

AMSA CHECKS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

We've been advised that AMSA will be running a pollution/waste management checks on all commercial vessels over the next few weeks, especially from Port Macquarie to Bermagui.

Makes sure your waste management systems meet AMSA requirements.

- Make sure that any toilet, holding tank and associated fitting on the vessel is maintained in good condition.
- Make sure that greywater from any sink, shower or other sources cannot be discharged overboard.
- If a vessel is fitted with an on-board certified sewage treatment system, the owner must ensure that it is maintained in good condition and does not exceed its maximum treatment capacity as specified by the manufacturer.
- Garbage placards – stickers - are mandatory for vessels of 12 metres or more in length and fixed or floating platforms.
- Bilge water contaminated by oil or other substances must not be discharged overboard.
- Substances such as paint, cleaning products or debris generated from maintenance must be contained on board and disposed of responsibly.
- Vessels that have sinks, showers etc. must not discharge greywater overboard.

MUD CRAB TAGS

The DPI has advised that the mud crab tagging trials are going ahead and are seeking fishers wishing to trail the tags. These tags are intended as a tool to both reinforce the existing quota management arrangements as well as reduce the likelihood of black marketing of mud crabs. DPI advises the following:

Experienced mud crab and lobster fishers have assessed potential tagging options and supported development of a preferred tag option. Development has focused on providing an easy and secure fit, minimising potential claw or limb loss, and avoiding affecting the crabs breathing or belly flap.

The preferred tag is designed to fasten around the crab carapace, with the tag tail passing underneath the crab in front of or behind the front leg pair. Tags are made from durable and buoyant food safe plastic with stainless steel metal locking inserts.

Tags have been designed specifically for mud crabs, can be applied to tied or untied crabs and are easily fitted in a few seconds. Each tag is printed with an individual number and branding information to identify quality NSW mud crabs in the marketplace. QR codes can also be printed to allow scanning of tag numbers and links to promotional information such as the Estuary General Fishery web page or other sites. Tags securely fasten by hand, and can also be crimped using a simple tool for additional security if required.

For more information or if you would like to receive a small number of tags to trial, please contact the Department via the details below. Any proposal to pursue a mud crab tagging program into the future will be subject to further consultation with industry. More information:

*Nicholas Giles
Fisheries Manager
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Nicholas.giles@dpi.nsw.gov.au
0419 185 540*



UTS SOCIAL ECONOMIC STUDY

The social economic study of the Business Adjustment Program has been released. As expected it has delivered 102 pages of a complex and mixed result. Most online questionnaire survey respondents reported that the BAP had a negative impact on their business.

However, to note was that there was only 19% industry response rate to the surveys AND because it was extremely difficult for the researchers to access individual fishers' economic information, the study had

difficultly making robust statements regarding the program.

The study therefore recommended:

1. Establish a social and economic monitoring framework for NSW commercial fisheries as a matter of high priority and urgency
2. Investigate further whether the levels of commercial debt incurred as a result of the BAP are damaging Industry viability, and if so, consider interventions to alleviate that debt
3. Consider instituting protections from changes to resource access in commercial fisheries management
4. Investigate more effective ways of doing consultation and policy development

The study agreed that the program was complex, although highlighting "that 'without intervention' scenario would likely have been continued low or deteriorating economic performance in the NSW commercial fishing Industry, and business uncertainty."

The study also noted that those of worst mental stress in the industry were those that did not engage in the process – those that hoped it would go away or did not want to participate in the program are now in worse situations than those who did.

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1256128/Economic-analysis-and-Social-and-Economic-monitoring-following-the-NSW-Commercial-Fisheries-Business-Adjustment-Program.pdf

REGIONAL SAFETY COMMITTEE ADVICE

This week I attended AMSA's Regional Safety Committee. Of note was the following advice:

Safety equipment for fishing vessels operating close to shore: The current safety equipment requirements applying to fishing vessels operating very close to shore do not appropriately cater for these lower risk, more boutique operations. Per the Annual Regulatory Program for 20/21, the safety equipment standards are currently under review and are expected to be completed by July 2021. Until the review of the safety equipment standards is completed, AMSA is considering implementing an interim, short term solution for the fishing industry which will permit a lesser equipment to be carried.

Qualifications review: The Industry Reference Group for the review of Marine Order 505 (Certificates of competency – National Law) convened its 4th meeting on 9-10 June 2020. The draft Marine Order and the results of public consultation were considered. The draft is nearing finalisation with further discussions around the application of the General Purpose Hand and Coxswain 3 certificates still to be conducted out of session. It is anticipated that these two remaining issues will be finalised by the end of 2020 with the new order coming into effect in 2021. An appropriate transition time for the changes will be decided based on the final draft and an effect date then determined.

NSW FOOD AUTHORITY SEAFOOD FORUM

I also attended the NSW Food Authority Seafood Forum (a bi-annual meeting to discuss matters related to our industry). The attached chart is information about the last years' compliance activity for our industry. The meeting also discussed the issue of White Spot Prawn – which is still being found in aquatic samples in Moreton Bay and risks to our northern school prawn and crustacean industry – this is a very big risk to our industry as it will prevent the sell of any uncooked crustacean outside of a declared area. The PFA urged the NSW Government to remain vigilant to stop the spread of the infection.



AMSA SMS UPDATE!

AMSA has advised that the PFA Safety Management System (SMS) Template requires an additional statement within it regarding your appropriate crewing levels.

Appropriate crewing is the number of certified or uncertified personnel that are needed to safely operate a vessel.

Appropriate crewing must be determined by the owner as a part of their general safety duties under the National Law, and should be documented as a part of the vessels safety management system

Appropriate crewing is determined by the owner based on a crewing evaluation that takes into account:

- each kind of operation the vessel performs
- the environment that the vessel operates in
- all people on or near the vessel.

NOTE: AMSA has advised that a vessel may be operated with **only one crew member if:**

- the vessel is less than 12 metres in length, and
- the owner has determined—through a documented crewing evaluation—that one person is sufficient to manage all on board procedures and risks associated with the operation.

<https://www.amsa.gov.au/vessels-operators/domestic-commercial-vessels/crewing-guidance-domestic-commercial-vessels>

I have attached a statement to assist in addressing what AMSA requires – listing out the considerations that AMSA require. You must fill in the table in the attachment and insert the completed form into your SMS. An example of the table would be:

Operation	Number of crew
Navigating vessels	One person
Setting and retrieving gear safely	One person
Launching and retrieving vessel	One person

FISHERIES BRANCHES RESTRUCTURE

Following a review undertaken over the past six months, a number of Fisheries teams will be realigned into new units, in order to be best set up to make the most of the opportunities ahead, and to enable more focused delivery of fisheries programs and services. DPI Fisheries will now be structured under the following branches:

- **Fisheries and Aquaculture Management**
- **Aboriginal Fishing and Marine & Coastal Environment**
- **Freshwater Environment**
- **Fisheries Services**
- **Fisheries Research**
- **Fisheries Compliance**

A brief summary of the realignments is as follows:

Fisheries and Aquaculture Management – This new branch will bring together the recreational fishing, commercial fishing and aquaculture teams to deliver our programs to support and inform commercial and recreational fisheries and aquaculture to promote the ecologically sustainable development and equitable distribution and allocation of the state's community owned fisheries and aquaculture resources, with a focus on resource management and the use of harvest strategies for fisheries. Where necessary and where it makes sense to do so there will still be a focus on individual sector activities, but the overall approach will focus on managing the shared resource. Peter Turnell is the Director for this branch.

Aboriginal Fishing and Marine & Coastal Environment – This new unit will bring all of our existing Aboriginal cultural fishing and engagement staff from across the Fisheries Branch into one unit. This consolidated Aboriginal cultural fishing unit will come together with the Marine Operations, Marine Estate Management Strategy implementation, Marine Planning, Shark Programs, & Coastal Systems Units, to deliver the Marine Estate Reforms Programs, and the development and management of Aboriginal cultural fishing activities. Importantly, the new consolidated Aboriginal

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)

cultural fishing unit will have responsibilities for managing Aboriginal cultural fishing and engagement across NSW and across all aquatic environments including freshwater, coastal and marine. Sarah Fairfull is the Director for this branch.

Fisheries Services - This new branch brings together all of the legislated fisheries licensing, permitting, data entry, catch recording systems and e-business digital platforms, into one dedicated unit, to create a one stop shop for DPI Fisheries to provide internal and external services and will lead our future work on digital transformation. Mika Malkki is the Director for this branch.

Freshwater Environment - This new branch will consolidate the Murray Darling and Threatened Species roles from the current Aquatic Environment unit, to create a renewed and stronger focus for DPI Fisheries programs in the freshwater environment, following the recent drought and heightened focus on freshwater environment management issues. This new Director role will be advertised and recruited shortly.

Fisheries Research – This branch will continue to provide scientific evidence base for fisheries management, marine, coastal, and freshwater habitat management, marine park management, threatened and protected species management, and aquaculture development. Natalie Moltschaniwskyj is the Director for this branch.

Fisheries Compliance – This unit will continue to provide the monitoring, compliance, community education and awareness, and enforcement capability across fisheries and aquaculture to ensure management rules are followed, and provide operational and on-water support to all fisheries and aquaculture programs. Andrew Moriarty is acting Director for this branch.

These realignments will enable the DPI Fisheries team to progress our initiatives across the Aboriginal, commercial and recreational fishing sectors, aquaculture, the marine estate, the freshwater environment and provide greater certainty, transparency and support to our stakeholders. I announced these changes to DPI Fisheries staff yesterday with implementation to follow over the coming days and weeks. I look forward to working with you to realise the benefits of these realignments of our delivery approach.

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

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
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.

Information paper – Investigating tagging for commercial mud crabs

You may have seen or heard about work underway to investigate the feasibility of tagging mud crabs to reduce black market issues and support improved stock management and assessment. This work is being undertaken with support of CommFish NSW and experienced mud crab fishers.

An information paper is now available on this project, including industry trials of a preferred tag option developed in collaboration with experienced crab and lobster fishers. The paper has been emailed to Estuary General fishers, and is available on the DPI website at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/fisheries/egf>

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. **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-14-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.