

**OCEAN TRAP & LINE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

Meeting 16-17 November 2009

9 am to 4.30 pm

2nd meeting for 2009

Day 1 - Cronulla Fisheries Centre (202 Nicholson Pde, Cronulla)

Day 2 – Cronulla Central Community Centre (38-60 Croydon St, Cronulla)

Chairperson

Dr Julian Amos

Management Advisory Committee Representatives

Vacant	Spanner crab
Paul Porter	Line fishing (eastern zone) north
Vacant	Line fishing (eastern zone) south
Raymond Blake	Demersal fish trap north
Paul Sullivan	Demersal fish trap south
John Joblin	Line fishing (western zone) north
Garry Braithwaite	Line fishing (western zone) south
Oliver Wady	Recreational representative
Veronica Silberschneider	Industry and Investment NSW
Megan Kessler	Nature Conservation Council

Observers

Andrew Goulstone	I&I NSW, Manager Fisheries Management
Darryl Sullings	I&I NSW, Senior Fisheries Manager
Miriam Vandenberg	I&I NSW, Fisheries Manager
Will MacBeth	I&I NSW, Science and Research
Marcel Green	I&I NSW, Conservation Manager
Paul Blade	I&I NSW, Compliance
Bryan van der Walt	I&I NSW, Recreational
Alex Hulme	DEWHA
Martin Russell	DEWHA

**OTLMAC AGENDA
16 &17 November 2009**

Day 1	
1. Welcome and Apologies	Chairperson
2. Agreement on agenda for 16 November 2009	Chairperson
3. Confirmation of draft minutes of 22 &23 June 2009	Chairperson
4. Correspondence sent and received	Chairperson
5. Business arising from the minutes	Chairperson
6. Update on Combined Shark Catch off the NSW Coast	I&I NSW
7. Results of Observer Program	I&I NSW
8. Update on export approval	DEWHA
9. Shark Management Arrangements	I&I NSW
10. Update on the East Bioregional planning process	DEWHA
11. Minimum shareholding update	I&I NSW
12. Update on Structural Adjustment Process	I&I NSW and Industry
Day 2	
13. Cobia – Introduction of a size limit and changes to the bag limit	I&I NSW
14. Proposed introduction of a section 8 fishing closure within the <i>HMAS Adelaide</i> Reserve	I&I NSW
15. Updates – Compliance, Management Planning, SIAC , Commonwealth	I&I NSW
16. Introduction and overview of new FishOnline System	I&I NSW
17. Renewal of fishing closure banning recreational and commercial use of abalone viscera as bait or berley	I&I NSW
18. Empowering stakeholders to initiate and advance R&D projects	I&I NSW
19. Other Business	I&I NSW and Industry
20. Chairperson's summary and next meeting date	Chairperson

Agenda Item 1

Chairperson

Issue

Welcome and Apologies

Background

The Committee welcomes members who have recently been elected (and re-elected) to industry representative positions.

Mr Raymond Blake has been elected as the new Demersal Fish Trap (north) representative. Two OTLMAC positions were not filled following the recent MAC elections conducted by the State Electoral Commission, as no nominations were received. The vacant positions were: Spanner Crab and Line fishing east (south). An expression of interest process was held and nominations were received from persons interested in the positions. Cabinet approval has been sought for appointment members following conclusion of the recent elections and expression of interest processes.

The Committee would also like to thank outgoing member Mr John Garven for his hard work and constructive participation.

Outcome

Agenda Item 2

Chairperson

Issue

Agreement on Agenda

Background

A notice of the meeting and call for agenda items was circulated to Committee members, co-operatives and coastal fisheries offices on 29 September 2009.

A draft agenda has been circulated to all Committee members, co-operatives and coastal fisheries offices. Additional items may be proposed for discussion during other business, subject to approval by the Chairperson.

Outcome

Agenda Item 3

Chairperson

Issue

Confirmation of draft minutes from the previous meeting.

Background

Draft minutes were prepared during the last meeting and sent to Committee members following the meeting. No amendments were requested.

Outcome

Agenda Item 4

Chairperson

Issue

Correspondence received and sent.

OTLMAC CORRESPONDENCE LIST (since 18 June 2009)

Date	From	Issue	To	Action
18 June 2009	I&I NSW (then NSW DPI)	Public submissions received relating to renewed export approval - supplementary documentation – for previous MAC meeting agenda item.	OTLMAC	FYI
2 July 2009	I&I NSW (then NSW DPI)	Request that consideration be given to the draft recommendations from DEWHA re spanner crab component of the OTL Fishery for the purposes of seeking separate export approval.	OTLMAC	For comment
8 July 2009	I&I NSW (then NSW DPI)	Draft outcomes of meeting 22&23 June 2009	OTLMAC	For comment
9 July 2009	I&I NSW (then NSW DPI)	Information regarding courses designed for industry business owners covering the basic principles and practices of marketing seafood.	OTLMAC	FYI
14 July 2009	I&I NSW (then NSW DPI)	Advice re mail out to all ocean trap and line and ocean trawl shareholders regarding the minimum shareholding.	OTLMAC	FYI
17 Aug 2009	I&I NSW	Advice regarding regulation amendment re: delay of the implementation of minimum shareholding for spanner crab shareholders	OTLMAC	FYI
18 Aug 2009	DEWHA	Advice that the fishery has been placed on the list of Exempt Native Specimens until 27 November 2009 while a review is undertaken on the management arrangements for the shark fishing component of the fishery	OTLMAC	FYI
8 Sept 2009	I&I NSW	Environmental Impact Statement for Marine Fish Stocking in NSW	OTLMAC	FYI
10 Oct 2009	DEWHA	Public Comment Period - Harrisson's, Endeavour and Southern dogfish Threatened Species Listing	OTLMAC	Comment

Agenda Item 5**Chairperson****Issue**

Business arising from the minutes.

Background

An updated action item status list attached. Advice is sought to the relevance of the 2 action items pending from meeting 2007.

Outcomes

For information and consideration.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

OTLMAC Meeting 22 & 23 June 2009

Agenda Item	Topic	Action	Responsibility	Status
6	Structural Adjustment	Write to the Minister regarding the Committee's support for the package	Chairperson	Complete
10	Export Approval	Performance Assessment Report to be provided to the MAC when finalised	I&I NSW	Pending – not yet finalised

OTLMAC Meeting 5 November 2007

Agenda Item	Topic	Action	Responsibility	Status
9	Black Cod recovery Program	Write to Fisheries Scientific Committee expressing concern over the listing of cod on the vulnerable species list and request its removal.	Chairperson	Pending
13	Environmental standards for imported fish	Write to DAFF requesting Advice	Chairperson	Pending

Agenda Item 6**I&I NSW****Issue**

Shark Fishing off NSW: integration of State and Commonwealth catch data

Background

The shark population fished off NSW inevitably extends into Queensland and adjacent Commonwealth waters. Cooperation between agencies to integrate shark catches within all waters off NSW is therefore of extreme importance.

A project has been undertaken to assess catch data for sharks from all waters off NSW through integration of AFMA and NSW DPI data sets. Data sets covered include both logbook and observer data. Analysis of the combined data can provide temporal and spatial information on the shark fishing effort in these waters, potentially enabling assessment of the feasibility of spatio-temporal options for the management of targeted shark stocks.

Such collaboration and integration of shark catch data will enable future preparation of more scientifically rigorous management regimes for shark fishing in these waters.

An update on the outcomes of the project will be provided.

Outcomes

For information of the Committee.

Agenda Item 7**I&I NSW****Issue**

Update on results of the Line Observer Program

Background

NSW DPI science and research branch have undertaken intensive sampling work as part of the Commercial Shark-fishing Observer Program. This research program, jointly funded by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, NSW DPI and shark permit holders, collected data and biological samples onboard commercial fishing vessels specifically targeting sharks in NSW waters. An overview of the results will be provided.

In addition to this, sampling has been done as part of the 2-year Commercial Line-fishing Observer Program, which commenced in September 2007 and is aimed at identifying and quantifying the levels of discarding of all commercial, non-commercial, threatened and protected species in the line-fishing component of the fishery. An update on status will be provided.

Outcomes

For information of the Committee.

Issue

Update on export approval and independent review of sustainable shark catch

Background

Commonwealth export approval for the fishery under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* expired on 27 July 2009. After considering the submission prepared by I&I NSW the Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts (DEWHA) has allowed export to continue from the NSW Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTLF) until 27 November 2009 and as such the fishery has been placed upon the List of Exempt Native Specimens.

A longer export approval was not given as DEWHA is concerned over the shark fishing component of the OTLF and has commissioned CSIRO to review the management arrangements. The report is due shortly. It is likely that the export approval will be extended for a further 4 months to allow for the review of the shark component of the fishery to be finalised & released for public comment and for the Commonwealth Minister to consider available information and a decision made.

DEWHA will be attending the meeting as an observer and will be available to answer any queries members may have.

Outcomes

For information of the Committee.

Issue

Shark Management Arrangements

Background

At the last Ocean Trap and Line Management Advisory Committee (OT&LMAC) meeting on 22 & 23 June 2009, the Committee considered options for management of sharks and feedback received on the arrangements which were in place for the 2008/09 period. The main issues raised included equity, discarding, dumping, sustainability & interactions with threatened species.

Options to address these issues were discussed including:

- 1) Equal distribution of the estimated sustainable harvest to all relevant shareholders,
- 2) A bycatch trip limit for all fishers combined with permits available to fishers who wanted to take larger quantities,
- 3) Competitive catch trigger limits for the north and south coast with small by-catch trip limit once trigger level is reached.

Industry members suggested interim arrangements in the short term to provide time to determine the feasibility of option 2, and the potential for using a “tender” or “expression of interest” process to determine access to permits. The Committee also noted the importance of developing more permanent arrangements in line with the share management framework.

The future shark management arrangements need to have regard to the results of the current I&I NSW line and shark observer programs and the independent assessment of the sustainability of targeted shark fishing in NSW waters by CSIRO, commissioned as part of the Commonwealth’s export approval process.

Consistent with the discussion at the last OT&LMAC, short term arrangements apply for the period up to 31 January 2011. The interim arrangements which apply to sharks harvested up to 31 January 2011, are:

- (i) a weekly catch limit of 700 kg whole weight or 500 kg processed weight applies to any Ocean Trap and Line endorsement holder (but not to permit holders) ;
- (ii) maintenance of the 150 tonne whole weight limit for permit holders (covering the 19 month period since the start of the 2008/09 season), a proportion of which has already been caught. [Note: pre-existing “sandbar shark” permits were extended up to 31 January 2010 to provide the opportunity for permit holders who did not catch their allocated amounts by 30 June 2009 to catch the remainder of their allocations];
- (iii) maintenance of the 140 tonne whole weight trigger limit (in addition to the permit holder allocation) that has applied to the catches of general Ocean Trap & Line Fishery endorsement holders (covering the 19 month period since the start of the 2008/09 season), a proportion of which has already been caught;
- (iv) should the limits specified in (ii) or (iii) above [or alternative limits determined under (v) below be reached at any time throughout this period, the weekly limit specified will be replaced by a daily catch limit of 2 shark carcasses per endorsement/permit holder;
- (v) if more that 100 tonnes is taken north of latitude 32°S (Crowdy Head), consideration will be given to applying restrictions in those waters separately, so as to minimise disadvantage

to fishers who operate south of this point because their shark fishing season normally commences later.

The limits specified above and the limits to apply for the period post 31 January 2010 will be reviewed and set in light of the outcomes of the 2008/09 shark fishery observer program and the CSIRO's independent review. At this point, however, the indicative limits for the period from 1 February 2010 to 31 January 2011 are 150 tonnes whole weight for permit holders and 140 tonnes whole weight for general OTL endorsement holders for the period 1 July 2009 – 31 January 2011.

There is potential for an expression of interest/tender process for allocating permits (post 31 January 2010 and on an interim basis only) to fishers who wish to take quantities of shark exceeding the standard weekly limit. A number of general principles need to be considered when developing any such process:

- A. Consistent with the principles of share management, eligibility for a permit should be based on shareholding (not catches) – eg. shareholders have an equal opportunity to obtain a permit or the opportunity is in some way weighted to account for different shareholding levels;
- B. The additional attributable costs relating to the additional research (observer work and/or additional biological information needed), compliance and administrative requirements should be recovered from the beneficiaries (ie. the permit holders);
- C. Access under the permit system would come with an obligation to carry observers, undertake additional actions to facilitate compliance, such as pre & post reporting and daily catch reporting, and potentially other requirements that may flow from the Commonwealth's export approval process;
- D. Fishers should optimise use of all parts of a shark carcass and have a business plan that incorporates marketing options for flesh as well as fins.

The permit tender process could be based on:

1. An invitation for fishers to nominate the amount of shark they wish to take (within the 150 tonne total) together with the \$/kg of shark the fisher is willing to contribute towards research, compliance and management costs; or,
2. An invitation for fishers to express an interest in a permit that holds a fixed amount of shark (based on equal allocation of 150 tonne total amongst permit holders) and to specify a dollar amount that the fisher is willing to contribute towards management and research costs.

In both cases first consideration would be given to applicants who provide all information requested within the expression of interest/tender document and who are willing to contribute the most towards the costs of running the permit arrangements.

Longer term arrangements

As indicated above, the Committee has noted the importance of developing longer term arrangements in line with the share management framework. Options for longer term arrangements will need to be discussed within the context of the broader discussions on structural reform options for the fishery (see accompanying agenda item).

Advice sought from the MAC

The Committee's advice is sought on the following, in light of the options and principles outlined above:

1. Should permits be made available for targeted fishing for shark?
2. How many permits should be made available?
3. Whether the proportional allocation suggested between permit holders and general endorsement holders is appropriate
3. Should an EOI/tender process apply to determine who gets a permit, and if so, how should it be done?

Committee members are urged to seek information/guidance from the members they represent prior to the meeting so that, as far as possible, final recommendations on the above matters can be made at the meeting.

Outcomes

For consideration and discussion by the Committee.

Issue

Update on the East Bioregional planning process

Background

The East Marine Region encompasses Commonwealth waters offshore from the northern tip of Cape York to Bermagui in NSW. It also includes waters surrounding Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island and the whole of the Coral Sea Islands Territory. It does not include State waters or the waters within the boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

A Bioregional Profile has been developed for the Region which describes:

- Ecological and biophysical features of the Region including major ecosystems, marine species, communities and places already specifically protected under legislation and those identified through the planning process as key ecological features;
- Considerations and information that will guide the identification of Marine Protected Areas; and
- Human activities in the Region.

This Profile is the first product in the marine bioregional planning process. It forms the information base for development of the Draft Marine Bioregional Plan. Consultation will take place upon the release of the Draft Plan, during the declaration process for the proposed Marine Protected Area network and as the management plan for each Marine Protected Area is developed.

An update on the planning process will be provided by Martin Russell from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Outcomes

For information of the Committee.

Issue: Minimum shareholding update

Background

On 5 February 2007 share management plans for the fishery came into effect with the commencement of the Fisheries Management (Ocean Trap and Line Share Management Plan) Regulation 2006.

An objective of the Plan is to promote viable commercial fishing. As a consequence and to minimise activation of latent effort and increases in active fishing effort, the Plan provided for a minimum number of 40 shares to be eligible to hold an endorsement with respect to each share class (except spanner crab) to come into effect within 2.5 years of the commencement of the Plan.

Some restructuring of the fishery has occurred. The current status of current endorsements compared to fishing business (FB's) with relevant shares are as follows:

Endorsement type	At 5 February 2007	Current figures (Nov 2009)
OTL Demersal fish trap	261	181 endorsements out of 214 FBs
OTL Line west	435	292 endorsements out of 352 FBs
OTL Line east	101	76 endorsements out of 83 FBs
OTL School & Gummy shark	30	16 endorsements out of 21 FBs

Outcomes

For information of the Committee.

Issue

Industry Reform for NSW Commercial Fisheries

Background

The industry reform and structural adjustment package (Pyrmont Pact) was recently discussed at a series of port meetings along the coast. Members of the Seafood Industry Advisory Council (SIAC) structural adjustment presented these information sessions which were well received.

Components of the reform program as presented are:

1. Creating a range of tools to provide for tradable input and output controls
2. Providing for initial restructuring with minimum shareholdings and exit grants
3. Reviewing industry regulatory requirements and streamlining administrative systems
4. Reviewing cost recovery
5. Reviewing fishing closures
6. Moving the focus toward risk-based resource management
7. Initiating an industry development program
8. Enhancing industry's voice to government

In summary comments received through the consultation process indicated:

- Overall support for the reform package
- Tools for tradeable controls supported if optional. Regional options were considered important and many fishers expressed the view that quota would not work in multi-species fisheries.
- Exit grant structure generally well received.
- Risk focus for management priorities generally supported. Need to consider "whole of environment" risks and develop a transparent process was emphasised.
- Strong support for review of closures and concern about concentration of effort through previous buy-outs/closures.
- Need for cost recovery understood, however no one wants higher fees. Industry would be seeking increased influence on expenditure with the introduction of cost recovery.
- General support for industry development program.
- Single industry voice supported. There was a general willingness to pay despite substantial concern that it might not work and political issues.
- Other issues raised included
 - Impact of illegal fishing on viability e.g. interfering with traps, deepwater species bag limit and black market
 - Clear that communication strategy with industry will be important and there were some complaints about MAC members' communication.

SIAC is now considering its advice to the Minister on whole of industry issues and has provided advice on priorities for implementing the reform program. Fishery-specific suggestions made during the meetings or in submissions will however require consideration from individual fishery MACs. A detailed summary of comments made at port meetings is available to assist committee members.

Advice is sought from the MAC on fishery specific priorities for implementing the industry reform agenda and the tools for tradeable input or output “units”, which industry feels could be suitable for use if needed. An information paper outlining the pros and cons of various options available will be provided to committee members to facilitate discussion.

Outcome

For consideration and discussion by the Committee.

Issue

Cobia – Introduction of a size limit and changes to the bag limit

Background

The recreational harvest of cobia (black kingfish) in NSW is currently addressed by the general daily bag limit of 20 (no minimum size limit). Queensland recently reduced the bag limit for cobia from 10 to 2 per person per day and retained the minimum size limit of 75cm.

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) and MERCMAC continue to raise concerns about the sustainability of cobia under current NSW management arrangements and there have been reports of large numbers of anglers targeting cobia in waters off the far north coast of NSW over the past few years, due to the less restrictive bag and size limit arrangements in NSW. I&I NSW recognises that these concerns are even more significant since 1 March 2009, as anglers from Queensland may be more inclined to target 20 cobia in northern NSW waters rather than fish for 2 of the same species across the border.

At its meeting on 20 May 2009, ACoRF recommended that a bag limit of 5 and minimum size limit (65cm or 75cm) be introduced immediately.

Bag limits only apply to the recreational fishing sector so the proposed change does not affect commercial fishers. However, the introduction of a minimum size limit for cobia requires consultation with the commercial fishing sector, particularly the Ocean Trap and Line Management Advisory Committee.

Outcomes

For consideration by the Committee.

Issue

Proposed introduction of a fishing closure within the *HMAS Adelaide* Reserve

Background

The ex-HMAS Adelaide vessel has been specifically gifted to NSW for the purpose of creating a dive site. The NSW Land and Property Management Authority is overseeing the project and has established the HMAS Adelaide Reserve to enable preparations to commence for the scuttling of the ex-HMAS Adelaide and to provide a legislative basis for managing the future artificial reef and dive site. The vessel will be sunk approximately 1.87km off shore from Avoca Beach, on the Central Coast, in water depths of 33-34m (refer to the attached map for further information regarding the location of the vessel and size of the proposed closure). Deployment of the vessel by the Authority is planned for April 2010.

The Authority has advised that there is no opportunity for fishing at the site. The concept of allowing fishing and diving activities would significantly increase the risk of injury to divers from abandoned fishing equipment and is not considered feasible from this perspective. It would also significantly increase the need for and cost of maintenance activities, which together with the lost opportunity for collection of dive fees, would result in financial losses to the operation of the site. This would detrimentally impact the sustainability of the operation.

A Plan of Management was prepared by the Authority in accordance with the Crown Lands Act 1989 and under the direction of a Community Reference Group and Interagency Steering Committee.

The Authority has proposed implementation of a relatively small (250m by 350m) commercial and recreational fishing closure under section 8 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994. The closure site would also have a number of mooring buoys for boats.

As a result, I&I NSW seeks the OTLMAC's view on the proposed introduction of a Section 8 fishing closure in the area to protect divers on the artificial reef site.

Outcomes

For consideration by the Committee.

Issue

Updates – Management, Compliance, Management Planning, SIAC

Background

Opportunity is provided for members to raise any local issues relating to the management of the fishery.

Management Update:**Departmental Structure**

Formed in July 2009, the Department of Industry & Investment, trading as Industry & Investment NSW, brings together a number of former NSW Government departments and authorities. These former agencies included the Department of Primary Industries, Department of Water and Energy, Rural Assistance Authority and the NSW Food Authority. The Deputy Director General Primary Industries, Mr George Davey, has approved a new Branch structure for the Fisheries and Compliance Division within the Primary Industries Group. Mr Paul O'Connor is now the Principal Director of Fisheries and Compliance.

The Branches within this division are, namely:

- the Fisheries Resource Management Branch (which manages the sustainability of our fish stocks, and the commercial and recreational fishing harvest);
- the Conservation & Aquaculture Branch (which manages threatened species, habitat protection & restoration, and aquaculture issues);
- the Compliance Operations Branch (which manages agricultural and fisheries compliance activities, and the shark meshing program). and
- the Fisheries Strategic Review Branch. (which coordinates all review activities, including the revamp of IT infrastructure related to share-management);

Regulation Amendments

Following the implementation of the fisheries Share Management Plans (SMPs) in February 2007, a project commenced to convert the majority of commercial fishing closures into regulation within the relevant SMPs. 30 closures applying to the share managed fisheries will remain as section 8 notifications as they are not considered to be appropriate for inclusion in regulation.

Seafood Industry Advisory Council (SIAC)

SIAC met on the 28 October 2009 primarily to discuss the outcomes from recent port meetings facilitated by SIAC representatives on the Industry Reform Program of NSW commercial fisheries known as the Pyrmont Pact.

Veronica Silberschneider will provide an update, including circle hook definition; escape panel mesh and spanner crab update.

Compliance Update - Paul Blade will provide a compliance update.

Conservation Update– Marcel Green will provide a conservation update (refer to attachment).

SIAC Update – The SIAC representative, Gary Braithwaite, will provide an update.

Outcomes - For information of the Committee.

Issue

Introduction and overview of new FishOnline System

Background

The purpose of the CFSA – Year 1 Project is to establish a commercial fishers online self service system to be known as FishOnline so that revised management arrangements can be implemented that provide enhanced services to industry at reduced cost.

The specific objectives of the CFSA Systems Reform Year 1 project are:

Provision of a commercial fishers' online self service system to be known as FisherDirect that is used by external clients and supports quota transfers and catch and effort reporting and that is extensible to other transaction types in the future.

Provision of an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to be known as FisherIVR that support pre and post commercial fishing landing reports.

Expansion and enhancement of the existing CRQMS system to be known as FisherAssist that is used by I&I NSW staff to provide assisted service to clients and to manage the overall system.

The suite of applications developed under this project will be generically known as FishOnline.

Outcomes

For information of the Committee.

Issue

Renewal of fishing closure banning recreational and commercial use of abalone viscera as bait or berley.

Background

The existing Section 8 fishing closure banning recreational and commercial use of abalone viscera as bait or berley is due to expire on 12 December 2009.

Abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG) is a herpes-like virus that has caused extensive mortalities in both farmed and wild abalone stocks in Victoria. It was first identified in late 2005 and although Victoria DPI has implemented a fishing closure and various management actions to restrict the spread of the disease, AVG is slowly spreading in Victoria and its presence has been confirmed as far east as the eastern boundary of the 12 Apostles Marine Park and west as far as Discovery Bay Marine Park.

In September 2008 AVG was identified in a in a processing facility in Tasmania and was again detected in a different facility in September 2009. It is believed the source of infection is wild harvested Tasmanian abalone. As part of Tasmania's response, a ban on the use of abalone gut as bait was introduced in September 2008 in the wrasse fishing industry and still remains in place.

Currently there is no indication of expression of AVG disease in NSW.

Research has indicated that AVG can survive the harvesting and storage process including freezing. This virus can also spread through the water, and therefore infected bait would not need to come into direct contact with live abalone for infection to occur.

Recommendation:

A 5 year renewal of the fishing closure banning recreational and commercial use of abalone viscera as bait or berley. Such a renewal would see the closure extended through to December 2014.

A continuation of the formal ban on the use of abalone viscera as bait in recreational and commercial fishing would help to restrict the transmission of AVG. This ban is an important biosecurity strategy to help minimise disease impacts on the NSW abalone industry.

Outcomes

For information of the Committee.

Agenda Item 18**Chairperson****Issue**

Empowering stakeholders to initiate and advance R&D projects

Background

Chris Calogeras, C-AID Consultants and, Dr Ian Knuckey, Fishwell Consulting, are undertaking a FRDC funded project titled: "Empowering Industry R&D: Developing an Industry driven R&D model for the Australian fishing and seafood Industry - partnerships to improve efficiency, profitability and performance (FRDC Project#2009/300)."

The aim of the project is to capture industry RD&E ideas, especially those that will improve the 'value' of industry, and link them with the most appropriate RD&E providers or researchers to develop projects through a range of funding sources.

As part of the project, a series of workshops are being run in all major cities and a number regional centres across Australia. The workshops are being run separately for the commercial, recreational and indigenous fishing sectors to ensure the key RD&E needs for each are understood. Following these workshops the coordination of themes and project development across sectors on a national and regional RD&E scale, will be undertaken.

Industry project ideas, R&D providers and potential funders will be linked through an easy to use website to allow projects to be developed in partnership between those involved.

Outcomes

For information of the Committee.

Agenda Item 19**Chairperson****Issue**

Other Business

Background

Additional items for discussion as agreed by the Chairperson.

Outcomes**Agenda Item 20****Chairperson****Issue**

Chairperson's summary and next meeting date

Background**Outcomes**

For information.