

TORRES STRAIT FISHERIES ALLOCATION ADVISORY PANEL

All licence holders
Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster,
Spanish Mackerel and Reef Line Fisheries

2 February 2007

Review of the Allocation Advisory Panel Reports of Advice for the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster and Finfish Fisheries

Dear licence holder,

Following the 20th meeting of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA), the Allocation Advisory Panel (AAP) has been requested by the PZJA to review the recommendations contained in the reports delivered in October 2006. The review of the reports is to take into account:

- stakeholder comments made at the PZJA 20 stakeholder forum and in any subsequent consultation undertaken by the AAP;
- provision of general criteria for exceptional circumstances and evidence standards to support claims against general criteria; and
- any data provided by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) as part of the data process currently being undertaken and expected to be completed by the end of February 2007.

The PZJA has stressed that final reports are to be delivered to it in March 2007.

The AAP proposes to conduct the review as requested.

An extract of the stakeholder comments made at PZJA 20 is attached to this letter together with a copy of the October report for your relevant fishery for your consideration.

The AAP is calling for written stakeholder comments on the October reports to be provided by 9 March 2007. Comments received after the closing date may not be able to be considered by the AAP. Stakeholders may also comment on the general criteria to be used to consider claims for exceptional circumstances and the evidence standards to support such claims.

All comments must be provided in writing and should be delivered to the secretariat officer listed below.

Allocation Advisory Panel Secretariat
Attn: Mr Stephen Colquitt
Torres Strait Fisheries Section
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Fax (02) 6272 4875
Email PZJA.Allocation@daff.gov.au

Please note that as with previous stakeholder submissions to the AAP, information contained may be published by the AAP in its reports.

The formulae and recommendations presented in the October reports may be revised in light of the additional data provided by AFMA, as well as in light of stakeholder comments received. The revised final reports will be delivered to the PZJA in late March without further written submissions being sought from stakeholders.

Potential public meetings

The PZJA has requested that, if the AAP is inclined to make significant changes to the October 2006 formulae following consideration of the submissions received and new data provided, the AAP travel to Cairns and Thursday Island in late March to discuss the proposed revised formulae with stakeholders at advertised public meetings .

At this stage the AAP cannot determine at this time if significant changes are likely to be made to the formulae contained in the October reports. However in the interests of providing stakeholders with as much notification as possible, should public meetings be required, the AAP proposes that they be held on the following days:

- 20 March 2007 Cairns (time and venue to be advised)
- 21 March 2007 Thursday Island (time and venue to be advised)

If public meetings are to be held, the AAP will write to you again with further details.

If you wish to discuss any of this information further please contact the Allocation Advisory Panel Secretariat, Mr Stephen Colquitt on (02) 6272 3752.

Yours sincerely



Jeffrey Miles AO
Chair
Allocation Advisory Panel

Extract from PZJA Meeting No. 20

SUMMARY RECORD 26 October 2006

Full document can be downloaded here:

http://www.pzja.gov.au/notices/notices/2006/20061220_pzja_record_m20.pdf

Non-indigenous stakeholders present at PZJA 20

Queensland Seafood Industry Association

- Dr Ray Moore
- Mr Carl D'Aguiar

Queensland Tropical Rock Lobster Association

- Mr James Fogarty
- Mr Brett Arlidge

4.1 ALLOCATION ISSUES – Allocation Advisory Panel TRL Report

4.1.3 The PZJA NOTED the following concerns raised by stakeholders at the stakeholder forum:

- (a) that there should not be a separate primary licence value as market value is dependent on the number of tenders only;
- (b) that they would prefer a tender based formula as set out in the draft report for 30% to all licence holders plus one tender and 70% to the remaining tenders or an equal split across all 65 tenders than the recommended tender based formula; and
- (c) that they would prefer a catch history based formula which provided 50% to licence holders and 50% on catch history.

4.2 ALLOCATION ISSUES – AAP Finfish Report

4.2.3 The PZJA NOTED the following concerns raised by stakeholders at the stakeholder forum:

- (a) that the provision of 1% per platform to licences with no catch history will reduce allocation of licence holders with catch history to one quarter of previous catch levels and this is not consistent with maintaining relative economic position;
- (b) that exceptional circumstances should be set out in general criteria with clear standards used to assess claims; and
- (c) that data taken into account should be verifiable by independent means.