



Fisheries Compliance Branch Restructure

Please find attached the new structure for the fisheries compliance components of the Compliance Operations Branch (see Appendix 1). The restructure follows the release on 6 September 2007 of a draft restructure proposal, and an extensive consultation process with staff and stakeholder representatives.

The discussion on the restructure at all times focused on addressing OH&S issues (in particular the issue of one-person districts), and making the most strategic use of the resources available. The consultation phase of this process has been most co-operative and I thank stakeholders for their input. The new structure reflects many of the suggestions made.

The changes to the Fisheries Compliance Units are:

- All districts will have a minimum of two staff, and wherever possible three staff;
- Fisheries officer positions will be located at Coffs Harbour and Batemans Bay to assist in the management of the two large offshore patrol vessels;
- Fisheries Officer grade 3 positions (positions which include a supervisory role) will be created at each of the three main training districts at the Central Coast (Narara), Sydney North (Wollstonecraft) and Sydney South (Sans Souci) to assist in the training of fisheries officer recruits and assist in the overall management of the respective districts;
- Two coastal districts, Manning (Taree) and Hawkesbury (Brooklyn) and one inland district, Far West (Broken Hill), will close and the fisheries compliance functions previously undertaken in these districts will be undertaken by the surrounding districts.
- The Fisheries Investigations Unit facility at Batemans Bay will close;
- The office location for the Yass District will be Tumut; for the Riverina District Deniliquin; and for the Macquarie District Dubbo/Wellington.
- Conservation compliance outcomes will continue to be managed by the Fisheries Conservation officer positions at Ballina, Sydney, and Huskisson – supplemented by an additional position based at Narrandera (to coordinate inland conservation/aquaculture compliance activities);
- The Fisheries Investigation Unit will be restructured. In particular, the existing 3-person Recreational Mobile Squad (funded by the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust) will be disbanded and replaced by three regionally-based, two-person mobile squads (jointly funded by the Trust and by NSW DPI) which will spend 50% of their time on recreational issues and 50% of their time on post-harvest, black-marketing and targeting high-risk offenders.

The new structure takes effect from 1 January 2008. A Restructure Review Committee will meet early in the early new year to review district boundaries.

PAUL O'CONNOR
Director Compliance Operations
24 December 2007

Appendix 1: New Fisheries Compliance Structure.

District	New Structure					Comment
	SFO	FCO	DFO	FO3	FO	
Tweed (Tweed Heads)			1		1	
Richmond (Ballina)		1	1		1	
Clarence (Maclean)			1		2	
Coffs Harbour	1		1		2	
Hastings (Port Macquarie)	1		1		1	
Manning (Taree)			0		0	Incorporated into Wallis Lake District.
Wallis Lake (Tuncurry)			1		2	
Pt Stephens (Nelson Bay)			1		2	
Hunter (Swansea)			1		2	
Central Coast (Narara)	1		1	1	2	SFO (CAG) - replaces SFO (Conservation)
Hawkesbury (Narara)			0		0	Incorporated into Central Coast District.
Sydney North (W/craft)	1	1	1	1	3	
Sydney South (Sans Souci)			1	1	2	
Illawarra (Lake Illawarra)			1		2	
Shoalhaven (Huskisson)	1	1	1		1	
Batemans Bay	1		1		2	
Montague (Narooma)			1		2	
Far South Coast (Eden)			1		2	
Monaro (Jindabyne)			1		1	
Yass (Tumut)			1		1	Yass and Tumut offices merged at Tumut
Yass (Yass)		0			0	Yass and Tumut offices merged at Tumut
Hume (Albury)	1		1		1	
Riverina District (Narrandera)		1	0		0	New Conservation/Aquaculture Compliance Position
Riverina District (Deniliquin)			1		1	Narrandera and Deniliquin Offices merged at Deniliquin
Lower Murray (Dareton)			1		1	
Far West (Broken Hill)			0		0	Incorporated into surrounding Districts.
Central Tablelands (Bath)	1		1		1	
Macquarie (Wellington/Dubbo)			1		1	Offices at both Wellington and Dubbo
New England (Inverell)			1		1	
Peel (Tamworth)			1		1	
North Coast mobile squad				1	1	Location of squad yet to be determined
Narara (Sp Ops)	1		2	1	3	SFO (FIU)
Central Mobile Squad				1	1	
South Coast Mobile Squad				1	1	
Batemans (Sp Ops)					0	Office closed. DFO relocated to Merimbula. FO relocated to Narara.
Merimbula (Sp Ops)			1	1	1	
Totals	9	4	28	8	45	94

Legend:

SFO	Supervising Fisheries Officer
SFI	Senior Fisheries Investigator
FCO	Fisheries Conservation Officer
DFO	District Fisheries Officer
FO3	Fisheries Officer Grade 3;
FO	Fisheries Officer