

Estuary General Management Advisory Committee

Chairman's Summary Meeting of 27 November 2009

Attendance: There were apologies from three members.
Number of observers present: 8

The Estuary General Management Advisory Committee met on the 27 November 2009 at the Cronulla Fisheries Centre. Below is a summary of the significant issues discussed at the meeting.

Industry Reform Program

The Committee was presented with further information on the Industry Reform Program for NSW Commercial Fisheries. A significant amount of time was spent on discussing options for linking shares to tradeable units and on SIAC's recommendation for a \$500 Industry contribution for an exit grant scheme. The Committee also discussed potential strategies that could assist to restructure the fishery, that included exit grants and linking shares to tradeable units e.g. gear.

There was agreement by the Committee that exit grants should be available for fishers who want to cease fishing activities. It was agreed that industry members would consult more with fishers about the amount and how it should be used (i.e. a broad or Estuary General specific approach) and advise fishery managers of the results of those consultations. Members were advised that having regulated provisions that enable the linking of shares to catch and/or effort does not, by itself, commit any fishery to use those tools.

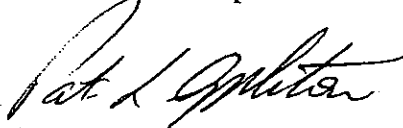
Priorities for the Estuary General Fishery

The Committee identified what they believe are the top 3 priorities for the Estuary General Fishery. These include;

- A comprehensive review of fishing closures;
- A comprehensive review of legislated input controls (e.g. net registrations, boat licenses, species authorised to be retained in specific gears); and,
- Investigation of alternative options to manage the trapping component of the Estuary General fishery. This should include the potential to amalgamate trap share classes, resolve trap marking, link shares to effort and mitigate the threat to the fishery from illegal fishers and black marketing.

Priority legislation

The Committee was presented with guidelines relating to priority in the use of nets in the fishery. The Committee noted that the guidelines were similar to the current legislation governing prawn net (set pocket) priority determinations. Each region may require specific Director-General approved guidelines. The Committee agreed to review priority determination guidelines out of session and provide advice to the Department.



Pat Appleton
Chair, Estuary General MAC