

Initiative 6 – Reducing user conflicts in Pittwater

Frequently asked questions

Why is Pittwater targeted for a user-conflict initiative?

Pittwater was identified through the TARA as an area of social conflict relating to commercial fishing activities, despite regulation aimed at reducing conflict. Some recreational fishing groups have historically lobbied for commercial fishing closures in Pittwater. Evidence of the conflict includes a petition to Parliament to have commercial fishing banned in Pittwater. An independently-chaired working group with representatives from various interest groups was previously formed to assess the issues and seek consensus or common ground on future management arrangements for Pittwater. Unfortunately the working group was not able to reach consensus, and the issue remains.

Why has commercial fishing being singled out as the problem here?

Perceptions about commercial fishing practices and conflicts between the commercial and recreational fishing sectors have been an issue in Pittwater for several years. This initiative will explore market-based mechanisms to resolve the issues.

Why isn't this issue being addressed under the commercial fishing reforms?

The commercial fisheries reforms are focussed on linking shares with effort or catch through the Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program. These reforms are aimed at reducing or removing existing overcapacity and will deliver improved control over commercial catches and greater viability and sustainability for fisheries in NSW. While the reforms will address several risks identified through the TARA associated with commercial fishing, they are not designed to address specific resource use conflict issues in individual estuaries such as Pittwater.

Where can I find more information?

More information is available at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment: www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment

If you would like to receive updates on the Hawkesbury Shelf assessment or other marine estate initiatives please advise us via contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au and provide your name, email address and postcode.

Feedback requested

We would appreciate feedback on these Frequently Asked Questions: Was it useful information? Was it easy to understand? What other questions would you like answered? Please email your comments to contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au

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