

**OCEAN TRAP AND LINE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
(OTLMAC)
DRAFT OUTCOMES
MONDAY 27 September 2010
9:30 AM TO 5:00 PM
CRONULLA FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTRE
CRONULLA, NSW 2230**

Attendees:

Chairperson

Dr Julian Amos

Management Advisory Committee Representatives

Vacant	Spanner crab
Paul Porter	Line fishing east (north)
Vacant	Line fishing east (south)
Raymond Blake	Demersal fish trap (north)
Paul Sullivan	Demersal fish trap (south)
John Joblin	Line fishing west (north)
Garry Braithwaite	Line fishing west (south)
Vacant	Recreational representative
Miriam Vandenberg	Industry and Investment NSW
Vacant	Nature Conservation Council

Observers

Doug Ferrell (part meeting by phone)	I&I NSW, Manager, Resource Planning
Fiona McKinnon	I&I NSW, Senior Fisheries Manager
Will Macbeth	I&I NSW, Science and Research
Marcel Green	I&I NSW, Conservation
Paul Blade	I&I NSW, Compliance
Darryl Sullings (part meeting)	I&I NSW, Senior Fisheries Manager
Kevin Rowling (part meeting)	I&I NSW, Science and Research
Peter Gallagher	I&I NSW, Senior Conservation Manager
Anissa Lawrence	Nature Conservation Council
Ross Daley	CSIRO

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Agenda Item	Outcome
1. Welcome and Apologies	<p>Meeting opened 10.30am (delayed start due to flight delays). The Chairperson welcomed the members and all observers, noting that previous incumbents of current vacant positions Matthew Creek, Allen Filep and Oliver Wady had been invited to attend as observers, however, sent apologies.</p> <p>Members expressed concern regarding the vacant positions and the inability to fill them and asked that the previous industry incumbents be directly appointed. The committee were advised that there is currently no legislative provision for direct appointments and that any legislative changes would be reflected following the outcomes of a review of all consultative structures requested by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.</p>
2. Agreement on Agenda	<p>The agenda was agreed upon, with the addition of an item relating to fishing restrictions at Fish Rock and Green Island grey nurse shark critical habitats sites – outcomes noted under the ‘Other business’ Agenda Item.</p>
3. Confirmation of previous minutes	<p>The Committee agreed that the minutes from the previous meeting held on 16 & 17 November 2009 would be acceptable as a true and accurate record of this meeting and they were adopted as ‘Final outcomes’.</p>
4. Correspondence received and sent	<p>Correspondence was noted. Letter from Matthew Creek was tabled and the concerns raised by Mr Creek regarding a south coast port meeting and the MAC consultation process were noted.</p> <p>Action - The chairperson resolved to write to the Minister regarding the issues raised in Mr Creek’s correspondence.</p>
5. Business arising from previous minutes	<p>Noted.</p>
6. Export approval for the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery	<p>A copy of the latest proposed changes to the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTLF) conditions and recommendations were tabled and noted. Members sought justification as to why the former Commonwealth Department, DEWHA, now called Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC), had proposed to reduce the total allowable catch of shark. The MAC was advised that a meeting was scheduled to discuss these issues between I&I NSW, SEWPaC and the CSIRO later that week.</p>
7. Mulloway resource planning	<p>Darryl Sullings presented options developed by the Mulloway Resource Planning Group (RPG). Industry members advised they had seen an increase in sightings this year following rain after several</p>

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	<p>years of drought and also expressed concern that summer spawning aggregations are targeted. Members noted that the majority of catch was landed by recreational fishers and advised that the mortality rate of discarded mullet is likely to be high, due to inflated swim bladders when landed from depths. It was suggested that alternate solutions be developed to address the Committee's concerns regarding the proposed new minimum legal length.</p> <p>Action: John Joblin to develop alternative options with the MAC (out-of-session) for consideration by the RPG.</p>
8. Update on management arrangements for the spanner crab fishery	Noted.
9. Reform program for the NSW commercial fishing industry	<p>Doug Ferrell provided a verbal update on the outcomes of recent port meetings and associated structural adjustment program.</p> <p>MAC members reiterated their view that they did not wish to engage in any industry restructuring prior to the statutory review of the current management plan. The MAC noted that some restructuring had already occurred through minimum shareholding increases and the linking of some shareholdings (fishing businesses) to effort – e.g. restrictions on the number of traps and hooks that may be used.</p>
10. Exit Grant Program – proposal for unspent funds	The Committee was advised that funding within the Commercial Trust Fund is for the benefit of all fisheries and is not attributed directly to a specific fishery, noting that this proposal would be raised with the SIAC Structural Adjustment Working Group.
11. Presentation of results from CSIRO's east coast gulper shark survey	Ross Daley from the CSIRO presented results of a dogfish population survey recently conducted which highlighted some species at risk and the need for additional management arrangements for high risk fishing methods to maintain populations of dogfish.
12. Proposed closure to bottom setline methods in the Commonwealth 'Endeavour Dogfish Closure'	Industry members advised that the main method utilised in the area was droplining, noting that only limited setlining was thought to be happening there. The Committee was supportive of separate consultation occurring with line fishers in that region. Members were advised that the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) support a zero recreational bag limit.
13. Proposed reduction to the dogfish trip limit	Industry members did not support a reduction in trip limit. The MAC was, however, advised that it would be prudent to implement complementary arrangements in an effort to reduce the impact on

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	<p>remaining vulnerable dogfish populations (and subsequent potential listing as threatened species under Commonwealth legislation). The Committee was advised that an internal risk assessment is being conducted to determine high risk methods/areas and that appropriate management arrangements would need to be implemented to address those risks.</p>
<p>14. Permits to transport fishing gear through closed waters</p>	<p>Industry members continued to support the carriage of stowed gear through closed waters, in line with current practice. The Committee was advised that the current administrative arrangements relating to authorisations are under review and that the staged repeal of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> may provide the opportunity to streamline these administrative processes, negating the need for the issue of specific authorisations.</p>
<p>15. Updates – Research, Compliance, Conservation and SIAC</p>	<p>The Committee noted the updates provided by the I&I NSW Research, Compliance & Conservation observers and by Garry Braithwaite.</p> <p>Action: Snapper research report by Dr John Stewart to be forwarded to the Committee.</p>
<p>16. Other business, chairperson's summary and next meeting date</p>	<p>Other business:</p> <p>Critically endangered grey nurse sharks (GNS): Review of management arrangements at Fish Rock and Green Island critical habitat sites. Peter Gallagher gave a presentation on the current management arrangements and recent research findings on gear interactions with GNS. Two options were proposed: (1) applying similar restrictions to recreational fishers that already apply to commercial sector, although evidence suggests that this will reduce but not eliminate risk of interactions, or (2) introducing two smaller total fishing closures around both sites. The Committee noted the two approaches put forward and that separate consultation is taking place with the operators in that area.</p> <p>Great white shark interactions: The Committee was advised of recent mortalities of threatened juvenile great white sharks due to interaction with the use of wire trace on non-bottom set lines. The current regulation prohibits the use of wire trace on any part of the mainline, trace or hook that is within 5 metres of the sea bed within 3 nm. The MAC noted the proposal to restrict the use of wire trace on any lines during the winter & early spring months of June July, August and September.</p> <p>The Chairperson noted that the next meeting is anticipated for late February or early March and closed the meeting at 5 pm.</p>