

**OCEAN TRAP & LINE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
AGENDA**

**Meeting 27 September 2010**

**9:30am to 4:30pm**

**Cronulla Fisheries Centre (202 Nicholson Pde, Cronulla)**

**Chairperson**

Dr Julian Amos

**Management Advisory Committee Representatives**

Vacant	Spanner crab
Paul Porter	Line fishing east (north)
Vacant	Line fishing east (south)
Raymond Blake	Demersal fish trap (north)
Paul Sullivan	Demersal fish trap (south)
John Joblin	Line fishing west (north)
Garry Braithwaite	Line fishing west (south)
Vacant	Recreational representative
Miriam Vandenberg	Industry and Investment NSW
Vacant	Nature Conservation Council

**Observers**

Doug Ferrell (via telephone)	I&I NSW, Manager, Resource Planning
Fiona Mckinnon	I&I NSW, Senior Fisheries Manager
Will Macbeth	I&I NSW, Science and Research
Marcel Green	I&I NSW, Conservation
Paul Blade	I&I NSW, Compliance
Kevin Rowling	I& I NSW, Science and Research
Anissa Lawrence	Nature Conservation Council
Ross Daley	CSIRO

**OTLMAC FINAL AGENDA  
27 September 2010**

1. Welcome and apologies	Chairperson
2. Agreement on agenda for 27 September 2010	Chairperson
3. Confirmation of draft minutes of 16 & 17 November 2009	Chairperson
4. Correspondence sent and received	Chairperson
5. Business arising from the minutes	Chairperson
6. Export approval for the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery	I&I NSW /DEWHA
7. Mulloway resource planning	I&I NSW
8. Management arrangements for the spanner crab fishery	I&I NSW
9. Reform program for the NSW commercial fishing industry	I&I NSW
10. Exit Grant Program – proposal for unspent funds	Industry
11. Presentation of results from CSIRO's east coast gulper shark survey	CSIRO
12. Proposed closure to bottom setline methods in the Commonwealth 'Endeavour Dogfish Closure'	I&I NSW
13. Reduction to the trip limit	I&I NSW
14. Permits to transport fishing gear through closed waters	Industry
15. Updates – Research, Compliance, Conservation and SIAC	I&I NSW
16. Other Business	I&I NSW and Industry
17. Chairperson's summary and next meeting date	Chairperson

## Agenda Item 1

Chairperson

### Issue

Welcome and apologies

### Background

The Committee welcomes members who have recently been elected (and re-elected) to industry representative positions.

Note that two OTLMAC positions were not filled following the recent MAC elections conducted by the State Electoral Commission, as no nominations were received. The vacant positions were: Spanner Crab and Line Fishing East (south). An expression of interest process was subsequently held and nominations were received from persons interested in the positions.

Appointment of these positions has unfortunately been held up based on consideration of cl.406(1) of the repealed *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002* [i.e. cl.341(1) of the newly made *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2010*] which makes it clear that an election is required if the term of office of a member has expired. That is, the legislation does not provide for the industry members on a MAC to be appointed without an election being held first in this circumstance. It is noted that if a position becomes vacant other than because the term of the previous member expires, then a person may be appointed to fill the vacancy without an election being held [as per cl.406(2) of the 2002 Regulation or cl.241 of the new Regulation].

In the interests of ensuring the views of those sectors are considered during MAC discussions, the persons who would otherwise have been submitted for approval to hold those positions (i.e. Allen Filep and Matthew Creek) have been invited to participate in the meeting as observers. It is intended, subject to the Chairperson's discretion, that Mr Filep and Mr Creek will be able to take full part in MAC discussions and business, except that will not be lawfully entitled to vote on any decisions of the MAC.

### Outcomes

## Agenda Item 2

Chairperson

### Issue

Agreement on agenda

### Background

A notice of the meeting and call for agenda items was circulated to Committee members, co-operatives and coastal fisheries offices on 6 September 2010.

A draft agenda has been circulated to all Committee members, co-operatives and coastal fisheries offices. Additional items may be proposed for discussion during other business, subject to approval by the Chairperson.

### Outcomes

**Agenda Item 3****Chairperson****Issue**

Confirmation of draft minutes from the previous meeting.

**Background**

Draft minutes were prepared during the last meeting and sent to Committee members following the meeting. No amendments were requested.

**Outcomes****Agenda Item 4****Chairperson****Issue**

Correspondence received and sent.

**OTLMAC CORRESPONDENCE LIST (since 17 November 2009)**

<i>Date</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Action</i>
<b>2009</b>				
23 November	I&I NSW (Conservation branch)	Public exhibition of the draft recovery plan for black cod.	OTLMAC	For comment
23 November	I&I NSW	Letter to all shareholders regarding draft permit criteria for proposed expression of interest (EOI) for shark permit	OTLMAC	For comment
4 December	I&I NSW	Responses regarding draft shark permit criteria	OTLMAC	For information
7 December	Sydney Water	Sydney Water Desalination Plant update	Chairperson and Paul Sullivan	For information
7 December	DEWHA	Listing of the OTLF under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> List of Exempt Native Specimens	OTLMAC	For information
18 December	I&I NSW	Circulation of draft OTLMAC meeting outcomes and commercial shark fishing observer report	OTLMAC	For comment
21 December	I&I NSW	Advice re: renewed closure banning the use of abalone viscera as bait for a further 5 years	OTLMAC	For information
24 December	I&I NSW	Update on the development of management arrangements for harvesting sharks	OTLMAC	For information
<b>2010</b>				
28 January	Seafood Services Australia	Branding Seafood - Industry Information Package	OTLMAC	For information

<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Action</b>
5 & 16 February	I&I NSW	Advice re: catch limits for harvesting sharks in the fishery and the harvesting of deepwater dogfish species in both the OTLF and Ocean Trawl Fishery gazetted and corresponding letter sent to OTL fishers.	OTLMAC	For information
17, 19 & 26 February	I&I NSW	Draft conditions and recommendations of export approval including shark management arrangements and proposed meeting to discuss issues.	OTLMAC	For comment
25 February	CSIRO	CSIRO final report - Review of shark catches in the NSW Ocean Trap and Line Fishery – as part of export approval process	OTLMAC	For information
5 March	I&I NSW	OTLMAC Meeting - export approval and related shark management arrangements outcomes 5 March 2010 for comment & endorsement.	OTLMAC	For comment
17 March	I&I NSW	Advice re letters sent - Commercial fishing reforms – opportunity for input and Developing Recovery Programs and calls for EOI - Mulloway Recovery Planning Group	OTLMAC	For comment
24 March	I&I NSW	Opportunity to comment on the Commercial Fishing Reforms (March 2010) consultation paper	OTLMAC	For comment
24 March	I&I NSW	Export approval process and proposed shark management arrangements	OTLMAC	For comment
17 March, 19 April & 25 May	I&I NSW	Commonwealth updates on the East Marine Bioregional Planning process and "Areas for Further Assessment" (AFAs)	OTLMAC	For information
30 April	I&I NSW	Update on export approval process and global stock assessment and catch allocation concept paper (extension)	OTLMAC	For comment
7 May	I&I NSW	Outcomes of the CITES conference regarding proposed listings under appendix 2.	OTLMAC	For information
25 May	I&I NSW	Revised proposed export approval conditions and recommendations	OTLMAC	For comment

<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Action</b>
May (various dates)	I&I NSW	Newsletter updates on the invasive sea squirt outbreak.	OTLMAC	For information
18 June	I&I NSW	Request for comments on research priorities	Chairperson	For comment
30 June	I&I NSW	Letter to spanner crab shareholders advising of the deferment of minimum shareholding until 30 June 2011 and invitation to sit on spanner crab working group.	OTLMAC	For information
2 July	I&I NSW	Advice re: Exit Grant information paper mailout	OTLMAC	For information
6 July	I&I NSW	Advice regarding new I&I NSW webpage promoting NSW seafood.	OTLMAC	For information
20 July	I&I NSW	Second opportunity to provide input into Pyrmont pact closure review	OTLMAC	For comment
22 July	I&I NSW	Review of commercial fishing closures and regulatory reform	OTLMAC	For comment
2 August	Matthew Creek	Issues relating to the OTLMAC and industry port meetings	OTLMAC Chairperson, I&I NSW & SIAC	For OTLMAC discussion
4 August	I&I NSW	Advice regarding share trading notice board available on website	OTLMAC	For information
17 August	I&I NSW	Fish Records letter sent to commercial fishers and fishing business owners	OTLMAC	For information
3 September	NSW Maritime	Draft Marine Safety (Commercial vessels) regulation 2010	OTLMAC	For comment

**Agenda Item 5****Chairperson****Issue**

Business arising from the minutes.

**Background**

Updated action item status list follows for the Committee's information and consideration.

**OTLMAC Meeting 22 & 23 June 2009**

**Agenda Item** Export Approval

**Action** Performance Assessment Report to be provided to the MAC when finalised

**Responsibility** I&I NSW

**Status** Pending – not yet finalised

**Outcomes****Agenda Item 6****I&I NSW / DEWHA****Issue**

Export approval for the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery (OTLF).

**Background**

The Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), I&I NSW and the Committee have undergone extensive consultation and negotiation on the proposed conditions and recommendations of export approval, and management arrangements for shark fishing in the OTLF. Following the Federal Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts' decision to not support renewal of the export approval due to concerns relating mainly to the management arrangements proposed for shark fishing, DEWHA revised the proposed conditions and recommendations in an attempt to address these concerns.

After further deliberations between DEWHA, I&I NSW, and the Committee to gain agreement, a copy of the final proposed conditions and recommendations of export approval for the OTLF will be provided for the Committee's consideration.

**Outcomes**



**Issue**

Mulloway resource planning

**Background**

For some time there has been concern over the status of the mulloway population in NSW and mulloway have been classified as “overfished” by I&I NSW scientists. Concern has primarily been driven by declines over the past two decades in reported commercial catches from ocean waters, fewer large fish in commercial landings, and high estimates of fishing mortality compared to natural mortality.

Mulloway management arrangements currently consist of bag and minimum size limits for recreational fishers and limited entry, gear controls, area closures and size limits for commercial fishers. At present, the NSW minimum size limit for mulloway is 45cm and the recreational bag limit is 5 fish in total with only 2 of these fish longer than 70 cm.

A Resource Planning Group (RPG) was formed to assist in developing effective management arrangements. The first meeting of the RPG was held in June 2010, involving conservation, commercial fishing and recreational fishing stakeholders. The major new actions to assist with recovery of mulloway as recommended by the recreational fishing and commercial fishing members of this group are set out below.

**1. Minimum legal size set at 75cm for both commercial and recreational fishers.**

This action will reduce the number of small fish retained from both commercial and recreational fishing activities. The available information on recreational mulloway catches indicates that overall probably around 40% of currently retained mulloway (greater than 80% of estuary catches) would be below this limit. The impact on commercial catches is likely to be more pronounced as more than 90% of fish currently retained in commercial fishing activities are less than 75cm. Sampling indicates that around 35% of Ocean Trap and Line catches are likely to be below 75cm.

Mulloway are not particularly ‘hardy’ and in particular mortality in mesh nets is extremely high. It is therefore suggested that arrangements be developed to allow commercial fishers to retain up to 10 undersize mulloway when conducting mesh netting activities during the winter overnight setting period. Mesh netting during winter accounts for around 25% of commercial mulloway catches and this proposal will somewhat reduce the need to discard dead mulloway. Catches of undersize fish from other commercial and recreational fishing activities will need to be released in the best possible condition.

**2. Recreational fishing bag limit set at 2 fish.**

Recreational fishing bag limits have the potential to limit fishing mortality by limiting the number of fish a person may retain each day.

**3. Restriction on retaining mullock in beach hauling nets during summer.**

This action was suggested by the group as a way to limit the potential for the beach hauling fishery to change the way it operates and increase the fishing pressure on mullock during or immediately before spawning. Currently ocean hauling fishers harvest only a small fraction of the mullock resource and do not generally target mullock during the summer when public activity on the beach is highest.

**4. Encourage use of appropriate release techniques and gear for both recreational and commercial fishers.**

Appropriate release techniques are of critical importance given that a large portion of the mullock taken by both recreational and commercial fishing activities will need to be released under the minimum legal size limit proposed above. Fish friendly handling practices are currently promoted in fishing advisory material and it was agreed that as part of any recovery program the material produced for both commercial and recreational fishers should be revised and updated to incorporate the best current information.

**5. Refine program of closing areas after floods and when excessive bycatch is detected.**

At present short term closures to commercial ocean prawn trawling are routinely implemented following flood events or at other times when there are high bycatch levels. It was suggested that options to increase the efficiency of this dynamic closure regime should be examined and the program expanded to incorporate other fishing methods and areas as appropriate.

**6. Seek funding to undertake targeted research to develop trawl bycatch reduction devices which maximise escape and/or exclusion of juvenile mullock.**

Bycatch reduction devices and some modifications to fishing practices have generally been successful in reducing bycatch mortality within trawl fisheries. Further work is however required to determine the optimum gear to minimise mullock catches and it was suggested that funding be sought for targeted research.

**7. Seek funding to develop program to evaluate and monitor the mullock population.**

It was proposed that funding be sought to collect information on the mullock population which can be used to assess the status of the stock and the performance of the recovery program.

The views of members of the Recreational Fishing and Seafood Industry Advisory Councils are being sought on the options suggested by the RPG. It is expected that a draft recovery program for mullock will be developed for broader consultation late in 2010.

The Committee may wish to put forward their views on the suggestions made by the industry members of the RPG and/or suggest alternative actions or modifications to mitigate any issues identified.

**Outcomes**

**Agenda Item 8****I&I NSW****Issue**

Management arrangements for the spanner crab fishery

**Background**

The majority of northern zone respondents to the spanner crab discussion paper sent to all spanner crab shareholders in December 2009 supported the implementation of an Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) system for the spanner crab component of the OTLF. In contrast, southern zone respondents did not support the implementation of an ITQ system in the southern zone. Should any changes to management arrangements be made in the southern zone, the preference was for a daily trip limit system.

To facilitate the development of new management arrangements, a Spanner Crab Working Group (SCWG) has been formed. The Terms of Reference, membership and procedures of the SCWG are attached for the Committee's information. The first meeting of SCWG is on Wednesday 29 September 2010.

In addition, the requirement for spanner crab northern and southern zone shareholders to meet minimum shareholding requirements has been deferred until 30 June 2011 to provide enough time to consult over and finalise the new management arrangements.

For the Committee's information.

**Outcomes****Agenda Item 9****I&I NSW****Issue**

Reform program for the NSW commercial fishing industry

**Background**

A verbal update will be provided for the Committee's information on the reform program, including outcomes from the March 2010 consultation paper, outcomes from the industry port meetings held in July 2010, progress of the current exit grant program, the closure review and regulation reform processes.

**Outcomes**

**Agenda Item 10****Industry****Issue**

Exit grant program - proposal for unspent funds

**Background**

The exit grant program, a component of the reform program for the NSW commercial fishing industry, offered a cash incentive to fishing business owners looking to exit the industry using \$1.5 million from the Commercial Fishing Trust. Only a limited number of fishing business owners participated in the program, leaving some unspent funds. The Line Fishing West (south) representative proposes that the Committee develop a proposal to use the OTLF portion of the unspent funds to buy out [via a tender process] shares from OTLF share classes that the Committee consider need adjusting.

For consideration and discussion by the Committee.

**Outcomes****Agenda Item 11****CSIRO****Issue**

Presentation of results from CSIRO's east coast deepwater dogfish shark survey

**Background**

Following a report by the Bureau of Resource Sciences in 2009 (FRDC Report No. 2008/065) highlighting significant depletion in the populations of some dogfish species, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) was commissioned by AFMA to undertake sampling surveys along the eastern coast of Australia with the aim of mapping the distribution of gulper shark species between the northern NSW border and the east coast of Tasmania.

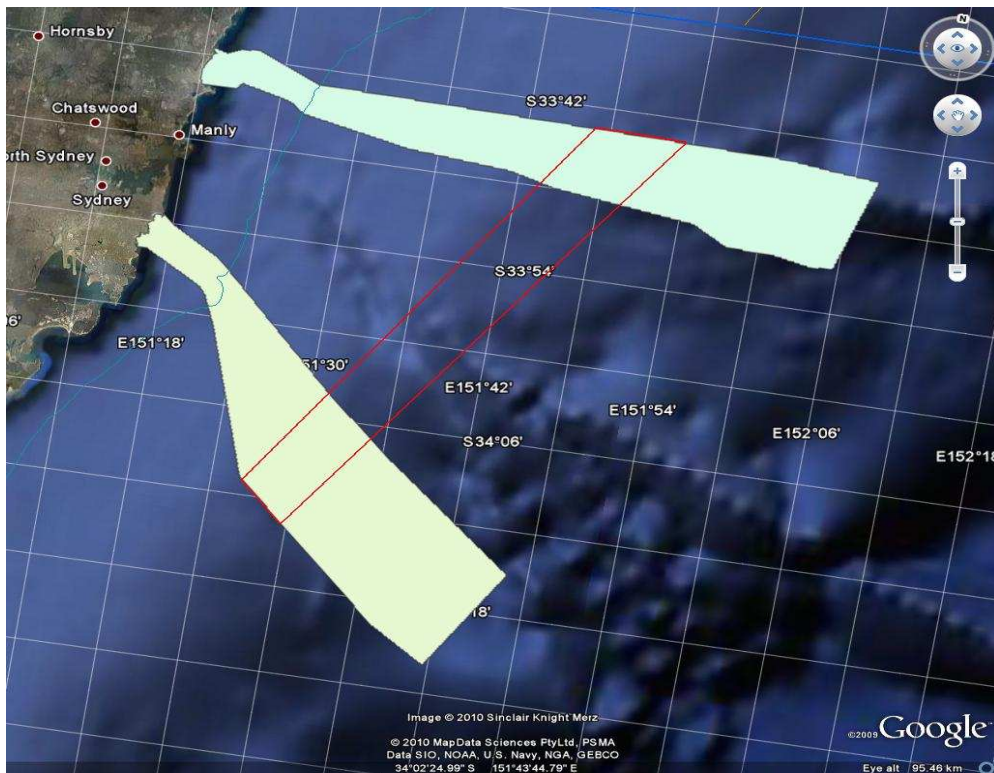
Ross Daley, CSIRO Scientist, will attend the meeting to present the outcomes of the surveys and some of the tagging work that has been undertaken over the last year. The survey results (summarise briefly in the background to Agenda Item 12) demonstrate the need to implement additional management measures in State and Commonwealth waters to reduce the risk of fishing to certain deepwater shark species, and will be a sound basis for continuing with discussions on proposed short term and medium term management changes.

For the Committee's information and discussion.

**Outcomes**

**Issue**

Proposed closure to bottom setline methods within the boundaries of the red box in Figure 1 below, referred to as the ‘Commonwealth Endeavour Dogfish Closure’, to minimise the impact of fishing on Endeavour dogfish, Harrison’s dogfish, southern dogfish and greeneye spurdog.



**Background**

Historically around 14 species of dogfish have been commercially caught in southern Australian waters, primarily for their liver oil. In NSW commercial fisheries dogfish are typically retained as byproduct when targeting other species. Dogfish species have a slow growth rate, late onset of sexual maturity and low fecundity. These life history characteristics place them at high risk of stock depletion and can prevent them from rapid recovery once depleted.

Dogfish and all deepwater sharks in general, have been described by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Shark Specialist Group as being more vulnerable to over-exploitation than any other marine species group. In Australia, the main source of data that demonstrates significant declines to the species level for upper-slope dogfish is from the fishery independent surveys undertaken by the NSW *FRV Kapala* over a 20 year period (Graham et al. 2001).

Graham et al. (2001) reported a dramatic decline in the catch rate of dogfish in the 20 years since inception of commercial trawling. In the 1976/77 surveys the mean catch per unit effort (CPUE) for *Centrophorus* was reported as 139 kg/hour (126.3 kg/hr for Harrison's and southern dogfish combined; 12.3 kg/hr for Endeavour dogfish). In the 1996/97 surveys, the CPUE for *Centrophorus* spp. was reported as 0.6 kg/hr (0.4 kg/hr and 0.2 kg/hr for Harrison's and southern and Endeavour dogfish respectively). This equates to declines between 1976/77 and 1996/97 of between 98.4 and 99.7 percent.

In recognition of the declines reported for dogfish, Harrison's dogfish, southern dogfish and Endeavour dogfish have been nominated for listing as a threatened species under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The assessment of these species is due to be completed by 30 September 2010. Further to this, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) undertook an Ecological Risk Assessment for the South East Trawl Fishery, which identified that greeneye spurdog was also in the high risk category.

IUCN has listed these upper-slope dogfish species as: Harrison's dogfish – Critically Endangered and Endeavour dogfish – Data Deficient. Southern dogfish and greeneye spurdog have not been assessed since their taxonomy has been clarified. However, *Centrophorus cf uyato*, which until recently included *C. zeehani* (southern dogfish), was listed as Critically Endangered and *Squalus mitsukurii* (now *S. chloroculus* greeneye spurdog, and *S. montalbani* Philippine spurdog) as Data Deficient.

See below for more information regarding the four species of concern.

- Harrison's dogfish (*C. harrissoni*), found in waters off eastern Australia from northern NSW to south eastern Tasmania in depths between 300–600 m.
- Southern dogfish (*C. zeehaani*), which is endemic to south-eastern Australia from Shark Bay in Western Australia to Forster in NSW in depths between 201–700 m.
- Endeavour dogfish (*C. moluccensis*), occurring in the western Indian Ocean and eastern Pacific Ocean including Australia in depths between 125–820 m.
- Greeneye spurdog (*S. chloroculus*), occurring in south-eastern Australia from Jervis Bay in NSW to Eucla in Western Australia in depths between 216–1360 m.

Since the nomination of the species the CSIRO has undertaken sampling surveys along the eastern coast of Australia. Below is a summary of the initial findings of the CSIRO survey for the three nominated species of Dogfish:

#### *Harrison's Dogfish*

The surveys undertaken by CSIRO found several important grounds for Harrison's dogfish in northern NSW, particularly the upper slope region in waters from Sydney north to Byron Bay. Specifically waters from Port Stephens to south of Coffs Harbour had good representation of juveniles and mature males and females. Outside State waters, Taupo Seamount, Cape Barren and North Flinders (north east of Tasmania) were identified as important sites for Harrison dogfish.

### *Southern Dogfish*

The upper slope region close to Browns Mountain off Sydney was the only surveyed site on the east coast with a representation of juvenile and mature male and female southern dogfish. These waters are currently closed to trawling (under the “Endeavour Dogfish Closure”) as the waters fall under Commonwealth jurisdiction for trawl operations. Other important sites for southern dogfish were identified off the coast of South Australia, which is also falls under Commonwealth jurisdiction.

### *Endeavour Dogfish*

The CSIRO surveys found that Endeavour dogfish, within State managed waters, were found at the same sites as southern and Harrison’s dogfish, particularly the upper slope region in northern NSW from Sydney north to Byron Bank.

Further, the survey has identified the high risk fishing methods for upper-slope dogfish as bottom setlining and demersal trawling. Drop line methods are also believed to be high risk, however this is yet to be confirmed. Over the next 6 months, I&I NSW will be undertaking a risk assessment, which will focus on specific waters identified in the CSIRO survey and fishing methods used by both commercial and recreational fishers in State managed waters.

It is important to be conscious of the potential ramifications for commercial and recreational fisheries off the east coast of Australia if any or all of these species are listed as higher than ‘Conservation Dependent’.

In recognition of the importance of reducing the impact of fishing operations on these at risk species, and, in response to the nomination of the 3 species of dogfish and the high risk assessment of greeneye spurdog, a 65 kg daily trip limit was introduced for the OTL and Ocean Trawl fisheries, with a further reduced trip limit proposed (refer to Agenda Item 13). The Advisory Committee on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) also recently supported the introduction of a zero bag limit for all dogfish species; this will be introduced in the coming months.

I&I NSW has also been working closely with AFMA and CSIRO to identify appropriate management arrangements in both jurisdictions. These agencies have requested that I&I NSW introduce a range of area closures to all methods to protect the four high risk species of dogfish. At this stage, I&I NSW’s position (other than for the proposed closure below) is to wait for the completion of the risk assessment of methods and areas to inform any decision regarding fishing closures to protect upper-slope dogfish.

Further, DEWHA have indicated their interest in the conservation of the dogfish species of interest, including through the proposed placement of a condition on the imminent Wildlife Trade Operation [export] approval for the OTLF.

Due to the importance of the waters described in Figure 1 for the upper-slope dogfish, particularly southern dogfish, the inherent high risk nature of bottom setline methods to sharks, and, to be complementary with the current Commonwealth trawl closure, it is proposed to close the waters described in Figure 1 to bottom setline methods. Line fishers residing in the proximity of the proposed area will also be written to separately to seek their comments on the proposal.

Data sourced from the catch and effort logbooks introduced in July 2009 indicates that catches from these waters are typically low, and are likely to be caught predominantly via drop line methods.

*References*

Graham KJ, Andrew NL, and Hodgson KE (2001) Changes in relative abundance of sharks and rays on Australian South East Fishery trawl grounds after twenty years of fishing. Marine and Freshwater Research 52:549-561.

I&I NSW is seeking comments from the Committee regarding the proposed closure for bottom setlining.

**Outcomes**

**Agenda Item 13**

**I&I NSW**

**Issue**

Trip limit for certain dogfish species

**Background**

At the June 2009 OTLMAC meeting the Committee supported the introduction of a trip limit for four key dogfish species (Endeavour, Harrison's and southern dogfish and greeneye spurdog), to be complementary with the Commonwealth arrangements. A 65 kg trip limit for these species has been in place for the Ocean Trawl and OTL fisheries since 5 February 2010.

On 1 May 2010, the Commonwealth amended their trip limit to a 15 kg daily limit, or no more than 90 kg over a six day trip.

Considerations:

1. Ocean Trawl MAC will be consulted on the proposed amendment Out of Session.
2. ACoRF recently supported the introduction of a zero bag limit for all dogfish species.

I&I NSW is seeking advice from the Committee regarding the proposed amendment to the current trip limit to be complementary with the Commonwealth.

**Outcomes**



**Agenda Item 14****Industry****Issue**

Permits to transport fishing gear through closed waters

**Background**

Under section 25 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* it is an offence for a person to be in possession of fishing gear in waters where the use of the fishing gear is prohibited or where the taking of fish is prohibited (i.e. closed waters). Fisheries Officers may provide written authority for the transportation of fishing gear through those waters. The Demersal Fish Trap (south) representative seeks a review of the current permits issued by Fisheries Officers permitting the transportation of commercial fishing gear through closed waters.

For the Committee's consideration and discussion.

**Outcomes****Agenda Item 15****I&I NSW****Issue**

Updates by Research, Compliance, Conservation, and SIAC representatives.

**Background**

Updates will be provided by Departmental research, compliance and conservation representatives, and the SIAC representative, Gary Braithwaite. Opportunity is also provided for Committee members to raise any local issues relating to the management of the fishery.

For the Committee's information.

**Outcomes****Agenda Item 16****I&I NSW****Issue**

Chairperson's summary and next meeting date

**Outcomes**