NSW LOBSTER INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP MEETING AGENDA

9 June 2015
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
St George Rowing Club
1 Levey Street
Wolli Creek NSW

OUT15/15628

Facilitator
Nick Giles – Fisheries Manager

Lobster Industry Working Group Representatives

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

NSW DPI

Andrew Field	NSW DPI: Investigator Special Operations Lobster
Geoff Liggins	NSW DPI: Manager, Scientific Services

NSW LOBSTER INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP MEETING
AGENDA
9 June 2015

Agenda items	**Responsibility**
1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductory remarks	Facilitator
2. Confirmation of previous minutes	Facilitator
3. Validation process – options to enhance integrity	Management
4. Update on the Total Allowable catch setting and Review Committee (TAC Committee) program for 2015/16. Management, Research and Compliance updates.	NSW DPI
5. Lobster Management charge for the 2015/16 financial period	Management
6. Tags for the 2015/16 fishing period	Management
7. Retaining lobsters taken in Demersal Fish Traps	Management
8. Product branding for the NSW fishery	Management
9. The next steps for the NSW Lobster Fishery	Management
10. Economic data – Industry support	
11. IVR and online systems update	Management
12. Nominations and administrative processes in the Lobster Fishery	Industry
13. Working Group member rotation and TOR review	Management
14. Other Business	Open forum

Appendices

A.	Copy of minutes from the Lobster Industry Working Group meeting held on 20 May 2014

Item 1: Welcome, apologies and introductory remarks

Background

NSW DPI welcomes all the representatives and observers to the NSW Lobster Fishery Working Group meeting for 2015

Action

For information

Item 2: Confirmation of final minutes from previous meeting

Background

The previous Lobster Industry Working Group meeting was held on 20 May 2014. The final draft outcomes were sent to members in July 2014 for confirmation. The outcomes have been finalised and are attached (Appendix A)

Action

For information

Item 3: Validation process – options to enhance integrity

Background

Compliance has established a project to examine weight differences between validated and final weights within the validation window

Action

For information. DPI to report to working group on progress as appropriate

Item 4: Update on the Total Allowable catch Setting and review Committee (TAC Committee) program for 2015/16.

Background

The TAC meeting will be held on 10 June 2015. Reports have been submitted to the Committee from Management, Research and Compliance branches of DPI. A public call for submissions was advertised on 29 April 2015, and a further letter sent to all Lobster Fishery Shareholders notifying of the advertisement and the dates for the Industry and TAC meetings.

The Lobster Industry Working Group will be provided with presentations from DPI on information submitted to the Committee as follows:

Management – Nick Giles (Fisheries Manager)

Research – Geoff Liggins (Manager, Scientific Services)

Compliance – Andrew Field (Investigator, Special Operations Lobster)

Action

For discussion

Item 5: Management charge for the Lobster Fishery 2015/16 financial period

Background

A draft budget for the Lobster Fishery will be supplied for comment at the meeting.

Action

For discussion/information

Item 6: Tags for the 2015/16 fishing period

Background

An initial order of 150,000 tags have been placed with Mega Fortris Australia Pty Ltd at a price of $179 + GST per thousand. A further order will be placed on the TACC determination by the TAC Committee (anticipated to be a further >70,000 tags). The tags will be white with laser engraved black text and a red NSW waratah.

Fishers are encouraged to only request enough tags that they reasonably expect that they will require, and to return excess tags when they finish fishing in the fishing period. The number of tags required will vary according to the expected average size of lobsters, influenced largely by the time and area of fishing activity.

The cost of tags is recovered from industry, and forms a component of the management charge. The department minimises the cost (number of tags ordered) as much as possible, however relies on industry to assist so fishers do not hold tags that are not expected to be used, and which are only returned after the season finishes.

Action

For discussion and recommendation to shareholders

Item 7: Retaining lobsters taken in demersal fish traps

Background

An industry member has raised the issue of retaining lobsters taken in demersal fish traps, which is not currently permitted. Retention of lobsters is prohibited under Cl7A of the *Fisheries Management (Ocean Trap and Line Share Management Plan) Regulation 2006*, which relates to the fish trap itself. Retention of lobsters is not prohibited under the *Demersal fish trap endorsement*.

Action

Ongoing. For update by Management and discussion

Item 8: Product branding for the NSW Lobster Fishery

Background

The TAC Committee has provided recommendation that industry investigate marketing approaches to help with product differentiation (from other lobster products) Feedback is sought from industry on the benefits of product branding to differentiate NSW Eastern Rock Lobsters.

The tag design has been further updated for the 2015/16 fishing period with the inclusion of the red NSW waratah. Additional pastel colour samples from the current tag supplier have been received and the colour rotation supports the design. The improved aesthetics and ‘pop’ of the tags will assist with consumers readily identifying NSW product in domestic and overseas markets.

Action

For discussion

Item 9: The next steps for the NSW Fishery

Background

Comment and discussion is sought from Working Group members on their vision for the future for the NSW Lobster Fishery

Action

For discussion and recommendation

Item 10: Economic data – Industry support

Background

The TAC Committee has recommended for a number of years that the collection of economic data would assist in determining a TACC which would provide the most economic benefit to industry. Industries position has been to focus on the building of biomass to ensure the sustainability of lobster stocks. Management will provide further information on data collection at the meeting. Comment is sought by the working group on their current position.

Action

For discussion and recommendation

Item 11: IVR and Online systems

Background

Update will be provided on the progress on the implementation of online systems.

Action

For discussion

Item 12: Nominations and administrative processes in the lobster fishery

Background

A range of administrative procedures may be triggered following offences (including in the Lobster Fishery). This includes Share Forfeiture and CFL suspension or cancellation. Industry raises appropriate actions relating to administrative process (including nominated fishers and share forfeiture) for offending fishers in the NSW Lobster Fishery.

Action

For discussion and recommendation

Item 13: Lobster Industry Working Group membership rotation/nomination

Background

The Lobster Industry Working Group was established in 2012. The Terms of reference at the time required that after three years, two of the regional fisher representatives and the Recreational and NCC representatives be renominated, and the terms of reference be reviewed. In 2014, DPI established the Fisheries non-statutory working groups procedures, which sets the procedure for the establishment of working groups following the removal of MACs.

Action

It is proposed to re-establish the working group under the new procedures. The previous terms of reference will be provided to the working group. Advice is sought on review of the terms of reference and re-establishment under the new procedure.

For discussion and recommendation

Item 14: Other business

Any other items may be raised.