Commercial fishing in New South Wales

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 5

That the NSW Department of Primary Industries re-open applications for the fishing business buyout and keep them open until closer to the start of the subsidised share trading market.

Recommendation 2

That the NSW Government fast track the Independent Allocation Panel process where possible, providing the additional resources necessary to ensure that the published timeframes of July 2018 are met for all remaining share classes.

Recommendation 3

That the Minister for Primary Industries:

- appoint a probity auditor before June 2017 to scrutinise the implementation of the subsidised share trading market
- appoint a separate probity auditor to review the role and involvement of the Structural Adjustment Review Committee in addressing potential conflicts of interest.

Recommendation 4

That the NSW Department of Primary Industries assess the level of assistance provided to fishing co-operatives.

Recommendation 5

That the NSW Department of Primary Industries confirm arrangements for the involvement of the Small Business Commissioner by April 2017 and ensure that these arrangements are communicated to the commercial fishing industry.

Recommendation 6

That the NSW Department of Primary Industries extend the period for commercial fishers to apply for Financial Advice Grants from 2018 until 2020 and increase the grant limit for both legal and financial advice to \$2,000.

Recommendation 7

That the Department of Primary Industries ensure that individual case management is offered to fishers who leave the industry and for whom retraining assistance is not sufficient to regain employment.

Recommendation 8 21

That the NSW Department of Primary Industries continue to implement the Business Adjustment Program in accordance with the published timeframes.

Recommendation 9 21

That the NSW Government require the NSW Commercial Fishing Advisory Council (CommFish), in consultation with NSW Fishermen's Co-operative Association, to report to Parliament on the progress of the commercial fishing reform process during the reform period, on an annual basis.

Recommendation 10 31

That the NSW Government ensure that its response to the committee's report includes a detailed timeframe for the implementation of each of the recommendations of the 2016 Review of the current NSW Resource Assessment Framework by John McKoy and Kevin Stokes.

Recommendation 11 31

That the NSW Department of Primary Industries introduce a penalty demerit scheme by the end of 2018

Recommendation 12 31

That the NSW Department of Primary Industries prioritise the introduction of electronic catch recording systems, including opportunities to install such systems in fishing co-operatives.

Recommendation 13 35

That the NSW Department of Primary Industries commission a Social Impact Assessment of the Business Adjustment Program on commercial fishers in New South Wales and make the findings of the assessment public.

Recommendation 14 41

That the Minister for Primary Industries:

- establish the Commercial Fishing Advisory Council (CommFish NSW) by July 2017, in accordance with the NSW Government Boards and Committees Guidelines. The Council should be broadly representative of the industry and include Aboriginal and recreational fishers.
- ensure that members of the NSW Commercial Fishing Advisory Council receive appropriate support and training.

Recommendation 15 42

That the NSW Government assist industry to establish a peak body for commercial fishing in New South Wales to improve communication within the industry and enhance industry input into the future management of fisheries in New South Wales. This body should receive sustainable funding to strengthen the reform process.

Recommendation 16 45

That the Minister for Primary Industries ensure that the Aboriginal Commercial Fishing Trust is fully operational by July 2017.

Recommendation 17 45

That the Department of Primary Industries give further consideration to the continuation of permits in certain circumstances for Aboriginal commercial fishers.

Recommendation 18 47

That the NSW Government:

- complete its consultation on a country of origin labelling scheme for seafood sold for immediate consumption and commence implementation of a labelling scheme with any necessary funding by December 2017
- consider the creation of a New South Wales seafood label as part of the planned community awareness program.