

PZJA Stakeholder Forum

30 April 2008, 3:30pm – 6pm

The PZJA Stakeholder Forum was held in the Torres Strait Regional Authority Boardroom on Thursday Island.

Authority Members

Chair

The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Cth)

Members

The Hon Tim Mulherin MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (Qld)

Mr John (Toshie) Kris – Chair, Torres Strait Regional Authority

Office of The Hon Tony Burke MP

Mr Stuart Starke, Ministerial Advisor

Office of The Hon Tim Mulherin MP

Ms Nicole Kadic, Ministerial Advisor

Government Delegations

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

Mr Robert Murphy, General Manager, Fisheries and Marine Environment Branch

Mr Brendan Nerdal, Senior Policy Officer, Torres Strait Fisheries Section

Mr Stan Lui, Policy Officer, Torres Strait Fisheries Section

Ms Justine Cain, Policy Officer, Torres Strait Fisheries Section

Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

Mr Glenn Hurry, Managing Director

Dr Dave Wilson, A/g Manager, Northern Fisheries

Dr Annabel Jones, A/g Manager, AFMA Thursday Island

Ms Samantha Emerick, Fisheries Management Officer

Mr Erik Rauzens, Fisheries Management Officer

Dr Ana Lara-Lopez, Fisheries Management Officer

Ms Juliet Corley, Fisheries Management Officer

Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

Mr Wayne See Kee, General Manager

Mr Toshio Nakata, Fisheries Coordinator

Mr Damian Miley, Manager, Land and Sea Management Unit

Mr Charlie Kaddy, A/g Manager, Policy

Mr Lachlan Sutherland, Turtle and Dugong Project Officer

Mr Frank Loban, Turtle and Dugong Project Liaison Officer

Mr Steve Hall, Fisheries Officer

Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F)

Mr Grant Hall, Deputy Director-General, Fisheries

Mr Shane Gaddes, Senior Fisheries Officer

Mr Shane Fava, Fisheries Officer

Mr Brendan Wall, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol

Mr Bob Russell, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol

TVH Sector Fisheries Industry Representatives

Rock Lobster Fishery

Mr James Fogarty, President, Queensland Rock Lobster Association

Mr Brett Arlidge, Manager, MG Kailis representing Queensland Rock Lobster Association

Mr Chris Robb (Fisher)

Mr Daniel Takai (Fish Receiver)

Community Fisher Group Representatives

Mr Francis Pearson – Poruma

Mr Yen Loban - Muralug

Mr Kila Odo – Mer

Mr Charles David – Yam

Mr William Stephen – Stephen

Mr Kenny Bedford – Darnley

Graham Hirakawa – Port Kennedy

Observers

Papua New Guinean Delegation

The Hon Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Sciences

Mr Dennis Kivang, Ministerial Advisor

Mr Philip Polon, National Fisheries Authority

Apologies

Mr Neil Green, President, Queensland Seafood Industry Association

Mr Mark Millward, Chair, Torres Strait Prawn Entitlement Holders Association

Ms Rosemary Millward, Torres Strait Prawn Entitlement Holders Association

Mr Rob Giddens, Torres Strait Prawn Entitlement Holders Association

Mr Barry Wilson, Torres Strait Prawn Entitlement Holders Association

Ms Johanna Leahy, Torres Strait Treaty Liaison Officer, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The PZJA Stakeholder Forum was opened in prayer led by Mr Francis Pearson. After the prayer a minute silence was observed to acknowledge the passing of Mr Joe Tamwoy a fisherman of Darnley Island.

PZJA Authority Meeting

1 May 2008, 8:30am – 12.00 noon

The PZJA Authority Meeting was held in the Torres Strait Regional Authority Boardroom on Thursday Island

Authority Members

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The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Cth)

Members

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Mr Stuart Starke, Ministerial Advisor

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Ms Samantha Emerick, Fisheries Management Officer

Mr Erik Rauzens, Fisheries Management Officer

Dr Ana Lara-Lopez, Fisheries Management Officer

Ms Juliet Corley, Fisheries Management Officer

Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

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Mr Toshio Nakata, Fisheries Coordinator

Mr Damian Miley, Manager, Land and Sea Management Unit

Mr Charlie Kaddy, A/g Manager, Policy

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Mr Frank Loban, Turtle and Dugong Project Liaison Officer

Mr Steve Hall, Fisheries Officer

Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F)

Mr Grant Hall, Deputy Director-General, Fisheries

Mr Shane Gaddes, Senior Fisheries Officer

Mr Shane Fava, Fisheries Officer

Mr Brendan Wall, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol

Mr Bob Russell, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol

Observers

Papua New Guinean Delegation

The Hon Ben Semri, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Sciences (PNG)

Mr Dennis Kivang, Ministerial Advisor

Apologies

Ms Johanna Leahy, Torres Strait Treaty Liaison Officer, Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY

Update on management plan

1.1.1 The PZJA NOTED the recommendations of the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee that:

- (a) the Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group recommendation “To Remove the moon/tide closure of the 27 to 30 of September 2008” was not endorsed by the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee; and
- (b) the Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group recommendation to “Apply the 30 per cent tender reduction as in previous years except for the two tender packages who will have the same tender months but will be able to nominate a block of continuous months they want to fish using both tenders” has been implemented for the 2008 season.

1.1.2 The PZJA AGREED to the recommendations of the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee:

- (a) that the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is to prepare a report on the outcomes of the Tropical Rock Lobster tender process for submission to the next Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group and Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee to assist members to explain and communicate outcomes to communities; and
- (b) to the current licensing system being simplified by restructuring it such that only the main vessel would require a licence with its tenders attached to the same licence, and discarding the carrier boat licence (TPC A) needed for the main vessel, subject to existing Master Fisherman Licensing requirements being maintained.

Results of Tender Process

1.2.1 The PZJA NOTED:

- (a) the tender process run by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, funded by Queensland and the Australian Governments, to facilitate the voluntary surrender of fishing entitlements in the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster fishery has been completed;
- (b) that the Australian Government holds 25 per cent of the Australian portion of the Tropical Rock Lobster fishery within the Torres Strait Protected Zone, to meet obligations to Papua New Guinea;
- (c) that of the Australian share of the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery, 53.5 per cent is held by Traditional Inhabitant Boat interests and the remainder is held by Transferable Vessel Holder interests; and
- (d) that the Community Fisher Group is unhappy with the tender process outcome believing that it fails to meet traditional inhabitants aspirations and presents no room for growth in the Traditional Inhabitant Boat sector.

1.2.2 The PZJA AGREED that the PZJA Standing Committee should engage with both the Transferable Vessel Holder and Traditional Inhabitant Boat interests to fulfil the PZJA 21 Decision: 1.2.4.

Update on Management Plan

1.3.1 The PZJA NOTED the recommendations of the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee, including:

- (a) the progress on the Tropical Rock Lobster Management Plan and Quota Monitoring System; and
- (b) that pending resolution of the unresolved management issues discussed in agenda item 1.4, the Tropical Rock Lobster Management Plan is expected to be completed before the 2010 fishing season commences and that interim arrangements will be required for the 2009 fishing season.

Management Plan – Unresolved Issues

1.4.1 The PZJA NOTED:

- (a) that at PZJA 21 (PZJA 21 1.2.3) the PZJA agreed to provide the Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group with a final opportunity to resolve outstanding management issues, and if they were unable to, then the PZJA would make a decision in the best interests of the fishery;
- (b) the Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group was given the opportunity to discuss and resolve the unresolved management issues at its November 2007 meeting, as requested by the PZJA;
- (c) the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee was given the opportunity to discuss and resolve the unresolved management issues at the 10th meeting of the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee in March 2008;
- (d) that neither the Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group nor the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee have been able to resolve the unresolved management issues;
- (e) the analysis provided by the PZJA Standing Committee of all remaining unresolved Tropical Rock Lobster management issues including the options available;
- (f) the Community Fisher Group position paper on its concerns of the outcomes of the tender process and new management system developed following the 10th meeting of the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee; and
- (g) the Transferable Vessel Holder sector's views on the unresolved management issues developed following the 10th meeting of the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee.

1.4.2 The PZJA REQUESTED that a high level officer from each of the PZJA agencies engage with the stakeholders, to develop an agreed approach to the

outstanding issues and that, the recommendations arising from this meeting be given to the PZJA for out of session consideration, before the end of July 2008.

Report from the Resource Assessment Group

1.5.1 The PZJA NOTED the recommendations from the Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group, including the:

- (a) review of the 2006 stock assessment report;
- (b) review of the results from the 2007 stock assessment;
- (c) review of the steps to set the preliminary and final Total Allowable Catch and exploration of different options to set the preliminary Total Allowable Catch;
- (d) review of the 2007 fishery performance against the Total Allowable Catch; and
- (e) request for delivery of accurate and timely data to be made available by Australian Fisheries Management Authority for the stock assessments.

1.5.2 The PZJA REQUESTED that:

- (a) Australian Fisheries Management Authority provide CSIRO with appropriate data by the end of January each year for the stock assessment; and
- (b) the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to request that Papua New Guinea, through the bilateral process, provide CSIRO with timely, accurate and current Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster data for the stock assessment process by the end of January each year.

FINFISH FISHERY

Results of the Finfish Buyout

2.1.1 The PZJA NOTED that:

- (a) on 30 June 2008, the final 12 Transferable Vessel Holder licences in the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery will be surrendered and this will complete the voluntary surrender process conducted by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, funded by the Australian Government and the Torres Strait Regional Authority; and
- (b) Australia can now meet its obligations under the Torres Strait Treaty to Papua New Guinea in relation to this fishery.

Finfish Leasing Arrangements

2.2.1 The PZJA NOTED the progress of the Torres Strait Finfish Leasing arrangements for the 2008/2009 season and that the Torres Strait Regional Authority expects leasing arrangements to be in place by no later than 1 July 2008.

2.2.2 The PZJA REQUESTED that:

- (a) the Torres Strait Regional Authority and Community Fisher Group representatives to work co-operatively to deliver leasing arrangements for the Torres Strait Finfish fishery that help to maintain the economic, environmental and social value of the fishery; and
- (b) that PZJA agencies continue to work with the Torres Strait Regional Authority and Community Fisher Group representatives to deliver improved benefits to the Traditional Inhabitant Boat sector through their access to 100 per cent of the available Australian share of the Finfish fishery.

Management Plan - Update and Future Environment

2.3.1 The PZJA NOTED:

- (a) the ongoing importance of the development of a management plan for the Finfish fishery to ensure that a sustainable harvest strategy is maintained; and
- (b) that the Finfish Management Plan is expected to be completed before the 2010 fishing season and that interim arrangements will be required for the 2009 fishing season.

PRAWN FISHERY

Consultation

3A.1 The PZJA NOTED the fax submission received on 1 May 2008 (fax header dated 26 April and referring to industry meeting dated 30 April) from the Torres Strait Prawn Entitlement Holders: M&R Millward, R Giddins and B Wilson.

3A.2 The PZJA DEFERRED its discussion of agenda item 3 until all PZJA members had the opportunity to read and consider the fax submission provided by the Torres Strait Prawn Entitlement Holders and resumed discussions of agenda item 3 at the conclusion of discussing agenda item 10.

Management Plan - Update

3.1.1 The PZJA NOTED the progress of the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan.

3.1.2 The PZJA AGREED to implement the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan before 1 March 2009.

Permanent prohibitions in the North-West of the Fishery

3.2.1 The PZJA NOTED the consultation undertaken with stakeholders regarding the proposed prohibition on the taking, processing or carrying of prawn in the Territorial Seas of Kerr Islet, Deliverance Island and Turu Cay.

3.2.2 The PZJA AGREED:

- (a) to a permanent prohibition on the taking, processing or carrying of prawn in the Territorial Seas of Kerr Islet, Deliverance Island and Turu Cay is to be implemented.
- (b) to write to the Papua New Guinea Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources seeking complementary closures to the surrounding waters.

Research Update

3.3.1 The PZJA NOTED the recommendations of the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee including:

- (a) the update on the research being undertaken in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (TSPF); and
- (b) that the outcomes of this research will be used to develop a spatial management system for the TSPF.

Interim 2008 Harvest Strategy Proposal

3.4.1 The PZJA NOTED that while it made no specific recommendations to the PZJA, the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee agreed:

- (a) that the development and implementation of an interim Harvest Strategy for 2008 should take precedence over the finalisation of the management plan; and
- (b) that a long term Harvest Strategy would be developed that is consistent with the management plan.

3.4.2 The PZJA NOTED the following information relating to strategies that may assist Torres Strait Prawn Fishery operators during 2008 prior to the management plan implementation in 2009:

- (a) that consistent with PZJA 21.3.5.1(b) and in response to the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee agreements listed at 3.4.1, PZJA agencies held stakeholder workshops in Mooloolaba, Cairns and Thursday Island in February 2008; and
- (b) subsequent to this consultation an interim Harvest Strategy, endorsed by stakeholders, was developed based on an increase in the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) to 12,000 days, complemented by a spatial management system.

3.4.3 The PZJA NOTED Standing Committee discussions on a harvest strategy for the remainder of 2008, which have resulted in the following scenarios being presented to the PZJA for consideration:

- (a) A spatial management system and an offer to industry equivalent to an increase in the TAE to 12,000 allocated fishing days;
- (b) A spatial management system and an offer to industry equivalent to an increase in the TAE to 10,700 allocated fishing days; or
- (c) Maintaining the status quo of 9,200 allocated fishing days.

3.4.4 The PZJA RECOGNISED the urgent need to build fishing effort in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery in the 2008 fishing season.

3.4.5 The PZJA AGREED that its agencies will work with individual licence holders to understand their particular situation and to the extent possible allocate additional fishing effort for the 2008 fishing season.

3.4.6 The PZJA AGREED to retain 9,200 days as the basis of allocation for the 2008 fishing season.

3.4.7 The PZJA DIRECTED that this allocation will be kept under review during the 2008 season, and if further allocation of fishing effort is required this will be considered.

3.4.8 The PZJA AGREED that the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee will formally develop a long term Harvest Strategy with a range of rules that control the intensity of fishing activity according to the biological and economic conditions of the fishery consistent with the determination of reference points under the TSPF Draft Management Plan.

3.4.9 The PZJA NOTED community fisher group (CFG) representative's concerns regarding the trawl rubbish that has been discarded in the region of Yorke and Coconut Islands in the past and the agreement by PZJA management agencies to facilitate an assessment of the amount and type of trawl rubbish, including an estimate on whether it could be removed and at what cost.

Review of Management Cost

3.5.1 The PZJA AGREED to request the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee to review possible options to reduce management costs in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery and to make a recommendation to the PZJA at its next meeting.

TURTLE AND DUGONG FISHERY

Torres Strait Turtle and Dugong Community Management Plan Update

4.1.1 The PZJA NOTED:

- (a) funding for the development of community-based management plans under the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance program ends in September 2008;

- (b) that the Torres Strait Regional Authority will be making a bid for funding under the new Australian Government “Caring for our Country” program;
- (c) that once the six plans have been successfully negotiated and agreed to by the community and stakeholders that funding needs to be identified to support their implementation; and
- (d) as a parallel process the Standing Committee investigate the opportunities for the community-based plans to be given some legal basis, including being formally recognised under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.

4.1.2 The PZJA AGREED:

- (a) to commend communities on the progress to date of community-based management plans;
- (b) to urge communities to remain engaged in the process of developing and finalising community-based management plans; and
- (c) to ask the Standing Committee to investigate the opportunities to support the extension of the planning process to other communities, as well as implementation, monitoring and compliance programs.

HAND COLLECTABLE FISHERIES

Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group - Report

5.1 The PZJA NOTED the recommendations of the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee including:

- (a) the outcomes of the Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group;
- (b) the Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group’s concerns regarding significant illegal fishing on the Warrior Reef complex for beche-de-mer; and
- (c) the Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group’s recommendation that research to address uncertainties regarding trochus stocks and the recovery of beche-de-mer be given priority.

PZJA CONSULTATIVE STRUCTURE

PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1 – Revision

6.1.1 The PZJA NOTED that the PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1 (October 2005) has been revised and updated and that the main amendments to the policy include:

- (a) the inclusion of operational procedures for all consultative committees/groups including the Management Advisory Committees, Scientific Advisory Committees, Resource Assessment Groups and Working Groups;
- (b) cost recovery provisions; and
- (d) a review of appropriate membership for each committee/group.

6.1.2 The PZJA AGREED to endorse the revised PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1 (May 2008) as PZJA policy, and to revoke the previous version of October 2005.

Committee Membership Changes

6.2.1 The PZJA NOTED that selection processes have occurred consistent with PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No 1 (October 2005) for various vacancies in the PZJA Consultative structure.

6.2.2 The PZJA AGREED that in accordance with Subsections 40(7) and 40(8) of the Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984 (the Act) and from the date of signing the record of the meeting in accordance with Subsection 40(9) of the Act:

- (a) to appoint Mr John Pollock as Chair of the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee, for a period of three years;
- (b) to appoint Mr Brett Arlidge and Mr Daniel Takai as the Tropical Rock Lobster Industry and Fish Receiver members respectively of the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee for a period of three years;
- (c) to appoint Mrs Rosemary Millward and Mr Robert Giddins as Prawn - non-traditional inhabitant (Industry) members of the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee for a period of two years backdated to 17 February, 2007;
- (d) to appoint Mr Ian Cartwright as Chair of the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee for a period of three years;
- (e) to appoint the members of the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee as provided in Table 4 of PZJA 22 Decision 6.2.4;
- (f) to appoint Mr John Pollock as acting Chair of the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group for a period no longer than 12 months while a permanent Chair is being recruited; and
- (g) to appoint the members of the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group as provided in Table 3 of PZJA 22 Decision 6.2.4.

6.2.3 The PZJA AGREED:

- (a) to begin a recruitment process for a new Prawn – non-traditional inhabitant (Industry) member to fill the position formerly held by Mr Bob Robbins who resigned from the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee on 17th April, 2008; and
- (b) that agency members on each committee and working group will be appointed internally by each agency as required.

6.2.4 The PZJA ENDORSED the membership of each of the seven PZJA consultative committees and groups provided below from Table 1 through to Table 7.

Table 1. Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (TSFMAC).

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	APPOINTMENT DATE	TERM ENDS
Chair	Mr John Pollock	1-May-2008	30-April-2010
Executive Officer	Dr Ana Lara-Lopez	N/A	N/A
TSRA – Badu Island	VACANT – TBD	-	-
TSRA – Bamaga	Mr Clifford Waisu	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Boigu Island	Mr Dimas Toby	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Coconut Island (Poruma)	Mr Francis Pearson	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Darnley Island (Erub)	Mr Kenny Bedford	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Dauan Island	VACANT – TBD	-	-
TSRA – Hammond Island	Mr Seriako Dorante	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Horn	Mr Willy Wigness	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Injinoo	Mr Robert Bagie	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Kubin	VACANT – TBD	-	-
TSRA – Mabuia Island	Mr Terrence Whap	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Murray Island (Mer)	Mr Kila Odo	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – New Mapoon	Mr Trevor Lifu	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Port Kennedy	Mr Graham Hirakawa	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Saibai Island	Mr Jerry Babia	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Seisia	Mr Harold Townsend	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA - Stephens Island	Mr William Stephen	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – St Pauls	VACANT – TBD	-	-
TSRA – TRAWQ	Mr Railey Gibia	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Umagico	Mr Connie Young	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA - Warraber	Mr Willie Lui	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Waiben, Ngurapai and Muralag	Mr Yen Loban	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Yam Island (Iama)	Mr Charles David	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA – Yorke Island (Massig)	Mr Lota Warri	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Fish Receiver representative	Mr Daniel Takai	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Tropical Rock Lobster – non-traditional	Dr Ray Moore	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Finfish (Reef Line) - non-traditional inhabitant	Mr Carl D’Aguiar	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Finfish (Spanish Mackerel) - non-traditional	Mr Shaun Hansen	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Tropical Rock Lobster – non-tradition inhabitant	Mr Brett Arlidge	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Scientific Member (TSSAC Chair)	Mr Ian Cartwright	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
TSRA	Mr Toshio Nakata	N/A	N/A
QDPI&F	Manager (Fisheries	N/A	N/A
QDPI&F	Senior Fisheries	N/A	N/A
AFMA	Senior Manager, TS	N/A	N/A
AFMA	Manager, TS Fisheries	N/A	N/A
DEWHA	Sustainable Fisheries	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC).

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	APPOINTMENT DATE	TERM ENDS
Chair	Mr Jim Gillespie (QDPI&F)	28-April-2006	27-April-2009
Executive Officer	Ms Lisa Cocking (AFMA)	N/A	N/A
CFG - Darnley Island	Mr Ken Bedford	28-April-2006	27-April-2009
CFG - Yam Island	Mr Charles David	28-April-2006	27-April-2009
CFG - Yorke Island	Mr Lota Warria	28-April-2006	27-April-2009
Prawn, non-traditional inhabitant	Mr Barry Wilson	28-April-2006	27-April-2009
Prawn, non-traditional inhabitant	Mr Mark Millward	28-April-2006	27-April-2009
Prawn, non-traditional inhabitant	Mr Robert Giddins	17-February-2007	16-February-2009
Prawn, non-traditional inhabitant	Mrs Rosemary Millward	17-February-2007	16-February-2009
Prawn, non-traditional inhabitant	VACANT - TBD	-	-
Scientific Member	Mr Clive Turnbull (QDPI&F)	28-April-2006	27-April-2009
TSRA	Mr Toshio Nakata	N/A	N/A
AFMA	Senior Manager, TS Fisheries – Dr David Wilson (Acting)	N/A	N/A
AFMA	Manager, TS Fisheries (CBR)	N/A	N/A
QDPI&F	Manager (Fisheries Resources) - Mr Andrew Thwaites	N/A	N/A
QDPI&F	Senior Fisheries Management Officer – Mr Shane Gaddes	N/A	N/A
Compliance Member (QB&FP)	Mr Lyndon Peddell	N/A	N/A
Papua New Guinea (NFA)**	Mr Lester Baule	N/A	N/A
Papua New Guinea (NFA)**	Mr Philip Polon	N/A	N/A
DFAT treaty liaison officer**	Ms Joannah Leahy	N/A	N/A
DAFF**	VACANT – TBD	N/A	N/A
DEWHA**	Mr Robert Ferguson	NA	M/A
ABARE**	Mr Simon Vieira	NA	N/A

* Membership is “owned” by the organisation not the member representative

** Denotes permanent observer status, dates in brackets indicate the date permanent observer status was confirmed).

Table 3. Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC).

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	APPOINTMENT DATE	TERM ENDS
Chair	Mr Ian Cartwright	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Executive Officer	Dr Annabel Jones	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Scientific Member – Social/Economic Scientist	Ms Sevaly Sen	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Scientific Member	Dr Yimin Ye	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Scientific Member	Dr Roland Pitcher	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Scientific Member	Dr Stephen Newman	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Industry Member	Mr Tony Vass	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
Community Fisher Representative	Mr Charles David	1-May-2008	30-April-2011
AFMA Member	Dr David Wilson	N/A	N/A
QDPI&F Member	Mr Shane Gaddes	N/A	N/A

Table 4. Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group (TS TRLRAG).

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	APPOINTMENT DATE	TERM ENDS
Chair	Mr John Pollock	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2009
Executive Officer	Ms Samantha Emerick	N/A	N/A
Queensland Industry	Mr Jim Fogarty	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2011
Queensland DPI&F Scientist	Senior Fisheries Biologist	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2011
Torres Strait Fishery (PNG)	NFA Manager PNG-Torres	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2011
Torres Strait Industry (PNG Indigenous rep)	Mr Meremi Maina	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2011
Torres Strait Industry (Australian)	Community Fisher Group	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2011
Torres Strait Industry (Australian TVH rep)	TVH representative (vacant)	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2011
Scientist	Dr Yimin Ye (CSIRO)	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2011
Independent Fisheries Scientist	Mr Nokome Bentley	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2011
Bureau of Rural Sciences	Fisheries Scientist	1-May-2008	30-Apr-2011
TSRA	TSRA Fisheries Coordinator	N/A	N/A
AFMA	Manager, TS Fisheries (TI) -	N/A	N/A
QDPI&F	Senior Fisheries Management	N/A	N/A
GBRMPA**	Senior Project Manager	N/A	N/A
PNG**	NFA Fisheries Officer	N/A	N/A

** Denotes Permanent Observer Status

Table 5. Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group (TSTRLLWG).

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	APPOINTMENT DATE	TERM ENDS
Chair	Mr Kerrod Beattie	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
Executive Officer	Dr Ana Lara-Lopez (AFMA)	N/A	N/A
TSRA – Badu Island	VACANT - TBD	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSRA – Yam Island	Mr Charles David	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSRA – Port Kennedy	Mr Graham Hirakawa	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSRA – Yorke Island	Mr Lota Warri	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSRA – Mabuiag Island	Mr Terrance Whap	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSRA – Waiben, Ngurapai, Muralag	Mr Yen Loban	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TRL – non-community	Dr Ray Moore	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TRL – non-community	Mr Phillip Hughes	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TRL – non-community	Mr Brett Arlidge	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
QDPI&F	Senior Fisheries Management	N/A	N/A
AFMA	Dr Annabel Jones, A/g Manager,	N/A	N/A
TSRA	TSRA Fisheries Coordinator &	N/A	N/A
Scientific Member	Dr Yimin Ye (CSIRO)	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
Compliance Member (QB&FP)	Mr Lyndon Peddell	N/A	N/A

Table 6. Torres Strait Finfish Working Group (TSFFWG).

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	APPOINTMENT DATE	TERM ENDS
Chair	VACANT - TBD	-	-
Executive Officer	Mr Erik Raudzens (AFMA)	N/A	N/A
TSRA – Mer (Murray) Island	Mr Kila Odo	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSRA – Masig (Yorke) Island	Mr Lota Warri	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSR A – Warraber Island	Mr Willie Lui	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSRA – Erub (Darnley) Island	Mr Ken Bedford	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSRA – Poruma (Coconut) Island	Mr Francis Pearson	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
TSRA – Ugar (Stephens) Island	Mr William Stephen	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
Finfish (Reef Line) – non-traditional	Mr Carl D'Aguiar (QSIA)	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
Finfish (Spanish mackerel) – non-	Mr Shaun Hanson (QSIA)	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
Finfish – non-traditional inhabitant	Mr Neil Green (QSIA)	1-May-2008	30-June-2011
Scientific Member	VACANT - TBD	-	-
TSRA Fisheries Officer	TSRA Fisheries Coordinator	N/A	N/A
AFMA	Dr Annabel Jones, A/g Manager,	N/A	N/A
QDPI&F	Fisheries Management Officer –	N/A	N/A
Compliance (QB&FP)	Mr Lyndon Peddell	N/A	N/A

Table 7. Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group (TSHCWG).

REPRESENTATION	MEMBER	APPOINTMENT DATE	TERM ENDS
Chair	Mr Toshio Nakata (TSRA)	28-August-2007	27-August-2011
Executive Officer	Mr Erik Raudzens (AFMA)	N/A	N/A
Traditional Inhabitant Member	VACANT - TBD	-	-
Traditional Inhabitant Member	Mr Willie Wigness	28-August-2007	27-August-2011
Traditional Inhabitant Member	Mr Kila Odo	28-August-2007	27-August-2011
Traditional Inhabitant Member	Mr Willie Lui	28-August-2007	27-August-2011
Traditional Inhabitant Member	Mr Francis Pearson	28-August-2007	27-August-2011
Traditional Inhabitant Member	Mr Charles David	28-August-2007	27-August-2011
TVH Industry Member	VACANT – TBD (Pearl)	-	-
TVH Industry Member	VACANT – TBD (Pearl)	-	-
Industry Member	VACANT – TBD (Processor)	-	-
Scientific Member	Tim Skewes	28-August-2007	27-August-2011
TSRA	Fisheries Coordinator	N/A	N/A
AFMA	VACANT - TBD	N/A	N/A
QDPI&F	Fisheries Management	N/A	N/A

EPBC ACT REPORTING

Assessment Status of Torres Strait Fisheries

7.1.1 The PZJA NOTED the update provided on the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1997* (EPBC Act) assessment status of Torres Strait Fisheries.

7.1.2 The PZJA AGREED:

- (a) that the Chair of the PZJA will inform the Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts that a reassessment of the Finfish fishery should be undertaken prior to the expiration of the current Wildlife Trade Operation assessment; and
- (b) to the recommendations arising from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts' reassessment of the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery for continued export approval of product from the fishery, and for the Chair of the PZJA to write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts informing them of that agreement.

DEWHA Prawn Fishery Strategic Assessment Recommendations

7.2.1 The PZJA NOTED the update provided on the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1997 assessment status of the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery.

7.2.2 The PZJA AGREED to the draft conditions and recommendations arising from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts' reassessment of the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery.

Aquaculture Assessment

7.3 The PZJA NOTED that the Yorke Island Sea Sponge Farm is progressing and is an example of the potential of aquaculture in the Torres Strait.

COMPLIANCE

Domestic Compliance Report

8.1 The PZJA NOTED the Domestic Compliance Report for the period August 2007 to April 2008 provided by the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee.

Foreign Compliance Report

8.2.1 The PZJA NOTED:

- (a) the update on issues associated with the Torres Strait foreign fishing compliance program and, in particular, the close co-operation with Papua New Guinea in recent operations; and
- (b) that a fisheries legislation amendment bill was introduced into the Federal Parliament in March 2008. It contains measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and will amend the Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984 to add new requirements of foreign boats equipped for fishing.

LICENCING

Fish Receivers Licence Update

9.1.1 The PZJA NOTED:

- (a) that an amendment was made to the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* resulting in the requirement for all current Torres Strait buyers to hold a Fish Receivers Licence, enforceable as of 28 June 2008;
- (b) the development of the necessary systems for the adoption of this licensing process are currently being completed by PZJA agencies; and
- (c) the establishment of fish receivers licences is a vital component of the catch validation process associated with the upcoming fisheries management plans.

9.1.2 The PZJA AGREED that the fee charged for the licence will be set at \$100 when the *Torres Strait Fisheries Regulation 1985* is amended to include the fee for the new licence.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA / AUSTRALIA FISHERIES BILATERALS

Outcomes from Bilateral Discussions – Tropical Rock Lobster

10.1 The PZJA NOTED in relation to Tropical Rock Lobster fishery that:

- (a) Australia and Papua New Guinea agreed at a Catch Sharing Working Group in November 2007 to rollover 2007 arrangements into 2008 and to further discuss the catch sharing arrangement for this fishery;

- (b) Papua New Guinea has subsequently requested that six primary and 42 tender vessels be considered for cross endorsement; and
- (c) that PZJA agencies have now commenced a native title notification process in relation to this request.

Other Bilateral Outcomes and Future Meetings

10.2 The PZJA NOTED:

- (a) the next bilateral discussions are to be held in Cairns in October 2008 and that a catch sharing working group will be held before that to discuss catch sharing arrangements; and
- (b) the record of the 2007 bilateral fisheries discussions.

AUTHORITY MEETING ONLY

FINANCE

Sale of Cairns Properties

11.1.1 The PZJA AGREED to:

- (a) the sale of the properties in Cairns; and
- (b) the relevant representatives from Queensland and the Commonwealth be authorised to undertake all necessary steps to give effect to this recommendation.

11.1.2 The PZJA NOTED that subject to the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments financial management requirements, the proceeds obtained from the sale of the Cairns properties will be used to secure accommodation on Thursday Island.

Cost Sharing Arrangement

11.2.1 The PZJA NOTED that the 'Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland relating to the cost of management of fisheries in the area of the Australian jurisdiction in the Torres Strait Protected Zone established under the Torres Strait Treaty' signed on July 10th, 1999, will continue in its current form for the 2008-2009 financial year.

11.2.2 The PZJA AGREED to a review of the 'Agreement' during the 2008-2009 financial year to consider options on fisheries management administrative arrangements for the Torres Strait. Further the PZJA has requested that agencies review the current agreement and provide options for consideration prior to the finalisation of the 2009-2010 PZJA budget.

ANNUAL REPORT

PZJA Annual Report 2006/07

12.1 The PZJA AGREED to finalise the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority Annual Report 2006-07 so that the report may be tabled in the Australian Parliament in accordance with Section 41 of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.

LEGISLATION

Remaking Section 31 arrangements

13.1 The PZJA NOTED that a new arrangement between the Australian and the Queensland Governments under section 31 of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* to permit the PZJA to manage traditional fishing within the area of Australian jurisdiction and the Protected Zone coastal waters of Queensland under Commonwealth law is currently being drafted. It will be ready for signature by the Australian and Queensland Ministers and the Queen's representatives after the Office of Best Practice Regulations consideration of the current draft and followed by relevant native title notifications.

Merits Review

13.2 The PZJA NOTED the review into appeals mechanisms under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* is scheduled to be completed by 30 June 2008 and will provide the basis for a review of appeals mechanisms under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* in the next financial year.

OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 The PZJA AGREED to work on a nine month meeting schedule.

OUT OF SESSION DECISIONS

15.1 The PZJA CONFIRMED the following out of session decision made as a decision of the PZJA.

Decisions made by correspondence on the 16 February 2008

15.2 The Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) Standing Committee recommends that the PZJA AGREED to the setting of levies for the Torres Strait Prawn fishery for 2008 at \$2,786.78 per licence and \$9.88 per day.

15.3 The PZJA Standing Committee recommends that the PZJA NOTED:

- (a) the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee considered the proposed budget and levies for the 2008 season and agreed to them at their fifth meeting in December 2007;
- (b) that these levy amounts have been set in accordance with cost sharing arrangements and licence holders have been notified on 17 December 2008 of these proposed levy amounts;

- (c) the PZJA agreed at PZJA 21 that the Explanatory Statement for the setting of levies in the prawn fishery for 2008 was to be finalised by the PZJA Chair when levy amounts have been agreed in accordance with cost sharing arrangements;
- (d) if these levy amounts are agreed the PZJA Chair will finalise the Explanatory Statement and present it along with the proposed *Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Regulation* amendments to the Executive Council at the next possible opportunity to be made so as to have effect before the fishing season commences on 1 March 2008.