

<b><u>TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER WORKING GROUP</u></b>	<b>Meeting</b> <b>27-28 November 2007</b>
<b>Moon/Hookah closures for 2008</b>	<b><i>Agenda Item No. 3</i></b> <b><i>FOR DISCUSSION</i></b>

## **PURPOSE**

To provide the Working Group with an opportunity to discuss and recommend the seven day moon/hookah closures that will be imposed on licences in 2008.

## **BACKGROUND**

The PZJA decided that there would be seven day periods closed to hookah diving in 2008. These closures would be the fourth time such arrangements have been made conditions on licences.

The closures were introduced originally with the intention of:

- making modest reductions in the amount of fishing effort for lobsters at a time when this was reaching very high, and perhaps record levels; and
- to give effect to Traditional Inhabitants requests that the reefs and lobsters be given a “rest” like in past seasons when boats generally perceived to return to port during one or both spring tide periods.

During each month there are two spring tides to choose from and it has been practice during the past three seasons to close the period three days before, on the day and three days after either the full or new moon. For the most part it was whichever moon period that corresponded with the time of strongest tidal streams, but other practical issues also came into play.

Working group members have from time to time suggested closing a neap tide period rather than a spring tide or to close the springtide period with weaker tidal streams. These suggestions have not been taken up for reasons as follows:

- the strategy has never been more than to achieve modest reductions in effort;
- large changes in effort in Torres Strait are only likely to push effort out of the Torres Strait into the adjacent Queensland fishery and while we are not responsible for the management of the fishery there we do share a common stock and should actively avoid introducing measures that have a negative impact on the adjacent jurisdictions; and
- except for 2006 when the stock was low the fishing effort being applied in Torres Strait has not led to spawning stocks falling below  $S_{MSY}$ . Next year the stock is expected to be about average (see report from RAG) so fishing effort being too high in the Australian area is unlikely.

## DISCUSSION

A table of closure dates proposed by management is at Table 1, and displayed graphically in Figure1. The tidal stream predictions for Hammond Rocks are at Attachment 3.

Table 1. Management proposed moon/hookah closures for 2008.

Month	Proposed dates	Moon Period
January	Full month of closure	
February	18-24	Full Moon
March	19-25	Full Moon
April	3-9	New Moon
May	2-8	New Moon
June	1-7; 30	New Moon
July	1-6; 29-31	New Moon
August	1-4; 28-31	New Moon
September	1-3; 27-30	New Moon
October	Full Commercial Closure	
November	Full Commercial Closure	
December	Full month of Closure	

You will notice that the closures span two months during the period June to September because of the timing of the moon relative to the first or last days of each relevant month. The closures are easier to picture by looking at the calendar. Two options for the calendar are presented and the Working Group is asked to comment on the most easily understood one.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Working Group recommends to the PZJA the dates of hookah closures that should be applied during the 2008 season.
2. The format of the calendar that should be publicized for 2008.

Jan							Feb							Mar							Apr										
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	30	31					1			1	2	3	4	5				
6	7	●	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	●	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	●	8	●	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
20	21	○	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	○	22	23	16	17	18	19	20	21	○	22	○	21	22	23	24	25	26			
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30							
May							Jun							Jul							Aug										
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				
				1	2	3	1	2	3	●	4	5	6	7			1	2	●	3	4	5	●						●	1	2
4	●	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	○	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	○	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
18	19	○	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	○	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
Sep							Oct							Nov							Dec										
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	4	3	30						1		1	2	3	4	5	6				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	○	13			
14	○	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	○	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	○	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	●	27			
28	●	29	30				26	27	28	○	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	○	28	29	28	29	30	31						

○ Full Moon    ● New Moon

Month	Day/Date																														
January	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
February	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
March	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
April	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
May	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
June	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
July	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
August	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
September	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
October	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
November	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
December	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

 Full Moon

 New Moon