

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Fisheries Reform Inquiry Submission Addendum

Share trading

In no area of this reform for Commercial Fishers has the catch history been taken in to account.

This reform has meant that inactive fishers are being treated equally for their businesses' worth as active fishers. This is grossly unfair and leads to a distortion in the market.

This is evidenced in both days allocated to fish and quota for product.

This is the total opposite to the reform of the sustainable lobster industry in the 1990's where catch history was paramount to the allocation of fisher's quota.

The following are examples of this unfair practice.

- As a hauler of up to 180 days per year, my major fishing activity, I am being allocated 62 days of averaged allocation as is my counterpart who has not hauled for many years. I would therefore need to purchase two endorsements to continue to fish in my normal manner. This would be at a cost to myself, at 64 years of age, of anywhere between \$80 000 to \$100 000 on current prices. This obviously eats in to my retirement funding and means I would have to get a Business Loan.

- If I wish to enter the share trading scheme, I cannot

1. Diversify in to a new fishery. Shares which I need were not available to purchase. An attempt was made to purchase 25 estuary general trapping shares to increase my holding to the required number of 125 which I now need in order to fish in this area but I was deemed ineligible because my endorsement had not been activated as it was below the required amount. Catch-22

These examples prove that it is not an open market; it is highly controlled and manipulated by the restraints placed on the market by DPI (Fisheries).

So, a fisher gets no extra allocation based on their effort and then due to the restrictive regime of days, cannot diversify to allow them to make a living because their initial endorsements leave them short but that means they can't buy more in that fishery.

This will produce more fishing effort, not less, and put a strain on fish and crustacean reserves, producing unsustainable fishing.