

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Maree O'Grady

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Regarding pocket netting in the Richmond River Ballina I have asked the question many times and send several emails to DPI management and the current minister why aren't we permitted to use this method after all it is the most passive form of prawn harvesting in NSW estuaries .In the Richmond River we only have one method available to commercial fishers and all other Rivers in NSW have several methods available to harvest prawns ,some rivers have up to 5 methods available. The reply I have received from powers to be Is that we are looking into this matter. The current method of prawn Hauling in the Richmond River is no longer viable due to the poorest water quality in any river system in NSW. Prawns will not migrate up in the brackish water for the reason stated above, prawns are in the bottom section of the River but only travel at night because water is to clear and do not travel on the bottom of river bed but travel in mid water that makes it impossible to catch prawns using the prawn hauling method. The coop Ballina records will show the drastic fall in prawns caught in the Richmond River due to these circumstances we need to be able to use pocket net method now not in 2018. There is a section 37permit available to do this in interim period to survive. Thank you I hope this does not fall on deaf ears as usual .