

Final Draft Outcomes from LOBMAC meeting held on 30 September 2009.

Agenda Item	Outcome
1(a). Welcome and apologies	<p>Meeting start: 8:40</p> <p>The Chairperson welcomed the Committee members and observers to the 2nd meeting for 2009.</p> <p><u>Attendance:</u> Alan Dodds (Chairperson), Daniel Stewart, Noel Gogerly, Scott Westley, Peter Offner, Lee Monin Oliver Wady, Nathan McNamara.</p> <p>Kate Montgomery (Secretariat).</p> <p><u>Observers:</u> Ron Firkin, Geoff Liggins, Darryl Sullings, Rob Peever.</p> <p><u>Apologies received:</u> Arthur Dye (Conservation Representative, LobMAC), Ian Cartwright (Chairperson, TAC Committee) and Robert Gale (Principal Economist, I&I NSW).</p>
1(b). Agreement on agenda	The LobMAC agreed on the agenda for the 30 September 2009 meeting.
1(c). Confirmation of Draft Minutes	The LobMAC confirmed the Final Draft minutes as being a true and accurate record of the 30 March 2009 LobMAC meeting.
2. Correspondence received and sent	Correspondence received and sent by LobMAC was noted.
3. Business arising from the previous meeting	LobMAC noted the current status of action items.
4. Update on the Bioregional Planning process	An update on the East Marine Bioregional Planning Process and Profile was provided by Mr Martin Russell from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA). The LobMAC noted the two major parts to the marine bioregional planning process, being, (1) areas for further assessment and (2) implementation

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	<p>of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). It was noted that the draft marine bioregional plan is likely to be released for public comment (60 days) in early 2010. It was also noted that a policy is being developed for managing activities conducted within from the MPAs. This policy will provide information needed for industry to assess the likely impacts, including any displacement of effort.</p> <p>Action: LobMAC to send letter to Phillip Boxall, Director of the Temperate East Marine Conservation section of DEWHA, to highlight the environmental assessment process previously undertaken on the lobster fishery and to nominate LobMAC as the contact point on behalf of the lobster fishery. I&I NSW to draft and send letter to LobMAC representatives for comment.</p>
5. SIAC Nominations	<p>The LobMAC nominated Peter Offner as the preferred lobster representative for SIAC, and Lee Monin as the deputy lobster representative.</p>
6. Commercial Fisheries Structural Adjustment (CFSA): Systems Reform	<p>A presentation was provided by the Manager, Systems Reforms on the CFSA Systems Reform year 1 project. LobMAC supported the overall objectives of the project, noting the potential for streamlined administration in the fishery (online reporting and quota transferring) and reduction in catch and effort system data entry costs. LobMAC representatives raised concern with the size and text of the current logbooks, however agreed that redesigning the logbook should be postponed until the completion of the CFSA Systems Reform year 1 project.</p> <p>Action: LobMAC Industry representatives to consider requirements of the proposed Interactive Voice Response system.</p> <p>Action: I&I NSW to provide an update on the development of the CFSA system at the next LobMAC meeting.</p>
7. Recommendations from the 2009/10 TAC Committee determination	<p>- <i>Minimum shareholdings</i></p> <p>LobMAC unanimously supported continuation of the current minimum shareholding arrangements i.e. retention of the exemption to the 55 share minimum shareholding for original shareholders.</p>

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	<p>- <i>Recreational fishing survey</i> The LobMAC noted the concerns of the TAC Committee with the lack of information on recreational harvest and acknowledged the difficulty I&I NSW was facing in obtaining these estimates, especially given the structure of the recreational fishing licence.</p> <p>- <i>Price information for quota leasing</i> The LobMAC will strongly encourage industry to provide this information voluntarily, given its importance in the TAC setting and determination process.</p> <p>The LobMAC at this time did not support the specific I&I NSW fishery economic research proposal that adopted an MEY approach, given that the fishery is still in a rebuilding phase and there is a diversity of harvest styles. The LobMAC noted current economic studies being conducted in other lobster fisheries around Australia and overseas. The LobMAC supported the establishment of a scoping study on different economic assessment models for the NSW lobster fishery.</p> <p>Action: LobMAC to approach FRDC for direction on a scoping study for an economic assessment on the lobster fishery.</p> <p>- <i>Trawling conflict</i> The LobMAC supported the development of gentlemen’s agreement at the port level to resolve conflict between trawl and trap fisheries.</p>
8. Trap operations	<p><i>i) Weights and ropes on traps</i> The current rules and intention of the legislation that governs weighted ropes for lobster traps was discussed. It was agreed that I&I NSW will discuss options with industry to determine if there is any alternative solution which satisfies the intent of the current legislation.</p> <p><i>ii) Trap operations</i> The LobMAC were advised that some lobster endorsement holders appear to have been targeting fish with lobster traps by using vertically oriented funnels (as opposed to the traditional circular shaped funnels in lobster</p>

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	<p>traps). The retention of fish taken as byproduct from lobster traps (targeting lobsters) is permitted in waters deeper than 10m. This arrangement is being reviewed in accordance with the lobster FMS. Possible outcomes to resolve this issue were discussed including: (1) requiring all lobster fishers trapping in waters >10m to use 50X75 rectangular mesh on the back panel of the trap, (2) regulate funnel dimensions, (3) industry to encourage individuals to operate in the true spirit of the fishery without government intervention. The LobMAC unanimously supported option (3) to address the issue at this stage, pending further information on by catch in the fishery and the factors leading to the apparent change in behaviour.</p> <p>Action: I&I NSW Compliance to advise the LobMAC if lobster trappers continue to target fish.</p>
<p>9. Research and Monitoring - Strategic Plan and Project Proposals</p>	<p><i>Pueruli energy study</i> The LobMAC supports funding a study by I&I NSW in collaboration with Dr Andrew Jeffs of New Zealand to identify differences in energy reserves of ERL pueruli.</p> <p><i>Relationship development with New Zealand</i> The LobMAC supports the establishment of a mutually beneficial relationship with the New Zealand lobster fishery assessment team.</p>
<p>10(a). Research update</p>	<p>The LobMAC noted the additional information provided in this update, which complemented the previous item.</p>
<p>10(b). Management update</p>	<p><i>Wobbegong Sharks</i> Action: I&I NSW to investigate the conditions applied across all NSW commercial fisheries in relation to the capture and retention of wobbegongs.</p> <p><i>Size limit closure</i> LobMAC supported renewing the closure which implements the Lobster maximum size limit for another 5 years, with periodic review. I&I NSW advised LobMAC of the closure review being undertaken as part of the structural adjustment process (through SIAC) and the intent to place all long-term closures into Regulation.</p>

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10(c). Compliance update	<p>An update on the number of lobster offences and compliance rates was provided to LobMAC.</p> <p>The LobMAC expressed disappointment that a significant number of offences related to a large haul of seized lobsters have been withdrawn.</p> <p>Action: I&I NSW to provide LobMAC reasons for the major prosecution being withdrawn and with a further update on the outcome of this court case.</p> <p>I&I NSW advised the LobMAC of a compliance concern regarding tags being mailed via normal post. The LobMAC noted the concern and supported lobster tags being mailed by registered post, notwithstanding the potential for an increase in costs, if the concern becomes an apparent risk.</p>
10(d). Industry update	<p><i>Australian Salmon for Bait</i> Industry noted the increasing difficulty and cost of obtaining trap bait.</p> <p>Motion: LobMAC support amending the current restrictions on the capture and sale of Australian Salmon north of Barrenjoey Headland so that Lobster fishers can buy Australian Salmon in bulk for bait from ocean hauling fishers. Raised: Noel Gogerly. Supported: Scott Westley. However the recreational representative expressed concern regarding this proposal and requested that his concerns be formally noted.</p> <p>Gas exploration impacts by Advent Energy Pty Ltd be pursued by local affected MAC representative.</p>
11. Other Business	No additional business was raised.
12. Chairperson's summary	<p>The Chair thanked LobMAC members and observers for the attendance and contribution to the meeting.</p> <p>Appeared Meeting Closed at 4:55pm.</p>