

Ocean Trawl Management Advisory Committee

DRAFT AGENDA

**Thursday 24th and Friday 25th August 2006, 8.30am to 5.00pm
Venue: Cronulla Fisheries Centre**

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|-----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Welcome and apologies | Chairperson |
| 2. | Procedural matters | |
| | a) Agreement on agenda | Chairperson |
| | b) Confirmation of draft minutes | Chairperson |
| | c) Business arising from previous meeting | Chairperson |
| | d) Correspondence received and sent | Chairperson |
| | e) Action status list | Chairperson |
| 3. | Updates | All members |
| 4. | Development of share management plans | DPI |
| 5. | Share trading on commencement of the plans | DPI |
| 6. | Proposed changes to licensing arrangements | DPI |
| 7. | Marine Parks | MPA |
| 8. | Grey Nurse Sharks | DPI |
| 9. | Submarine cable protection legislation | DPI |
| 10. | Process for next round changes to the OTSMP | DPI |
| 12. | Other business | Chairperson |
| 13. | Next meetings | Chairperson |

Agenda Item 1	Chairperson
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Issue Welcome and apologies.
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Outcome

Agenda Item 2a	Chairperson
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Issue Agreement on agenda.

Background A request for agenda items was forwarded on 31 July 2006 to committee members, the Regional Industry Convenor, Fishermen's Co-operatives, interested parties and regional offices of the Department of Primary Industries.

Outcome

Agenda Item 2b	Chairperson
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Issue Confirmation of draft outcomes.

Background Committee members were provided an opportunity to comment on the draft outcomes for the industry members' workshop on 4 August 2005 and the OTMAC meeting on 5 August 2005 before being distributed in draft form to the Regional Industry Convenor, Fishermen's Co-operatives, interested parties and regional offices of the Department of Primary Industries.

Outcome

Issue

Business arising from previous meeting.

Background

An action status list (updated August 2006) is attached for the committee to note.

Outcome

Action Status List for the OTMAC – Updated August 2006

Recommendation/Resolution/Action	FMS	Meeting	Responsibility	In Progress	Ongoing	Pending	Complete
Recommendation by industry representatives for an interim cap of 200 days per year in the ocean trawl fishery.	5.2 EIS	4 Aug 2005, 5 Aug 2005	DPI	✓ Concept supported			
Resolution to commit to implementation of a tradeable days scheme. Consider allocation of days and trading options (Note: Industry request for reduction of effort on prawns in estuaries).	5.2 EIS	4 Aug 2005, 5 Aug 2005	DPI MAC	✓ DPI scoping options for Executive/SIAC/MACs			
Recommendation to lift the freeze on amalgamations and implement a policy that allows for the forfeiture or allocation of additional shares proportional to the 'total units' of boats.	5.2 EIS	4 Aug 2005, 5 Aug 2005	DPI	✓ DPI scoping options for Executive/SIAC/MACs			
Contact QLD for advice on effects of removing input controls such as engine power restrictions, and enforcement of engine restrictions.	5.2 EIS	4 August 2005	DPI	✓ QLD conduct random spot check of compliance plates			
(a) Recommendation to retire the P1 to P4 offshore prawn trawl endorsements (ie. allow amalgamation of P2s), subject to checking number of P2, P3 and P4s. (b) Recommendation to remove the unit amalgamation policy under the share management plans.	5.2 EIS	4 Aug 2005, 5 Aug 2005	DPI	✓ P1-P4 and amalgamation policy to be removed under SMPs - refer item on changes to licensing			
Recommendation to modify the trip limits for redfish, orange roughy, and ocean perch to reduce the incidence of dumping and high grading.	-	4 Aug 2005, 5 Aug 2005	DPI			✓ DPI to review limits in full and consult AFMA	
Under proposed gemfish recovery plan, consider modifying the 50kg trip limit to reduce the incidence of dumping, but without promoting targeting	3.1 EIS	4 Aug 2005	OTMAC			✓	
Consult fishers on increasing the southern fish trawl endorsement transfer criteria to \$50,000 worth of VCH in specified years.	5.2 EIS	4 Aug 2005	DPI OTMAC			✓	
Model to determine if the proposed minimum shareholding of 32 shares is suitable.	5.2 EIS	4 Aug 2005	DPI			✓	

Recommendation/Resolution/Action	FMS	Meeting	Responsibility	In Progress	Ongoing	Pending	Complete
(a) Recommendation to the Director-General to approve the new BRD specifications considered at the industry MAC member workshops in Coffs Harbour and Cronulla, subject to the square mesh panel BRD being positioned within 40 meshes of the codend drawstring instead of 33 meshes. (b) Review package of BRDs for south of Smoky Cape and develop and implement BRDs as appropriate to minimise incidental catch of flathead in prawn trawl nets.	1.2 EIS	8 April 2005, 4 Aug 2005, 5 Aug 2005	DPI OTMAC				✓ Considered by Minister when making EIS determination (see letter from Minister and OTPSR)
Recommendation to review commercial and recreational harvesting of prawns and allocation issues, including specific recommendations for change in estuaries and to recreational prawning nets.	4.1 4.2 EIS	4 Aug 200, 5Aug 2005	DPI OTMAC				✓ Minister and DPI agree to forum – timing to be determined

Agenda item 2d**Chairperson****Issue**

Correspondence received and sent.

Background

A list of correspondence received is attached for the committee to note.

Outcomes

Correspondence received and sent for OTMAC – Updated August 2006

Date	From	Issue	Action
12 Dec 2005	Minister for Primary Industries	Outcomes of the workshop and MAC meeting on 4 and 5 August 2005	Information
24 Nov 2005	Department of Primary Industries	Renewal of ocean trawl (juvenile king prawn) fishing closure	Comment
30 Nov 2005	Marine Parks Authority	Creation of Marine Parks (Batemans Shelf and Port Stephens-Great Lakes)	Information
02 Dec 2005	Marine Parks Authority	Final zoning plan summary for the Cape Byron Marine Park	Information
06 Dec 2005	NSW Fisheries Research Advisory Board	Strategic Research Plan Priorities	Comment
22 Dec 2005	Australian Council of Prawn Fishers	Notification of consultative workshops	Information
16 May 2006	Marine Parks Authority	Draft Zoning Plan and submissions for Port Stephens - Great Lakes Marine Park	Comment
06 June 2006	Department of Primary Industries	Renewal of bobbin gear fishing closure	Comment
04 July 2006	NSW Maritime	Discussion Paper Fishing Vessel Safety – Protocols and Conventions	Comment
12 July 2006	Department of Primary Industries	Renewal of share finning fishing closure	Comment
19 July 2006	National Marine Safety Committee	Discussion Paper – National Review of High Frequency (Voice) Monitoring of Safety and Distress Frequencies by the National Coast Radio Network	Comment

Nil correspondence sent.

Issue
Updates**Background**

Opportunity is provided for members to provide an update on major issues relating to management of the industry. Following is a brief update by DPI on contemporary issues.

New Fisheries Management Officer

Mr Bill Hoskin was appointed Fisheries Management Officer Trawl late last year and has since proved to be a great asset to the Department. Welcome aboard Bill.

Fisheries Manager

Late last year Darren Hale was seconded to the management planning branch. Since returning to his substantive position Darren has been preparing advice for the preparation of share management plans with some time devoted to day to day issues affecting the Ocean Trawl and Estuary Prawn Trawl fisheries. Darren has been taken 'off line' to be part of a team charged with the responsibility of implementing share management plans before the end of the year. During this period, please contact Bill Hoskin in the first instance for all trawl related matters.

Interim 'days' program

The Minister for Primary Industries has supported the MACs recommendation for a cap of 200 days fishing per year and the department has prepared a logbook and the necessary legislative requirements. The department is currently considering the resources required to successfully implement the program and an appropriate commencement date. Please note that DPI is working with SIAC to develop an overall approach to improve industry viability, including through structural adjustment, noting that priority is being given to the completion of the share management plans. Subject to SIAC endorsement, it is envisaged that one or two fisheries will be selected as pilots for the development of a thorough adjustment program building on the forthcoming share management plans. This could include:

- developing an appropriate linkage between shareholdings and fishing effort,
- streamlining current regulations and associated processes,
- prioritising and possibly bringing forward key sustainability requirements,
- developing fair pricing and charging arrangements,
- providing for the development of mechanisms to facilitate adjustment across other relevant commercial fisheries sectors, and
- facilitating a dignified exit for those fishers who wish to leave the industry.

The OTMAC's advice is sought on the nomination of the OPT fishery (all sectors) as a pilot. Please note that this could supersede the implementation of the cap. Please also note that DPI has been investigating the models applied in other jurisdictions, including the tradeable 'days' program that is in place in the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery

Seafood Industry Advisory Council

The Seafood Industry Advisory Council last met on 17 March 2006 and discussed many important issues including recommendations by the Structural Adjustment Working Group

on the need for structural adjustment and structural adjustment options, beach access for ocean hauling fishers, and the development of a strategy for promoting the seafood industry. The Structural Adjustment Working Group met again on 23 June 2006, and the Pricing and Charging Working Group met on 11 August 2006. The Industry Development Working Group is expected to meet soon.

Prawns

The department has deferred the proposed forum involving relevant stakeholders to discuss and resolve issues relating to the commercial harvesting of king prawns and school prawns to 2007. Priority is being given to the completion of the share management plans.

Review of recreational fishing rules and saltwater size limits

The review outcomes are expected to be finalised soon. This follows an analysis of over 3,000 public submissions in response to the earlier discussion papers and recommendations from a joint session of the Seafood Industry Advisory Council and Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing.

Juvenile king prawn closures

The fishing closure that establishes juvenile king prawn [and other] closures off the NSW coastline was re-gazetted on 3 February 2006. The new notification specifies that all co-ordinates are in WGS84 datum (World Geodetic System 1984).

Shark finning closure

The fishing closure that prohibits the possession of shark fins on board boats has been renewed with minor changes to facilitate onboard processing (ie. removing belly flaps etc). The department's compliance branch is currently considering additional changes recommended by members of the Ocean Trawl MAC during recent consultation.

Bobbin gear closure

The fishing closure that prohibits bobbin gear north of Seal Rocks and restricts it to 100mm in waters south of Seal Rocks was referred to members for comment and will be renewed soon.

Trip limit for sharks

Following consultation with representatives of the trawl and trap and line fisheries a limit will be implemented on the quantity of certain species of pelagic shark that may be landed for sale. A limit of one tonne is proposed, unless a boat is at sea for longer than 24 hours in which case a two tonne limit will apply. Advice will be sent to fishers soon.

Benthic Surveys off Clarence

The Department of Environment and Conservation will be conducting bathometric (ie. depth) and sediment type surveys over 70 square kilometres off the Clarence River. The survey will take place during July and August.

Funding to map reef and prawn trawl grounds

The department is in the final stages of negotiating with the Catchment Management Authority details of a contract for approximately \$50,000 to map reef and prawn trawl grounds on the north coast. This is great opportunity for industry to meet one of the major obligations under the Ocean Trawl Fishery Management Strategy at minimal cost to

fishers. The Department will work closely with the MAC to design and implement the program.

Radial Escape Bycatch Reduction Device

Permits have been issued to two Ocean Trawl fishers and MAC members, Darren Ward and Murray Ham, to trial Radial Escape bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in NSW ocean waters. Reports so far are encouraging.

Australian Council of Prawn Fishers

The Australian Council of Prawn Fishers (ACPF) held a series of workshops throughout Australia during February and March to provide fishers an opportunity to discuss issues affecting their industry. A report has subsequently been prepared and will be used to develop a Strategic Directions Plan. A conference is scheduled for 2nd and 3rd February 2007 that commercial fishers are encouraged to attend. Further information on the conference will be referred by the ACPF to most coastal co-operatives.

Country of Origin food labelling

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), has introduced a food standards code to ensure that packaged food must carry a separate statement identifying the country where it was produced, made or packaged. The new standard covers fresh and processed seafood, came into effect in Australia on 08 December 2005, and will be phased in over a two-year period. The code will help protect the consumers 'right to know' as well as ensuring that in a global market, shoppers can choose to support local farmers and fishers by purchasing locally grown or produced products.

Commonwealth Fisheries Structural Adjustment Package

In order to avoid the displacement of fishing effort into State waters, the NSW Government engaged in negotiations with the Commonwealth in an attempt to negate this risk and seek mutual benefits for each jurisdiction. The negotiations are ongoing. Options made available by the NSW Government to dual Commonwealth / NSW licensed fishers with respect to their NSW fishing entitlements include;

1. An ex-gratia payment of \$20,000 for the surrender of entitlements in the NSW ocean trawl and ocean trap and line fisheries (\$20,000 per fishery, not \$20,000 per endorsement) whether or not a tender is submitted under the Commonwealth tender process. These payments are to be offered for a limited time after the completion of the Commonwealth tender process; or
2. Fishers will be permitted, in the short term, to continue to fish in accordance with the rules applicable to their NSW fishing entitlements, noting that the management rules are under review and are likely to change. Some fishers may be eligible to apply for a buyout of NSW entitlements under the current NSW marine parks process, although there are no guarantees that individual fishers will be successful under that process.

With regard to the second option above, DPI will review the situation after the Commonwealth's tender process and the current NSW marine parks buyout process to determine whether any further action needs to be taken to manage any residual displacement of fishing effort into State waters so as to restrict fishing effort to a sustainable and viable level.

This may include the application of the State's share management framework and restrictions on the time, gear or quantity of fish that can be landed. Fishers who have a significant portion of their recent total recorded catches in Commonwealth waters should not assume that they will be permitted to use their NSW entitlements in the longer term, particularly if the review shows there is a high level of displaced fishing effort and action is required to uphold the intent of the licence splitting policy. The review will be undertaken in consultation with the relevant NSW commercial fisheries advisory bodies.

Commonwealth gear & gear research

The Commonwealth has made the following changes to fish trawl gear used in Commonwealth managed fisheries:

- (a) Codends must be at least 90mm single twine, or
- (b) Codends of double twine must be at least 102mm, or
- (c) Codends of double twine must be at least 90mm with one or more of the following BRDs: (a) single square mesh (of at least 90mm) panel at least 15 bars wide and 20 bars high or (b) a single panel of rotated mesh (or at least 90mm) at least 15 bars wide and 18 bars high.

The Commonwealth is about to commence a project on minimising incidental catch in prawn trawl nets used to take deepwater prawns. Various bycatch reduction devices (eg. square mesh panels) and square mesh cod-ends may be tested. The department will keep the MAC informed.

Outcomes

Agenda Item 4

DPI

Issue

Development of Share Management Plans

Background

Shares have been issued on a provisional basis pending finalisation of the management plans and any appeals. The process for hearing any appeals in relation to this allocation has commenced. The finalisation of the appeal process will not impact on the commencement of the share management plans and issue of final shares to business owners who have not appealed their allocation.

The provisions under the *Fisheries Management Act (1994)* for share management fisheries are different than those for restricted fisheries. As a result of the move to share management, fishery specific management plans will be made. A supporting plan that will include the general rules that apply across all fisheries, for example share trading, management charges, community contribution and some licensing matters will also be

implemented. Amendment to the (General) Regulation is also required to pick up some other licensing matters.

The MACs have previously had input into most of the provisions that will be included in the Plans (including through the FMS process) and, port meetings were held in September 2005 where issues such as share trading and licensing matters were discussed.

The general process for preparing a Plan or an amendment to the Regulation is that DPI seeks approval from the Minister to make a Plan or a new regulation, broad drafting instructions are then provided to the Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCOs) who turn the intent of our instructions into the legal format that you see in regulation. PCOs then provide the department with a first draft of the regulation, which generally requires some amendment. Several iterations of a new regulation are normally required before the regulation or Plan is in a format suitable for consultation.

Drafting instructions for the fishery specific plans, the supporting plan and amendments to the (General) Regulation have been provided for preparation into documents for consultation. It is likely that these documents will be provided to the department in a staged approach with the fishery plans prepared first, then the supporting plan, then the (General) Regulation amendments.

Statutory consultation is required on the fishery plans and the supporting plan. Industry will also be consulted on the changes proposed to the (General) Regulation. All three regulations will need to commence at the same time.

To ensure industry is provided with opportunity to comment and be involved in this process, initially a presentation will be made to all MACs during August 2006 on the proposed content of the Plans. Additional advice will be provided at a later stage on the opportunities available for Industry and the MACs to participate further in this process.

Presentations will also be made at this meeting on the proposed share trading rules and changes to the licensing arrangements. Most of the licensing changes are a consequence of the share management framework and others are proposed to achieve administrative and operational efficiencies for Industry and Government.

The contents of a share management plan are guided by section 60 of the *Fisheries Management Act*. The share management plans will include details such as:

- Definitions (ie bycatch, endorsement etc)
- Objective, Performance Indicators and Trigger Points (adapted from the FMS's)
- A description of the fishery (ie the waters)
- The regions of the fishery – Estuary General and Ocean Hauling only
- The classes of share
- Types of endorsement
- Dealing in shares including:
 - Minimum shareholdings (generally current criteria for new entrants, & status quo for existing fishers)
 - Maximum shareholdings
- Species that may be taken in the fishery
- Areas and time of operation
- Operational requirements if required (eg. priority, identification of vehicles etc)

- Boat capacity restrictions
- Code of Practice
- Waters closed to fishing

The Department will present in greater detail the proposed contents of each management plan and the supporting plan at the meeting.

For noting and discussion.

Outcome

Agenda Item 5

DPI

Issue

Share Trading on commencement of the Plans

Background

Share management is a form of market based regulation that provides increased flexibility in terms of trading fishing rights (ie. shares). The objective of share trading is to enable fishing business owners to adjust their businesses and specifically the type and number of endorsements they hold within and across share management fisheries.

In a share management fishery, an endorsement authorises the holder of a commercial fishing licence to undertake specific commercial fishing activities. Eligibility for an endorsement will be based on satisfying a 'minimum shareholding' in respect of a fishing business.

The management plan for each fishery will establish a minimum shareholding for each class of share that is required to be eligible for a corresponding endorsement.

The minimum shareholding provisions proposed will enable holders of endorsements immediately before the commencement of a management plan to continue to be eligible for those endorsements. However, a different minimum shareholding for a class of share will be triggered in respect of a fishing business when the shareholder has traded that class of share.

Minimum shareholdings may also be used to achieve fishery and or endorsement level adjustment, and increased minimum shareholdings may be phased in over time, subject consultation with management advisory committees.

The framework adopted by the share trading rules is intended to apply across all new category 1 share management fisheries and so will be included in the draft Supporting Plan.

Key principles

While providing increased flexibility for fishing business owners, the proposed share trading rules, fishing business transfer rules and minimum shareholdings aim to result in no increase in the number of:

- Fishing businesses in NSW
- Fishers participating in each fishery in NSW
- Fishers holding each type of endorsement within each fishery

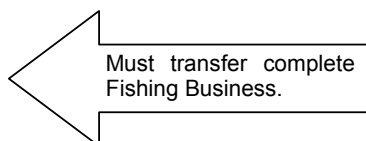
General Arrangements

- No limit on how many shares may be held, of a class or in total (unless maximum shareholding)
- No limit on how many classes of share (or endorsements) that may be held
- No requirement to retain a minimum number of shares or endorsements
- No transfer of Validated Catch History will occur on transfer of shares
- The inter-jurisdictional licence splitting policy still applies to dual licensed boats

Non-Shareholders (New Entrants)

To ensure there is no increase in the number of businesses in NSW as a result of share trading, shares may only be transferred to a non-shareholder as part of a complete Fishing Business (as defined under Section 34Q of the Act).

Non-shareholder
(ie. new entrant)



Fishing Business A

Estuary General Fishery

Meshing	100 shares
Prawning	100 shares
Eel Trapping	100 shares

Ocean Trawl Fishery

Inshore	45 shares
Offshore	45 shares
Deepwater	10 shares

Note: The minimum shareholding requirements must be met to be eligible for an endorsement. In this example the Estuary General and Deepwater Prawn Trawl endorsements would not be available to the new owner of the business. The minimum shareholding proposed for the Estuary General endorsements is 125 and the minimum shareholding proposed for Ocean Trawl endorsements is 34.

Non-shareholder (Third Party Stakeholders)

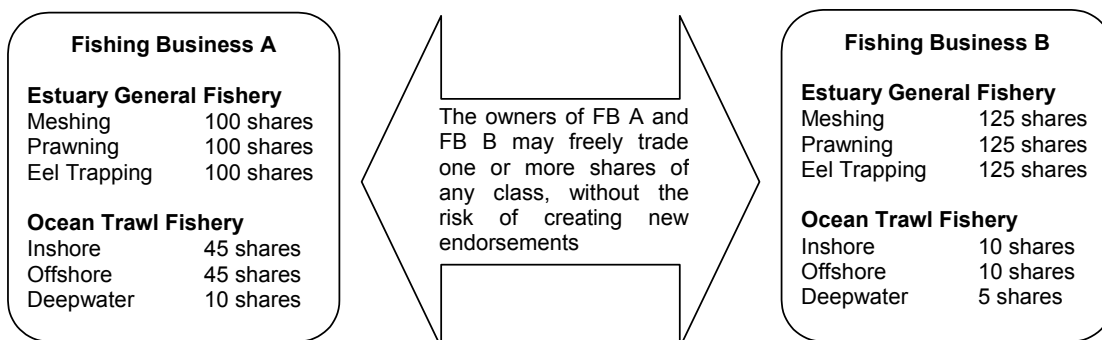
Shares may be transferred to a non-shareholder (eg. conservation or recreational groups) for surrender to the Minister. This enables other stakeholder groups to contribute towards restructuring NSW commercial fisheries.

Shareholders (Fishing Business Owners)

To enable fishing business owners to restructure businesses and participate in restructure programs, whilst aiming for no increase in the number of endorsements or fishers participating in each fishery, the following three arrangements are proposed.

1. 'Topping up' shareholdings

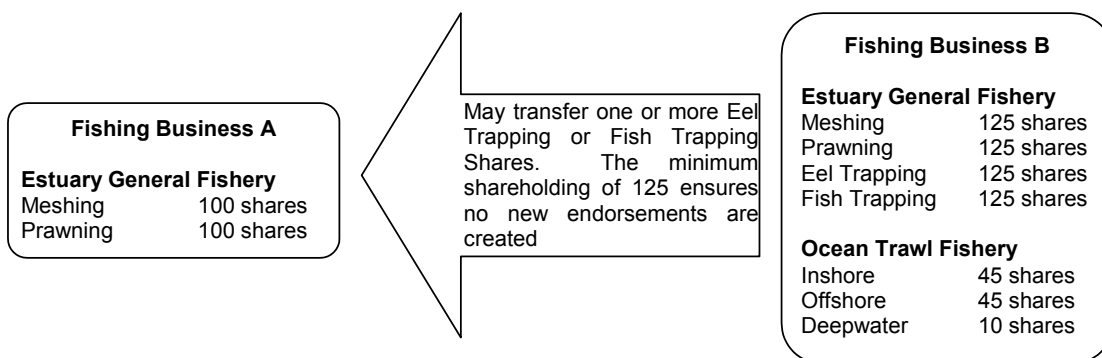
One or more shares may be split from a class of share and transferred to another holder of the same class of share. This enables fishing business owners to increase or decrease the number of shares held without creating new endorsements.



Note: As soon as trading takes place the minimum shareholding requirements are applied to determine if the transferor remains, and transferee becomes, eligible for endorsements.

2. Becoming eligible for a new endorsement within a Fishery

One or more shares may be “split” from a class of share and transferred to another shareholder in the same Fishery, other than for those classes of share listed below. This enables fishing business owners to acquire additional endorsements within a Fishery without increasing the number of fishers in the Fishery.



Note: As soon as trading takes place the minimum shareholding requirements are applied to determine if the transferor remains, and the transferee becomes eligible for endorsements.

The classes of share listed below must be transferred as a complete package. This enables fishing business owners to acquire additional endorsements within a Fishery without increasing the number of endorsements or fishers in the Fishery. Note that for these classes of share the minimum shareholding is less than the maximum number of shares of that class originally allocated to the fishing business.

- Ocean Trawl Inshore Prawn Shares
- Ocean Trawl Offshore Prawn Shares
- Ocean Trawl Deepwater Prawn Shares
- Ocean Trawl Northern Fish Shares
- Ocean Trap and Line Spanner Crab Northern Zone Shares
- Ocean Hauling General Shares (Regions 1-7)
- Ocean Hauling Bait Net Shares (Regions 1-6)
- Ocean Hauling Garfish Net Shares (Regions 1,3,4,5,6,7)
- Ocean Hauling Net Shares (Regions 1-7)
- Ocean Hauling Purse Seine Shares (Regions 1-7)

Fishing Business A	
Ocean Trawl Fishery	
Inshore Prawn	55 shares
Northern Fish	34 shares
Ocean Hauling Fishery	
Purse Seine	200 shares

Must transfer all Offshore Prawn, Deepwater Prawn or Ocean Haul Gen shares, to ensure no increase in the number of endorsements or fishers in the Ocean Trawl or Ocean Hauling Fisheries

Fishing Business B	
Ocean Trawl Fishery	
Inshore Prawn	65 shares
Offshore Prawn	65 shares
Deepwater Prawn	65 shares
Ocean Hauling Fishery	
Ocean Haul Gen	80 shares
Purse Seine	200 shares

Note: As soon as trading takes place the minimum shareholding requirements are applied to determine if the transferor remains, and the transferee becomes eligible for endorsements.

3. Becoming eligible for an endorsement in a new Fishery

All shares allocated to a shareholder in the Fishery must be transferred as a complete package if transferring to a person who does not hold shares in the Fishery (as defined under Schedule 1 of the Act). This enables fishing business owners to acquire endorsements in a new fishery without increasing the number of fishers in the Fishery.

Fishing Business A	
Estuary General Fishery	
Meshing	100 shares
Prawning	100 shares

Must transfer complete package of Ocean Trawl or Ocean Trap and Line Fishery shares, to ensure no increase in the number of fishers in these fisheries

Fishing Business B	
Ocean Trawl Fishery	
Inshore	45 shares
Offshore	45 shares
Deepwater	10 shares
Ocean Trap & Line Fishery	
Line (west)	40 shares
Line (east)	40 shares

Note: As soon as trading takes place the minimum shareholding requirements are applied to determine if the transferor remains, and the transferee becomes eligible for endorsements.

For noting and discussion.

Outcome

Agenda Item 6

DPI

Issue

Proposed changes to licensing arrangements for NSW Commercial Fisheries

Background

Implementing the share management framework provides an opportunity to streamline licensing and administrative arrangements across individual fisheries and the wider commercial fishing industry.

New licences and endorsements will need to be issued and take effect on commencement of management plans as existing licences that include restricted fishery endorsements will cease to have effect. Additionally, the issue of endorsements separately to commercial fishing licences on a fishing business card has long been proposed

A number of regulatory reforms are proposed to streamline administration of commercial fisher licensing, to enable issue of new fishing business cards that include endorsements, and to improve flexibility with respect boat licensing.

A presentation will be provided at each upcoming MAC meeting on the proposed changes which include:

Commercial fishing licences

- Issuing commercial fishing licence on credit card size plastic card
- Aligning all licence expiry dates to the financial year ie 30 June 2007
- Moving endorsements to fishing business card
- Removing and simplifying conditions
- Including licence conditions in regulation where needed
- Authorising use of crew subject to fishery and or endorsement based rules

Fishing business card

- Listing endorsements associated with a fishing business on a credit card size plastic card
- Streamlining nominations; (Step a) fishing business owner advises Department of one or more licensed commercial fishers to be listed as potential nominated fisher and, (Step b) fishing business owner selects one licensed commercial fisher from their list as nominated fisher and advises Department.
- Commercial fishing licence holder selected as nominated fisher and has possession of the fishing business card is taken to hold the endorsements.
- Removing and simplifying endorsement conditions
- Including endorsement conditions in regulation where needed
- No nomination fee

Fishing boat licences

- Issuing fishing boat licences on credit card size plastic card
- Aligning all expiry dates to financial year – 30 June 2007
- Removing and simplifying conditions
- Including licence conditions in regulation where needed
- Moving endorsements to the fishing business card
- New licence format includes; (a) 'boat licence' details - maximum length / units of boat that can be licensed and (b) 'physical boat' details – length / units of boat actually licensed.
- Boat replacement policy – automatic 10% or 1m length upgrade applied to original licence to establish maximum length then no tolerance.

- A physical boat up to the maximum length specified on licence, can be licensed - 2 year downgrade policy abolished.
- 'Abeyance' is where no physical boat attached to licence but fees remain payable
- Boat licences may be transferred separately to fishing businesses

2006/07 Fisheries Management Invoice

- Outstanding 2005/06 invoice charges are being pursued
- CPI increases only have been applied to 2005/06 charges
- 2006/07 invoices will be issued in September / October 2006.
- Share management charge and community contribution do not apply to new fisheries in 2006/07.

For noting and discussion.

Outcomes

Agenda Item 7

MPA

Issue

Marine Parks

Background

The Byron Bay Marine Park was officially zoned on 1 May 2006 and is the fourth Marine Park to be created in NSW. A total of 21 fishing businesses were bought out, including 6 businesses with inshore and offshore prawn trawl entitlements.

On 30 November 2005 the NSW Primary Industries Minister Ian McDonald and the Environment Minister Bob Debus announced the creation of a new multi-use marine park for the state's mid-north coast. The Draft Zoning Plan for the Port Stephens - Great Lakes Marine Park was released for public comment and submissions were due by 14 August 2006.

The Draft Zoning Plan for the Batemans Marine Park has been released for a three month public exhibition period. The Draft Zoning Plan is based on habitat mapping as well as advice from the community, fishers and a committee formed to advise on activities conducted in the Park. Approximately 40,000 brochures have been distributed. Commercial fishers have also been sent a registration of interest form for the voluntary buyout.

Staff from the Marine Park Authority will give a briefing on the specifics of the Draft Zoning Plan for the Batemans Marine Park and take advice from the MAC on its potential impacts on the fishery.

Outcome

Agenda Item 8 **DPI**

Issue
Grey nurse sharks

Background
DPI started noticing ropes around the tails of grey nurse sharks about 4 years ago however over the past 12 months it appears that roped Grey Nurse Sharks are becoming more frequent. The main concern is the damage (ulcers and open wounds) and mortality of sharks with ropes remaining attached.

The incidence of roped Grey Nurse Sharks appears to be more common at sites in northern NSW waters, especially Fish Rock at SW Rocks and the Cod Grounds off Laurieton. Sharks migrate so this does not necessarily mean these sharks were roped at these sites.

The Department appreciates any efforts made to release Grey Nurse Sharks, and asks for the support of industry members on the MAC to inform fellow fishers of the health effect of ropes remaining around sharks and the importance of removing them.

Outcome

Agenda Item 9 **DPI**

Issue
Submarine cable protection legislation

Background
The Commonwealth Government introduced new legislation in 2005 that provides for the Australian Communications Media Authority (ACMA) to declare Protection Zones (PZ's) around submarine telecommunication cables of national significance.

ACMA is proposing to declare two protection zones off Narrabeen and Tamarama/Clovelly beaches-out to a depth of 2,000 metres. Activities that could damage a submarine cable will be prohibited or restricted within one nautical mile either side of the cable.

ACMA has recently released a proposal, which provides coordinates for the proposed protection zones and lists all proposed prohibited and restricted activities, including certain commercial fishing activities. ACMA is seeking public comment on its proposal and will consider all submissions before making a decision. ACMA aims to minimise the impact on marine users while ensuring an appropriate level of protection for the cables. The closing date for comment is Friday 10 November 2006.

Industry members are encouraged to make submissions direct to the ACMA.

This agenda item has been included at the request of committee members, so that members can discuss the matter.

Outcome

Agenda Item 12

Chairperson

Issue

Next Meeting

Background

Opportunity is provided to schedule meetings for the next twelve months, including the proposed joint SIAC/5 MACs briefing prior to public exhibition of the draft share management plans.

Outcome