

**Submission
No 161**

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

Name: Mr Peter Ragno

Date received: 9 December 2016



Registered office:
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Laughtondale 2775
Via Wiseman's Ferry
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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

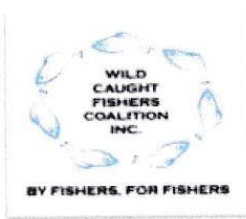
From:

Name: Peter Ragno

Address: _____

_____ **Date:** 7/12/16

Please sign every page.....



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Commercial Fisher Personal Comments to the Inquiry

Introduction:

I am a commercial fisher working in Region: 4

I have been in the Fishing Industry for: 37 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 <u>Handlining trawling crew</u>	Shares held: <u>125</u>	Shares now required <u>375</u>
Fishery <u>Cat. 2 Hauling</u>	Shares held: <u>125</u>	Shares now required <u>500</u>
Fishery <u>Est. general prawning</u>	Shares held: <u>150</u>	Shares now required <u>375</u> -
Fishery <u>Est. general meshing</u>	Shares held: <u>125</u>	Shares now required <u>200</u>
Fishery <u>Est. general trapping</u>	Shares held: <u>125</u>	Shares now required <u>375</u>
Fishery <u>Est. general mudcrab trapping</u>	Shares held: <u>125</u>	Shares now required <u>—</u>
Fishery <u>ocean hauling gen. purpose</u>	Shares held: <u>60</u>	Shares now required <u>—</u>
Fishery <u>Ocean hauling net shares</u>	Shares held: <u>70</u>	Shares now required <u>—</u>
Fishery <u>ocean line west</u>	Shares held: <u>40</u>	Shares now required <u>60</u>
Fishery _____	Shares held: _____	Shares now required _____

I have had to pre purchase shares because:

Estuary general prawning - 25 shares. We were told if we didn't have them by July 2017 we couldn't go prawning and they couldn't guarantee that we would be able to get them in the share trading auction.

Please note the following personal views of the impacts to my business and my personal situation: Financial strain and stress regarding the future is enormous. Everyday depression wondering if my business will survive the reform or will I lose everything as we are not in a financial position to buy shares.

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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? 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



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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? 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:

We don't know if we were successful in
obtaining Shares and we don't know how
much they would cost.

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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:

we only received an email on 8th December.
It does not tell us anything to help us make
an informed business decision.

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

our accountant did not recommend it.

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

Why? It's taking another fisherman out
of a job.

Were you adequately advised of these changes? Yes / No

your views: There was no consultation
whatsoever.

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

unendorsed crew should not be
allowed in prawn ballots.

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

Please explain:

There is less than 1000 fishermen
in NSW and ~~we~~ 85% of seafood is
imported. We have a responsibility to
provide fresh seafood to 80% of the public.
How can we do this with less fishermen
and there is not a sustainability issue.

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

Why?

Its a recipe for disaster and overfishing.



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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?

_____ 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: We are now competing with blokes who have 2-3 times the gear in the water that we are using and with no restrictions.

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. No I don't know what is proposed.



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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:

They should not be decreasing fishers
and we need to bring younger generations
into the industry to keep it going,
not chase them away with ridiculous
restrictions and management costs

Further Comments.

In my opinion, the \$16 million was
to buy out latent effort in the industry.
Share management should remain how it
is as an access right which keeps
everybody on a level playing field.
The \$16 million subsidy should be
used to buy back the extra shares
that people have been forced into
purchasing, as these are the latent

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



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shares.
There should be one man =
one business, which over the
last several years has been a
successful management strategy
and keeps everyone viable if
you are willing to work hard.
The handful of whingers in the
industry are people who hate
competition and are the ones that
are pushing this reform.