

Submission  
No 143

## INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Name:** Name Supressed  
**Date received:** 9 December 2016

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Partially  
Confidential

**NSW Parliamentary Inquiry  
MEMBER PERSONAL  
SUBMISSION**

**Send to:  
The Director  
Inquiry into commercial Fishing NSW  
Upper House Committee  
Parliament of NSW 2000  
SYDNEY  
NSW**

**Date:   9  /  12  /16**

**Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry**

**Introduction:**

Please sign every page.....

I am a commercial fisher working in Region: 4

I have been in the Fishing Industry for: 17 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 Line West Shares held: 65 Shares now required 60

Fishery Demersal fish trap Shares held: 45 Shares now required 50

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:

To meet minimum share holding requirements and will have to purchase more shares to meet increased minimum share holding.

Please note the following personal views of the impacts to my business and my personal situation: **We continue to go into debt to purchase more shares just to keep operating. We have already bought our business back twice, this seems to be a reoccurring pattern within the DPI. Along with the increased management fees, for no return.**

### Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

Subsidised Trading: (highlight 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**

(highlight 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:

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## Commercial Fishers Personal Views

(highlight 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:

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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?

n/a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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:

(Highlight the answer you support)

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

Please explain

n/a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Why?

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**Personal Commercial Fishers views**

(highlight 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:

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

Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_ n/a \_\_\_\_\_

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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: Line West

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### Personal Commercial Fishers views

(Highlight 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:

The general public that can't access local product will have no option but to purchase imported from countries with no food safety standards.

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Further Comments.

I have lost all faith in DPI management to act in the interest of commercial fisherman and general public. We should not be forced to continually buy our businesses back over and over again. This has caused stress and financial hardship to me and my family. We were hoping to leave a viable business for our son to operate, but as such he will inherit a liability.

These reforms are NOT about environmental sustainability.

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