

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

**Name:** Mr Chris Whatson

**Date received:** 9 December 2016

---



Registered office:  
577 Singleton Road  
Laughtondale 2775  
Via Wiseman's Ferry  
ABN: 97200112909

Email: admin@wildcaughtcoalition.com

November 2016

**NSW Parliamentary Inquiry**  
**MEMBER PERSONAL**  
**SUBMISSION**

Send to:

The Director

Inquiry into commercial Fishing NSW

Upper House Committee

Parliament of NSW 2000

SYDNEY

NSW

From:

Name: Chris Watson

Address:

Date: 6/12/16



Registered office:  
577 Singleton Road  
Loughtondale 2775  
Via Wiseman's Ferry  
ABN: 97200112909

Email: admin@wildcaughtcoalition.com

## Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

### Introduction:

I am a commercial fisher working in Region: 3 & 4

I have been in the Fishing Industry for: 35 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 mesh netting Shares held: 125 Shares now required 250

Fishery Prawning zone 4 Shares held: 125 Shares now required 150

Fishery Prawning zone 3 Shares held: 250 Shares now required 300

Fishery catorey 1 hauling Shares held: 125 Shares now required 250

Fishery Mudcrab trapping Shares held: 125 Shares now required 250

Fishery Ocean hauling Shares held: 40 Shares now required 50

Fishery \_\_\_\_\_ Shares held: \_\_\_\_\_ Shares now required \_\_\_\_\_

Fishery \_\_\_\_\_ Shares held: \_\_\_\_\_ Shares now required \_\_\_\_\_

Fishery \_\_\_\_\_ Shares held: \_\_\_\_\_ Shares now required \_\_\_\_\_

Fishery \_\_\_\_\_ Shares held: \_\_\_\_\_ Shares now required \_\_\_\_\_

I have had to pre purchase shares because:

I have not purchased any shares  
because I cant afford the price  
shares are selling four

Please note the following personal views of the impacts to my business and my personal situation: I dont think I can survive

in my bussiness with the shares I have



Registered office:  
577 Singleton Road  
Laughtondale 2775  
Via Wiseman's Ferry  
ABN: 97200112909

Email: admin@wildcaughtcoalition.com

## 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



Registered office:  
577 Singleton Road  
Laughtondale 2775  
Via Wiseman's Ferry  
ABN: 97200112909  
Email: admin@wildcaughtcoalition.com

## Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

(Circle the answer you support)

Did you know about the 'Pymont 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 tried to access the  
mock trading my wife could not  
access the mock trading it would  
not let us in*



**Registered office:**  
577 Singleton Road  
Laughtondale 2775  
Via Wiseman's Ferry  
ABN: 97200112909  
Email: admin@wildcaughtcoalition.com

## 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

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



**Registered office:**

577 Singleton Road

Laughtondale 2775

Via Wiseman's Ferry

ABN: 97200112909

Email: admin@wildcaughtcoalition.com

**Personal Commercial Fishers views:**

**(Circle the answer you support)**

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

Please explain

fisheries going back on  
what the reform told me what  
I could do with 250 shares  
eg yous a nominated crew  
if I had 250 prawning shares

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?

---

---

---



**Registered office:**  
577 Singleton Road  
Laughtondale 2775  
Via Wiseman's Ferry  
ABN: 97200112909  
Email: admin@wildcaughtcoalition.com

## Personal Commercial Fishers views

(circle the answer your support)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ ☒ Yes / No.

If you're an Indigenous Fisher:

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

Please explain:

---

---

---

---

---

---

Are you being ostracised by other fishers since the trapping and hauling net and prawn draw changes have occurred ..... Yes / 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: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---