

TORRES STRAIT PRAWN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	OOS Meeting 12 August, 2008
MANAGEMENT Draft TSPF Management Plan 2008	Agenda Item No. 2 FOR DECISION

RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The TSPMAC **NOTES** that:

- (a) the PZJA agreed at PZJA 22 (22.3.1.2) to implement the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan before 1 March 2009;
- (b) following the Draft Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan public comment period (June 2 to July 2, 2008) the draft Plan has been revised to take into account comments received;
- (c) the Draft TSPF Management Plan will be provided to the PZJA Standing Committee at its next meeting for consideration and endorsement, taking into account the views of Industry;

2.2 The TSPMAC **COMMENT** on the Draft Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan 2008.

BACKGROUND

At TSPMAC No. 5 in December 2007, members agreed that once the drafter had finalised the draft Plan that it should go through the TSPMAC for a two week consultation period out-of-session and for comments to be forwarded on to AFMA, before it was released for wider public consultation (TSPMAC 5.3.2.2(b)). The PZJA Standing Committee made a similar request on 7 February 2008.

The draft Plan was subsequently provided to all TSPMAC members, the PZJA Standing Committee, other PZJA agency staff (AFMA, QDPI&F, TSRA, DAFF) and the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) on March 11, 2008 for a two week comment period (March 11-25, 2008).

Comments were received from the following groups:

- o TSRA – Including comments from CFG representatives.
- o DEWHA – Sustainable Fisheries Section.
- o TSPEHA – Torres Strait Prawn Entitlement Holders Association.
- o QDPI&F.
- o AFMA.

Comments received were considered by PZJA agencies and provided to the legislative drafter for inclusion in the draft Plan as appropriate.

At PZJA 22, on May 1, 2008, the PZJA agreed to implement the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan before 1 March 2009 (PZJA 22.3.1.2).

Subsequently, the revised draft Plan was made available for a period of public comment from June 2 to July 2, 2008. The Plan was provided to all TSPF boat licence holders and

interested parties with a covering letter, an explanation of the Plan and the draft Plan itself.

Comments were received from the following groups:

- TSRA – Fisheries Coordinator, including comments from CFG.
- TSPEHA – Torres Strait Prawn Entitlement Holders Association.
- QDPI&F.
- AFMA.
- DAFF – Legal.

Comments received were considered by PZJA agencies and provided to the legislative drafter for inclusion in the draft Plan as appropriate.

The Draft TSPF Management Plan has since been given legal clearance by AFMA Legal as being consistent with the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.

DISCUSSION

The draft Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan (the Plan) has been developed through extensive consultation with industry members, PZJA consultative bodies, and key government agency personnel and is expected to be in place for the 2009 fishing season. An expected timeline for finalisation is provided at Attachment 2A.

The finalisation of the Plan requires the PZJA to review and endorse its contents, giving consideration to the views of industry members. An out-of-session meeting of the PZJA will be required to endorse the draft Plan if it is to be determined with enough time to allow the necessary management changes to be finalised (licencing), prior to the commencement of the 2009 fishing season on 1 March, 2009.

The TSPMAC is requested to review the final draft TSPF Management Plan provided at Attachment 2B and provide endorsement of its contents as appropriate. In cases where members do not agree with a part or all of the Plan, such instances will be documented and provided to the PZJA SC for consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are financial implications of introducing a management plan for the fishery. Drafting of the Plan is expected to cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. \$15,600 has been applied to the 2007/2008 financial year budget, while the remaining costs of drafting will be acquitted against the 2008/2009 TSPF budget.