

**ESTUARY GENERAL AND OCEAN HAULING MANAGEMENT ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

**FINAL AGENDA**

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting for 2007,  
30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 (9:30 – 5:00)

Venue: Cronulla Fisheries Centre, Main Conference Room  
202 Nicholson Parade, Cronulla Phone 95278411

**Attendees**

Mr Bill Nagle  
Mr Glenn Dawson  
Mr Geoff Blackburn  
Mr Peter Ragno  
Mr Jim Drinkwater  
Mr Edward Allan  
Prof Gee Chapman  
Mr David Smith  
Mr Ron Prindable  
Mr David Mitchell  
Mr Steven Rosskelly  
Mr Tony Forster  
Mr Barry Aish  
Mr Denis Brown  
Ms Roberta Dixon  
Mr Darren Reynolds (Estuary General Manager)  
Mr David Makin (Ocean Hauling Manager)

**Representing**

Chairperson  
EG Region 2  
EG Region 3  
EG Region 4 (North)  
EG Region 4 (South)  
EG Region 5  
EG NCC  
OH Region 1  
OH Region 2  
OH Region 3  
OH Region 4  
OH Region 5  
OH Region 6  
OH Purse Seine  
OH NCC  
NSW DPI  
NSW DPI

## **Observers**

Ms Dianna Watkins (Manager, Share Management Implementation)	NSW DPI
Mr Darryl Sullings (A/Manager, Commercial Fisheries)	NSW DPI
Mr Nathan McNamara (Fisheries Management Officer)	NSW DPI
Mr Mathew Richardson (Compliance)	NSW DPI
Mr Ian Stockton (Compliance)	NSW DPI
Dr Doug Rotherham (Research)	NSW DPI
Dr John Stewart (Research)	NSW DPI
Ms Sarah Fairfull (Conservation)	NSW DPI

## **Apologies**

Mr Russel Massey	EG Region 6
Ms Julie Fourter	OH Region 7

**ESTUARY GENERAL AND OCEAN HAULING MANAGEMENT ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting for 2007,  
30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 (9:30 - 4:00)  
Venue: Cronulla Fisheries Centre, Main Conference Room  
202 Nicholson Parade, Cronulla Phone 95278411

**Joint Estuary General and Ocean Haul Session (9:30 – 12:30)**

1. Preliminaries	
a. Welcome and apologies	Chairperson
b. Agreement on agenda	Chairperson
c. Confirmation of draft minutes of previous EGMAC meeting	Chairperson
d. Confirmation of draft minutes of previous OHMAC meeting	Chairperson
2. Share management update	NSW DPI
3. Proposed regulation amendments	NSW DPI
4. Management update a. Seagrass Mapping b. Bivalve Harvest Area Classification c. Ocean hauling update	NSW DPI
5. Research Update	NSW DPI
6. Compliance update	NSW DPI
7. Conservation update	NSW DPI
8. Garfish Management Arrangements	NSW DPI

**Estuary General Session (1:00 – 3:30)**

1 a. Business arising from minutes including action list	Chairperson
b. Correspondence received and sent	Chairperson
2. Proposed Estuary General specific regulation amendments	NSW DPI
3. Crab Trapping	NSW DPI
4. Closures	Region 3 NSW DPI
5. Committee member updates	Committee
6. Other Business	Committee
7. Chairperson's summary and proposed meeting date for the next EGMAC meeting	Chairperson

### Ocean Hauling Session (1:00 – 3:30)

1 a. Business arising from minutes including action list	Chairperson
b. Correspondence received and sent	Chairperson
2. Code of Practice	NSW DPI
3. The trading of purse seine shares	Purse Seine
4. Penning of fish after capture	Purse Seine
5. Committee Member Updates	Committee
6. Other Business	Committee
7. Chairperson's summary and proposed meeting date for the next OHMAC meeting	Chairperson

<b>Agenda Item 1a</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Welcome and apologies
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<b>Background</b> The Chairperson welcomes all the representatives and observers to the joint first meeting for 2007 of the Estuary General and Ocean Hauling MACs.  The Committee would like to make a special welcome to: Mr Edward Allan, the newly appointed EGMAC representative for Region 5. Mr Steven Rosskelly, the newly appointed OHMAC representative for Region 4. Ms Julie Fourter, the newly appointed OHMAC representative for Region 7.  The Committee also notes that: - Mr Richard Stevens resigned as the EGMAC chairperson in early January 2007. - Mr Phil Duncan resigned from the Indigenous representative position on EGMAC in late 2006.  Apologies were received from Mr Russell Massey (EG Region 6) and Ms Julie Fourter (OH Region 7).
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<b>Outcome</b>
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<b>Agenda Item 1b</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Agreement on the agenda for 30 March 2007
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<b>Background</b> A notice advising of the meeting and calling for agenda items was forwarded to all EGMAC and OHMAC members, Fisherman's Co-operatives, coastal Fisheries Offices, Regional Industry Conveners, and fishers who have registered an interest in receiving these papers prior to the meeting.  The inclusion of agenda items is subject to the Chairperson's approval having regard to items currently and previously listed for discussion. Additional items may be proposed for discussion during other business, subject to approval by the Chairperson.
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<b>Outcome</b>
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<b>Agenda Item 1c</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Confirmation of final draft outcomes from the EGMAC meeting held on the 10 August 2006.
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<b>Background</b> Preliminary draft outcomes of the EGMAC meeting held on 10 August 2006 were circulated to all EGMAC members for comment following the meeting. Amendments were made following comment from the Committee.
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<b>Outcome</b>
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<b>Agenda Item 1d</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Confirmation of final draft outcomes from the OHMAC meeting held on the 9 August 2006.
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<b>Background</b> Preliminary draft outcomes of the OHMAC meeting held on 9 August 2006 were circulated to all OHMAC members for comment following the meeting. Amendments were made following comment from the Committee.
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<b>Outcome</b>
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**Issue**

Share Management Plan implementation update

**Background**

The Estuary General Fishery and Ocean Hauling Fishery Share Management plans commenced on 5 February 2007. Additionally, a number of amendments were made to the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002* to provide for more flexible licensing arrangements.

All MAC representatives have been supplied with a copy of the current version of the Act, Regulations, Supporting Plan and relevant fishery management plans.

An overview of share trading arrangements will be provided for the Committee's information.

The Department has created a general information line (1300 720 662) for stakeholders with queries relating to the new arrangements. Since the creation of the phone line in February 2007, the Department has received and registered a significant number of phone calls from stakeholders.

The majority of the phone calls received relate to:

- share trading rules and minimum share holdings
- nomination arrangements
- applications for commercial fishing licences
- the transferability of commercial boat licences
- specific rules relating to each plan
- queries relating to a fishing business determination certificates
- require assistance through the share trading application form

Most callers have been supportive of the new share management and licensing arrangements.

**Outcomes**

For information of the Committee.

**Issue**

Proposed regulation amendments.

**Background**

Various amendments to current operating requirements have previously been discussed with the MACs in relation to the requirements of the Fisheries Management Strategies. Whilst some of the required changes were implemented within the current share management plans other less critical changes were deferred until the share management plans were implemented.

Previously discussed changes to gear descriptions and operational requirements as well as fishery specific closures will progressively be moved across in to the relevant share management plans.

A summary of the proposed change relating to the general purpose hauling net is outlined below.

*Clause 26 – Hauling net (general purpose)*

NSW DPI research has demonstrated that (i) the mesh size in the bunt of the general purpose hauling net is an important influence on what escapes or is retained and (ii) the current mesh size is inappropriate and if increased will improve the size selectivity of the gear with respect to under-sized fish that would otherwise be discarded. The Department proposes to increase the **maximum** mesh size of the centre piece of the bunt to 57mm and the remainder of bunt must consist of mesh **not less** than 57mm. The mesh size in the wings is to stay the same.

**Outcomes**

## Agenda Item 4

### Issue

Management update

### Background

#### **a. Seagrass Mapping**

To meet the objectives of the Estuary General and Ocean Hauling Fishery Management Strategies Clause 58B of the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002* was implemented to protect seagrass from hauling operations.

To assist in clarifying the location of seagrass beds and provide consistency in application it is proposed that the Regulation will be amended to prohibit hauling in areas outlined in gazetted maps.

Draft maps for Wallis Lake, Port Stephens and Pittwater have been produced in consultation with local stakeholders and the remaining significant areas will be mapped in the near future

#### **b. Bivalve Harvest Area Classification**

Previously, the Australia Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (ASQAP) was implemented by the States on a voluntary basis. However, a new section of the Food Standards Code, called the Primary Processing and Production Standard for Seafood was gazetted by Food Standards Australia New Zealand in May 2005. This standard adopted the ASQAP as the model standard and prescribed that all bi-valve shellfish for human consumption must be harvested from classified waters. A two year implementation period (until May 2007) was provided for in the standard.

Classification involves a sanitary survey of the harvest area based on a shoreline survey of potential pollution points and bacteriological sampling over a period of time to assess the on-going water quality trend in the harvest area. The sanitary survey is used to develop appropriate food safety controls for the risks identified.

Following initial classification the harvest area must be regularly monitored every year by manner of shoreline survey updates and a brief review report for each harvest area.

The Department has been liaising with the NSW Food Authority regarding the initial classification process and development of an ongoing monitoring programme. Further discussion with shareholders regarding maintenance of the programme will be undertaken once a proposal is developed.

#### **c. Ocean hauling update.**

There has been some progress on consultation over beach access for commercial fishers with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). DEC has advised that a review of the procedural guidelines for the Professional Fishing Access Policy would commence in March 2007 and consultation with professional fishers and other key stakeholders will be undertaken.

A number of stakeholders have raised the issue of public liability insurance. As advised in the information package sent to shareholders and fishers, holding public liability insurance

is no longer a mandatory requirement of ocean beach haulers under fisheries legislation. Please note that other government agencies still require it as a condition of beach access.

Further a number of stakeholders have raised the issue of access to multiple regions. As advised in the information package sent to shareholders, fishers can now work each and every region in which they are endorsed.

NSW Maritime has informed the Department that compliance on the illegal use of petrol inboard engine use has begun and will continue this year.

## Outcomes

## Agenda Item 5

NSW DPI

### Issue

Update on research issues

### Background

#### a. Eastern Sea Garfish

The observer study in the Estuary General fishery in NSW is now complete.

The observer based study concluded that the beach based estuarine fishery for sea garfish in Port Stephens during 2005 and 2006 had only limited bycatch, did not target juveniles or spawning aggregations and had no deleterious interaction with threatened species. A copy of the report is attached for each MAC member's information and Dr John Stewart will provide an overview of the research findings.

A summary of the report will be available on the Department's website: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

#### b. Fisheries independent survey project.

A verbal update on the Fisheries independent survey project will be provided at the meeting by a DPI representative

## Outcome

<b>Agenda Item 6</b>	<b>NSW DPI</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Update on compliance issues
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<b>Background</b> A verbal estuary general and ocean hauling compliance update will be provided by the relevant compliance representatives at the meeting.
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<b>Outcome</b>
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<b>Agenda Item 7</b>	<b>NSW DPI</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Update on conservation issues
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<b>Background</b> DPI Conservation representative will provide the Committees with an update on habitat rehabilitation and conservation research programs.
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<b>Outcome</b>
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<b>Agenda Item 8</b>	<b>NSW DPI</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Garfish management arrangements
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<b>Background</b> The harvest of sea garfish in NSW estuaries has been closed since August 2003 whilst a recovery program was developed for this species. This closure is to remain in place until either the species is fully recovered or suitable alternative recovery actions are included in the management plan. In order to assist in an observer study, a limited number of section 37 permits were issued to fishers authorising the capture of sea garfish in specific waters of Port Stephens.  The observer study in the Estuary General fishery in NSW is now complete and it is appropriate to consider if alternative management arrangements should be included in the management plan.
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<b>Outcome</b>
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**ESTUARY GENERAL SESSION**  
**12:15 – 5:00 Quest apartment meeting room, CRONULLA**

<b>Agenda Item 1a</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
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<b>Issue</b>	Business arising from previous EGMAC meetings including action list.
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**Estuary General MAC Rolling Action Status List (Feb 01 to present)**

- *Indicates the update*

Action Item	Date Raised	Pending	In Progress	On going	Complete
1. Conservation to provide information to DEC re: Coffs Creek sewerage spill closure (Sarah Fairfull) and the MAC seek DPI's input into this action.	26 Nov 2004				✓
2. NSW DPI & MAC to consider eel trap design with larger mesh (40mm) & smaller mesh (20mm), as well as potential escape rings or other devices for smaller eels once the increase in the minimum legal size is implemented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department considers that additional research regarding the selectivity of eel traps should be done.</li> </ul>	26 Nov 2004				✓
3. Advise the Committee of possible costs associated with the implementation of RFGs at the next meeting as per the FMS.	26 Nov 2004	✓			
5. Investigate Recognised Hauling Ground map previously prepared for Wallis Lake. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Investigated and will be consider during RFG review</li> </ul>	26 Nov 2004				✓
6. DPI to further develop paper for SIAC re: share management workshop	9 June 2005				✓
8. Region 5 representative to meet with local community regarding the use of winches in Pittwater. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Department supports minimising conflict with the local community, which is why the closure was originally implemented.</li> </ul>	9 June 2005				✓
9. DPI to provide MAC with an update on Palmer report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Palmer Report is on the DPI website.</li> </ul>	9 June 2005				✓
10. DPI to review the number of hoop/lift nets and crab traps that may be	9 June 2005			✓	

used at one time. Also the operation times the hoop/lift nets, and the species that can be retained for mud crab trapping endorsements. ✓ Crab trapping issues are being discussed under Agenda item 3					
11. DPI to continue to investigate issues raised by region 7 meeting. Region 7 fishers to liaise with relevant stakeholder groups regarding the partial opening of certain RFH's to commercial fishing. ✓ The Department is drafting up a policy for proposals relating to recreational fishing haven amendments. The EGMAC and ACoRF will be consulted on the policy prior to its implementation.	21 Oct 2005		✓		
13. DPI to consider funding options for the proposed Handgathering stickers and the practicability of using current OH stickers	21 Oct 2005	✓			
14. DPI to consider the removal of restricted licences as part of the development of the SMP.	21 Oct 2005				✓
15. DPI to update Committee at next meeting on progress of Seagrass mapping. ✓ Update provided in Agenda Item 4 (joint session).	21 Oct 2005				✓
16. DPI to provide Committee the published scientific papers on independent research. Also to provide Committee any proposed future research relating to fish breeding and stocking. ✓ Provided in Agenda item 5.	21 Oct 2005				✓
17. Region 4 South Rep to provide the Committee with a proposal to see a research permit issued to certain fishers. ✓ The Department responded to the representatives proposal. Estuary General fishers may request that the Department review a specific closure.	21 Oct 2005				✓
18. Region 3 representative to provide the Committee with proposal to permit the retention of Australian Bass and Estuary Perch as byproduct. ✓ The region 3 representative withdrew proposal after discussion with the DPI	21 Oct 2005				✓
19. DPI to review the outcomes from the research on specific prawn gears and implement into Regulations. Region 4 (North) representative approved inclusion of 'clover leafing' into Regulations following the research completed by DPI. ✓ The Department is issuing section 37 permits based on the gear	10 Aug 2006				✓

<p>recommendations from the research, i.e. square mesh codends.</p> <p>✓ The Department is still reviewing the implementation of 'clover leafing' into Regulation.</p>					
20. DPI to provide MAC contact details to ocean watch.	10 Aug 2006				✓ Sent on the 5/9/06
21. Indigenous representative to organize meeting with MPA to raise indigenous and industry concerns relating to the BBMP and advice Committee of outcomes.	10 Aug 2006				✓
22. Chairperson to write the Minister re the impacts of MPs on the EGF.	10 Aug 2006				✓ Sent on the 28/10/06
23. DPI to place SIAC outcomes on internet ✓ Available from the DPI's website at: <a href="http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries">www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries</a> .	10 Aug 2006				✓
24. DPI Science and Research to provide MAC an update on the Mulloway research	10 Aug 2006		✓		
25. DPI to amend condition 34 of the CoP to include 'especially when fishing between 10pm and 5am'. ✓ The amended CoP is approved and will be placed on the website shortly. All estuary general fishers will be notified of the amendment.	10 Aug 2006				✓
27. DPI to review Laurieton Fisher Co-ops proposal to allow for prawn seining in two adjoining rivers pending the completion of the prawn research ✓ DPI is in the process of reviewing closures.	10 Aug 2006				✓

ONGOING ACTION ITEMS	Date Raised	Pending	In Progress	Ongoing	Complete
1. Assess whether it is practical to reinstate the 1800 general inquiries number. MAC was advised this was not possible on 29/6/01, however asked for it to remain on the action list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an Information – Advisory number if you are uncertain who to speak to or have a general enquiry: 1300 550 474</li> </ul>	1 & 2 Feb 01				✓
2. Provide MAC with most recent fisher numbers at each meeting.	22 Mar 01				✓ (Attachment 1)
3. The number of traps permitted to be used by recreational fishers to be considered as part of the development of the recreational fishing fisheries management strategy with a view to decreasing numbers permitted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Recreational Fishing Gear was assessed under the Bag and Size limit review in late 2005. The Committee will be advised of the final outcomes of the review once finalised.</li> </ul>	25 July 2003			✓	
4. MAC to provide suggestions re: info to be presented at future share mgt workshops. Establish register to keep information requested by MAC for share management workshops.	½ July 2004				✓
5. Consider feasibility of issuing a fishing business card.	26 Nov 04				✓
6. DPI to review and update the Committee on the Caulerpa Closure from Careel Bay to Barrenjoey (region 5) every 12 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Included in seagrass mapping update provided in Agenda Item 4</li> </ul>	21 Oct 2005				✓
DPI Conservation to provide the EGMAC an annual update on habitat rehabilitation and conservation research programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provided in conservation update at Agenda Item 7.</li> </ul>	EGFMS				✓

**Issue**

EGMAC correspondence received and sent from the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

**Sent:**

25<sup>th</sup> August 2006: Letter to Minister regarding the implementation of Marine Parks in NSW, and the issues raised by the Estuary General Management Advisory Committee (EGMAC).

28<sup>th</sup> August 2006: Letter to Minister regarding the Chairpersons report of the EGMAC meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

5<sup>th</sup> September 2006: Letter to Ocean Watch with the contact details of the EGMAC member contact details.

**Received:**

28<sup>th</sup> August 2006: Agenda item forwarded to Chairperson from Region 7 Representative requesting all remaining waterways in region 7 left open to commercial fishing to be declared as RFGs.

5<sup>th</sup> September 2006: Letter to the EGMAC from NSW DPI, advising a date for the joint MAC on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

11<sup>th</sup> September 2006: Letter received from John McGuren, CRPFA, advising the chairperson of Region 2 commercial fishers' position relating to the setting of minimum shareholding level.

20<sup>th</sup> September 2006: Copy of a letter from Ms Gee Chapman to Ms Veronica Le Nevez, Marine Parks Authority, regarding Marine Parks in NSW.

28<sup>th</sup> September 2006: Letter to the EGMAC from NSW DPI, advising representatives of Share Management Plan consultation.

9<sup>th</sup> October 2006: Copies of two letters from Mr Geoff Blackburn (Region 3) to NSW DPI regarding any proposed changes to the minimum share holding and section 8 closures under share management.

30<sup>th</sup> October 2006: Letter to the EGMAC from NSW DPI regarding the draft outcomes from the joint MAC/SIAC meeting of 26/09/06.

8<sup>th</sup> November 2006: Letter to the EGMAC regarding the summary of the received submissions from stakeholders during public consultation of the Share Management and Supporting Plans.

- 10<sup>th</sup> November 2006: Letter to the EGMAC from NSW DPI summarising Share Management Plan submissions.
- 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006: Out of Session agenda item sent to the EGMAC regarding maximum boat sizes.
- 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006: Letter received from Minister regarding the final draft outcomes from the EGMAC meeting held on the 10 August 2006.
- 28<sup>th</sup> November 2006: Letter from NSW DPI to the EGMAC Industry Representatives regarding the NSW Commercial Fishing Licence charges payable for the 2006/07 financial year.
- 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006: Letter received from the chair of the NSW Fisheries Research Advisory Body, Prof. Derek Anderson, requesting research applications for the 2008/09 round of funding from the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation.
- 4<sup>th</sup> January 2007: Letter received from the Director, Wild Harvest Fisheries regarding the changes to the additional access and handgathering arrangements under Share Management.
- 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007: Letter received from Sydney Water regarding the Sydney Desalination Project and Pipeline route.
- 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007: Letter to the EGMAC with a copy of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and regulations under this Act.
- 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007: Letter received from Clarence River Professional Fishermen's Industry Representative regarding 6 proposed EGMAC agenda items for the 30/3/2007 meeting.

## Outcomes

**Issue**

Proposed Estuary General Regulation Amendments

**Background**

The Department will provide EGMAC members a summary of the proposals at the meeting, however a general overview is provided below.

*Square-mesh codends*

NSW DPI research has demonstrated that the size selectivities of most existing conventional prawn-catching gears used in NSW are inappropriate for the targeted prawns and that several unregulated factors, and especially hanging ratio and twine diameter, influence the selectivity of these gears, irrespective of mesh size. Codends made from mesh between 27 and 32mm hung on the bar (square mesh) will significantly improve the size and species selectivity of most Estuary General prawn seines and stow (set pocket) nets. Additionally, because the majority of prawns escaping through meshes appear to survive the process, the wide scale use of modified prawn-catching gears will reduce the fishing mortality of small prawns and other non target species.

The introduction of the requirement to use square-mesh codends in estuarine prawning operations is a major initiative requiring significant changes to the current regulation.

The Department proposes to amend the following clauses to require use square-mesh codends in place of conventional diamond-mesh codends. For some net types it may also be possible to provide the option to use larger diamond mesh.

- Clause 32 Prawn net (haul)
- Clause 33 Prawn net (haul) Manning
- Clause 34 Prawn net (haul) Wallis
- Clause 35 Prawn net (set pocket)\*
- Clause 37 Seine net (prawn)

\* This clause may give fishers the option to use larger diamond-shaped mesh (35 – 45mm) throughout the entire net or alternatively, the same larger diamond-shaped mesh to the body of the net and a square-mesh codend. No changes are proposed to the headrope lengths.

Amendments are also proposed to other clauses of the regulation such as the examples listed below and will be the subject of future industry consultation following initial discussion at this meeting.

- Clause 41 – Meshing net*
- Clause 43 – Flathead net*
- Clause 74 – Taking of Yabby, Worms, Pipis etc.*

**Outcomes**

**Issue**

Crab Trapping

**Background**

Mud crabs are a highly valuable commercial species and a highly sought after recreational species. The management of this species in NSW comprises gear restrictions, closures minimum size limits and bag limits to ensure sustainable harvest.

The wording of the current regulation limits an endorsement holder to setting a defined number of traps (10). The issue of equity has been raised with respect to persons who own multiple fishing businesses that contain mud crab trap shares. Under current regulation, if the owner of the business is also the endorsement holder, they are limited to 10 traps rather than being able to exercise their right with respect to the second business.

**Region 2**

Request for the EGMAC to discuss raising the minimum size of crab trap buoys from 100mm to 150mm to improve their visibility to trawl operators.

**Outcomes**

For discussion.

<b>Agenda Item 4</b>	<b>Region 3</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Review of Closures
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<b>Background</b> Industry in Region 3 is concerned about limited access to the fishery since the creation of Marine Parks and Recreational Fishing Havens in NSW. More specifically it is maintained that, (i) the available waterways remaining open to commercial fishing are inadequate to ensure the industry's viability, and (ii) seafood consumers are missing out on a regular supply of lower priced fish due to the high cost associated with the harvest of the seafood. It is suggested that current section 8 closures be reviewed.  <b>Departmental note</b> The Department is currently focusing on implement of share management and is moving specific closures into regulation (relevant fishery share management plans) with necessary minor modifications. Further consultation will occur with regard to drafting the appropriate regulations.
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<b>Outcome</b> For Discussion
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<b>Agenda Item 5</b>	<b>Industry</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Committee member updates
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<b>Background</b> An update by each Committee member on Estuary General Fishery issues will be provided.
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<b>Outcome</b>
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<b>Agenda Item 6</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
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<b>Other Business</b> Any other items raised by representatives may be discussed subject to available time.
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<b>Outcome</b>
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**Agenda Item 7**

**Issue**

Chairperson's summary and proposed meeting date for the next EGMAC meeting.

**Outcome**

**END: ESTUARY GENERAL SESSION**

**Attachment 1 - EGMAC Action Item 2.**

Table 1: The total numbers of Estuary General endorsement per region (February 2007).

<b>Endorsement/Region</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Category One Hauling</b>	8	26	10	64	15	17	14	<b>154</b>
<b>Category Two Hauling</b>	7	26	19	55	10	16	13	<b>146</b>
<b>Eel Trapping</b>	6	41	28	57	11	19	19	<b>180</b>
<b>Hand Gathering</b>	17	3	29	41	1	14	5	<b>110</b>
<b>Handline and Hauling Crew</b>	38	136	67	227	56	54	51	<b>628</b>
<b>Meshing</b>	36	108	55	195	45	52	44	<b>535</b>
<b>Mud Crab Trapping</b>	19	50	45	100	12	4	4	<b>234</b>
<b>Prawning</b>	21	102	31	183	7	42	42	<b>428</b>
<b>Fish Trapping</b>	4	20	31	101	23	5	9	<b>193</b>

Table 2: The total number of Estuary General endorsed FBs per region (February 2007).

<b>Region</b>	<b>Fishing Businesses</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>There are 673 Fishing Businesses with final shares in the Estuary General Fishery</b>

**OCEAN HAULING SESSION**  
**12:15 – 5:00, Large Conference Room, CRONULLA**

<b>Agenda Item 1a</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
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<p><b>Issue</b>          Business arising from previous OHMAC meetings including action list.</p>
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Action Item	Date Raised	Pending	In Progress	On going	Complete
SIAC update to be provided to MAC members	09-08-06		✓		
Review the Code of Conduct/Practice in consideration of information to be provided by the purse seine representative.	09-08-06		✓		
Batemans Marine Park - Industry to develop out of session a submission, to address zoning-activity concerns.	09-08-06	✓			
MPA - Review hauling at Wallaga Beach and report back to the committee	09-08-06	✓			
Allocation of species shares - Progress by Industry with the Minister and other MACs as appropriate	09-08-06	✓			
Industry to request involvement on any Jervis Bay Marine Park zoning review panel.	09-08-06	✓			
Provide information on level of payment of EIS and fishery monitoring charge.	09-08-06		✓		
The MAC considered and agreed to the NSW DPI proposal to split historical partnership and father son businesses prior to the full implementation of share management s	29-11-05		✓		

**Agenda Item 1b****Chairperson****Issue**

OHMAC correspondence received and sent.

**Sent:**

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006: Letter to Minister regarding the Chairpersons report of the OHMAC meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

**Received:**

8<sup>th</sup> August 2006: Email from Megan Kessler, NCC, apologies for not being able to attend and comments on 09-08-06 OHMAC agenda items.

11<sup>th</sup> September 2006: Letter to the OHMAC chair from John McGuren Industry Representative on minimum shares for endorsement.

28<sup>th</sup> September 2006: Letter to the OHMAC from NSW DPI, advising representatives of Share Management Plan consultation.

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007: Letter received from NSW Fisheries Research Advisory Body (FRAB) – Updating priorities in the strategic research plan.

24<sup>th</sup> January 2007: Information Kit from NSW DPI for the new commercial fishery licensing and management arrangements commencing on 5 February 2007.

12<sup>th</sup> February 2007: Letter from Sydney Water regarding Sydney Desalination Project – Environmental Assessment of Pipeline Route.

16<sup>th</sup> March 2007: Letter received from Clarence River Professional Fishermen's Industry Representative regarding 6 proposed EGMAC agenda items for the 30/3/2007 meeting.

**Outcomes**

**Agenda Item 2****NSW DPI****Issue**

Ocean Hauling Fishery Code of Practice

**Background**

Following the introduction of the Ocean Hauling Share Management Plan compliance with the Ocean Hauling Code of Practice is no longer mandatory and some components of the code have now been incorporated into the Share Management Plan.

Industry now has the opportunity to provide suggestions and review the codes of practice for their fishery in light of the new operating requirements set out in the Share Management Plan.

**Outcomes**

For discussion

**Issue**

Trading of purse seine shares independent of other Ocean Hauling Fishery share classes.

**Background****Industry Position**

The Purse seine fishery is a boat-based fishery which is administered under different rules to the other Ocean Hauling sectors. Participation also requires specialised equipment, used in a manner that is very different to the rest of the OHF.

Generally there is little overlap between the species harvested by the purse seine sector and the hauling sector and the fishery operates in deeper waters, which represent approximately 99.9% of the prescribed area of the OHF.

The current linkage between purse seine shares and the rest of the OHF in share trading creates a significant impediment to efficient rationalisation of both the purse seine sector and the other OHF sectors.

The ability to trade purse seine shares independent of OHF shares would not generate any management issues in regard to spatial conflict, gear conflict and common species management, particularly since there are only a very small number of NSW purse seine operations authorised (<15) .

**Departmental note**

Share trading arrangements provide a mechanism whereby shares in a fishery may be transferred to another shareholder who does not already hold shares in that fishery, provided all the shares in that fishery are transferred to that shareholder. This ensures that the number of participants in each fishery does not increase. Future structural adjustment may provide an environment where more flexible trading arrangements may be considered.

**Outcomes**

**Agenda Item 4** **Purse Seine**

**Issue**  
Penning of fish after capture in the Ocean Hauling Fishery.

**Background**  
**Industry Position**  
The issue of temporary penning of fish has been discussed by the ocean hauling MAC a number of times over several years without resolution.

There are administrative and compliance issues for stakeholders retaining fish live after capture in both the beach hauling and purse seine sectors. The ability to pen fish would potentially assist with the following issues:

- Fish hauled at night by beach crews are sometimes held in the bag until daylight and appropriate transport vehicles are available.
- To maintain consistency of supply of fresh product to both human consumption markets and supply chain consistency of fresh product for value adding in vertically integrated processing operations in the purse seine sector.

The proposed inclusion of administrative mechanisms to enable this practice has not been addressed in the Share Management arrangements despite advice from NSW DPI that it was their intention to do so when the matter was last raised.

**NSW DPI Position.**  
The SMPs are a foundation on which to build and a number of unresolved matters have been held over to ensure the Plans were made in a timely manner. Before determining if it appropriate to amend the current legislation to authorise penning practices, a detailed proposal to pen fish that met the approval of NSW Maritime and the appropriate planning authorities would be required. Any proposal for fish taken by the beach based sector would in addition need to address concerns about increase in effort, resource sharing and social factors.

**Outcomes**  
For discussion

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

**Issue**  
Committee member updates

**Background**  
An update from each Committee member on Ocean Hauling fishery issues in their region will be provided.

**Outcome**

<b>Agenda Item 6</b>	<b>Committee</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Other Business
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<b>Background</b> Additional items relating to cost recovery, the use of petrol engines in jet boats, share appeals and the role of quota or alternative input/output controls in future management of the fishery have been raised for discussion,  These or any other items raised by representatives may be discussed subject to available time.
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<b>Outcomes</b>
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<b>Agenda Item 7</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
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<b>Issue</b> Chairperson's summary and proposed meeting date for the next OHMAC meeting.
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<b>Outcomes</b>
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