

Agenda Item	Outcome
Welcome and Apologies	Members and observers were welcomed.
Agreement on agenda	Agenda agreed.
Confirmation of draft minutes	Outcomes from previous meeting approved. DPI to replace the draft outcomes on the DPI website with the final approved outcomes.
Correspondence sent and received	Correspondence received and sent was noted.
Business arising from previous minutes	List of actions noted.
Updates	<p>The Committee noted the updates provided, in particular the funding application to FRDC from industry members to undertake a pipi research project.</p> <p>Action – Industry representatives to investigate the possible attendance at the next ACPF Forum.</p> <p>Action - The relevant representative from DECC be invited to attend the next EGMAC meeting to discuss their policy regarding beach access via National Parks.</p> <p>Action - DPI to investigate the feasibility of media releases stipulating that a fisheries offender is a commercial or non-commercial fisher.</p>
Marine pests	The Committee noted that DPI Aquatic Biosecurity is working with the fishing industry, other federal, state and territory agencies and the wider community to develop voluntary best practice guidelines to help prevent the invasion of marine pests in NSW. Industry was advised to report any sightings of marine pests to DPI.
Caulerpa taxifolia	The Committee noted that the noxious species Caulerpa taxifolia has now been found in 13 estuaries in NSW and as far north as Lake Macquarie. Industry was advised to report any sightings of this species to DPI.

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Share Management Plans and stage 2 regulation reform	<p>The Committee noted DPI's proposal to amend the <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002</i> and the movement of provisions from the General Regulation into the <i>Fisheries Management (Estuary General Share Management Plan) Regulation 2006</i> (EGSMP).</p> <p>The Committee noted that DPI is currently completing consultation with a view to amending three closures identified by Industry representatives.</p> <p>Action - Industry to liaise with DPI regarding the potential to amend some specific fishing closures on a priority basis, particularly those that may no longer serve their original intent.</p>
Square-mesh codends	<p>Industry representatives reiterated their concern that the use of square-mesh codends may not be practical in certain gear types and estuaries. DPI noted Industry's concern and advised that the implementation of square-mesh codends is based on extensive research into the selectivity of prawn catching gear in NSW.</p> <p>Action - DPI to develop a policy that facilitates Industry's ability to trial modifications to gear in the EG fishery.</p>
Unlicensed assistance in the EG fishery	<p>The Committee noted Industry concern regarding the use of unlicensed assistance in the EG fishery with respect to prawn seining. DPI advised that potential exists to remove the provision of the EGSMP that authorises the use of unlicensed assistance when prawn seining.</p> <p>Action - Industry to liaise with stakeholders and DPI regarding the potential to limit access to the EG fishery to licensed commercial fishers only.</p>
Eel trapping Issues	<p>The Committee noted Industry concern regarding a minimum legal length (MLL) for eels rather than a minimum legal weight. Further, it was noted the potential difficulties that a MLL and weight may have for DPI Compliance. DPI advised that the MLL for eels was increased as part of the bag and size limit review that involved extensive consultation with stakeholders in addition to input from DPI Science and Research. DPI further advised that it does not support a minimum legal weight at this time.</p> <p>The Committee supported Industry's proposal for an increase in the maximum mesh size in eel traps to potentially</p>

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	<p>facilitate the escape of eels below the MLL.</p> <p>Action - DPI to increase the maximum mesh size in eel traps from 40mm to 50mm.</p> <p>The Committee noted the Eel Harvest (Farm Dams and Impoundments) Policy.</p>
Export approval for the EG fishery	<p>The Committee supported the renewal of the export approval for the EG fishery.</p>
Prawn set pocket net priority determinations	<p>The Committee noted the potential for Industry to be responsible for managing prawn net (set pocket) priority determinations. Further, the Committee noted the challenges in developing a framework to facilitate the process and the potential difficulties that Industry managed priority determinations could encounter.</p> <p>Action - Industry representatives to consult with their relevant constituents and DPI regarding the potential for Industry managed prawn set pocket net priority determinations.</p>
Mesh nets	<p>The Committee noted that following an extensive review by DPI of the provisions of use of the flathead and overnight set meshing nets in 2003/04, the Minister made a final determination of the provisions of use of these nets that became effective in 2005. Among other things the determination included the months and times of operation and the size of the buoys on the nets.</p>
Other business	<p>DPI advised that the Committee had previously supported the prohibition on the use of hoop nets at night.</p> <p>The Committee noted that herring is not a species of fish permitted to be taken in the fishery under the provisions of the EGSMP. Further, it was noted that this species is not in the EGFMS.</p> <p>Action – DPI to investigate the potential for herring to be included in the list of species permitted to be taken in the fishery.</p> <p>Action - DPI to provide EGMAC with update on conservation issues relevant to the EG fishery at the next EGMAC meeting.</p>

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	<p>The Committee supported Industry members attending professional training courses.</p> <p>Committee supported providing advice to the Minister regarding a potential sub-committee of SIAC and ACoRF (including relevant experts) to initiate the development of a strategy that identifies (i) the key water quality parameters necessary for sustainable fisheries, and (ii) establish a mechanism to maintain and improve the environmental conditions required for sustainable fisheries production. The Committee noted that the strategy could be similar to the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy and would be of benefit to all fisheries.</p> <p>Action - Chairperson to write to the Minister regarding the potential development of the above strategy.</p> <p>Action - SIAC and ACoRF representatives to raise this issue at next SIAC and ACoRF meetings.</p> <p>Industry members expressed interest in consulting with other sectors of Industry regarding the harvest of prawns in NSW.</p> <p>DPI advised the Committee that a fishing closure had been implemented that prohibited the use of abalone gut as bait in NSW.</p> <p>DPI advised the Committee that the NSW Food Authority had recently sent a letter to all EG Hand Gathering endorsed fishers. The letter requested fishers to contact the NSWFA regarding the classification of wild shellfish harvest areas in NSW.</p>
Chairperson summary and next meeting date	The Chairperson thanked all members and observers for their attendance and contributions to discussions during the meeting and advised that the date for the next meeting would be determined out of session.