

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

Name: Mr David Smith
Date received: 6 December 2016



Registered office:

577 Singleton Road

Laughtondale 2775

Via Wiseman's Ferry

ABN: 97200112909

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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: DAVID SMITH

Address: _____

Date: 3/12/16



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Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

Introduction:

I am a commercial fisher working in Region: ONE

I have been in the Fishing Industry for: 34 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 EG MESHING Shares held: 125 Shares now required 375

Fishery EG HAULING CREW Shares held: 125 Shares now required 375

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

Fishery _____ Shares held: _____ Shares now required _____

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 AM CONCERNED FOR MY FUTURE FISHING OPERATIONS AND NOT BEING ABLE TO FISH AT THE LEVEL I HAVE FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS, AT A SUSTAINABLE LEVEL, SUPPLYING MY COMMUNITY.

Please note the following personal views of the impacts to my business and my personal situation: I CURRENTLY HAVE ENOUGH BEACH SHARES BUT AM CONCERNED THAT MAY CHANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WE HAVE NO SECURITY AT ALL



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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? NOT YET Yes / ☒ No
- How will the debt you have incurred affect your viability?
It will be better? I WILL NOT GET A BETTER PRICE 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



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(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? UN FAIR Yes ☒ No

If you disagreed with the Linkage options and the reform; were you welcome to sit at the working group meetings Voiced my opposition at 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? SYSTEM CRASHED ☒ Yes / No

Did this resolve your questions? Yes / ☒ No

Please explain:

DPI COULDN'T GET EMAILS ON TIME
THE SYSTEM WAS A SHAMBLES, GETTING
SOLID ADVICE FROM DPI WAS IMPOSSIBLE



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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:

THE PEOPLE RUNNING THE SHOW
WERE ILL INFORMED ABOUT THE WHOLE
PROCESS

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

I AM CAUTIOUS TO BORROW WITHOUT A LONGTERM GARRENTEE

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

Why? THE ESTUARY SYSTEM WILL CREATE A HUGE
INCREASE IN EFFORT POSSIBLY DOUBLING THE HAULING CREWS
IN THE ESTUARY

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

your views: CHANCES WERE RUSHED

THROUGH WITH VERY LITTLE CONSULTATION

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

Yes / ☒ No



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Personal Commercial Fishers views:

(Circle the answer you support)

Do you have issues in your region with the Prawn Draw?

Yes

☒ No

Please explain

NO PRAWN DRAW IN
REGION ONE

Do you support the further culling of Active commercial fishers from the inshore waters estuaries and lakes in NSW?

☒ Yes

No

Please explain:

ONLY ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OR RECREATIONAL FISHING FEES
TO FUND THE PROCESS, MANY OLDER
FISHERMEN ARE READY TO GO BUT INDUSTRY
SHOULD NOT PAY FOR THIS

Do you support the movement of Quota into other regions

Yes

☒ No

Why?

ZONING WAS BOUGHT IN TO CONTROL
EFFORT IN ZONES WHICH HAS WORKED WELL
LEAVE THE ZONES MANAGED SEPARATELY



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Personal Commercial Fishers views

(circle the answer your support)

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

MUD CRABS

☒ 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 occurredYes / NO

Please explain: DNA

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: _____

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:

THE MARINE PARKS + REC FISHING AREAS ARE LOPSIDED TOWARDS REC FISHING, IN MY VIEW IT'S ALL IN OR ALL OUT NOT EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO ONE SECTOR. IMPORTED PRODUCTS NEED A HEAVY IMPORT TAX TO MAKE IT PRICED ~~AND~~ SIMILAR TO LOCAL PRODUCT

Further Comments.

BAG LIMITS NEED TO BE VALUED FOR REC FISHING, ENFORCEMENT NEEDS TO BE TRIPLIED, THE BLACK MARKET OF ILLEGALLY CAUGHT SEAFOOD IN COASTAL AREAS IS AT A ALLTIME HIGH. THE NUMBER OF FISHING INSPECTORS IN OUR AREA HAS NOT CHANGED IN 20 YEARS + THE POPULATION HAS EXPLODED WITH WATER USERS

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

NSW DPI IS TOO HEAVY WITH MANAGEMENT STAFF, WAY TOO MUCH DEAD WOOD + NO LONG TERM FISHERY MANAGERS WITH VAST EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD. LAND BASED ACTIVITIES NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WITH PLAYING A BIG PART IN THE EFFECTS ON FISH STOCKS IN NSW COASTAL AREAS.

OUR MANAGEMENT + LICENCE FEES ARE INCREASING AT A ALARMING RATE YET OUR PRICE FOR OUR PRODUCT ISN'T RISING ACCORDINLY.

MORE HABITAT + FISHERIES OFFICERS ARE NEEDED, ALL THE CONSTRAINTS IN THE WORLD WON'T ON COMMERCIAL FISHERS WON'T SAVE STOCKS WHILE HABITAT DESTRUCTION + WATER QUALITY CONCERNS ARE A HUGE PART OF THE PROBLEM.

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES NEED LOCAL COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN PLEASE GIVE US SOME STABILITY !!
(FOR A CHANGE)