

**Lobster Management Advisory Committee Meeting  
FINAL OUTCOMES  
Tuesday 21 March 2006  
Cronulla Fisheries Centre of Excellence**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>														
	<b>The MAC recommended that Mr Ron Firkin undertake the role of Chairperson for this meeting</b>																	
	<p><b>Welcomes and Apologies</b> The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all members and observers to the meeting. There were no apologies.</p> <p>Attendance:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Ron Firkin</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Dianna Watkins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noel Gogerly</td> <td>Geoff Liggins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barry Macbean</td> <td>Tony Chen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Daniel Stewart</td> <td>Luz Villegas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scott Westley</td> <td>Nicholas Brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arthur Dye</td> <td>Graham Levitt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oliver Wady</td> <td>Anne Maccready</td> </tr> </table>	Ron Firkin	Dianna Watkins	Noel Gogerly	Geoff Liggins	Barry Macbean	Tony Chen	Daniel Stewart	Luz Villegas	Scott Westley	Nicholas Brown	Arthur Dye	Graham Levitt	Oliver Wady	Anne Maccready			
Ron Firkin	Dianna Watkins																	
Noel Gogerly	Geoff Liggins																	
Barry Macbean	Tony Chen																	
Daniel Stewart	Luz Villegas																	
Scott Westley	Nicholas Brown																	
Arthur Dye	Graham Levitt																	
Oliver Wady	Anne Maccready																	
	<p><b>Agreement on Agenda for 21 March 2006</b> Members agreed on the agenda for 21 March 2006 with slight amendment to the order and the inclusion of additional items regarding the current status of the lobster fishery and other business.</p>																	
	<p><b>Confirmation of draft outcomes of the 15 September 2005</b> The outcomes of the 15 September meeting were accepted.</p> <p>An Industry representative expressed concern that the previous minutes did not include attendance of the meeting and suggested more background could be included in the outcomes.</p>	Consideration to be given to format of outcomes for future meetings and Research and Compliance to provide greater detail for inclusion in the background of agendas		DPI (Compliance and Research)														

Agenda Item	Outcome	Action Item	Time	Responsibility
	<p><b>Correspondence received and sent</b> Members noted correspondence received and sent</p> <p>LobMAC agreed to provide member details (name and contact number) to Ms Anissa Lawrence from Ocean Watch Australia Ltd (OWA).</p>	<p>LobMAC member details to be forwarded to Anissa Lawrence from Ocean Watch Australia Ltd.</p>		<p>DPI (executive officer)</p>
<p>1</p>	<p><b>Business arising from the minutes</b></p> <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <p>8. Geoff Liggins personally wrote to Mr Pickford recognising and thanking him for his contribution to Fisheries research. All members were satisfied with this action.</p> <p><u>Previous meetings</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Industry members recommended a letter to the Commonwealth Minister for Transport and Regional Services requesting renewal of notification for shipping where possible to travel 1nm outside 100 fathoms include an expression of appreciation for previous efforts/progress on this issue.</li> <li>2. Ron Firkin provided coordinates of areas relevant to Sydney lobster fishers being used for trapping where interactions with trawl fishers occur and trawling should not occur and this matter is to be brought to the attention of the Trawl MAC.</li> <li>3. The Committee recommended that the position of an Industry Chairperson continue for future meetings.</li> <li>4. Members agreed a letter to the TT-Line Company Pty Ltd on behalf of shareholders operating around Sydney Harbour was not currently an issue.</li> </ol>	<p>Letter to Minister for Transport and Regional Services be drafted and sent</p>	<p>June 2006</p>	<p>DPI (executive officer)</p>



Agenda Item	Outcome	Action Item	Time	Responsibility
2	<p><b>2006/2007 Draft budget and review of 2005/2006 budget</b></p> <p>Members noted the draft budget and resources required for Management of the lobster fishery however noted that:</p> <p>Industries capacity to pay is limited</p> <p>The percentage of management charge in proportion to gross return and in comparison with other states</p> <p>Industry members of the MAC whilst supporting the level of services proposed do not support the required industry contribution to the draft budget as presented.</p> <p>Industry members of the MAC recommend that the draft budget be revised to take account of issues they have raised with the Minister's Office. For example, the recommendation that government should maintain the current level of services but increase its contribution to the cost of compliance and research with the aim to reduce the management charge to industry by at least 50%.</p>			
3	<p><b>Update on the Total Allowable Catch and Setting Review Committee (TAC Committee) program for 2006 / 2007</b></p> <p>DPI presented preliminary tables and graphs of information to be included in the DPI submission to the TAC Committee. Information on share and quota trading and catch distribution was provided for the information and discussion of the MAC. Industry members of LobMAC will meet with the TAC Committee on the 20 April 2006.</p>			

Agenda Item	Outcome	Action Item	Time	Responsibility
4	<p><b>Review of the Lobster Share Management Plan, including recommendations from the Fishery Management Strategy (FMS) and Preferred Strategy Report</b></p> <p>An update on the EIS/FMS process was provided. The Minister has made a determination regarding the NSW commercial lobster fishery and the FMS is currently being finalised. Advice was sought from the members on the appropriate action for notifying lobster shareholders.</p> <p>Industry members agreed that all shareholders should be advised in writing of the approved FMS and its availability on the web or hard copy by request.</p> <p>Members request formal clarification from DPI regarding mandatory reporting of byproduct in the lobster fishery as recommended in the FMS. Specific concerns related to requirements to report byproduct on the daily logsheet (vs the monthly logsheet) and report the numbers of fish caught. These requirements are inconsistent with other fisheries which report on a monthly basis and by weights only.</p> <p>This recommendation from the FMS is due to be implemented for the 2006/2007 season and the current daily logsheet has minimal room for additional reporting.</p> <p>DPI provided a brief overview of proposed amendments to the Lobster Plan.</p>	<p>Advise all shareholders of the approved FMS and its availability</p> <p>Clarification on FMS for byproduct reporting</p>		<p>DPI (Management Planning)</p> <p>DPI</p>
5	<p><b>Update on NSW Marine Parks</b></p> <p>The Manning Marine Park was declared on 1 Dec 2005 and a draft zoning plan should be released around mid to late April.</p> <p>Industry representatives noted that Wallis Lake will be vulnerable to over fishing and environmental degradation once the park is implemented.</p>			

Agenda Item	Outcome	Action Item	Time	Responsibility
	<p>Members requested a senior representative from the Marine Parks Authority attend the next meeting.</p> <p>The recreational representative requested information on the number of submissions received from spearfishers and recreational fishers in consultation on fishing areas within the Port Stephens Marine Park</p> <p>The Bateman's Marine Park is to be declared in April 2006 and will cover an area of approximately 85,000 hectares (8.2% State waters). It will extend from Bawley Point south to Wallaga Lake. \$8.5 million has been allocated for a commercial fishing buy-out.</p>	<p>Senior representative from MPA attend next meeting</p> <p>Information to be provided to members if available</p>		<p>DPI and MPA</p> <p>DPI (MPA)</p>
6	<p><b>Composition of LobMAC Committee</b></p> <p>Members recommended that the current structure be maintained and if specific expertise is required for a specific issue or in a specific region, an appropriate representative may be invited to attend the MAC meeting. This person would be remunerated in accordance with MAC procedures.</p>			
7	<p><b>Remuneration for members of Management Advisory Committees for attendance at meetings other than MAC meetings</b></p> <p>The members agreed that expenses will be paid for non-MAC meetings, for example the TAC meeting, however no sitting fees should be paid. If a specific instance arises where a sitting fee may be sought this will be considered by the MAC.</p>			

Agenda Item	Outcome	Action Item	Time	Responsibility
8	<p><b>Report on Compliance activity</b>  Recreational compliance issues were presented and included exceeding bag limits, prohibited size fish and excess gear. Commercial non-compliance included failure to tag lobsters, completion of logsheets and prohibited size fish.</p> <p>Combined, there were 30 written cautions, 56 fines (totaling \$17 400) and prosecutions including 12 offenders and 52 offences.</p> <p>High levels of inshore activity due to an increase in the numbers of lobsters. Patrols undertaking between Port Macquarie and Bateman's Bay. There have been a number of successful operations in the Ulladulla, Bermagui and Sydney Areas.</p> <p>The LobMAC noted the compliance activity and expressed their support for the presentation detailed by Tony Chen.</p>			
9	<p><b>Report on Lobster Research</b>  Geoff Liggins provided an update on lobster research. The information presented was noted by the MAC.</p>			
10	<p><b>Increase in the maximum size limit</b>  Members noted the issue raised and that the size restriction will be reviewed following the 2006/2007 TAC determinations.</p>	Review maximum size limit at next MAC meeting	After 1 July 2006	DPI and LobMAC
11	<p><b>Commercial Gear on recreational vessels (ie: pot and line haulers and winches)</b>  Members noted the issue raised and that the recreational bag and size limit review is currently being finalised. This review deals specifically with this issue.</p>			

Agenda Item	Outcome	Action Item	Time	Responsibility
12	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><u>Review of lobster tags</u> Industry members expressed difficulty in passing the tail through the locking mechanism of tags from the current season. This problem has only been evident in the current seasons tags.</p> <p><u>Issuing of tags</u> An industry member raised that there needs to be more flexibility in issuing tags particularly relating to quota transfers. Some fishers are not receiving the number of tags requested and have experienced a shortage of tags as a result.</p> <p>Following discussion it was resolved this issue would be considered in processing future tag applications.</p> <p><u>Invoices and Payment Procedures</u> DPI advised the members that future invoicing and payment arrangements under the new financial system will be the same as was provided this season ie. an initial invoice detailing charges payable and quarterly notice of instalment due. Due to changes in the timing of the invoices the current procedure for issuing tags will need to be reviewed for the 2006/2007 season.</p> <p><u>SIAC update</u> Ron Firkin provided an update on the last Seafood Industries Advisory Council meeting, including an update on the NSW Food Authority, the Richard Stevens review of NSW Fisheries, various avenues for implementation of Structural Adjustment and the implementation of a Commonwealth Structural Adjustment program.</p>	Notify tag supplier of issue and seek resolution.		DPI
13	<b>Chairperson summary and next meeting date</b>			