

**OCEAN TRAP & LINE
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY
24 July 2007**

Attendance

Currently, there are three vacancies on the MAC - all other industry members were in attendance – also Megan Kessler from the NCC and a range of Departmental personnel.

Meeting times

This is the first MAC meeting for the year, and the first for over 10 months.

MAC matters

The long period between meetings is a direct result of the workload within the Fisheries Division, mainly surrounding the new share management plan, now in place. I am hopeful we can return to quarterly meetings. Veronica Silberschneider is our new liaison officer.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The NCC has taken the Commonwealth to court over its acceptance of our EIS and FMS, arguing that not enough consideration was given to the protection of the grey nurse shark. The MAC discussed this matter at length – the matter is presently being considered by the Tribunal.

SIAC (Seafood Industry Advisory Council)

Little new news has emanated from this body. As reported last year, the Council has 4 working groups, being

Structural Adjustment

Pricing and Costing

FMS Implementation

Communications

Richard Stevens is conducting a review of the NSW fishery, withy structural adjustment in mind.

Marine Parks

The Batemans Bay Marine Park is in place. Buyout numbers are an attachment to the Minutes.

Commonwealth Buyout

Concern was expressed that the buyout could lead to an escalation of effort within the State fishery. The Department advised it has taken certain actions.

Shark Fishery

The MAC discussed a number of options, including separating the fishery into 2 separate zones (north and south) and accepting heads-off.

Undersize snapper

Closures are being considered – the MAC was not opposed to the idea, but was concerned to ensure that the closures would affect all fisheries, and not just this one.

Escape panels

Considerable discussion occurred involving the introduction of escape panels on traps, with concern being expressed over a timeframe for their introduction, and that such panels would be introduced to every fishery.

Next Meeting

Early November

NB This one-page Summary represents my interpretation of the more significant matters, and is not meant to be a comprehensive review of the meeting.