

<p>Torres Strait PZJA Protected Zone Joint Authority</p>   <p>Queensland Government</p>	<p>TORRES STRAIT PROTECTED ZONE JOINT AUTHORITY</p>	<p>Meeting No. 18 5-6 July 2005</p>
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SUMMARY RECORD

1. The eighteenth meeting of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (the PZJA) was held in the Torres Strait Regional Authority office on Thursday Island on Tuesday and Wednesday 5 and 6 July 2005.
2. The meeting was chaired by the Australian Government Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald. Queensland was represented on day one by the Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, the Hon Henry Palaszczuk MP. The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) was represented by Mr John T Kris, Chair of the Torres Strait Regional Authority.
3. The Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, the Hon Henry Palaszczuk MP tabled a formal delegation that Mr John Pollock be his designated representative for the decision making session on day two.
4. Invited stakeholders participated in the stakeholder forum, held on the first day of the PZJA meeting. This enabled the PZJA members to seek stakeholder input to key issues. A list of meeting participants, on day one including observers, is annexed at **Attachment A**. A list of meeting participants on day two is annexed at **Attachment B**.
5. Mr Don Whap opened day one of the meeting with a prayer.

Agenda

6. The order of the agenda was agreed to for day one.
7. The order of the agenda for day two was amended to place resource allocation first.

The agenda for the meetings is at **Attachment C**.

Outcomes

6. The outcomes from the meeting are at **Attachment D**.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS – DAY 1

Senator Ian Macdonald – Chair
Australian Government Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation

Hon Henry Palaszczuk MP
Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries

Mr John T Kris
Chair Torres Strait Regional Authority

Delegations

Mr Duncan Souter
Fisheries Advisor
Senator Macdonald's Office

Mr Cameron Dick
Senior Ministerial Policy Advisor
Minister Palaszczuk's Office

Mr John Pollock
Executive Director Fisheries
Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPIF)

Mr Allan Parsons
General Manager, Fisheries Resource Management
QDPIF

Mr Wez Norris
Departmental Liaison Officer
QDPIF

Mr Richard McLoughlin
Managing Director
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

Ms Trysh Stone
Senior Manager Northern Fisheries
AFMA

Ms Britt Maxwell
Director Northern International Fisheries
DAFF

Mr Matt Dadswell
Departmental Liaison Officer

DAFF

Mr Wayne Seekee
A/General Manager
Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

Peter Yorkston
Fisheries Coordinator
TSRA

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS – DAY 2

Senator Ian Macdonald – Chair
Australian Government Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation

Mr John T Kris
Chair Torres Strait Regional Authority

Mr John Pollock
Queensland Delegate
Executive Director Fisheries
Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPIF)

Delegations

Mr Duncan Souter
Fisheries Advisor
Senator Macdonald's Office

Mr Allan Parsons
General Manager, Fisheries Resource Management
QDPIF

Dr John Kung
Senior Fisheries Management Officer
QDPIF

Mr Richard McLoughlin
Managing Director
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

Ms Trysh Stone
Senior Manager Northern Fisheries
AFMA

Mr Daryl Quinlivan (by telephone)
Executive Manager
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

Ms Britt Maxwell
Director Northern International Fisheries
DAFF

Mr Matt Dadswell
Departmental Liaison Officer
DAFF

Ms Inga Davis
Senior Policy Officer
DAFF

Mr Wayne Seekee
A/General Manager
Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

Peter Yorkston
Fisheries Coordinator
TSRA

PZJA 18 AGENDA

Day 1 - PZJA Meeting - Tuesday 5 July 2005

Opening Comments

Confirmation of Agenda

- Finfish Fishery
 - Working Group Report
- Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) Fishery
 - Management arrangements
 - Quota Management
 - Scientific advice requirements for setting TAC
 - Working group Recommendations
- Beche-de-mer Fishery
 - Establishment of Hand Collectibles Working Group
 - Strategic assessment: DEH recommendations
- Turtle and Dugong Fishery
 - NHT update
 - Strategic assessment
- Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (TSPF)
 - Progress on negotiations with TSI and PNG
 - Process for setting 2006 effort levels
- Resource allocation in the Torres Strait fisheries
 - Consultation Paper
- Compliance
 - Options for improving domestic compliance
- Finances
 - Cost recovery policy and implementation
- Fisheries Consultative Structure
 - Member policy for Working Groups and MAC
 - Stakeholder nominations

Closing Comments

Day 2 – PZJA Meeting Wednesday 6 July 2005

Opening Comments

Confirmation of Agenda

1. Resource allocation in the Torres Strait fisheries **FOR DECISION**
 - Consultation paper
 - TSFMAC 4 July 2005 outcomes
 2. Actions arising from PZJA 17 **FOR INFORMATION**
 3. Finfish Fishery **FOR DECISION**
 - Working Group Report (including Red Bass recommendations)
 4. Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) Fishery
 - a. Quota implementation report **FOR DECISION**
 - Presentation of quota implementation report
 - Scientific advice requirements for setting TAC
 - b. Working group Report **FOR DECISION**
 - including hookah closures
 5. Beche-de-mer Fishery **FOR DECISION**
 - a. Establishment of Hand Collectibles Working Group
 - b. Strategic assessment: DEH recommendations
 6. Turtle and Dugong Fishery
 - a. Explanatory note: why T+D is a ‘fishery’ **FOR CONFIRMATION**
 - b. NHT Update **FOR INFORMATION**
 - c. Strategic assessment **FOR INFORMATION**
 7. Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (TSPF)
 - a. Progress on negotiations with TSI and PNG **FOR DECISION**
 - b. Process for setting 2006 effort levels **FOR INFORMATION**
 8. Compliance
 - a. Separation of FFV and domestic compliance programmes **FOR INFORMATION**
 - b. Options for improving domestic compliance **FOR DECISION**
 9. Finances **FOR DECISION**
 - a. Cost recovery policy and implementation
 - b. PZJA Budget
 10. Fisheries Consultative Structure **FOR DECISION**
 - Member policy for WGs and MAC
 - Stakeholder nominations
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11. Legislation FOR INFORMATION

- Implications of new detention arrangements
- TSF Act amendment to redefine ‘fishing’
- Review of TSF Act
- Declaration of sponge fishery

12. PZJA Annual Report 2003/04 FOR DECISION

13. PZJA out-of-session decisions FOR CONFIRMATION

14. Next meeting: PZJA 19 FOR DECISION

PZJA 18 OUTCOMES

Resource Allocation in Torres Strait Fisheries

The PZJA, having considered the overall aims of the Torres Strait Treaty and the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* (including the obligations under Article 26 of the Treaty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic development in the Torres Strait area and employment for the traditional inhabitants and to share with PNG the allowable catch of the Protected Zone commercial fisheries listed under Article 22 of the Treaty), *have agreed* that in respect of the Australian share of the fisheries in the Torres Strait Protected Zone and the fisheries in the outside but near area:

- 1 For the Tropical Rock Lobster fishery to transition towards greater traditional inhabitant allocation on the following basis:
 - a) as soon as practically achievable a 50:50¹ resource allocation with adjustment to be achieved through the purchase of non-islander licences in the Australian share of the fishery by an open tender process. Funding to be provided in equal shares by the three PZJA members subject to relevant Treasury and Finance approvals; and
 - a) in the longer-term a target of 70:30² through an open market and self funded process. Trading rules to facilitate the transfer from the non-traditional inhabitant sector to the traditional inhabitant sector will be developed and considered by PZJA in mid 2006.
- 2 For the Reefline and Spanish mackerel fisheries to greater traditional inhabitant allocation:
 - a) as soon as practically achievable a 50:50³ resource allocation with adjustment to be achieved through an open tender process. Funding subject to Commonwealth Finance approvals;
 - b) in the longer-term a target of 70:30⁴ through an open market and self funded process. Trading rules to facilitate the transfer from the non-traditional inhabitant sector to the traditional inhabitant sector will be developed and considered by PZJA in mid 2006;

^{1, 2, 3, 4} traditional inhabitant: non-traditional inhabitant

- c) implement a 10 nm exclusion zone⁵ for non-traditional inhabitant fishers in the area around Murray (Mer), Darnley (Erub), Yorke (Masig) and Stephen (Ugar) Islands;
- d) to develop and implement arrangements to cost effectively control the commercial take of fish (consistent with PZJA 18 decision 3(b) on effort and catch controls in Finfish Fishery) by end of 2006 to be recommended by the FWG; and
- e) a decision to revisit the issue of a live fish fishery in the Torres Strait, subject to achievement of 2(d), at PZJA 20.

(Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries Hon. Henry Palaszczuk MP, excused himself at this point and was replaced under written authorisation by John Pollock)

Actions arising from PZJA 17

1. The PZJA **NOTED** the progress of action items arising from PZJA 17.

Finfish Fishery Working Group and TSFMAC Recommendations

1. Finfish Fishery management objectives

- a. The PZJA **NOTED** that the Finfish Working Group has been unable to further develop the draft management objectives for the fishery as requested by TSFMAC 3 (July 2004) but will endeavor to progress this matter at the next Finfish Working Group meeting.

2. Strategic assessment report & Bycatch Action Plan update

The PZJA **NOTED**:

- a. the progress of the draft Finfish Fishery Bycatch Action Plan;
- b. that the Finfish Working Group and TSFMAC have endorsed the draft Strategic Assessment Report; and
- c. the strategic assessment report will be sent to the PZJA out of session for approval to submit to DEH by September 2005.

3. Effort or Catch control

The PZJA:

- a. **NOTED** that ITQs were recommended by the Finfish Working Group as the preferred option but that Industry has since raised concerns with this option at the TSFMAC;

⁵ The exclusion zone to be a closure with a radius of 10nm from the mid point of the islands; the centre point to be described in degrees and decimal minutes in accordance with the WGS84 datum

- b. **AGREED** to refer the issue of identifying an appropriate catch or effort control mechanism back to the Working Group to explore the merits of ITQs and ITEs; and
- c. **AGREED** that the Working Group develop a detailed implementation plan and costing of their preferred mechanism for consideration at PZJA 19 with a view to implementing them as per the PZJA decision on 2(d) on resource allocation. The implementation plan will include:
 - i. Ensuring the system is appropriate to the scale and status of the fishery;
 - ii. Ensuring capacity for effective enforcement;
 - iii. Assessing implications for stocks and fishers in adjacent jurisdictions;
 - iv. Conducting research to support setting of a Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) or Total Allowable Commercial Effort (TACE); and
 - v. Identifying legislative changes required.

4. *Maori wrasse*

- a. The PZJA **AGREED** to make Maori wrasse a no take species as recommended by the MAC.

5. *Red bass*

The PZJA:

- a. **NOTED** that the Working Group has reconsidered red bass being a no take species as requested at PZJA 17 and
- b. **AGREED** to allow the take of Red Bass and set the minimum legal length for Red Bass at 450mm and the maximum legal length at 550mm.

6. *Barramundi cod*

The PZJA:

- a. **REAFFIRMED** its decision to maintain a minimum size limit of 450mm until new biological advice becomes available when a review of this arrangement can be undertaken; and
- b. **AGREED** that further research on this species is a high priority.
- c. **NOTED** that CRC Torres Strait has approved funding for this study.

7. *Spanish mackerel Bramble Cay day time closure and troll only area*

- a. The PZJA **AGREED** to formalise long standing practices in waters surrounding Bramble Cay and Black Rocks by implementing:
 - i. a daily fishing closure between the hours of 0930 hrs and 1500 hrs during the months of August to December;
 - ii. a restriction on the fishing method to trolling only; and

- iii. that for these arrangements to apply only to TVH licences and only whilst they are fishing for Spanish mackerel.

8. Spanish mackerel Bramble Cay long term monitoring program

The PZJA **NOTED**:

- a. that the Queensland long-term monitoring program for Spanish Mackerel in the Torres Strait ceased in 2003 and that a voluntary program was put in place for 2004 with three commercial fishers participating;
- b. that the Finfish Working Group considered the voluntary sampling as commendable but that additional sampling must be undertaken to support a stock assessment for the fishery; and
- c. that an interim monitoring program will be implemented for the 2005 season whilst a more comprehensive program is developed for the longer term.

9. Barramundi Fishery

The PZJA **NOTED**:

- a. that the Finfish Working Group supported the Boigu Island proposal in-principle provided the issues of fishing capacity and bycatch are addressed; and
- b. that the Finfish Working Group encourages the completion of the report on the proposed net fishery and that this report be used as a guide in the development of the fishery.

10. Prohibition on shark finning and restriction on take

The PZJA:

- a. **NOTED** the release in May 2004 the *National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*;
- b. **NOTED** that the National Plan of Action has implications for the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery;
- c. **NOTED** that Traditional Inhabitants requested additional time to undertake further consultation on the proposal to prohibit the take tiger, grey nurse and hammerhead sharks and all other sharks over two metres;
- d. **NOTED** that the outcomes of this consultation will be reported on at PZJA 18;
- e. **AGREED** to prohibit the practice of ‘shark finning’ as defined in the National Plan of Action (the practice of removing the fins from a shark and discarding the torso to the sea);
- f. **NOTED** fisheries managers advised that grey nurse sharks are protected in NSW and Queensland and are listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and they should be a no-take species;
- g. **AGREED** to prohibit the take of:
 - i. sharks greater than two metres in length;

- ii. Hammerhead sharks
 - iii. Grey nurse sharks;
 - iv. Tiger sharks; and
- h. **NOTED** that the working group wish to refer these recommendations to the prawn working group but given that shark finning is already banned in the prawn fishery, there is no need for this reference.

Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Quota Management

1. The PZJA **NOTED** the following advice from fisheries managers:
 - a. the advice of the independent consultants is that the biological characteristics and the method of harvest make quota management suitable and feasible in this fishery. This is supported by fisheries managers;
 - b. that there will need to be amendments to the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* (Commonwealth) and *Fisheries Act 1994* (Queensland) before a QMS can be effectively implemented and that this cannot be done in time for the 2006 fishing season; and
 - c. that early advice from CSIRO is that recruitment will be weaker for 2006 and therefore additional controls are needed to ensure sustainability.
2. That the PZJA **AGREED** to implement a full quota management system in TRL Fishery for 2007 onwards.
3. That the PZJA **AGREED** that fisheries managers consult with the TRL Working Group members to develop:
 - a. a detailed implementation plan and costing for PZJA 19 consideration including:
 - i. ensuring the system is appropriate to the scale and status of the fishery;
 - ii. capacity for effective enforcement;
 - iii. implications for stocks and fishers in adjacent jurisdictions;
 - iv. research to support setting of a TACC; and
 - v. legislative changes required.
 - b. Following the development of a detailed implementation plan and costing, officials are to report back to PZJA out-of-session for a decision on those aspects of a QMS that can be introduced and funded for the 2006 season.
4. The PZJA **AGREED**:
 - a. that \$265,0000 in funding should be provided for a “pre-season” survey of 145 stations to be undertaken in November/December 2005 by the CSIRO (Yimin Ye), of which CSIRO is to contribute 35% of funding;
 - b. that the PZJA requests the TRL Resource Assessment Group to convene for the first time to provide advice on a sustainable catch limit for 2006 as soon as possible after the pre-season survey;

- c. that PZJA issues an investment warning for this fishery:
 - i. announcing that the basis for future allocation decisions have not been decided; and that
 - ii. should future allocation decision be based on catch history, it will be based on catches prior to February 2002 being the date of the previous investment warning.

Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Working Group Report

1. *Terms of Reference, reporting arrangements and operational guidelines for TRL Resource Assessment Group (RAG)*

- a. The PZJA **AGREED** to the draft terms of reference, reporting arrangements and operational guidelines for a TRL RAG (Torres Strait Fisheries Administration Paper 2. Fisheries Assessment Groups – Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships with Torres Strait Fisheries Working Groups, the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Committee, and the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee. AFMA 2005); and
- b. The PZJA **AGREED** for the Chair to write to Papua New Guinea and Queensland to formally invite them to participate in the RAG process with the ultimate aim of assessing the three jurisdictions jointly.

2. *Management Objectives*

- a. The PZJA **NOTED** that the TRL Working Group was not able to complete its work on management objectives but agreed to establish a subgroup to develop these and report back to the next meeting with an aim of completing the work, for decision at PZJA 19; and
- b. The PZJA **AGREED** that by PZJA 19 the TRL Resource Assessment Group develop comprehensive suite of reference points for the fishery consistent with the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* and the Treaty as well as *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requirements for strategic assessment.

3. *Hookah Register*

- a. The PZJA **AGREED** not to create a hookah register for the 2006 fishing season, but encourages all fishers to fill out the docket books in full.

4. *Prohibition on night diving*

- a. The PZJA **AGREED** to the TSFMAC recommendations on secure stowage of diving equipment in a sealed bag between 1900 hrs and 0600 hrs each day.

Beche-de-Mer Fishery Establishment of a Hand Collectibles Working Group

The PZJA **AGREED** to:

- 1. establish a *Hand Collectables Working Group* (HCWG) to include the beche-de-mer, trochus and pearl shell fisheries to provide the PZJA advice on issues relating to these fisheries, subject to funding being available.

Beche-de-Mer Fishery Strategic Assessment

The PZJA **AGREED** to endorse the:

1. draft ‘*Statement of Management Arrangements*’ for the Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery.
2. draft recommendations for the Bêche-de-mer Fishery; and the
3. WTO conditions for the Beche-de-mer Fishery.

Turtle and Dugong Fishery – Explanatory Note on Why T & D is a Fishery

1. The PZJA **NOTED** that the Torres Strait Turtle and Dugong Fisheries in the Australian jurisdiction of the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) are *fisheries* under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* (TSF Act) and are accordingly the responsibility of the PZJA.

Turtle and Dugong Fishery – NHT Update

The PZJA **NOTED**:

1. that the TSRA has contracted CRC Torres Strait to develop a Regional Action Plan for the Torres Strait component of the cross-regional Dugong and Turtle Project being administered by NAILSMA (North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance);
2. the draft Regional Action Plan was developed on the basis of the original TSRA proposal, which is consolidated through further consultative meetings and input from Community Fisher Group representatives, traditional hunters and the TSRA Executive. The Regional Action Plan was endorsed in principle by the TSRA Board at its recent meeting on 9 June, and has been submitted to NAILSMA in time for the budget allocation process amongst all participating regions to occur;
3. in anticipation of a possible shortfall in funding for the Torres Strait component of the cross-regional project, the TSRA is in the process of seeking supplementary funding through the Department, including additional NHT funds;
4. it is unlikely that any additional funds to support the Torres Strait component of the project will be available prior to the NAILSMA budget allocation process for all participating regions in late July 2005, after which further funding opportunities to supplement the Torres Strait component of the project will be explored;
5. the fully costed Regional Action Plan based on the components identified in the original TSRA proposal brings the anticipated budget for this project to a maximum of \$1.6 million;
6. TSRA is concerned to ensure that the outcomes under this project are not compromised by the insufficiency of funding to adequately support communities in their efforts to sustainably manage dugong and turtle in the region.

Turtle and Dugong Fishery Strategic Assessment

1. The PZJA **NOTED** the progress on the strategic assessment of the Torres Strait Turtle and Dugong Fishery.

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery – Progress on Negotiations with TSI and PNG

1. The PZJA **NOTED** that the Commonwealth would make a public announcement when it is in a position to do so.

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery – Process for Setting 2006 Effort Levels

The PZJA **NOTED**:

1. that the prawn alternative management workshop is scheduled to be held in Cairns on 26 -28 July 2006 followed by a meeting of the Prawn Working Group to formulate some advice for the PZJA, and that participants had been properly notified of these meetings and that the results of the meeting will form the basis for the future management of the fishery; and
2. the proposed process for bringing forward recommendations for the 2006 fishing season for the TS Prawn Fishery.

Compliance – Separation of FFV and Domestic Compliance Program

The PZJA **NOTED**:

1. that recent initiatives have been implemented to minimise Foreign Fishing Vessel (FFV) impacts on the PZJA compliance program and these appear to be working, albeit during a period of less demand from the FFV program on Thursday Island; and
2. The initiatives referred above include the provision of funding to QBFP to employ 2 additional staff on Thursday Island to deliver FFV compliance services. In future, the Commonwealth will deliver FFV compliance services by directly employing officers, rather than funding state/territory staff. Thus, there should be no opportunity for PZJA compliance resources to be diverted to FFV work; and
3. that the Commonwealth proposal to directly deliver FFV services should prevent any impacts on the PZJA compliance program in the longer term.

Compliance – Options for Improving Domestic Compliance Program

The PZJA:

1. **NOTED** the Report, in particular the options for enhancing the domestic compliance capabilities in the Torres Strait;

2. **AGREED** that a trial be undertaken using private charter vessels for 100 days per year for fisheries compliance purposes (noting the need for additional funding of approximately \$210,000 per year and the need to review the program after a period of time to determine its effectiveness);
3. **AGREED** to a review of those legislative provisions which currently hinder compliance efforts in the Torres Strait as part of a broader review of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*, including the feasibility of introducing penalty infringement notices;
4. **NOTED** that a report will be provided by DPI&F, AFMA, TSRA and managers to the next meeting of the PZJA, outlining the current process for determining a person's eligibility for a commercial fishing licence, including options for improving the current process;
5. **NOTED** that a report will be provided by DPI&F to the next meeting of the PZJA, outlining a proposal to introduce a customised registration sticker system which will improve compliance by allowing easy identification of TIB vessels; and
6. **NOTED** that the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has made a submission to the RAN, seeking the urgent charting of various Torres Strait waters as part of the RAN 'HydroScheme' programme.

Finances – Cost Recovery Policy and Implementation

The PZJA **AGREED** to:

1. implement cost recovery based on the principles in the current AFMA Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) as it applies to other Commonwealth fisheries, but noting that the PZJA may choose to depart from the percentages used in the CRIS.
2. release the draft policy on the application of cost recovery to different licence types for consultation through the PZJA consultative structure;
3. the development of a discussion paper detailing options and mechanisms to implement cost recovery in the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster, Finfish (reef line and Spanish mackerel fisheries), and Pearl Shell fisheries for consultation through the PZJA consultative structure. The discussion paper will include;
 - a. phased in cost recovery over 3 years at 40 percent, 70 percent and 100 percent respectively; and
 - b. consideration of options for allocating the cost per licence.

Finances – PZJA Budget

The PZJA **NOTED** the budget tabled by the Commonwealth for consideration out of session by members.

Fisheries Consultative Structure

The PZJA:

1. **AGREED** to the policy for the operation and administration of TSFMAC and Working Groups with a change to allow nomination of non-Islander members by industry associations.
2. **DETERMINED** the peak industry bodies that best represent the non-Indigenous commercial fishing sector and how many places are available to each for future meetings of the PZJA (QSIA 4, TSPEHA 2, QRLA 2); and
3. **AGREED** that those industry peak body/bodies be responsible for nominating non-Indigenous industry representatives for future stakeholder forums to take effect for PZJA 19 and beyond.

Legislation

The PZJA **NOTED**:

1. that the Border Protection Legislation Amendment (Deterrence of Illegal Foreign Fishing) Bill 2005 (the Bill) has now passed through the House of Representatives and is due to be introduced into the Senate in the winter 2005 parliamentary sitting.
2. the progress made on amending the term 'fishing' in the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* for the purposes of better controlling fishing effort;
3. the declaration of a sponge fishery is being progressed, and will be complete by the end of 2005; and
4. the progress of the National Oceans Office 'Torres Strait Treaty Natural Resource Management Governance Review' project as the basis for a review of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.

PZJA Annual Report 2003/04

1. The PZJA **AGREED** to endorse and sign out of session the *Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority Annual Report 2003-04*.

PZJA Out-of-Session Decisions

The PZJA **CONFIRMED** the out-of-session:

1. endorsement of the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery strategic assessment report for submission to the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH), as a decision of the PZJA; and
2. decision to the change in format of future PZJA meetings to a stakeholder meeting on day one and the Authority meeting on day two, as a decision of the PZJA.

Dated this

day of

2005

IAN MACDONALD

Commonwealth Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation

Chairman of the Protected Zone Joint Authority

For and on behalf of the Protected Zone Joint Authority