

28th Protected Zone Joint Authority Meeting

Meeting outcomes

Monday 26 November 2018

Teleconference

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the 28th meeting of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) and welcomed attendees.

1. Determination of a Tropical Rock Lobster Management Plan

- 1.1. The PZJA **AGREED** it is satisfied that all reasonable and appropriate consultation on the *Torres Strait Fisheries (Quotas for Tropical Rock Lobster (Kaiar)) Management Plan 2018* (the draft Plan) has been undertaken.
- 1.2. The PZJA **AGREED** to determine the *Torres Strait Fisheries (Quotas for Tropical Rock Lobster (Kaiar)) Management Plan 2018*, as accompanied by the Explanatory Statement, noting:
 - a. the comprehensive consultation on the proposed management plan over a number of years; and
 - b. the summaries of consultation and information explaining key elements of the draft Plan.
- 1.3. The PZJA **AGREED** to reaffirm existing policy settings and make one new policy that will support the management of the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery relating to each sector, including:
 - a. management controls currently applied to the TRL Fishery through the TRL Fishery Management Instrument;
 - b. management controls currently applied through TRL licence conditions; and
 - c. the policy that no new TRL TVH licences will be granted under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* (the Act).
- 1.4. The PZJA **AGREED** to reaffirm its support for traditional owners' aspiration for attaining 100 per cent ownership of access to Torres Strait fisheries:
 - a. To help achieve this, a 'form' will be made under s29 of the draft Plan for applying for permanent transfers of TVH licences or quota units, which will contain a check box indicating the transferor has informed the TSRA of the proposed transfer. Note that it is unlawful to make a false statement on an approved Commonwealth form.
- 1.5. The PZJA **AGREED** to authorise AFMA to register the signed Plan on the Federal Register of Legislation.
- 1.6. The PZJA **AGREED** to issue a statement to TRL Fishery stakeholders informing them of the decision:
 - a. Noting that a statement will be prepared following the meeting.

2. Making the Torres Strait Fisheries Amendment (Tropical Rock Lobster Management Instrument 2018)

- 2.1. The PZJA **AGREED** it is satisfied that all reasonable and appropriate consultation on the *Torres Strait Fisheries Amendment (Tropical Rock Lobster) Management Instrument 2018* (the Amendment Instrument) has been undertaken.
- 2.2. The PZJA **AGREED** to make the Amendment Instrument as accompanied by the Explanatory Statement that would implement separate Traditional and non-Traditional shares of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for managing the 2018-19 fishing season, including;
- b. a global (competitive) TAC for the TIB sector; and
 - c. individual allocation of the TAC for the TVH sector (based on the 2007 preliminary allocation notices) via a licence condition for the 18/19 season while a permanent ITQ allocation process is completed in line with the proposed TRL Plan.
- 2.3. The PZJA **AUTHORISES** Assistant Minister Colbeck, to sign the proposed Amendment Instrument for and on behalf of the PZJA.
- 2.4. The PZJA **AUTHORISES** the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) to publish the Amendment Instrument in the *Torres News* to be published on 30 November 2018, and register the Amendment Instrument on the Federal Register of Legislation on the date of publication.
- 2.5. The PZJA **AGREES** to issue a statement to TRL Fishery stakeholders informing them of the decision above:
- a. Noting that a statement will be prepared following the meeting.

3. Determining a Total Allowable Catch for the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery 2018/19 Fishing Season

- 3.1. The PZJA **DECIDED** that the Australian Tropical Rock Lobster (TRL) Fishery will have an interim Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 200 tonnes for the 2018-19 fishing season from 1 December 2018.
- 3.2. The PZJA **AGREED** that a final TAC will be decided by the PZJA or its Delegate as soon as possible after the start of the fishing season on 1 December:
- a. following consideration of an updated stock assessment for the 2018/19 fishing season and consultation with TRL Resource Assessment Group and TRL Working Group; and
 - b. having regard to Australia's obligations under the Torres Strait Treaty, noting that bilateral meetings with Papua New Guinea (PNG) are scheduled for early March 2019.

Close

The Chair closed the meeting.

Meeting attendance

PZJA members

Chair

- Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Member

- Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, Chair Torres Strait Regional Authority
- The Hon. Mark Furner MP, Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

Government Delegations

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

- Ms Anna Willock, Ag/Chief Executive Officer
- Mr Steve Bolton, Senior Manager, Northern Fisheries and Co-management

Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

- Mr Scott Spencer, Deputy Director General Fisheries and Forestry

Office of the Hon. Leanne Donaldson MP

- Mr Finn McCarthy, Policy Advisor

Office of Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston

- Mr Jim Burston, Advisor – Fisheries