

## ABALONE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT OUTCOMES

FRIDAY 18 APRIL 2008 (10:00 AM TO 4:40 PM)

### CRONULLA FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

1	PRELIMINARIES		
Attendance Committee		Observers	
Warren Martin	Chairperson	Doug Ferrell	NSW DPI Science and Research
George Chung	Industry	Nick Schroder	NSW DPI Compliance
Anthony Fry	Industry	Anthony Chen	NSW DPI Compliance
Steven Hunter	Industry	Mike Kirwin	NSW DPI Compliance
Dennis Luobikis	Industry	Robert Gale	NSW DPI Industry Analysis Branch
Jim Miller	Industry	Peter Brown	NSW DPI, Planning and Operations
Peter Plunkett	Recreational Representative	Wendell Weston	NSW Abalone Shareholder
Dianna Watkins	NSW DPI Representative	Les Morris	NSW Abalone Shareholder
		Ryan Morris	NSW Abalone Endorsement holder
Nathan McNamara	NSW DPI Secretariat	Duncan Worthington	Industry advisor

DRAFT OUTCOMES - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Agenda Item	Outcome	Action Item	Time	Responsibility
1(a)	<p>WELCOMES AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received from Giselle Firme, NCC Representative.</p> <p>The Committee acknowledged the local aboriginal tribe, the Dharawal people for holding the meeting on their land.</p>			
1(b)	<p>AGREEMENT ON AGENDA FOR 18 APRIL 2008</p> <p>The Committee agreed on the Agenda</p>			
1(c)	<p>CONFIRMATION OF FINAL DRAFT OUTCOMES FOR ABMAC MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2007.</p> <p>The Industry representatives did not support the final draft outcomes from the 27 September 2007 ABMAC meeting. Industry representatives presented a document highlighting changes to the outcomes.</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>Industry representatives. Resolved. Concerned about the re-wording and change of intent of the outcomes from the 27/9/07 meeting.</p>	<p>To respond to the Committee on the document.</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	<p>Chairperson</p>
	<p>CONFIRMATION OF FINAL DRAFT OUTCOMES FOR ABMAC MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2007.</p> <p>The Committee supported the final draft outcomes from the 6 November 2007 ABMAC meeting.</p>			

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1(d)	<p>MATTERS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED THROUGH THE COURTS</p> <p>The Committee supported DPI views in relation to this agenda item.</p>			
2	<p>A) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS - CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Correspondence sent and received since the previous AbMAC meeting held on 6 November 2007.</p> <p>Noted</p>			
	<p>B) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS - ACTION LIST</p> <p>Concern from industry representatives that Action Items do not reflect the outcomes from previous meetings.</p>			
	<p>1. Change AI 1, to include 'approach'</p>			
	<p>4. Issue: Industry request Departmental reports prior to commenting to TAC Committee.</p> <p>Consultation with AbMAC on the TAC timeframes.</p>	<p>4. Agreement on TAC timeframes and scheduling.</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	<p>TAC Secretariat</p>
	<p>6. Motion:</p> <p>Industry Representatives. Mr Steven Hunter and Jim Miller (preference) were nominated as SIAC representatives for AbMAC. Supported. It was supported that Jim Miller act as deputy until the finalisation of the appointment.</p>	<p>6. Nominations to be forwarded to the Minister for consideration.</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	<p>AbMAC Secretariat</p>

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	<p>7. Industry representatives requested DPI to confirm that the EIS/FMS budget is finalised, and if there are any additional costs to EIS/FMS budget from management planning.</p>	<p>7. A formal response from DPI to AbMAC on EIS/FMS budget</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	<p>DPI</p>
	<p>8. DPI to draft policy on payment of sitting fees and travel allowances from MAC meetings, TAC meetings and meetings with the Minister.</p> <p>The Committee supported being paid Sitting Fees and Travel allowance at MAC meetings. Travel allowance only for TAC meetings and for meetings with the Minister and departmental representatives (regardless if the meeting was instigated by the representative or not).</p>	<p>8. DPI to develop policy having regard to government guidelines and protocols.</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	<p>DPI</p>
	<p>It was agreed that members who attended the meetings in 2007 be reimbursed and reconciled from the 2007/08 Abalone Management budget.</p> <p>It was noted that additional funding will be required to support the additional travel expenditure.</p> <p>Action Items 14 to 19 and the ongoing action items were not discussed due to time restraints.</p>	<p>DPI to reconcile travel expenses from 06/07 meetings</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	<p>DPI</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>UPDATE ON THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH SETTING AND REVIEW COMMITTEE (TAC COMMITTEE) PROGRAM AND REPORTS FOR 2008/09</p> <p>Management Presentation</p> <p>The Committee provided numerous comments to the Management presentation, including: current (if any) share trading information, report against TAC recommendations, review of Triggers, Marine</p>			

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	<p>park buyout information and a graph on the accumulation of catch by vessel.</p> <p>Industry representatives also request that any presentation documentation be provided to the Committee with the dissemination of the agenda.</p>			
	<p>Research Presentation</p> <p>Region 1 report is not yet available. TAC Committee will require the report prior to the meeting for their deliberation. Response to email from Industry representatives regarding their concerns (in previous correspondence email of 18 September 2007).</p> <p>Industry representatives expressed concerns regarding: -</p> <p>The independent survey process, including the apparent unrepresentatively and high cost of the survey, and the understanding that it is a major influence in the TAC setting process despite the contradictory data (i.e. commercial catch data); and</p> <p>The presentation provided did not include a comment on the S&amp;R recommendations made by the TAC Committee.</p>			
	<p>Marine Parks:</p> <p>Increased reporting in subzones that are affected by marine park closures.</p>			DPI
	<p>Perkinsus report:</p> <p>To be submitted to Industry once finalised as per action item.</p>		ASAP	DPI

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	<p>Compliance Presentation</p> <p>The Committee noted the presentation given by the Compliance representative. The following comments were provided:</p> <p>Release of draft compliance information with future agenda papers.</p> <p>The Compliance representative noted the recommendations from the bin weight survey, which recommended a set nominated bin weight for the processor for each season and no variable bin weights for commercial fishers.</p>			
	<p>Bin Weight survey:</p> <p>Motion: Industry representatives.</p> <p>Industry representatives request for consultation on bin weight survey outcome application prior to the commencement of the 08/09 fishing period.</p>	<p>Consultation with fish receivers</p>	<p>ASAP</p>	<p>DPI</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>2008/09 DRAFT BUDGET</p> <p>AbMAC noted the budget provided in Appendix 2 of the Agenda.</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>Industry Representatives</p> <p>Extreme concern and frustration about the proposed level of management charges at more than 20% of GVP, or almost 35% of income after diving costs, particularly in comparison to other states where charges range from 3 – 8% of GVP, and that the proportion of income required in fees is now above the levels John Keniry described as 'exorbitant' and 'quite clearly unaffordable'.</p> <p>Supported: Industry Representatives.</p> <p>Abstained: DPI Representative and Recreational Representative.</p>			

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	<p>Motion:</p> <p>Advise the Minister that shareholders cannot afford the current level of management charges, and that there needs to be significant reductions and efficiencies in the services provided by DPI.</p> <p>Supported: Industry representatives.</p> <p>Abstain: DPI representative and Recreational representative.</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>To advise the Minister that the management charges that DPI is proposing to recover in the next year represents a high proportion of the total value of the fishery, and DPI are threatening shareholders with share forfeiture when they cannot afford to pay and the MAC believes forfeiting of shares not appropriate.</p> <p>Supported: Industry Representatives.</p> <p>Abstain: DPI Representative and Recreational Representative.</p> <p>DPI Representative commented that the draft budget provided in the Appendix is a draft budget prepared based on the previous year's services to facilitate discussion.</p> <p>AbMAC raised concern in relation to the development of a small Budget Working Group.</p> <p>DPI advised that management has had to prioritise matters and therefore the development of a small Working Group to assist in the budget setting process has not been actioned.</p> <p>An updated expenditure report for the 2007/08 budget was provided to the Committee for their information.</p>			
5	REVISED REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS	Industry representatives	Mid May	Industry

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	<p>A presentation was provided to the Committee on the Catch Records Reform Project. There was general support from the Committee on the project. The following comments were made:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Concerns with OHS with new system</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">AbMAC has the ability to consult with the proposed catch records project team directly through Peter Brown at: peter.brown@dpi.nsw.gov.au.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Compliance concerns relating to proposed paperwork requirements.</p>	<p>forward concerns on the project to Peter Brown</p>	<p>2008</p>	<p>representatives</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>SPECIAL ABALONE RECOVERY GROUP (SARG)</p> <p>The Chair gave an overview of the information and recommendations that was submitted as part of the SARG Report.</p> <p>The Minister has approved the following actions for the abalone fishery:</p> <p>The introduction of a structured fishing program within Regions 1 and 2</p> <p>A size limit of 117 mm across the State to be implemented as of 1 July 2008</p> <p>The development of an implementation plan by DPI with input from broader industry representatives.</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>Industry Representatives. AbMAC do not support the increase in minimum size limit to 117 mm across the state based on economic, social and biological risks (including marketing).</p> <p>Furthermore, the Abalone FMS and EIS supports the minimum size limit of 115mm unless further research indicates otherwise. AbMAC request the risk assessment conducted by SARG on this minimum size limit increase.</p>			

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	<p>The AbMAC does support the minimum size limit increase in Regions 1, 2 and south of Wonboyn (and potentially larger size limits as possible through FSM), however a blanket increase of (Regions 3, 4, 5 and North of Wonboyn) 117 mm as of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 is not supported.</p> <p>Supported by Industry representatives and Recreational representative.</p> <p>Not supported by the DPI representative.</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>Industry Representatives:</p> <p>Industry supports the concept of structured fishing for Regions 1 and 2, using a permit system until the end of the current fishing period and the expiry (30 June 2008) of the section 8 closure. The permit system be in place by 1 May 2008. The structured fishing proposal will continue into the 2008/09 fishing period following the expiry of the closure, without a permit.</p> <p>Recreational access will also be available following the expiry of the closure.</p> <p>Supported unanimously on the structured fishing concept.</p> <p>DPI Representative abstained with regard to whether access is via a permit or endorsement in 2008/09 fishing period.</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>Industry Representatives. Request that the SARG report be released.</p> <p>Supported.</p>			
7	<p>REGION 1 &amp; 2 CLOSURE AND FINER SCALE MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>Industry representatives: recommend the introduction of an agreed</p>	Prepare program		Industry

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	finer scale management policy and a solution to the resources to fund it. Supported.			
8	<p>ILLEGAL TRADING OF AUSTRALIAN DRIED ABALONE</p> <p>The Committee noted the presentation by Mr George Chung on the alleged illegal trading of Australian dried abalone. It was noted that Compliance action has been instigated in relation to this issue. Compliance has suggested enhancements to legislation to increase enforcement powers for officers.</p> <p>It was noted that information provided to Compliance officers from industry members on illegal operations is much appreciated.</p>			
9	<p>RECREATIONAL AND ILLEGAL ABALONE CATCHES</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>Industry Representatives. To advise the Minister on the lack of progress on estimates of recreational and illegal catch, and that considering the uncertainty and variation, and DPI's conflict of interest that it is not appropriate to use DPI based estimates in cost recovery calculations. DPI devote more resources into the estimates on the Recreational and Illegal catch.</p> <p>Supported: Industry members</p>	Matter to be referred to the Minister with meeting outcomes		Chairperson/Secretariat
10	<p>OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>An update on the Industry Code of Practice was given. AbMAC concerns were raised in relation the AVG SOP developed by the DPI.</p> <p>It was agreed that other business items are to be rolled over into future agendas.</p>			

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11	<p>PROPOSAL TO SET UP A PROGRAM TO RELOCATE UNDERSIZE ABALONE STOCK</p> <p>Due to time restraints it was agreed that other business items are to be rolled over into future agendas.</p>			
12	<p>UPDATES: COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>Due to time restraints it was agreed that these items are to be rolled over into future agendas.</p>			
13	<p>CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY AND NEXT MEETING DATE</p> <p>The Chairperson thanked all attendees for attending the meeting.</p> <p>No meeting date was scheduled for next meeting. Due to time restraints</p> <p>Meeting close. 4:40 pm</p>			