

**MEDIA RELEASE
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Lack of Trust in the Fisheries Reform Process

UNSETTLING are the preliminary results of a recent survey seeking the views of Queensland commercial seafood operators. “Over the course of this so-called reform process industry has become more disillusioned with the tone of the process and seeming lack of genuine consultation. Fisheries Queensland is reflecting the politics of the day to industry’s detriment” said Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSLA) President Keith Harris.

Significantly more disturbing are the responses to the questions relating to whether or not industry operators would consider leaving based on either the reform process or the introduction of vessel monitoring systems (VMS). “When 80 percent of respondents indicated that they had considered leaving industry as a result of the reform process and 75 percent due to the introduction of VMS something is not right with the reform process”.

“There is a feeling amongst my industry that we are being ignored and we must simply accept a so-called reform process led by a department that seems to be wilfully ignoring the social and economic impacts on commercial fishers and their families”.

“Our businesses may become casualties of this process and should not, it’s simply un-Australian in 2018 to believe that a government agency could lead us to the position this industry finds itself” said Mr Harris.

ENDS

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Attachment 1. Preliminary Survey Results – Summary of Survey Findings
Attachment 2. QSLA News – Lack of Trust in the Fisheries Reform Process

Attachment 1. Summary of Survey Findings

View regarding Queensland Fisheries Reform

- 94 percent of respondents indicated the reform process was rushed.
- 93 percent of respondents indicated that they wanted more time to consider the impact of the reform on them and their businesses.
- 96 percent of respondents indicated they had concerns with how Fisheries Queensland engages with industry.
- 80 percent of respondents indicated that they had considered leaving industry as a result of the reform process.

View regarding Vessel Monitoring Systems

- 92 percent of respondents indicated concerns with the security of their information upon implementation of VMS across industry
- 92 percent of respondents indicated concerns with the number of agencies that may have access to VMS data.
- 94 percent of respondents indicated concern with the potential financial impacts of VMS on their business.
- 75 percent of respondents have considered exiting industry based on the introduction of VMS.
- 77 percent of respondents indicated that government would compromise their intellectual property by allowing access to their VMS data.
- 91 one percent of respondents stated that Fisheries Queensland had not adequately consulted with the commercial seafood industry regarding VMS.

Attachment 2. QSIA News – Lack of Trust in the Fisheries Reform Process

QSIA News: [Lack of Trust in the Fisheries Reform Process](#)