

FINAL OUTCOMES of the OTMAC meeting held on 4th & 5th December 2007.

Agenda Item	Outcome
Welcome and apologies	Members and observers were welcomed. The Chair welcomed Mr Peter Plunkett (recreational representative) and Mr Shane Castle (deputy for Mr Bill Litchfield - Region 1) to the committee and thanked Mr Alan Keft (retiring recreational representative) for his valuable contribution.
Agreement on agenda	<p>Agenda agreed.</p> <p>Action: DPI to assist where practical with industry representatives meeting prior to the formal MAC meeting so that consolidated industry views can be presented at the MAC meeting.</p>
Confirmation of draft minutes	Outcomes for previous meeting confirmed.
Correspondence received and sent	<p>Correspondence received and sent noted.</p> <p>Committee advises that better identification of lobster traps and improved communication between sectors at the local level should assist to resolve adverse interactions between the trawl and trap fisheries. Concerned parties to liaise with local DFOs to arrange any necessary communication.</p>
Business arising from the previous meeting	Committee supports the removal of all actions that have been completed, are considered redundant or are included on the agenda from the action list.

<p>Updates</p>	<p>The Committee noted the updates provided.</p> <p>Industry representatives of the Committee advised that in accordance with management response 5.1(c) and research results (Sydney inshore trawl-whiting fishery, codend selectivity and fishery characteristics) fish trawl endorsement holders should be permitted to use the following codends to harvest school whiting; minimum 90mm mesh, maximum 200 meshes in circumference, single or double twine, maximum twine diameter 5mm.</p> <p>Action: DPI to confirm/clarify the territorial baselines and their relationship with the 3nm line, the southern boundary of the northern fish trawl fishery, and provide Metropolitan and South Coast representatives details of the Bouddi National Park extension.</p>
<p>A quantitative analysis of prawn harvesting strategies in NSW</p>	<p>Presentation noted, particularly the model indicating product price to be a major influential factor. Committee supports any actions by DPI or Industry to promote NSW product and or improve product price.</p>
<p>Marine pests and their relevance to the ocean trawl fishery</p>	<p>Presentation including Government's programs and actions noted, and industry encouraged to report sightings of marine pests to DPI.</p>
<p>Ocean Trawl share management plan</p>	<p>Action: DPI to review nomination provisions to determine if further efficiencies can be achieved. Timing subject to resourcing and priorities.</p>
<p>Share Management - Stage 2 regulatory reform</p>	<p>Committee noted proposed regulatory reform and proposal for an industry information paper early 2008. Potential issues identified include some fishers using greater than 100 fathom sweeps (200-250 fathom); one fisher using greater than 60m head line; chain on fish trawl gear typically greater than 12mm diameter; the need to firm up description for fish trawl codend circumferences and the need to clarify method of measuring 100mm droppers.</p> <p>Action: DPI to consider commercial bag limit of 2 lobsters per trawler.</p>

<p>Juvenile king prawn closures - amendments to the OTSMP</p>	<p>Action: MAC members to arrange port meetings to discuss with constituents modifications to juvenile king prawn closures, in particular Tweed Heads, Brunswick Heads, Ballina, South West Rocks and Port Stephens and report back to DPI by the end of January 2008.</p>
<p>'Spikes' and 'riddlers' in ocean trawl fishery</p>	<p>Committee advises spikes be permitted on "retained" species only. Committee supports prohibition on "riddlers" as per the OTFMS.</p>
<p>School whiting grounds</p>	<p>Action: MAC members to arrange port meetings to map with constituents designated whiting grounds. DPI to work with OTMAC representatives to transfer data to C-plot and prepare descriptions suitable for regulation by the end of March 2008.</p>
<p>Industry alternatives to the OTFMS square-mesh codends</p>	<p>Action: Industry requested that DPI consider as a priority delaying implementation of the OTFMS proposed square mesh codends for 12-18 months so that industry can secure funding, engage consultants, conduct testing, and for DPI's consideration of results and potential regulation amendments. DPI to also consider industry's request for assistance with this research and interim prohibition on codends greater than 150 meshes in circumference.</p>
<p>Review of sweeps in the deepwater prawn trawl fishery</p>	<p>Action: Metropolitan and South coast representatives and DPI to monitor progress of research. Research results to be distributed and matter listed for discussion at future meeting.</p>
<p>Trevally size limit</p>	<p>Committee is seriously concerned with the dumping of substantial quantities of product as a result of the introduction of a size limit on trevally.</p> <p>Action: Discussion postponed until next meeting and all members including DPI to consider potential solutions.</p>

<p>Taking fish subject to size limits in prawn trawl nets - flounder and sole</p>	<p>Action: DPI to investigate Industry recommendation to remove the size limit on sole.</p>
<p>BRD's on grounds other than designated whiting grounds</p>	<p>Committee supports introduction of the radial escape panel BRD and the new specifications for each of the other BRDs (subject to a review of the maximum bar spacing applying to the Nordmore grid).</p> <p>Action: DPI to review bar spacing for Nordmore grid.</p> <p>Action: MAC members to discuss with constituents refining and then demonstrating the effectiveness of BRDs south of Smoky Cape as an alternative to the prohibition on taking fish subject to size limits. Any other issues identified with the new specifications to be referred to DPI as soon as practicable.</p>
<p>Review of south east fish trawl trip limits</p>	<p>Action: DPI to consider Committee advice that all trip limits should be removed other than that for gemfish which should be reviewed as part of the development of a recovery program for gemfish.</p>
<p>Effort controls for the ocean trawl fishery</p>	<p>Issue postponed until the next meeting pending outcome of Richard Stevens review into structural adjustment.</p>
<p>Coal ships moored between Newcastle & Sydney</p>	<p>Committee recognises the seriousness of this issue and noted that the Minister for Primary Industry has written to Minister for Ports and Waterways requesting a meeting be convened between relevant stakeholder groups. The Committee reiterates its concern for the safety of fishers and need for action as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Action: Industry representatives to contact Seafood Services Australia (SSA) for assistance and to ascertain a line of communication with the National Maritime Safety Committee.</p>

Commonwealth structural adjustment scheme and marine parks	Committee noted that DPI is continuing to assess the risk of increased potential fishing effort displaced into NSW fisheries as a result of the Commonwealth's buy-out. The Committee and DPI are both supportive of finalising this process as matter of urgency and note that any legal action may delay finalisation.
New submarine cable protection zones	Committee agreed to consider negotiating provisions to offset potential impact on the commercial fishing industry as a result of further telecommunication cables being laid off the NSW coastline in the future.
Optimum size at first harvest - king prawns	<p>Committee notes the resources required to organise a forum similar to the Juvenile Prawn Summit held in 2000. however believe such a forum will be useful to further consider resource allocation and management issues between sectors.</p> <p>Action: Item to be postponed until the next meeting. In the interim DPI and MAC Chairs to raise the issue with the other MACs to assign some priority to this matter. DPI advised that is was willing to assist Industry should they wish to take carriage of this issue.</p>
Review of bobbin gear	Action: DPI to consider Committee request to undertake a formal review with a view to providing for bobbins/discs up to 150mm (6 inch) south of Seal Rocks.
Japanese submarine off Sydney	Action: DPI to provide the Heritage Office with the Metropolitan and South Coast representatives contact details.
National Strategy to address interactions between humans and seals	Action: Central and Metropolitan and South Coast representatives to review the strategy for any implications arising for management of the Ocean Trawl fishery.

Next meeting	The Chairperson thanked all members, deputies and observers for attending the meeting and advised the date for the next committee meeting would be 3 rd and 4 th April 2008.
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