



Meeting No. 20

26 October 2006

SUMMARY RECORD

1. The twentieth meeting of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) was held in the Torres Strait Regional Authority office on Thursday Island on Thursday 26 October 2006. It was preceded by the Stakeholder Forum on Wednesday 25 October at the same venue.
2. The Stakeholder Forum and the Authority meetings were chaired by the Chair of the PZJA, Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, the Australian Government Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation. The remaining PZJA members, the Hon Tim Mulherin MP, Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, and Mr John T. Kris, Chair of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) attended the PZJA Stakeholder Forum and the Authority meeting.
3. The list of those in attendance at the Stakeholder Forum is at **Appendix A**. A list of those at the PZJA Authority Meeting is **Appendix B**.

Agenda

4. The Stakeholder Forum and PZJA meeting agendas are at **Appendix C**.

Outcomes

5. The outcomes from the PZJA meeting are annexed at **Appendix D**.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - STAKEHOLDER FORUM (25 OCTOBER 2006)

PZJA Members

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Australian Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Chair)

The Hon Tim Mulherin MP, Queensland Minister for Primary Industries & Fisheries

Mr John T Kris, Chairman of the Torres Strait Regional Authority

Delegations

Australian Government

Mr Duncan Souter, Fisheries Advisor,
Australian Government Minister

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

Ms Dorothea Huber, Senior Manager
Northern Fisheries, AFMA

Mr Jim Prescott, Torres Strait Fisheries
Manager, AFMA

Ms Kirsten MacLean, Fisheries
Management Officer, AFMA

Samantha Emerick, Fisheries
Management Officer, AFMA

Mr Glenn Hurry, Executive Manager,
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Forestry (DAFF)

Ms Britt Maxwell, Director, Torres Strait
Fisheries, DAFF

Mr Stuart Stark, PZJA, Senior Policy
Officer, DAFF

Ms Suzy Wilson, Treaty Liaison Officer,
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Queensland Government

Mr Kristian Holz, Advisor, Queensland
Minister

Mr Grant Hall, Deputy Director General,
Queensland Department of Primary
Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F)

Mr Jim Gillespie, General Manger,
Fisheries Resource Management,
QDPI&F

Mr Shane Gaddes, Senior Fisheries
Management Officer, QDPI&F

Mr Lyndon Peddel, District Officer,
Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol

Torres Strait Regional Authority

Mr Wayne See Kee, General Manager

Mr Toshio Nakata, Fisheries Coordinator

Mr Marcus Finn, Fisheries Policy Officer

Mr Damian Miley, Manager, Land and
Water Unit

Stakeholders

Community Fishers

Mr Willy Wigness, Horn Island

Mr Yen Loban, Prince of Wales Island

Mr Kila Odo, Murray Island

Mr Charles David, Yam Island

Mr Solomon (Manai) Nona, Badu Island

Mr Frances Pearson, Poruma Island

Queensland Seafood Industry Association

Dr Ray Moore

Mr Carl D'Aguiar

Queensland Tropical Rock Lobster Association

Mr James Fogarty

Mr Brett Arlidge

Torres Strait Prawn Entitlement Holders Association (by telephone 26 October 2006)

Mr Mark Millward

Ms Rosemary Millward

APPENDIX B

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - AUTHORITY MEETING (26 OCTOBER 2006)

PZJA Members

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, Australian Government Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation (Chair)

The Hon Tim Mulherin MP, Queensland Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries

Mr John T Kris, Chairman of the Torres Strait Regional Authority

Delegations

Australian Government

Mr Duncan Souter, Fisheries Advisor,
Australian Government Minister

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

Ms Dorothea Huber, Senior Manager
Northern Fisheries, AFMA

Mr Jim Prescott, Torres Strait Fisheries
Manager, AFMA

Mr Glenn Hurry, Executive Manager,
Fisheries and Forestry Division,
Australian Government Department of
Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
(DAFF)

Ms Britt Maxwell, Director, Torres Strait
Fisheries, DAFF

Mr Stuart Stark, Senior Policy Officer,
Torres Strait Fisheries, DAFF

Queensland Government

Mr Kristian Holz, Advisor, Queensland
Minister

Mr Grant Hall, Deputy Director General,
Queensland Department of Primary
Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F)

Mr Jim Gillespie, General Manger,
Fisheries Resource Management,
QDPI&F

Mr Shane Gaddes, Senior Fisheries
Management Officer, QDPI&F

Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

Mr Wayne See Kee, General Manager

Mr Marcus Finn, Fisheries Policy Officer

Mr Damian Miley, Manager, Land and
Water Unit, TSRA

 <p>Torres Strait PZJA Protected Zone Joint Authority</p> <p>Queensland Government</p>	<p>TORRES STRAIT PROTECTED ZONE JOINT AUTHORITY</p>	<p>Meeting No. 20 25-26 October 2006</p>
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MEETING SCHEDULE

DAY ONE – ‘Stakeholder Forum’ Wednesday 25 October 2006

15:30	Stakeholder Forum commences TSRA Board Room
17:30 to 17:45	Break Afternoon tea
17:45	Forum resumes
19:30	Stakeholder Forum concludes
20:00	Dinner

DAY TWO – Authority Meeting, Thursday 26 October 2006

8:30	Authority Meeting commences TSRA Board Room
10:30-10:45	Break Afternoon tea
10:45	Authority Meeting continues
12:30	Authority Meeting concludes
12:30-1:30	Lunch

 	TORRES STRAIT PROTECTED ZONE JOINT AUTHORITY	PZJA 20 Stakeholder Forum 25 October 2006
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DAY ONE - STAKEHOLDER FORUM AGENDA

Opening Comments

- 1 Community Fisher Engagement
- 2 TRL Fishery
 - 2.1 Update on Management Plan
 - 2.2 Outcomes from the TRL RAG
 - 2.3 Options for 2007 Management Arrangements
- 3 Finfish Fishery - Update on Draft Management Plan and Options for 2007 Management Arrangements
- 4 Allocation Issues
 - 4.1 AAP Finfish Report
 - 4.2 AAP TRL Report
 - 4.3 Data for Allocation Purposes
 - 4.4 Community Fishing Allocation Options
- 5 Prawn Fishery
 - 5.1 2007 Management Arrangements
 - 5.2 Management Plan
 - 5.3 Observer Program
 - 5.4 Bycatch Reduction Workshop
 - 5.5 Prawn Budget
- 6 Turtle and Dugong Fishery
 - 6.1 Outcomes of Consultation on Strategic Assessment Report
 - 6.2 Update on NAILSMA Process
- 7 PZJA Consultative Structure
 - 7.1 Process for Bringing Matters to the PZJA
 - 7.2 Roles and Membership
 - 7.3 Appointments
 - 7.4 PZJA Standing Committee Role
- 8 Torres Strait Fisheries Legislative Amendments

- 9 Long Term Policy
 - 9.1 Commonwealth Harvest Strategy
 - 9.2 Aquaculture in the Torres Strait
- 10 Compliance
 - 10.1 Licence Sticker System
 - 10.2 Domestic Compliance Update
 - 10.3 Foreign Compliance Update
- 11 Outcomes of PNG Bilateral Meeting

<p>Torres Strait PZJA Protected Zone Joint Authority</p>   <p>Queensland Government</p>	<p>TORRES STRAIT PROTECTED ZONE JOINT AUTHORITY</p>	<p>PZJA 20 Authority Meeting 26 October 2006</p>
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DAY TWO – AUTHORITY MEETING AGENDA

Opening Comments

- 1 Community Fisher Engagement
- 2 TRL Fishery
 - 2.1 Update on Management Plan
 - 2.2 Outcomes from the TRL RAG
 - 2.3 Options for 2007 Management Arrangements
- 3 Finfish Fishery - Update on Draft Management Plan and Options for 2007 Management Arrangements
- 4 Allocation Issues
 - 4.1 AAP Finfish Report
 - 4.2 AAP TRL Report
 - 4.3 Data for Allocation Purposes
 - 4.4 Community Fishing Allocation Options
- 5 Prawn Fishery
 - 5.1 2007 Management Arrangements
 - 5.2 Management Plan
 - 5.3 Observer Program
 - 5.4 Bycatch Reduction Workshop
- 6 Turtle and Dugong Fishery
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- 10 Compliance
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 - 10.2 Domestic Compliance Update
 - 10.3 Foreign Compliance Update
- 11 Outcomes of PNG Bilateral Meeting
- 12 Standing Committee Report and Project Plan
- 13 Infrastructure and Budget
- 14 Other Business

Record of Meeting - PZJA 20

COMMUNITY FISHER ENGAGEMENT

1.1 In relation to community fisher engagement in the Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) fishery, the PZJA:

- (a) **NOTED** that the Community Fisher Group (CFG):
 - (i) believe that new data being provided from the TRL Resource Assessment Group indicates that they would only be allocated 190-200 tonnes of (live) quota in the 2006 season if a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) were established;
 - (ii) believe that this would not achieve the intention of the PZJA 18 resource allocation decisions in the TRL fishery to “transition towards greater traditional inhabitant allocation” because 190-200 tonnes is about what they have historically caught and it would not provide sufficient additional capacity for them to buy more quota;
 - (iii) will re-engage in the PZJA consultative process, but noting that they believed the 50:50 resource allocation issue needed to be resolved in light of the new data/information before any further issues were dealt with.
- (b) **NOTED** concerns that the parties have expressed on the tender:
 - (i) by the Transferable Vessel Holder (TVH) sector in the TRL fishery that it would like an idea of new management arrangements, a provisional TAC and a final allocation formula before the tender is conducted;
 - (ii) by community fishers that they would like whole packages targeted in the tender.
- (c) **NOTED** the goodwill shown by Queensland and Commonwealth Governments in agreeing to accelerate the tender process, and in response to this goodwill the PZJA urges the CFG to reengage in the development of a management plan, noting that the management plan will not be finalised until after the tender process is completed;
- (d) **REAFFIRMED** that a management plan will be developed as part of the funding agreement for the tender;
- (e) **ACCEPTED** and **ACKNOWLEDGED** the CFG and Islander aspirations to increase their access to the TRL resource and move to a greater proportional allocation in the TRL fishery to provide for long term economic development for Torres Strait Islanders, noting that:
 - (i) fisheries management models adopted in indigenous fisheries in other countries such as New Zealand may provide some guidance in this area;

- (ii) the reports being prepared by Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) and the CFG consultancy will provide advice on impediments to economic development in the Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) sector, and possible mechanisms to achieve their economic aspirations in the fishery;
- (f) **AGREED:**
- (i) to defer the implementation of PZJA resource allocation decision for TRL and further discussion on the issue at this time;
 - (ii) as a first step to conduct the tender process to reduce TVH capacity in the TRL fishery to the limit of funds available;
 - (iii) at the same time continue the development of and finalise a management plan for the TRL fishery;
 - (iv) at the completion of the tender process, re-evaluate and discuss with the TVH and TIB sectors the outcome of the tender process; and
 - (v) engage with stakeholders with the objective of identifying desired allocation between sectors (and a pathway to achieving that goal and other aspirations) for the long term economic development of the Torres Strait (in the context of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*).

1.2 In respect of the Finfish Fishery, the PZJA:

- (a) **NOTED** that the Community Fishers involved in the Finfish Working Group have clarified that they:
- (i) are concerned that the PZJA 18 decision on the 10 nautical mile (nm) area exclusion zones will be reconsidered after the implementation of the Finfish tender;
 - (ii) believe that a 50:50 resource allocation in the Finfish fishery with a 10 nm area closure is an acceptable first step for them but that their ultimate aim is for 100% of the Torres Strait Finfish fishery;
 - (iii) remind the PZJA of the opportunity to buy-out the non-Indigenous sector to move to 100% of the fishery for the indigenous sector;
 - (iv) will continue their involvement in PZJA consultative processes;
- (b) **NOTED** the concerns expressed by the TVH sector:
- (i) in relation to the proposed 10 nm area closures and reaffirms its commitment to reconsider the issue after the results of the tender process are known and requested AFMA and QDPI&F, in consultation with TSRA, the TIB and TVH sectors, to develop alternative fisheries management options to consider at PZJA 21;
 - (ii) in relation to where the allocation for the PNG share of the Reefline fishery would come from should PNG express a desire to catch share in this fishery under the Treaty and that the Australian Government will respond to this concern following further consultation;
- (c) **NOTED** the goodwill shown by Queensland and Commonwealth Governments in agreeing to accelerate the tender process and in response to this goodwill the PZJA

urges the TVH sector to reengage in the development of a management plan, noting that the management plan will not be finalised until after the tender process is completed;

- (d) **REAFFIRMED** that a management plan will be developed as part of the funding agreement for the tender;
- (e) **ACCEPTED** and **ACKNOWLEDGED** the CFG and Islander aspirations to increase their access to the Finfish resource and move to a greater proportional allocation in the Finfish fishery to provide for long term economic development for Torres Strait Islanders, noting that:
 - (i) fisheries management models adopted in indigenous fisheries in other countries such as New Zealand may provide some guidance in this area;
 - (ii) the reports being prepared by ABARE and the CFG consultancy will provide advice on impediments to economic development in the TIB sector, and possible mechanisms to achieve their economic aspirations in the fishery;
- (f) **AGREED** to:
 - (i) defer the implementation of PZJA resource allocation decision for Finfish fishery and further discussion on the issue at this time;
 - (ii) as a first step to conduct the tender process to reduce TVH capacity in the Finfish fishery to the limit of funds available;
 - (iii) at the same time continue the development of and finalise a management plan for the Finfish fishery;
 - (iv) that the Finfish tender and management plan process will proceed at the same time as in the TRL fishery;
 - (v) at the completion of the tender process, re-evaluate and discuss with the TVH and TIB sectors the outcome of the tender process;
 - (vi) engage with stakeholders with the objective of identifying desired allocation between sectors (and a pathway to achieving that goal and other aspirations) for the long term economic development of the Torres Strait (in the context of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*).

TRL FISHERY – Update on Management Plan

2.1 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) the update on the progress of developing a draft management plan and quota management system (QMS) for the Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) fishery;
- (b) islander concerns raised in 1.1, that the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (TSFMAC) considers that until the concerns raised in 1.1 are resolved it will be impossible to successfully introduce new management arrangements and the PZJA response set out in 1.1;
- (c) that following the planned tender process, 25% of the catch in the Australian jurisdiction will be held in trust to meet catch sharing obligations with PNG;
- (d) following annual catch sharing negotiations with PNG if there is additional catch held in trust that is not required to meet catch sharing obligations with PNG:

- (i) the TSFMAC recommendation that the TIB sector be given first preference to accessing this catch in the Australian jurisdiction;
 - (ii) that this is a matter for determination by the Australian Government, rather than the PZJA, following consultation with Papua New Guinea;
- (e) TSFMAC industry representative's views that any reallocation of resources from the TVH sector should be linked to a voluntary adjustment process, with appropriate financial compensation;
- (f) that the resource sustainability of TRL may potentially be jeopardised by a delay in the introduction of a quota-based management plan, however this must be kept in context that the fishery has a long history under input management; and
- (g) that greater community-based consultation is required to introduce a quota management system for TRL.

TRL FISHERY – Outcomes from the TRL RAG

2.2.1 The PZJA **NOTED** that the TRL Resource Assessment Group (RAG) convened for a second time on 9-10th August 2006 and:

- (a) reviewed the 2006 stock assessment for the TRL fishery, which indicates that, with the exception of 2 years, the fishery is fully but not over-fished;
- (b) agreed on a new management objective for the fishery (below);
- (c) agreed that two fishery independent surveys (pre- and mid-season) should be conducted for at least the next two years while the possibility of reducing the program to a single survey is evaluated;
- (d) proposed a system to provide TAC advice for each season in three steps, commencing using mid season survey data to forecast a TAC 2.5 years in advance, preliminary TAC advice several months in advance, and final TAC advice approximately 3-4 months after a season commences; and
- (e) discussed, in very preliminary terms, a harvest strategy for the fishery (in light of proposals to develop a Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy).

2.2.2 The PZJA **NOTED** that the second meeting of the RAG was considered by all participants to have been extremely productive.

2.2.3 The PZJA **AGREED** to the management objective 1 for the TRL fishery as follows:

Objective 1: To maintain the spawning stock at levels that meet or exceed the level required to produce the maximum sustainable yield.

2.2.4 The PZJA **NOTED** that, in addition to the review function performed by the RAG's independent scientist, a further independent review of the stock assessment is being sought from a suitably qualified scientist.

2.2.5 The PZJA **NOTED** the expected outputs from the RAG over the next 12 months are as follows:

- (a) preliminary TAC advice for 2007 sometime from October 2006 onwards depending on the availability of the catch data from 2006; and
- (b) final TAC advice for the 2007 season flowing from the next meeting of the RAG that is expected to be in late March 2007.

2.2.6 The PZJA **AGREED**:

- (a) the cost/benefit of expanded pre-season surveys is investigated and compared with the cost/benefit of conducting the pre-season benchmark surveys (if this is determined to otherwise be necessary);
- (b) the empirical model should be used periodically to check the population-based and stock recruitment relationship-based models in setting the TAC;
- (c) there is a RAG meeting in October and March the following year to assess the data/information from the mid-season and pre-season surveys and accompanying assessments subject to available funds under cost sharing arrangements;
- (d) a targeted CSIRO study be undertaken to provide accurate conversion ratio information for both live lobsters and tail only and at varying times from the point of taking the lobsters out of the water onwards;
- (e) pre-season and mid-season surveys should be extended to include a survey of the area from the southern boundary of the Torres Strait Fishery to the northern boundary of the green zone in the East Coast fishery; and
- (f) ABARE be requested to prepare a report on the economic performance of the Torres Strait TRL fishery and agency officers would decide the best way to do this.

2.2.7 The PZJA **NOTED** the TAC set for the TRL and the proposed quota-based management arrangements aim to ensure that the sustainability objective of the Management Plan is met.

2.2.8 The PZJA **REQUESTED** that future recommendations from the RAG be provided in the form of costed options.

TRL FISHERY – Options for 2007 Management Arrangements

2.3.1 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) that in the absence of a TRL management plan in 2007, which would give effect to a new output management system, interim arrangements need to be put into place to manage effort in the fishery in 2007;
- (b) past interim management arrangements have not been entirely successful in controlling fishing effort but have played an important role; and
- (c) whilst past interim arrangements have restricted effort in all sectors, there have been some problems of equity within the non-community sector that have yet to be fully resolved.

2.3.2 The PZJA **AGREED** to extend 2006 arrangements to 2007 to:

- (a) reduce by 30% the number of tenders each non-community licence holder may use, by applying the same conditions on licences that were applied during 2006;
- (b) reintroduce “moon/tide hookah closures” three days before, on, and three days after, either the full or new moon each month during the months of February to September inclusive by applying appropriate conditions on each TVH and TIB licence.

2.3.3 The PZJA **NOTED** that:

- (a) the TSFMAC has requested the TRL working group to consider further effort reduction arrangements pending TAC advice from the RAG in April 2007; and
- (b) the TSFMAC believes there are benefits in accelerating the tender process.

2.3.4 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) the PZJA Standing Committee supports the provision of final advice from the TRL RAG on a TAC for the 2007 calendar year by April 2007; and
- (b) the PZJA Standing Committee believes there should be a mid-year review of the interim 2007 management arrangements if there is a significant likelihood of the recommended TAC being exceeded by 20% or more.

FINFISH FISHERY - Update on Draft Management Plan and 2007 Management Arrangements

3.1 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) PNG officials expressed a desire to resume catch sharing arrangements in the Spanish mackerel fishery at the recent Papua New Guinea (PNG) bilateral fisheries talks;
- (b) increased participation in the Spanish mackerel fishery by either Australia or PNG is likely to have adverse affects on the sustainability of the Spanish mackerel stock;
- (c) the commercial sectors concerns regarding potential (Torres Strait Treaty) Article 23 implications for the reef-line fishery and its impact on the allocation of resources between sectors and the tender process.

3.2 The PZJA **AGREED**:

- (a) to continue the current management arrangements in the Reef Line and Spanish mackerel fisheries in 2007 until the drafting of the management plan has been completed;
- (b) to closely monitor activity in the Spanish mackerel fishery and any *significant* increases in catch or effort will trigger a mid season review of management arrangements;
- (c) *Significant* in the context of (ii) means changes both up and down in catch or effort of up to 20% in one year or 30% in two years, noting that these trigger points may be affected by the implementation of Management Plans.

ALLOCATION ISSUES – Allocation Advisory Panel TRL Report

4.1.1 The PZJA **NOTED** the following TSFMAC comments on the draft Allocation Advisory Panel (AAP) TRL report:

- (a) the TSFMAC considered the consultation process undertaken by the AAP to be sufficient;
- (b) individual TRL Fishery licence holders were responsible for expressing their individual preferences and concerns directly to the AAP through the established consultative processes;

- (c) the TSFMAC has recommended that DAFF advise the AAP about the extended timelines for the implementation of resource allocation and the proposed data verification process by AFMA and seek the AAP's view if this would alter the final allocation recommendations of the panel;
- (d) the TSFMAC supports the PZJA reconvening the AAP at a later date to reconsider the recommendations provided in its final report when the verified data has been provided by AFMA; and
- (e) the TSFMAC supports the exceptional circumstance proposals outlined in the draft AAP TRL report.

4.1.2 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) the AAP submitted a final report to the PZJA on 11 October 2006 for the Torres Strait TRL Fishery;
- (b) the AAP has considered TSFMAC recommendation 4.1.1;
- (c) based on available data, the AAP believes that there are compelling arguments against the inclusion of "catch history" in the method to allocate fishing concessions in the TVH sector of the fishery;
- (d) the AAP has considered the advice that AFMA is currently undertaking a data verification process that may potentially address the AAP concerns for incorporating "catch history" in an allocation formula and, as such, the AAP has provided an alternative recommendation which is subject to:
 - (i) the results of the data verification process;
 - (ii) a re-evaluation of the alternative formula using verified catch data; and
- (e) the AAP is not aware of any circumstances that require any rules for transfer, amalgamation or separation of fishing concessions in order to maintain the intent of the allocation process.

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.

4.1.4 The PZJA **NOTED** that there was sufficient time for further consultation with stakeholders and **REQUESTED** the AAP to conduct such further consultation with the aim of providing a final report in March 2007 taking account of:

- (a) stakeholder comments;
- (b) provision of general criteria for exceptional circumstances and evidence standards to support claims against general criteria; and
- (c) any data provided by AFMA under 4.3.

ALLOCATION ISSUES – AAP Finfish Report

4.2.1 The PZJA **NOTED** the following TSFMAC comments on the draft Allocation Advisory Panel Finfish report:

- (a) the TSFMAC considered the consultation process undertaken by the AAP to be sufficient;
- (b) individual Finfish Fishery licence holders were responsible for expressing their individual preferences and concerns directly to the AAP through the established consultative processes;
- (c) the TSFMAC expressed a preference for the allocation principles contained in Recommendation 1 subject to agencies being able to provide adequate data that was verified against individual licence holder's personal records;
- (d) the TSFMAC supports the PZJA reconvening the AAP at a later date to reconsider the recommendations provided in its final report when the verified data has been provided by AFMA;
- (e) the TSFMAC has referred back to the FFWG the task of developing and validating the effort to catch conversion factor in the reef-line and Spanish mackerel fisheries;
- (f) the TSFMAC requested that in its final report, the AAP should consider reviewing whether the use of pre 1999 data in the reef line allocation process was appropriate, noting that Queensland and Finfish Industry representatives raised legal and jurisdictional concerns about the use of this data in the proposed allocation methodologies; and
- (g) the TSFMAC requested that in its final report, the AAP should consider the merits of allowing "recent entrants" (according to established Queensland fisheries practice) to the finfish fisheries to use post 2002 catch data under the grounds for exceptional circumstances.

4.2.2 The PZJA **NOTED** that:

- (a) the AAP submitted a final report to the PZJA on 11 October 2006 for the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery;
- (b) the AAP considered TSFMAC recommendation 4.2.1;
- (c) based on available data, the AAP believes that there are currently compelling arguments against the inclusion of "catch history" for all licence holders in the method to allocate fishing concessions in the TVH sector of the fishery and accordingly, the recommendations of the AAP contain a "best of" formula that can be applied to account for licence holders who may not be able to verify their catch history;
- (d) the AAP has considered the advice that AFMA is currently undertaking a data verification process that may potentially address the AAP concerns for incorporating "catch history" for all licences in an allocation formula and, as such, the AAP has provided alternative recommendations for allocation formulae which are subject to:
 - (i) the results of the data verification process and;
 - (ii) a re-evaluation of the alternative formula using the verified catch data;
- (e) the AAP is not aware of any circumstances that require any rules for transfer, amalgamation or separation of fishing concessions in order to maintain the intent of the allocation process.

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.

4.2.4 The PZJA **NOTED** that there was sufficient time for further consultation with stakeholders and **REQUESTED** the AAP to conduct such further consultation with the aim of providing a final report in March 2007 taking account of:

- (a) stakeholder comments;
- (b) provision of general criteria for exceptional circumstances and evidence standards to support claims against general criteria; and
- (c) any data provided by AFMA under 4.3.

ALLOCATION ISSUES – Data for Allocation Purposes

4.3.1 The PZJA **NOTED** that:

- (a) TSFMAC considers that reliable catch data are important to the allocation of resources between PNG, islander and non-islander sectors and the tender process, that the correction and verification of these data should be given the highest priority to inform recommendations/decisions on appropriate allocation mechanisms by the PZJA;
- (b) this data is important for the purpose of establishing a “starting point” on current catch between sectors in relevant fisheries in order to conduct the voluntary licence surrender process;
- (c) data from logbooks and docket books and other relevant sources have been entered into the AFMA databases;
- (d) there have been ongoing and unexpected delays in data processing/correction;
- (e) the AFMA Data Section in Canberra is currently undertaking a number processes to correct data that were submitted either incorrectly or incompletely so that they can be used for the purposes of establishing catch ratios of the community and non-community sector;
- (f) AFMA Systems Section has installed software in the Thursday Island office which will make it possible for the final corrections to be made to the data; and
- (g) it will not be until the correction work has finally commenced that it will be possible to forecast the time that will be needed to complete the work.

4.3.2 The PZJA **NOTED** that once the data have been corrected they will be sent to individual fishers to verify that the records held by AFMA accurately reflect the catches that they have taken in the relevant fishery and that:

- (a) the success of this part of the project will hinge on individuals cross validating the figures provided by AFMA with their own records; and

- (b) submitting figures to AFMA to assist in any corrections that may need to be made quickly.

4.3.3 The PZJA **AGREED** that AFMA and Queensland will work towards addressing catch history concerns for the AAP for allocation purposes by March 2007 and that the Standing Committee will oversee this process.

ALLOCATION ISSUES – Community Fishing Allocation Options

4.4.1 The PZJA **NOTED** that the Indigenous fishing sector would like to work under a competitive TAC in the TRL fishery for the first two years of a quota system while they assess other options for internal quota allocation. The same arrangements were agreed to for the Finfish fishery under PZJA decision 19.4.2(b)(i).

4.4.2 The PZJA **NOTED:**

- (a) the TSRA-funded consultancy requested by the Community Fisher Group, with the report to be completed by, and provided to, PZJA 21 (July 2007);
- (b) ABARE has proposed to undertake a report on impediments to economic development in the Islander sector;
- (c) DAFF is in discussions with the TSRA and Indigenous Business Australia to explore options for progressing Islander aspirations of a 70:30 share of the TRL fishery; and
- (d) DAFF and TSRA are collaborating on these projects to ensure the implementation of PZJA 19.2D.2 requirements.

4.4.3 The TSFMAC recommends DAFF and the TSRA should collaborate in moving these processes forward.

4.4.4 The PZJA:

- (a) **AGREED** that the Torres Strait Indigenous commercial fishers work under a competitive TAC/TAE for the first two years of a quota management system in both the TRL and Finfish fisheries; and
- (b) **REQUESTED** that PZJA agencies continue to collaborate, sharing information generated with the TSRA and CFG to allow the Indigenous fishing sector to choose the most appropriate quota sharing arrangement for implementation after the 2 year period of a competitive quota system.

ALLOCATION ISSUES – Appeals

4.5 The PZJA **NOTED:**

- (a) that appeals of allocation decisions made under Management Plans could be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and that determinations of the AAT could be appealed in the Federal Court of Australia;
- (b) the Australian Government is conducting a review of appeals mechanisms available under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*; and
- (c) any changes to the current appeals process would be consulted with stakeholders and, in the context of the Torres Strait fisheries, implemented, in conjunction with proposed legislative amendments to the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.

PRAWN FISHERY – 2007 Management Arrangements

5.1.1 The PZJA **NOTED:**

- (a) the preliminary analysis of the trends in catch and effort for the 2006 season that indicate an above average stock biomass for tiger and to a lesser extent endeavour prawn during the 2006 season; and
- (b) the TSPEHA believes the healthy state of the stock is not a result of the cuts in effort to the fishery but a result of previous management arrangements.

5.1.2 The PZJA **AGREED** that management arrangements for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (TSPF) for 2006 be rolled over for the 2007 season, while the Management Plan for the fishery is being developed. Specific roll-over provisions, which will be resolved in the long term through the development of the management plan and the introduction of an effort-based unit system, include:

- (a) a total allowable effort cap of 9,200 days for the fishery;
- (b) allowing the trade in any quantity of whole days;
- (c) a minimum holding of 34 days during 2007; and
- (d) the boat replacement policy being suspended during 2007 in order to further assist the industry to restructure itself.

5.1.3 The PZJA **NOTED:**

- (a) the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC) recommendation to adopt a Fisheries Management Notice (FMN) to modify the specifications for Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs) in the fishery to comply with the United States requirements for import approval; and
- (b) the TSPEHA disagreement with the flotation requirements of the FMN.

5.1.4 The PZJA **AGREED** to:

- (a) roll-over the 2006 management arrangements for the TSPF for the 2007 season;
- (b) adopt a FMN as presented to the meeting but amended to remove flotation requirements; and
- (c) refer the issue of flotation specifications and maintenance of the United States export certification back to the TSPMAC for advice before the commencement of the 2007 season.

5.1.5 The PZJA **NOTED:**

- (a) that the TSPF is the only commercial fishery in the Torres Strait that Islanders do not hold licences in and that in its operations it is more characteristic of other Australian Government-managed fisheries;
- (b) that effect will be given to the 2007 management arrangements for the TSPF through conditions on the licences issued by the QDPI&F on behalf of the PZJA;
- (c) that the PZJA Standing Committee strongly supported the proposed minimum holding of 34 fishing days to encourage trading of effort and autonomous adjustment of the fishery; and

- (d) the likelihood that current exemptions from minimum holding of 34 days during 2007 will not apply under management plans (expected to commence in 2008).

PRAWN FISHERY – Management Plan

5.2.1 The PZJA **AGREED** that the draft Management Plan be provided to the Office of Legislative Drafting (OLD) subject to further revision in light of TSPEHA comments and a further review by the PZJA agencies in order to produce a draft Management Plan that can be used for wider consultation and provide the basis of a Regulatory Impact Statement.

5.2.2 The PZJA **NOTED Attachment 5A** on clarification of units from the June 2006 TSPMAC meeting.

5.2.3 The PZJA:

- (a) **NOTED** the TSPEHA request that the days system established by the 1992/93 and 1993/94 PZJA decisions be rolled over into the management plan such that allocated fishing days continue to be the time based effort unit in the Torres Strait prawn fishery; and
- (b) **REAFFIRMED** its decision on PZJA 19.15.4 (c) that the management plan will adopt a unitised system where fishing access units are a proportion of the sustainable effort meaning that a unit will be 1/9200th of the TAE and this may result in units worth part days; and
- (c) **NOTED** that accommodation of industry concerns about banks had been made by allowing the conditions on licences to be expressed as the full multiplication of units by their unit value resulting in a number of days.

PRAWN FISHERY – Observer Program

5.3 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) the 2005 trip report for the observer program in the fishery; and
- (b) that the AFMA observer program will make the 2006 report available before March 2007.

PRAWN FISHERY – Bycatch Reduction Workshop

5.4.1 The PZJA **NOTED** that the TSPMAC recommended:

- (a) the Australian Maritime College, CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research (Cleveland) and AFMA invite and encourage Torres Strait prawn fishers to attend the industry workshop scheduled for late November 2006 to evaluate the potential of a range of new, innovative options to reduce bycatch in prawn trawl fisheries; and
- (b) that the PZJA request agencies to identify funding opportunities to encourage attendance at the workshop by TSP Industry.

5.4.2 The PZJA further **NOTED**:

- (a) the Bycatch Reduction Workshop is a Northern Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (NORMAC) initiative;

- (b) Torres Strait industry participants have been invited to participate on an opportunistic basis; and
- (c) costs should be met by licence holders.

5.4.3 The PZJA **NOTED** there was an error in Paragraph 1 of the Background section of the Agenda Paper supporting this decision (PZJA 20 Agenda Item 5.4) which overstated bycatch reduction targets.

PRAWN FISHERY - Finances

5.5.1 The PZJA:

- (a) **NOTED** the expenditure against the 2005/06 AFMA budget for the fishery;
- (b) **AGREED** that the levy for the fishery in 2007 continues to be calculated using the current formula for fixed and variable components;
- (c) **NOTED** that options are being considered for the calculation of levies under a unit-based system beyond 2007; and
- (d) **NOTED** the TSPEHA request that greater accountability is provided in the development and implementation of agreed budgets.

TURTLE & DUGONG FISHERY – Outcomes of Consultation on Strategic Assessment Report

6.1 The PZJA **NOTED** that:

- (a) AFMA, with assistance from the TSRA and DEH, has carried out extensive consultation with Torres Strait communities on the Turtle and Dugong Fishery Strategic Assessment Report;
- (b) a number of submissions including some from Torres Strait communities have been received during the public comment period which closed on 8 September 2006;
- (c) AFMA is currently reviewing those comments and, in light of those comments, will be submitting a final Turtle and Dugong Fishery Strategic Assessment Report for consideration by the PZJA for submission to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage;
- (d) the TSFMAC noted the significance of the impacts of this report and that it requires full and thorough consideration and that the TSFMAC will consider the report out of session;
- (e) the TSFMAC has asked the CFG to convene a working group of interested parties to provide for the continued interface between the TSFMAC and the Department of the Environment and Heritage in preparing recommendations to the TSFMAC on the assessment report; and
- (f) the TSFMAC recommended that the PZJA consider the final report out-of-session before providing it to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

TURTLE AND DUGONG FISHERY – Update on NAILSMA Process

6.2 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) the NAILSMA project is gaining momentum and there is general support in the participating communities for the project; and
- (b) the TSRA has only been successful in securing funding for NAILSMA activities in eight out of the 22 Torres Strait communities.

PZJA CONSULTATIVE STRUCTURE – Process for bringing matters to the PZJA

7.1.1 The PZJA **NOTED** the TSFMAC has advised stakeholders that as a first preference, matters to be brought before the PJZA be referred through the appropriate PZJA consultative mechanism, noting that the PZJA consultative mechanisms, including specific working groups, provide a robust and transparent avenue for input into PZJA decisions and communication with PZJA Members.

7.1.2 The TSPMAC noted the recommendation and acknowledges the formal consultation process and agrees in principle to the structure and process, but this process should not exclude stakeholders pursuing other processes as necessary.

7.1.3 The PZJA **NOTED** the PZJA consultative structure provides a robust and transparent avenue for input into PZJA decisions and communication with PZJA members.

7.1.4 The PZJA **AGREED** that as a first preference:

- (a) matters be brought to the PZJA's attention the via consultative mechanisms established to support consultation with stakeholders and best practice fisheries management outcomes;
- (b) materials tabled at PZJA meetings will be referred to the PZJA consultative structure so that members can be advised of the views of the TSFMAC (and relevant working groups) and the TSPMAC; and
- (c) this process be articulated in (*Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee and Associated Committees and Working Groups*) Fisheries Management Paper No. 1.

PZJA CONSULTATIVE STRUCTURE – Roles and Membership

7.2.1 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC) met in September to consider issues relevant to the CRC Torres Strait Ltd including the annual and final reports for the research projects;
- (b) following the cessation of the CRC, the TSSAC, AFMA and other PZJA agencies need to review the research prioritisation and funding process again;
- (c) this was the last meeting of the TSSAC in its dual role of serving the PZJA and the CRC;
- (d) the TSFMAC has recommend the TSSAC be more active in exploring:
 - (i) greater focus on fisheries management outcomes;

- (ii) greater input from funding and stakeholder organisations; and
- (iii) future funding arrangements;
- (e) the TSFMAC intention to:
 - (i) review the TSSAC membership; and
 - (ii) ensure collaboration with the TSPMAC on R&D needs and priorities.

7.2.2 The PZJA **AGREED**:

- (a) to defer consideration of delegating responsibility for the appointment of advisory committee and Working Group members to the PZJA Standing Committee at this time;
- (b) that Resource Assessment Groups, in the absence of other relevant subcommittees, should be recognised as the primary source of advice on TACs or Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for the Torres Strait Fisheries;
- (c) that Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) should make recommendations on TACs or TAE) directly to the PZJA ensuring the TSFMAC should be provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the TAC/TAE advice from the RAG in relation to social, economic and operational issues before the PZJA makes a final decision but that this process should not delay decision making;
- (d) to a revised Terms of Reference for the TSSAC to reflect its return to being solely a PZJA advisory body; and
- (e) to proposed research recommended by the TSSAC, including a project to conduct a TRL abundance survey in November this year.

7.2.3 The PZJA **NOTED** the outcomes of the TSSAC meeting held 7 – 8 August 2006.

7.2.4 The PZJA **REQUESTED** the TSSAC incorporate into its Terms of Reference, its role on providing advice on a range of issues for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery, including stock assessment advice.

7.2.5 The PZJA **APPROVED** the inclusion of a Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) officer as a permanent observer on the TSPMAC.

7.2.6 The PZJA **AGREED** to revise Fisheries Management Paper 1 and Fisheries Administration Paper 1 to reflect the decisions covered by 7.2.

PZJA CONSULTATIVE STRUCTURE – Appointments

7.3 The PZJA **AGREED** to the appointment of:

- (a) Mr Neil Green to the vacant Finfish Working Group Industry position;
- (b) Mr Phillip Hughes to the vacant Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group Industry position; and
- (c) Dr Ashley Williams to the vacant Finfish Working Group Research position.

PZJA CONSULTATIVE STRUCTURE - PZJA Standing Committee Role

7.4 Subject to further consultation with stakeholders in the context of the legislative amendments process, the PZJA **AGREED**, in principle, to work towards a more streamlined PZJA administration process including the following elements:

- (a) a PZJA Standing Committee is created as a body in the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* capable of accepting delegations;
- (b) a paper will be brought to the PZJA out-of-session which will scope the role and responsibilities of the Standing Committee and the nature of its activities; and
- (c) the PZJA Standing Committee is requested to consolidate and provide advice to the PZJA on a range of out-of-session matters that will need to be considered before PZJA 21 but that these decisions will be made by the PZJA..

TORRES STRAIT FISHERIES LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

8.1 The PZJA **NOTED** that:

- (a) the MACs have considered materials prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to facilitate consultation on proposed amendments to the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*;
- (b) DAFF has commenced consultation with Torres Strait fishers on proposed amendments and has informed the MACs on consultation mechanisms and proposed timetable.

8.2 The PZJA **AGREED** that the materials prepared to facilitate consultation on proposed amendments be sent to PZJA stakeholders and others affected by the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.

8.3 The PZJA **REQUESTED** that the PZJA Standing Committee consider mechanisms for direct engagement with Torres Strait stakeholders on amendments to the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.

LONG TERM POLICY – Commonwealth Harvest Strategy

9.1.1 The PZJA **NOTED** progress in developing a Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy (the Policy) for fisheries managed under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (Commonwealth Fisheries) and that:

- (a) a “20/40” harvest strategy is in place in Commonwealth Fisheries until the Policy is finalised;
- (b) although the Policy does not apply to Torres Strait Fisheries, the TSFMAC will provide advice to the PZJA on the utility and applicability of the Policy to fisheries managed by the PZJA after the guidelines have been released; and
- (c) in particular, the PZJA is interested in the TSFMAC and the TSPMAC views on where the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy policy should not apply in Torres Strait fisheries.

9.1.2 The PZJA further **NOTED**:

- (a) recruitment and, hence, stock levels in the Torres Strait Prawn and Tropical Rock Lobster fisheries is highly variable and influenced by a range of factors not always related to traditional, recreational and commercial harvest;
- (b) given the variability of these stocks, the direct applicability of the 20:40 principles to these fisheries requires appropriate consideration; and
- (c) AFMA has a statutory obligation to advocate the adoption of the principles of the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy in internationally managed fisheries.

9.1.3 Subject to the finalisation of the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy the PZJA **NOTED** the objectives of the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy may be used as a guide, while exploring options to manage sustainable commercial harvest and pending agreement with jurisdictions and agencies with an interest in the Torres Strait Fisheries.

LONG TERM POLICY – Strategic Approach to Aquaculture

9.2 The PZJA **NOTED** Queensland Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries' intention to investigate aquaculture development in the Torres Strait and to provide a progress report to PZJA 21.

COMPLIANCE – Licence Sticker System

10.1 The PZJA:

- (a) **AGREED** to implement the guidelines for the Torres Strait Fishing Boat Registration Sticker System at **Attachment 10A**;
- (b) **REQUESTED** amendments are made to the *Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985* to give effect to the boat registration sticker system; and
- (c) **REFERRED** this matter to the PZJA Standing Committee to coordinate implementation, with a preferred implementation date of 31 March 2007.

COMPLIANCE – Domestic Compliance Update

10.2.1 The PZJA **NOTED** the domestic compliance update (**Attachment 10B**).

10.2.2 The PZJA **NOTED** the TSPMAC recommended to reschedule the completion of a compliance risk assessment for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery until after the introduction of new management arrangements for the Prawn, Tropical Rock Lobster and Finfish Fisheries under fishery-specific management plans.

10.2.3 The PZJA **AGREED** to undertake the Compliance Risk Assessment for the fisheries prior to the implementation of the relevant Management Plans.

COMPLIANCE – Foreign Compliance Update

10.3.1 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) the progress in respect to the development of a foreign fishing vessel (FFV) disposal facility and the Horn Island transitory facility; and

(b) the update on FFV apprehensions in the Torres Strait region.

10.3.2 The PZJA **NOTED** cooperation between the Queensland and Australian Governments to manage illegal fishing in the Torres Strait area.

OUTCOMES OF THE PNG BILATERAL MEETING

11.1 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) the outcomes of the bilateral fisheries talks between Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) on 23-24 August 2006; and
- (b) the proposed share of the catch for the period 1 December 2006 to 30 November 2007 for the Australian jurisdiction and the proposed PNG entitlement in the Article 22 fisheries.

11.2 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) the outcomes of the bilateral discussions with PNG in relation to the prawn fishery; and
- (b) the outcomes of the catch sharing and preferential entitlement discussions with PNG.

PZJA STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT AND PROJECT PLAN

12.1 The PZJA **NOTED** the Standing Committee report.

12.2 The PZJA **NOTED** the revised draft work plans and projects associated with the introduction of management plans for the Torres Strait Fisheries and the implementation of past PZJA decisions.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUDGET

13.1 The PZJA **NOTED**:

- (a) infrastructure constraints currently faced by Torres Strait Fisheries Management and alternatives; and
- (b) cost implications of implementing new fishery management arrangements.

13.2 The PZJA **AGREED** that Standing Committee will bring proposals to the PZJA under the Cost Sharing Agreement setting out options to cover the administrative logistics for implementation of decisions over one, two and three years.

OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 The PZJA **AGREED**:

- (a) to reconvene on 17-18 July 2007 (subject to Queensland Budget Estimates dates) to consider management arrangements for 2008 and other matters;
- (b) in light of the timeframe between PZJA 20 and 21:
 - (i) necessary decisions could be made out of session by teleconference and correspondence; and

- (ii) that PZJA Members would hold a community engagement session at a date to be determined around March 2007.

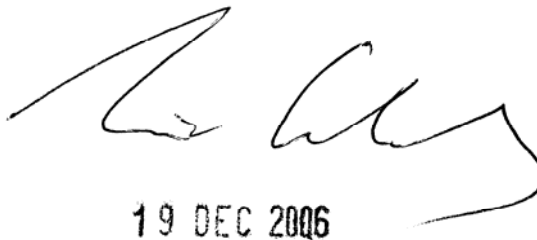
14.2 The PZJA **CONFIRMED** its out of session decision to amend the Allocation Advisory Panel's (AAP's) Terms of Reference agreed under PZJA 19 2.C.1 to include terms of reference in relation to the Finfish fishery at **Attachment 14A** and an additional term of reference in relation to the Tropical Rock Lobster fishery:

“Where appropriate to maintain the intent of the allocation process, suitable rules for transfers, amalgamation or separation of fishing concessions.”

14.3 The PZJA considered the TSPEHA request to reinstate a combined Stakeholder and Authority Meeting and **AGREED** to continue with the current split process.

14.4 The PZJA **REQUESTED** Standing Committee prepare a paper for PZJA 21 on overall opportunities for increasing Torres Strait Islander employment in the Torres Strait fisheries including:

- (a) employment as master fishermen; and
- (b) employment as observers.



19 DEC 2006

Dated this day of 2006

ERIC ABETZ

**Commonwealth Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation
Chairman of the Protected Zone Joint Authority**

For and on behalf of the Protected Zone Joint Authority

Clarification on “unit system for 2007”

Currently the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) of the fishery is 9200 fishing days, of which, Australian operators have allocated fishing days on licences equating to a total of 6867 fishing days. The other 2333 fishing days of the TAE are held in trust for Papua New Guinea (PNG) operators.

In 2007 those fishing days will be converted on a one-for-one basis to “time based effort units”. Under the management plan for the fishery the total number of units issued in the fishery would be fixed at 9200 and the total number of units issued to Australian operators would be fixed at 6867, the other 2333 units will continue to be held in trust for PNG operators. Assuming all licences are renewed for the 2007 fishing season that would result in the allocation of a total of 6867 units to Australian operators in the fishery. Each unit issued to an operator would thus equate to 0.01087% (1/9200 x 100) of the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) in the TSPF. For an operator holding 100 nights in 2006, that would equate to an allocation of 100 units in 2007, worth 1.087% of the TAE for the fishery.

By definition, the conversion of the number of units held by an operator under a time based effort unit system to a percentage holding in the fishery would be used to calculate the number of fishing days that can be fished in any given season. Assuming the TAE in 2007 is set at 9200 nights, every time based effort unit held by an operator would equate to 1 allocated fishing day under the following equation.

$(1 \text{ unit} / 9200 \text{ units}) \times \text{TAE} = \text{days held}$
--

TAE changes

Any changes to the TAE in the fishery would be made as required by the PZJA, according to scientific information and through consultation with the TSPMAC.

Trading

The time based effort units will be transferable under the new unit system. All operators would be entitled to trade units to other operators, in a similar way to that currently used by operators to trade fishing days. Following the allocation of units in 2007, operators would trade units with a value of 0.01087% of the TAE, such that someone trading 100 units will trade 1.087% of the TAE, (equating to 100 nights assuming the TAE is maintained at 9200 nights).

Banks and wording on licences

Industry members informed the TSPMAC how important it was to be able to take their licences to bank managers to illustrate and borrow money against a number of “allocated fishing days”, as this is the system has been used historically in the fishery. They requested that licences issued following the move to the unitised management system should indicate the number of allocated fishing days. The TSPMAC recognised this and suggested that statements be issued on licences that nominated “XXX allocated fishing days which equates to X.XX% of the TAE for the fishery“. The calculation of “XXX allocated fishing days” would be made by licensing staff based on the number of units held by the operator at the time the licence was issued.

Guidelines for the Torres Strait Fishing Boat Registration Sticker System

The boat registration stickers will apply to Torres Strait fishing boats except those with a Prawn endorsement. That is all non-prawn endorsed boats the subject of a Torres Strait Fishing Boat Licence (TVH) or Traditional Inhabitant Fishing Boat Licence (TIB). Registration Stickers will also apply to PNG boats endorsed under catch sharing arrangements to fish in the Australian area of the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

Any boat which is the subject of a Carrier Boat Licence or Processor-Carrier Boat Licence (TPC Class B or C) but which do not have a fishing boat licence in place will not be included in the registration sticker regime.

Prawn endorsed vessels will be excluded as there is little risk of unlicensed fishing in this fishery and the boats are monitored with VMS.

The same stickers will be used for TVHs, TIBs and PNG endorsed boats (i.e. no variation in colour or design between the sectors).

Design Features

A mock up of these proposed design features was presented to the meeting.

Durability & adherence

The stickers must be able to survive 12 months of daily exposure to direct sunlight and salt water, and need to adhere to all hull materials (whether painted or bare) including metal, wood or fibreglass.

The stickers need to be “one use only” i.e. once affixed to a surface there’s no way to remove it intact and therefore cannot be affixed to another boat. This will probably be achieved through a strong adhesive which causes the sticker to rip when removed.

Advice regarding the sticker type will be sought from Queensland Transport.

Colour

Stickers will be the same colour during a calendar year (1 January to 31 December). DPI&F plan to use the same colour scheme each year as Queensland Transport.

Size

Printed stickers will be A5 size; that is half of A4, or 148mm high by 210mm wide.

Font

A bold sans-serif font should provide greatest visibility. The exact font and size still need to be determined.

Details

The sticker will include logos and possibly other design features to prevent replicas from being created.

Details contained on stickers will include:

- Sticker number
- Month of expiry

- Year of expiry
- PZJA logo
- Torres Strait dari (A copyright permission will be sought for this image)

The most prominent feature on the sticker will be the month of expiry. January to September (i.e. single digit months) should be expressed with a zero in front (e.g. January = 01) to prevent January and February stickers being tampered with to appear like November and December stickers.

The sticker's colour will be the more prominent indicator of year and consequently will be printed in a much smaller font size than the month.

Sticker Numbering System

Stickers will be numbered continuously within a year, but restart each year

(e.g. 2007: Jan = 1-50, Feb = 51-140... Dec 2007 = 1150-1200, and 2008: Jan = 1-60)

Extra stickers will be built into the print run to account for boat replacements, lost stickers, new licences, etc. As a general rule extra stickers printed for each month will be equivalent to the greater of either:

- 10 stickers per month, or
- 10% of licences due to expire during that month.

If a larger print run can provide better economy, additional stickers will be obtained particularly in months which have the most licences expiring.

An additional buffer should be included in the first year or two to account for more new licence applications, particularly from people who have continued to use old commercial/community marks while unlicensed.

Stickers in use

Implementation

The sticker system should be implemented on a single date for the majority of boats, with a two to three month introductory period.

For example, if the system was implemented at the start of April 2007, stickers would be posted to all people whose existing licences expire between May 2007 and April 2008. Those people whose licences expire in April 2007 would not be sent 2007 stickers; instead they would be sent a 2008 sticker with their renewed licence.

QB&FP will be directed to show discretion during this implementation period and the system would be completely operational within a 3 month period.

Auditing of stickers

In anticipation of the current Torres Strait Licensing database being replaced in 2007, the current database will not be changed to incorporate a "sticker number" field. Incorporating such a field may be considered in development of a new database.

A manually maintained spreadsheet (to be designed during the implementation phase, and changes made to meet practical usage) will be kept which contains in each year:

- the sticker numbers and the month printed on each sticker

- the boat mark to which each sticker has been allocated,
- date sent, and
- a comments field to record if stickers have been declared lost, damaged, or removed from boat.

The spreadsheet will not duplicate information which is accessible from the database, and boat mark will be the common element between the two resources.

The spreadsheets will be accessible on “U” drive (for DPI&F staff) and will also be sent with the monthly licence updates (including AFMA staff).

As some clients have multiple licences (which may or may not expire at the same time), the boat mark will be prominently hand-written onto the backing of the sticker to ensure the correct sticker is affixed to the correct boat (as recorded in the spreadsheet).

Placement on boat

The sticker must be affixed to the outside of the transom of the boat identified on the licence.

Sticker replacements

In the case of a boat replacement (where the old boat ceases to be licensed), the licensee will need to confirm in writing that the old registration sticker has been removed from the old boat prior to the new boat being recorded on the licence and a registration sticker issued for the new boat.

In the case of a lost or damaged sticker, the licensee will need to briefly confirm in writing the circumstances for needing a replacement sticker.

Other than the implementation phase, if a licensee declares that they have not received their sticker (but the spreadsheet and stickers remaining in possession of Licensing Unit support that a sticker was sent to the client), they will also need to declare they did not receive their licence as they would be sent together.

DPI&F will now seek that the written declaration be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace/CDec, Island Chairperson or in their absence Deputy Chairs or people acting in those positions.

Licence with expiry greater than 1 year

There is only one primary TVH which expires in April 2009 (inadvertently renewed for 5yrs in 2004). If the licence is renewed, in future it will be renewed for one year periods only. Although the licence does not expire until 2009, this boat will be provided with annual registration stickers with an April (04) expiry.

Compliance Report 2006

District Staffing

The District is staffed by

- 1 District Officer
- 1 Administration Officer
- 3 Field Officers

District Resources

The District currently has two Departmental and a charter vessel that are capable of being used to assist Officers with local compliance issues.

1. Patrol Vessel Pelagic 6.7 metre

Pelagic has a 2C survey and is used to patrol the Prince Of Wales group of Islands and weather pending may venture further to mainland Australia and canvas the closer of the outer Islands

2. Patrol Vessel Sea Jay 4.3 metre

Sea Jay has a 2D survey. This vessel is used to respond to local complaints and patrol local areas of the District

Charter Vessel

Queensland Boating & Fisheries Patrol secured a contract with a locally based private charter vessel. The vessel is used to conduct TSPZ patrols. The District aims to achieve approximately 8 days at sea per month to target particular fisheries and to respond to complaints received.

To date the District is on target with 81 sea days achieved as at 25th of October this year.

Whilst utilising a private charter to conduct patrols has been noticeably advantageous with achieving outcomes there is a downside. The Patrol does not have sole use of the charter vessel and therefore the Patrol must forecast patrols up to three months in advance. Taking this into account the Patrol may not be in the position to respond in real time as per the availability of the chartered platform.

As a contingency the District has a number of resources that may be used to accommodate response when the need arise. These platforms include other Government resources such as Thursday Island Water Police and Australian Navy and other private commercial vessels may be chartered if available.

Due to the requirements of the District to access all areas of the TSPZ to conduct inspections of particular fisheries, the patrol vessel is required to transit through unsurveyed waters. To date each patrol undertaken onboard the charter vessel has operated partially in unsurveyed waters and has archived the patrol objectives.

Further, utilising the Charter vessel does present the District with the ability of patrols remaining covert; as the vessel is unmarked it assists Officers observing/detecting offences against relevant legislation.

Australian Navy

The District has utilised the naval vessel Malu Baziam to conduct an additional 5 @ sea days patrolling the TSPZ providing greater compliance services to industry and stakeholders while working within budgetary constraints.

Queensland Police

The District has throughout the reporting period conducted joint patrols with Queensland Police Officers on board QBFP's patrol vessels, the Charter vessel and Police vessel.

Cross decking has presented the District with the opportunity to continue to services client groups throughout the TSPZ while being cost effective and maintaining District staffing levels.

Domestic

Community Visits

Whilst the District carries out inspections within the various fisheries the District also has a responsibility to perform extension services such as community visits. These visits are imperative to positive enforcement to achieve voluntary compliance.

The District to date has achieved visits to the following communities

- Badu Is
- Coconut Is
- Darnley Is
- Dauan Is
- Kubin Is
- Mabuiag Is
- Siabia Is
- St Pauls Is
- Stephens
- Sue Is
- Yam Is
- Yorke Is
- Murray Is
- Boigu Is

Issues arising from visits to communities include,

- Stake holders are concerned with licensing procedures. Currently an applicant who wishes to apply for a commercial fishing licence (TIB) is required to sign the application in person. Current practice is that if the applicant is not on Thursday Island the District will send application via facsimile to the applicant. The applicant then can sign and return by post directly to licensing.

When Officers have liaised with industry while conducting community visits, Officers have reported that vessels are not currently licensed as a Traditional Inhabitant Boat. Throughout the inspection process Officers have issued Marine Infringement notices to the master's or owners of vessels as the vessels were found not being used as a commercial fishing vessel when inspected.

- Officers continue to inform stakeholders of the definition of traditional fishing and legislation pertaining to this type of fishing activity. A lack of understanding is present throughout the TSPZ of licensing requirements when traditional persons wish to exercise their traditional rights in regards to traditional fishing. It is showcased when a traditional person applies for a TIB without the intention to commercially fish.

This can lead to incorrect data when establishing the impact on the fishery with regard to the number of active licences.

Patrols have focused on the following fisheries,

- *Prawn*
- *TRL*
- *BDM*
- *Dugong*
- *Reef Line*
- *Trochus*

A number of fishery issues have been observed:

Prawn

- Production of documentation (operators fail to have the vessels fishing and safety manuals including manning certificates and the vessels fishing authority)
- Carriage of safety equipment in accordance with registration requirements

Tropical Rock Lobster

- Primary vessels continue to use tenders that may have been suspended under the 30% reduction
- No Torres Strait Master fishermen Licence
- Production of documentation (manning certificates)
- Towing/usage of extra tenders
- Failing to comply with conditions of a licence
- Carriage of safety equipment in accordance with registration requirements
- Knowledge of relevant licensing conditions

BDM

- Low activity in fishery
- Take of no take species, (sand fish, black teat fish, surf red)
- Unlicensed fishing

Reef line

- Low knowledge of current fishery legislation (take/no take species)
- Carriage of safety equipment in accordance with registration requirements

Dugong

- Knowledge of the fishery sanctuary
- Carriage of safety equipment in accordance with registration requirements

Trochus

- Knowledge of legislation pertaining to the fishery with particular note to size limits

Legislative Requirements

With recent fishery management decisions made by the Protected Zone Joint Authority in 2005 concerning the TRL and Reef Line fisheries the District may be required to adjust District operations.

There are currently detailed discussions occurring about quota and reef line issues which have serious compliance implications. The absence of a dedicated patrol vessel will make enforcement of exclusion zones around home Islands extremely difficult to enforce and proposed quota arrangements also present a range of compliance challenges

Outlined within are some of the foreseeable challenges that may impact on the District with regards to compliance in the two fisheries

Quota

With the introduction of quota for the TRL fishery the District will adjust compliance activities to undertake more land based inspections. These inspections will be within the TSPZ as well as at ports external to the TSPZ such as Cairns. Although this type of fishery management has been successful on mainland Australia, the geographical layout of the TSPZ will make compliance more labour intensive and require more travel.

To date the District has not been advised of Fishery Management expectations with regards to the inspection process. These compliance activities will be additional to current resources. There may be a need to review the following:

- Number of inspections both on board TVH vessels and of commercial freezers within the TSPZ
- Further inspections on product that is shipped out of the TSPZ on board commercial freight vessels
- Staffing levels to meet the agreed level of inspections
- Budget allocation to undertake additional activities

Reef Line

Management arrangements have seen the recent decision to include a 10 nautical mile exclusion zone to commercial fishing around nominated Islands within the TSPZ. As a result it is anticipated that the District will receive a greater number of complaints concerning incursions of these zones.

The unavailability of a dedicated patrol vessel makes it very difficult for the District to respond to these anticipated incursions. Tools such as Vessel Monitoring Systems will be a useful means to

gauge if an offence has been committed and to allow the District to perform a risk assessment to mount a response.

Further, whilst the spirit of the exclusion is to cease commercial fishing within these areas the following issues remain

- A primary vessel may anchor within this exclusion zone
- The primary vessels tenders may fish outside the zone

Foreign

From the 1st of June 2006 the District has had no responsibility for the foreign compliance program. Officers over this period have not been diverted from TSPZ issues and for the first time in many years FFV's have not impacted on District performance.

Other comments

The availability of an on the spot fine system would greatly streamline QBFPs capacity to deal with less significant offences.

Over all achieved TSPZ patrol days,

- Private charter 81
- Navy 5
- QBFP patrol vessel Pelagic 12

Description of patrol outcomes

Charter Dates	Areas Visited	No. of vessels boarded	No of cautions/breach reports issued	Comments
3/3/06-12/3/06 (San Pietro)	Area of Prawn Fishery & TRL Fishery.	37 vessels boarded	One (1) breach detected under sect 45 (1) (f) of the TSFA 1984, tropical rock lobster mother ship utilising extra dory that was not attached to vessels licence. Three (3) Marine Infringement Notices issued for marine offences under TOMS Act 1994.	Officers conducted licence inspections, freezer inspections (checking for the retainment of illegal bi-catch) and nets measurements upon licensed prawn vessels within TSPZ.
1/4/06 – 6/4/06 (San Pietro)	Area of Prawn & TRL Fishery.	16 Vessels boarded.	No fisheries breaches detected however three (3) Marine Infringement Notices issued for offences under the TOMS Act 1994.	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon licensed prawn trawlers and tropical rock lobster vessels.
20/5/06 – 23/5/06 (San Pietro)	Area of Prawn Fishery	8 Vessels boarded. 6 Prawn & 2 Reef Line	No fisheries breaches detected	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon licensed prawn trawlers and Line vessels.

3/6/06 – 7/6/06 (San Pietro)	Area of Prawn Fishery	17 Vessels boarded. 8 Prawn 2 Reef Line 7 TRL	No fisheries breaches detected	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon licensed prawn trawlers and Line vessels.
12/06/06 – 16/06/06 (San Pietro)	Area of Prawn Fishery	Visits to Yorke & Darnley Islands to investigate complaint	One (1) breach detected under notice number 52 Trochus Fishery Gear & size restriction Pending	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon licensed prawn trawlers and Line vessels. Officers investigate complaint concerning Trochus fisheries
24/06/06- 28/06/06 (San Pietro)	Area of Prawn Fishery Investigation of complaint concerning the sale of Dugong	4 Prawn vessels 1 Reef line Vessel 1 Mother vessel conducting product off load at sea	No fisheries breaches detected Insufficient evidence to proceed with breach action to date, information noted for future patrols	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon licensed prawn trawlers and Line vessels. Officers investigate complaint concerning Trochus fisheries
21/07/06- 26/07/06 (San Pietro)	Area of TRL Fishery Investigation of complaint concerning the take excess take of TRL	15 TRL Vessels boarded 3 Prawn trawl vessels	One (1) breach detected under sect 78 of the Queensland Fisheries Act 1994 Regulated fish Pending • Two (2) Marine Infringement Notices One (1) caution issued for marine offences under TOMS Act 1994.	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon licensed TRL vessels Officers investigate complaint concerning the take of excess TRL recreationally
1/08/06- 7/08/06 (San Pietro)	Area of TRL & Prawn Fishery Investigation of complaint concerning extra tenders being used by licensed TRL primary vessel	16 TRL Vessels boarded 2 Prawn trawl vessels	One (1) breach detected under sect 45 (1) (f) (k) of the TSFA 1984, tropical rock lobster mother ship utilising extra dory that was not attached to vessels licence. Pending Four (4) Marine Infringement Notices issued for marine offences under TOMS Act 1994.	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon licensed TRL / Prawn vessels
4/09/06- 08/09/06 Malu Baizam	Area of TRL, Line & Prawn	2 Prawn vessels	Nil offences detected	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon

Navy vessel	Fishery	2 communities visited		licensed TRL / Prawn & line vessels
12/09/06-19/09/06 (San Pietro)	Area of TRL, Prawn Line Fishery	7 Line 5 Prawn 25 Traditional Inhabitant 1 Recreational 2 communities visited 1 market inspection	Nil Offences detected	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon licensed TRL / Prawn vessels
02/10/06-11/10/06	Area of TRL, Prawn Dugong Trochus Fishery	1 Line 6 Prawn 43 Traditional Inhabitant 21 Recreational 4 Communities visited	3 Offences detected 1 x EPA, Evidence gathered and passed to EPA for processing / action 2 x MSQ, marine safety issues	Officers conducted licence and freezer inspections upon licensed TRL / Prawn vessels Investigation of marine pollution



Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority Fisheries Allocation Advisory Panel formed to advise on the appropriate basis for the allocation of fishing concessions in the non-community commercial fishing sector of the Finfish Fishery

29 May 2006

Terms of Reference

The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) was established under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* (the Act). It is responsible for monitoring the condition of designated fisheries within the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) and for the formulation of policies and plans for their management. The PZJA must have regard to the rights and obligations conferred on Australia by the Torres Strait Treaty (the Treaty), in particular the protection of the traditional way of life and livelihood of the traditional inhabitants, including their traditional fishing.

The PZJA has resolved to develop statutory management plans for Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL), Prawn and Finfish Fisheries. These statutory management plans are being developed by PZJA Agencies for consideration by the PZJA.

The Torres Strait Finfish Fishery comprises the Reef Line Fishery and the Spanish Mackerel Fishery. Separate licence endorsements are required for commercial fishers to operate in each of these fisheries but the fisheries share a common management system (framework) referred to as the “Finfish Fishery”.

The PZJA decided at their 19th meeting (27-28 April 2006) that the Finfish Fishery will move to an individual transferable effort (ITE) management system in the non-community commercial fishing sector. These new management arrangements will be implemented during the 2007 fishing season and will be embodied in the management plan for the fishery. The PZJA also decided at this meeting that the community fishing sector would be managed through a total allowable catch (TAC) that will be fished under competitive arrangements.

The PZJA has established this Independent Allocation Advisory Panel (AAP) to provide advice on the transfer of fishing concessions from one sector to another and from the current management measures to the new ITE management system in the non-community commercial fishing sector.

The need for such advice stems from the 9 November 2005 announcement of the PZJA relating to the allocation of fishing resources between the Traditional Inhabitant commercial (community) fishing sector and the non-community commercial fishing sector. After taking account of Papua New Guinea (PNG) entitlements under the Treaty, the PZJA will allocate a 50/50 share of the remaining commercial fishing concessions between the two Australian sectors. PNG is currently entitled to approximately 25% of the Spanish Mackerel Fishery and currently have no entitlements in the Reef Line Fishery.

The movement of fishing concessions will be achieved through a voluntary open tender process.

These terms of reference are in addition to those for the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery. Further terms of reference concerning resource allocation in the Torres Strait Prawn Fisheries may also be provided when relevant PZJA management decisions are finalised. Timeframes for the completion of written reports on ensuing terms of reference will be established at the time the terms of reference are distributed.

The terms of reference are as follows.

Terms of reference

The AAP is to advise the PZJA on:

1. A method for determining who in the non-community commercial fishing sector in the Torres Strait Reef Line and Spanish Mackerel Fisheries should be eligible to be granted ITE fishing concessions.
2. A method for determining the allocation of ITE fishing concessions between eligible persons in the non-community commercial fishing sector in the Torres Strait Reef Line and Spanish Mackerel Fisheries.
 - An ITE fishing concession is a right to one of a number of equal portions of effort analogous to shares in a fishery.
 - The allocation of fishing effort connected to each unit of ITE fishing concessions will be annually determined through a setting of a total allowable commercial catch (TACC) by the PZJA in accordance with the Finfish Fishery Management Plan.
 - The non-community commercial fishing sector's share of the TACC will be determined through the PZJA policy announcement of 9 November 2005 relating to the allocation of fishing resources between the community fishing sector and the non-community commercial fishing sector.
 - The Torres Strait Reef Line Fishery is a multi-species fishery, with the main target species being coral trout (*Plectropomus* spp.).
 - The Torres Strait Spanish Mackerel Fishery is a multi-species fishery with the main target species being Spanish Mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*).
3. Any exceptional circumstances that should be taken into account in the allocation of ITE fishing concessions to the non-community commercial fishing sector in the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery.
4. Any appropriate rules for transfers, amalgamation or separation of fishing concessions to maintain the intent of the allocation process.
5. The AAP should provide its draft advice to the Chair of the Standing Committee of the PZJA by 21 July 2006.
6. The report will then be revised by the AAP and released for a 28 day period of public consultation. The Panel will consider stakeholder submissions before finalising their advice.
7. The final report must be provided to the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Contact Officer by 22 September 2006, prior to the 20th PZJA meeting.

Allocation Advisory Panel Process

In undertaking these tasks, the AAP is required to:

1. Take into account information provided in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper number 2 establishing ‘guidelines for the formation of Allocation Advisory Panels for the allocation of fishing concessions in Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority Fisheries where fisheries management arrangements change’.
2. Consult with relevant parties and any person/s or organisations with appropriate knowledge or experience;
 - The Panel will consult directly with holders of fishing concessions, Traditional Inhabitant representatives and other stakeholders affected by the allocation decisions. This consultation shall take place at advertised meetings that will be held in appropriate locations in the Torres Strait and Cairns.
 - The Panel will meet to confer on relevant allocation issues. At such meetings the Panel may seek advice/input from relevant legal, economic, statistical or other experts or PZJA Agencies on matters relating to the required allocation(s).
3. Identify any data necessary to support the allocation decisions, whilst ensuring that data can be cost effectively collected and verified.
4. Explain and justify the recommended allocation system to the PZJA in the form of a ‘written report of recommendations’.
5. Seek written submissions on its ‘draft report’ during a 28 day public comment period (as defined by the Panel) and then provide its final report to the PZJA, including copies of all written submissions.
6. Provide draft and final reports that will be publicly available following consideration by the PZJA.
7. Provide advice to PZJA Agency officers appearing as witnesses before tribunals or courts in any challenge to the recommended allocation system if implemented by the PZJA.
8. Maintain full records of all activities undertaken by the Panel.
9. Identify in the allocation process any exceptional circumstances that should be taken into account in the allocation of fishing concessions relevant to the terms of reference.

Factual Brief(s)

To enable the AAP to consider allocation in or across a particular fishery/s, PZJA Agencies will provide the AAP with a brief which includes, but is not limited to:

1. the PZJA Fisheries Management Paper establishing guidelines for the formation of Allocation Advisory Panels for the allocation of fishing concessions in Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority Fisheries where fisheries management arrangements change;
2. any other policy papers or decisions of the PZJA relevant to the allocation(s) being considered;
3. details of the fishery/s;
4. details of existing/historical management arrangements in the fishery/s;
5. details of existing fishing concessions; and
6. details of any past commitments made (whether by press release, correspondence or other written communication).