

**INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Name: Mr Nathan Smith

Date received: 8 December 2016

Due 9th December 2016

**NSW Parliamentary Inquiry
SUBMISSION**

Send to:

The Director

Inquiry into commercial Fishing NSW

Upper House Committee

Parliament of NSW 2000

SYDNEY

NSW

From:

Name: Nathan Smith.

Address: _____

Date: 6/12/2016

Commercial Fisher Personal Comments **to the Inquiry**

Introduction:

I am a commercial fisher working in Region: 5 and 6

I have been in the Fishing Industry for: 7 Years

I have many concerns for the way the commercial fishery is being managed in NSW and draw your attention to my personal views on the following:

The Impact to my Business Shareholding is as follows:

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

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Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

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Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

I have had to pre purchase shares because:

No because I lease ~~the~~ a fishing business I have not.
However the business owner has needed to purchase extra
shares for this business so it can continue operating. He purchased
these shares prior to the subsidised share trading to guarantee the
shares needed.

Please note the following personal views of the impacts to my business and my personal situation: The cost of the extra shares

will increase the cost of my lease making
my business less profitable.

Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

Subsidised Trading:

(circle the answer you support)

- In Your opinion is it fair? Yes / ☒ No
- Has the process been adequately explained? Yes / ☒ No
- Can you access a computer? ☒ Yes / No
- Did the training answer your questions? Yes / ☒ No
- Can you have ease of trading your shares knowing that you will get
enough to continue what you did pre the reform? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you agree that you are trying to buy back your job? ☒ Yes / No
- Have you borrowed money? Yes / ☒ No
- How will the debt you have incurred affect your viability?
- It will be better? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you see that you will have more value in your business? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you agree to the need to linking shares with effort or quota? Yes / ☒ No
- Do you perceive that the process has made it impossible for you to
regain shares to reach the level of effort for your business viability? ☒ Yes / No
- Did you support the message to the Minister that inactive share
holders should be offered a buy-out first with a fair offer? ☒ Yes / No
- Did you support the message to the Minister that NO fisher should be
Forced to buy back their jobs to do what they do today? ☒ Yes / No
- Is paying even 5% or 10% for the shares taking you into too much debt? ☒ Yes / No
- Are you able to participate in the share trading? ☒ Yes / No
- Do you support how this reform has been structured? Yes / ☒ No
- In the period 2007 to 2016 have you ever agreed to a Reform in this manner? ... Yes / ☒ No
- Did your Management Advisory Committee agree to a reform in this manner? ... Yes / ☒ No

Commercial Fisher Personal Comments
to the Inquiry

(Circle the answer you support)

Did you know about the 'Pyrmont Pact' and the decision by NSW Seafood Industry Advisory Committee? To remove 100% inactive effort and 50% active effort? ... Yes / No

Do you support this to be a fair strategy for 2016? Yes / No

Do you agree to the method selected by DPI to use the collective Catch History of the individual fisher, divide this with all fishers across the state in a pro rata distribution for some fisheries to develop quota and or effort? Yes / No

If you disagreed with the Linkage options and the reform; were you welcome to sit at the working group meetings Yes / No

Can you clearly make a business decision from the information that has been provided to you for this Business structural adjustment program at this stage? Yes / No

Are you aware of any harvest strategy or cost benefit analysis? Yes / No

Mock/Preview Share trading:

Did you participate in this? Yes / No

Did this resolve your questions? Yes / No

Please explain:

I am a lease fisherman wanting to buy a fishing business however we are still in negotiation with the LAA due to complications with the contract they offered. The loan application started in August and is still ongoing.

Commercial Fishers Personal Views

(Circle the answer you support)

Has DPI given you any information and analysis of the outcome of the trading?

..... Yes / ☒ No

Is it a satisfactory result?

Yes / ☒ No

Please explain:

Is your current debt prohibiting you from borrowing for your business? ☒ Yes / ☐ No

Please verify did you utilize the grant for financial advisor? ☒ Yes / ☐ No

Did the advisor confidently recommend investment? ☒ Yes / ☐ No

Due to the term of the contract

Do you support the changes for unendorsed crew brought out in July? Yes / ☒ No

Why?

Were you adequately advised of these changes? Yes / ☒ No

your views:

Do you have the changes in writing that give you clear directions on what is permissible in your region?

Yes / ☒ No

Personal Commercial Fishers views:

(Circle the answer you support)

Do you have issues in your region with the Prawn Draw? Yes / No

Please explain

Do you support the further culling of Active commercial fishers from the inshore waters estuaries and lakes in NSW? Yes / No

Please explain:

Do you support the movement of Quota into other regions Yes / No

Why?

Movement of Quota into other regions will increase fishing pressure on some regions by cashed up fisherman being able to buy extra Quota. ~~This will~~ and will cause fishing pressure and conflict with other fishing sectors

Personal Commercial Fishers views

(circle the answer your support)

Is there now a visible Increase of trap setting in your region that concerns you?

No comment - do not see Yes / No.
them to be able
to answer.

If you're an Indigenous Fisher:

Have you been informed of your future participation in the reform adequately?

Please explain:

NA

Are you being ostracised by other fishers since the trapping and hauling net and prawn draw changes have occurredYes / NO

Please explain: _____

If you are a Line West or Line East Fisher please state which fishery and if you Know what is proposed for your fishery.....Yes / No.

Please clarify: Increase in share holdings.

Personal Commercial Fishers

views

(Circle the answer you support)

Given there is approximately 1% of the Australian Population allowed to commercially fish to provide seafood for approximately 78% of the population who do not fish recreationally do you agree that there is a major management issue in providing local seafood to local communities in NSW?Yes / No

Your views:

- We should be looking at ^{sustainable} fishing + sustainable fishing practices (not) removal of fisherman
- We need to educate the Australian population on how sustainable we are.
- We need to stamp out the lies fuelled by recreational fisherman about the Commercial sector

Further Comments.

- Our dealing with applying for the loan has shown that the \$1000 allocated to us to cover financial advice is inadequate
- The application form for the loan cost well over \$1000.
- The actual contract required professional interpretation due to how it was written - it was not in plain english for fisherman to understand.
- For a small loan the security need was too great making the loan too risky + could actually cause a business to fail

Remember to attach correspondence you have sent to DPI, or the Minister,