

FINAL OUTCOMES of the LOBMAC meeting held on 15 September 2005.

Agenda Item	Outcome	Action Item	Time	Responsibility
	The Chairperson welcomed all members and observers to the meeting.			
	Members agreed on the agenda for 15 September 2005. Slight changes were made to the order of the agenda.			
	Members agreed on the draft minutes of 14 March 2005.			
	Members noted correspondence received and sent.			
1	<p>Business arising from the minutes</p> <p>Most items are still pending due to the provision of appropriate information.</p> <p>Marine Park Buyouts: The MAC expressed their support for the process detailed in the information paper released by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) regarding the voluntary buyout process i.e. first preference is based on location of recent fishing. The MAC agreed that this process should apply to all Marine Park Buyouts.</p>			
2	<p>2005/2006 Draft budget and management charges</p> <p>The MAC noted the 2004/2005 expenditure report and 2005/2006 budget, and supported Option 1, whereby the Department covers overspends but absorbs underspends.</p> <p>LobMAC recommends that the additional \$36,787 collected over the 2004/2005 financial year, as noted in an out of session agenda item for consideration by the LobMAC, is credited to the cost of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.</p> <p>DPI will continue to address issues of savings, government efficiencies (including across agencies) and administration costs.</p>	DPI to credit shareholders		NSW DPI
3	<p>Preferred Strategy Report (FMS & EIS)</p> <p>The LobMAC was presented with a summary of key issues and proposed responses in the draft preferred strategy report (PSR) for the Lobster Fishery. In relation to byproduct risk, the LobMAC supported the introduction of a 130cm size limit for the wobbegong shark.</p>	DPI to redraft the wording of a research project relating to hermit crabs and include an agreed priority rating.		NSW DPI

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4	<p>Minimum shareholding (55 shares) LobMAC carefully considered all submissions on this issue including those made verbally at port meetings and directly to members. Mr Noel Bramble (lobster shareholder) and his wife were invited to join the meeting and discuss their concerns.</p> <p>The LobMAC expressed the view that the proposed implementation of a Marine Park between Forster and Stockton will have a significant impact on lobster fishers in this region, particularly as this area contains a large proportion of lobster fishers relative to other ports in the State and it is difficult for Industry to make an informed decision or recommendation on structural issues until the zoning scheme has been developed. The LobMAC also noted that anecdotal information suggests that significant adjustment is currently occurring and this needs to be considered. The LobMAC further noted the current economic condition of the fishery and the impact this may have on a shareholders capacity to make a further investment in shares and the level of return that may be achieved from these shares.</p> <p>The LobMAC therefore recommended that consideration of the implementation of the 55 shareholding recommendation be deferred for 2 years after which time a draft zoning plan for the Manning Bioregion should be developed and further assessment of the fishery will be undertaken.</p>			LobMAC
5	<p>Composition of LobMAC representation The LobMAC did not support the proposal to increase the current membership to 6 industry representatives but may consider the option of having a member from each region defined in the regulations at the next meeting.</p> <p>DPI is proposing discussion on the issue of proportional voting and this may be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	For discussion at the next meeting		
6	<p>Nominated Fishers The LobMAC broadly discussed nominated fishers and agreed to discuss any specific issues in future meetings if raised.</p>			

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7	<p>Compliance Report Recreational compliance issues were presented and included exceeding bag limits, prohibited size fish, mutilation (spearing) ERL, interference and theft from commercial gear and excess gear. Commercial non-compliance included failure to tag lobsters, completion of logsheets, sale of prohibited size ERL and blackmarketing.</p> <p>Combined there were 30 written cautions, 60 fines (totalling \$19 000) and prosecutions including 14 offenders and 38 offences.</p> <p>High levels of inshore activity due to a significant increase in fishing pressure as a result of good numbers of lobsters being caught. Patrols undertaken between Iluka and Bateman's Bay.</p> <p>The LOBMAC initiative to develop an orange contact card for the Lobster Investigator is showing an increase of good information relating to alleged illegal activity being received.</p>			
8	<p>Research Report The LobMAC was updated on research issues and programs. The LobMAC endorsed the proposed research program for 2005/2006.</p>	Letter to be sent to Alan Pickford (now retired) to thank him for his contribution to Fisheries research.		NSW DPI
9	<p>Notice of Total Allowable Commercial Catch It was noted that advice with regard to the TACC determination for the forthcoming fishing season should be provided earlier, industry recommend there be at least one month notice to ensure shareholders have an opportunity to plan for the season and for DPI to undertake relevant administrative procedures (eg tag issue and quota allocation).</p>			
10	<p>Carry over of quota to the next season Discussion of the issue raised a number of concerns including a proposal for the refund of management charges for unused quota, which may be discussed at the next meeting, however it was advised these issues had been raised in the past at which time they were fully investigated and it was determined the options raised were not suitable within the quota managed system.</p>			

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11	<p>Update in recreational EIS The Chair, at the next SIAC meeting is to seek clarification on the process for addressing issues highlighted during the preparation of the Commercial Lobster EIS, including areas of risk, or where additional data would be of benefit, if a formal EIS is not conducted on the recreational fishery.</p>	Report back to LobMAC		Chairperson
12	<p>Recreational catch and black marketing The LobMAC agreed to provide a submission to the bag and size limit review advising that an increase in the minimum size limit for Eastern Rock Lobster (ERL) is not warranted. This submission is to be made based on preliminary advice provided by DPI scientists that such an increase would not provide a significant corresponding increase in biomass.</p> <p>Industry representatives of the LobMAC recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an underwater harvest licence be implemented • tail clipping of recreationally caught ERL be implemented <p>The LobMAC agreed that the level of recreational catch needs to be quantified.</p>	LobMAC is to provide a submission to the bag and size limit review		LobMAC
13	<p>Other Business Marine Park Issues (Samantha Hessey)</p> <p>The MAC is concerned that actions and media undertaken by the National Parks Association may be construed by the general public as being government policy as opposed to an individual non-statutory association.</p> <p>A letter from the South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council (SARLAC) in response to an enquiry from a LobMAC member concerning quota allocations and management costs was tabled.</p> <p>The LobMAC also requested a Marine Parks representative to attend the next meeting.</p>	<p>Noel Gogerly and Barry MacBean to prepare a strategic plan to ensure industry is proactive in responding to issues raised as part of the planning process for the Manning Marine Park.</p> <p>DPI to provide information on the marine park planning process to the MAC</p>		<p>LobMAC</p> <p>Marine Parks Authority</p>
14	<p>Chairperson summary and next meeting date The Chairperson closed the meeting at 4.30pm with the next meeting date to be advised.</p>			