

OTLMAC OUTCOMES - 22 & 23 JUNE 2009

Agenda Item	Outcome
1. Welcome and Apologies	<p>The Chairperson welcomed all members and observers to the meeting.</p> <p>Members Allen Filep - Spanner crab Paul Porter - Line fishing (eastern zone) north Matthew Creek - Line fishing (eastern zone) south John Garven - 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 - NSW DPI Vacant - Nature Conservation Council</p> <p>Observers NCC - Megan Kessler SIAC - Mr Hans Heilpern SIAC - Mr Graeme Byrnes SIAC - Mr Jim Drinkwater SIAC - Mr Don Johnson SIAC - Mr Tony Puglisi SIAC - Mr Darren Ward Shareholder - Mr Paul Moody Shareholder - Mr Eddie Norris NSW DPI - Mr George Davey NSW DPI - Mr Peter Turnell NSW DPI - Mr Doug Ferrell NSW DPI - Mr Andrew Goulstone NSW DPI - Mr Darren Hale NSW DPI - Mr Darryl Sullings NSW DPI - Ms Miriam Vandenberg NSW DPI - Mr Will MacBeth NSW DPI - Mr Marcel Green NSW DPI - Mr Paul Blade DEWHA - Mr Alex Hulme DEWHA - Mr Sean Lane</p>

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2. Agenda	The Committee agreed on the agenda for 22 and 23 June 2009. Two additional issues regarding landing nets and the MAC's nominee to act as a contact point for Commonwealth Eastern Area Marine Reserve issues, were agreed upon for discussion in other business.
3. Draft Minutes	Draft minutes of 5 November 2007 were noted.
4. Correspondence	The Committee noted correspondence received and sent.
5. Business arising from previous minutes	List of action items were noted.
6. Structural Adjustment	<p>An overview of the Industry structural adjustment package, the 'Pyrmont Pact', was presented to the Committee. The NSW DPI Deputy Director General and the SIAC members addressed the Committee. They provided an explanation of the Pact and emphasised the importance of the adjustment package as well as the importance of industry involvement.</p> <p>The Committee noted the structural adjustment package which includes actions to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a suite of tools to provide for tradable input and output controls 2. Provide for initial restructuring with minimum shareholding and exit grants 3. Comprehensive review of regulatory requirements and streamlining DPI administrative systems 4. Review cost recovery 5. Comprehensive review of fishing closures 6. Move focus toward risk-based resource management 7. Initiate an industry development program- Increase economic value of product to fishers 8. Enhanced industry voice to government <p>The MAC agreed in principle with the structural adjustment package, subject to receiving written assurances from the Minister that changes to Industry structure to ensure viability, utilising an optional suite of tools, would not be implemented without industry agreement.</p> <p>Action item: Chairperson to write to the Minister regarding the Committees support for the package.</p>
7. Licence splitting Policy	The amended licence splitting policy was presented to the Committee. Members noted the changes. The new policy would be sent to fishing business owners who hold external authorities in the near future.
8. Revised catch reporting arrangements	A summary of the project and revised catch reporting arrangements was presented to the Committee. The MAC noted the changes.

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9. Management of shark catches	<p>Options for the management of sharks harvested were presented. The Committee noted the importance of equal access rights under the share management framework.</p> <p>The Committee supported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interim management arrangements of a 500kg weekly trip limit for the harvest of all sharks (except for wobbegong, school, gummy and dogfish) for the period 30 June 2009 –January 2010. 2. Extension of permit expiry date to January 2010 for fishers who hold a permit authorising the harvest of sandbar and other specified pelagic sharks. This will provide the opportunity for permit holders, who have not caught the maximum amounts allowed by June 30 2009, to take the remaining catch. 3. Implement arrangements for dogfish which are complementary to those in place for Commonwealth fishers. 4. Over the next 6 months, develop more permanent arrangements in consultation with the MAC. <p>Objection to the commercial harvesting of sharks from the NCC was noted.</p> <p>The Committee noted that shark management arrangements beyond January 2010 would be developed having regard to the results of the current DPI observer program due later this year and the independent assessment of the sustainable level of shark harvested in NSW waters being commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts (DEHWA) as part of the assessment of the fishery for ongoing export approval (agenda item 10).</p>
10. Export Approval	<p>Representatives from DEHWA gave an update on the assessment of the fishery for export approval and their intent to place the fishery on the List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS) (listing under the LENS provides exemption from export regulations) under the EPBC Act for a relatively short period (to be determined by DEHWA), so that further assessments can be undertaken to determine a sustainable level of shark catch from the fishery.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the export approval for the spanner crab component of the fishery is currently being finalised for approval for a five year period.</p> <p>A performance assessment examining each performance indicator and reviewing progress made in implementing each management response with respect to the Fishery Management Strategy is being undertaken and when finalised will be made available for the Committee's review.</p> <p>Action Item NSW DPI to provide the MAC with the performance assessment report when finalised.</p>
11. Species Recovery Planning	<p>The Committee noted the species recovery planning process.</p>

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12. Code of Practice	The Code of Practice for the fishery was supported subject to minor amendments.
13. Updates from Committee members	<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update was provided on the scientific observer programs. <p>Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update was provided on compliance activity. The need for specific standardised shark trimming was discussed. <p>Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update was provided on conservation issues. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanner crab update – The Committee supported the deferral of the requirement to reach the minimum shareholding to allow for consideration of options to implement quota management in the fishery. The NCC did not support the proposal.
14. Regulatory reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escape panels – the Committee suggested that options be considered to limit the retention of fish from lobster traps. • Closed waters permits - Industry members queried which legislation (Marine Parks Act or Fisheries Management Act) is applicable when travelling through Marine Parks. • Wobbegong sharks – the Committee supported the removal of the size limit considering difficulties in measuring live animals and the effectiveness of the small trip limit in minimising targeted fishing operations. Concerns from both the Recreational and NCC representatives were noted.
15. Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCS– The Committee noted that DPI is working with the Commonwealth on a consolidated approach to address and simplify current arrangements. • The Committee noted concerns over a possible increase in recreational fishing effort targeting deepwater species. The use of electric reels and introduction of fin clipping of recreational caught deepwater species was discussed. • The Committee did not support any change to the OTLSMP with respect to trip limits, for banded rockcod taken by line west endorsement holders. • The Committee supported an amendment to the maximum hoop diameter requirement (0.6 m) for landing nets. • The Line Fishing (west) southern zone representative was nominated to act as a contact point for the OTLMAC with respect to Commonwealth Eastern Marine Protected Area issues.