

ESTUARY PRAWN TRAWL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairperson's Summary

The Estuary Prawn Trawl Management Advisory Committee (EPTMAC) met at the Cronulla Fisheries Centre on Friday 23 November 2007.

A summary of the key issues discussed by the EPTMAC follows:

- The Committee supported the proposed amendments to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002* and the movement of provisions from the General Regulation into the *Fisheries Management (Estuary Prawn Trawl Share Management Plan) Regulation 2006*.
- The Committee noted industry concern regarding the measurement of the mesh size of square-mesh codends and suggested that a small working group of relevant Industry and DPI personnel be formed to review the efficacy of the current method of measuring mesh size.
- The Committee supported DPI developing a policy that facilitates Industry's ability to trial modifications to gear in the fishery.
- The Committee noted Industry concern regarding (i) the new size limits imposed on flounder, sole and silver trevally, and (ii) the potential for misinterpretation by fishers in relation to the interaction between the General Regulation relating to taking fish subject to size limits and species lists in the EPT Share Management Plan.
- The Committee noted the proposals tabled by the Hunter River representative regarding temporal arrangements for the fishery and the importance of fishers reaching consensus regarding issues in their fishery and supported a review of the opening and closing arrangements of the Hunter River EPT fishery for the 2009/10 season following the establishment of the most appropriate gear for use in the fishery.
- The Committee recognised the potential for the formation of a working group comprising representatives from the Seafood Industry Advisory Council and Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing to initiate the development of a strategy that:
 - (i) identifies the key water quality parameters necessary for sustainable fisheries, and
 - (ii) establishes a mechanism to maintain and improve the environmental conditions required for sustainable fisheries production.

The Committee noted that the strategy could be similar to the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy and would be of benefit to all fisheries.



Brian Beer

Chairperson, Estuary Prawn Trawl Management Advisory Committee

16/1/08

