

Abalone Management Advisory Committee Meeting
FINAL AGENDA
18 April 2008
9:30am to 4:00pm
Main Conference Room
Cronulla Fisheries Centre, CRONULLA, NSW 2230

Attendees:

Warren	Martin	Chairperson
George	Chung	Industry
Anthony	Fry	Industry
Steven	Hunter	Industry
Dennis	Luobikis	Industry
Jim	Miller	Industry
Peter	Plunkett	Recreational Representative
Giselle	Firme	Conservation Representative
Dianna	Watkins	NSW DPI, Manager, Commercial Fisheries
Nathan	McNamara	Secretariat

Observers:

Robert	Gale	NSW DPI, Industry Analysis Branch
Doug	Ferrell	NSW DPI, Science & Research Branch
Nicholas	Schroder	NSW DPI, Compliance Branch
Tony	Chen	NSW DPI, Compliance Branch
Peter	Brown	NSW DPI, Planning and Operations

Agenda Items

1. Preliminaries a) Welcomes and Apologies b) Agreement on Agenda for 18 April 2008 c) Confirmation of final draft outcomes from previous AbMAC meetings held on the 27 September 2007 and 6 November 2007 d) Matters that have been raised through the Courts or the ICAC	Page 3	Chairperson
2. Business arising from previous meetings a) Correspondence sent and received b) Action list	Page 4	Chairperson
3. Update on the Total Allowable Catch Setting and Review Committee (TAC Committee) program and reports for 2008/2009	Page 7	NSW DPI
4. 2008 / 2009 Draft Budget	Page 8	NSW DPI / Industry
5. Revised Reporting Arrangements	Page 11	NSW DPI
6. Special Abalone Recovery Group (SARG)	Page 12	Chairperson (AbMAC & SARG)
7. Region 1 & 2 Closure and Finer Scale Management	Page 13	Industry
8. Illegal Trading of Australian Dried Abalone	Page 14	Industry
9. Recreational and Illegal abalone catches	Page 14	Industry

10. Other Business	Page 15	Industry
11. Proposal to set up a program to relocate undersize abalone stock	Page 18	Abalone Shareholder
12. Updates: Committee Representatives	Page 19	Industry
13. Chairperson's summary and next meeting date	Page 19	Chairperson

Table of Appendices:		
1. AbMAC correspondence list since 6 November 2007	Page 20	
2. Draft budget for the 2008/09 fishing period	Page 23	
3. Number of abalone divers reporting each month	Page 24	
4. Management responses outlined in the FMS	Page 25	

Table of Attachments:		
1. Final Draft Outcomes AbMAC meeting 27 September 2007		
2. Final Draft Outcomes AbMAC meeting 6 November 2007		
3. 'Business Requirements Specification - Revised Reporting Arrangements' document		
4a, 4b & 4c. George Chung – A Compliance Issue on the Illegal Trading of Australian Dried Abalone		

Agenda Item 1**Chairperson****Issue**

Preliminaries

Agenda Item 1a**Issue**

Welcome and apologies

Background

The Chairperson welcomes all the representatives and observers to the first AbMAC meeting for 2008.

In January 2008, the State Electoral Commission conducted elections for industry positions on MACs that were due to expire on 29 February 2008. Mr Jim Miller and Mr Dennis Luobikis were elected for another term and Mr Tony Fry was elected for the first time. Mr Peter Plunkett (recreational fishing representative) and Ms Giselle Firme (conservation representative) have also been appointed to the Committee.

Mr Gary Warren's commitment and contribution to AbMAC over the past three years is acknowledged.

Outcomes**Agenda Item 1b****Issue**

Agreement on the Agenda for this meeting

Background

A notice of the meeting and call for agenda items was circulated to Committee members, abalone shareholders, abalone processors and coastal fisheries offices on 10 March 2008.

The main purpose of this meeting is to consider matters relating to the TAC setting process for the 2008-09 fishing period. A draft agenda detailing all proposed agenda items has been circulated to all Committee members and interested abalone stakeholders.

Outcomes**Agenda Item 1c****Issue**

Confirmation of final draft outcomes for AbMAC meetings 27 September 2007 (Attachment 1) and 6 November 2007 (Attachment 2)

Background

Draft outcomes of the AbMAC meetings held on 27 September and 6 November 2007 were forwarded to the Chairperson to confirm that the minutes were a true and accurate record. The draft outcomes from both meetings were circulated to Committee members shortly after the meeting for comment.

Outcomes**Agenda Item 1d****Chairperson****Issue**

Matters that have been raised through the Courts.

Background:

There are currently at least two matters relating to the abalone share management fishery subject to legal action.

DPI is of the view that these matters should not be discussed and request that members respect this view.

Outcome

For information

Agenda Item 2**Chairperson****Issue**

Business arising from previous meetings

Background

a) Correspondence sent and received since the previous AbMAC meeting held on 6 November 2007.

The AbMAC correspondence list is contained in Appendix 1.

b) Action List on pages 5 & 6

Outcomes

For information

Action List

Action Items	Date Raised	Status
1. DPI to conduct a survey with the aim of standardising bin weights	March 05	Underway- Survey complete, awaiting finalisation
2. DPI to amend agenda item 3 from 27-09-2007 agenda to reflect that the item was submitted by all industry representatives	Sept 07	Complete. Agenda amended and placed on website
3. Industry/DPI develop a small working group to consider and report back on the type of information that can be provided as part of the budget setting process	Sept 07	Agenda Item 4 - Budget
4. DPI to forward the TAC Committees meeting schedule (when finalised)	Sept 07	Complete. 12 February 2008.
5. DPI (with input from Industry representatives) prepare an agenda item for next meeting regarding recreational and illegal abalone catches	Sept 07	Agenda Item 9
6. DPI to inform AbMAC on the progress of the SIAC nominations	Sept 07	In Progress – within Government approval processes. Agenda Item 10.
7. DPI to provide reconciliation with explanations of expenditures on FMS and EIS projects, particularly in relations to an apparent overspend of the budget	Sept 07	Budget estimates and expenditure from July 2005 to May 2007 were provided to JAWG representatives on 1 June 2007.
8. DPI and AbMAC representatives to develop a framework for payment of sitting fees and travel costs for non AbMAC meetings	Sept 07	Pending- Awaiting industry input
9. DPI to consult with AbMAC on the SUTS review of environmental factors	Sept 07	Completed – During the development of the draft REF, consultation occurred with SUTS Stakeholders. The Minister has approved the draft and currently DPI is working with DEWH on a final draft that will be publicly available.
10. Forward outcomes from Industry Workshop held on the 26 September 2007	Sept 07	Complete – Sent 9/10/2007
11. Chairperson to forward motion to SARG supporting the increase in minimum size limit to 117mm, with potential for staged increase/decrease in the future	Sept 07	Complete
12. DPI to investigate whether rewards can be paid when an offender is charged as opposed to convicted	Sept 07	Complete – It is general Government Policy that reward schemes (including Police, DPI, etc) relate to the arrest and conviction of an offender.
13. DPI Science and Research to forward Perkinsus report and a copy of National Disease Survey report to AbMAC out of session, once finalised	Sept 07	'National Survey of Abalone Diseases': Emailed to an Industry Rep. 12/11/07. Electronic copy is available to all members upon request Perkinsus Report Pending

14. Industry and DPI jointly developed draft structured fishing discussion paper report to SARG	Sept 07	Paper tabled at SARG meeting of 18/10/2007.
15. Mr George Chung to provide an agenda paper and update at next AbMAC meeting on the compliance issues relating to the new survey report on dried abalone in Hong Kong and China	Sept 07	Agenda Item 8
16. DPI to report on the appraisal of an electronic, web based docketing system	Sept 07	See Agenda Item 5
17. DPI to provide formulas for calculations of Marine Park and Recreational subsidies <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> Recreational subsidy (%) = $\frac{\text{Estimated* recreational take}}{\text{Total harvest (including estimated* illegal take)}}$ </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">* TAC recreational and illegal catch estimates</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> Marine Park subsidy (%) = $\frac{\text{Total number of shares brought out}}{\text{Initial number of shares issued in the fishery}}$ </div>	Sept 07	Complete
18. DPI to note industry request for 'involvement in development of performance reports' framework	Sept 07	Complete –Copy of letter from NSW DPI to Dept of the Environment and Water Resources sent to AbMAC 25/10/07
19. AbMAC and DPI to examine proposed objectives, performance indicators and triggers points from AbMAC agenda of 27-09-2007 prior to next full AbMAC meeting	Sept 07	Pending

Ongoing Action Items	Date Raised	Status
1. Committee representatives to provide written reports prior to AbMAC meetings for inclusion in future agenda	Sept 07	Agenda Item 10
2. Provide progress updates in future AbMAC agendas on management responses from the FMS	Sept 07	Appendix 4 and Agenda Item 12
3. DPI to provide an update on the number of fishers currently active in the Abalone and SUTS fishery	Sept 07	Currently 7 commercial fishers have reported SUTS fishing in 2007. The number of abalone divers reporting each month is provided in Appendix 3.

Outcomes

Issue

Update on the Total Allowable Catch Setting and Review Committee (TAC Committee) program and reports for 2008/09

Background

The TAC Committee will meet on 14 and 15 May 2008 as part of its process to determine the Abalone TAC for the 2008/09 fishing period. A call for submissions was advertised on 13 February 2008 and shareholders and interest groups were advised. The closing date for submissions was 28 March 2008. NSW DPI is scheduled to present to the TAC Committee on 14 May 2008.

NSW DPI management, compliance and research representatives will provide the Committee with an overview of the information that it will submit to the TAC Committee for their 2008/09 deliberation.

Comment by AbMAC Industry Members

Without any information from DPI about catch rates or surveys, Industry have been required to provide submissions to the TAC Committee on 28 March 2008. From what is apparent to Industry, the stock appears to be recovering well with significant increase in catch rates, that continue to gradually increase, and observations of abundant undersize abalone. We believe this recovery would have been significantly stronger again if effort could have been spread across the fishery in Regions 1 and 2. Industry members of the MAC are confident that with the spreading of catches across all Regions, there will be further strong recovery of the stock.

For over five years, Industry has not had the opportunity to see results of the stock assessment prior to being required to provide a submission to the TAC Committee and in some years has only received the large report on the day of the meeting with the TAC Committee. The TAC Committee has repeatedly made recommendations about the need, and the MAC has requested, to provide this information prior to the date for submissions, and both Committees for several years has asked for consultation on an agreed timetable to ensure this information is available before submissions are required. This year, there was no consultation on the timetable, despite a specific request from the TAC Committee that this be completed well before the end of 2007, and Industry is required to finalise submissions with no scientific evidence available. Industry members again request a commitment from NSW DPI to provide the previous year's catch and survey information to Industry prior to the requirement for submissions to the TAC Committee, and to be consulted on the 2008-09 timetable that should be completed well before the end of the year.

Industry members also request presentation of the full stock assessment information at the MAC meeting.

For several years, the TAC Committee has made recommendations to improve management of the fishery, which Industry members of the MAC have repeatedly asked for DPI to report progress against. In their last determination, the TAC Committee noted:- *The Committee was disappointed that, having taken the time and effort to make explicit recommendations in a number of key areas, many of these were not commented on in the Department reports, despite requests that this occur.*

Industry members of the MAC again request DPI specifically address progress on each of the points raised by the TAC Committee in Appendix 3 of their June 2007 report.

Outcomes:

Agenda Item 4

NSW DPI / Industry

Issue

2008/09 Draft Budget

Background

It is government policy that the costs of management attributable to Industry will be recovered.

Services provided in the 2007/08 period have been broadly summarised as project objectives/functions and include, but are not limited to, those detailed in the tables below.

An indicative Abalone Share Management Fishery budget for the 2008/09 fishing period has been prepared based on the current program requirements and service level. It incorporates the additional types of savings that have been progressively implemented over recent years by NSW DPI, which have resulted in a reduction in the share management charge from around \$247 in 2004/05 to \$168 per share in 2007/08 terms. (These savings are additional to the savings of around \$86 per share resulting from the change in the formula for setting the community contribution.) The draft budget is shown in Appendix 2.

Advice from the Committee is sought as to the level of services to be provided in 2008/09 to facilitate preparation of a final budget for submission to the Minister by the end of May. An expenditure report for the 2007/08 fishing period will be provided at the meeting to assist in evaluating the likely funding requirements for next financial year.

Management & Administration Project Objective/Function	Milestone Date
Amend objective, performance indicators and triggers for review to achieve consistency with the Abalone FMS and other share management plans.	As soon as practical
Consequential amendments to the Plan following the implementation of the new share management arrangements for fisheries management in NSW.	As soon as practical
Remove barriers to structural adjustment by: - increasing the maximum shareholding in the fishery - increase the flexibility of transferring shares between shareholders - simplify the administrative process associated with the transfer of shares - minimise limitations on quota transfers	As soon as practical
Allocation of quota to shareholders for 2008/09 fishing period.	July 2008
Submission of final 2007/08 expenditure report to the AbMAC	Dec 2008
Submission of management report to the TACC committee.	May 2009

Explore feasibility of implementing different size limits on a variety of spatial scales.	As soon as practical
Manage a transparent budget setting process including consultation with AbMAC	As required
Maintain and manage effective communication consultation and operation of the AbMAC including the appointment process for vacant positions.	Ongoing
Monitor budget and prepare expenditure reports	Ongoing
Ongoing data entry, quota reconciliation and maintenance of the catch database.	Ongoing
Provision of monthly updates on catch statistics to industry.	Ongoing
Continued policy development and review of management arrangements	Ongoing
Prepare advisory information and updates, i.e. Regional Industry Convenor newsletter.	Ongoing
Undertake to arrange at least two Abalone Management Advisory Committee meetings annually	Ongoing

Research Project Objective/Method	Milestone Date
Complete annual surveys of the relative abundance of abalone independent of the fishery	As required
Complete annual analysis of data from the commercial fishery	May 2009
Investigate alternative cost effective methods of data collection for abalone stock assessment, including review of alternative methods for collection of fishery independent and fishery dependent data sources	Ongoing
Combine all available information into a modelling framework for stock assessment and decision analysis	May 2009
Report to the TAC Committee, the Abalone Management Advisory Committee and industry stakeholders.	As required
Represent NSW DPI in national research initiatives through attendance at national working groups	As required

Compliance Project Objective/Method	Milestone Date
Strategically target high-risk offenders by focusing on areas of known non compliance with a combination of covert and overt intelligence driven operations	Ongoing
Identify legislative deficiencies and necessary changes to maximise prosecution outcomes and deter non compliance	Ongoing
Extensive patrols of abalone fishing areas throughout NSW	Ongoing
Development of operational plans (covert and overt) targeting illegal fishers in areas identified as affected by illegal activity	Ongoing
Ongoing patrols in abalone fishing areas to ensure compliance with the regulations and promotion of the General Recreational Fishing Fee	Ongoing
Deliver advisory activities in the field and at targeted fishing events and promotions	Ongoing
Provide high level information for media releases relating to prosecution of offenders in the abalone fishery and provide proactive media to increase community and fisher awareness of issues affecting the abalone resource in NSW	Ongoing

Liaison with industry representatives and recreational fishing representatives and obtain feedback from these groups to assist in identification of potential compliance problem areas	Ongoing
Provision of timely advice to Executive for reporting to the Abalone Management Advisory Committee	Ongoing
Continuous improvement in achieving optimal compliance	Ongoing
Report to trust expenditure committees and ABMAC on significant achievements as per abalone compliance plan	6 months or as required

Comment by AbMAC Industry Members in relation to Abalone budget.

At the meeting in September 2007, the MAC resolved Industry does not have the capacity to pay the current management fees and charges, which are currently about 30% of income after catching costs, and that cancelling shares for non payment of fees is not appropriate.

The MAC again requests the current level of outstanding Management Charges, and request advice from DPI about progress on the issue when the combination of outstanding and current Management Charges are greater than the annual value of the fishery.

Outstanding budget issues

For some time, Industry has repeatedly raised concerns about the budgeting and reporting of expenditure from the Management Charge budget, and the MAC has not supported the budget put forward by NSW DPI for several years. Recommendations by IPART and the Keniry Taskforce have not been acted upon, and Industry have repeatedly requested, and put forward specific budget alternatives, to reduce the level of services and provide them more cost-efficiently. At the last MAC meeting, Industry representatives noted the lack of progress on budget action items 3, 5, 17, 18, 21 and 32 from the previous meeting agenda. At the last MAC meeting, Industry members request a detailed project/activity based budget for proposed Management Charges in 2007/08 and subsequent years and again request these for this meeting of the MAC. Further, no expenditure report has been provided recently, despite previous agreement on quarterly reporting, and Industry members request DPI provide an expenditure report. Also at the last MAC, Industry representatives questioned why the abalone fishery is under full cost recovery, whilst the other 5 new share management fisheries are not and sought an explanation as to the policy variations.

Industry members request a formal response from DPI at the MAC on this issue.

At the MAC meeting in September 2007, the MAC resolved to urgently form a small working group to investigate the justification for all services put forward by NSW DPI in the Management Charge budget, have input into the management, compliance and research work plans, develop outcome- and project-based budgeting with full detailing of budgeted and expended costs and reporting of expenditure.

Industry members request an update on progress on this issue, noting it appears there has been no progress on the Working Group or the Action Item from the last MAC in September 2007.

Management budget – Industry have been calling for more cost-efficient, technological approaches to docket entry, as is done in other states at a fraction of the cost charged by NSW DPI.

Industry members have repeatedly requested the opportunity for the Industry entity or processors to provide this service and develop a more cost-efficient and technological approach.

Staffing levels in the budget must be reduced significantly, through changes to services provided and limited hours for contact.

Research budget – Industry members of the MAC do not support outsourcing of survey in 2008-09. In their recent determination, the TAC Committee noted the need for a full review of the surveys, before proceeding. In addition to the concerns about biases and representivity of the surveys, they are an expensive and needless waste of money in current the situation where the stock is recovering strongly as evidenced by catch rates and observations of undersize in the southern regions, and a structured fishing survey is planned in Regions 1 and 2 where survey representivity is inadequate. Research staffing must be reduced, project outputs clarified, and the stock assessment made more efficient through greater use of data collected by Industry and changes to assessment methods.

Compliance budget – For several years, Industry members of the MAC have not supported costs to the Compliance staffing budget over and above the minimum required for compliance of the commercial fishery, and again repeat this position. Operating costs need to be reduced in line with staffing reductions and each line item clearly justified and explained.

Compliance on commercial fishery

The MAC has for several years requested the level of resources devoted by DPI to compliance on the commercial fishery. As Management Charges are directly related to the Share Management Fishery budget, there should be a clear level of compliance service used in calculation of the fishery budget. Industry members request advice from DPI on the budgeted and actual expenditure, including full-time-equivalent staff time and operating, on compliance of the commercial fishery.

Outcomes

Agenda Item 5

NSW DPI / Industry

Issue

Revised Reporting Arrangements

Background

NSW DPI has initiated a project (Catch Records Reform Project) to reform the catch reporting and quota management reporting arrangements that apply in NSW. An overview of the proposed changes was presented to the SIAC meeting on 29 February, 2008 and a SIAC reference group on 14 March 2008. NSW DPI is keen to obtain feedback from industry as we proceed to implement the new arrangements, with a view to maximising the potential benefits for the department and industry.

Detailed consultation will be ongoing throughout the process prior to finalisation of the new arrangements and supporting systems.

Attachment 3 'Business Requirements Specification - Revised Reporting Arrangements' document is for the information of the Committee.

A presentation will review and explain proposed new catch reporting and quota management reporting arrangements and identify and discuss any issues or concerns raised.

Outcomes

Agenda Item 6

Chairperson (AbMAC & SARG)

Issue

Special Abalone Recovery Group (SARG)

Background

Industry Members of AbMAC attended an Industry workshop with the Special Abalone Recovery group at Merimbula on 26 September 2007 and at the AbMAC meeting on 27 September 2007 requested the following motion be referred to SARG for consideration:

'Commercial minimum size limit south of Wonboyn increased to 117 mm by January 2007, with potential for a staged increase/decrease in the future. Protocols on amending the size limit to be agreed by the AbMAC. Furthermore, fishers fishing south of Wonboyn must prior report to their processor.'

An AbMAC meeting was held on 6 November 2007 to allow the members to receive an update from SARG on the SARG meetings held on 18 October and 6 November 2007. At the meeting AbMAC members reviewed the draft SARG document 'Outline of SARG Submission to Minister' in confidence and provided comments on issues raised in the paper.

The Special Abalone Recovery Group report has been finalised and is currently being reviewed by the Minister for Primary Industries.

Comment by AbMAC Industry Members

SARG

The Minister announced SARG in July 2007 to report within three months. Industry members request from the Chair an update on progress with SARG and its report. One of the most urgent issues put to SARG has been the closure of Region 1 and 2.

Industry members have previously arranged for a discussion paper about structured commercial fishing in Region 1 and 2, and request from the Chair a summary of progress on this discussion paper, input from DPI and its implementation.

Indictable offence for abalone trafficking

The MAC has expressed concern for some time at the low level of resources and penalties for abalone theft. The MAC has been seeking for some time an indictable offence for abalone theft above a certain scale, to bring NSW in-line with other

states. All other states, including the ACT and Qld have such indictable offences for theft, except NSW.

Industry members of the MAC request an update on progress to implement an indictable offence for abalone theft, including detail to how such an offence might be defined.

Outcomes:

Agenda Item 7

Industry

Issue

Region 1 & 2 Closure and Finer Scale Management

Background provided by AbMAC Industry Members

At the meeting in September 2007, the MAC expressed concern about the (1) lack of science for the Region 1 closure; (2) poor stock assessment and consultation with the implementation for Region 2 closure; and (3) the lack of adherence by NSW DPI to the FMS requirement for a plan for opening and closing of areas prior to any closure. Further, the Chairperson of the TAC Committee noted that it was never the intention for the TAC Committees determination to result in the closing of Region 1 north and Region 2. Industry members made representations to SARG about the urgency of reopening Region 1 and 2 to structured commercial fishing, and provided a discussion paper and proposal for its reopening. The MAC also supported a resolution that every endeavour should be made to open Regions 1 and 2 by November 1, 2007 with a cap of 20 t, and with finer scale assessment and management as described in the paper developed by Industry in consultation with DPI Science and Research.

Industry members request an update on progress on this resolution or the opening of Region 1 and 2 since the last MAC in September 2007.

DPI Comment

In its 2007/08 report and determination the TAC Committee strongly recommended that catches of Abalone be distributed so that:

- none is taken from Region 1 south of Port Stephens, but a catch of up to 3t would be available for a fishery survey agreed by the Department;
- none is taken from Region 1 north of Port Stephens, but a catch of up to 5t would be available for a fishery survey agreed by the Department;
- none is taken from Region 2;

Finer Scale Management, size limits and catch information release

Industry members of the MAC wrote to DPI over 18 months ago requesting release of greater catch information and an increase in the commercial size limit south of Wonboyn to 117 mm, and to enable a process for further changes through Finer Scale Management. More recently, DPI have recommended increasing the statewide size limit to 120 mm. Industry members of the MAC request the scientific advice on which the DPI recommendation of a 120 mm state-wide size limit is based, including particularly their assessment of the biological and economic risks associated with such a change. Further, they also request advice about progress in

developing a process for direct Industry-input into size-limit changes and other components of Finer Scale Management. Industry members have also proposed communication to Shareholders about the release of greater catch information, and Industry members request advice from DPI about progress with its review.

Outcomes:

For discussion

Agenda Item 8

Industry

Issue

Illegal Trading of Australian Dried Abalone

Background

At the AbMAC meeting on 27 September 2007 the Committee agreed Mr George Chung would provide an update on the compliance issues relating to the new survey report on dried abalone in Hong Kong and China - presentation, report 'A Compliance Issue on the Illegal Trading of Australian Dried Abalone' and relevant Industry correspondence (Attachments 4a, 4b & 4c)

Comment by AbMAC Industry Members

Compliance and dried abalone

Several years ago, Industry members of the MAC provided a report and expressed concern about the dried abalone market and the need for greater compliance effort. This issue was also discussed at the last MAC meeting and a further report was agreed to be submitted.

Industry members of the MAC request DPI Compliance provide a report on activity targeting the dried abalone market in recent years and its success, including reference to the ongoing abundance of dried abalone product in retail shops in Sydney and how many offences have been detected in the area.

Outcomes

Agenda Item 9

Industry

Issue

Recreational and Illegal abalone catches

Background

At the AbMAC meeting on 27 September 2007 Industry representatives indicated a need to accurately estimate the recreational and illegal catch in NSW. The Chairperson of the TAC Committee noted the current estimates are based on different surveys and quite often the views on the level of recreational and illegal catch vary between stakeholders.

Comment by AbMAC Industry Members

Recreational and illegal catch

For some time, the TAC Committee has requested greater information about the recreational and illegal catch of abalone, and this has been supported by the MAC.

Similarly the need for this information has been emphasized in several reviews of the fishery. At the last TAC Committee meeting DPI made formal statements about the level of recreational catch.

Industry members of the MAC request advice about progress with objective estimates of recreational and illegal catch, and any evidence supporting estimates put forward to the TAC Committee.

These estimates are particularly important considering their considerable uncertainty and use in cost-recovery estimates.

NSW DPI comment

NSW DPI has conducted surveys of one and three year recreational fishing fee receipt holders (during monthly mailouts of reminder letters) and of other recreational fishers attending regional events, trade shows or through the Fishcare Volunteer Program. One of the aims of the survey is to build a database of fishers (including underwater harvesters) who may be subsequently surveyed.

As at 31 December 2007, there have been approximately 5000 responses to the survey and approximately 70% have provided contact details and indicated their willingness to be involved in future surveys. Approximately 1% of respondents from this sample have participated in underwater harvesting. This represents a cost effective method of identifying participants in the underwater fishing sector for future surveys. The survey will continue into 2008.

In the 2007/08 TAC report, the TAC Committee utilised the historical estimates of illegal fishing, estimating it at 40% of the legal catch.

Outcomes

Agenda Item 10

Industry

Issue

Other Business

Background provided by AbMAC Industry Members

A number of additional proposed agenda items were submitted by Industry Representatives for inclusion on the agenda.

Regional compliance numbers

Industry members request the number of abalone offences detected for commercial and non-commercial operators in each region of the fishery, and specifically how many offences have been detected in areas north of Port Stephens, north of Sydney and north of Jervis Bay and north of Batmans. If no offences have been detected in the last year in any of these areas, then when was the last offence detected.

Industry Code of Practice

The Abalone Council of NSW, with funding from the NSW Fishing Industry Training Committee, recently completed an Industry Code of Practice, including formal training and qualifications for 40 divers. During consultation on development of the Code, several concerns and uncertainty were raised. Industry members of the MAC request advice from DPI to clarify the following issues:

There are several sections to the Act and Regulations about the possession and labeling of abalone. Industry requests formal advice about DPI's interpretation and application of these sections, with particular reference to the chain of possession of abalone and labeling required, and how far through this chain divers may be liable for under-size abalone, which may be reduced in size during holding and processing.

Industry requests formal advice and clarification from DPI about the possession of fish, other than abalone, and what diving apparatus would need to be removed from the boat to permit the taking of other fish.

Industry requests advice about the retention of up to 10 undersize abalone and if it is applied per diver or per boat.

FMS and EIS budget

The MAC has expressed concern previously about the FMS and EIS budgets. At the last MAC meeting, it was agreed that DPI would prepare a full reconciliation with explanations from DPI of expenditures on the FMS and EIS projects, particularly in relation to an apparent overspend, and confirm if the budget is now final.

Industry members request an update on these issues.

There are several short-term action items in the implementation tables of the FMS, which are due in April 2008. These include:-

Continue to refine the delivery of specific management services and standards through service delivery agreements or outsourcing regarding research, administration and compliance.

Communicate NSW DPI's operational plans and policies for the management of the fishery to all fishery participants.

Industry members of the MAC request a report on progress with each of the short-term action items in the FMS implementation table. Industry members also request an update on the timetable for revisions to the Share Management Plan envisaged in the FMS.

Performance Reports to DEWR

At the meeting in September 2007, the MAC requested consultation and input on fishery performance reports being developed by DPI and used to report to the Commonwealth with regard to the WTO requirements. A month after the MAC, completed reports were released by DPI to DEWR with no consultation or Industry input.

The MAC now requests advice from DPI about the process for Industry consultation and input to these reports.

Fit and proper review

During development of the FMS, concerns were raised about the Fit and Proper provisions of the abalone Management Plan and for the SUTS fishery.

Industry members support the review to implement greater discretionary powers for DPI, in conjunction with an independent review process, as used in other state's abalone fisheries, and subsequent removal of the mandatory time limits for offences which may be unnecessarily restrictive.

SIAC Representative

The abalone MAC has not had a representative on SIAC for some time, despite expressing repeated concern and putting forward nominations. Apparently, Gary Warren was recently appointed as a SIAC member, but has now left the abalone MAC.

The Industry members of the MAC supports Jim Miller to attend SIAC until the process to appoint a new member is completed, and encourage this appointment as soon as possible.

Structure of Industry Entity

Industry members have previously written to NSW DPI seeking comment or advice about the structure of the Abalone Council of NSW. Several previous reports have emphasized the need for an Industry entity to take a greater role in the fishery and Industry. The Abalone Council of NSW is a not-for-profit entity limited by guarantee, with three Independent Directors including Michael Tokley (Chair, Abalone Council Australia) and Dean Lisson (President, Tasmanian Abalone Council), and with Shareholders in the fishery as members of the company. Industry members of the MAC seek comment from NSW DPI about this commercial structure and the role it could play in the fishery and Industry. At the last MAC, it was resolved that Industry representatives would like to be consulted on the ACIL Tasman Report upon completion of the draft, including release of the full report to Industry and identification of all previous consultation with Industry.

Industry members request an update on progress against this resolution.

Committee Sitting Fees

The MAC has expressed concern for some time about the policy for payment of siting fees, and concerns about payments have been raised for several years. Industry representatives suggested this should include only formal MAC meetings, meetings with the TAC Committee and the Minister or his representatives and advisors. At the last MAC meeting, it was agreed that DPI would prepare a draft policy, but no response has been received.

Industry members of the MAC request an update on progress.

AVG SOP

Recently, a document describing SOPs for commercial abalone divers was released, which requires daily washing of boats and dive gear in separate washes of detergent and bleach. This is a higher level of practice than required in Victoria, where there are different levels of practice related to distance from a known outbreak. Industry members have already expressed concern about the limited advice being provided to recreational divers and businesses in other commercial fisheries, particularly given the level of concern about the likely spread of AVG by these sectors, including cross border spread, and advice released to these sectors in central and western Victoria.

Industry members request information about what advice or checks are done on boats and recreational fishing and diving tournaments in southern NSW.

The high risk of the spread of AVG by recreational divers should require a greater level of information and checks for these people and recent boat movements suggest

no information is being provided in southern NSW to inform divers from Victoria of the risks and need to clean boats.

Marine Parks

Industry representatives have been concerned about the lack of transparency and inappropriate level of buyout for the recent Marine Parks, and have repeatedly requested details on how the buyout was determined. At the last meeting, the MAC requested that DPI provide information detailing how all estimates of reef alienation were calculated including specific data, and how shareholders were selected for buyout. The MAC also resolved that an improved and transparent process for calculating and buying out endorsements needs to be defined, agreed and articulated for any future buyouts.

The MAC now seeks updates on progress with these resolutions.

At the AbMAC meeting on 27 September 2007 Industry members expressed concerns regarding a number of issues related to past Marine Park Buyouts. The meeting outcomes note Industry representatives were pursuing matters in relation to this motion through an external avenue in another forum*. The DPI representative advised it would be inappropriate for DPI to discuss this issue in detail until the external actions initiated by industry personnel were finalised.

***Note:**

Industry Members of the Committee contacted the NSW Ombudsman about DPI procedures for the earlier buyout of shares in the NSW Abalone fishery. Following extensive inquiries with both DPI and AbMAC in relation to these matters the office of the NSW Ombudsman decided not to conduct an investigation into the complaint noting 'I consider the agency has not engaged in wrong conduct or maladministration' and the Probity Advisor report's concluded the selection process for buyouts were appropriate & met the highest probity standards'

Outcomes

Agenda Item 11

Abalone Shareholder

Issue

Proposal to set up a program to relocate undersize abalone stock

Background provided by shareholder

There are some very cheap, cost effective and relatively easy ways of both protecting the juvenile stocks of abalone from illegal fishing and restoring depleted lush and favourable areas. These areas consist of nearby offshore reef often separated from the nursery areas by sand that abalone cannot migrate across.

It is the shallow areas where very large amounts of undersize abalone populate that illegal fishers target. These are really 'nursery' areas where abalone spat successfully grows and abundant 'blooms' of regrowth occur. The simple action of translocating some of these small [say 90 to 115mm] abalone to relatively deeper nearby reefs as described would have some significant beneficial effects.

Industry and DPI should grasp the opportunity to set up a programme of relocation (within one kilometre) of stunted, slow growth stock to depleted faster growth reefs in the nearby vicinity, given the present state of the fishery. Trials in Tasmania (Dr Craig

Mundy/ FRDC) have shown that these abalone retain their slower growth characteristics when relocated. This means that they will continue to grow at a slow rate and therefore spawn for a number of seasons before reaching the minimum length. Thus it becomes a stock enhancement programme rather than simply an exercise in ranching.

1. Moving undersize abalone from vulnerable theft areas to safer areas. Given the proposed size limit increases, which in my opinion is pivotal for the survival of the fishery, will help to avoid simply leaving the unfishable stock [for both recreational and commercial] vulnerable to theft.
2. Instigate the restocking of reef areas where spat has a problem settling due to currents etc, providing a very cost effective alternative to 'reseeding'.
3. Will be cost effective. With either a fisheries officer onboard, or a programme developed on a port by port basis, volunteer abalone divers can carry out moving controlled numbers of abalone and resettling in a matter of only a few hours.
4. There are numerous examples where this has been shown to be successful. (Note Craig Mundy's work in Tasmania)
5. In conjunction with an overall size increase, it is putting into action one of the key recommendations in the Abalone EIS, and the Keniry Report and is reinforcing a practice Fisheries Officers have successfully employed for decades (resettling retrieved abalone from confiscated illegal catches).

Outcomes

Agenda Item 12

Industry

Issue

Updates: Committee Representatives

Background

Subject to time availability, other AbMAC representatives will have the opportunity to provide a verbal update on the abalone fishery.

Outcomes

Agenda Item 13

Chairperson

Issue

Chairperson's summary and next meeting date

Outcomes

AbMAC correspondence received and sent since the previous meeting held on the 6-11-07

Date	From	To	Issue
2-Nov-07	Anthony Hurst, NSW DPI	Warren Martin, Chairperson AbMAC (cc AbMAC Committee members)	Update on some procedural matters prior to upcoming MAC meetings
5-Nov-07	Jim Miller (for Industry Members AbMAC)	Jane Frances, NSW DPI Aquatic Biosecurity & Risk Management	Comments on proposal to ban the use of abalone viscera (gut) as bait in order to reduce the risk of transmitting abalone viral ganglioneuritis
5-Nov-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Peter Plunkett (Recreational Representative AbMAC)	Request & details for Mr Plunkett to contact Mel Brown (previous AbMAC Recreational Representative)
7-Nov-07	Debbie Nemaz, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Validated Catch (1 July 2007 - 31 October 2007)
12-Nov-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Jim Miller (Industry Member AbMAC)	Copy of National Disease Survey - Final Report May 2006
12-Nov-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Draft Outcomes of AbMAC meeting 6 November 2007
13-Nov-07	George Chung, Industry Member AbMAC	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI, Warren Martin, Chairperson AbMAC; Ian Cartwright, SARG member; Dean Burt, SOS& Duncan Worthington, Industry Consultant	Submission to Special Abalone Recovery Group (SARG) 'The Marketing Aspect of NSW Abalone'
14-Nov-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Jim Miller (Industry Member AbMAC)	As requested, word version of Draft Outcomes of AbMAC meeting 6 November 2007
19-Nov-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Jim Miller (Industry Member AbMAC)	Response to Mr Millers email of 19/11/07: Outcomes forwarded on 12/11/07 were a confirmed by the chairperson in his opinion as a true & accurate record of the meeting
19-Nov-07	Jim Miller, Industry Member AbMAC	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Can you send through a copy of the minutes as taken in the meeting' (AbMAC 6/11/07)
19-Nov-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Chairperson & Industry Members AbMAC	Original Outcomes from the AbMAC meeting held 6/11/07
6-Dec-07	B D Buffier DG, NSW DPI	Mel Brown (previous Recreational Representative AbMAC)	Letter of thanks - AbMAC Recreational Representative
10-Dec-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Chairperson & Industry Members AbMAC	Validated Catch (1 July 2007 - 30 November 2007)
11-Dec-07	Debbie Nemaz, NSW DPI	Peter Plunkett (Recreational Representative AbMAC)	Validated Catch (1 July 2007 - 30 November 2007)

12-Dec-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Final Version of Primefact 'Standard operating procedures: decontamination for commercial abalone divers'
13-Dec-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Non technical summary of FRDC project no. 2001/033 ' <i>Development and delivery of technology for production, enhancement and aquaculture of blacklip abalone (Haliotis rubra) in New South Wales' completed in October 2007</i>
14-Dec-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Cover letter & Gazettal notice dated 14/12/07 - Section 8 closure prohibiting the taking of all fish using abalone viscera as bait
17-Dec-07	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Poster to be distributed to bait and tackle shops re. now illegal to use abalone gut as bait or burley
24-Dec-07	Paul O'Connor, Director Compliance Operations, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Fisheries Compliance Branch Restructure
4-Jan-08	Grant Hall, DDG, QLD DPI	AbMAC Committee	Queensland Inshore Fin Fish Fishery - under review, Have your say.
7-Jan-08	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Validated Catch (1 July 2007 - 31 December 2007)
8-Jan-08	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Steven Hunter (Industry Member AbMAC)	Copy of NSW DPI Science & Research 'Stock Assessment Report - Abalone' dated April 2007 prepared for TACC Committee
29-Jan-08	Tracey McVea, NSW DPI	AbMAC Chairperson	Updating Priorities in the strategic research plan
30-Jan-08	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee (cc Doug Ferrell & Debbie Nemaz NSW DPI)	Copy of letter 'Updating Priorities in the strategic research plan' sent to Chairperson 29/1/08
1-Feb-08	Ian Macdonald, NSW Minister for Primary Industries	AbMAC Chairperson	Letter regarding AbMAC Meeting 27 September 2007
6-Feb-08	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Copy of media release dated 5 Feb 2008 'Ashfield grocery store involved in one of State's biggest abalone busts'
8-Feb-08	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Validated Catch (1 July 2007 - 31 January 2008)
12-Feb-08	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Total Allowable Commercial Catch for Abalone and Lobster (2008/2009) Call for Submissions & TACC Timetable
25-Feb-08	Debbie Nemaz, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Expression of Interest Solitary Islands Marine Park Advisory Committee
25-Feb-08	Ian Macdonald, NSW Minister for Primary Industries	AbMAC Chairperson	Letter regarding AbMAC Meeting 6 November 2007
27-Feb-08	for Hilary Sullivan, Director, Marine Protected Areas Management, Dept of the Environment and Water Resources	AbMAC Committee	Interim Management arrangements for commercial fishing in the Solitary Islands Marine reserve

3-Mar-08	Jim Miller, Industry Member AbMAC	AbMAC Chairperson (cc TACC Chairperson) Fwd to Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI 5/3/08	Request for progress on the MAC outcomes from Sept 07 meeting
4-Mar-08	Jim Miller, Industry Member AbMAC	AbMAC Chairperson, TACC Chairperson (cc Peter Turnell NSW DPI) Fwd to Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI 5/3/08	SARG report recommendations about the industry entity
4-Mar-08	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Tony Fry (Industry Member AbMAC)	Total Allowable Commercial Catch Committee Timeline 2008/09
5-Mar-08	Jim Miller, Industry Member AbMAC	AbMAC Chairperson (cc TACC Chairperson, Peter Turnell, Nathan McNamara & Renata Brooks, NSW DPI)	Request for full budget papers, calculations & MAC papers at least 2 weeks prior to next meeting. Request for compliance, management & research reports for the TACC by 14/3/08.
6-Mar-08	Jim Miller, Industry Member AbMAC	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI (cc TACC Chairperson, AbMAC Chairperson Peter Turnell & Renata Brooks, NSW DPI)	Request for NSW DPI to respond by next AbMAC meeting to Duncan Worthington's email of 7/11/07 re. release of data & effort data.
6-Mar-08	Debbie Nemaz, NSW DPI	Jim Miller (Industry Member AbMAC)	Contact details for NSW DPI Staff Clerk re. superannuation
10-Mar-08	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Validated Catch (1 July 2007 - 29 February 2008)
10-Mar-08	Debbie Nemaz, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Meeting Notice - AbMAC meeting Friday 18 April 2008
12-Mar-08	Debbie Nemaz, NSW DPI	AbMAC Committee	Confirmed Catch Data sent 10/3/08 was for the period 1/7/08 to 29/2/08 inclusive.
24-Mar-08	Jim Miller (for Industry Members AbMAC)	Nathan McNamara, NSW DPI	Agenda Items AbMAC 18/4/2008
26-Mar-08	Debbie Nemaz, NSW DPI	Jim Miller (Industry Member AbMAC)	As requested cc of Email to Mr Miller on 12/2/08 from Nathan McNamara re. Total Allowable Commercial Catch for Abalone and Lobster (2008/2009) Call for Submissions & TACC Timetable
31-Mar-08	Jim Miller, Industry Member AbMAC	Debbie Nemaz, NSW DPI	cc of Email of 6/3/08 re request for NSW DPI to respond by next AbMAC meeting to Duncan Worthington's email of 7/11/07 re. release of data & effort data.

Draft budget for the 2008 / 2009 fishing period

DRAFT Abalone Share Management Fishery Budget 2008 / 2009			
Management	Fisheries Manager 6/8 (50%)	\$ 38,447.85	
	Fisheries Management Officer 3/4	\$ 56,701.01	
	Salaries	\$ 95,148.86	
	Oncosts (23.5%)	\$ 22,359.98	
	Total Salaries	\$ 117,508.84	
	Overheads (48% of Salaries)	\$ 45,671.45	
	Travel - Other	\$ 3,000.00	Port Meetings and Field Trips
	Freight, Cartage and Postage	\$ 1,500.00	Mailouts, quota notices, logbooks (including express post)
	Telephone - Mobile	\$ 250.00	\$20 X 12 Months
	Printing - General	\$ 3,000.00	Logbooks may require amendment and re-printing due to Regulation changes
	IT lease	\$ 1,000.00	1.5 X 12 (\$28.40 + \$41.49)
	Purchases - Plant and Equipment	\$ 3,000.00	Update/ purchase of new computer and programs, MAC elections
	Stores - Consumables	\$ 500.00	Stationary
	Rewards	\$ 10,000.00	Rewards payable for information leading to an abalone conviction
Total Operating	\$ 22,250.00		
MAC	Sitting Fees	\$ 6,000.00	2 X MAC meetings X 1 Chairperson (\$342) and 8 Representatives (\$207)
	Fees General	\$ 1,500.00	Catering/incidental meeting expenses
	Travel	\$ 8,500.00	flights and accomodation
	Travel - MV Employee Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	personal car use
	Total Operating	\$ 17,000.00	
Fisheries Research	Scientific Officer G3.2	\$ 76,896.00	
	Fisheries Technician G3.4 (50%)	\$ 35,773.00	
	Salaries	\$ 105,426.00	
	Oncosts (23.5%)	\$ 24,775.11	
	Total Salaries	\$ 130,201.11	
	Overheads (48% of Salaries)	\$ 50,604.48	
	Travel / Motor vehicle running costs		
	Freight, cartage, postal expenses		
	Boat Charter		
	Fees General/Rewards/ Contractors		
Printing			
Telephone Mobile			
Stores / Purchase of Fish			
Total Operating	\$ 34,282.00		
Compliance	Investigator	\$ 76,689.00	
	Fisheries Officer	\$ 62,547.00	
	Salaries	\$ 139,236.00	
	Oncosts (23.5%)	\$ 32,720.46	
	Total Salaries	\$ 171,956.46	
	Overheads (48% of Salaries)	\$ 66,833.28	
	Travel	\$ 10,000.00	
	Motor Vehicle Lease	\$ 20,000.00	
	Marine Craft Running	\$ 2,500.00	
	Fees General	\$ 4,500.00	
	Telephone	\$ 2,000.00	
	IT	\$ 3,720.00	
	Stores consumable	\$ 5,000.00	
	Overtime	\$ 7,500.00	
	Stores/Uniform	\$ 1,000.00	
Total Operating	\$ 56,220.00		
Total Expenses	\$ 712,527.62		
	Department Contribution (Savings)	-\$ 167,645.74	
	Marine Park (Savings)	-\$ 11,064.62	
	Industry Contribution (non outsource)	\$ 544,881.88	*
	Independent Survey	\$ 197,168.59	*
	Adjustment from 2007/08	\$ -	
Total Industry Contribution	\$ 742,050.47		
Management Charge per share (3454)	\$ 214.84		
* Subsidies:	Departmental Savings	\$ 132,866.05	
	Recreational (6% in 2007/08) however depends on TAC Determination	\$ 34,779.69	
	Marine Park (246 shares purchased through marine parks = 6.6%)	\$ 11,064.62	
	Independent Survey (at 12.6% subsidy)	\$ 24,843.24	
	Total Savings:	\$ 203,553.60	

Number of abalone divers reporting each month

The below table demonstrates the number of abalone divers reporting by month in the 2007/08 fishing period to February 2007.

An updated table is included each month with the reported abalone catches. Please contact the Abalone Fisheries Management Officer, debbie.nemaz@dpi.nsw.gov.au, if you wish to be included on this Email distribution list.

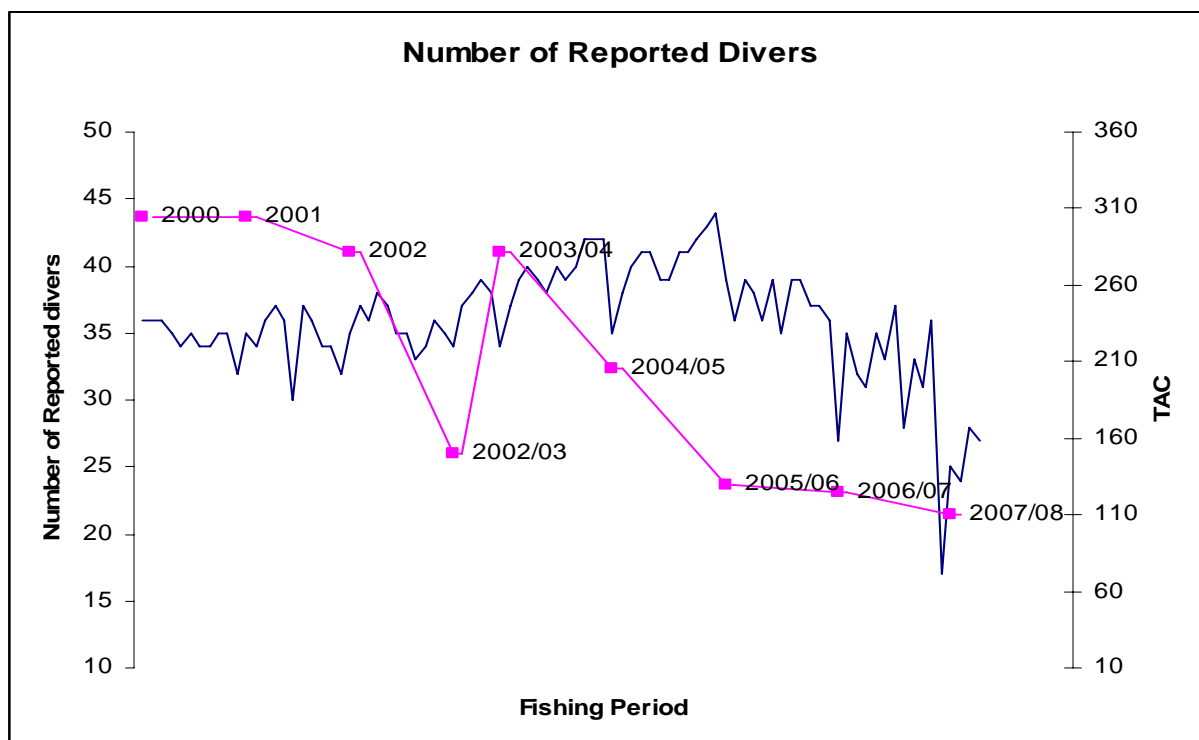
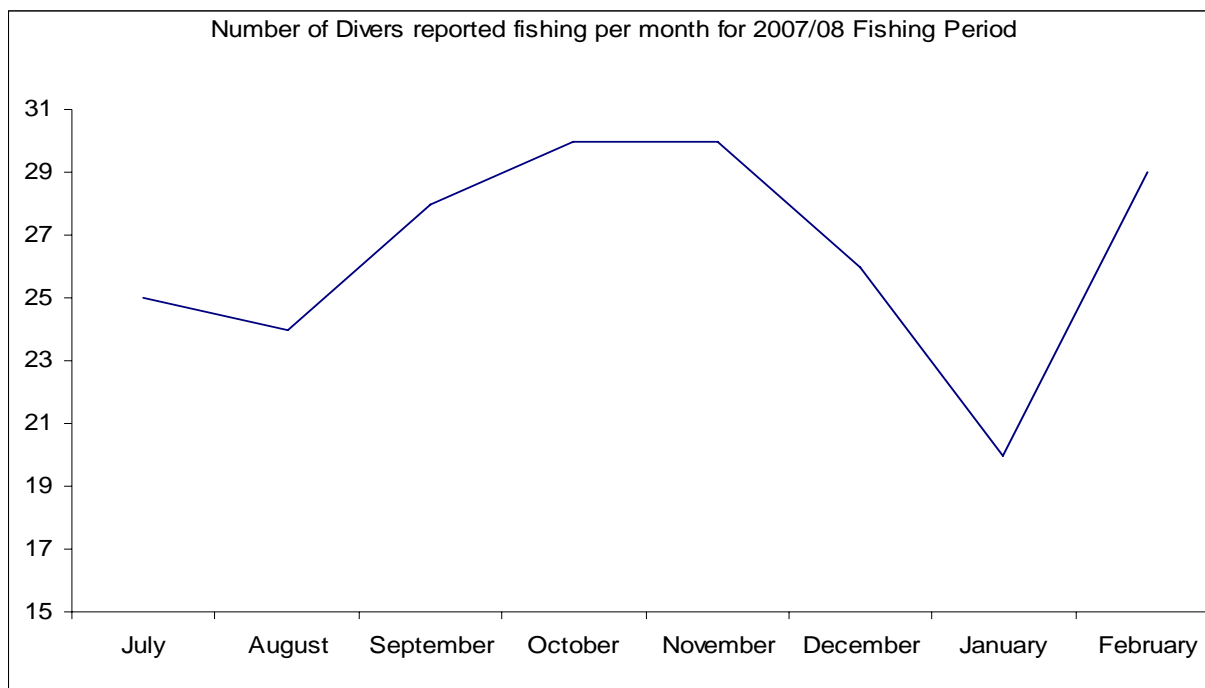


Figure 1. Number of abalone divers graph reporting by month since the implementation of the abalone share management plan in February 2000.

Please note that the 2002/03 quota season was only 6 months.

Goal 1: Manage commercial harvesting of abalone to promote the conservation of biological diversity in the coastal environment				
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
1.1 Increase knowledge and minimise any adverse impacts of harvesting abalone on bycatch species, associated habitats and ecosystems.	a) Continue to develop and implement a program to increase knowledge of the effects of abalone harvesting on bycatch species and associated habitat and ecosystems.	1, 2, 5, 6	Medium term and then ongoing	Shareholders; NSW DPI; other institutions
	b) Develop and implement a NSW Abalone Fishery Code of Practice to minimise the impact of harvesting abalone on bycatch species, associated habitats and ecosystems.	1, 2, 5, 6	Short term	Shareholders
	c) Implement, in consultation with the ABMAC, the provisions of any relevant threatened species recovery plan, threat abatement plan, or other similar management arrangements designed to protect critical habitat areas.	1, 6	As required	NSW DPI; Shareholders
Goal 2: Maintain or rebuild the biomass of abalone to ensure stock sustainability				
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
2.1 To maintain the spawning and exploitable biomass of abalone at or above the level observed in 1994.	a) Continue to implement a state-wide TACC for abalone, determined by the TAC Committee.	1, 2, 4, 5, 8	Ongoing	Shareholders; NSW DPI
	b) Refine the existing harvest strategy for the fishery and implement a definitive recovery strategy for the abalone resource.	1, 2, 4, 5, 8	Short term and then ongoing	Shareholders; NSW DPI
	c) Continue to apply the state-wide minimum legal size of 115 mm.	1, 2, 4, 5	Ongoing	Shareholders; NSW DPI
	d) Continue the collection of fishery-dependent information to contribute to the abalone stock assessment.	1, 2, 4, 5	Ongoing	NSW DPI

Goal 2: Maintain or rebuild the biomass of abalone to ensure stock sustainability

OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
	e) Continue the collection of fishery-independent information to contribute to the abalone stock assessment.	1, 2, 4, 5	Ongoing	NSW DPI
	f) Continue stock assessments of the abalone resource.	1, 2, 4, 5	Ongoing	NSW DPI
<p>2.2. To improve the efficiency of harvesting and investigate the potential of techniques to rebuild populations of abalone.</p>	<p>a) Develop a plan to investigate the feasibility of implementing different size limits on a variety of spatial and temporal scales, with provision to implement longer term actions.</p> <p>b) Manage the spatial distribution of catch thorough: (i) [setting a state-wide TACC with recommended catch limits for specific areas] (ii) [facility to implement flexible and fixed catch limits at any scale] (iii) [encouraging industry to develop its own spatial management controls] (iv) [facility for industry to recommend closures or alternative size limits at any spatial scale] (v) [implementing binding regional catch limits if the improved voluntary arrangements result in breaches to the TAC Committee's recommended regional limits], and (vi) [development of new performance measures].</p> <p>c) Develop and implement a framework for closing and re-opening areas to commercial abalone harvesting, with initial priority given to the current closure within Region 1.</p> <p>d) Implement reseeding experiments in up to 1% of reef in water depths of less than 20 m in NSW waters.</p> <p>e) Implement experiments on the effects of moving abalone within 2 km distances, in up to 1% of reef in water depths of less than 20 m in NSW waters.</p>	<p>1, 2, 4, 5</p> <p>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8</p> <p>1, 2, 4, 6</p> <p>1, 2, 4, 6</p> <p>1, 2, 4, 6</p>	<p>Short term</p> <p>(i) ongoing; (ii) medium term; (iii) ongoing; (iv)-(vi) medium term</p> <p>Short term and then ongoing</p> <p>As required</p> <p>As required</p>	<p>Shareholders; NSW DPI</p> <p>Shareholders; NSW DPI</p> <p>Shareholders; NSW DPI</p> <p>Shareholders; NSW DPI</p> <p>Shareholders; NSW DPI</p>

Goal 2: Maintain or rebuild the biomass of abalone to ensure stock sustainability				
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
	f) Continue to investigate the potential and effects of restoring abalone populations through sea urchin harvesting in up to 1% of reef in water depths of less than 20 m in NSW waters.	1, 2, 4, 6	As required	Shareholders; NSW DPI
2.3. To address impacts from factors external to the commercial Abalone Fishery.	a) Develop strategies and practices to minimise the affects of <i>Perkinsus</i> and other marine pests and diseases with potential to affect abalone, and implement in consultation with ABMAC any measures required in accordance with marine pest or disease management plans..	1, 2, 4, 6, 8	Short term and ongoing	Shareholders; NSW DPI
	b) Continue to support initiatives to refine estimates of the total catch of abalone, including commercial, recreational, Aboriginal and illegal catches, for use in stock assessment models and reports to the TAC Committee.	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8	Ongoing	Shareholders; NSW DPI
	c) ABMAC will provide advice on proposed aquaculture developments in NSW that have the potential to affect wild populations of abalone.	1, 2, 4, 6, 8	As required	Shareholders

Goal 3: Facilitate effective management arrangements and provision of an efficient fisheries management service

OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
3.1 To facilitate the delivery of effective and efficient management services.	a) On request by the Abalone Management Advisory Committee (ABMAC), undertake an independent review of the application of established cost recovery principles to the Abalone Share Management Fishery and implement the approved outcomes.	3, 4	As required	Shareholders; NSW DPI

Goal 3: Facilitate effective management arrangements and provision of an efficient fisheries management service

OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
	b) Continue to refine the delivery of specific management services and standards through service delivery agreements or outsourcing regarding research, administration and compliance.	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	Short term and then ongoing	NSW DPI; Shareholders

	c) On request by the Abalone Management Advisory Committee, undertake independent performance reviews of the services delivered by NSW DPI under service agreements or other service providers under contract.	3, 4	As required	NSW DPI; Shareholders
	d) Develop and implement a nominated diver's card system to facilitate the efficient use of nominated divers.	3, 4	Medium term	NSW DPI;
	e) Adopt technological improvements in the catch reporting system that are cost effective and result in the earlier receipt of catch and effort data.	3, 4	Ongoing	NSW DPI; Shareholders
	f) Communicate the Department's operational plans and policies for the management of the fishery to all fishery participants.	3, 7, 8	Short term and then ongoing	NSW DPI

Goal 4: To promote the economic viability of the fishery

OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
4.1 To promote the long term economic viability of commercial abalone fishing.	a) Seek to improve the economic performance of the fishery by: (i) preparing a productivity and business case analysis, and (ii) developing an economic monitoring plan for the fishery	4, 5	Medium term	(i) NSW DPI; (ii) Shareholders

Goal 4: To promote the economic viability of the fishery

OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
	b) Manage the number of divers by implementing appropriate minimum shareholding limits, allowing greater competition among divers and providing more flexibility for shareholders to adjust their individual shareholdings.	1, 2, 4, 5,	As required	NSW DPI; Shareholders
	c) Develop formal strategies to plan for and adapt to the effects of environmental and economic fluctuations on the fishery.	2, 4, 5	Medium term	Shareholders; NSW DPI
	d) Revise the minimum level for trading abalone shares, so that shareholders with 10 or more shares can trade any number of shares, including single shares, but their overall holding must remain at 10 or more shares.	4, 5	Short term	NSW DPI

e) Remove the shareholding aggregation limit.

4, 5

Short term

NSW DPI

Goal 5: To appropriately share the resource and harvest abalone in a manner that minimises negative social and economic impacts

OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
5.1 Mitigate negative impacts of the Abalone Fishery on Aboriginal cultural heritage.	a) Manage the Abalone Fishery in a manner consistent with the Indigenous Fisheries Strategy and Implementation Plan and participate in any review of that Strategy.	5, 8	Ongoing	Shareholders
5.2 To minimise any negative impacts of the Abalone Fishery on Aboriginal and European cultural items in the vicinity of abalone harvesting areas.	a) Ensure that abalone divers are aware of and take into account any information about areas or items of cultural significance that may be affected by their activities.	1, 5, 8	Ongoing	Shareholders
	b) Respond, where relevant, to new information about areas or items of cultural significance in order to minimise the risk from abalone harvesting activities	1, 5, 8	As required	Shareholders

Goal 6: Facilitate appropriate research and monitoring of the Abalone Fishery

OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
6.1 To collect information on the Abalone Fishery and the environment on which it operates in a timely manner.	a) Continue to implement an integrated monitoring and research program involving both fishery independent research and joint Industry/Government initiatives, and update as necessary.	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8	Ongoing	NSW DPI ; Shareholders
	b) Develop and implement a method of estimating the rate of disturbance of undersize abalone.	2, 4, 6	Medium term	NSW DPI; Shareholders
6.2 To keep informed of research and management initiatives in other jurisdictions.	a) Maintain good communication links with abalone researchers, managers, compliance officers and industry bodies nationally and internationally.	1, 6	Ongoing	NSW DPI

Goal 7: Achieve a high level of compliance within the Abalone Fishery				
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
7.1 Promote a high level of compliance in the fishery.	a) Continue to implement and review, in consultation with ABMAC and key stakeholders, the compliance strategic plan and update where appropriate.	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI; Shareholders
	b) Develop a cost-effective system for divers to report the planned location of their fishing activity.	2, 4, 5, 7	Short term	Shareholders; NSW DPI s
	c) Continue compliance and enforcement measures applicable to operators in the commercial fishery.	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI
	d) Extend the fit and proper persons requirements applicable to abalone crew to abalone divers, shareholders and receivers.	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8	Short term	NSW DPI; Shareholders
	e) Require receivers of abalone harvested from the fishery to record the number of abalone handled (in addition to weight) on the prescribed record keeping form(s).	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8	Ongoing	NSW DPI
Goal 7: Achieve a high level of compliance within the Abalone Fishery				
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
	f) Develop and implement a mechanism to apply temporary bans on receivers, wholesalers and retailers (including individuals and business entities) if they are caught in possession of abalone without the appropriate documentation.	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	Medium term	NSW DPI
	g) Participate in the development and implementation a of training and accreditation scheme for commercial fishers (i.e. divers and crew).	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8	Medium term	Shareholders
7.2 To continue to minimise the illegal catch of abalone.	a) Design and implement an industry communication program to assist in preventing illegal catch.	2, 5, 7	Medium term and then ongoing	Shareholders
	b) Examine the costs and benefits of increasing effective enforcement to reduce illegal catch and assist in maintaining the fishery biomass relative to other stock rebuilding measures.	2, 4, 7	Medium term and then ongoing	Shareholders NSW DPI

	c) Continue implementation of the National Docketing System for abalone product in consultation with ABMAC and abalone processors.	2, 3, 4, 7	Ongoing	NSW DPI
Goal 8: Ensure adequate stakeholder involvement and community consultation				
OBJECTIVES	MANAGEMENT RESPONSES	CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
8.1 To ensure the Abalone Management Advisory Committee communicates effectively with shareholders, other industry sectors and other stakeholders.	a) Continue the development of the Abalone Management Advisory Committee and Industry networking process, including the appointment of an independent chairperson, to improve the effectiveness of consultation and communication within Industry and with other stakeholders.	3, 4, 5, 8	Ongoing	Shareholders
	b) Promote consultation with the Aboriginal community in a culturally appropriate manner.	5, 8	Ongoing	Shareholders
	c) Encourage Aboriginal involvement in the commercial fishery.	5, 8	Ongoing	NSW DPI; Shareholders
	d) ABMAC will become involved with other harvest sectors through future co-management arrangements.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	Ongoing	Shareholders; NSW DPI
8.2 To promote community awareness about the importance of habitat and other environmental factors that affect abalone.	a) Continue to provide advice to Government, other stakeholders and the public about the risks and impacts of disease and the potential for human-induced activities to affect populations of abalone or their habitat.	1, 2, 4, 8	Ongoing	Shareholders