

**Submission  
No 165**

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

**Name:** Mr Mario Puglisi

**Date received:** 9 December 2016

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8/12/16

The Director,  
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5,  
Parliament House,  
Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Committee,

I am a member of the Wild Caught Fishers Coalition and I believe they are putting forward a submission on its member's behalf. Even though, I wish to express my opposition to the STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM.

When shares were first implemented, it was only to give you access to that fishery. And that was worked out on your Catch History. Those that were the majority received the maximum of 65 inshore and 65 offshore.

There were a lot of operators that didn't meet those requirements that were still given access with no restrictions with the exception of the transferability of their licence. Now they are saying 1 share is equal to .69 of a night. Which is a massive disadvantage to myself, especially in the resale value of my business?

I am operating in the Ocean Prawn Trawl Fishery and also the General Estuary Fishery, both in zone 1.

Starting out with my father, I have been operating in these Fisheries for the last 30 years. I entered the SHARE MANAGED FISHERY myself in the early 90's. I purchased my own vessel in 2009, FV "FLEETWING" FB 00264. When purchasing the vessel I made sure there were maximum shares for both inshore and offshore fishery (65/65). This entitled me to work 365 nights. These shares were worked on your CATCH HISTORY.

Why are they going to DISREGARD OUR CATCH HISTORY? Our businesses have always been valued equal to the effort we have put in over the years. Why is it fair for our businesses to be DEVALUED and we are told that we may possibly only be able to work 80 nights / yr.?

SHOULD WE NOT BENEFIT FROM YOUR INPUT EFFORT?

WHY SHOULD THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT HELPED BUILD THE FISHING INDUSTRY BE REWARDED JUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE PURCHASED ALL THIS SO CALLED LATEN EFFORT.

The reform is basically telling me that (because I have worked for the last 30 years to make a sustainable business for myself and my family, to one day retire from. I have complied with all rules and regulations over those years). **I have worked for NOTHING VIABLE TO SELL.**

All the Structural Adjustment Program will do is create (Share Barons) with people accumulating large amounts of shares to lease or sell back to the industry.



My hard work for 30 years is worth NOTHING. I will be forced out of an industry that I have loved and I will not have anything to show for it.

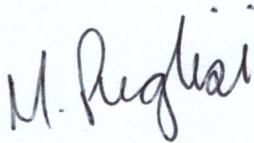
In the past 12 months there has been an exceptional year of prawns in the Coffs Harbour deep water. We are also experiencing what could possibly be a very good spawning season for our prawns and we hope fixed and extended closures will enhance this prawn season.

Therein lays the success of protecting the juvenile stock with further possible closures to protect the stock even further.

Look at the success in other states such as the Spencer Gulf, Northern Prawn fisheries and QLD (with their inshore closures).

Ocean Prawn Trawl Fishery has been operating successfully since the 40's up and down the East Coast.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Puglisi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mario Puglisi