

**LOBSTER INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP MEETING
AGENDA**

7 APRIL 2011

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

**Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence
202 Nicholson Parade, Cronulla NSW 2230**

Ref: OUT11/5405

Chairperson

Alan Dodds

Management Advisory Committee Representatives

| | |
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| Noel Gogerly | Industry Representative |
| Lee Monin | Industry Representative |
| Daniel Stewart | Industry Representative |
| Scott Westley | Industry Representative |
| Peter Offner | Industry Representative |
| Oliver Wady | Recreational Representative |
| Paula Brown | NCC Representative |

Industry and Investment NSW

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|---------------|---|
| Doug Ferrell | I&I NSW: Manager, Resource Management |
| Robert Peever | I&I NSW: Snr Fisheries Investigator Statewide |
| Geoff Liggins | I&I NSW: Manager – Scientific Services |
| Belinda Lucas | I&I NSW: Fisheries Manager |
| Amy Priestly | I&I NSW: Fisheries Management Officer |

**LOBSTER INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP MEETING
AGENDA
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| Agenda items | Responsibility |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductory remarks | Chairperson |
| 2. Correspondence received and sent | Chairperson |
| 3. Confirmation of final minutes Lobster Industry Working Group held on 14 October 2010 | Chairperson |
| 4. Business arising from previous meetings | Chairperson |
| 5. Update on the Total Allowable catch setting and Review Committee (TAC Committee) program for 2011/12 | I&I NSW |
| 6. Change to the NSW Lobster season quota dates | I&I NSW |
| 7. Management Charges for the Lobster Fishery | I&I NSW |
| 8. Reading difficulties and completing catch record returns | Industry/I&I NSW |
| 9. Weights on ropes and gear marking | Industry/I&I NSW |
| 10. Solitary Islands Marine Park Zoning Plans | Industry/I&I NSW |
| 11. Other Business | Chairperson & I&I NSW |

Agenda Item 1**Chairperson**

Welcome, apologies and introductory remarks

Background

I&I NSW welcomes all the representatives and observers to the first Lobster Industry Working Group (LIWG) meeting for 2011.

Outcomes

For information

Agenda Item 2**Chairperson**

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| Correspondence received and sent |
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Background

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| All LobMAC correspondence received and sent since the last LobMAC meeting held in October 2010. |
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| Date | From | Issue | To | |
|-------------|--|---|----------------|----------------|
| 11/10/2010 | Alice Gleeson, NSW DPI | Agenda - Lobster Working Group Meeting - 14 October 2010 | LobMAC Members | FYI |
| 13/10/2010 | Alice Gleeson, NSW DPI | Statutory review of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 - Discussion Paper & Call for Submissions | LobMAC Members | Comments |
| 27/10/2010 | Alice Gleeson, NSW DPI | Review of TACC setting process | LobMAC Members | FYI |
| 15/11/2010 | Alice Gleeson, NSW DPI | Draft outcomes of meeting held on 14 October 2010 and Chairman's Report | LobMAC Members | FYI |
| 14/12/2010 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | Registration for Seafood Industry Leadership Program 2011 | LobMAC Members | FYI |
| 28/01/2011 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | Cover letter and consultation paper regarding the proposed changes to the quota season dates for the Lobster Fishing Industry | LobMAC Members | FYI and action |
| 28/01/2011 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | Lobster tag order for the 2011/12 season | LobMAC Members | Comments |
| 11/02/2011 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | Industry consultation paper - Reminder of submission for proposed changes to quota season | LobMAC Members | FYI and action |
| 15/02/2011 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | OOS item - Change to Quota Transfer form | LobMAC Members | FYI |
| 17/02/2011 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | Proposed quota season date change | LobMAC Members | FYI |
| 22/02/2011 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | TACC Call for submissions | LobMAC Members | Comments |
| 23/02/2011 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | Summary of submissions received on the Lobster Industry consultation paper | LobMAC Members | Comments |
| 2/03/2011 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | Reminder - Invoices posted to all shareholders today | LobMAC Members | FYI |
| 4/03/2011 | Belinda Lucas, Industry and Investment NSW | Lobster TACC / LobMAC date options | LobMAC Members | Comments |

Outcomes

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| For information. |
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Agenda Item 3

Chairperson

Issue

Confirmation of final minutes from Lobster Industry Working Group held on 14 October 2010

Background

A Lobster Industry Working Group meeting was held on 14 October 2010. The final draft outcomes and Chairman's Report was sent to members on 15/11/2020.

Outcomes

For information

Agenda item 4

Chairperson

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| Issue Business arising from previous meetings |
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| Action | Date Raised | Responsibility | Status |
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| 1. I&I NSW to amend Lobster Share Management Plan to include revised objectives, Performance Indicators and Trigger points, as well as the transmission of shares and maximum shareholding aggregation limit (to 40%). Proposed Regulation Amendments – objectives, performance indicators and trigger points in LobSMP to be considered out of session. | 28 March 07 27 Feb 08 | I&I NSW I&I NSW/LobMAC | Pending. To be included in the statutory review of the Lobster SMP (Agenda item 8). |
| 2. LobMAC to consult with shareholders with the aim of mapping grounds. LobMAC and/or shareholders to develop communication lines with local Trawl Operators to resolve conflict issues regarding habitat protection and the impacts of trawling. | 27 Feb 08 | LobMAC representatives | Ongoing. |
| 3. I&I NSW to investigate the establishment of a public register of shareholders' quota allocations, including any legal, logistics and costing issues that might arise in making such information public. | 30 March 2009 | I&I NSW | <i>FishOnline</i> is being developed as part of the I&I NSW CFSA Systems Reform Program. Version 1 of the system is scheduled to be completed in November 2010. It is scheduled to rolled out between March and November 2011. |
| 4. LobMAC to pursue meetings with local Ports Authority to discuss the pathways of large cargo vessels entering their respective ports | 30 March 2009 | LobMAC representatives | Ongoing. |
| 5. LobMAC Industry representatives to consider requirements of the proposed Interactive Voice Response system | 30 September 2009 | LobMAC industry representatives | Completed. LobMAC met with I&I NSW on 23/4/10 to discuss the proposed IVR system. |
| 6. I&I NSW to provide an update on the development of the CFSA system at the next LobMAC meeting | 30 September 2009 | I&I NSW | Completed. An update was provided at the 23 March 2010 LobMAC meeting. |
| 7. LobMAC to approach FRDC for direction on a scoping study for an economic assessment on the lobster fishery | 30 September 2009 | LobMAC representatives | Pending |
| 8. I&I NSW to advise LobMAC on; a) The level of overheads payable elsewhere in the Department. b) What reductions in cost would occur where managers are pooled? | 23 March 2010 | I&I NSW | Completed. LobMAC approved amended budget for 2010/11 management charges (refer Agenda item 6). |

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| c) What are the cost or efficiency benefits in having a strategic planner for lobster compliance instead of a single dedicated compliance officer? d) Where 23.35% of on costs are distributed. e) Where 48% of overheads are distributed. | | | |
| 9. I&I to look into additional arrangements for invoicing. If the budget brief sign-off is delayed, I&I management is to speak with Head Office to look into issuing nominal invoices in late August. Any required adjustments can be made later in the season. | 23 March 2010 | I&I NSW | Completed. Management charges for 2010/11 period were issued on 16 February 2011 for payment by instalments due on 31 March and 31 May. |
| 10. I&I to investigate the current rewards system and any impediments in implementing such a rewards system. | 23 March 2010 | I&I NSW Compliance | Pending. |
| 11. LobMAC to seek advice from the TACC on their recommendations for an economic survey. | 23 March 2010 | LobMAC representatives | Completed. Recommendations regarding an economic assessment of the lobster industry were provided in the 2010/11 TACC Report & Determination. |
| 12. LobMAC voted unanimously that objections to shareholders acquiring more than twice their initial quota be recorded in the minutes and the Consultation Paper submission log. | 23 March 2010 | I&I NSW | Completed. |
| 13. LobMAC voted unanimously that objections to proposed post landing report time frame be recorded in the minutes and in the Consultation Paper submission log. | 23 March 2010 | I&I NSW | Completed. |
| 14. I&I acknowledges the issues raised in regards to potential factors beyond a fishers control affecting their ability to comply with 'FishOnline', I&I will look in to how these issues can be addressed without imposing unfair penalties. | 23 March 2010 | I&I NSW | Pending. |
| 17. LobMAC to lodge a submission to the consultation paper. | 23 March 2010 | I&I NSW | Completed. A submission from LobMAC was received by I&I NSW on 30/4/10. |
| 18. I&I compliance to advise its compliance squad and maintain a local presence to reinforce the applicable rules and regulations. Additionally, I&I compliance to contact ACORF to advise on this issue. | 23 March 2010 | I&I NSW Compliance | Pending. Fisheries Mobile Squad will attend the 2011 Port Stephens Interclub Gamefishing tournament, to inform tournament fishers of offshore lobster head gear. An update will be provided at the meeting. |

Agenda Item 5

I&I NSW

Issue

Update on the Total Allowable Catch Setting and Review Committee (TAC Committee) program for 2011/2012.

Background

The TAC Committee will hold an open meeting on 11 April 2011, as part of the process to determine the Lobster total allowable commercial catch for the 2011/2012 fishing period. A meeting notice has been sent to all lobster shareholders and a public call for submissions was advertised on 23 February 2011. Submissions will close on 1 April 2011.

As part of this process, I&I NSW provide management, research (including a review of the Lobster stock assessment) and compliance reports to the TAC Committee for their consideration.

I&I NSW will provide LobMAC with an overview of the information that is to be provided to the TAC Committee including presentations from:

Belinda Lucas – Fisheries Manager (Management report)

Geoff Liggins – Manager – Scientific Services (Review on Lobster Stock Assessment and general research update including Ghost fishing project)

Rob Peever – Investigator, Special Investigations, Lobster (Compliance report)

Outcomes

For discussion

Agenda item 6

I&I NSW

Issue

Change to the NSW Lobster season quota dates

Background

In 2010 Lobster industry shareholders requested that the start and finish of the Lobster fishing period be shifted (to run from 1 August to 31 July) so that additional time is available for deep water fishers to retrieve their traps.

This change would benefit the north coast deep water fishery, however it may impinge on the start of the shallow water fishing season (July – December) on both the north and south coasts of NSW. To assess the impact of the proposed changes, a consultation paper was distributed to shareholders detailing the proposal and inviting submissions. Of the submissions received from lobster shareholders, the majority supported the change. Based on this information, current LobMAC industry representatives have indicated that they support the proposed change.

A briefing on the issue has been prepared for assessment by the Minister and is currently under review.

Outcomes

An update will be provided at the meeting

Agenda Item 7

I&I NSW

Issue

Management charges for the Lobster Fishery

Background

On 21 July 2010 a draft expenditure budget and estimate of the required management charge for the 2010/11 fishing period was sent to the Lobster Management Advisory Committee (LobMAC) members for comment. Members did not support the proposed management charge and requested a meeting with departmental staff.

A meeting was held on the 14th of October 2010 between I&I NSW and industry representatives from LobMAC. One outcome of the meeting was that the industry representatives agreed to the proposed management, MAC administration and research components, but sought adjustment to the compliance related aspects and overheads component.

For the 2010/11 fishing period, the management charge has been set at \$45.15 per share. This is a decrease of \$12.06 per share (21.08%) from the previous fishing period, attributable to a change in the proportion of compliance salaries being recovered for the 2010/11 period and to the carry over of unspent funds from the previous period.

Outcomes

For information

Agenda item 8

Industry / I&I NSW

Issue

Reading difficulties and completing catch records

Background

Some commercial fishers who experience reading difficulties or visual impairment may find the process for completing their catch returns difficult.

Catch record information provides an information base to support fishery management and planning processes, to enable more robust stock assessments to be completed and to contribute to the maintenance of environmental approvals. In the Lobster fishery it also provides an important mechanism to maintain quota system integrity and protect the property rights of shareholders. As such, it is a legal requirement to make, keep and provide accurate records of catch.

Any fisher who experiences difficulty completing catch records is encouraged to seek assistance from another person to fill out the required details. The department can also be contacted to provide advice and explain the reporting requirements. Fishers who have any questions relating to the lobster fishery are able to contact Belinda Lucas, Fisheries Manager (email belinda.lucas@industry.nsw.gov.au phone: (02) 9527 8598) or Amy Priestly (email - amy.priestly@industry.nsw.gov.au; phone - (02) 9527 8555). Alternatively they can obtain advice from fisheries compliance officers by appointment.

In addition to the current paper based system "FishOnline" is being developed as part of the Commercial Fisheries Structural Adjustment System Reform Program. The system will

provide a commercial fishers' online self service system to be known as FisherDirect that supports quota transfers and catch reporting. It will also include provision of a phone based Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to be known as FisherIVR that supports pre and post commercial fishing landing reports.

Outcomes

For discussion

Agenda Item 9

Industry / I&I NSW

Issue

Weights on ropes and gear marking.

Background

Weighting requirement for ropes on Lobster Traps –

The Lobster Share Management Plan requires that a commercial lobster trap must not be set or used unless its position is indicated by a buoy that has a weight of not less than 50 grams suspended not less than 1.5 metres under the float so that no rope is floating on the surface of the water.

When operating in waters under 10m in depth some lobster fishers experience difficulties with retrieval of traps as the weights become tangled in kelp and caught in the winch when pulling up the rope.

Alternatives to a 50g weight have been discussed at several previous MAC meetings however any alternatives should maintain the duty of care and safety requirements for other waterway users.

Clarification of marking on float traps – Schedule 40 (2) (iv) of the Share Management Plan states that a commercial lobster trap must not be set or used unless its position is indicated by: (a) buoy that: displays the number allocated to the endorsement holder by NSW Fisheries for use on the trap, in clearly legible figures that are not less than 50 mm in height and are a colour that clearly contrasts with that of the buoy.

Currently lobster fishers are able to use either their Fishing Business number, Fishing Licence number and Licensed Fishing Boat number when marking lobster trap bouys.

One option for the lobster industry to consider is the introduction of using the fishing licence number only for marking on lobster traps with the letter L to identify the type of trap. Both the Ocean Trap & Line and Estuary General Fishery currently use the fishing licence number only for the marking of all traps with a letter to identify the type (ie F for Fish, C for Crab).

Outcomes

For discussion

Agenda item 10

Industry / I&I NSW

Issue

Solitary Islands Marine Park zoning plans

Background

The new zone plan for Solitary Islands Marine Park commenced 01 March 2011 through the *Marine Parks (Zoning Plans) Amendment (Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay Marine Parks) Regulation 2011*. The changes that will affect commercial fisheries include the following special purpose zones that provide for traditional and recreational use and a total closure on commercial fishing activities:

- Corindi River Aboriginal special purpose zone
- Corindi Rock Platform Aboriginal special purpose zone
- Red Rock Beach Aboriginal special purpose zone

Outcomes

For discussion

Agenda item 11

Chairman & I&I NSW

Issue

Other business

Commercial Fisheries Management update

1. Amendment to crewing requirements- Removal of Class 2 commercial fishing licence for abalone and lobster fisheries. Abalone and lobster endorsement holders are permitted to use any person whether licensed or not as per the arrangements applying in other ocean based commercial fisheries.
2. Lobster tags for the 2011/12 fishing period – 150,000 tags have been ordered from Mega Fortris Australia Pty Ltd at a price of \$170 + GST per thousand which is the same price as last year. This is a total of \$25,550 excluding GST. The tags will be red with bold black text and white inserts.

Outcomes

For information