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Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC)

CHAIR'S SUMMARY
TSPMAC OOS
9 FEBRUARY 2009

TELECONFERENCE

CHAIR: Mr. Jim Gillespie



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

TSPMAC OOS meeting 9 February 2009

The Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC) was held out of session via teleconference on 9 February 2009. The following is a summary of the major discussion points from the meeting. A complete decision record can be found at Attachment A. For further information, please contact Ms Lisa Cocking, the TSPMAC executive officer on (02) 6225 5451.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Mark Millward from the TSPEHA as he was at sea.

TSPMAC industry member selection panel

The MAC discussed potential external industry representatives that could be used on the selection panel during the current process including the President of the QSIA. It was acknowledged that there could be a potential conflict of interest considering the QSIA are nominating an industry member for the process. The TSPMAC agreed to seek PZJA standing committee approval to have an external industry member appointed to the TSPMAC industry member selection panel.

Proposed Anchorage Exclusion Zones

The TSRA presented information regarding proposed exclusion zones to anchoring around the Warrior and Dungeness Reefs which aim to protect Tropical Rock Lobster. The MAC noted that a draft paper was presented at TSPMAC 6 where the MAC requested the inclusion of chart co-ordinates which are provided for this meeting.

Industry questioned the protocol for anchoring in emergencies such as rough weather. It was responded that the exact protocols were not yet drafted however noted that this is allowed for other exclusion zones and enforcement will occur through the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. The MAC acknowledged the proposed exclusion zones are already closed to the TSPF and thus will only be of concern during cyclones and emergencies. Therefore TSPMAC industry members agreed that they will remain neutral to the exclusion zones as these proposed closures do not affect them, however the TRL fishery should be consulted as this issue will have greater impact on their fishery.

Temporary transfers TSPF licenses and effort

The current processes in place to allow for the transfer of TSPF licenses were presented to the MAC. The MAC noted that these mechanisms have been in place since the late 1990s and no changes to licensing procedures have occurred since then.

TSPMAC industry members stated that they were under the impression that the agreement was no external leasing under the Plan and to revisit it 1-2 years after the management plans implementation if people were still interested in it.

QDPI&F commented that these arrangements are not directly facilitated by the PZJA but are a private business decision. TSPMAC industry members commented that

they are not against permanent transfers just temporary ones, and suggested a penalty for transferring licenses (i.e. 10%) which would act as a disincentive the these private arrangements.

Other business

Mr Lota Warria informed the MAC that he would be resigning and thanked everyone for their work on the MAC over the past years. He commented that he will inform the MAC of his replacement when it has been finalised.

Next Meeting

The TSPMAC agreed to propose TSPMAC 8 for 7-8 July 2009.

Mr Jim Gillespie
TSPMAC CHAIRPERSON

**DECISION RECORD
TSPMAC No. OOS, 9 FEBRUARY, 2009**

Proposed anchorage exclusion zones

1.1.1 The TSPMAC **DISCUSSED** the CFG proposal to restrict the anchoring of all vessels above 6 metres in the area of Australian jurisdiction at Warrior Reef and Dungeness Reef and **NOTED** that the proposed anchorage exclusion zones are already closed to TSPMAC industry and thus the TSPMAC has a neutral opinion pending the approval for vessels to anchor during emergencies.

1.1.2 The TSPMAC **RECOMMENDED** that the TRL fishery be consulted regarding the proposed anchorage exclusion zones considering the zones are within the area of the TRL fishery.

Temporary transfers TSPF licenses and effort

1.2.1 The TSPMAC **NOTED** the current management arrangements in place regarding;

- (a) The mechanisms that exist for licensed operators in the TSPF to transfer effort units (days) on a permanent and non-permanent basis.
- (b) The mechanisms that exist for a licensed operator in the TSPF to amend their licence details to nominate another vessel (via boat mark) currently not operating in the TSPF, effectively transferring their licence.