultation soon on the more simpler matters and will continue to push out the consultation on the others. We were also advised that the UTS Socio economic study had been recently submitted to the Government and is currently being considered before being released. The Department and MFAC are working on a Co-management harvest strategy framework that will also go out for industry consultation, also complementing the announced development of harvest strategies and the formation of fishery working groups. Also the meeting was advised of discussions regarding fee restructuring with a focus on the need to "redistribute fees more fairly across the industry – consultation is expected to go out on this shortly.

AMSA advised on the float free- EPIRB requirements and the the latest consultation on safety equipment "for warm waters".

A presentation by the Marine Estate Management Authority regarding their Marine Estate Management Act review.. The review will involve 3 broad phases

1. review of the Act and preparation of consultation materials
2. targeted consultation with peak stakeholders
3. review completed and tabled in Parliament

MEMA state 2 initiated with 100+ projects underway across all 9 initiatives - 21 projects contributing to sustainable fishing and aquaculture.

## 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.



## 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 our

website: <https://www.amsa.gov.au/news-community/consultations/have-your-say-new-safety-equipment-lists-single-handed-fishers>

*Single-handed commercial fishing vessels operating within 2 nautical miles of land: this list is for vessels:*

- less than 12 metres in length,
- operating in C, C restricted, D or E operational areas, and
- operating in warm waters with wave heights of 1.5m or less extending from the internal waters of the Gulf of Carpentaria south **to Ballina in New South Wales (NSW).**

## Key changes

- Eligible operators would no longer need to carry life rafts, buoyant appliances, parachute flares and fire extinguishers in specific circumstances.
- This will result in a more practical equipment list for certain fishing vessels based on risk, types of waters and operating distance from land.

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as to why the standards aren't working for you and your operation.

- You would not need to apply to use the alternative safety equipment lists.
- Note: if your vessel is in survey, is longer than 12 metres, or operates in waters or places outside the description above, you won't be able to use the alternative safety equipment lists. But you can apply to AMSA for a specific exemption. We would also like your feedback

This list is only available for vessels that don't need a certificate of survey under Exemption 02 or Exemption 40 ( it is not available for vessels which hold a certificate of survey).

PFA will be preparing a submission in response to the proposal – initial discussions re are submission will be that we see no reason why this should not extend to Newcastle. Please advise what additional information or changes you wish to the PFA response on this issue. Contact us via email [ceo@pfai.com.au](mailto:ceo@pfai.com.au) or mob 0429 303 371. Consultation closes on 8 October 2020

## MAKE SURE YOU'RE COVERED – POLLUTER'S PAYS

Domestic Commercial Vessels are already subject to "polluter pays" principles under state legislation (within the limits of applicability of those respective state laws). This means that if you are the source of any "pollution" then you are required to clean this up. This principle can also apply to sunken or derelict vessels and the requirement to remove them. Makes sure you have insurance for your vessel and that the insurance covers recovery of the vessel.

## SEAFOOD INDUSTRY MENTAL HEALTH PILOT FOR NEWCASTLE

It's a big shout out from Jo at SIA this week. She needs two things

1. More people that might be happy to chat about the role of Trusted Advocate. You don't need to be a fisher. We have men and women from backgrounds such as retail, hospitality, wharf operations and co-ops doing this role in other states. What we need is people who care about our seafood community and are prepared to give a listening ear and a positive chat. We provide training and there's a payment at the end of the program as thanks for your time and efforts. It's really flexible you'll be part of a great team.
2. Who's your Doctor? Or Counsellor? Or other healthcare supporter? Jo is looking to find out who are known to be reputable GPs, counsellors psychologists and other wellness practitioners in the Newcastle region.

Please get in touch with Jo to chat about either of these. Your confidentiality will be maintained and she values anyone that is happy to have a chat about the program. You can call her on 0408 008 344 or

[jo@seafoodindustryaustralia.com.au](mailto:jo@seafoodindustryaustralia.com.au)

**HELP HARVEST NSW**

Looking for harvest work?  
Follow #HelpHarvestNSW  
to find jobs on social media!

For more information visit:  
[www.nsw.gov.au/helpharvestnsw](http://www.nsw.gov.au/helpharvestnsw)

NSW GOVERNMENT

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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.**

INT/TBC



## Department of Primary Industries

PFA Newsletter content - Week ending 6 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**

There is a wide range of video demonstrations on the Department's website on how to set-up and use FisherMobile. These include:

- How to download the App and set it up for first time use
- How to navigate around and use the different screens
- How to do a Fishing Activity Report for the different types of commercial fishing activities, and
- How to submit a Catch and Effort Record.

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-31-August-2020.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1195228/Industry-Update-31-August-2020.pdf)